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A new group of Palaeolithic painted hands from the southern Iberian Peninsula. Las Estrellas cave (Castellar de la Frontera, Cádiz)

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This work presents a review of the rock art conserved at a site located in the autonomous community of Andalusia, known in the preceding literature as the Las Estrellas cave (Castellar de la Frontera, Cádiz). This is a large open-air rocky shelter, in which various schematic style pictographs were found, in the early years of this century. During a recent visit to the site, the existence of an important Palaeolithic figurative set was also noted, which includes representations of fauna and a small series of outlines of hands. This article deals with the generic analysis of the art catalogued in the cave up to the present moment, paying special attention to the set of the aforementioned Palaeolithic handprints, which have been documented using digital 3D technology. Similarly, its contextualization in Andalusian Palaeolithic art will be taken into account and a first chronological approximation to this interesting and varied figurative system will be made.

Key words: open-air rock art; 3D image processing; Palaeolithic; Southern Iberia.

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Epipalaeolithic pebbles from caves Santa Maira site (Alicante): a functional study from the use-wear and the experimentation

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In the Iberian Mediterranean region it is difficult to find studies dedicated to the percutors-touchers used in the lithic production of the Epipalaeolithic. This work presents the study of 11 small pebbles located in caves of Santa Maira (Castell de Castells, Alicante), which were recovered in the Epipalaeolithic levels, dated between 13445 and 10195 years BP. These are rounded, flattened and elongated pebbles, in which various marks have been identified. They are associated with a numerous lithic industry, dominated by blades and little bladelets, which allows us to relate the hammerstones and the production systems. Parallel to the study of the use marks, an experimental programme has been carried out with the aim of identifying the different gestures used during the carving and configuration of retouched tools. The comparison between the archaeological and experimental pebbles shows coincidences in the marks, in their position and association. These results suggest that the most likely hypothesis of use was its use in different phases of lithic production: from carving to retouching. The parallels found in other peninsular and western Mediterranean sites indicate that they could also have been involved in other tasks, and could even have been used in combined activities.

Key words: Epipalaeolithic; Iberian Mediterranean Region; hammerstones; retouchoir; use-wear; flintworking.

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Commercial dynamics between *Hispania* and *Mauretania Caesariensis*. Some considerations from pottery evidence (1st-5th centuries AD)

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During Antiquity the two shores of the western Mediterranean, the Iberian Peninsula and the Maghreb, shared a rich common past favoured by their close geographical proximity. However, our knowledge of the exchanges between the two territories is very uneven. While archaeological research in the 'Circle of the Strait' has advanced exponentially in recent decades, data for the eastern sector are still based mainly on epigraphic and literary documentation. This approach, which highlights the value of socio-political links, is insufficient for trade analysis: the information is imprecise and does not allow the volume of transactions carried out to be accurately evaluated. The aim of this paper is to study the nature and intensity of the economic relations between the coasts of Northern Algeria and those of the peninsular east on the basis of pottery evidence. The selection of this material is motivated by its continuity in the archaeological record. In this paper I propose a qualitative and quantitative analysis of the preserved ceramic material, crossing the most recent data with the reinterpretation of old archaeological contexts already published. Chronologically, the study extends from the Roman annexation of *Mauretania Caesariensis* to Late Antiquity.

Key words: Algeria; economy; Roman trade; Roman pottery; amphora; Late Antiquity.

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A new funerary road in *Colonia Patricia* (Córdoba). The *sepulcretum* of Llanos del Pretorio

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In this paper we present a new Roman *sepulcretum* which has recently been dug out in the northern necropolis of Córdoba (Spain): a well-planned space from a topographic point of view, organised into paired enclosures with a predominant module of 12 x 12 Roman feet opened to more than one funeral route delimited by milestones –two of them belonging to *mensurae sepulcri*– and sometimes closed through masonry walls with access doors in its facade and an *ustrinum* inside. The necropolis was sealed by a flood leading to recover the major part of the intact burials and *in situ* –52 cremations and 11 child burials–, with chronologies of the middle of the first century AD. All these materials, yielded by developer-led archaeology, are being studied within the framework of a multidisciplinary project with researchers from different universities –numismatic, glass, ceramic, anthropology, epigraphy, paleolandscape, fauna, etc.–. This work is just one of the first advances.

Key words: Roman Córdoba; Roman *funus*; funerary topography; sepulchral roads; *mensurae sepulcri*, enclosures.

