

Intensive survey in the territory of Salamanca: aerial photography, geophysical prospecting and archaeological sampling

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Salamanca lies on the right bank of the river Tormes, a tributary of the Douro, on the northern sub-plateau of the Iberian peninsula (fig. 1). Although hardly mentioned in Roman historical sources,¹ it is a reference point for work on Roman territory because the surveyor Frontinus (*De Agrorum Qualitate* [ed. Thulin 1971] 1-2) used *Salmantica* (in Lusitania) and *Palantia* (in Citerior) to exemplify *ager per extremitatem mensura comprehensus*, the system of land organization characteristic of stipendiary cities.² Frontinus was writing in Flavian times,³ but the creation of *ager mensura comprehensus* in Lusitania occurred in the Augustan period,⁴ as is confirmed by remarkable epigraphic documentation.⁵ In N Lusitania, a total of 11 boundary-stones (*termini Augustales*) are known, nine from the reign of Augustus (and two of these provide explicit reference to *Salmantica*) and two from that of Claudius. The dates provided by Augustus' *tribunicia potestas* allow us to date the surveying operations delimiting the urban territories to between A.D. 4-5 (the inscriptions from Peroviseu and Ul) and A.D. 5-6 (the inscriptions from Sao Salvador, Ledesma, Ciudad Rodrigo, and the new one from Jarandilla de la Vera).⁶ The Augustan *ager mensura comprehensus* may have conditioned the model of the subsequent rural settlement by creating a framework for territorial occupation being organized around the villa from the Flavian period on.⁷ The villa would dominate the rural countryside, until it disappeared around the first decades of the 5th c. as part of a process that can be associated with the breaking down of imperial authority and the arrival of the Germanic peoples in the year 409. Almost nothing is known about Salamanca's territory during the Islamic occupation until the first official repopulation took place under the king of Leon, Ramiro II, in 939-49. The lack of attested settlements in the Douro valley between the 8th and 10th c. is a key question for the organi-

1 S. Núñez Hernández and L. Curchin, "Corpus de ciudades romanas en el valle del Duero," in M. Navarro and J. J. Palao (edd.), M. Á. Magallón (coed.), *Villes et territoires dans le bassin du Douro à l'époque romaine* (Ausonius Études 17; Bordeaux 2007) 554-63.

2 A. Orejas, "El territorio de las *civitates* peregrinas en los tratados de agrimensura. Las *civitates* del Noroeste hispano," *Habis* 33 (2002) 389-406.

3 O. Behrends *et al.* (edd. and transl.), *Frontin, L'oeuvre gromatique. Corpus Agrimensorum Romanorum IV* (Luxembourg 1998).

4 F. T. Hinrichs, *Die Geschichte der gromatischen Institutionen* (Wiesbaden 1974) 114-15.

5 E. Ariño, "La Hispania Citerior occidental y la Lusitania septentrional entre Augusto y los Flavios: el *ager per extremitatem mensura comprehensus*," in *L'Aquitaine et l'Hispanie septentrionale à l'époque julio-claudienne* (Aquitania Suppl., 2005) 95-112.

6 J. L. Gómez-Pantoja, "Un nuevo *terminus Augustalis* en Lusitania," *Epigrafia e Antichità* 29 (2011) 291-317; C. Cortés Bárcena, *Epigrafía en los confines de las ciudades romanas. Los termini publici en Hispania, Mauretania y Numidia* (Roma 2013) 37-43 and 48-61.

7 E. Ariño and J. Rodríguez Hernández, "El poblamiento romano y visigodo en el territorio de Salamanca. Datos de una prospección intensiva," *Zephyrus* 50 (1997) 225-45; E. Ariño, S. Riera and J. Rodríguez Hernández, "De Roma al Medioevo. Estructuras de hábitat y evolución del paisaje vegetal en el territorio de Salamanca," *Zephyrus* 55 (2002) 283-309.