

The Eneolithic necropolis of Fontenoce/Guzzini area

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ABSTRACT - The 11 funereal structures explored up till now are grotto types, dug into the clayey soil and made up of two communicating pits. The tombs could have been used for placing one, two or more dead on just one floor or on two floors using different burial methods. The burial goods contain flask vases, pitchers, bowls, flint and bone artefacts and other ornamental objects.

KEY WORDS: Necropolis, Eneolithic, Fontenoce/Guzzini area

PAROLE CHIAVE: Necropoli, Eneolitico, Fontenoce/Guzzini area

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The Eneolithic necropolis of Fontenoce/Guzzini area, brought to light during the excavation campaign in 1992 (SILVESTRINI *et al.*, 1992-1993), is located along the valley of the River Potenza and is part of a series of funereal findings in the area South of Ancona between the municipalities of Camerano, Loreto and Recanati (CAZZELLA & MOSCOLONI, 1988:365, fig. 14).

The 11 funereal structures explored up till now (9 other tombs were localized and dug up in the summer 1997), are grotto types, dug into the clayey soil and made up of two communicating pits with depths of 10 and 140cm: a vertical shaft opening generally with a sub-circular plan, orientated towards South that leads to a funereal cell situated towards North with a sub-elliptical plan, through a small opening which in some cases is still preserved.

The small funeral grotto contained buried skeletons (38.1% of children and 23.8% of youngsters) placed in a coiled up position laying on their left side with the nape of their heads in a South-west direction and their faces almost always facing the entrance of the cell. Only in two of the tombs

were the individuals found laying face upwards with their legs bent, while the children of T.6 lay face downwards.

The tombs could have been used for placing one, two or more dead on just one floor or on two floors using different burial methods: a) contemporary deposition of two individuals (children); b) successive depositions directly over the buried individuals; c) successive depositions where skeleton remains were removed and laid on the side. In some cases the intentional choice of the skeleton remains, fragments of the limb bones or parts of the skull could well refer to secondary depositions.

In the vestibule of T6 the skeleton of a dog was found lying on the right side with its body in a South-West/North-East direction, its limbs bent according to burial rites common to other Eneolithic cultures of the peninsula (Rinaldone, Gaudo, Cellino S. Marco). In the T3 cell, along with other buried remains, the presence of bone remains of the partial anatomy of a pig, without the head, is a very significant fact (Fig. 1:9).

(M. Silvestrini)

Tombs	Burials	Adults	Youngsters	Children	Flask vases	Bowls	Flint heads	Bone heads	Ornaments	Other
2	1			1	1				3	
3	5	2	1	2	2	2	7			
4	2			2					1	
5	1		1							1
6	2		1	1	1	1	1			
7	1			1					2	
8	1	1			1	1		3		
9	2		2		1	1	1			
10	1	1								1
11	3	2		1						1
12	2	2				2				1
Total	21	8	5	8	6	7	9	3	6	4

Tab.1 - Summary chart of the burials and the burial goods

The burial goods found in all the 11 tombs uncovered up till now contain flask vases, pitchers, bowls, flint and bone artefacts and other ornamental objects.

There is no evident regularity in the placing of the objects within the tombs in relation to the burials. In particular the vases may be placed near the skull or the hands or legs and are sometimes next to the cell wall. Amongst the pottery containers, mostly produced with half-purified mixtures of a brown-blackish colour, the most common typologies were those of the flask vase and the truncated cone bowl and also the pitcher and the olla.

A very significant fact was that in each tomb there was a single flask vase, notwithstanding the number of individuals buried, apart from an exception in T.3 where there were two flask vases which seem to be related to the two individuals still in anatomic association which is a particular aspect of the funereal rites as remembered in the Eneolithic culture of Rinaldone (MIARI, 1995:375-376).

The flask vases are very varied. The specimens with a flattened ellipsoidal body like the T.3 (Fig. 1:4) and the T.6 ones, the latter being also decorated with close horizontal grooves on the neck part and strips of vertical grooves like rays on the shoulder part do not find parallels in the Marche culture where vases are documented as more globe-shaped or biconical, whereas there are parallels in the Rinaldone necropolis of Ponte S. Pietro (VT) (MIARI, 1993:151).

The decorative motif engraved on the T6 specimen of Fontenoce/Guzzini Area can refer to the T22 vase of Ponte S. Pietro (MIARI, 1993:134, Fig. 11a) ornate with strips of fine grooves, hardly visible, made with a comb with twelve teeth. For the time being, this motif represents a "unicum" in Rinaldone necropolis.

At Fontenoce/Guzzini Area (T.2 and T.8), the flask vase with a globular-shaped body (Fig. 1:1) with a short neck, convex bottom and vertical canaliculated handles placed above the p.m.e., is also confirmed. This shape was very common to the Rinaldone culture and there were many variations in the form of the body, which was more or less flat; the bottom was flat or convex and presented or completely lacked horizontal or vertical handles (NEGRONI CATACCHIO, 1988, tab.888:3-4, 94a:1).

In the Marche, the flask vase with globular-shaped body and vertical handles, in this particular case with a triangular section, is always accredited to the Recanati territory, in the T1 of the Guzzini Area and isolated from the necropolis of Via Domo, La Svolta (LOLLINI, 1968:52-53, tab.III and V). There is only one ovoid-bodied, flask vase present, which is very rare even for the Rinaldone necropolis culture.

There are two varieties of bowls: the truncated cone type with a rounded, indistinct rim which are common to the Eneolithic burials and the type with a slightly flared rim and a long hold with horizontal holes and vertical groove decorations on the side of the handle (Fig. 1:3), which, for the time being, represent an exclusive and standard style of the Fontenoce/Guzzini Area necropolis.

