



ARCHAEOLOGY OF CONFLICTS
ARCHEOLOGIE KONFLIKTŮ
23.-25.9. 2025



Univerzita Hradec Králové
Filozofická fakulta

MUSEUM
MUZEUM VÝCHODNÍCH ČECH
V HRADCI KRÁLOVÉ

Abstract Book

Archaeology of conflicts
Archeologie konfliktů
Hradec Králové
23.–25.9. 2025

Organizátoři:

Petr Hejhal, Pavel Drnovský, Ladislav Rytíř – Univerzita Hradec Králové, Katedra archeologie
(uni.uhk.cz/archeologie)

Matouš Holas – Muzeum východních Čech v Hradci Králové (muzeumhk.cz)



ARCHAEOLOGY OF CONFLICTS ARCHEOLOGIE KONFLIKTŮ

23.-25.9. 2025

23 TUE

ÚT

9:00–10:25 Registration / Registrace

10:25–10:40 Conference opening / Zahájení
konference

10:40–11:05

Elena SCARSELLA, Paths of Control: Conflict and Fortification in the Iron Age Fucino basin (Italy)

11:05–11:30

Dario MONTI – Elena SCARSELLA, Wall it up: Iron Age Fortifications in Latium Vetus and Central Apennines, a comparison

11:30–11:55

Petr DRESLER, Raně středověké fortifikace. Kdy, odkud, pro koho, proti komu?!
Early Medieval Fortifications. When, From Where, For Whom, and Against Whom?!

11:55–12:20

Bogdan CHIRILOAIE, Under the Mist of Time: Early Medieval Earthen Fortifications in the Romanian Eastern Carpathian Space between the 8th and 11th Centuries AD

12:20–12:45

Antonín ŠTURM, Raně středověká hradiště ve východních Čechách
Early medieval hillforts of eastern Bohemia

12:45–13:10

Ioan Marian ȚIPLIC – Florin SFRENGEU – Adrian Nicole ȘOVREA, Bihar Fortifications: An Intersection of Archaeological Discoveries and Historical Record

13:10–13:35

Radosław GAWROŃSKI, Standing in Stirrups. The Forgotten Military Revolution of the 13th century.

13:35–14:30 Coffee break

14:30–14:55

Piotr STRZYŻ – Radosław ZDANIEWICZ, Militaria as potential testimony to the siege of Olsztyn Castle in 1391

14:55–15:20

Jana MAZÁČKOVÁ, Zbraně použité během obléhání hradu Cornštejn
Weapons Used During the Siege of Cornštejn Castle

15:20–15:45

Petr ČECH – Roman KŘIVÁNEK – Eliška VOŠVRDOVÁ – Vladimír HUĐA, Opevnění předhradí hradu Sion
Fortification of the outer ward of Sion Castle

15:45–16:10

Jan MUSIL, Nálezy bojových cepů z Pardubického kraje
Finds of war flails from Pardubice Region

16:10–16:35

Jan SASOR – Kalina SKÓRA – Piotr STRZYŻ, Archaeological research of the Grotniki battlefield in 1439

16:35–17:35 Poster session / Posterová sekce

Aneta GOŁĘBIEWSKA-TOBIASZ – Oksana

RUTKOVSKA, Weapons of Old Hungarian horse archers and prestige and magical objects in the grave equipment of the Subbottsy horizon (Korobchynye and Manvelivka, Dnipropetrovsk Oblast, Ukraine)

Radosław LIWOCH, Medieval hillforts and castles in the Czystochowa upland

Filip VOLOŠIN – Lenka KLAKURKOVÁ – Pavel GEJDOŠ – Jana MAZÁČKOVÁ, Special crossbow bolts and their role in warfare

Bogdan SIDENKO – Oksana RUTKOVSKA, Anti-Personnel Mines in Europe: Evolution of Design and Tactics from the World Wars to the War in Ukraine

19:00 The evening party / Společenský večer

24 WED

ST

8:30–9:00 Registration / Registrace

9:00–9:25

Claes B. PETERSSON, Both Sides of the Border. Similar problems – similar solutions in the Scandinavian Border Wars of the Early Modern Period.

9:25–9:50

Miroslav DEJMAL, Zámek Židlochovice a rondelová opevnění ve střední Evropě
Castle Židlochovice and Circular Bastions in Central Europe

9:50–10:15

Petr HEJHAL – Petr DUFFEK – Lenka MARTÍNKOVÁ, Pelhřimovsko na počátku stavovského povstání (podzim 1618). Archeologie a historie.
Pelhřimov region at the beginning of the Bohemian revolt (autumn 1618). Archaeology and history.

10:15–10:40

Mats SANDIN – Alexander DUNCAN – Tom WENNBERG, Christina Regina – A Dutch Bastion in Gothenburg from the early 1640's

10:40–11:05 Coffee break

11:05–11:30

Tomáš KOCH – Ctibor OSTŘÍ, Výstava „1645 – Brno v obležení“ – nová prezentace raně novověkého konfliktu
Exhibition "1645 – Brno Under Siege" – new presentation of early modern conflict

11:30–11:55

Mats SANDIN – Tom WENNERBERG, Gothenburg outer defense during the Danish-Swedish war during the end of the Thirty Years' War (1643–1645)

11:55–12:20

Barbora RYGULOVÁ – Vojtěch KOUDELKA – Jan PETŘÍK – Martin VOJTAS,
Rané novověká polní opevnění v okolí Horního Benešova (okres Bruntál)
The Early Modern Field Fortification System in the Vicinity of Horní Benešov (Bruntál District)

12:20–12:45

Jakub WRZOSEK, Preliminary results of archaeological research on the Pułtusk battlefield (Poland)

12:45–13:10

Lukáš HUDÁK – Markéta PECNOVÁ, Vesnice Ples do výstavby pevnosti
The village of Ples until the construction of the fortress

[13:10–14:25 Coffee break](#)

14:25–14:50

Jiří HOFMAN – Lukáš HUDÁK, Minový systém pevnosti Terezín
Mine system of the Terezín fortress

14:50–15:15

Matouš SEMERÁD – Michal TRYML, Pohřebiště pruských vojáků u lazaretu Břevnovského kláštera v roce 1757
The cemetery of Prussian soldiers at the hospital of the Břevnov Monastery in 1757

15:15–15:40

Martin VYŠOHLÍD, Archeologický výzkum zaniklého vojenského hřbitova v Praze – Karlíně
Archaeological research of the defunct military cemetery in Prague – Karlín

15:40–16:05

Marcela HORÁKOVÁ – Matouš HOLAS, Antropologie hromadných hrobů z války 1866
Anthropology of mass graves from the war of 1866

[16:05–16:30 Coffee break](#)

16:30–16:55

Matouš HOLAS, Trutnov a Hradec Králové 1866, nové pohledy na bojiště díky velkoplošným detektorovým prospekcím
Trautenu and Königgrätz 1866, new views of the battlefields thanks to large-scale detector surveys

16:55–17:20

Jakub TĚSNOHLÍDEK – Jan PETŘÍK – Martin VOJTAS – Jiří ZUBALÍK – Peter TAJKOV – Martin DROBŇÁK – Martin GREŠA – Tomáš HOFÍREK – Juraj KASARDA, Archeologické doklady konfliktů 18.–20. století ve východních Karpatech
Archaeological evidence of conflicts of the 18th–20th centuries in the Eastern Carpathians

17:20–17:45

Gediminas PETRAUSKAS, The Archaeology and Heritage of the First World War and the Wars of Independence in Lithuania

17:45–18:10

Magdalena ŽUREK, Pochówek czerwonoarmistów pod Pałacem Ogińskich w Siedlcach – ślad polsko-radzieckich walk o miasto w 1920 r.
Red Army soldiers buried near the Ogiński Palace in Siedlce – a reminder of the Polish-Soviet battles for the city in 1920

[18:30 Excursion through the fortress Hradec Králové /
Exkurze po reliktach pevnosti Hradec Králové](#)

25 THU

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[8:30–9:00 Registration / registrace](#)

[8:30–9:00 Coffee break](#)

9:00–9:25

Olgiert ŁAWRYNOWICZ – Ewa KOWALSKA – Dominika SIEMIŃSKA,
Budoucnost archeologického výzkumu stop Katyňského masakru
The future of archaeological research of traces of the Katyn massacre

9:25–9:50

Katarzyna ZDEB, Archeologia II wojny światowej – zarys problematyki w polskim prawie
Archaeology of World War II – an overview of issues in Polish law

9:50–10:15

Jiří ZUBALÍK, Záchranná archeologie a zákop Wehrmachtu v Brně
Rescue archaeology and Wehrmacht trench in the city of Brno (Czech Republic)

