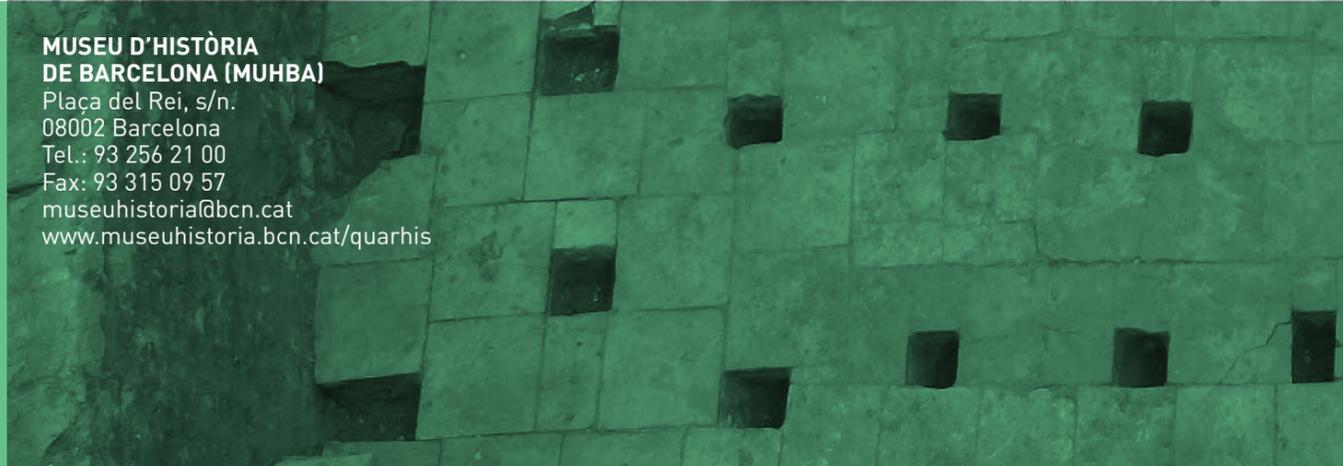


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**MUSEU D'HISTÒRIA DE BARCELONA (MUHBA)**  
Plaça del Rei, s/n.  
08002 Barcelona  
Tel.: 93 256 21 00  
Fax: 93 315 09 57  
museuhistoria@bcn.cat  
www.museuhistoria.bcn.cat/quarhis



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# QUADERNS D'ARQUEOLOGIA I HISTÒRIA DE LA CIUTAT DE BARCELONA

| BARKENO | BARCINO | BARCINONA |  
| BARŠALŪNA | BARCELONA

**quarhis**

ÈPOCA II · ANY 2015 · N.11 · ISSN 1699-793X  
248 PÀGINES · BARCELONA



 **Ajuntament de Barcelona**



**Editor:**

Museu d'Història de  
Barcelona (MUHBA)  
Institut de Cultura  
Ajuntament de Barcelona

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**Control gràfic:**

Emili Revilla

**Disseny gràfic:**

PFP  
[Quim Pintó,  
Montse Fabregat]

**Realització:**

Edicions Hipòtesi, SL

**Impressió:**

Índice Arts Gràfiques, SL

**Imatges de la coberta:**

José Luis Biel-MMB  
i Noemí Nebot Pich

**ISSN**

1699-793X

**Dipòsit legal**

B-9715-2005

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**Museu d'Història  
de Barcelona**

Institut de Cultura,  
Ajuntament de Barcelona  
Plaça del Rei, s/n  
08002 Barcelona  
Tel.: 93 256 21 00  
Fax: 93 315 09 57  
www.museuhistoria.bcn.  
cat/quarhis

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SUMMARY**

The diverse archaeological interventions carried out inside the Barcelona Maritime Museum have revealed the remains of a section of a Roman necropolis dated between the 1st and 7th centuries AD. The clear link of the Barcelona Royal Shipyards necropolis to the road leading to *Barcino* enables us to considerably extend our knowledge of the layout of the road system while reaffirming the thesis that it would have formed part of it since its foundation. However, a funerary area so far from the city must correspond to some kind of settlement (villa, *pagus*, *vicus*, industrial establishment, etc.) in a surrounding area that favoured the location of burials in this zone.

