

regulation of society. In societies that are organized on a democratic basis and that are very sensitive to the changes in public opinion, mass media have amplified the so-called silent revolution. The State monopoly over criminal justice has been subject to marked erosion under the needs and pressures coming from society.

The trial has lost its old balancing function of restoration of the broken order. The pressure of victims' associations has weakened many areas of the economical and political world that enjoyed wide margins of impunity. The victims' need for justice, supported by the more effective role of the magistracy (less bound to political power), caused a redefinition of the functions of the criminal trial. The theme of criminal responsibility, so important for the jurists of the past, has been supplanted by the necessity to convict at any cost.

In fact, according to this new concept of justice, the victim expects from criminal law an instrument of simplification and conviction a priori. These expectations are often met by the opportunistic help of mass media. As a consequence, the public declaration of blame replaces the verification of that blame. The threshold of deviancy has become lower and at the same time the borderline between normality and deviance has become more indistinct.

In a way, the appearance of the victim in the criminal trial is the final point of a journey that initially gave the victim an indistinct and seemingly non-relevant role. If the rise of the States had underscored the role of victimless crimes, present democracies have amplified the ideological dimension of the victim. Research that centers on the victim's figure and role on the scene of the criminal trial holds much promise for the investigation of themes and problems of broader social and political dimensions.

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*Francis Tassaux – Robert Matijašić – Vladimir Kovačić (eds.):* LORON (CROATIE). UN GRAND CENTRE DE PRODUCTION D'AMPHORES À HUILE ISTRIENNES, 1<sup>ER</sup>-IV<sup>E</sup> S. P.C. Mémoires, 6. Bordeaux, Editions Ausonius, 2001, pp. 366

The library of the Istran Peninsula (in Northern Adriatic) has acquired an excellent new monograph from the international team working on the *Istran oil* project. This provides the book's contents with a frame for the much broader spheres of interest of numerous collaborators, particularly the three presented as editors, who are also the co-authors of separate contributions about Loron,<sup>1</sup> the Roman site along the sea north of Poreč (*Parentium*).

The research history, the geographical locus and geological past of the site (particularly the rising sea surface over the last two millennia), the description of work carried out by the mixed international team, the epigraphic analysis of monuments from the near vicinity, the description of fine material-especially earthen artifacts from a Loron kiln and a series of stamps, the analyses of remains of animal bones and of mollusks, are just some of the subjects discussed. The book is divided into 4 parts by its editors: *The geographical and historical context*, *Excavations at Loron in 1994-1998*, *Small finds*, and *The contribution of excavations*. Of particular value are the systematically stated conclusions in Part 4, most notably the comparison of archaeological and historical sources.

In the introduction, É. Fouache presents Istra from the geographical and geological aspects and dedicates himself to the Loron site's surroundings. The most original contribution in this respect is the careful observation of minor phenomena in the narrowest coastal belt of the studied area, where he succeeded in distinguishing some ancient erosions on the rocks and the piers from more recent activities, and was thus able to estimate the increase in the sea-level over the last 2000 years. In contrast to previously held notions, this change has been relatively slight, from 0.7 to 1.2 m. The research history is described by R. Matijašić. Early writers conspicuously fail to mention this site, referring only to finds from nearby places (Červar, Vabriga, Tar, Frata). Interest in the finds from Loron grew only thanks to the activities of the Trieste antiquarians, especially P. Kandler in the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century. Particularly interesting at that time were inscriptions, including stamps on bricks and amphorae. The finds and the site have been described by a number of archaeologists (Th. Mommsen, C. Gregorutti, A. Gnirs, and, most recently, by A. Degrassi). The opinion has come to the fore that private kilns fell into the hands of emperors. The most important amongst the private owners was said to be Calvia Crispinilla while the most significant economic activity at that time was olive

<sup>1</sup> Lately, the name "Lorun" has been increasingly used in Croatia.

oil production and export. Particularly important in the first part of the book is F. Tassaux's analysis of the numerous testimonial epigraphic monuments from the site's vicinity. The introductory chapters are supplemented by R. Matijašić with a survey of the prehistoric remains from the coast, hillforts and caves, and a survey of stamps on Loron bricks.

Placing the Loron site into the broader Istran and Mediterranean framework, we cannot avoid comparing it with the Fažana-Brijuni complex: our Croatian and foreign colleagues succeeded in indicating economic and social lines of forces that shaped the image of the sites. The authors of the monograph, too, could not avoid certain comparisons. Of a special interest is the comparison of the development of the Dressel 6B amphora forms at Fažana and Loron, presented in the third part (*Small finds*) in an extensive article by Alka Starac. This part is quite comprehensive, for its contributions include not only a systematic survey of the finds, but with the aid of various maps indicate the orientation of various import and export trade routes – without leading the reader astray regarding local economic geography – and thus present an excellent supplement regarding the Istran economy in the first few centuries AD. The excavations were actually completed in 1998, but the materials were processed by the authors until 2000, which means that the latest foreign and domestic findings have been taken into account.

The researchers merely began to excavate the villa, which had stood on some 200 meters along the coast; its interior, therefore, remains to be researched. Special attention should be paid to the economical and manufacturing activities (especially artifacts like olive oil amphorae, sigillata in the times of Augustus and Tiberius, perhaps even the pottery of thin walls and bricks bearing the stamp of *Calvia Crispinilla*). In view of the retrieved smith's stele, it is clear that this trade was a significant element of this production center. The authors believe that due to the lack of clay locally, it was imported from the Mirna valley as well as from Dragonja and northern Istra. The export and import of these materials led to the establishment of a local emporium at Loron, north of Poreč. Various activities during the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> centuries are fairly explicit, while the ensuing period is still somewhat unclear; it is only during the 4<sup>th</sup> century that slight evidence of the export of Dressel 6B amphorae can be traced again.

The settlement at Loron was initially associated with the newly formed Poreč colony, notably with the centuriation of the Ager of Parentium. The first known significant Loron proprietor was *Sisenna Statilius Taurus*, the name that links Istran properties with the people from the immediate proximity of the imperial court in Rome. It appears that he died around 30 AD, between the ages of 55 and 60, and had therefore not enjoyed the *Pucinum* wine, which was supposed to provide for excellent

and lasting health, according to Fr. T. In addition to a number of other proprietors, the stamps then soon point to the decisive role of Calvia Crispinilla, producer of Istran olive oil and *magistra libidinum Neronis*. Some believe that she was from Tergeste, while F. Tassaux favours the possibility that she was native to the Poreč area. The bricks carrying her stamps are in any case not rare in northern Istra; her role in the newly discovered villa at Školarice by the Rižana river remains to be assessed. Around Domitian's time, her property fell into the emperor's hands.

In the end, the editors tackle the interesting topic of the site's future, which indicates their intention to devote further time and resources to the site. A careful and up-to-date bibliography has been added, though an index is lacking. In the text, the expression *esprit gaulois* stands out, a very rare phenomenon in scientific literature that we assume should be ascribed to Francis Tassaux. The texts are far from easy; let us add that the articles are written mainly in French and partially in Italian and that the book is furnished with a (too) short summary in Croatian. It appears that the Slovene language caused the authors some trouble.<sup>2</sup> For the northern part of Istra, production by local brick makers should be

<sup>2</sup> E.g., they wrote: "... numerose pedine sono state rinvenute anche a Jandarja in Slovenia ... (Bertoncelj-Kučar V. (1979), *Nakit iz stekla in Jandarja* (Glas- und Bernstein schmuck) ..."

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. *Collectió 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