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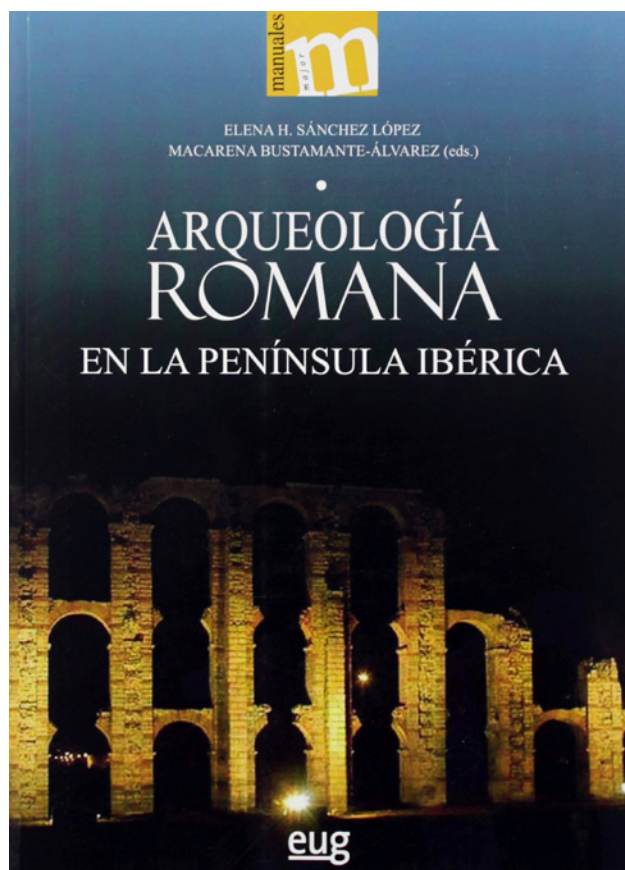


CENTRO DE ARQUEOLOGIA  
DA UNIVERSIDADE  
DE LISBOA

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# **RECENSÕES BIBLIOGRÁFICAS**



**SÁNCHEZ LÓPEZ, E.H. – BUSTAMANTE-ÁLVAREZ, M. (eds.), 2019**

***Arqueología Romana en la Península Ibérica***

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The study of Roman Archaeology in the Iberian Peninsula conforms an important subject of degrees such as History and Archaeology. However, there were no specific handbooks that could offer students a solid background on the Roman Iberia. This lack of resources was highlighted by the presence of manuals in other chronological periods. Although there are an important number of books for Classical Archaeology, none of them were specially focused on the Iberian Peninsula (Zarazalejos - Guiral - San Nicolás, 2015; Blázquez *et al.* 1988). In this sense, the work of Sánchez López and Bustamante-Álvarez successfully achieves to cover that absence. The publication derives from a teaching need and it is integrated in the handbook's section of the University of Granada's editorial.

The pertinence of this book goes beyond its use in Spanish Universities and extends to Portugal. In fact, this situation is widely portrayed on chapters regarding the *Lusitania* and with the addition of the participation of members from UNIARQ (Centro de Arqueologia da Universidade de Lisboa). Thanks to that, the book showcases the archaeological relationships that were established between Portugal and Spain in Roman times. Furthermore, this volume is also well fitted for a non-academic audience. Consequently, it fulfills to transfer high level research discussions to the great public. Indeed, this book was recognized with the national award to best educational handbook of a university edition 2020.

In respect of the structure of the content, the chapters are thematically ordered in eight content blocks, a methodological introduction, a historical contextualization of Late Antiquity, Roman and pre-Roman times and some notes regarding the construction of the discipline. Traditionally, manuals were organized based on chronology, but in this case, time is presented as an introductory element. The volume is a collecting piece of the main topics of research of Roman Iberia. At the same time, it is essential to highlight the variety of specialists that contributed on the formation of this project. This work could be described as a compilation of specialists, like a "choir" masterpiece. The fact that first level specialists are the ones to introduce their field of investigation elevates the impact of the publication. Despite this, we can still detect the omission of certain areas of studies as we will analyze in each part. Probably, this outcome

also responds to the limited space that entangles the elaboration of a unifying volume.

The first content block is dedicated to the Archaeology of Construction from a pure archaeological perspective. The chapters assess the diversity of construction techniques in *Hispania*, the different decorations and architectural orders in the Roman world, mosaics, and wall paintings in *Hispania*. It is applicable to underline the integration of subjects like mosaics and wall paintings in the Archaeology of Construction. Those themes are sometimes isolated even though they conformed a major part of Roman architecture.

