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The present work consists of two volumes with a total of 60 contributions. The first volume (with 34 papers) deals mainly with the Central German region. These are predominantly reports on individual archaeological sites. The second volume (26 contributions) focuses on settlement finds from various European countries, thus bringing together findings from Central Germany with further insights from Central Europe and neighbouring European regions. Most of the finds presented in the second volume are placed in a temporal and spatial context and embedded in the regional and supra-regional settlement history.

The first volume is divided into sections on settlement areas and structures, settlements and buildings, and infrastructure and economy.

The first article (S. Friederich) provides a comprehensive overview of the Corded Ware settlements of Central Germany. The author deals with the building characteristics (e.g. house layout and trapezoidal houses), geographical position and distance measurements of Corded Ware settlements and their houses. She also discusses various findings in the context of their chronological classification.

M. Küßner and D. Walter provide a complete account of the Late Neolithic and Early Bronze Age colonisation of Thuringia. They deal with the natural spatial structure and the choice of location, which they analyse on the basis of various parameters, such as altitude, water accessibility, soils and erosion risk, in order to identify patterns in the distribution of settlements and the formation of small landscapes.

In the next article, H. Stäuble introduces the extensive investigations on the Final Neolithic and Early Bronze Age settlement site of Zwenkau, to which he dedicates an overview in order to arouse new interest in this site. He presents all the findings together, so that house areas and activity zones of different phases become clear. In contrast to the many settlement remains, there are hardly any graves and this fact leaves us with future research tasks.

M. Fröhlich's chapter is dedicated to the settlement structures and house building developments

of the Late Neolithic and Early Bronze Age in Saxony-Anhalt. She documents the transition from the Late Neolithic to the Early Bronze Age through a noticeable change in the axial alignment of houses by compiling about 40 radiocarbon dates.

In another article, M. Conrad deals with the development of research on settlement archaeology in Saxony. He is able to identify different settlement patterns for the Late Neolithic settlements there. His refinement of the chronological classification of the Late Neolithic pottery groups – in particular the bell beaker complex – is fundamental, as he deals in detail with dating and the find material and discusses two models by correlating the different ceramic material with the graves. Furthermore, by defining the cultural transitions between Corded Ware, Bell Beaker and Aunjetitz, he shows perspectives for future research on the definition of End Neolithic and Early Bronze Age cultural complexes.

T. Schunke deals with the settlement features of the Aunjetitz culture in Saxony-Anhalt in detail. His explanations of the different settlement elements, structures and their embeddedness in the region are important for the working area. He deals with different sites and provides the reader with many illustrations of impressive finds and features (e.g. domestic clay deposits, a pottery clay portion with handprints, well structures, cart tracks). It is a must read for anyone interested in the region.

In the following article, M. Hellmund, B. Fritsch and S. Diers present a compilation of new pollen profiles from the Altmark, which serve as a basis for a new reconstruction of the land-use history of the region. This contribution is therefore particularly important for the environmental-archaeological exploration of the Altmark, also because the authors demonstrate environmental changes during the transitional phases between the cultural groups.

The section *Settlements and Buildings* contains 20 chronologically organised articles presenting different sites and find regions with settlement and house finds from the Corded Ware culture to the Early Bronze Age.

S. Friederich and H. Jarecki first present the settlement of Gimritz in the Saale district, which can be assigned to the Corded Ware period. The approximately 30 house features are discussed in detail and illustrated with plans in the appendix. The reconstruction of the house layouts and the repairs are particularly noteworthy. In some cases, it has been possible to show that the buildings were close together, suggesting that the houses were multi-phased. It

was also possible to locate water extraction points at some distance to the settlement. An analysis of this distribution pattern, e.g. in the context of whether there was a territorial or an access-free use of water resources, could complement this study in the future.

The multi-phase settlement of Salzmünde, also in the Saale district, is briefly described by A. Moser and S. Friederich. The study focuses on two buildings, one of which has a trapezoidal ground plan and a two-aisled internal structure, which the authors attribute to the Corded Ware culture.

