

Resurrecting Berytus: A Contextual Analysis of Burials from Roman Beirut



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To Beirutis, past and present –
for the space that we have shared,
and the story we continue to write.

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Glossary of Terms and Abbreviations

Geographic and Regional Terms

While Beirut lies within present-day Lebanon, it formed part of the Roman province of Syria. To prevent confusion arising from differences between ancient and modern territorial designations, this book adopts the geographical definitions outlined by Butcher (2003: 10).

General Abbreviations

DGA: Lebanese Directorate General of Antiquities

BAAL: Bulletin d'Archéologie et d'Architecture Libanaises (periodical issued by the DGA)

IGLS: Les Inscriptions Grecques et Latines de la Syrie (publication series issued by the Institut Français du Proche-Orient (IFPO))

C/D: cannot be determined

N/App: not applicable

N/A: not available

No.: number

tn: total number

Sk.: Skeleton

M: Male

F: Female

Int.: Intermediate sex

R.: Right

L.: Left

B.C.: Burial Cell (when coupled with site code – see Chapter 11; ASH 002 site)

T.C.: Terracotta

C: Carbon

Cu: Copper

Fe: Iron

N: Nitrogen

O: Oxygen

Sr: Strontium

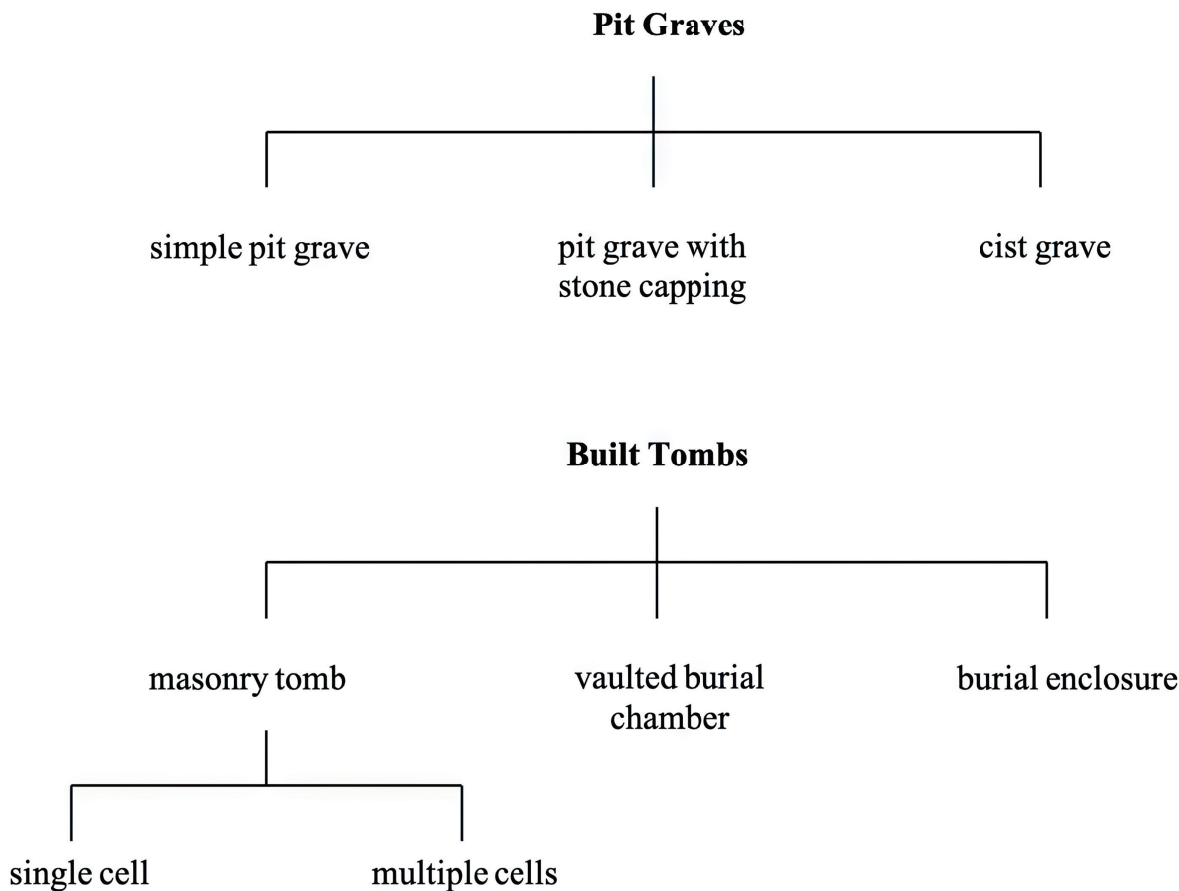
Pb: Lead

Burial Architecture – General Categories

Burial Form: Overall structure of the tomb/grave (typology).
Burial Receptacle: Container within which the body is placed.
Burial Marker: Anything used to signal or mark the location of a grave or tomb.

