

SECOND EDITION

THE ANALYSIS OF BURNED HUMAN REMAINS



EDITED BY
CHRISTOPHER W. SCHMIDT
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The Analysis of Burned Human Remains

Second Edition

Edited by

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Preface

The first edition of *The Analysis of Burned Human Remains* was published in 2008. Now, seven years later, we have compiled a second edition that has more chapters embracing research in diverse regions of the globe. Feedback from the first edition indicates that numerous researchers are engaged in the study of burned remains, and volumes like ours are valuable tools in their work. Moreover, it appears that new studies of burned remains have commenced, at least in part, because our volume alleviated the apprehension of working with such radically altered material.

Since the publication of the first edition there have been new discoveries of ancient cremains, advances in the application of technology, and an expansion of contexts where burned remains are being studied. With the addition of nine new chapters, we have attempted to include many of these developments in the current volume. Cremated human remains, found recently in Alaska, have proven to be the oldest in the New World (Irish et al., Chapter 16). Updated techniques regarding bone histology and experimental burning are described by Thompson (Chapter 18), Mahoney and Miskiewicz (Chapter 20), and Sandholzer (Chapter 21). Previously underreported populations who cremated their dead include groups in Italy (Minozzi, Chapter 17), Mexico (Watson et al., Chapter 19), Southeast Asia (Ward and Tayles, Chapter 22), and Jordan (Ullinger and Sheridan, Chapter 23). A rare example of accidental burning associated with volcanism comes from Schmidt et al. (Chapter 8), who describe the victims at Herculaneum who died with the eruption of Vesuvius in AD 79.

The editors share a great hope that burned bone studies will continue to develop as a valuable avenue of osteology for bioarchaeologists and forensic anthropologists. The current volume, like the first, presents a collection of timely state-of-the-art analyses. If this volume provides the insight and encouragement it intends to, then we predict a bright future for those interested in the analysis of burned human remains.

Christopher W. Schmidt
Steven A. Symes

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