

The project's goal is to describe archaeological materials collected by Professor Waldemar Chmielewski in his research of the Sąspowska Valley between 1967 and 1995. This project will examine the so far unknown archaeological, faunistic and anthropological sources found during excavations the Professor did on several dozen caves and rock shelters. He spent over 30 years researching the Sąspowska Valley caves, and in the end, he studied all such sites in the area. Unfortunately, long before the materials were studied or published, they disappeared which made Professor Chmielewski unable to analyse them.

The missing artefacts were found when The Institute of Archaeology of the University of Warsaw was cataloguing its storehouses two years ago. As a result, it is now possible to analyse and study materials not published before, which is data from 12 sites excavated by Professor Chmielewski.

Unpublished excavation results is a real loss of knowledge that cannot be recovered, especially when the research of the cave sites includes most or all of their sediments. Because of the high value of archaeological sources, it is very important to be able to study and analyse any artefacts or excavation work documents unpublished before. It is an issue addressed by this project, aimed at preparing and presenting the previously not released fieldwork results to the scientific environment.

The unpublished materials from Professor Chmielewski's research have to be studied according to the current scientific standard before they go into circulation. The number of artefacts the Professor gathered, as well as his rich fieldwork documentation give a unique chance to use new scientific analysis methods on a large scale.

Palaeoenvironmental analyses, based on the description of fauna fossils and the archaeological analysis of cave sediments, will make the project's important part. Moreover, conducting verifying test investigations of selected sites will result in collecting sediment samples for dating with the use of modern chronometric methods.

The results of partial archaeological, palaeontological and geological analyses will give basis for doing some comparative and investigative work. Furthermore, they will allow for considerations on how the ways of using caves and rock shelters had been changing with time.

The project is built on archived archaeological sources which are, at the same time, an important research material to fields such as the Polish prehistoric archaeology, palaeontology, as well as the geology of the Pleistocene and the Holocene. These sources make a compact space of human activity traces from the moment when the first Palaeolithic hunters-gatherers came to the region, through the period of farming cultures growth, up to the beginnings of Polish statehood and the early modern period. Describing and publishing the archived materials will result in their introduction into the scientific world, and will also make them part of the region's and country's history and cultural heritage.

The results of site analyses will be published fully as a monograph; they will also help create an educational trail in the Sąspowska Valley.

**Z komentarzem [1]:** Zwarty przestrzennie zbiór śladów działalności ludzkiej