Antonín Přichystal, *Lithic raw materials in Prehistoric Times of Eastern Central Europe*, Brno 2013: Masaryk University, pp. 351, 147 illustrations in the text.

## Reviewed by Katarzyna Kerneder-Gubała

The book of Antonín Přichystal *Lithic raw materials in Prehistoric Times of Eastern Central Europe* is one of the most important and valuable syntheses in the field of petroarchaeology, especially in the case of the lithic raw materials used in Central Europe during Prehistory. It was published in 2013 by the Masaryk University in Brno, and consists of 11 chapters divided into subsections.

The book is written in English, as a translation of Czech language version (Přichystal 2009). The basic part of the book discusses particular groups of raw materials. The last chapter constitutes a set of coloured illustrations (XI. *Picture Supplement*). Apart from the numbered chapters, there are parts without numeration, not included in the table of contents. A bibliography is included after each section, but there is no separate part with a list of cited literature for the whole work.

Chapter I is an *Introduction* (pp. 9–46), divided into 5 subsections. The author discusses here the context of prehistoric research in Central Europe (p. 10), with a wide list of literature and articles of special significance (p. 11). He also defines the area of research (the term 'Central Europe') and explains that the monograph is focussed especially on the Czech Republic and Slovakia. This is important, because in some later sections, the disproportion between these territories and the rest is noticeable.

Also in this part, the author describes the individual geological units of the Czech Republic, Slovakia, Hungary, Poland, Austria, Germany (chapters I.2, I.3, I.4 with subsections). He discusses the geological units of Eastern Central Europe (Hercynian Central Europe, Alpine-Carpathian area and East European Plain) with further, detailed discussion on six geological units (the Czech Massif, the Lesser Poland Upland [Małopolska Upland], the Western Carpathians, the Eastern Alps, the Pannonian Basin System and Fenosarmatian Platform). This is well illustrated on the map (p. 17).

According to the chronological order, the author describes the oldest Bohemian silicites (Fig. 23), the Devonian radiolarites of the Bardo Unit and other younger deposits, such as Jurassic limestone, Cretaceous cherts, spongiolites, sandstones and marls (p. 33). He considers also moldavite as a unique raw material – a glass of the Tertiary period, which is in fact of tektitic origin. He also pays more attention to the quaternary erratic raw materials – gravels of quartz, amphibolite, quartzite and serpentine. When discussing the Ślęża region, the author emphasizes the major role of gabbro, in his opinion used for the manufacture of polished tools by the communities of the Corded Ware Culture in this region.

In the next sub-chapter, the book's author characterizes the raw materials of the Lesser Poland Upland (Małopolska Upland), Świetokrzyskie (Holy Cross) Mountains, the Western Carpathian (I.4.3), Eastern Alps (I.4.4) and the East European/Russian Platform regions. One of the most important parts of this chapter concerns the research methods used by the author for the analysis of raw material for flaked lithic artefacts (I.5.1) and polished tools (I.5.2), which can be helpful for other researchers who conduct works in this field.

The lengthy chapter II – Raw Materials of flaked lithic artefacts (pp. 47–186) starts with the classification of raw materials and criteria adopted by the book's author in their discussion. He underlines the problem of nomenclature for the same siliceous raw materials and proposes its unification using the term 'silicites'. This is a valuable postulate, but probably it would be difficult to change names in every country, where local terms (such as 'flint' in Poland), are already widely used. The insertion of a new term could produce a series of misunderstandings.

In the next part of chapter II, Přichystal focuses on the resources of raw materials in individual regions, starting with the Czech Republic (II.2.2). These are of a range of geological ages, from the Proterozoic ftanites, Ordovician spongiolites, Silurian and Devonian cherts (II.2.2.3–8), Late Carboniferous and Permian lymnic silicites (II.2.2.10–12), Jurassic cherts and Cretaceous spongiolites. In the part dedicated to Moravia and Silesia (II.2.3), the author describes the raw materials of the Bohemian Massif and the Carpathians, starting with Devonian and Lower Carboniferous radiolarites of the Ponikev Formation, that occur in the European Mountain range – from the Świetokrzyskie (Holy Cross) Mountains, through the Sudeten to the Pyrenees and Cornwall in England (p. 68).

The subsequent part concentrates on the raw materials of the vicinity of Brno. These are the Jurassic cherts, such as Stránská Skála or Olomučany type, well known since the 1970s and the Krumlovský Les type of chert from South West Moravia (II.2.3.10). The author mentions here that the term 'Krumlovský Les type chert' and its three variants had been coined by himself, while the Polish scholar Jacek Lech has suggested the name Moravsky Krumlov hornstone, which is still in use in the Polish literature (Lech 1981).

