

ΒΥΖΑΝΤΙΝΟΛΟΓΙΚΗ ΕΤΑΙΡΕΙΑ ΚΥΠΡΟΥ  
BYZANTINIST SOCIETY OF CYPRUS

ΔΕΥΤΕΡΟ ΕΤΗΣΙΟ ΣΥΝΕΔΡΙΟ  
ΒΥΖΑΝΤΙΝΩΝ ΚΑΙ ΜΕΣΑΙΩΝΙΚΩΝ ΣΠΟΥΔΩΝ

Λευκωσία, 12-14 Ιανουαρίου 2018

SECOND ANNUAL CONFERENCE  
ON BYZANTINE AND MEDIEVAL STUDIES

Nicosia, 12-14 January 2018

ΠΕΡΙΛΗΨΕΙΣ ΑΝΑΚΟΙΝΩΣΕΩΝ  
ABSTRACTS OF PRESENTATIONS



ΛΕΥΚΩΣΙΑ / NICOSIA  
2018



**TRAUMATIC INJURIES  
IN THE LATE MEDIEVAL POPULATION  
FROM PAKOŠTANE-CRKVINA,  
EASTERN ADRIATIC COAST**

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The Pakoštane-Crkvina site is located in Dalmatia (Croatia) on the western shore of Lake Vrana along the road which leads from Pakoštane to Vrana. The church of St. Mary belonged to the medieval settlement of Zabláče. After the Knights Templar appeared in nearby Vrana between 1165 and 1169, Zabláče became part of the Vrana preceptory, and from the 13th century it was mentioned as the separate Zabláče preceptory. The entire area was devastated in the 16th century during the wars with the Ottomans. A systematic archaeological campaign started in 2006, and by 2016 several excavation campaigns had been conducted. Two auxiliary rooms, a bell tower and a medieval cemetery were uncovered beside the church of St. Mary. Since the entire site was walled in, this probably represents the remains of a monastery complex.

Anthropological analysis was conducted on the skeletal material deriving from 78 graves excavated from 2008 to 2014. Most of the graves contained more than one individual. Sex and age were determined for 88 skeletons. The sample comprising of 39 subadults, 9 females, and 40 males shows unequal ratio 0.97 : 0.23 : 1 with the evident underrepresentation of females. Furthermore, for graves containing more than one individual the method of quantification of commingled osteological material was applied. The minimum number of 217 individuals (162 adults and 55 subadults) was present.

Many antemortem (occurred before death) and few perimortem (occurred at or near the time of death) injuries were recorded on the analyzed material. In 21 out of 88 individuals (23.9%) 39 injuries were evidenced. Nineteen out of 36 complete adult crania (52.8%), and 4 out of 22 complete subadult crania (18.2%) exhibited trauma. In adults total long bone fracture frequency is 3.3% while in subadults only one long bone fracture was observed (0.4%). All traumas in adults were noticed only in males. Perimortem traumas were observed in three males and one subadult, while antemortem healed sharp force traumas were evidenced in two males. The predominance of frontal craniofacial injuries, as well as the presence of perimortem trauma and healed sharp force lesions suggests the presence of intentional violence in this community.

In comparison with other concurrent sites from Eastern Adriatic coast (Dugopolje, Koprivno and Nin) where frequency of the cranial traumas varies between 20.0 and 23.5%, and frequency of long bone traumas between 1.0 and 1.9%, traumas in Pakoštane show higher prevalence, mostly statistically significant.

The late medieval period in Dalmatia was marked as a turbulent time when the rule of the Hungarian-Croatian kings from the Arpad dynasty came to an end.

The Venetians constantly fought for the control of Dalmatia, and the intrusions of Mongols in the 13th and the Ottomans in the 15th century were common. However these circumstances do not fully explain why higher prevalence of traumatic injuries in Pakoštane differs from other similar sites in the area. Perhaps the presence of the Knights Templar and later the Hospitallers played a certain role, since the latter were known for providing care for the sick, the poor or the injured.