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SOME POTTERY ASSEMBLAGES IN SAMNITE AND ROMAN POMPEII IN INSULA VII, 4

We present groups of pottery from an insula near the forum. We can explain many histories through pottery assemblages. One of them is a part of a pit fill from the mid-2nd century BC. It does not appear to be domestic rubbish owing to the repetition of certain Italian cooking and tableware types indicating specific consumption. Furthermore, the repeated presence of a great number of horns, points to a ritual feast. At this moment, the surrounding space was empty of buildings, and it must have been dedicated to public and religious functions. This deposit is associated with the beginning of perfume production. Another ritual assemblage was related to the end of the perfume manufacture. This group filled a pool. A lagynos and many vessels were placed in the bottom at the end of the 2nd century BC.

Archaeological Contexts – Building Phases – Ritual Finds – Black-gloss Ware – Thin-walled Ware

Pompeii is a special site with an incredible archaeological repertory. But, above all, the town was an economic and productive place (Coarelli 2002). Most of the rich Pompeians were not old aristocrats. They were self-made men, more or less middle-class. We know a few of them, like Scaurus, the merchant of preserved fish. He was a magistrate, and he decorated the mosaics of his large house with fish containers, a specific type of pottery jar (Federico 2007: 263-264).

The Pompeii destroyed on October 24, AD 79 was full of pottery. There are many contexts in situ because of the famous eruption in AD 79. But the pottery at Pompeii was not studied until recent years. The congress in 2016 was very important (Osanna and Toniolo 2020).

1. Insula VII,4 and the House of Ariadne. A history reconstructed by ceramics

The House of Ariadne, or “dei Capitelli Colorati”, is located in the center of the city, less than 100 meters from the forum. The excavations done between 2004 and 2015 let us know its topographical and functional evolution from the archaic period to AD 79. It is in a privileged location (**fig. 1**). To the north we found the Via della Fortuna, one of the main streets of Pompeii, around which the most luxurious houses were located. The Via degli Augustali was located to the south. It is near the forum, flanks the macellum and was located in the perfumers' neighborhood.

The history and functionality of the house, from its origins in the second century BC, are closely linked to the dichotomy of its two access points: The northern one, associated with an area of privileged and elite character, crossed by the aforementioned Via della Fortuna, and the southern one, linked to the economic function of the Via degli Augustali. The situation made it not only the ideal space for family and

social life, but also, according to the circumstances of the moment, a space in which to develop economic activities (Ribera 2020b and c).

The architectural complex is one of the largest Pompeian private buildings and due to its 1700 m² of minimal extension and 70 m. length is one of the largest aristocratic domus in the town (Richardson 1988).

The edifice was excavated between 1832 and 1835. During the 19th century, this house was among the most famous and visited houses in Pompeii. But little by little this big residence fell into oblivion (Pesando 2007). Between 2004 and 2010, and then in 2013-2015 and 2018, a team formed by various Valencian institutions, led by the “Secció d’Investigació Arqueològica Municipal” (SIAM) of Valencia, in collaboration with researchers linked to different scientific institutions, carried out excavations and new studies on the House of Ariadne. It was a long-term project funded by the Ministry of Culture of Spain and the “Institut Valencià de Conservació i Restauració” (IVCR). Over the years, the team made many surveys from one end to another of the large residence with the discovery of remains of construction of all periods of the House (Ribera, Olcina and Ballester 2007). In 2008 the IVCR began a project for the restoration of this house that continued until 2018 (Ribera 2020b and c).

One of the main objectives of the project of archaeological research in the House of Ariadne and surroundings was to establish the process of the formation of the house and its urban surroundings by archaeological evidence. Stratigraphical excavations and the study of the ceramic complex are the basic system to date and to determine the evolution of the house.

Periodization:

- 5th-3rd century BC: inner wall and ritual space (Bustamante et al. 2014);

