

Preface

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A slow approach to abrupt changes in the past

Lake Saimaa is not the same today as it was five thousand years ago. Even more dramatic changes have taken place in Lake Ladoga, where the drastic regression of water began together with the discharge of the River Neva. As a result, the environment and conditions for living changed abruptly.

Current archaeological research in the Karelian Isthmus did not begin as abruptly as this, but instead developed slowly during a period of several years. It all started with the ideas of a few archaeologists interested in different periods of the past. Up to the 1980s, the Karelian Isthmus was closed to foreign researchers. Since the turn of the decade, Finnish archaeologists have been allowed to participate in excavations and even to carry out their own surveys or excavations in the Karelian Isthmus. Researchers with various interests were ready to join forces. However, regarding Stone Age research this did not happen until the late 1990s. This book tells the story of one of these projects, which was realized as a series of short fieldwork periods.

Archaeology seeks chronological, typological, or regional borders. However, when phenomena of long duration are examined, all these borders, as well as borders between people and

groups of people, can be seen to change. For archaeologists, they are constructions used to delineate the past in a sensible way. In the long run, however, borders are under a continuous process of change. Not only are phenomena of human origin reproducing themselves, but also the natural environment shows signs of change. For this reason, the Karelian Isthmus can be discussed as a part of contemporary Russia as well as a part of present-day Finland.

The fairly slow start of the research project in the Karelian Isthmus was due to practical reasons. Financing had to be sought from various sources. Each field season ended in uncertainty: it was never sure whether the project could continue for another fieldwork period. At first, the project was called *Saimaan vuoksi – Karjalankannaksen kivikausi ja varhaismetallikausi*, and its aim was the research of the Stone Age and Early Metal Period at Lake Saimaa and by the River Vuoksi. Gradually, the research focused on the geological and archaeological past of the area around and between the two large lakes of Saimaa and Ladoga. Accordingly, the common name of the individual research projects was shortened and the Saimaa-Ladoga project was born.

The first field trip of the project to the Karelian Isthmus was carried out in 1998. In late 2003, when the more solid research project

(called the Kaukola-Räisälä project) had received financing for the following three years, it was indisputably time to realize that the earlier project was over.

This book is a collection of articles mostly written in co-operation by several participants of the project. This illustrates the way of working throughout the project. Both surveys and an excavation in Räisälä Juoksemajärvi have been realized by working groups, which would welcome a new member or two every year, while others would quit the project because of other activities. Thus the project was flexible both in its working plan and as a working field for many interested participants. The writers of the present volume are those participants with the deepest personal interests in the research area and the different phases of its past.

In the beginning of the research process, financing and field expeditions were carried out mostly by Finns. The Russian colleagues co-operated as official leading staff of the expeditions in their territory. Nevertheless, the atmosphere was constantly favourable for the fruitful use of joined forces. Later, particularly in 2003, in Koivisto and Kuolemajärvi, the contributions of Russian archaeologists became more and more intensive, and they were responsible for the main part of the work. In fact, the project can be considered either Finnish-Russian or Russian-Finnish. This is up to the reader and the role of the partners, which varied during the project.

Considering some practical issues in this volume, the transliteration system used follows the international ISO 9 standard -based convention (note: here characters *šč*, *ja* and *ju* are used to represent Cyrillic letters *щ*, *я* and *ю* instead of marks *š*, *â* and *û*). All the Russian names of people and places are transliterated according to this system (e.g. Timofeev for Тимофеев and Mel'nikov for Мельниково), and these forms substitute also other forms used in pre-

vious connections but transliterated according to other systems (e.g. Lisicyyn over Lisitsyn i.e. Лисицын). The only exceptions are personal names transliterated differently in some referred publication – in these cases the form used in the original publication is used in the reference (e.g. Dolukhanov instead of Doluhanov). Of the geographical names the Finnish ones are preferred – this is because the old material is collected, catalogued and published according to the old administrative division and also because of the targeting of the new fieldwork has followed the old Finnish municipal borders. The Russian versions of the place-names (if such exist / are known to us) are given in brackets in their transliterated form when first time mentioned in each of the articles (e.g. Viipuri, Ru. Vyborg). Only in connection to places that have established and customarily used names (other than the Finnish ones), these names are used (e.g. Lake Ladoga for Laatokka and Karelian Isthmus for Karjalankannas).

