

Abstract

GOLD MINES AND ROMANIZATION OF THE WESTERN VERCELLI AND IVREA TERRITORIES: AN HISTORY TO REWRITE.

The inferences and inventions published by officials of the Archaeologic Superintendence of Piedmont are highlighted and stigmatized. They are accepted by various authors as sacrosanct truth, and they spread false historical information on the ancient gold mines (aurifodinae) of the Ivrea and Vercelli regions, and, more in general, on the romanization of this part of the Cisalpine Gaul. The ten-years studies of the author and his ground explorations allow to state that:

-It is not true that Strabo named as Dora a generic streams used by the Salassi people to wash their gold mines, and it is not true that he appoints the Libui of Vercelli as the people damaged by the alluvial mining: the greek author clearly mention the Dora (to day Dora Baltea) as the exact name of the river crossing the Salassi territory, and both he and Cassius Dio they mean that the dispute occurred within the same people (the Salassi).

-It is not true that the Salassi were a Ligurian population: from the description of Strabo, from the subsequent authors and from the precise procedural rules indicated, we know that they were Gauls (Celts). And this is confirmed by the material culture resulting from the archaeological finds in their territory

-It is not true that, with the conquest of the Salassi mines in 140 B.C., the Romans penetrated inside the Ivrea's Morainic Amphitheater: the Salassi gold mines position, recognized and studied outside the amphitheater, their maintenance of the water needed for washing, and subsequent historical events, show that only in 100 BC the Roman conquest spreads inside. The same events and the ground evidences, find and described by the author, confirm the built hypothesis of an anti-Salassi limes, after the first conquest.

- It is not true that the mines conquered in 140 BC. were those of Ictimuli (Bessa) and that these were already exploited by the Salassi: Strabone claims that the mines of Salassi are distinct from those of Ictimuli, and both he and Pliny place the latter in the Vercelli area, clearly distinct from bloodletting from the point of view geographical, historical and cultural.

- It is not true that there was a people called Ictimuli: Strabo and Pliny clearly speak of a village, which is located in the plain of the Holy Secondo and should not be confused with other similar artificially named or assimilated, which are found elsewhere.

-There are no witnesses or evidence that the Salassi or other subjugated populations were used inside the mines of Ictimuli, and it is not true that Pliny states this.

- It is not true that in the alleged San Secondo ponderarium the gold extracted from the nearby mines was weighed. The stone fragment that would attest to the presence of the ponderarius dates back more than a century after the closure of the mines. The fragment also seems to be reused material from Ivrea and is connected to the local Fede Santa Secondo, starting from the 9th-10th century A. D.