

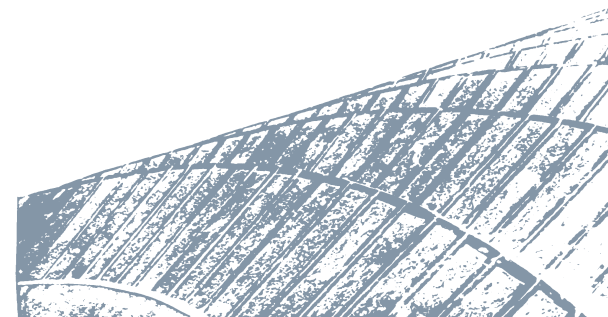


Braga and its territory between the fifth and the fifteenth centuries



Raquel Martínez Peñín (ed.)

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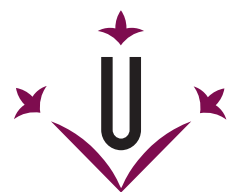
Braga and its territory between the fifth and the fifteenth centuries

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Late Antiquity and early medieval ceramic wares in Braga (Portugal)¹

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Keywords: pottery, Braga, production, Late Antiquity, Early Middle Ages.

Abstract

This work focuses on the study of locally produced ceramics late antiquity and early medieval located in a very specific area of the northwest peninsula: the city of Braga. In this space, notes the presence of a self-produced and attached to late now commonly called “cerâmica cinzenta”. Our goal will focus on the analysis of the technical, morphological and ornamental of these productions, based on containers found in different archaeological interventions practiced in bracarense environment.

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.

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. FCT postdoctoral contract, (SFRH/BPD/78538/2011), Unit of Archaeology, Lab2Pt, University of Minho.

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 Medieval 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 in the following decades. 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 medieval 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 Canaveses³.

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 century⁴. Recently, studies have been conducted of the mediaeval, modern and contemporary ceramic wares associated with this site⁵.

In the 1980s and early 1990s, the first results emerged of the excavations carried out at the church of 'São Martinho de Dume'. These excavations revealed the existence of five phases of occupation, the second of which corresponded to Late Antiquity whilst the third has been dated to the Early Middle Ages⁶.

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

4. Manuel Real, 'Convento da Costa (Guimarães). História e Arqueologia'. *Arqueologia*, nº1, (1980), pp. 35-37.

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

6. Luís Fontes, 'Salvamento Arqueológico de Dume: 1987. Primeiros Resultados'. *Cuadernos de Arqueologia*, Série II, 4, (1987), pp. 113-148; Luís Fontes, 'Escavações arqueológicas na antiga igreja de Dume, Notícia preliminar da campanha de 1989', in Universidade Católica Portuguesa, Faculdade de Teologia (ed.) *Actas Congresso Internacional IX Centenário da Dedicção da Sé de Braga, I*, Braga, (1990), pp. 147-169; Luís Fontes, 'Salvamento Arqueológico de Dume (Braga). Resultados das Campanhas de 1989-90 e 1991-92', *Cuadernos de Arqueologia*, Série II, 8-9, (1992), pp. 199-230; Luís Fontes, 'Arqueologia Medieval Portuguesa', in J. Morais Arnaud (ed.) *Arqueologia 2000. Balanço de um Século de Investigação Arqueológica em Portugal*, Associação dos Arqueólogos Portugueses, Lisboa, (2002), pp. 221-238; Luís Fontes, *São Martinho de Tibães. Um sítio onde se fez o mosteiro. Ensaio em Arqueologia da Paisagem e da Arquitectura*, Departamento de Estudos, IPPAR, Lisboa, (2005); Luís Fontes, *A Basílica Suevo de Dume e Túmulo Dito de São Martinho*, Núcleo de Arqueologia da Universidade do Minho, Braga, (2006); Luís Fontes, 'O Período suévico e visigótico e o papel da igreja na organização do território', in P. Pereira, (ed.) *Minho. Identidades*, Universidade do Minho, Braga, (2007), pp. 272-295; Luís Fontes, Isabel Maria Fernandes and Fernando Castro, 'Peças de louça preta decoradas com moscovite encontradas nas escavações arqueológicas do Monteiro de S. Martinho de Tibães', in J. M. Diogo and H. C. Abraços (eds.) *Actas das*

It was in *La céramique médiévale en Méditerranée. Actes du 6 congrès, Aix-en-Provence* that an analysis first appeared of the Late Antiquity and early medieval ceramic vessels unearthed during the above-mentioned excavations at 'São Martinho de Dume', as well as at the castle of 'Penafiel do Bastuço' and other sites within the city of Braga itself. Depending on their chronology, these materials have been classified into two main groups: ceramic wares from the 5th-6th centuries and those from the 8th-11th centuries. In addition, other aspects of these finds have been distinguished, such as the physical characteristics of the pastes or their morphology⁷.

That same year, Gaspar published the results of the study of the ceramic wares found during different excavations in the city of Braga, in which she clearly distinguished two groups. The first of these corresponded to pottery from the 5th-7th centuries which was characterised by presenting a fairly coarse finish, whilst the second was dated to the 13th-15th centuries and possessed much more carefully worked forms⁸.

Soon afterwards, the results emerged of another excavation campaign carried out at the castle of 'Penafiel do Bustaço' (Paços São Julião, Braga). In this excavation, several mediaeval ceramic wares were identified and subsequently classified using criteria such as the colour of the feet, the production technology used and the finishing, among others⁹.

In 2000, Gaspar reported on some of the locally produced Late Antiquity wares which have been uncovered to date in Braga¹⁰. However, the major breakthrough in research came with the publication of the *II Simposio de Arqueología de Mérida* (2nd symposium of archaeology in Mérida), which included the results obtained from an analysis of the Late Antiquity and early medieval ceramic wares found in the city of Braga and the neighbouring church of 'São Martinho de Dume'. These studies have been complemented by an analysis of some of the Late Antiquity materials uncovered in the 'Termas do Alto da Cidade de Braga', and of some other 'Late Antiquity *cinzenta*' ceramic ware unearthed during an excavation campaign conducted in the church of 'São Martinho de Dume' over the course of 2003¹¹.

2ª *Jornadas de cerâmica Medieval e Pós-Medieval Métodos e resultados para o seu estudo*, Câmara Municipal de Tondela, Tondela, (1998), pp. 355-363.

7. Luís Fontes and Alexandra Gaspar, 'Cerâmicas da região de Braga na transição da Antiguidade Tardia para a Idade Média', in Narrations (ed.) *La Céramique Médiévale en Méditerranée. Actes du 6 congrès*, Narration Éditions, Aix-en-Provence, (1997), pp. 203-212.

8. Alexandra Gaspar, 'Cerâmicas medievais de Braga', in J. V. Oliveira, (ed.) *Actes 1º Congresso de Arqueologia Peninsular*, vol. VIII, Sociedade Portuguesa de Antropologia e Etnologia, Porto (1995), pp. 253-260.

9. Luís Fontes and Henrique Jorge Araújo, 'O «Castelo» de Penafiel de Bastuço, Paços S. Julião, Braga. Elementos para o seu estudo', in *Arqueologia Medieval*, nº5, (1997), pp. 199-220.

10. Alexandra Gaspar, 'Contribuição para o estudo das Cerâmicas Cinzentas dos séculos V-VI d. C. de Braga' (unpublished master thesis, University of Minho, 2000).

11. Alexandra Gaspar, 'Cerâmicas cinzentas da antiguidade tardia e alto-medievais de Braga e Dume', in L. Caballero, P. Mateos and M. Retuerce, (eds.) *Cerámicas tardorromanas y altomedievales en la Península Ibérica. Ruptura y continuidad*, CSIC, Madrid, (2003), pp. 455-481.

