

SOME ANTHROPOLOGICAL REMARKS ON HUMAN REMAINS FROM THE DRAVLJE AND EMONA NECROPOLIS

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The first part of this Report presents the results of an anthropological analysis of the two skulls which come from the series of 49 skeletons excavated in 1968-69 at the Ostrogothic cemetery in Dravlje (Ljubljana) from 5th to 6th centuries A. D. (M. Slabe, 1975). All this series has already been measured and briefly described by T. Pogačnik and T. Tomazo-Ravnik, who published their data in 1975.

However, our analysis intends to be more detailed as regards morphology and artificial deformation and it will embrace typological diagnosing of the crania as well.

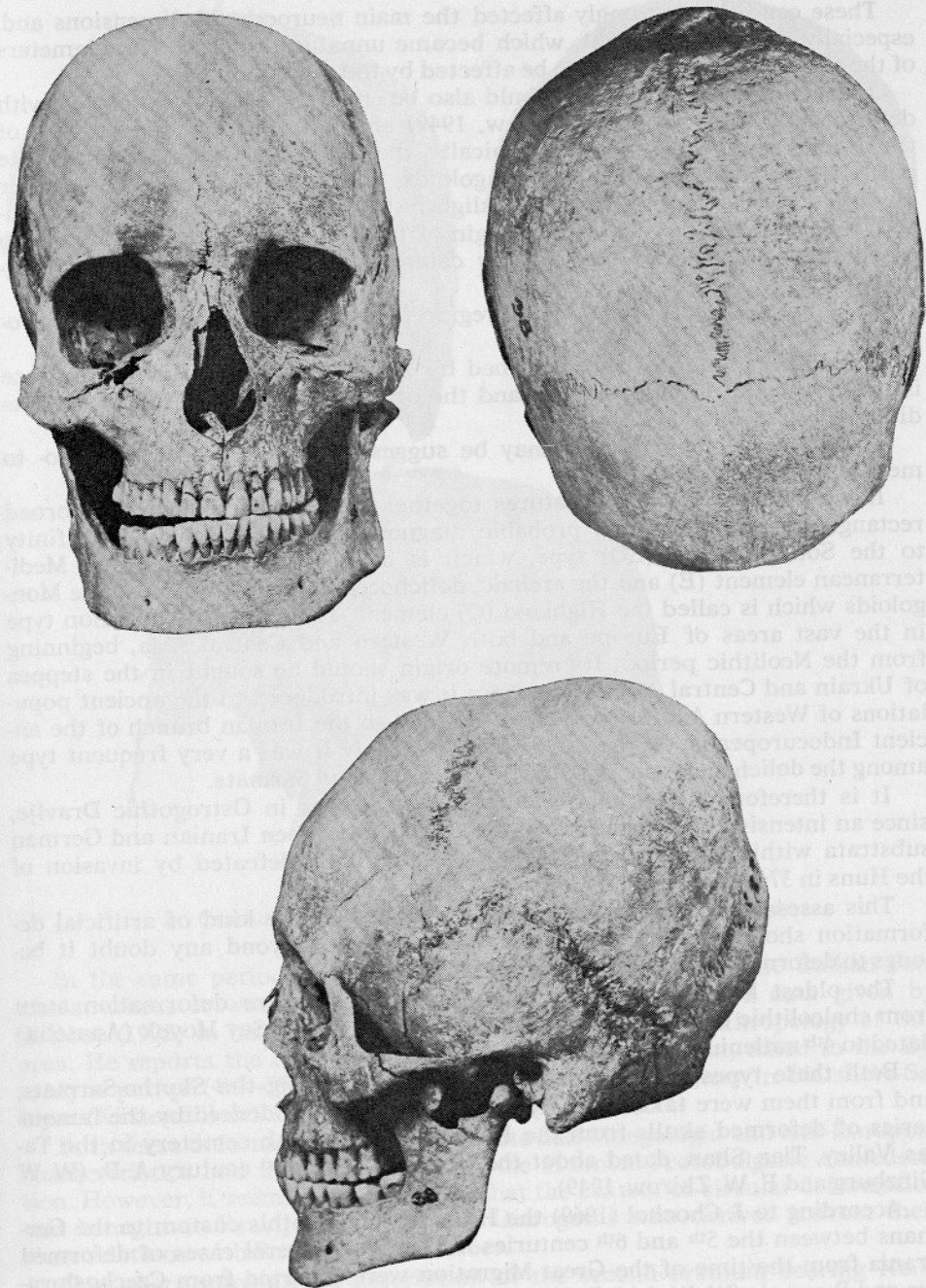
The morphological description was made according to the cranioscopic scales of I. Michalski while the individual typing was based on differential diagnosis made by the Polish Anthropological School.

