

# The López Mullor LXVII in *Augusta Emerita* (Spain) High-Imperial Digs: Production in Thin-Walled and in Common Pottery

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## Abstract

Through this article, we aim to expose the results obtained in the research carried out on the LXVII form of López Mullor, documented among the material repertoire coming from several interventions of high Imperial chronology of *Augusta Emerita* (Badajoz, Spain). For this, we have studied the productive capacity of some potteries and their connection with landfills, focusing on the production of thin-walled pottery, both traditional own forms addressed by Mayet, and imitations made in this type of pasta in that city. But we wanted to emphasize the problems arising around the origin of this previously mentioned ceramic manufacture, entering into the dilemma as to whether its origin is local, or on the contrary, its production center is located in another geographic point of the *Lusitania*, although its dispersion reached the capital and its surroundings.

## Searching the Origin of the López Mullor LXVII Form in Mérida: Initial Approaches

In terms of consumption and production of pottery products in this city, several periods are usually established.<sup>1</sup> A first phase Julio-Claudian in which Baetic and Italics imports dominate, until the final establishment of the pottery fabric that will feed the city in later periods.<sup>2</sup> This way, *Augusta Emerita* became an important producer of fine walls, lamps and ceramics, which will be self-sufficient. The trade of these productions has been verified along the entire southwestern strip of *Hispania*, demonstrating an incipient commercial capacity. The archaeological excavations carried out in the city have brought to light three possible sources producing this type.<sup>3</sup> The constancy in the production and consumption of these thin walled seems to indicate that we are facing a homogeneous and uniform production.<sup>4</sup>

Our main objective is to respond to the problems arising from the origin of the López Mullor LXVII, entering into the dilemma as to whether its origin is local, or if its production center is located in another geographical location, although its dispersion reach all of *Lusitania*. The approach with which we have approached this topic is statistical, making a selective sampling to corroborate the presence and frequency of this typology in diverse deposits.

Although the typology object of study was focused until now on thin-walled pottery, we have found that this form was made in common Roman potteries with some as-

siduity, reaching to reach some of these specimens a considerable size. These data could help us to support the hypothesis of possible own production given the recurrence of this form in various pastes.

#### *López Mullor LXVII Form*

Alberto López Mullor refers to it as “ovoid goblets or with marked shoulders and flat bottom. Swab edge, although it may also appear exudated. The decoration consists of a frieze of squares of small size obtained by the technique of the wheel on the fresh mud of the piece (fig. 1). This ornamentation exists only in the lower two thirds of the wall, since under the edge appears a smooth fringe”.<sup>5</sup>

Its production was fixed in the second half of the first century AD, being especially abundant in the Claudian-Vespasian period, although the exact place of production is unknown, pointing as alternatives the area of Elvas, in Portugal, for the large number of specimens found or the city of *Augusta Emerita*, where its presence is also notorious.<sup>6</sup> Rodríguez Martín agrees with this possible place of origin.<sup>7</sup> In some archaeological sites in the north of *Hispania*, they have been located in earlier layers.<sup>8</sup>

