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Back cover image: Volker in Drama, Bulgaria in the late 1980s. Photo Monika Zorn

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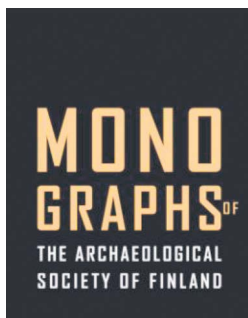
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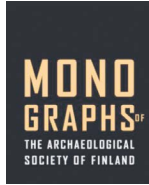
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Moving northward

Professor Volker Heyd's
Festschrift as he turns 60





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Moving northward

Antti Lahelma, Mika Lavento, Kristiina Mannermaa, Marja Ahola,
Elisabeth Holmqvist and Kerkko Nordqvist (editors)

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Volker acting as the custos at Marja Ahola's doctoral defense taking place at the University of Helsinki, October 2019. Photo A. Lahelma.

Preface

Antti Lahelma, Mika Lavento, Kristiina Mannermaa, Marja Ahola,
Elisabeth Holmqvist & Kerkko Nordqvist

Volker Heyd – A regular visitor from Bristol

We first learned to know Volker Heyd when he visited the University of Helsinki during the autumn of 2009. He had contacted Professor Mika Lavento by email and informed about his willingness to meet up. Mika found the suitable time for a meeting, and in his room at the Department of Archaeology, Volker introduced himself as a researcher who came originally from Germany but was at the time working in the University of Bristol in the United Kingdom. His research interest lay in the Stone Age of Europe, but Mika was particularly fascinated by the fact that the region he worked on extended from Central Europe also towards Eastern and Southern Europe. In addition, he was working on materials from Central Asia as well as parts of southern Russia, Ukraine, Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan and several other smaller countries between them and Eastern Europe.

Volker explained to Mika that his research focused on the Corded Ware and Yamnaya culture, and again that struck a chord with Mika's own interests. He suspected the same was true of several other archaeologists based in Helsinki, who would be keen to discuss these topics with this new German contact. This was because Corded Ware materials are found in Finland as well, and they needed to be examined in a wider context. And even though the

Yamnaya culture did not extend as far north as the Baltic region, it is well-known in Russia and its role is essential to anyone trying to understand the transition from the Neolithic to the periods beyond.

Volker was working in Bristol, but had become increasingly interested in the prehistory of Finland and its surroundings. He saw with clarity the impact made by Corded Ware on the Late Neolithic coastal parts of Finland, and the changes its presence made to local culture. He suggested that we hold four public presentations on topics that included the Corded Ware culture, the Single Grave culture, the Battle Axe culture, the Bell Beaker phenomenon, the Early Bronze Age and, finally, mobility and isotopes in archaeology. The lectures took place between the 17th and 26th of May in 2010 at the archaeology seminar room (ArlaPro) at the Topelia building. Although some of these topics dealt with Central or Eastern Europe, they were followed by a dedicated audience and accompanied by lively discussion, and made it obvious that this was an essential field of research for us, with new possibilities for comparing cultures and phenomena in the northern coniferous zone. From these lectures, our research collaboration with Volker began to grow gradually, and in 2014 he was awarded the title of Docent at the University of Helsinki.

Brexit and ERC grant as the impetus for moving to Helsinki

In 2018, the news broke out that Volker had received the prestigious European Research Council (ERC) Advanced Grant for a project titled ‘The Yamnaya Impact on Prehistoric Europe’ (YMPACT). The multi-million Euro project investigated how the spreading of the so-called Yamnaya culture 5000 years ago changed European culture and genetic heritage in fundamental ways

that can still be seen today. The project was fully multidisciplinary, including archaeologists and scholars representing various biological and environmental sciences, using the methods of funerary archaeology, landscape archaeology, ancient DNA analysis, biological anthropology, and palaeoclimatology, among others.