The settlement of Profen in the Burgenland district, which is described by S. Friederich and J. Kleinecke, also belongs to the Corded Ware culture. The settlement area can be divided into three sub-areas, whose building structures are described and shown on plans. These structures are associated with several burials and a large number of oven and storage pits, which, according to the authors, may reflect settler or even family communities.

The poorly preserved settlement in the Burgenland district associated with the well-known site of Eulau is briefly described in an article by R. Ganslmeier and S. Friederich. The lack of absolute dating makes it difficult to reconstruct the actual phases of use of the reconstructed houses, but the authors make the best of the findings.

In a short article, M. Fröhlich presents two other sites with house plans that can be dated to the Corded Ware period (Wennungen in the Burgenland district and Oechlitz in the Saale district, both in Saxony-Anhalt). The house floor plans of the Corded Ware type from both sites are also given for comparison.

M. Küßner also presents Corded Ware house floor plans for the site of Hardisleben (Sömmerda). He describes and discusses the four verifiable house plans and classifies them as examples of the Corded Ware period on the basis of their trapezoidal building structures. Their internal layouts are very different and provide scope for future functional analysis.

The multiphase settlement of Wedringen in the Börde region is presented by J. Blödorn, M. Weber-Walpuski and S. Friederich. In addition to mentioning the different settlement phases, which begin as early as the 6<sup>th</sup> millennium BC and extend into the Late Bronze Age, the short article focuses on a description of the pit house of the Schönenfeld culture.

The site of Barby in the district Salzland also shows several phases and is briefly described in a paper by M. Planert, C. Pscheidl, C. Bogen and S. Friederich. The settlement features of the Schönenfeld culture are emphasised, including a house, several pits and two water extraction points.

D. Labitzke gives an overview of the Bell Beaker and Corded Ware settlement landscape of the Werra Valley. He presents the most important sites in the region and categorises the finds. Particularly noteworthy is

the discussion of the different types of bracers and approaches to contextualising the find complexes.

Against the background of the impressive henges of Pömmelte and Schönebeck, D. Jurkėnas and A. Spatzier present the settlement structures surrounding these sites. On the basis of extensive absolute dating, the authors reconstruct settlement phases from the Corded Ware-Single grave-complex to the later Aunjetitz culture and discuss the house finds in terms of their construction, orientation and size. This allows the intensity of settlement to be estimated and correlated with the use of the henges. Finally, the authors place the features in the context of the sacral and settlement landscape of the Elbe lowlands.

Building on the previous article, H. Meller and M. Zirm report on excavation campaigns at the Pömmelte henge, which revealed further domestic features and burials from the Bell Beaker culture and the Early Bronze Age. Finally, they point to further research perspectives opened up by this unique archaeological site.

R. Ganslmeier offers a very insightful presentation of the extensive investigations of the Late Neolithic and Early Bronze Age settlements at Eulau and Bösau (Burgenland district). In particular, the house finds from Eulau provide a detailed basis for reconstruction approaches (interior architecture, roof construction, entrance areas, fences, etc.).

The results of the investigations in the region around Dößdorf and Kieritzsch (district of Leipzig) are presented in two parts, on the one hand, with regard to the impressive archaeological settlement features of the Late Neolithic and Early Bronze Age (by S. Kretschmer) and, on the other hand, with regard to the associated extensive archaeobotanical investigations (C. Herbig). The latter are supplemented by detailed lists of the individual botanical house inventories in the appendix. The chronological analysis of the settlement features (especially the different house layouts) deserves special mention.

On the edge of the Erfurt Basin, extensive investigations were carried out due to construction work, which led to the discovery of burial and settlement features dating from the Corded Ware culture to the pre-Roman Iron Age. In addition to circular ditches of Bronze Age barrows, Late Neolithic and Early Bronze Age houses have also been found. The article by K. Sczech focuses on three house floor plans from Erfurt-Büßleben, which give clear indications of the construction. The plans are illustrated with maps and photographs.

