

# Transport amphorae Lamboglia 2 and Dressel 6A: Italy and/or Dalmatia? Some clarifications

Marie-Brigitte Carre, Patrick Monsieur  
and Stefania Pesavento Mattioli

After nearly 30 years of study and research on Roman amphorae from Adriatic Italy and 10 years after our last summary,<sup>1</sup> we believe it is time to re-address the issue of the production of containers used for the wine trade.<sup>2</sup> Our contributions, appearing in Italian and French journals, have had limited circulation in the Anglophone world, allowing for some debatable historical-economic reconstructions, and particularly one in this journal (vol. 22, 2009),<sup>3</sup> with the risk that they might be accepted without proper discussion.<sup>4</sup> In that article, central Dalmatia was said to have played a pioneering, primary rôle in the production and export of Republican wine amphorae (Lamboglia 2) in the Mediterranean, an idea which the same author has recently reiterated,<sup>5</sup> while “any other productions of Lamboglia 2 that eventually occurred on either side of the Adriatic would have been on a much smaller scale and traded within a regional area or in smaller numbers”.<sup>6</sup> These conclusions do not seem to take into sufficient consideration either the reality of the discoveries of production centres in Italy or the quantity of intact amphorae found during the early phases of several reclamation and drainage projects, thanks to which typo-chronological seriations have been improved.<sup>7</sup>

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- 1 M.-B. Carre and S. Pesavento Mattioli, “Anfore e commerci nell’Adriatico,” in *L’archeologia dell’Adriatico dalla Preistoria al Medioevo. Convegno Rimini 2001* (Firenze 2003) 268-85, with bibliography.
  - 2 For a summary of Adriatic oil amphorae, see M.-B. Carre and S. Pesavento Mattioli, “Tentativo di classificazione delle anfore olearie adriatiche,” *AqNos* 74 (2003) 453-75; for those for *garum* and *liquamen*, see M.-B. Carre, S. Pesavento Mattioli and C. Belotti, “Le anfore da pesce adriatiche,” in S. Pesavento Mattioli and M.-B. Carre (edd.), *Olio e pesce in epoca romana. Produzione e commercio nelle regioni dell’alto Adriatico. Convegno Padova 2007* (Rome 2009) 215-38; for an overall picture, see the same work.
  - 3 A. Lindhagen, “The transport amphoras Lamboglia 2 and Dressel 6A: a central Dalmatian origin?,” *JRA* 22 (2009) 83-108.
  - 4 One of the many examples (which we deem unnecessary to dwell upon here) of how reality can be misinterpreted in support of preconceived ideas is the hypothesis that “the enormous reach of the trade in Lamboglia 2 is illustrated by the fact that such amphorae were carried on dromedaries through the Nubian desert for passage on to India” (Lindhagen *ibid.* 105), with reference to a study in which the epigraphic, archaeological and historical-economic data cannot be applied to Republican wine amphorae: A. Tchernia, “Le dromadaire des PETICII et le commerce oriental,” *MEFRA* 104 (1992) 293-301. The amphorae visible on the *stele* with the dromedary are definitely not Lamboglia 2 amphorae, but rather Dressel 2-4, which moreover are attested in India.
  - 5 A. Lindhagen, “The freedmen milieus at Delos and Naron. New perspectives on the Lamboglia 2 wine trade,” in A.-L. Schallin (ed.), *Perspectives on ancient Greece. Papers in celebration of the 60th anniversary of the Swedish Institute at Athens* (ActInstAthRegSuec, ser. in 8°, 22, 2013) 231-50.
  - 6 Lindhagen (*supra* n.3) 98.
  - 7 We refer only to some of the most recent works on amphora findings in reclamation and drainage sites, with previous bibliography: S. Mazzocchin, *Vicenza. Traffici commerciali in epoca romana: i dati delle anfore* (Trieste 2013) (at Vicenza); S. Cipriano and S. Mazzocchin, “Bonifiche con anfore a Padova: note di aggiornamento alla cronologia e alla distribuzione topografica,” in *Tra protostoria e storia. Studi in onore di Loredana Capuis* (Antenor Quaderni 20, 2011)