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ABSTRACT BOOK

The Roman world in Central Anatolia: Skeletal material from the ancient cities of Philadelphia and Sbide (Ermenek/Karaman)

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Keywords: Ermenek; Philadelphia; Sbide; bioarchaeology

Anatolia is one of the important geographic regions for Roman period, both West and East (aka Byzantine) in the Roman Period. Although most of the famous sites are located on Aegean and Mediterranean coasts, Roman cities expanded throughout Anatolia. One such case is located in the Ermenek district of Karaman province. This study is based on skeletal material that was exhumed from the ancient cities of Philadelphia and Sbide from 2015-2021. The cities were part of the Cetus region in Isauria-Cilicia Tracheia and dated to the 3rd century AD according to archaeological finds. The material consists of two series of skeletons: 448 individuals from Sbide and 384 individuals from Philadelphia. Ongoing excavations are increasing the number of individuals available for study. Most of the individuals were recovered from rock tombs and sarcophagi. After estimating sex and age, the skeletons were examined for pathological conditions. Many intriguing pathological lesions were recorded including a possible case of trepanation. Preliminary observation on the skull appears to demonstrate that a surgical procedure for trepanation was started but not completed. The detailed study is underway. We believe that skeletal material from Central Anatolia will provide new perspectives in order to better understand the Roman world.

Cooking and eating in the Roman west: New insights into the foodways of the inhabitants of Iesso and Puig Castellar of Biosca

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Keywords: Lipid residue analysis; Iesso; Puig Castellar of Biosca

This presentation will focus on cooking and diet, as it can be reconstructed through organic residue analysis, in the western provinces of the Roman empire. Two case studies are the

relation to age, sex, time period and artifactual evidence. The latter will be accomplished by scoring grave goods by virtue of number, materials and/or elaborateness per burial to allow an element of status differentiation to be identified. Finally, in order to provide a high-resolution, data-based health analysis, aspects of human mobility during the Roman transition in *Amphipolis*, will also be explored on a preliminary level, via the statistical modelling of cranial and dental non-metric traits.

Flesh and bone: Unraveling the story of animal exploitation in the territory of present-day Serbia during Late Antiquity – an archaeozoological overview

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Keywords: Animal exploitation; Late Antiquity; Serbia

Previous archaeozoological research indicates that in the area of present-day Serbia during Late Antiquity (4th to the beginning of the 7th century AD), animal exploitation strategies and nutritional practices were primarily focused on the breeding of domestic animals, with hunting and fishing playing a secondary role. Alongside a few remains of species that were kept as pets, the predominant economically significant species – cattle, caprines, and pigs – are frequently found at archaeological sites. Biometric data reveals changes in the size of animals through time, indicating that animal husbandry experienced transformations. The degeneration of animal breeds can be attributed to general poverty and frequent conflicts in the region between “barbarian forces” and Eastern Roman Empire during the period in question. Other factors influencing the development of animal husbandry include population density, settlement size and duration, which dictated the demand for meat and the need for working animals based on agricultural practices. Unlike domestic animals, remains of the game are rare and primarily consist of frequently hunted species. While fishing was practiced by the inhabitants of the Late Antique settlements, fish remains are scarce, likely due to the manual collection of archaeofaunal remains. Despite the limited extent of archaeozoological research on the Late Antique settlements, the findings offer valuable insights into the methods of animal exploitation and indicate the presence of regional variations, particularly between Vojvodina and the territory south of the Sava and Danube rivers. This paper aims to provide insight into animal exploitation strategies in different settlement types by bringing together archaeozoological data. The comparisons of the relative distributions of their remains, their body part profiles, age and sex data, pathological changes, butchery marks between different archaeological sites, and site types will be used to explore plausible diachronic and contextual differences in animal exploitation strategies.

Burials in the Roman rock-cut chamber tombs of Crete

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Keywords: Rock-cut tombs; Crete; burial practices; social status

This paper investigates the appearance of rock-cut chamber tombs on Crete in the Roman period and seeks to understand why they appeared at this time and who was buried within them.