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Quartär- International Yearbook for Ice Age and Stone Age Research

"Quartär" is a journal published by the Hugo Obermaier-Society for Quaternary Research and Archaeology of the Stone Age that underwent fundamental changes during the last century and cemented its importance in research of Quaternary science.

Founded during the INQUA conference in the 1936, five volumes were published until 1953 when the recently launched Hugo Obermaier-Society took over the publication for Quartär. During the decades that followed, the volumes, released often in a two-year cycle, shared different common formats: personal comments on important contemporary research developments like the two contradicting articles about reliability and usage of radiocarbon methods by H. Groß and V. Milošević published in the volume of 1958 or the state of the art summary of quaternary science in regions beyond the main topics.

Scientific articles spanned the research field of quaternary science, including archaeology, geology and geography, as well as ethnology and paleoanthropology. German was the main language of the annual book, whereas English and French became of greater importance during the 60s and 70s with sporadic contributions in Spanish and Italian.

Currently, all articles are submitted in English and German, with clear tendency to English publication during the last years. Other changes to the journal include a new layout to a high-quality Din A4 hardcover print version, a new publisher, and free access to the archived series with the exception of the last volume. Thereby the editorial board could expand access to the journal, securing its new title "International Yearbook for Ice Age and Stone Age Research."

While the focus during the last years remained on Middle and Eastern Europe, the tradition of contributions beyond this region continues. Good examples of this are several papers from the Iberian Peninsula (Zilhao *et al.* 2011, Vaquero 2011, Bicho *et al.* 2012), Italy (Peresani *et al.* 2011), or Northwest Africa (Lindstädtler 2008).

The content features a great variety of topics ranging from "classical" site-based papers of largely interdisciplinary character or analysis of specific artifact categories to evaluations of new methods like 3D surface documentation (Slizewski *et al.* 2010), predictive modeling (Grøn 2012) or evaluations and discussions of actual research questions like the dating of parietal art (Comber & Jouve 2012). Recent years saw a clear focus on papers from the Middle Paleolithic to the Mesolithic, with a brief overview on the Upper Paleolithic, while earlier stages are discussed only by a handful of articles. The 2013 volume will also reflect this wide focus with articles spanning from raw material procurement in the Early Pleistocene on the Iberian Peninsula, over new data from the cave art in Les Trois-Frères (France) to the northern rim of the late Paleolithic human occupation in Jutland (Denmark).

With the new format also the former obligatory summary of the last annual meeting and the letter of the society are shifted to the conference paper of the Hugo Obermaier Annual Meeting, while the book review section remains an important part. The annual publication contains 8-12 articles, each covering between 2-25 pages, with a total of 200 pages. Submissions are capped to 150.000 characters; however with editorial approval it is possible to submit lengthier manuscripts.

To sum up, Quartär continues to be of high interest to general readers as well as scientific authors.