10:15–10:40

Jiří KALA – Kateřina VYMAZALOVÁ, Válečný hrob v srdci "Moravského Toskánska"
War grave in the heart of "Moravian Tuscany"

10:40–11:15

Jakub TĚSNOHLÍDEK – Petr KOČÁR – Kristýna KUKLOVÁ, Výpověď jímek druhoválečného tábora Štrauchovna
Testimony of the cesspits of the Second World War camp Štrauchovna

11:15–11:40

Jacek WYSOCKI, Zawita historia lotniska w Szymanach gm. Szczytyno w Województwie Warmińsko-mazurskim.
The intricate history of the airport in the village of Szymany (Gmina Szczytyno, Warmian-Masurian Voivodeship)

[Closing of the conference / Ukončení konference](#)

CONFERENCE SCHEDULE
PROGRAM

Abstracts / Příspěvky

Elena SCARSELLA

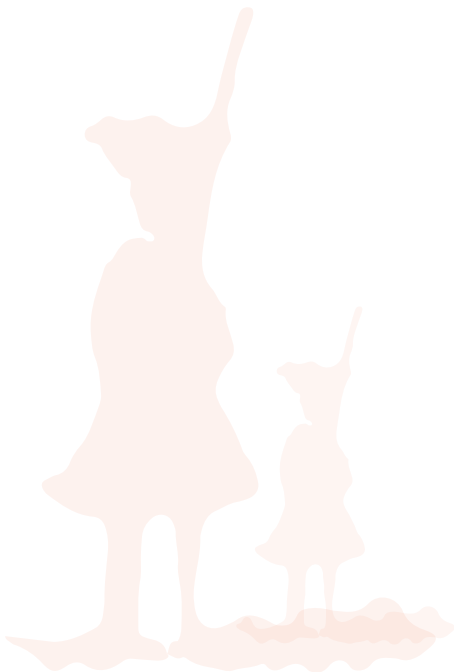
Paths of Control: Conflict and Fortification in the Iron Age Fucino basin (Italy)

The uplands of the Abruzzo Apennines, despite their critical position within Mediterranean mobility networks, have remained largely absent from archaeological discourse, primarily due to the dense vegetation hindering exploration. The E-TransAp project (Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions, European Union) addresses this gap through remote sensing, investigating the entanglement of pastoral practices, conflict, and territorial organisation in these highland landscapes.

Focusing on the former Fucino lake basin, this paper explores how violence, competition, and social strategies of control shaped not only the distribution of settlements but also the experience and perception of the landscape between the Iron Age and the Roman occupation. Here, the landscape emerges as an active agent — a medium through which power was materialised, negotiated, and contested. Scarcity of resources, the need to dominate key corridors, and territorial assertion converged to create a militarised environment, where fortifications, watchtowers, and strategic occupations redefined community-space relations.

Preliminary remote sensing data reveal a palimpsest of conflict-driven modifications, suggesting that access to land, pastures, and routes was persistently mediated by violence. An initial interpretative framework is proposed, positing the Fucino basin as a contested frontier, where landscape became a political object — structured, experienced, and transformed through the exercise of power. Thus, the archaeology of the highlands urges a reconsideration of mountainous spaces not as marginal zones but as dynamic arenas of agency, identity formation, and territorial struggle.

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Dario MONTI¹ – Elena SCARSELLA²

Wall it up: Iron Age Fortifications in Latium Vetus and Central Apennines, a comparison

This paper investigates the role of fortifications in shaping and expressing two different models of settlement and social organisation in ancient central Italy, from the Archaic to the Hellenistic period, with a particular focus on the dynamics of conflict. Centred on defensive walls, it compares the fortified centres of ancient Latium with those of the Italic communities in the mountainous hinterland of the central Apennines. These two regions offer a compelling contrast: Latin settlements developed in an area that will eventually develop in full urbanisation, whereas Apennine communities followed more dispersed and decentralised patterns. The study examines the morphology, construction techniques—including the so-called “polygonal” masonry—and spatial distribution of these fortifications, analysing their relationships with other sites and broader territorial dynamics. Special emphasis is placed on the debated chronology and function of polygonal walls, with the aim of reassessing the evidence and proposing a new synthesis. The comparative approach not only clarifies the structural and strategic rationale behind different fortification models, but also reveals how these structures reflect varying conceptions of warfare and defence. Latin and Italic communities often found themselves in military confrontations —most notably during the Samnite Wars and the Social War. By exploring the material traces of conflict, this paper addresses the intersection between military architecture, modes of warfare, social organisation, and regional identity in pre-Roman Italy.

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Petr DRESLER

Early Medieval Fortifications. Whwn, From Where, For Whom, and Against Whom?!

The destruction of the Ramparts of the combined structure is considered a clear evidence of the fortification of key early medieval political centers. In the area of Great Moravia, the construction of fortifications is considered a reaction to the conquest campaigns of the Frankish armies. Unfortunately, the construction date is in most cases only relative. If it is absolute, it turns out that they were built at the very end of the 9th century. Who was the builder/investor of these fortifications, where did the knowledge of their construction come from and against whom were they built are key questions that we need to address.

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Bogdan CHIRILOAIE

Under the Mist of Time: Early Medieval Earthen Fortifications in the Romanian Eastern Carpathian Space between the 8th and 11th Centuries AD

The first millennium AD represents a period marked by political transformations within the broader context of European continental history, culminating in the dawn of a new historical era. The transition from one epoch to another signified, for that time, a favorable context for the emergence of socio-economic, ethno-demographic, cultural, and political changes, which would lead to the growth or decline of various populations. Within this framework, certain medieval earthen fortifications emerged, becoming the subject of intense scientific debates over time, debates that remain unresolved to this day.

In the Eastern Carpathian space, this topic has been scarcely addressed, although in recent years numerous research perspectives have opened up. The focus of our presentation is on identifying all fortifications discovered to date and, to the extent possible, uncovering new ones. Additionally, we aim to present the primary data for each settlement individually, identify similarities, and draw relevant conclusions. To achieve a comprehensive and accurate picture, we have taken into account, for all studied areas, the defensive systems (ditches, ramparts, and palisades), the inhabited habitats (settlements within the enclosures), and the archaeological material resulting from excavations (pottery, agricultural tools, weapons, etc.).

The historical process unfolding in this region was undoubtedly complex and influenced by external factors that facilitated the development of groups that managed to assert themselves on the political stage of the time.

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Antonín ŠTURM

Early medieval hillforts of eastern Bohemia

The purpose of the presentation is to present the results of the author's master's thesis, which focuses on the issue of early medieval hillforts in Eastern Bohemia. The aim of the thesis was to provide an overview of the current state of knowledge and to compile a comprehensive list of sites that are or were previously considered early medieval hillforts. However, during the course of the research, it became apparent that a large portion of the considered sites are known only fragmentarily, and that some of them most likely are not early medieval hillforts at all.

A key part of the thesis (and the main subject of this presentation) became the classification of sites, divided into early medieval hillforts, possible early medieval hillforts (with varying degrees of probability), and sites mistakenly regarded as early medieval. The presentation also includes a discussion on the potential structure of the hillfort network in various phases of the early Middle Ages, although these considerations are significantly limited by the current state of knowledge.

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Ioan Marian ȚIPLIC¹ – Florin SFRENGEU – Adrian Nicole ȘOVREA

Bihar Fortifications: An Intersection of Archaeological Discoveries and Historical Records

The fortification at Biharea, about which we have written records from the turn of the 9th-10th centuries, was an important center, with many similarities to the fortresses at Cenad and Alba Iulia. It seems that after the Hungarians occupied the territory of the former principality of Menumorut, a so-called duchy was established for the heir to the royal throne. In the 11th century, the Diocese of Bihor was created, with the first known bishop being Liedvinus around 1061, originally from Lotharingia („Liedvinus episcopus Bichariensis, genere Lothariensis”). In 1068, the settlement at Biharea fell victim to the plundering carried out by the Cumans, as did the entire western part of Transylvania („Cuni... totamque provinciam Nyr usque civitatem Bihor crudeliter depredantes”). We know that in 1071, Duke Ladislaus (the future king) went to Russia for military aid from Bihor („Ladislaus...de civitate Byhor ivit in Rusciam”), which confirms that his residence was there. In 1077/1078, the Cumans, led by Copulch, plundered Transylvania and, passing through Biharea, headed towards Hungary („Qui depopulata terra Transilvana transiens venit ad 32 33 Bihor”). The settlement at Biharea also appears in a document from 1075, where it is mentioned as civitas Bichor. First mentioned in the debated and contested Gesta Hungarorum of the Anonymous Notary, it has undergone archaeological research (partially published) under the coordination of Sever Dumitrașcu. The resumption of these archaeological investigations was prompted by the initiation of a project aimed at enhancing the monument, within the framework of which a large-scale preventive archaeological research campaign is being carried out. The results of these preventive investigations will be presented by the research team, along with potential future research objectives suggested by the magneto-metric and ground-penetrating radar surveys conducted in 2024 and 2025.

