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RIASSUNTO - Presentazione della Commissione “Occupazioni Umane in Ambienti Montani” dell’Unione Internazionale delle Scienze Preistoriche e Protostoriche - Viene presentata la storia e gli scopi di una nuova Commissione dell’Unione Internazionale delle Scienze Preistoriche e Protostoriche formalizzati nel 2012. La Commissione “Occupazioni Umane in Ambienti Montani” coinvolge studiosi interessati a sviluppare, condividere e promuovere la conoscenza sui gruppi umani che hanno frequentato l’ambiente montano di qualsiasi parte del mondo.

Parole chiave: UISPP, Commissione, Montagne
Key words: IUPPS, Commission, Mountains

1. THE “HOME” COMMISSION: AN INTRODUCTION

Part of this volume of Preistoria Alpina Journal is dedicated to the new born Commission: “Human Occupations in Mountain Environments (HOME)” of the Union International des Sciences Préhistoriques et Protéhistoriques (UISPP, or IUPPS - International Union of Prehistoric and Protohistoric Sciences)

Here, the history of the HOME Commission is briefly resumed and the following papers of this volume are summing up the state of the art of the research activity carried out by the founder members who are representing several academic and research institutions of different countries.

2. THE “HOME” COMMISSION: IN THE PAST

The HOME Commission history starts in 2001 when the Laboratory of Prehistory “Bernardino Bagolini” of the University of Trento (Trento, Italy) received a grant from the Culture 2000 EU Framework Program in order to manage a project titled “The Alps before the frontiers: cultural changes, adaptations and traditions from prehistoric to historic times”. During the project, partners representing academic institutions located in alpine countries signed the so called ALPINET – Alpine Network for Archaeological Sciences – agreement in order to improve and develop joined research programs, summer schools, and other activities related to the archaeological sciences in the alpine environment. The ceremony took place in the Museo Tridentino di Scienze Naturali (Trento) at the conference “The Alps: environment and mobility” (25-27 October 2001), funded by the ALPINET project. The proceedings of this conference have been published in Preistoria Alpina Journal, vol. 39 (2005), Eds. S. Grimaldi and A. Pedrotti.

The ALPINET network received another grant from the Culture 2000 EU Framework Program in order to manage a three-years project, again by the Laboratory of Prehistory “Bernardino Bagolini” of the University of Trento. This 2004-2007 project, titled “AlpiNet - Alpine Network for Archeological Sciences: best practices to increase public and scientific awareness to the common past of the cultural diversity of the Alps”, included among its objectives, the organization of a colloquium during the 2006 UISPP XV Congress held in Lisbon. The colloquium (C31 “Mountain environments in prehistoric Europe: settlement and mobility strategies from the Palaeolithic to the early Bronze Age”) was attended by a large audience and was performed by 31 lecturers. Proceedings have been published on the BAR International Series, 1885 (2008), Eds. S. Grimaldi and T. Perrin.

The scientific success of the Colloquium 31 as well as the wide interest to this topic shown by the scholars attending the Lisbon conference, gave birth to the idea of creating a new UISPP Scientific Commission focused on the mountain environments. The proposal, entitled “Settlement and mobility strategies in mountain environments in prehistoric Europe: from Palaeolithic to the early Bronze Age”, was applied to the UISPP Executive Committee that positively evaluated
it. The Board members of the newborn Commission were: S. Grimaldi and A. Pedrotti from Trento University, Italy (respectively, President and Vice-President) and W. Leitner from Innsbruck University, Austria (Secretary).

Since the Lisbon conference, the UISPP Executive Committee started to update the structure and the statute of the UISPP. One of the highlights of this process, which is today almost accomplished, founded its reason into the need to secure the promotion of pluri-disciplinary and inter-institutional collaborations through the regional and thematic Scientific Commissions. Consequently, any former UISPP Scientific Commission started an inner updating process in order to respect the new eligible criteria as required by the new UISPP statutes. The new UISPP Scientific Commissions are currently organized under six general scientific domains: Technology and Economy; Historiography, Methods and Theory; Culture, Economy and Environments; Art and Culture; Archaeology and Society; Archaeology in a specific environment. Today, the Commission on mountain environment is acting in the “Archaeology in a specific environment” domain.

