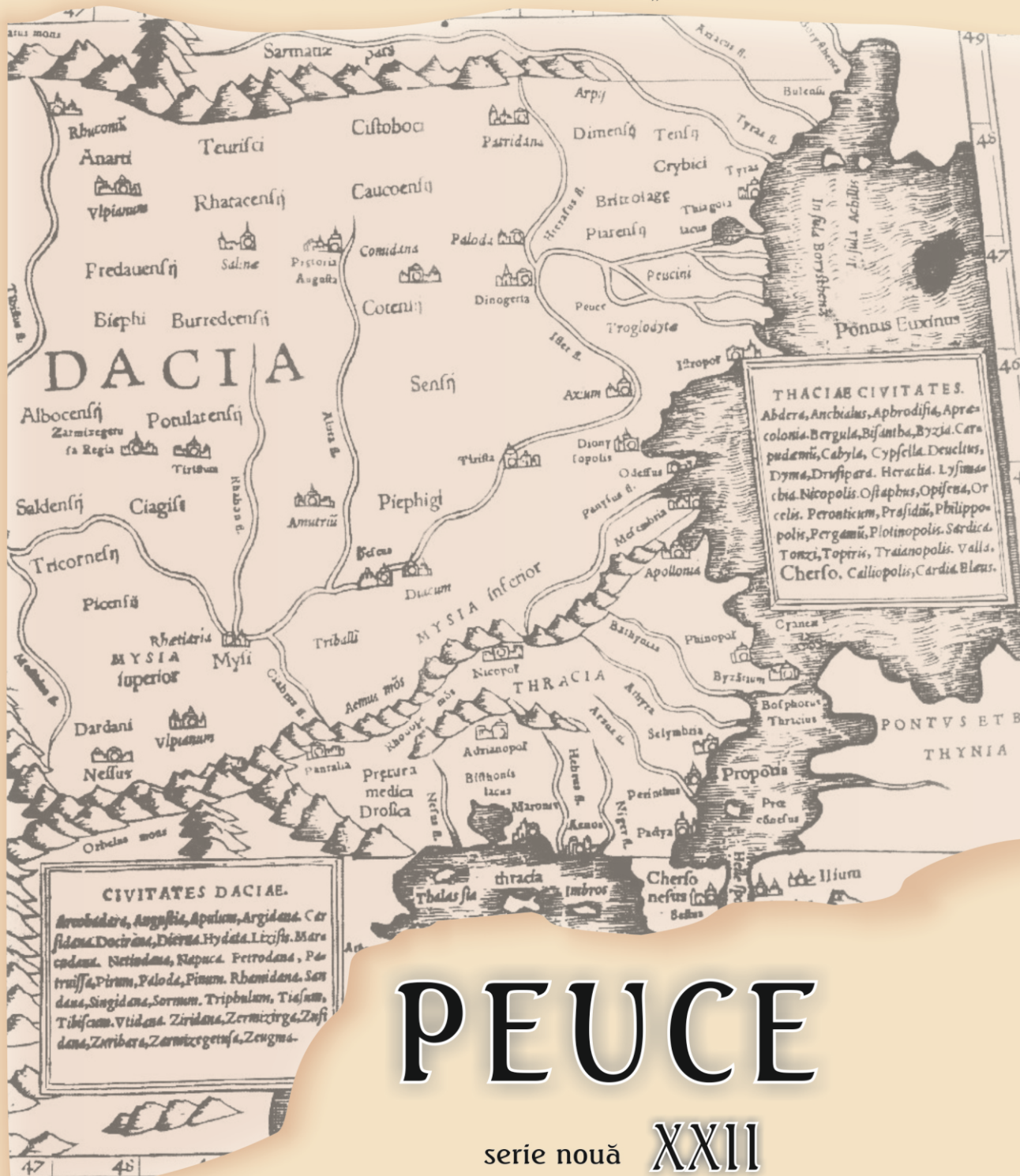


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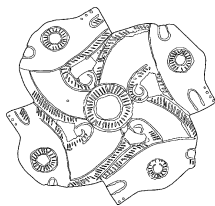
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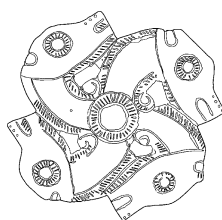
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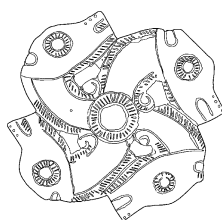
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DE ISTORIE ȘI ARHEOLOGIE



TULCEA ♦ 2024

Peuce, Serie Nouă  
Studii și cercetări de istorie și arheologie

Publicată de / Published by:

Adresa / Address:

Website:

e-mail:

Redactor șef / Editor-in-chief:

Redactor șef-adjunct/ Executive Editor:

Secretar de redacție/ Secretary:

Comitetul consultativ / Advisory Board:

Colegiul de redacție / Editorial Board:

Tehnoredactare / Computer graphics:

Consultanți limbi străine / Language editors:

Mega Publishing House

ISSN: 0258-8102; e-ISSN: 2734-7427

DOI: 10.62781/PeuceSN

Institutul de Cercetări Eco-Muzeale „Gavrilă Simion”

Str. Progresului, nr. 32, 820009, Tulcea, România

<http://www.revistapeuce.icemtl.ro/>

[peuce.journal@gmail.com](mailto:peuce.journal@gmail.com)

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## CHRONOLOGY REVISED.

### THE FINDS FROM PLOVDIV, CHERKOVNA AND ESENITSA IN BULGARIA

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**Yana DIMITROVA**

National Institute of Archaeology with Museum,  
Bulgarian Academy of Sciences, Sofia, Bulgaria  
yana.dimitrova@naim.bg

ORCID ID: <https://orcid.org/0000-0003-1411-9937>

**Elena BOZHINOVA**

Regional Museum of Archaeology Plovdiv, Bulgaria  
elena.bozhinova@gmail.com

ORCID ID: <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-3279-4410>

**Abstract:** The collective finds of ceramic vessels from Plovdiv and Cherkovna, together with the necropolis at Zimnicea, are eponyms of a Late Bronze Age cultural horizon in the Eastern Balkans. Its chronology is covering the whole period of the Late Bronze Age, as in the Bulgarian literature it is usually placed in the second half or even the last phase of the period. A third find of ceramic vessels, the one from Esenitsa, is considered as the very final stage of the Bronze Age. The current state of the sources, which have grown considerably as a result of numerous archaeological investigations in the last decades, came with a series of radiocarbon dates and Aegean imports found in context. Parallels in well-dated complexes indicate that the initial date of this horizon can almost certainly be set no later than the beginning of the Late Bronze Age. Two differentiated groups of vessels with characteristics respectively indicating later and earlier chronology are distinguished. Both groups are represented in the complex from Plovdiv, with predominance of the first one, while the one from Cherkovna only contains vessels from the second group. This led to the authors defining the Cherkovna find as the earliest, followed by that from Plovdiv. The small number of vessels in the Esenitsa find, two of which have unique shapes hamper precise definition. Still, the latter group is clearly distinguished among the exemplars of this collection, which indicates a later date.

**Rezumat:** Depunerile de vase ceramice de la Plovdiv și Čerkovna, împreună cu necropola de la Zimnicea, sunt eponime pentru un orizont cultural de la sfârșitul epocii bronzului din Balcanii de Est. Cronologia acestuia acoperă întreaga perioadă a epocii târzii a bronzului, în literatura bulgară este plasat de obicei în a doua jumătate sau chiar în ultima fază a perioadei. Un al treilea depozit de vase, cel de la Esenița, este datat chiar la sfârșitul epocii bronzului. Stadiul actual al cercetărilor a crescut considerabil ca urmare a numeroaselor investigații arheologice din ultimele decenii. Acestea au adus și o serie de date cu radiocarbon dar și asocieri cu importuri din Marea Egee. Toate acestea indică faptul că începutul acestui orizont poate fi aproape sigur stabilit nu mai târziu de începutul perioadei târzii a epocii bronzului. Pe ansamblu autorii au delimitat două grupe distincte de vase. Ambele sunt reprezentate în complexul de la Plovdiv, cu predominanța celei dintâi, în timp ce depozitul de la Čerkovna conține doar vase din a doua grupă. Acest lucru a făcut ca autorii să definească descoperirea de la Čerkovna ca fiind cea mai veche, urmată de cea de la Plovdiv. Numărul mic de vase de la Esenitsa, dintre care două au forme unice, împiedică o încadrare precisă. Totuși, cel din urmă grup se distinge clar printre exemplarele acestei colecții, ceea ce indică o dată ulterioară.

