

FACULDADE DE LETRAS  
INSTITUTO DE ARQUEOLOGIA

# CONIMBRIGA

*VOLUME XVIII*



UNIVERSIDADE DE COIMBRA

1979

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**«AMPURIAN GRAY WARE» FROM MIROBRIGA**

Conimbriga, 18 (1979), 105-112

**SUMMARY:** Two sherds of «Ampurian gray ware» have been found at Mirobriga (Portugal). These are the first finds of this type of ware reported from Portugal. The author briefly discusses the origin and diffusion of the «Ampurian gray ware» and suggests that Alcácer do Sal may have been the Lusitanian port of entry for this, as it was for Campanian ware.

**RESUMO:** Em Miróbriga, acharam-se dois fragmentos de cerâmica cinzenta ampuritana. Estes são os primeiros achados deste tipo em Portugal. A autora discute sumariamente a origem e difusão da «cerâmica cinzenta ampuritana» e sugere que Alcácer do Sal foi talvez o porto de entrada desta cerâmica, tal como o foi para a carpaniense.

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## «AMPURIAN GRAY WARE» FROM MIRÓBRIGA

Two sherds of «Ampurian gray ware» have recently been found amongst the material from Miróbriga, Portugal. One, a base fragment (inv. nr. 4139) was encountered in 1967 in the temple area, the other, part of a neck and rim, was «excavated» from crate nr. 83 in the Miróbriga storeroom and carries no further information.

Both are of a refined fabric which was baked to considerable hardness in a well controlled reducing oven, and both fabrics answer to the description of «Ampurian gray ware» as defined by Almagro (\*). The most typical form in this ware is a one-handled pitcher, of which a considerable number were first published in Almagro's work on the necropoli of Ampurias (2). Our base fragment shows a groove on the underside of the foot which is characteristic of the developed «Ampurian gray ware» pitcher, while the neck fragment has salient ridges, again typical for this form.

In addition to this most commonly encountered shape, others, a.o. Campanian and strongly Hellenizing forms were also made. The latter represent the oldest known pieces in this ware, going back to the early 4 th. c. B.C. (3). The first pitchers were probably (\*)

(\*) M. ALMAGRO, *Las Necrópolis de Ampurias*, vol. I, Barcelona 1953, p. 38. I am very grateful indeed to Dr. M. del Amo y de la Hera, director of the Archaeological museum at Huelva for confirming my identification of these sherds as «Ampurian gray ware», and for the help and hospitality he extended me during a recent visit to Huelva.

(2) ALMAGRO, *op. cit.*, see especially plate on p. 394.

(3) Id., *ibid.*, p. 38, pi. XII nr. 1, and pi. XIII nrs. 1 and 2.

made from the late 4 th. or early 3 rd. c. B.G. <sup>(4)</sup>, and they were still being produced well into the first century. The period of greatest activity of the «Ampurian» workshops, when the majority of these jugs in their developed form were made, coincides with the timespan of the necropolis of Las Gorts in Ampurias, dated by Almagro between 200 and 50 B.C. <sup>(5)</sup>. Conceivably our sherds would belong to this period. According to Almagro there is an evolution of the form which goes from a rather sharp inward carination between body and neck towards a more curvilinear profile, from an undecorated neck towards one with ridge decoration, and from a foot with a horizontal underside towards one which is grooved <sup>(6)</sup>. Aranegui however finds it difficult to accept such a well defined evolution in form<sup>(7)</sup>, but I definitely believe that the decorative features of our fragments are indicative of a relatively late, no earlier than ca. 200 B.C., chronology, even though too little remains to place them within the framework of Almagro's proposed evolution.

Benoit treats the «Ampurian gray-ware» as part of a tradition of, and preference for gray ceramics in the North-Western Mediterranean basin, which ultimately derives from a Phocian 6 th. c. origin. He sees a relationship between the Ionian Bucchero and a.o. «Ampurian gray ware», Campanian C, and other local gray fabrics <sup>(8)</sup>. There can be no doubt that an interdependence existed, similar forms are found in all of these productions. However, the conical body and the grooved foot <sup>(9)</sup> are not echoed

<sup>(4)</sup> Id., *ibid.*, p. 39; C. ARANEGUI, *La Cerámica Gris Monocroma, Puntualizaciones sobre su Estudio*, in «Papeles del Laboratório de Arqueologia de Valência», nr. 11, Valência, 1975, p. 335 and 351. = ARANEGUI, 1975.

<sup>(5)</sup> ALMAGRO, *op. cit.*, p. 265.

<sup>(6)</sup> Id. *ibid.*, p. 265.

