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Bell Beaker or not Bell Beaker: an perspective on Chalcolithic at the Iberian Peninsula paired fingernail imprints in s-shaped vessels

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The Bell Beaker phenomenon is the sum of several regional answers. Those are diluted into a reality with several shared characteristics. Nevertheless, and although being one of the most studied expressions of the European Recent Prehistory, more specific adaptations are still to be understood. This is the case of the paired fingernail imprints, or pinched motifs, that due to their scarceness are mostly unnoticed in Iberia. However, one was able to highpoint a scarceness of these standardised motifs in funerary contexts and a concentration in contexts dated from the last quarter of the IIIrd millennium BC, in the precise period of transition in the way of life of the peninsular human groups. Also, the regression in the communicative ability of the vessels, but at the same time clear links with other European Bell Beaker contexts seems to strengthen the hypothesis that this large-scale style must be understood as another agent in the ongoing identarian and social processes acting, as such, in the transition to the beginning of the Peninsular Bronze Age.

Key words: IIIrd millennium BC; Early Bronze Age; Iberian Peninsula; paired fingernail imprints; Bell Beaker phenomenon; s-shaped vessels.

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Commensal practices as an ideological strategy in the central area of the Iberian Contestania (VIIth-Ist centuries BC)

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In this paper, we analyze a type of ritual practices with a great potential in structuring social and power relationships, specifically those related to the communal consumption of food and drink. One of our aims is to link together these commensal practices with ideological strategies deployed by the elites within the communities of central Contestania. We adopt a multi-scalar methodological approach and a broad diachronic perspective, between VIIth and Ist centuries BC. We approach this kind of practices from the study of ceramic repertoires, mainly imported products in many cases related to the consumption of wine, their contexts of appearance, and their spatial reflection, defining what we could call a 'commensal landscape'. This perspective and its combination with other variables such as the evolution of settlement patterns over seven centuries or its relation with different categories of feast and ideological strategies, will allow us to better understand the nuanced social processes which took place in this specific area of central Mediterranean Iberia during the Protohistory.

Key words: Iberian Culture; rituality; ideology; Landscape Archaeology; heterarchy.

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Potsherd disks: appraisal from the ensemble of an Iberian deposit in *Iliberri* (Granada)

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In this paper we present some pieces considered insignificant by their formal features: fragments of vascular ceramics cut from which their various functionalities are analysed. For this reason we have focused on a specific find, the Iberian votive deposit of *Iliberri* dated in the IVth century BC. We have studied these pieces, evaluating them within their archaeological context in order to try to understand the relationship between the functionality of these objects, their analogy and the parallels with other contextual studies. With that in mind, we have selected the most significant cases, trying to determine, on the one hand, the different variants of shapes on which the discoidal pieces have been cut and, on the other, trying to clarify their use.

The analysis and contrast of the context that we present, corresponding to the Granada discovery in the Zacatín Street, and other similar archaeological contexts that we have been able to identify in the archaeological bibliography, allow us to affirm that in order to arrive at a correct interpretation of these pieces it is necessary to evaluate them within contextual, iconographic and technological analyses.

Key words: Bastetania; Protohistory; ritual context; offerings; Zacatín deposit; analogy.

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Iron Age circulation and use of lead in the Balearic Islands. New isotopic data from galena and archaeological metals

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This paper examines the results of a series of analyses of minerals and archaeological objects from the Balearic Islands. In total, it presents the analytical results of the elemental and lead isotope compositions of 13 samples of galena deposits from Mallorca and Minorca, in addition to 18 archaeological objects made of lead and lead-rich ternary alloys from different Mallorcan necropolises from the Post-Talayotic period (c. 550-123 BC). The aim of the study is to analyse the circulation of lead and to gain an insight into strategies for the management and consumption of this metal by local communities during the Late Iron Age. With these data, comparative analyses can be made and, combined with data from other projects, a better vision can be gained on the Balearic Islands' integration in Mediterranean trade routes during this period. The results also reflect the complexity of these networks, in which the Punic-Phoenician world played a particularly important role, although, in parallel with this, the use of local resources by local native Balearic communities can be inferred.

Key words: archaeometallurgy; lead isotope analysis; Post-Talayotic; Phoenician-Punic world; Mediterranean, Mallorca; lead minerals.

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The Peñas Pasera tumulus field of the Celtiberian city of *Aratis* (Aranda del Moncayo, Zaragoza, Spain) and the Celtic calendar

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Within the actions carried out by the Directorate General of Cultural Heritage of the Government of Aragon in relation to the judicial procedure on the pillage of the Celtiberian city of *Aratis* (Aranda de Moncayo, Zaragoza), a large area was located with several concentrations of tumular structures in the area of Peñas Pasera, previously unpublished. It is a flat and elevated area, at a level similar to the upper part of the city and about 1300 m away. The peculiar morphology of a large tumular structure located at the highest level of this area, and its presumable relationship with the Celtiberian city, motivated its archaeoastronomical study. A detailed analysis has allowed to identify an important quantity of markers and visual landmarks that could be

used to indicate and identify the most important dates of the Celtic calendar. This opens the door to various interpretations of the structure and of the large tumular group.