**Keywords:** Late Bronze Age chronology, collective finds, Plovdiv-Zimnicea-Cherkovna horizon, pottery.

**Cuvinte cheie:** perioada târzie a epocii bronzului, depozite, orizontul Plovdiv-Zimnicea-Čerkovna, ceramică.

## INTRODUCTION

The collective finds of ceramic vessels from Plovdiv and Cherkovna are representative for the Late Bronze Age culture in the Eastern Balkans. In most publications concerning sites from this period, these vessels are used as analogies in order to determine chronological and cultural affiliation. However, their chronology remained broad, as they were usually placed in the second half or even the last phase of the period. Thus, the revision of the dating of these finds is important as it influences the general situation of the Late Bronze Age finds from this region. In addition, collective finds of whole vessels are very rare and as a result become a standard for further attempts to determine the chronology of a number of features, when  $^{14}\text{C}$  data are not available and the pottery is in a fragmentary state. In this paper, for the first time, all the vessels from these finds are illustrated both photographically and graphically with the intention of supporting further research in this direction. A stylistic analysis based on information from new studies is used in order to clarify the dating of the hoards from Plovdiv and Cherkovna, as well as the one from Esenitsa, where collections of a large number of whole vessels were found in closed complexes.

## THE COLLECTIVE FINDS (Fig. 1)

The collective find of pottery vessels from Plovdiv comes from a deep pit discovered in 1964 during construction work in the eastern part of the city, in the Second Kamenitsa district, from which its name derives (Fig. 2; Figs. 3-13).<sup>1</sup> The pit was a deep shaft with a cylindrical shape and a diameter of approximately 1 m, with no traces of coating. It reached down to the groundwater. In it, 44 whole ceramic vessels were found, which were divided into six clusters by successive layers of clay. The pit probably served as a well.<sup>2</sup> All the vessels are closed forms, being probably used to transport and store liquids, and are undecorated. Almost half of the vessels have broken handles. Their distribution on several levels and their large number testify to a relatively long use of the well. In addition to the vessels, pottery fragments were also found in the pit, which, according to the excavator, are handles from double vessels and a pedestal, used secondarily as a bowl; also several animal bones and wood

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<sup>1</sup> Детев 1964.

<sup>2</sup> Bozhinova 2018.

remains were recovered from the pit.<sup>3</sup> Other finds and structures from the Bronze Age are not registered in the area, but it should be noted that this zone is outside the territory with mandatory archaeological surveys. The nearest documented Late Bronze Age site is about 3 km to the west, on the ridge of Dzhandem tepe – the highest of several rocky elevations around which the later Philippopolis developed.<sup>4</sup>

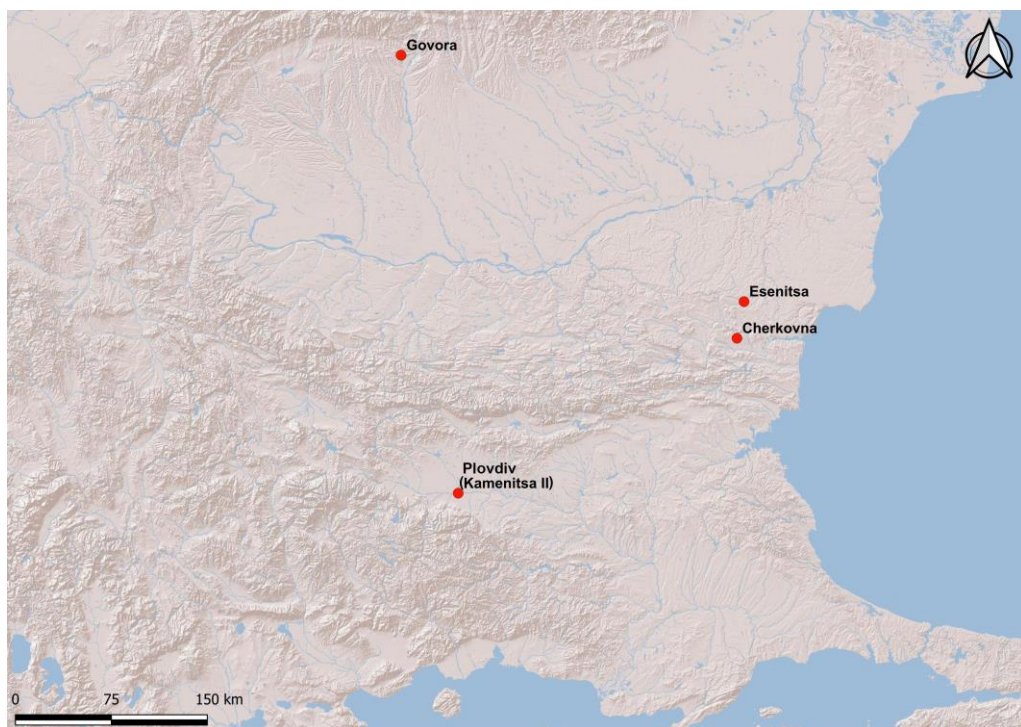


Fig. 1. Map with the locations of vessels' collections.