Accordingly, the former “Settlement and mobility strategies in mountain environment from Palaeolithic to the early Bronze Age” Commission Board organized a meeting inviting all partners who had previously delivered their willing to be founder members of the new version of the commission. The meeting took place in Trento the 30th of August 2012 (Fig. 1). Venue was the Laboratory of Prehistory “Bernardino Bagolini” of the University of Trento.

Founder members of the Home commission are:

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<td>Maria Estela Mansur</td>
<td>Argentina</td>
<td>Centro Austral de Investigaciones Científicas, Ushuaia.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Walter Leitner</td>
<td>Austria</td>
<td>Universität Innsbruck.</td>
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<td>Stefano Grimaldi</td>
<td>Italy</td>
<td>Università degli Studi di Trento.</td>
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<td>Annaluisa Pedrotti</td>
<td>Italy</td>
<td>Università degli Studi di Trento.</td>
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<td>Federica Fontana</td>
<td>Italy</td>
<td>Università di Ferrara.</td>
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<td>Sveinung Bang-Andersen</td>
<td>Norway</td>
<td>Museum of Archaeology, University of Stavanger.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ignacio Clemente Conte</td>
<td>Spain</td>
<td>Institut d'archéologie et d'histoire, Musée cantonal, Lausanne.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Philippe Della Casa</td>
<td>Switzerland</td>
<td>Universität Zürich, Abt. Ur- und Frühgeschichte, Zürich.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pierre Crotti</td>
<td>Switzerland</td>
<td>Deutsches Archäologisches Institut, Berlin.</td>
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At the time of this writing, other two scholars applied to be members of the Commission:

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<tr>
<td>Fabio Cavalli</td>
<td>Italy</td>
<td>Università degli Studi di Trento.</td>
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<td>Francesco Carrer</td>
<td>UK</td>
<td>University of York.</td>
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<td>Xavier Mangado</td>
<td>Spain</td>
<td>University of Barcelona</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sabine Reinhold</td>
<td>Germany</td>
<td>Deutsches Archäologisches Institut, Berlin</td>
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The main highlights of the meeting are: 1) Members agreed for a final version of the official Commission name: “Human Occupations in Mountain Environments (HOME)”; 2) The formal aims of the Commission are to promote archaeological, anthropological and environmental research related to past human activities in mountain environments without chronological or geographical restrictions. The Commission will compare and share approaches, methodologies and scientific results among its members and any other individual or research group dealing with the topics of interest to the Commission. The Commission activity will also be dedicated to disseminate the knowledge and awareness to a wide scientific community at global scale; 3) The 2013-2015 Commission Board is formed by a President (S. Grimaldi), a Vice-President (E. Mansur) and a Secretary (F. Fontana).

3. THE “HOME” COMMISSION: IN THIS VOLUME

In this volume, the articles introduce the state of the art as far as the members’ researches are concerned. The first paper, “Human occupations in the mountains of central Tierra del Fuego: an archaeological approach” of Maria Estela MANSUR, Hernán. DE ANGELIS, Vanesa PARMIGIANI, shows the results of archaeological investigations carried out in the central strip of Isla Grande de Tierra del Fuego, the main island of the Fuegian archipelago; the investigation is organized around hypotheses regarding differential resources supply in the various environments of the area, and the possible circulation of hunter-gatherers, as well as the role of both factors in the
variability of the archaeological record.

The two following papers deal with the lithic raw material distribution. The first one, “Steinzeitliche Gewinnung von Bergkristall am Riepenkar in den Tuxer Alpen (Tirol)” of Walter LEITNER, focuses the exploitation and circulation of rock crystal in the Tyrol Alps; thanks to recent archaeological investigations, the author provides new information about the early transalpine exchange of mineral goods. The other paper, “Flint in the southern Adige valley: characterization and localisation” of Simone BARBIERI, Marco AVANZINI, Stefano GRIMALDI, describes the results of a research carried on in Trentino region (northeastern Italian Alps) aimed to the realization of a systematic collection of the flint types currently existing on this territory.

The fourth paper, “Valleys, pastures, and passes: new research issues from the Swiss Central Alps” of Philippe DELLA CASA, Leandra NAEF, Thomas RETT MAIER, deals with pre-protohistoric settlements and their relationship with the mountain landscape in order to shed new light on the environmental, social and economic dynamics of early Alpine colonisation.

