HISTORICAL-ANTHROPOLOGICAL-FORENSIC ANALYSIS OF A SKELETON FROM A GRAVE DATABLE ABOUT YEAR 1000 WITH TRAUMATIC LESIONS THAT INDICATE CAUSES AND MODALITIES OF THE DEATH

Abstract: The archaeological finding of an isolated buried skeleton in the neighbourhood of a small medieval church has made to date, by the archaeologists, the grave approximately about the year 1000. The study of the skeleton with forensic-anthropological techniques has allowed to obtain many marks about the physical features of the subject; but, above all, very thorough forensic-pathological examination, also using of optical and electronic microscopical techniques, has allowed to characterize meaningful injuries at the head, evocative of their intra-vitam production, indicative of some features of the productive mean and much evocative of causes and modalities of the death, probably identifiable in an execution. The purpose is to suggest the comparative use of macroscopic, microscopic and ultra-microscopic morphologic analysis compared can suggest solutions of cases happened in far historical ages, cases of which we only have the skeletal substrate.

Introduction

The church of San Biagio is situated higher than the town of Cittiglio, to which it belongs. From the ecclesiastical viewpoint, Cittiglio’s area borders with the Ambrosian diocese of Milan and the Roman one of Como (fig 1). Church’s origins are undoubtedly Romanesque if not even paleochristian and its bell-tower, which dates around 1.000 a.C., distinguishes for the archaic shape of its mullioned window with crutch capital.

The on-going excavation has brought to light at least 3 different floor layers laid down in the past under the more recent floor belonging to the ‘70s (one layer of brick dated 1630, one of red-coloured mortar dated 1200 and one of trodden mortar dated around 1000).

Several architectonic structures belonging to an older church – smaller than the present one – were found out; among them there are the remains of a church’s front demolished during Medieval Age – in place of the medieval apse there is the door entering the present churchyard, which was the graveyard at the time.