The second content block revolves around urbanism with special attention to case studies in the Iberian Peninsula. The city was the nexus of Roman culture, its *modus vivendis*. Urbanism explores the idea of community, public life, the materialization of political views, the act of urbanization in itself (Orfila - Chávez-Álvarez - Sánchez 2017: 268). This theme is condensed in eight chapters: urban infrastructure in *Hispania*, spaces of public representation, of entertainment; public and private baths, merchant spaces, private spaces, craftsmanship spaces in the *urbs* and the management of residues in Iberia. Those subjects help to create a general outline of the complex dimension of Roman urbanism. However, it would have been interesting to incorporate a concrete chapter around the orientation of the cities. There are certain aspects that are incorporated later on when evaluating the organization of the rural world, but still, its incorporation could have broadened the idea of urbanization. The position of a city and its infrastructure was a well meditated decision. In some cases, the justification was merely practical, but ritual had a significant role too. The current fossilization of Roman cities is a reminiscence of a past instant and how they were constructed (Orfila - Chávez-Álvarez - Sánchez 2014: 114). Additionally, the orientation of Roman cities in Iberia has been prolifically investigated and it is definitely decisive to understand the Archaeology of Roman Iberia (Orfila - Chávez-Álvarez - Sánchez 2014; Orfila - Chávez-Álvarez - Sánchez 2017; Orfila *et al.* 2020).

The third part is devoted to the Archaeology of beliefs. Cult and religion were a key component of Roman society. In order to present a general outlook, they have examined the different types of cults (officials and privates), but also death in Roman times. Death was an important aspect in their daily lives, and

it expresses their perception of life and death. They were really aware of their mortality (*momento moris*), therefore funerary practices were a way to preserve their *perennitas* (perpetuity). This content block enables to approach their mentality which is constantly expressed in the archaeological record.

In fourth place, the protagonist is Military Archaeology. The militia was an essential facet of Roman times. As a result, it is crucial to analyze its impact in the Iberian Peninsula. Archaeologically we have an important array of vestiges, that is why this volume covers both architecture and material culture. The militia left its footprints with all kinds of material objects, in written sources and infrastructure (*castrum*, *fossae* and so on).

Previously, we have talked about the importance of urbanization. However, this cannot be fully understood without the study of the rural world. The fifth part explores the organization of the field (*centuriatio*, *actus* etc.) and the different variety of rural settlements (*villa*, *vicus*, *mansio*...). The conjunction of urbanization and the rural world allow us to understand the full picture of the use of the territory. It is vital to remember that there is no *urbs* without its *ager*. Although this volume has divided them into two sections: urbanization and rural world, we want to emphasize the need to understand them as one.

The sixth section addresses the Archaeology of Production. This field of research offers a huge variety of subdisciplines. The diversity is well attested with twenty chapters making this content block the most significant in terms of extension. In a first instance, there is an introductory discussion around the precedents and future of the Archaeology of Production. In fact, it is probably the field of research with more growth and rise in the last decades. Historically, when dealing with Archaeology of Production the immediate association was only pottery. However, there are multiple areas of studies integrated in this research path: textiles, the study of food residues, *figlinae*, stone cutting, mining and so much more. In this sense, this handbook achieves a magnificent representation of the extent of the Archaeology of Production in Roman Iberia. The only criticism would be that the chapters are just a brief examination of complex realities. For example, in the chapter dedicated to textile production and treatment, textile tools are rarely talked about and when presented almost limited to looms.

This situation responds to two variables: presenting a whole discipline in a chapter and the fact that the systematic study of textile tools (spindle-whorls, *pondus* or needles) is relatively new (Médard 2020: 17; Rossi *et al.* 2020: 311; Busana - Rossi, 2020: 295). To sum up, each chapter from the Archaeology of Production should be specially treated as a first glance, besides, the investigation is constantly evolving. As a result, we can already perceive new perspectives that are not integrated, though the general picture is effectively represented.

The last content block before the annex regards the study of sculptures and reliefs in their different context (funerary and private). The importance of its contribution resides in the balance between methodological notes and case studies. Thanks to that, it equips students with great resources to comprehend the influence of sculptures in the archaeology of Roman Iberia.