Britain at that time was still a member of the European Union and British universities could thus participate in the ERC call, but the country had already started a countdown towards disconnecting from Europe through the process known as Brexit. This made it difficult for Volker as a German citizen to continue in British academia, and since the rules of the ERC allow the recipient to choose where to take their grant, he made the decision to take his new research team to Helsinki. As a part of the deal with the university, which of course scored a major public relations victory by winning over a top scholar from a British university, he was appointed as a Full Professor in archaeology. For the Helsinki archaeological community, which had been severely understaffed for decades, receiving a generously funded ERC project and a new professorship was an amazing stroke of good fortune.

The decision to move to Helsinki must have come as a big surprise to some, but as noted, at that time Volker had already developed close links with the archaeological research community in Helsinki. In addition to networking with Finnish archaeologists and being awarded the title of Docent, he had been appointed as a visiting professor in the Helsinki University Humanities (HUH) programme, albeit working on a different project. In interviews he has also emphasized the quality of life in Finland as an important reason for moving. His first contact came through a holiday trip to a destination chosen by his partner. Volker himself was more into the warm climate of southern Europe, but his spouse chose Finland. That trip changed the course of his career, and the process of moving northwards began.

Teaching and supervising

Volker has been instrumental in increasing archaeological science -oriented teaching at the University of Helsinki. The archaeological science courses he has given during his Helsinki years have introduced archaeology students to isotopic analysis of various archaeological materials, human osteoarchaeology, ancient DNA and other scientific methodologies applied in archaeology. The Archaeological Science study module established in 2020, making scientific archaeology a structural part of the archaeology curriculum at Helsinki, was Volker's initiative. The impact of the Archaeological Science study module and other interdisciplinary courses, engaging archaeology students to specialise in science methods, is demonstrated in the increased number of MA and PhD theses applying scientific methods and data. Furthermore, Volker's input as a supervisor in the Doctoral programme in History and Cultural Heritage, and in the Doctoral programme in Geosciences (GeoDoc), can be seen in archaeology PhD students integrating in the Faculty of Science's research environments. These inter-disciplinary developments allow archaeology students to benefit also from the resources and facilities offered by the natural sciences, leading to completely new career paths and research perspectives in Finnish archaeology.

Volker Heyd's research collaboration with Finnish colleagues

Volker's frequent visits to Finland resulted also in intensive collaboration with Finnish archaeologists, something that has continued to date. Volker has not only been interested in investigating how the 3rd millennium BC unfolded in northeastern Europe and Russia, but also how the origins of farming took place in the extreme north. As a result, a multidisciplinary research group

from Helsinki and Bristol Universities discovered milk lipids from Finnish Corded Ware pottery sherds – an indicator of dairy farming at high latitudes (Cramp et al. 2014). Likewise, collaboration with Santeri Vanhanen and colleagues (2019) brought to light that Pitted Ware Culture foragers on the Åland Islands used barley and wheat from c 3300 BC for the purposes of ritual feasts.

Aside from issues relating to agriculture, Volker has had a keen interest towards human movements and migrations. In the context of Finnish pre-history, he has explored these topics from the angle of possible push and pull factors of the early 4th millennium Comb Ware phenomenon (Oinonen et al. 2014). Similarly, in a collaborative paper with colleagues from linguistics (Grünthal et al. 2022), Volker suggested that a dramatic climatic change episode acted as a push factor for the spread of the Uralic languages.



Volker visiting a Mesolithic burial site in Majoonsuo in Outokumpu, eastern Finland in September 2019. Photo Kristiina Mannermaa.

Movement and migration – especially the reverse movement to the (north-)east of the Corded Ware Complex – was also at the core of Volker's and Kerkko Nordqvist's collaborative paper dealing with the Russian Fatyanovo Culture (Nordqvist & Heyd 2020). Likewise in his paper together with Marja Ahola (Ahola & Heyd 2020), Volker aimed to see the result of the Corded Ware expansion to Finland in the wider context of the eastern Baltic Sea region. The Corded Ware Complex and its broader context in the 3rd millennium BC Europe has thus been a recurring theme in many collaborations, the basis of which was laid already early on through joint talks (e.g. already the Corded Days in Kraków in 2011) and an informal workshop organised by Volker at the University of Helsinki in early June 2014.

