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Palaeolithic sites in their landscape: El Horno Cave in the context of the Asón River Basin (Cantabria)

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Research on Palaeolithic groups has been based essentially on the study of the archaeological deposits resulting from the groups' everyday activities. The present paper stresses the importance of information related to the location and characteristics of sites containing these Palaeolithic deposits. If an understanding of a site involves knowing its local and regional context, as the mobile nature of Palaeolithic societies seems to require, it is obviously necessary to obtain precise knowledge about the places where archaeological deposits have been preserved. In turn, this will strengthen our hypotheses about the role played by the different sites within their social context. A specific example is given, El Horno Cave (Ramales, Cantabria) in order to show the type of observations that can be made through the application of a particular methodology, and their importance within a regional setting, such as the one proposed for societies in the Asón river basin at the end of the Palaeolithic.

Key words: Magdalenian. Cantabrian Spain. GIS. Territory. Mobility.

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The Mediterranean Upper Magdalenian harpoons. Typological and chronological valuation from the new pieces of Cova de les Cendres (Teulada-Moraira, Valencian Country)

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Latest excavations in the Cova de les Cendres have recovered a serie of ten new harpoons, representing a total of 19 issues. This is one of the largest collections of the Mediterranean peninsula. Because we have a small number of harpoons in this area, the date obtained in Cova de les Cendres are of high importance for the characterization of the features of the Mediterranean Upper Magdalenian harpoons. It also presents a series of new absolute dates obtained for the level XI which show that the major occupation in the Upper Magdalenian was during the last third of the fourteenth millennium BP. With the available data (twelve sites that have provided 45 pieces) the Mediterranean Upper Magdalenian harpoon is characterized by a very different morphology, both in number of teeth as in their features, without a clear typological evolution.

Key words: Harpoons. Bone and antler industry. Upper Magdalenian. Mediterranean Iberian coast.

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The role of fossil DNA in Paleoanthropology: FOXP2, Neanderthals, and language

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Fossil DNA analysis may become an important source of evidence in Paleoanthropology, in the sense that it may throw light on the inconclusiveness of more traditional evidence that discipline is concerned with (fossil reconstructions, etc.). However, caution is in order: if paleogenetic evidence is not rightly understood, inferences brought to the fore from it could be as ambiguous as the more traditional body of evidence. Our paper makes the point that prudence is required when trying to draw inferences about behavior or cognition from the fossil DNA analysis. We illustrate such a point by discussing the recent discovery of the modern *FOXP2* gene version in Neanderthals. Many paleoanthropologists have taken that discovery to be the definitive proof of the existence of complex language in that species. We will aim at showing that the aforementioned inference cannot be automatically established: it is based on a simplistic and reductionist view, which assumes, among many other aspects, that genes are simple causal agents, and that a direct link does exist between genes and characters.

Key words: Fossil DNA analysis. *FOXP2*. Language. Neanderthals. Form-function problem.

903.1 “632”

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Analysis of the taphonomic processes of Morín Cave. The first results of a necessary study

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Morín Cave is an important site used as a referential model in many works in regards to the Upper and Middle Paleolithic in the north of Spain. We offer in this report the study of a great part of its faunal record. We show that the water was an important element in its formation. The hydraulic action has influenced too on skeletal parts bias that appears in some levels. The carnivores, as show their tooth marks, would be important in the bone accumulation as well. Finally, we report that both cut and percussion marks in bones of many taxons belonging from different levels point out that the human being was the main responsible in the ungulates accumulation of Morín Cave.

Key words: Mousterian. Upper Palaeolithic. Continuity. Taphonomy.

930.27 “634”

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Gesture and form in the Neolithic graphic expression

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The parietal painted sign keeps on the memory of gesture that produces it. It is one of the distinctive features of this particular artefact. However, it is not possible to reconstruct this gesture if we do not give the context of the sign, if we do not present the numerous physical and cultural parameters which are in charge of their production. About schematic paintings of Neolithic age, we must take the union of criterions into account such as the parietal and site topography, the cultural constraints that appoint the location of figures and the ritual practices originally the graphical expression. The painter perceives, adapts and behaves according to this spatial and social environment. We refer here to several strategies: the attention for the parietal microtopography in accordance with the signs to draw, the respect of some criterions that specify the choice of the site like the hygrophily of places and the rubefaction of rock walls, the need to paint at the limits of the accessibility of site and wall, the use of drawing-tools for increase the capacities of the body. The efficiency of the gesture consists in realizing a sign bearing a meaning because in harmony with the features of its support.

Key words: Gesture. Form. Paintings. Southern France. Neolithic age.