2009 witnessed the publication of the *Guia das Cerâmicas de Produção Local de Bracara Augusta*, which included a brief chapter devoted to some of the Late Antiquity wares reported to date in the city¹².

Lastly, following the research conducted by authors such as Fontes, Gaspar and Moraes a new analytical approach has been proposed for the study of the Late Antiquity ‘engobe vermelho’ dishware from Braga¹³ and of the Late Antiquity ‘cinzenta’ ware from ‘São Martinho de Dume’¹⁴.

2. Temporal and spatial framework

The origins of the city of Braga date back to the Augustan period, when a town with an orthogonal layout sprang up. It had two main thoroughfares: the *cardo maximus*, which ran north to south, and the *decumanus maximus*, which ran west to east¹⁵.

From that point onwards, the town was gradually endowed with a number of public buildings such as the forum¹⁶, a theatre¹⁷, an amphitheatre and several thermal baths¹⁸. A series of necropolis has also been identified, which were located beside the main that

12. Manuela Delgado, Rui Morais and Jorge Ribeiro, *Guia das cerâmicas de produção local de Bracara Augusta*, CITCEM, Braga, (2009), pp. 61-70.

13. Patricia Machado, ‘Engobes vermelhos que imitam *Terra Sigillata Africana*’, in R. Martínez and M. Crespo (eds.) *Metodología de análisis aplicada a los estudios de cerámica tardoantigua y medieval de la Península Ibérica*, Ediciones Lobo Sapiens, León, (2010), pp. 31-40.

14. José Braga, ‘As cerâmicas cinzentas tardias de Dume’, in R. Martínez and M. Crespo (eds.) *Metodología de análisis aplicada a los estudios de cerámica tardoantigua y medieval de la Península Ibérica*, Ediciones Lobo Sapiens, León, (2010), pp. 11-30.

15. Manuela Martins, *Bracara Augusta. Cidade romana*, Unidade de Arqueologia da Universidade do Minho, Braga, (2000); Manuela Martins, ‘*Bracara Augusta*. Panorama e estado da questão sobre seu urbanismo’, in D. Dopico Caínzos, M. Villanueva Acuña and P. Rodríguez Álvarez (eds.) *Do Castro á Cidade. A romanización na Gallaecia e na Hispânia Indoeuropea*, Diputación de Lugo, Lugo, (2009), pp. 181-211.

16. Manuela Martins, Jorge Ribeiro, Fernanda Magalhães and Cristina Braga, ‘Urbanismo e arquitectura de *Bracara Augusta*. Sociedade, economia e lazer’, in M. C. Ribeiro and A. Melo (eds.) *Evolução da paisagem urbana. Sociedade e economia*, CITCEM, Braga, (2012), pp. 29-67.

17. Manuela Martins, Jorge Ribeiro and Fernanda Magalhães, ‘*A Arqueologia urbana em Braga e a descoberta do teatro de Bracara Augusta*’, in *Forum*, 40, (2006), pp. 9-30; Manuela Martins, Ricardo Mar, Jorge Ribeiro and Fernanda Magalhães, ‘A construção do teatro romano de *Bracara Augusta*’, in A. Melo and M. C. Ribeiro (eds.) *III Colóquio Internacional História da Construção. Arquiteturas e técnicas Construtivas*, CITCEM, Braga, (in press).

18. Manuela Martins, *As termas romanas do Alta da Cidade. Um exemplo de arquitectura pública em Bracara Augusta*, UAUM, Braga, (2005); Manuela Martins, Maria do Carmo Ribeiro and José Meireles, ‘As termas públicas de *Bracara Augusta* e o abastecimento de água da cidade romana’, in A. Costa, L. Palahí and D. Vivó (eds.) *Aquae Sacrae. Agua y sacralidad en época antigua*, Universitat de Girona, Girona, (2011), pp. 69-102.

surrounded the city¹⁹, as well as part of the sewage system built below the *cardo maximus*²⁰.

Excavations carried out in different parts of the city have uncovered several Early Imperial *domus*. Some of these had porticus overlooking the street, the lower parts of which were used as shops. In addition, field work has revealed the presence, in some cases, of private thermal baths —at the *domus* of ‘Escola Velha da Sé’, ‘Seminário de Santiago’ and ‘Gualdim Pais’²¹ (Figure 1).

Due to the major political and administrative changes that occurred during the Late Imperial period, *Bracara Augusta* became the capital of *Callaecia*, an event which coincided with the construction of a massive wall that surrounded the city²². At the same time, the layout of the city was remodelled, a process which affected public buildings (forum, theatre, etc.) and private ones (the *domus* of ‘Carvalheiras’, Afonso Henriques 36/56’, ‘Escola Velha da Sé’, ‘Ex Albergue Distrital’) alike²³. There is evidence that the aforementioned burial areas remained in use (Figure 2)²⁴.

19. Manuela Martins, Manuela Delgado, Alain Tranoy and Patrick Le Roux, ‘*As necrópoles de Bracara Augusta*’, in *Cadernos de Arqueologia*, Série II, 6-7, (1990), pp. 41-186; Helena Carvalho, ‘O povoamento romano na fachada ocidental do Convento Bracarense’ (unpublished doctoral thesis, University of Minho, 2008); Cristina Braga, ‘Rituais funerários em Bracara Augusta: o novo núcleo de necrópole da Via XVII’ (unpublished master thesis, University of Minho, 2010); Helena Carvalho, ‘Marcadores da paisagem e intervenção cadastral no território próximo da cidade de Bracara Augusta (Hispania Citerior Tarraconensis)’ in *Archivo Español de Arqueología*, vol. 85, (2012), pp. 149-166; Manuela Martins and Maria do Carmo Ribeiro, ‘Em torno da Rua Verde. A evolução urbana de Braga na longa duração’, in M. C. Ribeiro and A. Melo (eds.) *Evolução da paisagem urbana. Transformação morfológica dos tecidos históricos*, CITCEM, Braga, (2013), pp. 11-44.

20. Manuela Martins and Maria do Carmo Ribeiro, ‘Gestão e uso da água em *Bracara Augusta*. Uma abordagem preliminar’, in M. Martins, I. Vaz de Freitas and M^a. I. Del Val Valdivieso (eds.) *Caminhos da Água. Paisagens e usos na longa duração*, CITCEM, Braga, (2010), pp. 9-52; Manuela Martins, José Meireles, Maria do Carmo Ribeiro, Fernanda Magalhães and Cristina Braga, ‘A água e o património cultural da região de Braga’, in *Forum*, 46, (2011), pp. 5-36; Manuela Martins, José Meireles, Maria do Carmo Ribeiro, Fernanda Magalhães and Cristina Braga, ‘The water in the city of Braga from Roman Times to the Modern Age’, in Palombi (ed.) *Water shapes. Strategi di valorizzazione del patrimonio culturale legato all’acqua*, Palombi and Partner Srl, Roma, (2012), pp. 65-82.

