

**Report from organizational activities and the first meetings of  
The UISPP Commission: *Flint Mining in Pre- and Protohistoric Times***

**The first conference:  
*Archaeology of the pre- and protohistoric flint mining:  
contemporary perspectives***

**Paris, Institut d'Art et d'Archéologie  
3<sup>rd</sup>-4<sup>th</sup> September 2007**

**Report**

**1. Organization of the Paris meeting**

The first conference of The UISPP Commission: *Flint Mining in Pre- and Protohistoric Times* was organized by Pierre Allard, Françoise Bostyn and François Giligny in the Institut d'Art et d'Archeologie of the University of Paris 1 – Pantheon – Sorbonne with programme as follows:

**Monday**

- 9.30 – 12.00: Presentation of the commission, discussion upon the aims and future activities  
Election of the President, Vice-President, Secretary and members of the presidium.
- 12.00 - 14.00: Lunch
- 14.00 – 17.30: Recent researches in the Paris basin:
- “Flint mines and axe workshops in the Seine Valley”  
François Giligny and Françoise Bostyn
- "Les mines de silex en Basse Normandie, état des recherches", Jean Desloges
- “La minière de Ri, Orne, France”  
Cyril Marcigny, Jean Desloges, Emmanuel Ghesquière, Sébastien Giazzon and  
Laurent Juhel
- Film projection: Flint mine digging experimentations

**Tuesday**

- 9.30 – 12.00: “A survey of Palaeolithic and Neolithic flint mines in Israel”  
Gopher Avi and Barkai Ran
- "The Institute of Archaeology and Ethnology of the Polish Academy of Sciences  
and research on flint mining of Danubian communities in the Vistula basin"  
Jacek Lech
- "Grimes Graves: recent work and future possibilities"  
Gillian Varndell and David Field

“The exploitation of secondary flint resources”  
Alan Saville

“The Flint Source reference collection”  
Rengert Elburg

12.00 - 14.00: Lunch

14.00 – 16.00:

“The Krzemionki Opatowskie flint mine site: state of affairs”  
Jerzy T. Babel

“Methodological approaches to the excavation, survey and study of the flint mine of Casa Montero (Madrid)”  
Xavier Terradas, Pedro Díaz-del-Río, Susana Consuegra, Marta Capote, Cristina Criado, Juan M. Vicent and Teresa Orozco.

“Flint mining of Mauer-Antonshöhe in Vienna”  
Gerhard Trnka

“Distribution and functions of tools made of mined flint in the neolithic cultures in the Polish Lowland”  
Jolanta Małecką-Kukawka

"Study of the lithic waste left during the mining activities in the mining feature itself: the case study of the shaft 20 in Petit-Spiennes"  
Hélène Collet and Michel Woodbury

16.00 – 17.00: Discussion

After welcoming all the present members made by the organizers Pierre Allard, Françoise Bostyn, and François Giligny in a conference room of the Institut d'Art et d'Archeologie in the University of Paris 1 – Pantheon - Sorbonne, Jacek Lech reported us the historical background of the establishment of our Commission, linked with the idea of restoring the “Flint Symposium”.

## **2. Origins of the Commission and its first activities**

The historical context of the “Flint symposia” was reported at this occasion. A proposal for establishing a Commission on Flint Mining in Pre- and Protohistoric Times in the International Union of Pre- and Protohistoric Sciences referred to the tradition of organizing international symposia on flint, established by the Limburg Branch of the Dutch Geological Society in 1969 at Maastricht. Next meetings were organized in 1975 and 1979 in Maastricht, in 1983 in Brighton, 1987 in Bordeaux, 1991 in Madrid, 1995 in Warsaw and Ostrowiec. The last symposium took place in Bochum in 1999. Prof. J. Lech has been recently informed by Ing. P.J. (Sejuf) Felder from the Limburg Branch of the Dutch Geological Society that there would be no further symposia, due to the retirement of their organizers. Since our milieu felt the need for such meetings, we came to establish this commission. It took place on the XVth Congress in Lisbon last September 2006.

Jacek Lech repeated in Paris that our intention is to continue cooperation in the area of archaeological research upon siliceous rock mining (flint, chert, hornstone, radiolarite, jasper and obsidian), presenting and discussing methods and results. Some of the foremost fields of interest will embrace, among others: research upon different stages of “*chaînes opératoires*” of manufacture, specialization of labour and

circulation of raw materials, as well as investigation on flint mining sites belonging to pre- and protohistoric settlement networks. The objective of the commission will be to promote those lines of research upon flint mining and its methods which will allow a better understanding of various phenomena and processes taking place in pre- and protohistoric times.