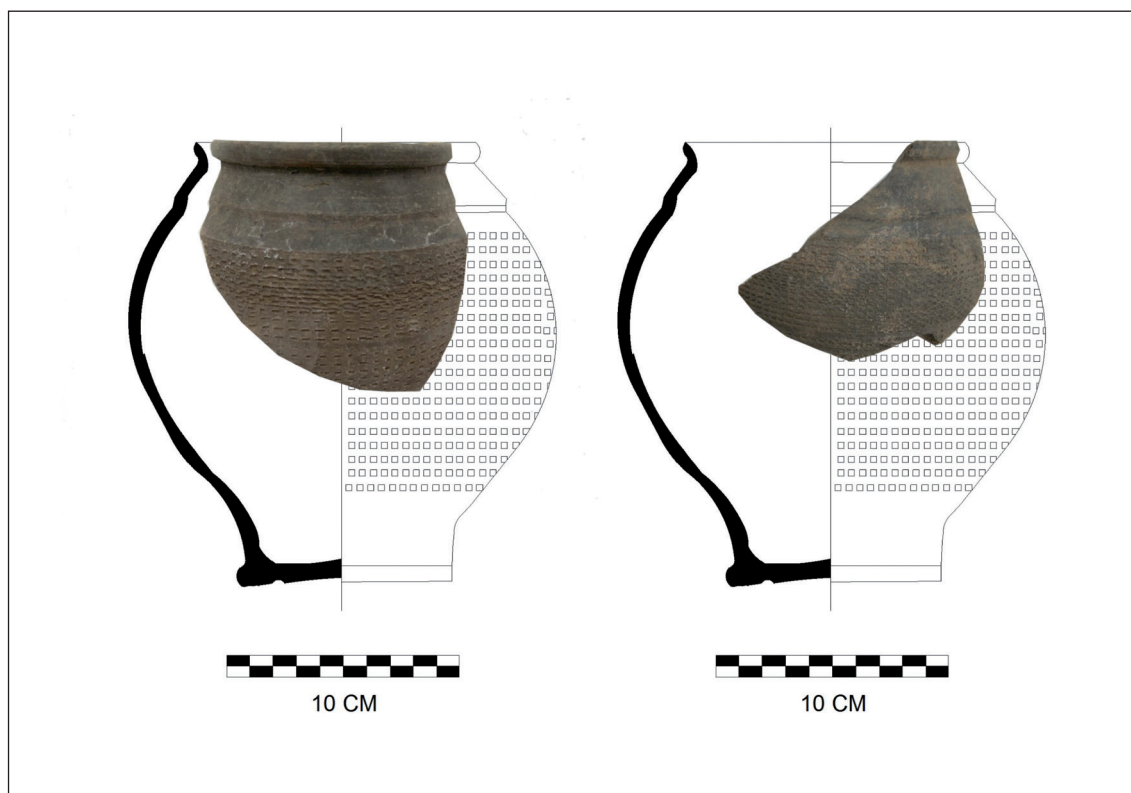


Fig. 1: LXVII form of López Mullor.

### High Imperial Archeological Sites Analyzed in Mérida

There are several archaeological excavations with a chronology located between the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> centuries AD, where we have found this form, attending to two types of context: ceramic dumps and burial pits.

Num. Intervention	Description
Constantino	<p>Weir inserted inside a potter's space next to it. A large volume of ceramic pieces was located, many of them defective. The production was focused on common potteries, thin-walled, lamps and construction material.<sup>9</sup> Its activity was developed between the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> centuries AD.</p> <p>LM LXVII: Large number of fragments, both in thin walls and in common potteries (which reach large size dimensions). In thin-walled they represent 6% on a sample of more than 1,000 pieces (fig. 2)</p>
Concejo 19	<p>Ceramic workshop with four ovens, two of which were dedicated to the production of thin walled. Its operation has been dated from the second half of the first century until the second century AD.<sup>10</sup></p> <p>LM LXVII: 6 pieces of very small dimensions made in thin walled (fig. 4).</p>
8067	<p>Intervention where the <i>Puticuli</i> is located, formed by an empty space of quarry that becomes a dumping ground for all kinds of materials whose chronology ranges from the second half of the 1<sup>st</sup> century to the 2<sup>nd</sup> century AD. At the same time that it was used as a garbage dump, individuals were deposited in it, some directly thrown away and others with funerary intent.<sup>11</sup></p> <p>LM LXVII: Documentation of edges, bases and amorphous both in thin walled and in common ceramics (large size) (fig. 3).</p>
78	<p>Peri-urban area very close to the river where two ceramic workshops have been located with abundant quantity of rescued material, whose typology is varied.<sup>12</sup></p> <p>LM LXVII: Fragments in common potteries: 4 amorphous pieces and a base (fig. 4).</p>
8035A/8035B	<p>Interventions carried out in a large plot where an industrial workshop of common potteries appeared. The defective parts of each furnace were located inside their boilers. The recovered fragments of TS, amphorae, skylights and thin walled without defects have been considered as "intrusions".<sup>13</sup></p> <p>LM LXVII: In spite of the multiplicity of typologies and forms, there is no record of the ceramics object of study in any type of pasta.</p>

Num. Intervention	Description
8054	<p>Ceramic industrial use with the appearance of a pool. The recovered potteries present a very varied typology. Its chronology has been dated between Vespasiano and the beginning of the period of Tito.<sup>14</sup></p> <p>LM LXVII: No fragment of this form has been documented.</p>
1002	<p>Urban archaeological intervention in domestic use with various reuses from the time to the Andalusian era.</p> <p>LM LXVII: Several fragments of the LM leaves have been documented. Very fragmentary state of the ceramic set. A few amorphous edges have been preserved with the characteristic of a wheel decoration and made in thin-walled reducing pastes (fig. 4)</p>
8010	<p>Funeral area around the <i>Via Caesaraugusta</i>.<sup>15</sup> Fine walls in graves excavated at geological level. Pit A6 contained remains of an incineration with its funerary deposit composed of fine walled ceramics (second half of the first century AD).</p> <p>LM LXVII: several fragments have been located. LXVII in EUs 49 and 51. Edge fragments made of common pottery paste with thin walls (fig. 4).</p>

