

**José Salvador Barea Bautista, Juan Luís Barea Bautista, Juan Solís Siles, Juan Moros Díaz, *Figlina Scalensia: un centro productor de ánforas Dressel 20 de la Bética*. Barcelona, Universitat de Barcelona, 2008, 200 pp., ISBN 9788447533107 (Col.lecció Instrumenta n. 27).**

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This book is the 27<sup>th</sup> volume of the Series *Instrumenta*, published by the University of Barcelona and specialised on the ancient world since 1993. It is the 13<sup>th</sup> fascicule sponsored by the International Academic Union, corpus of amphora stamp series, with the additional support of the Spanish Royal Academy of History. José Remesal, the Series editor, introduces this volume by pointing out the importance of a monographic study of a producing pottery. The authors start by describing the archaeological site, known in the 19<sup>th</sup> c. as El Castillejo, later on mentioned by Michel Ponsich, in the 1970s, as Cortijo bajo del Serno, and today is known as Cerro de los Pesebres. The Roman name was Scalensia Figlina, perhaps from *scalae* (stairs, ladder), referring perhaps to a small hill close to the pottery. The pottery is in the left bank of the River Baetis (modern Guadalquivir). The authors propose a possible course of the River Baetis during Roman times and produce also a good collection of photographs of the site.

The second chapter gathers a corpus of amphora stamps, using the now established classification by probable Roman cognomen, as proposed originally by Emilio Rodríguez-Almeida and spread by José Remesal and the Centre for the Study of Interdependence in the Ancient World (CEIPAC), Barcelona University, Spain. 58 different stamps are studied in their variations, with comments for each of them. The whole collection of stamps is then studied in the third chapter. 43% of the stamps are *tria nomina* + a place-name, 31% a place-name + a cognomen, so that 74% follow the same overall rule of place-name plus the name of a Roman citizen. 8% produce only a place-name and 7% only a cognomen. The place-name Scalensia is used from the first to the mid third century AD, showing the stability of name-placing in the potteries in the Baetis. Almost all of the stamps were on the handle (*in ansa*).

The first period of production of the kilns, in the first half of the first century AD, has not produced epigraphic evidence. The stamps are dated from the mid first to the mid third century AD, some two hundred years. The authors propose two phases, the first one, until the mid second century, the majority of stamps are *cognomina*. They interpret them as referring to people in charge of different workshops or *officinae*. In the following period, more people are mentioned and there is evidence of a growing production, as part of an almost industrial character of series production of amphorae. The presence of abbreviated *tria nomina* in several stamps from different potteries implies that those refer to the local elites. Remesal proposes that amphorae were produced to be sold to olive-oil producers from other areas, particularly in the *conuentus cordubensis*. The authors also propose a new method to study and publish

pottery stamps, through the use silicone moulds, promising improved reading. The monograph shows the importance of detailed studies of the producing potteries for a better understanding of economic and social activities in the ancient world.