<sup>(7)</sup> ARANEGUI, 1975, p. 356.

<sup>(8)</sup> F. BENOIT, *Uèpave du Grand Congloué a Marseille* (XIV supplément à «Gallia»), Paris, 1961, p. 102.

<sup>(9)</sup> This is a dominating feature of «Ampurian gray ware», also seen in other forms, c. f. ALMAGRO, *op. cit.*, fig. 133-13, fig. 162-1, fig. 171-4, fig. 294-6.

in Ionian Bucchero or Campanian C<sup>(10)</sup>; they are legacies of the indigenous Iron age ceramics.

It is as yet not possible to state with any certainty where this so called «Ampurian gray ware» was manufactured and consequently the name is not universally accepted. Lamboglia raises the question if it could not be of «Massaliote» origin, i.e. of the political, economic and commercial area of which Marseille was the capital <sup>(11)</sup>. Indeed it was quite abundant at several sites on the Mediterranean coast from Ampurias Northward and including the Marseille area<sup>(12)</sup>. Benoit suggests that this gray ware might have been produced somewhere in Italy, as remains of several pitchers — one complete vessel and five sherds — were present amongst the ceramics from the Grand-Congloué shipwreck <sup>(13)</sup>. I am hesitant to accept this argument; precisely the fact that these remains are so scarce compared to the ca. 6000 complete or nearly complete Campanian vases which formed part of the ship's cargo, and that they represent different fabrics, pleads for their presence on board as utensils of the crew rather than commercial cargo as Benoit proposes. Moreover, only isolated finds have been reported from the Ligurian or Tuscan coasts in Italy <sup>(14)</sup>.

Towards the South, Valência, Benidorm and Alicante have a.o. yielded «Ampurian gray ware»<sup>(15)</sup>; the furthest findspot I could locate was Adra, where a sherd from a pitcher with the

<sup>(10)</sup> A grooved foot seems to be only prevalent in the Campanian form Lamboglia 3, and even there is of a very different type (c. f. N. LAMBOGLIA, *Per una Classificazione Preliminare della Cerámica Campana*, in «I Congresso Internazionale di Studi Liguri», 1950, Bordighera, 1952, p. 145).

<sup>(11)</sup> M. LAMBOGLIA, *Cerámica Ampuritana o Cerámica Massaliota?* «Rivista di Studi Liguri», XIX, Bordighera, 1953, p. 112.

<sup>(12)</sup> BENOIT, *op. cit.*, p. 102 and 107.

<sup>(13)</sup> Id. *ibid.*, p. 107.

<sup>(14)</sup> LAMBOGLIA, *op. cit.*, p. 113, n. 5. in which 3 pieces from Castiglione are reported, and Id. *Gli Scavi di Albintimilium e la Cronologia della Cerámica Romana*, Bordighera, 1950, p. 63 and 93, fig. 44 nr. 22 and 23. The latter two are from Strato VI B of the period 90-50 B.C.

<sup>(15)</sup> C. ARANEGUI, *Cerámica Gris de los Poblados Ibéricos*, in «Papeles del Laboratorio de Arqueología de Valência», nr. 6, Valência, 1969, p. 120-129. = Aranegui, 1969.

handle so characteristically springing from the rim of the vessel in «perhaps» «Ampurian gray ware» was found <sup>(16)</sup>. It is then all the more amazing to find two sherds of this fabric as far afield as the Atlantic coast of Portugal.

The dispersion found place through coastal commerce, and not through overland trade according to Aranegui <sup>(17)</sup>. Recently, however, R. Périchot reported and «Ampurian gray ware» pitcher from the site of Aulnat in the centre of France <sup>(18)</sup>. This author also mentions Vieille-Toulouse as a findspot. The single piece from Aulnaf could easily have been brought from the coast as part of a household, and need not imply overland trade. I do not know if this can also be said about the Toulouse find(s). The accompanying map shows the findspots of «Ampurian gray ware» I was able to ascertain. Doubtlessly there are more, thus it should not be regarded as a final indication of the diffusion of this type of ceramics.

In many instances «Ampurian gray ware» was found associated with the contemporaneous Campanian A and/or B. In the light of the diffusion of Campanian ware in Lusitania, it becomes understandable that our sherds were encountered in the general area of Miróbriga. It would be only logical that the sealanes and ports used for the commerce in Campanian ceramics were also used for that of «Ampurian gray ware», irrespective of their ultimate origins. Consequently Alcácer do Sal, the principal port of entry for Campanian ware in Portugal <sup>(w)</sup> was probably the same for the «Ampurian» pitchers.

