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TERRA SIGILLATA FROM THE VILLA OF CASAL DO REBOLO (SINTRA, PORTUGAL)

The set of sigillata recovered in both habitational and funerary areas from the villa of Casal do Rebolo (Sintra, Portugal) is now presented. The analyses of material recovered so far reveal an occupation started during the Flavian Dynasty, attested by Southern Gaul sigillata, continually extant at least until the middle of 5th century, according to the presence of African and Phocaean red slip ware imports. Materials recovered in superficial levels in the necropolis reveal the use of that area for a longer period than that attested by the excavated contexts in the graves, but one that is coherent with the chronology proposed for the utilization of the villa.

The villa from Casal do Rebolo

The *villa* of Casal do Rebolo (Sintra, Portugal) is located at the westernmost point of the Iberian Peninsula, in the the *olisiponensis ager* of the roman province of *Lusitania*, and was excavated between 2001 and 2005 by Catarina Coelho and Alexandre Gonçalves.

The archaeological excavation was made with some limitations due to taking place in a context of preventive archaeology. Those limitations are reflected on our available knowledge of the site, since most of the excavated contexts corresponds to superficial levels highly affected by an intensive agricultural activity. Despite the destruction of some graves and levels of circulation of the necropolis, some of the graves correspond to the best preserved contexts of the site.

In the interventions carried out, both habitation and funerary areas have been identified, revealing an occupation of the site from between the second half of the 1st century AD until at least the middle of the 5th century. The different functional areas of the *villa* – residential and necropolis – are located on different hillsides and separated by a small stream.

Despite the aforementioned problems regarding the preservation of archaeological traces, it was possible to identify a room with a *suspensurae*, fragments of mosaics, and columns. In the necropolis 14 graves have been excavated, including only one cremation burial, all arranged around a tank, water-fed by a conduit, of which 20 meters are preserved. Some traces probably related to the cemetery's use have also been identified.

Terra sigillata from Casal do Rebolo

The set of terra sigillata from Casal do Rebolo is composed of 376 fragments and pieces, equivalent to 97 minimum number of vessels (MNV)¹, distributed by Southern Gaul

(TSSG), Hispanic (TSH), North Africa (ARS), and Phocaean productions (PRS). Materials are presented in this study according to their provenance inside the site, considering two main different areas: habitation zones and the necropolis, the latter including materials from inside the graves and a smaller number of fragments collected in the superficial levels, presumably due to the destruction of some graves and occupation levels of the cemetery during recent works.

The quantification of pieces is based on the analyses for defining the minimum number of vessels² (MNV).

The roman occupation of Casal do Rebolo probably started during the second half of the 1st century AD, as attested by earlier imports of terra sigillata identified so far, with the Southern Gaul products from La Graufesenque accounting for 6 MNV.

In the superficial levels of the necropolis two pieces have been identified, presumably from destroyed graves, although we cannot exclude the possibility these constitute evidence from circulation levels of the 1st and 2nd centuries. A base with the *Caluus*³potter mark printed on a Drag. 33 bowl suggests the occupation of the site during the Flavian Dynasty. Another fragment of a base (**fig. 3,1**) reveals a second piece in the funerary area, although in this case its form remains unidentified, due to the specimen's small size.

In the contexts associated with residential areas of the *villa* fragments in equivalence of four MNV on TSSG have been collected, including a base from a dish of unidentified form (**fig. 3,2**). Among those pieces it was possible to identify one Drag. 18 dish, with a wide chronology of between 10 and 120 AD⁴, and three fragments from a Drag. 27 bowl (**fig. 3,3**), originating in La Graufesenque and dated between

¹ From those, it was possible to identify the form of 88 pieces.

P. ARCELIN/M. TRUFFREAU-LIBRE, La quantification des céramiques. Conditions et protocole. Actes de la table ronde du Centre Archaéologique Européen du Mont Beuvray 1998. Collect. Bibracte 2 (Glux-en-Glenne 1998) 141–157

This mark has already been published in SILVA 2012, 529–530.

