



Castulo, Jaén, España. Vol. 2, El conjunto arquitectónico del Olivar by José María Blázquez Martínez; María Paz García-Gelabert Pérez

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(openwork) decoration is the rarest. For this reason it is unfortunate that the catalogue omits the two important gold fibulae with openwork decoration found together with Germanic jewelry in the safely dated contexts of the tombs of the Frankish king Childeric (Tournai, Belgium) and the Goth Omharus (Apahida, Romania), in the northern radius of diffusion of Constantinopolitan products.

Plaques, bracelets, rings, and belt buckles constitute the last sections of the catalogue. The briefness of the entries makes the catalogue manageable but with occasional loss of important craft information; there is no mention, for instance, of the extensive use of the screw as a fastening device for crossbow fibulae and a number of bracelets (see Barbara Deppert-Lippitz et al., *Die Schraube zwischen Macht und Pracht* [Sigmaringen 1995]).

Of great help in finding one's way through Baldini Lippolis's rather complex classifications are the indices of collections, provenances, subjects, coins, jewelry types and variants, and iconographic references; the latter are profusely illustrated in color, while only a few assemblages of jewelry are fortunate to have been similarly illustrated. Small black-and-white photos serve to identify individual pieces in the catalogue. The bibliography is solid; one should add the excellent recent analytical study of the pierced technique by Aimilia Yeroulanou, *Diatrita: Gold Pierced-Work Jewellery from the 3rd to the 7th Century* (Athens 1999).

Since no monograph of early Byzantine jewelry comparable to Reynold Higgins's *Greek and Roman Jewellery*, 2nd ed. (London 1980) has been written yet, Baldini Lippolis's book will certainly be of significant help to such a future scholarly attempt.

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CASTULO, JAÉN, ESPAÑA. Vol. 2, EL CONJUNTO ARQUITECTÓNICO DEL OLIVAR, by José María Blázquez Martínez and María Paz García-Gelabert Pérez. (BAR-IS 789.) Pp. viii + 335, figs. 53, pls. 80. John and Erica Hedges, London 1999. \$118. ISBN 1-84171-106-3 (paper).

The city of Castulo played an important part in the history of Roman Spain; located within a leading mining district, the city is often mentioned in the literary sources. Excavations have been carried out irregularly on the site since the late 1960s until the early 1990s, and reports were published first in Spain (five volumes between 1975 and 1985), and then in the B.A.R. International Series 425 in 1988. Even if they sometimes dealt with Iberian or Roman buildings, most of these excavations focused on the many necropoleis of the site.

This volume is mainly concerned with the "Olivar" complex, located on the eastern side of town, first excavated in 1971 (and published in 1979), and again in 1985, 1986, and 1991. It is partly a revision of the 1979 report

that identified the structures as an urban villa; in light of the more recent excavations, it is now assumed that the remains belonged to a large bath complex that was built under the Principate and thoroughly restored in the Later Empire.

The book begins with a general introduction on the city, its location, and history from the Bronze Age to the Middle Ages, with a strong focus on the six centuries during which it was under Roman rule (1–34). This summary is sometimes precise and useful as it takes advantage of the wealth of literary material about the town, but the authors have a tendency to want the archaeological evidence to correspond with the historical frame provided by the written sources (e.g., the reign of Diocletian is described as a time of splendid civic constructions dependent solely on the word of Lactantius!).

The main body of the text follows and consists of the archaeological report itself: after a presentation of the previous excavations and a general view of the stratigraphy (35–49), it gives an accurate and detailed description of the structures that were discovered within each zone (a box-grid system was chosen for the excavation; 50–139). Finally, a summary gives an overview of the sequence of occupation of the area, period by period (140–66) with a few plans that ascribe the different structures to each phase (figs. 23–29).

The Late Bronze Age and Iberian phases are only attested by ceramics, coins, and a few stretches of some walls. The remains from the Roman period that seem to predate the bath complex (some structures and canalizations) do not seem to belong to a large building. The monumental baths would then have been built during the Flavian period, with a *natatio*, open spaces, probable gardens, and well preserved *suspensurae*. In the first half of the fourth century, these spaces were reused and restored, but soon abandoned as can be deduced from two coin hoards from the late fourth century that were discovered within these "public" places. Despite the presence of a Christian community in Castulo (according to the Council of Elvira), there are few structures that can be ascribed to the new cult, and during the Arab occupation of the site, most of the buildings were covered with sand to level the ground.

The book ends with five appendices (167–219) about the coins that were found during the excavations, a study of the ancient fauna, and a catalogue of the different types of ceramics from the site. These are then followed by five chapters of *varia* that have nothing to do with the excavations of the Olivar complex (221–308): an archaeological report from excavations in a necropolis, a few notes on coins, inscriptions or artifacts that were found in Castulo, and a catalogue and study of the epigraphy from Castulo. Eventually, there are indexes to the figures, plates and tables, and a bibliography (309–34).

In general, the archaeological report on the Olivar structures is commendably precise, and these excavations must have been very hard to carry out in the absence of any clear stratigraphy; the main author (M.P. García-Gelabert) is aware of the difficulties but bravely tries to interpret the finds in a coherent fashion. However, even if the report enables us to have a good understanding of the phases of construction, their precise dating does not

seem well grounded: for instance, the Flavian dating of the main phase is based only on a few ceramics that were found in the foundation trench of a wall. But these are not described and are vaguely presented as *sigillata* without any mention of their origin, and there seems to be only one recognizable form which is not even identified in the text (according to the drawing, it looks like a *Drag. 37*): this is certainly not enough to speak of a Flavian construction! Moreover, instead of bringing the famous but undated "Q. Torius Culleo" inscription (*CIL* 2.3270) into the picture, it would have been more useful to cross-reference the main text to the catalogue of ceramics that is present in the appendices (182–204), as it has been successfully done for the coins. Lastly, it must be pointed out that among the *Varia* chapters, the long one about the epigraphy of Castulo (256–308) is not really needed since a more complete presentation of these inscriptions (and others that are not included here) can be found in the province of Jaén volumes of the *Corpus*

de Inscriptiones Latinas de Andalucía, published in 1991.

To sum up, this report is a very welcome addition to the bibliography on Castulo, especially because of the special care the authors took in describing the structures, although the dating might have been improved by a more careful treatment of the finds. Let us hope that the administrative problems surrounding these excavations will be solved and that we will be able to learn more about the buildings of this important native town that became a *municipium* in Roman times.

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