

Advisory Board

Ofer Bar-Yosef
Harvard University

Jacques et Marie-Claire Cauvin
Institut Préhistoire Orientale, Jalès

Frank Hole
Yale University

Marie-Louise Inizan
C.N.R.S., Paris

Peder Mortensen
Moesgård-Museum, Århus

Hans J. Nissen
Freie Universität Berlin

Mehmet Özdoğan
University of Istanbul

Reprinted

Editorial Board

Hans Georg Gebel
Stefan Karol Kozłowski
Gary O. Rollefson

Address

NEO-LITHICS
c/o Gary O. Rollefson
'Ain Ghazal Research Institute
Pragelatostr. 20
D - 64372 Ober-Ramstadt
tel./fax 0049 6154 53642

NEO- LITHICS 1/94

A Newsletter of Southwest Asian Lithics Research

The first issue of the NEO-LITHICS newsletter appears later than we had planned when the First International Workshop on Chipped Stone Industries concluded in Berlin early in April 1993. The delay can be attributed to several factors, including technical problems and the great amount of time required by the editorial processing of the workshop proceedings.

In a bibliographic environment that has witnessed a marked growth in archaeological journals in the past two decades, one may question the need for this newsletter. The increase in journals reflects the growth of the archaeological community and the specialized issues that the recent surge in archaeological research has fostered.

It is clear that the phenomenal rise of new survey and excavation projects in the Near East has created problems that the older and newer journals have not been able to resolve, at least in terms of synthesizing Neolithic developments in lithic technology and typology. Indeed, one can correctly claim that the expanded array of journals has increased the chaos potential, for different journals have reviewers with different backgrounds and different standards. A palpable "generation gap" can be sensed in many recent publications, although the iconoclasm and its effects are often passed on as "substantiated" without broader peer review or opportunity for comment from Neolithic prehistorians.

One aspect of the impact of new research activity is the length of time it takes for results to be published. Depending on the journal, this generally amounts to two years (or more!) after the submission of the original manuscript, despite the increase in the number of publication organs. Responses to new interpretations can take just as long, so that many years might pass in the process of the presentation of original hypothesis, challenge, and rebuttal.

All of this, of course, takes place within an atmosphere of differing approaches to lithics analysis, the "schools" that have had long traditions or that have been recently founded.

We feel that a better means of communication among prehistorians interested in lithic technology and typology during the Neolithic of the Near East is urgently required, a sentiment universally expressed among the participants of the Berlin workshop. What is needed is a means to convey accepted standards of lithics analysis, both technological and typological, to reduce the chances of misunderstanding among the older and newer members of research projects. The "accepted standards" are not to be interpreted as established canons of analysis: i.e., when analytical approaches are developed to understand better the changes in how chipped stone tools were produced, such methods should be shared among the interested community as soon as possible.

The NEO-LITHICS newsletter aims to resolve all of the above-mentioned problems. First, we offer a basic set of standards for classifying and reporting on debitage and tool types in preliminary and final site reports; this, we hope, will eliminate confusion among Near East prehistorians, irrespective of their "school of research" background.

Second, we hope that the NEO-LITHICS newsletter will provide a timely exchange of opinions on technotypological approaches and interpretations that considerably re-

duces the current "turn-around" time of the two/four/six year publication/critique/response that presently exists. In effect, we want NEO-LITHICS to be a dynamic forum of opinion, published quickly, to clarify approaches to analytical and interpretive procedures that deal with lithics analysis.

We want to stress that we seek a common basis for communication among Neolithic researchers. We encourage strictly defined procedures to systematize the analytical process, but we do not want to "limit" alternative analytical approaches. Indeed, new views of old problems are the seeds of progress in any science.

The premiere issue concentrates on presenting the protocols reached during the workshop that concern the minimal standards of technological and typological reports that deal with the analysis of Neolithic industries from the Near East, which we take to represent geographically the modern political regions of Turkey, Iraq, Iran, Syria, Jordan, Lebanon, Israel, and the Sinai and Arabian peninsulas. We would also ask that researchers in nearby regions consider our analytical approaches, so that synthetic interpretations beyond the Near East per se can be achieved.