The volume ends with a useful annex of Classical sources regarding different aspects of the Roman World. This annex is such a positive incorporation. In Roman times archaeology goes beyond the material evidence because we have written sources. It is important to manage written sources with the same skill as the material vestiges. In that sense, this handbook succeeded on presenting a holistic view of the study of Roman Archaeology in the Iberian Peninsula.

Finally, to end this review, I would like to reflect on the perspective of the discipline shown in the book. There is a huge focal point in archaeology, and it integrates all the sources of information that we can encounter in Antiquity. It is clear the message of inter-disciplinarity, the integration of a multi-proxy methodology and the ample research opportunities that Roman Iberia enables. In fact, it represents the state and theoretical direction of the discipline. Obviously, there are subject that could have been integrated but as we have reiterated this is a handbook and the level of specialization responds to the audience (mainly students). To conclude, the organization in content blocks and the participation of a great number of specialists makes this work long lasting, impactful, and updated.

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## POLÍTICA EDITORIAL

A *Ophiussa* – Revista do Centro de Arqueologia da Universidade de Lisboa foi iniciada sob a direcção de Victor S. Gonçalves em 1996, tendo sido editado o volume 0. O volume 1 (2017) é uma edição impressa e digital da UNIARQ – Centro de Arqueologia da Universidade de Lisboa.

O principal objectivo desta revista é a publicação e divulgação de trabalhos com manifesto interesse, qualidade e rigor científico sobre temas de Pré-História e Arqueologia, sobretudo do território europeu e da bacia do Mediterrâneo.

A *Ophiussa* – Revista do Centro de Arqueologia da Universidade de Lisboa publicará um volume anual. A partir de 2018, os artigos submetidos serão sujeitos a um processo de avaliação por parte de revisores externos (peer review). O período de submissão de trabalhos decorrerá sempre no primeiro trimestre e a edição ocorrerá no último trimestre de cada ano.

A revista divide-se em duas secções: artigos científicos e resenhas bibliográficas. Excepcionalmente poderão ser aceites textos de carácter introdutório, no âmbito de homenagens ou divulgações específicas, que não serão submetidos à avaliação por pares. Isentas desta avaliação estão também as resenhas bibliográficas.

Todas as submissões serão avaliadas, em primeira instância, pela Coordenação Editorial, no que respeita ao seu conteúdo formal e à sua adequação face à política editorial e às normas de edição da revista. Os trabalhos que cumprirem estes requisitos serão posteriormente submetidos a um processo de avaliação por pares cega / *blind peer review* (mínimo de dois revisores). O Conselho Científico, constituído pela direcção da UNIARQ e por investigadores externos, acompanhará o processo de edição.

Esta etapa será concretizada por investigadores externos qualificados, sendo os respectivos pareceres entregues num período não superior a três meses. Os revisores procederão à avaliação de forma objectiva, tendo em vista a qualidade do conteúdo da revista; as suas críticas, sugestões e comentários serão, na medida do possível, construtivos, respeitando as capacidades intelectuais do(s) autor(es). Após a recepção dos pareceres, o(s) autor(es) tem um prazo máximo de um mês para proceder às alterações oportunas e reenviar o trabalho.

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*Ophiussa* – Revista do Centro de Arqueologia da Universidade de Lisboa started in 1996, with the edition of volume 0. From 2017, this journal is a printed and digital edition of UNIARQ – Centro de Arqueologia da Universidade de Lisboa.

The main objective of this journal is the publication and dissemination of papers of interest, quality and scientific rigor concerning Prehistory and Archeology, mostly from Europe and the Mediterranean basin.

*Ophiussa* – Revista do Centro de Arqueologia da Universidade de Lisboa will publish an annual volume. From 2018, submitted articles will be subject to a peer-review evaluation process. The submission period will always occur in the first quarter of each year and the edition will occur in the last quarter.

The journal is divided into two sections: scientific articles and bibliographic reviews. Exceptionally, texts of an introductory nature may be accepted, in the context of specific tributes or divulgations, which will not be submitted to peer-review evaluation. Exemptions from this evaluation are also the bibliographic reviews.

All submissions will be considered, in the first instance, by the Editorial Board, regarding its formal content and adequacy in face of the editorial policy and the journal's editing standards. Papers that meet these requirements will subsequently be submitted to a blind peerreview process (minimum of two reviewers). The Scientific Council, constituted by the directors of UNIARQ and external researchers, will follow the editing process.

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Acceptance or refusal of articles will have as sole factors of consideration their originality and scientific quality. The review process is confidential, with the anonymity of the evaluators and authors of the works being ensured, in the latter case up to the date of its publication.

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