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Radosław GAWROŃSKI

Standing in Stirrups. The Forgotten Military Revolution of the 13th century.

A military revolution occurred in the steppes of Eurasia in the 13th century. Earlier designs of steppe saddles, as it is confirmed by Tang dynasty iconography, precluded standing in stirrups, because the stirrup straps hung just beside the front pommel: the earlier horsemen, nomads like Avars or Magyars, rode in a cowboy style with legs put forward. Such riding style also affected the stirrup's shape, as they had large protrusions near the ankle. However, some archaeological finds from the 11th-century Mongolia and available figured evidence suggest that the stirrup straps began to be placed near the middle of saddle bars, facilitating standing in stirrups for the first time. The change in riding style is also confirmed by osteological evidence, as certain pathological changes, traceable at skeletons recovered from Magyar cemeteries, are absent among later Mongol pastoralists. Saddles of the new design appear at Ukrainian sites in the 12–13th century and stirrups from the time lost their protrusions. The author of the present contribution will argue that the change in question was critical for Mongol success, as it enabled better weight distribution, significantly improved shooting accuracy and enabled drawing heavier bows or hewing heavier blows.

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Piotr STRZYŻ¹ – Radosław ZDANIEWICZ²

Militaria as potential testimony to the siege of Olsztyn Castle in 1391

The castle in Olsztyn is one of the most famous medieval residential and defensive castles in Jura Krakowsko-Częstochowska. The walled fortress was built on a vast elevation with numerous limestone spurs as early as the 14th century, and only its ruins remain today. In 2013–2023 major restoration work was carried out on the castle walls, accompanied by archaeological work conducted by Dr. Czesław Hadamik. Numerous medieval militaria related to the history of the Olsztyn fortress were found then. These were both elements of side arms and crossbows and firearms. Numerous discoveries of such artefacts in the surroundings of the walled fortifications allow us to assume that they may be related to battles waged to gain control of the fortress. Historical sources mention its three-day siege in 1391, after which it was seized by Poland's King Władysław Jagiello from Prince Władysław Opolczyk. The uncovered militaria are also in themselves interesting sources for learning about the elements of offensive weaponry used in the Silesian-Małopolska (Small Poland) borderland in the late Middle Ages.

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Doctoral School of Humanities, University of Łódź²

Jana MAZÁČKOVÁ

Weapons Used During the Siege of Cornštejn Castle

The area surrounding Cornštejn Castle features a complex system of earthworks that provides clear evidence of a siege, primarily associated with the years 1464–1465. Older elements of these earthworks have only been documented beneath the outer fortification to the south of the castle, which was later constructed over an earlier siege position. A metal detector survey was undertaken specifically in this southern section, where fighting occurred between the outer fortification and the besiegers' positions. The finds included firearm projectiles and arrowheads. A formal and spatial analysis of the artifacts was carried out, focusing on their connection to the use of weapons.

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Petr ČECH¹ – Roman KŘIVÁNEK – Eliška VOŠVRDOVÁ – Vladimír HŮDA

Fortification of the outer ward of Sion Castle

Legends and myths circulate about the appearance and siege of Sion Castle, but contemporary archaeological research and methods are gradually refuting them. Geophysical measurements also contributed to this, and based on them and the results of archaeological research, the appearance of the fortifications of the outer ward of the castle can be interpreted.

Opevnění předhradí hradu Sion

O podobě a obléhání hradu Sion kolují legendy a mýty, ale soudobý archeologický výzkum a metody je postupně vyvracejí. Přispělo k tomu i geofyzikální měření a podle něj a výsledků archeologického výzkumu lze interpretovat podobu opevnění předhradí.

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Jan MUSIL

Finds of war flails from Pardubice Region

Probably no other medieval weapon is as closely associated with the Czech environment as the war flail. It is somewhat paradoxical that, apart from a few very brief mentions scattered throughout Czech historical and archaeological literature, this weapon has not received due attention. The article presents new archaeological findings from the Pardubický region as well as two exceptionally well-preserved specimens from the collection of military artifacts at the East Bohemian Museum in Pardubice.

Nálezy bojových cepů z Pardubického kraje

Patrně žádná jiná středověká zbraň není tak úzce spjata s českým prostředím jako bojový cep. Je určitým paradoxem, že až na několik velmi kusých zmínek roztroušených v české historické a archeologické literatuře nebyla této zbraní věnována patřičná pozornost. Příspěvek představuje nové archeologické nálezy z prostoru Pardubického kraje a také dva vyjimečně dochované exempláře ze sbírky militárií Východočeského muzea v Pardubicích.

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Jan SASOR¹ – Kalina SKÓRA²

Archaeological research of the Grotniki battlefield in 1439

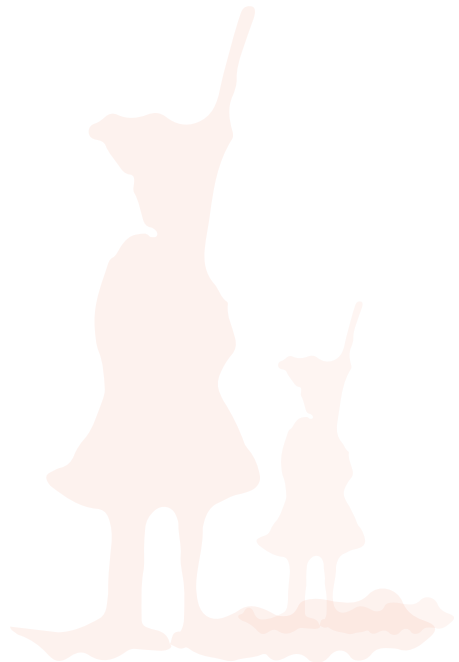
The battle of Grotniki near Nowy Korczyn (90 km east of Kraków), fought on May 6, 1439, is certainly not one of the most famous battles in Polish history. It was fought by an army commanded by Spytek of Melsztyn, an opposition leader and Hussite sympathizer. In the battle he used a wagon tabor (Wagenburg), set up precisely on the model of Hussite tactics. His opponents were the royal army of Ladislaus III, commanded by Jan Hińcza of Rogów and Dobiesław of Szczekociny. Spytek's troops set up a camp in a bend of the Nida River, but they did not manage to complete it and the attack by the royal forces ended in their complete victory, with Sytek killed.

The battle was described quite accurately in the Annals of Jan Długosz, but changes in riverbeds since the Middle Ages make it difficult to locate it precisely. The research is being conducted by a team of historians and archaeologists from the Silesian Museum in Katowice, the Institute of Archaeology and Ethnology of the Polish Academy of Sciences in Łódź and the Institute of Archaeology of the University of Łódź, with the cooperation of geomorphologists from Jan Kochanowski University in Kielce and members of the Silesian Exploration Group. Field exploration began in 2023 and yielded a number of relics of medieval weaponry, such as elements of falchion and firearm ammunition, among others. However, despite the extensive research area, the camp of Spytek of Melsztyn's army itself has yet to be located.

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Claes B. PETTERSSON

Both Sides of the Border. Similar problems - similar solutions in the Scandinavian Border Wars of the Early Modern Period.

The Nordic Union of 1397 had – at least in theory – unified Scandinavia under one sovereign for more than a century. But its dissolution in 1523 led to a long period of political unrest and reoccurring wars between Denmark and Sweden. The border regions in both realms became the main scenes in these conflicts, resulting in vast areas being laid to waste.

To protect the vulnerable borders similar strategies were applied in both countries. Strategically placed fortress towns replaced older, unfortified but well-established settlements. These new strongholds often followed the Dutch pattern, using water and wetlands as an effective first line of defence. This however caused living conditions less than favourable for the inhabitants, many of whom had been forced to move there by the authorities. The process of creating a new town on a site situated in marshes also called for the mobilisation of the hinterland and its combined resources.

This paper compares the development and fate of two of these fortress towns, Jönköping and Christianstad. Both modern “ideal” towns with renaissance town plans and protected by state-of-the-art fortifications. Both garrison towns, administrative centres and hubs of modernity in a remote agrarian district. Both scenes of war, besieged, taken by storm and left devastated. Both still existing today and subject to extensive archaeological excavations, revealing remnants of a complicated and conflict-laden past.

