

Re: France's earliest winery found

Source: <http://sci.tech-archive.net/Archive/sci.archaeology/2007-07/msg00766.html>

- *From:* Jack Linthicum <jacklinthicum@xxxxxxxxxxxxx>
 - *Date:* Thu, 19 Jul 2007 16:27:48 -0700
-

On Jul 19, 2:46 pm, "Uwe Müller" <uwemuel...@xxxxxxxxxxx> wrote:

"Jack Linthicum" <jacklinthi...@xxxxxxxxxxxxx> schrieb im
Newsbeitragnews:1184780992.366540.101030@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx
On Jul 17, 9:22 am, "Uwe Müller" <uwemuel...@xxxxxxxxxxx> wrote:> "Jack Linthicum"
<jacklinthi...@xxxxxxxxxxxxx> schrieb im

Newsbeitragnews:1184496657.146706.21580@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx> On
Jul 15, 3:26 am, "Uwe Müller" <uwemuel...@xxxxxxxxxxx> wrote:>

"Hayabusa" <peregr...@xxxxxxxxxxx> schrieb im

Newsbeitragnews:uikf93h09spvj1pl16qoe5isc3k6p9gn4a@xxxxxxxxxxx

On Fri, 13 Jul 2007 14:53:34 +0200, "Uwe
Müller"
<uwemuel...@xxxxxxxxxxx> wrote:

snip >

The Laubenheimer papers are not as
accurate?

http://books.google.com/books?>>id=aXX2UcT_yw8C&pg=PA79&lpg=PA79&dq=roman+

wi

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ne+marseilles+katz&source=web&ots=eqlbJjpYx6&sig=QneH_CB6PezOYJhp00WVvijH9I

A

"a virtual monopoly of the French wine trade was achieved by Marseilles during the 5th and 4th Century BC."

The term 'virtual monopoly' is nice. We know there was an exchange of

goods,

but many, including me, would demand convincing evidence before accepting 'trade' as the way they managed the exchange.

If trade was accepted, it would still be the question, if it took the

form

of neighbourhood trade or of a long distance trade controlled by one end

of

the connection, or anything inbetween the two.

Nothing I have seen suggests any kind of central control reaching across France to sustain a monopoly. I'd doubt any kind of monopoly for that

time.

The case for wine being traded is, afaik, without real evidence. We only know about containers, metall and ceramics, being passed up North.

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Added to that is the question of dating, they seem to address the period from the defeat of the karthaginian–etruscan fleet till the end of the

early

Latène burials.

So how would the evidence for a 'monopoly in the French wine trade ... during the 5th and 4th c. BC' look like? A handful of amphorae likely

from

Marseille. No point of origin for most of the other non–local ceramics,

some

Corinthian and some Athenian black–figure ware. Not very convincing. And wouldn't we have to assume one trade monopoly for wine, and other connections for ceramics, metal goods, jewellery, furniture etc. ? That

is

just the stuff we know about, what about organic materials, especially

raw

silk?

It's a nice assertion, but it omits much of the evidence. It may even

have

been copied accurately from other scholarly works. But without evidence I would not believe it.

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have fun

Uwe Mueller

How does 2 million gallons sound like, a local trade? The evidence is tied into JSTOR and similar publication sources which I will not pay for. Here is a review of what is considered the most important article on the subject:

It is estimated that 2.2 million gallons of Greek wine were shipped to France each year through the port that is now Marseilles.

<http://www.answers.com/topic/wine-from-classical-times-to-the-nineteen...>

ntury

There is no evidence nor a date given for that figure. Two paragraphs above it is said "by the third century B.C.E. there was a veritable wine industry in the region; talking about Greece." Let's give it the benefit of doubt and say that after the 3rd c. BCE the wine trade through Marseille was huge.

"In an article published in the Journal of Anthropological Archaeology, "Driven by Drink," Michael Dietler, Associate Professor in Anthropology, argues that the introduction of wine into the societies of southern France in the seventh century B.C. significantly changed social and power relations.

link inserted from below <http://chronicle.uchicago.edu/960215/dietler.shtml>

So important was the trade in wine to the region that it provided an impetus for development of the area surrounding the Mediterranean port of Marseilles, which was founded as a Greek colony about 600 B.C.

Dietler argues that wine became a driving force in the development of the region because it could be used as a reward for men engaged in community labor projects and in political rituals of hospitality.

