

Publication

Animal husbandry in Roman Switzerland: State of research and new perspectives

JournalArticle (Originalarbeit in einer wissenschaftlichen Zeitschrift)

ID 3887642

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Year 2017

Title Animal husbandry in Roman Switzerland: State of research and new perspectives

Journal European Journal of Archaeology

Volume 20

Number 3

Pages / Article-Number 416-430

Archaeozoological research of Roman animal bones has a long tradition in Switzerland. In the 1950s, Elisabeth Schmid started analysing bones from the Roman city of Augusta Raurica. On the basis of these analyses she published her Atlas of Animal Bones (1972) which is still in use all over the world today. To date, more than 300,000 bone fragments from different Swiss sites have been analysed. In 2002 a synthesis of Swiss data was published by Jörg Schibler et al.; in that publication, the authors focused on social aspects. They assumed that the Roman animal economy was more or less standardized in the region, and that differences existed mainly between settlement types and within sites. In the last few years, not only have more data been recorded, but also other research questions about functional and regional difference—especially between western and eastern Switzerland (Germania Superior and Raetia)—are becoming more important. These differences show the variability and adaptability of the Roman economy.

Publisher Cambridge University Press

ISSN/ISBN 1461-9571 ; 1741-2722

edoc-URL <http://edoc.unibas.ch/55871/>

Full Text on edoc No;

Digital Object Identifier DOI 10.1017/ea.2017.18

ISI-Number WOS:000405806500003

Document type (ISI) Article