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YVAN PAILLER / CLÉMENT NICOLAS (eds), *Une maison sous les dunes. Beg Ar Loued, Île Molène, Finistère. Identité et adaptation des groupes humains en mer d'Iroise entre les III^e et le II^e millénaires avant notre ère.* Sidestone Press, Leiden 2019. € 95.00. ISBN 978-9-08890-380-9 (Paperback). € 255.00. ISBN 978-9-08890-613-8 (Hardback). ISBN 978-90-8890-381-6 (E-Book), Open Access. 733 pages with 474 illustrations.

The Late Neolithic to Early Bronze Age site of Beg ar Loued (Molène Island, Finistère, FR) was excavated from 2003 to 2011 over the course of nine excavation campaigns under the direction of Yvan Pailler as part of an archaeological programme initiated in 2000 concerning the Molène archipelago. It is not only an important milestone for this chronological period for north-western France, but also for northwest Europe, an area which is already well-known to the scientific community through a sustained programme of intermediate and more specialised publications (for example: PAILLER et al. 2004; PAILLER et al. 2010).

The site Beg ar Loued has the particularity of presenting a domestic occupation during the transition from the 3rd to the 2nd millennium BC which is marked by stone architectures and a good

conservation of organic remains. This in turn has allowed a recreation of environmental and economic aspects. The monographic publication of the site, which is now available, brings together all of the specialised studies carried out by 51 researchers (and an illustrator) and totals more than 700 pages of text and 470 illustrations. In addition to an excellent preface by Pierre Pétrequin, reaffirming the interest of the long-term research and monographic publication of archaeological sites and the harmful effects of competitive research on projects, and an introduction, the text is divided into six parts and 35 chapters with their own bibliographic lists as well as a French/English abstract.

As evidenced by the list of authors accompanied by brief CVs, the research team is not only made up of many widely recognised researchers from all institutions, but also includes students, doctoral students, young researchers, and even former students who completed their Master work on the site data. Y. Pailler knew how to surround himself with a very abundant “proofreading committee” made up of 33 researchers, almost all doctors, among the most recognised in their field, as well as a scientific committee made up of François Giligny and Philippe Béarez. Each chapter has thus been reviewed and has been the subject of corrections/suggestions from colleagues outside the team itself, which is a common approach in certain sciences (even with unpublished manuscripts made available on online platforms for comments) but extremely rare in the French archaeological community.

Following an introduction by Y. Pailler (pp. 35–37), the first part, “The framework of the study: the Molène archipelago”, offers a description of the current island environment, but also its implications for the archaeological site. Chapter 2, “Geomorphology and dynamics of the coastline in the Molène archipelago” (P. Stéphan, B. Fichaut and S. Suanez, pp. 39–57), discusses the geographic, morphological, and sedimentary characteristics of the islands and islets of the archipelago in addition to presenting a regressive study on the evolution of the shore. The third chapter, “Geological context and origin of the site’s materials” (B. Le Gall and J.-R. Darboux, pp. 59–68), presents the local context as well as the origin of the various materials used on the site. Chapter 4 sets out to describe the “Current terrestrial and marine fauna and flora of the Molène archipelago” (P. Yésou, M. Le Duff and J. Grall, pp. 69–79).

The second part, “Contextualisation: paleogeography and paleoenvironment”, proposes to restore the ancient environment concerning “Palaeogeographical changes in the Molène archipelago from the Neolithic to the present day” (Chapter 5: P. Stéphan, B. Fichaut, S. Suanez, D. Aoustin and D. Marguerie, pp. 83–121), including the rise of the sea level, the evolution of the vegetal cover, and even the climatic evolution. Additionally, the question of “Wood on the island of Molène during the Pre-Protohistory?” (Chapter 8: N. Marcoux, pp. 157–179), and that of the anthropisation of environments (Chapter 9: “Amphibians and reptiles of the Late Neolithic and the Bronze Age”, S. Bailon, L. Boury and A. Tresset, pp. 181–190) are also discussed. There are also two more archaeological chapters: “The use of certain fisheries during the Early Bronze Age in the Molène archipelago” (Chapter 6: P. Stéphan, H. Gandois, A. Ehrold, N. Le Dantec, M. Franzetti, Y. Pailler, A. Baltzer and G. Jouet, pp. 123–137) and “An overview of Neolithic navigation on the coasts of north-western Europe, in the current state of documentary sources” (Chapter 7: M. Philippe, pp. 139–156). These works make it possible to reconstitute a landscape that is quite different from the current one, with larger, sometimes interconnected islands, and quite a low anthropogenic impact on the environment (low cereal cultivation and ruderalisation). The fisheries highlighted for the Early Bronze Age are quite numerous constituting ten out of the 36 recognised structures. The question of navigation is approached on a theoretical level making it possible to synthesise the rare evidence and the possibilities. The anthracological study highlights heathlands and sparse afforestation (oak, *Maloideae*, hazel, ash, birch and alder) which deteriorates at the end of the Neolithic.

