28. MAINAKE (?), CORTIJO DE LOS TOSCANOS. TORRE DEL MAR (MALAGA)

The area of Vélez-Málaga has been known archaeologically for some time from the work done there by Schulten in search of the Greek colony of Mainake, which this author thought he could locate on the hill of Toscanos. After a survey by Niemeyer in March 1961 of this site, the Deutsches Archäologisches Institut of Madrid began a systematic series of operations which are still at present in progress and which have proved the existence there of an ancient Phoenicio-Punic trading-post.

Toscanos is a flattened summit situated on the right bank of the River Vélez near its mouth. The river itself is an important road of access to the interior. The site must have had easy disembarking points in antiquity and this would have been reason enough for the early establishment of the Phoenician colonists there. The trading-post must have been founded at the latest by the middle of the 8th century and must have been of great importance from the beginning. It is possible that the site went on being inhabited into Roman times but the buildings of that period probably swept away the intermediate levels of occupation up to the 6th century.

In Toscanos have been found seven fragments of alabaster jars, of which only two have enough shape to be studied on their own. Of the other five it is not even known if they belong to the same jars or not.

Bibliography


1 See the summary of Schulten’s theories in Schubart, Niemeyer y Pellicer, Toscanos, pp. 8 f.
2 Schubart, Niemeyer y Pellicer, Toscanos, pp. 145 ff.
Cortijo de los Toscanos, No. 28.01  Vessel (Pl. CXL)

**Material and Colour:** Veined alabaster.

**Measurements:** height of the part now preserved 7.8 cm., approximate diameter 19 cm.

**Place of Keeping:** Malaga Archaeological Museum.

**Circumstances of Discovery:** Found in the course of the excavation campaign conducted in 1964 by the *Deutsches Archäologisches Institut* of Madrid. This and another smaller alabaster jar fragment came to light in surface levels which had been turned over. The owner of the land told the excavators that in making cultivation terraces earth had been taken from the slopes of the neighbouring Cerro del Peñón, and a tomb with alabaster urns from a necropolis which probably existed at that spot might thus have been destroyed, so that this would be the source of the fragments found at Toscanos, in agreement with the hypothesis first put forward by the excavators.\(^3\) But the subsequent discovery of five more alabaster jar fragments, clearly located *in situ,* proves that the first two also could probably have come from Cortijo de los Toscanos itself.

**Bibliography:** Schubart, Niemeyer y Pellicer, *Toscanos,* p. 144, fig. 8 (p. 143). Niemeyer und Schubart, *Toscanos,* p. 120, fig. 8 (p. 119).

**Date:** The date of manufacture of this piece must be during the 9th-8th centuries, as with the inscribed jars of Cerro de San Cristóbal. The piece, however, has no archaeological context and thus no date given by one.

**Description:** Only the rim, projecting, and the beginning of the body of this piece have been preserved.

**Parallels:** The excavators cite as parallel to this fragment the jar found in Tomb 17 of Cerro de San Cristóbal, inscribed with the cartouches of Osorkon II.

**Conclusion:** Jar of Egyptian manufacture.

Cortijo de los Toscanos, No. 28.02  Vessel (Pl. CXL)

**Material and Colour:** Alabaster.

**Measurements:** greatest height preserved 6.45 cm., greatest diameter (restored) 9.75 cm.

**Place of Keeping:** Malaga Archaeological Museum.

**Circumstances of Discovery:** Found in the course of the excavation campaign conducted in 1971 by the *Deutsches Archäologisches Institut.* The piece

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\(^3\) Schubart, Niemeyer y Pellicer, *Toscanos,* p. 144.