⁴ Polak 2000, 91.

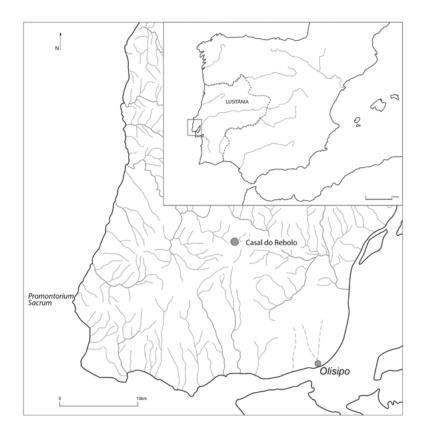


Fig. 1. Location of Casal do Rebolo in the western part of *olisiponensis ager*, in the province of *Lusitania*.

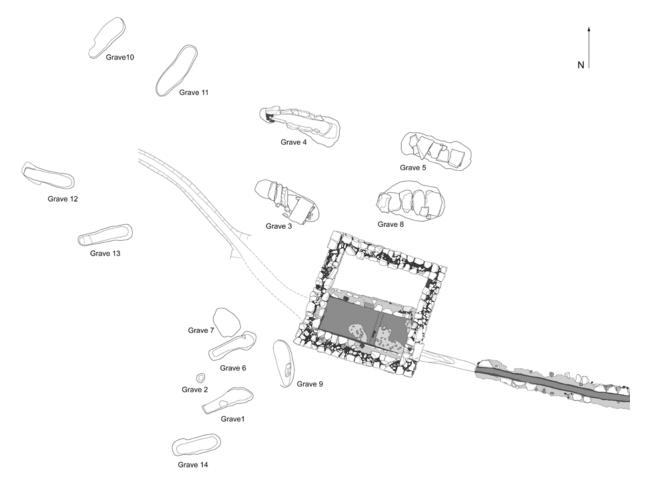


Fig. 2. Plan of the necropolis from Casal do Rebolo with the tank and the graves.

the first decades of the 1^{st} century AD and the second half of the 2^{nd} century⁵.

Hispanic sigillata are represented in Casal do Rebolo by 29 MNV, with two vessels from the kilns of La Rioja, in *Tarraconensis*, and one from Andújar (**fig. 3,14**), in *Baetica*, having been identified in the necropolis. Small fragments of rims from La Rioja may indicate the presence in the necropolis of Drag. 15/17, Drag. 18, and Drag. 27 forms; however, their state of conservation didn't allow a clear typological classification.

Despite the difficulty in making a precise distinction between some of the products from La Rioja and others from La Graufesenque⁶, 15 vessels in the habitation areas of the *villa* can be traced to La Rioja. The Dish Drag.15/17 (**fig. 3,8–9**) is also present with a characteristic base of a dish still preserving the letter "I" from the potter mark⁷. The marker traits of that particular piece point to a production still in the Flavian Dynasty. Forms Drag. 18 (**fig. 3,10**), Drag. 27 (**fig. 3,4.7**), dish Ludowici Tb (**fig. 3,5**), and a fragment of plain rim decorated with barbotine leaves from Drag. 36 (**fig. 3,6**) were also recognized. Two small fragments of decorated walls show the presence of forms Drag. 29 or 37, from *Tarraconensis*.

In habitation contexts, 11 pieces from the area of Andújar were identified, including Drag. 15/17 forms (**fig. 3,15**) and Drag.27 bowl (**fig. 3,12**) and possibly the bowl Drag. 37 decorated with the metopes and circles styles (**fig.3,11.13**).

