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IVOR JANKOVIĆ, SANJIN MIHELIĆ I IVOR KARAVANIĆ,  
*PUT NEANDERTALCA*, ARHEOLOŠKI MUZEJ, ZAGREB,  
2011.

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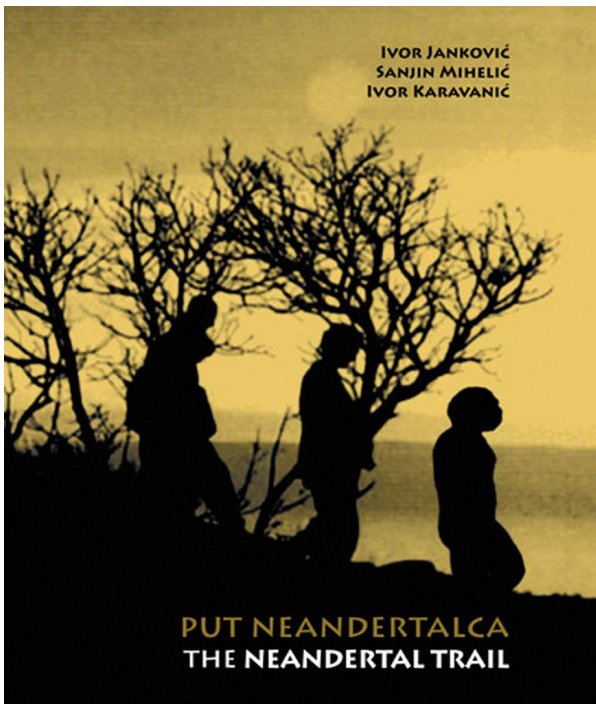
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Fenomen neandertalca u žarištu je zanimanja stručnih i znanstvenih krugova još od daleke 1856. godine kad su otkriveni fosilni ostaci te populacije na eponimnome lokalitetu Neandertal u blizini Düsseldorfa u Njemačkoj, a nedugo zatim 1899. godine i u Hrvatskoj, na Hušnjakovu brijegu u Krapini. Napredak i razvoj znanstvenih metoda koje doprinose interpretaciji i evaluaciji novih, ali isto tako i starih nalaza, te otkrića novih nalazišta povezanih s neandertalcima i u Hrvatskoj i u svijetu, razlog su neprekinuta zanimanja znanstvenika za tu temu. Sukladno tomu šira znanstvena, ali i javna zajednica s velikim su interesom pozdravile otvorenje izložbe *Put neandertalca* 15. prosinca 2011. godine u Arheološkome muzeju u Zagrebu, kao i objavu istoimene knjige.

Knjiga *Put neandertalca* autorskoga trija Ivora Jankovića, Sanjina Mihelića i Ivora Karavanića idejno je ishodište istoimenoga projekta čiji je voditelj Sanjin Mihelić, viši kustos Arheološkoga muzeja u Zagrebu. Projekt je zamišljen kao arheološki itinerer čiji je cilj objedinjavanje i kulturno-turističko

The phenomenon of Neanderthals has been in the focus of scholarly and scientific interest since 1856, when the fossil remains of this population were discovered at the eponymous site Neandertal near Düsseldorf in Germany, and not long afterward in Croatia in 1899, at Hušnjakovo Hill in Krapina. The progress and development of scientific methods which contribute to the interpretation and evaluation of new as well as older finds, and the discovery of new find sites associated with Neanderthals in Croatia and throughout the world, are the reason for the uninterrupted scholarly interest in this topic. In this regard, the broader scholarly and also general public welcomed with great interest the opening of the exhibition "Way of the Neanderthals" in the Archaeological Museum in Zagreb on 15 December 2011, as well as the publication of the book with the same title.