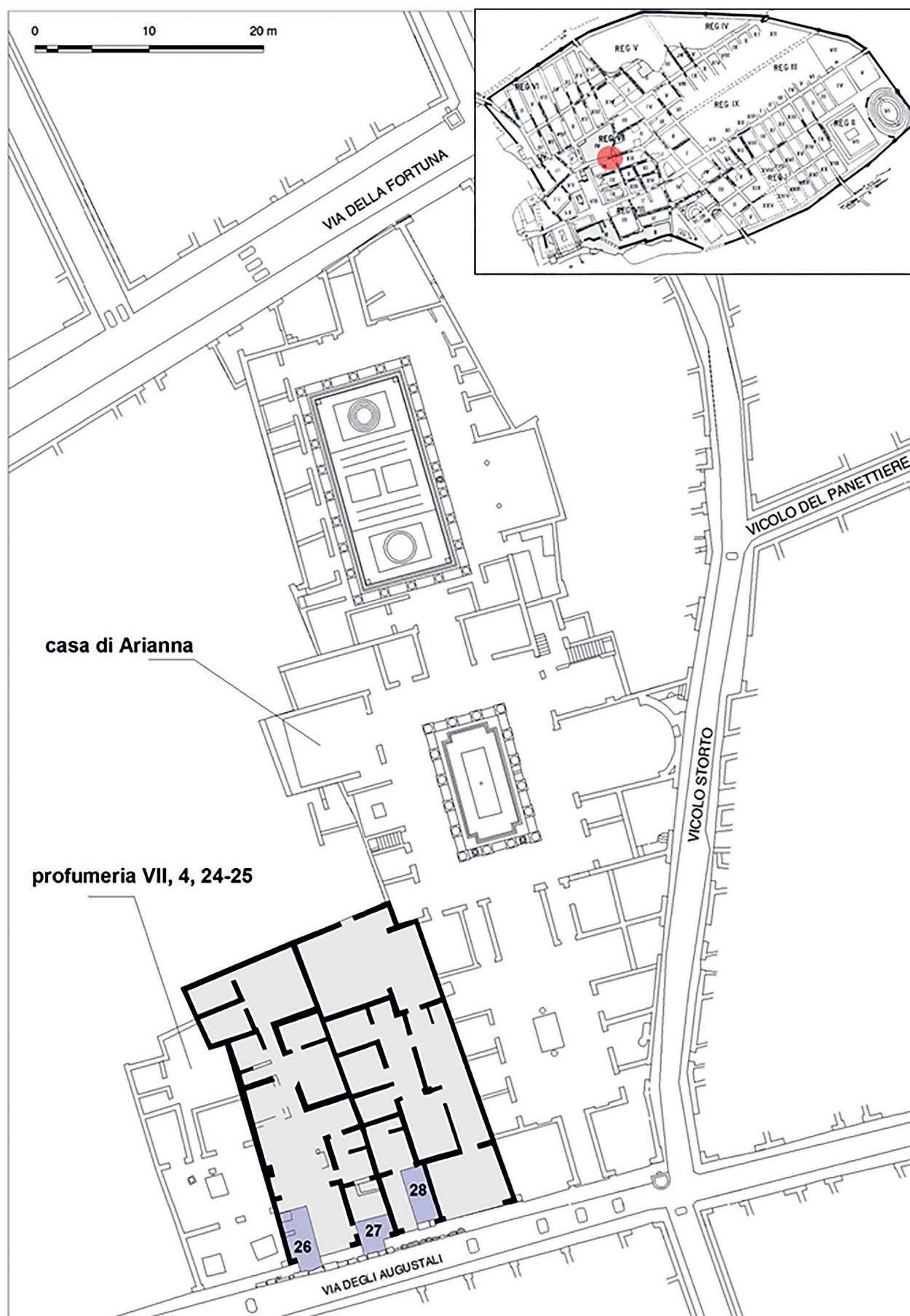


Fig. 1. The eastern part of Insula 4, Regio VII. Location of the House of Ariadne and the Via degli Augustali 26, 27 and 28.

- 150-110 BC: perfume workshops (Brun et al. 2020; Bustamante and Ribera 2020);
- 110 BC – AD 20: Hellenistic and Roman colonial house (Huguet, Krajšek and Ribera 2020);
- 20 – AD 62: perfume and wool workshops (Bustamante and Ribera 2016 and 2020);
- 62-79: new decoration (Fernández 2007)

2. The Samnite period

Excavations proved that this area was not urbanized until the middle of the 2nd century BC except some activity at the southern end of the area. The trench and the remains of a probable fortification of the archaic period were located below the facade, the sidewalk and the current Via degli Augustali. This street must follow the path of the archaic precinct. These finds prove the existence of the theoretical inner enclosure, the “Altstadt” of German bibliography (Bustamante et al. 2014).

2.1. The most ancient assemblage, the Temple of Fortuna (200-190 BC)

The works were carried out by an international team directed by Prof. W. Van Andringa between 2008-2012 in and around the Temple of the Fortuna Augusta, located in the north-western corner of the insula. The excavations (Van Andringa et al. 2011) offered different contexts assignable to the Samnite period. The most interesting and illustrative one corresponds to a small but homogeneous assemblage (SU 7235) (**fig. 2**) that was discovered at the bottom of a latrine. Two vessels were assigned to the early phase of Neapolitan-Ischian black-gloss production (Campana A): one of them was an exceptional guttus with a spout in the form of a lion's head. The guttus from the latrine is almost identical to the one found on the Grand Congloué 1 shipwreck, dated to the beginning of the 2nd century BC. Some fragments of similar gutti have been found in the excavations of Insula 5, Regio VI; they appeared in early 2nd century BC levels too (Bonghi Jovino 1984: 95-96). The other one is the Lamb. 27c small bowl, a very usual form in 2nd century BC contexts. The rest of the black-gloss pottery comprised four vessels of the early phase of Calene production, with another outstanding piece: a bowl F 2132 (Morel 1981: 139) with the three typical theatrical masks as base supports; this rare form can be found in the Iberian Peninsula in the first quarter of the 2nd century BC, in the Albufereta necropolis (Alicante) and Tarragona (Marín and Ribera, 2001). Fragments of theatrical masks were found too in the excavations of Insula 5, Regio VI at Pompeii (Bonghi Jovino 1984: 106). The other vessels from Calene were more usual forms, such as bowls Lamb. 31 and plates Lamb. 36.

Among thin-walled pottery, four goblets corresponding to the “early form” (one of the first known in the production) are the prevalent types, with a single Mayet II goblet (Ribera 2020). The upper part of a fusiform unguentarium and a fragment of an Emporitan one-handed goblet from the north-eastern Iberian coast completed this context.