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Other scholars have contended that the introduction of wine to the region was just one facet of a more general process of Hellenization — societies throughout the Mediterranean region adopted wine drinking, along with other aspects of Greek culture, based on their admiration for the achievements of classical Greek civilization.

That omits the common European Bronze Age background.

And it omits, that Etruria had provided goods from Greek and the far more sophisticated Punic traders before that. But while southern France was pretty much at the end of the world for Etruscan trade, with Marseille they had a first rate connection to the Greek trade.

In Dietler's view, however, the pleasure and social role of drinking took precedence over any respect for Greek ways of life when a society adopted elements of the Greek culture of wine drinking.

Dietler's work on the role of alcoholic beverages in ancient society has helped establish a new model for the study of prehistoric cultures that used wine as a form of exchange, and he has shown how this exchange can help explain the contours of ancient political structures.

Wine consumption may be used as an indicator, but it is in no way the sole or central agents of change. The introduction of horse riding, the heavily armed phalanx and iron technology undermined the structure of Bronze Age societies.

Drinking in ancient France

Dietler's fieldwork is centered in southern France, where he excavates sites associated with the wine trade in pre-Roman times. Evidence for the importance of wine shipping is abundant throughout France, where contemporary farm plows often uncover shards of ancient amphorae used to transport wine.

Before the arrival of the Greek traders, the people living in the region around Marseilles drank brews made of fermented grain and

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honey. But imported wine from the Etruscans of Italy soon became popular about a generation before the founding of Marseilles.

I wonder about the archaeological reasoning and dating for the last sentence.

"Imported Mediterranean wine was then incorporated into traditional patterns of feasting and hospitality and used, along with native forms of drink, to mobilize labor and build prestige," said Dietler.

That does not sound like a trade monopoly.

People did not adopt the Greek methods of drinking wine, however, which included mixing wine with water. The early people of southern France preferred to drink their wine unadulterated, and they also chose to forego the elaborate rituals associated with wine drinking in Greece.

Is there any archaeological evidence for the unmixed drinking thing? Or is he just following ethnic topoi of Roman literature?

Imported wine apparently had special appeal because it was less perishable than the native grain- or honey-based drinks,

One of the most common complaints about wine before modern hygienic production was that it had turned sour.

and it could be stored and transported easily. As an imported good, it also conveyed more status than did the indigenous drink. And unlike gold and other precious metals, which retained value without being consumed, wine was valuable only when used.

"A ruler could thus augment his prestige, assure the support of a larger group of warriors or followers, or step up production for trade or public projects through drink-rewarded [recruited] labor," Dietler writes in "Driven by Drink."

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If I look at the distribution of imported raw materials, worked in the region, I prefer the prestige goods economy model. Where wine is one among many other prestigious objects distributed through a central authority.

Wine and systems of power

Dietler also contends that the use of wine reveals the distribution of power throughout the region. Wine was used in the Marseilles region in ways that differed markedly from the ways it was used in the north, for example, in the Hallstatt region, a Celtic area in and around Burgundy that had a better-defined system of social hierarchy.

Just what I said.

Imported drinking vessels used in the northern area were more elaborate than those used in the south, according to Dietler.

If you think of the golden drinking bowls made in the Nordic Area, the idea seems well beside the point. The question is rather, which part of the contemporary vessels do we know. The Hellenized world did not furnish burials with elaborate drinking equipment, the Barbarians did. Is that enough to say, the Hellenized world did not have any elaborate drinking vessels?

Indeed,
one of the most elaborate wine vessels ever discovered from antiquity, a bronze wine vessel more than five feet tall, was unearthed in the Burgundy region.

Yes, there is not one comparable krater in the whole hellenistic world. Their metal value had caused them to be resmelted. We don't even know if there were kraters as big as that from Vix in the Hellenized world. The Vix piece was probably made to order and transported in pieces to be put together in Burgundy. It carried greek markings showing how to connect the parts. The burial containing the Vix krater, and many other valuable goods, was btw. one of a woman.

"In hierarchical systems, ritual drinking practices would be valued mainly for their symbolic functions, and imported drinking gear could be extremely useful in differentiating elite drinking even where the supply of exotic drink was meager or irregular," said Dietler.

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In less hierarchical societies, such as those around Marseilles, "exotic drink would be valued more for its use in fulfilling status obligations of political authority through transfers in the form of hospitality," he said. For example, wine might be used to reward laborers in work-party feasts.

The verdict of 'less hierarchical ...

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Wouldn't be easier to just say "I don't agree with anything anyone else writes on any subject" and leave it at that?

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