The 3rd Millenium AD and the "Archéologie et gobelets" Association.
The 3rd Millenium BC and the bell beaker culture: a research dynamic for the dynamics of Neolithic settlement

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BELL BEAKER IN EVERYDAY LIFE

editors
Marco Baioni, Valentina Leonini, Domenico Lo Vetro
Fabio Martini, Raffaella Poggiani Keller, Lucia Sarti

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(Florence - Siena - Villanuova sul Clisi, May 12-15, 2006)
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(Florence – Siena – Villanuova sul Clisi)
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“BELL BEAKER IN EVERYDAY LIFE”

It was a great honor for all of us to be able to host the 10th Meeting of “Archéologie et gobelets”. The possibility of presenting our research to the greatest experts on the topic and discussing our results with them constituted a valuable occasion for professional growth through a widened comparison of the themes of the study and its methodology, themes that see the necessity for constant updating. This is especially true in the perspective necessary to place our studies of the Italian Bell Beaker within the sphere of the European framework.

Although not even a decade has passed since the international Colloquium that was organized very successfully by Franco Nicolis at Riva del Garda, the great themes that accompany the scholars of the Italian Bell Beaker were enriched by stimuli and new acquisitions, also from the push given by that Colloquium to find new perspectives for Bell Beaker scholars. Among the great themes “Everyday Life” merited a further look from us and therefore, by common agreement with friends and colleagues of “Archéologie et gobelets”, we chose to deal with the domestic aspects and specifically to focus on certain themes: the settlements, human impact on the territory (that by necessity also involves economic systems and allows for the assessment of the acquisition or less than a mastery of the surroundings of the communities) and the hand-made products of the settlements.

The conference was, as we were saying, a very valuable and stimulating opportunity for Italian archeology and it is even more evident, thinking about the qualitative leap of the studies of the Italian Bell Beaker and their place in the sphere of European studies; over the last 30 years from Oberried (1974) and Nice (1977), twenty years after Oxford (1986) and eight after Riva del Garda (1998).

Without taking anything away from the importance of the acquisitions of other Colleagues, the recent archeological estate of the Florentine area and of Lombardy has brought new data to the theme of the Bell Beaker in everyday life, lending itself therefore to a more exerted effort at creating a synthesis that will become the point of departure for the phase of further development and study.

Over a period of two years, after the meeting in Sicily organized by Sebastiano Tusa and on the occasion of the new annual meeting of “Archéologie et gobelets” in Lisbon, we are pleased to present the proceedings of the Meeting at Florence, Siena, Villanovu sul Clisi, with a study excursion to Valle Camonica. These reflect the organization given to the days of study and almost all of the communications were put into print.

This volume, we hope, reflects the climate of stimulus, curiosity and scientific tension towards the knowledge that all of us at “Archéologie et gobelets”, have lived together during the days of the meeting. Certainly it will not mirror the human warmth, good feelings and spirit of friendship that binds us.

We are all indebted to Lawrence Barfield for the formidable push to increase the Italian Bell Beaker studies. His contributions, often of a pioneering caliber, about our contexts read with a worldly perspective were fundamental for the statement of the problem and for the creation of a reference basis for the documents. To Lawrence we dedicate this volume with fondness and affection.

Marco Baioni, Valentina Leonini, Domenico Lo Vetro
Fabio Martini, Raffaella Poggiani Keller, Lucia Sarti
PROGRAM OF THE MEETING

May 12: Florence
Welcome and registration at the Museo Fiorentino di Preistoria; opening of the meeting
Session 1: Bell Beaker in everyday life in the Florentine area: opening report
Exhibition: "Before Florence" at the Museo Fiorentino di Preistoria

May 13: Siena
Session 1: Bell Beaker in everyday life in Central Italy
Session 2: New European evidences
Marie Besse, "Archéologie et Gobelets": 10th Anniversary

May 14: Villanuova sul Clisi
Session 2: New European evidences
Session 3: Bell Beaker in everyday life in Northern Italy
Session 4: Crossing views
Bell Beaker in everyday life: final report

May 15-16: visit to the archeological sites of Monte Cavo, Rocca di Manerba, Riparo Cavallina, Valecamonica
Excursions: Parco Archeologico Nazionale dei Massi di Cemo, Parco Archeologico Comunale di Seradina – Bedolina, Parco Nazionale delle Incisioni Rupestri at Capo di Ponte, Parco Archeologico di Asinino – Arvöia di Ossimo, Ossimo – località Pat