Although we have no evidence of structural remains of any kind of settlement unit in the closest surroundings, the characteristics of the necropolis - a high number of overlapping structures, an abundant typological variety of burials documented and a long chronology ranging from the 1st to 7th centuries AD - support this theory.

The variety of funerary structures identified, both in terms of interments and cremations, is similar to that documented in other points of the city. The discovery of a mausoleum exclusively for cremation stands out.

There is a wide range of materials linked to the practice of the cremation ritual: glass urns, ceramic urns of African production, and ceramic urns of local production. The funerary objects of these burials correspond to the Late Imperial frameworks, largely documented in the city of *Barcino*.

Both the cinerary urns and the remaining objects enable us to determine that most of the cremations discovered form part of a timeframe between the 1st and 7th centuries AD. Specifically, they enable us to establish the origin of the necropolis in the Julio-Claudian dynasty. The urns within the mausoleum clearly show that this funerary structure would have been operational from the Flavian dynasty to the second half of the 2nd century AD.

The chronological data extracted from the funerary objects that accompanied these Late Imperial interments are all located between the 2nd and 3rd centuries AD, which suggests that the coex-

istence of cremation and interment rituals only took place in the 2nd century AD and the existence of a hiatus in the occupation of the necropolis, given that burials attributable to the 4th and 5th centuries AD have not been documented.

The duality of rituals documented is common in the Late Imperial necropolises in the rest of the Peninsula; the choice of a determined ritual is determined by family traditions, trends or purchasing power. In the case of the cremation ritual, the variety of the urns used in the burials also shows a difference in economic capacity, strengthened by the use of bone funeral beds (*lectus funebris*), which involve a certain level of purchasing power. One of the most relevant pieces of data drawn from the Royal Shipyards necropolis is the discovery, for the first time, of material remains corresponding to this type of structure in the city of Barcelona. The restoration works of the materials recovered in the excavation have enabled the presence of at least two types of funeral bed made of bone to be determined.

A great deal of data recovered refers to different aspects of the rituals performed both in the Late Imperial and Low Imperial periods. It has been possible to see the defunctionalisation process of the objects as well as the presence of funerary objects linked to the world of superstition.

The anthropological data has enabled us to determine the shrouding of the deceased and the arrangement of the cremated remains in bundles inside the urns. The carpological studies have revealed the offerings (walnuts, pine kernels and peaches). The different analytical studies conducted on several samples collected during the excavation process have enabled us to document the use of determined species of trees to carry out the cremation process on the funeral pyre. Moreover, it has been possible to recover numerous material remains related to the use of bone funeral beds (*lectus funebris*) during the cremation process of the deceased.

Thus, the diverse archaeological interventions carried out in the Barcelona Royal Shipyards have enabled us to

recover a series of elements that enrich the hitherto limited knowledge of the funerary world in this sector of the *suburbium* while providing new date on the existence of settlement units in this sector.

The archaeological interventions 075/10 and 057/11 in the Barcelona Royal Shipyards revealed a necropolis with thirty burials and eleven cinerary urns from the 1st and 7th centuries AD distributed in two different sectors: the first sector located in the central part of the shipyard naves, formed by six infant burials, with the structures in parallel and positioned northwest/southeast; and the second sector located southeast of the shipyards, where the remaining funerary structures, the burials orientated northeast/southwest, and the set of cinerary urns, eight of which are located in a mausoleum of quadrangular design, were discovered.

They are mostly individual burials, although two children were buried in UF 2, one of six months and the other 3-4 years old, and urns UF 29 and UF 34 contain the remains of two individuals. Of the individuals buried, over 60% were younger than 18-20, of whom 26% must have been newly-born. In terms of adults, there is a notable absence of elderly individuals and only one individual is aged 40-50 years. Although there are some individuals whose sex is undetermined, the proportion between men and women is similar.

The orientation of the burial tombs depends on the area; in the area of mainly adult individuals, the orientation is east-west while in the area with most perinatal individuals the orientation is north-south. The different orientation can be explained by the fact that there were different accesses to the area, but also because it delimited several burial areas, one for burial of perinatal individuals and the other for the rest of the population. In general, it seemed that all the individuals were shrouded, whether they were found in a wooden box or, in the case of many of the perinatal children, in amphorae. Some of these showed signs of having been gnawed by small animals, which suggests that perhaps this section was located in a marginal area of the necropolis.