The third part, “The site of Beg ar Loued”, is devoted to, as the title implies, the site itself. Chapter 10, “Physical environment and anthropisation process of deposits” (F. Sellami, pp. 195–205), precedes articles about “The stratigraphy” (Chapter 11: Y. Pailler and C. Nicolas, pp. 207–224) and “The Harris diagram” (Chapter 14: Y. Pailler and C. Nicolas, pp. 309–312), as well as an article about structures with the titles, “A dry stone habitat from the Early Bronze Age: architecture and comparisons” (Chapter 12: Y. Pailler and C. Nicolas, pp. 225–289). Also included are articles about dating: “Absolute dates and chronological comparisons” (Chapter 13: Y. Pailler, H. Gandois, A. Tresset and C. Nicolas, pp. 291–308) and “Chronological sequencing model of the site using Bayesian analysis” (Chapter 15: C. Sévin-Allouët, pp. 313–322). The following sections, “In the sand, traces of contemporary occupations” (Chapter 17: Y. Pailler with the contribution of J.-P. Gonidec, pp. 325–344) and “A sailor in the sand: an anthropological study” (Chapter 18: A. Mayer, pp. 345–348), as well as a section on the presence of human remains titled, “Human remains in a secondary position in a garbage dump” (Chapter 16: P. Chambon, pp. 323–324) present the vestiges of contemporary occupations. This part also provides an approach to the formation of the site itself with the origin of the sedimentary deposits and the stratigraphy which is made even more complex by the presence of walls in the elevation. The excavation allowed the discovery of two successive oval, stone-walled houses occupied between 2200 and 1800 cal BC (39 ¹⁴C dates were performed, integrated into stratigraphic sequencing, and processed by Bayesian analysis) and other domestic structures. This regionally unique architectural type is compared to structures of Bell Beaker Europe and some constructions of Scotland. A chapter describes the presence of a craniofacial block (a human head) in an Early Bronze Age garbage dump. Moreover, the recent and contemporary occupations of the site, in particular with several burials, are presented.

The fourth part presents the material culture, starting with the ceramics in the chapters “Petrographic study of the Beg ar Loued pottery” (Chapter 19: F. Convertini, pp. 353–365) and “Pottery productions of the 3rd and 2nd millennium BC” (Chapter 20: L. Salanova, pp. 367–382). These are then followed by chapters on the lithic industries: “Chipped flint and rock-crystal” (Chapter 21: L. Audouard, pp. 383–411), “Hiding and discarding of chipped flints”(Chapter 22: A. Pineau, Y. Pailler and C. Nicolas, pp. 413–423), “The ground-stone tools” (Chapter 23: K. Donnart, pp. 425–489), “Sandstone and milky quartz industries: débitage and flake tools” (Chapter 24: A. Lourdeau, pp. 491–505) and “Polished tools and ornaments” (Chapter 25: Y. Pailler, M. Errera and J. Rolet with the collaboration of J.-P. Tissier, J.-F. Griveau, L. Troalen, P. Stéphan, J.-R. Darboux and G. Chazot, pp. 507–520). Chapters on metallurgy (“Metallurgy: artefacts and evidence of activity?”, Chapter 26: H. Gandois, C. Le Carlier, D. Bourgarit and V. Coquinot; pp. 521–547), animal material industry (“Bone industry”, Chapter 27: J. Treuillot, pp. 549–552), and possible decorated stones (“Ornate stones in a secondary position?”, Chapter 28: Y. Pailler, K. Donnart and C. Nicolas, pp. 553–562) conclude this section.