21. Manuela Delgado and Manuela Martins, ‘Intervenção arqueológica na Zona P1 (Antigas Cavaleiras do Regimento de Infanteria de Braga)’, in *Cadernos de Arqueologia*, 5, (1988), pp. 77-92; Manuela Martins, ‘A zona arqueológica das Carvalheiras. Balanço das escavações e interpretação do conjunto’, in *Cadernos de arqueologia*, Série II, nº14/15, (1998), pp. 103-137; Manuela Martins, *Bracara Augusta. Cidade romana*, Unidade de Arqueologia da Universidade do Minho, Braga, (2000); *Ibid.* 5, Martins, ‘*Bracara Augusta*. Panorama e estado da questão’, pp. 181-211; Fernanda Magalhães, ‘Arquitectura doméstica em Bracara Augusta’ (unpublished master thesis, University of Minho, 2010); Fernanda Magalhães, ‘*Arquitectura doméstica em Bracara Augusta*’, in *Interconexões*, nº1, Braga, (2013), pp. 13-30.

22. *Ibid.* 15, Martins, Ribeiro, Magalhães and Braga, ‘Urbanismo e arquitectura de *Bracara Augusta*’, pp. 29-67.

23. Francisco Lemos and José Leite, ‘Trabalhos Arqueológicos no Logradouro da Casa Grande de Santo António das Travessas (Ex-Albergue Distrital)’, in *Forum*, 27, (2000), pp. 15-38; *Ibid.* 21, Magalhães, ‘Arquitectura doméstica’; *Ibid.* 21, Magalhães, ‘Arquitectura doméstica em *Bracara Augusta*’, pp. 13-30.

24. *Ibid.* 19, Braga, ‘Rituais funerários em *Bracara Augusta*’.

In this region, Late Antiquity commenced with the establishment of the Suebi rule, and Braga became the capital of this kingdom. This circumstance implied continuity of occupation of the city, as many of the excavations carried out there have shown ('Afonso Henriques 36/56'²⁵, 'Largo do Paço'²⁶, 'Sé Cathedral'²⁷), and a steady growth occurred in the population residing in the area to the northeast of the Late Antiquity town. The above-mentioned necropolis continued in use. Buildings devoted to the Christian religion proliferated both within the walled city itself (the Cathedral) and in the surrounding areas ('São Victor', 'São Vicente' and 'São Pedro')²⁸.

Towards the end of the sixth century, a political change of vital importance to this area occurred: the Suebi kingdom, with its capital at the head, fell under Visigothic rule. During the sixth and seventh centuries, the archaeological evidence indicates that many of the areas within the city walls remained inhabited, although there was also a steady growth in the population residing to the northeast of the Late Antiquity walled city. Most of the existing public buildings were converted to new uses, the theatre being a case in point, where the structure was recycled and transformed into an area possibly used for artisanal production²⁹.

At the same time, the construction began of a series of monasteries in the territory surrounding the city, such as 'São Martinho de Dume' and 'São Frutuoso'³⁰. The first of

25. Raquel Martínez Peñín, Armandino Cunha, Fernanda Magalhães and Manuela Martins, 'La secuencia tardoantigua y medieval de la zona arqueológica Afonso Henriques 36/40 y 42/56: una contribución al estudio de la cerámica medieval de Braga', in *Actas del II Congreso Internacional de la SECAH-Ex Officina Hispana*, (in press); Jorge Ribeiro, Adolfo Fernández, Armandino Cunha, Mauela Martins, Fernanda Magalhães and Cristina Braga, 'A cerâmica romana do balneário da rua Afonso Henriques: estudo preliminar da sequenciação cronológica e ocupacional do edifício', in *Actas del II Congreso Internacional de la SECAH-Ex Officina Hispana*, (in press).

26. Francisco Lemos, Manuela Delgado and Manuela Martins, 'Sondagens arqueológicas no Largo do Paço, Braga', in *Cadernos de Arqueologia*, Série II, 5, (1988), pp. 67-76; Maria do Carmo Ribeiro, *O antigo paço Arquiepiscopal de Braga*. Coleção sítios com História, Universidade do Minho, Braga, (2011); Maria do Carmo Ribeiro and Arnaldo Melo, 'A materialização dos poderes no espaço da memória e identidade urbana medieval', in *Medievalismo*, nº12, (2012), pp. 2-37.

27. *Ibid.* 27, Fontes, Martins, Ribeiro and Carvalho, 'A cidade de Braga e seu território nos séculos V-VII', pp. 255-262.

28. Luís Fontes, Manuela Martins, Maria do Carmo Ribeiro & Helena Carvalho, 'A cidade de Braga e seu território nos séculos V-VII', in Toletvum Visigodo (ed.) *Actas del Congreso Espacios Urbanos en el Occidente Mediterráneo (s. VI-VIII)*, Toletvum Visigodo, Toledo, (2010), pp. 255-262.

29. Maria do Carmo Ribeiro, 'Braga entre a época romana e a Idade Moderna: uma metodologia de análise para a leitura da evolução de paisagem urbana' (unpublished master thesis, University of Minho, 2008).

30. *Ibid.* 27, Fontes, Martins, Ribeiro and Carvalho, 'A cidade de Braga e seu território nos séculos V-VII', pp. 255-262; Luís Fontes, 'O Norte de Portugal no Período Suevo-Visigótico. Elementos para o seu estudo', in *Actas XXXIX Corso di Cultura Sull'Arte Ravennate e Bizantina*, Ravenna, (1992), pp. 217-248; Luís Fontes, 'A igreja sueva de São Martinho de Dume: arquitectura cristã antiga de Braga e na antiguidade tardia do noroeste de Portugal', in *Revista História da Arte*, 6, (2008), pp. 163-182; Luís Fontes, 'O Período Suevo e Visigótico e o Papel da Igreja na Organização do Território', in P. Pereira (ed.) *Minho. Traços de Identidade*, Conselho Cultural da Universidade do Minho, Braga, (2009), pp. 272-295; Luís Fontes, 'Braga

these was built on the site of an ancient Early Imperial *villae*, and in the suebic period it became an Episcopal see. 'São Martinho de Dume' maintained this status until the latter part of the ninth century, at which time it was replaced by Mondoñedo³¹.

The Early Middle Ages commenced with the construction of a new walled enclosure in the northwest quadrant of Late Antiquity Braga. The original Romanesque cathedral was located within this small area, which became the epicentre of political and religious power in the city. This marked the beginning of substantial changes to the urban layout inherited from the Roman period, both as regards the streets and the pre-existing residential structures (Figure 3)³².

This period formed the background to the changes undergone by the early Christian church in existence prior to the pre-Romanesque building on which the Romanesque cathedral was erected³³.

In late medieval times, the city expanded to the northeast and north, forming a prolongation of the early medieval fortified site. This entailed a considerable extension of the walled area, in which several gateways were now opened (Figure 3)³⁴.

A series of religious buildings now sprang up within the new walled perimeter, the most important of which was a restructured Romanesque cathedral, now transformed into the urban centre of power³⁵. In turn, the surrounding area became established as the heart of most of the commercial and artisanal activities documented to date in the city³⁶.

e o norte de Portugal em torno a 711, in *Zona Arqueológica*, 15, (2011), pp. 313-334; Luís Fontes, 'O norte de Portugal ente os séculos VIII e X: balanço e perspectivas de investigação', in L. Caballero, P. Mateos and C. García de Castro (eds.) *Visigodos y omeyas VI. Asturias entre visigodos y mozarabes*, CSIC, Madrid, (2012), pp. 443-474.

31. José Miguel Andrade Cernadas, 'La sede de Mondoñedo en los siglos XII-XV', in *Historia de las diócesis españolas*, vol. 15, (2002), pp. 223-254.

32. Francisco Lemos, Manuela Martins, Luís Fontes, José Leite and Armandino Cunha, 'A redescoberta da muralha romana e suévica-visigótica de Braga', in *Forum*, 24, (1998), pp. 11-25. *Ibid.* 29, Ribeiro, 'Braga entre a época romana e a Idade Moderna'; *Ibid.* 26, Ribeiro and Melo, 'A materialização dos poderes', pp. 2-37.