Then speaker reminded us that - according to our Foundation declaration - the Commission intends to act in accordance with UISPP principles. We wish to organize international symposia devoted to research on prehistoric flint mining every fourth year and, in between, to arrange round-table discussions devoted to specific areas of research. The latter would be accompanied by visits to pre- and protohistoric flint mine sites whenever possible. The results of the Commission activities would be published.

Then Jacek Lech shortly described a history of archaeological research upon prehistoric flint mining. This research began exactly 140 years ago. At Spiennes (Belgium) it led to the discovery of such magnificent prehistoric monuments as the mines. In following years, many others were investigated such as Cissbury and Grimes Graves in England, Rijckholt - St. Geertruid in the Netherlands, Krzemionki Opatowskie in Poland. Excavations of prehistoric flint mines have been frequently reported and discussed at sessions of the International Congress of Anthropology and Prehistoric Archaeology, starting with the first in Brussels in 1872, and then they drew great attention at Congresses of the UISPP. Many distinguished scholars were studying prehistoric flint mining sites in Europe and other continents. For this reason we are applying to the UISPP authorities for supporting our initiative of creating the Commission for Flint Mining in Pre- and Protohistoric Times.

The proposal for creation of a Commission devoted to “Flint mining in Pre- and Protohistoric Times” under the auspices of the International Union of Pre- and Protohistoric Sciences emerged during discussions among a group of scholars interested in the topic, former participants of “Flint Symposia”, such as Françoise Bostyn, Marjorie de Grooth, Jacek Lech, Alan Saville, Andreas Zimmermann and others. The final initiative was undertaken by Jacek Lech and Anne Hauzeur. The notion submitted to the IUPPS Congress gained a support of ca. 40 scholars from seven countries within a period between the end of June and the beginning of August 2006\*. The Commission got the official approval during the meeting of the Permanent Committee in Lisboa last September 2006, where organizers were represented by Anne Hauzeur.

Then, the results of the Cracow meeting in September 2006 were presented to the participants of the Paris conference. The first informal meeting of members of the UISPP Flint Mining Commission was organized and held in the Archaeological Museum in Cracow, on the occasion of the 12th annual meeting of the EAA, which took place between the 19<sup>th</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> of September in Cracow.

Participants of the Cracow meeting were: Jerzy T. Babel (PL), Françoise Bostyn (F), Marta Capote and Cristina Criado (SP), François Giligny (F), Anne Hauzeur (B), Jacek Lech (PL), Alan Saville (GB), and its first part was attended by Dr. Jacek Rydzewski, Director of the Museum, who welcomed guest of our Commission coming from abroad and Poland as well. The Cracow Museum conducted excavations of some prehistoric mining and workshop sites in Little Poland with the first excavations of the Flint mines at Krzemionki Opatowskie in the twenties of the last century.

In the second part, participants of the Cracow meeting discussed the following topics:

1. Idea of the Commission
2. Members
3. Report from the Lisbon Congress
4. Proposals for activities.

It was decided to organize the first official meeting of the Commission in Paris at the beginning of September 2007 (lasting 3 days). François Giligny kindly agreed to organize the meeting, with an assistance of the other French members of the Commission: Françoise Bostyn, and Pierre Allard. It was decided that the meeting in Paris would be a session only for members of the Commission with

basic objectives to organize our work and future activities as well as to discuss a state of research of Pre- and Protohistoric flint mining in our countries, and current problems of studies in this field.

In Cracow it was decided that the election of a Presidium of the Commission will be held in Paris. Since the Commission was expected to comprise approximately 50 members, the participants of the Cracow meeting suggested that presidium board should consist of a President, a Vice-President, a Secretary, and two other members. The proposal was accepted by members of the Commission during the Paris meeting. At the Cracow meeting it was also decided that the election would be performed only amongst and by the members who would be present in Paris.

In closing remarks the speaker emphasised, that we should keep in mind the IUPPS regulations for the Commission. The greatest objective is to be active not only during the IUPPS every fifth year sessions, but also in between these main events. We are also willing to commence cooperation with other Commissions of the IUPPS. During the gap, "Flint mining symposia" referring to specific topics staying within interests of organizers and the Commission will be held.

