



"1 Decembrie 1918" University
Department of History, Archaeology and Museology
Alba Iulia



Romanian Academy
"Vasile Pârvan" Institute of Archaeology
Bucharest



Romanian Academy
"Francisc I. Rainer" Institute of Anthropology
Bucharest

HOMINES, FUNERA, ASTRA

Sixth edition

Death and Children from Prehistory to the Middle Ages



(Walter Draesner, *Death and Children*, 1922)

**INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM
ON FUNERARY ANTHROPOLOGY**

15-18 October 2017

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International Symposium on Funerary Anthropology “Homines, Funera, Astra” Sixth edition

Death and Children from Prehistory to Middle Ages

“1 Decembrie 1918” University of Alba Iulia
15 – 18 October 2017



ALBA IULIA CITADEL

The Orthodox and the Roman-Catholic Cathedrals

Organizing Committee:

Mihai Gligor ("1 Decembrie 1918" University of Alba Iulia, Romania)

Raluca Kogălniceanu ("Vasile Pârvan" Institute of Archaeology, Bucharest, Romania)

Andrei D. Soficaru ("Francisc I. Rainer" Institute of Anthropology, Bucharest, Romania)

PROGRAM



ALBA IULIA CITADEL

Sunday, October 15th

Arrival of participants

12.00 – 20.00: *Registration of participants*

Monday, October 16th

8.00 – 8.45: *Breakfast at the University Restaurant*

9.00-9.40

Opening ceremony – Building C, 1st floor, Aula

Key note speaker

Siân E. HALCROW

New directions in child bioarchaeology: the maternal-infant nexus

9.40 – 11.00 / 11.20 – 13.20 (Building C, 1st floor, Aula) – oral presentations

O2. Andrej A. EVTEEV

A method for assessing the age-at-death of infants based on craniofacial measurements

O3. Adina BORONEANȚ

Mesolithic childhood – a view from the Iron Gates

O4. Maja PASARIĆ

Childhood charms. Animal remains and representations from Mesolithic child burials in Northern Europe

O5. Raluca KOGĂLNICEANU

Where are the children? The case of the Late Neolithic Hamangia cemetery from Cernavodă – Columbia D, Romania

Coffee break



O6. Luminița BEJENARU, Angela SIMALCSIK, Lăcrămioara Elena ISTINA
New-born and deer remains in a pit of the prehistoric site from Fulgeriș (Bacău County, Romania)

O7. Mario NOVAK, Ivor JANKOVIĆ, Jacqueline BALEN, Hrvoje POTREBICA
Childhood health in Copper Age. An example from Potočani, northern Croatia

O8. Andrzej PELISIAK
Where are the children? Late Neolithic barrows in the landscapes of the Polish Carpathians

O9. Marina KARAPETIAN, Ruzan A. MKRTCHAN, Hasmik G. SIMONYAN
Analysis of spine 'stress' markers in subadults from Lchashen Late Bronze Age archaeological site in Armenia

O10. Nataliya BEREZINA, Katharina FUCHS, Corina KNIPPER, Sabine REINHOLD, Julia GRESKY
Malnutrition and vitamin deficiency: childhood scurvy and anemias in Bronze Age populations of North Caucasus

O11. Nadia PEZZULLA
Ancient Near Eastern pediatrics: children health and causes of death from the archaeological context and the medical texts collections

13.30 – 15.00: Lunch at the University Restaurant

15.15 – 15.45 (Building C, 1st floor) – poster presentations

P1. Aura PICCIONI
Children, sacrifice, and the house: the case study of Archaic Italy

P2. Charilaos Ev. GOUIDIS, Eirini K. TEKIDOU
Children's burials of Byzantine period from excavations of Thessaloniki

P3. Antónia MARCSIK, Sándor GULYÁS, Csilla BALOGH, Yvett KUJÁNI, Tamás HAJDU
Physical anthropological analyses on human remains from the Migration Period in Maros valley, SE Hungary



P4. Michela STEFANI

The infant's grave in the Foro della Pace in Rome

P5. Tamás HAJDU, Antónia MARCSIK, Tamás SZENICZEY, Krisztián KISS, Zsolt BERNERT, Péter ZÁDORI, Krisztina BUCZKÓ, Zsolt DALLOS, István DÓDONY, Krisztina TAKÁCS-VELLAI, Erika MOLNÁR

Paleontological research on historical populations from the Carpathian Basin

16.00 – 18.00 (Building C, 1st floor, Aula) – oral presentations

O12. Gabriel BALTEȘ, Ana FETCU, Mihai GLIGOR

Infant burials from the Scythian necropolis at Sâncrai (Alba County), Romania

O13. Michael VICKERS

Some child burials at Pichvnari, Georgia

O14. Tanya SLOBODYAN

***Child burials in the cemeteries of the La Tène and Early Roman periods.
Perspectives on cremated burials***

O15. Liana OȚA

About Sarmatian children graves in Wallachia and Moldavia

O16. Bebina MILOVANOVIĆ, Ilija DANKOVIĆ

Characteristics of funerary ritual for children in the necropoles of Viminacium

O17. Sofija PETKOVIĆ, Nataša MILADINOVIĆ-RADMILOVIĆ

Health status of children in Timacum Minus, Dacia Ripensis (eastern Serbia)

20.00: Dinner



8.00 – 8.45: *Breakfast at the University Restaurant*

9.00 – 11.00 / 11.20 – 13.40 (Building C, 1st floor, Aula) – oral presentations

O18. Ksenija ĐUKIĆ, Nataša MILADINOVIĆ-RADMILKOVIĆ, Tamara PAVLOVIĆ
A double burial in the Medieval Avarian necropolis of Čik (Serbia): a grave of a mother and a baby

O19. Zsófia RÁCZ, Tamás SZENICZEY
Children of the Avars. Children graves of the 6th-8th century cemeteries of Kölked (South-West Hungary)

O20. Anastasia BROZOU, Clair RICHARDSON, Mihai GLIGOR
Childbirth complications in the Early Middle Ages: a case study of skeletal remains from the Migration period in Transylvania

O21. Nataša ŠARKIĆ, Sofia ZDRAL, Vesna BIKIĆ, Saša REDŽIĆ
Child mortality during the Middle Ages at Viminacium (Serbia)

O22. Marta LICATA, Paola BADINO, Adelaide TOSI, Chiara ROSSETTI
The ritual of the tile in the Northwester Lombardy cemetery areas. A particular burial practice of children

O23. Alexander RUBEL
Is affective parenthood a modern invention? A reassessment of modern Sociology of Childhood against the background of epitaphs for children from the Roman Empire and from the 19th century

Coffee break

O24. Magdalena KRAJEWSKA, Tomasz KOZŁOWSKI
Skeletal growth and development of the children from Vistula Pomerania and Kuyavia (Poland) in the Middle Ages and modern times as a measure of the state of health and standard of living



O25. Alexandra KOZAK

Children of the Old Kyiv. Vestiges of diseases on the bones from Medieval and Postmedieval town

O26. Željka BEDIĆ, Siniša KRZNAR, Kristina TURKALJ, Mario ŠLAUS

The life of children in the area of Medieval and Early Modern Podravina - a bioarchaeological view of the village of Torčec

O27. Vasilica-Monica GROZA, Luminița BEJENARU, Daniel GARVĂN

Child death in Middle Ages: medieval necropolis discovered at Piatra Neamț-Dărmănești (Neamț County, Romania)

O28. Magdalena MAJOREK

Case study of modern children coffins from archaeological explorations (Poland)

O29. Andrei Dorian SOFICARU

A child burial from Slava Rusă (Romania) – an osteobiographical profile

O30. Andrei MĂGUREANU, Angela SIMALCSIK, Raluca KOGĂLNICEANU

Late Medieval children graves in Southern Romania: the case from Călugăreni, Giurgiu County

14.00 – 15.30: Lunch at the University Restaurant

16.00: Guided visit to the Alba Iulia citadel

20.00: Dinner

Wednesday, October 18th

8.00 – 8.45: Breakfast at the University Restaurant

Departure of participants.



