

11. The Iberian inscriptions in Iruña-Veleia

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1. Curriculum vitae

1.1. Studies / Ikasketak / Estudios

Unibertsitate Konplutensean Biologia eta Medikuntzan lizentziatua. Puerta de Hierro Ospitalean Doktore Tesia egin eta, ondoren, 9 urte eman zituen Londresen immunogenetika ikasten.

1.2. Current job / Oraingo lanbidea / Profesión actual

Gaur egun, Madrilgo Unibertsitate Konplutenseko Zerbitzuburu eta Katedraduna da.

1.3. Experience / Eskarmentua / Experiencia

Hizkuntzalaritzan, iberiera eta euskarak Mediterraneoko zenbait hizkuntzarekiko harremanetan zentratu da, eta, gai honetan, zenbait liburu egin ditu.

320 artikulua idatzi ditu, nazioarteko aldizkarietan, immunologia, genetika eta hizkuntzalaritzari buruz.

1.4. Publications / Argitalpenak / Publicaciones

Azken urteotan herrien eta hizkuntzen jatorria aztertzen jardun du. 44 doktore tesi zuzendu eta 11 liburu argitaratu ditu, besteak beste eta Jorge Alonso Garciarekin batera:

- El origen de los vascos y otros pueblos mediterráneos.
- The Usko-Mediterranean languages. In: Prehistoric Iberia: genetics, anthropology and linguistics. A. Arnaiz-Villena (Ed.). Kluwer Academic-Plenum Publishers, New York. Free download: <http://chopo.pntic.mec.es/~biolmol/publicaciones/Usko.pdf>
- Diccionario Iberico-Euskera-Castellano.
- Diccionario Etrusco-Euskera-Castellano

2. Summary / Laburpena / Resumen

2.1. Summary: The Iberian inscriptions in Iruña-Veleia

760 officially recognized scripts on ceramics from Iruña-Veleia excavated by the archaeology firm Lurmen S.L. have been analyzed. A number of these ceramics contains scripts which may be assimilated to Iberian/Tartessian writings. This number may be underestimated since more studies need to be done in already available and new found ceramics. This is the second time that Iberian writing is found by us in an unexpected location together with the Iberian-Guanche inscriptions of Lanzarote and Fuerteventura (Canary Islands).

On the other hand, naviform scripting, usually associated to Iberian rock or stone engraving may have also been found in Veleia. Strict separation, other than in time and space stratification, between Iberian and (South) Tartessian culture and script is doubted.

The Iruña-Veleia affair is sufficiently known. The precipitation of judgment and the lack of different and public studies and opinions have obscured and entangled the relevance and significance of archaeological and epigraphic finding, particularly those related to ancient Basque language inscriptions. In addition to the many near impossible oddities that a hypothetical faker might have gone through, it becomes almost impossible if, in addition, he/she would have properly handled Iberian scripting.

We have analyzed n=760 ceramic pieces, which are put up on the Araba Diputacion General page under the heading of "AFADFA.IV_FOTOS_GENERAL_ PIEZAS_PEQUEÑAS" (www.alava.net/publicar/Fotos/AFADFA_IV_Fotos_General.zip) (Diputación General de Alava, 2011).

Many of the pieces may contain Iberian scripts/graffiti but they have been neglected; some of our finally taken scripts may also be explained by other old Mediterranean scripts, but we are confident that most of them are written in the old Iberian script and some of them can strictly be Iberian.

Many authors, Wilhelm Humboldt being the most known, have from Middle Ages believed that Basque language was a form of ancient Iberian, (Basque/ Ancient Iberian); this has nowadays been rediscovered with new methodologies



Fig 1. Note that this sign is not present in the Tartessian-Espanca signary, but it is often present in South West "Tartessian" inscriptions.

2.2. Laburpena: Iberiar idazkunak Iruña-Veleian

Iruña-Veleiako arkeologi indusketetatik ofizialki aintzat hartuak izan diren 760 idazkun aztertu dira, aipatu indusketok Lurmen, S.L. enpresak burutu zituen. Zenbait zeramikek iberiar-tartesiarrak idazkunetako zeinuak erakusten dituzte. Iberiar-tartesiarrak idazkun kopurua askoz handiagoa izan daiteke zeren eta dagoeneko aurkitua izan den eta etorkizunean aurkituko den zeramikan ikerketa gehiago egin behar baita. Bigarrenez gertatzen da guk espero ez genuen lekuan topatzea iberiarrez idatzitako inskripzioak: Lehenengo eta behin Lanzarote eta Fuerteventurako Kanariar uharteetako haitzuloetan aurkitutako iberiar-guantxe idazkera identifikatu genuen.