Key words: Iron Age; Celtiberian; necropolis; archaeoastronomy; visual markers.

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The temporary dimension and the funerary phenomenon among the ancient Canarians

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In archaeological cultures, classifying historical processes is a complex task when their timeframe is missing. Such a circumstance has represented a secular handicap hindering the knowledge of the first inhabitants of Gran Canaria, accentuated by the shortage of chronological references that allow the understanding of the occupation of a territory defined by its insular condition. This has led to the idea of a ‘simple culture’ in which the numerous expressions of the development of these populations have always been the same, without significant changes, at least as far as its essential components are concerned. In order to overcome this limitation, this paper addresses the diachrony of funerary practices of the ancient Canarian, trying to explain it within the context of the historical processes that defined their lives. Here we resort to Bayesian statistical modelling of 104 radiocarbon dates from 25 funerary sites spread across the island. The results show an evident ordering of the funerary phenomenon, with intervals of deep transformations in a changing social scenario, related to the process of occupation on the island and the evolution of the socioeconomic organization of this human group. Likewise, in the debate on the dates of the first colonizing arrival, the IIIth century AD is set as the starting point for the effective occupation of the island.

Key words: Pre-Hispanic period; Gran Canaria; chronology; radiocarbon dates; Bayesian statistics.

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Morphometric analyses of Catalanian common greywares: some thoughts on typological classification of medieval and post-medieval pottery

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Cooking wares fired under reducing atmosphere are one of the most common archaeological findings in medieval contexts. These are coarse, irregular and mostly coil-built vessels finished on the wheel. The great homogeneity of these products, together with the high level of breakage and the massive amount of sherds found out in many contexts are the main difficulties to deal with in order to study them. In this paper results obtained from the morphometric analysis of traditional craft greyware pottery from Quart (Girona) and medieval greywares from the site of Santa Margarida (Martorell, Barcelona) are introduced. According to the obtained results in both cases, we demonstrate the methodological validity of including vessel's profile measurement within a multivariate statistic exploitation of morphometric data. This exploitation allowed us to obtain precise classifications that take into account the degree of breakage and to establish comparable types.

Key words: typology; methodology; statistics; vectorial analysis; archaeometry; Quart; Santa Margarida.

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The mosaic pavement substrates in the southern rooms of the Eastern Church at Khirbet et-Tireh, Ramallah (Palestine)

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The Eastern Church complex at Khirbet et-Tireh comprises five distinct sections: an *atrium*, a *narthex*, a tripartite main hall –nave and two aisles–, three adjoining auxiliary rooms on the north, and finally four more auxiliary rooms along the south side. The floor of the church was originally completely tessellated with polychrome mosaics, forming pavements patterned with figurative and geometric designs on a white background. Structurally, all known floor mosaics of the classical Mediterranean world had two main components: a substrate –all the hidden, preparatory layers– and the *tessellatum* –the *tesserae* and the filling mortar between them–. The most common substrate configuration consists of –from bottom to top– the *statumen*, *rudus*, *nucleus*, and bedding layers. In practice, however, the characteristics of these preparatory layers (substrate) –their number, order, thickness, technique, and material composition– have been found to differ from one period to another, from site to site, from building to building within a site, and even from one room to another within the same structure. In this context, the substrate of the mosaic pavements of the southern rooms of Khirbet et-Tireh church was found to be constructed of five layers, including a thin soil layer existing between the bedding and *nucleus* layers. To our knowledge, this layer has only been documented in Khirbet et-Tireh among the known archaeological sites paved with mosaics.

Key words: preparatory layers; conservation and restoration; mosaics; Byzantine-Umayyad churches; archaeometry.

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An exceptional bronze oil lamp with decoration of theatrical mask from *Complutum* (Alcalá de Henares)

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We present an exceptional bronze plastic lucerne. The archaeological context from the piece corresponds to a remarkable *domus* of the Roman city of *Complutum* that has been dated to the 1st century AD; however, it has been observed that several of its rooms had been reused for metallurgical production from the IIIrd century AD onwards. The analysis of the piece has allowed us to define it as a good quality leaded bronze plastic lucerna that has the representation of a theatrical mask, specifically of the ‘ready slave’ of the New Comedy, whose image is traced in other Roman productions. Through the study of this object, the difficulties of the archaeological discipline in establishing universally recognised typologies for bronze skylights are confirmed; however, it is concluded that it is possible to detect their typological link with types described for the Bay of Naples workshops. It is an exceptional object with few parallels documented in the Roman world. Its manufacture seems to correspond to a moment located throughout the 1st century or the beginning of the IInd century AD; in spite of this, its use must have continued until near the end of the IVth century AD. Everything seems to indicate this is a probable italic production.

Key words: Roman bronze; oil lamp; plastic decoration; comic mask; Italic production.