The Hispanic terra sigillata in Casal do Rebolo is presented with its most common forms, featuring a wide chronology that in some cases encompasses the full period of activity in those centers⁸. The characteristics of the materials identified in this set allow the attribution of two groups to the kilns of La Rioja, which supply the Lusitanian markets mainly between the middle of the 1st and the beginning of the 2nd centuries⁹. Two other groups are related to the production centers of Andújar; from the Flavian Dynasty onwards, they will compete in those markets with *Tarraconensis* and TSSG products¹⁰, achieving higher relevance during the first half of the 2nd century¹¹.

More detailed information about Hispanic sigillata from Casal do Rebolo is available in a thorough study on those specific productions¹².

All TSH and TSSG materials were collected from superficial levels or in archaeological contexts deeply affected by recent human activities. The first imports of African Red Slip Ware type A in Casal do Rebolo date from the 2nd century. The Hayes 8A carinated bowl (**fig. 3,24**), inspired by Drag. 29 in TSSG and that can be dated to the end of the 1st century¹³, or the second half of the 2nd century¹⁴ is composed of two pieces. Some undecorated fragments of broad convex rim (corresponding to two MNV) are related to a Hayes 3C dish (**fig. 3,16–17**) – a copy of Drag. 36 in TSSG – dated in ARS from the early-mid 2nd century to the 3rd Century¹⁵. The bowl with curved body Hayes 9b = L2b (**fig. 3,23**) is represented by two pieces, dated from the second half of the 2nd Century¹⁶ to the beginning of the 3rd century¹⁷.

Bowl Hayes 14 is represented with 12 MNV, with two of them identified as A variants (Lamb. 3a) and another a B variant (Lamb. 3b1). The small size of majority of the fragments prevented classification in either variant; seven vessels in the habitation zones(**fig. 3,18–19**) and three in the necropolis were consequently classified as Hayes 14/17. For variant Hayes 14A, Bonifay propose a chronology from the end of the 2nd century to the beginning of the 3rd century, while for variant B the continuity of the form in the 3rd century is proposed, possibly restricted to the first five decades¹⁸.

Despite the small size of some pieces, it was still possible to identify a thick rim bevelled on top, characteristic to the form Hayes 15 (**fig. 3,25**), with the chronology revised by Bonifay for the second half of 3rd until 4th century¹⁹. Another small fragment of rim can be associated with form Hayes 16, dating from the second half of the 3rd century or maybe later²⁰.

One complete Hayes 17 = L43 bowl (**fig. 3,22**) was collected as part of a votive set in a cremation grave²¹, together with a Hayes 27 = L9a dish (**fig. 3,21**). A second Hayes 17 bowl was also detected in the habitation zones via a fragment of a base, dated to the second half of the 2nd century AD, although the form is present in contexts from the first half of the 3rd century in *Ostia*²². Dish Hayes 27 is also present with three MNV in that area, featuring a date range proposed by Hayes of 160–220 AD²³. Based on the stratigraphy from *Ostia*, the chronology of this form is prolonged until the end of the 2nd century and the first half of the following. This 3rd century chronology was confirmed by Bonifay in *Pupput*²⁴.

From the set of pottery found in both habitation and funerary areas of the *villa* described above, only one small rim of Hayes 9B can be associated with type A1, with all the remaining pieces belonging to type A2.

A type A/D Hayes 31 dish (**fig. 3,20**) has also been identified, integrated in a votive set of burial artifacts²⁵, and a second piece was collected in the habitation area. The form

⁵ Polak 2000, 118.

MAYET 1984, 66; VIEGAS 2003, 30; QUARESMA 2012, 121.

⁷ See note 2, SILVA, 2012, 530.

MAYET 1984; M. A. MEZQUÍRIZ, Terra sigillata Ispanica. In: G. Pugliese-Carratelli (ed.), Atlante delle Forme Ceramiche II. Ceramica Fine Romana nel Bacino Mediterraneo (Tardo Ellenismo e Primo Impero). EAA (Roma 1985) 99–174; M. ROUCA ROUMENS/M. I. FERNÁNDEZ GARCÍA (coords.), Terra sigillata hispánica. Centros de fabricación y producciones altoimperiales (Jaén, Málaga 1999).