Cranium No. 38 (**Fig. 1**) shows medium strong relief and medium dimensions, moderately developed glabella and medium size mastoids. It should be assigned to the male sex. The sutures began to obliterate and dentition is fairly well attrited. The age at death may have been from 35—40 years, which exceeds the category adultus, ascribed to this skull by T. Pogačnik and T. Tomazo-Ravnik.

The cranium is severely damaged in the regions of the occiput and, to a lesser degree, in the nasal and right mandible ramus regions.

It shows strong artificial deformation by the use of bandaging which caused a horizontal depression passing across the frontal squama, and then, below the parietal tubera and the region above the lambda. The second bandage was used vertically and the corresponding depression passes transversally along and behind the coronoid suture.

All this resulted in a strong globulling of the posterior part of the parietals upwards, a more vertical position of the supralambdoid region and the elevation of the posterior portion of the forehead.



1 Cranium No. 38 from Dravlje. — *Lobanja št. 38 iz Dravelj*

These conditions strongly affected the main neurocranial dimensions and, especially the cranial height, which became unnaturally large. The diameters of the facial part do not seem to be affected by the deformation.

The presence of metopism should also be emphasized. It is connected with deformation (see: Ginzburg, Zhirow, 1949) and not with the younger age of the individual. As viewed cranioscopically, the cranium shows an intermediate position between Europoids and Mongoloids, as assessed by a broad and rather low nasal root, medium prominent, slightly biconvex nasal bones, a sharp edged but somewhat double lower margin of the nasal aperture, a medium deep maxillary incisure, definitely shallow canine fossa and slight alveola mesognathism.

At the same time, the zygomatic region is not robust and only slightly prominent.

According to the indices, published by T. Pogačnik and T. Ravnik the face is medium high, the nose narrow and the orbits at the lower limit of the medium high category.

In spite of deformation, it may be suggested that there was dolicho- to mesocephaly.

If we combine all these features together with the large orbits of broad rectangular form, the most probable diagnosis would appear to be affinity to the South-Eastern (EQ) type, which is intermediate between the Mediterranean element (E) and the archaic, dolichocephalic component of the Mongoloids which is called the Highland (Q) element. This is a quite common type in the vast areas of Europe and both Western and Central Asia, beginning from the Neolithic period. Its remote origin should be sought in the steppes of Ukrain and Central Asia. From there it was introduced to the ancient populations of Western Asia, on the one hand, and to the Iranian branch of the ancient Indoeuropeans, on the other. Most probably it was a very frequent type among the dolichocephalic populations of Skyths and Sarmats.

