Economic History of the Ancient World illustrated by the example of Roman Amphorae II

Masaryk-Universität Brünn September 29, 2016

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Economic History of the Ancient World illustrated by the example of Roman Amphorae

1. A brief introduction to the economic history of the ancient world

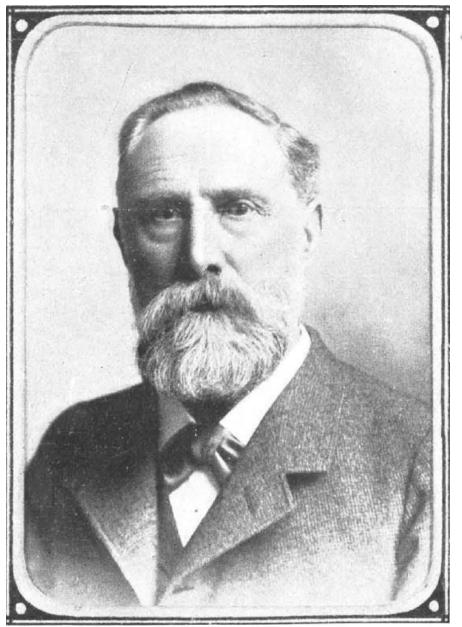
Development of research activities and ancient sources: contributions from the Ancient

History and from the Archaeology

Why amphorae as an example of an economic history of the ancient world? Other containers used for transport and shipping

- 2. What information do amphorae give?
 Residues of content, painted inscriptions, types, fabrics, geochemistry
- 3. Case study I: transport in the western Mediterranean by the example of Mainz and its surrounding areas
 - What happens to the empty amphorae? Reuse and waste disposal by the example of Dangstetten, the first Roman military camp north of the Alps
- 4. Case study II: transport in the Eastern Alps region by the example of the southern and inner alpine regions of the later province of Noricum
 - Considerations concerning ancient global economy and economic regions
- 5. Painted inscriptions from an excavation in Roman Cologne: the largest ensemble north of the Alps
 - Considerations concerning the function of the painted inscriptions on Roman amphorae.

