

As Burgas of Ourense: The Shrine Pool of Revve Anabaraego

A Virtual Hypothesis

As many European cities, the origins of the city of Ourense, in the Northwest of Spain, are deeply involved in the Roman world. We know that Romans called this city *Aquis Auriensis*, “waters of gold”, due to the abundance of the precious metal in the river Miño and the thermal waters arising in what today is the heart of the Old City, the hot springs of **As Burgas**.

It is commonly known that As Burgas was the place where this old *Civitas Auriensis* started growing, as more and more dwellers arrived here looking for the beneficial properties of these waters: from the Prehistoric ancient inhabitants to those who came with Roman conquest, intensifying the use of these springs.

Recent archaeological excavations developed here between 2005 and 2010 have discovered an specific use of this water which bring new light about our history as a city and the importance As Burgas has on it: the **religious or salubrious baths**. Remains of a shrine-pool were discovered through the excavation, a structure that, together with the artifacts found in the proximity, show us how two thousands years ago pilgrims used to come to As Burgas looking for healing through water; an effect attributed to the indigenous god **Revve Anabaraego**.

The fame of this shrine-pool mut have been widespread, given the number of altar that the ancient pilgrims offered up to this god. Up to now, six altars dedicated to Revve Anabaraego have been found and more are expected to be found once the entire complex can be excavated.

In the meantime, archeologists have been working on a hypothesis about how this shrine pool looked like in the 1st Century AD. Digital Humanist Alicia Colmeneiro and archaeologist Celso R.Cao worked together in a 3D model which recreate the shrine of Revve Anabaraego, this “virtual hypotheses” showed today. Using 3D image-based modelling techniques and based upon archaeological analysis and the study of tangible culture, authors proposed a group of rendered images for the reconstruction. Together with texts, photographs, and excavation plans, final animation helps visitors in **As Burgas Interpretation Centre** to visualize and understand this archaeological site, contributing to disseminate archaeological works developed here and its importance for the city.



Two captions of the shrine-pool of Revve Anabaraego: current aspect of excavation and virtual hypothesis

This work was designed from an interdisciplinary model, following the criteria committed under the London Charter and Sevilla Principles: it gives clues not only about the building techniques and the landscape, but also to the work of archaeologists and the uses and meanings of the springs. Communicating archaeology in visuals give us a comprehensive idea about our place in History, and tell us something else about these “sacred” waters which two thousand years ago turned Ourense into a pilgrimage centre.