

## ANALYTIC INDEX

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### **Paleolithic Cave Paintings and Engravings from La Llosa Cave (Obregón de Villaescusa, Cantabria). An Extreme Case of Deterioration**

*Zephyrus*, xc, July-December 2022, pp. 19-42

This work deals with an analysis of the rock art in La Llosa cave and a discussion about its integration in the Palaeolithic cave art of the Cantabrian region. It is based on a short documentation campaign that we carried out in 1997, in a cave that was already highly degraded and altered, and with parietal manifestations that were difficult to evaluate due to its bad conservation. La Llosa is an ensemble of a certain temporal depth, with at least two decorative phases. The oldest one is a composition of quadrilateral signs painted in red, and remains of other motifs, currently heavily degraded traces of paint. At a later time, a wide composition of non-figurative engravings was made, including a sketch of a hind's head, which can be integrated into the series with striations on the chin and chest of other nearby parietal groups. This can be dated between about 17000 and 14000 BP for its mobile parallels and associated data. La Llosa is therefore a small set in size and very altered and degraded, but it is quite expressive, due to its iconographic, technical and stylistic conventions, of the moments where the populations of the center of the Cantabrian region developed an art with a stronger personality, although always within the artistic context of European sw.

*Key words:* Paleolithic Cave Art; Cantabrian Region; Quadrilateral Signs; Striated Hinds.

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### **On the Iberian Chalcolithic. The Deer as a Sky Boat**

*Zephyrus*, xc, July-December 2022, pp. 43-68

During the third millennium BC the Iberian Peninsula encountered a significant proliferation of deer iconography, in scenes that many times have solar images. This association is abundant especially in parietal art, but it has also been found as a decoration carved in bell beaker pottery. On various occasions the animals have more than four limbs, which would be expected if the representations were to depict the reality. So, we could be before astral vessels that were prepared with the head of a deer on the bow, while their multiple legs allude to the oars.

The archeological record indicates, what's more, that deer antlers were very popular among grave goods. In this case, they cannot be considered evidence of food for the deceased, since many of them are antlers that had been shed. This data suggests that they could have been part of vessels made of perishable materials that had antlers as a figurehead, if we are not contemplating simple synecdoches of psychopomp vessels.

*Key words:* Sacred Boats; Copper Age; Iberian Peninsula; Symbolic Archaeology; Funerary Beliefs; Cultural Astronomy; Prehistoric Cosmology.

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## **Internal Limits in El Argar? First Data about the Argaric Settlements from Rambla de Algeciras (Southeastern Iberia) and its Territorial Structuring**

*Zephyrus*, xc, July-December 2022, pp. 69-90

The recent fieldwork carried out in the rambla de Algeciras has determined the strong and heterogeneous occupation of this area during the Early Bronze Age (2200-1550 BC). Despite the anthropic pressure that this environment has undergone, the results obtained through selective survey, archaeological excavation and the analysis of past archaeological research point to the existence of an important population density that probably maintained a close relationship with the nearby site of La Almoloya. The analysis of the different types of identified settlement reveals an intensive occupation and exploitation of the landscape, as well as the existence of several positions dedicated to the control and surveillance of the immediate territory. Based on a multi-scale approach, the aim of this paper is to discuss the obtained results and to propose what role this area may have developed in the framework of the political and territorial entities proposed for the southeast of the Iberian Peninsula during the Argaric Bronze Age.

*Key words:* Bronze Age; Iberian Southeast; Territoriality; Landscape Archaeology; Settlement Pattern; Archaeological Survey.

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## **Stratigraphy, Radiocarbon and Textile Production: Chronotypologic Seriation of Bronze Age Loom Weights from the South-Eastern Area of the Iberian Peninsula**

*Zephyrus*, xc, July-December 2022, pp. 91-114

This article aims to demonstrate the importance, as a chronological indicator, of one of the objects of the Bronze Age archaeological record in the south-eastern quadrant of the Iberian Peninsula that has not been considered until now: loom weights. From the analysis of their typological seriation, duly concatenated with the contextual information on their appearance in habitat spaces and with the chronostratigraphic data based on absolute dates associated from Argaric, Valencian Bronze Age and Bronze Age in La Mancha sites –2200-1550 cal BC– and Late Bronze Age sites –1550-1250 cal BC–, we show how, beyond the implications that their morphological changes may have had in the context of technical innovations and the organisation of textile craftsmanship over more than a millennium, they can also be used as a reliable chronological indicator in the temporal ordering.

