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(Review) Lubomir Šebela and Antonín Přichystal, *Silicite daggers in the territory of the Czech and Slovak Republics*. Spisy Archeologického ústavu AV ČR Brno 78. Brno 2024: Czech Academy of Sciences, Institute of Archaeology. ISSN 1804-1345, ISBN 978-807524-083-5 (print), ISBN 978-80-7524-084-2 (online, pdf), 198 pages with figures, plates and maps; DOI: 10.47382/arub2024-01.

In 2024, a monograph titled 'Silicite daggers in the territory of the Czech and Slovak Republics' was published by the Czech Academy of Sciences, Institute of Archaeology in Brno, as part of the series 'Spisy Archeologické hoústavu AV ČR Brno', volume 78. The book is another outcome of the long-term collaboration between two distinguished researchers of the Stone and Bronze Age: Lubomír Šebela (archaeologist) and Antonín Přichystal (geologist). It consists of 11 numbered chapters, as well as an excellently prepared illustrative section, which includes 55 figures (numbered consecutively within the chapters), four tables embedded in the text, and numbered according to the same scheme as the figures. A separate section, titled 'Annexes', contains 108 photographs and 39 plates. Additionally, 14 colour maps, marked with site locations, are included as inserts.

Essentially, the first four chapters serve as a comprehensive introduction to the research on silicite daggers in the Czech and Slovak Republics. They include a description of the issue, the region from which the materials originate (this section is complemented by Map II.1, illustrating the division of the Czech Republic and the Slovak Republic into geographical regions), a discussion of the history of research, and a compilation of sites with daggers (Tables IV.1 and IV.2). Table IV.1 provides information on the nature of the find, its potential context, and chronology. Table IV.2 provides a quantitative overview of the various types of finds discovered in Bohemia, Moravia, Czech Silesia, and, more broadly, in the Czech Republic and the Slovak Republic.

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Chapter V is dedicated to the siliceous raw materials represented in the analysed archaeological material. It discusses the methods used for characterising and comparing siliceous raw materials. The results of the analysis of the raw materials identified in the studied daggers are presented separately for materials found in the Czech Republic and Slovakia. Detailed data on the raw material used to craft individual daggers are provided in Tables V.1 and V.2. Table V.1 includes information on the location of the site within the administrative division of the Czech Republic (separately in the Czech lands, Moravia, and Czech Silesia) and Slovakia. It includes administrative data on the discovery locations, the inventory number of the institution where the artefact is stored, the raw material from which it was made, the type (classification and criteria for distinguishing types and varieties are discussed in Chapter VI), as well as references to illustrations and map numbering. Table V.2 presents the proportion of different raw materials identified in the archaeological material from the Czech Republic, Moravia, Czech Silesia, the Czech Republic as a whole, and Slovakia. The substantial variety of raw materials in the analysed materials is noteworthy. A total of 156 daggers were analysed. Over 25 different raw materials were identified (for 120 items). Additionally, for some items (for various reasons), the raw material was not determined. Most of the raw materials are represented by single artefacts, although there is a notable frequency of daggers made from Nordic flint (41 specimens), Nordic Danian flint (16), and Bavarian tabular chert (21).

Chapter VI provides a detailed discussion of the typological classification of silicite daggers. It begins with a presentation of existing typologies of such artefacts (pp. 41 and Fig. VI.1 and VI.2). The typological division proposed in the discussed work includes two main groups of daggers: those without handles and those with handles. A total of 11 basic types are defined, labelled as SDT I – SDT XI. Additionally, within types SDT XII and SDT XIII, fragmentary specimens are included, which, according to the authors of the publication, do not provide sufficient grounds for a more precise description and classification into one of the clearly defined types. Within type SDT I, 10 variants are distinguished, labelled as Variety IA – IK, and within variant ID, four subtypes labelled as subvarieties ID 1 – ID 4; within variant IE, two subtypes marked as IE1 and IE2; within type SDT IX, two subtypes labelled as IXA and IXB; and within type SDTX, two variants labelled as XA and XB. Specific examples are encompassed in type XI. This type includes two sets of chipped artefacts from graves associated with the Bell Beaker culture, identified as parts of two compound daggers made from organic materials. The distribution of daggers of different types, made from various raw materials, is illustrated by Maps IV.1-VIII.2.

Chapters VII and VIII contain information about the presence of silicite daggers in various cultural environments, with Chapter VII discussing those from the Eneolithic period and Chapter VIII focusing on the Bronze Age. The basis for cultural and chronological classification was the presence of daggers in settlement contexts or graves. Chapter VII discusses finds dating to the Eneolithic period from the territory of the Czech Republic. First, those from the Middle and Early Eneolithic: from the Czech lands (Cham and Řivnáč

cultures) and Moravia, followed by the Corded Ware culture (separately from the Czech lands, Moravia, and Czech Silesia), the Bell Beaker culture (from the Czech lands, Moravia, and Czech Silesia), and Slovakia.

