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A GRAVE GROUP FROM MONTE DOS IRMÃOS (MONTARGIL)

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SUMMARY: A funerary urn was found while plowing a field at only ca. 4 km from the necropolis of Santo André (see previous paper). It contained several smaller pieces deposited on a thin layer of bone fragments. Alongside a small but rather unique open bronze lamp had been deposited wrapped in a linen cloth. The forms, fabrics and chronology of the urn and some of the grave goods were found to be comparable to certain Santo André finds.

RESUMO: Por ocasião de lavras num campo a cerca de 4 km da necrópole de Santo André (veja-se o artigo anterior), achou-se uma urna cinerária contendo vários objectos. Ao lado, uma lucerna de bronze foi enterrada envolvida num pano. As formas, o tipo de pasta e a cronologia da urna e de algumas das peças nela contidas são semelhantes aos achados de Santo André.

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A GRAVE GROUP FROM MONTE DOS IRMÃOS (MONTARGIL)

On July 4th., 1979, Luís Mendes Pires delivered a funerary urn with its contents to the Museu Monográfico de Conimbriga. It had been found during agricultural activity at the site of Monte dos limaos at a distance of ca. 4 km, and across a creek (the Ribeiro de Sor) from the necropolis of Santo André.

A lamp, no. 7, was handed over seperately, as was a small scrap of cloth. The other items described below were all contained in the urn and still *in situ*.

The lamp had been found wrapped in a piece of cloth just below the present surface of the terrain. We were unable to ascertain afterwards from the information supplied, whether this package had actually been deposited in, above, or alongside the urn. Unfortunately the cloth disintegrated when it was folded back to see what was enveloped within it.

At the time the urn was lifted the thin-walled ware cup, no. 5, was broken; its breaks were clearly fresh and recent. However, Mr. Pires assured us that, upon his insistence, no attempts were made to Gpen the urn or remove its contents.

The urn was dismantled and all pieces were very ably restored by Miguel Simões da Fonte Pessoa, one of the employees of the museum at Conimbriga.

There were no signs of burning or ashes on the exterior of the urn; it must have been deposited in a grave well removed from the cremation site. This conforms to the observations made about the burial practices at the Santo André necropolis. Acording to the norms established for that site, the Monte dos Irmãos urn would have been a type 5 burial. The gravegoods were deposited

on a very thin coat of earth, probably infiltration, which in turn rested on a layer of small bone fragments averaging 10 cm in height and having a total weight of 520 gram only.

These fragments gave the impression of having been washed, they looked clean, and very little ash was found within the compact mass of splinters. It must be noted that no specific bones were recognized; no finger joints, no fragments of the cranium, and most noteworthy no teeth were found. We encountered only one small piece of a vertebra.

Two of the vessels contained within the urn must have been entrusted to the deceased in an imperfect condition. The beaker no. 3 is complete except for two handles which are attested by the marks left on both body and border. The piece was well protected and partly covered by the lid no. 2 (as is visible in photograph no. 2), and since not even the smallest segment of the handles was found, we must conclude that they were already missing at the time of burial. The glass neck no. 6 rested directly on the skeletal material, and was covered by several pieces. No glass fragments were discovered within the urn; we must deduce that this broken off section was included to represent a precious or favourite bottle.

Catalogue:

1. Funerary urn with vertical border and inward thickened lip. The fabric includes abundant, rather poorly graded temper in which medium sized particles predominate. The grains are waterworn and consist essentially of quartz with some composites of quartz-feldspar. Flakes of mica and crushed grog are also present as well as an occasional grain of feldspar. This fabric is similar to type IV established for the Santo André coarse ware. The colour is light yellowish brown to very dark gray (7.5 YR 5/4 — 10 YR 3/1 ⁽¹⁾). Max. diam. 330 mm.;

(¹) All colours indicated for the ceramics of this grave group were established by comparison to the Munsell scale, c.f. *Munsell Soil Color Charts*, Maryland, 1975.

