

UN ATELIER ÎN CARE SE PRELUCRAU OASE ȘI COARNE DESCOPERIT LA ULPIA TRAIANA SARMIZEGETUSA

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Abstract:

Bone and antler were always raw materials for manufacturing weapons and tools. Processing hard materials of animal origin has proved to be an important occupation of Roman artisans. The presence of bone or antler artifacts in almost all Roman sites, whether urban or rural settlements, legion camps or auxiliary troop camps, lead us to conclude that the occupation to process such material was very well represented in many large settlements from this period.

In the summer campaign of 2009 we could explore the wooden stage buildings in the eastern half of section S4. The trace of a wooden wall, P9, oriented north-south, which crosses the entire section without making corner, was excavated here. East of the P9 wall a pit interpreted as Complex 2 appeared. This pit was filled with cinders and coal, but there were no traces of this combustion, which makes us believe that the remains of burning were pulled away. On the western edge of the pit and also inside of it, an ongoing sequence of processing bone fragments coming from different animals was discovered.

West of the P9 wall another pit, G43, appeared. At discharge numerous cut ends of long bones and a deer antler were found and we can say that were collected for processing. Inside this pit, broken pots were found, worked out of a rough paste and fired only at the outer side, probably used to boil the bones in order to strip the flesh off of them.

Considering the aspects revealed in our wooden stage S4 as well as the large number of bone and antler fragments that show signs of cutting and also the few processed or scrapped parts that were discovered, we can say that, at least in the wood construction phase, west of the Forum Vetus, there was a workshop processing bone and antler, which we've yet partially surprised.