



42nd International AFEAF Conference

Prague 2018

Unity and Diversity in the Celtic World

Date and location

The conference will take place from Thursday 10th May to Sunday 13th May 2018, the first day being reserved for the excursion. The lectures will be held in the Auditorium ('Modrá poslucharna') of Charles University, a hundred metres from the Old Town Square, in the historic quarter of Prague.

Conference theme

Around 1900, Joseph Déchelette discovered the work of Josef Ladislav Píč on the Hradiště of Stradonice and made a connection with his own research on Mont Beuvray. From here, the idea of a uniform La Tène material culture encompassing a large part of Europe at the end of the Iron Age was born. This 'civilization of the oppida' inspired archaeologists, who considered the successive cultures of Hallstatt and La Tène in a unified whole, although this model has been questioned for at least twenty years.

On the contrary, in the same way that we came to consider the unity of these archaeological cultures, some characteristics allow us today to detect internal regional differences at various geographical scales. It also allows us to discern the existence of mixed or original cultures, with many diverse forms. These characteristics, or cultural markers, manifest themselves in different ways through the artefacts, the forms of settlements, burial practices, territorial organisation, etc.

The aim of the Prague AFEAF Conference is to propose a new state of research on our approaches to the different archaeological cultures of the Iron Age in Central and Western Europe, in an area that is sometimes described as 'Celtic'. From the (micro-)regional to the European scale, it will be necessary to examine the degree of relevance of the cultural groups that are now recognized or perceived, but also, more widely, to raise the question of the interpretation of these archaeological entities.

With this end, the communicants will be asked to approach the theme from two possible perspectives:

1. *Through regions or regional groups.* At the level of the cultural entity, the aim will be to show what characterizes it, what distinguishes it from the surrounding entities, and what it shares with other groups:
 - What are their archaeological markers (the artefacts, the forms of settlements, burial practices, territorial organisation, etc.)? Who proposed them, with what methods and in what historical context?
 - What are the significant differences with the surrounding entities?
 - At what scales are these differences visible? Are they micro-regional, regional, macro-regional?
 - Are the scales different according to the markers identified (for example between ceramics, ornaments, architecture, etc.)

- When markers accumulate in a given territory, what is the significance (political, economic, etc.) of these apparent cultural units?
 - When the markers contradict each other, what do they tell us about cultural diversity?
2. *By thematic approach.* It will be necessary to adopt here a larger vision, if possible on a European scale, of the theme of each communicant or group of communicants. The underlying idea is to propose comparisons and contrasts between regional groups, to investigate the existence of supra-regional networks, but also to show the diversity and discordances of specific cases, whether archaeologically or in terms of research traditions and methods. Several themes and questions can be considered:
- Epistemological aspects (historiography and methodology), mainly for the concepts of cultural domain (Hallstatt, La Tène...), cultural group or cultural network. Can alternative models be proposed?
 - Are some types of artefacts, of architecture, of forms of settlements (types of sites, territorial organisation) or of funeral practices more relevant than others to study cultural variations or intercultural networks?
 - What about the so-called Hallstatt and La Tène cultures in relation to surrounding cultures?
 - What characterises 'mixed cultures'?
 - What networks are likely to transcend regional cultural groups and to unify, or overflow, the Hallstatt and the La Tène areas? What are their structuration and their vectors?
 - What differences and relations between East and West? Is this distinction valid regarding the societies of the past or is it the result of different traditions of research?

Proposals for oral presentations or posters must be submitted before 1st October 2017 to the secretariat of the conference (afeaf2018@ff.cuni.cz), with contact information and the institutional attachment of the author(s), title and a bilingual summary of 15 lines in French, English and/or German for the abstract book.

The publication of the conference is scheduled for May 2020. The deadline for the submission of the manuscripts is therefore fixed to 1st October 2018.

Excursion and exhibition

Thursday 10th May will be dedicated to the visit of the sites of Závist and Stradonice. We will also have the opportunity to visit the exhibition 'The Celts of Bohemia' at the National Museum of Prague.

Organizing Committee: **Philippe Barral** (president of the AFEAF), **Marie-Jeanne Lambert** (secretary of the AFEAF), **Philippe Gruat** (treasurer of the AFEAF), **Gilles Pierrevelcin** (Archéologie Alsace, UMR 7044 ARCHIMEDE), **Jan Kysela** (Charles Univ., Prague), **Peter Pavuk** (Charles Univ., Prague), **Stephan Fichtl** (Univ. of Strasbourg, UMR 7044 ARCHIMEDE), **Alžběta Danielisová** (Czech Academy of Sciences, Prague), **Jiří Militký** (National Museum, Prague), **Irena Benková** (Archaeological Service of Central Bohemia).

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