The next sections of the chapter II.2.3. discuss the spongiolites of Western Moravia and Silesia, the Jurassic cherts of the Pavlov Hills, the Menilite chert of the Krosno – Silesian Series and others, such as the Borsice type (p. 89), as well as Jurassic radiolarites from the territory of Moravia.

In part II.2.4, Přichystal focuses on the silicites of Austria. Among the ones mentioned are the radiolarites of Vienna Mauer from the Ober St. Veit Klippen Belt as the most important raw material (p. 94). The book's author believes that these radiolarites differ from those of the Pieniny Klippen Belt in Slovakia and refers here to the latest research in this subject, which has recently been published (II.2.4.1; see Brandl *et al.*, 2014). He compares them also to the radiolarites from the Danube river (II.2.4.2), and other sources of the Carpathian Foredeep in Lower Austria (II.2.4.3).

The regions of Thuringia, Saxony and Bavaria in Germany are the subject of the next section (II.2.5). In the opinion of the book's author, the main raw materials that occur there are erratic and Jurassic silicites. They were acquired through the use of mining methods and distributed over great distances.

The next area described in the book is Poland. This chapter constitutes a general review of Polish raw materials. It contains the basic literature for each described issue, but some of the data and references could be more recent. The author keeps here also to the division of raw materials in terms of their geological chronology. As he indicates, the oldest materials (Ordovician chalcedony cherts, Silurian lydite, and Devonian radiolarites of Bardo type) are located in the Świętokrzyskie (Holy Cross) Mountains and in Silesia. The author mentions that radiolarites of Bardo type were used during the Stone Age in Poland, but researchers have called them 'quartz- lydite shale' or 'Morzyszów type flint'.

In a further section, Přichystal discusses the Permian limnic silicites of the Intra-Sudetic Basin, the glacigenic silicites of the Opole Groszowice type that have never been described in the Polish archaeological or geological literature (p. 106), or Opole silicified chalk marl and others, of local meaning (II.2.6.16). He stresses, that Jurassic silicites were one of the most important raw materials of Central Europe that were used and distributed even in the Lower and Middle Palaeolithic. This is the reason why he discusses in detail the variants of the flints from Cracow-Czestochowa Upland (see Kaczanowska and Kozłowski 1976).

When describing the striped flint, Přichystal emphasizes its technical and aesthetic values. A separate part is dedicated to the 'chocolate' flint (silicite). Here the author has not avoided mistakes in the localization of the outcrops in Northern margin of the Świetokrzyskie (Holy Cross) Mountains, when writes, for example, that its deposits have a total length of approximately 50 km, while it is over 90 km (p. 108, see for example Budziszewski 2008). Also the most important known locations of its extraction indicated here are not complete. He lists sites such as: Wierzbica I (now Polany Kolonie II), Radom district, Guzów and Chronów, Szydłowiec district, but doesn't mention other important points, such as Wierzbica 'Zele', Radom district, or Tomaszów, Szydłowiec district. It can be said also, that they are listed in random order, not in accordance with their geographical spacing. The further description of raw material refers to the Romuald Schild's (1971) macroscopic division into 11 categories.

The author also describes other raw materials from Poland, such as: Cretaceous Ożarów silicite (flint), which had been discovered already in the 1920s and researched in the 1990s (p. 109), as well as Turonian age flints – Świeciechów (grey white-spotted) flint. The part about the Carpathian raw materials, where the author describes in detail the issue of the radiolarites from the Pieniny Klippen Belt (p. 111), their role during the Stone Age in Poland and indicates distribution routes in the Cracow region, Little Poland voivodeship is very important. He doesn't forget to describe other important but less known Carpathian raw materials such as the Mikuszowice chert, Bircza flint, menilite chert of the Dukla unit and the Dynów marl.