The urns correspond to individual burials, except for urn UF 34, which contained the remains of an adult man and a woman. Tomb UF 29 contained small remains of a child but at the infilling level, which suggests intrusive elements. A similar case occurs with urn UF 30.

In general, the excavation through knapping of the urns indicates that there was no selective arrangement of the remains inside, whether by handfuls or bundles, which showed a certain arrangement by strata according to anatomical regions. The bones were separated from the funerary pyre, as there are no ashes among the remains.

The size of the fragments is not homogenous as large-scale fragments remain in some urns while in others the fragments are small. These cases do not seem to be the consequence of the reduction in the size of the bone fragments before being deposited in the urn, as the biggest are found in the smallest urns. In general, the bones of the different urns show, to a greater or lesser degree, deformation of the fragments, the fractures are of conchoidal morphology, the fracture lines are transverse and the coloration mostly white beige with a glass texture; all these characteristics suggest a specific cremation pattern, on the body and not the skeleton, with a combustion that must have exceeded 800 °C. The cremation was performed on the corpse and not on bones dried or removed from the flesh.

It should also be noted that in urns UF 12, UF 27, UF 29, UF 31, UF 32 and UF 34, fragments were found of what could have been the funerary bed of some of the individuals that had been cremated on the funerary pyre. On two occasions remains of fauna have been found in the urn (urns UF 31 and UF 34).

In terms of burial goods or other elements to accompany the deceased, in urn UF 26 a fragment of unguentarium has been found and urn UF 12 contained three recipients. In this last case, it was a relatively large urn.

The presence of two funerary typologies, burials and cremations, in the same necropolis and over the same period, shows a different way of thinking in a population in which some individuals preferred to bury their dead directly, in boxes in the ground, while others chose a more complex burial that included cremation and the later deposit of the remains in a cinerary urn, seven of which were in a mausoleum of quadrangular design.

So why are there two types of funerary ritual? Two very clear sectors have been identified, in terms of orientation but also because in one only new-borns or perinatal individuals are buried. In the other sector the burials exist alongside the cremations. Thus it seems clear that the society separated new-borns from the other dead, but it did not do the same for cremations and burials. It is true that most cremations were found in a mausoleum, but the rest were near the burials. The limited anthropological data it has been possible to assess on cremations and burials does not differentiate individuals. It is clear that there is a cultural component for some that differentiates them, which, in the case of the urns in the mausoleum, could be related to the degree of kinship but also social status, but not in the remaining cremations. What is clear is that children of a young age had no place in this funerary ritual.

## ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVIDENCE OF HUMAN COMMUNITIES IN THE TRANSITION FROM THE 3RD TO 1ST MILLENNIUM CAL BC IN THE BARCELONA PLAIN

Anna Gómez Bach  
Anna Bordas Tissier

Sergio Arroyo Borraz  
Josefa Huertas Arroyo  
Jordi Aguelo Mas  
Albert Velasco Artigues  
Javier González Muñoz  
Jordi Nadal Lorenzo  
Maria Saña Seguí  
Miquel Molist Montaña

## THE SITES OF LA SAGRERA HIGH SPEED TRAIN STATION AND LA SANTA CREU I SANT PAU HOSPITAL: AN APPROACH TO THE STUDY OF THE EVOLUTION OF RURAL SETTLEMENTS FROM THE IBERIAN PERIOD IN THE BARCELONA PLAIN

The presence of human communities in the Barcelona Plain has been well documented since Early Neolithic in the mid-6th millennium cal BC.

However, the numerous archaeological interventions in several points of the city reveal an increase and intensification of the human groups in the late 3rd millennium and early 2nd millennium cal BC, which is known as the Late Copper Age and transition to the Early Bronze Age.

In order to address this issue, this article sets out the main archaeological contexts recovered in the three main areas of the city; more specifically in the Raval neighbourhood, the area of Santa Caterina and the area of La Sagrera railway station.

