

Supplementary Materials:

The Stasi collection

The human specimens analysed in this study belong to the Stasi collection and are kept at the Museum of Anthropology of the Museum Centre, University of Naples Federico II. The collection was formally acquired in 1914, when Paolo Emilio Stasi sold a substantial portion of his archaeological materials following prolonged and complex negotiations, as attested by archival documentation from Grotta Romanelli correspondence preserved in the Historical Archive of the Museum of Anthropology, ultimately agreeing on a sum of 3,000 lire (initially set at 12,000). The acquisition was strongly supported by Vincenzo Giuffrida Ruggeri, then Professor of Anthropology at the University of Naples, who recognised the exceptional paleoanthropological significance of the assemblage and secured its transfer to Naples (Fedele 1999). At the time of its acquisition (2 April 1914), the assemblage included a diverse set of materials: 70 worked lithic artefacts, lithic debitage, 20 bone awls, three engraved bones, the remains of an adult (Romanelli 1), two subadults (Romanelli 2 and 3), and additional fragmentary human remains. Despite its significance, the collection has remained largely unpublished. Existing studies are scarce and largely confined to Italian-language publications (Stasi and Regalia 1904; Pigorini 1904; Giuffrida-Ruggeri 1915). Among the few studies conducted on the Romanelli individuals, stable isotope analysis ($\delta^{13}\text{C}$ and $\delta^{15}\text{N}$) of bone collagen has shown that the Grotta Romanelli adult (Romanelli 1) had a diet based almost exclusively on terrestrial animal proteins associated with C3 plants (e.g., wheat, barley, and other temperate vegetation), with negligible contribution from marine resources despite the coastal setting (De Angelis et al. 2021). This study, however, still placed the individual in the Upper Paleolithic (Epigravettian), an attribution later overturned by new AMS dating, which reassigned the remains to the medieval period. This evidence is also reassessed in the present study.

One possible factor contributing to the limited attention devoted to Grotta Romanelli human remains was the complex history of the Museum of Anthropology (established in 1881), including the heavy bombing of Naples during the Second World War, which caused

widespread devastation across the city between 1943 and 1944 and contributed to the need for periodic rediscovery and reassessment of the collections. In particular, the bombing of the museum premises during the Second World War caused a major dispersal of the collections, while subsequent relocations of the museum further accentuated the need for periodic rediscovery and reassessment of the heritage. The anthropological materials from the Romanelli collection, initially considered lost, were rediscovered in the museum storage deposits during the 1992–93 surveys (Morris 1985; Fedele, 1999; Borrelli and Verderame 2021; Verderame and Borrelli 2022).

References

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