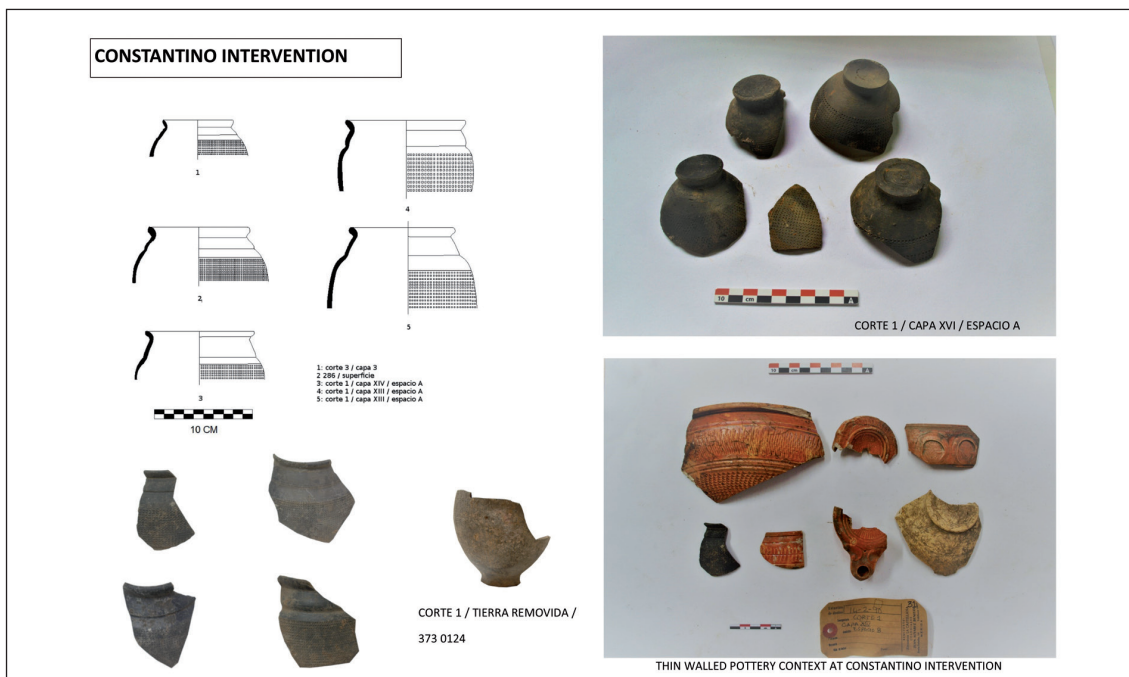


Fig. 2: Thin walled pottery and common pottery of LXVII form at Constantino St. intervention. LXVII form and his EU context.



Fig. 3: Thin walled pottery and common pottery of LXVII form at Solar de Artilleria (n° 8067) intervention. LXVII form and his EU context.

