

# Editorial Preface

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Jacek Lech. July 2008. Photo: K. Tunia.

We are proud to present this anthology of archaeological articles in honor of Professor Jacek Lech, compiled in recognition of his research and academic career as well as his inquiry into the study of prehistoric flint mining, Neolithic flint tools (and beyond), and the history of archaeology. Professor Jacek Lech celebrated a milestone birthday in October 2016. We take this occasion to present him with this anthology as a sign of our appreciation of his many efforts in archaeology. During the course of his long career he has covered many topics, but this book concentrates on the three

subjects mentioned above, which have been his main research areas for the last several years.

Since the beginning of his academic career, Jacek has worked on prehistoric flint mining during the Neolithic period. His first presentation at a scientific conference and his MA thesis, written under the supervision of doc. dr hab. Waldemar Chmielewski, concerned a prehistoric flint mine in Sąsłów, Cracow district (Cracow-Częstochowa Upland). Jacek is one of a few pioneers who brought flint mining to international attention. His research, new insights and methods have inspired many archaeologists, as attested by the papers published in this anthology.

Professor Jacek Lech began his adventure with archaeology back in secondary school, when he took part in excavations during summer holidays. Later, in 1965-1970, he studied archaeology at the Faculty of History at the University of Warsaw. In addition, he completed a three-year study programme at the Faculty of Ethnography and participated in selected classes at the Institute of History and at the Institute of Sociology at the University of Warsaw. In 1987 he was granted a doctoral degree with a thesis entitled 'Mining and processing of Jura flint (in the area of Cracow) in Danubian cultures', written at the Faculty of History at the University of Warsaw under the supervision of prof. dr hab. W. Chmielewski. Ten years later he achieved a post-doctoral degree based on the evaluation of his academic achievement and a dissertation entitled 'Flint mining among the early farming communities of Central Europe', which was later published in English. In 2000, by decision of the President of Poland, he was awarded the title of Professor of Humanities on the basis of his academic achievement after having obtained a post-doctoral degree, and the publication of his influential book 'Between Captivity and Freedom: Polish Archaeology in the 20th Century'.

After graduating with a master's degree, he embarked on a professional career at what was then the Institute of History of Material Culture at the Polish Academy of Sciences (now the Institute of Archaeology and



Fig. 1. Krzemionki Opatowskie, Ostrowiec Świętokrzyski dist. 1979. Jacek Lech during the excavations. Photo: J. T. Bąbel.

Ethnology of the Polish Academy of Sciences), working at the Academy from 1970 until 2015. From 1983–1988, he was a Visiting Professor at the Institute of Archaeology and Ethnography of Nicolas Copernicus University in Torun, where he lectured in general archaeology. In 2011, he was nominated Professor at the Faculty of Historical and Social Sciences at Cardinal Stefan Wyszyński University in Warsaw, where he still works today. His lectures are exceptionally popular with students. Since 2015 he serves as a scientific curator at the Archaeological Museum and Reserve ‘Krzemionki’. Jacek continues to be very active – not only in academic work but in the field as well, where he leads excavations and teaches new generations of future archaeologists.

Much of Jacek Lech’s professional career is devoted to the study of prehistoric flint mining, with complementary interests in the issues of extraction, processing, and distribution of siliceous rock among Neolithic communities. The Professor’s true passion, however, is the history of archaeology, of which he is a stalwart promoter. As a scholar with a broad spectrum of interests, his scientific research is not limited to one narrow subject area – he has always advocated and adopted a macroscale, transregional, and pan-European approach to academic problems, which has resulted in extensive academic contacts fostering broad international cooperation.

Throughout his long career, Jacek performed a number of functions in numerous organisations and institutions both in Poland and abroad. He served as deputy chairman of the Archaeological Commission of the Executive Board of the Polish Archaeological and Numismatic Society (PTAiN), chairman of the Committee of Pre- and Protohistoric Sciences of Faculty I of the Polish Academy of Sciences, chairman of the Commission of the History and Methodology of



Fig. 2. Warsaw. 20-22 October 1994. Symposium ‘Studies of flint-mining and flint-working in the Bronze Age and Early Iron Age’. Jacek Lech in the middle. On the right Danuta Piotrowska (State Archaeological Museum in Warsaw), on the left Jerzy Libera (Institute of Archaeology, Maria Curie-Skłodowska University in Lublin). Photo: F. M. Stępniewski.



