



SESSION OVERVIEW

LIMES Congress XXV

21-27 August, De Lindenberg, Nijmegen

NOTE: Please note that this overview will not be available in hardcopy format at the congress. Feel free to download and print (125 pages) this document if desirable.

1. Roman imperialism I

1. Roman imperialism and early frontier formation. The creation-reshuffling of tribal (id)entities

Wednesday, 24 August 2022, Lindenbergzaal

Session Chairs: Nico Roymans, Manuel Fernández-Götz & Erik Graafstal

Affiliation: Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam, the Netherlands

Affiliation of co-organiser: University of Edinburgh, United Kingdom

Affiliation second co-organiser: city of Utrecht, the Netherlands

Session Abstract: In the past decade Roman archaeology has experienced a growing interest in the study of Rome's military expansion in the tribal frontiers of West- and Central Europe. Examples are the recent hausse in the research of Caesar's Gallic Wars and of the Augustan campaigns in Northern Spain and Germania. The result is a rapidly growing archaeological dataset which can be used to contextualize and re-assess the historical sources. We also observe a growing interest in the often extremely violent and predatory nature of Roman expansion in the tribal frontiers and in its short-term effects on the indigenous populations.

This latter theme touches on the central aim of this session. We want to focus attention on the social and ethnic dynamics in the tribal frontiers during and directly after the conquest period. Historical sources point to a profound rearrangement of tribal maps and an intense restructuring of local power networks. Among the instruments used by imperial agents are large-scale land expropriation, forced deportation of groups, mass enslavement, genocide, land allocations to pro-Roman groups, and profound interference in intra- and intertribal power relations. The short-term effects of conquest were often highly disruptive, but at the same time the controlled settlement of 'friendly' groups and the newly created clientship ties with pro-Roman leaders led to the formation of new tribal (id)entities which often formed the basis towards a formal administrative integration. Potential subjects for this session are:

- Short-term demographic effects of the Roman conquest.
- Studies of group migration in Roman frontiers, thereby using material culture and/or isotopic data.
- Comparative analysis of historical and archaeological data on group migration in tribal frontiers.
- Imperial agency and the genesis of new tribal polities and identity groups in the early post-conquest period.

Making Suebi – Roman frontier management in the southern Upper Rhine valley in the 1st c. AD?

Johann Schrempp, Archäologisches Landesmuseum Baden-Württemberg, Zentrales

operated as economic, as well as militarised zones. The project will reveal animal origins, the supply networks that supported Britain's garrisons, and if new animal and landscape management strategies were introduced to intensify production and support the army. The combination of the latest scientific techniques and an interdisciplinary methodology will release the great potential of faunal remains to change the way we understand the Roman army in Britain.

Feeding the Army at Viminacium Legionary Fortress: Preliminary Zooarchaeological Evidence

Sonja Vuković, Bojana Zorić, Laboratory for bioarchaeology, Archaeology Department, Faculty of Philosophy, University of Belgrade, Ivan Bogdanović, Institute of Archaeology Belgrade

Viminacium, one of the most important spots at the Upper Moesian limes, was founded as a legionary camp, where the 7th Claudia legion was stationed from the second half of the 1st century AD, until the late Roman period. Next to the fortress, a city was built and became the capital of the province of Moesia Superior (and Moesia Prima in the late Roman period), while the whole area was surrounded by rural settlements the economy of which was based on agriculture. Up to date research of meat production and provisioning, based on zooarchaeological data from the civilian areas, indicated that the city of Viminacium was mainly supplied by the meat of improved cattle bred in surrounding rural areas, with a significant addition of pork, lamb, and chevon. Recent excavations of the legionary fortress, along with the analysis of animal remains, provided the starting points for the research of meat provisioning of the soldiers stationed in Viminacium. Preliminary zooarchaeological data revealed significant differences between the fortress and civilian areas, mainly in species ratios and mortality profiles of domesticates. This paper will be focused on zooarchaeological data (species ratios, mortality profiles, and biometry) from the Early Roman, Roman, and late Roman features 1 excavated at the north-western part of the fortress that mostly have been attributed to the embankments along the ramparts. By comparing the data from different periods, we will discuss plausible diachronic differences in meat diet and food provisioning for the camp. We will also compare zooarchaeological data from the fortress with contemporary surrounding civilian areas, to understand better the food supply systems. The questions of whether the army was supplied with animal products locally or from long distance will also be tackled.

Material Traces of Viticulture in Southern Pannonia

Jana Kopáčková, Hana Ivezić, Archaeological Museum in Zagreb

Wine played an irreplaceable role in everyday life of Roman soldiers. Roman military was a very large consumer of wine, olive oil and grain. Export of wine from the Mediterranean to the Limes is traceable due to findings of the amphorae. But what about local production of wine in the Middle / Lower Danube area? Till this day, the knowledge of local viticulture in Southern Pannonia was based only on a few written literary sources and one unique epigraphic monument from Popovac (CIL III 3294 = 10275). This paper brings newly discovered material evidence of viticulture – collection of specialised iron tools used in vineyards. Tools such as the falx vinitoria (vine-dresser's knife), falcula vineatica (grape-knife) and falx arboraria (pruning hook) are direct evidence of existing viticulture in this area and quite a large number of such tools has been identified during the ongoing revision of Archaeological Museum in Zagreb collections, all of them from known military and civilian sites from the Limes area, more precisely from Pannonian sites. Such a consequent number of previously unknown and unpublished artefacts directly related to viticulture offers the opportunity for a reassessment of wine production and supply on the Danube frontier in Pannonia.

Say "Cheese" – trying to identify dairy production tools and sites around Roman military sites

Birgitta Hoffmann, Roman Gask Project

The Ancient Sources mention several times the provision of the Roman Army with "caseum" (cheese) (e.g. SHA Hadrian 10.2). There is little detail what this "caseum" was: was it freshly prepared 'curds and whey' or an easily stored 'parmesan'-style cheese, or anything in between. However, this difference is essential in our understanding of the origin of this ingredient, and why it seems to have dropped off the menu in the Eastern Empire in Late Antiquity. Most modern cheeses are highly processed and require a specific set of tools and workshop provision as well as controlled