

THE GAULISH TERRA SIGILLATA IN BAELO CLAUDIA. ANALYSIS OF THE CONTEXTS FROM THE 'PUERTA DE CARTEIA'

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Abstract

A contextualized study of the *sigillata* from an excavation at the so-called East or *Carteia* Gate in *Baelo Claudia* is presented. This work revealed the transformation that this area of the city underwent from the Julio-Claudian era to the 6th century AD. Construction debris, rubbish dumps, as well as material from a funerary context all contribute to compose a very complete image of how the commercial pattern of consumption of fine wares appears in this important settlement: and so reveals more of the dynamics of trade in the Straits of Gibraltar.

Resumen

Se presenta un estudio contextualizado de las *sigillatas* localizadas en una intervención en la denominada Puerta Este o de *Carteia* en *Baelo Claudia*. Esta excavación permitió conocer la fisonomía de este punto de la ciudad desde época julio-claudia hasta el siglo VI d.C. Se alternan contextos constructivos, de vertido así como de necrópolis que aportan una visión muy completa de cómo fue la pauta de consumo de este tipo de vajilla fina en un enclave de vital importancia para conocer la dinámica comercial del Círculo del Estrecho.

Keywords

Baelo Claudia; *sigillata*; Gate of *Carteia*; dump; necropolis.

Palavras-chave

Baelo Claudia; *sigillata*; Puerta de *Carteia*; basurero; necrópolis.

*Belo, important marché espagnol
de la céramique de la Graufesenque*

Sillières 1977

1. Introduction

Baelo Claudia is one of the most studied Hispanic sites with reference to the commercial dynamics of Gaulish *terra sigillata* in *Hispania* (Fig. 1). Plentiful studies have convincingly asserted that this place forms a crucial reference point in any number of ceramic investigations. The publications of Sillières (1977), Bourgeois and Mayet (1989) or, more recently, Bustamante (2010) offer wide overviews of the tableware consumed here. However, these studies, mostly, have had to face the problem of analyzing decontextualized pieces or, at least, without precise information of the contexts where they were recovered.

Faced with this problem and utilizing material found by the University of Cádiz in 2005 at that section of the eastern wall coinciding with the *Puerta de Carteia* (more information about this work may be seen in Arévalo et al., 2006 and 2016), we have decided to take this opportunity to examine the Gaulish *sigillata* in relation to the other groups of fine tableware located here, analyzing them by their contexts.