- height 303 mm. Fragmented, partially restored, about half of the vessel is missing.
2. Domed lid with slightly thickened border. The fabric contains sparse to medium abundant temper which is not very well classified and consists of small rounded grains of quartz, some composite granules of quartz-feldspar, and a few flakes of mica. It is comparable to the pastes of types III-IV-V of the Santo André coarse wares. The colour varies from light to dark gray (10 YR 7/1—4/1). Diam. of the grip 72 mm; height 89 mm. Fragmented, restored, nearly complete.
 3. Two-handled carinated beaker with everted border. Fine textured clay which resembles the quality of thin walled ware paste. It was admixed with very little, although poorly graded tempering, consisting mainly of quartz and grog. There are other materials present which could, unfortunately, not be identified with the hand lens used. The fabric is dark ocre (8.75 YR 7/4). Max. diam. 88 mm; height 121 mm. The surface is badly worn. Restored, complete except for both handles.
 4. Two-handled jar with everted border and rounded lip. The fabric contains a large percentage of well graded temper in which small angular grits of quartz, ferro-magnesian minerals and moscovite predominate; there is also some feldspar present. The paste is related to that of type I of the Santo André coarse wares. Its colour is brownish orange (5 YR 6/6). A thin wash of a similar colour (2.5 YR 5/6) is well preserved albeit worn. Max. diam. 87 mm; height 87 mm. Fragmented but restored and complete.
 5. Carinated thin-walled ware cup with dot decoration in barbotina. Mayet form XLIII. The coarse thin-walled ware fabric has abundant temper of medium classification, consisting essentially of red-brown and white grog, with some grains of quartz and of an unidentified opaque white material. This fabric is comparable to that of group 2 d as established for the thin-walled wares of the Santo André necropolis. The colour is light ocre (7.5 YR 8/4). The slip is thin, worn, and no longer glossy. It is of an uneven colour, varying between orange and brown (5 YR 6/8 — 7.5 YR 4/2) and shows deep mottling

- especially on the base. Horizontal threads of barbotine between the dots indicate that these were applied in horizontal sequence. Max. diam. 80 mm; height 57 mm. The cup was broken at the time the urn was found and excavated. Restored, complete.
6. Neck and rim of glass vessel. The lip is folded outwards and then inwards. The fabric contains some black impurities and shows striations and small air bubbles. The surface is weathered and pitted, creating a certain opacity. Colour «glass-grün» of Berger's colour scale accepted for the glass from Vindonissa (2). Diam. of lip 28 mm.; preserved height 28 mm.; thickness of fabric 2-3 mm. Incomplete.
 7. Open bronze lamp (3) with rounded rim and two small lateral swallow-tail ears. The vessel shows an irregularly pitted exterior with some active corrosion (4), and some areas of stable patina on both exterior and interior. Diam. of rim 59 mm.; height 21 mm. Intact.
 8. Small scrap of the cloth in which the lamp had been wrapped. Ca. 10 X 15 mm. is preserved, it is of flax (linen) fibers, woven into a simple weave of 16 X 12 threads per cm².

Chronology

The large urn finds no parallel at Santo André; it is closest to the form 4 a urns which are, however, all of type I fabric. The

(2) L. BERGER, *Römische Gläser aus Vindonissa*, (Veröffentlichungen der Gesellschaft pro Vindonissa, IV), Basle, 1960, p. 96.

(3) I agree with Menzel, (H. MENZEL, *Antike Lampen im Römisch-Germanischen Zentralmuseum zu Mainz*, Mainz, 1969, p. 105) that this open form was indeed used as a lamp, probably with a rather viscous tallow or suet. Its capacity is too small, and its shape not adapted to be employed as a lamp filler as Frere suggests for two of the finds from Verulamium (S. FRERE *Verulamium Excavations*, Vol. I, (Reports of the Research Committee of the Society of Antiquaries of London, XXVIII), Oxford, 1972, p. 366, nrs. 4 and 5). For that purpose a guttus as for instance nr. E 5.4 from Santo André would have served much more efficiently.

(4) This active corrosion is being treated with a solution of 23.85 grams of benzotriazole in a liter of alcohol.

present vessel has a more vertical border than those of group 4 a from the nearby necropolis or the one from Valdoca (nr. 245) ⁽⁵⁾ with which they were compared. The upright border is found back on the Valdoca vases 138-2, 318-3, and 352-1 ⁽⁶⁾, and the Farrobo urn 32-4 ⁽⁷⁾. The second of these has been dated to the period between Augustus and the beginning of the second c.; the last one to the late first to first half second c. A. D. However, all these examples have thinner, almost pointed lips, and should probably not be used as dating comparanda for the Monte dos Irmãos urn. It could be likened to type G urns from Brixworth which were assigned to the Flavian period or earlier ⁽⁸⁾, or to an urn with a slightly more angular border from Shakenoak, dated ca. 120 — ca. 250 A. D. ⁽⁹⁾. A first to early second c. chronology for the vase at hand might be feasible.