In the western part of the village of Cherkovna, Razgrad region, eight ceramic vessels were discovered in 1963 during a geological survey for an underground spring at a depth of 8 m (Figs. 14-16). According to Bernhard Hänsel, the pit was a well discovered under the foundations of a later well from the Roman period.<sup>5</sup>

<sup>3</sup> Детев 1964, 66.

<sup>4</sup> Цончев 1938, 23-24, обр. 41, 43-45.

<sup>5</sup> Hänsel 1976, 77; Dimitrova, Dilov 2018.





Fig. 2. The Plovdiv find: 1. A part of the discovered vessels; 2-4. The pit (well) during excavations (Archive of Regional Archaeological Museum of Plovdiv).

In the village of Esenitsa, Varna region, during excavation works in 1969, in a pit with a diameter of approximately 1.50 m, at a depth of 2.00 m, seven-eight, or more whole vessels were found (Fig. 17)<sup>6</sup>. They were partially filled with charred wheat. The vessels were in an upright position, placed close to each other, probably not at the very bottom of the pit. No traces of charcoal, bones, or ashes were found around them but the soil in the pit was different from the surrounding clay soil.<sup>7</sup>

To these finds should be added the one near the town of Govora in central southern Romania, where 17 (or 20) *kantharos*-like vessels were found in a pit. Here also no traces of other archaeological materials or habitation have been found in the vicinity.<sup>8</sup>

### PLOVDIV-ZIMNICEA-CHERKOVNA HORIZON

The finds from Plovdiv and Cherkovna defined a chronological horizon of the Late Bronze Age in this part of south-eastern Europe in the scientific literature, namely Plovdiv – Zimnicea – Cherkovna.

In 1970, Sebastian Morintz and Niță Angelescu were the first to define a separate chronological horizon and named it the "Zimnicea – Plovdiv complex". The authors based their opinion on the analogy between the finds from Plovdiv and Cherkovna with those from the necropolis at Zimnicea.<sup>9</sup> Bernhard Hänsel accepted the existence of this Late Bronze Age horizon, but suggested the name "Cherkovna". According to him, numerous finds belonged to this group, including the collective finds from Plovdiv and Cherkovna.<sup>10</sup> The connecting link of the entire chronological horizon, which according to him extended over the territory of Bulgaria and the eastern Danube regions of Romania could be found in the globular *kantharoi* and in some elements of the cups, *amphorae*, and jugs. Due to the similarity of some forms with those of the Early Bronze Age he assumed the beginning of the horizon lay in the Middle Bronze Age, and its end came with the appearance of the stamped decoration or at the end of the 12<sup>th</sup> or beginning of the 11<sup>th</sup> century BC.<sup>11</sup>

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<sup>6</sup> The number of vessels placed in the pit is not clear. In a footnote, the authors of the paper point out that they were informed of more vessels broken during excavation when the pit was discovered.

<sup>7</sup> Николов, Жекова 1982, 87.

<sup>8</sup> Berciu *et alii* 1961, 134-136; Hänsel 1976, 59.

<sup>9</sup> Morintz, Angelescu 1970, 407-408.

<sup>10</sup> Hänsel 1976, 76-79.

<sup>11</sup> Hänsel 1976, 81-87.

Ivan Panayotov, in his synthesis on the Bronze Age in Bulgaria, divided the Late Bronze Age into two phases – the first is Razkopanitza VII-Assenovetz, and the second is Plovdiv-Zimnicea group, marking the end of the Bronze Age (BA VI) for the region of the Upper Thracian Valley and north-eastern Bulgaria. The second one, according to him, is synchronous to the "Esenitsa" cultural phenomena in central northern Bulgaria.<sup>12</sup> These chronological phases are accepted by Alexander Bonev<sup>13</sup> and Jan Lichardus.<sup>14</sup> The late chronology of the Plovdiv-Zimnicea-Cherkovna type of finds is followed by most of the Bulgarian archaeologists to determine the date of further discovered Late Bronze Age materials (despite the broader date for the complex, accepted in the recent studies).

Based on the stratigraphy and <sup>14</sup>C dating of the Popești site, Nona Palincaș establishes a connection between the Fundeni-Govora and Zimnicea-Plovdiv type materials in the settlement. She also compares the dates and pottery shapes to Kastanas layers 17 to 15, Tei phases IV and V, Căscioarele and Radovanu and proposes the existence of both Fundeni-Govora and Zimnicea-Plovdiv groups between 1450/1400 BC and 1100 BC, considering Zimnicea-Plovdiv as the later group.<sup>15</sup>