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Jim Bishop, for the translations of the Session 1B (Lombardy) articles
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THE 3RD MILLENNIUM AD
AND THE “ARCHÉOLOGIE ET GOBELETS” ASSOCIATION,
THE 3RD MILLENNIUM BC AND THE BELL BEAKER CULTURE:
A RESEARCH DYNAMIC FOR THE DYNAMICS
OF NEOLITHIC SETTLEMENT

Marie Besse

An international symposium, organised in Italy by Marco Baioni, Valentina Leonini, Domenico Lo Vetro, Fabio Martini, Raffaella Poggiani Keller and Lucia Sarti in May 2006, reunited members of the “Archéologie et gobelets” Association, meaning scholars studying the European Chalcolithic and notably its main component, the Bell Beaker culture. The present publication of the Acts of the Symposium is an occasion to recall the objectives of the association as much as the future directions to take since the institution celebrated its tenth anniversary during the meeting in Italy in 2006.

It was back in 1993, during a conference on the Neolithic at Evreux close to Paris, that interest in developing collaboration on the Bell Beaker phenomenon first came up. As a matter of fact, Fabien Convertini introduced Laura Salanova to me when all three of us were still students: Laure in Paris working on the technology of Bell Beaker ceramic decor, Fabien in Bordeaux orienting his research on the petroarchaeology of ceramics and myself in Geneva, studying common ware. After a discussion over coffee in a noisy restaurant, we created GRECO (Groupe de recherche sur le Campaniforme occidental, a study and research group on the Western Bell Beaker culture). Maxence Baille joined us soon after. We then visited many archaeological sites and museums. I personally have many memorable recollections of our visits in Switzerland, France and the Netherlands. I am not ready to forget the snow in Leiden and all the laughs we shared!

The Bell Beaker is a major cultural complex in Chalcolithic Europe and North Africa. Its comprehension requires close links between all scholars working on the phenomenon and more so, the exchange of knowledge and research in progress. We thus created the “Archéologie et gobelets”, Association for the promotion of research and the diffusion of knowledge on the Bell Beaker, on April 19, 1996, at the University of Geneva. We were around twenty in number — Swiss, German, French and Italian scholars — who met at that time to discuss point by point the statutes of the new association.

More than ten years later, a hundred Austrian, Belgian, British, Czech, Danish, Dutch, French, German, Hungarian, Italian, Moroccan, Polish, Portuguese, Slovakian, Spanish, Swiss scholars meet annually to discuss, share and plan research in common. Many scientific events have taken place, round tables, conferences, international symposia as well as visits to archaeological sites and museums, which led to many publications.

The year 2006 was marked by an important symposium in Italy, which is now published. In 2007, we came together in Sicily, and in a few months, in May 2008, we will meet at Torres Vedras in Portugal.

* President of the Association “Archéologie et gobelets” (http://archeo.unige.ch/ap/archeo-gobelets/).
Laboratory of Prehistoric Archaeology and Peopling History, Department of Anthropology and Ecology, University of Geneva, 12, rue Gustave Revilliod, Case postale CH-1211 Geneva 4, Switzerland.
Symposia for the coming years are already planned to be held in Morocco, Spain (Galicia), England and Hungary.

The most important scientific activities of the “Archéologie et gobélets” Association to date include the following:

1996  Geneva (Switzerland), April 19, 1996
Constituent assembly of the “Archéologie et gobélets” Association, coordinated by Maxence Bailly, Marie Besse, Fabien Convertini and Laure Salanova (fig. 2 a).

1997  Lyon (France), 28 February 1997
Round table on the Bell Beaker lithic industry, coordinated by Maxence Bailly.

1997  Feldberg (Germany), 18-20 April 1997

1998  Aix-en-Provence (France), 6 March 1998
International round table “Epi-Bell Beaker ceramic production”, coordinated by Olivier Lemercier.

1998  Riva del Garda (Italy), 11-16 May 1998

1999  Lisbon (Portugal), 29 April – 2 May 1999
Study voyage (museums, sites, archaeological collections, meetings with researchers), conducted by Laure Salanova (fig. 3 a).