⁹ Quaresma 2012, 234.

¹⁰ Silva 2012, 827.

¹¹ Viegas 2003; Quaresma 2012, 236.

A. GONÇALVES, Terra sigillata Hispânica do Casal do Rebolo (Sintra, Portugal). In: M. I. Fernandez-García/P. Ruiz/M. V. Peinado (eds.), Terra Sigillata hispânica. 50 años de investigaciones (Roma 2015).

¹³ Hayes 1972, 35; Atlante I, 26,

¹⁴ Bonifay 2004, 156.

¹⁵ Hayes 1972, 25; Atlante I, 24.

¹⁶ Hayes 1972, 37; Atlante I, 27

 $^{^{17}}$ Hayes 1972, 37; Hayes 1980, 515; Atlante I, 27; Quaresma 2012, 165).

¹⁸ Bonifay 2004, 159.

¹⁹ Bonifay 2004, 159

²⁰ Hayes 1972, 42.

GONÇALVES 2011, 78–82.

²² Hayes 1972, 43; Atlante I, 69.

²³ Hayes 1972, 49–51; Atlante I, 32.

²⁴ Bonifay, 2004, 159

GONÇALVES 2011, 102–104.

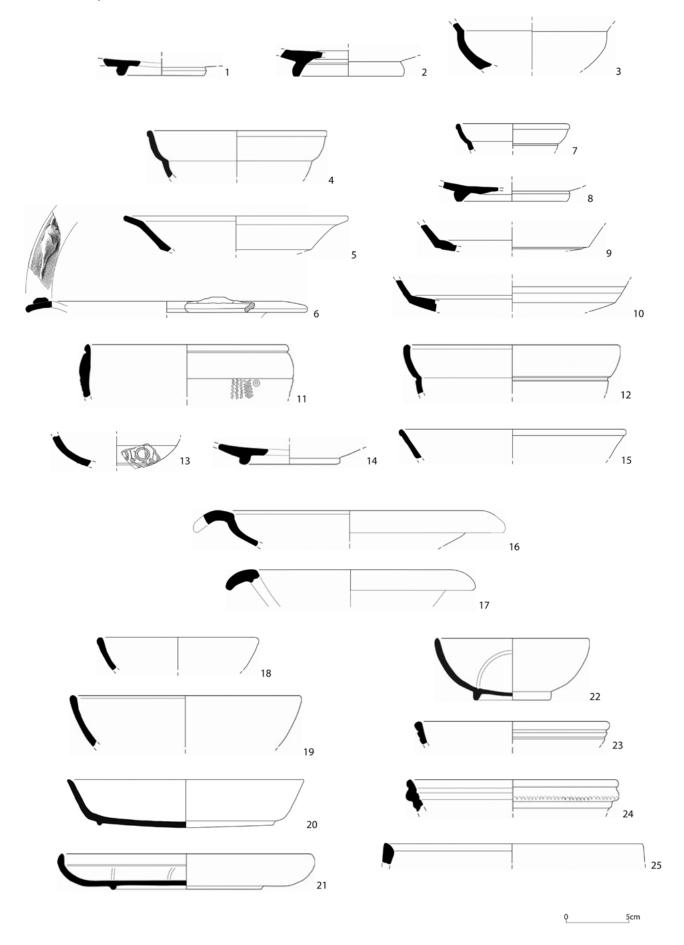


Fig. 3. 1–3 TSSG from La Graufesenque; 4–10 TSH from La Rioja; 11–15 TSH from Andújar; 16–25 ARS type A and A/D.

