ABSTRACTS OF THE ORAL AND POSTER PRESENTATIONS
Interpreting the archaeological record

Richard Keatch

Independent researcher

The analysis of the dimensions of stone circles, passage cairns and brochs suggests that the elusive measurement unit used in prehistoric times in Scotland was in fact not a single length but a series of pendulum lengths that measured both distance on the ground and time. Previously unidentified geodesic spheres are shown to be long ruler winding tools used to measure special multiples of these pendulum lengths on the ground to draw out the stone circles and other ancient circular monuments. The deciphering of the Pictish symbols has revealed a compound ceremonial pendulum and indicated the way in which Pictish pendulums were accurately calibrated using special star pairs. When the measurement system, ideally suited for use at a latitude corresponding to the North of Scotland, is adapted for southern locations, taking into account of the latitude-dependent gravitational field of the Earth, the resulting new slightly shorter pendulum lengths can be used to explain the dimensions of the pyramids at Giza.

**AR16 Prehistoric Measurement of Time and Distance**

**Richard Keatch**

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**AR20 Gnawing, Butchering and Other Forms of Mesquishing with the Dead: First Cases from the Eastern Baltic Area (Neolithic Lithuania)**

**Mantas Daubaras**, **Rimantas Jankauskas**

**Lithuanian Institute of History, Vilnius University**

New bioarchaeological data obtained during re-analysis of all human skeletal materials from undisturbed Stone Age graves from the territory of Lithuania led us to the new findings that allow us to make pioneering insights into burial practices of Neolithic people (Narva culture) from a present territory of Lithuania.

Ultimately, newly observed bone changes (i.e. butchering / cut marks, gnawing marks) in human skeletons enable us to challenge the accepted view towards the burial practices in the Eastern Baltic area during the Neolithic.

It is argued that the Neolithic inhabitants of present day Lithuanian territory were no strangers to such burial practices as excarnation or intentional bone manipulation of deceased. It is also suggested that these cases might be considered as the first tangible evidence of the changing perception of the World during the process of Neolithization.

**AR25 Current Research on Late Pleistocene and Early Holocene in Croatia: The Archaeolim Project**

**Ivor Janković**

**Institute for Anthropological Research**

In 2014 a project entitled „Archaeological Investigations into the Late Pleistocene and Early Holocene of the Lim Channel Istria“ (ARCHAEOLIM), started. The main aims of this 3 year project financed by the Croatian Science Foundation are to provide data for better understanding of a number of important issues regarding behavioral and possibly biological aspects of human groups during a time when Late Glacial hunter gatherers were forced to change and adapt to a changing environmental and other pressures. Project concentrates on the archaeological fieldwork on four sites where preliminary survey or small scale excavations yielded evidence of human occupation: Romualdova cave (Middle and Upper Paleolithic sequence), Pećina kod Rovinjskog sela 1 (Late Upper Paleolithic and Mesolithic), Abri Kontija (Late Upper Paleolithic) and Lim 001 (Late Mesolithic), all in the Lim Channel. Here we provide a summary of the results of the first two excavation seasons.

**AR7 Mesolithic - Neolithic Dwellings of North-West Russia (Smolensk Region)**

**Khrustaleva Irina**

**The State Hermitage Museum**

The territory of the basin of the Upper Western Dvina River was researched by archaeologists since 60th of the XX century. The series of Neolithic sites were discovered here (impermanent sites of hunter-gatherers, long-termed settlements and pile-dwellings). The long-terms settlements contain large collections of flint and ceramic finds from different chronological periods and remains of different constructions and dwellings. Layers of the sites mainly occur in sandy sediments, so we have no any organic remains excepting some cases of occurrence of sites layers in peat deposits. All dwellings and objects of the sites can be detected only by pits of colored sand or some stone constructions in the case of their existence. The multidisciplinary approach was used to study not only these sites, but the region as a whole. Archaeologists, paleoanthropologists, paleobotanists,