

Hunting for the jade – efforts within JADE2 in Hungary

Katalin T. Biró

Hungarian National Museum, Budapest

Email: tbk@ace.hu

The investigation of the raw material of polished stone artefacts is a relatively recent and fast developing field within Hungarian petroarchaeology. Following pioneering efforts, the intensive study of polished stone tool raw materials started around the turn of the 20th /21st century. With the help of special, already historical, „collections” in Hungarian museums and investigation of special sites with considerable amount of „stone axes”, most important local resources were located and studied in details. The international project IGCP-442, initiated and lead by Dusan Hovorka was especially useful in this respect. It became obvious that polished stone tools are often made of very specific and fairly rare rocks belonging to the range of Long Distance (>200 km), even Extra Long Distance (>500 km) goods. In the meantime, in Western parts of Europe, P. Pétrequin and his team reached fabulous results in locating and analysing Alpine jadeite axes, probably the largest network in European Neolithic exchange system. JADE2 program was initiated to complete the information available on the Eastern (and south-eastern) fringes of the distribution area. The initiated project happily coincided with recent developments in Hungarian petroarchaeology. JADE2 offers the possibility to survey and analyse greenstone axes, mainly nephrite and jadeitite/omphacitite axes in museums as well as private collections. The current presentation will summarise state of art in hope of generating further interest in the subject.

References

- Biró, K.T., Szakmány Gy. (2000): Current state of research on Hungarian Neolithic polished stone artefacts. *Krystalinikum Brno* 26 21-37.
- Pétrequin, P. Cassen, S. Errera, M. Klassen, L., Sheridan, A. & Pétrequin, A.M. (eds.). (2012): *JADE. Grandes haches alpines du Néolithique européen. Ve et IVe millénaires av. J.-C.* Besançon: Presses Universitaires de Franche-Comté; Gray: Centre de Recherche, 1-2 volumes.
- Pétrequin, P., Errera, M., Cassen, S., Gauthier, E., Hovorka, D., Klassen, L. & Sheridan, A. (2011): From Mont Viso to Slovakia: the two axeheads of Alpine Jade from Golianovo. *Acta Archaeologica Academiae Scientiarum Hungaricae* 62 243-268.
- Szakmány Gy. (2009): Magyarországi csiszolt kőeszközök nyersanyag típusai az eddigi archeometriai kutatások eredményei alapján / Types of polished stone tool raw materials in Hungary. *Archeometriai Műhely / Archaeometry Workshop Budapest* 6 / 1 11-30.
- Szakmány Gy., Biró, K.T., Kristály, F., Bendő Zs., Kasztovszky Zs., Zajzon N. (2013): Távolsági import csiszolt kőeszközök nagynyomású metamorfitokból Magyarországon / Long distance import of polished stone artefacts: HP metamorphites in Hungary. *Archeometriai Műhely / Archaeometry Workshop Budapest* 10 / 1 83-92.