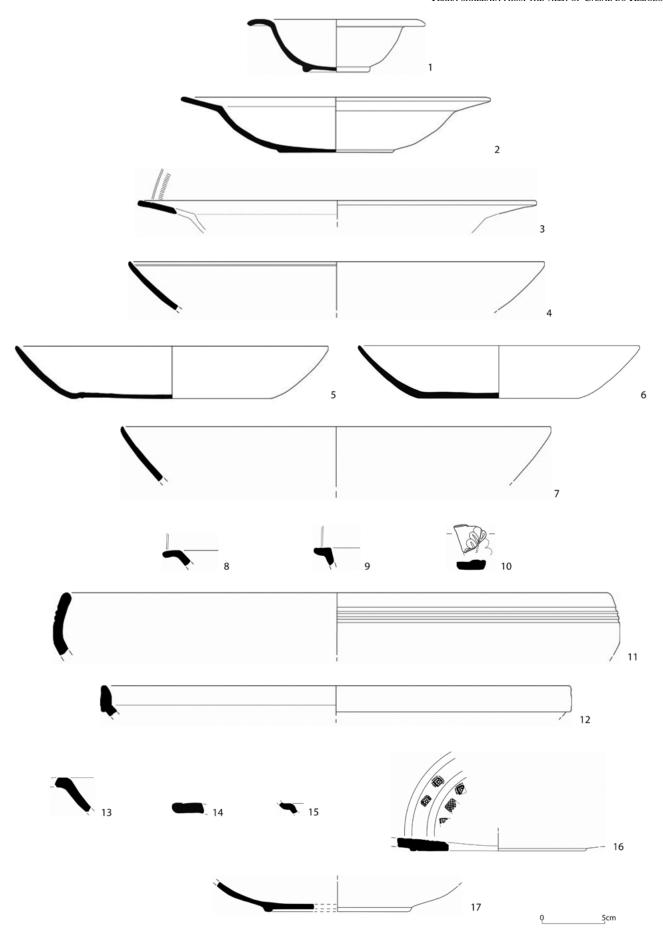


Fig. 4. 1–10 ARS type C; **11–16** ARS type D; **17** PRS.

Production	MNV	MNV %
TSSG	6	6%
TSH La Rioja	17	18%
TSH Andújar	12	12%
ARSW-A	25	26%
ARS A/D	2	2%
ARSW-C	23	24%
ARSW-D	11	11%
PRS	1	1%
Total	97	100%

Table 1. Ceramic distributions according to production types.

is dated to the first half of the 3rd century²⁶, although its production seems to last until the beginning of 4th century²⁷.

It was during the 3rd century AD that productions from central Byzacena first appeared in Casal do Rebolo. The first were imports of ARS type C²⁸ as attested by the Hayes 44 hemispherical shape bowl with broad flat rim, which is represented only in the funerary area by two type C1/C2 pieces. One complete bowl was part of the votive assemblage from one of the graves (**fig. 4,1**), together with a C3 type Hayes 50A/B dish (**fig. 4,6**) and some other pieces of local productions²⁹. A second Hayes 44 bowl is attested by a small fragment of broad flaring rim from superficial contexts in the cemetery area.

The Hayes 44 form spans between 220/240 AD at least to the end of the 3rd century, while Atlante I proposes a chronology mostly in the first half of the former century³⁰. The presence in the same grave of a type C3 Hayes 50 A/B dish – dated to the first half of the 4th century³¹ – places that funerary context at the beginning of the 4th century.

The small Hayes 52 bowl with broad flat rim, a successor of form Hayes 44 in the first half of the 3rd century³², is also present, with one type C and one type D1 pieces. None of the fragments preserve evidence of appliqué rim decorations, but their small size makes A or B variant classification difficult.

Dish Hayes 45 is present in the necropolis with one variant A piece (**fig. 4,2**), included as a votive offer in a grave³³. In the habitational zone of the *villa* this form is recognizable in four pieces: two B variants, one A variant piece (of type C3³⁴), decorated with rouletting bands on the rim (**fig. 4,3**), and a fragment of wall with an undefined variant. For both variants,

Hayes propose a chronology between 230/240–320 AD³⁵, with the C3 piece restricted to the first decades of the 4th century³⁶.

