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Neolithic archaeology at the Penedo dos Mouros rock-shelter (Gouveia, Portugal) and the issue of primitive transhumance practices in the Estrela Mountain range

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Located in the foothills of the north-western sector of the Estrela Mountain (Beira Alta province in central-north Portugal), Penedo dos Mouros Rock-shelter revealed a succession of three distinct archaeological horizons datable to the evolved Early Neolithic and initial Middle Neolithic, thus partially coinciding with the onset of the regional Megalithism. The find of a few caprine remains at least one possible sheep, among a large spectrum of species –swine, rabbit, hare, Iberian lynx and toad–, makes this site the oldest in the region to provide direct evidence for herding practices. Small-sized pots, expedient use of local lithic raw materials together with curated use of exogenous flint, and low density of artefacts indicate a strategy of residential mobility in line with similar evidence observed elsewhere in Beira Alta. Given previous claims of Neolithic vertical transhumance between montane plateaux –in the summer– and lowland plains –in the winter–, this hypothesis is here discussed –and refuted– based on spatial analysis of Neolithic sites, economic characterization of the period and local orographic and bioclimatic constraints.

Key words: Neolithic; Beira Alta; Megalithism; settlement systems; livestock; pastoralism.

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‘Biography’ of a Megalithic monument: phases of use and closure at the passage grave of El Teriñuelo (Aldeavieja de Tormes, Salamanca)

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The passage grave of El Teriñuelo is located in the village of Aldeavieja de Tormes (province of Salamanca). It is part of one of the most important and well-documented megalithic areas of inner Iberian Peninsula. Since before 1930 several archaeological works have taken place at this passage grave, thanks to which it has been possible to reconstruct parts of its ‘biography’. The last excavation season, conducted by the authors of this paper in 2005, discovered new evidences of the use sequence and, mainly, of the closure event of this monument. In this paper the archaeological remains of this single ritual ceremony will be presented within the context of the different use phases of the dolmen, with a biographic approach which attempts to deal with the complex superposition of ritual practices of the ‘life-history’ of this important ceremonial and burial centre.

Key words: Megalithism; Douro Valley; ‘Megalithic life-histories’; closing rituals; reuse; Bell Beaker.

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Basic features of the variscite extraction in Palazuelo de las Cuevas (Zamora)

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Ever since first published in 1970, Palazuelo de las Cuevas (Zamora) became known as “the variscite source” for NW Iberia. Later geological surveys and casual finds have shown this mineral to be much more widespread, including other localities in Zamora, Northern Portugal (Tras-os-Montes), Western León (Bierzo) and Eastern and Southwest Galicia (Ourense and Pontevedra). Still, the evidence of prehistoric mining is little known, perhaps due to the small size of the veins that otherwise are widely scattered, both circumstances

possibly having a strong influence on the nature of the quarrying works and their archaeological visibility. With the aim of assessing the basic characteristics, regarding both the nature and intensity of the extractive works at Las Cercas / Teso del Diablo area, we have made use of high-resolution LIDAR data and GIS tools for obtaining a sharper image of the present surface and revealing the sheer importance of the excavations carried on in earlier times. Also, some brief remarks are made on the chronology and distribution of this commodity across Western Iberia.

Key words: NW Iberia; aluminium phosphates; quarrying; LIDAR; GIS.

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Grave goods tombs situation with everyday objects in some Celtiberian necropolis to the IVth-IInd centuries BC

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In some Hispanic Celtic cemeteries there are grave good with elements of daily life. Pieces related with home and productive and / or economic activities. They are objects in the tombs associated with weapons and / or items of clothing together into packages that accompanied the deceased to the afterlife.

Among those related to home we include trivets, grills or barbecues, whose presence in funerary objects is interpreted in relation with the celebration of funeral feasts. They are elements still sporadic appearance in the Celtiberian territory.

They are also documented tools to agricultural, livestock and craft economic activities, in Celtiberian areas. Their presence is also poor, but offers a varied repertoire, including sickles, pruning knives, axes, scissors and awls or punches.

In this paper, its presence and spatial distribution within some Celtiberian necropolis is analyzed to see if it is possible to determine whether these objects in the graves provide information on the life and spirituality of the deceased. To do this, and as a test, is part of the known data from a selection of Celtiberian cemeneterian published floorplans of graves: Las Madrigueras, Riba de Saelices, La Yunta, El Altillo de Cerropozo of Atienza, La Mercadera and Numancia.

Key words: Prerroman funerary ritual; burial organization; fire tools; farm tools; leadership; priesthood.

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Detection of Roman rural cadasters through *fundi*. A methodology applied in *ager Iliberritanus*

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A better understanding of *villae* and other forms of rural settlement has enriched the study of ancient rural landscapes. These agricultural installations are, in many cases, the only visible archaeological records of a lost reality of the Roman agrarian landscape: the *fundi*. In this paper, we propose a methodology to identify Roman cadasters, using the qualitative and quantitative variables that *villae* offer: viewshed, topographic prominence, chronology, orientation, distance between *villae*, closeness to the theoretical axes etc. To do this, we examine the case-study of the territory assigned to *Florentia Iliberritana*, the city of Granada in Roman times. As a result of the research carried out in the last decades, it has been identified a high density of agricultural settlements in the peri-urban area, whose construction coincides with the acquisition of municipal status by the *urbs*. The application of the aforementioned variables, along with established methodologies in historiography as the regressive analysis of the landscape and the study of cartographic and archival documentation as well, has allowed to identified a 20 x 20 *actus* centuriation with internal divisions of 10 x 20 *actus*.