We hope in future editions of NEO-LITHICS to expand the scope of the newsletter to include, among others,

- 1) a broader "Notes and News" section for announcements of meetings and lithic analysis projects,
- 2) brief articles to promote communication before publication in major journals,
- 3) reports and announcements from the PPN Workshop Working Groups,
- 4) the distribution of the PPN Lithics Dictionary modules and subsequent updates,
- 5) graduate student research news, including short abstracts of MA and PhD theses and dissertations,
- 6) announcements of calibrated and uncalibrated radiocarbon dates from Near East Neolithic sites,
- 7) exchange of opinions on lithics analysis problems, and
- 8) reports of new publications as "Bibliographic Updates".

A final note: Production costs of NEO-LITHICS will be kept to a minimum, and retroactive fees will be collected at the 1995 Warsaw meetings.

We thank Frank Hole for the use of photographs he took at the Berlin Workshop.

NEO-LITHICS will appear twice a year: in June and December. Deadlines for contributions are 15 May and 15 November. The format for citations and bibliography will follow the one used by Paléorient. Submissions should include two hardcopies as well as a disk in WordPerfect or Word, including integrated graphs and tables. Submissions should be addressed to:

Gary Rollefson
'Ain Ghazal Research Institute
Pragelatostr. 20
64372 Ober-Ramstadt (Wembach)
Germany
Fax: 49-6154-53642

PROTOCOLS OF THE FIRST WORKSHOP ON PPN CHIPPED LITHICS INDUSTRIES

BERLIN, 29 MARCH - 2 APRIL 1993

Panel Meeting, Tuesday, 30 March 1993

The principal issue of the panel meeting was the discussion of minimal standards for the publication of interim lithics analysis in preliminary excavation reports. The following standards were adopted:

1) Debitage

a. To facilitate comparisons ofdebitage categories, the metric definition of "flakes" vs. "small flakes" must be stated (i.e., 1.5, 2.0 or 2.5 mm).

b. Thedebitage class "primary" or "cortical" flakes (i.e., flakes completely covered with cortex) must be counted and reported separately.

c. The criteria used to sort "flakes" and "blades" must be made explicit. That is, are blades distinguished according to metric ($L \geq 2W$) or the technological (parallel-sided with parallel ventral ridge[s]) definition? Furthermore, blades should be distinguished by ratios of unidirectional vs. bi-directional blades.

d. Flake: blade ratios should be reported.

2) Cores

Cores should be sorted and reported according to the system used at Basta, with the following types:

a. Flake Cores

Spherical Flake Cores
Irregular Flake Cores
Discoidal Flake Cores
Unifacial Discoidal Flake Cores
Single Platform Flake Cores
Opposed Platform Flake Cores
Other Flake Cores

b. Unidirectional Blade Cores

Pyramidal or Sub-pyramidal Blade Cores
Other Single Platform Blade Cores
Multiple Platform Blade Cores

c. Bidirectional Blade Cores

Naviform Blade Cores
Other Opposed Platform/Bidirectional Blade Cores

d. Other Blade Cores

e. Pre-Cores or Tested Nodules

(if not assignable to an intended core type)

f. Indeterminate exhausted Blade or Flake Cores

g. Core Fragments

Flake Core fragments
Blade Core fragments
Indeterminate core fragments

3) Core Trimming Elements (CTEs)

Core preparation and core rejuvenation often cannot be confidently distinguished, and statistics and metric comparisons within thisdebitage category are not practicable. CTEs should be reported as a single category and accompanied by illustrations.

4) Various

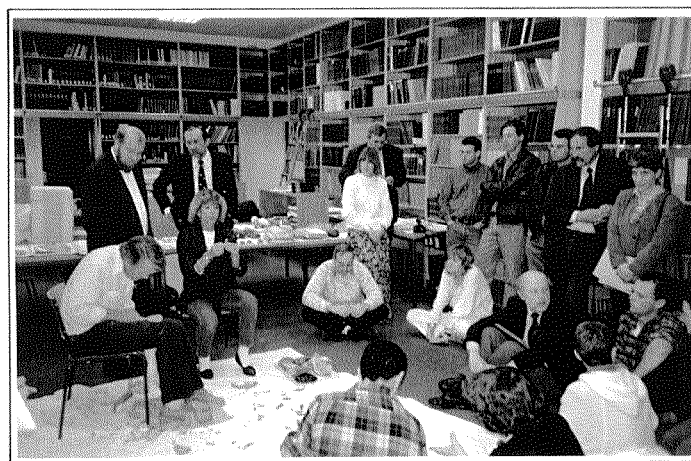
a) It was agreed that the term "bipolar", in reference to blades or blade cores, should be avoided since it can be confused with the "bipolar technique", synonymous with the anvil technique. The terms "opposed platform" or "bi-directional" should be used instead. Reference to "naviform technique" should be used only if the typical core reduction products are present in thedebitage.

