

EDITORIAL

Starting in 2025, *Archeologické rozhledy* established cooperation with the Peer Community in Archaeology (PCI Archaeology) – a non-profit organisation dedicated to the principles of open research and striving to reshape the distorted landscape of current academic publishing. In general, the idea of the PCI project is to provide community peer review. Papers submitted to PCI are rigorously scrutinised by volunteer scholars, who offer their expertise in peer review or recommendation of scientific articles. PCI Archaeology now comprises more than 160 researchers from around the world. They may recommend that submissions be made complete, reliable, and citable articles, without the need for publication in ‘traditional’ journals.

Hearing that, one might regard the PCI initiative as a competing element on the field of academic publishing, but we do not see it this way. As a Diamond Open Access journal, we think that the goals of PCI are converging with principles promoted by our journal. Moreover, authors who wish to publish their PCI-recommended article in a traditional way can submit it to PCI-friendly journals, now including *Archeologické rozhledy*. We joined as a category 2 journal, meaning that we do not automatically accept PCI-recommended articles, but have agreed to provide authors with a response within five days. Our decision can involve acceptance with minor modifications and no further peer review, standard peer review before acceptance, but also rejection of the paper if it is not in line with the aims and scope of *Archeologické rozhledy*.

The beginning of 2025 also brought changes to our social media communication, as we launched a new account on Bluesky (@archrozhlady.bsky.social). Given the current situation, this social network appears as a more suitable environment to present an academic journal. Along with that, we terminated our X (formerly Twitter) account for political reasons. We believe that science should stay apolitical in terms of political parties; nevertheless, there are general principles of democracy and academic freedoms at stake – principles that the string-pullers of X are apparently determined to suppress. What ‘interesting times’ we are living in!

As usual, this issue of *Archeologické rozhledy* offers four new research articles dealing with the archaeology of Central Europe. It opens with a study by Nikola Košťová and colleagues on the chronology of early medieval S-shaped temple rings in Bohemia. As in her previous papers, Nikola Košťová challenges the long-standing archaeological schemes with radiocarbon dating. This method was previously rather omitted by early medieval archaeologists, who pointed to its unreliability and vague results. However, the authors show that a rigorous approach involving planned sampling, offset assessment, and Bayesian modelling can bring relevant results.

The paper delivered by František Trampota and colleagues addresses the currently emerging topic of Central European Neolithic archaeology. After much attention was paid to the Corded Ware phenomenon, which most archaeologists and geneticists link with the arrival of Indo-Europeans, the focus is now turning to the processes and indigenous Central European social environment that preceded or were parallel with this migration. The extraordinary deposition from Brno-Slatina presented by František Trampota and his team thus enriches the debate with interesting new data on burial practices, which are still rare for this period and region.

The two studies that follow widely employ archaeometric approaches. Katarzyna Kerner-Gubała and her colleagues address social networks in the Paleolithic by inspecting the composition of chocolate silicites and ochres from outcrops in the Orońsko mining area in South-Central Poland. Although the paper presents the first results of an ongoing research project, it reveals that some of the flint and ochre may have been transported from Orońsko to the contemporaneous sites of Rydno and Całowanie, which are located outside the chocolate silicite outcrop zone. On the other hand, the transport of ochre in the opposite direction from Rydno to Orońsko remains unlikely, as the analyses showed no similarities. The research presented by the authors thus helped to adjust previous assumptions on Paleolithic distribution networks and promises even more new insights in the future.

Interesting new results also come from the study by Viktoria Čisťáková and her co-authors, which examines various artefacts with mosaic or millefiori enamel decoration from the 2nd and 3rd centuries AD found in Bohemia. Employing multiple methodological approaches that produced extensive datasets, the authors delivered a comprehensive archaeometric assessment, which is still rare in the Central European context and for these types of artefacts. They concluded that enamel-decorated objects were produced for the barbarian market by various provincial workshops located primarily on the Roman Limes. On a more general level, the study thus explores relationships between the Roman Empire and regions outside its borders that, rather than following a simple dichotomy of civilised and barbarian worlds, were complexly entangled.

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