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Archaic Industries of Roussillon (South of France): Geochronological Correlation with the Terraces of the Têt, Tech and Agly Rivers

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This article studies the lithic industry of the Early Palaeolithic from the terraces of the Roussillon, in the S of France. The geomorphological revision of the flood levels allows these industries to be related to the geochronology of the terraces which were formed in between the late Early Pleistocene and the Middle Pleistocene, and thus allows a regional chrono-cultural framework to be established. By analyzing the technology of the lithic industry derived from the concept of *chaîne opératoire* and studying the patinas, the technical Modes and the technological aspects of the processes related to configuration and knapping sequences are differentiated. In the fluvial sequence, Mode 1 is documented in the terrace of Mas Ferréol and Mode 2 is identified in the Plane d'en Bourgat and Butte du Four-Llabanère, thus showing a technological continuity in the form of choppers and chopping-tools and poorly organized chains of exploitation (polyhedral). This technological substratum is common to the coeval sites from the NE of the Iberian Peninsula and the S of France, although with a margin of variability between the industries from the different regions.

Key words: Early Palaeolithic. *Chaîne opératoire*. Technological continuity. Technological stasis. Mode 1. Mode 2.

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Initial Magdalenian artifact assemblages in El Mirón Cave (Ramales de la Victoria, Cantabria, Spain): a preliminary report

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El Mirón Cave, in the Cantabrian Cordillera near the border between Cantabria and Vizcaya, contains a long sequence of radiocarbon-dated Magdalenian and Azilian levels. Lying between a series of Solutrean levels and a major, multi-level horizon pertaining to the classic Cantabrian Lower Magdalenian –CLM–, are several layers dating between *c.* 17-16 uncal. kya –*c.* 20.5-19 cal. kya– and lacking traditional hallmarks of the CLM –e.g., scapulae with striation engraved images of hinds and other ungulates, square section antler points with complex geometric (‘tectiform’) engravings–. In these Initial Magdalenian –IM– levels, both microliths –mainly backed bladelets– and macroliths –sidescrapers, denticulates, notches– are well represented; the former are made on non-local, high-quality flint and the latter on local, non-flint materials –quartzite, mudstone, limestone–. Large, often round-section antler points –mostly undecorated– are present, together with bone needles and awls. In several respects, however, there is evidence of industrial continuity among the Solutrean, Initial –‘Archaic’– Magdalenian and Lower Magdalenian assemblages, with no hint of a Badegoulian component in the original French sense of the term –i.e., essentially there are no *raclettes* or transversal burins–. The presence of many “archaic” –‘substrate’, ‘Mousteroid’– tools is a constant in many Cantabrian Upper Paleolithic sites and El Mirón is no exception. This can be explained by site-functional and lithological factors, without recourse to the *deus ex machina* of extra-Iberian ‘cultures’.

Key words: Lithic artifacts. Osseous artifacts. Microliths. Macroliths. Continuity. Late Glacial.

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Back to the point: new datings for La Peña de Candamo cave art (Asturias)

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La Peña de Candamo was discovered by the scientific community in 1914, being one of the first known caves in the Cantabrian region, and declared a UNESCO World Heritage site in 2008. The only monographic study of its parietal art was led and published by E. Hernández Pacheco in 1919, showing exceptional complexity and graphic density. In 2007, a new research project was launched to update all the information related to the cave’s parietal art from a multidisciplinary perspective. Within this context, and starting from the radiocarbon tests made by J. Fortea in the late 20th century, tests have been conducted at the Gif-sur-Yvette to date a series of black dots located on the ‘Engraving’s Wall’. The fact that the results are different to those published to date leads to the discussion as to which to accept based on the followed methodologies and protocols. Likewise, the implications of these results in the decorating of the cave and their place within the artistic production of the region during the Upper Palaeolithic period are also analysed.

Key words: Rock art. Upper Palaeolithic. Chronology. Radiocarbon. Cantabrian region.

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The Neolithisation of the Northern Meseta and High and Middle Ebro Basin (Spain): Theoretical issues, analysis of the archaeological record and previous hypothesis

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The main purpose of this paper is to propose a hypothesis about the Neolithisation of the Upper and Middle Ebro Basin and Northern Meseta (Spain). To achieve this goal, several theoretical topics of this historical process are defined, a classification of the archaeological sites involved in this process is presented, based on these theoretical assumptions and the comparison between their archaeological contexts –stratigraphy, chronology, archaeological materials, etc.–, and a (pre)historical definition of those communities is proposed.

Based on this data, the Neolithisation of this territory is explained within a specific chronological framework –5700-5600 and 5400-5300 cal BC– where it is assumed the existence of Neolithic pioneer communities and the important role in the spread of the Neolithic across this geographical area of both local Mesolithic groups and colonization processes –leapfrog or infiltration types–.

Key words: Neolithic. Mesolithic. Colonisation. Acculturation. Archaeological contexts. Inner Iberia.

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Copper for dead. Archaeometric study of metal objects from the prehistoric megalithic monument Castillejo del Bonete (Terrinches, Ciudad Real)

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Castillejo del Bonete is a cave adapted as a funerary monument during Late Prehistory. Various well-preserved metal objects were recovered from the site, both within and outside the graves.

This paper presents a catalogue and analysis of the metal objects recovered before the end of 2012, and comprises results obtained from archaeometallurgical studies and an interpretation of their cultural and territorial context. Unpublished data from El Acequión, Albacete, is also presented to provide a comparative perspective on the provenance of metal during the Bronze Age.

The metal artefacts were archaeologically contextualized prior to analyses, which included lead isotopes, XRF spectrometry, SEM microanalysis, metallography and microhardness analysis.