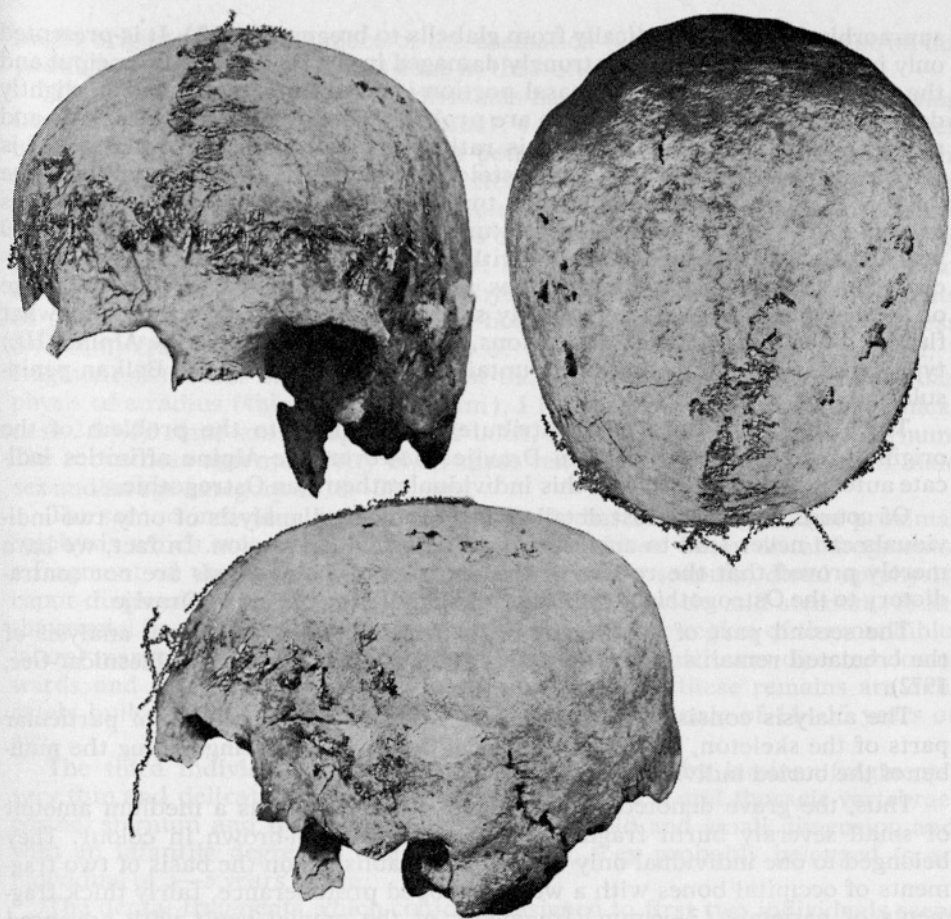
It is therefore not strange that it should appear in Ostrogothic Dravlje, since an intensive hybridisation can be assumed between Iranian and German substrata within the frame of the Goth-Alanic state defeated by invasion of the Huns in 376 A. D.

This assessment may be further corroborated by the kind of artificial deformation shown by the skull under examination. Beyond any doubt it belongs to deformatio circularis semi-erecta.

The oldest human remains which demonstrate severe deformation stem from chalcolithic cemeteries is Byblos, (Lebanon) and in Sey Hoyek (Anatolia) dated to 4th millenium B. C. (M. Özbek, 1974).

Both these types of deformation later spread among the Skytho-Sarmats, and from them were taken over by the Huns. This is evidenced by the famous series of deformed skulls from the Kenkolskiy catacomb cemetery in the Talas Valley, Tian Shan, dated about the beginning of the 1st century A. D. (W. W. Ginzburg and E. W. Zhirow, 1949).

According to J. Chochol (1969) the Huns introduced this custom to the Germans between the 5th and 6th centuries A. D. and so several cases of deformed crania from the time of the Great Migration were reported from Czechoslovakia and Rumania (W. Wolski, D. Nicolaescu-Plopşor, 1972).



2 Cranium No. 1 from Dravlje. — *Lobanja št. 1 iz Dravelj*

In the same period this artificial deformation appears in the Balkan Peninsula, where it was previously unknown, if we accept the data given by B. Boev (1972) in his exhaustive publication on the paleoanthropology of this area. He reports the first cases from Stargosia near Pleven, dated to the Byzantine period (4th—5th century A. D.) and from the cemetery in Dlatšheva-Sabiyar (Küstendil) dated between 5th—6th centuries A. D.

Both these deformed crania demonstrate half-Mongoloid and half-Europoid characteristics and may descend from the Hunnian-Protobulgaric confederation. However, it seems more probable that the custom of circular deformation was brought to Dravlje simply by the Ostrogoths who derived it from their close relations with Sarmato-Alanic tribes.

