

# Taphonomic and Paleobiological Preliminary Notes on the Burials Found in the Monastery of Ss. Ilario e Benedetto-Dogaletto Di Mira (Venice, Italy)

F. Bertoldi<sup>1</sup>, P.A. Rasia<sup>1</sup>, J. Cilli<sup>1</sup>, M.B. De Lotto<sup>1</sup>, S. Gelichi<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Università Ca' Foscari, Venezia Italy- Dipartimento di Studi Umanistici. E-mail: francescabertoldi@hotmail.com

**KEY WORDS:** Dogaletto (Venice), taphonomy, medieval archaeology.

## Introduction

In May and June 2010 the Chair of Medieval Archaeology of Venice University together with the Soprintendenza per i Beni Archeologici del Veneto performed the first excavation campaign in the monastery of SS. Ilario and Benedetto-Dogaletto di Mira (VE). The structure is a foundation dating back to the IXth century AD and is one of the most important institutions founded and promoted by the Partecipazi family, the earliest Venice *Dogi*. The excavation areas are seven and show marked and peculiar differences in chronology (since IInd to XIIIth century AD), structures (production areas, monastic

areas and burial areas) and functions and allowed only a preliminary description of the site's morphology. In UTS 4000 and 3000 15 primary burials and 3 secondary burials have been excavated while 10 possible burials have been mapped and will be perhaps investigated in the future. Twenty subjects have been recovered: 5 children, 2 adolescents, 8 adults and 5 probable adults, all buried in supine position and W-E oriented. Among the adults a preliminary field sex determination shows the presence of 4 females and 2 males, while the two adolescents seem to be both females. In the cemetery several burial typologies have been recorded: simple burials in the ground, two kinds of brick coffins and a grave mark. From the taphonomical point of view, a multiple burial (T. 12) is particularly interesting: we propose in this brief note the sequence and graphic reconstruction of the subjects buried in it (Fig. 1, 2, 3 and 4).

Fig. 1.



Fig. 2.



Fig. 3



Fig. 4.

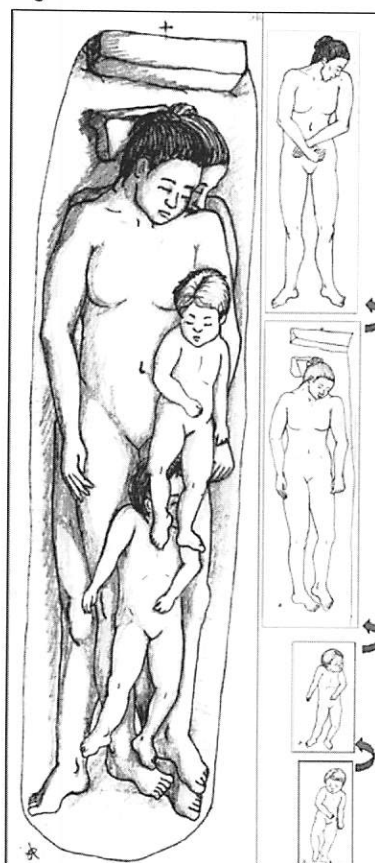


Fig. 1. Tomb 12 and the subjects buried in it.

Fig. 2 and 3. Details of the excavation of tomb 12.

Fig. 4. Reconstruction of the burial sequence of tomb 12.