

Archaeobiology 4

Cattle and People

Interdisciplinary Approaches to an Ancient Relationship

edited by Elizabeth Wright and Catarina Ginja



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Sarah Witcher Kansa
Justin Lev-Tov

Number 4

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SUPPLEMENTARY MATERIAL

Supplementary Open Access material can be found online at
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The material includes:

High-resolution, full-color versions of figures 3.3–3.4, 5.3–5.4, 11.3–11.6, 12.1–12.5, 14.1–14.2, 15.1, and 15.8.

The associated database for Chapter 6, “Cattle Husbandry in the Iron Age and Roman Britain.”

Supplementary figures S1–S6 for Chapter 8, “Typical Ancient DNA Deamination Patterns for Samples CAR002, CAR008, CAR009, CAR014, CAR016, and CAR021.”

Supplementary table S1 for Chapter 8, “Metacarpals with Osteometric Measurements from Carnide Published by (Davis et al. 2018).”

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PREFACE

We set out on the road that led us to this book in 2018, when we decided to organize a session at the International Council for Archaeozoology meeting in Ankara, entitled “Understanding Cattle-Human Interactions: Interdisciplinary Approaches to an Ancient Relationship.” We had both been working on ancient cattle for much of our careers, although with different methodological approaches, one of us being a geneticist and the other a zooarchaeologist, and we saw this as a great opportunity to bring together colleagues working on past cattle-human interactions using a variety of different techniques.

The session had a fairly wide geographical and temporal scope, although the majority of papers were focused on Europe, and almost all covered the (relatively short) time span from the Neolithic to the Roman period. All of the contributors to the session were invited to submit a paper for the edited volume, but additionally we approached a number of other colleagues in order to try to fill gaps in our coverage. In particular we wanted to include some more chapters on the aurochs and early human-cattle interactions, as well as some from the continent of Africa. The result is that approximately half of the final version of the volume is made up of papers from contributors to the conference session, with the other half from new ones; a balance that we are actually quite pleased with. There are, of course, still some gaps in time and geography, which is frustrating but relatively unavoidable in a volume of this kind.

During the editing process we tried to constantly have in mind the representation of women, early career researchers, and colleagues from the Global South, and it became clear (unsurprisingly) that a truly intersectional and decolonized volume is incredibly difficult to achieve (also bearing in mind that we are both white women based at European institutions). A number of potential contributors that we approached representing areas or profiles that are underrepresented in archaeology were unable to contribute, or had to withdraw from the process for various reasons. Added to this is the precarious situ-

ation that many of us find ourselves in. A number of potential contributors could not be involved because they had no income for their archaeological work, or needed to instead dedicate their time to highly sought after high-impact papers and grant applications in order to have a chance of finding employment in the longer term. These issues also affected us as editors—both of us undertook this work while on fixed term contracts, one of us moved institutions twice during the lifetime of the book and the other spent most of this time struggling for her contract to be renewed. These are by no means new issues in archaeology and archaeogenetics, but we do feel that it is important to reflect on the atmosphere in which we are working. At the moment archaeology is facing a particular crisis, in that academic departments are facing increased threats of closure.

In the end our attempts to include a wider variety of contributors did mean that it took longer to deliver the book than we had hoped, and also that ultimately the volume does not have the wide-ranging coverage we would have liked. One might argue that this was therefore a failed approach, but there were many successes: all but two of the papers in the book have at least one female author, and a notable proportion of the papers were written by early career researchers without permanent academic positions. (It is not unsurprising to us that there may be a correlation between these two things, as men tend to occupy most permanent professorships the world over.) Although most of the papers are still Europe-focused, there are a number of contributions representing other areas of the world including northeastern Africa, Zimbabwe, China, Mongolia, and India, and although we would have liked even more areas to be included, we are fairly happy with this achievement.

After we started work on the book, the global Covid-19 pandemic hit. This of course provided a number of challenges to the completion of the volume; care-giving responsibilities increased, particularly for women, and the situation became even more precarious for early career researchers, but it

also highlighted to us the importance of our work on the relationship between humans and animals in the past. It is so vitally important to have a better understanding of the process that has led us to this place, and we hope that these papers will help us to do that.

While working on this project each of us lost a parent. Fiona Wright and Jorge Ginja, this volume is dedicated to you.

Lizzie Wright and Catarina Ginja

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Much of the preparation of this book took place during the global Covid-19 pandemic, which of course added extra challenges to the process, and to the lives of all of our contributors. We are very grateful to all of the contributors, reviewers, our book series editors, and the publisher for bearing with us through this crazy time.

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