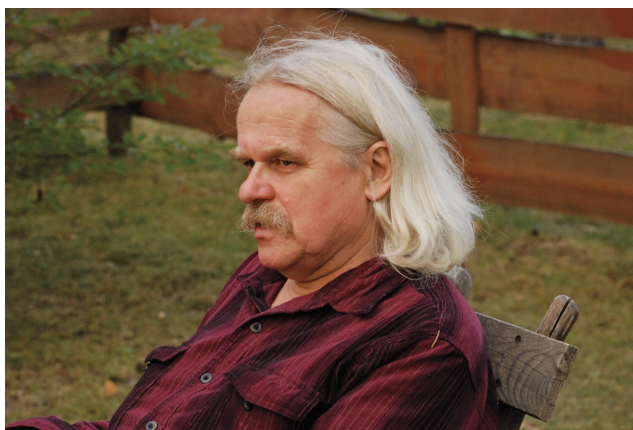


MAN, FLINT AND ROCK'N'ROLL



Somewhere on the archaeological trail... (Jerzy Libera's archive)

As incredible as it may sound, our friend and eminent scholar, Assoc. Prof. Jerzy Libera, teacher of many archaeology graduates, is reaching retirement age. On this occasion, we would like to present a collection of articles dedicated to his greatest passion, which has always been, and still is, prehistoric flint-knapping technology. This interest started during his writing of his master's seminar under the supervision of Prof. Stefan K. Kozłowski, when Jerzy explored the secrets of the flint tool production of the Funnel Beaker culture (master's thesis in 1980, published in 1985). He followed it with his research of the remains of the Palaeolithic and Mesolithic settlements across east-central Poland (doctoral dissertation in 1992; published in 1995 and 1998), and next – in 2001 – in a monumental monograph dedicated to bifacial flint products, which was the basis for his post-doctoral proceedings. With time, Jerzy Libera broadened the chronological range of his research to include much later periods of the human history, also the Modern period. He paid particular interest to the question of the use, processing and distribution of different flint materials, especially Volhynian flint, Turonian flints from the Rachów anticline and Rejowiec flint from the Chełm Hills. The results of this research became an important reference point for many subsequent studies of the raw material economy of prehistoric societies. He especially contributed to the research of the so-called final flint-knapping techniques linked with the societies of the Late Bronze and Early Iron Ages.

The scholarly interests of Jerzy Libera were strictly linked with his numerous field investigations. We will mention here the most important: work conducted on Final Palaeolithic and Mesolithic camps in Potoczek and Baraki Stare; Upper and Final Palaeolithic flint workshops in Pawłów and Kopiec near Świeciechów; Neolithic cemeteries in Malice Kościelne and Ostrów; Early Bronze Age burial mounds in Stryjów and Jawczyce. Jerzy published the results of his research (alone or as a co-author) in over 250 scholarly publications, in numerous prominent archaeological journals and multi-author monographs, in Poland and abroad. He is also the author of three books which have entered the canon of works dedicated to flint-knapping techniques in the Stone and Early Bronze Ages.

Almost from the beginning of his professional career, Jerzy Libera has been associated with the Maria Curie-Skłodowska University in Lublin. In March 1984, he was employed in what was at that time the Department (later Institute) of Archaeology, where he worked for the following 38 years, achieving academic degrees and occupying new posts: starting with the title of Teaching Assistant, then Assistant Professor and Associate Professor. Other academic posts held by him include that of the vice-director of the Institute of Archaeology (2003-2010), director of the Stone Age Department (2003-2017) and administrator of the Bronze Age Institute (2006-2008). He has also occupied numerous positions in the collegial bodies of the University and Institute. As an academic educator, he has taught many archaeologists and museologists currently professionally active. Because Jerzy supervised several dozen master's and bachelor's theses, as well as two PhD dissertations, we can say that some of his students caught the bug of his greatest passion. Although he used to be severe and highly critical as an educator and supervisor, he was always open for cooperation and eager to help, often outside of his working days and hours.

Jerzy also actively worked for the organisation of education in various central institutions. He was a member of the Evaluation Team of the Academic Accreditation Committee, expert of the Polish Accreditation Committee, expert of the Minister of Culture, member of a team of experts in history, archaeology and ethnology of the Ministry of Science and Higher Education and a member of such bodies as the Committee for the Final Neolithic and Early Bronze Age, the Committee for Prehistoric and Protohistoric Sciences of the Polish Academy of Sciences, the Team of Experts of the National Science Centre and the Control Team of the National Institute of Cultural Heritage.

Jerzy's scholarly activity and his interest in flint-knapping techniques were nearly always and everywhere accompanied by his other passion – rock music. This has always been the source of his inspiration and virtually boundless energy expended on work for the Institute and University. Despite the fact that Jerzy is approaching his retirement age, we are sure that he will remain active as a scholar and author of new publications. Jerzy will surely not put his guitar on the stand. He will not leave the stage in felt slippers! This is our ardent wish for him and for ourselves!

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