Heinrich Dressel: initiator of the research on Roman amphorae

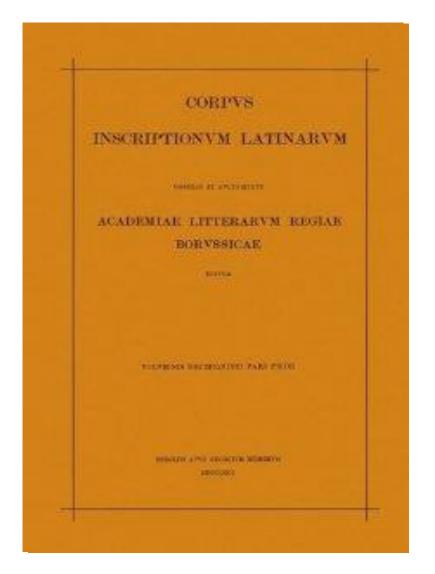




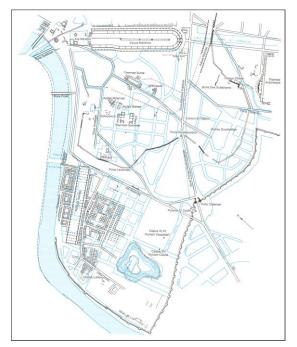
BERLIN-BRANDENBURGISCHE AKADEMIE DER WISSENSCHAFTEN



CORPUS INSCRIPTIONUM LATINARUM



Rome, Monte Testaccio

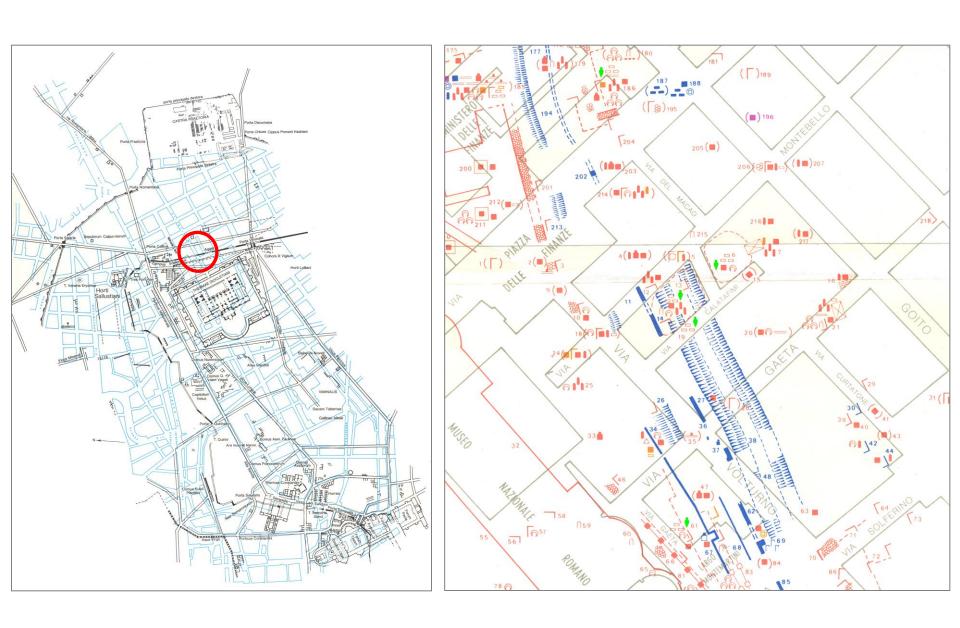








Rome, near Castra Praetoria

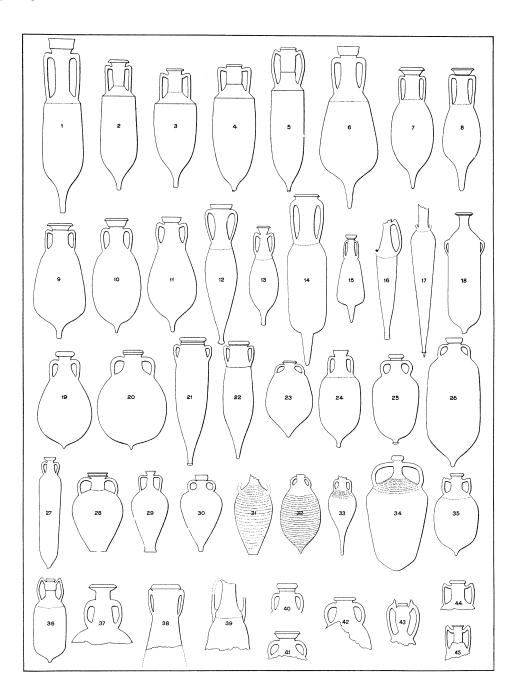


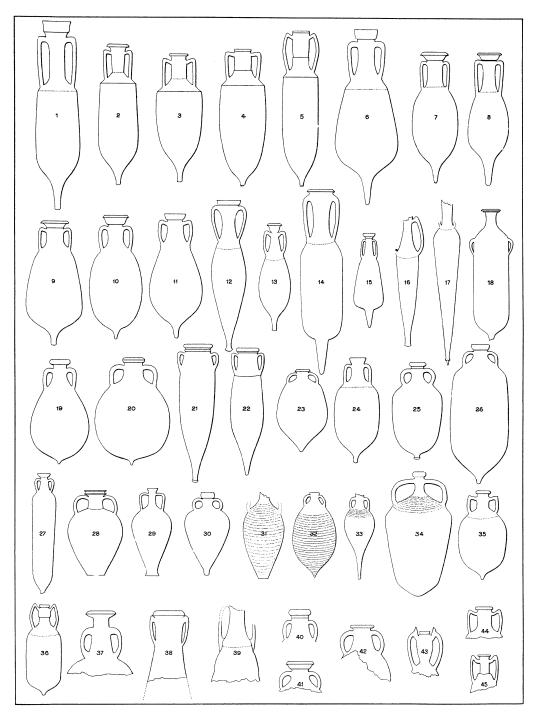
Primary Interest: epigraphy and forms











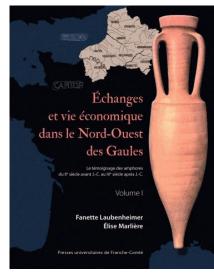
CIL XV

- 1–6 amphorae for wine, mainly from Italy
- 7–11 amphorae for fish sauces mainly from Spain
- 20/23 amphorae for olive oil from the Guadalquivir valley

New research based on shipwrecks and studies in the provinces













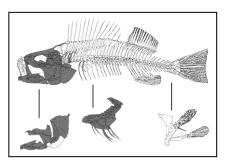
How do we know the contents of the amphorae? - Content residues



