

CLCL7005 – R.H.

Funerary Evidence & Identity



Changing Identities

'CELTIC' IDENTITY → 'ROMAN' IDENTITY

2ND – 1ST C. BCE → 1ST C. CE



Changing Identities

'CELTIC' IDENTITY → 'ROMAN' IDENTITY

2ND – 1ST C. BCE → 1ST C. CE



WHAT IS IDENTITY ?

HOW CAN WE RECOGNISE IT ?

Dress, Behaviour, Rituals, Language,
Names, Lifestyle, Diet, etc.



Changing Identities

Y → 'ROMAN'

. BCE → 1ST C. CE

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HOW TO EXPLAIN THESE CHANGES?



vaso a trottola
(from Dormelletto)

Changing Identities

TYPICAL GRAVE GOODS

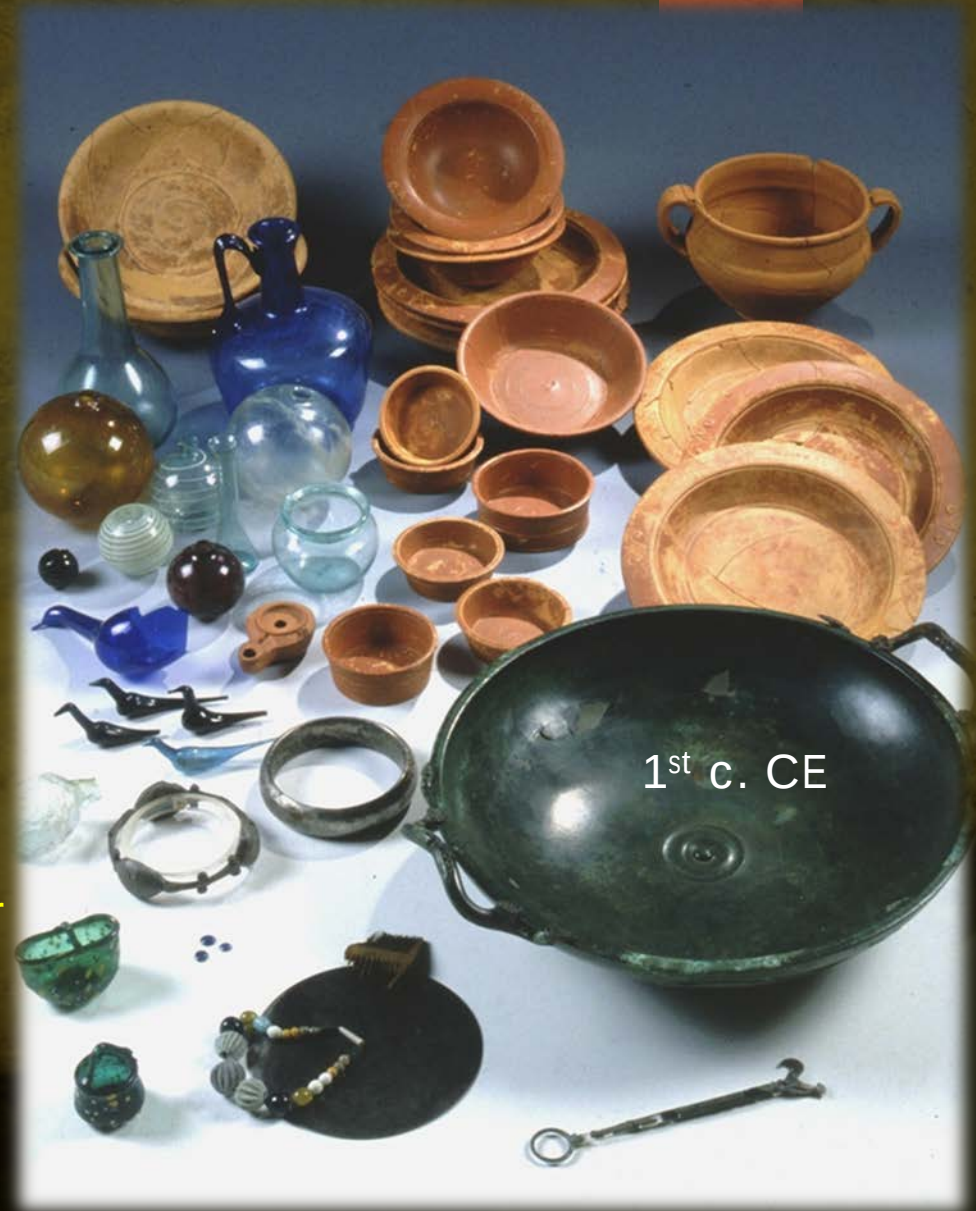
An expression of
'identity'? If so,
whose identity?
Just the objects
you buy on the
local market? Or
just an
expression of
status and
prestige...?