ABSTRACTS

(In the order of presentation no.)



**"1 DECEMBRIE 1918" UNIVERSITY
ALBA IULIA**

O1.

New directions in child bioarchaeology: the maternal-infant nexus

Siân E. HALCROW

The identification and analyses of foetuses and infants from archaeological contexts provides an avenue to assess social aspects of personhood and motherhood, and the intricate relationship between maternal and infant health experience in the past. Over the past 20 years there has been an increasing recognition of the importance of children in bioarchaeological research. However, although foetuses and infants are starting to be included in the analyses of population health and isotopic studies of infant weaning and diet in the past, most bioarchaeological research focuses on individuals post-infancy. This paper starts to build a theoretical framework to conceptualise foetuses from the archaeological context and to identify areas for future research. I explore how the foetus is defined in the field, including discerning whether a baby is *in-utero* or not, and terminological issues. I then review the contribution that the bioarchaeology of foetuses and infants can make to understand fertility and other demographic information of a population, disease epidemiology, maternal and infant stress and the consequences of early life disease on later life experience, and cultural or social aspects of personhood. This includes perinatal palaeopathology data and early-life isotopic research using new incremental sampling techniques from a larger recent research project investigating health and dietary change in the Atacama Desert in Northern Chile during the agricultural transition.

O2.

A method for assessing the age-at-death of infants based on craniofacial measurements

Andrej A. EVTEEV

The estimation of age of infant skeletons is usually based on the dental development and, to a lesser extent, on the postcranial metrics. The former is considered more reliable due to its stronger genetic determination and lesser susceptibility to the influence of environmental factors. But numerous studies show that dental development also displays a high level of inter-individual variability. Thus, the age of infants and small children is usually estimated in the quite broad range.

A possibility to increase the precision of age estimation in infants might be the use of cranial metrics. The first year of life is the time of most rapid growth in all craniofacial dimensions which abruptly slows down during the second year of life. Noteworthy, growth trajectories of many measurements differ from each other substantially and are not linear. It means that based on the combination of the levels of maturation of different craniofacial dimensions in a particular infant skull it might be possible to give a quite narrow estimation of his age.

In this study, a large sample of high resolution clinical CT scans is used to calculate discriminant functions allowing for a precise estimation of infant age using craniofacial measurements. The sample includes 146 CT datasets of boys of the 2nd to 6th years of life and 101 dataset of infants (boys) of the 1st year of life. The linear measurements employed describe the main morphological features of the facial skeleton and are commonly used in craniological studies. Most of them can be easily measured even on fragmentary specimens.

The functions were then tested on forensic samples with the documented age-at-death of individuals. The results of these tests have shown that, despite methodological and inter-population differences, the functions can be successfully applied for the estimation of age of infant skeletal individuals.

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03.

Mesolithic childhood – a view from the Iron Gates

Adina BORONEANȚ

Recent research, as well as interdisciplinary approaches and new methodologies applied to earlier archaeological collections, allowed for a clearer view of the Mesolithic life and death along the Danube banks in the Iron Gates area. Among the +450 burials in the area, a small but significant number belongs to children, these burials being so far the unique way of learning about Mesolithic children. The present paper proposes a brief review of the subject, paying special attention to the new information provided by recent AMS dates, stable isotopes and DNA studies.

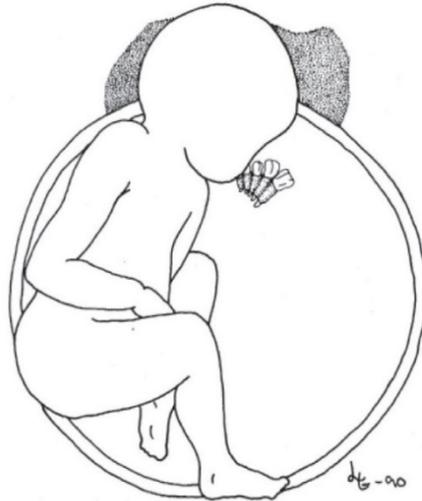
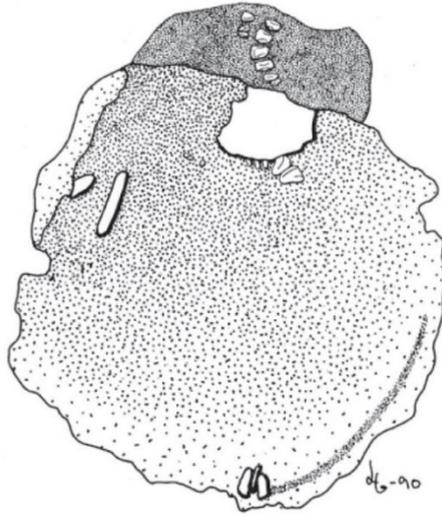


Illustration of an infant burial with a set of red deer teeth from Gøngehusvej, Denmark, Grave GØ: Ø (L. Ravn Granberg del.)

After Brinch Petersen E. et al. (2015) Diversity of Mesolithic Vedbæk. *Acta Archaeologica Supplementa XVI*, Vol. 86:1, 1-225.

O4.

Childhood charms. Animal remains and representations from Mesolithic child burials in Northern Europe

Maja PASARIĆ

This contribution examines animal remains, objects made from animal remains and animal representations found in relation with child burials in the Mesolithic of Northern Europe. These finds have often been given general and brief interpretations. For example, objects made from animal remains, such as tooth pendants and necklaces, have usually been interpreted simply as decorations, amulets, and are commonly seen as indicators of social status of the individual. Furthermore, when found in mixed child and adult burials they are often attributed to adults only. By discussing Mesolithic and near-recent hunter-gatherers communities in Northern Europe, and with the aid of Siberian ethnographic literature, this contribution sets to explore possibilities for broadening our understanding of such objects and ways in which they relate to children. The paper explores their ability to affect and alter the perception of the world, increase quality of children's lives and develop their personality.



Sub-adult bones from the Late Neolithic cemetery from Cernavodă, Romania

05.

Where are the children? The case of the Late Neolithic Hamangia cemetery from Cernavodă – Columbia D, Romania

Raluca KOGĂLNICEANU

The issue of the under-representation of children is well-known for the Neolithic and Copper age in South-Eastern Europe and not only. But what about the children that are represented in the cemetery?

I will present the situation of sub-adult human remains from the Late Neolithic cemetery from Cernavodă – *Columbia D*, attributed to the Hamangia culture. I will also compare the situation encountered at this site with the one from the contemporary and culturally equal cemetery from Durankulak, Bulgaria and with the contemporary cemetery from Cernica, north of the Danube.



Figure 1. Pit no. 52, superior part.