b) Preliminary reports must mention the recovery techniques used during the excavation or survey. What sampling

strategy and mesh size were used for sieving?

c) The kinds of samples used in a preliminary report must be detailed. Does the report reflect the entire season inventory, a random sample of chipping floors, material from a room fill, etc.?

d) Information on the nature of the raw material must be indicated. What is the relative availability and utilization of nodular vs. tabular flint? What is the ratio of local vs. exotic material in the assemblage? Standards of raw material classification and description will be discussed in NEO-LITHICS or at the next Workshop.



Panel Meeting, Wednesday, 31 March 1993

The principal focus of the panel meeting was to reach accords concerning the publication of a dictionary treating PPN lithics. After considerable discussion among the panel members, it was agreed that such a dictionary should be divided into two parts: Part 1 would include the general dictionary (definitions, conventions), with Part 2 reflecting specific regional technical and typological expressions.

A list of tool classes based on Mortensen's analysis for Beidha was circulated among the panel members. It was proposed and agreed that work would be distributed among the panel members according to tool classes. It was also agreed that sub-groups should be established to concentrate on better definitions or distinctions among retouched tools that often straddle two or more tool classes in technological or morphological terms (e.g., some knives and some points, some points and some borers, some scrapers and some denticulates, etc.). Establishment of these sub-groups was postponed for future consideration and assignment.

The following Working Groups were set up:

1) Technology

2) Points/Borers

3) Microliths

4) Glossed elements (including "sickles", but also other possible functional classes)

5) Bifacial, Heavy Duty, Multiple, and Abraded Tools (Including axes, scrapers, notches, burins, denticulates, etc.).

Working Group 2 (Points/Borers) will be based at Jalès and include the following colleagues: A. Betts, I. Caneva, M.-C. Cauvin, A. Gopher, P. Mortensen, and S. Kozlowski.

Working Group 3 (Microliths) is based at Yale and

includes N. Balkan-Atli, N. Goring-Morris, F. Hole, S. Kozłowski, and M. Rosenberg.

Working Group 4 (Glossed elements) is based at Jalès and includes P. Anderson, I. Caneva, A. Gopher, F. Hole, C. McCartney, and D. Olszewski.

Panel Meeting, Thursday, 1 April 1993

Discussion continued on the Working Group assignments at the beginning of the panel meeting.

Working Group 1 (Technology) includes F. Abbès, D. Baird, H-G. Gebel, M-L. Inizan, M. Lechevallier, C. McCartney, Y. Nishiaki, L. Quintero, and P. Wilke.

Working Group 5 (Bifacial, Heavy Duty, Multiple, and Abraded Tools) is based in Wembach and includes N. Balkan-Atli, D. Baird, E. Coquegniot, H. Gebel, G. Rollefson, K. Schmidt, W. Taute and B. Müller-Neuhof.

[Note: The names cited among the working groups listed above is surely incomplete, as some of our confused workshop notes indicate. Colleagues whose names do not appear where they should are asked to contact NEO-LITHICS (see editorial page) to correct the situation. Additionally, others who are interested in participating in the working groups are asked to contact the respective Group Coordinators (see contact addresses below). Eds.]



The final agenda item was the establishment of a newsletter to enhance communication within the Near East Neolithic archaeological community. It was unanimously agreed that such a newsletter was desirable (see Editorial), and following the suggestion of F. Hole, the title NEO-LITHICS: A Newsletter of Southwest Asian Lithics Research was adopted. The editors are G. Rollefson, H. Gebel and S. Kozłowski; the advisory board consists of O. Bar-Yosef, J. and M.-C. Cauvin, F. Hole, M.-L. Inizan, P. Mortensen, H. Nissen and M. Özdoğan.

Panel Meeting, Friday, 2 April 1993

The final day of deliberations was long and intense, for it dealt with reports of the working groups, attempts to summarize the workshop, plans for future meetings, publication of the workshop proceedings, and general usage of taxonomic terms and chronological referents in reports.

