

evaluated anew (P. Ituri Sab., C. Lab. Sev., L. Q. Thal.), especially the role of Calvia Crispinilla: the brick stamps, too, will enable the dating of the extremely rich site excavated in 2002 at Školarice by the Rižana river and along the Flavian road, and of the equally rich site of Gradišče near Krkavče, along the same road. Is it possible that Vespasian's loot found its way to Istra as well?

Matej Župančič

César Carreras Monfort – Pedro Paulo A. Funari:
BRITANNIA Y EL MEDITERRÁNEO: ESTUDIOS
SOBRE EL ABASTECIMIENTO DE ACEITE BÉTICO
Y AFRICANO EN BRITANNIA. *Collectiō Instrumenta*,
5. Barcelona, Publicacions Universidad de Barcelona,
1998, pp. 406, 76 graphs, maps and tables black
and white

The present work is the fruit of co-operation between the two authors, who have prepared individual monographs on the topic. P. Funari, lecturer at the state University of Campinas in Sao Paulo, Brazil, has dedicated the last 20 years to the research of amphorae Dressel 20 and the consumption of Spanish olives in the Roman

province of Britannia. His research was published as an independent work in the renowned *BAR Tempus Reparatum*, British Series 250, 1996. C. Carreras, assistant professor at the University of Southampton, has recently completed his doctoral studies; based on studies of amphoral materials found in Britain, he dealt with macro-economic and spatial analyses of long-distance trade. Both authors have published a number of short reports and articles about the import and consumption of Spanish olives and olive oil in Roman Britannia, and have offered numerous interpretations of the economy, commercial exchange and cultural factors in connection with the olive oil trade in that period.

First of all, their joint work includes a collection of amphorae stamps, graffiti and other inscriptions found on the analysed materials. As such, it allows a thorough insight into these archaeological sources up to the year 1994. The authors set themselves another, wider, goal: to present their findings in relation to the economics, dietary cultural background, semiotics, civil and military life, the adoption of Roman habits, as well as other aspects encountered during their thorough multi-layered study.

Archaeological evidence enabled the authors to present the complex activities of the commercial intercourse of the Roman Empire in the province of Britannia. Besides a narrow economic interpretation, other parameters were included. Their interest lay not only in commercial exchange, but also in the influence of various goods and relationships on the society, individuals, habits and purpose of exchange.

A remarkable exchange network knitted in a unique political entity that would only be suppressed by the advent of the late Middle Ages, resulted in thriving and complex commercial exchanges in the Roman Empire. It should be noted that remarkably intensive commercial intercourse was one of the foundations of the ancient economy and as such is actually the basis for the understanding of the latter. These are the reasons why a detailed research of material remains of ancient commerce is more than worthwhile. And by all means, its very important part is shards of amphorae used as transport vessels.

Unfortunately, few Roman economic documents such as invoices, receipts, and accountancy papers are known. Written documents that have been preserved are a rarity, which adds even more value to those found at the Roman military site of Vindolanda. However, other aspects of Roman economics need to be reconstructed on the basis of material remains and epigraphic fragments preserved in literary sources. As a consequence, material sources need to be subjected to extremely accurate processes of statistical calculations, measurements, comparisons and quantification, which to a certain extent enable the researcher to access the wider context. Despite the comprehensive work they

carried out, both authors are aware that neither the evidence and nor, consequently, the interpretation of the "crude" archaeological materials are exhaustive.

In this context, amphorae are by far the most appropriate means for the study of economic relations between long-distance places. As the northernmost part of the Roman Empire and at the same time a bordering territory with Hadrian's Wall, Britannia is more than a valuable source. The authors offered a comparison between civil and military areas of the province, which allows an insight into and understanding of two different Roman methods of supply. The first was left in the hands of private initiatives and was therefore subjected to the principles of supply and demand on the market. From the perspective of the entire Empire, Britannia was strategically an important territory, that is why the second method, on the other hand, was under strict state administration, supplying military bases systematically and in accordance with the principles of state subventions and supply.