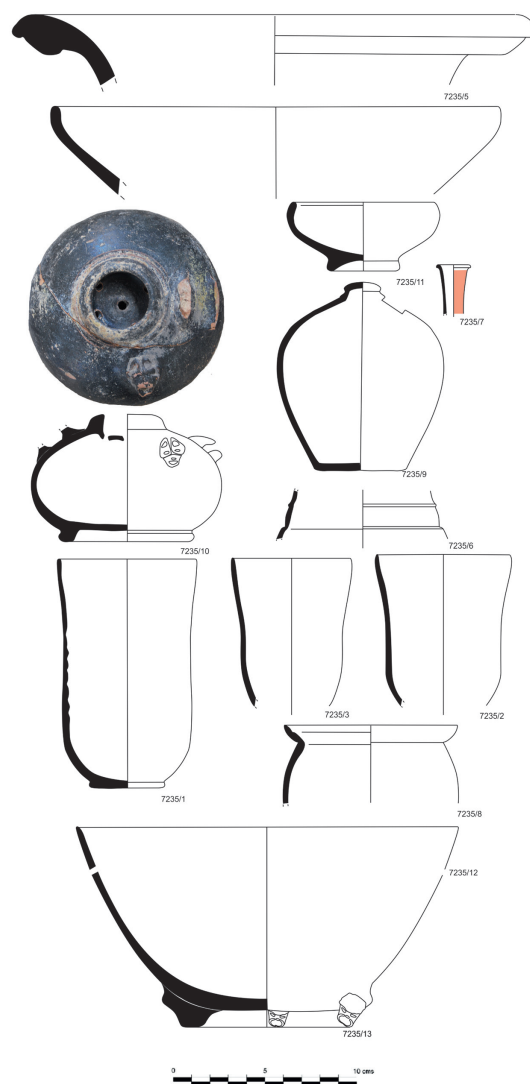


Fig. 2. Pottery of the context of the Temple of Fortuna.

A rim of a Punic amphora T-7.4.2.1. (from the area of Tunis), dated to the early 2nd century BC (Ramon 1995: 210), gives additional support for a date centered on the first decades of the 2nd century BC.

The early 2nd century BC is not a very well characterized period in Pompeii owing to the lack of consistent evidence. That is the reason why this context can be extremely useful (Principal and Ribera 2019: 321-22).

2.3 A large ritual deposit (160-150 BC)

The insula was a ritual and commensal area. A *fossa* fulfilled with pottery and horns is a good example. In 2011, during the excavations at the taberna Via degli Augustali 28, 4, directed by Prof. J.-P. Brun and Dr. A. Ribera, a part of a large pit (0,85 x 0,50 cm; 2,30 m deep, SU 8035) was discovered. The pit was dug in the geological layer, and its fill (SU 8034) consisted of much ceramic and organic material: mostly table and kitchen ware, but also a remarkable and

repeated number of sheep antlers and goat horns. In regard to the chronology, the pit fill must be certainly assigned to the mid-2nd century BC (c. 160-140 BC) on the basis of the pottery facies: a good representation of Early Calene Black-Gloss Ware (total absence of forms belonging to the Middle Calene repertoire), and Early/Middle Neapolitan Campana A. In fact, a part of the tableware was Neapolitan Black-Gloss Ware, with a large repertoire of forms: Lamb. 27B, 27c, 31b, 31a, 33b, 36, 49A, 55 and 68; these three last forms are typical vessels of the first half of the 2nd century BC. There was also a good representation of the Early Calene phase, again with a large repertoire of forms: Lamb. 9, 25, 27B, 27c, 31, 33b, 36, 43, 49a and 55, San. 166, Pasq. 127, F 2110/2120, F 2170 and F 2614; this group also implies a date in the first half of the 2nd century BC. Some buff-clay black-gloss vessels also found in the fill strongly resemble the products of Group 2 from Valentia. It is also worth mentioning the appearance of a rare mold-made decorated plate: in the center of the vessel, a recumbent fat character is easily distinguishable, probably the personification of a river; it is covered by a fine reddish slip. An identical vessel was found in the House of Marcus Rufus at Pompeii and considered a Sicilian product (Grimaldi et al. 2014).

The thin-walled vessels are mainly Mayet II goblets, but the “Early” form identified in the fill of the latrine in the area of the Temple of Fortuna is still present (Principal and Ribera, 2019: 322-25).

Evidence of amphorae is scant: some Punic (North-African) T-7.3.1.1 and T-7.4.2.1/7.4.3.1, and absence of Italian Dr. 1; however, a Rhodian amphora stamp with an eponym (ΑΦΑΝΟΔΟΤΟΥ, dated 170-168 BC) provides an important chronological reference for the assemblage (Finkielsztein 2001).

Regarding the functional distribution of types and vessels, it seems to be a carefully selected assemblage: Italian coarse/kitchen ware is the predominant production (73% of total MNI), while pans and casseroles are the best represented forms within both the Italian coarse/kitchen ware and the artifacts constituting the whole assemblage; the volume of *ollae* is also significant. With regard to the tableware, the Calene production clearly surpasses any other fine ware (Neapolitan Campana A, Thin-Walled Ware, mould-made bowls, etc.), with a conspicuous repetition of some types such as black-gloss Lamb. 36 small plates and Lamb. 27ab and 27Bc bowls, indicating a specific use/consumption and selection. Platters and large/deep bowls (service vessels) are the prevailing receptacles, while vessels for consumption are plainly in the minority.

Thus, it does not appear to be a domestic rubbish pit owing to the careful selection of materials/remains carried out before their final discarding. Accordingly, our working hypothesis is that the pit fill is the result (conclusion/termination) of some sort of collective ritual or feast, held in a nearby space of the “Altstadt” rampart.

Before the first buildings, the insula was the site of banquets and rituals from the 4th c. BC (D’Ambrosio and De Caro 1989). So, we can consider these anormal finds to be normal here. Some finds could be the remains of a large banquet. There were many frying pans for cooking, fine

tableware for drinking and eating, and Greek and Roman wine amphorae and Punic fish amphorae. So, it must be the remains of a good banquet for many people in the middle of the 2nd century BC (Principal and Ribera 2019: 322-25; Bustamante et al. 2020).

After the banquet a perfume workshop was erected along the Via degli Augustali.

2.3. The end of the first perfume workshop

During the 2011 excavation season, a space for processing scented oils and perfumes was discovered in the Quarter of the Perfumers next to the forum. Its earliest phase was dated to the second half of the 2nd century BC (Principal and Ribera 2019: 327-31).

