

Aventicum (Avenches), capital of the *Helvetii*: a history of research, 1985-2010. Part II.

Urban development after A.D. 100, crafts, and finds

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Introduction

The first part of this article in 2011¹ summarized recent results regarding the history of *Aventicum* from the Late La Tène period to c.A.D. 100, based on study of the excavations and on research carried out over the past 25 years. Some of the most important insights included the first recording of various pieces of Late La Tène evidence, that the town of *Aventicum* had already taken form under Augustus and developed into a thriving city within just a few decades, and that the elevation of the settlement to a *colonia* under Vespasian propelled the urban and economic development of the capital of the *Helvetii* (fig. 1).²

The city in the 2nd and 3rd c. A.D. (cf. de Pury-Gysel 2011, 21, fig. 10c)

Intensive urban development continued during the 2nd and 3rd c. in terms of the public buildings, temples, and residential buildings. Large-scale engineering projects were carried out, including the construction of the canal between Lake Morat and the *En Chaplix* quarter, a second water mill (fig. 1 at Y), and the industrial tile yards in *En Chaplix* (fig. 1 in colour at Z) Two new cemeteries in *En Chaplix* and in *Les Tourbières* were established in the late 1st and 2nd c. A.D. (fig. 1 in colour at S).

The theatre and Cigognier sanctuary complex

The Flavian period had seen the construction of large public structures such as the city wall and the forum baths. One may assume that three monumental edifices built in quick succession in the 2nd c. were part of a construction programme launched in connection with the town's elevation to a colony. The period between A.D. 98 and 150 saw the construction of the *Cigognier* sanctuary³ and the theatre⁴ as components of a joint architectural complex, while between 120 and 170 two construction phases of the amphitheatre⁵ were completed (fig. 2). All three edifices lay outside the W edge of the city, the amphitheatre being situated halfway up the SW slope of the hill and partially built into it. Several small earlier buildings (functions unknown) were demolished to make way for the *Cigognier*

1 de Pury-Gysel 2011 with Corrigenda: p. 8, n.15, read *deditio* instead of *deductio*; p. 37, second paragraph, read *Camillius* instead of *Camillus*.

2 This paper summarises and interprets research carried out under my direction of the site (1995-2010) and in the preceding years. The list of references is incomplete; in many cases I have listed only the most recent publications which, in turn, contain references to earlier scholarship. The detailed research results were published mainly in the journal *Bulletin de l'Association Pro Aventico* (BPA) (for a list of 234 articles published between 1887 and 2007 see Brodard *et al.* 2008), the *Documents du Musée Romain d'Avenches*, the *Cahiers d'Archéologie Romande* (CAR) and in the *Jahrbuch von Archäologie Schweiz* (until 2005 the *Jahrbuch der Schweizerischen Gesellschaft für Ur- und Frühgeschichte*).

3 Bridel 1982.

4 Matter 2009.

5 Bridel 2004.