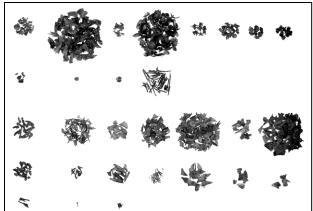


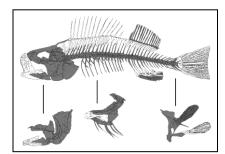


Saint-Romain-en-Gal

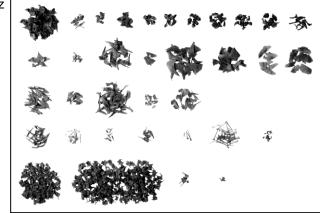




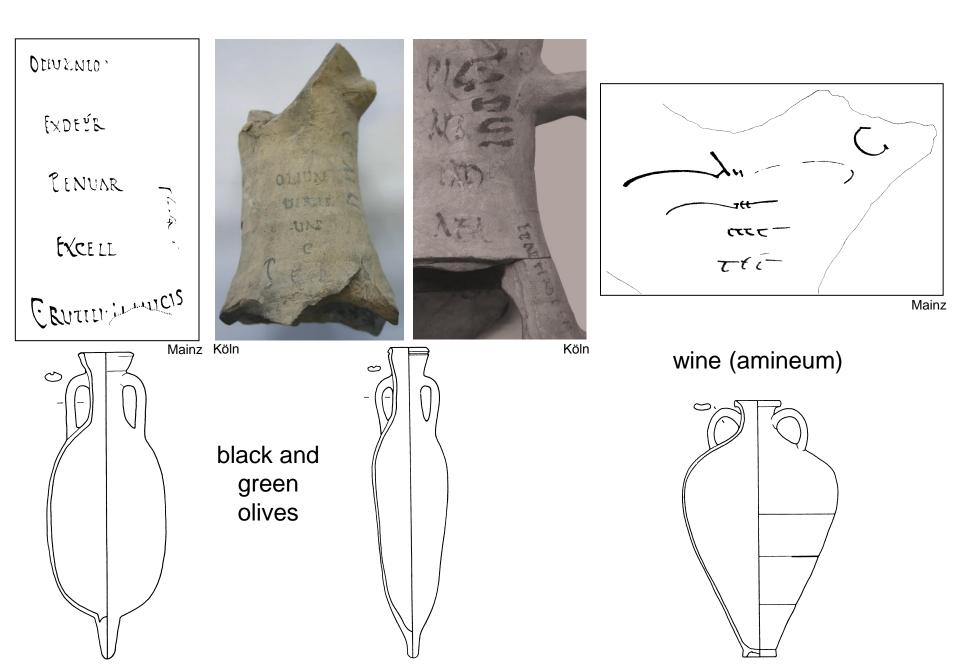




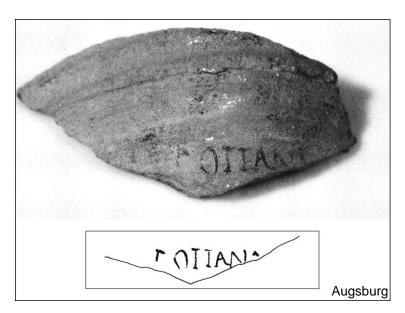
Mainz



How do we know the contents of the amphorae? - Painted inscriptions (1)

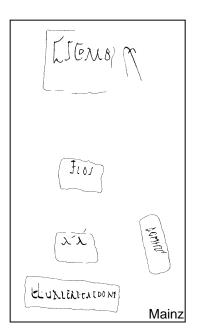


How do we know the contents of the amphorae? – Painted inscriptions (2)