The book *Put neandertalca* by the trio of authors Ivor Janković, Sanjin Mihelić and Ivor Karavanić is the scholarly source of the project led by Sanjin Mihelić, a senior curator at the Archaeological



valoriziranje arheološke baštine vezane uz neandertalskoga čovjeka u Hrvatskoj. Sastavni je dio projekta i istoimena izložba s multimedijalnim postavom koji uključuje arheološke i paleontološke nalaze musterijske kulture (Vindija, Velika pećina na Ravnoj gori, Veternica, Velika pećina u Kličevici, Veli rat na Dugome otoku, Mujina pećina, Kaštel Štafilić-Resnik) i replike nalaza (Krapina) uz popratne ilustracije, videoprikaze i rekonstrukcije, čemu je svrha popularizacija i prezentacija hrvatskih paleolitičkih nalazišta na kojima su prepoznati tragovi neandertalaca. Izložba je prilagođena svim dobnim skupinama i namijenjena je svim posjetiteljima koje zanima ne samo arheologija i razumijevanje vlastita „rodoslovnoga“ stabla nego i putovanje, istraživanje i upoznavanje kulturnih i prirodnih znamenitosti vlastite zemlje.

Knjiga *Put neandertalca* podijeljena je u tri idejne cjeline kao i postav izložbe.

Termin *neandertalac* kroz povijest je postao uvriježan u različitim kontekstima popularne kulture i prestao biti vezan isključivo za prapovijesnu populaciju. Sukladno tomu prva cjelina knjige, *Neandertalac u vremenu i prostoru*, približava neandertalca čitatelju upravo iz aspekta popularne kulture. Neandertalci su se kao termin kroz povijest javljali i bili obrađivani u različitim segmentima popularne kulture – od književnosti preko filma do dnevnih tiskovina. Prije punih sto godina belgijski je pisac Joseph Henry Rosny u svojoj noveli *Rat za vatru* prikazao neandertalce kao surove divljake i kanibale i otada ne jenjava veliki interes za njih u domeni popularnih prikaza i priča. Napisane su

Museum in Zagreb. The project has been conceived as an archaeological itinerary aimed at the consolidation and validation (both in cultural and touristic terms) of the archaeological heritage tied to Neanderthals in Croatia. An integral component of the project is the exhibition of the same name, with its multi-media approach, including archaeological and palaeontological finds of the Mousterian culture (Vindija, Velika Cave at Ravna gora, Veternica, Velika Cave in Kličevica, Veli rat on the island of Dugi, Mujina Cave, Kaštel Štafilić-Resnik) and replicas of finds (Krapina) accompanied by illustrations, video-presentations and reconstructions, aimed at the popularization and presentation of Croatian palaeontological find-sites at which the vestiges of Neanderthals have been recognized. The exhibition has been adapted to all age groups and it is geared toward all visitors interested not only in archaeology and an understanding of their own “family” tree, but also travelling, study and familiarization with the cultural and natural attractions of their own country.

The book *Put neandertalca* is divided into three conceptual units, which is mirrored by the arrangement of the exhibition.

Over the course of history, the term *Neanderthal* has become accepted in various contexts in popular culture, and is no longer exclusively tied to the prehistoric population. In this vein, the first section of the book, “The Neanderthal in time and space”, familiarizes readers with the Neanderthal precisely from the standpoint of popular culture. The term Neanderthal has appeared over the course of history and has been used in various segments of popular culture: from literature through film to the daily press. Over one hundred years ago, Belgian writer Joseph Henry Rosny, in his book, *The Quest for Fire*, portrayed Neanderthals as coarse savages and cannibals, and since then the great interest in them in the popular imagination has not abated. Many novels were written, some of which were even adapted as motion pictures, but despite their popularity, “they remain largely misunderstood and are often viewed through the prism of idealized portrayals – either as semi-feral creatures or as ‘noble savages’” (Janković *et al.* 2011a: 19). Given the continual interest and numerous controversies which this topic carries with it, one of the authors’ aims is to present and “once more” acquaint readers with these distant ancestors of ours, but exclusively on the basis of data obtained through scientific research.

The fact is that the question of accepting the role of Neanderthals in our genealogy has sparked debate in scholarly circles for over 150 years. Based on many archaeological discoveries, our knowledge of Neanderthals is considerable. There are numer-

mnoge novele koje su u jednome trenutku i ekrani-  
zirane, no bez obzira na njihovu popularnost „oni  
ostaju uvelike neshvaćeni i često promatrani u svje-  
tlu idealiziranih prikaza – bilo kao poludivlja stvo-  
renja, bilo kao „plemeniti divljaci““ (Janković *et al.*  
2011a: 19). S obzirom na kontinuirani interes i mno-  
ge kontroverze koje ova tema nosi sa sobom jedan je  
od ciljeva autorâ da predstave i „ponovno“ upoznaju  
čitatelja s tim našim dalekim pretkom, ali isključivo  
na temelju rezultata znanstvenih istraživanja.