J. Philipp and J. Beran present the first settlement site of the early Aunjetitz culture in the Altmark. It consists mainly of pit complexes. In addition to numerous flint artefacts, pottery (including fragments of coarse beakers) and stone tools were found. The highlight is a bronze double chisel (Knickrandmeißel).

T. Schunke and H. Stäuble analyse the ›Zwenkau‹ house type typologically as part of a supra-regional study. The authors evaluate various characteristics in detail, such as the orientation and size of the house floor plans, their long and short sides, and the interior construction. They define three variants of this type and attempt to reconstruct the appearance of the Zwenkau houses. Finally, the obtained results are placed in a supra-regional context, thus revealing the spatio-temporal emergence and spread of construction principles with ›selected‹ long-distance contacts and knowledge transfer. The wealth of information and detail contained in this article makes it a must-read for anyone interested in Aunjetitz house building.

The next article (D. Walter, A. Endrigkeit, K. Bartel, S. Schneider, O. Mecking and P. Ettel) is dedicated to the newly discovered Early Bronze Age house plans of Thuringia. They are presented in plans, analysed in detail for the individual sites (Schloßvippach, Artern, Berlstedt, Höngeda, Urbach and Heldrungen), and briefly summarised at the end. The earliest Central European evidence for animal housing at Schloßvippach, obtained by phosphate analysis, deserves special mention. The houses depicted here repeatedly include three-aisled house layouts and different house orientations. These findings thus have a decisive influence on our spatio-temporal view of the changes in Bronze Age house construction.

Thanks to the following article, the large barrow at Leubingen can now be placed in a landscape of superlatives. Recent excavations at Dermsdorf have revealed a large building and an enormous hoard, which are presented in this article by M. Küßner and K.-P. Wechler. In a preliminary report, the geographical, geohydrological, and historical details of the area are presented before the new finds are outlined: in addition to graves of the Late Neolithic to Early Bronze Age, a large Early Bronze Age building measuring ca.  $44 \times 11$  m was found. Under its gable, a ceramic storage vessel of the Aunjetitz culture containing almost 100 axes was found. The building and the axes are described in detail in the article. All the axes are catalogued in a table and illustrated in plates. Typological and archaeometric studies are described. They indicate that the axes belong to different groups. It is very welcome that the authors dissociate themselves from the interpretation as a ›men's house‹ or a ›casern‹, but the range of interpretations presented is still characterised by masculinity and a military and elite bias, which seems narrow in the context of prehistoric society and therefore leaves much room for future interpretations.

The next article by E. Revert Francés deals with an Aunjetitz longhouse of the Březno type at Kleinpaschleben, the excavation results of which are presented in detail (e. g. all key data with depth information on post pits) and discussed against the background of similar features from the region.

J. Schüler, J. Eichentopf, E. Molina, M. Planert and S. Friederich then provide an insight into the excavation results from Merseburg-Beuna and Espenstedt-Obhausen, where Early Bronze Age houses are known. Concentrations of pottery found there indicate storage vessels set in the ground. Secondary burnt pottery also indicates a fire event. Particularly noteworthy are the studies on the functional analysis of the pottery vessels by means of lipid analyses carried out on the storage vessels, which indicate the use of various animal fats (including milk).

The first volume concludes with seven articles on infrastructure and economic practices. It begins with H. Stäuble and S. Friederich on well finds of the Corded Ware culture in Central Germany. The authors first provide an overview of the features and their significance, especially in the light of palynological investigation and the possibilities of reconstructing land use through wells in an area otherwise devoid of Corded Ware settlements. Selected sites with such features are presented, and the collection of illustrations of the various well features provides a captivating impression.

The next article follows on from the wells with a discussion of kiln pits in Central Germany (K. Balfanz, J. Kleinecke, X. Dalidowski, C. Pscheidl and S. Friederich). The article gives a concise overview of the different features, their spatial and temporal distribution, and the range of subsequent uses of the kiln pits (e. g. for graves). The article is enriched by the mapping of kiln features at various sites and a detailed catalogue of all kiln features from the study area.