Pastoralism in mountain environment is the issue of Francesco CARRER’s paper, “Archeology of pastoralism in the Alps: new data and old doubts”; in this paper the author aims at documenting the state of art of archaeology of pastoralism in the Alps.

The sixth paper, “The management of lithic resources during the V millennium cal BC at Espluga de la Puyascada (La Fueva, Huesca)” of Niccolò MAZZUCCO, Ignacio CLEMENTE-CONTE, Vicente BALDELLOU, Ermengol GASSIOT BALLBÉ, describes the human behaviour during the Neolithic in the Western Pyrenees; the results of the petrological, technological and functional characterization of lithic assemblage found in one of the most important site, the Espluga de la Puyascada, are shown.

The next three papers are dedicated to the hunter-gatherers human groups who exploited the mountain environments in Europe. In the first one, “Human exploitation of Southwest Norwegian mountains during the Mesolithic (ca. 9800 – 5700 y.BP): research history, trends, challenges” of Sveinung BANG-ANDERSEN, focus is on the development and use of elevated interior areas in SW Norway during the first four thousand years after the last deglaciation related to environmental and human factors.

The Western Switzerland Prealps is the study area in “Human occupation in mountain environment during the Epipalaeolithic and Mesolithic in western Switzerland” of Pierre CROTTE et Jérôme BULLINGER. The authors present a review of the latest archaeological data; researches confirmed the use of the lower sub alpine zone (1400–1750 m) during the Mesolithic and early occupations of the mountain zone (900–1200 m) since the Late Palaeolithic.

Finally, the paper “A review on the Mesolithic of the Emilian Apennines and the Southern Po Plain” of Federica FONTANA, Sonia FERRARI, Davide VISENTIN, carries out a review of the Mesolithic record of the Emilian Apennines and Po Plain in northern Italy. Sites distribution in this area seems to reflect, not only research biases, but also the specific settlement strategies adopted by hunter-gatherers.

The last paper, “A Hammerstone from the multi-layer Early Paleolithic Ainikab I site (Inner Dagestan)” by H. A. AMIRKHANOV and Evgeny GIRYA, describes the techno-functional characteristics of a hammerstone found in a very early Palaeolithic site in Russia. According to the authors, this should be interpreted as one of the earliest evidence for transport and use of a lithic tool of this type. Even if the authors are not formal members of the HOME Commission, they have been invited to contribute to this volume in order to promote recent Russian archaeological research in mountain environment among western Europe colleagues.

4. THE “HOME” COMMISSION:
IN THE FUTURE

From an archaeological perspective, mountains offer a very wide and complex research field and the scientific interest toward mountain environments found its origin in the recognition of the fundamental role that mountains always played in human history.

Through the millennia, mountains were climatically, geomorphologically, environmentally and also culturally shaping the human landscape. In a coarse-grain geographical scale, mountains have a profound influence on not only by their local climate and immediate vicinity, but sometimes in areas a thousand or more kilometers away. Examples may be easily found in the different cultural processes occurred between northern and southern Alps, in the remarkable environmental differences of the western and eastern flanks of the Rocky Mountains/Andes, or in the evolutionary consequences for our species caused by the formation of the eastern African ridges.

In a fine-grain geographical scale, the presence of mountains deeply influence the peopling strategies in a specific territory. A very high percentage of the world’s fresh water originates in mountains and most of the world’s major rivers are fed from mountain sources. The ecological relation upland-lowland is well known and its complexity affects any living species. Moreover, the morphological variability of mountains (folded, block, volcanic, plateau,…) has relevant consequences on the evolution of ecological niches, biodiversity and, consequently, on the exploitation strategies of natural resources by human societies.

Today, the HOME Commission starts a new cycle of its life. Looking at the mountains of the world, any archaeologist who may be interested in being active member of the HOME Commission is warmly invited to join us to promote the cooperation among institutions that found in the mountain environment their main research domain.

Trento (Italy), 24 of November 2012

Stefano Grimaldi
President of the “Human Occupations in Mountain Environments” Commission of the Union International des Sciences Préhistoriques et Protohistoriques.