

Abstract:

This thesis analyses Neolithic ovens from the territory of Czech Republic. It is based on theoretical research of ovens from Linear Pottery culture (LnK), Stroke-ornamented Ware culture (StK) and Moravian Painted Ware culture (MMK) settlements.

The most important site for research of Czech LnK ovens is settlement in Bylany, on which 46 ovens in pits were found. These ovens were continuously used for 500 years, which means that they enable us to observe the development of this phenomenon in time. For comparison with settlement in Bylany, I studied the Moravian site Mohelnice u Zábřeha. Different trend of placement of ovens in space within the area of settlement is observable there. In result, the analyses of construction and placement of ovens proved, that the type of ovens used in Mohelnice served probably as equipment for food processing. They were presumably used by community living in the house closest to the oven.

Research of Late Neolithic (StK and MMK) ovens is complicated because of small number of finds the ovens located in pits. Complications are caused also by the state of research of Late Neolithic and by the ambiguity of settlements. The absence of pit ovens leads to idea of above ground domed ovens. However, this type of ovens is usually not preserved in central Europe, so the only way how to study them is to analyse fragments of daub found in pits.

In the second part of this thesis I chose several representative sites from Neolithic Balkans to create a comparative platform for studying Czech Neolithic ovens. As first Early Neolithic settlement in Galovo - Slavonský Brod is introduced which represents the Starčevo culture. In this settlement were followed the same tendencies as in LnK – ovens were situated in specialized pit workshops. As second, I presented few situations from Late Neolithic Vinča culture. From Vinča culture we know examples of aboveground ovens, which were preserved because of the structure of tell settlements containing lot of artifacts in primary position. These examples from Vinča culture help us to understand how could aboveground ovens in central Europe work and how they might look like.

Keywords: Neolithic - Czechia - ovens - Bylany - Neolithic Balkans