

Editorial

Fifty years have now passed since the publication in 1969 of Jan Kowalczyk's text entitled *Początki neolitu na ziemiach polskich* [*The Origins of the Neolithic Age on Polish Territories*] (*Wiadomości Archeologiczne*, 34(1): 3-69), which was an exceptional work because of its critical stance towards existing knowledge. The theses and opinions contained in this publication quickly aroused wide discussion in the milieu of Polish archaeologists, and they also became an inspiration for later research.

This anniversary has prompted us to prepare a thematic publication, which contains texts by over a dozen researchers making use of the latest research to discuss the nature of the economic, technological and cultural changes that took place in the 6th to 3rd millennia BC in the Polish lands and in their immediate vicinity. The centre of attention of most of these articles is the state of knowledge about the origins and beginnings of the production economy in Polish lands, including the formation of native Neolithic social structures.

The volume also contains articles that examine the thought and research of Jan Kowalczyk from today's perspective. This scholar, an outstanding expert on Neolithic issues, occupies a well-established place in Polish archaeology, while his discoveries and hypotheses are cited in Polish and foreign literature to this day. The importance of his academic achievements was discussed by the participants of a one-day scientific conference *The beginnings of the Neolithic in the Polish lands. On the hundredth anniversary of the birth of Jan Kowalczyk*. This took place in Lublin on November 22nd, 2018 on the initiative of the Institute of Archaeology of the Maria Curie-Skłodowska University in cooperation with the Institute of Archaeology and Ethnology of the Polish Academy of Sciences and the State Archaeological Museum in Warsaw. The authors of the papers presented and discussed there also prepared more extensive texts for this volume.

This number of *Archaeologia Polona* also includes works related to the issues of the Neolithic in micro-regional and symbolic dimensions (such as the paper that deals with the symbolism of some decorative motifs on ceramic vessels from that time).

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Fig. 1. Conference room: in the front row from the left: Pavel Burgert (Praha), Dagmara H. Werra (Warsaw), Stanisław Kukawka (Toruń), Małgorzata Rybicka (Rzeszów), Sławomir Kadrow (Rzeszów), Stefan K. Kozłowski (Warsaw), Wojciech Borkowski (Warsaw); in the second row, from the right: Elżbieta M. Kłosińska (Lublin), Józef Niedźwiedź (Zamość). Photo: T. Wiśniewski.



Fig. 2. The conference participants: Dagmara H. Werra (Warsaw), Stanisław Kukawka (Toruń), Małgorzata Rybicka (Rzeszów). Photo: T. Wiśniewski.



Fig. 3. Wojciech Borkowski and Sławomir Sałaciński (Warsaw) presenting Jan Kowalczyk's activities in the State Archaeological Museum in Warsaw. Photo: T. Wiśniewski.



Fig. 4. Stefan K. Kozłowski (Warsaw) giving his lecture. Photo: T. Wiśniewski.