Halaber, Iruña-Veleian idazkun nabiformeak aurkitu dira eta berauek normalean iberiar idazkerari lotuta doaz. Guk uste dugu Iberieraren eta tartesiarraren arteko desberdintasuna artifiziosua dela eta behar bada denbora eta espazioaren arteko aldean duela zergatia.

Iruña-Veleiaren kasua ezaguna da. Arrapaladan ibiltzeak eta ikerketa publiko asko eta desberdinak ez egoteak aurkitutako testuen esanahiak argitzea oztopatu dute, batez ere euskarazko antzinako idazkunei dagokienez. Guk ikertutako 760 inskripzioak Arabako Foru Aldundian daude ikusgai “Afadfa_IV_FOTOS_GENERAL_PIEZAS_PEQUEÑAS” (www.alava.net/publicar/fotos/AFADFA_IV_fotos_General.zip) Diputación General de Alava, 2011).

Iberiar idazkera duten pieza asko ez dira kontuan izan ikerketarako. Guk azkenean hartu ez ditugun inskripzio batzuk mediterraneo beste alfabeto batzuen bidez esplika daitezke. Guk aukeratu ditugunak iberiar –euskaldunak izateko zalantza gutxiak izan dira.

Egile askok, euren artean Willheim von Humboltek, baieztatu dute erdi-oroaz geroztik euskara antzinako iberiarraren forma bat dela. Hau metodologia berriein gaur egun berraurkitu egin da.



Begiratu Iruña-Veleiako pieza honetan Tartesiko-Espanca signarioan agertzen ez den zeinu (gezi) bat agertzen dela, baina hego-iberiar inskripzio askotan badago.

2.3. Resumen: Las inscripciones ibéricas de Iruña-Veleia

Se han estudiado 760 inscripciones oficialmente reconocidas procedentes de la excavación arqueológica de Iruña-Veleia, realizada por la empresa Lurmen S.L. Varias cerámicas muestran inscripciones ibérico-tartésicas. El número de inscripciones ibero-tartésicas identificado puede ser mucho mayor porque se necesita que se hagan más estudios en la cerámica ya encontrada y en la que se encuentre en el futuro. Esta es la segunda vez que la escritura ibérica ha sido hallada por nosotros en un sitio inesperado: primeramente identificamos la escritura rupestre ibero-guanche en las islas Canarias de Lanzarote y Fuerteventura.

Asimismo, se han encontrado inscripciones nabiformes en Veleia, que generalmente están asociadas a la escritura ibérica. Nosotros encontramos que la distinción entre el ibérico y el tartésico es artificiosa y quizá solamente debida a diferencias en el espacio y en el tiempo.

El caso de Iruña-Veleia es conocido. La precipitación y la falta de estudios públicos y diferentes han dificultado las conclusiones del significado de los hallazgos, particularmente aquellos relacionados con las inscripciones antiguas en lengua vasca. Las 760 inscripciones estudiadas por nosotros, están expuestas en la Diputación General de Alava "AFADFA.IV_FOTOS_GENERAL_PIEZAS_PEQUEÑAS" (www.alava.net/publicar/Fotos/AFADFA_IV_Fotos_General.zip) (Diputación General de Alava, 2011).

Muchas de las piezas que contienen escritura ibérica no se las ha tenido en cuenta para estudios. Algunas de las inscripciones que nosotros no hemos tomado finalmente, pueden ser explicadas por otros alfabetos mediterráneos. Nosotros hemos elegido las que cabe poca duda de que sean ibérico-vascas.

Muchos autores, el más conocido de ellos Willheim von Humboldt, han afirmado desde tiempos medievales que la lengua vasca era una forma del ibérico antiguo. Esto se ha redescubierto hoy día con las nuevas metodologías.



Pág 94 – Pié de página de la foto "Nótese que en esta pieza de Iruña-Veleia aparece un signo (flecha) que no está presente en el signario Tartésico-Espanca (considerado un alfabeto Tartésico), pero está presente en muchas inscripciones sud-ibéricas."

Esta ponencia ha sido publicada, con ligeras modificaciones, también en "International Journal of Modern Anthropology" y es descargable sin coste en <http://www.ajol.info/index.php/ijma/article/view/76786>

3. Communication / Txostena / Ponencia

3.1. Summary

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*Fig 2. Laid stones at the entrance arch to the garden; some of them bear Iberian inscriptions. One of them is classified by most authors as Tartessian
≠ (E). (6)*

3.2. Introduction and methodology

The Iruña-Veleia affair is sufficiently known (1). The precipitation of judgment and the lack of different and public studies and opinions have obscured and entangled the relevance and significance of archaeological and epigraphic finding, particularly those related to ancient Basque language inscriptions. In addition to the many near impossible oddities that a hypothetical faker might have gone through, it becomes almost impossible if, in addition, he/she would have properly handled Iberian scripting.

