

45th International Colloquium of the AFEAF- Gijón (13-15 May 2021)

RAW MATERIALS IN THE FIRST MILLENNIUM BC EUROPE

EXPLOITATION, TRANSFORMATION, DIFFUSION

From the end of the Bronze Age until the conquest of the Cantabrians and Asturians by Augustus, the Northwest of the Iberian Peninsula is characterized by what is conventionally called the *Cultura castreña*. The *castro* (hillfort or fortified village) is a distinctive characteristic in the local landscape and a characteristic element of the socio-economic and cultural system of the indigenous communities.

However, in Asturias, the regional archaeological record is not limited to *castreños* settlements. The region is in fact very rich in raw materials, mostly metallic, thanks to the geomorphological context of the *Cordillera Cantabrica*, a steep mountain range that runs along the coast. Their presence gave rise to a long tradition of exploitation and transformation of resources, in particular native copper and gold. Current research on the periods between the Chalcolithic and the Roman period is revolutionising our knowledge of this area of study. The new approaches include the isotopic characterisation of ores, analysis of DNA from the bones of miners, and the study of mining and ore processing structures. In addition, the excavation of the settlements located near the gold mines has made it possible to understand the complex craft practices and also on a larger scale to reflect on the social and territorial organisation of the indigenous communities before their integration into the Roman Empire.

The theme of the 45th AFEAF colloquium in Gijón is therefore centred on raw materials in Europe and the whole range of practices associated with them: their exploitation, processing, impact on society and the management of their different forms (raw materials, ingots, finished objects and in progress products, know-how, logistical aspects, environmental impact). The conference will be organized in three thematic sessions. Two scales of analysis will be emphasised: the regional scale and the European scale. The two will be compared in order to encourage scientific debate and can be based on different examples, contexts and types of analysis. The chronological scope of the colloquium is the entire first millennium BC.

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Session 1. RAW MATERIALS

Exploitation, transformation, characterisation, craftworking

The theme of this session is the provenance, transformation and diffusion of resources exploited by later prehistoric communities. A wide range of raw materials was exploited in the Iron Age, biological, mineral and other (clay, rocks, lignite, gold, silver, copper, iron, tin, lead, salt, shell, amber, coral, bones, antler, wood, plants, plant / animal fibres, pigments, bitumen, pitch, spices, glass, etc.).

Much space will be given to archaeometric and technological analyses in order to shed light on craft practices, covering the entire *chaîne opératoire* (from extraction to the finished object). It will thus be possible to discuss the geographical provenance and the cultural context of material production. Finally, we shall endeavour to identify technical traditions, know-how or craft 'recipes' and to trace their development.

Session 2. SYSTEMS OF RESOURCE EXPLOITATION

Exploitation and processing structures and environmental impact

The second session will focus on the study of structures related to the extraction and processing of raw materials. Special attention will be paid to those archaeological remains that directly attest productive activities: places of exploitation (mines and quarries), workshops and the tools used.

Adequate space will be given to the problems of identification and interpretation of these remains, sometimes difficult to detect, but also to the environmental impact of exploitation and processing activities. Discussion of the role of these structures and those who used them in the social organization of communities, and its development through time, will be particularly welcomed. The aim is to better define the socio-economic role of craftworkers and, more broadly, the place occupied by crafts within later prehistoric communities. What is the impact of these activities on social structure and on the architectural and spatial organisation of sites? Particular attention will be paid to the transformation and shaping of the environment at different scales, from the individual site to the landscape, through the study of the impact of human activity on soils, on the processes of sedimentation and on available resources, including pollution indices and the environmental impact of exploitation and production activities.

Session 3. CIRCULATION OF MATERIALS AND PRODUCTS

Modelling, characterisation and logistical organisation of trade networks

The theme of this session is the circulation of raw materials and processed products, but also of craft practices. It is necessary to have a better understanding of ancient mobility on different scales: from regional contacts to European exchange networks. Papers on spatial and mathematical modelling will be particularly welcome. Other aspects that may be addressed include the existence of weighing units, recording systems (epigraphic and textual data), practices of socialisation, and the logistics of transport routes (ports, fords, entrepôts), and the range of practices that may be associated with these aspects or identified from archaeologically and chronologically reliable data.

Proposals for oral communications or posters must be submitted to the colloquium secretariat before 30 September 2020, specifying name, address and institutional affiliation of the author(s), title and summary in two languages of 1600 characters for posters, and 2500-3000 characters for oral communications. To be written in French or Spanish and English for the pre-conference abstracts.

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Colloquium Secretariat (to whom all proposals should be sent):

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Recommendations and conference objectives

This conference aims to foster scientific debate based on the presentation of new results (methodological and theoretical) and new data closely related to the three themes. Overview presentations as well as innovative scientific work are particularly welcome. Studies discussing a single site, a newly begun research project or a limited assemblage of artefacts will also be appreciated, but must be presented in the form of a poster.

Publication of the Colloquium Proceedings

Publication of the Proceedings is scheduled for May 2023, in the Collection AFEAF. Manuscripts are due on 15 October 2021. The languages accepted will be those of the conference (French, Spanish, English).

Excursion

The excursion itinerary will introduce participants to the most important Iron Age and Roman period sites in Asturias. There will be three visits :

- 1- visit to the Coaña *castro*, a fortified village of the mid first millennium BC;
- 2- lunch and visit to Veranes Roman villa;

3- visit to the Campa Torres *castro* and its museum (called Noega in the ancient sources, it is the most important coastal site in Asturias). There is a magnificent view from the Campa Torres *castro* over the Cantabrian sea, the town of Gijón and the Roman archaeological site on the Santa Catalina hill.

Gala Evening

The Gala Evening will take place in the beautiful park of the Asturian People's Museum (Gardens of the Museum of the Pueblo of Asturias) located a few steps from San Lorenzo beach, in the western part of the town of Gijón.

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