*Key words:* Textile Production; Loom weights; Bronze Age; Typology; Chronology; South-Eastern Iberian Peninsula.

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## **A Provenance Analysis in Lloseta Hoard (Mallorca) and Hybridization Phenomena in the Late Bronze Age**

*Zephyrus*, xc, July-December 2022, pp. 115-134

This article presents lead isotope analyses from the Lloseta (Majorca) deposit and looks into the possible provenance of the raw material used in artifacts. Thanks to the marked local character of its artifact designs, as well as likely being one of the oldest documented finds, this Late Bronze Age site is deemed one of the most important in the Balearic Islands. The results of the analyses show that the raw material used mostly came from the archipelago, with good matches with the copper minerals of Menorca and the lead minerals of Mallorca. Although it is possible that some objects were made with metals not from the islands, the findings suggest that these materials did not come from distant geographic regions. The result of the study shows a set of pieces that reflects the coexistence of local practices and traditions with new ideas and technological innovations, thus being a good example of hybridization.

*Key words:* Lead Isotopes Analysis; Provenances Studies; Archaeometallurgy; Western Mediterranean; Hybridization; Connectivity.

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## **Analysing the Sacred Landscape in the Iberian Culture: GIS, Caves and Ritual Performance**

*Zephyrus*, xc, July-December 2022, pp. 135-158

Sacred spaces, such as Iberian caves, with liminal location and character, had important ritual significance and socio-political meanings for their communities. Through the Geographical Information Systems –GIS– techniques, we can analyse these sacred spaces in context. In this paper, by using a regional study as an example, we show the main analysis undertaken with GIS, considering diverse variables and formulas. This will allow to develop comparative perspectives with other similar Mediterranean contexts.

A first approach to the sacred landscape of the Iberian Iron Age territory of *Edeta*, in Lliria, València, is presented, analysing two ritual caves in context: Cueva del Sapo and Cueva Merinel, located on the southern border of the territory and frequented between the fifth and the second centuries BC. By using diverse models, we propose access routes to them, with the final objective of thinking about the effort and symbolism that a ritual journey linked to these natural sacred locations would imply.

*Key words:* Sacred Landscape; Ritual Caves; Iberian Iron Age; Ritual Journeys; GIS; R.

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## **New Interpretative Outlook of ‘Verraco’ Sculptures. Analysis and Research on a Geminate Verraco from El Gordo (Cáceres)**

*Zephyrus*, xc, July-December 2022, pp. 159-178

This paper provides the results of the research on a geminate zoomorphic sculpture that was picked up in August 2021 from the floodable area of the Valdecañas reservoir (El Gordo, Cáceres). This is the second geminated *verraco* to be found in the Iberian Peninsula and the only one documented that might represent a pair of male and female suidae. The morphological and comparative examination of the piece, the lithological analysis of the granite used, the research on the landscape where it was found in environmental, socioeconomic

and spatial terms, and the review of the bibliography about zoomorphic sculptures of the Vetones, provide some new interesting data that lead us to reflect on some of the approaches of the current historiography regarding this sculptural phenomenon, such as the presence of female specimens among the wide variety of figures, the differentiation between wild and domesticated individuals based on certain phenotypic traits, and the interpretation of their meaning.

*Key words:* Iron Age; Iberian Peninsula; Veton; Sculpture; Female; Lithology.