Study voyage (sites, museums, meetings with researchers), conducted by Humphrey Case (fig. 3 b).

2001  Sion (Switzerland), 4-7 October 2001

2002  Poznań (Poland), 26-29 May 2002
2003 College of France, Paris (France), 21 February 2003
Meeting on the theme “Substrates and origin(s) of the Bell Beaker phenomenon” (co-organisation with the French Prehistoric Society and the College of France, at the invitation of Prof. Jean Guillaire).
Publication:

2004 Prague, Breclav et Olomouc (Czech Republic), 29 April-2 May 2004
International round table “Beakers Days” and visits to sites and museums in Prague and Breclav (Czech Republic), coordinated by Petr Dvorak, Jaroslav Peska, Lubomir Sebela, Jan Turek and Magdalena Krutova (fig. 4 b).
Publication in preparation under the direction of Magdalena Krutova and Jan Turek.

2005 Burgos and Valladolid (Spain), 5-8 May 2005
International Conference “Bell Beakers in the Iberian Peninsula and their European context” and visits to sites and museums, coordinated by Manuel Rojo Guerra (fig. 5 a). Publications:

2006 Florence, Siena and Lombardy (Italy), 11-15 May 2006
International conference “Bell Beaker in everyday life” and visits to sites, museums and exhibits, coordinated by Marco Baioni, Valentina Leonini, Domenico Lo Vetro, Fabio Martini, Raffaella Poggiani Keller and Lucia Sarti (Fig. 5 b). Publications:
SARTI L. (ed) 1997, Queretola. Un insediamento campaniforme a Sesto Fiorentino, Firenze, PDF on CD-ROM.
Prehistory in Sesto Fiorentino – PDF Bibliography on CD-ROM.
Bell Beaker in Sesto Fiorentino – Summaries on CD-ROM.
RUGGERI M. G., SALVADORI L. 2006, Italian Bell Beaker bibliography on CD-ROM.

2007 Sicily (Italy), 3-6 May 2007
International round table “Bell Beaker: current research” and visits to sites and museums, coordinated by Marie Besse and Sebastiano Tusa (fig. 5 e).

2008 Torres Vedras (Portugal)
International conference and visits to sites, museums and exhibits, coordinated by Mickael Kunst.

As a matter of fact, I had never imagined that one day we would be celebrating ten years of the “Archéologie et gobelets” Association in Italy! Scientific research on the Bell Beaker has continued
unabated; the present publication — among the most interesting — proves it. In addition, collaborations have developed, notably exemplified by the European Atlas of the Bell Beaker Culture in preparation, under the direction of Olivier Le Mercier and myself.

In conclusion, “Archéologie et gobelets” is what its members want it to be: today, both congenial and promoting research and diffusion of knowledge of the Bell Beaker phenomenon, which is why it was originally created. We can rejoice in this.

Figure 1 — Map of the different meetings of “Archéologie et gobelets”.
Figure 2 — a. Name of the participants in the constituent assembly of "Archéologie et gobelets" Association, April 1996; b. The participants in the international round table of "Archéologie et gobelets", Fethiye (Turkey), April 1997.
Figure 3 — a. The participants in the international conference Bell Beakers today, patronage of "Archéologie et gobelets", Riva del Garda (Italy), May 1998; b. The participants in the study voyage of "Archéologie et gobelets", Lisboa (Portugal), May 1999; c. The participants in the study voyage of "Archéologie et gobelets", England, May 2000; d. The participants in the international round table of "Archéologie et gobelets", Sion (Switzerland), October 2001; e. Humphrey Case and Alain Gallay, Sion (Switzerland), October 2001.
Figure 4 — *a.* The participants in the international conference of "Archéologie et gobelets", Poznan (Poland), May 2002; *b.* The participants in the international round table of "Archéologie et gobelets", Prague, Breclav and Olomouc (Czech Republic), May 2004.
Figure 5 — a. The participants in the international conference of "Archéologie et gobelens", Burgos and Valladolid (Spain), May 2005. b. The participants in the international conference of "Archéologie et gobelens", Florence, Siena and Lombardy (Italy), May 2006. c. The participants in the international round table of "Archéologie et gobelens", Sicily (Italy), May 2007.