33. *Ibid.* 27, Fontes, Lemos and Cruz, 'Mais velho que a Sé de Braga', pp. 137-164.

34. Francisco Lemos, Manuela Martins, Luís Fontes, José Leite and Armandino Cunha, 'A redescoberta da muralha romana e suévica-visigótica de Braga', in *Forum*, 24, (1998), pp. 11-25; Maria do Carmo Ribeiro and Arnaldo Melo, 'O papel dos sistemas defensivos na formação dos tecidos urbanos (séculos XIII-XVII)', in M. C. Ribeiro and A. Melo (eds.) *Evolução da paisagem urbana. Sociedade e economia*, CITCEM, Braga, (2013), pp. 183-222.

35. *Ibid.* 26, Ribeiro and Melo, 'A materialização dos poderes', pp. 2-37.

36. Francisco Lemos, Manuela Delgado and Manuela Martins, 'Sondagens arqueológicas no Largo do Paço, Braga', in *Cadernos de Arqueologia*, Série II, 5, (1988), pp. 67-76; *Ibid.* 26, Ribeiro, *O antigo paço Arquiepiscopal de Braga*; *Ibid.* 26, Ribeiro and Melo, 'A materialização dos poderes', pp. 2-37.

In the fourteenth century, the ecclesiastical powers built an episcopal palace in the vicinity of the cathedral, together with a castle to defend the new residence of the archbishops³⁷.

The Roman street system underwent substantial changes, with new streets being laid within the walled area, which for the most part accommodated the construction of the wall, although in some cases, the rectilinear and regular layout inherited from Roman times was partially preserved. This is clearly evidenced in a recent study of the street known as the 'Rua Verde' in the Middle Ages (Figure 3)³⁸.

Little is known of the late medieval burial areas, except in the case of the cathedral, in which a series of mediaeval tombs has been recorded which are located both inside and outside the cathedral walls³⁹.

The archaeological evidence also indicates that various residential structures were built alongside these streets, such as those unearthed during excavations carried out at the 'Largo do Paço'⁴⁰ and 'Nossa Senhora de Leite'⁴¹.

3. Analysis of ceramic wares

The material analysed was recovered during several excavation campaigns conducted recently in the city of Braga ('Afonso Henriques nos. 20/28'⁴² and 36/56, the 'Ex Albergue Distrital' and 'the Theatre'). The analysis was conducted in accordance with the approach employed by Gaspar in her work on the Late Antiquity and early mediaeval ceramic wares produced locally in Braga and the surrounding area⁴³. These studies provide a series of methodological solutions suitable for extrapolation to the cases presently under study.

37. *Ibid.* 29, Ribeiro, 'Braga entre a época romana e a Idade Moderna'; *Ibid.* 26, Ribeiro, *O antigo paço Arquiepiscopal de Braga*; *Ibid.* 26, Ribeiro and Melo, 'A materialização dos poderes', pp. 13-27.

38. *Ibid.* 19, Martins and Ribeiro, 'Em torno da Rua Verde', p. 13-44.

39. *Ibid.* 27, Fontes, Lemos and Cruz, 'Mais velho que a Sé de Braga', pp. 142-143.

40. *Ibid.* 36, Lemos, Delgado and Martins, 'Sondagens arqueológicas no Largo do Paço, Braga', pp. 67-76; *Ibid.* 29, Ribeiro, 'Braga entre a época romana e a Idade Moderna'; *Ibid.* 26, Ribeiro, *O antigo paço Arquiepiscopal de Braga*.

41. Alexandra Gaspar, 'Escavações Arqueológicas na Rua de N^a. S^a. do Leite, em Braga', in *Cadernos de Arqueologia*, Serie II, 2, (1985), pp. 51-125.

42. José Leite, Luís Fontes, Manuela Martins, Joana Tomé and David Mendes, 'Salvamento de Bracara Augusta, edifício nº20-28 da Rua Afonso Henriques e nº1-3 da Rua de Santo António das Travessas', in *Trabalhos Arqueológicos da U.A.U.M. / Memórias*, nº25, Unidade de Arqueologia, Universidade do Minho, Braga, (2012).

43. *Ibid.* 10, Gaspar, 'Contribuição para o estudo das Cerâmicas Cinzentas'; *Ibid.* 11, Gaspar, 'Cerâmicas cinzentas da antiguidade tardia e alto-medievais de Braga e Dume', pp. 455-481.

3.1. *Description and characterisation of the ceramic ware groups*

The pottery studied could be classified into three different groups according to the method of production employed in their manufacture. These groups coincide perfectly with those established by Gaspar for the groups studied in Braga and the surrounding area⁴⁴.

The ceramic ware in the first group presents fine, foreign shapes (Figure 4-5). The raw materials from which these vessels were made were relatively purified clays to which small amounts of small, non-plastic inclusions had been added. As regards the technique used for production, they were thrown on a fast wheel and the interior and exterior surfaces were smoothed. In addition, they were all fired in a reducing atmosphere and thus all present a greyish-blackish colour.

The second group corresponds to the series of 'common Late Antiquity *cinzenta*' wares, the chronology of which appears to extend until the seventh century. This dishware was made from less refined clay than pieces in the first group, and the inclusions were more abundant and of a larger size.

In terms of shaping technique, a combination of wheel-throwing and hand made was employed. The pieces are characterised by having very irregular feet and smooth inner and outer surfaces, although the shape is much rougher than in the previous case.

As regards firing, reducing atmospheres again predominated, although pieces presenting alternating firings also began to be frequent.

Morphologically speaking, a limited number of shapes have been identified: pots, bowls, plates, pitchers and discoidal pieces (Figure 6).

Ceramic wares from this period were manufactured using less purified clays to which abundant inclusions were added, and they were shaped using a combination of throwing on a slow wheel and hand made techniques. Surface treatment was similar to that described for the 'common Late Antiquity *cinzenta*' ware; the interior and exterior walls were smoothed. The clays have a greyish tone, the result of being subjected to reducing firings.

There is very little variety in the type of shape, being predominantly pieces destined for culinary use (Figure 7).

44. *Ibid.* 11, Gaspar, 'Cerâmicas cinzentas da antiguidade tardia e alto-medievais de Braga e Dume', pp. 455-481.

3.2. Imitation 'Late Antiquity cinzenta' wares

Recent studies have shown that the imitation of quality foreign wares in Late Antiquity contexts was a fairly common phenomenon throughout the Iberian Peninsula⁴⁵. Many examples of this have now been reported at a considerable number of archaeological excavations conducted in the Meseta, and a large number of the original pieces which inspired them have also been located in this area⁴⁶.