2nd/1st c. BCE

1st c. CE

HOW TO EXPLAIN THESE CHANGES?

vaso a trottola
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Gambolo, Lomellina fibulae Pavese 25 BCE

vaso a trottola
(from Dormelletto)



Entities

TYPICAL GRAVE GOODS

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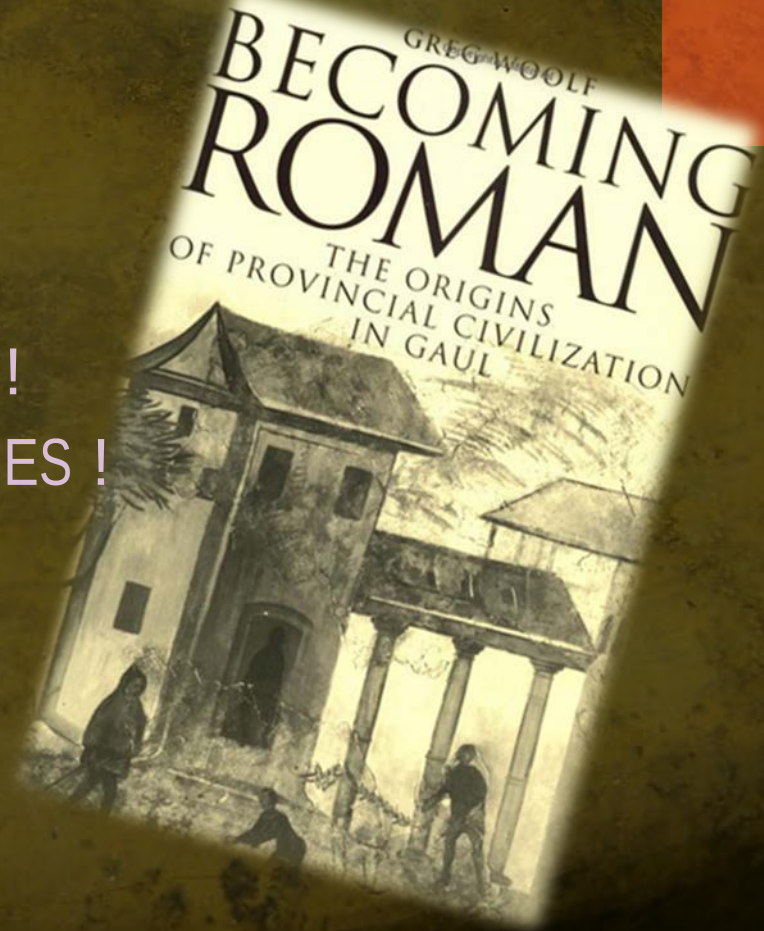
100 CE
Gravellona
Toce

HOW TO EXPLAIN THESE CHANGES?

Changing Identities



OUR TASK:
SCRUTINISE EVIDENCE !
ESTABLISH CHRONOLOGIES !



HOW TO EXPLAIN THESE CHANGES?

TROTZ RÖMISCHER EROBERUNG?

Roman Conquest & Integration:

222 BCE: Battle of Clastidium

218 – 201 : 2nd Punic War

196 BCE: Battle of Como

89 BCE: *ius Latii* – Latin rights

49 BCE: Roman Citizenship

Lago Maggiore

Como

Novara

Mailand

Vercelli

Lomellina

Pavia

Cremona

Turin

Genua

Via Postumia

Some examples



► Typical La Tene grave, c. 100 – 50 BCE

Some examples



► 'Vaso a trottola'

- ▶ Oleggio – Loreta
- ▶ Tomb 106
- ▶ c. 150 – 75 BCE
- ▶ Apart from pottery and brooches:
 - ▶ Scissors
 - ▶ Sword
 - ▶ Toilet equipment
 - ▶ Strigil
 - ▶ Razor
 - ▶ etc.





Cassetta litica
Ameglia, Cafaggio



Chiavara
Early Iron Age



Cassetta litica
Castelletto Sopra Ticino (NO) : Loc. Golasecca



Valeggio (Lomellina)
La Tene D2 – c. 75 – 25 BCE



Cassetta litica
Castelletto Sopra Ticino (NO) : Loc. Golasecca

Corredo della tomba 68

circa 25 a.C.-15 d.C.
Gravellona Toce (Vb)

► Identity Crisis in the 1st century BC

- Funerary evidence is changing comparatively rapidly
- Does this reflect developments in the world of the living...?
- Even more so when we consider archaising trends!
 - Does the funerary evidence – the choice of grave goods, the rituals, etc. – lack behind the societal and economic developments?
- Question of identity ?
or predominantly a question of economic developments...?

