

IV Preparing food

Food was cooked on a fire in the atrium and on a stove in the houses with a kitchen. There were artefacts similar to braziers to keep dishes warm or take them from one room to the other and also portable metal cookers.

The kitchen service was made of objects used to cook, prepare food and to clean (*vasa coquinaria*) and others to keep food. They were simple practical utensils.

V Dinner is on the table

The triclinium was the room where the members of the house had their meals, although in summer they often ate outdoors in the atrium or peristylum.

The dinner service was made of objects used to eat (*vasa escaria*), drink (*vasa potoria*) and serve (*vasa ministeria*).

VI Basic ingredients:

Oil, olives, wine, honey, fresh and dried fruit (dates and raisins), legume, meat: chicken, pork, goat, fresh and salted fish, eggs

VII Recipe:

A sweet by Apici, *Dulcia domestica* – home sweets
Cut the dates open and remove the pits before filling them with walnuts or almonds and ground cinnamon. Add a pinch of salt and fry in honey. Serve covered in honey.

VIII Almagra

...or red ocher is extracted abundantly in many areas, but it is rarely of such a good quality as in Sinope in Pontus, in Egypt, in the Balearics in Spain or in Limnos. Vitruvius

X Private rooms

The bedrooms (*cubicula*) and bathrooms (*lavatoria*) were the private rooms of the house. There one could find bathroom articles, hand basins or perfume burners.

XI · The religion

Usually small altars and representations of household gods were located in the access areas. Representations of the higher gods of the Roman pantheon were less frequent in houses and were usually displayed in public areas. With the introduction of Christianity pagan images were substituted by the new symbols.

The Museu Monogràfic de Pollentia, managed by Alcúdia Town Council, is part of the Museu de Mallorca. It was founded in 1987 with the aim of bringing the recovered archaeological pieces closer to their place of origin, the Roman city of Pollentia. This city was inhabited from the 2nd century BC to the 12th century. The museum is located in a 14th century old hospital owned by the Town Council.

The discourse of the museum revolves around two main subjects, public and private life, in order to explain the main aspects of Roman culture given the remains with which we have been entrusted. Most of the pieces in the exhibition belong to the 1st and 2nd centuries, the most splendid period of Pollentia.

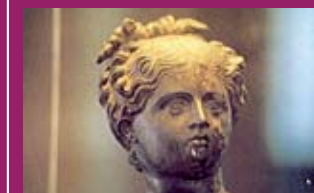


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MUSEU MONOGRÀFIC DE POL·LÈNTIA



Rome was the first power to apply a single political, administrative, cultural and social concept in the Mediterranean space. It imposed a long-lasting peace through arms, even though it was always under threat. The power of Rome marked a radical change in all Western cultures, both those that preceded it and those that have inherited its legacy.

PRE-ROMAN WORLD

The ancient Mediterranean civilizations (Greece, Etruria, Phoenicia, Egypt, etc) contributed to the Roman world with a part of their cultural legacy. Rome, while recipient of this inheritance, became also a transmitter.

The Taloitic culture was indigenous to Mallorca. Its culminating point was in 600 BC. The society was organized in clans and its economy was based essentially on livestock. Megalithic constructions such as talaiots, settlements and ceremonial centres are characteristic of the period. Remains have been found under the houses of sa Portella in Pollentia.

REPUBLIC (5th-1st century BC)

The Roman Senate was composed by 300 elected magistrates. Their main tasks were to legislate, elect and rule. The most important magistrate was the consul. Social structure divided communities into patricians, plebeians and slaves. By means of territorial conquest Rome imposed its imperialist model. This led to great economic expansion and a production model based on slavery.

Pollentia was founded in 123 BC, just after the conquest of Mallorca by the consul Caecilius Metellus. Settlers probably arriving from other parts of the Empire (Hispania and the Italian Peninsula) mixed with the indigenous population.

Elements from the first stage of the city (1st century BC) together with several tabernae and burial sites, as well as the oldest constructions in sa Portella, have been found in the forum.

EARLY EMPIRE (change of era – 3rd century)

Julius Caesar was elected consul in 59 BC. In 45 BC he seized all state powers, especially that of life dictator. The Republic had come to an end. In 27 BC Octavius Augustus was named Imperator Caesar Augustus.