45. Jacqueline Rigoir and Yvens Rigoir, 'Les dérivées des sigillées paléochrétiennes en Espagne', in *Rivista di Studi Liguri*, XXXVII, (1971), pp. 33-68; Luis Carlos Juan Tovar and José Francisco Blanco García, 'Cerámica común tardorromana, imitación de sigillata en la provincia de Segovia. Aproximación al estudio de las producciones cerámicas del siglo V en la Meseta Norte y su transición al mundo hispano-visigodo', in *Archivo Español de Arqueología*, vol. 70, (1997), pp. 171-220; Hortensia Larrén, José Francisco Blanco, Olat Villanueva, Luis Caballero, Alonso Domínguez, Jaime Nuño, Javier Sanz, Gregorio Marcos, Miguel Ángel Martín and Jesús Misiego, 'Ensayo de la sistematización de la cerámica tardoantigua en la cuenca del Duero', in L. Caballero, P. Mateos and M. Retuerce (eds.) *Cerámicas tardorromanas y altomedievales en la Península Ibérica. Ruptura y continuidad*, CSIC, Madrid, (2003), pp. 273-306; Alfonso Vigil-Escalera, 'La cerámica del periodo visigodo en Madrid', in *Zona Arqueológica*, nº6, (2006), pp. 705-716; Luis Carlos Juan Tovar, 'Las cerámicas imitación de sigillata en el occidente de la Península Ibérica durante el siglo V d. C.', in D. Bernal and A. Ribera (eds.) *Cerámicas hispanorromanas II. Producciones regionales*, Universidad de Cádiz, Cádiz, (2012a), pp. 97-129; Luis Carlos Juan Tovar, 'Las cerámicas imitación de sigillata (CIS) en la Meseta norte durante el siglo V. Nuevos testimonios y precisiones cronológicas', in C. Fernández Ibáñez and R. Bohigas Roldán (eds.) *In durii romanitas: estudio sobre la presencia romana en el valle del Duero en homenaje a Javier Cortes Álvarez de Miranda*, Diputación Provincial de Palencia, Palencia, (2012b), pp. 365-372.

46. Carmen Fernández Ochoa, Paloma García Díez and Alexandra Uscatescu Barrón, 'Gijón en el periodo tardoantiguo: cerámicas importadas de las excavaciones de Cimadevilla', in *Anuario Español de Arqueología*, 65, (1992), pp. 105-149; Luis Carlos Juan Tovar, 'Las industrias cerámicas hispanas en el Bajo Imperio, hacia una sistematización de la TSHT', in R. Teja and C. Pérez (eds.) *Congreso Internacional La Hispania de Teodosio*, IE Universidad, Segovia, (1997), pp. 543-580; Javier Aquilué Abadías, 'Estado actual de la investigación de la *Terra Sigillata Africana* en la Península Ibérica en los siglos VI-VII', in L. Caballero, P. Mateos and M. Retuerce (eds.) *Cerámicas tardorromanas y altomedievales en la Península Ibérica. Ruptura y continuidad*, CSIC, Madrid, (2003), pp. 11-20; Alfonso Vigil-Escalera, 'Cerámicas tardorromanas y altomedievales de Madrid', in L. Caballero, P. Mateos and M. Retuerce (eds.) *Cerámicas tardorromanas y altomedievales en la Península Ibérica. Ruptura y continuidad*, CSIC, Madrid, (2003), pp. 371-388; María Catalina López Pérez, *El comercio de terra sigillata en la provincia de A Coruña*. Brigantium, A Coruña, (2004); Alfonso Vigil-Escalera, 'Aspectos sobre la cultura material en Hispania (ss. V-VII): problemas de visibilidad/invisibilidad del registro arqueológico', in J. Hedges and E. Hedges (eds.) *Gallia e Hispania en el contexto de la presencia germánica (ss. V-VII): balance y perspectivas*, BAR, Oxford, (2006), pp. 89-108; Miguel Ángel González López, 'Vajillas de importación no africanas en el noroeste peninsular (s. V-VII). Distribución y tipocronología', in *Archivo Español de Arqueología*, vol. 80, (2007), pp. 207-238; Mario César Vila and María Catalina López Pérez, 'Aportaciones al conocimiento del comercio de sigillata en la fachada atlántica del noroeste peninsular', in SFECAG (ed.) *Actes du Congrès de L'Empuries*, SFECAG, Marsella, (2008), pp. 241-254; Adolfo Fernández Fernández, Fermín Pérez Losada and Santiago Vieito Covela, 'Cerámica fina de importación en Toralla (Vigo): abastecimiento y consumo en una villa costera atlántica tardorromana', in C. Fernández Ochoa, V. García-Entero and F. Sendino (eds.) *Las villas tardorromanas en el occidente del Imperio: arquitectura y función*, Ediciones Trea, Gijón, (2008), pp. 575-585; Inés Centeno Cea, Ángel Luis Palomino Lázaro & Luis Miguel Villadangos García, 'Contextos cerámicos de la primera mitad del siglo V en el interior de la Meseta: el yacimiento de Las Lagunillas (Aldeamayor de San Martín, Valladolid)', in

In the case of Braga, locally produced ceramic ware known as “Late Antiquity *cinzenta*” usually appears accompanied by other indigenous and foreign wares dating back to earlier points in time. Thus, these and the early medieval pieces have enabled us to date many of the pieces identified in the above contexts with some precision.

In these contexts, a number of pieces have been recorded that appear to imitate Late Antiquity Gallic forms (DSP)⁴⁷.

These DSP imitations are mostly dated to the second half of the 5th century, and especially notable is the presence of some beakers that resemble the Rigoir form 5B and have a rim diameter of 14 cm (Figure 4.1). Identical pieces have been found during excavations conducted at ‘Carvalheiras’⁴⁸, together with pieces that imitated Rigoir form 5A, with a rim diameter of 17 cm (Figure 4.2).

Other possible Late Antiquity Gallic imitations which have been unearthed in Braga include Rigoir form 6B bowls, with rim diameters measuring between 15 cm and 18 cm (Figure 4.3). This type has also been found during excavations at Gualdim Pais⁴⁹.

Some fragments of Rigoir form 18 (Figure 4.4) were also uncovered, identical to those analysed by Gaspar in ‘Carvalheiras’⁵⁰. Likewise, several rims were found belonging to possible imitations of Rigoir form 22 carinated bowls (Figure 4.5). These have

BSAA, nº76, (2010), pp. 91-143; Ramón Járrega Domínguez, ‘El comercio con África y el Mediterráneo en las costas orientales del Hispania entre los siglos V y VII. Las producciones cerámicas’, in C. Ebanista and M. Rotili (eds.) *L'Italia e il Mediterraneo occidentale tras il V secolo e la metà del VI*, Cimitile, (2010), pp. 163-181; María Catalina López Pérez and Mario César Vila, ‘La importación de *Terra Sigillata* durante la etapa tardorromana en la fachada atlántica del Noroeste Peninsular’, in R. Martínez and M. Crespo (eds.) *Metodología de análisis aplicada a los estudios de cerámica tardoantigua y medieval de la Península Ibérica*, Ediciones Lobo Sapiens, León, (2010), pp. 41-52.

47. Jacqueline Rigoir, ‘Les sigillées paléochrétiennes grises et orangées’, in *Galia*, XXVI, (1968), pp. 177-244; Yvens Rigoir, ‘Sondage au pied du rempart de Saint-Blaise’, in *Documents d'archéologie méridionale*, nº4, (1981), pp. 351-355; Miguel Beltrán, *Guía de la cerámica romana*. Zaragoza, Ediciones Pórtico, Zaragoza, (1990), pp. 155-160; Claude Raynaud, ‘DSP Dérivée de sigillée paléochétienne’, in M. Py (coord.) *Lattara 6. Dictionnaire des Céramiques Antiques en Méditerranée nord-occidentale (VII ème s. av. N. è.- VII ème s. de n. è.*, Lattes, (1993), pp. 410-418; Yvens Rigoir, ‘DSP: Une vaisselle méridionale’, in M. Digne (ed.) *Terres de Durance: céramiques de l'Antiquité aux temps modernes*, Digne, (1995), pp. 27-40; Yvens Rigoir, ‘Héritages et innovations dans le décor des Dérivées-des-Sigillées Paléochrétiennes’, in Narrations (ed.) *La Céramique Médiévale en Méditerranée. Actes du 6 congrès*, Narration Éditions, Aix-en-Provence, (1997), pp. 27-33; Michel Bonifay and Yvens Rigoir, *Fouilles à Marseille. Les mobiliers (Ier-VIIe siècle ap. J.-C.)*, Errance-Adam, Paris, (1998); Yvens Rigoir, ‘Les Dérivées-des-Sigillées Paléochrétiennes’, in L. Sagui, (coord.) *La Ceramica in Italia: VI-VII secolo*, Florencia, (1998), pp. 101-107; Yvens Rigoir, Jean-Pierre Pelletier and Michel Poguét, ‘Les Dérivées-des-Sigillées Paléochrétiennes de Saint-Pierre de Vence (Eyguières, B.-du-Rh.)’, in *Revue archéologique de Narbonnaise*, nº34, (2001), pp. 33-40.

