Stone in Metal Ages

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Session XXXIV-6

edited by

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FOREWORD TO THE XVIII UISPP CONGRESS PROCEEDINGS

UISPP has a long history, originating in 1865 in the International Congress of Prehistoric Anthropology and Archaeology (CIAAP). This organisation ran until 1931 when UISPP was founded in Bern. In 1955, UISPP became a member of the International Council of Philosophy and Human Sciences, a non-governmental organisation within UNESCO.

UISPP has a structure of more than thirty scientific commissions which form a very representative network of worldwide specialists in prehistory and protohistory. The commissions cover all archaeological specialisms: historiography; archaeological methods and theory; material culture by period (Palaeolithic, Neolithic, Bronze Age, Iron Age) and by continents (Europe, Asia, Africa, Pacific, America); palaeoenvironment and palaeoclimatology; archaeology in specific environments (mountain, desert, steppe, tropical); archaeometry; art and culture; technology and economy; biological anthropology; funerary archaeology; archaeology and society.

The UISPP XVIII World Congress of 2018 was hosted in Paris by the University Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne with the strong support of all French institutions related to archaeology. It featured 122 sessions, and over 1800 papers were delivered by scientists from almost 60 countries and from all continents.

The proceedings published in this series, but also in issues of specialised scientific journals, will remain as the most important legacy of the congress.

L'UISPP a une longue histoire, à partir de 1865, avec le Congrès International d'Anthropologie et d'Archéologie Préhistorique (C.I.A.A.P.), jusqu'en 1931, date de la Fondation à Berne de l'UISPP. En 1955, l'UISPP est devenu membre du Conseil International de philosophie et de Sciences humaines, associée à l'UNESCO. L'UISPP repose sur plus de trente commissions scientifiques qui représentent un réseau représentatif des spécialistes mondiaux de la préhistoire et de la protohistoire, couvrant toutes les spécialités de l'archéologie : historiographie, théorie et méthodes de l'archéologie ; Culture matérielle par période (Paléolithique, néolithique, âge du bronze, âge du fer) et par continents (Europe, Asie, Afrique, Pacifique, Amérique), paléoenvironnement et paléoclimatologie ; Archéologie dans des environnements spécifiques (montagne, désert, steppes, zone tropicale), archéométrie ; Art et culture ; Technologie et économie ; anthropologie biologique ; archéologie funéraire ; archéologie et sociétés.

Le XVIII° Congrès mondial de l'UISPP en 2018, accueilli à Paris en France par l'université Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne et avec le soutien de toutes les institutions françaises liées à l'archéologie, comportait 122 sessions, plus de 1800 communications de scientifiques venus de près de 60 pays et de tous les continents.

Les actes du congrès, édités par l'UISPP comme dans des numéros spéciaux de revues scientifiques spécialisées, constitueront un des résultats les plus importants du Congrès.

Marta Azarello

Secretary-General / Secrétaire général UISPP

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Foreword

Francesca Manclossi, Florine Marchand, Linda Boutoille and Sylvie Cousseran-Néré

Stone and metals are traditionally seen as antagonist and competitive materials. This idea has been formalised in the 19th century by C. J. Thomsen (1836) that elaborated the theory of the 'Three Ages'. According to him, once metals were available, they 'obviously' replaced the less efficient stone tools that 'inevitably' disappeared. The idea that the stone-metal substitution was an evident and automatic process explains why, for a long time, archaeologists did not consider the late lithic industries. Moreover, these productions did not seem suitable sources for reconstructing the socioeconomic and cultural contexts of proto- and early historic societies, and other aspects of the material culture were preferred.

Despite these obstacles, sometimes still present, the analysis of stone and lithic productions during the Metal Ages has seen a progressive development. Objects and tools made of flint, chert and other rocks are important components of the archaeological records, and their study has offered new perspectives on the comprehension of ancient societies. Not only many aspects of the everyday life of ancient people have been better appreciated, but the socioeconomic and cultural systems associated with the production, circulation and use of stone tools have offered new information not available from other realms of the material culture.

After more than ten years since the last UISPP conference dedicated to the 'lithic technology in metal using societies' (Eriksen, 2010), we decided to organise a special session with the aim to gather specialists working on stone tools during the Age of Metals in different regions of the Near East, Eastern and Western Europe, and on various periods, from the Chalcolithic to the Iron Age.

We had multiple objectives, but the first one was to give more visibility to research themes and subjects usually poorly represented in international conferences. Beyond sharing data deriving from new discoveries and analyses, the main goal of this session is that to increase the network of contacts between specialists working on different periods and geographical areas that share similar topics and research questions. Despite different archaeological contexts, indeed, there are common and recurrent themes which characterise the study of late lithic industries.

Although there are fortunately some exceptions, specialists in stone productions in proto- and early historical times are quite isolated in their analyses. They often need to justify their interest with other archaeologists working on the same periods, and they deal with specific methodological problems which start from the collect of lithic artifacts in the fields, which are very frequently ignored by the excavators.

The study of late lithic productions implies also other problems. Compared to prehistoric sites, the material is often spread in larger contexts because the sites are not only camps or villages, but also real cities, especially in the Near East. This affects the possibility to have access to all information regarding the production stage of stone tools because they are rarely spatially concentrated. Moreover, with a few exceptions, it is hard to define and use clear typological lists which might be useful for cultural and chronological sequences.

In the study of late lithic industries, specialists usually use methodological approaches developed for analyzing much older materials. They try to adapt them to more recent contexts, but there are specific aspects which differ from those of Paleolithic or Neolithic assemblages, and one of the objectives of this session was to encourage a discussion about how to approach late lithic production systems.

Stone tools during the Metal Ages, finally, can shed light on metallurgy because lithics were used in metallurgical processes. Due to scarcity of relevant finds and lack of research, this is a new developing field with many aspects, such as tool typology, function or production systems, still poorly understood.

The Session XXXIV-6 of the UISPP 'Stone in Metal Ages' was divided in two parts. The first one '*Late stone talks: Lithic industries in Metal Ages*' was coincived for the specialists who deal with knapping materials. The participants presented their research focusing on lithic technology, use-wear analyses and the relation between the decline of stone and the development of metallurgy. The second part, '*Let there be rock and metal: l'outillage en pierre des métallurgists préhistoriques de la mine à l'atelier*', instead, was specifically thought for specialists who focus their research in stone tools used for metallurgy.

We thank all contributors for their engagement in the workshop and publication project, and the UISPP committee for their support.

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