In the next section, Slovakian silicites are discussed in detail (II.2.7, p. 118). The author underlines here that the most important are the Jurassic radiolarites (II.2.7.5), that occur within the Pieniny Klippen Belt, but also in other geological units (p. 119, Fig. 69). He indicates the current problem of the distinguishing of radiolarites from different parts of primary and secondary deposits (Pieniny Klippen Belt, Wag and Vlara rivers, Vienna Triassic radiolarites, Hungarian outcrops). In the next chapters (II.2.7.6–9) the book's author underlines also the role of Miocene limnic silicites known from Central and Eastern Slovakia. In the following sections he discusses the less-known Lower Palaeozoic lydites (black siliceous rocks), obtained from pebbles since the Palaeolithic, the Carboniferous geisirite, Upper Jurassic and Lower Cretaceous cherts, Paleogene Menilite cherts already described in the part about Polish raw materials, numulite cherts and Paleogene cherts of the Ondawa type, which were used by the Corded Ware Culture communities. The author underlines the role of silicites from Poland and Hungary imported to the territory of Slovakia during the Neolithic period.

In the next chapter, the author presents the raw materials of Hungary (II.2.8.1–2, pp. 126–127). According to the ordering of the discussions according to geological chronological order, he starts with general description of the Paleozoic lydite, Mesozoic radiolarites and cherts, Miocene limnic silicites (limnic quarzites or hydroquarzites). He describes in more detail the Szentgal type radiolarite, which has a wider importance during the Neolithic and Eneolithic, with the mine of Szentgal–Tuzkuveshagy (p. 130). Other Hungarian mining sites in the Jurassic radiolarite outcrops are: Bakonycsernye – at the north end of the Bakony Mts Mountains, Harskut, Labatlan and Dunaszentmiklós of Gerecse Mountains and others. Here again the problem of distinguishing of radiolarites from different outcrops is underlined. The author dedicates a separate part of this chapter to the Sumeg chert that was widespread during the Stone Age, especially in the Neolithic (pp. 131–132), the Tevel flint (II.2.8.10) as well as tertiary geisirites, hydroquarzite, limnic silicites and others, that manifest themselves in the north-eastern part of Hungary associated with the Tertiary volcanic mountains of Tokaj-Zemplin, Bukk, Matra, Cserhat, Börzsöny and Pilis.

The problem of glacigenic deposites of silicites, are considered here as a separate part, together for all the geographical regions (II.2.1, p. 51).

The next sub-section of the book (II.3.1; Fig. 75) considers quartz and its variants, from Bavaria, Bohemia, Moravia, Hungary, Slovakia. These materials were used since the Lower and Middle Palaeolithic (Cave Kulna – Taubachien, Moravian Karst). Part II.3.3 discusses the varieties of hydrothermal chalcedony, jasper and agate of the Permian volcanic rocks. An important feature of this part are the definitions of these raw materials and their comparison with each other. This section is an important voice in discussion of differentiation and terminology of radiolarite – jasper. In some countries, these terms are wrongly used for some raw materials, what cause confusion. Radiolarite and jasper were both used during prehistory, also in the territory of Poland (see Jochemczyk 2002). The next chapter concentrates on the opal of Tertiary, volcanic rocks of the Western Carpathians (II.3.4.). The book's author discusses them with a division into those from Central Slovakia, Eastern Slovakia and Northern Hungary (p. 150). The next section provides a discussion of the siliceous weathering products of serpentinite and other metamorphic rocks. Interestingly, these materials are present also in Lower Silesia II.3.5.8 (pp. 156–157).

Finally the book's author describes natural glasses – with a map of their occurrence (Fig. 84). These are obsidian, moldavite and other types of natural glass resulting from lightning

strikes (fulgurites). The author explains the origins of particular glasses and indicates their occurrence in tertiary glass in Štiavnické Vrchy in Central Slovakia, in Tokay-Zemplin hills, on the Slovak-Hungarian border, and Transcarpathian Ukraine (II.4.1.I–4). A separate chapter (II.4.1.5) constitutes the use of obsidian in prehistory, where the author emphasizes its importance in different periods. Subsequent chapters discuss the less-known raw materials that were locally used in prehistory (II.4.2–4, Fig. 86 p. 166): quartzites from various deposits of the southern part of the Czech Republic, Saxony and Saxony-Anhalt, Moravia, Lower Austria (176–177), porcelanites and hornstone, corals and silicified wood (pp. 186–187). Porcelanite, which in the opinion of the book's author also occurs in Poland – Silesian St. Anne Mountain (Góra Świętej Anny), is labelled porcelanite-jasper or even jasper by some geologists (see Woźniak *et al.*, 2010).

Chapter III (pp. 189–238) *Raw materials of Polished Stone Tools* is divided according to the genesis of rocks into three sections – metamorphic rocks, volcanic rocks and sedimentary rocks. This part is much shorter than the earlier one. The author only describes selected raw materials, that in his opinion were the most valuable. In each part, there is a detailed characterisation of the varieties of particular rocks and their provenance. After each section, as in the case of the previous chapters, there is a list of cited literature.