Domed lids have been found at many Roman sites and from many periods. As we mentioned, when treating on the covers from Santo André, they are difficult or even impossible to date, and no great importance should be attached to the chronologies of close parallels. Our lid could be confronted with nr. E 1.4 (2) from Santo André; a lid from Ostia published by Vegas and assigned to the Flavian age ⁽¹⁰⁾; a much smaller example from Colchester which dates to ca. 100 A. D. ⁽¹¹⁾; or another similar piece of the

⁽⁵⁾ J. de, and A. M. ALARCÃO, *O Espólio da Necrópole de Valdoca (Aljustrel)*, in «Conimbriga», V, 1966, tomb 245, p. 66, Pl. XVIII.

⁽⁶⁾ *Id. idem*, tomb 138 nr. 2, p. 45, Pl. XI; tomb 318 nr. 3, p. 75, Pl. XXIII; tomb 352 nr. 1, p. 80, Pl. XXV.

⁽⁷⁾ J. DE ALARCÃO, *A Necrópole de Monte Farrobo (Aljustrel)*, in «Conimbriga», XIII, 1974, tomb 32 nr. 4, p. 14, 23, and 26, Pl. IX.

⁽⁸⁾ P. J. WOODS, *Brixworth Excavations, Vol. I, The Romano-British Villa, (1965-70)*, Part. I — The Roman Coarse Pottery and Decorated Samian Ware, Type C, p. 177, especially nr. 192, p. 28, fig. 26.

⁽⁹⁾ A. C. C. BRODRIBB, A. R. HANDS, D. R. WALKER, *Excavations at Shakenoak Farm, near Wilcote, Oxfordshire*, I, Oxford, 1968, nr. 104, p. 68, fig. 22.

⁽¹⁰⁾ M. VEGAS, *Cerámica Común Romana del Mediterraneo Occidental*, (Publicaciones eventuales, 22), Barcelona, 1973, tipo 17-2, p. 53, fig. 18.

⁽¹¹⁾ M. R. HULL, *Roman Colchester*, (Reports of the Research Committee of the Society of Antiquaries of London, n.º XX), Oxford, 1959, nr. 45, p. 127 and 125, fig. 55.

Augustan-Tiberian era from Ampurias⁽¹²⁾. A first c. chronology for our lid is at least not contradicted by these comparanda.

Not only the paste of our beaker no. 3, but also its form is reminiscent of first c. thin-walled ware. Nevertheless, the treatment of the lips of three parallels that could be quoted is slightly more elaborate. There is one such vessel published by Moevs from a Claudian-Neronian context at Cosa⁽¹³⁾; another was found in a first c. stratum at Pompaelo⁽¹⁴⁾; and a third, from Colchester, is dated ca. 100 A. D. by Hull⁽¹⁵⁾. A much larger example from Vindonissa⁽¹⁸⁾ is in turn compared to a similar vase from grave 16 at Muralto, Tessine, which probably dates to the first years of the second c. A. D.

Our beaker does not preserve the typical thin-walled ware wash or slip, but its very worn surface does not preclude the possibility that such a finish may have existed.

The two-handled jar no. 4 could be integrated into the form 2 jars from Santo André; similar ones are: C 1.3, C 7.3, D 2.1(3), D 7 (4), D 13.5 and F 3.13. The parallels indicated by Ferrer Dias for these vases generally do not have the neat articulation of our piece; the undated jar no. 1 from grave 28 of Farrobo⁽¹⁷⁾ seems to be most like it. Nr. 24 from Aramenha⁽¹⁸⁾ is especially close in form, but shows incised decoration and has a ring foot.

⁽¹²⁾ M. ALMAGRO BASCH, *Las Necropolis de Ampurias* (Monografías Ampuritanas, III), vol. II, Barcelona, 1955, Inc. Nofre 6 nr, 5, p. 139 and 203, fig. 177.

⁽¹³⁾ M. T. MARABINI MOEVS, *The Roman Thin Walled Pottery from Cosa, (1948-1954)*, Memoirs of the American Academy in Rome, vol. XXXII, Rome, 1973, nr. 491, p. 257 and 314, Pl. 52 and 90.

