

## **PERFECTION IN LITHIC PRODUCTION: EXAMPLE OF NEOLITHIC GOUGES (CENTRAL SUDAN)**

Katarína Kapustka<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> *AU - Institute of Archaeology of the Academy of Sciences of the Czech Republic*

Complex „chaines operatoires“ in lithic production are often a good examples of professional craft. It is necessary to balance manual and mental skills. One must have an idea what is his objective and also have precise functional gestures to obtain it. Objective is usually shaped by local tradition. Gestures must be precised by routine and are limited by skills of producer. Thanks to this attributes of the lithic production we are able to detect possible spread of style or connexion between regions.

One of good examples of professional lithic production is gouge production, which held a place in central Sudan during early Neolithic period (5500–5000 BC). This type of artifacts is bifacially shaped in specific way. Many aspects of specialized craft are visible during production process. There is clear preference of one specific raw material with determined source in area of diameter at least 100 kms. For this paper gouges from different sites were studied.

Near sources of this raw material intensive production was identified. Professional level of production varies a lot. Some pieces are done in very precise way, where it can be easily seen, how was craftsman step by step coming to his objective. But there are also pieces which were retaken by someone not so experienced/handy and there could be seen how regular production starts to be just a chaotic attempt.

According to the comparison of the collections from different sites this paper should be presentation of proposed distribution model of the rhyolites from the Sabaloka hills using example of the gouges. This type of artifacts was chosen because objectives of the creator can be traced and it is present and described at many different sites.

### **Keywords**

Lithics  
Early Neolithics  
Nile Valley  
Gouge  
Professional

### **Abstract book ISBN**

978-80-907270-3-8 (European Association of Archaeologists); 978-84-9168-140-3 (Edicions de la Universitat de Barcelona, vol. 1); 978-84-9168-143-4 (Edicions de la Universitat de Barcelona, vol. 2)