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## **Defensive and Domestic Architecture in the Alto de La Garma Hillfort (Cantabria)**

*Zephyrus*, xc, July-December 2022, pp. 179-196

The archaeological site of Alto de La Garma, in Omoño, Ribamontán al Monte, is an Early Iron Age little hillfort located in the coastal area of Cantabria. The excavations carried out have documented a settlement with two occupation phases. The first, which dates from the Iron Age I, has a defensive wall built in terraces and circular houses, whose chronology is between the end of the 8<sup>th</sup> century BC and the end of the 6<sup>th</sup> century BC. The second phase, after a century of abandonment, date between the end of the 5<sup>th</sup> and the 4<sup>th</sup> century BC, is characterized by the construction of a double-faced wall. Some archaeological materials and absolute dating also open the possibility that the hillfort, after a new abandonment, was in use during the Second Iron Age or the Roman Age.

In this paper we present a study of all their occupations focusing on the analysis of its defensive and domestic architecture, in relation to others archaeological sites from the Iron Age of the Cantabrian Region.

*Key words:* Early Iron Age; Cantabrian Region; Archaeological Excavation; Rampart; Dwellings.

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## **Colossal Head from *Colonia Patricia*. On the Reworking of Heads of Divinities in the Roman Age**

*Zephyrus*, xc, July-December 2022, pp. 199-217

A colossal marble head from Cordoba that has been considered to be Hermes or Mars is studied in depth; after a detailed analysis of the piece and of various characteristics that can be seen in it, it is concluded that, in

all probability, the head has been reworked from a head of Minerva; the finding of other heads of this goddess, or of an ideal character in any case, which have also undergone this reworking in different periods leads us to provide some data on a subject which has not been dealt with much by critics, namely the reworking of sculptures representing gods and goddesses. The conclusion reached by our study is that we are looking at a representation of Mercury –in all probability of the Ludovisi type– which would form part of the ornamental programme of one of the official spaces in Roman Cordoba, very close to the Roman theatre. This concludes the presence, detected for the first time in this city, of a colossal sculpture in the first half of the 2<sup>nd</sup> century, probably in the Hadrianic period.

*Key words:* Roman Cordoba; Sculpture; Reuse; Mercury; Minerva.

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### **About an Anthropomorphic Pendant in an Early Medieval Context from La Alcudia of Elche (Alicante)**

*Zephyrus*, xc, July-December 2022, pp. 219-235

An anthropomorphic figurine carved in bone is among the materials exhumed in recent archaeological work at the site of La Alcudia in Elche, Alicante. It comes from a stratum formed in the Early Medieval Ages that contained materials from previous phases. The ignorance of this type of figure and the stratigraphic complexity of the site led to the search for formal parallels that would allow the framing of the origin of this piece. At first, and based on the bibliographical tradition of the site, it was compared with others of Punic origin, later expanding the search to other chronologies. A good number of figures have been located through the work with parallels and attending only to the formal characteristics. Still, they present diverse chronological frameworks and geographical locations; in some cases, their stratigraphic contextualisation could be more consistent. All these elements allow us to consider the importance of the context as a dating tool in contraposition to more classic forms of study of archaeological objects, where the formal characteristics are the central element of the analysis.

*Key words:* Female Figure; Bone; *Ilici*; Stratigraphic Context; Formal Parallels.

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### **Letters Drawn in Bone. Alphabets of Islamic València on Bovid Scapulae**

*Zephyrus*, xc, July-December 2022, pp. 237-260

A study is presented on the scapulae of bovids recovered in the urban excavations of the city of València, with chronologies ranging from the ninth century to the beginning of the thirteenth, all of them with Arabic alphabets incised or chiseled. For the first time they have been studied jointly and three new specimens are unveiled, two from Street Verge de la Misericòrdia and one found in the recent excavations of the Islamic wall. To undertake the functional analysis of these bones, it is first to address the examination of the Arabic alphabet and its social uses. From an archaeological and epigraphic point of view, the results are presented and the hypotheses that have been formulated and discussed about the fate of these objects are analyzed: one prophylactic and one educational. It is proposed to add the thesis, according to the characteristics of the Valencian material, of its artisanal character. After highlighting the importance of these pieces as examples of literacy on the part of society and valuing the artisanal work carried out for their elaboration, it is proposed that they are objects used for didactic purposes to promote learning and that they would be used as a sample to copy the letters and practice artisan techniques.

*Key words:* Middle Ages; Iberian Peninsula; Urban Archaeology; Bone Industry; Technological Analysis.