O6.
***New-born and deer remains
in a pit of the prehistoric site from Fulgeriș
(Bacău County, Romania)***

Luminița BEJENARU, Angela SIMALCSIK, Lăcrămioara Elena ISTINA

The archaeological researches, conducted several years at the site of Fulgeris (Bacău County, Romania), revealed many Chalcolithic dwellings (Cucuteni Culture), and pits belonging to the same culture, but also to Early Bronze Age, and Iron Age.

The pit no. 52 (Figure 1) has been investigated in the 2014 archaeological campaign, and it appeared small in diameter (75 x 80 cm at the upper part and 67 x 62 cm at the bottom) and roughly round, with a depth of about 75 cm (from -0.40 m to -1.15 m). Ceramic fragments, human and animal remains, as well as coal traces have been discovered in this pit. According to the ceramics, this complex is dated to the Cucuteni culture, phase A3.

Both human and animal remains were discovered at the same depth of the pit (-0.95-1.00m). The human remains belong to a single incomplete skeleton of a child with the age at death of 38-40 weeks (probably new-born). The recovered anatomical elements are: severely fragmented cranial bones, humeri, ulnae and one femur.

Animal remains belong to the red deer (*Cervus elaphus*), with 8 skull fragments, 2 isolated teeth and 2 phalanges.

The discovery presented in this communication fits in a burial pattern already drawn following other similar discoveries (e.g. Traian, Scânteia, Poduri): children buried in Cucuteni settlements, each accompanied in the pit by ceramics and animal remains.

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Skull from the mass burial at Potočani.

07.

Childhood health in Copper Age. An example from Potočani, northern Croatia

Mario NOVAK, Ivor JANKOVIĆ, Jacqueline BALEN, Hrvoje POTREBICA

In this paper, we present an insight into childhood health in a skeletal sample recovered from a Copper Age mass burial located in Potočani near Požega in northern Croatia. The pit containing multiple skeletons was accidentally discovered during the field survey of the Požega Valley in 2007. Cultural remains found in the pit included broken pottery fragments of the Lasinja Copper Age culture while three bone samples from different layers were dated by radiocarbon to around 4100 years cal BCE. Human remains were mostly articulated but the individual skeletons became partially commingled due to the haphazard placement of bodies at interment as well as by post-depositional processes. Probably the most striking characteristic of this assemblage is the presence of various peri-mortem injuries observed in at least 13 crania, including those of children. The minimum number of individuals, based on the number of frontal bones, is 41, and all age groups of both sexes are present. The youngest subadult individual is about two years old and the oldest is between 17 and 18 years old. Subadults represent over one half of the total sample (21/41). The occurrence of various pathological changes such as ectocranial porosity, cribra orbitalia, linear enamel hypoplasia, and scurvy suggests that most of the studied children experienced severe episodes of physiological stress during early childhood. Additionally, the presence of ante- and peri-mortem injuries in several subadult skeletons indicates they were subjected to an episode of intentional violence that ended in their premature death. It seems that the children from Potočani suffered from poor health characterized by high frequencies of subadult stress indicators but also exposure to interpersonal violence.

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Figure 1. Well preserved barrow on the forest area. Strzyżów Foothills, eastern Polish Carpathians.



Figure 2. Destroyed barrow located on the arable land. Carpathian Foreland.



Figure 3. LIDAR view of the Late Neolithic round barrows. The sites at Średnia, Dynów Foothills, eastern Polish Carpathians.

O8.

Where are the children?

Late Neolithic barrows in the landscapes of the Polish Carpathians

Andrzej PELISIAK

The central monumental form for much of the eastern part of the Polish Carpathians in the 3rd millennia BC are the round barrows of the Corded Ware culture. These barrows are located in a prominent position of the landscape: on the top of the hill ridges up to 500 m a.s.l. They are generally round and their primary burial is usually central. The decrease in height from the top of the hills to their foot is from several to 200 meters. The barrows differ in size. They were originally up to 5 m high and from 7 to more than 15 m in diameter. When looking towards barrows from all directions, the locations are easily distinguished from the surrounding countryside and the barrows form an obviously important landscape feature. An important factor in the siting of the barrows was the visual relationship to the other groups of the barrow in the region. The visual envelope of each group of barrows is large and the cover area extended up to tens of kilometers in all directions. The preservation conditions of barrows were exceptionally good on the area covered by forest (Figure 1), on the arable land mounds are completely or almost completely destroyed (Figure 2).

This paper will discuss social status of woman, men and children reflected in differentiation of the barrows, their spatial arrangement and grave goods. I will also present primary results of LIDAR surveys (Figure 3). Airborne Laser Scanning made it possible to analyze the course of Corded Ware barrows in the Carpathians. This also resulted in discovery of numerous yet unknown barrows on this area.

09.

Analysis of spine ‘stress’ markers in subadults from Lchashen Late Bronze Age archaeological site in Armenia

Marina KARAPETIAN, Ruzan A. MKRTCHAN, Hasmik G. SIMONYAN

Various ‘stress’ markers are used in bioarchaeology to assess life conditions and overall health of a group. Stress markers often scored on subadults include such traits as porotic hyperostosis, enamel hypoplasia or traumas. The spine, however, is not a frequent object of analysis in subadults. Yet, its condition can provide us with some additional information on the abovementioned issues. This is more so as spine ‘stress’ markers such as Schmorl’s nodes or spondylolysis are traditionally associated not with a single traumatic incident, but with a repetitive physical stress in individuals congenitally predisposed to these conditions.

An analysis was performed on the frequency and distribution of Schmorl’s nodes, and spondylolysis in subadults from the Lchashen Bronze Age archaeological site in Armenia considering data on adults from the same site. The site is located in a mountainous area, 1900 meters above the sea level, nearby Lake Sevan. Most of the Lchashen burials are dated to the 15-14th centuries BC and are attributed to the Lchashen-Metsamor culture. In total, 27 subadults and 35 adults were studied. Schmorl’s nodes were not observed in individuals below 10 years of age. Single Schmorl’s nodes were occasionally seen in individuals between 10-15 years of age, while they noticeably increased in frequency in late juveniles and early adults. There were no cases of spondylolysis in subadults. The age dynamics of the traits within the group of subadults is discussed in light of the existing data on their etiology.

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Hasmik G. SIMONYAN, “Service for the protection of historical environment and cultural museum-reservations” NCSO of The Ministry of Culture of RA, Armenia



Remnants of calcified subperiosteal bleeding on the right branch of the mandible,
15-16 years old boy

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Sabine REINHOLD, German Archaeological Institute, Eurasia Department, Berlin, Germany; -

Julia GRESKY, German Archaeological Institute, Department of Natural Sciences, Berlin, Germany; -

O10.

Malnutrition and vitamin deficiency: childhood scurvy and anemias in Bronze Age populations of North Caucasus

Nataliya BEREZINA, Katharina FUCHS, Corina KNIPPER,
Sabine REINHOLD, Julia GRESKY

In the North Caucasus Bronze Age, subadult skeletons represent rare findings. Thus, they are of a particular significance for the study of Bronze Age populations, usually represented mostly by burials of males. Investigation of different nutritional deficiency markers on subadult skeletons can help to reconstruct lifestyle of human groups living in different climatic zones: the steppe region and the foothill area.