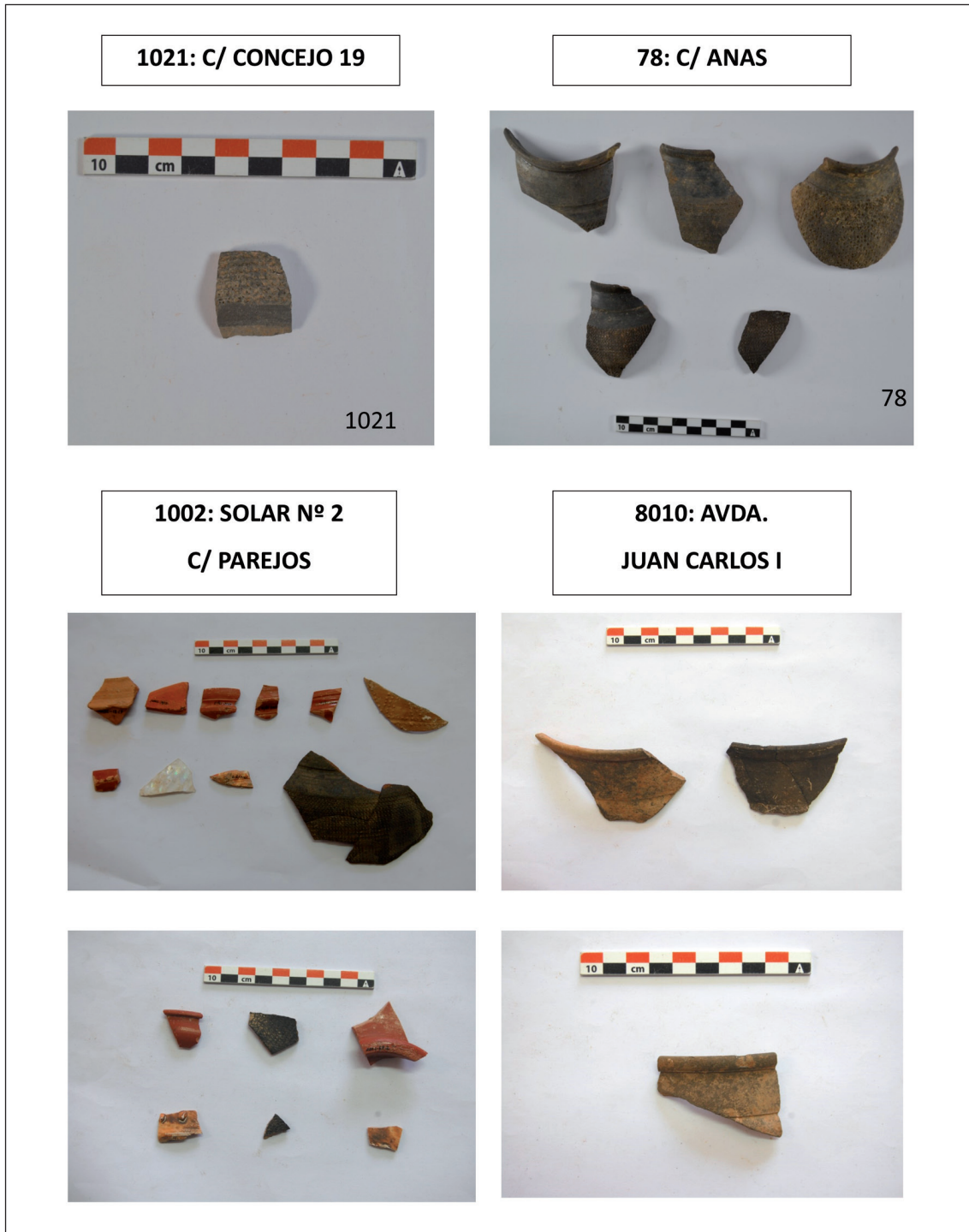


Fig. 4: Thin walled pottery and common pottery of LXVII form and his EU context at Concejo St. 29 intervention (n° 1021); Anas intervention (n° 78); Parejos St. intervention (1002) and Juan Carlos I Av. intervention (n° 8010).

### Final Contributions

This study has taken into account a large number of interventions that respond to two archaeological contexts clearly differentiated by their functionality: dumps, funerary and domestic contexts. After its analysis, there are several conclusions that we have been able to reach with these samples.

First of all, it is striking that it has not been possible to document the presence of this form in all the thin-walled landfills studied. In spite of moving in the same chronological framework, sharing stratigraphy with the moment of production of thin walled we can observe an unequal production. Although its presence is recurrent in the Constantino St. and in the lot of the *Puticuli*, in Concejo Street is merely testimonial.

Although the starting point of the present study was focused on the production of the López Mullor LXVII made in thin walled, we have verified the extensive manufacture of this same form in common ceramics, already collected by Alvarado González and Molano Brías,<sup>16</sup> whose pastes are thicker and coarser and whose specimens manage to reach proportions of considerable diameter. This reiteration and taste for the shape under study, we consider that it can be a fact that helps to consolidate and justify the idea of its possible production in the city of Mérida.

### Notes

<sup>1</sup> Bustamante 2012, 407.

<sup>2</sup> Bustamante 2012, 407.

<sup>3</sup> Alvarado et al. 1995, 281; Barrientos 2007; Bustamante 2011a, 22.

<sup>4</sup> Rodríguez 1996c, 203.

<sup>5</sup> López Mullor 1990, 439–440.

<sup>6</sup> López Mullor 1990, 440.

<sup>7</sup> Rodríguez 1996b, 155; Martín et al. 2008, 385.

<sup>8</sup> Rodríguez 1996a & 1996b; Martín et al. 2008, 387.

<sup>9</sup> Bustamante 2012, 409.

<sup>10</sup> Bustamante 2011, 168.

<sup>11</sup> Márquez et al. 2005, 541–543.

<sup>12</sup> Méndez et al. 2004, 317.

<sup>13</sup> Méndez et al. 2004, 314.

<sup>14</sup> Fernández 1994, 145; Márquez et al. 2005, 540.

<sup>15</sup> Sánchez 2004.

<sup>16</sup> Alvarado et al. 1995.

### Image Credits

Fig. 1: by López Mullor. – Fig. 2: Constantino St. intervention. – Fig. 3: Solar de Artillería (n° 8067) intervention. – Fig. 4: Concejo St. 29 intervention (n° 1021); Anas intervention (n° 78); Parejos St. intervention (1002) and Juan Carlos I Av. intervention (n° 8010).

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