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Legionary fortress baths of León. Analysis and archaeological interpretation of its southeast corner

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In 1996, the archaeological interventions in Puerta Obispo zone of the city of León, next to the east gate of the legionary fortress, revealed the remains of a Roman building dismantled almost at foundations level. The archeo-architectonic analysis has allowed us to know its complete constructive sequence. The building was directly connected to the great legionary baths that occupied a large block under the medieval cathedral. This space was occupied at first by the large pool of a baths *frigidarium*, inscribed in a large room. In a later constructive phase, the pool was amortized and reused, forming the infrastructure of quadrangular public latrine *-forica-*. This transformation must have taken place at the time the *porta principalis sinistra* was built at the end of the 1st century AD. The latrines remained in use until the middle of the third century AD, when this space undergoes a new adaptation.

Key words: legionary fortress; *legio VII gemina*; Roman baths; building techniques; constructive materials; urban landscapes.

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An officina dedicated to the treatment, manufacture and sale of bone objects in Augusta Emerita (Mérida, Badajoz)

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During archaeological excavations carried out in the XX Course of Archaeology of the Consortium of Merida several rooms of the north wing of the Casa del Mitreo were uncovered. One of those rooms, excavated years ago, corresponded to a *taberna* with an exit to the street that bordered this *domus* on its north side. The archaeological work we have carried out has allowed us to identify the complete plan of a handcrafted installation that we associate with the manufacture and sale of bone objects. In this work, in addition to presenting the architectural evidence, the remains recovered in both recent and ancient excavations are analyzed. In addition, we have also made an archaeofaunistic study of the found bone objects, which helps to understand the *modus operandi* of this craftspeople but also to outline data linked to meat culinary practices in Roman times. Given that, until now, no peninsular installations of these characteristics were known. We believe it can be considered a first example in this Roman province.

Key words: Lusitania; Roman domestic building; *taberna*; bone handcraft; archaeofauna.

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Resources and consumption patterns of livestock in *Carthago Spartaria* during the Byzantine age

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This work presents the results from the analysis of the bone material from the Byzantine harbor quarter overlapping the Roman theater of *Carthago Spartaria* (Cartagena, Murcia). From a broad sample of 2,723 fragments from debris pits and garbage dumps, the production strategies and the consuming patterns of the livestock are established during a historical period of the city in which its appearance has nothing to do with the monumental image of a Roman town. The use of mixed farming is established, with a predominance of caprine and bovine *versus* a scant presence of suids and equines, as well as wild hunted fauna. Most of the animals, with the exception of goats and pigs, as well as certain bovines, were sacrificed in full adulthood. This implies that both their secondary products and their draft force were used. Livestock managing is confirmed as an important economic activity, at a moment when agricultural exploitation of the environment undergoes substantial diminishing as judged from the disappearance of the vast majority of rural sites from preceding decades. The represented livestock and the herding and maintenance conditions contribute to provide a ‘rural-like’ image of the old Hispanic capital.

Key words: Archeofauna; garbage dumps; diet; Roman theater; Cartagena.

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Insertion of objects in the walls of Pasiega B cave (Puente Viesgo, Cantabria)

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The interest for documenting the insertion or deposit of objects in the crevices, shelves and orifices of the decorated caves throughout the Upper Palaeolithic is quite recent and this phenomenon has almost only been documented in the Northern Pyrenean sites. During an exhaustive survey, we have identified similar evidence in the cave of La Pasiega B, Puente Viesgo, Cantabria, with 31 objects –29 bones and 2 flints– in the closest sector to the old blocked entrance. The sampling and dating of one of the bones has allowed us to obtain an ultrafiltered radiocarbon date corresponding to the Middle Magdalenian, in accordance with one of the

decoration phases in this sector. The presence of hinked objects, preferably bones, in areas of habitat, sharing space with decorated walls, is a constant that is repeated in other sites such as Isturitz or Gargas. There is currently no functional explanation for such evidence, so a symbolic purpose for them is proposed.

Key words: Magdalenian; Cantabrian; art; symbolism; inserted bones.

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A possible uroscopy flask of Roman age

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Research on human urine tests has resulted in a good knowledge of uroscopy flasks in the Middle Ages but has no parallel in Roman times. Although classical authors mention the existence of such tests in Antiquity, only few studies have focused on this theme. During the study of Roman necropolises in the Algarve (Portugal), a glass vessel probably picked from a medical doctor's grave was identified. Its unprecedented shape, comparable to medieval uroscopy flasks, and its context can be related with that function. An identical object was documented at *Emerita*, the capital of *Lusitania*, also in a Roman doctor's grave. We found statements of ancient authors that prove the existence of urine tests in Roman times.

The following study requires further back-up, but it strongly suggests that this glass flask was used for medical purposes. Even though this is a new piece, the two only specimens were found in possible medical practitioners' graves in Lusitanian cities. This is a preliminary study, but we hope that other new findings can be documented and published.

Key words: Lusitania; Roman medicine; uroscopy recipients; glass flask; funerary context.