The human organism is not able to produce its own vitamin C. Its deficiency is well known as scurvy. Vitamin C is required for a functional collagen synthesis and humans rely on an appropriate diet in order to obtain a necessary amount of it. Scurvy can be diagnosed on ancient human bones as remnants of multiple calcified subperiosteal bleedings at muscle attachment sites. These pathological changes had been observed on skeletons from two different sites, Marinskaya-5 (steppe region, Middle Bronze Age) and Kudachurt 14 (foothill area, Middle to Late Bronze Age).

Apart from other causative agents, iron and vitamin B complex deficiencies lead to anaemia, which can be detected in skeletal material based on the presence of porotic hyperostosis of the skull vault and the orbital roof (cribra orbitalia). The presence of cribra orbitalia can be used as a non-specific stress marker and characterizes the general health status of the Bronze Age Caucasian subadults as sufficient, but it should be noted, that the percentage of cribra orbitalia in steppe region populations is much higher than in piedmont region populations.

Scurvy is directly linked to food supply and therefore indicates lack of essential dietary components. Subadults of the piedmont area and steppe zone both showed skeletal changes indicative for scurvy, despite different food strategies. The similar isotope value in the individuals affected by scurvy and the individuals without scurvy may indicate that the primary diet was the same in the investigated sample and just differed in the amount of vitamin C rich plants, and therefore rather represents a short-term seasonal shortage in single individuals.



O11.

Ancient Near Eastern pediatrics: children health and causes of death from the archaeological context and the medical texts collections

Nadia PEZZULLA

This presentation aims to analyze children's health in the Ancient Near East, using both ancient medical texts and data sources from the archaeological context. The structure of the presentation is articulated in four parts: the birth and first care of the newborns, early childhood diseases, hygiene practices and nutrition, causes of death and death statistics. The birth and care of newborns are closely linked to magical practice in addition to medical intervention. The presentation will show the most common practices and incantations used for this purpose. For the early childhood there are literary sources, mostly from the 2nd and 1st millennium BC Mesopotamia, that present data in the form of diagnosis. The structure consists in a first part describing the type of patient and a second part in which the characteristics of the disease are listed; in many cases they are extremely detailed and allow to attempt an identification with known pathologies. Regarding the archaeological context, paleoanthropological studies are available for some of the sites of the investigated area. These data have been cross-linked with current knowledge on childhood illnesses to reconstruct a picture, as likely as possible, of the diseases present in the area. After that, some remarks on hygienic-sanitary practices and child nutrition. The weaning phase, calculated between 2 and 3 years of age, is of particular interest because of a high number of infant death in that phase. Lastly, the use of ethnographic studies on contemporary societies, still living in non-optimal hygiene conditions and without using modern medical and pharmaceutical practice, have been used to hypothesize which diseases were the main cause of death. For this case, the archaeological context has again been used in terms of statistics on the incidence of child mortality for age groups.



Figure 1. Sâncraii necropolis, M63.

O12.

Infant burials from the Scythian necropolis at Sâncrai (Alba County), Romania

Gabriel BALTEȘ, Ana FETCU, Mihai GLIGOR

The rescue excavations carried out in 2016 in the Scythian necropolis at Sâncrai (Alba County), led to the identification of 90 graves (70 individual tombs and 2 double tombs), from which 74 human skeletons have been recovered. One of these is M63 which exhibited a double infant burial (Figure 1). 82 of the tombs had grave goods, typically from Scythian population, according to which the necropolis was dated to the 6th-5th centuries BC.

Sub-adult skeletal remains can offer a wealth of information regarding growth and development, aspects of social and cultural life, as well as demographic data regarding ancient human communities. Analyzing the age at death, we identified an increased frequency of sub-adult individuals (9 skeletons), which represent 8.1% of the Sâncrai assemblage.

The age range of the individuals varies from 4.5 years old to 9.5 and all of them display non-specific metabolic stress indicators in form of enamel hypoplasia defects. A variety of factors may induce these types of deficiencies during the growth of one individual, this being a common pathological indicator in historical human groups. High mortality rates during these periods are known and attributed to various aspects of life.

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O13.

Some child burials at Pichvnari, Georgia

Michael VICKERS

The Oxford-Batumi Pichvnari expedition was active on the Black Sea coast of Georgia between 1998 and 2010. Excavation was conducted in the settlement and in the Colchian and Greek cemeteries that date to the fifth to third century BC. Pichvnari was a major settlement from the late Bronze Age onwards, but became more obviously wealthy during the period of Greek colonization, when trading and cultural links were established between the eastern coast of the Black Sea and the Hellenic world. Hundreds of burials were excavated by the joint expedition, but there were very few recognisable child burials. There was one amphora burial in the Greek cemetery, and another in the Colchian. There was a comparatively rich burial, apparently of a girl, in the Greek cemetery containing five glass polychrome vessels and gold and hard-stone jewellery. An even richer burial, containing gold and silver jewellery and an Attic red-figure lekythos proved to have conjoined, but empty, grave, presumably that of a baby. The sample is too small to draw any reliable conclusions.



O14.

Child burials in the cemeteries of the La Tène and Early Roman periods. Perspectives on cremated burials

Tanya SLOBODYAN

The paper presents the main results of the analysis and interpretation of child cremated burials from the La Tène and Early Roman period in Eastern Europe (Przeworsk, Lipica, and Zarubintsy cultures), which have been fully investigated - both archaeologically and anthropologically. An attempt was made to determine the possible variability in the grave goods composition for different age groups, to compare child and adult grave goods inventory, to consider the evidence of child's bones in collective graves, etc.

The analysis is based on the archaeological and anthropological data of 926 burials from Przeworsk culture of Poland (17 burial grounds), 149 identified burials from the Zarubintsy culture cemetery of Pirogov, as well as some individual graves of Lipica culture from the territory of Ukraine.



G. 1 from Spiru Haret
(after L. Oța, V. Sîrbu, *Sarmații din județul Brăila/The Sarmatians in Brăila County*,
Brăila, 2009)

O15.

About Sarmatian children graves in Wallachia and Moldavia

Liana OȚA

A few years ago, I tried to outline the main characteristics of Sarmatian burials supposed to belong to children found in Wallachia. At a first glance, the issue appeared rather unsuitable for a detailed analysis, due to many difficulties: finds that have been mentioned decades ago, but still waiting to be published in a thorough manner; few grave goods deposited, whose typology is rather uniform; few anthropological analyses, sometimes limited to a single statement in a paper written by the archaeologist.

The extension of the discussion about children graves of the Sarmatian burials found in the area between the Prut River and the Carpathian Mountains, although experiencing the same difficulties, brings new data about the funerary rituals of children. Although the lack of anthropological analyses for the majority of the graves attributed to the Sarmatians from Wallachia and Moldavia published until now could question any conclusion regarding this topic, I think such an approach could be useful from two perspectives: a precise knowledge of the gaps characterising the present stage of the research and obtaining minimum information about the main features of children burials from the Sarmatian cultural milieu in Wallachia and Moldavia. As far as it can be known in the current stage of the research, children graves were found almost exclusively in clusters (with only three exceptions), but it is difficult to say what has caused the age structure of each group of graves. It might be just by accident that a certain number of individuals were buried in a particular place (it is a well-known fact that the Sarmatians were nomads), but we cannot a priori exclude that the age structure of a certain group of graves might indeed reflect some differences between the Sarmatian communities.

The children burials from the grave clusters attributed to the Sarmatians found in Wallachia and Moldavia are characterised by modest grave goods, consisting mainly in pottery and adornments.



O16.

