

to bead number 637 on page 79 indicates it is to be found in Fig. 8.0 but it is actually in Fig. 7.0. Additional errors of the same type occur on pages 82 and 83: bead number 688 is referred to Fig. 8.1 but the bead is to be found in Fig. 8.0. Likewise, number 690 is found in Fig. 8.7 not 8.8; 693 is in Fig. 8.0, not 8.8; and 689 is in Fig. 8.7, rather than 8.8.

This catalog goes far beyond enhancing the Timeline exhibit. It encompasses an enormous swath of time, placing beads and the technologies developed to make them in their cultural and historical context, a true tour de force. It is a "must-have" resource for anyone, professional or novice, who is interested in ancient beads.

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Amber in Archaeology.

Curt W. Beck, Ilze B. Loze, and Joan M. Todd (eds.). Institute of the History of Latvia Publishers, 1 Akadēmijas Laukums, Rīga LV-1050, Latvia. 2003. 260 pp., 125 b&w figs. \$25.00 postpaid (soft cover).

This volume presents the Proceedings of the Fourth International Conference on Amber in Archaeology which was held in Talsi, Latvia, in 2001. It contains 18 articles which span the region from Scandinavia and the Baltics to the Balkans and Mediterranean. Most of the articles are by European researchers but the United States is also well represented. The reports are organized into six sections: The Chemistry of Amber; The East Baltic Area; Northern Europe; Eastern Europe; Central Europe; and the Balkans and Mediterranean.

The section on THE CHEMISTRY OF AMBER contains but one article: **The Chemistry of Sicilian Amber (Simetite)**, by Curt W. Beck, Edith C. Stout, and Karen M. Wovkulich. Quite technical in nature, the article consists primarily of a lengthy table which lists the compounds found in simetite. The study reveals that this form of amber was produced by trees of the family *Leguminosae*.

Six articles comprise the section on THE EAST BALTIC AREA:

Amberworking as a Specialist Occupation at the Srdnate Neolithic Site, Latvia, by Valdis Bērziņš. The distribution of amber artifacts and waste material at this workshop site reveals that there was organized serial

production here, with different stages of work being performed in different parts of the site.

Lithuanian Amber Artifacts from the Roman Iron Age to Early Medieval Times, by Audronė Bliujienė, provides an informative and well-illustrated survey of the material recovered from numerous sites across Lithuania.

Middle Neolithic Amber Workshops in the Lake Lubans Depression, by Ilze B. Loze, reviews the adornments, principally beads and pendants, excavated at an amber-working site in eastern Latvia.

Viking Age and Medieval Finds of East Baltic Amber in Latvia and the Neighbouring Countries (9th-16th Century), by Ēvalds Mugurēvičs, briefly discusses later material, principally beads, crosses, tiny axes, spindle whorls, and pendants.

Stone Age Amber Finds in Estonia, by Mirja Ots, reveals that there are relatively few amber artifacts in this region but they are, nonetheless, fairly varied.

The "Gold Coast" of the Gulf of Riga, by Ilga Zagorska, discusses the amber-rich western coast of the Gulf of Riga with emphasis on the artifacts uncovered at the Silinupe settlement site which was occupied during the Middle and Late Neolithic periods.

NORTHERN EUROPE is represented by three articles:

Beads of Belonging and Tokens of Trust: Neolithic Amber Beads from Megaliths in Sweden, by Tony Axelsson and Anders Strinnholm, hypothesizes that beads may have been intentionally broken and the halves shared by members of a group or by members of different groups as tokens.

The Importance of Amber in the Viking Period in the Nordic Countries, by Bente Magnus, starts with a survey of amber through the centuries before it turns to the topic at hand.

A Grave of a Noble Iron Age Woman with Many Amber Beads in Järrestad, South-East Sweden, by Berta Stjernquist, provides insight into bead usage, manufacture, and trade in Sweden.

The single paper dealing with EASTERN EUROPE is **Amber Ornaments from the Konchanskii Burial Grounds**, by Maja Zimina. This extensive Neolithic cemetery (267 burials) in western Russia produced a variety of amber ornaments, primarily "buttons," as well as rings, beads, and pendants.

The CENTRAL EUROPE segment contains five articles:

The Central European Amber Route During the La Tène and Early Imperial Times, by Jan Bouzek, deals with amber in the region of Bohemia, Moravia, and Bavaria from the 3rd century B.C. to the end of the 1st century B.C.

Amber on the Threshold of a World Career, by Janusz Czebreszuk, examines amber-working in the two principal amber-bearing centers: Jutlandia and Sambia.

Amber Spacer Beads in the Neolithic and Bronze Ages in Europe, by Colette du Gardin, concentrates on beads with multiple perforations, particularly their form and chronology.

The Social Ranking of Graves with Amber during the Early Bronze Age in South-West Slovakia, by Klára Marková, Anna Tirpáková, and Dagmar Markechová, provides a statistical survey of grave goods associated with amber objects, and reveals that there is a high incidence of amber with the tools of persons presumed to be artisans.

Amber Artifacts of Hungary from the Middle Bronze Age to the Hungarian Conquest (from 1600 BC to 896 AD), by Emma Sprincz, summarizes the nature of amber finds in Hungary for a 2,500-year period.

There are two articles in the BALKANS AND MEDITERRANEAN section:

A Composite Amber Jewelry Set from Novi Pazar, by Aleksandar Palavestra, describes the spectacular

amber ornaments found in a princely Iron Age grave in the Balkans.

When Amber Speaks: The Archaeological Evidence and the Historical Record, by Joan M. Todd, provides a critical review of amber research by both archaeologists and historians.

The volume concludes with a most-useful BIBLIOGRAPHY: **Amber Beads in Archaeology. Publications since ca. 1993**, by Helen Hughes-Brock. This is divided into 17 sections, both topical and geographical, and annotates 219 books and articles dealing with amber around the world.

Amber in Archaeology is an attractive, informative, and well-illustrated publication. It is unfortunate that there are no color illustrations—save for the front cover—as the beauty of amber dies in black and white. Sadly, the production budget was quite limited so the editors had to forego this “luxury.” While there are a few typos, the book is an excellent source of information on European amber, and will be of interest to archaeologists, collectors, and those who just love the warm feel of this enchanting substance.

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