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condition is known as myositis ossificans traumafica (post-traumatic myositis ossificans or myositis ossificans circumscripta) and is most likely to occur in response to trauma in young male individuals, and in the femoral (the quadriceps muscles) or humeral region (brachium muscles).

Possible explanations for mass skull burials at Viminacium

Ilija Mikić, Nataša Miladinović-Radmilović, Dragana Vulović, Ksenija Đukić

Viminacium is located close to the confluence of the Mlava and the Danube, near the village of Stari Kostolac. It represents an extremely complex site with a long history of re-search. There was a large number of necropolises in its surroundings: late prehistoric necropolises with bi-ritual burials, several Roman necropolises, also with bi-ritual burials, as well as several necropolises with inhumation from different medieval periods.

In ancient Viminacium, so far, four graves with mass burial, mainly skulls with a slightly lesser amount of bones from the postcranial skeleton, have been found.

In the archaeological context, there are two funeral practices: incineration and inhumation. Within them, we can distinguish individual, group and mass burials. Under individual burials we comprehend the placing of skeletal remains of one person inside a grave pit, a grave construction, or a built tomb. Group funerals involve the laying of skeletal remains of two or more persons, usually members of one family, who are buried at the same or different period of time, into a grave pit, a grave construction or a built tomb. Mass burials involve the storage of skeletal remains of more individuals, usually at the same period of time, under specific circumstances (massive death toll due to natural disasters, massive death toll as the consequence of various epidemics, as well as massive death toll as a result of armed conflicts, etc.). Secondary mass burials are mostly partial, and much more attention and care is dedicated to the skulls.

On one of the necropolises of Viminacium, Pećine, in grave no. 4924, skeletal remains, mostly skulls, of more than 150 individuals were discovered.

In this paper, we will try to explain this phenomenon, on the example of grave no. 4924, and show all possible causes for mass skull burials at ancient Viminacium.

Roman Medicine and Healthcare on the Upper Moesian Limes in Serbia – Archaeological Evidences

Aleksandar P. Simić, Gordana Jeremić

After the arrival of the Roman army the first professional medics probably made their appearance in the territory of Upper Moesia, predominantly in Singidunum and Viminacium. The means of treatment, and therefore the level of medicine, can be knowledgeable from several different sources, while the most accurate data are those obtained by the archaeological discovery of original medical instruments. In ancient Rome more than 150 different types of surgical instruments have been used. More than 300 medical and surgical instruments of various types so far have been found on the Upper Moesian Limes from Singidunum to Aquae.

Roman citizens in Singidunum (Belgrade) lived in good conditions in both the town and the surrounding villages. From archaeological excavations of the area of canabae and castrum, 28 various medical mainly surgical objects have been found. Also several medical objects have been found in various settlements, smaller fortifications or villae rusticae of ager Singidonensis. Even though at the main castrum of Singidunum no hospital has been discovered yet, just south of Belgrade, epigraphy from auxiliary fort Demessus (Guberevac/Stojnik), at the mining area at Kosmaj, has the word valetudinarium inscribed on it.

Presence of some graves of doctors and pharmacists and their discovered equipment testifies that medical care was at the highest possible level in Viminacium (Stari Kostolac), capital of Moesia Superior. In several tombs in Viminacium many surgical instruments from I to III century have been found. Medical instruments of an eye doctor - "medicus et chirurgus oculusarius" were excavated on the southern city-necropolis.

Downstream from Viminacium several surgical instruments are found on different sites: in Le-

darta (Ram), Cuppae (Golubac), Castrum Novae (Čezava), Smorna (Boljetin), Taliata (Donji Milanovac) and at Transdierna (Tekija). At the site of Diana (Karataš) most of the medical instruments have been found dating from the II and III century, mainly made of bronze.

Well preserved traces of sewer system and water pipes even aqueducts were found not only in the town territory of Singidunum, Margum, Viminacium and Taliata but also further away. Interestingly in Singidunum, Margum, Viminacium, Porečka Reka, Transdierna, Diana and Egeta (Brza Palanka) the existence of thermae and balnea was archaeologically or epigraphically documented.

Burial Structures of Viminacium: Building and Construction

Emilija Nikolić, Snežana Golubović

Viminacium, today an archaeological site near Kostolac in Serbia, was the largest Roman city settlement in the province of Moesia Superior and a significant military center founded in the I century AD. Archaeological excavations were mostly performed in necropolises, where over 13,500 thousand graves with cremations and inhumations were researched. Above-ground parts of buildings have been very poorly preserved, due to the war destructions in the ancient period and degradation for the purpose of building new constructions afterwards. Although most of them were looted, the graves and tombs have become the source of the greatest amount of information about Viminacium architecture. They provide us with valuable data on used materials, masonry techniques, constructions, as well as architectural forms.

The southern Viminacium necropolises were extensively excavated during the seventies and eighties of the XX century, but also in smaller scale during the last few years. Burials in these necropolises were performed from the middle of the I to the middle of the VI century. The variety of burial structures were found here, which enabled researchers to set up typologies of its masonry constructions, dated to the period from the middle of the III to the middle of the V century. Since the beginning of the XXI century, eastern necropolises have been researched, offering us more information on Viminacium masonry burial structures.

The numerous masonry graves were discovered in Viminacium necropolises, as well as several overground and underground monumental tombs called memorial buildings or family mausoleums by researchers, having various spatial organizations and forms. According to some of the researchers, the grave with trapezoidal cross-section was the specificity of Viminacium. Most of the wall painted graves had this cross-section.

The simple gravestones of Viminacium have not been preserved in situ, but many of them have been saved being used as building material or spolia in the Middle Ages. It was also done in the ancient period when the gravestones were used for the construction of later graves or city walls. Also, the building material – bricks and stone blocks, originating from various ruined structures, was often secondarily used in the ancient graves. These processes bring valuable information on ways of reusing the structures and materials during the ancient period, but also on the relation of the ancient people to the past.

Settlement Size, History, and Mortality at Roman Viminacium: Testing the Urban Graveyard Hypothesis

C. Scott Speal

It is a widely held view that ancient cities were decidedly unhealthy environments. Some scholars would go so far as to proclaim an 'iron law' in which larger pre-Industrial cities with populations of over 10,000 or so were unable to sustain their numbers without constant immigration from the rural hinterlands due to excessive levels of mortality. Critics, on the other hand, have cited the trend of increasing urban growth over the last several millennia, and the ability of the rural component of urbanized civilizations to grow in unison with their urban counterparts, to discredit this 'Urban Graveyard Effect' as any such general principle.

The present study therefore examined mortality at the city of Viminacium on the Danube fron-