Esmail Hemati Azandaryani, Hamid Khanali, Habibolah Rashidbeigi. “Tepe Golshan, A Parthian Cemetery in Western Iran”

Leonardo Gregoratti

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The site of Tepe Golshan is located in western Iran, very close to Nahavand. In 1995, the archaeological excavation of this area led to the identification of a Parthian cemetery. A team of archaeologists discovered and excavated six burials there. Five of them are pits, a type of burial rather common in Iran in the Parthian period. The authors mention only few of the many sites where this kind of grave is attested: at Sange-Shir, close to Hamadan, at Sad-e Eskandar in the Gorgan plain, at Cheshmeh Sar, near Persepolis and in the necropolis of Germi in Iranian Azarbaijan. Much more interesting is the clay coffin found in the trench 3. It is a kind of coffin, which does not present any trace of glaze. Unglazed coffins are attested for Cheshmeh Sar, Bolehya and other cemeteries near Susa, Dastva, near Shoshtar and Kangavar, but the majority of similar burials has been found in the many burial spots in the area of the nearby Hamadan. With the exception of one skeleton, which was buried in a coffin, all the other human remains were found in graves without any cover. The burial orientation was on a north-south axis in all graves but those found in the so-called trench 8, in which the head of the deceased were positioned towards the south.
AUTHORS

LEONARDO GREGORATTI

Durham University