

stalt an. Was darf man sich am Ende wünschen? Erstens, dass die Arbeit vor Ort planmäßig weitegeht. Völlig ausgeklammert ist z. B. bislang der Aspekt der Grabkultur. Wie stellen sich regionale Kontinuitäten und „Batavisierung“ (Traditionskern-Modell) im Spiegel der Gräber dar? Zweitens, dass die Ergebnisse auch die Forschung in den Nachbarregionen nachhaltig befähigen. Die bemerkenswerte Arbeit von N. Roymans bringt jedenfalls alle Voraussetzungen mit, um in der *scientific community* intensiv herangezogen zu werden und Früchte zu tragen.

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**MARIA PAZ GARCÍA-BELLIDO (coord.), Los Campamentos Romanos en Hispania (27 a.C.–192 d.C.).**

**El Abastecimiento de moneda.** 2 volumes. Anejos de Gladius, volume 9. Consejo Superior de Investigaciones Científicas. Ediciones Polifemo, Madrid 2006. € 91,35. Volume 1: ISBN 978-84-86547-94-3; volume 2: ISBN 978-84-86547-95-0; volumes 1 & 2: ISBN 978-84-86547-96-7. 829 pages with 193 figures, 43 plates and CD with catalogue.

The combined effort of a group of Spanish archaeologists and numismatists, the book under review presents the coin finds from the known Roman military bases of the imperial period in Spain. Far from being a mere catalogue, the authors try to interpret the coin finds in their archaeological and historical contexts. Ultimately their goal is to get a better understanding of the supply of coins to the troops stationed in Spain in the period 27 BC to AD 192. An important part of this study is to compare the Spanish situation with the supply of coins to the forts and fortresses in *Germania* and *Raetia*. Given the current state of knowledge on Roman coin circulation in Spain in the imperial period, the data presented in this book are a welcome addition. It is to be regretted that it was decided to publish it in Spanish, without an English or French summary, as this will hamper the reception of the work in the wider scholarly community.

Starting off with a general introduction, stating the aims and methods of the study, the first part of the book is dedicated to a detailed presentation of the coin finds from the camps. Five chapters deal with the legionary fortresses of Lugo, Astorga, Rosinos de Vidriales, León and Herrera de Pisuerga respectively. Three further chapters then discuss the more temporary camps at La Carisa (Oviedo), El Cincho (Cantabria) and Andagoste (Álava). A final chapter is devoted to the coins found in the Asturian hill-forts with a known Roman military presence. A detailed synthesis of the material thus presented is offered in the second part of the book, consisting of six chapters; one dealing with halved coins, one on Claudian coins, one on countermarked coins, one on metallurgical analyses and two truly concluding chapters on the army and coin supply. A bibliography, plates and indexes are included at the end, together with a CD containing a full catalogue of the coins discussed.

Each of the chapters dealing with the coins from a particular site first discusses the archaeological remains found and their historical setting. Although this provides the reader with a handy overview of the current state of knowledge in Spanish Roman archaeology, a lot of information is too detailed and not strictly necessary for the analyses of the coins. Where possible, the stratigraphical context and accompanying finds of the coins are presented. This is a very important aspect of the study of coin finds, as it enables a better understanding of circulation period as well as a diachronic perspective on coin use and coin supply. Although this might seem of obvious relevance, unfortunately this approach is all too rare and the authors are to be congratulated on their efforts.

For all sites an extensive discussion of the coins found follows. First it should be noted that the editor of the book could have done a better job here. There is a lot of overlap between the chapters and certain topics (e. g. the incidence of Claudian imitation coins) occur again and again, mainly repeating the same theories and interpretations. A further serious flaw is the statistical treatment of the coin finds. With the exception of Lugo, Astorga and Herrera most sites have yielded limited numbers of coins. Yet in quantifying the coins, the authors on many occasions do not hesitate to use extremely exact values. Thus, when stating e. g. that 16.21 % of all Spanish coins found at Herrera were minted at Bilbilis (p. 208), only the careful reader will notice that this relates to six out of 37 coins. As these percentages are than used further on in the final analysis, one should be very cautious on the significance of the results. A further rather puzzling aspect is the date range of the sites. The title of the book claims to discuss the Roman military camps in Spain in the period 27 BC–AD 192. However, some of the sites discussed were founded earlier than this and others considerably later than 27 BC. For some sites the coins of the Severan emperors (after AD 192) are included, but at others not. Furthermore one wonders what happened in the third century and later.

For scholars familiar with coin finds in the northwestern Roman provinces, the most striking characteristics of the coins found in military contexts in Hispania can be summed up as follows: 1) The number of coins is very limited (slightly over 1200, the legionary fortress at Vindonissa alone has yielded several times that number), 2) where are the silver coins? Although in general precious metal coinages tend to be far less common as site finds than bronze coins, this is far more extreme in Spain than in the north, 3) the overwhelming dominance of coins from Spanish mints over coins minted in Rome or in Gaul, and 4) the sharp decline in coin numbers after the Julio-Claudian period.