Acknowledgements

The book is dedicated to two researchers who regrettably left the scientific community forever during the working years of our project. Professor Ari Siiriäinen at the Department of Archaeology, Institute for Cultural Research, University of Helsinki, belonged to the innovative pioneers of the fieldwork in the Karelian Isthmus. He participated only in the first expedition in 1998, but his support for the project was also valuable in later years. Siiriäinen was born in Viipuri just a few weeks before the Winter War broke out. He could not have any personal memories from his birthplace, but Karelia remained dear to him throughout his life.

Another expert, whose importance for the project as a whole was irreplaceable, in particu-

lar in the field, was our Russian colleague, Dr. Vladimir I. Timofeev, the head of the Department of Palaeolithic and Neolithic archaeology at the Institute for the History of Material Culture in the Russian Academy of Sciences in St. Petersburg. Timofeev was very familiar with both the Stone Age and the Bronze Age in the Karelian Isthmus, as well as in the entire Leningrad oblast. This book is dedicated to both of them.

The Saimaan vuoksi project was begun with the financial support of Karjalan säätiö (The Karelian Foundation, Helsinki). This enabled the first field excursion in 1998 and the analysis of pollen samples taken at the 'Antrea Net Find' location. Funding was also necessary for the maintenance of active contacts between Helsinki and St. Petersburg.

The financial support of Karjalaisen Kulttuurin Edistämissäätiö (The Foundation for the Promotion of the Karelian Culture, Joensuu) enabled the first period of fieldwork, surveys in the former municipalities of Kaukola and Räisälä, to be started in early May of 1999. The two-week excursion was carried out as a seminar survey of the Department of Archaeology, University of Helsinki. During 2000, no fieldwork in the Karelian Isthmus was done because of the lack of financing. In 2001, both Karjalaisen Kulttuurin Edistämissäätiö and the Finnish Cultural Foundation supported archaeological research in the Isthmus by allocating funds for the survey in Kurkijoki and the excavation in Räisälä. The excavation by Lake Juoksemajärvi in Räisälä was carried out in 2002. In addition, in the same year, a field survey was conducted on the coastal zone of the Gulf of Finland. A one-week survey was carried out in Johannes. The funding was based on the above-mentioned grants. In 2003, the building of the gas pipe lines to the harbour of Koivisto enabled the surveying of the coastal areas of the Koivisto

and Kuolemajärvi municipalities, too. The writers of this book and all other participants of the project express their deepest thanks to all the partners who have contributed to the financing of our work.

The project would not have been possible without students at the University of Helsinki. They have realized the surveys and the Juoksemajärvi excavation as part of their fieldwork seminars. They prepared the surveys, carried out the actual fieldwork, and even prepared the reports under the guidance of the teachers at the Department of Archaeology. We want to express our gratitude to all students participating in these field seminars.

The project has been carried out principally, but not exclusively, by the Department of Archaeology, University of Helsinki and the Institute for the History of Material Culture, the Russian Academy of Sciences in St. Petersburg. The central participants from the Department of Archaeology, University of Helsinki have been Mika Lavento, Petri Halinen and Christian Carpelan. After the Kurkijoki survey, students Kerkko Nordqvist, Oula Seitsonen and Sanna Puttonen (nowadays Seitsonen) became the main researchers not only in the field but also in the writing of publications. The National Board of Antiquities has been represented in the project by Docent Pirjo Uino, who has not only had an important position in the field, but has also successfully sought financial support for the project.

Central researchers in St. Petersburg have been Vladimir I. Timofeev, Sergej N. Lisicyan and Aleksandr I. Saksa. It was favourable for the project that Dmitrij V. Gerasimov, who works in the Peter the Great Museum of Anthropology and Ethnography, Kunstkamera, Russian Academy of Sciences, has had an increasingly important role during the surveys. In addition, we express our thanks to the Head of the Institute for the History of Material Culture, E. N. Nosov,

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Radiocarbon datings have been carried out at the Dating Laboratory of the University of Helsinki under the leadership of Högne Jungner, as well as at the Dating Laboratory in St. Petersburg under the leadership of Ganna I. Zajceva at the Institute for the History of Material Culture. We also thank researcher Marina A. Kul'kova of the same laboratory for the soil analyses of the excavated sites. Docent Terttu Lempiäinen

at the University of Turku participated in the Johannes expedition and provided valuable information for the project. Prof. Matti Saarnisto has been a key advisor in the field of geology for several project members and is also one writer of this book.

The fieldwork in the Karelian Isthmus by the Saimaa-Ladoga project in fruitful co-operation with Russian colleagues has already produced important results for contemporary Stone Age archaeology in Finland. The wheels have now been set in motion and continue to turn successfully, in various ways and in various projects.

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