Přichystal first describes thermally metamorphosed greenschist and metabasite (Fig. 95), which served most frequently as the raw material for polished tools in Moravia, Silesia and Slovakia. Here the book's author draws attention to the terminological mistakes that are frequent in this field, citing his own observations. The next chapters concentrate on the metabasites of southern Moravia (p. 196), the green schist from Hungary, and the Little Carpathians in western Slovakia and Southwestern Poland. There is also a part considering the possibilities of the distribution of metabasites of the Jizerské Hhory (Jizera Mountains) in the northern Czech Republic, amphibolite and serpentinite. As the author indicates, serpentinite was one of the earliest identified and described raw material in the territory of Czech Republic and in Poland (Jańska Góra hill, Gogołów-Jordanów Massif in Lower Silesia). It is worth noting that in this chapter the book's author does not mention erratic rocks which also could have been and indeed probably were an important source of raw material, as indicated by the research of, for example Janusz Skoczylas (2001) or Piotr Chachlikowski (1994, 1997). The next section concerns Jadeite (III.I.5), where the author discusses terminological problems – jade in English means also nephrite. As he underlines, in Central Europe many raw materials have been called jadeite, but the nearest outcrops are located in the Western Alps and beyond. Eclogite is a rock coexisting with jade, used in the territory of the Czech Republic. Marble, a hard crystalline metamorphic form of limestone (III.1.8), as the author indicates, could have serve as good material for the creation of figural art. At the end of this part, the book's author describes quartz - silimanite rocks, the fibrolites of western Moravia and southern Bohemia and other metamorphic rocks located in Slovakia, Moravia and Bohemia (III.1.10).

Volcanic (igneous) rocks are the subject of chapter III.2. The author describes here diorite, porphyritic microdiorite, which occurs in the Bohemian Massif and Slovakia

(III.2.1.1-2). The next important rock discussed is andesite (p. 221-222), located in the tertiary volcanic mountains of central Slovakia, eastern Slovakia, northern Hungary and also in the Carpathian Flysch Belt and on the northern margin of the Pieniny Klippen Belt in Poland (Szczawnica-Krościenko, Wdżar Mountain). Paleozoic melaphyres of Central Europe were used for making polished tools in Slovakia. Gabbro, as the book's author indicates, was rarely used in the early Neolithic, but often for Corded Ware Culture axe production. As was already noted, this rock is common among erratic sources, and this indicates scope for some other research, this raw material is very difficult for treatment (Cholewa 2004). Chapter III.2.5 describes basalt and its outcrops in Bohemia, Moravia, Slovakia, Hungary and Poland. Basalt was willingly used in the Middle Neolithic and Early Bronze Age in Poland, especially in the regions of Greater Poland (Wielkopolska) and Kujawy. It is worth adding that these issues are discussed in-depth in papers of Chachlikowski (for example 1994, 1997), but his works are not mentioned here by the book's author. In the next sub-sections, the author describes variants of basalts: diabase, metadiabase, metadolerite of Moravia within the volcanic rocks of the Konice-Mladeč Belt and in Silesia (Czech, Polish), spilite, teschenite and picrite known from Moravia, Poland, Western Slovakia, but here probably obtained from river pebbles.

Sedimentary rocks are the subject of the next chapter (III.3). The book's author describes here siltstone, silty shale, greywacke from the Lower Carboniferous clastic rocks, known from Czech and Polish Silesia, and sandstones occurring in many outcrops of Central Europe. Also covered are Paleogene claystone in eastern Slovakia and limestone used for figural art or to make ornaments. In the next chapters are described bituminous siderite claystone (Czech local name), Brezina shale (southern Moravia), Iron ores and others, such as siltstone and claystone from various sources (III.3.1–8).

The short chapter IV (pp. 239–240) concerns the raw materials used for production of wristguards – which in the Bell Beaker Culture, Proto – Unietice and the Nitra group served to protect the inner part of the archer's wrist from the recoil of the bowstring. As the author notes – they were made mainly of sandstones, siltstones and other sedimentary rocks. However he does not mention that using schist was also very common and seems to have had a special meaning in this time (see, for example, Budziszewski and Włodarczak 2010).