These four topics are among the ones taken up in the second part of the book and play a crucial role in the arguments on military coin supply. However, the first two aspects are not without problems. Although historical processes could have created the observed phenomena, an equally likely explanation might be found in the excavation history of the sites. How large an area of a site was excavated? What part of the site (e. g. living quarters or public areas) was under investigation? Which techniques were used (with or without a metaldetector, trial trenches or large surface clearings)? All these aspects will have influenced the number and kind of coins found. Regrettably, the authors do not discuss these possibilities at all and go straight for the historical explanation. In their model, the troops garrisoned in Spain in the Julio-Claudian period received a very substantial part of their stipend in kind (in the form of food and clothing). Hence there will have been less need of bronze coins (intended for daily shopping) in the camps. The striking scarcity of silver (and gold) coinages is explained by the possibly delayed payments of the enlisted soldiers. Only upon discharge or at the end of a longer campaign did they receive their wages. As large numbers of Spanish troops were transferred to the Rhine- and Danube-areas for Augustus' and Tiberius' German campaigns, the payments due to them were only handed out far away from where they had been owned. This interpretation is heavily based on historical sources – quoted at length throughout all chapters but usually not critically assessed – rather than on the archaeological discourse of coin use, loss and deposition in antiquity.

The third point, the dominance of coins minted in Spain over coins minted in Rome or Gaul, is discussed in more depth and with very interesting results. One of the better known characteristics of the early Roman camps along the Rhine and Lippe is the rapid turnover of the bronze coin pool. Whereas the forts associated with Drusus' campaigns are completely dominated by coins minted at Nemausus, the forts of the first decade AD have yielded almost exclusively coins of the first altar series of Lyons, while the forts associated with the start of Tiberius' reign are characterized by countermarked coins from Rome, old Republican asses and coins of the second altar series of Lyons. By arranging the Spanish forts in a chronological sequence, a similar pattern can be detected. Instead of Gaulish mints however, the Spanish mints take turns in providing the army with bronze coins. Dur-

ing the Cantabrian wars it was first the mint at Lugo, followed slightly later by the one at Celsa, which supplied bronzes to the troops. In the last decade BC and the first AD the mints at Calagurris and *Caesaraugusta* took over this job, while in Tiberius' reign it was mainly done by the mint at Turiaso. Like in Gaul, these are mints situated in the firmly civilian hinterland, implying civic officials rather than military commanders overseeing the production and supply of the coins.

Problematic is the discussion of the post-Tiberian coins found in Spanish camps. Almost no Caligulan and Neronian coins were found and the large numbers of Claudian coins are nearly all copies. At least, that is how they are listed in the catalogues accompanying the chapters on the various fortresses. The discussion in these chapters also clearly treats them as irregular copies minted somewhere in the western empire, not dissimilar from the large numbers of copies found in Britain, Gaul, and Germany. However, in the second part of the book a chapter by Jean Claude Besombes ascribes these coins to two official, auxiliary mints located in Spain. This theory has been voiced elsewhere by the same author, but has not found wide acceptance. In the volume under review he is not very clear on the criteria used, nor on which coins he did actually see in person and in how far they correlate to the coins discussed in previous chapters. In the final chapters on coin supply and the army, the Spanish provenance of the Claudian copies (which are not copies in this view) is taken for granted and included in the theories on provincial mints ensuring the sufficient supply of bronze coins. Thus, the synthesis of the material is not in line with the presentation of the data in the catalogues. In a similar way the scarcity of Caligulan and Neronian coins in Spain is not explained consistently throughout the volume. Whereas in the chapters focusing on individual camps these phenomena are explained by taking the historical sources literally, according to which these coins were withdrawn following the *damnatio memoriae* of both emperors, in the final chapter the view is expressed that the absence of these coins is to be understood in the context of the diminishing importance of provincial mints.

Notwithstanding these difficulties it is made perfectly clear, and convincingly, that the activity of the Spanish mints and coin circulation in northwestern Spain, where the camps discussed are situated, are closely connected to the military presence in this area. Once only a nominal amount of troops was left (from the Flavian period onwards), the supply of new coins decreased sharply.

Overall the book under review opens up an important source for scholars working on Roman coins and Roman archaeology. The detailed discussions of both archaeological remains and the coins themselves provide a good insight into the current archaeological and historical discourse in Spain. Methodologically the studies are not flawless, which the authors could have avoided by familiarizing themselves better with modern work on coin finds in Britain, the Low Countries and the German-speaking lands. In their interpretations important observations are made, which contribute to our understanding of the empire-wide monetary policy in the Julio-Claudian period. These interpretations lay more weight on the historical sources than on archaeological contexts of use and deposition, which might have yielded even better results.

The plates with photos of the coins and drawings of the countermarks are well produced, especially when considering the often corroded nature of the coins. Generally speaking the graphs presented throughout the volume are clear and understandable, except for the ones in the final two chapters. These are often difficult to read, based on too small an empirical base and unclear as to whether percentages or numbers are expressed. Typos and misspellings are rare, the numerous maps very practical and clearly labeled.

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