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Ústav pro pravěk a ranou dobu dějinnou

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Měď v eneolitických Čechách

Copper in Eneolithic Bohemia

Disertační práce

Abstract

vedoucí práce - Doc. PhDr. Luboš Jiráň, CSc.

2012

Abstract

Miroslav Dobeš: Copper in Eneolithic Bohemia.

Copper artifacts are an important source of understanding for European prehistory, not only in terms of the development of new technologies, but also importantly as a means of social communication. The gradual perception of the copper objects from their initial importing to simple cold forging to pyrotechnological processes and culminating in the Early Bronze Age tin bronze alloys, can be observed already in the Near East at the end of the 9th Millennium B.C., in other words the Aceramic Neolithic (Çayönü Tepesi). Within Europe, there has been a rapid initial development of metalurgy in the Balkans, approximately in the middle of the 5th Millennium B.C., in Central Europe this innovation has arrived sometime around 4000 B.C., or shortly afterwards.

The present work is the first thorough analysis of the Czech Eneolithic copper industry, which is based largely on original documentation of findings and attempts to complete the synthesis of sources. From a chronological point of view, this work covers the entire period of the Eneolithic from the early occurrence of the copper industry in the Czech Republic from around 4200 B.C. until 2200 B.C. (e.g. Beaker cultures). It is based on several methodological approaches. The first attention is given to the typology of artifacts already in the territory, especially of rare finds from the older period, datable only by matching morphology with finds from better determined chronological contexts from neighbouring regions. The second focus is based on the analysis of material composition of the metal from which the artifacts are made in pursuit of their placement in the overall development of Central European metalurgy, and also in comparison to Southern European metalurgy. The result is a synthesis of various sources respecting morphological developments, origins, typological and functional variety, and other connections of Bohemian Eneolithic copper artifacts within the context of these chronological horizons.