



*Magdalenian chrono-stratigraphic correlations and cultural connections
between Cantabrian Spain and Southwest France...and beyond.*
*Corrélations chrono-stratigraphiques et interactions culturelles au cours du Magdalénien
entre l'Espagne cantabrique et le Sud-Ouest de la France... et au-delà.*
*Correlaciones y Conexiones Crono-Culturales del Magdaleniense
entre la Región Cantábrica Española y el Sur-Oeste de Francia...y más allá*
Textes publiés sous la direction de Lawrence Guy STRAUS et Mathieu LANGLAIS
Paris, Société préhistorique française, 2020
www.prehistoire.org
ISSN: 2263-3847 – ISBN: 2-913745-81-4

Préface / Foreword

Lawrence Guy STRAUS, Mathieu LANGLAIS

In 1878, between his 1876 and 1879 explorations of Altamira Cave, Marcelino Sanz de Sautuola visited the Universal Exposition in Paris where he saw Gabriel de Mortillet's display of Stone Age artifacts. Thus began nearly a century and a half of archeological connections between France and Cantabrian Spain, specifically with relation to the Magdalenian cultural period. The key events in early 20th century attempts to understand the Spanish record of this period were the excavations in El Valle and El Castillo caves conducted under the auspices of the *Institut de Paléontologie humaine* and respectively directed by Lorenzo Sierra (the El Valle discoverer), Hugo Obermaier, Henri Breuil and Jean Bouyssonie and by H. Obermaier, H. Breuil, Paul Wernert, initially together with Castillo's discoverer Hermilio Alcalde del Río. These two sites in Santander Province (today's autonomous region of Cantabria) together produced a sequence of "Early" and "Late" Magdalenian and Azilian horizons by reference to the regional record of Southwest France as it was known in the years before World War I – principally from the type-sites La Madeleine, Laugerie-Basse and Le Mas d'Azil as developed by Édouard Lartet and Édouard Piette and synthesized first by G. de Mortillet and later by H. Breuil. Ever since the 1920s-1940s excavations of Emmanuel Passemard and Louis-René and Suzanne de Saint-Périer, Isturitz Cave, barely north of the international border that divides the Basque Country, has shown itself as a critical "super-site" link between Magdalenian (and earlier) human groups living on both side of the Western Pyrenees, just as the bridges across the Bidasoa River are the critical connectors between the modern nation-states and cultures of Spain and France.

After the hiatus of the Spanish Civil War and World War II, prehistorians in Cantabria again turned to France to develop a new systematization of the Magdalenian. Direct interaction involved the participation of André Cheynier, André and Arlette Leroi-Gourhan in excavations directed by J. Martínez Santa-Olalla in El Pendo Cave in 1953-1957. A. Cheynier, of course, had

been the excavator to the type-site of Badegoule in the late 1920s-1930s. It was in the late 1950s that, independently, Francisco Jordá and Joaquín González Echegaray (together with Belgian Paul Janssens) excavated La Lloseta and El Juyo caves (respectively in Asturias and Cantabria), uncovering major "pre-harpoon" Magdalenian deposits that would be key – along with strata in Altamira and El Castillo (both successively excavated by H. Alcalde del Río and H. Obermaier) – to the definition of a pre-harpoon stage of the Magdalenian that would come to be equated with the French Magdalenian III. Explicit correlations between the Magdalenian phases of the two wings of the Franco-Cantabrian prehistoric culture-area were published by Denise de Sonneville-Bordes in 1962. The de Sonneville-Bordes/Perrot lithic tool typology was first applied to Cantabrian Magdalenian sites at El Otero and La Chora in the mid-late 1960s by J. G. Echegaray and at the Basque Country site of Urtiaga by de D. de Sonneville-Bordes and José Miguel de Barandiarán. The 1970s saw the beginning of widespread application of radiocarbon dating to Magdalenian and other Upper Paleolithic materials and the modern-quality excavation and interdisciplinary analyses of such sites as Cueva Morín, Tito Bustillo, El Rascaño, La Riera and Ekain. It was at Rascaño that the existence of a Magdalenian phase chronometrically and stratigraphically anterior to the classic Cantabrian Lower Magdalenian, suggesting that the temporal space occupied in France by the Magdalenian 0-II (including the Badegoulian) was filled in northern Atlantic Spain not only by a late-surviving Solutrean, but also by an Initial/Early Magdalenian. Another gap in the Cantabrian sequence - the heretofore poorly-represented French Middle Magdalenian (IV) – was dramatically filled by Javier Fortea's discovery of cut-out hyoid horse head figurines at La Viña in Asturias in the early 1980s, followed by finds of several such items, plus circular perforated and engraved flat-bone cut-outs and proto-harpoons at other sites across the region. In recent years claims of the existence of assemblages attributable to the Badegoulian, in Asturias (Llonín) and

earlier in the Basque Country (Aitzbitarte), have renewed debates about the correlation between post-Last Glacial Maximum cultural phases in the contiguous regions of Cantabrian Spain and Aquitaine.

