

CONTEXT AND CHRONOLOGY OF MOUSTERIAN INDUSTRIES IN WESTERN YUGOSLAVIA

by

Anta MONTET-WHITE *

Mousterian industries from Western Yugoslavia (Croatia, Slovenia and Bosnia) appear to fall into two major chronological phases. The earlier phase, dated at 80,000-90,000 BP in northern Bosnia (TL dates), is associated with mild climatic episodes and wooded environments. When present, faunal remains confirm the relatively temperate character of the climate. Settlements are found in the open-air, preferably on hilltops or high terraces, at altitude of 100 m to 200 m, and in caves and rockshelters located in more mountainous areas, at altitude of 300-400 m. The latter are very briefly occupied hunting stations.

The second, more recent phase, is attributed to the first pleniglacial. It is marked by more rigorous conditions and a definite increase in the utilisation of some caves and rockshelters. The record for the second Mousterian phase is incomplete since deposits corresponding to glacial episodes are not preserved in open-air sites.

Technological and typological differences between earlier and later industries are briefly discussed.

* University of Kansas, Museum of Anthropology, Lawrence, Kansas 66045 - USA.