Rues-des-Vignes (Nord 59, France)

The Rues-des-Vignes site is a potter’s workshop located in the south of Civilitas Narbonensis (Fig. 1) in the present Cambresis. The occupation of the whole settlement covers two centuries from about 65-70 to 270-280 A. D. (Dien, 2003).

The excavated buildings are houses and spaces for pottery work (pits for clay storage, pits for wheel and pottery kilns). The production of this workshop is a high quality pottery showing a regional diffusion.

Arlon (Province of Luxembourg, Belgium)

Located in the South of present Belgium, the Arlon’s vicus belongs to the Civilitas treverorum (Fig. 1). Since 2006, some excavations’ campaigns are led in the city. They pointed out the organisation of the vicus and revealed areas of settlement, of craft activities (ceramic, glass, metal, fuller’s workshop) and road. The settlement is dated from the IInd to fifth century AD. The whetstones come from five specific sectors: Graafjei (site Neu), rue de la Moselle, rue de la Semois (Residence Justine et terrain Lazzar) and rue de la Meuse (Goemaere, 2010 ; Henriot, 2007).

The fort of Saalburg (Hesse, Germany)

The roman fort ‘Saalburg’ is located at the Upper German-Raetian Limes, the frontier between the Roman Empire and Germany (Fig. 2).

Large-scale excavations were carried out in the second half of the 19th century AD. The whetstones allow to define a detailed and enlarged typology. Around 90 AD, the fort with an area of 0.7 ha was built. Around 135 AD, a 3.2 ha fort was constructed. The camp village extended on all sides of the fort. Here the baths, the guest house, a zone with shrines, and finally a burial ground were situated. In the Middle Ages, the Roman ruins were used as quarries. The fort and the camp village are among the best known fort locations on the Upper German-Raetian Limes.

Typology

Nine groups can be defined based on primary form without considering wear:

- Type I: spherical (multifacetted after use)
- Type II: cylinder with circular cross-section (d/D > 0.9)
- Type III: thin elongated plate with an elliptic cross-section (d/D < 0.3)
- Type IV: cylinder with elliptic cross-section (0.3 ≤ d/D ≤ 0.9)
- Type V: parallelepiped rectangle (smooth or slightly to highly concave after use)
- Type VI: xanorph
- Type VII: pebbles
- Type VIII: shuttle
- Type IX: rectangular plate (with or without perforation)

Every type is based on natural shape (Type VI and VII) or on shape obtained by cutting or by sawing (other types).

The attribution of rectangular plate to the Roman period remains uncertain. This kind of whetstone could be medieval. Whetstones present different types of wear (worn edges and surfaces, streaks and grooves). Worn surfaces can be simply flat or slightly to highly concave or convex. These aspects are still in progress and will be published in the next months.

Material identification

Based on the identification of material’s lithology and their characteristics (faunistic content, texture, color, cleavage, fractures, quartz veins, cement), geological and geographical origins and (litho)stratigraphic ages can be proposed. Meso-macroscopic observation is completed by analysis still in process (petrography, X-ray diffractometry, magnetic susceptibility, EDS,...). A large part of raw material consists of detrital sediments. The grains from fine siltstone to medium-sized sandstone. Sediments are well-sorted. According to the cementation degree, the sandstones vary from poorly cemented sandstones to quartzite (low-grade metamorphism). Low cementation leads to a fast wear but makes new grains appear. At the opposite, the quartzites, with their silicious cement and the grain imbrication, generate a micro-porous surface reducing progressively their sharpening properties. This material is thus used for another aim that sharpening. Study of marks and metallic residues will answer this question.

Table 1. Typology. Example for every type.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Site</th>
<th>Type I</th>
<th>Type II</th>
<th>Type III</th>
<th>Type IV</th>
<th>Type V</th>
<th>Type VI</th>
<th>Type VII</th>
<th>Type VIII</th>
<th>Type IX</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Nereth (40 items)</td>
<td>/</td>
<td>/</td>
<td>/</td>
<td>1 item</td>
<td>12 items</td>
<td>/</td>
<td>21 items</td>
<td>/</td>
<td>/</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rues-des-Vignes (11 items)</td>
<td>/</td>
<td>/</td>
<td>/</td>
<td>6 items</td>
<td>1 item/</td>
<td>/</td>
<td>3 item</td>
<td>/</td>
<td>/</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arlon (36 items)</td>
<td>/</td>
<td>/</td>
<td>/</td>
<td>22 items</td>
<td>6 items</td>
<td>/</td>
<td>4 items</td>
<td>/</td>
<td>/</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saalburg (243 items)</td>
<td>/</td>
<td>/</td>
<td>/</td>
<td>34 items</td>
<td>L: 14.2 cm</td>
<td>/</td>
<td>27 items (7)</td>
<td>L: 8.7 cm</td>
<td>/</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>/</td>
<td>/</td>
<td>/</td>
<td>/</td>
<td>54 items</td>
<td>L: 7.2 cm</td>
<td>/</td>
<td>64 items</td>
<td>L: 8 cm</td>
<td>/</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>/</td>
<td>/</td>
<td>/</td>
<td>/</td>
<td>21 items</td>
<td>L: 9 cm</td>
<td>/</td>
<td>8 items</td>
<td>L: 11.32 cm</td>
<td>/</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>/</td>
<td>/</td>
<td>/</td>
<td>/</td>
<td>11 items</td>
<td>L: 11 cm</td>
<td>/</td>
<td>/</td>
<td>/</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Bibliography


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