davia during the Cucuteni-Tripolye cultural period. Research at the Tripolyan site of Iablona I, phase BII, Republic of Moldavia, discovered various types of flint, bone and antler tools, presented by V. I. Sorokin. In order to define their function, the author turns to microwear analysis. P. L. van Berg's paper entitled, *Aspects of Neolithic Research in Northwestern Europe*, points out the results of excavations at Darion, a late Linear Ceramic culture site in Belgium and examines the problems regarding the early period of the Neolithic age and the ceramic vessels with conic bottoms from Belgium and France. The author formulates some conclusions about the diffusion of the ceramic technology and aspects of the economy in these Neolithic communities. The volume is completed by eleven reviews (pp. 457—471) of recent French, German, and Belgian books concerning the Paleolithic by M. Cârciumaru, R. Iorga, V. Chirica, R. Dobrescu, and C. Căpiță.

Despite the title of Chirica and Monah's fourth issue in the BAI series, the paper topics only partially cover the homogeneous title suggested by the authoss. The vast majority of these studies are new, however, some of them have appeared in earlier publications (e.g., S. A. Luca's and V. T. Dobosi's contributions). Other problems are related to the lack of a list of journal abbreviations which would be helpful to foreign scholars, especially for the Romanian papers. Also, there are a large number of printing and editorial errors, which should have been corrected prior to publication. Finally, despite these minor shortcomings, the volume combines, for the first time, studies by well-known Romanian and other European specialists, which helps to clarify some of the complex problems concerning the Paleolithic and Neolithic cultures. Dr. Chirica and dr. Monah's endeavors to publish such compilations are to be commended and it is hoped that this series, *Bibliotheca Archaeologica Iassiensis*, will continue to be successful.

Corneliu Beldiman

Mesolithic Adaptations on the Lower Danube : Vlasac and the Iron Gates Gorge, Beth Prinz, BAR International Series 330, 1987, 259 p.

This volume is of great importance for archaeologists interested in the end of the Paleolithic, the Mesolithic, or the advent of the Neolithic. The author has compiled a rather complete examination of the very important Mesolithic site of Vlasac, located on the Yugoslavian side of the Danube river in the Iron Gates region.

The first chapter, the introduction, lays the groundwork for this study and covers such important aspects as the geological history, lithic resources, local topography, climate, soils and modern flora and fauna. This chapter provides information essential in an understanding of the prehistoric Vlasac populations and their cultures. It is followed by three short chapters on the history of research at Vlasac, excavation methods, and the site stratigraphy.

Chapter five discusses the architectural remains at Vlasac and compares them to those found at a neighboring site, the important Mesolithic site of Lepenski Vir. Based on the number and size of the structures at Vlasac, the author attempts a discussion concerning population estimates. As the points out these are highly tentative given the hypothetical nature of this type of data. Chapter six, entitled *Chronology and Dating*, presents the rather controversial radiocarbon data. Fifteen radiocarbon dates were obtained for Vlasac, however, many of the dates from the lowermost levels have been disregarded as too early by many Mesolithic scholars. The dates for Vlasac are somewhat later than those recorded at Lepenski Vir, although several scholars believed these sites to be contemporaneous. This belief is founded on similarities in lithic assemblages and architectural structures.

Chapters seven and eight discuss the prehistoric faunal and floral remains, respectively. Of particular interest is the claim for the *in situ* domestication of dog at Vlasac. Tables of counts and minimum number of individuals are provided combined with a discussion of the exploitation of fauna for food and raw materials (e.g., fur, antler, and bone). Fish constitute 60 % of all bones collected although half of these were unidentifiable. The author also includes a discussion of faunal sampling bias and its effect on the faunal assemblage.

The prehistoric human remains are reviewed in Chapter nine. Evidence for population replacement is difficult to determine, all available evidence suggests continuity in these Mesolithic populations. This is not only true for Vlasac, but for all other Iron Gates sites containing human remains. A discussion of skeletal pathologies and paleonutrition concludes that the inhabitants were generally healthy except for seasonal calcium deficiencies.

The non-chipped stone artifacts are briefly discussed in Chapter ten and the lithic artifacts are discussed in great detail in Chapters eleven and twelve. The non-chipped stone artifacts include numerous bone and antler tools, ground and pecked stone tools, and objets d'art. Over half of this volume is dedicated to a detailed analysis of the chipped lithic artifacts found at the site. Three data sets have been selected for investigation. First, is a detailed study of the 2070 retouched and unretouched pieces and cores which includes: a description of attributes, the methodology of classification, a use wear analysis, a descriptive classification of artifacts, and a technological analysis. Second, is a detailed study of all material from one 4×4 meter square (square 523). Finally, summary information concerning the 22,000 pieces of debitage and unretouched flakes, blades, and cores. These studies are all accompanied by numerous drawings and tables.

The conclusion attempts to draw all of the preceding information together in assessing the nature of Vlasac and its inhabitants during the Mesolithic. Vlasac is considered in relation to other sites within and outside the Iron Gates gorge and a similar pattern seems to emerge, that of a subsistence system based primarily on fish and an increasing control over indigenous plants. Prior to the full development of food production technology, "it is likely that gathering, hunting, and fishing were at least as productive and reliable as farming" (p. 1).