Ultimately of greater interest is the growing evidence of human contacts – direct and indirect – between the two regions, as revealed by the presence of not only unusual and diagnostic artifacts such as *contours découpés* or Lussac-Angles antler points, but also non-local flints, along with striking similarities in rupestral art styles. Contacts with the Western Mediterranean world are also indicated by the presence of particular marine mollusks in sites in Atlantic regions. The expansion of the Magdalenian world during the Middle and Upper phases and the social connections of the new territories in NW Europe to the “homelands” in the old glacial refugia of the Southwest have been the subjects of considerable research and numerous publications such as that of the Bern INQUA symposium co-organized by Lawrence Guy Straus with Thomas Terberger and Denise Leesch [2012], which followed on the earlier tomes *La Fin des Temps glaciaires en Europe* edited by de D. de Sonneville-Bordes [1979], *Le Magdalénien en Europe* edited by J.-P. Rigaud [1989] and *Le Peuplement magdalénien* edited by J.-P. Rigaud, H. Laville and B. Vandermeersch [1992]). However, the detailed comparison of the Cantabrian and Aquitanian Magdalenian records has been the specific goal of symposia at the Burgos UISPP Congress (co-organized by Straus with Manuel R. González Morales) and at the Paris UISPP Congress, whose proceedings are presented here thanks to the *Séances de la Société préhistorique française*. These two UISPP symposia were held under the auspices of Commission VIII, Upper Paleolithic of Eurasia (Marcel Otte, President).



AVANT-PROPOS

L'Espagne cantabrique et le Sud de la France ont très tôt constitué des hauts lieux des recherches sur le Magdalénien. Des modèles chronologiques y ont été bâtis à partir de marqueurs typo-technologiques, de l'organisation stratigraphique des vestiges et des datations radiocarbone. Toutefois, les trajectoires évolutives de chacun de

ces grands ensembles géographiques voisins ont divergé pour aboutir à des terminologies différentes, rendant délicates les comparaisons. Les données acquises via de nouveaux travaux de terrain (*e.g.* El Mirón, Coimbre, Cova Rosa, Santimamiñe, El Gato, Grotte Tastet, Grand Pastou, Bourrouilla, Peyre Blanque, La Croix de Bagnoux, Route de la Roche à Solutré, Peyrazet, Taillis des Coteaux, Oullen...), la réévaluation d'anciennes collections dans le cadre de projets (MAGDATIS, MAGDAQUI, PAVO...) et plusieurs thèses doctorales permettent de rediscuter les liens culturels, plus ou moins évidents au cours du Magdalénien, de part et d'autre des Pyrénées occidentales. Ces travaux collectifs ouvrent également sur une volonté de rationalisation des terminologies chronoculturelles employées afin de matérialiser les liens entre les groupes de chasseurs-collecteurs ayant fréquenté ces espaces.

La session organisée dans le cadre du 18^e congrès de l'UISPP, à Paris en juin 2018, a été l'occasion de présenter des sites clés et des travaux de synthèse entre l'Espagne cantabrique et l'Aquitaine et ses « marges » orientales. Les discussions, bien que raccourcies par quelques vicissitudes organisationnelles du comité de l'UISPP, ont permis de préciser une part de la signification culturelle des sériations franco-cantabriques du Magdalénien.

Nous invitons les lectrices et lecteurs à poursuivre ce débat à travers les quinze contributions qui suivent selon différentes échelles d'analyses :

Des synthèses géochronologiques (Magdalénien archaïque/Badegoulien ibérique de **P. UTRILLA**; Magdalénien moyen ancien aquitain de **A. SÉCHER**; Magdalénien supérieur des Pyrénées occidentales de **M. DACHARY *et alii***; Magdalénien final du versant sud-pyrénéen de **R. DOMINGO *et alii***);

Des bilans archéo-stratigraphiques et culturels du Magdalénien (sud-ouest français de **M. LANGLAIS**; entre Rhône et Danube de **G. BÉREIZIAT**);

Des présentations monographiques de séquences stratigraphiques clés (El Mirón de **L. G. STRAUS** et **M. R. GONZÁLEZ MORALES**; Coimbre de **D. ALVAREZ ALONSO *et alii***; le Taillis des Coteaux de **J. PRIMAULT *et alii***; Cova Rosa de **E. ALVAREZ FERNÁNDEZ *et alii***; Santimamiñe de **J. C. LÓPEZ-QUINTANA *et alii***);

Des études techno-typologiques ou fonctionnelles d'industries lithiques (**R. ANGEVIN *et alii***, **P. A. BEAUVAIS *et alii***, **E. GAUVRIT-ROUX** et **S. BEYRIES**) ou osseuses (**E. DUARTE** et **M. DE LA RASILLA**).