One of its basins was filled (SU 8028). Its composition was very heterogeneous, with architectural elements, ceramics, coins, iron and charcoal. Pottery was the prevalent component of the fill, mostly Neapolitan Black-Gloss Campana A (Middle phase). The repertoire of forms offers examples of Lamb. 5, 8b, 27ab, 27b, 27c, 28ab, 31b, 33b and 36. Some Calene vessels (Early Calene phase) were also identified: Lamb. 8, 9, 27b, 36, San. 165, F2586 and F2685. An extraordinary piece was also recovered from the bottom of the basin, a white-gloss lagynos, probably a Pergamene product (Pierobon 1974), as well as fragments of “Megarian” bowls, several late 2nd century BC black-gloss vessels, five pseudo-Ebusitan coins, and one from Ebusus.

The latest elements are some forms of thin-walled pottery and Dr. 1A amphorae. This assemblage (**fig. 3**) must have been composed in the last quarter of the 2nd century BC, and it coincided with the end of the first perfume workshop and with the great urban renovation affecting Pompeii.

This peculiar deposit was placed at the bottom of a small pool of the workshop. A Hellenistic lagynos and other fine wares appeared without debris. It must be a ritual offering related to the end of the activity. Very different was a deposit of unguentaria, which is later than the deposit of the pool. It is directly related with the end of the activity in this site as well.

2.4. Recapitulating the 2nd century BC ceramics

Six different black-gloss productions assigned to the 2nd century BC have been positively identified. They follow a logical and progressive sequence from the beginning to the end of the century. In this regard, Early Campana A is only found in the beginning of the century, at the Temple of Fortuna, while the products assignable to Middle Campana A are, in general, in the majority in the rest of the contexts for most of this period. The prevalent forms within the Neapolitan production are Lamb. 27 bowls (different variants and formats/sizes) and Lamb. 31a/b ones (generally with white painted decoration), and the Lamb. 36 plate, as stated in almost every Mediterranean context of the period (Principal and Ribera 2013: 108-109). The other forms are in the minority but very coherent with the chronology, their presence/absence easily recognized as dating markers.

Cales is another important regional center producing black-gloss pottery, whose products are clearly found throughout the century. However, the Calene vessels in these contexts belong to the Early phase of the production. Hence, the repertoire is rather diversified and somewhat eclectic from the point of view of the cultural traditions converging in the

Calene production, not having yet adopted the Etruscan B patterns. Calene Black-Gloss Ware is always in the minority, except in the Augustali 8034 assemblage: this discrepancy could be due to the special significance or ritualistic character of the deposit.

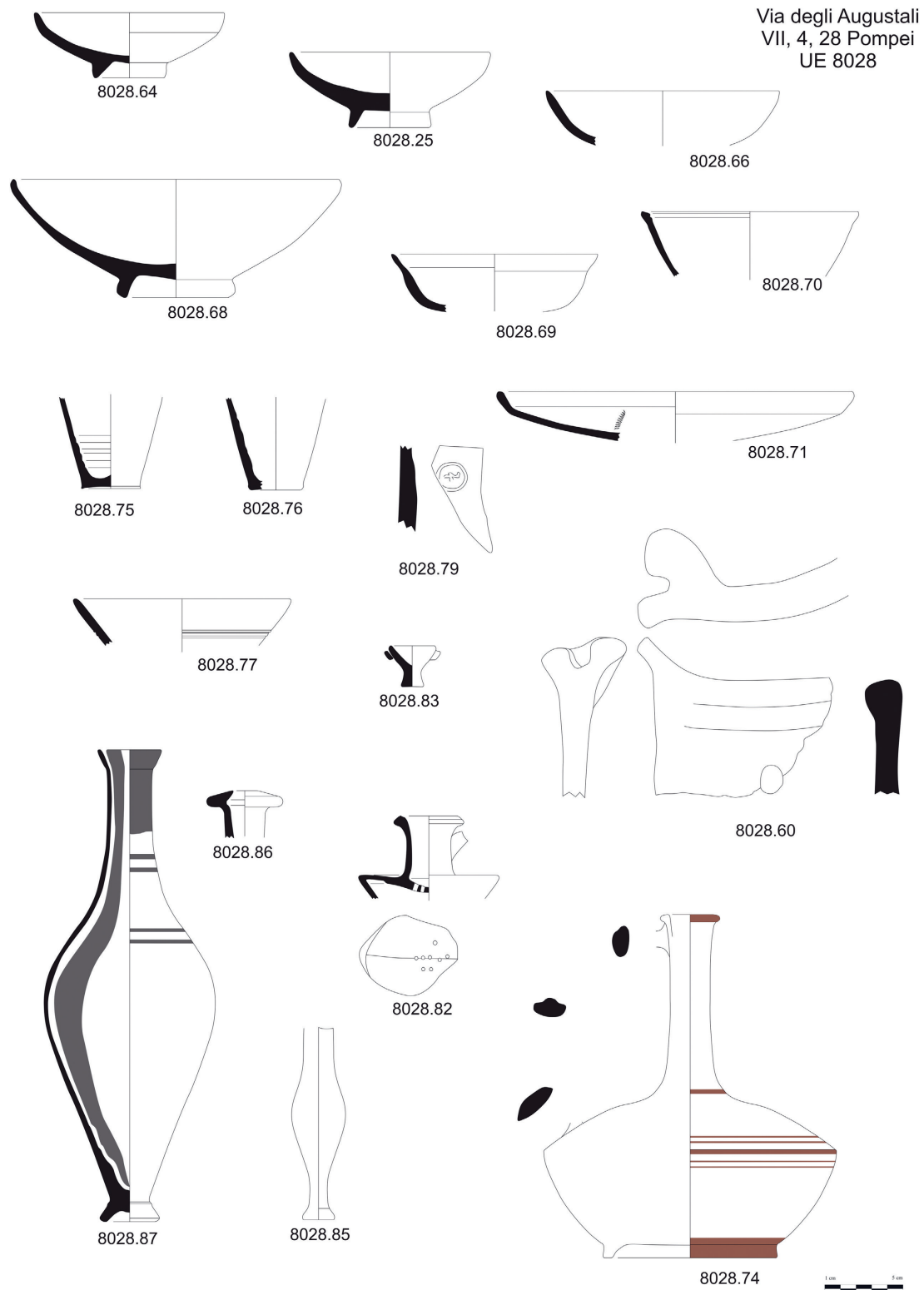


Fig. 3. Some of the pottery of the deposit of Via degli Augustali 28 (SU 8028).