Another equally brief chapter V (pp. 24I–245) describes the raw materials of whetstones, that is, according to the author's definitions, small artefacts used for finishing of polishing tools or grinding during the Neolithic and Eneolithic periods, as well as in younger periods for sharpening knives and other metal tools. As the author notes, in prehistory, they were made mainly of sandstones.

Chapter VI (pp. 245–262) concerns the raw materials for mortars, saddle Querns, rotary Querns and millstones. Here the author characterizes the basic features of particular tools (p. 246). He emphasises that the function of the tool guided the selection of the raw material. Interestingly, the author discusses the succession of raw materials used for these tools during the Neolithic, Hallstatt, La Tène and early Middle Ages. He defines the most important

raw materials for particular groups of tools (VI.4–VI.13), that is very valuable for future comparative studies.

Chapter VII (pp. 263–268) contains comparative information about the raw materials of stone spindle whorls from Ukraine, Poland, Moravia and Bohemia.

Chapter VIII describes halite (pp. 269–273). The major salt deposits in Central Europe are shown on a map. These are sources in eastern Slovakia – with Miocene salt rocks, used in the Middle Ages (VIII.1.), Ukrainian deposits, which were used already in the Neolithic and Bronze Age (VIII.2), Wieliczka near Cracow (VIII.3), exploited from the middle Neolithic, the Austrian (VIII.4) salt deposits from Salzkammergut and East German region in Halle. The author gives here interesting historical information about the salt exploitation and use.

One of the last chapters is devoted to the use of fossils in prehistory (pp. 275–280). Here the book's author gives interesting examples from Central European sites since Palaeolithic which confirm that prehistoric people were interested in such objects, used probably as amulets and talismans.

The last short chapter – X *Pseudoartefacts* (pp. 281–284) is also very interesting. It contains illustrated examples of pseudoartefacts, that were once thought to be authentic ancient stone artefacts.

The last part of the book (XI) contains coloured illustrations documenting the raw materials discussed earlier in the volume. This can be helpful for comparison of artefacts with particular photographs of raw materials known from Central Europe.

To summarize: In this book, the author has touched almost every problem associated with lithic raw materials and their use in prehistory and historical periods. Some issues have been treated in great detail, while others have been covered more generally, but in every part of the book, the reader will find more references to more specific literature. In some chapters, the divisions into sections and sub-sections could be less complicated, because the current arrangement causes repetition of information. The construction of the work, however, allows precisely and quickly finding desired information, because every part seems to be independent of the rest, with its own bibliography.

Of particular interest and helpful is the rich illustrative material in particular chapters with schematic maps, photographs of deposits, outcrops, as well as the colour supplement in chapter XI.

Each subsection of this part is divided into further sub-sections relating to the macro– and microscopic characteristics of the raw materials from particular geological units and their sources used in prehistory. This procedure increases the clarity and transparency of the book. But the lack of a summary of the book or individual chapters can be noted.

At some points, uncertainty is visible in the text. Some problems and raw materials are described without any explanation or references. An example is the case of the problem of the so-called radiolarite of Bardo type and its exploitation during the Mesolithic in Poland, where the author doesn't give any references to the literature or further information about this issue, when the author writes about the material for the first time (chapter I, II.2.6).

This information occurs only in next chapters. It is also noteworthy that, when discussing the Ślęża region in Poland, the book's author emphasizes the major role of gabbro used in his opinion for the manufacture of polished tools, however, as has already been said, among some other researches there are also opposite opinions on this thesis (Cf, for example, Cholewa 2004: 102). It is also noticeable that on Fig 31 (a map of Carpathian and selected geological units), there is only the territory of Slovakia and the Czech Republic shown, while the book's author describes here all Carpathian regions. For many of the geological units described in the book, there is no localisation on this map. This information could increase the clarity of the discussions. Chapter II is very detailed. It is a wide cross-section of described raw materials and areas, with bibliography for each discussed issue. In the part that refers to Polish territory, the author draws attention to raw materials that are rarely noticed, or not noticed at all, by other researchers. A valuable part of this chapter is an attempt of indication of a method for distinguishing them and maps locating the deposits discussed. Also interesting is that author give here historical information, as in chapter VIII.

In this monograph, the author presents his magnificent, valuable experience and his own discoveries in the issue that is the subject of this book. What is also valuable, the author describes raw materials already known to other researchers that were used by prehistoric communities, as well as those that have not yet been found in the material currently known from archeological sites, but their exploitation in the past could have been possible. What is also important, every issue is described here in its geological context.

This book is an invaluable source of information and a compendium of knowledge about the lithic raw materials of Central Europe.

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