

Pecha Kucha Presentation: Session 4, Fr (8:30-9:30)

The Châtelperronian: an updated review

Morgan Roussel¹, Marie Soressi¹

1 - Leiden University, The Netherlands

Because the Châtelperronian is in a stratigraphic position at the crossroads of the Middle and Upper Palaeolithic, because it is of Upper Palaeolithic type, and because only Neanderthal remains were discovered associated with it, the Châtelperronian is often called a “transitional industry.” Even if Mousterian “souvenirs” had been actively searched within Châtelperronian industries, they are almost non-existent. It is indeed clear that the Châtelperronian is neither an intermediate between the Middle and the Upper Palaeolithic nor a mix of Middle and Upper Palaeolithic behaviours. On the contrary, it is a unique set of behaviours which shares commonalities with contemporaneous techno-complexes. With this talk, we will offer an updated overview of the Châtelperronian [1,2] and will provide new information on the Châtelperronian from Les Cottés. We will conclude with discussing potential new line of evidence to improve our understanding of the rise and fall of the Châtelperronian. For instance, the relationships of the Châtelperronian with the early phases of the Aurignacian have been recently reevaluated [3,4]. Blade production as well as bladelet production - as documented at Quinçay and now in Les Cottés - are fundamentally different from the Protoaurignacian and Early Aurignacian ones. Châtelperronian bladelets produced in a Châtelperronian manner and retouched into large Dufour like bladelet cannot be a coincidence and are best interpreted as evidence of superficial contact between the Châtelperronian and the Protoaurignacian. This implies first, a contemporaneity of these two groups on a large geographical scale, and second the adoption of the idea “retouched bladelets” driven by the search of new solution for projectile technology. In the last case, idea of Châtelperron points used mainly as projectile should be reevaluated. Two cave sites with a stratigraphy composed of several Châtelperronian layers, at Arcy-sur-Cure and Quinçay, preserve ornaments, bone tools, black and red pigments in association with this unique blade production. These former behaviours are for now only known on the northern limits of the Châtelperronian. The geographic position – and maybe the dating - of these two sites at the margins of the distribution of the Châtelperronian might explain the development of specific behaviours.

References:[1] [1] Soressi, M., & Roussel, M., 2014. European Middle-to-Upper Palaeolithic Transitional Industries: Châtelperronian. In: Smith, Cl. (Ed.), *Encyclopedia of Global Archaeology*. Springer, New-York, pp. 2679-2693. [2] [2] Roussel, M., & Soressi, M., 2014. Le Châtelperronien. In: Otte, M. (Ed.), *Neandertal/Cro Magnon. La Rencontre. Errance*, Paris, pp. 31-60. [3] [3] Roussel, M., 2011. Normes et variations de la production lithique durant le Châtelperronien : la séquence de la Grande-Roche-de-la-Plématrie à Quinçay (Vienne). Doctoral Thesis, University of Paris Ouest Nanterre – La Défense, 564 p. [4] [4] Roussel, M., 2013. Méthodes et rythmes du débitage laminaire au Châtelperronien : comparaison avec le Protoaurignacien. *C. R. Palevol*. 12, 233-241.