Fig. 3. Warsaw. 20-22 October 1994. Symposium ‘Studies of flint-mining and flint-working in the Bronze Age and Early Iron Age’. Jacek Lech with his pupil Jolanta Małecka-Kukawka (Institute of Archaeology, Nicolaus Copernicus University in Torun). Photo: F. M. Stępniewski.

Archaeological Research, chairman of the Commission of History of Archaeology, as well as editor-in-chief of the publications of the Committee. Jacek is one of the co-founders of the Scientific Association of Polish Archaeologists, and for many years he was a member of the Scientific Committee of the Institute of Archaeology and Ethnology of the Polish Academy of Sciences. Jacek is a corresponding member of Deutsches Archäologisches Institut, and is particularly involved in the activities of the International Union of Pre- and Protohistoric Sciences (UISPP) since 2006. He was also





Fig. 4. Stonowice, Kazimierza Wielka dist. 3 July 1996. In the foreground Jacek Lech. Next to him Ryszard Grygiel (Museum of Archaeology and Ethnography in Lodz) and Jan Gurba (Institute of Archaeology, Maria Curie-Skłodowska University in Lublin). Photo: K. Tunia.



Fig. 5. Abensberg, Kelheim dist. 2001. Jacek Lech first from the right. Next to him Marjorie E. Th. de Grooth, in the middle Françoise Bostyn (INRAP) and first on the left Andreas Zimmerman (Institute for Prehistoric Archaeology, University of Cologne). Photo: from A. Zimmerman archive.

a member of its standing committee. From 2007 to 2012 he was deputy chairman and from 2012 to 2016 served as chairman of the scientific committee of 'Flint Mining in Pre- and Protohistoric Times' UISPP, within which he organised international sessions in Florianopolis (Brazil in 2011) and Burgos (Spain in 2014). In 2012–2016 he was a member of the executive committee of the UISPP.

Professor Jacek Lech's academic interests have made him a leading expert on the issues of prehistoric flint mining, Neolithic flint tools (and beyond), and the



Fig. 6. Wierzbica 'Zełe', Radom dist. 2001. Jacek Lech during the archaeological tour for students of the Institute for Prehistoric Archaeology, University of Cologne. Photo: A. Zimmerman.



Fig. 7. Paris. 2007. The members of the Flint Minings in Pre- and Protohistoric Europe UISPP Permanent Committee. Self-timer photo: G. Trnka.

history of archaeology in Europe. His participation in numerous global conferences has earned him a reputation as a distinguished specialist. His international standing is reflected in the numerous contributions to this anniversary book. The papers were submitted by researchers from both European countries and the United States – high-ranking specialists in archaeology and the history of archaeology. Among the contributors are also young researchers who consider Jacek Lech their mentor.

Jacek's publications and co-authored works on the analysis of flint material and its identification of prehistoric flint mining are extremely influential. Jacek never limits himself solely to the presentation of material. The class lectures on ethnography he attended as a student had a considerable impact on his subsequent academic activities, so that his papers have always incorporated in-depth interpretation and analogies combining cultural anthropology and





Fig. 8. Ojców National Park. July 2008. Photo: K. Tunia.



Fig. 9. Ojców National Park. July 2008. Photo: K. Tunia.

sociology. Particularly noteworthy in this regard is his formulation of the principles of flint mining and distribution of siliceous rocks by prehistoric communities, which appeals to exchange theory (mainly the Kula exchange system described by Bronisław Malinowski and ‘The Gift’ by Marcel Mauss).

Jacek is one of the pioneers of the study of flint working during the Bronze Age and early Iron Age. In



Fig. 10. Ojców National Park. October 2010. Photo: K. Tunia.



Fig. 11. Ojców National Park. October 2010. Jacek Lech in the middle, between the editors of this book. On the right Marzena Woźny (Archaeological Museum of Cracow), on the left Dagmara H. Werra (Institute of Archaeology and Ethnology of the Polish Academy of Sciences).

Photo: K. Tunia.





Fig. 12. 'Krzemionki Opatowskie' reserve, Ostrowiec Świętokrzyski dist. 20 April 2013. Conference on the ninetieth anniversary of the discovery of the Krzemionki mine. Jacek Lech is summing up the proceedings at the Historical and Archaeological Museum.  
Photo: D. H. Werra.