Context	FORTUNA 7235	AUGUSTALI 8034	ARIADNA	AUGUSTALI 8028
	Latrine fill	Pit fill	Samnite period	Basin fill
BLACK-GLOSS				
Neapolitan (A) Ancient	Lamb. 27c, 45			
Neapolitan (A) Middle		Lamb. 27b, 27c, 31b, 31a, 33b, 36, 49a, 55, 68	Lamb. 25, 27a, 27b, 27c, 28, 31, 33, 33b, 36, 51, 55	Lamb. 5, 8b, 27ab, 27b, 27c, 28ab, 31b, 33b, 36
Etruscan (B)			110 / F 2212	
Cales Ancient	Lamb. 24, 31, 36 F2132	Lamb. 9, 25, 27b, 27c, 31, 33b, 36, 43, 49a, 55 San. 166 Pasq. 127 F2110 / 2120; F2170; F2614	Lamb. 36	Lamb. 8, 9, 27b, 36 San. 165 / F1530; F2586; F2685
Group 2 <i>Valentia</i>		Lamb. 27b, 33b, 36	Lamb. 31	
Local / North Campania		Lamb. 25	Lamb. 9 / F2110, 31, 36	
Indeterminate				Lamb. 3
FINE WARE				
Lamp		Esquiline Biconic Ricci E		Esquiline Biconic
<i>Lagynos</i>				<i>Lagynos</i>
Thin-Walled	Ancient form Mayet II	Ancient form Mayet II	Mayet II	Mayet I, II, IIIa
Eastern sigillata			Indeterminate	
Unguentarium	Fusiform	Large format Fusiform	Large format Fusiform	Fusiform
Megarian bowl		Indeterminate	Indeterminate	Indeterminate
Emporitan	One-handled goblet			
Iberian		Amphora?	<i>Kalathos</i>	<i>Kalathos</i>
AMPHORA				
Punic African	T-7.4.2.1.	Cl, C2	C	C2a
Punic ebusitan				Indeterminate
Campanian		Graeco-Italic	Graeco-Italic Transitional Graeco-italic	Dr. 1A
Adriatic		Indeterminate	Indeterminate	
Greek	111-170 BCE	Cnidian, Rhodian (170-168 BC)	Rhodian	Rhodian
COINAGE			As Rome 169-158 BC Roman Denari Ebusus	Ebusus Pseudo-Ebusus
CHRONOLOGY	190-170 BCE	165-150 BCE	160-130 BCE	120-100 BCE

Tab. 1. Table of the sites with contexts of the 2nd century BC.

Group 2 of Valentia was defined in the republican levels of that town (Principal and Ribera 2013: 128-130). Its products are always rare, but typical of the mid-2nd century BC, as shown by the pieces found at Pompeii.

Some vessels from Northern Campania and one pyxis of indeterminate origin must be mentioned as well.

It is possible to find parallels between the Campana A finds in the Temple of Fortuna and the cargo of the Grand Congloué 1 shipwreck; the Augustali 8034 assemblage and the Escombreras 2 shipwreck; and the Samnite phase of the House of Ariadne and the foundation contexts of Valentia, 138 BC. By contrast, there is no good reference for Augustali 8028, since the black-gloss facies of the last quarter of the 2nd century have not been properly put in order due to a major lack of evidence (Principal and Ribera 2019: 327-31).

Regarding the rest of the fine wares, the thin-walled production is the largest group, appearing in every context. The earlier contexts (Temple of Fortuna and Augustali 8034) share the same repertoire: on the one hand, Mayet II goblets, a form with a very long life covering the 2nd and 1st centuries BC; on the other, the rare “Early form”, only appearing in contexts dated to the first half of the 2nd century BC (Ribera 2020). However, in the latest context, Augustali 8028, in addition to the Mayet II goblets, some new forms, such as Mayet I and IIIa, are documented: the presence of both goblets will increase throughout the 1st century BC.

Unguentaria were always recurrent over this century and in this area. The prolific fusiform series are the best documented unguentaria within these contexts. As a matter of fact, it must be highlighted that the Quarter of the Perfumers of Pompeii was located around the Via degli Augustali (Brun et al. 2020). Thus, in 2011, a large number of unguentaria ranging from Hellenistic to Augustan times was discovered in the excavations conducted in Tabernae 26, 27 and 28. In the contexts dated from the mid-2nd century BC (Augustali 8034 and the House of Ariadne), a big form of unguentarium was identified as well, with parallels, for the republican period, in very few places, such as Arles and Valentia (Principal and Ribera 2020: 331).

Fragments of indeterminate mold-made “Megarian” bowls are also present from the middle up to the end of the century. Fragments of Eastern Sigillata (probably Pergamene), in turn, have been only found in the House of Ariadne. And to conclude these references to Eastern Mediterranean products, it is worth mentioning a magnificent and complete lagynos coming from Augustali 8028, dated to the end of the 2nd century BC. Lagynoi are always rare and uncommon vessels. This very well preserved one from Pompeii is similar to another found in Italy, in a funerary context (Collivichi 2008).

Finally, some sporadic imports from eastern Iberian Peninsula: a typical one-handled goblet produced in Emporion, at the Temple of Fortuna; a doubtful Iberian amphora at Augustali 8034; and a painted kalathos at Augustali 8028. Though very small in quantity, the products from Hispania Citerior are almost always present in the Pompeii contexts throughout the 2nd century BC.

