

Just souvenirs? Why the glass flasks of Puteoli contain more than just a snapshot

Yvona K. Trnka-Amrhein, *Harvard University*
Girolamo F. De Simone, *St. John's College - University of Oxford*

Since its foundation, Puteoli was a prominent center of cultural interaction and exchange. The role of the city and its harbour as a hub not only for the goods, but also for ideas and beliefs is well known for the 1st and 2nd centuries AD. However, its position in Late Antique society has been little studied. Although the glass flasks with topographical representations of Puteoli are often discussed to clarify specific puzzles of the early imperial age, they have considerable but unexplored potential to illuminate conditions in the late antique city. Generally dated to the late 3rd-early 4th AD, the flasks signal the city's continued importance and cosmopolitan status since they were produced in the Bay of Naples, but found dispersed throughout the empire. Taking a cue from the flasks, this paper will attempt to trace the conditions of late antique Puteoli with particular attention to the city's self-presentation and reception as a cultural center within the greater Roman Empire. Evidence from new unpublished late antique sites in Campania will integrate observations drawn from the flasks, the literary sources and epigraphic evidence to produce a picture of a still vibrant and influential city, with considerable significance throughout the Empire.

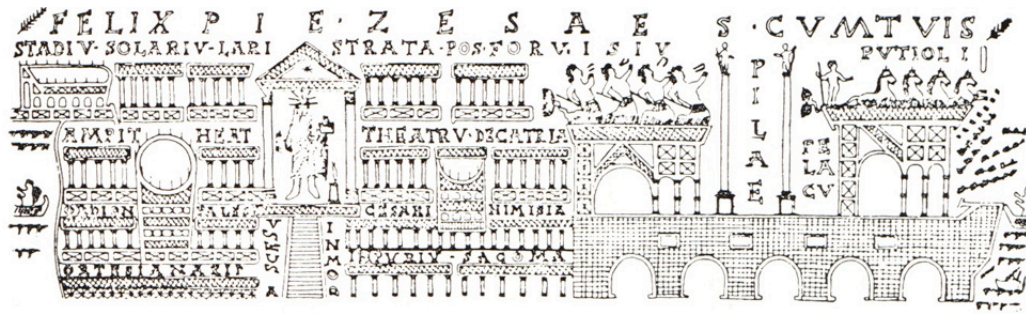


Figure 1 - View of Puteoli on the glass flask from Prague



Figure 2 - Air photo of Pozzuoli, with the Rione Terra and the remains of the harbour



Figure 3 - Somma Vesuviana, new late antique evidence from the bay of Naples

References

- Amalfitano, P., G. Camodeca, and M. Medri, (eds.) *I Campi Flegrei. Un itinerario archeologico*. Venezia: Marsilio, 1990.
- Arthur, P. *Naples, from Roman town to city-state: an archaeological perspective. Archaeological monographs of the British School at Rome, 12*. London: British School at Rome and Università degli Studi di Lecce, 2002.
- Camodeca, G. "Ricerche su Puteoli tardoromana (fine III-IV secolo)." *Puteoli 4-5* (1980): 59-128.
- Coleman, K. "The Lucrine Lake at Juvenal 4.141." *The Classical Quarterly* 44 (1994): 554-57.
- Crimaco, L., C. Gialanella, and F. Zevi, (eds.) *Da Puteoli a Pozzuoli. Scavi e ricerche sulla rocca del Rione Terra: Atti della Giornata di studio, Istituto Germanico, Roma, 27 aprile 2001*. Napoli: Electa, 2003.
- Càssola, F. "La conquista romana. La regione fino al V secolo d.C." In *Storia e civiltà della Campania. L'evo antico*, edited by G. Pugliese Carratelli, 103-50. Napoli: Electa, 1991.
- D'Arms, J.H. "A new inscribed base from the 4th century Puteoli." *La Parola del Passato* 145 (1972): 207-16.
- D'Arms, J.H. "Puteoli in the second century of the Roman Empire: a social and economic study." *Journal of Roman Studies* 64 (1974): 104-24.
- De Caro, S. "Dati recenti sul Tardoantico nella Campania settentrionale." In *L'Italia meridionale in età tardo antica. Atti del trentottesimo Convegno di studi sulla Magna Grecia, Taranto 2-6 ottobre 1998*, 223-42. Taranto: Istituto per la storia e l'archeologia della Magna Grecia, 1999.
- De Caro, S., and C. Gialanella. *Il Rione Terra di Pozzuoli*. Napoli: Electa, 2002.
- De Caro, S., and A. Greco. *Campania*. Roma-Bari: Laterza, 1981.
- Frel, J. "Un flacon de verre grave au Musée National de Prague." *Fasti archaeologici* 6 (1951): 20-21.
- Fujii, Y. "An Ichnographical Study of Baiae Group Flasks: Are Vaulted Buildings Fishponds or Not?" In *Annales du 15e Congrès de l'Association Internationale pour l'Histoire du Verre, New York - Corning 2001*, 73-77. Nottingham: Association Internationale pour l'Histoire du Verre, 2003.
- Gialanella, C. "Nuovi dati da Puteoli." In *Noctes Campanae. Studi di storia antica ed archeologia dell'Italia preromana e romana in memoria di Martin W. Frederiksen*, edited by W.V. Harris, and E. Lo Cascio, 81-103. Napoli: Luciano, 2005.
- Jones, D.F. *The Bankers of Puteoli: finance, trade and industry in the Roman world*. Stroud: Tempus, 2006.
- Künzl, E. "Die Glasflasche mit dem Panorama der Stadt Puteoli im Nationalmuseum Prag." *Eirene* 27 (1990): 77-80.

Noguera Celdrán, J.M. "Instalaciones portuarias romanas. Representaciones iconográficas y testimonio histórico." *Anales de prehistoria y arqueología. Universidad de Murcia* 11-12 (1995): 219-35.

Ostrow, S.E. "The topography of Puteoli and Baiae on the eight glass flasks." *Puteoli* 3 (1979): 77-140.

Painter, K.S. "Roman flasks with scenes of Baiae and Puteoli." *Journal of Glass Studies* 17 (1975): 54-67.

Picard, Ch. "Pouzzoles et le paysage portuaire." *Latomus* 18 (1959): 23-51.

Sanpaolo, V. "L'attività archeologica a Napoli e Caserta nel 2004." In *Tramonto della Magna Grecia. Atti del quarantaquattresimo convegno di studi sulla Magna Grecia, Taranto 24-28 settembre 2004*, 663-706. Taranto: Istituto per la storia e l'archeologia della Magna Grecia, 2005.

Savino, E. *Campania tardoantica (284-604 d.C.). Munera, 20*. Bari: Edipuglia, 2005.

Ziviello, C. "L'industria vitraria in Puteoli." *Bollettino flegreo* 8 (1986): 71-75.