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Autore	Agelarakis Anagnostis P.
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Palaeopathological assessments of infectious complications -- About the physician-surgeon, the , and the context of Paliokastro -- Taphonomy and Skeletal Preservation -- Paliokastro (the old fort) and the aim for the prosopography of its female and male riders -- Historical references on the Roman army and the ProtoByzantine mounted archer/lancer -- Mounted archers of Paliokastro -- Reflections on archery, and the type and capacity of bows and arrows used by the Roman mounted archer in battle versus these of the 'barbarian' enemies -- Historical references on Roman enemies and their invasions in the region of Thasos: Antae, Avars, Bulgars, Huns, Sclaveni, Kutrigurs -- Historical references on barbarian raids and their consequences in Thrace and Macedonia -- Towards a chronology of events for the harassment of Thasos by enemy incursions -- Archaeological evidence of catastrophic events in Thasos during the ProtoByzantine period -- Aiming towards concluding remarks on the ProtoByzantine 'Paliokastrétes' -- The case study of the Wounded Caballarius' head/neck pathology, the ways of the cranial surgery and trephination, and few palaeopathological reflections -- Acknowledgements.

## Sommario/riassunto

A recent archaeological discovery at Paliokastro (Thasos, Greece), and the subsequent study of the human skeletal remains interred in four monumental funerary contexts, provide for the first time through the

archaeological record of the region a unique insight of the mounted archers and their female kin during the turbulent ProtoByzantine period.

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