The study of ceramics (made locally according to petrographic analyses) shows characteristic productions of the Conguel and Bell Beakers and of the Early Bronze Age where the previously dominant small vases are replaced by a large number of large pots with ribs, perhaps reflecting changes in domestic activities. The lithic industry is important (as evidenced by nearly 200,000 pieces) and characteristic of the period with the use of almost exclusively local materials such as pebbles, débitage left over by bipolar percussion on anvil to obtain flakes, and tool supports that evolved from the Late Neolithic to Early Bronze (dominated first by borers and then by scrapers). Discovered on local pebbles like the flint industry, the quite abundant and diversified macro-tools testify to a variety of activities and probably a broad-spectrum economy. A series of tools on sandstone or quartz flake were also studied, including a small number of polished fibrolite tools, some ornaments, and four objects of bone industry. The metallurgical activity indices are very low but

present, with a univalve granite mould and five small copper sheet objects, all of which are the subject of a detailed study. Finally, several stones “decorated” with cups or a raised nipple, discovered in secondary position, are presented.

The fifth part focuses on the subsistence economy and presents the data concerning the animal economy: “The remains of large vertebrates from the Late Neolithic to the Early and Middle Bronze Age” (Chapter 29: P. Hanot and A. Tresset, pp. 567–583), “Subcutaneous fats of ruminants and dairy products in ceramics” (Chapter 30: M. Regert and A. Mazuy, pp. 585–592), “Fishing for fishes” (Chapter 31: Y. Dréano, pp. 593–620), “Exploitation of marine invertebrates in the 3rd millennium BCE” (Chapter 32: C. Dupont, pp. 621–645), and “Exploitation and use of marine invertebrates during the Early Bronze Age” (Chapter 33: C. Mougne, pp. 647–662). Animal economics show the presence of the domestic triad with an unusual share of *Caprinae* exploited for their milk. The presence of birds likely to have been eaten is also notable. Animal exploitation is confirmed by ceramic analyses showing the presence of ruminant fats and dairy products. But it is above all the fish that provide an important resource in Beg ar Loued with more than 200,000 remains collected, all of which testify to a great diversity of species dominated by the sea bass and the sea bream. It is the same with a large quantity of marine invertebrates dominated by the limpet for consumption during the Neolithic and the Early Bronze Age, and the dog whelk for making ornaments during the Neolithic.

The sixth and final part, entitled “Elements of comparison”, offers two separate chapters. The first, “Ceramics in funerary context at the beginning of the Bronze Age in Brittany” (Chapter 34: C. Stévenin and C. Nicolas, pp. 667–714), constitutes a regional synthesis of the funerary data of the period, even though it is a little disconnected from the monograph concerning houses and domestic occupations. It is, however, a very interesting document. The last chapter, “Insularity and singularity. Assessment and elements of synthesis” (Chapter 35: Y. Paillet, C. Nicolas, L. Audouard, F. Convertini, K. Donnart, Y. Dréano, C. Dupont, P. Hanot, A. Lourdeau, N. Marcoux, C. Mougne, M. Regert, L. Salanova, F. Sellami, P. Stéphan and A. Tresset, pp. 715–729), constitutes the synthesis of all the data presented.

Each chapter/article clearly presents the data (catalogues, lists, tables) and the methodology used as well as the results, most of which are put into context and discussed. The set includes many references. The quality of the illustrations should also be noted. Even if the ceramic designs are a bit small, the widespread use of photography and colour not only makes reading enjoyable, but also yields a lot of information. As usual, all the articles were not produced at the same rate or completed at the same time, which created some disparities in certain data and references. Nevertheless, the whole remains a very good scientific production.

Here we have an archaeological site, small enough to be the subject for a real monographic approach and to observe evolutions in the lifestyles of a small island community at the end of Prehistory. Three main questions emerge from this important work. The first concerns environmental evolution and human integration and its economy over the long term in this very particular environment between conquering the island’s natural habitat and withdrawal into a border area, as well as between adaptation to an extreme environment and adaptation of natural habitat to the needs of men. We observe that if almost everything is produced locally with local or close materials, men do not necessarily adapt to this island environment but rather develop a complete agro-pastoral economy in addition to the exploitation of marine resources. These results are important because, despite the recent development of preventive archaeology in domestic contexts at the end of Prehistory, real monographic approaches allowing a large number of specialised analyses on economic resources remain very few in the north-west of France. It is therefore very difficult to put them

into perspective even from the most recent syntheses (BOUBY et al. 2018; ARBOGAST et al. 2018; TOULEMONDE et al. 2018)