### **3. Participants**

At this point the participants at the Paris meeting are listed by an alphabetical order:

Pierre Allard (CNRS), Jerzy Tomasz Babel (Krzemionki Opatowskie mining field), Françoise Bostyn (Inrap), Marta Capote (University of Madrid), François Charraud, Hélène Collet (Spiennes mining field), Véronique Darras (University of Paris X), Jean Desloges (DRAC-SRA Basse-Normandie), Rengert Elburg (Flintsources.net), David Field (British Cultural Heritage), Emmanuel Ghesquière (Inrap), Sébastien Giazzon, François Giligny (Université Paris X-Nanterre), Avi Gopher (University of Tell Aviv), Anne Hauzeur (Inrap), Laurent Juhel, Jacek Lech (IAEPAN, Warsaw), Marion Lemée, Jolanta Malecka-Kukawska (Copernic University of Torun), Cyril Marcigny (Inrap), Alan Saville (National Museum of Scotland), Xavier Tarradas (University of Barcelona), Gerhard Trnka (University of Vienna), Gillian Varndell (British Museum)

### **4. Presidium of the Commission**

At the occasion of the Paris meeting we proceeded to the election of the Presidium.

At the majority of the present members following persons were chosen:

President: Françoise Bostyn (FR)

Vice-President: Jacek Lech (PL)

Secretary: Anne Hauzeur (FR)

Added members: Alan Saville (UK), Pierre Allard (FR)

They have been elected for 5 years.

### **5. Members and membership**

Colleagues, which supported the notion submitted to the IUPPS Congress between the end of June and the beginning of August 2006 have automatically become the first group of members of the Commission for the next five years. The second group comprises active researchers who were present during the Paris conference, and who declared their entries into the Commission. Further members will be welcomed by participation in next meetings of the Commission in Madrid – 2009, in Vienne 2010 and in Brasil in 2011.

## 6. Programme till 2012

After discussion, proposals for our next activities have been made:

At the majority, all the members decided to organize a meeting every second year.

2009: Madrid (Spain) and the new discoveries of a mining field at Casa Montero

The main topic will be “Flint mining techniques in Prehistoric Europe”

Organizers: Susana Consuegra (CSIC-IH, Madrid), Pedro Díaz-del-Río (CSIC-IH, Madrid), and Xavier Terradas (CSIC-IMF, Barcelona)

2010: Vienna (Austria)

The topic will be “Mines structures”, and the preparation of the Brasil session

Organizer: Gerhard Trnka (University of Vienna)

2011: IUPPS in Brasil

The topic will be “The Flint Mines studies in the light of Ethnoarchaeology and experiments”

Véronique Darras, being a member of the UMR 8096 “Archéologie des Amériques” at the *Maison de l'Archéologie et de l'Ethnographie* in Paris-Nanterre, France, will be one of the contact persons.

2012: Paris

A conference similar to the one of 2007, with lectures, and new elections

For next meetings we have received an informal proposal made by Katalin Biró to organize it in Budapest (Hungary), and another proposal made by Avi Gopher to organize another one in Israel.

Proposal for a website which will host information about the Commission:

Firstly, the Permanent Secretary, Luiz Oosterbeek should be asked to use the IUPPS website.

A particular proposal has been made by Rengert Elburg to use a specific domain like [www.flintsymposium.org](http://www.flintsymposium.org) throughout his website [www.flintsource.net](http://www.flintsource.net).

## 7. Financial suggestions

To find grants for supporting organization of various meetings, we need to explore the possibilities of the European Sciences Foundation (ESF) settled in Strasbourg (France) and the COST Cultural Heritage Interest Group programme (EU 7th frame) settled in Brussels (Belgium).

A suggestion was made by G. Trnka, who noted that each institution could be granted a collective account in order to allow and support the organizers of a meeting. Yet, it depends on the law of each country and institution, as well as on the position of the members, therefore it will not be easy or possible.

President:  
Dr Françoise Bostyn

Secretary  
Dr Anne Hauzeur

Vice-President  
Prof. Dr Jacek Lech

\* A proposal for establishing a Commission on Flint Mining in Pre- and Prothistoric times in the international Union of Pre- and Protohistoric Sciences, prepared at the end of May 2006, was supported between the 26th of June and the beginning of August 2006 by:

1. **Dr. Pierre Allard – F**  
UNR 7055 "Préhistoire et technologie"
2. **Dr. Bácskay Erzsébet – H**  
Wesselényi u. 71
3. **Dr. Lawrence H. Barfield - GB**  
The University of Birmingham  
Department of Ancient History and Archaeology  
Edgbaston
4. **Dr. Jerzy T. Bąbel – PL**  
Muzeum Historyczno-Archeologiczne  
w Ostrowcu Świętokrzyskim
5. **Prof. Dr. Paolo Biagi – I**  
Ca' Foscari University  
Dipartimento di Scienze dell'Antichità e del Vicino Oriente
6. **Dr. Katalin T. Biró – H**  
Hungarian National Museum  
Department of Archaeology  
Muzeum
7. **Dr. Françoise Bostyn – F**  
INRAP Nord-Picardie  
UMR 7041 "ARSCAN- Protohistoire européenne"
8. **Prof. Dr. Laurence Burnez-Lanotte – B**  
Université de Namur FUNDP  
Faculté de philosophie et lettres  
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9. **Hélène Collet – B**  
Société de Recherche préhistorique en Hainaut
10. **Dr. Viola Dobosi - HU**  
Hungarian National Museum  
Department of Archaeology
11. **Ing. P. J. (Sjeuf) Felder – NL**
12. **David Field – GB**  
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13. **Prof. Dr. Attilio Galiberti – I**  
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14. **Dr. François Giligny – F**  
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15. **Prof. Dr. Avi Gopher – IS**

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18. **François Hubert** – B
19. **Prof. Dr. Michał Kobusiewicz** – PL  
Polish Academy of Sciences  
Institute of Archaeology and Ethnology  
Poznań Branch
20. **Prof. Dr. Jacek Lech** – PL  
Polish Academy of Sciences  
Institute of Archaeology and Ethnology
21. **Dr. Hartvig Löhr** – D  
Rheinisches Landesmuseum
22. **Prof. Dr. Leendert P. Louwe Kooijmans** – NL  
Faculteit der Archeologie  
Universiteit Leiden
23. **Dr. Roberto Maggi** – I  
Direzione regionale per i beni culturali e  
Paesaggistici della Liguria
24. **Dr. Jolanta Malecka-Kukawka** – PL  
Nicolaus Copernicus University  
Institute of Archaeology
25. **Dr. Deborah Olausson** – S  
University of Lund  
Department of Archaeology and Ancient History
26. **Dr. Jacques Pelegrin** – F  
UMR 7055 "Préhistoire et Technologie"
27. **Prof. Dr. Antonín Přichystal** – Cz  
Institute of Geological Sciences  
Masaryk University
28. **Dr. Judit Regenye** – H
29. **Prof. Dr. Michael M. Rind** – D
30. **Alan Saville** - GB  
Curator, Earliest Prehistory  
Royal Museum & Museum of Scotland
31. **Prof. Dr. Romuald Schild** – PL  
Polish Academy of Sciences  
Institute of Archaeology and Ethnology

32. **Univ. Prof. Dr. Thomas Stöllner - D**  
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33. **Dr. Massimo Tarantini – I**  
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Sezione di Preistoria  
Universita di Sienna
34. **Dr. Xavier Terradas – SP**  
Consejo Superior de Investigacions Cientificas  
Departamento de Arqueología y Antropología – IMF
35. **Peter Topping – GB**  
Head of Archaeological Survey and Investigation  
English Heritage  
Archaeological Survey  
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36. **Prof. Dr. Gerhard Trnka – A**  
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37. **Gillian Varndell – GB**  
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38. **Jürgen Weiner M. A. - D**  
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Rheinisches Amt für Bodendenkmalpflege  
Außenstelle Nideggen
39. **Prof. Dr. em. Pierre M. Vermeersch – B**  
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Prehistoric Archaeology Unit
40. **Dr. Barbara Voytek – USA**  
Institute of Slavic, East European,  
and Eurasian Studies  
Faculty Associate, Archaeological Research Facility
41. **Prof. Dr. em. Gerd Weisgerber – D**  
Deutsches Bergbau-Museum  
Forschungsbereich Montanarchäologie
42. **Prof. Dr. Andreas Zimmermann – D**  
Univerität zu Köln  
Institut für Ur- und Frühgeschichte

### **New members from Paris meeting**

**Marta Capote - SP**  
Instituto de Historia  
Centro de Ciencias Humanas y Sociales,

**François Charraud - F**

**Dr. Véronique Darras - F**

MAE – UMR 8096 Archéologie des Amériques

**Jean Desloges - F**

Service Régional de l'Archéologie de Basse-Normandie

**Emmanuel Ghesquière - F**

INRAP

**Sébastien Giazzon - F**

INRAP

**Laurent Juhel - F**

INRAP Bretagne

UMR 6566 "Centre de Recherches en Archéologie, Archéosciences, Histoire"

**Marion Lemée - F**

**Cyril Marcigny - F**

Inrap Basse-Normandie

UMR 6566 "Centre de Recherches en Archéologie, Archéosciences, Histoire"