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Miroslav DEJMAL

Castle Židlochovice and Circular Bastions in Central Europe

By the end of the Middle Ages and the beginning of the Early Modern period, most Moravian castles no longer served primarily as fortresses. Most castles were being transformed into comfortable residences. Some castles that remained fortified relied on their older fortifications, or were only occasionally supplemented with individual new defensive structures. However, likely in response to the Habsburg–Ottoman wars, new, modern fortifications were occasionally built. One such example is the fortification of the castle in Židlochovice. The topic of the paper is the archaeological research of the fortifications at the Židlochovice Castle and a general overview of the issue of circular bastions in Moravia.

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Petr HEJHAL¹ – Petr DUFFEK² – Lenka MARTÍNKOVÁ³

Pelhřimov region at the beginning of the Bohemian revolt (autumn 1618). Archaeology and history.

In the autumn of 1618, the landscape on the western edge of the Bohemian-Moravian Highlands became very restless. Two armies stood against each other here – the Imperial army with the camp in Pelhřimov and the army of the rebellious Bohemian estates with the camp at Hořepník. Throughout their presence there were mutual skirmishes, however, as the historian Josef Dobiáš aptly summarized: “All the relatively numerous reports about these skirmishes are unfortunately one-sided and quite biased, and the reliability of perhaps all of them suffers from exaggeration of the successes of their own side and the losses on the opposing side and vice versa. This shortcoming is still augmented by a complete lack of local data, caused by the fact that all the reports were written either by foreigners or for foreign recipients, who, naturally, could not be interested in the names of insignificant settlements in the not very wide land strip lying between the two enemy camps or in their rear” (Dobiáš 1936, 870–871). Unfortunately, it is highly symptomatic that the testimony of written sources does not even provide such an important information as to where exactly the two military camps were located, let alone the places of the armed clashes mentioned in the sources.

In recent years, several small-scale archaeological research actions were undertaken, which probably captured traces of these skirmishes. The paper summarizes written sources and complements them with the results of archaeological surveys. On the basis of their analysis, a specification of the events that took place here in the autumn of 1618 is presented.

Pelhřimovsko na počátku stavovského povstání (podzim 1618). Archeologie a historie.

Na podzim roku 1618 se krajina na západním okraji Českomoravské vrchoviny stala velmi neklidnou. Proti sobě zde stála dvě vojska - císařské s táborem v Pelhřimově a vojsko vzbouřených českých stavů s táborem u Hořepníka. Po celou dobu jejich přítomnosti docházelo k vzájemným šarvátkám, nicméně, jak trefně shrnul historik Josef Dobiáš: „Všechny, poměrně četné, zprávy o těchto potyčkách jsou bohužel velmi jednostranné a spolehlivost snad všech jich trpí přeháněním úspěchů strany vlastní i ztrát na straně protivně a naopak. K této závadě přistupuje pak ještě naprostý nedostatek údajů místních, zaviněný tím, že všechny zprávy byly psány buď od cizinců nebo pro cizinu, která ovšem nemohla mít zájem o jména bezvýznamných osad v neširokém územním pásu ležícím mezi oběma nepřátelskými tábory nebo v jejich týle” (Dobiáš 1936, 870–871). Je bohužel jen příznačné, že z výpovědi písemných pramenů neplyne ani tak závažná informace, kde přesně se oba vojenské tábory nacházely, natož potom místa v pramenech zmiňovaných ozbrojených střetů.

V minulých letech proběhlo několik menších archeologických akcí, které pravděpodobně zachytily stopy po těchto šarvátkách. Příspěvek sumarizuje písemné prameny a ty doplňuje o výsledky archeologických prospekcií. Na základě jejich analýzy je předloženo upřesnění událostí, ke kterým zde na podzim roku 1618 došlo.

Dobiáš, J. 1936: Dějiny královského města Pelhřimova a jeho okolí. Díl II. Doba reformační. Část I. Pelhřimov.

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Christina Regina – A Dutch Bastion in Gothenburg from the early 1640's

The fortified city of Gothenburg was founded on the West coast of Sweden as port of trade in 1619. The Swedish crown aimed to secure a way to get access the global trade network by creating strong connections to the Dutch trading companies.

Gothenburg city and fortifications were planned and built from scratch. The first plans over the city were most likely made by Dutch architects. They employed ideas from the Dutch school of fortification, developed in the Low Countries during the French and Spanish wars in the second half of the 16th centuries.

This paper will focus on a recently completed excavation of Gothenburg's earliest fortifications; they evolved from a simple earthen bastion in the 1620s to fully developed fortifications of the Dutch school in the early 1640's. The latter was affected by a large landslide during construction, which meant some parts of the nearly completed fortification were extremely well preserved below ground level. The landslide also led to a development of building techniques. These were employed during the reconstruction of the bastion and included technical solutions to stabilise the ground and strengthen the earthen walls.

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Exhibition "1645 – Brno Under Siege" – new presentation of early modern conflict

The exhibition "1645 – Brno Under Siege" is a new project by the City Museum of Brno. Its main aim is to present different perspectives on a single historical conflict. The siege of Brno by the Swedish army in 1645 serves as a foundation for exploring various aspects of 17th century armed conflicts and their impact on urban society.

To achieve this, the exhibition introduces ten individuals and their stories – some based on real historical figures, others loosely inspired by array of primary sources.

In this presentation, we will discuss the methods used to develop these personal narratives and our overall approach to the theme of early modern conflict in an unconventional way.

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Gothenburg outer defense during the Danish-Swedish war during the end of the Thirty Years' War (1643–1645)

In Scandinavia there's been a long power struggle between the Danish and the Swedish kingdoms. During 16th and 17th century and into the early 18th century this escalated into a series of wars. This presentation will focus on the remains of fortifications from a specific war connected to the end part of the Thirty Years' War, outside the fortified city of Gothenburg.

The remains that will be presented are reduits, sconces, batteries and military camps connected to the conflicts in the area surrounding Gothenburg 1643–1645. The authors have recently excavated several of these fortifications. The results give a deeper insight into how they were constructed and used within this brief timeframe. Studies of contemporary maps have also resulted in the discovery of previously unregistered remains from field fortifications.

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The Early Modern Field Fortification System in the Vicinity of Horní Benešov (Bruntál District)

This paper presents the results of a preliminary survey and documentation of a field fortification system located in the vicinity of the town of Horní Benešov (Bruntál District, Moravian-Silesian Region). The defensive system comprises ten sites, primarily consisting of earthen ramparts and ditches. These features have so far been mentioned only marginally in scholarly literature and have not yet been systematically studied. A recent field survey included detailed visual documentation, spatial measurements, and a basic morphological classification of the individual structures.

Special attention is paid to the possibilities of chronological and functional classification of these fortification elements through historical maps, archival records, and other cartographic sources. According to one of these sources, the oldest site—referred to as Die Alte Schanze—can be dated to before 1772. The remaining sites were most likely built between 1779 and 1782, a period of heightened military activity associated with the War of the Bavarian Succession. Methodological aspects of identifying and documenting field fortifications in forested and submontane environments are also discussed.

The aim of the paper is to highlight the importance of this little-known site for the study of early modern conflict archaeology, to broaden our knowledge of military presence in the Nížký Jeseník region, and to open up space for further interdisciplinary research in this area.

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Jakub WRZOSEK

Preliminary results of archaeological research on the Pułtusk battlefield (Poland)

The Battle of Pułtusk (Masovia, Poland) was fought on 26 December 1806 during the Fourth Coalition War against France between French and Russian forces. The battle is considered by historians to be indecisive, although the French occupied the city. The battle itself took place in very bad weather conditions, during snowstorms and rain at the height of the thaw. Approximately 70,000 soldiers from both sides fought in the clash. The French lost approximately 1,500–7,000 killed, wounded and taken prisoner, while the Russians lost 3,500–5,000.

Archaeological research began in 2002 and continued until 2007. In 2020, research related to the construction of the Pułtusk bypass began and continued until 2024. As a result of the work carried out, a total of over 900 artefacts were found, the vast majority of which were lead bullets (85%). During the excavations carried out during the construction of the ring road, two mass graves containing the remains of Russian soldiers were also found.

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Lukáš HUDÁK¹ – Markéta PECNOVÁ

The village of Ples until the construction of the fortress

The village of Ples underwent significant ownership development, including noble families such as Sporck, Gallas and Trčka, and played an important role as a strategic point for various armies. The historical importance of the site is evidenced, for example, by the field camp of Charles of Lorraine and defensive elements from 1758. As part of the current research, a 3D model was created showing the original morphology of the village before the construction of the fortress, based on the recalculation of the surveying protocols from 1764 by Querlonde, the author of the final variant of the fortress. Designs of the fortress from 1764 and 1781 (Querlonde, Spallart) are gradually projected onto the model. The research also includes documentation of house numbers, plots and their historical owners, which provides valuable insights into the development of the village.

