



www.eaa2012.fi/programme

Jeudi 30 septembre 2012, 8h30-12h45, salle Porthania III

The Michelsberg Culture. Territories, Resources and Sociopolitical Complexity?

Organisers: Detlef Gronenborn (Roemisch-Germanisches Zentralmuseum; Germany), Laurence Manolakakis (CNRS - Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique; France) and Bart Vanmontfort (Eenheid prehistorische archeologie; Belgium)

From 4500 cal BC onwards, one millennium after the introduction of agriculture, the Neolithic in northwestern Europe is characterized by major economical and technological transformations, but also by a growing sociopolitical complexity. During this period, the Michelsberg Culture (4200-3500 cal BC) developed in the Paris Basin and in the Rhineland. From this core region it expanded eastwards, southwards, and northwards. Michelsberg is characterized by a distinctive multi-tiered settlement pattern centered on complex enclosures and hillforts. Some burials indicate the existence of elites. The communities were active participants in elaborate networks of production and exchange of flint, both as raw material and as finished goods, but possibly also salt. Jade axes of Alpine provenience constituted objects of wealth and power. The session will present recent research, particularly from current projects in Germany, Belgium and France, focusing on links between territories, resources and sociopolitical complexity. The objective of the session is to discuss the causes for the observed transformations and its consequences. The result of this discussion is of interest to a much larger audience than the French-German MK community. The papers will be edited for publication and are planned to be published in 2013/2014 as a product of an ongoing MK project.

Programme prévisionnel :

Lasse Sørensen, PhD student, MA. : Farming new lands in the North - the expansion of agrarian societies during the Early Neolithic in Southern Scandinavia

Radiocarbon dates on new evidence of agriculture in Southern Scandinavia document the introduction of domesticated animals and cereal cultivation during the period 4000-3700 cal BC. The speed of the expansion was so rapid that smaller groups of pioneering farmers from Central Europe was involved in this process. They brought with them the knowhow of agrarian technology, new material culture, ideology and mining after flint. The 14C dates of organic materials found in the mines at Södra Sallerup, Scania and Hov, Northern Jutland suggest systematic flint mining activities from 4000 cal BC onwards. Mining is a characteristic feature of the Central European Michelsberg Culture, it is therefore possible, that that that this technical knowhow was introduced to Southern Scandinavia by migrating farmers from Central Europe. Early Neolithic sites located near these flint mines are showing a higher dependence on agrarian subsistence and a different ritual behaviour. Contemporaneous coastal and lake shore sites show, on the other hand, a slow and gradual process of change towards agrarian subsistence. Could we be dealing with a cultural dualism during the initial stages of the introduction of farming in Southern Scandinavia? Finally, the reasons for the agrarian expansion towards the North will be discussed.

Johannes Schroeter, Dipl.-Prähist. : New results of Michelsberg Culture research in Saxony-Anhalt

At the site Wallendorf/Hutberg, Saalkreis (3800-3400 BC) near the river Luppe an earthwork and settlement structures were discovered. During the first excavations in the 1930's F. Benesch found ceramic material belonging to different neolithic cultures (Baalberge, Hutberg/Michelsberg, Salzmünde and Jordansmühlen Culture). Further information could be generated through aerial photography and geophysical investigations. New excavations improve the basic informations. It is now possible to understand the settlements/earthwork structure and combine it with the excavations in the 30's. The new excavations on the site Wallendorf brought different pit types and pottery variation in the inner settlement area near the ditches to light. One of the pits contains remains of crops and was used as a storage pit. We now also have the opportunity to compare the settlement pattern with another lately identified earthwork at Wefensleben. The mixed pottery inventory (Hutberg Gruppe) allows a view on the connections between Baalberge and Michelsberg and the process of change within late Michelsberg in Saxony-Anhalt and Middle-Elbe-Saale Area

Manolakakis L., Bostyn F., Giligny F. : Territories and lithic resources in the Michelsberg and Chasséen septentrional (Northern France)