The diversity of strategies for the management of the territory by these agricultural and stockbreeding groups is now clearly revealed with an extensive occupation in which the diversity in the activities of basic survival stands out, although with sporadic evidence in the barracks of Sant Pau del Camp, Riereta street, the new Conservatori del Liceu, Rambla del Raval or Sagrera railway station, which are consolidated as spaces of occupation with increasingly solid and extensive archaeological records.

Especially notable among the anthropic practices are the activities of some groups that are primarily producers and the existence of a varied funerary record with ditch burials in Santa Caterina or in the barracks of Sant Pau and with hypogeum structures in La Gardunya Square.

The stratigraphic approach is complemented with the most easily identifiable material evidence, such as ceramic productions. Pottery production documented in the transition from the 3rd to 2nd millennium cal BC in the Barcelona Plain can be identified with the main technological traditions related to the bell beaker, "north-eastern group", and other plain or corded decoration pottery generically attributed to the Early Bronze Age.

More specifically in the Illa d'en Robador, Riereta 37-37 bis and Sant Andreu railway station, a small set of materials related to the bell beaker groups was identified. These correspond to small fragments with mainly

incised decoration formed by lines of unequal layout and arranged both horizontally and vertically, with examples of occasional dotted lines.

Moreover, the records studied of the epi-bell beaker pottery have allowed a series of ceramic fragments with impressed or incised decoration to be recovered. This is framed within the epi-bell beaker types, for which the existence of a specific "north-eastern group" for the north-east of the Iberian Peninsula has been accepted, with a decoration that stands out for the presence of a double incised circular lines with impressed decoration in the form of unguled or spicatum. These can form garlands such as in the cases of the barracks of Sant Pau, Santa Caterina, Filmoteca, Gardunya, Riereta and Illa d'en Robador.

In short, we can argue that the main diagnostic elements for this period do not feature a clear chronological distribution and that we find material related to the bell beaker and epi-bell beaker in a very low proportion and often forming part of secondary deposits. This data is presented and complemented by diverse radiometric results, some already published but most new, which enables us to contextualise part of the archaeological deposits generated. This dynamic, that we consider resilient because of its variability and opportunistic nature, will enable us to understand open air settlements that show sedimentation and amortisation dynamics very unequal between each other.

Finally, it is important to point out that this data also consolidates the Barcelona Plain as a privileged area for the study of the prehistoric communities found between 2100 and 1700 cal BC on the coastal areas of the western Mediterranean.

This article seeks to explore the study of rural settlements during the Iberian period in the Barcelona Plain, taking as a starting point the data extracted from the sites of La Sagrera high speed train station and La Santa Creu i Sant Pau Hospital.

Rural settlements are understood as those located along the major routes, in the plain and fertile areas, consisting of farming areas and that, in one way or another, depend on other higher level centres or structuring settlements of the territory and are defined archeologically by a series of recurrent characteristics: they are located in flat areas, frequently at the foot of mountains and by arable zones, often very close to each other and small, at least in terms of the housing area, and lack an urban structure and fortifications.

On the site of La Sagrera high speed train station, sixteen silos, two wells, a possible hut foundation and two large fragments of undetermined purpose located between the 4th century BC and around 200 BC were excavated. In general terms, it is worth noting the great storage capacity of the silos and the representation of imported ceramics, which reaches proportions of around 10%. Following the remodelling works of La Santa Creu i Sant Pau Hospital, eight silos and a well dated between the late 3rd century BC and 1st century BC were excavated. On this site it is also worth noting the great storage capacity of the silos and the representation of the imported ceramics, which reaches proportions of around 10% and 20% in the final phase of the site.

Several attempts have been made to define and classify the different categories of rural settlements, following specific criteria, which are the sizes and architectural importance of the settlement, significant structures (silos, furnaces, layout of the domestic arrangements...) and characteristics of the material culture (proportions by types and functions of the different kinds of objects, presence or absence of prestigious goods, etc.). Bearing in mind these characteristics, the rural settlements can be divided into at least three basic categories. In the first place, the hamlets or grouped farming units, formed by a not very extensive housing

Julia Beltrán de Heredia Bercero

area associated with an area of structures for storage of agricultural surpluses, such as the sites of Can Xercavins (Cerdanyola del Vallès), Les Guàrdies and Mas d'en Gual (Vendrell), and also the settlements of Mas Gusó (Bellcaire d'Empordà) and Saus (Camallera). Secondly, the rural stately homes, identified by a unique isolated residential unit, notable for its size and structural complexity, with surface areas of between 100 and 200 m<sup>2</sup>, formed by a high number of rooms arranged around open areas or courtyards, represented by the site of Fondo del Roig (Cunit) or Can Calvet in Santa Coloma de Gramenet. Finally, the settlements defined as farmhouses or isolated farming units, consisting of a single family unit that resides in isolation in dwellings of a simple modality and with a relatively low capacity for generating and storing surpluses, such as the site of the UAB Faculty of Medicine in Cerdanyola del Vallès.