The Hayes 50 dish is very well represented in Casal do Rebolo, being one of the most popular forms of ARS C, a frequency with parallels in other sites³⁷. In the funerary area these dishes are exclusively found as part of votive offers, in two different graves: one of them, a variant A/B, is described above, and is part of a votive set together with bowl Hayes 44; an example of variant A (C1/C2 production) (**fig. 4,5**) was collected in a grave together with a local production of lamp form Deneauve X-A³⁸ and a coin produced in the last quarter of the 1st century BC – 23–27 BC³⁹.

In the habitation area of the *villa* five Hayes 50A dishes were identified, two of which are C1/C2 productions with an exceptionally fine and refined craftsmanship, thin walls, and pure and hard body-clay. Three other variant A pieces also presented a quality make, notwithstanding a more granular texture. Variant Hayes 50A/B is present with four C1/C2 and two C3 pieces (**fig. 4,4.7**).

Hayes dated variant A between 230/240 and 325 AD, with a transition phase – variant A/B – between 300 and 360⁴⁰, although the presence of variant A/B in type C1/C2⁴¹ must place them in the first three decades of the 4th century⁴².

In the habitation zones two pieces with a production of fine quality similar to those from late C types are included in variant Hayes 58A⁴³ (**fig. 4,8–9**). In the same area of the *villa* two pieces belonging to a B variant of that dish were collected, but their production was D1, while in the necropolis a single piece could be connected to variant B. Hayes proposes a chronology between 290/300–375 for both variants⁴⁴.

A fragment of wall with appliqué decoration of a leaf (**fig. 4,10**), belonging to a closed and unidentified form, attests the presence of one C3 type piece from "El-Aouja Ware"⁴⁵. No exact parallel was recognized for a closed form with this specific motif⁴⁶, although that appliqué decoration of a leaf is also used in bowl Hayes 52B⁴⁷, placing this fragment between the last quarter of the 3rd and middle of the 5th centuries⁴⁸.

Associated with the C production forms described above, a characteristic and classic set of type D1 forms from the second half of the 4th and the middle of the 5th centuries were also found in Casal do Rebolo.

²⁶ Hayes 1972, 53; Atlante I, 35–36.

²⁷ Quaresma 2012, 168–170.

Due to difficulties in separating C production types, as described in Atlante I, materials are grouped in major groups: C1/C2, for fine production, and C3 to coarse productions, considering the methodology recently applied by others researchers: Quaresma 2012, 172; A. P. Silva, a terra sigillata da oficina de salga 1 de Tróia: contextos de escavações antigas (1956–1961) e recentes (2008–2009) (Lisboa 2010) 52.

²⁹ Gonçalves 2011, 97–101.

³⁰ Hayes 1972, 62; Atlante I, 70.

³¹ Hayes 1972, 73.

³² Hayes 1972, 78

³³ Gonçalves 2011, 112–115.

In Atlante I, 63, form Hayes 45 is related to fabric type C1/C2, although is assumed that some exemplars can be decorated with featherrouletting, a characteristic of late C productions.

³⁵ Hayes 1972, 65.

³⁶ Quaresma 2012, 176.

³⁷ Viegas 2003, 173; Quaresma 2012, 172; Silva 2010, 55.

J. DENEAUVE, Lampes de Carthage. Paris: Éditions du Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique, 1969, 210; Bonifay 2004, 335–337.

³⁹ Gonçalves 2011, 95.

⁴⁰ Hayes 1972, 73.

The presence of the H50 A/B variant in type C1/C2 contradicts the description in Atlante I, where this variant is described as a production of type C3 (65). Nonetheless, this situation has some parallels, for example, in Chãos Salgados (Quaresma 2012, 175).

⁴² Quaresma 2012, 175.

⁴³ Hayes 1972, 93; Atlante I, 118.

