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## REVIEWS

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DIE BALTISCHE STEINKISTENGRÄBERKULTUR. By *Jakob Ozols*. Vor-geschichtliche Forschungen, vol. 16. Berlin: Walter de Gruyter, 1969. 135 pp. 84 illustrations. 3 maps. DM 96.

This monograph, written by a Lett, now in Bonn, as a habilitation thesis, is a well-prepared and neatly published treatment of prehistoric monuments of the northern Balts in Latvia and Estonia, falling within the Bronze Age and Early Iron Age periods. For the first time data describing stone cist graves and contemporary settlements—collected from published sources, microfilms, and finds in the Finnish and Swedish museums—have been collected and conveniently published, yielding a comprehensive catalogue of finds so far known. The book is well illustrated, mostly by drawings, and there is an extensive bibliography.

The northern Baltic barrows contain stone enclosures around burials in wooden coffins or around cremation graves; for many years their chronology has remained elusive and unknown. The author's exacting study of these materials permits them to be placed in the Late Bronze Age and Early Iron Age, ca. 1000–400/300 B.C. This culture is considered by the author to be a development from the Boat-axe group of the Early Bronze Age. It was technologically conservative, few metal artifacts appearing in the graves although metallurgy was practiced; bone and stone tools and ornaments predominated.

Regional differentiation, possibly implying tribal distinctions, was discerned through analysis of grave types. Mr. Ozols isolated three groups. One has its distribution in Livland, where it is characterized by an earthen tumulus encircled with a stone ring, enclosing a construction of field stones. The settlements associated with these graves are all hill-forts. A second group, further south, is the Semigallian, distinguished by graves sunk beneath the ground surface. The settlements of this area were unfortified and located near the cemeteries; only some of them were hill-forts. The third and youngest group is distributed on the coast of Estonia and adjacent islands. Hill-forts also occur in this area, and chalk was characteristically utilized in grave construction.

This book will serve as a very useful reference work for future archaeological and ethnohistorical research of the Baltic countries.

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MANUEL II PALAEOLOGUS (1391–1425): A STUDY IN LATE BYZANTINE STATESMANSHIP. By *John W. Barker*. New Brunswick, N.J.: Rutgers University Press, 1969. liii, 614 pp. \$25.00.

Manuel II Palaeologus was certainly a "person of many talents and interests, excelling in all," a "man of extraordinary interest whenever he might have lived," as John Barker puts it in his monumental book (p. xxxviii). This volume, however, is far more than just the biography of the emperor. It is a detailed and lengthy study