<sup>(16)</sup> M. FERNÁNDEZ-MIRANDA, M. FERNÁNDEZ, M., and L. CABALLERO ZOREDA, *Abdera, Excavaciones en el Cerro de Montecristó, (Adra, Almería)* (Excavaciones Arqueológicas en España, nr. 85), Madrid, 1975, p. 133, fig. 65, nr. 86.

<sup>(17)</sup> ARANEGUI, 1975, p. 356. In Spain it has been found inland as far as Azaila (Teruel), c. f. ARANEGUI, 1969, p. 129.

<sup>(18)</sup> R. PÉRICHON, *Une Céramique Ampuritaine découverte dans le Centre de la France*, in «Revue Archéologique du Centre de la France», XVII, (1-2 Janvier-Juin 1978), Vichy, p. 89.

<sup>(19)</sup> J. ALARCÃO, *Portugal Romano*, Lisboa. 1973, p. 144.

*Mirobriga inv. 4139.*

Base fragment of what was probably a one-handled pitcher.

A ring foot is formed by a deep groove on the exterior of the bottom.

The interior base shows pronounced wheelmarks.

The fabric is fine and hard, gray in colour (Munsell 10 YR 5/1), and polished on the exterior.

Diameter of the foot is 38 mm.

Parallels might be the pitchers from Las Gorts 70, 23, and 1; or Bonjoan 76 (Almagro, M., *op. cit.*, p. 394).

Chronology: 2 nd. or beginning of the 1 st. c. B.G.

*Mirobriga 83.*

Fragment of the rim and neck of a one-handled pitcher.

The almond shaped, outward turned lip surmounts the rather vertical neck which is decorated with at least one salient ridge. The upper, narrow ridge is not continuous.

The fabric is fine and hard, gray in colour (Munsell 5 Y 5/1). but preserves no trace of a slip or polishing.

Diameter 76 mm.

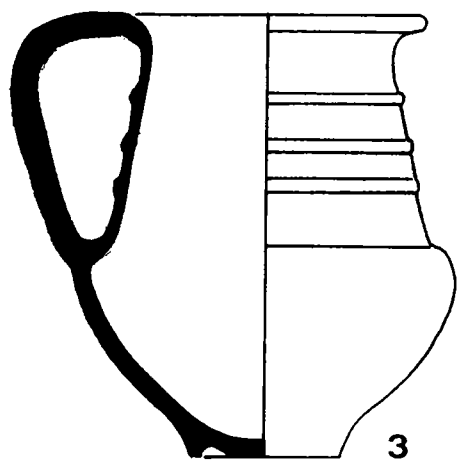
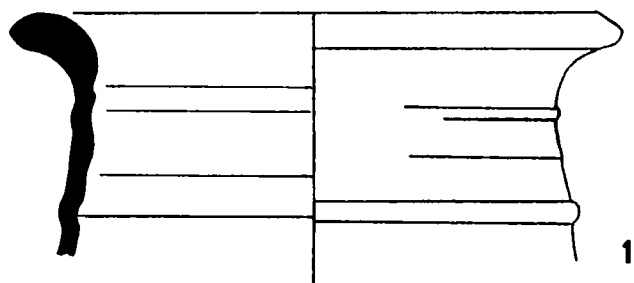
The almond shaped lip is rare amongst the pitchers published by Almagro, the closest parallels appear to be Bonjoan 76-1 dated to the transitional period of the 3 rd. to 2 nd. c. B.G. (M. Almagro, *op. cit.*, p. 212, fig. 181, and p. 394), or the pitcher from the Grand Gongloué shipwreck (F. Benoit, *op. cit.*, p. 106-107, nr. 5, Pl XV, nr. 3).

It must be noted that most, if not all pitchers from the Ampurian necropoli have more conical, less cylindrical necks than our piece from Miróbriga.

Chronology: 2 nd. or beginning 1 st. c. B.C.