The Plenum Meeting agreed on the following points:

1) The use of terms such as "PPNA", "PPNB", and "PPNC" has often been indiscriminate, leading to confusion

in "cultural" and "temporal" interassemblage comparisons. Such terms should be recognized as broad time units that reflect contemporaneity in the Near East. Archaeological "entities", defined specifically in technotypological terms and that have specific temporal spans (e.g. Ghazalian, 8,000-7,500 BP uncal. or Mureybetian, 10,000-9,500 BP uncal.) should be used whenever possible.

2) As C-14 dates become available, they should be cited as BP dates (complete with lab numbers) and be identified as calibrated or uncalibrated. This will permit readers to convert uncalibrated dates using the new calibration.

Reports of the Working Groups

Group 1, Technology. The working group will meet in Valbonne, but correspondence will be handled via Meudon. The following agreements were reached:

a) Lithic technological terms will be standardized. For example, "bipolar cores" will be replaced by "opposed platform" or "naviform cores", as appropriate.

b) An annotated bibliography on lithic technology publications relevant to the PPN will be compiled for use as a basic reference to avoid confusion when using lithic technology terms.

c) Illustration standards will be developed. For example, "ripple marks" (or "negative ripples", "compression rings") should always be included in the drawings, and a selection of debitage should be included among the publication illustrations.

d) Milling stones, often produced using percussion techniques, are rarely mentioned in current publications, but this important element of the material culture repertoire should be included.

e) Experimentation in the production and use of tools in each tool class should be encouraged, and the results should be shared with colleagues working in the Near East.

f) Exploration for flint quarries in the area around excavated sites should be encouraged.

Group 1 Coordinator and Contact Address:

Marie-Louise Inizan
CNRS, ERA 28
1, rue Aristide Briand
92195 Meudon, FRANCE
fax: 33 14 5 07 54 48

Group 2, Points/Borers. The working group agreed to develop standards for describing regional variation, illustration conventions, and other areas of technological and typological analysis and reporting for points and borers.

Group 2 Coordinator and Contact Address:

Marie-Claire Cauvin
Institut de Préhistoire Orientale
Jalès
07460 Berrias, FRANCE
Fax: 33 78 58 12 57

Group 3, Microliths. The focus of work in the near future will center on:

a) an examination of classification systems currently in use throughout the Near East and Europe.

b) the development of a system that will reflect regional patterns regarding relative and absolute chronology, terminology, definitions and descriptions.

c) a proposal for illustration conventions.

d) an examination of "functional" interpretations based on current literature, particularly in terms of sequential use, as

well as use-wear analysis.

e) the compilation of a bibliography of microlith research.

The Working Group also agreed that type definitions and variants should be based on morphology, with temporal and spatial ranges included in the definition.

Funding has been received to hold a working group meeting at Jalès in September 1994 and will include more than 15 participants.

Group Coordinator and Address:

Frank Hole
Department of Anthropology
Yale University
New Haven, CT, 06520 USA
fax: 1 203 432-3669



Group 4, Glossed Elements. The following issues will be addressed immediately by the Working Group:

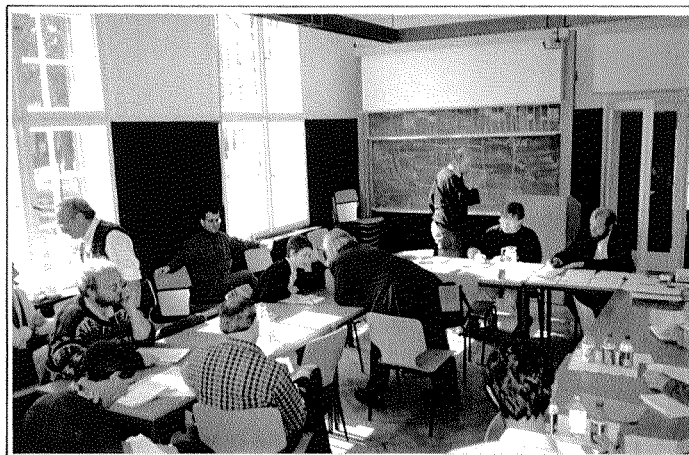
- Group members will exchange illustrations from available literature to develop illustration conventions.
- A convention already adopted is the use of dashes (---) instead of circles to identify the location and extent of gloss.
- A bibliography on glossed elements will be compiled.
- Various kinds of gloss will be defined and described.
- Information will be collected on studies of use-wear, ethnographic referents, hafting, re-sharpening, and multiple tool occurrences in published reports. PPN samples will be compared with Natufian and Bronze Age glossed elements.