When relating the two settlements studied to one of the existing categories, there are two pieces of data that can be relevant. The first, the large size of the silos, and the second, the high rate of imported ceramics, at around 10%. These two facts would suggest that both settlements could have become rural establishments in the style of the hamlets or grouped farming units like those of Les Guàrdies, Mas d'en Gual (Vendrell) or Can Xercavins (Cerdanyola del Vallès).

We also want to point out the high density of this type of settlements documented in the Barcelona Plain. The presence of all these sites leads us to conclude that, at least since the Full Iberian period, in this territory there was very intensive agricultural exploitation.

The produce of this dense rural occupation of the plain must have been managed and partly accumulated in fortified urban settlements on high ground, which in the area under study would correspond to the settlements of Montjuïc and La Rovira hill. But it is important to note that a major part of production must have remained in the hands of rural communities, which must have accumulated and managed a significant part of what they produced.

This dynamic of intensive exploitation of the agricultural potential of the Barcelona Plain seems to have begun in the 4th century BC, as shown by the site of La Sagrera high speed train station and must have increased notably in the period around 200 BC, clearly indicated by the large silos documented in the settlement of La Santa Creu i Sant Pau Hospital, continuing without significant changes in the Late Iberian period. In contrast to what happens in urban settlements, which suffer from systematic abandonment or radical transformations, from 200 BC, the rural settlements seem to be characterised by clear continuity, and even maintain a tendency to intensify, but without significant changes in terms of structures, typology of settlements, dimensions, etc. In conclusion, this dynamic can allow us to hypothesise that the rural settlements of the republican Roman period do not seem to be a new phenomenon of Italic influence, but rather the result of using and maintaining pre-existing dynamics and structures of a clear Iberian influence.

The Roman city of *Barcino* rises up on two small hills of 16.9 and 14 m in height that had an important role in the symbolic and representational aspect of the city. The urban layout is based on the orthogonality of an *ex novo* foundation model, as a continuation of the division of the territory through centuriation, although this concept has, as in other Roman cities, some irregularities. The forum is not located in a central position but slightly towards the northwest, to exploit the height of one of the two hills. It corresponds to an elongated porticoed square in northeast/southwest direction, organised in two terraces of the same size, with the temple, known as the temple of Augustus, in a central position. The forum is organised into two terraces. A difference of nearly 6 m separates the upper from the lower terrace. The location of the curia in the lower terrace and that of the structures of the portico in the upper terrace gives us an idea of the dimensions of the forum area.

The curia has been established based on structures that define an elongated building. These walls are 1.50 m wide, dismantled in some points. Inside this room and on the northwest side, other structures define a smaller and also elongated room made from large blocks of stone. Several freestones remain *in situ* that were covered with marble slabs. In the case of Barcelona, it would have been a building formed by a courtyard/atrium and an aula, one of the best known and documented examples of an architectural curia. We can see this arrangement in many other imperial buildings.

In terms of the curia, the discovery during the excavations of two elements that must have been deposited inside is of great interest: a statue with toga and an altar stone. The former must have formed part of the sculptural decoration of this building. It is a child wearing toga with *bulla* with, in the lower part, the element of subjection and that could have been put in a niche. The second piece found corresponds to an altar stone without inscriptions made with stone from Montjuïc, a frequent element in the aulae of the curiae, as we can see in the *Curia Iulia*, which has the altar to Victoria Augusta, in that of

Palmyra, where at the axis and at the back of the aula a podium is preceded by an altar stone, or also in the curia of *Ituci*, with an altar stone in front the apse of the aula.