Činjenica je da pitanje prihvaćanja uloge neander-  
talca u našem rodoslovlju potiče rasprave u znan-  
stvenim krugovima više od 150 godina. Na temelju  
mnogobrojnih arheoloških otkrića o neandertalcima  
danas mnogo toga znamo. Postoje brojni osta-  
ci neandertalskih kostiju, kamenih alata i njihovih  
aktivnosti na nalazištima diljem Europe i zapadne  
Azije (do Uzbekistana na istoku, a neki autori sma-  
traju da su obitali i u dijelu središnje Azije), što  
omogućava stvaranje uvida u mnoge aspekte po-  
stojanja te populacije. Za razliku od ranijih ljud-  
skih populacija za neandertalce postoje i genetičke  
sekvence u vidu drevne DNK bilo mitohondrijske  
bilo drugih dijelova genoma (Green *et al.* 2010). Sve  
to omogućava detaljan uvid u razne aspekte anatomi-  
je, kulturne prilagodbe i evoluciju te populacije.  
Uvid je to koji ne postoji ni za jednu drugu popula-  
ciju iz drevne prošlosti.

Detaljan opis izgleda i načina života neandertalaca  
donosi istoimeno prvo poglavlje prve cjeline knji-  
ge. Naglašavajući „predivno bogatstvo varijabilnosti  
ljudske vrste, koje nije svojstveno samo suvremenim  
populacijama, već je bilo prisutno i u dalekoj  
prošlosti“ (Janković *et al.* 2011a: 34), autori uz opis  
anatomskih odlika neandertalaca posebnu pažnju  
posvećuju interpretaciji i razumijevanju procesa  
nastanka određenih, neandertalcima svojstvenih,  
odlika. S obzirom na varijabilnost te populacije  
u vremenu i prostoru, koja se sasvim lijepo može  
pratiti kroz 150 000 godina njihova postojanja, ne  
začuduje ni varijabilnost u sferama kulturnoga ži-  
vota i prilagodbe. Smatra se da su živjeli u manjim,  
vrlo pokretnim skupinama koje su se često selile u  
potrazi za lovnim životinjama. Bili su vješti lovci, a  
brojne analize stabilnih izotopa iz kostiju neander-  
talaca ukazuju na to da su se prehranjivali gotovo  
isključivo mesom (npr. Richards *et al.* 2000; 2008).

U drugome poglavlju pod nazivom *Simbolika* auto-  
ri pokušavaju proniknuti u duhovni život i simbo-  
lički izričaj te populacije. Svijest i duhovni aspekti  
ponašanja često su ključni čimbenici koji se ističu  
kao nepremostiva razlika između ljudi i životinja.  
Imajući na umu te razlike, autori pokušavaju pro-  
niknuti u pitanje kada se određeni aspekti duhov-  
nosti po prvi put javljaju u arheološkoj ostavštini

ous remains of Neanderthal bones, stone tools  
and their activities at find-sites throughout Europe  
and western Asia (as far as Uzbekistan in the east,  
and some scholars believe that they lived in part of  
central Asia as well), which allows for insight into  
many aspects of this population’s existence. As op-  
posed to earlier hominid populations, in the case of  
Neanderthals there are genetic sequences of ancient  
DNA, both mitochondrial and from other parts of  
the genome (Green *et al.* 2010). All of this enables a  
detailed insight into various aspects of the anatomy,  
cultural adaptations and evolution of this popula-  
tion. This type of knowledge does not exist for any  
other population from the ancient past.