Characteristics of funerary ritual for children in the necropoles of Viminacium

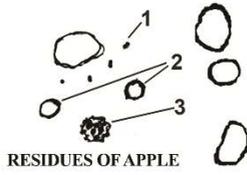
Bebina MILOVANOVIĆ, Ilija DANKOVIĆ

The necropoles of Viminacium, capital of Roman province of Upper Moesia, are being excavated since 1970s. Since then, more than 13000 graves were found, with almost 19000 artefacts discovered inside them. Such corpus of data presents unique opportunity for studying funerary rituals in antiquity.

The necropoles were in function from the end of the 1st until the beginning of the 5th century. This vast timespan can be roughly divided into two periods. From the late 1st up to the beginning of the 3rd century, cremation was the dominant rite. Major exception are the graves of infants and small children which were inhumed, mostly due to practical reasons. Basic funerary rituals were the same for the children as for the adults, which is reflected in the presence of pottery vessels and oil lamps in graves. These provisions should ensure pleasant journey of the deceased to the afterlife. However, considering that children suffered premature deaths, with unfulfilled role in this world, their burials had to be treated somewhat differently than ordinary ones. This resulted in the presence of the so called *crepundia* among the grave furnishings, which were intended to protect the living from the restless soul of the deceased, but also the child from the evil forces. In Viminacium, this group of artefacts is comprised of *bullae*, various pendants (falic, crescent, etc.), bells, shells, tusks of wild boars, perforated coins, sulphur, etc.

In the first half of the 3rd century there was a shift in burial rite, and inhumation became the exclusive type of burial in Viminacium. While the basic furnishings remained the same, *crepundia* were not present in children graves anymore. A distinctive funerary ritual may be recognised concerning a group of four burials of young individuals with anthropomorphic pendants on their necklaces, two of which were made out of jet.

G.23



G.32



1



2



3



G. 23



O17.

Health status of children in Timacum Minus, Dacia Ripensis (Eastern Serbia)

Sofija PETKOVIĆ, Nataša MILADINOVIĆ-RADMILOVIĆ

Timacum Minus is a Roman fortification and settlement in Eastern Serbia dated from the 1st to the mid-5th century AD. One of its necropolises is situated at the eastern slope of the Slog hill. There were two horizons of burial at this necropolis – Late Roman, from the mid-4th to the mid-5th century (phase I: 350–380 AD; phase II: 380–410 AD; phase III: 410–450 AD) and Early Medieval from the 8th to the 11th century. The Late Roman burial horizon at Slog corresponded to the construction phases, i.e. phases of life in the fortification: phase I of the necropolis to the phase III of the fortification (275-378 AD), phase II and phase III to phase IV of the fortification (380-441/443 AD). In the period 1994-1996 and 2013-2015, more than 100 Late Roman graves were excavated at Slog and a large number of these were children's burials.

This presentation will discuss diseases which directly left traces on osteological materials and diseases that left no visible marks on bones, and may indeed have been the direct cause of death of children in *Timacum Minus*. 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. Although the human osteological material was very decomposed due to the acidity of the soil and a very large number of bones were missing, we tried to reconstruct the health status of discovered children in *Timacum Minus* in the 4th and 5th centuries. In order to properly interpret data collected by anthropological analysis, it is necessary to know additional causes of child mortality, i.e. illnesses that do not leave visible marks on osteological materials, and take into consideration archaeological and historical background as well.

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O18.

A double burial in the Medieval Avarian necropolis of Čik (Serbia): a grave of a mother and a baby

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Tamara PAVLOVIĆ

Čik is an archaeological site located on the outskirts of the city of Bečej, within the city zone (Northwestern Serbia). This area represents an excellent example of a place that served as a settlement during several prehistoric and historical periods. Systematic archaeological excavations were conducted on several occasions from 1968 to 1972. Most of this multifaceted site is represented by an Avar necropolis of a settlement which is dated between the 6th and 7th centuries. During the excavation in the site, 134 graves (118 Avar and 16 Sarmatian) were explored. From the 103 anthropologically analyzed graves, grave no. 46 differs from the others because in this grave a young woman and a baby were buried. The skeleton of the young woman was found in an extended supine position, with a regular position of the skull and limbs, while the skeleton of the baby was located in the area of the left femur. Anthropological analysis revealed that the woman buried in this grave was 19 to 21 years of age at the moment of death, and the baby was 7 to 8 lunar months old. Also, preliminary anthropological analyses showed that there were not any visible traces of paleopathological changes either on the skeletal remains of the woman or on the skeleton of the baby. Although it seems to be the case of a double burial of mother and child at first glance, it is still unknown in which circumstances those individuals died and were buried. Considering that the baby was 7 to 8 lunar months old, a premature birth or some kind of termination of pregnancy should be considered.

Therefore, the aim of this study is to analyze possible circumstances in which the pregnancy of this young woman was terminated and consider alternative explanations for the funeral practice related to mother-baby graves.

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O19.

Children of the Avars

Children graves of the 6th-8th century cemeteries of Kölked (South-West Hungary)

Zsófia RÁCZ, Tamás SZENICZEY

In this paper we would like to present the first results of a project which aims to examine child graves of the Avar period in the Carpathian Basin both from an archaeological and from an anthropological point of view. In this presentation we are dealing with the cemeteries 'A' and 'B' of Kölked from South-West Hungary. These two well-preserved sites of ca. 690 and 660 richly furnished graves, respectively, serve as good starting points to our examinations. Considering the archaeological finds, the Kölked cemeteries (object types, attire, elements of the burial rituals) show strong influences of both Germanic and Late Antique territories. Furthermore, the anthropological analyses of the skeletal remains also indicates ethnic heterogeneity of the population. Assessing health status of children was done by employing indicators as cribra orbitalia, porotic hyperostosis, periostitis, endocranial lesions and enamel hypoplasia. On the cemeteries of Kölked, the examination of children mortality and health status was carried out in the light of archaeological context: including population patterns, regional differences within the Avar Khaganate, funerary rituals and grave-goods influenced by age, social- and health status.

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O20.

Childbirth complications in the Early Middle Ages: a case study of skeletal remains from the Migration period in Transylvania

Anastasia BROZOU, Clair RICHARDSON, Mihai GLIGOR

During the past few decades, the increase of the caesarean section has reduced the high mortality rate of childbirth complications. In the medieval period, however, the lack of advanced medical technology connected with the high risks of labour must have been a fatal combination for both mother and foetus. Surprisingly, this is contradicted by the scarce archaeological evidence.

The recent discovery in a hilltop area of Stremț (Alba County) of a female skeleton with foetal remains in the pelvic area is, therefore, considered a rare finding. The skeletal remains belong to a female of around 19.5 years of age and a foetus of approximately 32 weeks in utero. The position of the adult skeleton as well as the location of the cranial foetal remains internally and the post cranial remains externally to the pelvis, suggest a dystocic labour. A further complication may have originated by the posterior dislocation of the clavicular sternal end of the adult.

The remains, dated to the 7th-8th centuries (according to ¹⁴C data), belong to the period of the “Great Migration” in central/eastern Europe. The lack of a proper burial and grave cut, indicated by no soil colour change, and the scarcity of archaeological artefacts at the site could suggest that the individuals may have been associated with a migratory group. However, further research is essential for the investigation of their identity, with ancient DNA and strontium isotope analyses significantly complementing the existing data.

The ascertainment of the cause of death of the two individuals renders the archaeological case a rare finding that sheds light on maternal and perinatal death in early medieval Romania.

