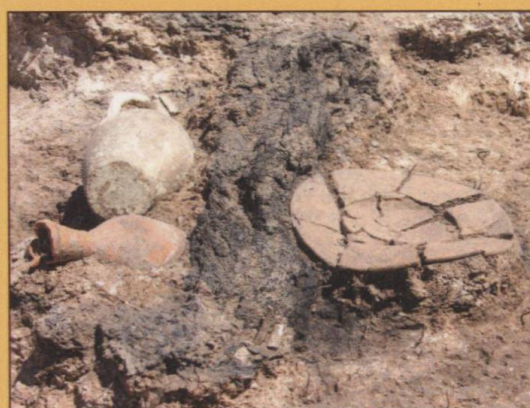


THE ARCHAEOLOGY OF CREMATION

Human societies have disposed of their dead in a variety of ways. Whilst considerable attention has been paid to bodies that were buried, comparatively little work has been devoted to understanding the nature of cremated remains, despite their visibility through time. It has been argued that this is the result of decades of misunderstanding regarding the potential information that this material holds, combined with properties that make burned bone inherently difficult to analyse. As such, there is a considerable body of knowledge on the concepts and practices of inhumation yet our understanding of cremation ritual and practice is, by comparison, woefully inadequate.

This timely volume therefore draws together the inventive methodology that has been developed for this material and combines it with a fuller interpretation of the archaeological funerary context. It demonstrates how an innovative methodology, when applied to a challenging material, can produce new and exciting interpretations of archaeological sites and funerary contexts.



Tim Thompson is Professor of Applied Biological Anthropology and Associate Dean (Academic) in the School of Health & Life Science at Teeside University.

STUDIES IN FUNERARY ARCHAEOLOGY:

- Vol. 1 *Social Archaeology of Funerary Remains*
Edited by Rebecca Gowland and Christopher Knüsel
- Vol. 2 *Deviant Burial in the Archaeological Record*
Edited by Eileen M. Murphy
- Vol. 3 *The Archaeology of the Dead*
Henry Duday
- Vol. 4 *Burial in Later Anglo-Saxon England c. 650–1100 AD*
Jo Buckberry and Annia Cherryson
- Vol. 5 *Living Through the Dead: Burial and Commemoration in the Classical World*
Edited by Maureen Carroll and Jane Rempel
- Vol. 6 *Living with the Dead: Ancestor Worship and Mortuary Ritual in Ancient Egypt*
Nicola Harrington
- Vol. 7 *Death and Changing Rituals: Function and Meaning in Ancient Funerary Practices*
Edited by J. Rasmus Brandt, Marina Prusac and Håkon Roland



List of contributors.....	v
Foreword.....	vii
Acknowledgements.....	xii

1. Fire and the body: Fire and the people.....	1
<i>Tim Thompson</i>	
2. Flesh, fire, and funerary remains from the Neolithic site of La Varde, Guernsey: Investigations past and present	19
<i>Jenny Cataroche and Rebecca Gowland</i>	
3. Past cremation practices from a bioarchaeological perspective: How new methods and techniques revealed conceptual changes in cremation practices during the late Bronze Age and early Iron Age in Denmark.....	43
<i>Lise Harvig</i>	
4. The weight of the matter: Examining the potential of skeletal weight for the bioarchaeological analysis of cremation at the Iron Age necropolis of Tera (Portugal).....	63
<i>David Gonçalves, Vanessa Campanacho, Tim Thompson and Rui Mataloto</i>	
5. Funerary rituals and ideologies in the Phoenician-Punic necropolis of Monte Sirai (Carbonia, Sardinia, Italy).....	97
<i>Giampaolo Piga, Michele Guirguis and Ethel Allue</i>	
6. The funerary practice of cremation at <i>Augusta Emerita</i> (Mérida, Spain) during High Empire: contributions from the anthropological analysis of burned human bone	123
<i>Filipa Cortesão Silva</i>	
7. The integration of microscopic techniques in cremation studies: A new approach to understanding social identity among cremation practicing groups from early Anglo-Saxon England	151
<i>Kirsty E. Squires</i>	

8. Analysing cremated human remains from the southern Brazilian highlands:
Interpreting archaeological evidence of funerary practice at mound and
enclosure complexes in the Pelotas River Valley 173
Priscilla Ferreira Ulguim
9. Case applications of recent research on thermal effects on the skeleton 213
Douglas H. Ubelaker
10. The interpretation and reconstruction of the post-mortem events
in a case of scattered burned remains in Chile..... 227
Claudia Garrido-Varas and Marisol Intriago-Leiva
11. Conclusion 243
Tim Thompson