

SOUTH GAULISH *TERRA SIGILLATA* FOUND IN BRACARA AUGUSTA (NORTH PORTUGAL) ¹

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Abstract

Bracara Augusta, just like other nuclear cities of the Roman world, played an important role in the inter-provincial trade as an importer and redistributor centre of nourishing and manufactured goods. Regarding the supply of Gaulish *terra sigillata*, apart from some fragments from Montans and a Drag. 45 form fragment from Lezoux, the productions are from La Graufesenque.

Resumo

Bracara Augusta, assim como outras cidades nucleares do mundo romano, desempenhou um papel importante no comércio interprovincial como centro importador e redistribuidor de produtos alimentares e manufaturados. Quanto ao fornecimento de *terra sigillata* gálica, para além de alguns fragmentos de Montans e um fragmento Drag. 45 de Lezoux, as produções são de La Graufesenque.

Keywords

Bracara Augusta; South Gaulish *terra sigillata*; La Graufesenque.

Palavras-chave

Bracara Augusta; *Terra sigillata* do sul da Gália; La Graufesenque.

1. Origin and evolution of the city in the Early Empire

The Roman city of *Bracara Augusta* is situated in the territory called *Entre Douro e Minho*, or simply *Minho* and benefited from an important geo-strategic position. The foundation *ex novo* of the city, in the heart of the *Bracari's* area and of the region of *Entre Douro e Minho*, is connected to a strategy of economic, political and administrative control of a vast area that stretched out from the Douro up to the estuary of Vigo, and from the Atlantic up to the Gerês mountains (**Fig. 1**). The creation of *Bracara Augusta* was motivated by the will of providing the powerful *gens* of the *Bracari* with a *concilium*. *Bracara Augusta* would thus be, like *Lucus Augusti* and *Asturica Augusta*, the seat of a *concilium gentis* and a necessary *caput* for the resident citizens in the area of influence of the city (Tranoy, 1980: 363-379).

The accurate date of the foundation of the city is yet to explain, despite the abundance of epigraphs of honorary and monumental character dated to the time of Augustus, which were found both in Braga and in its outskirts (Martins and Delgado, 1989-90: 14-15; Morais, 2005). It seems to be generally accepted, however, that the imperial decision of creating the three urban centres in the NW, between the years BC 16/15, at the time of Augustus' presence in *Hispania*, corresponds, as P. Le Roux suggests

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