⁽¹⁴⁾ M. A. MEZQUIRIZ DE CATALAN, *La Excavación Estratigráfica de Pompaelo*, Vol. I, Campaña de 1956, Pamplona, 1958, nr. 3, p. 279, fig. 128.

⁽¹⁵⁾ HULL, *op. cit.*, nr. 331 A, p. 288, fig. 121.

⁽¹⁶⁾ E. ETTLINGER, Ch. SIMONETT, *Römische Keramik aus dem Schutthilgel von Vindonissa*, (Veröffentlichungen der Gesellschaft pro Vindonissa, III), Basle, 1952, nr. 110, p. 23, Pl. 7.

⁽¹⁷⁾ J. DE ALARCÃO, *op. cit.*, tomb 28 nr. 1, p. 14, Pl. VIII.

⁽¹⁸⁾ J. CONCEIÇÃO NEVES, *Uma Coleção Particular de Materiais Romanos de Aramenha*, in «Conimbriga», XI, 1972, nr. 23 and 24, p. 21-22, Pl. IV.

The generic type is well represented in the Alentejo necropoli (19), although frequently the handles spring from the lip rather than slightly lower from the border as in our case. The preponderance of the two-handled jars from Santo André came from the earlier graves of that site.

The thin walled ware cup no. 5 is of Mayet form XLIII. Several parallels, although none with as poorly executed barbotine decoration, are shown on plate LXVIII of this author's publication on the Iberian thin walled ware (20). I dated this decorative scheme to the Claudian-Vespasian period in my review of the Mayet work(21). A similar cup from Santo André is no. E 10.1 (3).

With only the neck and border preserved it is impossible to determine the form no. 6 might originally have taken. There is no evidence that a handle ever existed. On the other hand, the shortness of the neck, the horizontality of the shoulder, and the heaviness of the wall, are aspects consistent with the Isings bottle forms 50 or 51, and rather incongruous with the handle-less pear shaped flasks of forms 6, 16, or 26 (22). It could possibly have been of the squat bulbous variant of form 16 which Isings dates to the second half of the first c. (23). Alarcão describes a similar neck from Gonimbriga as pertaining to an Isings bottle form 51 (24), and indeed such bottles without handles must have been produced:

(X9) Cf. A. VIANA, A. DIAS DE DEUS, *Nuevas Necrópolis Celto-Romanas de la Region de Eivas (Portugal)*, «Archivo Español de Arqueologia», 28, 1955, p. 23-68; ID. *Campos de Urnas do Concelho de Elvas*, «O Instituto», 118, 1958, p. 133-139.

(20) F. MAYET, *Les Céramiques à Parois Fines dans la Péninsule Ibérique*, Paris, 1975, nr. 576, 569, 572, p. 99 and 106, Pl. LXVIII.

(21) J. U. SMIT NOLEN, Review on F. MAYET, *op. cit.*, in «Conimbriga», XV, 1976, p. 196.

(22) C. ISINGS, *Roman Glass from Dated Finds*, (Archaeologica Traiectina, II), Groningen, 1957, forms 6, p. 22-23; 16, p. 34-35; 26, p. 40-41; 50, p. 63-67; 51, p. 67-69.

(23) ID. *idem.*, p. 35.

(24) J. ALARCÃO, M. DELGADO, F. MAYET, A. MOUTINHO ALARCÃO, S. DA PONTE, *Fouilles de Conimbriga VI, Céramiques Diverses et Verres*, Paris, 1976, n.º 70, p. 169 and 179, Pl XXXVI.

a small one was found on Cyprus ⁽²⁵⁾. The folded rim of our fragment is of course found on all the Isings forms mentioned, and gives us no indication of the original shape of the vessel. It is, nevertheless, an indication for a first c. A. D. date.

I was unable to find an exact parallel for the open, bronze lamp no. 7. Frere published several lamps of this type from Verulamium ⁽²⁶⁾, but these are all in ceramics, as is a very late one in the Mainz museum ⁽²⁷⁾. The pottery lamps from Verulamium are of various periods ranging between 115 and ca. 160 A. D., only no. 9 is from the first half of the third c. A. D. ⁽²⁸⁾.

