Arqueologia da transição: entre o mundo romano e a Idade Média

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Abstract – Through the analysis of Las Pizarras archaeological area, a suburban settlement located near the city of Cauca (Coca, Segovia), we will present the phase of changes that undergoes this Late Roman monumental complex, from the 5th century. Together with these functional transformations in late antiquity, which take place in the residential sector, its pars rustica also undergoes a series of other changes. It becomes the seat of activities related to the habitat, the production and the funerary world; already away from the Roman farming. Due to a rigorous and systematic archaeological excavation, the relevant data recorded permit us to set the different occupancy phases attested in the area of “Las Pizarras”, for the period which comprises the Late Antiquity.

Keywords – villa, necropolis, habitat, transformations, production, Late Antiquity.

1. Las Pizarras

Located in the north-western area of the Segovia province, the Late Roman residential complex of Las Pizarras is placed within the territory of the villa of Coca; which belongs to the Spanish autonomous region of Castile and León. This ancient Vaccum oppidum is mentioned in classical sources where it appears in a few, although significant, occasions.

1 This paper belongs to the General Research Project IEU053A11-1.
2 Cauca appears mentioned in the works of Roman authors as Appian, Pliny the elder and Frontinus, related to the Roman conquest of Hispania, or Zosimus and Hydatius, when they refer the origin of Emperor Theodosius The Great.
Its toponym gives the name to an archaeological area placed at only 2 km from the urban centre, whose importance resides in the location of a Roman homestead of monumental character. The extent of this exploitation is becoming clearer year after year, in view of the fact that it has been the object of archaeological excavations and scientific studies since 2000. (fig. 1)

Due to the archaeological interventions, carried out during this period, under the research projects that have been taking place throughout time, the progress obtained have shown and provided interesting results3. Thanks to a rigorous process based on a precise contextualization of the archaeological remains, through an appropriate stratigraphic reading and its adequate recording and documentation; we have managed to record and classify the central sector of the pars urbana of an exemplar of singular monumental Hispanic architecture of the mid-4th century AD in the Iberian Peninsula. It comprises a Late Roman aulic complex with an aristocratic-style displayed both in its plans and constructions, as well as in the materials applied; a clear referent for rural Hispanic uillae, as a result of the

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