

LATE ANTIQUITY AND EARLY MEDIAEVAL CERAMIC WARES IN BRAGA (PORTUGAL)

Raquel Martínez Peñín

FCT postdoctoral contract (2011)

Reference: SFRH/BPD/78538/2011

Unidade Archaeology, CITCEM, Universidade do Minho (Braga)

1. INTRODUCTION

Our fundamental objective in conducting this study was to attempt to determine the evolution of some of the pottery produced in the city of Braga and its surrounding territory from the beginning of Late Antiquity to the Early Middle Ages.

Thus, we primarily focused on an analysis of some of the ceramic wares produced locally which have been ascribed to the periods of Late Antiquity and Early Mediaeval occupation identified in various archaeological excavations conducted in and around Braga.

The first studies concerning ceramic ware located in the northern region of Portugal emerged in the 1970s, and subsequently continued with increasing momentum in the following decade. During this first stage, the materials under study suffered from the lack of a precise stratigraphic sequence. In the 1990s, this line of research experienced an important qualitative and quantitative leap forward as a consequence of an increase in the number of archaeological excavations conducted in the area.

Studies of Late Antiquity and Mediaeval ceramic ware in the north of Portugal commenced with the publication in 1973 of the materials recovered during field work conducted in the "Alto do Castelo de Penha Longa-Marco" in Canaveses².

Shortly afterwards, the historiographical panorama was transformed by the excavation of a number of mediaeval sites in this area, such as the church of "Santa Marinha da Costa" in Guimaraes, where the associated pottery revealed an occupational sequence which spanned from Late Antiquity to the twentieth century³. Recently, studies have been conducted of the mediaeval, modern and contemporary ceramic wares associated with this site⁴.

¹ This article forms part of the research project entitled "Paisagens em mudança. *Bracara Augusta* e o seu território (séculos I-VII)". The project is led by Professor Manuela Martins and is funded by structural funds from the EU and the national funds from the Portuguese MCTES (Ref. PTDC/HIS-ARQ/121136/2010).

² Domingos de Pinho Brandão, *Alto ou Monte do Castelo, Penha Longa (Marco de Canaveses)*. in *Trabalhos de Antropologia e Etnografia*, vol. XXIII, (1972), pages 289-294.

Manuel Real, *Convento da Costa (Guimarães). História e Arqueologia*. in *Arqueologia*, nº1, (1980), pages 35-37.

³ Manuel Real, *Convento da Costa (Guimarães). História e Arqueologia*. in *Arqueologia*, nº1, (1980), pages 35-37.

⁴ Lília Feitas, 'Contributo para o estudo das cerâmica comuns do Mosteiro de Santa Mariha da Costa (Guimarães)' (unpublished master thesis, University of Minho, 2013).