

EDITORIAL

In the previous, rather extensive editorial, I deliberately omitted one piece of news because I think its importance demands that it be shared separately. I am very pleased to announce that this year for the first time *Archeologické rozhledy* has been assigned a Journal Impact Factor (JIF) provided by the Clarivate's Web of Science. Reflecting the annual mean number of citations of articles published in the last two years that appeared within the 'exclusive club' of other indexed archaeological journals, the JIF is considered a label testifying to the high quality and influential content of a journal. All credit for this success belongs to my predecessor Martin Ježek, as our journal reached this achievement based on performance in past years, which I had little influence on.

And yet, the thrill of success fades quickly, tempered by a sense of responsibility, and my mission now is to retain and improve what the journal has achieved. For the year 2022, *Archeologické rozhledy* starts with a JIF of 0.6, and I hope this number will rise in future. Nevertheless, one should be cautious in praising bibliometric figures. Journal rankings are a useful tool in navigating the waters of academic publishing, but any metric, especially if perceived as an isolated number, cannot express the whole story behind the journal and its impact or recognition within the scholarly community.

Despite becoming an 'impact journal', *Archeologické rozhledy* will continue to publish in the Diamond Open Access regime. In the world, where many academic journals proclaim their support for the open science movement but simultaneously put the authors before the grievous choice of either paying high article processing charges or close their paper behind a paywall, we hold the view that knowledge, which is often produced from public budgets, should be shared freely. Papers published in *Archeologické rozhledy* are and will be available online for free and authors are not charged any fees. Our open access policy was approved by the Directory of Open Access Journals (DOAJ) earlier this year, ensuring that it is in line with high standards.

In this issue, you can find open-access research articles focused on two major topics. The first batch deals with past production technologies, beginning with the paper by Kristina Doležalová and colleagues, who focused on Neolithic grinding tools made of rhyolite. Their experiments with modern replicas and pilot verification on a small assemblage of archaeological artefacts is an important step towards research on how these tools were used and what substances were ground. Crops usually come to mind in connection with prehistoric grinding tools, but there could be a surprisingly wide range of ground substances including food as well as non-food materials such as pigments.

In the following paper, Andra Simniškytė and colleagues examined whether limonite deposits, also known as bog ore, distributed around the Iron Age site of Mikniškiai in South Lithuania were used for iron production. While sunken features that reached and uncovered the limonite strata were regarded as evidence of intentional mining, multiple types of analyses presented in the paper proved that the limonite ore has an insufficient iron content for use in smelting. The paper thus illustrates how important it is to cross-check the interpretations inferred from evidence in the field by scientific methods increasingly available for today's archaeology.

The second part of this issue is dedicated to papers dealing with unique objects linked to early medieval elites. A find of lavishly decorated spurs is presented in the paper by Nikola Košťová and Jiří Košta. The spurs went missing soon after they were excavated from one of the graves at the cemetery situated within the Libice nad Cidlinou stronghold in East Bohemia. Ironically, this unpleasant event created an opportunity to commence conservation and examination of the recovered find with modern methods that are able to reveal a great deal of information on manufacturing techniques. Conventional comparative analysis of spurs in combination with still rather scarce radiocarbon dating of early medieval burials points to considerable influences from the Frankish Empire in 9th-century Bohemia and connections among the elites in early medieval states. In this context, it is all the more curious that today these states often enter political forums as an instrument of a nationalistic agenda.

In the final paper, Kateřina Blažková and colleagues present three rings with Romanesque majuscule inscriptions recently found in the Rakovník region in Bohemia. Palaeographic analysis revealed that the inscriptions stand for Christian formulas most probably protecting the person wearing the ring. Finds of early medieval inscription rings are rare in Central Europe, which highlights the importance of new specimens from the Rakovník region. On the other hand, similar attributes of at least two of the rings presented by Blažková and colleagues indicate that they were produced serially in a single workshop and might thus be more frequent among the elite at the turn of the 13th century. In this sense, inscription rings are a typical example of an artefact whose value and meaning in the past predetermined it to be less visible for archaeologists centuries later.

Václav Vondrovský