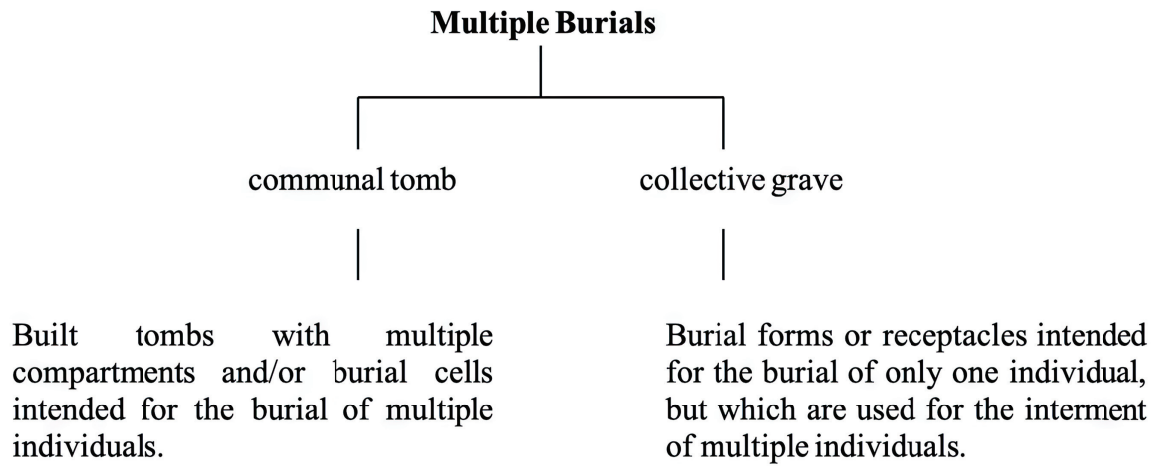
Tomb: Refers mainly to the elaborately built structures – be they underground or above ground.¹
Grave: Refers mainly to underground pits used for burial. May involve a degree of construction (e.g. cist grave), but remain relatively simple in comparison to the built tombs.
Burial Fill: Sediment used to fill in a grave.
Burial Cut: The pit within which the grave is made, or tomb is constructed.
Backfill: Part of the burial fill that rests along the sides of the coffin; i.e. between the coffin and the sides of the burial cut. When referring to the placement of grave goods, this term indicates the location of the burial items within this specific area – either within the fill itself or on the base of the burial cut between the coffin and the sides of the burial cut.
Detached Fill: Burial fill that has collapsed downwards due to the decay of the wooden coffin above which it originally rested.
Disturbed Fill: Fill that has been disturbed and re-deposited following the looting of the grave/tomb.
Burial Space: (when used in the context of the tombs) the specific area within a tomb/grave/receptacle where the body was placed and subsequently decomposed.

Main Burial Forms:²



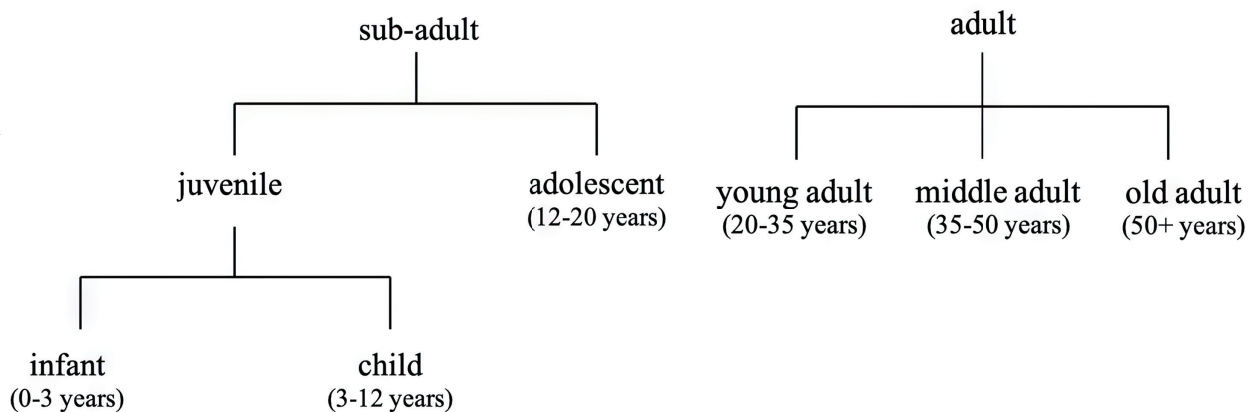
¹ For identification and enumerative purposes, however, all burials in this manuscript are labelled as 'Tombs' with their specific numbers.
² Variants of these forms, or combinations of forms, are discussed in Chapters 4 and 15.

Burial forms containing multiple individuals:

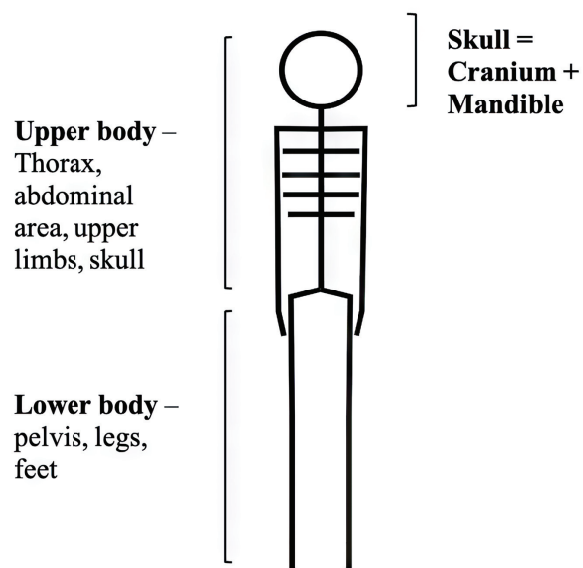


The Human Skeleton

Age Groups:



Terms describing the different sections of the human skeleton:



Treatment of the body:

Inhumation: The burial of a body – typically intact – by placing it directly into the grave, either with or without a container.

Cremation: The burning of the body prior to burial.

Reduction: The disarticulation of the decomposed body (i.e. the skeleton) and the rearrangement of the bones within or outside the same grave, usually with the purpose of creating space for new burial.

Archaeological Site Abbreviations

The site codes consist of abbreviations representing areas within Beirut where the sites are located, combined with their specific plot numbers.

SFI: Saifi

RML: Rmeil

MDWR: Mdawar

ASH: Ashrafieh