

EDITORIAL

Attentive readers might have noticed that this release of *Archeologické rozhledy* comes as a double issue, an unusual step we took to restore our journal's publishing pace and timing. Over the past years, the delay has accumulated for a variety of reasons and new issues were released several months after the traditional scheduled dates – March, June, September, and December. This double issue is, therefore, another measure the editorial team has taken to ensure fluent and timely dissemination of new archaeological research, which, I am sure, both authors and readers will appreciate.

Starting with this (double) issue, *Archeologické rozhledy* has also adopted a new heritage protection policy. While you can read the full version on our website and at the end of this issue, the policy stands on a few elementary principles that can be easily summarised here. Firstly, our journal will not publish papers that deal with archaeological finds from private collections. Although private collecting of archaeological artefacts is permitted in some countries, it carries a high risk of misconduct in numerous aspects. For instance, many early medieval swords held by private collectors were proved to be forgeries or were retrieved under dubious conditions that did not comply with professional standards. All finds presented in *Archeologické rozhledy* must come from an institution officially authorised in archaeological heritage protection. The acquisition of such finds must have complied with the legislation of the country of origin.

This issue starts with three research articles that employ scientific methods in their archaeological inquiries. Ondřej Chvojka and his colleagues present a new Late Bronze Age hoard excavated near Krtely in South Bohemia. While Bronze Age hoards are a long-term research topic of Chvojka, the assemblage from Krtely is unique in that it included two fragments of a miner's picks used in the famous salt mines in Hallstatt. The objects described in the paper are thus the northernmost occurrence of Hallstatt picks. Employing X-ray, tomography, and use-wear analysis, the authors reached interesting conclusions about the histories of the metal objects, which ended their 'life' assembled in a ceramic vessel and deposited on the top of a burial mound.

The article by Michaela Látková resides in archaeobotany and seeks the origin and development of grape cultivation and viticulture in the territory of the Czech Republic and Slovakia, studying the morphometry of cultivated forms of grapevine and its wild counterparts. The analytical assemblage comprises 1087 archaeobotanical finds from 28 sites spanning from prehistory to the Early Modern period and accompanied by recent reference finds. Thanks to its wide chronological scope, I am sure that the study will attract the attention of archaeologists as well as historians dealing with development of viticulture or agricultural production in general.

Filip Facincani and Jaroslav Pavelka addressed the conundrum of so-called acoustic vessels, which appear hitherto installed in the walls and vaults of medieval churches. To reveal if new, custom-made vessels were acquired or just mundane house pottery was reused, the authors searched for food residues that might be preserved on acoustic vessels from two churches in South Bohemia. As the enzyme-linked immunosorbent analysis indicated the presence of milk and grain, the latter hypothesis seems more plausible. In addition,

the paper gives a comprehensive overview of the research topic and can serve as a suitable starting point for further exploration of acoustic vessels.

With the last two articles, we return to the ground of more traditional archaeological approaches, though widely supported by absolute dating. In the first, the collective led by Petra Schindlerová examines the issue of Linear Pottery culture longhouses with adjacent fenced areas. Such settings are rather rare at Early Neolithic settlements and their purpose remains unclear, though various hypotheses have been proposed. Choosing Hostivice-Sadová as a case study site, this article follows up much of the research tradition established by the campaign at the famous site of Bylany, where the longhouses with fenced areas were excavated and discussed already by Bohumil Soudský. Schindlerová and colleagues performed a detailed analysis of pottery supported by radiocarbon dating to explore chronological relationships between houses, fenced areas, and various pits flanking the houses as well as dotting the grounds surrounded by fences.

The research article by Ivana Boháčová and Nikola Kořtová presents the results of excavations in Stará Boleslav, more specifically cemeteries surrounding local churches. Stará Boleslav is undoubtedly one of the key sites for understanding the formation of early Czech statehood. Beyond that, the article draws attention for the application of radiocarbon dating in early medieval contexts. Such approaches are rather scarce. I am convinced that there is still some kind of disbelief in this method among specialists in early medieval archaeology, who consider radiocarbon data too imprecise for their purposes. However, as Boháčová and Kořtová demonstrate, radiocarbon dating can produce relevant results if sampling follows rigorous standards and results are considered within more elaborate mathematical frameworks.

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