48. *Ibid.* 10, Gaspar, ‘Contribuição para o estudo das Cerâmicas Cinzentas’, pp. 141.

49. *Ibid.* 10, Gaspar, ‘Contribuição para o estudo das Cerâmicas Cinzentas’, pp. 113-114.

50. *Ibid.* 10, Gaspar, ‘Contribuição para o estudo das Cerâmicas Cinzentas’, pp. 145.

a rim diameter of about 18 cm and present certain similarities with those found at the excavations of 'São Geraldo', 'Gualdim Pais' and 'São Martinho de Dume'⁵¹.

At both excavations, several bowls have been found which were also imitations of the Rigoir form 16, with rim diameters of about 15 cm (Figure 4.6), and similar examples have been uncovered in Late Antiquity contexts at 'Carvalheiras'⁵².

In addition, several other pieces have been found that emulate Late Antiquity wares known as Late Roman African Wares (ARSW)⁵³.

The original versions of these wares were produced throughout the 5th and 6th centuries; consequently, we believe it is logical to assume that these imitations were produced towards the end of the fifth century and throughout much of the sixth century.

The most abundant form is undoubtedly the Hayes form 12/102 cup, which is characterised by a thickened rim and endowed with a small groove for holding a lid. In addition, the lip is ornamented with a decorative knob. The body is hemispherical and has a rim diameter of 15 cm (Figure 5.1). The original ware has been dated to between the late 5th and 6th centuries⁵⁴.

Another of the ARSW beakers that has been recorded is the Hayes 73 form, with originals dating back to the 5th century (Figure 5.2).

As regards the dishes, these appear to copy the Hayes form 76 (Figure 5.3), produced between the second quarter and the third quarter of the fifth century.

Imitations of the Hayes form 61B bowls have also been found, produced between 420 and 450 (Figure 5.4).

Lastly, dishes have been found which imitated the Late Roman C forms. The most outstanding type is the Hayes form 8 bowl, the original of which has been dated to the second half of the 5th century and the sixth century (Figure 5.5).

3.3. 'Common Late Antiquity cinzenta' wares

We found several examples of pots with a rounded or thickened edge, concave neck and spherical body, with rim diameters ranging between 13 cm and 16 cm (Figure 6.1). In addition, various examples of pitchers were uncovered with a rounded or slightly

51. *Ibid.* 10, Gaspar, 'Contribuição para o estudo das Cerâmicas Cinzentas', pp. 146.

52. *Ibid.* 10, Gaspar, 'Contribuição para o estudo das Cerâmicas Cinzentas', pp. 142.

53. Jonh Hayes, *Late Roman Pottery. A catalogue of Roman Fine Wares*, British School at Rome London, (1972).

54. Atlante, *Atlante delle forme ceramiche. I Ceramica fine romana del bacino Mediterraneo (Medio e Tardo Imper*, Ist. Enciclopedia Italiana; Encarnación Serrano, *Cerâmicas Africanas*, Roma, (1981); Mercedes Roca and María Isabel Fernández, *Introducción al estudio de la cerámica roman. Una breve guía de referencia*, Universidad de Málaga, Málaga, (2005), pp. 255-304.

bevelled lip, a slightly carinated neck and a handle —rectangular in cross-section— attached at the centre of the neck. These had a spherical body with rim diameters of between 10 cm and 11 cm (Figure 6.2).

Some dishes with rounded edges and a rim diameter of between 18 cm and 22 cm were also recorded (Figure 6.3-4). Of particular interest among these was a small plate bearing certain similarities with some pieces of *engobe vermelho* found in the ‘Bath of Cidade’, which have been dated to from the 4th and 5th centuries⁵⁵.

Several discoidal pieces were also found, which had been produced using reused ceramic (Figure 6.5). Their function is unknown (game token, lid, etc.), and only a small number are decorated. Such decoration consisted of simple incised horizontal lines, grooves, fingerprints, mouldings or perforations.

3.4. Early medieval wares

As has been the case in many other areas in the city that have been excavated, relatively little early medieval material (8th-11th centuries) has been found at these sites. Furthermore, our partial knowledge of these wares is due entirely to the excavation campaigns carried out at ‘São Martinho de Dume’⁵⁶.

In terms of forms, there is a notable presence of pots, which present clear similarities with the ‘common Late Antiquity *cinzenta*’ wares: they possess rounded or bevelled rims, straight necks and spherical bodies. Rim diameters are between 13 cm and 17 cm, and some of them are decorated with incised motifs (Figure 7.1-2).

A clear similarity with the ‘common Late Antiquity *cinzenta*’ type pitchers can be observed, being characterised by bevelled lips, narrow and elongated necks with a slight carination in the centre. Moreover, they have a handle that is attached at the centre of the neck. The bodies are spherical and rim diameters are approximately 10 cm (Figure 7.3).

55. *Ibid.* 12, Delgado, Morais and Ribeiro, *Guia das cerâmicas*, pp. 54-55, figure 163.

56. Luís Fontes, ‘Salvamento Arqueológico de Dume: 1987. Primeiros Resultados’, in *Cuadernos de Arqueologia*, Série II, 4, (1987), pp. 113-148; Luís Fontes, ‘Escavações arqueológicas na antiga igreja de Dume, Notícia preliminar da campanha de 1989’, in Universidade Católica Portuguesa, Faculdade de Teologia (ed.) *Actas Congresso Internacional IX Centenário da Dedicção da Sé de Braga, I*, Braga, (1990), pp. 147-169; Luís Fontes, ‘Salvamento Arqueológico de Dume (Braga). Resultados das Campanhas de 1989-90 e 1991-92’, in *Cadernos de Arqueologia*, Série II, 8-9, (1992), pp. 199-230; Luís Fontes, ‘Arqueologia Medieval Portuguesa’, in J. Morais Arnaud (ed.) *Arqueologia 2000. Balanço de um Século de Investigação Arqueológica em Portugal*, Associação dos Arqueólogos Portugueses, Lisboa, (2002), pp. 221-238; *Ibid.* 11, Gaspar, ‘Cerâmicas cinzentas da antiguidade tardia e alto-medievais de Braga e Dume’, pp. 455-481; Luís Fontes, *São Martinho de Tibães. Um sítio onde se fez um mosteiro. Ensaio em Arqueologia da Paisagem e da Arquitectura*, Departamento de Estudos, IPPAR, Lisboa, (2005); Luís Fontes, *A Basílica Sueva de Dume e Túmulo Dito de São Martinho*. Núcleo de Arqueologia da Universidade do Minho Braga, (2006); *Ibid.* 30, Fontes, ‘O Período suévico e visigótico’.

Some examples of pitchers with a rounded lip, straight neck and spherical body have also been identified. These have a single handle —rectangular in cross-section— that is attached at top of the neck and the middle of the body. Rim diameters are about 12 cm (Figure 7.4).