In their article, K. Balfanz and V. Hubensack deal with special pottery types and peculiar features from the Late Neolithic and Early Bronze Age settlements of Leipzig-Lützschenen and Radefeld. Despite its brevity, the article suggests very interesting alternative vessel functions and uses of the features.

A contribution by T. Queck also deals with pottery, focusing on the necked vessels from the Late Neolithic/Early Bronze Age site of Großlobichau, which he also documents in accompanying plates. The author places this type of vessel in a broad Central European context, thus emphasising the supra-regional and chronological significance of this design element.

In her article, A. Moser presents the Early Bronze Age site of Schiepzig an der Saale, situated in a hollow between two farmsteads. In addition to presenting the various finds and their chronological classification, she is particularly interested in the function of the site, which was probably subject to seasonal as well as temporal changes (e. g. workshop, waste pit, pond). The presentation of the site thus offers a wide and varied spectrum of finds, which is concisely summarised in the article.

C. Tannhäuser presents a unique workshop from Sundhausen in his article. The Early Bronze Age site yielded a variety of finds indicating different crafts, including evidence for pottery production and metalworking. The diverse inventory of finds is included in the article in the form of plates.

R. Leineweber, B. Fritsch and M. Hellmund conclude the first volume with an article on passive fishing in Lake Arendsee, where a fish fence has been documented that can be dated to the Late Neolithic and thus represents the earliest systematic inland fishing in Germany. This is an important contribution to research on the Late Neolithic economy.

The second volume is divided geographically into the following sections: Central Europe, Western and Northern Europe, Southern Europe and the Mediterranean region.

Beginning with Central Europe, J. Beran makes an important contribution to Early Bronze Age settlement evidence in Brandenburg with remarkable finds (e.g. a preserved wooden ladle, trackways, and a wide range of pottery), embedded in a supra-regional landscape. Previously missing burials also open up perspectives for future research.

The site of Altgaul, also located in Brandenburg and presented by R. Lemphul, dates from the Late Neolithic to the Early Bronze Age. It provides a geo-archaeological archive with extensive stratigraphic sequences, which the author correlates with the individual settlement phases on the basis of relative and absolute dating. He also integrates the find material and the house structures into his analysis and embeds the site in supra-regional developments.

H. Raese and J.-P. Schmidt present research on Late Neolithic and Early Bronze Age settlements in Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania, a rarity, since until the 1990s, settlements of this period in the region had been a desideratum. This compilation of sites with house plans provides an excellent overview of the Late Neolithic and Early Bronze Age settlement system and also discusses special features such as wall ditch houses and pit houses. The authors thus fill a research gap and demonstrate the potential of settlement research in Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania.

In the next article, M. Geschwinde and I. Heske present the Late Neolithic and Early Bronze Age in Lower Saxony. They provide an overview of settlement sites with illustrations of house plans for comparison, descriptions of house constructions and layouts, finds, and dating, which they use to suggest approaches for house reconstruction. In addition, they place the findings in the context of supra-regional settlement history. The presentation of common features leads to a chronological discussion (correlation of dating and settlement features such as house types and storage features). Finally, they describe five sites

that show how settlements in the working area were embedded in the cultural and sacred landscape over time.

In an anthology on Neolithic and Early Bronze Age settlements, the impressive and excellently preserved lakeshore settlements of the Alpine foreland should not be missing. The author (A. Hafner) gives an enlightening overview of the history of research and presents various examples, in particular multi-phase pile-dwelling settlements from different regions, showing the reader the different construction methods, which he finally brings together in a comparative regional-chronological scheme. Hafner particularly emphasises dendrochronology and digital methods as leading aspects in the progress of research.

M. Schefzik's article focuses on the southern German region with regard to the Late Neolithic and the Early Bronze Age. Particularly noteworthy is his discussion of dating, as here the transition to the Early Bronze Age becomes clearer (e.g. by highlighting building traditions). The article is accompanied by compilations of various house plans, which support the definition of house types and provide a clearer picture of the house building traditions of the southern German groups.