The olla and the pitchers have a biconical profile, the pitchers featuring a handle strip placed under the rim. The lithic industry is represented by nine penduculate bifacial retouched arrowheads with a slightly broader form and convex profile rims (Fig. 1:5-6) which reflect the foliate group of the Rinaldone Culture (COCCHI GENICK, 1980-1981:105-120) and a bilateral retouched blade-scraper. Of particular interest is the finding of two bone heads with slanting chipped edges in T.8 (Fig. 1:7-8), attested in well-defined regional areas as

well as in the North West of Tuscany and in the Grosseto area, parallel to cultural aspects of local Eneolithic (GRIFONI CREMONESI, 1990:235) and, up till now, have only been found in the necropolis of Fontenoce/Guzzini Area in the Marche and in the T.6 of Camerano (LOLLINI, 1975:385). There are traces of mastic for fixing the small wooden poles, which are now deteriorated, and it can be presumed that a quiver was present at the time.

Burial goods such as ornaments made of marble beads and limestone (Fig. 1:2) and shell fragments found around the neck, the wrists and also around the ankles refer solely to children's belongings. The lithic beads were largely diffused during the Eneolithic Period and were very common in North-Western Tuscany (COCCHI GENICK & GRIFONI CREMONESI, 1988:343, Fig. 6:8-13), in the Liguria area (ODETTI, 1987-1988:323), in the Po

area (ACANFORA, 1956:336-339, Fig. 3a-b), and are attested to be less common in the Rinaldone ambit and in Southern Italy. The place of origin of small mother-of-pearl rings found in the Marche is the necropolis tomb of Camerano.

There are many aspects which are similar between the necropolis of Fontenoce/Guzzini Area and in the culture ambits of Rinaldone and the Toscana-Lazio Eneolithic facies, in particular the Grosseto and Viterbo groups and the Vecchiano facies, from which some structural, funerary and material characteristic elements are acquired, but they become adapted to the different local reality.

The C14 analysis on carbon samples taken from T6 supplied the dating of 5010 ± 180 BP in non-calibrated chronology.

(G. Pignocchi)

SUMMARY - The 11 funereal structures explored up till now are grotto types, dug into the clayey soil and made up of two communicating pits. The tombs could have been used for placing one, two or more dead on just one floor or on two floors using different burial methods. The burial goods contain flask vases, pitchers, bowls, flint and bone artefacts and other ornamental objects.

RIASSUNTO - Le 11 strutture funerarie scoperte fino ad oggi sono del tipo a grotticella, scavate in un suolo argilloso e caratterizzate da due fosse comunicanti. Le tombe potevano essere utilizzate per deposizioni singole doppie o plurime su un unico piano o su due piani sovrapposti, con modalità diverse di sepoltura. I corredi funerari sono costituiti da vasi a fiasco, brocche, scodelle, manufatti di selce ed osso ed oggetti d'ornamento.

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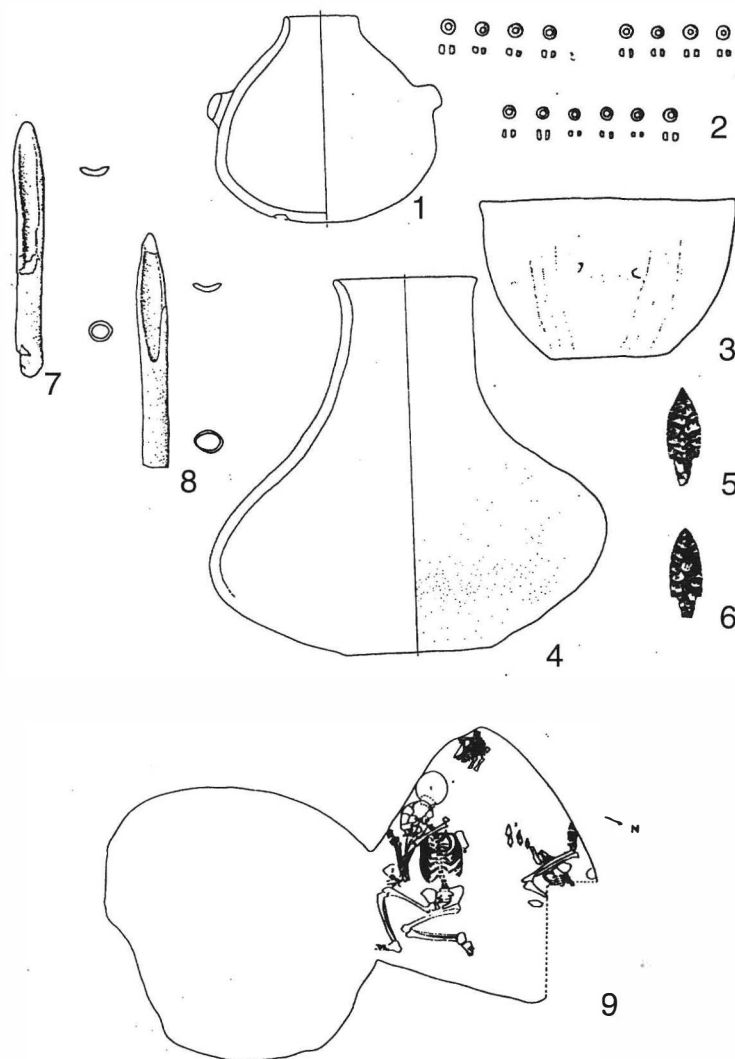


Fig. 1 - Fontenoce/Guzzini Area. 1-2) burial goods of T.2; 3-6) burial goods of T.3 inferior deposition; 7-8) bone heads T.8 (scale 1:2); 9) plan of T.3 superior deposition (scale 1:20)