A detailed description of the appearance and life-  
style of Neanderthals is provided in the first chapter  
of the book’s first section, which is reflected in its  
title. Underscoring the “fabulous wealth of vari-  
ability of the human species, which is not only a  
quality of contemporary populations, for it was also  
present in the distant past” (Janković *et al.* 2011a:  
34), the authors, besides providing a description of  
Neanderthal anatomical features, focus particular  
attention to the interpretation and understanding  
of the processes whereby individual traits specific  
to Neanderthals emerged. Given the variability of  
this population over space and time, which can be  
quite nicely followed over the 150,000 years of their  
existence, their variability in the spheres of cultural  
life and adaptation is not surprising. It is believed  
that they lived in small, very mobile groups which  
often migrated in search of animals to hunt. They  
were skilled hunters, and numerous analyses of sta-  
ble isotopes from Neanderthal bones indicate that  
their diet consisted almost exclusively of meat (e.g.  
Richards *et al.* 2000; 2008).

In the second chapter, with the title “Symbolism”,  
the authors attempt to delve into the spiritual life  
and symbolic expressions of this population. Self-  
awareness and the spiritual aspect of behaviour  
are often crucial factors which stand out as the  
unbridgeable gap between humans and animals.  
Keeping these differences in mind, the authors at-  
tempt to ascertain when a certain aspect of spiritu-  
ality first appeared in the archaeological heritage  
and which symbolic behaviour and ideas can be  
found and interpreted among the Neanderthals. A  
major novelty which emerged among this popula-  
tion was certainly the burial of the dead, to which  
find-sites in France, Belgium, Israel, Syria, Iraq, etc.  
testify (Pettitt 2011). Also interesting, and quite  
rare, are the finds of pierced teeth and shells, which  
may be assumed to have been parts of necklaces or  
pendants (Zilhão *et al.* 2009). Equally fascinating  
are the pierced and cutmarked bones which some  
scholars believe were purposely made so (Zilhão *et*

te koje oblike simboličkoga ponašanja i ideja možemo pronaći i iščitati kod neandertalaca. Važna novina koja se javlja kod te populacije nedvojbeno je pokapanje mrtvih, o čemu svjedoče nalazišta u Francuskoj, Belgiji, Izraelu, Siriji, Iraku itd. (Pettitt 2011). Zanimljivi su, ali i rijetki, nalazi probušenih zuba i školjaka za koje se može pretpostaviti da su bili dijelovi ogrlice ili privjesaka (Zilhão *et al.* 2009). Isto tako zanimljive su probušene i izrezbarene kosti za koje dio autora drži da su namjerno učinjene takvima (Zilhão *et al.* 2006). Vjerojatno je da je barem dio tih predmeta predstavljao uistinu namjerno izrađene artefakte čija funkcija nije bila vezana uz preživljavanje i održavanje osnovnih životnih potreba, pa im se može pripisati simboličko značenje (Carron *et al.* 2011).

Posljednje poglavlje prve cjeline, *Sudbina neandertalca*, pokušaj je razumijevanja nestanka te populacije. Već prilikom prvih otkrića neandertalaca, kad je postalo jasno da se radi o anatomski i kulturno drugačijoj populaciji, počinju se tražiti objašnjenja o njihovoj ulozi i mjestu u evoluciji čovjeka. Mjesto neandertalca na ljestvici čovjekove evolucije autori pokušavaju objasniti s pomoću triju glavnih modela evolucije, odnosno podrijetla nas samih: (1) multi-regionalnoga modela, (2) tzv. modela „iz Afrike“ i (3) asimilacijskoga modela. Pritom ne nameću odgovore, nego upućuju čitatelja na promišljanja toga problema iz različitih perspektiva (Janković & Karavanić 2009). Ključnu ulogu u pokušaju razumijevanja sudbine neandertalaca i njihove uloge u rodoslovlju suvremenih populacija imaju vremenski kasni neandertalci među koje se ubrajaju i nalazi iz hrvatske pećine Vindija te najraniji nalazi anatomski modernih ljudi s tla Europe. Period je to od nekoliko tisuća godina njihova vremenskoga preklapanja i mogućega suživota, pa su razne analize nalaza iz toga perioda iznimno važne. Mogućemu odgovoru doprinijela su i mnoga molekularna istraživanja, posebice po prvi put uspješno izoliran dio stanične DNK iz kosti neandertalca s hrvatskoga nalazišta Vindija krajem 2006. godine. Sredinom 2010. godine u časopisu *Science* objavljen je iznimno važan rad prema čijim rezultatima analize suvremeni stanovnici Eurazije u svojoj DNK imaju 1–4% genetskoga naslijeđa neandertalaca. To određuje neandertalce kao izumrlu skupinu drevnih stanovnika Europe i dijela Azije, ali ne i kao izumrlu zasebnu vrstu. I taj se rad, barem u većemu dijelu, temelji na nalazima iz pećine Vindija (Green *et al.* 2010; Janković *et al.* 2011b).

