


20th Congress of the European
Anthropological Association



**European Anthropology
in a Changing World:
From Culture to Global Biology**

Zagreb, Croatia
24th – 28th August 2016

**ABSTRACT
BOOK**



Institute for Anthropological Research,
Zagreb, Croatia

HAD
1977

Croatian
Anthropological Society



European
Anthropological
Association

of Gürgürbaba Tepesi was based exclusively on open-air artifact scatters situated directly on, or in close proximity to, obsidian outcrops.

TWO SKULLS WITH EVIDENCE OF TREPANNING FROM LATE MEDIEVAL AND MODERN AGE SITES IN NORTH DALMATIA, CROATIA

Bedić Željka¹, Vyroubal Vlasta¹, Gusar Karla², Šučur Jure², Uglešić Ante², Adamić Anita¹, Šlaus Mario¹

¹Croatian Academy of Sciences and Arts, Anthropological Centre, Zagreb, Croatia

²University of Zadar, Department of Archaeology, Zadar, Croatia

zbedic@hazu.hr

Trepanation is one of the most spectacular traumas observed on human skeletal remains. Although the procedure was first mentioned and described by Hippocrates, the first osteological evidence of trephining goes back to at least the Neolithic. In the procedure the skull is drilled or scraped by a sharp instrument thus exposing the intracranial contents either to treat health problems or for mystical purposes. So far, only two cases of trepanation were reported from Croatian skeletal series: one from the prehistoric Bezdanjača site, and the other from Ludbreg dated to the Migration period. In the osteological collection of the Croatian Academy of Sciences and Arts two additional cases from North Dalmatia have recently been acquired. One from the Late Medieval and Early Modern Age archaeological site Škabrnja - St. Mary investigated in 2009 by Archaeological Museum in Zadar. The site yielded 12 graves. The skull was found in grave No 5 which contained one female skeleton and an abundance of dislocated bones. A minimum number of five individuals (four adults and one subadult) was present. An oval shaped defect is located on the right side of the frontal bone of a male skull. It is completely healed indicating that the person survived the surgical procedure and lived for some time. The other case was found during archaeological excavations in Pakoštane - Crkvina conducted by Department of Archaeology, University of Zadar. During systemic archaeological excavations from 2006 to 2015 the remnants of the Church of St. Mary and a medieval cemetery were uncovered. Mass grave 76B contained nine individuals (eight adults and one subadult). One of the male skulls showed a massive lytic defect on the right side of the cranium that was in the process of healing suggesting that the afflicted individual died shortly after the surgical procedure was performed.

HIDDEN HETEROGENITY IN MORTALITY – PERHAPS NOT SO HIDDEN

Boldsen Jesper

University of Southern Denmark, Odense S, Denmark

jbaldsen@health.sdu.dk

The two most important osteological papers of the late 20th century, Farewell to Paleodemography (Bocquet-Appel and Masset, 1982) and The Osteological Paradox (Wood et al., 1992) have pointed at serious methodological problems in the reconstruction of life in the past based on observations on skeletal remains. The first message was about our inability to estimate age at death accurately and without bias. This problem is more or less solved (Boldsen et al., 2002 and Milner and Boldsen, 2012). The issue of selective mortality and hidden heterogeneity – raised by Wood et al. – is also in the process of being at least partly solved. As a by-product of an ongoing project aimed at generation highly accurate and unbiased skeletal age estimates it has been observed at several age related osteological characters showed evidence for selective mortality in a sample of modern Americans. Analyses of the occurrence of these characters in medieval Danish skeletons clearly show that these characters also were subject to selective mortality in the past. This research is part of a National Institute of Justice (USA) funded project