Vesnice Ples do výstavby pevnosti

Vesnice Ples prošla významným vlastnickým vývojem, zahrnujícím šlechtické rody jako Šporkové, Gallasové a Trčkové, a hrála důležitou roli jako strategický bod pro různé armády. Historický význam lokality dokládají například polní ležení Karla Lotrinského a obranné prvky z roku 1758. V rámci současného výzkumu byl vytvořen 3D model zachycující původní morfologii vesnice před stavbou pevnosti, založený na přepočítání vyměřovacích protokolů z roku 1764 od Querlonda, autora finální varianty pevnosti. Na model jsou postupně promítány návrhy pevnosti z let 1764 a 1781 (Querlonde, Spallart). Součástí výzkumu je také dokumentace čísel popisných, parcel a jejich historických vlastníků, která poskytuje cenné poznatky o vývoji obce.

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Mine system of the Terezín fortress

The mine system of the Terezín bastion fortress is one of the longest systems of its kind in Europe. Tens of kilometres of corridors date back to the late 18th and early 19th centuries and form a unique underground complex designed to defend the fortress. The paper will focus on the construction history, categorization of individual spaces and structures and their planned use in practical combat.

Minový systém pevnosti Terezín

Minový systém bastionové pevnosti Terezín představuje jeden z nejdelších systému tohoto druhu v Evropě. Desítky kilometrů chodeb pochází z konce 18. a začátku 19. století a tvoří jedinečný podzemní komplex určený k obraně pevnosti. Příspěvek bude zaměřen na stavební historii, kategorizaci jednotlivých prostor a konstrukcí a jejich plánované využití v praktickém boji.

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The cemetery of Prussian soldiers at the hospital of the Břevnov Monastery in 1757

In the past year 2024, extensive research has begun on the war cemetery of Prussian soldiers who died in the hospital of the Břevnov Monastery from their injuries, suffered in the Battle of Štěrboholy and the subsequent siege of Prague in 1757. So far, more than 1,200 individuals have been recovered here in eight linear multi-storey graves, dozens of individual graves and several group graves of four or more individuals each. It cannot be ruled out that the second group of graves dates back to the war conflict of 1744. Archaeological research shows the level of military medicine at that time, various types of surgical interventions, but also the health condition of the army itself. Last but not least, it also touches on issues related to the actual method of burial, personal equipment of individuals, etc.

Pohřebiště pruských vojáků u lazaretu Břevnovského kláštera v roce 1757

V uplynulém roce 2024 byl zahájen rozsáhlý výzkum válečného pohřebiště pruských vojáků, kteří podlehlí svým zraněním v lazaretu Břevnovského kláštera, které byly způsobeny v bitvě u Štěrboholy a následného obléhání Prahy roku 1757. Dosud zde bylo vyzvednuto více než 1200 jedinců v osmi liniových více etážových hrobech, desítek individuálních a několika skupinových hrobech po čtyřech a více jedincích. Nelze vyloučit, že druhá skupina hrobů pochází již z válečného konfliktu v roce 1744. Archeologický výzkum ukazuje úroveň vojenského lékařství v té době, nejrozumnější typy chirurgických zákroků ale i zdravotní kondici vlastní armády. V neposlední řadě se dotýká i otázek spojených s vlastním způsobem pohřbívání, osobní výbavou jedinců atp.

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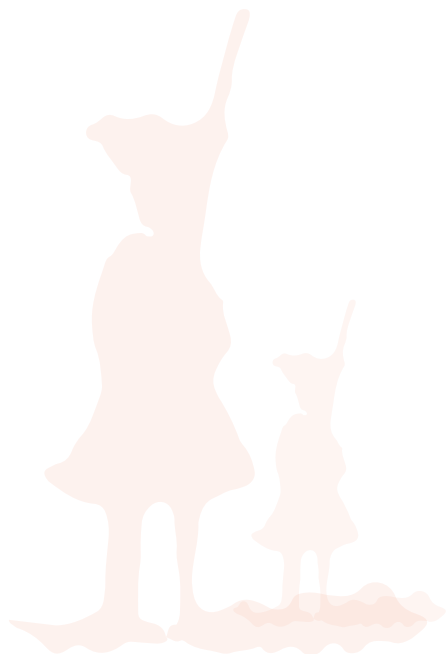
Archaeological research of the defunct military cemetery in Prague – Karlín

In 2022–2023, extensive archaeological and anthropological research was carried out on part of the complex of defunct cemeteries in Prague – Karlín. The military cemetery was founded in 1753 not far from Invalidovna (retirement home for war veterans) under the slope of Vítkov Hill and ceased to exist in 1894. The cemetery was used for burying soldiers not only from the nearby Invalidovna, but also many other soldiers from Prague military units, retired soldiers residing in Prague and their family members. Its youngest part was examined – the cemetery for senior officers, which was in operation from 1801 to 1894. Initially, its area was used for mass graves of victims of the battles of the Napoleonic Wars at Chlumec (Kulm) and Dresden in 1813, but for most of its existence it was an ordinary row cemetery. The paper will focus on the displays of material culture and burial rite of Catholic officers and their family members in the course of the 19th century.

Archeologický výzkum zaniklého vojenského hřbitova v Praze – Karlíně

V letech 2022–2023 proběhl rozsáhlý archeologický a antropologický výzkum části komplexu zaniklých hřbitovů v Praze – Karlíně. Vojenský hřbitov byl založen roku 1753 nedaleko od invalidovny pod svahem Vítkova a zanikl roku 1894. Hřbitov sloužil pro pohřbívání vojáků nejen z nedaleké invalidovny, ale také mnoha dalších vojáků z pražských útvarů, vojáků v penzi bytem v Praze i jejich rodinných příslušníků. Zkoumána byla jeho nejmladší část – hřbitov pro vyšší důstojníky, který byl v provozu v letech 1801–1894. Zpočátku však byla jeho plocha využita pro hromadné hroby obětí bitev napoleonských válek u Chlumce a Drážďan roku 1813, ale většinu doby své existence se jednalo o běžný řadový hřbitov. Příspěvek se zaměří na projev hmotné kultury a pohřebního ritu katolických důstojníků a jejich rodinných příslušníků v průběhu 19. století.

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Anthropology of mass graves from the war of 1866

The paper presents the results of last year's anthropological research during the construction of the D35 motorway and the Náchod bypass. These are mostly direct findings from field research, the results of which are currently being processed. However, these initial findings already bring a number of interesting facts, for example about the demographic structure or health condition of the buried soldiers, the method of burial and, of course, about gunshot wounds. These graves are located right on the battlefield, without signs of further secondary intrusions, so they directly preserve the situation of that time and are thus a unique source of information. The paper will also deal with planned scientific analyses of skeletal material and the fate of the recovered remains.

Antropologie hromadných hrobů z války 1866

Příspěvek prezentuje výsledky loňského antropologického výzkumu při stavbě dálnice D35 a obchvatu Náchoda. Převážně se jedná o přímé terénní poznatky, zpracování výzkumu právě probíhá. Již ale tyto prvotní poznatky přináší řadu zajímavostí, například o demografické struktuře nebo zdravotním stavu pohřbených vojáků, o způsobu ukládání těl a samozřejmě o střelných poraněních. Jedná se o hroby umístěné přímo na bojišti, bez dalších druhotných zásahů, konzervují tedy přímo tehdejší situaci a jsou tak unikátním zdrojem informací. Příspěvek rovněž představí plánované přírodovědné analýzy kosterního materiálu a osud vyvednutých ostatků.

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Trautenau and Königgrätz 1866, new views of the battlefields thanks to large-scale detector surveys

Due to the ongoing construction of the D11 and D35 motorways in the areas of the battlefields of the Austro-Prussian War of 1866, the archaeological knowledge of these sites is expanding. Large-scale detector surveys thus provide a new insight into the events of the war year in the landscape of battle clashes on the only victorious battlefield of the Austrian army near Trutnov (Trautenau) and also on the largest battlefield of this war near Hradec Králové (Königgrätz).

Trutnov a Hradec Králové 1866, nové pohledy na bojiště díky velkoplošným detektorovým prospekciím

Z důvodu pokračující výstavby dálnic D11 a D35 v prostorech bojišť prusko-rakouské války z roku 1866 se rozšiřuje jejich archeologické poznání. Velkoplošné detektorové prospekce tak nově přibližují dění válečného roku v krajině bitevních střetů na jediném vítězném bojišti rakouské armády u Trutnova a i na tom největším bojišti této války u Hradce Králové.