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Osgood-Schlatter disease

O21.

Child mortality during the Middle Ages at Viminacium (Serbia)

Nataša ŠARKIĆ, Sofia ZDRAL, Vesna BIKIĆ, Saša REDŽIĆ

In most human societies, children, especially those under 5 years, are the most sensitive and at the same time the most protected group. For this reason, child mortality is one of the most important indicators of health and wellbeing of a populations from the past.

In a necropolis found in the archaeological site of Viminacium (Kostolac, Serbia), dated to the Medieval period (9th century), 51 individuals were found. Out of that number, 14 individuals or 28%, were subadults.

Although in most cases (especially in new-borns) it was not possible to determine the cause of death, many children presented signs of metabolic diseases, such as scurvy, as well as indicators of physiological stress such as linear enamel hypoplasia, porotic hyperostosis, cribra orbitalia and cribra femoris. Several subadults present signs of growth delay, often accompanied by signs of exaggerated physical activity. One of the individuals presented signs of Osgood-Schlatter disease, a rare pathology classified as an indirect trauma, a consequence of the avulsion forces exerted by the patellar ligament (*ligamentum patellae*) on its insertion point in the tibial tuberosity (*tuberositas tibiae*). This injury manifests as a painful swelling of the protuberance located under the knee. It is common in children and adolescents - when the knee joint is not fully formed, and it disappears when the tuberosity of the tibia fuses. In the same individual, the length of the long bones, as well as the fusion of the epiphysis, show a significant delay in comparison with dental age.

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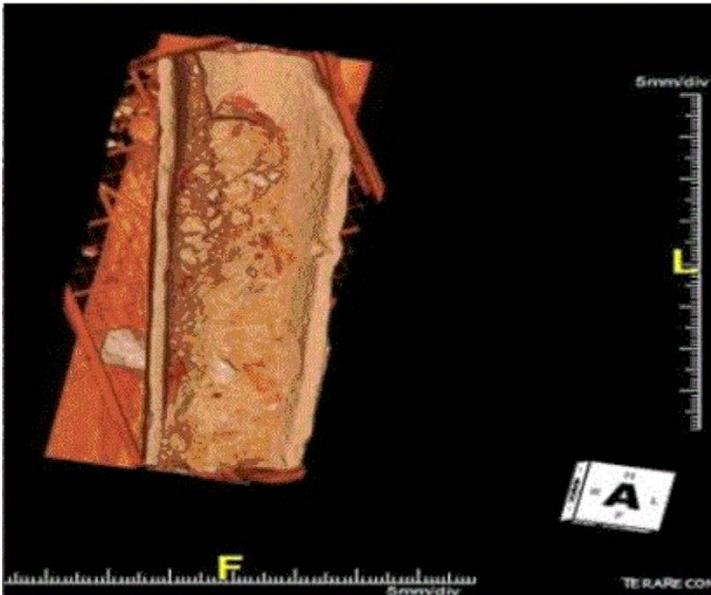


Photo of a child and of fetal remains inside a tile, while below it is a CT scan of the tile.

O22.

The ritual of the tile in the Northwester Lombardy cemetery areas. A particular burial practice of children

Marta LICATA, Paola BADINO, Adelaide TOSI, Chiara ROSSETTI

During the last archaeological excavation in the medieval cemetery of San Biagio in Cittiglio (Varese, Northern Italy), we found several tombs of neonatal and fetal individuals contained inside of tiles. In this context, the corpse was probably wrapped in a shroud and placed on a clay tile. An upper clay tile closed the burial. This type of burial was named “the ritual of the tile”. This practice is not limited to this archaeological site. In Northern Italy, the ritual is also documented in several Roman and Late Roman necropolises and it continued to exist even in the Middle Ages. In the Late Middle Ages, however, this practice seems to be falling into disuse in Northern Italy. Interesting in this regard, is the discovery in 1984 of 15 infant burials in tiles found in the Roman necropolis of Acquafredda (Brescia, Northern Italy). An important proof of this ritual was discovered in the church of San Paolo di Pietro all’Olmo (Cornaredo Milan), where several tiles containing fetuses and remains of infants, dating back to the 16th century, were recovered. The little tile of San Biagio in Cittiglio was analysed with CT scan in order to determine the biological profile of the child without damaging the find, but the analysis did not provide any result because it was impossible to distinguish the soil and debris from the bones. Therefore, we have recovered the small femur from the tile, in order to proceed with the calculation of the regression formulae that has allowed establishing the age phase near to the last fetal stage.

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O23.

Is affective parenthood a modern invention? A reassessment of modern Sociology of Childhood against the background of epitaphs for children from the Roman Empire and from the 19th century

Alexander RUBEL

In the wake of P. Ariès study on childhood¹ a majority of scholars holds that the concept of childhood is a modern invention and that pre-modern societies in general (the proves are from the middle ages) would not have cared about the premature death of children, as parents nowadays do since the bourgeois era. At the core of this *communis opinio* is the assumption that in pre-modern times with an extremely high infant mortality parental care was much less developed. Affective relations with small children would have caused severe psychological trauma, as usually more than 30% of the offspring would not come of age. Thus, pre-modern societies could not afford such sentimental relations as a consequence of self-protection. This paper will confront this assumption by referring to different examples from archaeology and ethnography, focusing on epitaphs for children from the Roman Empire. As this evidence was also criticized as not significant because of the use of empty phrases and stereotypic wording², we will have also a look on inscription on children's tombs from the 19th century from mostly German cemeteries, when the romantic-bourgeois "invention of childhood" was at its peak³.

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¹ P. Ariès. *L'enfant et la vie familiale sous l'ancien régime*. Paris: Plon, 1960.

² H. Siegmund-Nielsen. *Interpreting Epithets in Roman Epitaphs*. In: Rawson, B. (ed.), *The Roman Family in Italy*. Canberra and Oxford: Humanities Research Centre, 1997, 169-204.

³ M. S. Baader. *Die romantische Idee des Kindes und der Kindheit: Auf der Suche nach der verlorenen Unschuld*. Neuwied: Luchterhand, 1996.



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O24.

Skeletal growth and development of the children from Vistula Pomerania and Kuyavia (Poland) in the Middle Ages and modern times as a measure of the state of health and standard of living

Magdalena KRAJEWSKA, Tomasz KOZŁOWSKI

Analysis of differences in skeletal profiles of bone growth in subfossil populations provides important information about the health status and biological status of these groups. The basis of analysis in the study of growth models in prehistoric and historical populations is based on the metric characteristics of bone growth profiles.

The aim of this paper is to investigate differences in the course and dynamics of children's growth in the Early Middle Ages against other historical populations in Northern Poland. Evaluations of the growth process in the examined populations were based on the results of measurements of selected skull and postcranial bones.

The research material was children's skeletons from chronologically differentiated archaeological sites. The skeletal populations used in the analysis also represented the population different in terms of their socio-economic status. The research included results of analysis of more than 900 skeletons of subadults explored from cemeteries in Kaidus (10th-13th c.), Gruczno (12th-14th c.), Kamionki Duże (16th-18th c.), Toruń (14th-19th c.), Inowrocław (Middle Ages - Modern), Płonkovo (14th-19th c.) and Gniew (16th-19th c.). This material represents the diverse socio-cultural human populations from the period of the last millennium, including children of average middle-class families and peasants, but also probably the nobility and the social elite of the city and surrounding areas.