Druga cjelina knjige nosi naziv *Arheološka nalazišta* i u njoj se sustavno, po prvi put na jednome mjestu, obrađuju sva hrvatska nalazišta na kojima su otkriveni ostaci neandertalaca ili njihove materijalne kulture s najnovijim rezultatima istraživanja. Donose se sljedećim redoslijedom: Vindija, Velika pećina,

*al.* 2006). It is likely that a minimum of some of these items are truly intentionally crafted artefacts whose function was not tied to survival and maintenance of basic living needs, so that a symbolic meaning can be ascribed to them (Carron *et al.* 2011).

The final chapter of the first unit, “The fate of the Neanderthals”, constitutes an attempt to understand the disappearance of the Neanderthal population. Already during the first discoveries of Neanderthals, when it became clear that this was an anatomically and culturally different population, explanations began to be sought for their role and position in human evolution. Scholars attempted to explain the position of Neanderthals on the human evolutionary ladder with the help of three primary models of evolution, i.e., the origins of humans themselves: (1) the multiregional model, (2) the so-called “out of Africa” model, and (3) the assimilation model. They do not impose any answers here, rather they direct readers to consider this problems from various points of view (Janković & Karavanić 2009). The key role in the attempt to understand the fate of the Neanderthals and their role in the genealogy of contemporary populations is played by the chronologically later Neanderthals, which includes the finds from the Croatian cave Vindija and the earliest anatomical modern humans on European territory. The period when they overlapped and possibly co-existed lasted several thousand years, so the various analyses of the finds from this period are exceptionally important. Numerous molecular tests have also contributed to a possible answer, particularly the first successfully isolated component of cellular DNA from Neanderthal bones collected at the Croatian site of Vindija at the end of 2006. In mid-2010, the journal *Science* published an exceptionally important article, according to which an analysis showed that the contemporary residents of Eurasia have 1-4% Neanderthal genetic material in their DNA. This defines Neanderthals as an extinct group of ancient inhabitants of Europe and part of Asia, but not an extinct separate species. This work as well, or most of it, is based on the finds from Vindija Cave (Green *et al.* 2010; Janković *et al.* 2011b).

The second section is entitled “Archaeological sites” and it systematically, for the first time in one place, deals with all Croatian sites at which the remains of Neanderthals or their physical culture were discovered, together with the latest research results. These are covered in the following order: Vindija, Velika Cave, Krapina, Veternica, Veliki rat and Ljubač, Velika Cave in Kličevica, Mujina Cave, Kaštel Štafilić-Resnik and Romualdova Cave and Campanož. Readers are given a thorough overview of all aspects of the individual sites, from their geographic location, research history, layouts, profiles,

Krapina, Veternica, Veliki rat i Ljubač, Velika pećina u Kličevici, Mujina pećina, Kaštel Štafilić – Resnik te Romualdova pećina i Campanož. Čitatelj dobiva detaljan uvid u sve aspekte pojedinačnih nalazišta, od geografskoga smještaja, povijesti istraživanja, tlocrta, profila, metoda i faza rada do pronađene arheološke građe. Upoznavanje sa svakim pojedinačnim nalazištem olakšava veliki broj ilustracija koje vjerno prate tekst.