Through the study of some selected diachronic contexts from these four excavations, it has been possible to put for-

ward a sequence of fine tableware used in Pompeii during the 2nd century BC.

Most of the black-gloss pottery comes from production centers of the Vesuvian circle belonging to a Greek cultural sphere, mainly Naples, or other parts of Campania, especially Cales (Northern Campania), where a strong influence from Etruscan products can be seen from the mid-2nd century BC. Curiously, this production was widely distributed throughout the Western Mediterranean territories, but it was hardly known in its mother region (Pedroni 2001).

The rest of the imported products are clearly in the minority: vessels from Southern Italy and Etruria, and even some rare specimens from Eastern Mediterranean. The first examples of the thin-walled production also appeared during this moment, when the use of the goblets as drinking vessels became widespread.

3. The Roman Colony (80 BC)

From the time of the establishment of the Roman colony (80-50 BC), the house was renovated and redecorated with elements of Second Style. The most important renovation was the conversion of the hortus into a large peristyle with a big exedra. At the same time, the southern atrium became an open courtyard. Actually, the new large peristyle must have been the public area of the large house (Huguet, Krajšek and Ribera 2020).

The archaeological finds from the northern part of the house show a moment of intense construction activity between the end of the period of the installation of the Roman colony and the beginning of the reign of Augustus, between 50-30 BC.

Along this northern part, the contexts of this phase have many materials. They were large and superimposed layers of leveling for the construction of the northern peristyle and the drainpipes. They gave sufficient archaeological material. Considering the pottery recovered, we have detected a large renovation that we can date to around 50-30 BC. The very scarce Arretine Sigillata and Sicilian (Campana C) and Arretine Black-Gloss are the best chronological indicators of this period. There are many residual materials because the majority of the contexts are construction levels.

In the first half of the 1st century BC, in Taberna 52 and in the northern part of the house, the excavations registered a considerable rise of the ground level. At this moment, the owner extended the built surface of the house northward. A second and bigger peristyle was created to connect the house to the Via della Fortuna. So, a new monumental access was created from the Via della Fortuna, a street of much greater prestige than the commercial Via degli Augustali.

The structural elements of the new peristyle were the northern boundary wall and the foundations of the colonnade. Both were built in unison, within a pre-established construction plan. Before that, great levels of earth were accumulated to achieve the proper height/level on which the pavement of the porch was laid. Other layers were attached to the wall after these structures were raised. In this process, the drainage system was also constructed.

The date at the beginning of the second half of the 1st century BC for the peristyle building is based on the stratigraphy and archaeological finds. The analysis of the architectural elements corroborates this option/dating. Another fact to pay attention to in the chronology is the standard of

measurements used in the new peristyle. The space between columns is 2.40 m, i.e., 8 Roman feet. This measure was introduced and rapidly became widespread in Pompeii only after the founding of the Roman colony.