The second concerns the transition from the Neolithic to the Early Bronze Age in the north-west of France, which is becoming increasingly well known, particularly through the development of preventive archaeology as well as by numerous recent or current works relating, e. g., to pottery as to the lithic industry (NICOLAS 2016; BLANCHET et al. in press), all of which made it possible to tackle the question of habitats. The apparent continuity between the Bell Beaker occupation and the successive vestiges of the Early Bronze Age houses raises the question of this academic partition between Neolithic and Bronze Age, not only of its reality, but especially of its effects on research. If a rupture is to be observed, it is probably rather from the start of the Bell Beaker phenomenon in the middle of the third millennium BCE.

The third question concerns the domestic Early Bronze occupation, as the period “late Neolithic – Beaker – Bronze Age” is best known in Britain from funerary context (megaliths and reuses of megaliths, tumuli). The book offers the opportunity to observe a stone architecture, which seems well integrated into the Atlantic world of the time, but also the daily life and the subsistence economy of populations hitherto known by their monuments and their socially valued productions. In particular, the oval and stone architecture seems to belong to a vast Atlantic and Mediterranean ensemble (west and south), whereas northern and eastern Europe tends to be marked in this period by wooden architectures and rectangular forms (LEMERCIER/STRAHM 2018).

Finally, the volume covers the following three aspects – without any deadlock or disproportion: the transition from the 3rd to the 2nd millennium BC, scientifically the most important question and still too little known in the north-west of France; the domestic character of the occupation with its exceptionally preserved stone architecture; and all questions relating to the environment and the food economy. Secondary elements, like traces of contemporary occupations, were not excluded either. The book therefore presents a comprehensive approach to the site in the primary sense of an archaeological monograph, a format not as frequent in France and most often resulting of the commitment of certain researchers rather than from the will of our institutions, which should therefore be welcomed, as P. Pétrequin reminds us in his preface.

The work is dedicated to the memory of Anne Tresset (1963–2019), one of the linchpins of this beautiful project and recognised archaeozoologist of the Neolithic of northern France.

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ALBERT HAFNER / EKATERINA DOLBUNOVA / ANDREY N. MAZURKEVICH / ELENA PRANCKENAITE / MARTIN HINZ (Hrsg.), *Settling Waterscapes in Europe. The Archaeology of Neolithic and Bronze Age Pile-Dwellings*. OSPA – Open Series in Prehistoric Archaeology Band 1. Sidestone Press, Leiden 2022. 2. unveränderte Auflage. € 55,00. ISBN 978-94-6427-024-2 (Softcover). € 135,00. ISBN 978-94-6427-025-9 (Hardcover). Open Access. ISBN 978-3-948465-82-7 (PDF). doi: <https://doi.org/10.11588/propylaeum.714>. 274 Seiten mit 134 Abbildungen und 43 Tafeln.

Der bereits in zweiter Auflage erschienene erste Band über prähistorische Wasserlandschaften in Europa mit einem Schwerpunkt auf Mittel- und Osteuropa hat verschiedene Fallstudien zu aktuellen siedlungsarchäologischen Forschungen am und im Wasser zum Thema. Er startet mit dem bekannten Ausspruch Rosa Luxemburgs (1871–1919) „Freiheit ist immer auch die Freiheit des Andersdenkenden“ der Herausgeber*innen und verknüpft damit eine Verpflichtung zum Open Access der neuen Reihe, die von Sidestone Press und Propylaeum-eBOOKS veröffentlicht wird. Das Werk steht in der Printversion und auch im Internet ohne Einschränkungen zum freien Download bereit.

Multidisziplinäre Forschungen haben in der jüngeren Vergangenheit und in 170 Jahren Pfahlbauforschung vielfach neue Ergebnisse zum anthropogenen Einfluss auf Landschaften geliefert, in denen Menschen am Rande von Wasserwegen lebten. Dies ist den besonderen Erhaltungsbedingungen vor allem auch organischer Überreste zuzuschreiben. Dem vorliegenden Sammelband gelingt es, differenzierte und spannende Einblicke in aktuelle Forschungsarbeiten zur Archäologie vorgeschichtlicher Wasserlandschaften und zur Interaktion zwischen Menschen und ihrer Umwelt in einem bis heute nur mit spezieller Technik zugänglichen Gelände zu geben.