The small lateral lug handles are chronologically the most important feature of our lamp. On ceramic examples they occur on Deneauve types V E and G. Especially those of form V G, of a second half first c. A. D. chronology, are comparative ⁽²⁹⁾. They are also found on Dressel type 17 or Broneer type XXIV, and are usually assigned to the first c. ⁽³⁰⁾, but were used into the second c. at some sites ⁽³¹⁾.

This last item, being of a permanent, unbreakable material, might have been the oldest one at the time of enternment of the grave group. Nevertheless, it appears to be contemporaneous with the other pieces, making this a rather homogenous unit. I suggest that the burial could not have been closed before the middle of the first c. A. D., and not later than the end of that c. because of the presence of the Claudian-Vespasian thin-walled ware cup amongst its contents.

⁽²⁵⁾ O. VESSBERG, A. WESTHOLM, *The Swedish Cyprus Expedition*, Vol. IV, part 3, *The Hellenistic and Roman Periods in Cyprus*, Lund, 1956, fig. 48, n.° 39, p. 158, 202-203, type A-IV, Gyp. Mus. D 1633.

⁽²⁶⁾ S. FRERE, *op. cit.*, n.°s 3, 4, 5, 8, and 9, p. 366, 369, fig. 142.

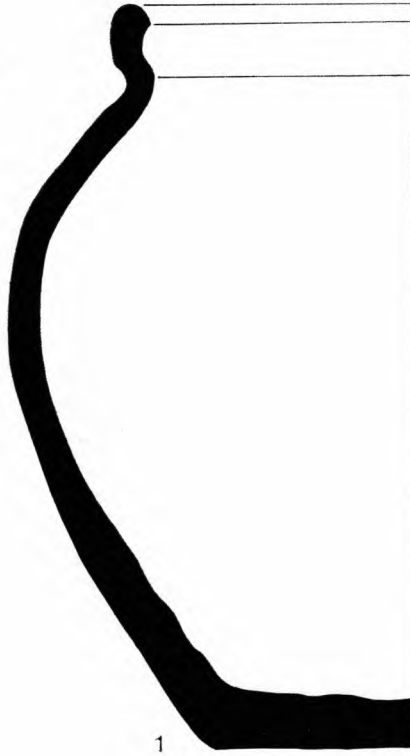
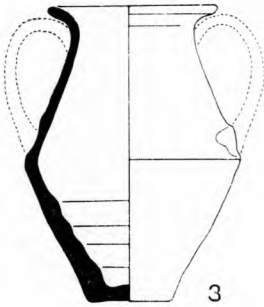
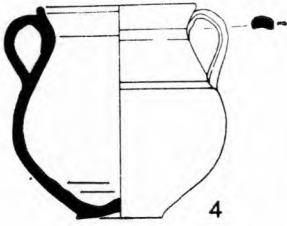
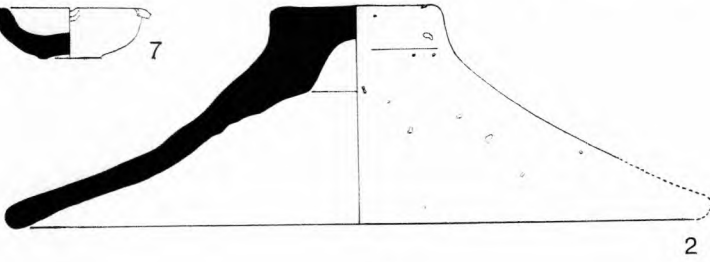
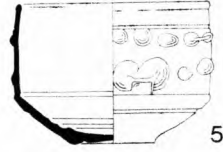
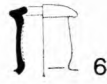
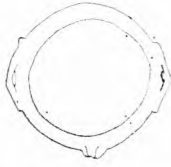
⁽²⁷⁾ H. MENZEL, *op. cit.*, n.° 666, p. 105, fig. 88.

⁽²⁸⁾ S. FRERE, *op. cit.*, p. 366, 369.

⁽²⁹⁾ J. DENEAUVE, *Lampes de Carthage*, Paris, 1969, p. 158-159, Pl. LXIV.

⁽³⁰⁾ H. MENZEL, *op. cit.*, p. 46; *Fouilles de Conimbriga VI*, p. 99; J. DENEAUVE, *op. cit.*, p. 159.

⁽³¹⁾ J. PERLZWEJG, *The Athenian Agora, Lamps of the Roman Period*, Vol. VII, Princeton, 1961, p. 14. •



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