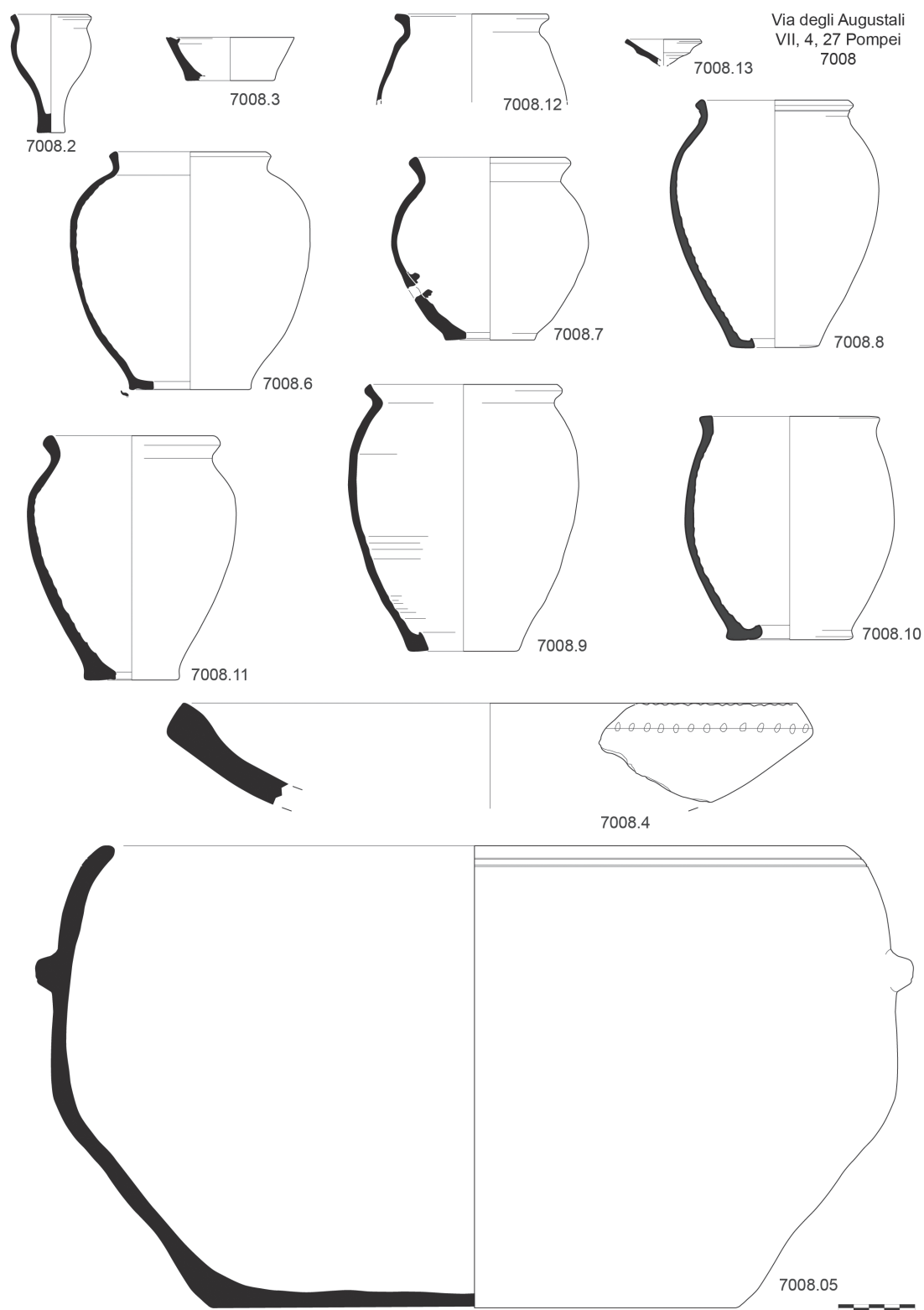


Fig. 4. Plant pots for flowers from the Via degli Augustali 27.

In the middle of the 1st century BC, there were important transformations of a negative type in the atrium. The impluvium was filled and obliterated by a great leveling. The materials found were from the middle of the 1st century BC. The absence of Arretine Sigillata and the presence of Campana C, Italian Dr. 2-4 and 26 amphorae, the thin-walled form Mayet III, lamps Dr. 3 and Pompeian Red Slip Cooking Ware, indicate this date. So, from the middle of the 1st century BC, the impluvium was no longer in use and the atrium became an open-space patio. The damaged appearance of the impluvium speaks in favor of a loss of its original function. At the same time, these renovations indicate the change of the main entrance to the house, which must have been shifted to the north, to the new peristyle or Corinthian atrium.

This obvious construction phase of the House of Ariadne around the mid-1st century BC has been dated by a number of contexts, more or less contemporary. The most recent materials are typical of that period and a few from the beginning of the Augustan period.

The ensemble was composed of the following groups of pottery:

- Black-Gloss Ware: Neapolis (Late Campana A): Lamb. 5/7, 27, 31 and 36. Late Calene and similar: Lamb. 1, 2, 5 and 10. Arretine: Lamb. 2, 5, 10, 112, Morel 2111, 2653. Sicilian (Campana C): Lamb. 1, 2, 5, 7 and 20;
- Terra Sigillata: Eastern. Italian: Consp. 1;
- Thin-Walled Ware: Mayet III, IV, V, XIII-XIV;
- Lamps: Dr. 3, Dr. Ricci E and F, Pavolini 1 and 4;
- Unguentarium: fusiform and flat-based;
- Amphorae: Vesuvian: Dr. 1B, 1C and 2-4. Adriatic: Lamb. 2. Greek: Rhodian and Koan. African: Early African, Dr. 26, 7.2.4.1. and Baetican Dr. 7.8.1.1.

This group of materials is well dated between 60-30 BC. A context roughly contemporary with this Pompeian phase is, among others, the cargo of the Planier 3 wreck, dated between 50-45 BC. There were Late Calene Black-Gloss Ware (Lamb. 5/7), Arretine Black-Gloss Ware (Lamb. 7), Dr. 1B and Lamb. 2 amphorae, Dr. 2 lamps and Italian Sigillata (Consp. 1). The cargoes of the wrecks of Île Plaine and Dramont are very similar (Ribera 2013).

The recent archaeological surveys in the House of Ariadne have revealed a more complex picture than that described by other scholars (Descœudres 1994; Pesando 1997: 131-5). They supposed that the house, with an atrium and two peristyles, was made at the same time and according to a unitary scheme. So, the excavations and the study of the materials have been determining factors in understanding its evolution.

4. The Roman imperial period

During most of the 1st century AD, the great mansion was transformed into a production edifice. A workshop for processing wool was in the northern part (Bustamante and Ribera 2016) and in the southern a production of perfumes was organized. The complex was heavily damaged by the earthquake in AD 62 and craft production ceased. The reconstruction of the wall decoration and the repair of the

mosaics began afterward. The eruption stopped the project, but the decoration of the central peristyle area had already been finished (Fernández 2007).

Along the Via degli Augustali, there were other elements and small places to make perfumes from the beginning of the 1st century AD to the eruption. A small basin for perfumes was established in Taberna 28. In Taberna 27, a basin for perfumes was filled in the mid 1st century AD with plant pots for flowers (fig. 4). This peculiar context relates well to the perfume activity because perfumes were made of a mix of flowers and olive oil.

4.1. Taberna 32. A large context related with perfume-making

The basin in Taberna 32 was found filled with loose sandy blackish brown earth together with ashes, remains of animals, malacology, large construction material and, especially, a large amount of good-quality archaeological material, such as glass and pottery. In addition, there were metallic elements and many coins, which indicate the occurrence of a traumatic episode (fig. 5). The ceramics can be dated to around AD 40-50. The Italian Sigillata is of Padanian, Pisan, Neapolitan and Arretine origin. The *sigilla*, in addition to confirming their origin, affect even more the chronology we can propose. Among them we highlight the potters Ateius, Cresti or Euhodi. In addition to the sigillata, there were other elements of the ceramic “kit” of Claudius’ time, such as thin-walled pottery of local origin, coarse ware of the Vesuvian area, a few amphorae and several lamps – to be noted the large Dr. 23 type with a double spout and a handle in the form of a vulva. One of the most outstanding elements was the huge number of glass and glass tools. Of special interest was a beaker and plate service made of opaque blue glass of Eastern origin. There were also long unguentaria, a wide variety of bowls, bottles and stir-sticks, a typical repertoire for the preparation and sale of cosmetics.