Chapter VIII concerns silicite daggers recorded in Bronze Age contexts. The review follows a similar structure to the Eneolithic materials. It begins with a discussion of materials from the Czech Republic, starting with the Czech lands. Silicite daggers were recorded in contexts of the Únětice culture and Lusatian culture. The precise chronological classification within these cultures is preceded by a presentation of their chronological division (Fig. VIII.1). Such items were discovered in six graves, one settlement feature, and two hoards, dating to various phases of these cultures. Only one miniature dagger associated with the Lusatian culture was recorded in a grave at Lukovna. From Moravia, silicite daggers were discovered in contexts of the Únětice culture, Nitra culture, and Věteřov group. The cultural classification of individual specimens is preceded by a presentation of the cultural-chronological context (Fig. VIII.2). Chapter VIII concludes with a discussion of daggers found in the Czech Silesia region (Nitra group, Únětice culture, and Věteřov group) and Slovakia.

Chapter X is a catalogue of silicite dagger finds from the territories of the Czech Republic and the Slovak Republic. The finds are organised regionally, first from the Czech lands (Chapter X.2.1, sites numbered 1-65), followed by Moravia (Chapter X.2.2, numbers 66-114), Czech Silesia (Chapter X.2.3, numbers 115-117), from the Czech Republic but without a specific location (Chapter X.2.4, numbers 118-120), and from Slovakia (Chapter X.3, numbers 121-128). As noted by the authors, the catalogue reflects the state of knowledge up to 2019. Each site in the catalogue is described by the following characteristics: serial number, location within the administrative division, detailed site location, nature of the find (*e.g.*, surface find, excavation find, etc.), detailed description of the artefact and raw material characteristics, dating, associated finds, collections (e.g., private, museum, etc.), inventory number, and references to publications. Descriptions of the artefacts are accompanied by references to illustrative material (figures and plates).

The graphic section of this chapter, labelled as X.4 (Appendix – Catalogue of Daggers and Figures), contains drawings and photographs of silicite artefacts, ceramics, and other artefacts, as well as plans and photographs of selected objects. The 'textual' part of the book ends with an extensive summary in Czech.

An important and extensive part of the work consists of carefully prepared drawings and colour photographs (unnumbered chapter 'Annexes – Photos, Plates'). The first section features photographs of the artefacts, sometimes supplemented by detailed drawings, marked as Photos 1-109. It should be noted that Photos 1-81 present daggers from several angles, illustrating both the upper and lower sides of the artefacts and, in some cases, their cross-sections. In contrast, each of Photos 82-109, in addition to the photograph of the entire artefact, also includes an image taken with a stereoscopic microscope, showing the characteristic features of the siliceous raw material from which the depicted dagger was made.

The second part of this annexe consists of carefully executed drawings of the archaeological material. It consists of 39 plates depicting daggers, inventories, and plans of graves where such items have been recorded, as well as a deposit from the town of Litoměřice (Plate XIII). The work comprises 14 colour maps that illustrate the geomorphological division of the Czech Republic, the distribution of dagger sites, and the distribution of various types of daggers.

This book by Lubomír Šebela and Antonín Přichystal offers an extensive discussion of an essential group of artefacts. It provides a comprehensive presentation and thorough analysis, including chronological and cultural perspectives. The complete compilation presented in the catalogue includes information on silicite daggers, their methods of discovery, contexts, storage locations, and the raw materials from which they were made. A key complement to the analysis is the publication's well-developed, carefully prepared graphic section. What should not be overlooked, and this must be emphasised, is the critical organisation of this work, as well as the compilation of verified information, supplemented with solid data on the raw materials used, their origins, and the probable area where the dagger originated or was made. This information is particularly significant in attempts to reliably reconstruct the networks of connections and contacts during the Eneolithic and Bronze Age periods.

The discussed work is a significant event in the field of archaeological publications. Its value is multi-layered, with its primary importance found in archaeological source studies. The academic community has been provided with a comprehensive analysis of an essential category of materials. The archaeological and petrological descriptions of silicite daggers, as well as the chronological and cultural analyses of these artefacts presented in this publication, are, on one hand, a thorough and complete study, and on the other, an excellent starting point for exploring various issues related to the prehistory of Europe. Undoubtedly, 'Silicite Daggers in the Territory of the Czech and Slovak' *Republics* by Lubomír Šebela and Antonín Přichystal will occupy a prominent place in the bibliographies of researchers focused on the study of the European Eneolithic and Bronze Age.