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Deconstructing Mesa de Montes (Cangas do Morrazo, Pontevedra). An Archaeohistorical approach to a Chalcolithic height settlement

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In this paper we endeavour to study for the first time an assemblage of prehistoric materials from the only systematic archaeological digging done in such a well known and controversial site, which allegedly has a complex chronocultural sequence. Through the review of the partial references published to this day and the study of the materials at our disposal, we shall put forward a new interpretation of Mesa de Montes, setting it in the wider context of the Copper Age in Northwest Iberia.

Key words: Northwest Iberia. Mesa de Montes. Height settlement. Chalcolithic. Bronze Age. Physical environment. Penha Pottery.

903.4 (460.33) “632”

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Firewood and timber in the Argaric site of Barranco de la Viuda (Lorca, Murcia)

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This paper presents the analysis of wood charcoals associated to combustion structures and building materials from the Argaric site of Barranco de la Viuda. The results suggest that wood fuel was collected in nearby pine forest, noting especially *Pinus halepensis*, together with *Rosmarinus officinalis*, *Olea europaea*, *Pistacia lentiscus* and Monocotyledoneae. Opportunistic exploitation prevailed on all types of firing activities. *Pinus halepensis* was also the most commonly wood used as timber. Remarkable is the limited use of the riparian vegetation on firing and building activities.

Key words: Firewood. Timber. Charcoal analysis. Archaeobotany. Bronze Age. South-Eastern Iberian Peninsula.

639.3.07 (460.35) “638”
903.5 (460.35) “638”

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Fish farming in *Baetica*. The *piscina* of the halieutic site at Trafalgar Cape (Cádiz)

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The present paper presents a structure of Roman date, cut into bedrock, and possibly used for fish farming purposes. So far, this sort of evidence, which is well attested in Italian *villae maritimae* dating to the Late Republic and the Early Empire, had only been found in the Iberian Peninsula in the southern Tarraconense (coast of Alicante). The above mentioned structure is, therefore, the first of its kind found in the *Baetica*. Interpretation must combine archaeological evidence for Roman fish farming in Andalusia (*ostrearum vivaria* at *Traducta*, current Algeciras) and geoarchaeological features; the structure is located in the intertidal zone and enjoys fresh water supply from the nearby halieutic site of Trafalgar Cape (Barbate, Cádiz). This paper aims at the re-interpretation of this coastal site, previously interpreted as a salted products factory, or *cetaria*, but the topographical and architectural features of which (vats with inner steps, cisterns, terraced structures, etc.) are rather suggestive of a *villa maritima* or a complex centre for the exploitation of marine resources.

Key words: Roman fish-farming. Early Empire. *Baetica*. Marine resources exploitation. Fish-processing plants.

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The “emeritense” thin walled pottery production

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In this paper we present new considerations about the “emeritenses” thin walled pottery above all its start date traditionally established in the reign of Emperor Tiberius. To reach the new chronological proposal we use two elements: the contexts of consumption and new production sites documented in the capital of Lusitania.

Key words: Thin walled pottery. *Augusta Emerita*. Chronology.

903.3(460.253)“638”

David GONZÁLEZ ÁLVAREZ. Departamento de Prehistoria. UCM. Correo-e: davidgon@ghis.ucm.es**Roman mountain roads between Asturias and León. The integration of *Asturia transmontana* in the road network of Hispania**

Zephyrus, LXVII, January-June 2011, pp. 171-192

The available information of the Roman ways across the Cantabrian Mountains is checked, between the present-day provinces of Asturias and León. The aim is to question this information in the light of recent contributions of the technical characteristics of the Roman ways. We bet for introducing in the archaeological narratives a bigger concretion that provides the suitable use of the technical terms related to the Roman system of communications in our case of study. Thus, we will be able to assess the degree of integration of the *Asturia transmontana* in the administrative and socio-political reality of the Roman Empire.

Key words: Roman roads. Romanization. Cantabrian Mountains. North-West Spain.

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Unpublished Latin inscriptions in the locality of Las Uces (Valsalabroso, Salamanca)

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In the course of an archaeological prospection several unpublished Latin inscriptions were documented in the locality of Las Uces (Valsalabroso, Salamanca). They are 4 funerary monuments that are added to other three known by the bibliography. All forms a homogenous group, whose characteristics fit to the well-known epigraphic productions in the West of the province of Salamanca. This paper presents the new epigraphs and makes a critical valuation on the relation of these evidences with a Romanized indigenous settlement under the locality of Las Uces.

Key words: Latin epigraphy. Funerary inscriptions. Hispania. Salamanca province.