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Archaeological evidence of conflicts of the 18th–20th centuries in the Eastern Carpathians

The ridges of the Eastern Carpathians on the Slovak-Polish-Ukrainian border represent a unique palimpsest where, thanks to favourable conditions, the remains of conflicts that have taken place in the 18th and 20th centuries have been preserved. Archaeological research reveals specific traces of these events: from the newly discovered military camp of the Tsarist army from the Easter battle (1915) at Głębokki Wierch, through the Wehrmacht artillery positions from the Battle of the Dukla Pass (1944), to the forced displacement of the Ruthenian population due to the construction of the Starina reservoir. Some sites, such as Ruské sedlo (mountain saddle), accumulate traces of different periods and represent unique archaeological complexes with extraordinary informative value. The analysis of the sites in the context of the "Bloodlands" concept shows how repeated conflicts have transformed not only the landscape, but also the demographic and cultural structure of the region, thus confirming the Eastern Carpathian ridges as a key area for the study within the archaeology of modern conflicts.

Archeologické doklady konfliktů 18.–20. století ve východních Karpatech

Hřebeny východních Karpat na slovensko-polsko-ukrajinském pohraničí představují unikátní palimpsest, kde se díky příhodným podmínkám dochovaly pozůstatky konfliktů 18.–20. století. Archeologický výzkum odhaluje konkrétní stopy těchto událostí: od nově objeveného vojenského tábora carské armády z Velikonoční bitvy (1915) na Głębokém Wierchu, přes dělostřelecké pozice Wehrmachtu z Karpatsko-dukelské operace (1944), až po nucené vysídlení ruských obyvatel kvůli stavbě vodního díla Starina. Některé lokality, například Ruské sedlo, koncentrují stopy různých období a představují unikátní archeologické komplexy s mimořádnou výpovědní hodnotou. Analýza lokalit v kontextu konceptu "Bloodlands" ukazuje, jak opakované konflikty transformovaly nejen krajinu, ale i demografickou a kulturní strukturu regionu, čímž potvrzuje východokarpatské hřebeny jako klíčovou oblast pro studium archeologie moderních konfliktů.

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Gediminas PETRAUSKAS

The Archaeology and Heritage of the First World War and the Wars of Independence in Lithuania

The archaeological investigations of First World War sites that began in the United Kingdom at the turn of the 20th and 21st centuries expanded the concept of Great War research, laid the foundations for the development of modern conflict archaeology, and shaped its theoretical and methodological approaches. In Lithuania, the sites of the First World War (1914–1918) and the Wars of Independence (1919–1920) have not attracted much interest among researchers, and there are almost no published studies to date. This paper focuses on the legacy of the First World War and the Wars of Independence in Lithuania, for the first time providing an overview of the archaeological research carried out up to 2024 in trenches, battlefields, and sites of death and burial, analysing the context of the research and presenting its results. Drawing on the experience of the archaeology of the First World War in other countries, the author discusses the state of the research and its future prospects, and offers a definition of the archaeology of the First World War and the Wars of Independence in Lithuania.

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Magdalena ŻUREK

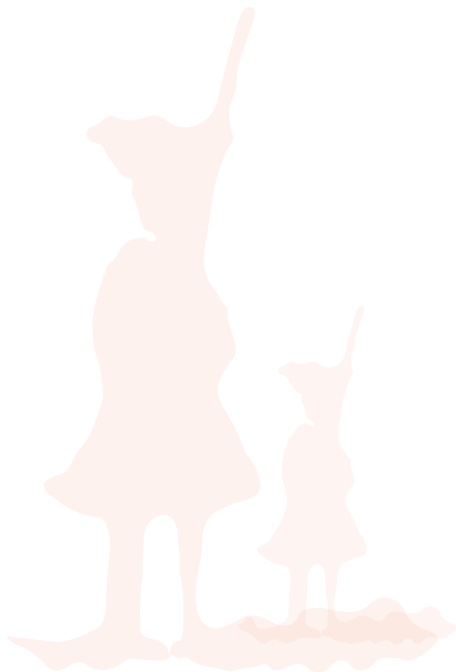
Red Army soldiers buried near the Ogiński Palace in Siedlce – a reminder of the Polish-Soviet battles for the city in 1920

In 2005, during work related to the revitalization of the Ogiński Palace in Siedlce, two skeletons were found. The examination of them and the items accompanying them allowed us to realize that they were the remains of two young men, Red Army soldiers, who died during the fighting for Siedlce in August 1920. The arrangement of the skeletons indicates that the bodies were not moved after death. The research allowed them to recreate the last moments of their lives and find a previously unknown element of field fortifications in the suburb.

Pochówek czerwonoarmistów pod Pałacem Ogińskich w Siedlcach – ślad polsko-radzieckich walk o miasto w 1920 r.

W 2005 r., podczas prac związanych z rewitalizacją Pałacu Ogińskich w Siedlcach znaleziono dwa szkielety. Oględziny ich oraz towarzyszących im przedmiotów pozwoliły się zorientować, że były to szczątki dwóch młodych mężczyzn, żołnierzy Armii Czerwonej, którzy polegli w trakcie walk o Siedlce w sierpniu 1920 r. Układ szkieletów wskazuje, że ciała nie zostały przemieszczone po śmierci. Badania pozwoliły na odtworzenie ostatnich chwil ich życia i odnalezienie nieznanego dotąd elementu umocnień polowych na przedmieściu.

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The future of archaeological research of traces of the Katyn massacre

Since 2022, the research project "Lexicon of Katyn Archaeology (1990–2015)" has been in progress, which aims to collect, systematize, archive and disseminate information on Polish archaeological research of traces of the Katyn massacre – a Soviet crime committed in 1940 against 22,000 Polish prisoners of war. The scope of the research also includes a broad historical and cognitive context in which these studies can be reinterpreted today and demonstrate new research possibilities.

Our current knowledge of the tangible evidence of the Katyn massacre is based on the results of archaeological excavations in Katyn and Mednoye (Russia), as well as in Kharkiv and Bykivnia (Ukraine). In the future, when new political and social opportunities arise, it will be necessary to return to some of these places. Research of archival data and witness testimonies suggests that a significant number of victims of the Katyn massacre were buried elsewhere in present-day Ukraine and Belarus.

The authors of the paper will present the current state of knowledge about these sites and outline the probable impacts of future archaeological research and its contribution to our knowledge of the Katyn massacre. They will also consider the use of new research methods of archaeology and physical anthropology that have not been used in previous research.

Budoucnost archeologického výzkumu stop Katyňského masakru

Od roku 2022 probíhá výzkumný projekt „Lexikon katyňské archeologie (1990–2015)“, jehož cílem je shromáždit, systematizovat, archivovat a rozšířit informace o polském archeologickém výzkumu stop po Katyňském masakru – sovětském zločinu spáchaném v roce 1940 na 22 000 polských válečných zajatcích. Rozsah výzkumu zahrnuje také široký historický a kognitivní kontext, v němž lze tyto studie dnes reinterpretovat a demonstrovat nové výzkumné možnosti.

Naše současné poznatky o hmotných stopách Katyňského masakru jsou založeny na výsledcích archeologických výzkumů v Katyni a Mednoje (Rusko) a také v Charkově a Bykivni (Ukrajina). V budoucnu, až se naskytou nové politické a společenské příležitosti, bude nutné se na některá z těchto míst vrátit. Výzkum archivních dat a výpovědí svědků naznačuje, že značný počet obětí Katyňského masakru byl pohřben na jiných místech dnešní Ukrajiny a Běloruska.

Autoři příspěvku představí současný stav poznání o těchto místech a nastíní pravděpodobné dopady budoucího archeologického výzkumu a jeho přínos k našemu poznání Katyňského masakru. Zvaží také využití nových výzkumných metod z archeologie a fyzické antropologie, které nebyly v předchozím výzkumu použity.

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Katarzyna ZDEB

Archaeology of World War II – an overview of issues in Polish law

Contemporary archaeology of armed conflicts is increasingly confronted with the need to conduct research in areas related to the events of World War II. In the territory of Poland, due to the intensity of wartime events, mass repressions and the operation of prisoner-of-war and extermination camps, the number of finds of an anthropological nature is particularly high. This situation brings not only methodological challenges, but also important legal aspects. The paper attempts to outline the main legal problems that archaeologists face when examining human remains from this period.