Archaeological data from Middle Neolithic sites (Chasséen septentrional and Michelsberg cultures) are now quite abundant. The on-going French-German project "MK Projekt : The Emergence of Social Complexity. Enclosures, Resources and Territoriality in the Neolithic. The French-German Research Project on the Michelsberg Culture.", will enable us to analyse the relationships between procurement sites, workshops, and consumers sites – including open settlements or enclosures. The aim of our paper is to present different modes of production in order to reconstruct the networks of raw materials procurement, and the circulation of half-finished and finished products. We discuss the organisation of territories and the role of specialised sites in the production of blanks, blades, tools and polished axes, by confronting the location of the raw material deposits and the composition of lithic assemblages in the settlements. These models will be described at different scales, from

local to supra-regional. In order to achieve this, we focused on several case studies from the different valleys of the Paris Basin, such as the Aisne, the Oise, the Meauldre, the Marne valleys. Our studies show a very clear difference in the size of lithic acquisition territories between the Chasséen septentrional and the Michelsberg cultures.

Detlef Gronenborn, Sandra Fetsch, Angela Kreuz, Sabine Kuhlmann, Sabine Schade-Lindig, Olivier Weller : Michelsberg along the Rhine and Main

Michelsberg culture appears along the Rhine during its earliest phase and ? in the southern regions ? continues until its latest manifestation. Early sites are small with occasional enclosures but as from MK III sites are increasingly constructed on well-defendable elevations or at communication crossroads in the river valleys. Some of these sites are very extensive with up to 100 hectares of interior space. Judging from the evidence currently at hand from the well preserved site of Kapellenberg near Frankfurt/Main, all enclosures along the Rhine would have to be interpreted as settlement fortifications. For sites along the Upper Rhine and Main Hessian salt sources might have been attractive for long-distance exchange for alpine jadeite axes. While a fine-grained chronology for MK-sites remains a very difficult task, detailed research at some sites shows that the MK settlement system might have been rather volatile with many sites being used for periods in the range of decades and certainly not centuries. Even extensive sites might have been abandoned and then repeatedly re-settled.

Olivier Weller : Salt exploitation during Neolithic times in Germany. An exploratory research around Michelsberg enclosures

Recent research on salt production in Europe has shown its importance in the emergence of socio-political complexity in the Neolithic. Little work has been carried out in Germany and in the area occupied by the Michelsberg culture, where salt deposits are particularly substantial (salt springs, rock salt, etc.). Since 2010, as part of the joint French (ANR) and German (DFG) MK Projekt, a systematic inventory of salt resources has been undertaken for a large part of Germany (especially Hessen, Baden-Württemberg and Sachsen-Anhalt), using information from historical archives, hydrogeology and local toponymy. From a spatial point of view, the good correlations observed between the locations of some enclosures and the most important salt springs can not be purely coincidental. Initial fieldwork has identified the salt springs with the highest information potential. These will have to be tested to look for, date and characterize possible charcoal accumulations linked to early exploitation. A re-examination of ceramic assemblages from Michelsberg enclosures has also provided some new leads for this research which is exploratory but already promising.

Lietar Clair, Giligny François, Weller Olivier : Territorial organization and regional models around 4000 BC in the north-western Europe: an overview and Michelsberg case study.

The principal aim of the French (ANR) and German (DFG) MK Projekt was to study territories on a large area between France and Germany from 4200 to 3600 BC. Through qualitative and quantitative analysis of a site database we propose to modelize settlement patterns for the Paris Basin Michelsberg's culture. This modelization is based on sites hierarchy and includes knowledge on subsistence strategy, resources acquisition and circulation. Such models have been described for Michelsberg culture in Germany, but also for contemporary neighboring cultures, as "Chasséen septentrional", southern Chassean or "Néolithique Moyen Bourguignon". The model includes different site functions, as enclosures, flint mines and salt springs exploitations. At a larger scale, settlement models were built for the TRBK culture in North Europe. We propose to present preliminary results on settlement models

for the Paris Basin and an overview of the preexisting models for other Neolithic cultures in North West Europe around 4000 BC.

***Lamys HACHEM, **Yolaine MAIGROT, ***Lisandre BEDAULT** : Fauna and bone tools in Michelsberg enclosures

Our paper is a synthesis of separate studies: fauna and bone tools from two monumental enclosures located in northern France: Bazoches (Aisne) and Carvin (Nord). This presentation is divided into two parts. The first compares the animals consumed and the animals used for making bone tools. The main result here is that the faunal spectrum for bone tool production is quite the opposite to consumption, showing a rather different management of animals in each case. The second part focuses on the spatial analysis of this evidence. There are two trends, one involving domestic discard (meat, broken tools and waste), the other unusual deposition (bucrania and complete antlers).

