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THE SUPPLY OF COINAGE IN MEDITERRANEAN HISPANIA DURING THE REIGNS OF TRAJAN AND HADRIAN (98-138 A.D.)

Francisco Javier Sánchez Conde: Universidad de Salamanca (USAL). fjavisc@usal.es

ABSTRACT:

Traditionally, the 2nd century AD has been known as the Golden Age of Rome, but also the century of the Antonines, since, under this dynasty, the empire would have reached its zenith in terms of territory, population and economy. This is the feeling that normally emanates from written sources and from the archaeological approach to monuments, but in the light of recent studies that find traces of the beginnings of decline, one might wonder whether we should not rather consider this century as a swansong. Coinage plays a tremendously important role as an indicator of the wealth of the empire. For this reason, we believe that it may be interesting to observe what role it played in a region as commercially important for Rome as the Iberian Peninsula, and specifically in the Mediterranean region, during the reigns of Trajan and Hadrian. These emperors are part of the group known as the "Five Good Emperors", because of the level of wealth that was achieved under their rule. They are also both of Hispanic origin and successive emperors, which may have some impact on the supply of currency to the peninsula. Other interesting questions to research on and review are the circulation of coinage in this Mediterranean region, and the geographical differences between the coast and the inland, and between urban and rural areas through isolated and stray finds, and coin hoards; so we can observe monetary circuits and the movement of currency from North to South and East to West. The results obtained are put into context, in order to discern possible trends or changes at macro, meso and micro spatial levels. This approach gives us the opportunity to find out to what extent this golden age was fulfilled at the beginning of the century in the east of the Iberian Peninsula.

BIO

Graduate in History (2017-2021) and studying the Prehistory, Ancient History and Archaeology track of the Master's Degree in History Research at the USAL. Collaboration during the academic year 2020-2021, in the elaboration of texts to document entries in the international database Fasti Online, Spain (<http://www.fastionline.org/excavation/>). Collaboration in the documentation and recording of the results obtained from metallographic analysis of ancient coins carried out in the laboratory and developed in relation to the current research project of Dr. Blázquez Cerrato (Ref. HAR2017-85929-P). Participation in the 75th archaeological course (2021) of Empúries (L'Escala, Girona) in the Greek city. Participation in the 2019 campaign in the Castro de São Joao das Arribas (Aldeianova, Portugal). Participation in the 2021 campaign in the research project in the southern quarter, Termas meridionales, of the archaeological excavations in the Roman city of Confloenta (Sepúlveda, Segovia). Laboratory practice and documentation of archaeological material, 2018-2019, at the Department of Prehistory of the University of Salamanca. Archaeological experimentation and laboratory practice, 2018-2019, at the Prehistoric Technology Laboratory of the University of Salamanca. At this momento, I find myself co-organizing a specialized scientific session: "Vientos de Poniente, vientos de Levante: influencias, procesos y cambios en la cultura material de la periferia mediterránea", to be held at JIA Alacant 2022.