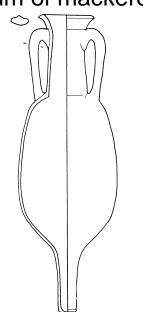


cottana: small figs from Syria



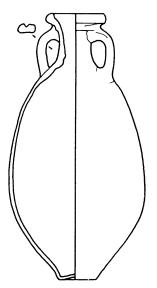


garum of mackerel





garum from Pompeji

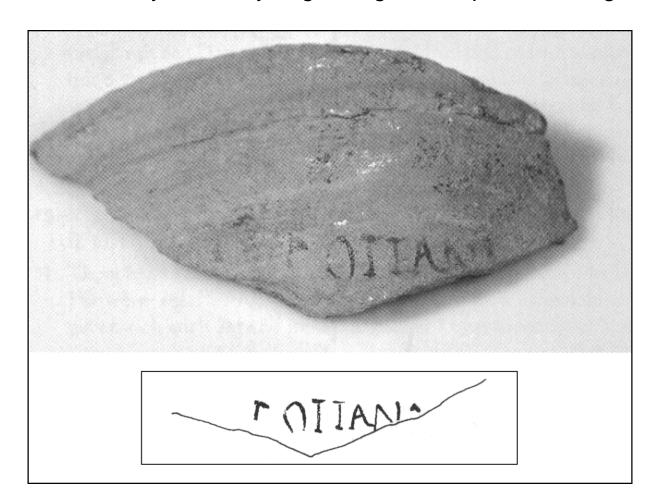


Mart. XIII 28: Vas Cottanorum

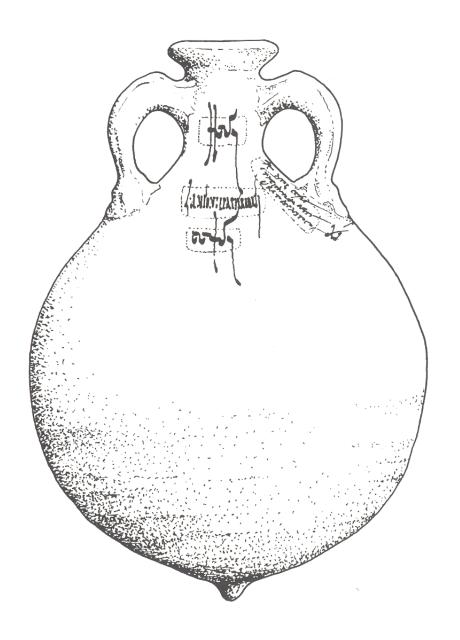
Haec tibi quae torta venerunt condita meta, si maiora forent cottana, ficus erat.

These Syrian plums, which come to you enclosed in a wattled conical jar, had they been any larger, might have passed for figs.





How do we know the contents of the amphorae? – Painted inscriptions (3)

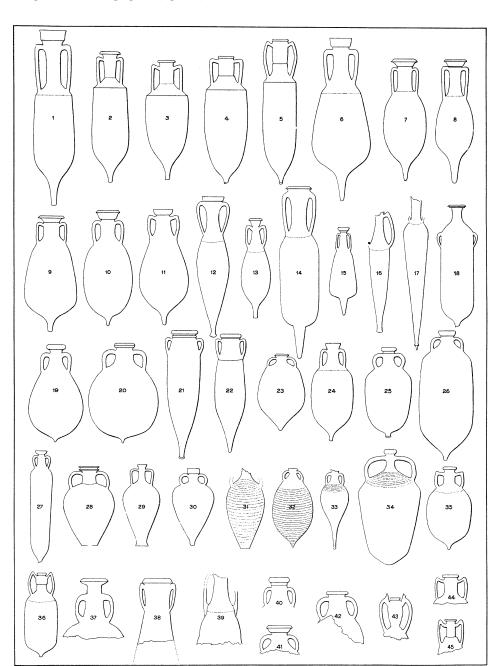


- net and gross
- name of the person responsible for the transport
- location of bottling / date