Lastly, we should mention the existence of dishes with a slightly thickened edge and oblique body, with rim diameters that measure approximately 24 cm (Figure 7.5).

4. Conclusion

As is the case with ‘imitation Late Antiquity *cinzenta*’ ware, the production of vessels inspired by Late Roman African Wares (ARSW), Late Antiquity Gallic Terra Sigillata (DSP) and Late Roman C forms has been recorded in the Meseta. These pieces present their own unique characteristics enabling them to be clearly differentiated from the original pieces. Moreover, the latter are relatively well-known throughout the area.

As for the originals, in the case of Braga it has mainly been examples of ARSW which have been unearthed, together with imitations of these of local, Late Antiquity production: the ‘*engobes vermelhos*’⁵⁷. However, very few examples of DSP have been found to date: solely a fragment of Rigoir form 1A, another of Rigoir form 3B and a last one of Rigoir form 6C⁵⁸.

As regards the wares studied, we have been able to analyse a series of vessels, including some examples that have been identified as being imitations of foreign wares (DSP, ARSW), of which there are quite clear parallels both in Braga and the surrounding territory.

At the same time, the presence has been recorded of ‘common Late Antiquity *cinzenta*’ wares, which had not been located until now.

In turn, this analysis has allowed us to posit the possibility that some of the Late Antiquity *cinzenta* wares were to some extent indebted to the previously mentioned earlier local wares (‘*engobes vermelhos*’). We also believe it may be possible that some of the early medieval vessels identified indicate the continuity of a large part of the ‘common Late Antiquity *cinzenta*’ pieces.

Lastly, an analysis of these wares has confirmed that certain technological changes appeared to occur (ceramic groups, firing, etc.), giving rise to a series of types that may have been better adapted to the socioeconomic changes the city witnessed over the course of these centuries.

57. Manuela Delgado, ‘Notícia sobre cerâmica de engobe vermelho não vitrificável encontradas em Braga’, in *Cadernos de Arqueologia*, Série II, 10-11, (1993), pp. 113-149; Manuela Delgado, Rui Morais and Jorge Ribeiro, *Guia das cerâmicas de produção local de Bracara Augusta*, CITCEM, Braga, (2009), pp. 61-70.

58. *Ibid.* 10, Gaspar, ‘Contribuição para o estudo das Cerâmicas Cinzentas’, pp. 99-100.

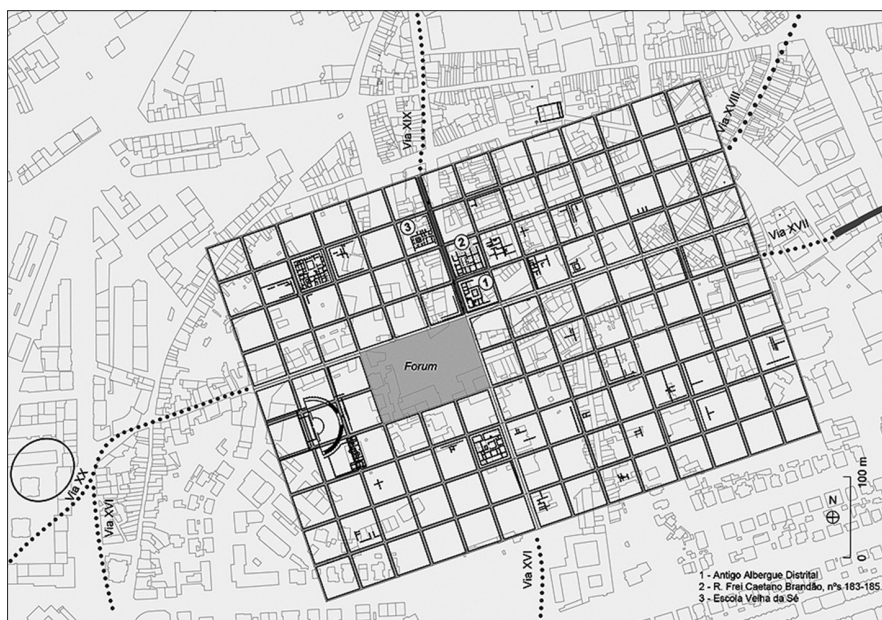


Figure 1. Early Imperial urban layout from *Bracara Augusta*.

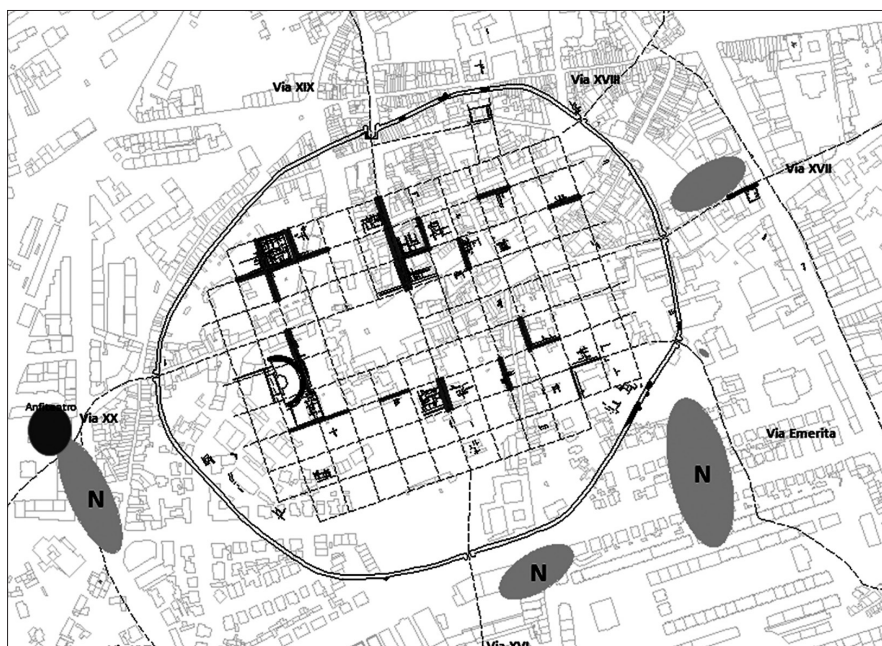


Figure 2. Map of Braga in Late Antiquity.