Now there remains the description of the second cranium bearing No. 1, covered by ornaments consisting of thin, golden spirals passing behind the

supraorbital arcs and vertically from glabella to bregma (**Fig. 2**). It is presented only in the form of calvaria, strongly damaged in the regions of the occiput and the right temporal bone. The basal portion is also almost absent. It is slightly deformed too, but in this case, we are probably dealing with plagiocephaly and not with artificial deformation. It is rather big, but the superorbital relief is only slightly developed and the mastoids are small and sharply pointed. The main cranial sutures are obliterated to a considerable extent. Thus it belongs to the female sex and the late *maturus* category age, i.e. between 40—50 years, which is in full agreement with T. Pogačnik's diagnosis. It is brachycephalic, with bulging parietal bones and a broad nasal root. The influence of the Laponoid (L) element is fairly sure, which combined with a somewhat flattened occiput and large dimensions, suggests an affinity to the Alpine (HL) type, a common component of mountainous regions and of the Balkan peninsula and Asia.

Thus, this skull does not contribute substantially to the problem of the origins of the peoples buried in Dravljje. However, the Alpine affinities indicate autochthonous descent of this individual rather than Ostrogothic.

Of course, even the most detailed anthropological analysis of only two individuals can never lead to any certain ethnological conclusion. In fact, we have merely proved that the results of the anthropological analysis are not contradictory to the Ostrogothic affinities of the population buried in Dravljje.

The second part of this report deals with the anthropological analysis of the cremated remains from urn-graves, excavated in Emona (L. Plesničar-Gec, 1972).

The analysis consisted of the identification of the fragments of particular parts of the skeleton, their morphological description, distinguishing the number of the buried individuals and their sexing and aging.

Thus, the grave denoted only as "Hallstatt B" contains a medium amount of small severely burnt fragments which are greyish-brown in colour. They belonged to one individual only which was established on the basis of two fragments of occipital bones with a well developed protuberance, fairly thick fragments of parietals (3—6 mm) fragments of the cranial vault with advanced obliteration and numerous fragments of the long bones with ossified epiphyses and thick laminae. It should be further noticed that the anterior margin of the tibia amounts to 8—9 mm. All the morphological features of these more characteristic remains allow us to assign this individual to the male sex and between 35—40 years of age.

The next grave, No. 732, dated to the 1st century A. D. contained a very large amount of deformed remains showing different degrees of cremation. Here, I would like to thank W. Wolska for her cooperation during the study of this grave. The remains are yellowish-white in colour or very light with greyish-blue shades. Some of them reveal traces of ferrotides. This offers evidence for a hypothesis that the cremation was done on different funeral piles.

The method of collecting the remains from the pile consisted in selecting mainly the postcranial fragments, first of all those of epiphyses. A majority of fragments belonged to a male individual while, perhaps, symbolically, some fragments of two other individuals were added. Fragments of a compact clay

might originate from the place of the cremation (ustrinum). It may not be impossible that the cremation was done in the burial place (bustum).

Thus, the presence of three individuals has been ascertained. The following fragments belong to the first individual: 1 occiput squama with poorly developed internal protuberance, 2 partes petrosae ossis temporalis of greater dimensions and totally ossified, fragmented corpus of sphenoid bone, condyloid process of the left part of the mandible, 1 fragment of the gonial part, robust and strongly relieved, several fragments of parietals with somewhat obliterated internal sutures, 1 epiphysic fragment of the right humerus and left caput humeri which was not grown to diaphysis ($g-d = 46$ mm) several fragments of proximal epiphysis of the femoral bone, 2 fragments of femur (thickness 5–9 mm) fragment of both epiphysis of the tibiae, also not fully ossified, 1 fragment of lumbar and 2 fragments of thoracic vertebrae, 2 fragments of diaphysis of a radius (thickness 2.5–3 mm), 1 fragment of ulnar diaphysis (thickness 2.5–3.5 mm) some fragments of talus, scapula, clavicle, patella, sternum. The robustness and massivity of all these remains lead to a diagnosis of male sex and an age category of 18–20 years.