Monica Șandor-Chicideanu and Mihai Constantinescu, on the basis of the research of the Plosca necropolis and some ceramic forms found in certain graves, establish a synchronicity between the classical phase of the Žuto Brdo-Gârla Mare culture, the Govora group and the Zimnicea-Plovdiv culture, the latter two cultures being more long-lived than the Žuto Brdo-Gârla Mare culture and thus also partly contemporaneous with the Bistreț-Ișalnița group of fluted ware.<sup>16</sup> The absolute dates for the classical phase of Žuto Brdo-Gârla Mare are considered between 1500/1425 and 1250 BC.<sup>17</sup>

Ion Motzoi-Chicideanu, based on parallels between vessels from Zimnicea and those from Gârla Mare and Cârna, assumed that the Zimnicea-Plovdiv-Cherkovna "group" or "culture" existed from the end of the Middle Bronze Age and lasted until the appearance of fluted pottery, i.e. until the 12<sup>th</sup>-11<sup>th</sup> century BC.<sup>18</sup> He accepted the 'Fundeni-Govora' group, dated to 1460-1425/1410 BC, as a separate expression of this culture.

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<sup>12</sup> Panayotov 1995, 248.

<sup>13</sup> Бонев 2003, 35-38.

<sup>14</sup> Lichardus *et alii* 2002, 136-137.

<sup>15</sup> Palincaș 1997, 252-253; Palincaș 2000, 213, 219, 222-224.

<sup>16</sup> Șandor-Chicideanu, Constantinescu 2019, 60-61.

<sup>17</sup> Șandor-Chicideanu, Constantinescu 2019, 63-65, 150-151.

<sup>18</sup> Motzoi-Chicideanu 2011, 117.

Raiko Krauss, recognizing a Middle Bronze Age horizon of finds in northern Bulgaria, points the beginning of the Cherkovna group with the beginning of the Late Bronze Age, accepting the name given by Bernhard Hänsel.<sup>19</sup>

Neculai Bolohan proposes a broad geographical and chronological framework for the Zimnicea-Plovdiv-Cherkovna group, which develops in a south-north direction in the center of the Balkan Peninsula: a space encompassing the territory of the southernmost part of Wallachia, between Zimnicea and Oltenița; the area south of the Danube reaches to the Rhodope and Rila Mountains, bounded in the south-west by the Struma and Mesta rivers and in the north-west by the area of the Gârla Mare-Žuto-Brdo culture.<sup>20</sup> He assumes the long chronology of the group – from the end of the 15<sup>th</sup> century to the beginning of the 12/11<sup>th</sup> century BC, with two phases: the Plovdiv collective find being the early phase and Cherkovna and the Zimnicea necropolis – the later.<sup>21</sup>

The broad chronological frameworks into which these eponymous finds were placed do not correspond to the current state of the sources, which have grown considerably in recent decades as a result of numerous archaeological investigations of Bronze Age sites. Some are large in scale and have a series of radiocarbon dates (Ada Tepe);<sup>22</sup> others, although smaller in scale, have Aegean imports (Koprivlen, Dragoina).<sup>23</sup> It is thus possible to attempt to narrow down the date of these finds, or at least to advocate about their possible earlier chronology than the second half or the end of the Late Bronze Age, traditionally assumed by the Bulgarian archaeology.

### HOARD OR DEPOSIT (INTERPRETATION)

Collective finds of ceramic vessels from the Bronze Age are known from Eastern, Central, and Western Europe (Romania, Moravia, Austria, Bavaria)<sup>24</sup>. They were discovered in different environments: settlements, architectural contexts, necropoleis, special places (like caves in Bavaria<sup>25</sup>, or different choices of landscapes in Romania<sup>26</sup>). Cases of finds without registered archaeological contexts in their surroundings are rather an exception.<sup>27</sup> The interpretation of these finds is highly controversial in the

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<sup>19</sup> Krauß 2006, 18-23.

<sup>20</sup> Bolohan 2016, 225-227.

<sup>21</sup> Bolohan 2016, 228-229.

<sup>22</sup> Popov *et alii* 2024.

<sup>23</sup> Jung *et alii* 2017 with literature; Bozhinova 2024.

<sup>24</sup> Stapel 1999, 109-115; Zuber 2015; Gogâltan, Németh, Apai 2011; Gogâltan 2014 with literature.

<sup>25</sup> Zuber 2015, 172-173, 182-183.

<sup>26</sup> Soroceanu 2012.

