The Magdalenian in Central Europe.
New Finds and Concepts

Marta Połtowicz-Bobak, Dariusz Bobak
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INTRODUCTION

The Magdalenian technocomplex belongs to the taxonomic units of the late Stone Age and has aroused interest from the beginning of studies on the Palaeolithic. The number of the archaeological sites, as well as their diversity and the findings – artefacts made of stone and bone and the various pieces of art – make the Magdalenian period the subject of many intensive studies.

Researchers from Eastern and Western Europe have been interested in the issues connected with the Magdalenian technocomplex till today. As a result, many sites have been excavated and many papers regarding separate sites as well as individual issues have been published. The number of sites, richness and variety of the findings have greatly widened our knowledge regarding the cultural diversity, connections between the settlement and the natural environment, the settlement structure and the cultural processes during the Magdalenian. Further considerations into general social and spiritual problems are also possible.

This publication is the result of the Conference devoted to the studies on the Magdalenian culture in Central Europe, organized by the Institute of Archaeology of the Rzeszów University and the SKAM – Flintreaders Society, which was held in September 2005 in Rzeszów. It was next meeting follow up of researchers dealing with this subject who presented the results of new researches that were conducted by many different institutions in Europe. We hope that these materials serve as an important source for everyone who deals with the problems of the late Palaeolithic in Europe.

I would like to express my gratitude to all participants of the Conference, as well as to those authors who sent in their papers, although they could not attend the meeting. I would also like to thank all who contributed to the Conference organisation and to publishing the materials, first of all Joanna Berdowska, MA from the Institute of Archaeology of UR, as without her devotion and engagement it would be difficult to organise the Conference and to publish this book.

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Marta Połtowicz-Bobak