Osteological Analysis of Remains Recovered from Tomb G13-001 in the San Giuliano Necropolis

Tomb G13-001 dates to c. 700 BC and is found in the ambit of the Chiusa Chima tomb complex in the southern portion of the San Giuliano archaeological site. The tomb is cut into the tuff and lacks a façade and the inner single chamber is carved with the typical traits of a faux Etruscan home. The tomb was excavated in the first two seasons (summer 2016 and 2017) of the San Giuliano Archaeological Research Project (SGARP). This extensively looted tomb was chosen because of the surface presence of human skeletal elements and the need to recover those remains before they were lost or destroyed. Despite the extensive looting of artifacts, the skeletal material did not appear to be intentionally removed from the tomb but was scattered throughout the tomb and the dromos. Most of the bones are highly damaged and fragmented making reassociation impossible although still yielded much information about those individuals interred in the tomb.

The material was analyzed macroscopically and digital images were captured and archived. Each element recorded was given a unique identification number and recorded by context. In each instance (when possible), the identification, side and portion of the bone was noted along with completeness. This was done in order to generate an inventory of recovered skeletal remains, the completeness of the skeletal material and to estimate the minimum number of individuals present (MNI). Estimates of stature, sex and age were not possible for most of the skeletal elements due to the fragmentary nature of the remains.

There was a total of 1535 human skeletal elements recovered. Of those, 282 (18%) were identified and 1253 (82%) were too fragmentary and damaged to be accurately classified. Half of

identifiable elements were less than 25% complete, which highlights the fragmentary state of the material Of the 282 type identified elements, 213 are bone and 69 are teeth The majority of the skeletal elements recovered are from bones of the appendicular skeleton n=132 or 62%. There were 81 bones identified from the axial skeleton comprising 38% of the bones identified with most being bones of the cranium. There were 69 teeth recovered from tomb and all but three were identifiable by type. Molars were the most common (n=30 or 43%) tooth type recovered and canines (n=6 or 9%) were the least common.

The minimum number of adult individuals (MNI) was calculated using sided non-repeatable elements. There were 12 left tibiae recovered from the tomb indicating at least 12 individuals were present. Sex estimation was possible from an ilium by scoring the sciatic notch that indicated this is from a female. This same ilium has a preserved auricular surface that was used to age the individual as 51.1 with a standard deviation of 17.8 (Hens and Belcastro 2012). A complete right femoral head was recovered and has a maximum diameter that indicates this individual is female. In addition to the adult remains, there were four fetal bones recovered as well.

There were at least 12 adult individuals and one fetus among the remains recovered from the tomb. The adult female with represented by the ilium was roughly 51 years at death and most likely not the female who was pregnant so at least two females. With the additional female femoral head that could belong to either of the aforementioned females or could be a separate third female. This appears to be the first recovery of fetal remains for Etruscan tombs in the area.

Bibliography

Hens, S.M. and Belcastro, M. G. (2012). “Auricular surface aging: A blind test of the revised method on historic Italians from Sardinia.” *Forensic Science International*, 214(1): Pages 209.e1-209.e5.