<sup>27</sup> Zuber 2015, 171-172, 180-181.

scientific literature with differing, often contradictory opinions being held.<sup>28</sup> Most often they are referred to as "hoards" or "deposits", but the most precise definition is *"the deposition of one or several objects that are not part of a funerary inventory or represent settlement remains"*<sup>29</sup>, with an explanation of vessel finds: *"a pot deposit represents an intentional and irreversible deposition of one or several complete or restorable vessels simultaneously, mainly for drinking, in various contexts which do not represent a funerary inventory or have other ritual meaning ...., or a proved domestic use"*.<sup>30</sup>

Bulgarian literature does not contribute much to clarify the nature of these finds. The vessels from Plovdiv and Cherkovna were discovered in deep, cylindrical pits which reached groundwater level, which led some authors to define them as wells.<sup>31</sup> The presence of charred wheat in the vessels from Esenitsa is used by the authors of their publication as an argument for interpreting all these finds as storages for food products.<sup>32</sup> Still, similar generalization is unconvincing as the different characteristics of each find suppose they had different functions. A religious purpose as family cenotaphs is seen in the Plovdiv find.<sup>33</sup> It relies on the information about the presence of clay levels, sealing different layers of vessels, which is rather questionable, as the circumstances of the archaeological situation seen on the pictures define such an observation difficult to be ascertained.

However, all three finds from Bulgaria, as well as the find from Govora in Romania, are accidental and remain isolated, as the environment in which they were located remains unclear. There are no registered Bronze Age settlements, layers, or materials in the areas where the collective finds of vessels were found. For this reason, they cannot contribute to the discussion regarding whether they are evidence of specific rituals or were part of everyday life. This paper attempts to precise the chronology of the three collective finds from Bulgaria – Plovdiv, Cherkovna, and Esenitsa – without entering into the discussion about their interpretation.

## THE VESSELS

### Plovdiv, Kamenitsa II district

The 39 vessels are preserved today in the Regional Museum of Archaeology – Plovdiv, although Petar Detev mentions in his publication that 44 containers were discovered.

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<sup>28</sup> Vulpe 1996; Berthold 1998; Stapel 1999; Czyborra, Blischke 2005; Metzner-Nebelsick 2012; Zuber 2015, Gogâltan 2014.

<sup>29</sup> Gogâltan 2014, 49.

<sup>30</sup> Gogâltan 2014, 52.

<sup>31</sup> Bozhinova 2018.

<sup>32</sup> Николов, Жекова 1982, 91-92.

<sup>33</sup> Бонев 2003, 78-79.

All of them have closed forms, functionally intended for storage, transport and/or consumption of liquids. The categories presented are four – the most numerous are *amphora*-like vessels – 19 (Figs. 3-8), followed by jugs – 10 pieces (Figs. 9-10, 11/1-2), *kantharos*-like vessels – 5 (Fig. 12), four cups (Fig. 13) and one vessel with a handle over the mouth (a bucket) (Fig. 11/3). Their surface is black, more rarely grey, grey-beige, or dark brown, often with spots, most probably caused during firing by contact with the walls of the furnace or with other vessels. Almost all have a well-burnished surface, in some cases even polished. The exceptions are two - a light brown jug and a black cup (Fig. 10/4) have roughly smoothed surface. All are undecorated. On one of the *amphorae* (Fig. 7/3), a vertical crack emanating from the mouth was reinforced with a thick layer of resin, and the rim of another amphora was also repaired using resin. Secondary holes were made in the upper part of two others, probably to facilitate the pouring of the liquid.

Most of the *amphora-like vessels* belong to the type with a funnel-shaped open mouth and a closed conical neck, distinguished by an indent from an ovoid body narrowing smoothly to a flat base (14 vessels, Figs. 3-6; 7/1-2). Two small vertical "ear-shaped" handles with an oval or triangular cross-section are placed on or slightly above the widest part of the body. One vessel has four handles. The height of the necks varies. One of the *amphorae* has a cylindrical, short neck (Fig. 3/3). In five vessels, the mouth is markedly separated from the neck by an indentation in the wall and/or a thickening of the mouth (Fig. 3/3; 4/2, 4; 5/2; 6/1; and 7/3). Because of a very similar silhouette, another vessel is to be added to this type, which differs by a more elliptical body shape and a slightly bulging neck (Fig. 7/3).

Two *amphorae*, both on pedestals (Fig. 3/1-2), represent particular types, although the ovoid shape of the body and the general silhouette place them in the largest group. One has a wider body and high pedestal, which changes greatly the proportions of the vessel and thus differentiate it from the whole group. In addition, it has four handles, and four low knobs placed between the handles on the shoulders. The second vessel is finely made, has a smooth grey surface, and two disc-shaped knobs symmetrically placed between the handles. Its base is a low cylindrical pedestal. The general characteristics of this vessel distinguish it from the whole group. It could be an import which provenance cannot be determined.

Two other *amphorae* can be distinguished by their silhouettes. One has an oval body without a neck and a funnel-shaped open mouth (Fig. 8/1). The second has an almost biconical body that merges smoothly into a cylindrical neck and ends with a straight mouth (Fig. 8/2). The handles of both vessels are broken off.