The results of the research indicate that there are differences in the course of bone growth profiles, especially the long bones in the separated socio-economic gradients. Most likely, they reflect the changing in time and space the former living conditions of human past populations from northern Poland.

Work was supported by Polish Ministry of Science and High Education project No. N N303 822140.

O25.

Children of the Old Kyiv.

Vestiges of diseases on the bones from Medieval and Postmedieval town

Alexandra KOZAK

Children health in a palaeopopulation strictly depends on the level of ecological, economical or psychological stresses inside the community. These were provoked by social conflicts, including wars, as well as transformation of the lifestyle, in our case from country style to urban one.

During the 10th-13th centuries Kiev grew into the cultural, political and economic centre of Kiev Rus'. One more period of critical social changes took place in the 16th-18th centuries. The urbanisation processes here were retarded in comparison to Western Europe, and could be correlated with processes during the medieval town formation.

80 skeletons from the 6 cemeteries of 10th-13th centuries and 110 skeletons of subadult individuals from the monastic and town necropolis of 17th-18th centuries from Kyiv, were investigated for age of death, trauma, joints degeneration, teeth diseases, vestiges of rickets, scurvy and anaemia, traces of inflammation, caused by infectious diseases, such as sinusitis, middle-ear infections, meningitis and also specific infections.

Some results of macroscopic diagnosis were confirmed with histological methods in the Laboratory of Paleohistopathology of Göttingen University (Prof. M. Schultz).

The difference in the distribution of the children between the cemeteries possibly depends on the burial rituals or external factors such as epidemical diseases or hungers-not. The prevalence of diseases and their manifestations on the bones slightly differ between the two periods in question. This could possible reflect the appearance and spreading of the epidemical viral and bacterial infections as well as aggravation of their complications, provoked by the permanent conflicts and intensification of migrations during the Ruin Period in Ukraine of 16th-17th centuries and the expansion of the Russian State at the beginning of the 18th century.

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O26.

The life of children in the area of Medieval and Early Modern Podravina - a bioarchaeological view of the village of Torčec

Željka BEDIĆ, Siniša KRZNAR, Kristina TURKALJ, Mario ŠLAUS

Northwest of today's village Torčec in Podravina (Croatia) lies the archaeological site Torčec-Cirkvišće. The parish cemetery and modest remains of the sacral architecture at this site were excavated during 2002, 2009, and from 2011 to 2016. A total of 453 graves, which can be dated from the mid-12th century to 1731/1733 based on the stratigraphy, movable finds and historical sources, were investigated. Anthropological analysis has, up to now, been carried out on 299 skeletons. Out of that number, 110 skeletal remains belong to children, so the children: women: men ratio of the analyzed sample is 1: 0.5: 0.85. This is not usually the case on the cemeteries of the observed period, since children are generally underrepresented. To determine the quality of life of the population from this site, the following analyzes were conducted: indicators of subadult stress (*cribra orbitalia*, non-specific periostitis) and dental health indicators. Using these procedures we will try to surmise the health of children and how the environmental conditions and the nutrition affected it. Particular attention will be given to possible metabolic disorders such as scurvy or rhinitis that have often affected children in the past.

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Figure 1. M14-15, double burial.

O27.

Child death in Middle Ages: medieval necropolis discovered at Piatra Neamț-Dărmănești (Neamț County, Romania)

Vasilica-Monica GROZA, Luminița BEJENARU, Daniel GARVĂN

The archaeological excavations carried out in the medieval necropolis at Piatra Neamț-Dărmănești, in 2012, led to the identification of 27 tombs (23 individual tombs and 4 double tombs, from which 32 human skeletons have been recovered. Few of the tombs had inventory, according to which the necropolis was dated to the 14th-15th centuries. The bodies' orientation was according to the Christian ritual (Figure 1).

Skeletal remains are described in terms of demography (e.g. estimation of mortality, and life expectancy), morphometry and pathology.

Analyzing the age of death, we found an increased frequency of children (0-14 years: 14 skeletons), which together with adolescents (14-20 years: 2 skeletons) represent half of the studied series. Life expectancy at birth, estimated for the entire series (0-x years), would have been around 25 years, similar to other medieval settlements (e.g. Bran, Siret) or lower (e.g. Iasi).

Cribra orbitalia, an abnormal exocranial orbital porosity, associated with iron deficiency in the body, was reported in the case of three children: of about 10-11 years (*infans II*), of 6 years (*infans I*) and of about 11-12 years (*infans II*).

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O28.

Case study of modern children coffins from archaeological explorations (Poland)

Magdalena MAJOREK

Antiquity and the Middle Ages did not recognize childhood. It was as late as the modern period when a child was noticed and the necessity of its development care and its personality shaping found its place in general thinking. Centuries from 16th till 18th are still characterized by a huge rate of mortality of the youngest. Every family experienced a child's death and parents' reactions: grief and longing were expressed in various ways. Written sources deliver direct information on the subject, while archaeological explorations inform us about it in an indirect way. Characteristics of a dead child is outlined by the analysis of the burial position and grave equipment (coffin, coffin portrait, garments, haberdashery accessories, footwear, wreaths, pictures, etc.). Last years have been a period of intense churches and cemeteries explorations in Poland, in the course of which many different burials of individuals of various ages at death have been excavated. The research showed that wealthier society representatives were buried in church crypts or naves and the poorer – in cemeteries and church-yards, regardless of their age. Tradition of burying the deceased in coffins became popular in Poland in the Early Mediaeval period, although it still should be remembered that various coffin forms were also practiced in Prehistoric period. On the other hand, ethnographical sources inform us about burials without any coffins in modern and present times. Therefore, it is interesting to study the reasons of equipping a small dead child with a coffin (which relics are excavated by archaeologists), what criteria were used in choosing its form and frequent ornaments.

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Slava Rusă – Grave 151.

O29.

A child burial from Slava Rusă (Romania) – an osteobiographical profile

Andrei Dorian SOFICARU

The **Grave 151** was discovered in 2011 at Slava Rusă (Tulcea County), in northern Dobruja. The skeleton (orientation = W-E; depth = 0,75 m; skeleton length = 1,40 m; skeleton width = 0,63-0,72 m) was found in dorsal decubitus position, with arms bent from elbow and hand bones placed on lumbar vertebrae; the mandible was in anatomical connection; there was no coffin found. The inventory consisted of a number of 1402 glass beads, 25 bronze coins from a necklace, two lead pendants, one iron object, one bronze plaque, one nacre pendant, one bronze ring, and two earrings with stones. The chronology of the objects indicates the period of the second half of 17th to early 18th century. The skeleton was assigned to a female of 12-14 years old.

As part of an Ottoman province, Dobruja was affected by low quality of life in the edge of this empire. The small community from Slava Rusă was Christian (despite the ancient Turkish name of the village, *Kızıl-Hisar*) and probably very exposed to poor health, disease, and malnutrition as effects of military conflicts. This finding belongs to a sample of ten skeletons with another three non-adults and six adults. As pathologies, *hyperostosa porotica*, *cribra orbitalia*, osteoarthritis, enamel hypoplasia and traumatic injuries were recorded.

The purpose of this study is to build an osteobiographical profile to explain the cause of death and the rich inventory, as components of identity.



Graves M1-M3 from Călugăreni – *The wooden church*, Giurgiu County, Romania

O30.

