



**TÜBINGER ARCHÄOLOGISCHE
TASCHENBÜCHER**

3

**Peter F. Biehl,
Alexander Gramsch, Arkadiusz Marciniak (Hrsg.)**

Archäologien Europas/ Archaeologies of Europe

**Geschichte, Methoden und Theorien/
History, Methods and Theories**

WAXMANN

Archäologien Europas /
Archaeologies of Europe

Tübinger Archäologische Taschenbücher

herausgegeben von
Manfred K. H. Eggert
und Ulrich Veit

Band 3



Waxmann Münster / New York
München / Berlin

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Die Deutsche Bibliothek – CIP-Einheitsaufnahme

Archäologien Europas : Geschichte, Methoden und Theorien
= Archaeologies of Europe / hrsg. von Peter F. Biehl
– Münster ; New York ; München ; Berlin: Waxmann, 2002
(Tübinger archäologische Taschenbücher ; 3)
ISBN 3-8309-1067-3

Gedruckt mit freundlicher Unterstützung
der Alexander von Humboldt-Stiftung

Tübinger Archäologische Taschenbücher, Band 3

ISSN 1430-0931

ISBN 3-8309-1067-3

© Waxmann Verlag GmbH, 2002

Postfach 8603, D-48046 Münster, F. R. G.

<http://www.waxmann.com>

E-Mail: info@waxmann.com

Umschlaggestaltung: Pleßmann Kommunikationsdesign, Ascheberg

Umschlagzeichnung: Holger Singowitz (nach einem Motiv vom
unteren Tor von Schloss Hohentübingen aus dem frühen 17. Jh.)

Druck: Runge GmbH, Cloppenburg

Gedruckt auf alterungsbeständigem Papier, DIN 6738

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Printed in Germany

ROMUALD SCHILD

Making archaeology, not an easy task

About ten years ago, an *Augenblick* for a Stone Age archaeologist like myself, many of my friends in the West still cherished an idea that they could find the “Holy Grail” of proper archaeological theory in the forbidden East. To many *Ossis*, the long-sought chalice was in the West. Thorny access to information and language barriers were responsible for these beliefs. Now, after Solidarity, several Velvet Revolutions, falls of many walls, and the almost total political refurbishment of Europe, we know that the Grail of the one true archaeological theory is as elusive as the object itself. For now, it is nowhere. So, is it worthwhile to look for it?

To me, it is a part of the intellectual challenge that many of us have to face, no matter what archaeology we believe in, *Kulturkreis*, evolutionist, cultural materialistic, processual or postprocessual ones, to name just some of the biggest bags. “Of making many books there is no end” (Ecclesiastes, XII.12); there is no end to making archaeological theories too. Obviously, many of us follow or try to follow the most recent trends, if we are not too busy describing digs, contexts, artifacts, analogies and so on. We may struggle to position ourselves within the ever-changing intricacies of actual theory, or the one that we cherish. But, to do so we need to know what our friends think of making archaeology. This is exactly the purpose the Poznań Conference served.

The conference was the first time *Wessis* met *Ossis* with the declared goal of discussing archaeological methods, theories and their history in depth. In many European countries, archaeological theory was often just a bothersome notion, in others it was the foremost scientific trade leading to intellectual satisfaction and often fame. The proceedings of the Poznań Conference will open to a grateful reader like myself a vast panorama of European approaches to the archaeologies practiced in this relatively small part of the world that is tightly-packed with various peoples, all busily digging for their past. I cannot end this short preface without congratulating the organizers of the conference on their magnificent idea of bringing together so many scientists whose excellent essays shall certainly create among all of us a more sympathetic climate for making archaeological theory.