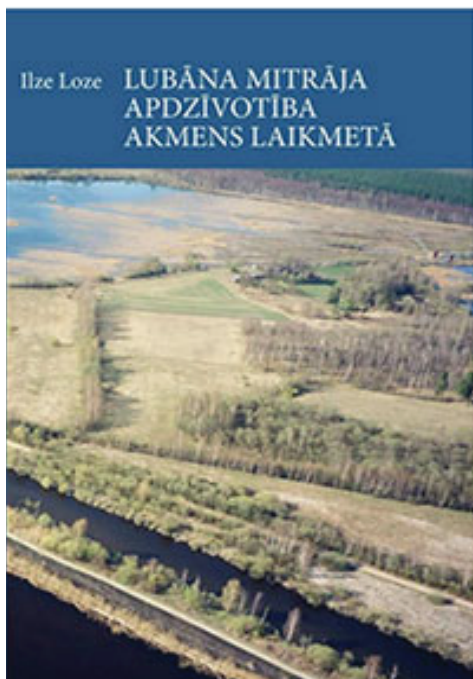


# LUBANA WETLAND HABITATION IN THE STONE AGE



**Loze Ilze. *Lubāna mitrāja apdzīvotība akmens laikmetā.***

**Rēzeknes novada mezolīta un neolīta apmetnes.**

**Rēzekne: Rēzeknes Augstskola, 2015. 312 lpp.**

On June 19, 2015, in Riga, the public was introduced to Ilze Lozes' book *Lubāns Wetland Habitation in the Stone Age. Mesolithic and Neolithic Settlements of Rēzekne County*. Currently the region of Lake Lubāns wetlands comprises a significant scientific source database for characterization of the lifestyle, character of the settlements, and the economic activity of its inhabitants, as well as the social relationships of the Stone Age tribes. The Lubāns Lowland is among the best studied micro-regions of prevalence of Neolithic sites in the Eastern Baltic. Purposeful investigations, new sites discoveries and excavation works by the Institute of Latvian History at the University of Latvia (formerly the Latvian SSR Institute of History at the

Academy of Sciences) during the period from 1962 to 1990, as well as in 1999, 2007 to 2009, 2011 and 2012 have achieved the desired result: the archaeological map of Lake Lubāns wetlands has been gradually filled with 27 new Mesolithic and Neolithic sites, including 18 sites where archaeological excavations have been done. Stationary archaeological research carried out by the author is discussed in the book with the exception of two sites the excavations of which were led by Francis Zagorskis. The results of the archaeological research in 1964–1984 were published in two monographs (Loze, I. *The Stone Age Habitation Sites of the Lubana Lowland. Mesolithic, Early and Middle Neolithic*. Riga, 1988, in Russian; Loze, I. *Late*

*Neolithic and Early Bronze Age of the Lubana Lowland*. Riga, 1979, in Russian).

Lake Lubāns wetlands belong to eight administratively created districts. In Rēzekne District, as concluded from the previous analyses of archaeological data, there is the largest concentration of Mesolithic and Neolithic sites — nine in total. Thus, two decidedly positive factors — the rich archaeological research base and the high level of professionalism of the author and her unwearied diligence — resulted in the emergence of excellent monographs.

The main part of the monograph, written in Latvian, consists of the introduction, ten chapters, conclusion, bibliography. The conclusion is translated into English. The first two chapters describe the research of Lake Lubāns basin in the third-fourth and sixth to ninth decades of the previous century. Chapters 3–9 contain research material of individual archaeological sites or groups of sites: detailed descriptions, photographs of the locations, plans of the excavated areas, stratigraphy, drawings and photographs of the finds. Compared with the previous books, where drawings of finds of all studied settlements were presented at the end of the book, in this book illustrations are presented so as not to distract the reader from the text. Chapter 10 contains settlement chronology.

The monograph purposefully added four appendixes: new geomorphological data of Lubāns Lowland by Guntis Eberhards, River Malmuta sediment study and reconstruction of paleovegetation by Laimdota Kalniņa, Lake Lubāns' development model by Gunta Grūbe, Ilze Loze, Arvīds Ozols, and spectacular lake and wetland aerial photos by Juris Urtāns.

Especially welcome are plentiful illustrations of high quality. No matter what unexpected directions archeology will take, artifacts will always be the main source of prehistory research. But nothing

is permanent in this world. Archaeological finds are silent — the archaeologist speaks for them, but theories and interpretations are changing. Artifacts are sometimes lost, sometimes they disintegrate even in museums. Only published finds remain forever.

A Lithuanian proverb says: no mistakes makes only one who does not run. In this essentially excellent book there have also been some omissions or inaccuracies: numbered symbols do not have values on the map of the archaeological sites (p. 23, Fig.1). The numbering system of illustrations is not continuous — figures have separate numbering in each chapter. It seems that such a system is not convenient. In continuing numbering references can be made just specifying the figure number. Now it is necessary to add the page number as well.

Up to now I cannot comprehend the rules of writing Latvian toponyms and hydronyms in English language. For example: the same sentence, the same two words, but one of them has the diacritical mark over the letter while another — has not (Rēzekne: Rezekne Higher Education ... P. 4). However, it is not so important because the biggest shortcoming of the book is absence of foreign language summary — the translated conclusion does not match a summary of the whole book.

I appreciate this book as a significant contribution to the study of the Stone Age of the Baltic region and all the Europe. I sincerely congratulate Ilze Loze after a tremendous amount of work, while I look forward to its continuation. After all, while Rēzekne District is the richest in terms of the number of Stone Age sites, it is not alone. Others — Balvi, Rugāji, Madona districts are waiting for their turn. This means that Ilze Loze will not ever rest — hard work at least for two more books is waiting.

**Dr. Vygandas Juodagalvis**