

Spain with its rich culture and landscape and culture is being admired by many people. Roots of the contemporary Spanish culture reaches as far as Preroman and Roman times of the Iberian Peninsula. Even the ancient Phoenicians and Greeks established their commercial emporia in the territory of the present day Andalusia and Catalonia. Ships filled with goods, including amphorae of Greek wine valued in the whole Mediterranean Sea pulled in to the Spanish shore. The Phoenicians searched for metals in which Spain abounded and in exchange they brought knowledge about the production of sauces and canned fish. The Greeks left their red and black figure painted ceramics taking bars of metals from Sierra Morena manufactured by the local community. Inhabitants were abandoning settlement points like Tejada la Vieja (near Sevilla) in order to find new deposits of silver. The Iberians were taking precious Greek vessels leaving behind only the broken ones. In the beginning contacts between Iberians and eastern newcomers were a peaceful coexistence delivering mutual profits. Greek settlements were built next to the local ones, as for example: Ampurias in the present day Catalonia. The later history of the ancient Spain is far less uneventful. Deposits of metals drew attention of the Carthaginians and Romans either. Conflict turned into the Punic Wars, which in consequence, after many years of fighting, ended with capturing the Peninsula by the Romans, despite the heroic struggle of the Lusitanians. As a result three Roman provinces of Hispania Tarraconensis, Baetica and Lusitania came to live. The Roman settlers and merchants flooded the coast in order to provide supply of goods to which the conquerors were used to in Italy. In the area of Cadiz and Malaga appeared factories producing traditional sauces and canned fish. Hundreds of oil and wine presses centres were established in the valley Guadalquivir and Ebro rivers. The Spanish Levantine coast had a great importance to the commercial activity during Roman period. The remains of shipwrecks and shipments lying in the vicinity of Cartagena, Murcia and Valencia are the best testimony of that fact. The Spanish Levant was the way through the Balearic Islands to Sardinia and the Tyrrhenian coast of Italy where goods - canned fish and olive oil from Baetica were delivered to the capital of the Empire and to Pompeii. Bonifaccio Strait between Corsica and Sardinia is a great field covered with shipwrecks bearing goods from Spain, like amphorae with garum, olive oil and bars of different metals. In the maritime commercial exchange a place of great importance was the region of Murcia. In the vicinity of the Murcia city is an archaeological site Begastri where presently Polish archeologists with the Spanish colleagues lead the search. The dig site located at the hill brings archaeological evidence testifying that the settlement goes back in time as far as to the prehistoric period until Visigoth times. A team of historian prof. I. Molina from the University of Murcia and archaeologists prof. I. Modrzewska-Pianetti from Warsaw University, MA A. Chołuj PhD student from Polish Academy of Sciences and MA K. Trusz volunteer at the Institute of Archaeology of the University of Warsaw, decided to work out the ceramic, glassware and epigraphic finds from Begastri. Plentiful shards of amphorae and glass vessels excavated during several seasons, might be locally produced as well as imported. In different historical periods region of Murcia was a meaningful territory where the different influences and commercial interests crossed with each other. Is it possible to examine commercial contacts basing on glass and broken ceramic vessels? It's not only possible but it's necessary, as those artifacts are tangible evidence of what happened in the past. It is obvious that the examined micro region ought to be compared with other areas of Spain and Mediterranean world. We are well prepared to study and develop knowledge about ancient Spain in Poland and what is more we are ready to show to our Spanish colleagues research methods of Polish School of Mediterranean Archeology.