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confident that most of them are written in the old Iberian script and some of them can strictly be Iberian (3).

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At the moment, we stick to Manuel Gómez Moreno and Antonio Tovar Iberian scripts transliteration (10,11,12,13) and decline to follow the strange derivation taken by Rodríguez Ramos and Correa (9,14) in redefining Iberian transliterations and even trying to define a new language, “Tartessian”, which cannot be separated from Iberian at present as a different language. Their lack of objectivity is reflected, for example, in (15,16):



(which is not contained in the Espanca signary but appears often in “Tartessian” inscriptions) is converted quite subjectively in sound “R”. It does not fit with previous archeo-epigraphic findings (16). This letter has been found in Iruña-Veleia ceramics 11260, as shown above. (Fig. 1).

3.3. Discussion

Iberian scripts findings cover most of Iberian Península geography. It is clear that from an archeological point of view it is not possible to distinguish in Iberia and southern France different signs by a distinct geography. Most Iberian signs do not follow geographical compartmentalization. Perhaps one or some of them are most often found in one particular archeological site or region; however, once future script sites and findings are expected to appear, it is not objective to defining one particular Iberian-Tartessian script by classifying it by geography.



This time stratification implies the use of different writing supports (metal, stone, ceramics, rock wall) that cannot be taken has a particular and fundamental distinction, i.e.: assuming existence of different languages because of they are on different supports. On the other hand, the so called “Tartessian” language needs to be revised in timing and in space (15) since this kind of scripts are also found in North Caceres (Monfragüe), a quite high and central place in Iberian Peninsula for being considered “Tartessian-South West” script-language; “Tartessian” scripts are also found in the Spanish South-East (18).

Even, a “Tartessian” – specific sign is found in northernmost part of Spain (Asturias) (Fig. 2; Refs 5,6). Also, different time stratum are supposed to exist and a kind of “dialectal” undefined way of writing is also assumed in different archeological sites. Iberian-Tartessian scripts can be

found in Galicia (reported by Gabriel Puig Larraz in BRAH, pp 414-426. 1897), Asturias (Fig.2; Ref 6), Portugal and many parts of Iberian Península from North to South and East to West. Tartessian jewelry is widespread throughout Iberian peninsula, like Cáceres, Alicante-Villena and probably North West Asturias (6,7).

(see: www.alava.net/publicar/Fotos/AFADFA_IV_Fotos_General.zip)



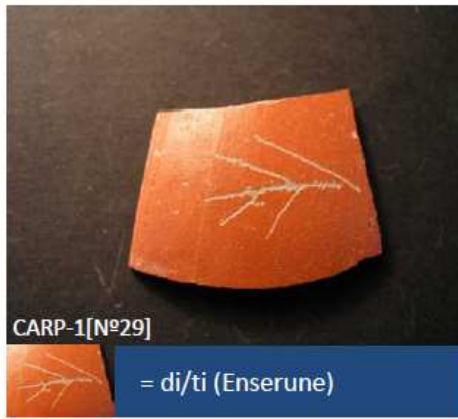
The problem of different phonologies for the same scripts in different sites is not yet resolved (16,18). Methodology for phoneme assignation is not standardized and each scholar has his own interpretation (16). This reference is only given for a particular grapheme (), however, Untermann has more author discrepancies in Iberian signs phonology (19).

We are not going to further discuss about Iruña-Veleia Basque graffiti, which are valid for us (20), but only to report that also Iberian scripts are found in Veleia ceramics. This makes very difficult to hold the view that studies in Iruña-Veleia epigraphy should stop, because there is no objective reason to end now their Basque or Iberian scripts/graffiti studies, for example.

Redundancy rule of vocals after syllables is not a characteristic of a hypothetical "Tartessian" language, because it does not occur universally (15).

The artificial "Tartessian" language separation from Iberian language is at the moment another hypothesis, which is weakly based on objective terms. In addition, some signs not present in the Espanca signary are invented "ad hoc", when it is considered necessary by some authors (14,15), and some of the Espanca "Tartessian" syllables-letters are never used in the South West script.

On these confusing bases, we think it is better at the moment to stick in our hypotheses for Basque-Iberian translations/transliterations or otherwise, to the initial Gómez Moreno and Tovar transliteration (10,11,12,13). We also oppose the concept that Iberian and Tartessian are altogether different languages until it may be objectively demonstrated, if ever.