The second individual was diagnosed on the basis of 1 fragment of proximal epiphysis which was not grown to diaphysis and two other distal fragments, a fragment of the radius, some fragment of costae, scapula, distal epiphysis, caput diaphysis of the femur (thickness 3–5 mm) clavicle and sternum. From the cranial bones depended fragments of the symphysic region of the mandible, lateral margins of the nasal aperture and nasal spine which was directed downwards and several fragments of the cranial vault. All these remains are delicately built and not fully ossified, which suggests a female of 14–15 years of age.

The third individual was very poorly represented by laminar fragments, very thin and delicate, and several fragment of cervical and thoracic vertebrae, costae, sternum and tibial bones of the same build and small dimension and with an infantile degree of ossification. Thus, they probably belonged to an individual of 3–5 years of age.

The dental fragments which could be assigned to first two individuals seem to confirm the diagnoses.

Remains from the grey urn which represent the third grave were present in a greater amount. They are relatively big and well preserved, strongly cremated but deformed thermically to a different degree. They show some colour variation from very light brown to dark grey. However, everything indicates that they belong to one individual.

This individual was identified on the basis of fragments of the frontal bone, showing an advanced obliteration of sutures and rather thick (4–6 mm) with strong supraorbital arcs, 1 fragment of left temporal bone, distal epiphysis of right humerus with perforated condyle (bicond. = 56 mm?, trochlear length = 41 mm), fragment of internal laminae of mandible with alveolar fossae, fragment of proximal epiphyses of both tibiae (bicond. dextra = 61 mm?) sagittal diameter of sinistra at tuberositas = 40 mm? and transversal diameter = 39??, fragment of tibial left diaphysis (thickness at linea m. solei = 4 mm) fragment of distal epiphyses of both femora, proximal epiphysis of right humerus (caput diameter $g-d = 38$ mm, medium sagittal diameter = 39 mm)

and right scapula fragment of ischiae bone, fragment of distal epiphysis of fibula, distal epiphysis of right tibia, trochlear region of right tibia, trochlear region of right talus, tuberal region of left calcaneus, left patella (height = 39 mm, thickness = 18 mm) several fragments of femoral diaphyses (thickness = 4—5 mm) and epiphyses, 7 vertebral fragments with slight osteophytes.

All these remains show full ossification, large dimensions and fairly robust build. Consequently, they should be assigned to male individual of 40—50 years of age.

In the grave No. 623 appeared two individuals whose remains are rather poorly represented, though only moderately cremated and of grey-brown colour.

The first of them was distinguished on the basis of the mastoid region with processus, heavily built temporal processus of the mandible, fragments of vertebrae, ulna, pelvis, calcaneus and long bones. All bones are strongly relieved and fully ossified. The vertebrae show the presence of osteophytes. Consequently, they should be assigned to a male of 45—55 years of age.

The second individual is represented by very thin and delicately built fragments of long bones and costae which were of small size. The dental fragments, together with the data mentioned above, established age as 6—7 years.

A medium amount of moderately incinerated fragments was buried in the grave No. 424. Some of them are fairly big and of grey-brown colour.

The fragments of the glabellar region (13 mm thick) reveals a trace of metopism, while the lateral part of the supraorbital region has only very slight postorbital construction. The preserved fragments of nasal bones suggest a very prominent nose, with medium broad nasal root; the fragment of occipital squama is about 5 mm thick as are the parietals. The sutures are at the beginning of obliteration. The vertical diameter of the right humeral head equals to 42 mm and the transversal one 40 mm.

The three fragments of femoral condyls and diaphyses are rather heavily built and totally ossified. The morphology of the left talus-epistropheus, the iliac forcaem and vertebrae and costal fragments are of identical morphology. Thus, all the remains belonged to one male individual of 30—35 years of age.

Grave No. 520 dated to 1st century A. D. contains a small amount of strongly cremated fragments which are of light brown-yellowish colour. They seem to belong to 1 female individual aged 20—25 years. This can be demonstrated on the basis of crainal bones which are less than moderately relieved, not thick (3—5 mm for parietals) with open sutures the left part petrosa is fully ossified. Furthermore the fragments of the long bones show a similar morphology and degree of ossification as do the proximal epiphysis of the right ulna and the first of the right humerus as well. The presence of other fragments of diaphysis of humerus ischiadica and iliac bones, left scapula, sternum, vertebrae costae, tibia and femur moderately thick but totally ossified should also be noticed.