The first chapter begins with an introductory study of the materials and includes a comprehensive description of production centres and distribution areas as well as morphological features of the Dressel 20, an amphora type used for carrying olive oil. Amphorae stamps and inscriptions are a very valuable source, hence they were analysed from the semiotic perspective, in this way upgrading palaeographic and iconographic records.

The treatise is based on a record of nearly 1,800 amphorae Dressel 20, used for the transport of oil from ancient Baetica, which were discovered in the territory of Britannia. The authors attempted to identify distinctive patterns between civil settlements and military territories, where different principles of distribution and commercial exchange applied. These are also different from patterns found in Germania and Gaul. A comparison between territories revealed two different distribution routes, the Atlantic and the Continental. This leads us to the question of the method of distribution: was it a private or public affair? According to which principle were the spheres of transport and distribution divided? *Tituli picti*, i.e. ink inscriptions on the surface of the vessel, which were used to mark the contents and customs controls, showed that oil transport to England was in the domain of several families and some commercial unions. However, a clear insight into the complex organisation of distribution is still hindered by scarce and insufficient records.

It is necessary to acknowledge that the main value of the present work lies in the economic, cultural and anthropological studies used to upgrade the collected archaeological materials. In fact, it was proved that the commercial network had not developed as a result of coincidence but as a complex public service supplying the military and probably administrative staff of the province with Spanish oil. Evidence of this fact is pro-

vided by the density of shards of these vessels in military camps and areas occupied by Roman garrisons. This fact is additionally supported by amphora stamp distribution that clearly identifies Roman troop movements in the province. Oil import from Spain endured until the end of the 3rd century when it was replaced by import from Africa. In addition to amphorae Dressel 20, for the transport of Spanish oil amphorae Dressel 23 would also be used.

Comparisons with other amphoral materials found in the territory of Britannia confirm the exceptional role of the Spanish oil imported in the amphorae Dressel 20, connected as well with deliveries of foodstuffs to military camps. The distribution of other types of foodstuffs, in most cases also defined on the basis of shards of vessels of other shapes, was following the rule of the market system. That is why it was conditioned by completely different principles and is therefore not comparable to those pertaining to the distribution of Spanish olive oil. The supply of military camps and administrative centres was within the competence of a special state institution, in ancient sources quoted as *annona* or *frumentatio*.

The authors attempted to confirm their theory by means of stamps and *tituli picti* compared to other amphora epigraphy found in the territory of Britannia. Tombstones, for instance, mention various administrative offices, such as *procuratores beneficiarii* and *stratores*, who were in charge of the distribution of alimentary products. These were involved in the organisation and control of the supply of alimentary products in provinces where military units were settled. Amphorae with oil brought into the province were most probably stored and distributed according to logistic and strategic principles. On the other hand, *tituli picti* bear witness to the fact that in some provinces transport was in the domain of certain families and commercial unions. A comparison with distribution patterns recorded in Germania indicates different principles valid in other territories of the Roman Empire. Probably, distribution was in the hands of small families and companies of merchants and transporters, who also controlled oil production in specific centres or regions of Spain.

However, new questions emerged with new findings. Spanish oil was obviously supplied to military bases and employees, the majority of whom were foreigners, mostly of Mediterranean origin. Olive oil distributed in such large quantities to the northernmost Roman province was almost certainly being used exclusively for food preparation and not for illumination. These areas had a number of alternative local fats to be used for this purpose and which represented an excellent and cheap substitute for expensive Spanish oil. That implies that olive oil consumption also defined the cultural identification of its users and bore more meaning than just economic luxury. It is obvious that in that period cultural habits were overgrowing the frames of economic

principles. With the organisation of supplies of olive oil from Spain, the Roman state administration was actively favouring the Mediterranean cultural identity of the state apparatus. In light of this fact, it must be considered that together with clothing, language and settlement patterns, eating habits represented a complex cultural demarcation line between the Roman and barbarian worlds. In this respect, olive oil consumption is a visible symbol of Romanisation, i.e. subordination of the latter.

