

Introductory remarks

Volume XXIX of *Documenta Praehistorica* – the 9th *Neolithic Studies* anthology, comprises papers originally presented at the eighth international *Neolithic Seminar – The Neolithization of Eurasia – Perspectives from Pottery* at the Department of Archaeology, in November 2001. All the papers given by the invited speakers are included in revised form in this volume.

The authors shared expertise on and considered three analytical and interpretative complexes:

- the Mesolithic-Neolithic transition in Scotland and the rapid spread of farming across the British Isles and southern Scandinavia, which coincided with a shift to a more continental-type climate; the transition to farming on the Japanese archipelago, and economic and social stability in the Jomon period; the earliest pottery appearance in China (Miaoyan in Guangxi Province, Xianrendong, and Diaotonghuan in Jiangxi Province) and the Russian Far East (the Osipovka and Gromatukha complexes); the principles of direct pottery dating;
- the possibility of major innovations in food-processing in the millennia following the introduction of farming; the residue analysis of ceramic and the development of dairying in Europe; lipid extracts of archaeological pottery vessels and the identification of animal fats via compound specific $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ values of individual fatty acids;
- the studies of pottery functions and problems in determining the use of the vessels from archaeological contexts and a discussion of Neolithic society in Greece in terms of the use, function, distribution and discarding of pottery: the Makriyalos case study in Northern Greece; the final stage of the life of most Neolithic vessels and their ultimate disposal: the Polgar case study in North East Hungary.

Radiocarbon dates in this volume use the convention bp and bc for uncalibrated radiocarbon years. BP and BC are used to indicate calibrated radiocarbon dates unless otherwise noted by the authors.

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