The author's opinion regarding the nature of the transition from the Paleolithic to the Mesolithic and from the Mesolithic to the Neolithic is expressed within the first few pages and essentially states that continuity between these archaeologically defined periods is unequivocally evident. Given the nature of current debates concerning the nature of the transition from the Middle Paleolithic to the Upper Paleolithic, it is refreshing to find a study which supports the notion of continuity through time. This continuity exists not only for the cultural remains but also for the human populations responsible for the creation of the cultural materials. My only criticisms are minimal, but nonetheless, the inclusion of these few items would have served to make this volume even more definitive. First, I was somewhat disappointed by the lack of drawings/photographs for the chapters on the prehistoric human remains and the non-chipped stone artifacts. The author states that bone, antler, and tusk constitute nearly 4000 of the artifacts at Vlasac (p. 228), yet not a single artifact is illustrated. This is unfortunate because drawings of the bone and antler tools and the objets d'art would have been very useful for scholars interested in these aspects of Mesolithic technology. Second, I was surprised by the nearly complete disregard of the quartz chipped stone industry. It is pointed out in the text that quartz and chert constitute the two main raw material sources at Vlasac (p. 5); and that flint "is the second most

important stone material at the site" (p. 102). Based on this information, it must be assumed that quartz is the primary stone raw material, yet very little mention is made of this material except to say that at present microwear analysis was impossible. This is regrettably true, however alternative approaches to studying quartz assemblages have been undertaken and may have proven useful here.

I found this book to be a quite comprehensive synthesis of a very important Mesolithic site. It contained a wide range of aspects important in the archaeological analysis of any site, yet often overlooked. The paleoclimatical and paleoenvironmental data were beneficial in providing a better understanding of how the Upper Paleolithic, Mesolithic, and subsequently, Neolithic populations of Vlasac adapted to their environment.

Steven B. Mertens

URSZULA MAJ, *Stradów, Stanowiske 1*, Cześć I, *Ceramika wczesnesredniewieczna*, Cracovie, 1990, 138 p., 78 fig.

Je viens de lire une bonne étude réservée à la céramique de la station archéologique Stradów (Pologne). Fortifiée par un vallum de terre (Burgwall), la station se trouve sur le territoire de la commune de Czarnecin, dans la voivodie de Kielce. Le complexe archéologique appartient au moyen âge.

L'endroit exact de la station est connu sous le nom de Zamczysko, ce qui en polonais, sauf erreur, signifie petite cité, place forte, fortification. Le Burgwall couvre 1,5 ha. La zone avoisinante qui conserve des traces d'habitation s'étend sur 25 ha. La zone, une serte de banlieue, si l'on peut l'appeler ainsi, comporte trois sous-unités : Barzynskie, Miesciska, Waliki.

Cette étude, fruit des efforts de Urszula Maj, devait constituer le tome premier d'une monographie consacrée à l'objectif archéologique de Stradów. Par malheur, c'est d'autres archéologues que devront rédiger les tomes suivants, car une maladie impitoyable emporta brusquement Urszula Maj en septembre 1988.

L'atention de l'auteur porta sur la céramique découverte lors des campagnes des années 1956—1963. Disons, en passant, que les fouilles ont été effectuées sous la direction de Stefan Nosek.

Le texte d'Urszula Maj est accompagné d'une „Introduction" signée par Hellena Zoll-Adamikova, un nom a nette résonance scientifique dans le monde de l'archéologie slave.

Un résumé substantiel rédigé en allemand suit l'étude d'Urszula Maj. Il faut relever maintenamt la richesse et la complexité des tableaux qui occupent 38 pages, ainsi que la qualité de l'illustration — des dessins— en totalité.

Ma note bibliographique éludera, certes, les données techniques avec lesquelles a opéré l'Auteur. Je ne parlerai ni même des catégories céramiques selon la nature de la pâte, la forme et le décor de la poterie, tout comme je ne m'arriterai sur les datations auxquelles est arrivées l'Auteur.

En revanche, je dirai en soulignant que le travail de bénédictin d'Urszula Maj a pris corps, dans le cas présent, sous la forme d'un important tome, issu d'une solide connaissance de la céramique, auquelle s'est ajoutée le maniement adroit de la méthode typologique, harmonisée, à son tour, avec les données offertes par les disciplines auxiliaires.

La maniére d'investigation a permis à l'Auteur d'aboutir à des conclusions parfois surprenantes. J'ai par exemple en vue la conclusion conformément à laquelle la datation au VIIe—VIIIe siècles pour la fortification de Stradów, datation due à E. Dabrovska, doit être reculée d'environ 200—250 ans. En voilà un seul exemple, suffisant toutefois pour mettre en évidence la substance des conclusions auxquelles est arrivée l'Auteur polonaise.

Dommage que Urszula Maj ne vit plus pour mener à bonne fin l'œuvre qu'elle avait mis en chantier. Qui, parmi les humains, est cependant parvenu à voir son œuvre parachevé?

Petre Diaconu