⁴⁴ Hayes 1972, 96.

⁴⁵ SALOMONSON 1968, 109–113.

Similar decorations in Atlante I, tav. 73,11; 74,4

Atlante I, 168 motif 39 tav. 77,3; SALOMONSON 1968, 112; J. W. SALOMONSON, Spätromische rote Tonware mit Reliefverzierung aus Nordafrikanischen Werkstätten. Bull. Ant. Beschaving 44. 1969, 17 fig. 20; 106-n°. 4.

M. MACKENSEN, Production of 3rd century sigillata A/C (C1-2) or "El Aouja "ware" and its transition to sigillata C3 with appliqué-decoration in central Tunisia. Acta RCRF 38, 2003, 279–286; 285.

The large Hayes 59 dish – produced in the tradition of form 58, which, in B variant – is also a part of this set, as described above – is presented with three pieces, although the size of these fragments didn't allow their classification into A or B variants (**fig. 4,13–14**)⁴⁹. This form can be dated from the beginning of the 4th century until the beginning of the following century⁵⁰.

One large variant A Hayes 61 dish was collected in the habitation zones, dated between 325–400/420⁵¹, together with a second one, identified as 61A/B4 variant (**fig. 4,12**) from the first third of the 5th century⁵². One small fragment of the characteristic two-part flaring rim suggests the presence of a Delgado 1968, Est. III, n°. 1 bowl⁵³ (**fig. 4,15**), considered a small version of Hayes 67, which is also documented by a base with the characteristic groove for producing a false foot. The small variant of this bowl is frequently dated according to its larger equivalent Hayes 67, between 360 and 470 AD⁵⁴. A single shard of the characteristically broad flange of Hayes 91 attests the presence of this bowl in Casal do Rebolo during the first half and middle of the 5th century⁵⁵.

The base of a large dish is decorated with stampings of two alternating motifs (**fig. 4,16**): the first correspond to a common square with a diagonal cross-bar in the A (ii) – (iii) style used on forms H61, 64 and 67⁵⁶, and the second is an eight-petalled rosette with a circle at the center inside a square surrounded by small squares. Although we didn't find an exact parallel for this specific second pattern, the motif 49 of style A (ii) published by Hayes – that is used alternating with motif 69 – is very similar to the one from Casal do Rebolo⁵⁷.

The characteristics of the motifs and their position on the bottom of the dish – coarse and with little detail, located on a band flanked by double grooves – fits in the description that Hayes presents for the decoration of style A (iii), with a chronology between 410 and 470 AD^{58} .

A fragment of a rim attests the presence of a Hayes 63 dish (**fig. 4,11**) in the area of the necropolis. Stamped decoration, very common on these vessels, suggests a date around the last quarter of the 4th century for its production⁵⁹, although a later chronology – 360–440 AD– is proposed in Atlante *I*⁶⁰.

In the collection of *sigillata* from Casal do Rebolo a single base of a dish in the most common production of Phocaean Red Slip was found, defined by John Hayes has having "a large number of small lime particles⁶¹" (**fig. 4,17**). The characteristics of the make and the shape are coherent

Production	Forms	MNV Habit.	MNV Nec.
TSSG	D18	1	
	D27	3	
	D33		1
TSH	D15/17	7	
	D18	2	
	D27	9	
	D36	1	
	D37	1	
	Lud.Tb	1	
ARS A	НЗС	2	
	H8	2	
	Н9В	1	1
	H14	9	2
	H15	1	
	H16	1	
	H17	1	1
	H27	3	1
ARS A/D	H31	1	1
ARS C	H44		2
	H45	4	1
	H50	9	2
	H52	1	
	H58	3	1
ARS D	H52	1	
	H59	1	2
	H61	2	
	H63		1
	Delg.1968	1	
	H67	1	
	H91	1	
	A (iii)	1	
PRS	Н3	1	
Total		72	16
Identified pieces	88		

Table 2. Distribution of recognizable forms according to different production types and areas of the site.

with those from the most common form in this production – Hayes 3 – with a wide chronology ranging from the 5th until the middle of the 6th century⁶².