Our results reveal the use of various types of metals and the application of metallurgical processes associated with Chalcolithic and ancient Bronze Age phases. Overall, the results obtained showed that the metal artefacts analysed did not contain tin, but high levels of arsenic, probably originating from the area of Linares (Jaén).

Key words: Bronze Age. Chalcolithic. Arsenic cooper. Lead isotopes. Cave. Burial mound. Archaeometallurgy. Las Motillas Culture.

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Practices of sacrifice at the Cerro de la Mesa (Alcolea de Tajo, Toledo): the ritual deposit of the Casa 1

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Deposits with animal bones remains buried under the floor in domestic areas, are well known ritual practices in the Peninsular Iron Age. These practices are traditionally associated either with foundation of new buildings or refurbishment, or linked to propitiation rites and fertility. Although best studied examples are in the east coast of Spain, the phenomenon is also known in other archeological interior sites. This paper presents a ritual deposit, dug in the veton settlement of Cerro de la Mesa, in the Tagus river middle basin, whose formal characteristics relate it to domestic offerings of the Iberian area. This pit, located at the threshold of the Casa 1, contains selected remains of several sheep and a small ceramic bowl placed upside down. The analysis of the skeletal remains, together with the contents of the bowl and the study of the archaeological context, have allowed to relate it with sacrifice and libation practices within the framework of vetonian religiosity. The aim of this paper is to contribute to the formation of a peninsular *corpus* of ritual domestic deposits contributing to study of the religious practices.

Key words: Iberia. Southern Plateau. Second Iron Age. Vetons. Domestic offering. Sheep. Religiosity.

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Processes of appropriation and memory in the South-east of the Iberian Peninsula during the Second Iron Age: Molinicos and Umbría de Salchite and the shaping of a political territory

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This paper analyzes the appropriation of landscape developed by the communities of the Iron Age. The area of study is the basin of Alhárabe river within the broader territory of the upper basin of the Segura River in northwestern Murcia. We argue the existence of a relationship between the settlements of Llano de Moratalla-Calasparra and the sanctuary of Umbría de Salchite, located in the adjacent highlands of Campo de San Juan. Two types of arguments support this hypothesis. On one hand, the finding of a series of links between the material culture and iconography of Molinicos and Umbría de Salchite. On the other hand, they are linked by a common backbone, articulated by the Alhárabe river basin and also by a relationship of visibility because Umbría de Salchite is the visual horizon of the communities that inhabited the Molinicos area. The memory of a female figure linked to fire appears to be part of the ideological basis on which the relationship between the two valleys was shaped.

Key words: Iberians. Political territory. Ideology. Memory. Symbolic landscape. Ritualization.

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Iberian and Roman settlement in Eastern Sierra Morena: Burgalimar castle (Baños de la Encina, Jaén)

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The main objective of this paper is to present a first analysis of the archaeological remains of the Iberian –Middle and Late Iberian– and Roman –High imperial period– phases documented during the archaeological excavation that took place between 2007 and 2008 in the medieval castle of Burgalimar (Baños de la Encina,

Jaén). These are the only remains documented within the mining area of the Rumblar –Eastern Sierra Morena– that belong to the Pre-roman period, where, on the other hand, a strong occupancy has been documented earlier, during the Bronze Age, and later, during the Roman period. Therefore, this study is important for proposing the first hypothesis about the function and type of this settlement, as well as for understanding, from a diachronic point of view, the urban development of this region, which is linked to the largest *oppida* in the Upper Guadalquivir Valley –*Castulo*, *Isturgi* or *Cantigi*–.

Key words: Middle Iberian Period. Early Roman Empire. Rumblar Valley. Iberian settlement. *Aedicula*.

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An imperial *thoracatus* from Los Bañales (Uncastillo, Zaragoza)

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The following paper presents a serie of pieces of Roman sculpture in white marble from Carrara attested during summer of 2013 in reused and amortization context right in the forum of the Roman town of Los Bañales (Uncastillo, Zaragoza). Between the pieces presented here particular attention is paid to the central part of a great quality decorated breastplate with images of *spolia hostium* and to the legs and feet of the sculpture including also other small parts –shoulder, hand and pieces of the *pterykes* and of the *paludamentum*– of that one, here considered as part of an unique imperial *thoracatus* probably from Domitian times according to some parallels and some formal details of the statue itself. That sculpture is here linked with the history of this very singular Flavian municipality of the Caesaraugustan *conventus* presenting, also, a hypothesis about the primary position of the monument, in one of the *scholae* of the occidental porticus in the forum of Los Bañales.

Key words: Roman sculpture. Roman iconography. *Spolia hostium*. Domitian. *Forum*. Carrara marble.

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Roman rotary quern with inscription *Turro* from the hillfort of San Chuis (San Martín de Beduledo, Allande, Asturias)

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This paper presents an analysis of a *catillus* fragment corresponding to a rotary grain mill from the Roman era found in the San Chuis Fort in Allande, Asturias. One distinctive feature of this grain mill is the fact that it contains an inscription that mentions the word *Turro*. Among the possible interpretations of this epigraph, we advocate the hypothesis that this word designates the owner or user of *mola manuaría*. To support this theory, we analyze other mills with inscriptions found in the Roman world that refer to concrete military units –*contubernium*, *centuria*, *turma*– or prayers and other records from the civilian circles. In the absence of any military structure, we argue that this inscription indicates there were no military units present in that fort during that time, or that at least they didn't adhere to a particular military hierarchy, even though this does not refute the fact that the civilian population lived in a heavily militarized area.

Key words: Roman economy. Food processing. Ancient technology. Agriculture. Epigraphy.