The northern Bavarian region is covered in an article by M. Nadler. The author deals with house and settlement finds of the Late Neolithic, the Bell Beaker culture and the Early Bronze Age. He thoroughly analyses the developments in the history of research and evaluates the results so far (e.g. the site of Gollhofen). He provides a comprehensive overview of the subject, supported by numerous plans of features, houses and settlements.

The next article deals with the Final Neolithic settlements in Eastern Austria (D. Kern, M. Penz and O. Schmitsberger). New excavations offer a fresh view on the settlements there and are first summarised by the authors for, among others, the Koshiy-Čaka/Makó-Group. The authors then turn their attention to the buildings and settlements, which are discussed in many short subchapters on various aspects (e.g. size, construction techniques, room layout, etc. of houses or settlement sizes, subsistence, duration of settlement use, etc.), so that the reader can follow the argumentation very clearly.

A. Krenn-Leeb offers an intensive analysis of the significance of space in the settlement system of Eastern Austria at the transition from the Final Neolithic to the Late Copper Age. The author divides her study into the organisation, use and sphere of space, thus approaching aspects of the location of settlements and houses. Although the author deliberately avoids a definition of space, it would have been useful if she had briefly dealt with a definition of this important topic in archaeology or referred to the relevant literature, of course without going into too much detail.

That said, the article is well worth reading. Especially the perception of space deserves special mention, as the study goes beyond functional aspects and opens up new perspectives.

The next two articles deal with settlements in Bohemia. The first of these focuses on fortified settlements, especially from the Early and the beginning of the Middle Bronze Age (M. Langová, D. Hlásek and M. Ernée). The article provides a brief overview of the various fortified settlements. The authors are particularly interested in the characterisation of fortifications in the lowlands and at higher altitudes, which show different degrees of preservation and are typified by authors. The second article on settlements in Bohemia focuses mainly on Late Copper Age and Early Bronze Age settlements and non-fortified houses (M. Ernée, M. Dobeš, M. Langová and P. Limburský). In addition to a chronological overview of research and results, including many house plans, the authors deal with a case study of one settlement site (Vlinéves), which they examine in terms of the house plans and their spatial arrangement, placing them in the context of settlement and activity events. Finally, the authors provide an analytical overview of the settlement structures in their working area of research, also against the background of trade routes and numerous cemeteries.

The next article deals with Northwestern Poland and its Late Neolithic and Early Bronze Age settlements (J. Czebreszuk, M. Szmyt, J. Müller and M. Ławniczak). The authors analyse the sites in terms of settlement density, stability and social structure. To this end, they identify processes of change and chronological developments, which lead them to interpret group-specific patterns of behaviour and thus open up new perspectives for future research.

Early Bronze Age settlements in Slovakia are discussed by J. Bátora, who divides them into open and fortified structures, entering into the subject matter without much introduction. He supports his contribution with a lot of useful pictorial material (photos, plans, finds). The results of the research at the fortified site of Vráble-Fidvár contribute to the reconstruction of the settlement structures of the working area, especially due to the favourable preservation conditions and thorough excavations.

Moving on to the Carpathian Basin, J. Dani, K. P. Fischl, V. Kiss, G. Kulcsár and V. Szeverényi present an overview of fortifications from the period 2300–1500 BC. The investigations in the study area can look back on a long tradition of research in settlement archaeology, which makes it possible to identify spatial and temporal differences in patterns and lines of development using a variety of methods. Based on the latest research, the authors present new perspectives for interpretation (including economic, social and ritual aspects) and thus encourage the reader to ask new research questions.

We remain in the Carpathian Basin, but turn to the eastern part, which is analysed by F. Gogáltan with regard to new research results. His research window lies between 2800 and 1500 BC, i. e. the Early and the Middle Bronze Age. Excavation strategies favoured by new legislation enabled the expansion of excavation areas and led to the discovery of settlement sites, which are presented by the author. The article concludes with an overview of Bronze Age settlement developments in the eastern Carpathian Basin.