The Roman borders broadened and peace was kept within the conquered territories. The Empire spread from Britannia to the East and came into contact with the Chinese Empire.

Economy was based on a production system based on slavery, which was reinforced by prisoners of war.

These were Pollentia's most glorious years. Territorial and imperial administrative organization prevailed. Latin became a prestigious language. In the 1st century AD several improvements were undertaken in Pollentia including the theatre, forum, tabernae and portico, the neighbourhood of sa Portella and several new areas of necropolis. The city must have covered 15-20 hectares.

LATE EMPIRE (4th-5th century)

A period of crisis began. Political intrigues in Rome weakened the power of the Empire and damaged the administration. Pressure on the borders was increasing and ended with the arrival of new population contingents (barbarians) and the plundering of Rome. In view of the weakness of the Empire, the provinces conquered by Rome separated.

The production system based on slavery plunged into crisis, which led to economic recession and the loss of social cohesion. Emperor Constantine declared Christianity the official religion of the state.

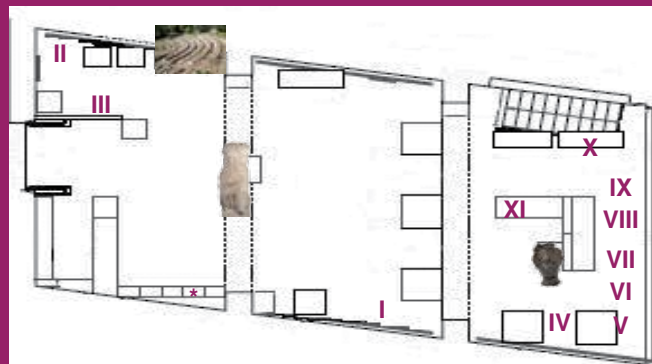
At the end of the 3rd century a fire burned the Forum. It was recovered as a public space, but it probably never achieved its former glory. It seems that the neighbourhood of sa Portella was abandoned. There is evidence of Christian burials in the necropolises of Pollentia during this period. A new fortified enclosure was built in the 5th century.

THE DECLINE OF ROME (5th century ...)

The Empire split into two. From 476 the Western Empire underwent a change in its territorial model. The process of feudalization began. Islamic culture took over from the Roman wherever it settled. The Eastern Empire lasted until the 15th century. The capital moved to Constantinople. The figure of the Emperor and Christianity were its ideological pillars. Economy was mainly agricultural. The Ottoman rule of the Mediterranean put an end to the Byzantine world.

Pollentia underwent important changes. Its population decreased slowly and the memory of the old city was lost. High medieval necropolises have been found on ancient structures in the forum. Muslims settled in the area but the city was abandoned before the Catalan conquest in 1229.

According to documents the first findings of Roman remains took place in the 18th century. A large volume of literature about Pollentia was written in the 19th century. In 1923 the official archaeological excavations began in the city and have lasted up to today.



I The forum, the centre of public life

The forum was the centre of the city's public life, where trade, political, administrative and religious activities took place. The Capitolium, the main temple, the shops or tabernae, etc were located in the forum. Due to its importance and the amount of information that it contains most of the research activity has focused on this area.



II Theatre, time of leisure

A theatre was built in Pollentia. This construction of small dimensions, adapted to the needs of the city, was excavated in the rock. In their leisure time the citizens of Pollentia attended plays or a good gladiator fight. There have been findings of objects related to the leisure field such as theatre masks, fighting equipment or tokens (tessera) for admission to the theatre.

III The necropolises, death in Pollentia

The dead were buried on each side of the access roads to the city. The burial rite in the Roman world consisted either of cremation or burial. In both cases the human remains were interred with burial objects. In the Roman period it was forbidden to bury the dead within the city and therefore cemeteries also indicate the city limits.

IX The roman house

Social class and the acquisitive power of each person determined the kind of house they owned. In Pollentia there were several neighbourhoods. Some of them were residential such as Sa Portella and others were made up of humbler several-storey houses near the forum and other areas of the city. Buildings of more than one storey were not unusual in the city.

The house or classic domus was formed by a central atrium and several rooms surrounding it: the tablinum, triclinium, cubicula, alae, culina and pantry. Some of the houses have rich elaborate finishes such as mosaic paving and coloured stucco on the walls.