Fig. 13. 'Krzemionki Opatowskie' reserve, Ostrowiec Świętokrzyski dist. 20 April 2013. Conference on the ninetieth anniversary of the discovery of the Krzemionki mine. A group photo of the participants of the conference.  
Photo: K. Kaptur.

collaboration with Hanna Lech (earlier Młynarczyk) during the 1980s he carried out research at the prehistoric 'chocolate' flint mine Wierzbica 'Zełe', Radom district, where radiocarbon data unquestionably demonstrated, for the first time, the existence of flint mining during the Bronze and Early Iron Ages.

Last but not least, we have to mention his outstanding efforts in popularizing archaeology and the protection of archaeological heritage, especially flint mining sites.



Fig. 14. Rydno reserve – ochre mining complex: Halina Królik Jubilee. 8 October 2015. Jacek Lech in the middle. On the right Michał Kobusiewicz, on the left Bolesław Ginter.  
Photo: from M. Woźny archive.



Fig. 15. Jacek Lech in the Ojców National Park. October 2010.  
Photo: K. Tunia.

As noted above, Professor Jacek Lech is a true authority in the history of archaeology. It's worth emphasizing that he has long been interested in the relations that hold between archaeology and history, their influence on one another, frictions between them, and the diffusion of ideas. He understands and emphasizes the impact of ideology and politics on the development of archaeology. In his publications and edited books he has dealt with Polish-German, Polish-Ukrainian and Polish-Czech relations. One of his most highly regarded works is 'Between captivity and freedom: Polish archaeology in the 20th century' – a treatise that cannot be forgotten when dealing with the history of archaeology in Poland of the 20th century. His interest in the influence and legacy of great figures in the world of archaeology (e.g., Vere Gordon Childe, Leon Kozłowski, Stefan Krukowski, Count Jan Potocki) resulted in numerous conferences and outstanding publications. As mentioned earlier, Jacek Lech has been connected with the prehistoric

flint mine in Sąspów, Cracow-Czestochowa Upland, since the beginning of his professional career. His excavations and surface prospecting carried out there resulted in a range of publications on flint mining and flint working. At the same time he co-organized conferences and co-edited authoritative papers on archaeology and the history of archaeology of that region. His remarkable insight, spot-on diagnoses, and erudition make the works of Professor Jacek Lech fit in a whole range of various political, social and cultural contexts. The combination of theoretically informed field experience, superb knowledge of professional literature as well as judicious historical, ideological and social evaluation imbue his historical papers with unusual and rich dimensionality.

The anthology presented here consists of 46 articles on archaeology and history, which we have organized into three sections. The first contains texts on flint mining. Articles in this section deal with well-known mining sites as well as previously unpublished new materials. This part also contains papers concerning the location and description of siliceous rocks as well as raw materials used by prehistoric communities. The reader will find here a wide spectrum of approaches to flint mining, ways of identifying raw materials used by prehistoric communities, and an impressive overview of the history of research, methodology and approaches to flint mining in Europe, North America and Asia.

The articles grouped in the second section primarily concern the use of flint by Neolithic communities, but also include younger periods. There are typological works on trace evidence analyses as well as theoretical works concerning prehistoric times in Europe and the New World. The issue of flint use is dealt with both on a microscale – focusing on minute details significant to identifying past prehistoric communities – as well as a broad scale, wherein authors formulate general rules of acquiring, utilising and distributing siliceous rocks.

The final section consists of articles on the history of archaeology in the 19th and 20th centuries.

Some deal with the beginnings of archaeology as a scientific discipline, while others present significant researchers from different countries. The articles contained here present the history of research on important archaeological sites, and even links between archaeology and modern art. Readers will also find papers on the development of archaeology in the second half of the 20th century, both in political and institutional contexts. Finally, memoirs, which bring the Jubilarian closer to the reader by viewing him through the eyes of his co-workers and friends, occupy a special place in this section.

We took on the task of editing Jacek's jubilee book as the youngest of his pupils. We admire his erudition, commitment to science (which he also demands from his students) and his ability to motivate others to embark on an academic career path. As a mentor and a teacher he always has time for his pupils, pointing them toward trends and domains worthy of scientific exploration. Jacek is now very passionate about his pedagogical work at Cardinal Stefan Wyszyński University in Warsaw (UKSW), where he continues to support his students in their academic efforts, and encourages them to publish and deliver papers in local, regional, and international forums. It is worth emphasizing that he has not yet had his final say as a research scientist nor in the field of educating future researchers. Professor Jacek Lech belongs to the generation of archaeologists who made their professional discipline their life-long passion. We are proud to be able to call ourselves his pupils.

Finally, we would like to take this opportunity to congratulate Jacek on his exceptional birthday. *Ad multos annos!*

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