The next four papers deal with studies in Western and Northern Europe. P. O. Nielsen begins with an insight into Late Neolithic and Early Bronze Age settlements in Denmark, where settlement research has grown considerably in recent decades. The author presents the different house building methods in chronological sections, which allow the readers to follow the various changes in house building traditions. Nielsen provides a number of house plans, which he discusses comparatively. In particular, the incorporation of pit houses or three-aisled house divisions are among the major revolutions at the transition from the Late Neolithic to the Early Bronze Age and mark points of change in architecture and organisational structures, which the author vividly discusses.

H. Fokkens reports on Dutch settlement and house structures of the same period. The author gives a good overview of the history of research and cultural development in the field of work. He identifies two traditions in house building, which he presents with extremely useful detailed knowledge and detailed house plans. By placing the different house plans in a supra-regional context, the reader becomes aware of the temporal and spatial changes in house building traditions.

A. Gibson complements the Western and Northern European spectrum with house structures from Great Britain and Ireland, which show clear breaks with previous building traditions and are therefore all the more exciting for the reconstruction of the architectural line of development. The article is both concise and rich in detail, providing the reader with a comprehensive overview of house building in this region.

The volume includes a highly intriguing contribution on Early Bronze Age settlements on the French island of Molène (Y. Pailler, C. Nicolas, L. Audouard, F. Convertini, K. Donnart, Y. Dréano, C. Dupont, P. Hanot, A. Lourdeau, N. Marcoux, C. Mougne, M. Regert, F. Sellami, P. Stéphan and A. Tresset). The distinctive characteristics of an island setting are of particular significance for this volume, particularly in comparison to the predominantly continental sites that have been the focus of the previous contributions. The case of the Beg ar Loued site illustrates not only a self-sufficient supply but also a distinct house-building tradition that is independent of the mainland. When viewed in the context of a

comprehensive cultural embedding by the authors, these house-building activities exhibit similarities to those observed in a supra-regional context. The article is noteworthy not only for its unique findings but also for its comprehensive analysis of the house structures and the distinctive economic characteristics of the island location. It is therefore a significant contribution to the broader discourse.

The volume concludes with seven contributions on studies from Southern Europe and the Mediterranean region. The initial three contributions concern settlement sites situated on the Iberian Peninsula. The site of the so-called mega-settlement Valencina de la Concepción in Southern Spain addresses the known Copper Age ditch structures, in which deepened remains can be detected, which could indicate residential structures such as pit houses (T. X. Schuhmacher, A. Mederos Martin, F. Falkenstein, M. Ruppert and C. Bashore Acero). The article provides an excellent overview of the multi-methodological analysis of the site features, and the authors discuss the findings in detail and categorise them according to the supra-regional distribution lines of contemporaneous pit houses.

The following article shifts the focus to the east coast of the Iberian Peninsula, with a particular emphasis on the period between 2800 and 1500 BC (F. J. Jover Maestre, J. A. López Padilla and G. García Atiénzar). In recent decades, numerous settlements have been uncovered in this region. This article presents a chronological overview of these settlements, examining the processes of change that have shaped the evolution of the settlement system. These changes pertain in particular to phase-related spatial organisation (e.g. establishment of settlements at high altitudes, increasing and decreasing settlement sizes, standardisation of settlement types) and social development (e.g. establishment of communal spaces in settlements, functional house divisions and spatial relocation of activities). The article provides an excellent overview and contains a plethora of illustrative examples. The authors then proceed to discuss the findings in the context of both established and novel economic and socio-political interpretations.