In Helsinki Volker became – for the first time in his life – captured into the study of hunter-gatherer cultures. Mobility is a the core question in the collaboration with Volker and an ERC-funded project *Animals Make Identities*, AMI (PI Kristiina Mannermaa). As part of this collaboration, Volker initiated the Sr-analysis of the skeletons at the Late Mesolithic Yuzhniy Oleniy Ostrov in Karelia, northwestern Russia. That study is still in progress but a publication is in preparation. Volker's YMPACT-project and Mannermaa's AMI-project arranged a common seminar *Archaeology and Biosciences in Helsinki* in February 2023, presenting the newest research of the two projects.

As was already noted above, Volker is a determined supporter of scientific archaeology. This interest has created strong connections with the Laboratory of Chronology in Helsinki. Together with Heli Etu-Sihvola and colleagues (2022), Volker took a ride to the early medieval period of Finland and explored the diet of the people buried in the famous Luistari cemetery (ca. 600–1400 CE). As these results – emphasizing freshwater fish as a stable part of the diet – show, the road to agriculture towards farming in Finland was indeed a bumpy one (cf. Heyd 2022).

Collaboration with Professor of Forensic Medicine Antti Sajantila was initiated in the EAA conference in Helsinki 2012. Sajantila was involved in signing the petition to bring Volker to Helsinki. From that time onwards,

Sajantila and Volker have pursued scientific collaboration, which at the time of writing was about to be realized in the form of an archaeovirological study of the Yamnaya culture.

Student perspectives

Volker is an excellent lecturer and teacher. Students appreciate his passionate attitude towards teaching and supervising. Three archaeology students describe their experiences as Volker's students in the following ways:

Volker has always been ready to help with many kinds of study-related questions, despite the constantly present rush in the university world. His courses have clearly focused on discussion and the feedback received from his



Volker with Ilya Iliev in Kabile, Bulgaria in 2019. Photo Piotr Włodarczak.

own work has been suitable to help develop critical thinking. In addition to being helpful and approachable to students at the university, Volker is also regularly participating at student events, such as annual parties and Christmas parties.

Despite his busy schedule, professor Volker always finds the time to mentor and help students. In addition to supervising and guiding students through sometimes bumpy academic research, he has – through his YMPACT project – been able to take students along to excavations abroad. These excavations have not only been great learning experiences but have also led to many archaeological contacts and networks – such that one can only gain by the shared experience of working and living together for weeks in exciting remote places.

When necessary, Volker is not afraid to take out *The Whip*. On the other hand, he never forgets to praise a job well done. Working with Volker has been... as Volker would put it: ‘Bombá!’

Festschrift time

In this book, we honour Volker’s 60th birthday with 28 peer-reviewed scientific contributions written by Volker’s colleagues, students, and friends from different parts of Europe. The topics of the papers, arranged into seven chapters, represent Volker’s research interests that range from mobility and migrations to identity and ethnicity, from linguistics to DNA and isotope chemistry, and from the origins of agriculture to recent scenes of conflict.

The book begins with several contributions dealing with the Yamnaya impact in prehistoric Europe, followed by papers on the Corded Ware phenomenon. From Corded Ware, the book continues to exploit human movement and migration in prehistoric Europe and beyond, whereas the next chapter is dedicated to interdisciplinary research. Boundaries between sciences are also crossed in the next chapter, which deals with fieldwork and geosciences,

while the final chapter presents novel insights into landscape and spatial analysis.

We want to express our gratitude to Volker's colleagues and friends who gave their photos for this publication: Maxime Brami, Ursula Groten, Susanne Rick, Piotr Włodarczak and Monika Zorn.

With this book, we wish a happy 60th birthday and many more exciting years of archaeology for Professor Volker Heyd.

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