

## BONES FROM THE LATE BYZANTINE REMAINS NEAR SHIQMONA

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Human skeletal remains, dated to the Byzantine period, were found in the burial caves excavated at Shiqmona (see Kletter, this volume). The poor state of preservation of the bones made it difficult to obtain complete anthropological data. As the caves had been robbed, the osteological material from each cave is discussed together.

### *Tomb 3*

Tomb 3 contained fragments of cranial and postcranial bones and teeth, representing at least three individuals: two adults and one adolescent. Both adults were determined to be males according to the maximum vertical lengths of the femoral heads: 46 and 47 mm (Bass 1987); their ages are unknown. The age of the adolescent was estimated between 15 and 17.5 years, according to the closures of the epiphyses of the long bones (Johnston and Zimmer 1989).

### *Tomb 4*

Tomb 4 contained fragments of cranial and post-cranial bones and teeth of at least eight individuals: six adults and two children.

The sex of the adults was determined by the maximum vertical lengths of the right femoral heads: four individuals with lengths of 45, 46, 47, and 50 mm were determined to be males, and two, with lengths of 39 and 43 mm, were determined to be females (Bass 1987). The ages of three of the adults were estimated to be 30–40, 35–45, and 30–40 years, using standards modified from Hillson (1986) and Lovejoy (1985) for stages of tooth attrition on the mandible teeth.

The age of one child was estimated to be 2.5–3.5 years, according to the length of the long bones without the epiphyses (Bass 1987). The age of the other child was estimated to be 12 years according to the stage of tooth eruption and development (Ubelaker 1989).

### *Tomb 6*

The tomb contained fragments of crania, postcranial bones, and teeth of at least seven individuals: three adults and four children.

The sex of the adults was determined by the maximum vertical lengths of the femoral heads: two males and one female, all aged 30–40 years (using standards modified from Hillson 1986 and Lovejoy 1985).

The children were determined to be one newborn (less than one year old), according to the length of the long bones without the epiphyses (Bass 1987), one three-year-old, according to the stage of tooth eruption and development (Ubelaker 1989), and a 10–15 year old and a 10–18 year old, according to the closure of the epiphyses of the long bones (Johnston and Zimmer 1989).

### *Tomb 8*

Tomb 8 contained fragments of cranial and postcranial bones of at least two individuals: one adult and one child. The sex of the adult, estimated to be more than 15 years, was impossible to determine. The age of the child was less than five years, according to the length of the long bones without the epiphyses (Bass 1987).

*Tomb 12*

Tomb 12 contained fragments of cranial and postcranial bones of at least two adults, one of them identified as a male, according to the

maximum vertical length of the femoral heads (48 mm); the sex of the other adult could not be determined. The age of both the individuals is unknown.

## REFERENCES

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