Group 4 Coordinator and Contact Address:

Patricia Anderson
Institut de Préhistoire Orientale
Jalès
07460 Berrias, FRANCE
Fax: 33 75 39 37 96

SPECIAL NOTICE: A one-week meeting for Working Groups 1 (Technology), 2 (Points/Borers) and 4 (Glossed Elements), working separately but simultaneously, will be held at Jalès in October 1994 under the sponsorship of NSF and CNRS. For this meeting, each Working Group must be limited to a maximum of eight colleagues each. Travel funds may be available through NSF for Americans, but food and lodging must be paid by all participants. Those interested in attending one of the Working Group sessions should contact the respective Working Group Coordinator as soon as possible for details.

Group 5, Bifacial/Heavy Duty/Multiple Tools. The Working Group will test the utility of the Inizan-Roché-Tixier analysis method of edge description. The analytical results of large samples of multiple tools from sites throughout the Near East will be discussed at a meeting to be held 21-23



May 1994 in Wemba. Approaches to standardizing technotypological analysis of other tools within the broad range for which the Working Group is responsible will also be considered at that meeting.

Group 5 Coordinator and Contact Address:

Gary Rollefson
'Ain Ghazal Research Institute
Pragelatostr. 20
64372 Ober-Ramstadt, GERMANY
fax: 49-6154-53642

Summary of Agreements on a PPN Dictionary

The dictionary will appear in modular form in sections and headings that conform to the organization of the Working Groups ("Points", "Axes", "Technology", "Retouched Blades and Flakes" etc.) (to be published in France).

The languages to be used in the dictionary will be French and English for Part I (articles), although Part II (glossary) will include all languages used by prehistorians working in the Near East. The dictionary editors are M.-C. Cauvin, H. Gebel, and G. Rollefson. Authorship will be assigned to colleagues who contribute to the various sections. A general outline of the dictionary project will be presented for discussion by the editors at the next workshop in Warsaw. Prepublication versions of the dictionary, in module form, will be circulated with the NEO-LITHICS newsletter.

General Agreements

It was strongly urged that the enthusiasm and momentum generated by the first Workshop be maintained, and that another general meeting of all participants should be held within two years. The invitation by S. Kozłowski to hold the next meeting in Warsaw in 1995 was accepted (see below).

The structure of the next Workshop will be changed to emphasize the "workshop" aspect and to de-emphasize "site report" features. Poster sessions would be very useful to communicate new developments in field and laboratory research, including displays of original lithic materials. Nevertheless, papers on specific topics will be presented.

Summary Group Meeting

The Workshop Summary Group, consisting of N. Balkan-Atli, O. Bar-Yosef, E. Coquegniot, A. Gopher, H. Gebel, F. Hole, S. Kozłowski, and G. Rollefson, met late on 3 April 1993. A "summary" of the workshop was not possible in view of the wide range of topics that were covered. Instead, the Summary Group decided to present a scheme of regional lithic taxa illustrated on maps according to half-millennium chronological periods from 10,000-7,500 BP (uncal). The group adopted three major "interaction spheres", including the Zagros, Levantine, and Central Anatolian regions. Publication of the maps will be held until radiocarbon dates from all of the geographic regions have been calibrated according to the most recent program. Discussions centered on the differences among the industry taxa, how they could be defined, and what index fossils could be used to characterize them during specific periods.

Publication of the Workshop Proceedings

As the first issue of NEO-LITHICS goes to press, we are pleased to report that all 46 articles for the proceedings publication have been received, and that the ca. 600 pages will be sent to the printer in April 1994.

Originally planned as a Paléorient "supplement", we later learned that current conditions do not allow the establishment of such a publication. With this development in mind, and in view of future needs, H. Gebel and others have founded a new publication series, based in Berlin, called the Studies in Early Near Eastern Production, Subsistence and Environment (SENESPE). More information on this series will be provided in the next NEO-LITHICS issue.