To the northwest of the forum and in an adjacent *insula*, we found the one known as Sant Iu *domus*, which was excavated in the 1960s. It has been suggested that it could have been a business corporation or *collegium* or a *domus* that could have evolved into a *schola*. The archaeological data conserved indicates that the layout of this building corresponds to a large scale central *perystilum*, with an arrangement of perimeter ponds of considerable size covered in *opus signinum* and surrounded by rooms. This architectural arrangement is also typical of the *domus*, and differentiating between the two is always complicated. The revision of the archaeological material found in the excavations of the Sant Iu *domus* uncovered some garden pieces, but could also correspond to both private and public spaces. Based on data available to us, the interpretation of the function of the so-called Sant Iu *domus*, in the sense of whether it was the home to an association, must remain open. We must also consider the hypothesis that it was the property of a key figure in the colony who could have had a role in the local government. The processes of Christianisation that took place in this area from the 4th century, and probably earlier, fit better with this second hypothesis.

Finally, the archaeological remains exhumed in the basilica of Saints Justus and Pastor and the revision of the data provided by the excavation of the adjacent plot reveal the presence of a public building in this place. The structures indicate the layout of a portico or a monumental façade with portico which must be related with an official building. A podium/platform arranged on a terrace that adapts to the orography of the terrain has also been found. All the archaeological data we have suggests that, on the small hill of Saints Justus and Pastor, there was a building arranged northeast to southwest; that is, with the same orientation as the temple of Augustus. It seems that the two elevations were used to emphasise the presence of two symbolic buildings, in one

case the temple probably dedicated to imperial worship and in the other, although we are not certain, probably another temple with the same orientation. We had already noted the existence of a reservoir/*castellum aquae* in the very centre of the church subsoil. On the surface, we could hypothesise the existence of a *nimfeum* or monumental fountain, as we can see in Mérida, and a building for worship, perhaps dedicated to the waters, as in Valencia. The presence of buildings related to fountains and water is frequent in Roman cities. In Barcelona, however, at the moment, we can go no further.

The systematic study of pipes in Barcelona using an archaeological method has a short but relatively productive life that started with the excavation of the old El Born Market and has been compiled by different articles that are cited in the bibliography. The archaeological task has been added to the work begun by historians such as Albert Garcia Espuche on the rooting of tobacco consumption in the modern city and on the complexity of the economy in this period, far from the most pessimistic visions.

The objective of this article is, on the one hand, to expand and explore the types already known, such as the local productions, but also to open the field with interesting new finds, especially in terms of dating. On the other hand, the characteristics of the context of the pieces make it inexcusable to ignore the social considerations that arise, especially concerning the adoption and consumption of the new products, such as tobacco among the working classes. The framework of reference and source of the materials are the twenty-five fishermen's shacks of the modern era, recently excavated.

The fishermen's shacks are small constructions with variable module that at the end of the period studied were around 12 palms wide by 24 long. All kinds of materials were used for their construction, especially waste, among which stone has a very discreet place, used for little more than the precarious foundations of the buildings. The purpose of these shacks was specifically utilitarian: for storing fishing tackles and nets and more usually trawl-lines and fish trap baskets. On some occasions, rudders, rigging and boat oars were also stored there. And finally, they served as a shelter when the weather was adverse, but above all while the Sea Gate was closed. From this we can deduce the great amount of time spent by the fishermen and fishmongers in these constructions.

The archaeological framework of the origin of the pipes, apart from being highly socially defined, offers some advantages such as the good stratigraphic quality with few later intrusions, and documentary and numismatic remains that support chronologies quite close to

the whole stratigraphic sequence proposed.

The pipes recovered can be divided into two large groups. The kaolin pipes of English and Dutch origin, among which some workshops and types not yet known in Barcelona are documented. The second large group corresponds to productions with non-kaolin clay, among which some samples from the eastern Mediterranean have been found alongside local productions. As well as the chronological considerations, these pipes allow us to refer to the adoption of the new commercial products derived from the European oceanic expansion, which greatly transformed consumer habits and the economies of the old continent. Based on the study of these pieces, it seems we can outline a spread of tobacco consumption prior to that suggested by other historical sources and, especially, more socially complex.

