

THE SEWN PLANK BOAT OF GELA IN SICILY PRELIMINARY OBSERVATIONS ABOUT CONSTRUCTION OF HULL

The report is going to present the knowledge till now about the Greek boat found at Gela in 1988 under only 5 meters of water.

A first excavations campaign in 1989 allowed to:

- arrive at planking and keel in some points of the hull
- define the dimensions of the preserved part
- learn the main characteristics of the building technique

The boat, preserved for 17 meters in length and 7 meters in width, has boards of planking sewn together with vegetables ropes, fixed with little pins of wood in holes with particular shape. Biggest pins, at regular distances, join and strengthen the plank edges.

This system of construction with vegetables ropes seems used in all the hull and not only in the preserved part (that is the submerged part of the sailing boat).

The boat of Bon Porte's in France (datable at the end of the 6th century BC) is the most cogent comparison, but the boat of Giglio island at Baia Campese excavations conducted by M. Bound) and other examples bear witness of wide diffusion of this building technique.

The wreck dating (end of the 6th, beginning of the 5th century BC) was given from Athenian pottery, in particular two black-glazed "askoi" (or two red figure askoi") with two satyrs and two men banqueting.

The shipload included Rhodian amphorae and various pots probably of Aegean-Eastern origin.

The second excavation campaign, expected in 1991 summer, will allow to increase our knowledge about the building techniques, the shipload and at last to acquire new data for the hull salvage in a future time.

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EDITOR'S NOTE

This is the abstract of Dr Freschi communication; no text was received for publication.