But together with all these artifacts, a large amount of faunal remains was also discovered, among which suids stand out – especially skulls and scapulae, presumably the most “gelatinous” parts of these. The predominance of certain fauna coincides with the finds contributed by the colleagues of the Centre Jean Bérard when studying the nearby perfumery in Taberna 24 on the same street (Borgard et al. 2005). This predominance of pigs finds correlation in the classic sources. Specifically, Pliny speaks of the need for gelatinous elements for the agglutination of the floral essences and the refined oil, an activity in this process that would have been carried out in these basins.

The 24 coins, the most recent of which was from the beginning of the reign of Claudius, offered a clear date for the end of this installation. They confirmed the date of the ceramics.

Glass vessels were very abundant. So, the taberna may have been a place to bottle the perfumes before sale (Bustamante et al. 2011).

The end of the *officina lanificaria* must coincide with the earthquake of AD 62, after which the production structures were abandoned. Soon afterward, work began to convert

Taberna 32

A big deposit of Claudio Earthquake?

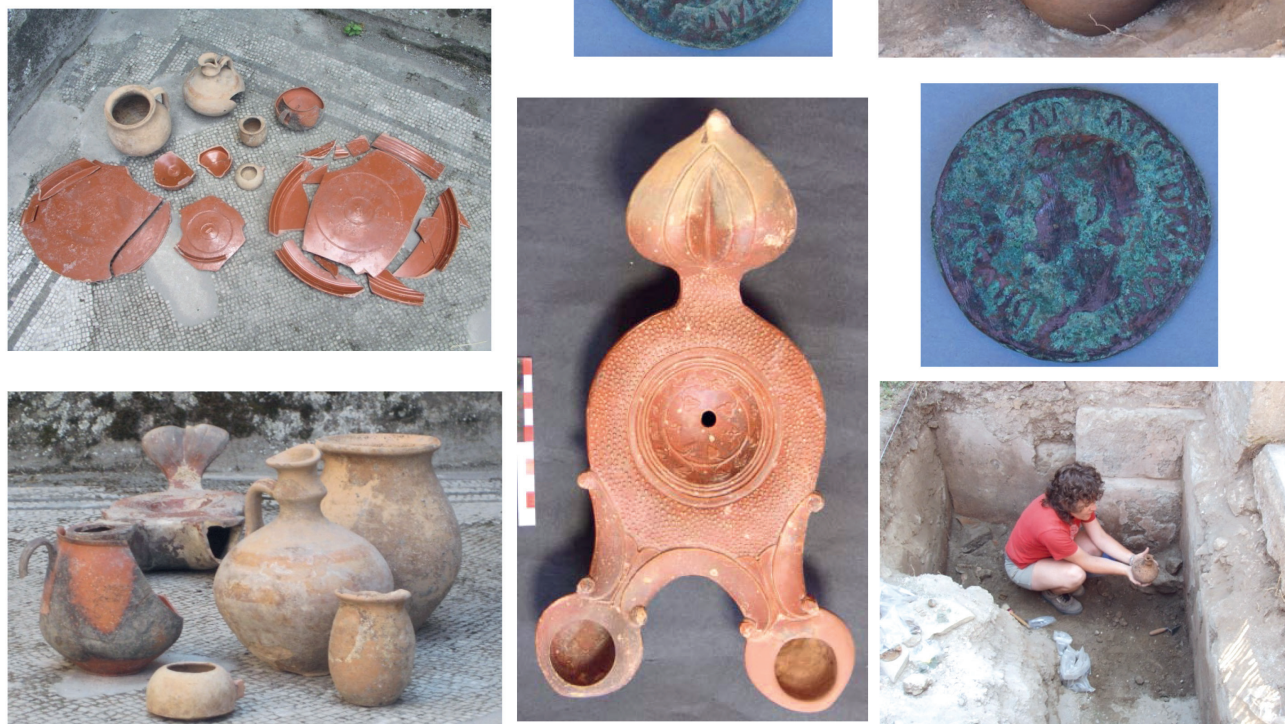


Fig. 5. Images of the large deposit of a basin in Taberna 32 in the House of Ariadne.

the great old house into a luxurious home. The eruption interrupted the project.

4.2. Before 24 October. Fil of the large basin to place a new pavement and other repairs

The great basin of Taberna 30 appeared filled by a large number of pieces, especially African, Sicilian and Hispanic amphorae, as well as Gaulish Sigillata. No coins, no glass. Amphorae and debris above all. It is a different deposit, related with human daily activity. Fine ware was very scarce, but it is important for a date near AD 79 (Bustamante, Huguet and Ribera 2020). On this occasion, the chronology of the materials pointed to the Neronian earthquake or a moment shortly before the eruption of AD 79.

Coinciding with the threshold of the house, a complete small bowl was found along with the bone of a big feline, probably a lion. This singular deposit has been interpreted as a propitiatory rite of the new construction phase of the city, at which time the threshold of the taberna was installed.

4.3. AD 79

Around October 24, the floor of Taberna 26 collapsed into an underground cellar. Objects for weighing and measuring appeared. The taberna must be the site for bottling and selling the perfumes. A carrot amphora, from Palestine, may have been to entertain the clients with dates and the other amphora, the Rhodian one, with wine (Brun et al. 2020).

The last example is the large cellar of the house: The “Cantina”, a storehouse with amphorae and a shrine. This large space was filled by the eruption activity. The objects placed under the painted snake, in the middle of this space, must be considered offerings to protect the food in the cellar. It must be a shrine with offerings as well (Albir et al. 2020).

The long-running House of Ariadne /Via degli Augustali Project (2004-2019) has paid special attention to the pottery assemblages. Their main aim has been to reconstruct the urban history and, at the same time, the economic life of a space placed in the middle of the most privileged area, between the forum and the macellum.

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