... at no place it is written what is inside

form = content

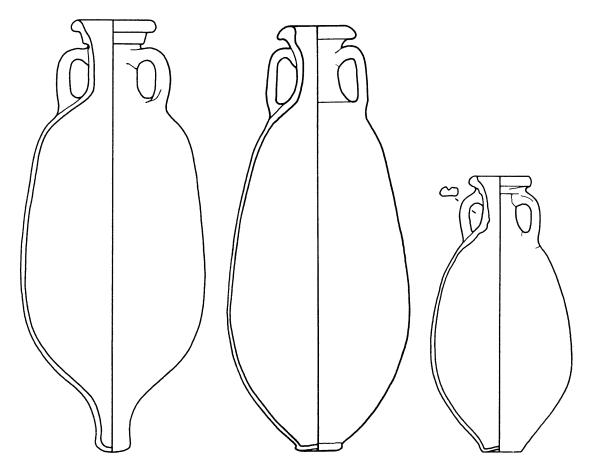






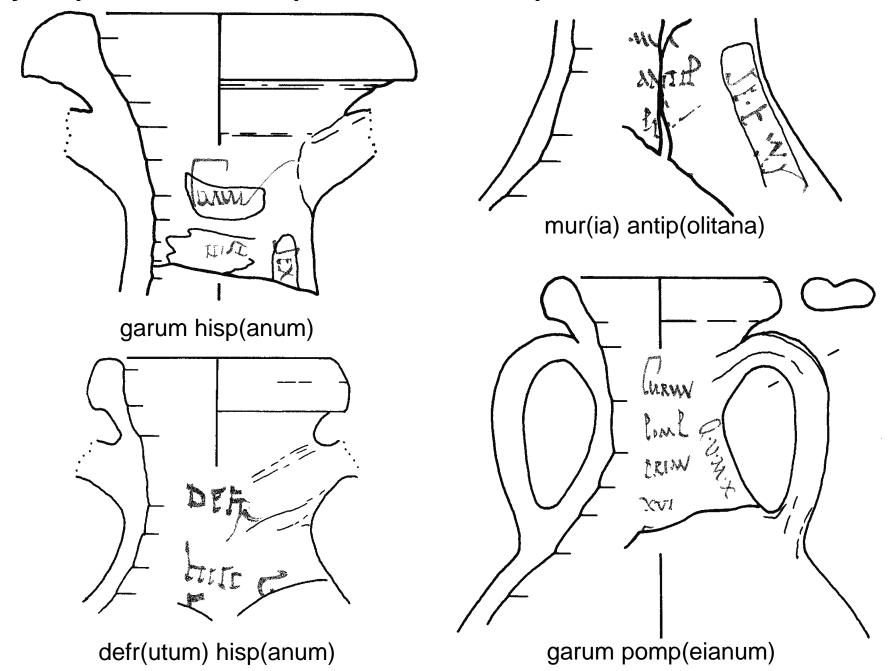


Lyon: production of amphorae for various products from different sites



main forms of amphorae produced in Lyon

Lyon: production of amphorae for various products from different sites

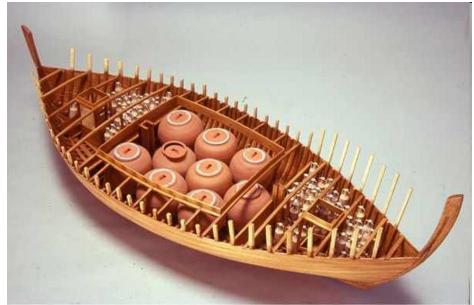


Lyon: production of amphorae for various products from different sites





Giraglia Giraglia





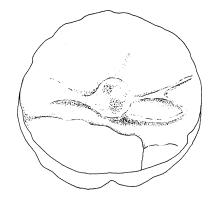
reconstruction Grand Ribaud D

Mainz

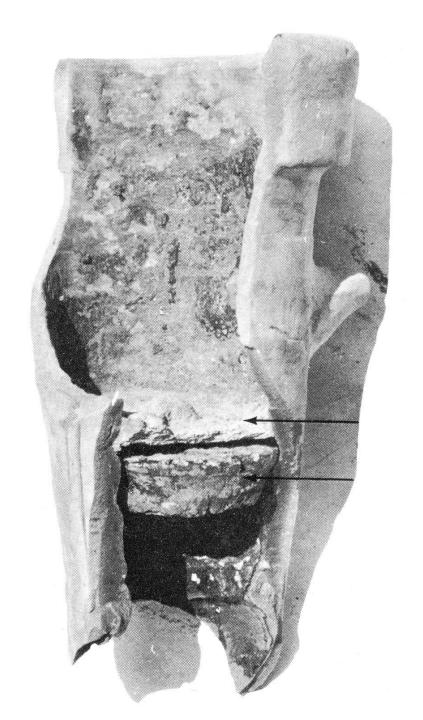
Amphora stoppers



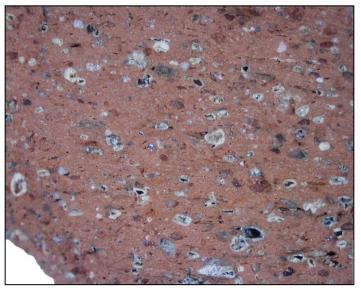








Looking at the fabrics



region of Vesuvius



Lyon



Tarraconensis



Adriatic region

Geochemical analyses



sandblasting



smashing



grinding



X-ray fluorescence



microprobe



mass spectrometry

Statistical differentiation of analysed amphorae distinction of production sites