Key words: *Florentia Iliberritana*; agrarian landscape; Geographical Information Systems; cadastre; *villae*.

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Roman wall paintings from *Caesaraugusta* (Zaragoza): a workshop in the middle Ebro valley

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The paper presents a set of fragments of Roman paintings. The fragments of Roman paintings that we present come from the excavation carried out in the street Dr. Palomar n.º 4. They appeared out of original context, in a secondary deposit, and its relation with a specific space of housing can not be established. However, two walls with the characteristic compositional systems of the 2nd century can be reconstituted. First of them is composed by white wall panels articulated by bands and fillets red and yellow bands and fillets, arranged on a speckled white base. The second set also has a speckled base, with a pink background, and in the middle there are panels decorated with marble imitations alternating with columns. A third group, composed of few fragments that don't allow a restitution, decorated a starry ceiling on a white background, characteristic of the roofs of thermal and religious buildings, especially *lararios*. They are made by a provincial workshop whose footprint is found in other cities in the middle valley of the Ebro.

Key words: White walls; imitations of marble; columns; star-filled ceiling; domestic shrine.

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***A titulus pictus* with an imperial mention in *Carthago Nova* and some considerations concerning the urban dynamics of the city in the early 3rd century AD**

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The archaeological and epigraphic record in *Carthago Nova* suggests that the colony underwent a period of instability and urban retreat during the second half of the 2nd and the 3rd century AD. This was probably triggered by the slowing down of economic activity, a shrinking population and collapse of local institutions and the crisis of evergetism. The process caused a substantial transformation of urban landscapes and a reduction of the size of the inhabited areas; the interruption of the epigraphic habit, the abandonment, looting and reoccupation of public areas and buildings; the pulling down of domestic buildings; and the insufficient maintenance of the urban road network. This has led some specialists to suggest that the city lost importance, and even that it could have been totally abandoned during the second half of the 2nd and, especially, the 3rd century AD. The recent discovery of the substantial transformation of the Atrium Building (*Insula 1* Molinete) in the early 3rd century AD, and of a *titulus pictus* which mentions the consuls for the year, Heliogabalus and the prefect of the *praetorium Adventus*, which dates the final date for the *refectio* in 218 AD, resituates the debate around the retreat of the urban centre in the 2nd and 3rd centuries AD.

Key words: Cartagena; crisis 3rd century; Atrium Building; painted inscription; Heliogabalus; *Adventus*; evergetism.

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A new Republican Coin Hoard with Roman asses and coinage of *Castulo* bronzes from Southern Hispania: Torre de Benagalbón (Málaga)

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During the excavations in the Roman *villa* of Torre de Benagalgón (Rincón de la Victoria, Málaga), in 2003-2004, a modest bronze coin hoard was discovered. It contained 19 Roman asses and one semis, and 9 units from *Castulo/Ka.s.ti.l.o* (Cazlona, Jaén). This coin find contributes to the study of mixed bronze coin hoards –Roman and local coinage– in the south of Hispania during the second half of the second century BC. Its possible formation in the mining district of *Castulo*, well connected with the port of *Malaca* by an ancient pre-Roman road known by archaeological and literary sources, are discussed here. Finally, it is emphasized the role of Roman bronzes in relation to the local coinages, especially from 146/141 BC, and also the changes in the metrological criteria during the 1st century BC.

Key words: Coin Hoard; Roman Republican asses; *Castulo*; *Malaca*; *Hispania Ulterior*.

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The ‘exceptional finds’ of Iruña-Veleia (Álava): Syntax of an archaeological forgery

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In 2006, news broke of the discovery of ostraca bearing text in Latin and Basque, as well as Christian drawings, during the 2005 and 2006 excavation campaigns at the Iruña-Veleia site in Álava, Spain. In 2008, these pieces were shown to be fakes. The ‘Iruña-Veleia case’, as it has come to be known, has been the subject of several partial studies, primarily focused on the forgeries. This paper will analyse it from a contextual perspective. To this end, it first defines the general pattern, or ‘syntax’, followed by historical forgeries. It then applies this syntax to the Iruña-Veleia case, reviewing how it unfolded in the academic, political, institutional and social spheres. In each one, the syntax showed certain oddities, mainly due to the social context in which the events took place and their link to nationalist identity, a subject related to the content of the forged specimens. Despite this link, however, in this case it cannot be concluded that nationalism was the driving force behind the forgery.

Key words: fakes; nationalism; Basque Country; mass media.

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About the prominence in the use of natural accidents in the caves of Bédeilhac (Ariège, France) and El Pindal (Asturies, Spain)

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The utilisation of natural reliefs is well known in the rock art of the Upper Palaeolithic, but it is often underestimated. In this note, two unpublished examples coming from the caves of Bédeilhac (Ariège, France) and El Pindal (Asturias, Spain) are described. In both cases, they are reliefs slightly separated from the wall, which have the shape of a natural animal head. The only human intervention consisted in the addition of an engraved eye and some traces of red pigment. The similarity of treatment in the two caves suggests a commonality of thought. Thus the reliefs used in Bédeilhac and El Pindal must be added to the numerous convergences already known between the two sites, among which the presence of Pyrenean claviforms in El Pindal, and confirms a strong cultural proximity between the French Pyrenees and the western side of the Cantabrian region during the Magdalenian period.

Key words: Magdalenian; French Pyrenees; Cantabrian region; cultural exchanges; Gestalt psychology.