Late Medieval children graves in Southern Romania: the case from Călugăreni, Giurgiu County

Andrei MĂGUREANU, Angela SIMALCSIK, Raluca KOGĂLNICEANU

Preventive excavations quite often bring forth interesting situations. Such a case was triggered by the intent to restore an old wooden church from a village in Southern Romania. This church, already registered as historical monument, was part of an ensemble including a grave yard with stone funerary monuments dating from the 19th century, also recorded as historic monument.

The preventive excavation took place in an apparently empty area, west of the wooden church, where it was supposed that the church had extended before being reduced to the present-day state. The excavation uncovered the remains of five sub-adults, with ages at death between 18-24 months and 8-9 years, and some other disarticulated bones (probably from disturbed graves in the area). The children's graves, based on the coins placed inside, date from the 18th century.

We will present their state of health and other data related to their death. We will also discuss their place of burial in the larger context of Late Medieval cemeteries from Southern Romania.

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Aerial view of the so-called 'Regia' of Gabii

P1.

Children, sacrifice, and the house: the case study of Archaic Italy

Aura PICCIONI

Domestic cults were widespread in Archaic Central and Southern Italy, and developed in various forms, depending on the cult purpose they intended to fulfill. In some of them were involved also children, at least in a passive form, as one can notice from the archaeological evidence coming from the houses. Among these, in fact, there are some which are known in the literature as ‘palaces’, and the most famous of them are surely those of Murlo and Acquarossa. In this account, however, are to be inserted other archaeological sites, especially Rome, with its *Regia*, and *Gabii*, an ancient city distant few kilometers from the latter. It is from the so-called ‘Regia’ of Gabii that comes one of the most interesting examples in the sense of implication of children in the cults of the house. But it was, in this case, a passive implication, because such children were actually ‘used’ as materials of the sacred, they became part of the cult rituals. In the archaeological contexts of Gabii and of Rome, in fact, they seem to have been sacrificed within a foundation ritual, probably in order to both guarantee a sound construction to the houses and, in a certain sense, to provide the place with a ‘protector spirit’, a sort of *genius loci*; one has to underscore that the children buried in the ground of Gabii were just infants, and they could perhaps have been sacrificial victims in expiation of the phenomenon known in Republican Rome as ‘*prodigium*’. The victim of the Roman Regia, on the contrary, was an elder child. What induces me to think to the children of these two Latin contexts as sacrificial victims are the modalities of burial, strictly connected to the houses.



Double grave of an adult and a child from byzantine period found in rescue excavation at Thessaloniki, Greece.

P2.

Children's burials of Byzantine period from excavations of Thessaloniki

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Nowadays, small or larger technical projects are perhaps the greatest opportunity to acquire archaeological knowledge especially in places with uninterrupted continuity of habitation. This is the case of the city of Thessaloniki, which is one of the largest cities of the modern Greek state. At the same time, it has been a great city since Hellenistic and Roman times. As a result of the realization of technical projects, significant findings have been revealed in recent years, including sections of Byzantine cemeteries in other locations than the delimited and known as the Western and Eastern Cemetery of the city.

Among the graves there are also children's. Here is referred the number of them and emphasized on what this means for the whole cemetery. Also, from this first concentration, many perceptions regarding the management of dead children throughout the Byzantine period can be explored, so as whether these perceptions are consistent with those of other well-known cemeteries of Byzantine times.

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P3.

Physical anthropological analyses on human remains from the Migration Period in Maros valley, SE Hungary

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Our work presents the results of detailed physical anthropological investigations implemented on human skeletal remains unearthed at three archeological sites along the Maros Valley, SE Hungary (Apátfalva-Nagyút, Makó-Mikócsa, Kövegy-Nagy-Földek). The remains represent various periods of the Migration Age (4-5th and 6-7th centuries AD), and are housed in the osteoarcheological collections of the Móra Ferenc Museum, Szeged. The analyses of the skeletal remains of 354 specimens were carried out using standard bioarcheological methods.

During the analyses of the investigated bones both classical anthropological and systematic paleopathological examinations were implemented. Special attention was paid to the issue of artificial cranial deformation (ACD) and of ancient TB and leprosy. Among the studied material the number of ACD was very high at one site, Makó-Mikócsa, dated between the 6-7th centuries AD. However, this custom was restricted to young females and girls alone. Two infants exhibited skeletal morphological features referring to spine tuberculosis from the 4-5th centuries, one adult showed tuberculous process in the sacroiliac joint, and in one infant case - based on the endocranial patters - the tuberculous meningitis was presumed. From the 6th -7th century material nine adults presented bony alterations related to skeletal tuberculosis, and many endocranial alterations referred to tuberculous meningitis. Most likely osseous leprosy was diagnosed in one case (Kövegy-Nagy-Földek).

This study adds new information to our knowledge on a custom frequently practiced among the Early Avar populations (6-7th c.) living in the Maros valley, and the presence of skeletal tuberculosis in infants (4-5th c.). Moreover, the study sheds light onto the general health conditions of people inhabiting the Maros valley during the 6-7th centuries. The interpretation of processes of disease in skeletons from varied geographical and chronological contexts provides some of the best biological data regarding the history of significant human diseases.

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Figure 1. The infant's grave in the Foro della Pace (Rome).

P4.

The infant's grave in the Foro della Pace in Rome

Michela STEFANI

The poster for the conference “Death and Children from prehistory to the middle ages” concerns a tomb of an infant found in the Foro della Pace in Rome.

The burial was discovered during the excavation of area 2, carried out in 2015 by the Università degli Studi Roma Tre and Soprintendenza Speciale per il Colosseo e l'area archeologica centrale di Roma.

This area is located between the monumental pronao of the Foro della Pace and the space dedicated to the cult, that was investigated since 2013.

After the removal of the modern stratification, connected to the construction of the Alexandrian neighborhood, a large number of late medieval stratifications related to the destruction and manufacturing of the columns of the Foro della Pace has been identified. Attributable to this phase is the burial that I intend to present.

It is a small tomb of a child aged between 0 and 6 months, dating to the 11th century AD, that has a peculiarity: it has not been found within a funerary context.

The burial, made in a large layer rich of mortar interpretable as a discharge of workmanship, was very rudimentary; in fact, it is made up of a simple old brickwork, on which the newborn was laid. The child was found in a bad state of conservation, in fact only one of the hands was in anatomical position.

This is an abnormal burial, not placed in a necropolis, but located in a different context, that is very interesting to present and that, in the future, with an appropriate study, can show new aspect related to the infant burial in the Middle Ages.



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P5.

***Paleooncological research on historical populations
from the Carpathian Basin***

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Malignant tumors are one of the most common causes of death in the developed world. However, tumours have also occurred in populations even thousands of years ago. In the 19th century, their incidence rate has grown significantly due to increased life expectancy and carcinogenic agents becoming more common as a result of industrialisation. Among palaeopathologists, however, the question, whether cancer is a civilisation disease or a disorder, which has accompanied humanity for thousands of years, is still controversial. The only way to answer this question is to analyse numerous human remains from many time periods. The aim of our paleooncological project is to provide comprehensive paleooncological data based on human bioarcheological materials from Hungary, dated from the Early Neolithic to the Late Medieval period. All skeletons are subjected to a careful macroscopic investigation, which was extended to radiological, scanning electron microscopic and mineralogical analyses too. These results provide new information about the appearance, paleoepidemiology and the progression of malignant bone tumours.

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