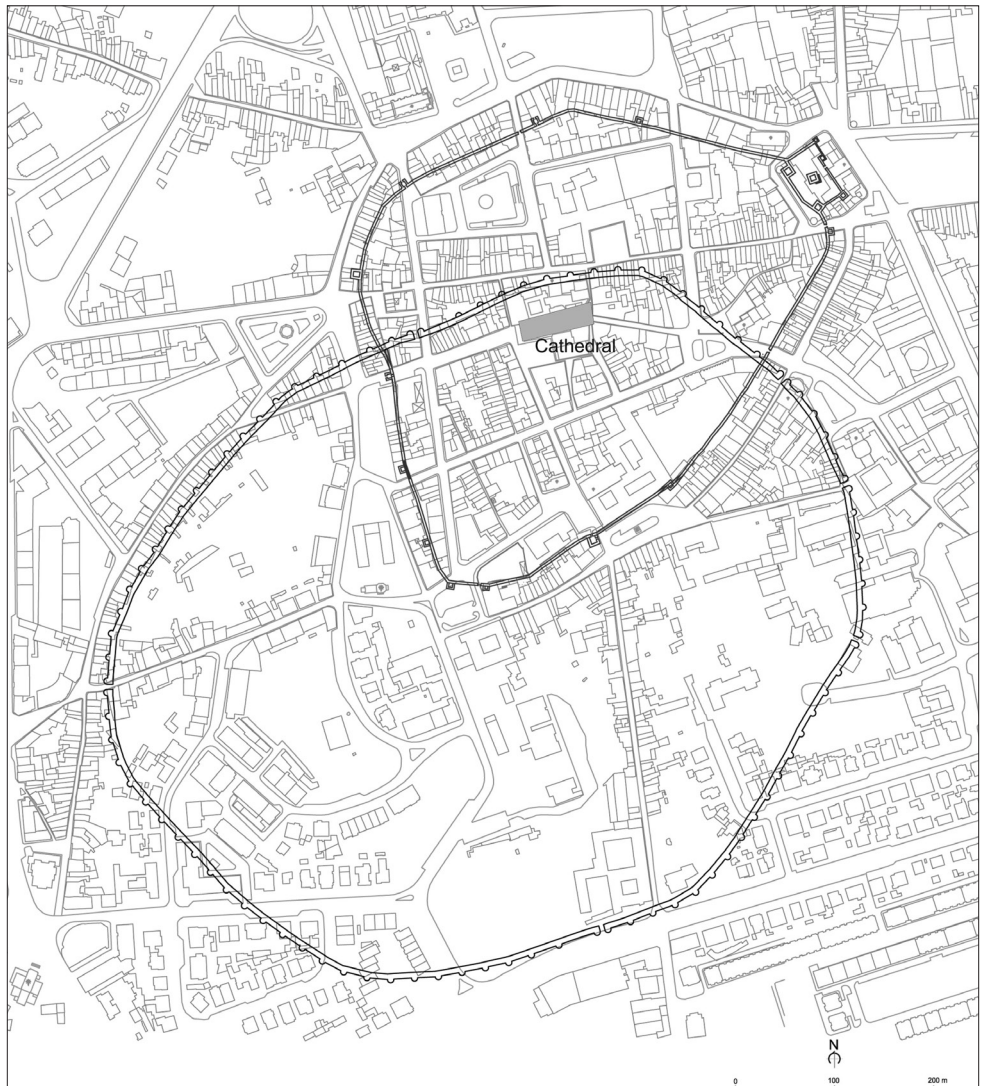


Figure 3. Map of Braga in the Early and Late Middle Ages.

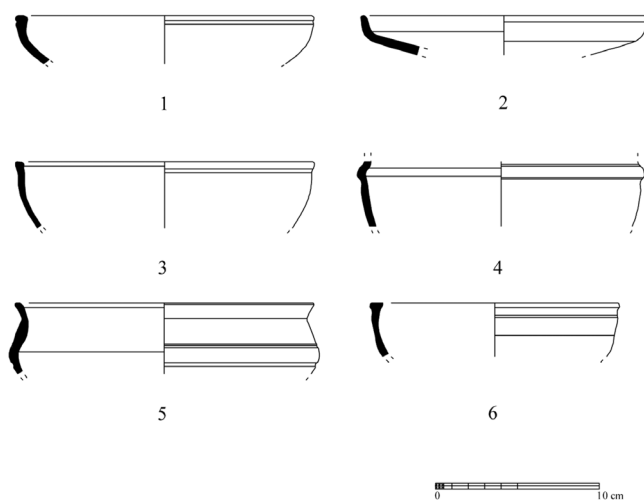


Figure 4. 'Late Antiquity *cinzenta*' ware, in imitation of DSP.

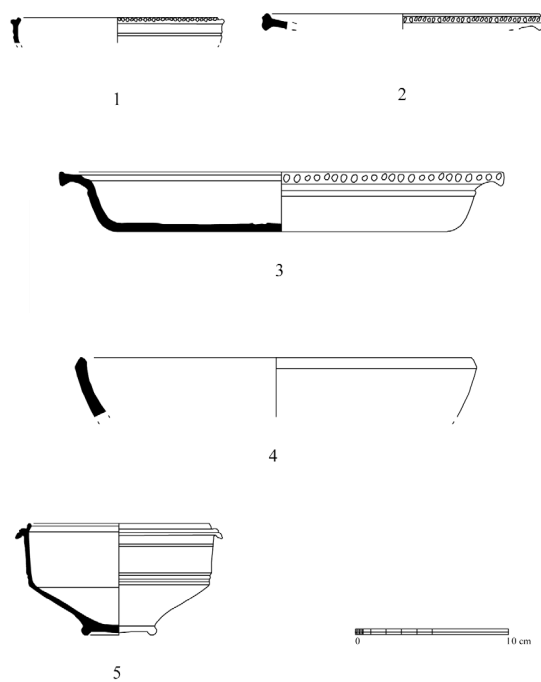


Figure 5. 'Late Antiquity *cinzenta*' ware, in imitation of ARSW.

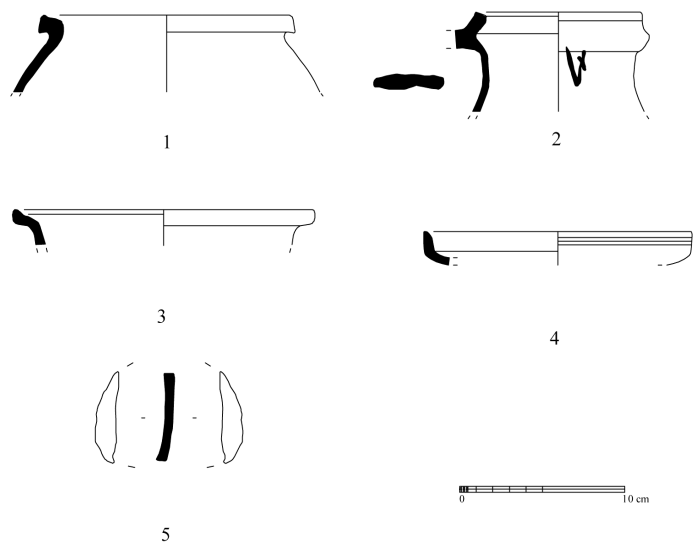


Figure 6. ‘Late Antiquity *cinzenta*’ ware.

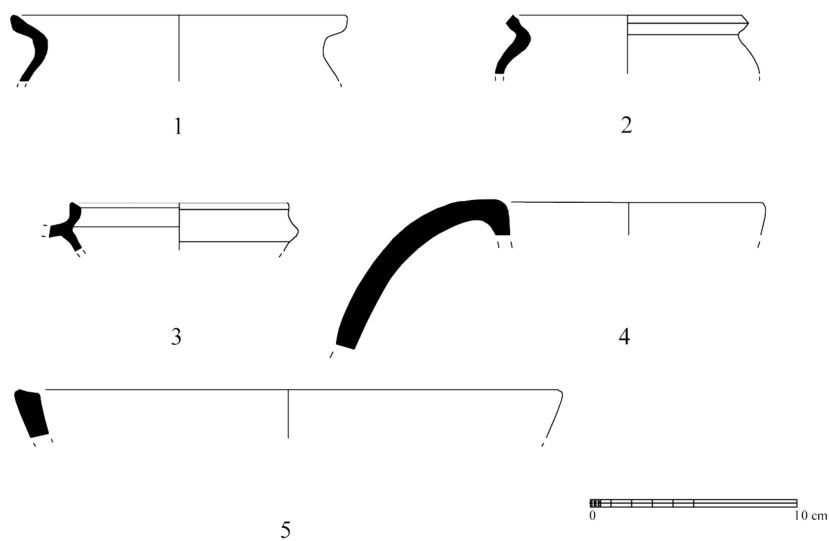


Figure 7. Early medieval ceramic ware.