Susanne Friederich, Björn Schlenker, Torsten Schunke : Salzmünde – 700 Years prior to the construction of the eponymous Neolithic earthwork in Sachsen-Anhalt (Saxony-Anhalt)

Today's federal state of Saxony-Anhalt is part of the most eastern distribution zone of the Michelsberg culture. Only few singular archaeological sites in Middle Germany can be linked to this cultural society. Throughout the Neolithic period, especially during the relevant centuries (4200-3500 B.C.), this region was characterised by a strong cultural diversity. Although influences and conceptions of the Michelsberg culture become apparent in the cultural remains, they never managed to stamp out the character of local traditions completely. The archaeological site of Salzmünde highlights this matter. As early as from the turn of the 5th to the 4th century B.C. numerous burials of the Schöninger/Schiepzig Group can be observed – exclusively deposited in storage pits. Since those were most likely not anymore visible on the surface at the time, they were heedlessly cut right through by the builders of the large Salzmünde earthwork, whereas at the same time the burial mounds erected on the same range of hills by the Baalberge Culture became an inherent part of this monumental structure. Throughout the centuries, the archaeological site of Salzmünde provides us with finds from autonomous cultures from Middle Germany, which in certain parts indicate contacts to and/or influences by the Michelsberg culture.

Höltkemeier Svenja; Fetsch Sandra : Faunal material from the Michelsberg culture enclosures Bad Nauheim “Beim Siechenhaus” (Wetteraukreis) and Limburg an der Lahn “Greifenberg” (Kreis Limburg-Weilburg)

This paper presents the first analyses of archaeological data from two Michelsberg enclosures, excavated in 2008 and 2011 (Hesse, Germany). The enclosures show remarkable differences in size, period of use and time of construction, raising the question of probable differences in function. The faunal remains offer an initial means of examining the processes within which the enclosures were involved. The faunal assemblages are quite small and preservation is better at Bad Nauheim. For the bones on this site, 117 out of 173 NR were identified (67,6 %). At Limburg, only 58,4 % could be identified (87 out of 149 NR). On both sites the bones are highly fragmented, with traces of butchery and burning, indicating discarded refuse. Domestic animals account for over 90 % and cattle were the primary food resource, followed by pig and caprines. Dog is present at Limburg. Wild animals include red deer at Bad Nauheim, and aurochs and boar at Limburg. While the two enclosures are different, the faunal material appears quite similar, with only slight differences. This suggests that the enclosures were used in a similar way.

POSTER :

Amelie Sophie Alterauge, Ursula Wittwer-Backofen : Age and sex as selection criteria for the composition of Late Neolithic inhumations in circular pits in the southern plain of the Upper Rhine

Due to the absence of cemeteries, the existence of proper burials of the Michelsberg culture has long been doubted. In recent studies, it has been shown that Late Neolithic inhumations in circular pits in the southern plain of the Upper Rhine reveal recurrent patterns concerning orientation, position and the number and association of the buried individuals. Based on 68 anthropologically examined burial complexes, we inquire if age and sex are selection criteria for the composition of these sepultures. All age and sex classes are represented in both single and multiple burials. As a result this burial practice seems to have been open to every part of the population. The composition of the multiple burials however suggests age-based selection criteria. Multiple burials usually contain two to four individuals who are either all subadults or all adults or belong to different age classes, systematically dependent on the total number of individuals buried in one pit. Besides, the representation of male and female individuals in single and multiple burials is not equal. Accordingly, different social relations between adults of both sexes to children or persons of the same age can be assumed.

Jérôme Dubouloz : Middle Neolithic enclosures and the issue of social/political complexity : an overview of the Paris Basin situation between 4500 and 3800 BC

Analysis of the main characteristics of 133 enclosures in the Paris Basin, belonging to the so-called Cerny, Chasséen Septentrional, and Michelsberg Cultures (4500-3800 BC) shows a growing investment of energy and matter expended in their construction and location. Together with the few funerary data available, this process of intensification suggests the hypothesis of a social and political complexity development. I'll discuss this issue through the notions of cooperation, competition, solidarity and hierarchy.