The volume citation is as follows: Hans Georg Gebel and Stefan Karol Kozłowski (eds.), Neolithic Chipped Stone Industries of the Fertile Crescent. Proceedings of the First Workshop on PPN Chipped Lithic Industries, Berlin 1993. Studies in Early Near Eastern Production, Subsistence, and Environment 1 (1994). Berlin: ex oriente. Each author will receive 20 offprints of his or her article(s), and she or he can purchase the volume at a 25% discount (price not yet determined); more information will be given in the next issue of NEO-LITHICS.

Open Letter to Near East Prehistorians

[Part of the policy of NEO-LITHICS is to inform archaeologists about circumstances affecting archaeological research in the Near East. Eds.]

CONTINUED THREAT TO 'AIN GHAZAL

While on a short visit to Jordan in April 1993, it was only by accident that Prof. Zeidan Kafafi, Dr. Pierre Bikai (ACOR Director), and I were able to prevent the sale of 'Ain Ghazal for commercial and residential development, within hours of the signing of the release by the Department of Antiquities.

Under the conditions of the release agreement, the Department of Antiquities would have acquired 0.5 hectares of the 12+ hectare Neolithic settlement. A larger appropriation of the site, was "not possible" due to the enormous value of the land (approximately US \$500,000 per hectare). While it is understandable that the budget of the Department of Antiquities is very limited, especially in view of the economic problems Jordan has suffered since 1990, it was nevertheless disturbing that the release was imminent with no notification to the archaeological community in Jordan or elsewhere.

After hasty discussions with the Minister of Tourism in April 1993, we were assured that the sale release would not be signed, although there was no certainty that the situation

would not be repeated in the future. Unofficially, it was made clear that the absence of excavations at 'Ain Ghazal in 1993 would be taken as a sign of "a lack of scientific interest", and that the property would be released for sale.

After returning to Germany in April, I set up a tax-deductible organization to raise funds for the purchase of as much of 'Ain Ghazal as possible. Despite appeals for contributions through newspapers in Germany, major archaeological and anthropological associations in the United States and Europe, and to popular and professional journals, the results have been extremely disappointing.

But the "Friends of 'Ain Ghazal" confronted the threat to the site with a second approach: a letter-writing campaign to demonstrate the international support for preserving 'Ain Ghazal. A letter by Dr. Mehmet Özdoğan in Istanbul was signed by more than 80 archaeologists and sent to the Antiquities and Tourism offices in Amman. Other letters with multiple signatures were sent from India, and a few individual responses also arrived from the US and Europe. Returning for excavations at 'Ain Ghazal in June 1993, it was clear that the letter campaign had paid off, and that both the Ministry of Tourism and the Department of Antiquities were under strong pressure regarding the future of 'Ain Ghazal.

The successful season at 'Ain Ghazal in 1993, in addition to the international reaction to the threat facing the site, were enough to convince the Department of Antiquities to increase the amount they would appropriate to 3.5 hectares. This includes the "core" of 'Ain Ghazal, but two-thirds of the site would be lost under this offer. Even so, the 3.5 hectares would be acceptable in preference to the former offer. But the fate of 'Ain Ghazal remains tentative. Purchase of land depends on favorable action by the national cabinet, and the 1993 verbal agreement is not necessarily binding on the new Minister of Tourism.

What has been very effective is the demonstration of international support for the preservation of 'Ain Ghazal. To ensure that the 3.5 hectares are appropriated, please write to the Ministry of Tourism and the Department of Antiquities, encouraging them to do all they can to preserve 'Ain Ghazal:

The Minister of Tourism	Director-General
Ministry of Tourism	Dept. of Antiquities
P.O. Box 224	P.O. Box 88
Amman, JORDAN	Amman, JORDAN

Sincerely,
Gary O. Rollefson

NOTES AND NEWS

ADDRESS CHANGES

While the basic goal of NEO-LITHICS is to enhance communication among Near East Neolithic prehistorians, this can only happen effectively if we have a reliable address list. A current list will be published in the next issue of NEO-LITHICS, and we ask everyone to report any changes.

PPN WORKSHOP IN WARSAW, APRIL 1995

The second PPN Workshop, hosted by Warsaw University, will be held from 3-7 April 1995. The principal focus will be to promote continued work of the working groups and on the development of the PPN dictionary, but presentations will also be accepted that treat PPN lithic craft specialization, newly identified lithic industry variants, and Epipaleolithic origins of PPN traditions. Special interest will also be paid to PPN taxonomic problems. Pre-workshop circulars will be distributed beginning in the early autumn.