3rd c

222/196-110

110 - 90

Marius & Social
War

89 - 50

ius Latii & War in
Gaul

Identity Crisis in Funerary Context

Roman Conquest NW Italy



3rd c

222/196–110

110 – 90
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89 – 50
ius Latii & War in

- ⑥ Lepontic Inscriptions
 - › More than ever in 2nd-early 1st century BC



Roman Conquest N



▶ Vaso a trottola,
„Leitmotiv“

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G

FINIS
CAMO·Q·VEM
DEDIT·AC·IS·VS
ARGANTOCONE
ECVS·C·DEM
DEIC

● Lepontic
Inscriptions

- More than ever in
2nd-early 1st
century BC

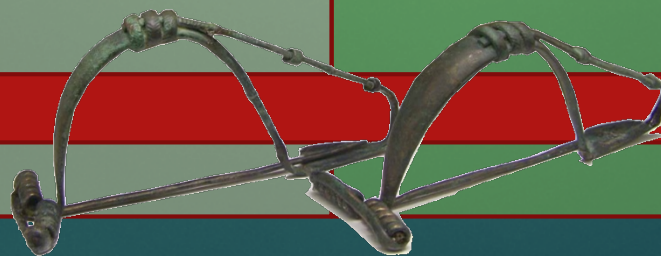
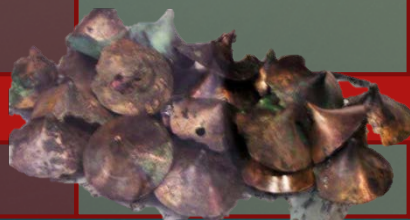


▶ Vaso a trottola,
„Leitmotiv“



● Cassetta litica tomb
constructions

- Peak in 1st century BCE



● Brooches
→ Dress, Identity

- Until end 1st c. BC

3rd c

222/196-110

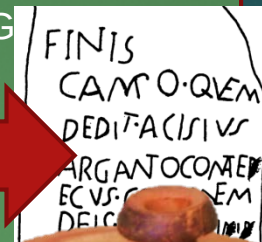
110 - 90

Marius & Social War

89 - 50

ius Latii & War in

Cultural Resistance until c. 50 BCE!
Or perhaps not?

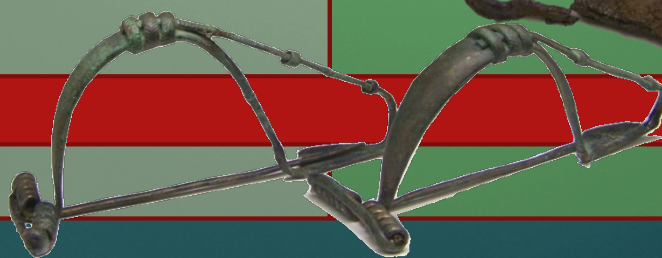
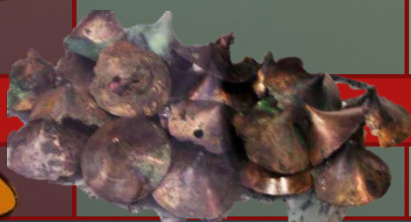


- Cassetta litica tomb constructions
- Peak in 1st century BCE

- How significant are new funerary rituals?

- Weapon Graves

- Brooches → Dress, Identity
- Until end 1st c. BC

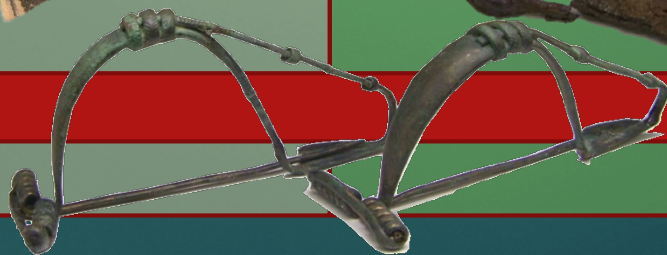


3rd c

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Imported Pottery
vernice nera
(Campania, Etruria)

- Identity?
- Trade Routes ?

Weapon
Graves

3rd c

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FINIS
CAMO-QVEM
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ECVS-DEM
DEIC

- 100 – 50 BC
- Innovations
- Adoption of new rituals and prestige objects
- Funerary rituals appear to change rapidly
- Divergingm contradicting identities
- But no ‚Roman identity‘

Imported Pottery
vernice nera
(Campania, Etruria)

- Identity?
- Trade Routes ?



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civ. Romana;
End prov. st.

30 -

Augustus



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Augustus



Identities pre-50 BCE

- ▶ Local Status Symbols
- ▶ Imports → Alienated
- ▶ **Fibulae → Dress & Status**
 - ▶ **Group Identities – until c. 30 CE**
- ▶ **Archaising Tendencies**
- ▶ **Social and Economic developments:**
 - more people want to display their status:
 - more prestige goods, but from an indigenous context
 - no cultural resistance

From the 40/30's BCE:

- ▶ **New Prestige Goods: glass & terra sigillata**
 - ▶ Mass produced
 - ▶ Monetisation
 - ▶ Access to imports from across the Roman empire
- ▶ **Why in 1st c. BC ?**
 - ▶ → **Participation & Integration**
(Civil Wars, private armies, citizenship, charismatic leaders...)
 - ▶ **Legitimation crisis in local society...**





THANK YOU !
QUESTIONS ?