

## A Documentary History of the Jews in Italy

### 1

Reggio, First half of 4th century

Source: MNRC, inv. no. 2091c.

Publication: Putortì, *Le scoperte archeologiche di Reggio*, p. 176, no. III, tav. I fig.VII; Ferrua, *Spigolature archeologiche*, p. 227; Frey-Lifshitz, *Corpus*, Proleg. p. 49, no. 635b (follows Ferrua); Noy, *Jewish Inscriptions*, I, pp. 178-180, no. 139.

*Fragment of a synagogal inscription.*

[Συναγωγῆ τ] ὧν Ἰουδαίων

[The synagogue] of the Jews.

Note: The inscription was cut on a marble plaque. The fragment (15.5 x 16.5 x 2.5 cm) was collected from the debris of the city accumulated on the beach after the 1908 earthquake. In the fragment, Ferrua saw the rest of a synagogal title and subsequent editors confirmed this meaning. Noy is not certain that the word with which to complete the text is συναγωγῆ, because this term primarily designated the community, while the term more often used to indicate the building itself appears to have been προσευχή, literally "prayer".

Bibliography: N. Putortì, *Culti e religioni in Reggio Romana*, pp. 23, 31; Costabile, *Testimonianze paleocristiane e giudaiche*, p. 258 fig. 9; Fiaccadori, *Calabria tardoantica*, p. 747; Colafemmina, *Ebrei nella Calabria meridionale*, pp. 161-162.

### 2

Lazzàro, 5th century

Source: MNRC, inv. no. 1646.

Publication: Putortì, *Lucerne cristiane*, p. 75 no. 31; D'Angela, *Le lucerne tardoromane*, I, p. 280, tav. VIII no. 19.

*Clay lamp with a menorah impressed in relief on the disc.*

Note: The lamp was found in a late Roman necropolis at Lazzàro, a village 19 km from Reggio. The site corresponds to Leucopetra, the first station on the coastal road from Reggio to Crotona and Taranto. In 1995, in the same locality, a tile was found engraved with a Greek inscription dating back to the 6th century, which could be a Jewish amulet or charm (qami'a).

Bibliography: Fiaccadori, *Calabria tardoantica*, pp. 749-50, fig. 52; Costabile, *Testimonianze paleocristiane e giudaiche*, p. 258, fig. 5; Mosino, *Graffito protobizantino*, pp. 237-38; D'Amore, *Filatterio greco*, pp. 157-160.

## Calabria

### 3

Bova Marina, 4th-5th century

*Source:* Bova Marina, Contrada Deri, synagogue remains, *in situ*.

*Note:* In an archaeological site, close to Bova Marina, discovered by chance in 1985, and which probably corresponds to the *statio* on the Ionian road named *Scyle* in the Tabula Peutingeriana, the ruins of a building have been identified as a synagogue. The synagogue appears to have been in use from the 4th to the 5th century, when the settlement was abandoned.

*Bibliography:* Andronico, *La viabilità in età romana in Calabria*, pp. 191-205; Costamagna, *La sinagoga di Bova Marina*, pp. 239-245; Ead., *L'area archeologica*, pp. 101-134; Id., *La sinagoga di Bova Marina (secc. IV-VI)* pp. 93-118; Id., *La sinagoga di Bova Marina nel quadro degli insediamenti tardoantichi*, pp. 611-630; Mastelloni, *Il ripostiglio di Bova Marina*, pp. 643-665; Rubinich, *Osservazioni sul materiale ceramico*, pp. 631-642; Noy, *Jewish Inscriptions*, I, pp. 180-181; Levine, *Ancient Synagogue*, pp. 279-80, 292, 355.

### 4

Scolacium, 5th century

*Source:* Roccelletta di Borgia (Catanzaro), Antiquarium of Scolacium

*Publication:* Corrado, *Anfore dal teatro romano di Scolacium*, pp. 201-215; Cuteri, *Ebrei e samaritani a Vibo*, pp. 21-22.

*Two handles of an amphora (Keay LII type) with a menorah impressed on them.*

*Note:* The two sherds come from an archaeological excavation carried out in the Roman theatre at *Scolacium* (Roccelletta di Borgia). According to scholars, the amphorae of the Keay LII type were produced at different sites along the Ionian coast of Calabria.

### 5

Vibo Valentia, 5th century

*Source:* Vibo Valentia, Magazzini del Museo Archeologico Statale "Vito Capialbi".

*Publication:* Cuteri et alii, *Calabria fra Tarda Antichità ed Alto Medioevo*, pp. 461-62, 472 fig. 3; Cuteri, *Ebrei e samaritani a Vibo*, pp. 18-21.

*Two handles of amphorae with a menorah impressed on them.*

*Note:* It seems that the amphorae were produced locally, and were of the same Keay LII typology as in Doc. 4. The two sherds were found in Vibo in an area overlooking Via XXV Aprile, close to the area of Sant' Aloe.