All *jugs* have an oblique mouth, a high handle that rises above it, and a triangular or round cross-section. They refer to two eminent forms – with a conical neck

distinguished from the body by an indentation (8 vessels, Fig. 9-10) and without a neck (2 vessels, Fig. 11/1-2). In the first type, two subtypes can be separated by the shape of the body – ovoid or spherical. In all of them, the mouth is slightly funnel-like everted and the transitions mouth – neck and neck – body are emphasized by an indentation. One of the vessels has an elongated silhouette, a light brown color, and a poorly smoothed surface. The color and the rough surface distinguish it from all the other vessels in the find (Fig. 10/4). The jugs of the second type have an ovoid body, the mouth is distinguished by a rim, and in one vessel it is funnel-shaped. The bases of all the jugs are slightly concave, in a few cases profiled.

Kantharos-like vessels have a closed conical neck, but the shape of the body divides them into two types - those with an almost ovoid shape, but flattened, with a maximum diameter in the upper part (3 vessels, Fig. 12/1-3) and with a spherical body (2 vessels – Fig. 12/4-5). In all representatives of the first type and in one of the second type, the transitions between the mouth and the neck as well as between the neck and the body are emphasized by indentations and thickenings of the mouth. Only the fifth vessel has an everted mouth rim. All of the handles (one of the vessels has no preserved handles) are with triangular cross-sections. Almost all of them have a very well-burnished and polished surface. Those of the second type are characterized by a higher precision of craftsmanship and a polished surface.

The four cups are of four different types (Fig. 13). All have handles that protrude beyond the mouth, with a round or oval cross-section. One cup has a polished surface, a pear-shaped body, and a slightly concave base. The mouth is broken off, but it may have been emphasized with an incised line (Fig. 13/1). The second cup has a truncated ovoid body with a mouth emphasized by a deep line (Fig. 13/2). The third cup, also polished, has a cylindrical body, an oblique mouth that is extended upwards on the side opposite the handle, thus forming a spout (Fig. 13/3). The fourth cup, also cylindrical, is very small and narrow – with a small diameter and a roughly smoothed black surface (Fig. 13/4).

The vessel with a massive handle above the mouth has a simple profile, a truncated spherical body, and a flat base (Fig. 11/3). Its surface is smooth and brown, with spots of secondary burning.

### **Cherkovna**

The find consists of 8 ceramic vessels, which are now kept in the Regional Museum of History – Razgrad: 2 *amphora*-like vessels and a third one with spherical body (Fig. 14), 2 *kantharos*-like vessels (Fig. 16), 2 bowls (Fig. 15/2-3), and a large closed vessel with a shape that represents a hybridization between *amphora* and *kantharos* (Fig. 15/1). All are dark grey, with brown spots. Most have a burnished surface, the decorated spherical *kantharos* is polished, and the hybrid vessel has an uneven, roughly smoothed surface.





Fig. 3. Plovdiv, *amphorae* Inv. № I-389, I-386, and I-404  
(drawings – E. Bozhinova, Y. Dimitrova).



Fig. 4. Plovdiv, *amphorae* Inv. № I-423, I-397, I-419, and I-420  
(drawings – E. Bozhinova, Y. Dimitrova).



Fig. 5. Plovdiv, *amphorae* Inv. № I-421, I-403, I-388, and I-422  
(drawings – E. Bozhinova, Y. Dimitrova).



Fig. 6. Plovdiv, *amphorae* Inv. № I-403, I-402, and I-73 (drawings – E. Bozhinova, Y. Dimitrova).



Fig. 7. Plovdiv, *amphorae* Inv. № I-405, I-387, and I-390  
(drawings – E. Bozhinova, Y. Dimitrova).



Fig. 8. Plovdiv, *amphorae* Inv. № I-396 and I-401m (drawings – E. Bozhinova, Y. Dimitrova).

The *amphorae* have an ovoid body, a flat base, and an everted mouth. The handles of one amphora are placed on the widest part of the body (Fig. 14/1), and those of the other are slightly lower (Fig. 14/2). The third vessel (Fig. 14/3), tentatively assigned to this category, has a spherical body, everted mouth, and handles on the shoulders, below the neck.

The decorated *kantharos* (Fig. 16/1) has a spherical body separated by an indentation from a closed-conical neck, an everted mouth rim and two high vertical handles starting below the rim, with a triangular cross-section. The base is flat and profiled. The central part of the body and the upper part of the handles are decorated with a composition of geometric motifs in the *Furchenstich* technique with white inlay. The central motif is a composition of cross-hatched triangles surrounded by two bands of inscribed circles, set between motifs of hatched and inscribed triangles and rhombs. The latter are also applied to the handles. The second *kantharos* (Fig. 16/2) has a spherical body that flows smoothly into a high, closed, conical neck, a concave base, and two vertical handles that rise above the mouth.