On the other hand, Veleia scripts of “Y” type may be assimilated to Lycian, Greek or other origins and “X” to Etruscan or Latin origin (Appendix 1, 3). However, the context and/or attributed time (III century AD) goes in favour that these scripts belong to Iberian signary. Other scripts are Iberian (CARP-1[Nº2], [Nº7], [Nº29], [Nº38], [Nº41], etc. This is the second time that we have found Iberian scripts in a unexpected location: Guanche-Iberian rock graffiti are also found in Fuerteventura and Lanzarote (Canary Islands) (21

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Iberian-Guanche_inscriptions.pdf).

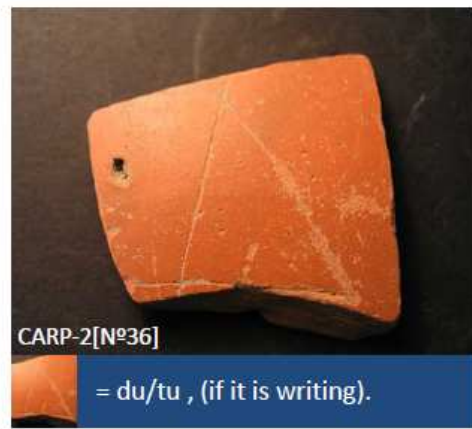
Finally the last piece, CARP-3[Nº8], may be an example of the so called “naviform” graffiti, which are found on rocks or stone-like pieces in Cerdaña and Andorra (Pyrenees) and Corsica (22). These “naviform” graffiti are usually shown associated to Iberian signs (22).

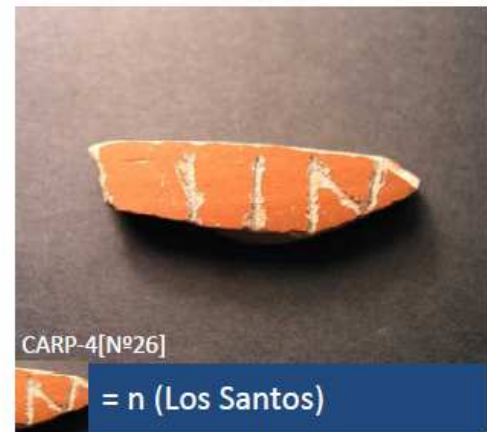
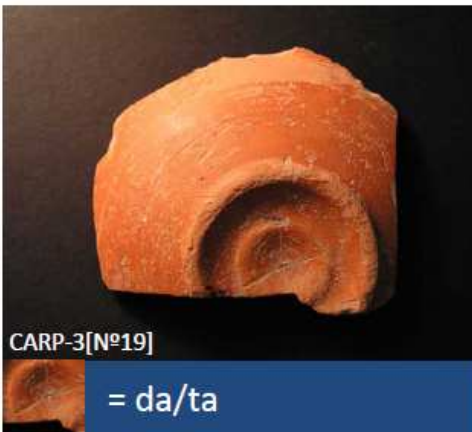
3.4. Notes and references

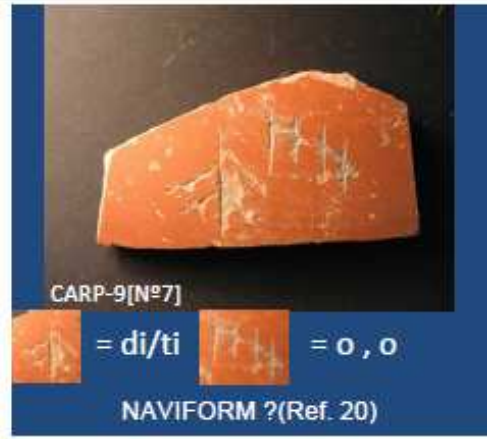
a) Note

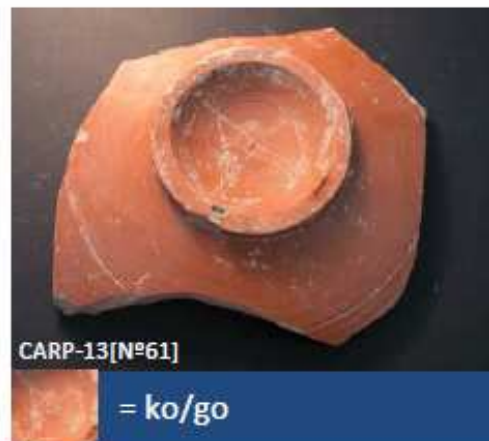
This report has been published, with slight modifications, on this website: “International Journal of Modern Anthropology”

<http://www.ajol.info/index.php/ijma/article/view/76786>









b) References

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- 17) Arribas A. **1976**. Los Iberos. Ed: AYMA. Barcelona (Spain).
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(b) <http://chopo.pntic.mec.es/biolmol/publicaciones/KMKDONO+Z.pdf>
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