The regulations governing archaeological and exhumation work in Poland will be discussed, including the role of institutions such as the Institute of National Remembrance, provincial conservationists or sanitary services. Special attention will be paid to the different treatment of relics from World War II compared to those from other conflicts – e.g. World War I – and to the problems arising from the ambiguous definitions of "victims of war" and "memorial sites". The practical implications of current regulations for archaeological research, identification of remains and their subsequent commemoration will also be presented. The aim of the paper is to point out the need to develop comprehensive interdisciplinary procedures that would combine the requirements of law, ethics and scientific integrity in the study of the legacy of the Second World War.

Archeologia II wojny światowej – zarys problematyki w polskim prawie

Współczesna archeologia konfliktów zbrojnych coraz częściej staje przed koniecznością prowadzenia badań na obszarach związanych z wydarzeniami II wojny światowej. Na terenie Polski, ze względu na intensywność działań wojennych, masowe represje oraz funkcjonowanie obozów jenieckich i zagłady, liczba znalezisk o charakterze antropologicznym jest szczególnie wysoka. Sytuacja ta wiąże się nie tylko z wyzwaniami metodologicznymi, lecz także z istotnymi uwarunkowaniami prawnymi. Referat stanowi próbę zarysowania głównych problemów prawnych, z jakimi stykają się archeolodzy podczas badań szczątków ludzkich z tego okresu.

Omówione zostaną przepisy regulujące prowadzenie prac archeologicznych i ekshumacyjnych w Polsce, w tym rola instytucji takich jak Instytut Pamięci Narodowej, wojewódzcy konserwatorzy zabytków czy służby sanitarne. Szczególna uwaga poświęcona zostanie odmiennemu traktowaniu szczątków z okresu II wojny światowej w porównaniu do szczątków z innych konfliktów – np. I wojny światowej – oraz problemom wynikającym z niejednoznaczności definicji „ofiary wojny” i „miejsca pamięci”. Przedstawione zostaną również praktyczne konsekwencje obowiązujących regulacji dla badań archeologicznych, identyfikacji szczątków i ich późniejszego upamiętnienia. Celem referatu jest wskazanie potrzeby wypracowania spójnych, interdyscyplinarnych procedur, które łączą wymogi prawa, etyki oraz rzetelności naukowej w badaniach nad dziedzictwem II wojny światowej.

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Rescue archaeology and Wehrmacht trench in the city of Brno (Czech Republic)

As the end of the Second World War was imminent, the eastern frontline reached Moravia. Brno, one of the most prominent cities in the region, was located on the route to Prague, and moreover had an arms factory and other industry. Thus the city was turned into "Festung Brünn", i. e. it was fortified by several trench lines spanning a few dozens of kilometers, especially on its southern and eastern border. However, shortly before the Red Army arrived, the plan of "Festung Brünn" was abandoned and the Wehrmacht defence was established in the hills approximately 10 km ahead of Brno. This is where the heaviest fighting occurred, while only a small portion of the trenches of "Festung Brünn" were used thereafter by the retreating Germans.

Most parts of trench lines are destroyed nowadays. Only several short sections not impacted by combat were briefly excavated from 2005 to 2012. However, thanks to last year's construction of a new building directly on the spot where a part of the "Festung Brünn" was supposed to be, it was possible to excavate approximately 80 m of a trenchline. Aside from a narrow combat trench, a machine gun nest and a dugout were documented, as well as construction details of the dugout, which allowed for a detailed comparison to contemporary field manuals. Also, several finds were obtained, for example fired ammunition or even weapons. Most of these finds relate to combat, which took place here from 23rd to 25th April 1945.

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War grave in the heart of "Moravian Tuscany"

In April 1945, two fallen soldiers – members of the Wehrmacht and the Red Army – were buried in a common grave behind the Chapel of St. Barbara in Sobůlky (Kyjov District). Efforts to exhume them after the war culminated in 1950 with the burial of part of the remains of the Soviet soldier in the local cemetery, which at that time was more of an ideological manifestation than an act of piety. Moreover, it also covered up serious misconduct by the exhumation commission. In 2024 and 2025, archaeological and anthropological research took place at the chapel and in the cemetery, which helped to partially shed light on the fates of both soldiers and this time it will lead to their definitive reverent burial.

Válečný hrob v srdci "Moravského Toskánska"

V dubnu 1945 byli za kaplí sv. Barbory v Sobůlkách (okr. Kyjov) pohřbeni do společného hrobu dva padlí vojáci – příslušníci Wehrmachtu a Rudé armády. Snahy o jejich poválečnou exhumaci vyvrcholily v roce 1950 uložením části ostatků sovětského vojáka na místním hřbitově, přičemž šlo tehdy spíše o ideologickou manifestaci než pietní akt, kryjící navíc vážná pochybení exumační komise. V roce 2024 a 2025 proběhl u kaple i na hřbitově archeologický a antropologický výzkum, který pomohl částečně osvětlit osudy obou vojáků, a povede tentokrát i k jejich definitivnímu pietnímu uložení.

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Testimony of the cesspits of the Second World War camp Štrauchovna

In 2020–2021, the Archaia Brno company, in cooperation with the Department of Archaeology and Museology of the Faculty of Arts of Masaryk University in Brno, carried out development-led archaeological rescue research during the construction of the south-eastern bypass of Havlíčkův Brod. One of the sites examined was the Second World War labour camp Štrauchovna, founded in 1941 for workers employed in the construction of the nearby railway tunnel. After a relatively short time, they were replaced by forced labourers of the Organisation Todt (OT), who built a refinery for the processing of petroleum products in the tunnel under construction in 1944–1945. The paper will present the material culture of the site documented through the cesspit fills as well as the results of parasitological, macroremains and osteological analyses.

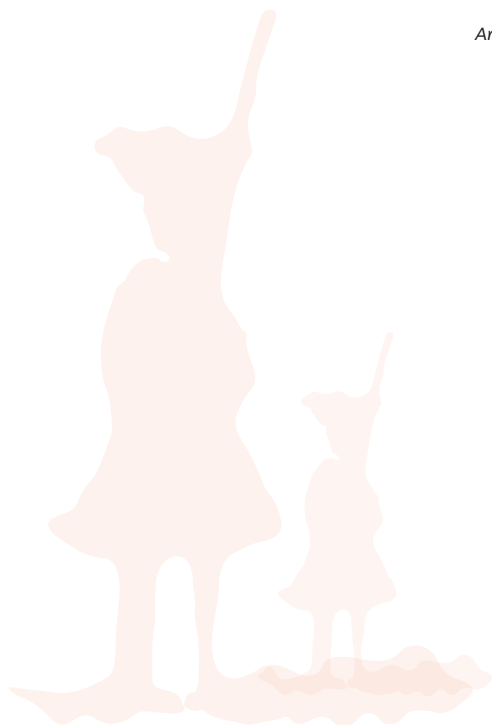
Výpověď jímek druhoválečného tábora Štrauchovna

V letech 2020–2021 provedla společnost Archaia Brno z.ú., ve spolupráci s Ústavem archeologie a muzeologie Filozofické fakulty Masarykovy univerzity v Brně ZAV při stavbě jihovýchodního obchvatu Havlíčkova Brodu. Jednou ze zkoumaných lokalit byl i druhoválečný pracovní tábor Štrauchovna, založený v roce 1941 pro dělníky, zaměstnané na stavbě blízkého železničního tunelu. Ti byli po relativně krátké době vystřídáni nuceně nasazenými pracovníky organizace TODT, kteří v rozestavěném tunelu v letech 1944–1945 vybudovali rafinerii na úpravu ropných produktů. Příspěvek bude prezentovat hmotnou kulturu lokality doloženou prostřednictvím výplní jímek a také výsledky parazitologických, makrozbytkových a osteologických analýz.

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Jacek WYSOCKI

The intricate history of the airport in the village of Szymany (Gmina Szczytno, Warmian-Masurian Voivodeship)

The Olsztyn-Mazury Airport, the only civilian airport in the Warmian-Masurian Voivodeship, has an almost century-long and very intricate history. In the 1920s, a grassy runway for light aircraft and gliders was established in a small clearing in the village of Szymany. In the 1930s (after Hitler came to power), an airfield emerged here, still with a grass surface, from which Luftwaffe aircraft took off in September 1939 as part of the aggression against Poland. Still before the Third Reich attacked the Soviet Union, the facility was modernized. A concrete runway for bomber units was built, protected by earthen fortifications, and infrastructure was built for logistical support, including a railway siding, barracks and storage premises. After the occupation of East Prussia by the Soviet army, the airport was first bombed during the wartime events, and then adapted for the transport of goods collected here from the plundered areas of former East Prussia. After a few years, the Soviet Army handed over the facility to the Polish People's Army, which used it for military purposes (reserve airport, training base of airborne troops), transformed and modernized it from the 1950s to the mid-1990s.