U trećemu, zaključnome dijelu pod naslovom *Arheološki itinerer Put neandertalca* spomenuti lokaliteti postaju zanimljivo kulturno-turističko odredište, pa se tako svi čitatelji knjige i posjetitelji izložbe pozivaju na upoznavanje najdojmljivijih arheoloških, povijesnih, kulturnih i prirodnih znamenitosti Hrvatske. Glavnim postajama puta koje čine arheološki lokaliteti s nalazima neandertalaca, odnosno musterijske kulture, pridodaju se i ostale znamenitosti koje su izravno povezane s osnovnom temom itinerera. To su naprimjer muzeji u kojima se čuva arheološka građa te odredišta koja nemaju izravnih tematskih poveznica, ali predstavljaju neizostavno mjesto posjeta, poput pet nacionalnih parkova i četiriju parkova prirode pokraj kojih vodi itinerer. Manji broj postaja toga itinerera niz godina funkcionira samostalno kao atraktivno turističko odredište, poput Krapine s novim Muzejom krapinskih neandertalaca ili špilje Veternica na zagrebačkoj Medvednici, no ostale postaje tek čekaju vrijeme svoje turističke valorizacije.

U završnome dijelu knjige nalazi se popis preporučene literature na hrvatskome i engleskome jeziku za one koji žele znati još više o neandertalcima, njihovoj biološkoj i kulturnoj evoluciji, ponašanju, načinu života i sl. te podaci o slikovnim priložima koji vjerno prate tekst od prve do posljednje stranice.

Može se zaključiti da je knjiga *Put neandertalca*, kao i istoimena izložba, primjer uspješnoga i sveobuhvatnoga prikaza jedne teme koja u sebi prožima različite aspekte pristupa – znanstveni, kulturni i turistički – s pomoću kojega se neandertalci bez ikakva napora približavaju čitateljima i posjetiteljima različitih profila. Izdanjem knjige s dvojezičnim tekstom (hrvatski i engleski) stvara se trajni doprinos projektu i nadilaze okviri hrvatskoga govornog područja. Važno je istaknuti da znanstvene teme postaju bliske široj javnosti, posebice kroz kulturno-turistički segment zahvaljujući kojemu i zaboravljena povijesna, kulturna i prirodna dobra dobivaju na vrijednosti. Ovim djelom neosporno je pobuđeno zanimanje ne samo za temu neandertalaca nego i za otkrivanje vrijednosti hrvatske kulturne i prirodne baštine. U tome bi smislu ovaj projekt, kao i popratna izložba i publikacija, trebali poslužiti kao uzor za nova djela sličnih sadržaja.

methods and work phases to the archaeological materials found. Familiarization with all individual sites is facilitated by numerous illustrations which adhere to the text very faithfully.

In the third, concluding section under the title “Archaeological itinerary of the Way of the Neanderthals”, these sites become interesting cultural and tourism destinations, so as such all readers of the book and visitors to the exhibition are invited to become familiar with Croatia’s most impressive archaeological, historical, cultural and natural attractions. The main stations on the way composed of archaeological sites with Neanderthal (Mousterian culture) finds, are enhanced with other attractions which are directly tied to the basic theme of the itinerary. These are, for example, museums in which archaeological materials are held and destinations which have no direct thematic ties, but nonetheless constitute inevitable places to visit, such as five national parks and four nature parks next to which the itinerary passes. A smaller number of stations on this itinerary have functioned independently for many years as attractive tourist destinations, such as Krapina with the new Museum of the Krapina Neanderthals or Veternica Cave on Zagreb’s Medvednica Mountain, although the remaining stations are only awaiting their own validation as tourism sites.

The final section of the book contains a list of recommended literature in the Croatian and English languages for those who wish to learn more about Neanderthals, their biological and cultural evolution, behaviour, way of life, etc., and information on the illustrations which accompany the text from the first to last pages.

It may be concluded that the book *Put neandertalca*, like the exhibition of the same name, is an example of a successful and comprehensive portrayal of a theme which encompasses various aspects of approaches – scientific, cultural and touristic – whereby the Neanderthals, without any effort, become closer to readers and visitors of various types. The publication of the book with bilingual text (Croatian and English) creates a permanent contribution to the project and surpasses the boundaries of the Croatian-speaking world. It is worthwhile noting that scholarly themes are becoming closer to the wider public, particularly through the culture and tourism segment thanks to which forgotten historical, cultural and natural resources gain in value. This work has undoubtedly aroused the interest not only in the topic of Neanderthals but also the discovery of the value of the Croatian cultural and natural heritage. In this sense, this project, like the accompanying exhibition and publication, should serve as a model for new works with similar content.

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