At the end of this analysis of cremated human remains it should be mentioned that too small a number of graves did not allow us to study them from a statistical and paleodemographical point of view.

Table 1

The summarised results of anthropological analysis

Grave <i>Grob</i>	Locality <i>Najdišče</i>	Chronology <i>Čas</i>	Sex <i>Spol</i>	Age <i>Starost</i>	Number of Individuals <i>Število oseb</i>
38 (skeletal)	Dravljje	VI c. A. D.	male	35—40 years	1
1 (skeletal)	Dravljje	VI c. A. D.	female	40—50 years	1
? (cremated)	Emona	Hallstatt B	male	35—40 years	1
732 (cremated)	Emona	I c. A. D.	1 male 1 female 1 child	18—20 years 14—15 years 3—5 years	3
? grey urn (cremated)	Emona		male	40—45 years	1
623 (cremated)	Emona	II c. A. D.	1 male 1 child	40—45 (?) years 6—7 years	2
520 (cremated)	Emona	I c. A. D.	female	20—25 years	1
424 (cremated)	Emona	I—II c. A. D.	male	30—35 years	1

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NEKAJ ANTROPOLOŠKIH OPAŽANJ NA ČLOVEŠKIH KOSTNIH OSTANKIH IZ DRAVELJSKE IN EMONSKE NEKROPOLE

Povzetek

Poročilo sestoji iz dveh delov. Prvi del obravnava v podrobni antropološki analizi morfologijo, tipologijo in umetno deformacijo dveh lobanj iz ostrogotskega grobišča v Dravljah, ki je datirano med 5. in 6. stoletjem n. š.

Moška lobanja starosti maturus (št. 38) kaže po kranioloških znakih vmesni položaj med mongolidi in europidi (sl. 1). Dolgoglavost v kombinaciji s srednje visokim obrazom, ozkim nosom in srednje visokimi orbitami nakazujejo na jugovzhodni tip določen po poljski antropološki šoli. Lobanja je tudi močno umetno deformirana, za kar so uporabili povoje. Deformacijo lahko označimo kot *deformatio circularis semi erecta*.

To je precej pogost tip deformacije, ki je razprostranjen na širših področjih Evrope, zahodne in centralne Azije. Prišel se je že v neolitiku. V draveljsko nekropolo so ga verjetno zanesli Alano-Sarmati.

Odrasla ženska lobanja (št. 1) je kratkoglava s izbočenima temenicama in širokim nosnim korenem, rahlo sploščenim zatiljem ter na splošno velikih dimenzij (sl. 2). Vsi ti znaki nakazujejo na alpski tip, običajno komponento gorskih predelov balkanskega polotoka in Male Azije. Lobanja ima rahlo plagiokefalijo.

Drugi del članka obravnava antropološko analizo žganih kostnih ostankov iz žarnih grobov, ki so bili izkopani v Emoni in datirani v železno dobo (Ha B) ter rimsko dobo od 1. do 2. stoletja n. š.

Fragmente smo razdelili na posamezne anatomske skupine. Glede na morfologijo teh delčkov smo določili število, spol in starost pokopanih oseb. Samo v grobu št. 623 in št. 732 smo dobili fragmente več kot ene osebe (dve v prvem in tri v drugem grobu).

Majhna serija nam ne dovoljuje nobenih paleodemografskih analiz.

Lahko zaključimo le to, da je bil v halštatskem grobu pokopan moški (35–40 let), v ostalih petih rimskih grobovih iz Emone pa so bili pokopani trije odrasli moški, dva mladostnika, ena odrasla ženska in dva otroka umrla med 3. in 7. letom. V treh primerih smo lahko izračunali tudi telesno višino, ki pri vseh treh nakazuje na moške osebe. Vrednosti za telesne višine se spreminjajo od 166 do 175 cm.