Inscriptions on amphorae undoubtedly played an important role in political life, where illiteracy was considered to pertain to the barbarian world, sinking in strong gusts of Romanisation. The border between the two worlds ran along the thin demarcation line of literacy of the Roman administration staff and the Romanised Celtic population on one hand, and on the other hand the lower classes of the illiterate native population, in the political sense mostly representing third class peregrines. Together with oil consumption and Mediterranean eating habits, literacy, therefore, indicated an evident class division in the Roman Empire.

These facts proved that the olive oil trade by all means exceeded economic principles and market demand as viewed through the optics of today's capitalist society. Therefore, the authors unveiled a wide political and anthropological context, which in the Roman Empire was defined by olive oil. To a huge extent, this alimentary product, of course, surpassed the abstract function it has today.

The work is based on an extensive textual-critical apparatus, a comprehensive catalogue of stamps and numerous tables, statistical calculations, and graphs.

Due to courageous anthropological interpretations especially, the book is a great achievement, and a rise to a higher, more complex research level within the context of amphoral materials. The archaeological materials served solely as a tool for anthropological and cultural analyses and interpretations. Undoubtedly, this set new standards for future ceramological research.

Verena Perko

Paolo Naldini: CERKVENI KRAJEPIS ALI OPIS MESTA IN ŠKOFIJE JUSTINOPOLIS – LJUDSKO KOPER (Ecclesiastical Topography or a Description of the Town and Diocese of Justinopolis – Popularly Koper).
Knjižnica Annales Majora. Koper, Zgodovinsko društvo za južno Primorsko – Znanstveno-raziskovalno središče Republike Slovenije Koper – Škofija Koper, 2001, pp. 343

In accordance with the basic goals of the History Society of Southern Primorska and the Science and Re-

search Centre of the Republic of Slovenia in Koper, set both within the framework of basic as well as applicable research, historiography, as a dominant humanistic science, holds a prominent position, which contributes to a continuous preservation and emphasis of the Southern-Primorska region, i.e. Slovene Istria as one of the most distinctive and typical Slovene bordering areas which has been developing its distinct shape through the historical intertwining of social and cultural events. Within narrow and broad geographical contexts, its shape reflects in numerous historical works, in particular topographies, which can be traced as early as in the period from the first half of the 15th and to the 18th centuries. Beyond doubt, topographies enable us to comprehend basic methodological orientations of historiography, or better – polyhistoricism, of that time inspiring the authors with the historical past. As a consequence, they offer a colourful portrait of the ways historical sources were used and interpreted. Apart from historical elements, they also unveil a strong presence of several modern components in today's Italian, Slovene, Croatian as well as German historiography, i.e. strong tendencies to prove that specific geographical areas, for its multicultural and multiethnic character Istria in particular, belong to the individual national or state community. Due to the connections of a major part of Istria with the Romance or Italian cultural milieu, it becomes clear why most topographies were written by Italian speaking foreign and local authors.

The book *Stari krajepisi Istre (Old Topographies of Istria)*, published in 1999 in the collection *Library Annales Majora*, presented the Slovene public with extracts from 12 topographies of Istria from the 15th to the beginnings of the 18th century for the first time. Not all known Istrian topographies have been published in the Slovene language, and therefore this publication has by no means filled in numerous gaps in Istrian historiography. However, with it the initiative proposed by the Ministry of Culture in 1993 successfully came to reality. The initiative suggested that, due to a poor knowledge of Istrian history, old works especially be translated into Slovene and published, in order to present some basic works of Istrian historiography to the Slovene readership, experts, scientists and history lovers.

In the book mentioned above, its editor-in-chief and the author of the majority of articles it contains, dr. Darko Darovec anticipated the translation and publication of some primary works, in particular the prominent "Corografia ecclesiastica" of Bishop of Koper, Paolo Naldini. The translation and publication have certainly been aided by the 300th anniversary of the publication of the original and the 1400th anniversary of the Diocese of Koper. By organising a rich scientific symposium, held in October 2000 in the premises of the Museum of Koper, the History Society of Southern Primorska and Science and Research Centre celebrated both anniversaries.