2nd International Congress on Roman Bioarchaeology
26-28 October 2023 (Hybrid)

ABSTRACT BOOK

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

Author(s): Ahmet İhsan Aytek[1], Alper Yener Yavuz[1], Alpago Göksenin Güzel[2], Ercan Er[2], İlker Mete Mimiroğlu[3]
Institutional Affiliation(s): [1]Department of Anthropology, Faculty of Arts and Sciences, Burdur Mehmet Akif Ersoy University, [2]Karaman Museum, [3]Department of Art History, Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities, Necmettin Erbakan University, Konya
Keywords: Ermenek; Philadelphia; Sbide; bioarchaeology

Anatolia is an important geographic region for the Roman period. Although most of the famous sites are located on the Aegean and Mediterrenean coasts, Roman cities expanded throughout Anatolia. One such case is located in the Ermenek district of the Karaman province. This study is based on skeletal material that was exhumed during the 2015-2021 excavation seasons from the ancient cities of Philadelphia and Sbide. The cities were part of the Cetis 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

Author(s): Th. Baniou[1], A. Suryanarayan[2], A. Livarda [1], J. Villanueva[3], N. Moraleda[3], N. Romani[4], E. Rodrigo[4]
Institutional Affiliation(s): [1]Landscape Archaeology Research Group (GIAP), Catalan Institute of Classical Archaeology (ICAC), Tarragona, Spain, [2]Culture, Archaeology and Socio-Ecological Dynamics (CASEs), Universitat Pompeu Fabra, Barcelona, Spain, [3]Institut de Ciència i Tecnologia Ambientals (ICTA-UAB), Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona, Bellaterra, Catalonia, Spain, [4]Serra Húnter Fellow, Autonomous University of Barcelona, Bellaterra, Catalonia, Spain
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 focus of this study, both located in the north-eastern part of the Iberian Peninsula (Catalonia).

sheep (15%). The presence of wild animals also indicates utilization of local wildlife resources, thus suggests a wide range of subsistence strategies. The first contacts and conflicts between the Romans and the Getae in the 1st century BC marked a significant period of interactions, that led to a complex process of integration into the Roman Empire. The archaeological sites of Horodca Mică and Horodca Mare offer a unique glimpse into the pre-Roman population of the Getae and provide valuable insights into their way of life prior to the influence of Roman culture and governance. Examining the animal remains contributes to a comprehensive understanding of their transition under Roman rule, enhancing our knowledge of ancient Eastern Carpathian societies.

Animals in Roman amphitheatre games: A zooarchaeological perspective

Author(s): Sonja Vuković
Institutional Affiliation(s): Laboratory for Bioarchaeology, Archaeology Department, University of Belgrade
Keywords: Amphitheatres; animal spectacles; zooarchaeology

Exotic beast displays, improvisations of hunts, mutual beast fights, fights between beasts and gladiators, and executions of convicted people regularly took place in Roman amphitheatre arenas. Numerous depictions in ancient texts mention the variety of exotic beasts, such as elephants, lions, leopards, rhinoceros, gazelles, brown bears, ostriches, etc. that were traded from distant areas for participation in shows. Ancient texts, while considered exaggerated in terms of numbers and the variety of beasts mentioned, are mostly related to spectacles in the Colosseum and other big arenas. Therefore, the question of which animals were actually used in spectacles in both Italy and numerous provincial amphitheatres arises. This paper will consider zooarchaeological data from Roman amphitheaters that provide direct evidence of animals used and hunted in the past, for the research on beast supply and management for spectacles. Particularly, faunal composition and other features of animal bones from the amphitheatres throughout the Empire will be mutually compared for the understanding of the nature of those assemblages, as well as for the recognition of the variety of species that may have been used in games in different areas of the Empire. The data are derived from published faunal assemblages of amphitheatres in Italy, Roman Britain, Austria, and Switzerland, while the detailed study of animal bone remains from *Viminacium* amphitheatre (Serbia) will be used as a case study for answering the main questions.

Health and social status of children and female individuals in the ancient *Naissus, Viminacium* and *Sirmium*

Author(s): Dragana Vulović, Ilija Mikić, Nataša Miladinović-Radmilović
Institutional Affiliation(s): Institute of Archaeology, Belgrade, Serbia
Keywords: Roman necropoles; children; female individuals; health status

Naissus, Viminacium and *Sirmium* are the most important sites in Serbia from the Antiquity period. This presentation will discuss paleodemographic structures of the population in these three sites, their economic and social status, level of sanitary conditions, nutrition and health care, diseases which directly left traces on the osteological material, and diseases that left no visible marks on bones, and may indeed have been the direct cause of death for children and female individuals in ancient *Naissus, Viminacium* and *Sirmium*. In paleodemographic research,

child mortality rate is an important element of a population's progress. Child mortality is considered an adequate criterion for social and sanitation conditions of a community and a sensitive indicator of inadequate nutrition. In order to properly interpret data collected by anthropological analyses, it is necessary to know additional causes of child mortality, e.g., illnesses that do not leave visible marks on bones, and take into consideration the archaeological and historical background as well. We will determine the main reasons why females in all three sites lived shorter lives than males: did they have poorer diets; did they have inadequate medical care; or were there other possible factors? Based on our results, we can conclude that the quality of life in ancient *Naissus, Viminacium* and *Sirmium* relative to other sites was comparatively better.