At the end of the twentieth century, when the army gave up the area, including the airport, it turned out that the area had the best conditions for the creation and development of a passenger airport. This became a reality at the transition from the twentieth to the twenty-first century, when the official Olsztyn-Mazury Airport was opened. The text describes the history of the site, illustrates the tangible relics in the terrain and landscape left behind by successive "users", and presents proposals for their optimal construction and use with the aim to develop the airport surroundings and make them more attractive.

Zawiła historia lotniska w Szymanach gm. Szczytno w Województwie Warmińsko-mazurskim.

Port lotniczy Olsztyn - Mazury – jedyne lotnisko cywilne na terenie woj. Warmińsko-Mazurskiego, ma historię prawie stuletnią i bardzo skomplikowaną. W latach 20-tych XX wieku, na niewielkiej polanie wsi Szymany zostało urządzone trawiaste lądowisko dla małych samolotów i szybowców. W latach 30-tych (po dojściu Hitlera do władzy) urządzono tu lotnisko polowe, jeszcze z płytą trawiastą, z którego we wrześniu 1939 roku startowały samoloty Luftwaffe w ramach agresji na Polskę. Jeszcze przed atakiem III Rzeszy na Związek Radziecki obiekt ten został zmodernizowany. Zbudowano wówczas betonowy pas startowy dla jednostek bombowych osłonięto go fortyfikacjami ziemnymi, zbudowano infrastrukturę zaplecza logistycznego, łącznie z bocznicą kolejową, oraz obiekty koszarowe i magazynowe. Po zajęciu terenu Prus Wschodnich przez armię Radziecką lotnisko najpierw zostało zbombardowane, w trakcie działań wojennych, a następnie przystosowane do obsługi transportowej, gromadzonych tu dóbr pochodzących z rabunku terenów dawnych Prus Wschodnich. Po kilku latach armia radziecka przekazała obiekt Ludowemu Wojsku Polskiemu, które od lat 50-tych XX wieku do połowy lat 90-tych używało go do celów wojskowych (lotnisko zapasowe, baza polygonowa wojsk powietrzno-desantowych) przekształcając i unowocześniając obiekt.

Pod koniec XX wieku, kiedy wojsko zrezygnowało z tych terenów, w tym także lotniska, okazało się, że teren ten ma najlepsze warunki dla utworzenia i rozwoju cywilnego portu lotniczego, co stało się rzeczywistością na przełomie XX i XXI wieku, kiedy otwarto oficjalne Port Lotniczy Olsztyn Mazury. Tekst przybliża historię obiektu oraz obrazuje relikty materialne w terenie i krajobrazie pozostawione przez kolejnych „użytkowników” oraz zawiera sugestie ich optymalnego wyeksponowania i wykorzystanie dla rozwoju i uatrakcyjnienia otoczenia Portu Lotniczego.

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Posters / Plakáty

Aneta GOŁĘBIEWSKA-TOBIASZ¹ – Oksana RUTKOVSKA²**Weapons of Old Hungarian horse archers and prestige and magical objects in the grave equipment of the Subbottsy horizon (Korobchyne and Manvelivka, Dnipropetrovsk Oblast, Ukraine)**

The process of shaping the culture of the Hungarians has its beginnings in Central Asia and reaches back to the deep past. Nomads, leading a mobile lifestyle, traveled great distances to find natural resources that would allow them to survive. The ancestors of the Hungarians, however, moved in several waves and over a considerable period of time, migrating from the foothills and steppes of Asia to the areas of the Kama river basins that were suitable for a nomadic lifestyle. Several generations later, part of the population began to migrate to the Black Sea steppes and further west, and the end of their migration, nomadism and wonderful, syncretic culture was the Carpathian Basin and Western Christian civilization. This arduous journey would not have ended in success and the fact that the Hungarians were the only nomads of the Middle Ages who managed to establish a modern state and adapt to the new political and economic conditions, if it were not for the ethos of the horse warrior-archer. It was thanks to the warrior elite that new territories were conquered, alliances were made with new neighbors, and military conflicts were resolved. Two unique grave sites, in which horse warriors were buried, were equipped with weapons, mounts, and luxury and magical items. Funeral rites and equipment indicate not only the high prestige of the deceased, but also cultural ties and trade contacts with Asian states, Kama Bulgaria and the Khazar Khaganate. The artifacts from this period indicate that in the 9th century a distinct, although clearly syncretic, decorative style was forming, which, together with costumes, weapons and ceramics, strongly distinguished this group from the multicultural population living within the borders of the Khazar Khaganate and from the Turkic nomads.

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Radosław LIWOCH

Medieval hillforts and castles in the Częstochowa upland

The poster, and later the article, will present the state of research and typological and chronological issues concerning medieval defensive structures from the Częstochowa Upland. This upland is a small (area of less than 1000 km²), but very diverse in terms of landscape, physiogeographic mesoregion in the north-east of the Silesian Voivodeship and in the north of the Lesser Poland Voivodeship (Poland). In the early Middle Ages, during the functioning of the political organism of the Slavic tribe of Vistulans (8th?, 9th–10th centuries), at least four hillforts were built in the upland, the remains of which are located in the villages: Udórz, Kostkowice, Złoty Potok (Wały Hillfort), and Siedlec (Gąszczyk Hillfort). In the late Middle Ages, probably mainly during the reign of King Casimir III the Great (1310–1333–1370), numerous – by Polish standards – castles were built, the ruins of which (part of the so-called Trail of the Eagles' Nests) are located in: Ostrężnik, Żarki-Przewodiszowice, Suliszowice, Łutowiec, Mirów, Bobolice, Zawiercie-Morsko (Bąkowiec Castle), Podzamcze (Ogrodzieniec Castle), Smoleń (Pilica/Pilcza Castle), and Bydlin. In the town of Olsztyn, there is a ruin of an older castle, from the 13th/14th century (originally named Przemiłowice). Perhaps the beginnings of the castle in Smoleń also date back to the times of King Wenceslaus II Přemyslid (1271–1291/1300–1305). Medieval fortifications slightly older than the castles mentioned also will be discussed, i.e. in Podzamcze (Góra Birów) and on the border of Smoleń and Strzegowa (Biśnik Rock, Grodzisko/Grodzisko Pańskie Mountain). An attempt will be made to verify the mentions from contemporary literature of other medieval defensive structures of the Częstochowa Upland.

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Special crossbow bolts and their role in warfare

During the late Middle Ages (13th–15th centuries), the crossbow was one of the most widely used weapons, as evidenced by the frequent finds of its projectiles. The effectiveness of a crossbow is mainly related to the quality and type of projectile. In addition to conventional bolts, there are also steel arrows with special heat treatments that increased their hardness and penetrating power. This development is linked to the introduction of plate armor into military equipment. In order to determine the effectiveness of these projectiles, 46 bolts from Moravia and Bohemia were subjected to metallographic analysis. Blacksmiths used a wide range of methods to improve their quality. The analyses show, in particular, the use of steel parts from ready-made arrows and the heat treatment of arrows that had already been manufactured. Such special bolts were more technologically demanding to produce and perhaps indicate the existence of highly specialized groups that could afford this type of item despite its high cost.

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Bogdan SIDENKO¹ – Oksana RUTKOVSKA²

Anti-Personnel Mines in Europe: Evolution of Design and Tactics from the World Wars to the War in Ukraine

The report is devoted to the military-technical analysis of anti-personnel mines used in European conflicts of the XX-XXI centuries, from the First World War to the current hostilities in Ukraine. On the basis of a comparative approach, the design features, principles of action, methods of installation and tactical use of mines are examined. Particular attention is paid to key examples, including the S-mine (Germany), PMD-6 (USSR), MON-50, PFM-1 and modern remotely-operated mines.

The purpose of the report is to identify trends in the development of mine warfare, to identify similarities and differences in use in different eras, and to reflect changes in approaches to anti-personnel warfare. It concludes by examining the impact of international treaties on the proliferation of anti-personnel mines and the prospects for their continued use or prohibition.

Anti-personnel mines remain one of the most controversial weapons in modern warfare. Their simplicity, effectiveness and ability to remain operational for long periods of time make them attractive in terms of defensive, offensive and sabotage tactics. However, the long-term effects on civilians and violations of humanitarian law have sparked a global debate.

This report provides a comparative analysis of the design and tactical use of anti-personnel mines in military conflicts of the 20th and 21st centuries. The study covers key stages - from the use of homemade mines in trench warfare in World War I to modern solutions during the war in Ukraine. Particular attention is paid to differences in technical approaches, the changing role of mines on the battlefield, and international legal constraints. On the basis of the analysis, conclusions are offered on possible vectors of mine weapon development and humanitarian risks associated with them.

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