In several maritime frameworks in north-western Mediterranean and particularly in the Provence area, numerous imports of ceramic pieces from the Iberian Peninsula have been identified. In this respect, the Villefranche-sur-Mer bay (Alpes-Maritimes) is a major site because of the discovery of a Genoese ship that sank in 1516, the *Lomellina*. The operations undertaken on this exceptional shipwreck have enabled precious testimonies to daily life on the sea in the early 16th century to be rescued. Indeed, the remains dated thanks to the year of the shipwreck enable us to focus on the productions in use and their typological diversity. Today, the reinterpretation of this material helps to precisely determine the background of certain forms that were unknown. Moreover, also in the Villefranche-sur-Mer bay, several anchorage areas are characterised by an accumulation of ceramic pieces in which these productions themselves had a relatively important place between the 16th and 17th centuries. As material evidence of exchanges and uses onboard ships, the ceramic pieces rejected or lost provide us with a large variety of forms for the table, storage or tobacco consumption. These new contributions enrich our knowledge of Catalan forms, for trade and utilitarian purposes, which circulated by sea in Provence and along the Languedoc shores. In the dissemination of these productions towards Provence, the port of Marseilles had a particular place and greatly contributed to the redistribution of the varnished earthenware then exported en masse by Catalonia.

This article describes the two ceramic kilns of Arab tradition documented in 2010 in Nou de Sant Francesc Street. These kilns correspond to an 18th century chronology and allow us to explore the reality of a “shop”. In the 18th century the guilds as institutions had lost the strength they had had in earlier periods. This meant a change of roles and, for example, non-guild people could participate in activities that corresponded to the different guilds. While in the first half of the century the “arts and crafts house” survived, with the passing years it evolved towards the “tenants’ house”, resulting in new social and family relations. Thanks to the documentation, we have been able to recover information about the owner, Josep Barba, and we know that the business and trade lasted three generations. The state of conservation of the kilns is relatively good compared with other finds made in recent years in the city. Moreover, it is the first time that structures of these characteristics have been found on this side of La Rambla. Despite their good state of conservation, the kilns do not allow us to compile an extensive ceramic catalogue of the production, but, as we said, we can explore the reality of a “shop” in the 18th century. This was a system in which the industrial guilds were responsible for producing and selling the product and in which the workshop was also a shop. If we take into account the difficulty for a master craftsman to establish his own shop, the remains we have documented in Nou de Sant Francesc Street are even more exceptional. The kilns must have formed part of comprehensive facilities to carry out the tasks of preparing and later firing the ceramic pieces. However, in this case, although the structure of the kilns has reached us in quite good condition, we have lost many other elements of the workshop. It must have been formed by a series of elements in the open air, such as the reservoirs and wells with basin, and a series of elements that must have been under cover: the place for the firewood, the corner for the clay, the drying place, the stores and in another room the potter’s wheel. In the case of the workshop in Nou de Sant Francesc Street, we must refer to paral-

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lels, such as L'Escayola in the city of Sabadell or the various workshops excavated in the French city of Montpellier, to get an idea of what the workshop was like, as many of its elements were lost or were not found during the archaeological intervention, which was not extensive.

The kiln located more to the north of the zone is the smallest. It is in an area, defined by three walls, measuring 5.70 x 4.50 m, with entrance on the northeast side of the room. The kiln is circular with front access, giving it an elliptical shape. The walls are made of brick and supported by an exterior stone wall.

The grill of the structure has been lost, and only the hearth remains. Originally, it had a total length of 3.40 m and a maximum width of 2 m and minimum of 1.10 m. The second larger kiln still had the complete grill but no ceramic material associated with its use was recovered, as we found it filled with contemporary rubble and pierced by a drainpipe from the 19th century property. In this case, none of the original circulation levels of the room remained.

We only found the enclosing walls of the northeast side of the room in which the kiln must have been located. The construction of the 19th century building definitively affected the rest of the site, which has disappeared. The kiln was circular with a front entrance giving it an elliptical shape, measured 5.50 m in length and was between 3.30 m and 2 m wide with a preserved power of 1.80 m. The walls were made of 0.30 x 0.15 m brick. The grill, made with square tiles of 0.20 x 0.20 m, measured 2.60 x 2.50 m, and had quadrangular holes (approximately 0.10 m) all over its surface.