Importance and assessment of the Microlevallois production in levels II and III of Abrigo de la Quebrada (Chelva, Valencia)

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The Levallois products –blanks and cores– from levels II and III of Abrigo de la Quebrada are analyzed. Among the ensemble of blanks, those of small size reach significant percentages. We focus on their characteristics, including the extent to which they were modified by retouch, and on their use wear, at both the micro and macro levels of observation. Where size is concerned, explanations such as tool biography –gradual reduction by successive retouch until discard–, differential export of the larger blanks, or raw-material scarcity are considered and rejected. The alternatives remaining are the task-specific deliberate production of such small blanks and the relationship between raw-material reduction and site function.

Key words: Levallois. Lithic technology. Retouch. Middle Paleolithic. Valencian Country.


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Knapped lithic tools used in agricultural activities from the Neolithic site of La Vaquera (Segovia)

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La Vaquera Cave is located at the centre of the Iberian Peninsula (Segovia). The cave was occupied by the first groups of farmers settling down in the area, during the late 6th millennium cal BC. In this paper, we study the lithic tools which were used for cereal harvesting and processing. The characteristics of these agricultural tools are compared with those coming from other Early Neolithic sites, which have been previously analyzed. The pattern of geographical distribution of the different sickle types is explained in the context of the spread of agriculture in the Western Mediterranean region.

Key words: Inland Iberian Peninsula. Agriculture. Tools. Use-Wear analysis. Sickles.

New perspectives for the analysis of the Levantine rock-art in the Maestrazgo. The rock-art shelters of El Arquero and El Torico (Castellote, Teruel)

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Fifty years after Ripoll’s works on Santolea rock-art shelters, a new systematic study of El Torico and El Arquero (Castellote, Teruel) decorated groups is presented in this paper. There have been carried out an exhaustive graphic documentation and its digital treatment, by the means of the DStretch plugin to ImageJ. This method has allowed us to obtain new digital traces that underline the importance of the paintings, both for stylistic considerations and for themes and scene compositions. It is also presented in this study, for the first time, a new Schematic panel. New perspectives are opened in our approach to the analysis of the human and symbolic occupation of the territory, in addition to the ritual use of the sites along time. The study of these two shelters serves as an initial purpose of a further and wider analysis of the whole Guadalope basin, which includes other seven Levantine rock-art sites, whose thematic and stylistic parallels point out the existence of exchange contacts and social networks on different levels: local, regional and supra-regional.

Key words: Schematic rock art. Guadalope basin. Digital tracing. Style. Social networks.
The inherited path: contribution to the study of the least-cost pathways network between Neolithic habitats and rock art sites in the Massif of Caroig (Valencia)

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Neolithic Art includes a wide range of expressions, among which we focus on both Levantine Art and Old Schematic Art. The paper intends to establish the optimum routes between the habitat sites – and their chronology – and Rock Art site carried out by GIS. On the other hand, and in an inverse way, it tries to infer the changes occurred in this network during the Neolithic period according to sequences of style established for Levantine Art and Old Schematic art. In conclusion, how territory is inhabited and travelled across, how the communication network is structured among the different habitat sites and the role that painted shelters have.  

Key words: Pathways. Territorial occupation. Systems of Geographical information. Prehistoric rock art. Central Valencian area.

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The marine malacological remains from the Chalcolithic fortified settlement at Outeiro Redondo (Sesimbra): collection strategies used by a sedentary community from the 3rd millennium BC on the Portuguese coast

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The malacological collection of Outeiro Redondo showed the predominance of rocky substrate species and tidal levels between supralittoral zone and upper and middle levels of mediolittoral zone. The genus Patella have a overwhelming predomination, with 93,81% of the MNI, acquiring the remaining marine species a residual character.  

The distribution of faunal remains and the degree of fragmentation analysis along the diachrony of occupation make possible to identify an occupation floor, at the bottom of the stratigraphical sequence, which time will intensify the activity of gathering shellfish, resulting in an episode of anthropic pressure that decline the average sizes of adult individuals selected.  

With the viability of direct and daily rhythm access to these resources, the study of gathering techniques showed possible to identify the presence of marks (in borders of genus Patella shells) that indicate the use of tools like a sharp or puncturing instrument to extract molluscs from the substrate. In addition, taphonomic evidences analysis came to confirm the acquisition of shells in the beach in order to use them as scrapers or burnisher or as ornamental elements (beads).

Key words: Gathering. Coastal resources. Consumption. Post mortem. Taphonomic alterations.
The technical processes of quarrying in the Late Iron Age of Western Iberia

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This paper reconstructs the technical processes involved in producing the stone works made by the communities of Western Iberia during the Late Iron Age. For this study, we use both archaeological and ethnographic data. We analyze the characteristics of granite, the extraction process in the quarry, the available means of transport, the tools used and the carving process, focusing analysis on the zoomorphic sculptures known as “verracos”. Assessment of these technical aspects is essential for the analysis of the finished products and constitutes a first step in better understanding the status of stonemasons within the protohistoric societies of the Western Iberian Peninsula.

Key words: Quarrying. Chaîne opératoire. Verracos. Vettones. Late Iron Age. Western Meseta.

Methodological proposals for the study of ancient rural landscapes in the central area of the Contestania

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In this paper we have two main objectives. The first is the presentation of fieldwork and geophysics assisted with GPS, GIS and other Spatial Technologies applied to archaeological research. The advantage of this approach is the scarce aggression to soils and environment and the request of smaller economic and temporary resources than other archaeological fieldwork. The second objective is to reflect on ancient land uses, the diachronic sequence and structure of a complex Iberian Iron Age and Roman site of long duration (3rd cent. BC to 7th cent. AD). The accurate mapping of dispersion of the archaeological record allows this kind of historical analysis.

Key words: Iberian and Roman periods. Settlement Pattern. GIS. Archaeological Survey. Land-use. Contestania.
The so-called *Itinerario de Barro*. Questions of authenticity and interpretation

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The authenticity of the so-called *Itinerario de Barro* has been proven thanks to the use of the thermoluminescence technique on the four fired clay tablets. Controversy around *Itinerario de Barro* has existed since it was first published almost one century ago, and the verification of its authenticity has been the basis to offer an outline of the identification hypothesis of *mansiones*. This source is reinterpreted here in the framework of the road network in Northern and Western Spain, and the problems that are still related thereto are mentioned.


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A very singular Roman handle for bronze vasell from Layana (Zaragoza, Spain) with representation of a siren

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The following paper deals with a bronze Roman handle–probably part of the decoration of a container of liquid or bronze vasell–featuring a siren which was found in Layana (Zaragoza, Spain) during archaeological survey in 2011. Here we study its iconographical parallels and conclude on its more than likely imported character and its chronology.


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Two new pedestals with inscriptions from *COLONIA AVGUSTA FIRMA ASTIGI* (Écija, Seville)

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In this paper are presented two new Roman pedestals with inscriptions, found in the archaeological excavations carried out in the central square of Écija (Seville), called “plaza de España”. Both of these pieces were located within the walled precinct of the imperial cult temple located in the southeast corner of the square. The pedestals can be characterized as a well-known model in this context. The first inscription refers to the erection of a sculpture by testamentary order of a personage called *Caius Septumius*, in the first half of the 2nd century A.D. In the second pedestal, datable between the middle of the 2nd century and the beginning of the 3rd century A.D., the text is in a poor state of preservation, and it is possible to read just the name with which the inscription begins, *Titus Statilius Superatus Astigitanus*.

*Key words*: Monumentalization. Public statuary. Evergetism. Imperial cult. *Baetica*.