Subsequently, the authors A. Moreno Gil and B. Bonora Soriano direct their attention to a particular settlement type belonging to the El Argar group, which emerged between 2200 and 1500 BC in the southeast region of the Iberian Peninsula, situated at the periphery of this cultural group. These are particularly small-scale settlements, designated as micro-sites, which are interpreted as territorial control bases. While the interpretation of territories is open to question, the methodological approach, which includes the evaluation of precise survey data with topographical profiles and viewshed analyses, offers new perspectives for settlement research.

The following article provides an overview of the Copper Age settlement structures in Parma, Italy (M. Bernabò Brea, L. Bronzoni, M. Miari and G. Steffè). This study of the settlement system in this region is of particular importance in view of the numerous small groups that can be found in the area. The authors provide an introduction and then present the various building structures and their characteristics in chronological order (e.g. rectangular floor plans with apses; houses with individual interior layouts). In addition to the comprehensive descriptions of the buildings and the presentation of regional and supra-regional parallels, the numerous minor details that are mentioned are also intriguing (e.g. the use of votive depots as foundation sacrifices).

The subsequent article focuses on an earthen building from the Castelluccio di Noto site in Syracuse, which lends its name to the local cultural group and offers an insight into the distinctive house-building technique used during the Sicilian Early Bronze Age (F. Knoll and A. Crispino). The authors introduce the site and then focus on a selected building, presenting the site's notable findings in detail. These findings are then used to analyse the building technique and, subsequently, to develop reconstruction approaches. In particular, the branch impressions in the clay deposits permit the reconstruction of particularly thick and substantial earthen walls. A comparative study with analogous structures prompts the authors to undertake comprehensive analyses and discussions of the building materials and construction techniques, thereby also demonstrating the distinctive nature of the functional interpretation of such structures for the Early Bronze Age in the region.

The extremely diverse Early Bronze Age house construction in Campania in Southwest Italy is then presented with the aid of a number of illustrative examples (C. Albore Livadie). The exceptional state of preservation and the in situ discoveries are particularly noteworthy, offering intricate insights into the construction techniques and the various functions of the houses (e.g. storage, food preparation, etc.).

Finally, the Greek island of Aegina is examined (W. Gauss). The article focuses on the central settlement of Kolonna, which was in use between 2500 and 1700 BC. The author presents the impressive building structures, which appear to have been used for a variety of purposes. The excellent state of preservation of the houses (e.g. the so-called White House) allows for the reconstruction of the spacious buildings and their functions, which give rise to a number of socio-political interpretations and situate the site at the centre of a wide-ranging network. This concluding contribution thus addresses architectural elements and construction methods that are not found further north.

This anthology provides a comprehensive overview of settlement finds from the Late Neolithic to the Middle Bronze Age in Europe. The reader may select information on individual aspects (e.g. a specific region, a specific site or a specific type of house) or comprehensive studies, both regional and supra-regional, according to their requirements. It would have been beneficial for the editors to have included an overarching discussion in both volumes of the anthology. Given that some of the contributions (in particular, those in the second volume) address settlement phenomena that are supra-regional or even Europe-wide, a synthesising discourse would have constituted an excellent opportunity to integrate disparate research facets and highlight potential avenues for further inquiry. The individual contributions offer a wealth of information and present a high level of research, including the use of modern methods and new approaches to interpretation. This encourages the consideration of new perspectives. It is therefore recommended that this two-volume publication should be made available to anyone with an interest in the archaeological study of settlements from the period

under consideration. It is this author's opinion that a number of the articles are essential reading. In particular, the descriptions of the Aunjetitz culture settlements in Saxony and Saxony-Anhalt by Schunke and Schunke/Stäuble are of significant interest. The contribution by Moreno Gil and Bonora Soriano is particularly noteworthy for its methodological insights. Additionally, the contributions of Krenn-Leeb (screed remains of the wall constructions, plastic wall decoration, set of tools, oven remains, remains of a burnt loom), Pallier et al. (dry-stone house walls), Gogáltan (pair of clay hands), Jover Maestre et al. (built-in storage jars), Knoll/Crispino (clay fragments with imprints of construction material of massive earth walls), and Albore Livadie (in situ findings) also warrant particular mention.

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