Conclusion

Analysis of sigillata from Casal do Rebolo reveals that the roman occupation on the site may have started around the second half of the 1st century AD, since a potter mark con-

⁴⁹ Hayes 1972, 100.

⁵⁰ Hayes 1972, 100; Atlante, I, 83.

⁵¹ HAVES 1972, 100,

⁵² Bonifay, 2004, 171.

⁵³ A. DELGADO, Terra sigillata clara de museus do Alentejo e Algarve. Conimbriga 7, 1968, 41–66, Est. III, n°. 1.

⁵⁴ Hayes 1972, 116; Atlante I, 71.

⁵⁵ Atlante I, 144.

⁵⁶ Atlante I, 241–242 fig. 42,69b–d.

Atlante I, 238–239 fig. 41,49k. A similar motif occurs in E style with a chronology set in the second quarter of 6th century (Atlante I, 240 fig. 41,58V), but without the reference of being used together with motif 69, as in this case.

⁵⁸ Atlante I, 219.

⁵⁹ Atlante I, 109.

⁶⁰ Atlante I 1981, 86.

⁶¹ Hayes 1972, 323.

⁶² Hayes 1972, 337; Hayes 1980, 526.

firms the importation of TSSG during the Flavian Dynasty. During this period, those products, which are residual in the context of the site, corresponding to as few as 6 % of all the terra sigillata collected there, entered into competition with Hispanic potters in the peninsular markets.

Material from both major Hispanic centers are present in very similar quantities, with the most common forms being represented. The characteristics of the production from La Rioja found in this site⁶³ seem to match the supply to the Lusitanian markets mainly between the middle of the 1st until the beginning of the 2nd centuries, while Andújar products are more relevant from the Flavian Dynasty until the mid-2nd century⁶⁴.

The presence of sigillata in superficial levels in the necropolis area, namely TSSG and TSH, demonstrates its use as early as the 1st century AD, while the Hayes 63 dish prolongs the use of that space at least until the last quarter of the 4th century. That chronology for the utilization or frequentation of the necropolis is longer than the one considered for the graves – dated between the 3rd and the 4th centuries –, but is consistent with the dates established for the occupation of the *villa*. The shorter chronology of the graves probably means that some of them were destroyed before the beginning of the archaeological works.

African Red Slip ware first appears in the site during the 2nd century and represents the beginning of a new pattern of North African supply which remains consistent until the mid-5th century. The set of *sigillata* from Casal do Rebolo

In the set of later forms some pieces with chronologies that can reach the first half of the 5th century were identified – Hayes 61, Hayes 63, Delgado 1968, tav. III, n°1, Hayes 67, Hayes 91 and style A (ii)-(iii) stamp decoration –, with the notable absence of the characteristic forms of the second half of the 5th century. In this context, the PRS Hayes 3 dish, regardless of having a 6th-century chronology, should be contextualized in the first half of the 5th century.

The dereliction of the *villa* probably occurred around the middle of the 5th century, during a period when many similar rural settlements in the western part of the Roman Empire were abandoned or suffered substantial transformations⁶⁵.

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balhos Arqu. 26 (Lisboa 2003).

is generically within the recognized pattern of rural settlements on the Tagus river, particularly in the area of the *ager olisiponensis*.

⁶³ See note 5 above.

⁶⁴ Viegas 2003; Quaresma 2012, 234; Silva 2012, 827.

G. P. Broguiolo/A. Chavarría, El final de las Villas y las transformaciones del território rural en el Occidente (siglos V–VIII). Las villae tardoromanas en el occidente del Imperio: arquitectura y función. Actas del IV Colóquio Internacional de Arqueológia de Gijón (Gijón, 2008) 193–214.