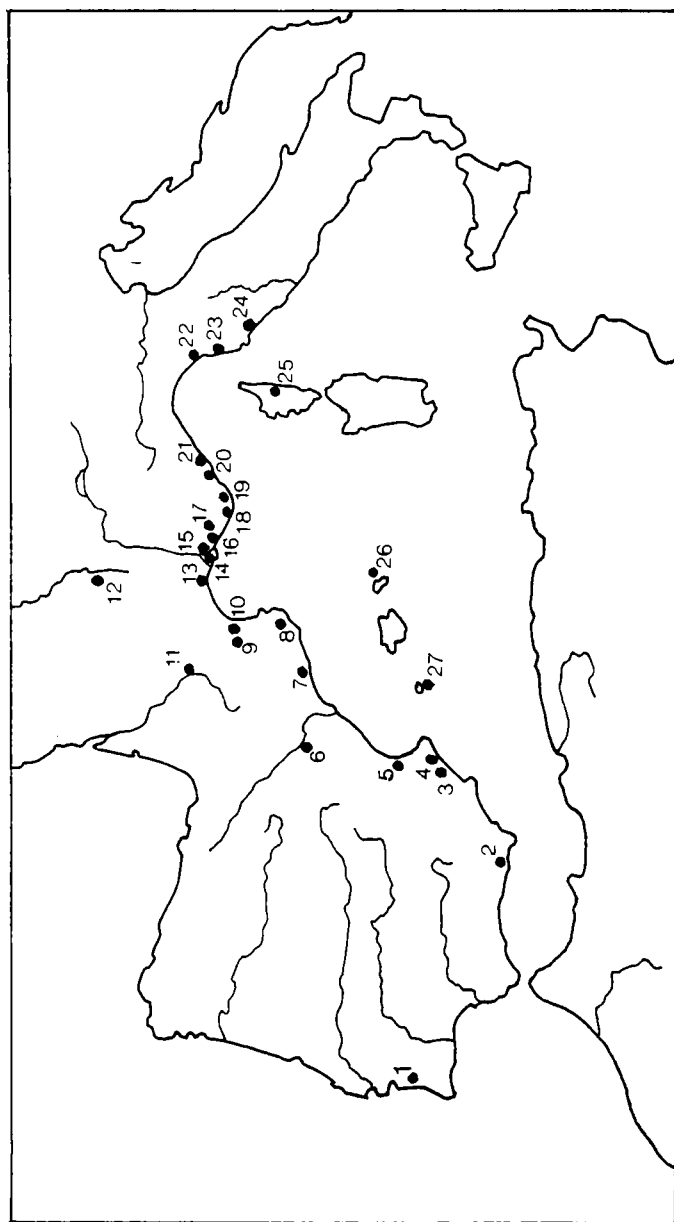
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1 — Mirobriga; 2 — Mirobriga 4139; 3 — Bonjoan 76-1

SCALE: 1 and 2, 1:1; 3, 1:2



Distribution of «Ampurian gray ware»

## DISTRIBUTION OF AMPURIAN GRAY WARE

1. Miróbriga.
2. Abdera, Fernández, *op. cit.*, p. 133.
3. Tossal de Manises (Alicante) and Albuferete (Alicante), Aranegui, 1969, p. 125.
4. Tossal de la Cala (Benidorm), Id. *Ibid.*, p. 125.
5. Valencia, Id. *ibid.*, p. 120.
6. Azaila (Teruel), Id. *ibid.*, p. 129.
7. Tarragona, Aranegui, 1975, p. 356.
8. Ampurias, Almagro, *op. cit.*, p. 38-39, 145-146, 223.
9. Narbonne, Périchon, *op. cit.*, p. 89.
10. Ensérune, Benoit, *op. cit.*, p. 107.
11. Vieille Toulouse, Périchon, *op. cit.*, p. 89.
12. Aulnat (Clermont-Ferrand), Id. *ibid.*, p. 98.
13. Cayla, Id. *ibid.*, p. 89.
14. Castelet de Fontvieille, Benoit, *op. cit.*, p. 107.
15. Marseille, Id. *ibid.*, p. 106-107.
16. Istres, Id. *ibid.*, p. 107.
17. Entremont, Id. *ibid.*, p. 107.
18. Olbia, Id. *ibid.*, p. 107.
19. St. Blais, Id. *ibid.*, p. 107.
20. Antibes, Id. *ibid.*, p. 107.
21. Ventimiglia, Lamboglia, N., *Gli Scavi di Albintimilium e la Cronologia della Cerámica Romana*, Bordighera, 1950, p. 63 and 93,
22. Ameglia, Lamboglia, N., *Cerámica Ampuritana o Cerámica Massaliota?* in «Rivista di Studi Liguri», anno XIX, Bordighera, 1953, p. 113, n. 4.
23. Castiglioncella, Id. *ibid.*, p. 113, n. 5.
24. Cosa, Moevs, M. T. M., *The Roman thin walled pottery from Cosa* (1948-1954), *Memoirs of the American Academy in Rome*, vol. XXXII, Rome, 1973, p. 217.
25. Aléria, Périchon, *op. cit.*, p. 89.
26. Menorca.
27. Ibiza. Information about finds of «Ampurian gray ware» on both Menorca and Ibiza was offered by Prof. Aranegui in a letter d.d. 25-4-1979, and post marked Valencia. I am most grateful for this help and attention so readily and kindly offered.