Fig. 9. Plovdiv, jugs Inv. № I-409, I-408, I-415, and I-414  
(drawings – E. Bozhinova, Y. Dimitrova).





Fig. 10. Plovdiv, jugs Inv. № I-417, I-399, I-406, and I-416  
(drawings – E. Bozhinova, Y. Dimitrova).



Fig. 11. Plovdiv, 1-2. Jugs Inv. № I-418 and I-422; 3. Bucket Inv. № I-407 (drawings – E. Bozhinova, Y. Dimitrova).



Fig. 12. Plovdiv, *kantharoi* Inv. № I-395, I-393, I-394, I-392, and I-391  
(drawings – E. Bozhinova, Y. Dimitrova).



Fig. 13. Plovdiv, cups Inv. № I-411, I-410, I-412, and I-413  
(drawings – E. Bozhinova, Y. Dimitrova).

The two vessels, which are formally defined as bowls, are small and probably had the function of cups. One of the bowls (Fig. 15/2) has a conical body, a short, cylindrical neck, a thickened and everted mouth rim, a flat, profiled base, and two small, vertical handles that begin below the mouth rim and end below the widest part of the body. Two low conical knobs, resembling small knobs, are symmetrically placed between the handles at the maximum diameter, at the transition to the neck. The second bowl (Fig. 15/3) has a slightly elongated S-shaped silhouette, a concave base, and two small vertical handles at the widest part of the body.

The vessel with two high vertical handles (Fig. 15/1), which is more carelessly crafted than the others, is atypical. It has a straight mouth, a short cylindrical neck that is not separated from the ovoid body, a flat base, and two vertical handles that are placed in the manner of the *kantharos*-like vessels – starting from the mouth, rising slightly above it and ending at the widest part of the body. Formally and functionally, it belongs to the amphorae and should probably be considered a separate form of this category. The vessel has a careless decoration – motifs close to hatched, inscribed, and filled triangles arranged on three parallel incised lines in a composition placed as a band on the widest part of the body.



Fig. 14. Cherkovna, *amphorae* Inv. № 807, 809, and 645 (drawings – Y. Dimitrova).



Fig. 15. Cherkovna, 1. Jar Inv. № 583; 2-3. Bowls Inv. № 805 and 806 (drawings – Y. Dimitrova).



Fig. 16. Cherkovna, *kantharoi*, Inv. № 808 and 647 (drawings – Y. Dimitrova).



## Esenitsa

The number of vessels originally placed in the pit is not clear. Seven, eight or more whole vessels were discovered, six of which are described in the publication. Five of them are presented with images (here Fig. 17).<sup>34</sup> The five vessels illustrated are large and have closed forms; the sixth is a cup with a handle that rises high above the mouth and a flat base. Two of the vessels represent "classical" forms of *amphora*-like vessels and jugs.

The *amphora* (Fig. 17/1) has an ovoid body, a flat base, a conical neck, and a funnel-shaped mouth with two vertical "ear-shaped" handles at the widest part of the body. Two low conical knobs are arranged symmetrically between the handles.

The *jug* (Fig. 17/2) has an ovoid body, a conical neck, and a short funnel-shaped mouth. Three small, conical knobs are symmetrically located at the transition between the body and the neck. Another vessel (Fig. 17/3) is almost identical in shape and mouth but unusually has three vertical handles.

The *vessel with the horizontal handles* (Fig. 17/4) has an ovoid body that turns directly, without a neck, into an everted mouth. The handles are placed just above the widest part of the body.

The *big vessel with two high vertical handles* (Fig. 17/5), is the most unusual, with an elongated, pear-shaped body, in the center of which a spherical body is separated from a high, conical neck by an indentation. The handles extend from the mouth and protrude high above it, as on the *kantharos*-like vessels.

## THE VESSEL ANALOGIES

The vessels from the three collective finds have been taken as a standard for the main pottery forms of this period, with the prevailing opinion being that they are characteristic of the second half of the period. Materials accumulated during excavations in recent decades suggest a possible earlier chronology, as some of them are probably not later than the very beginning of the Late Bronze Age.

The vessels from the three finds can generally be divided into two groups - the first with features that became common for the Late Bronze Age and the second with more archaic features. These groups are most recognizable in the Kamenitsa find, as it is the largest of all three.

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<sup>34</sup> НИКОЛОВ, Жекова 1982, Табл. I-II.

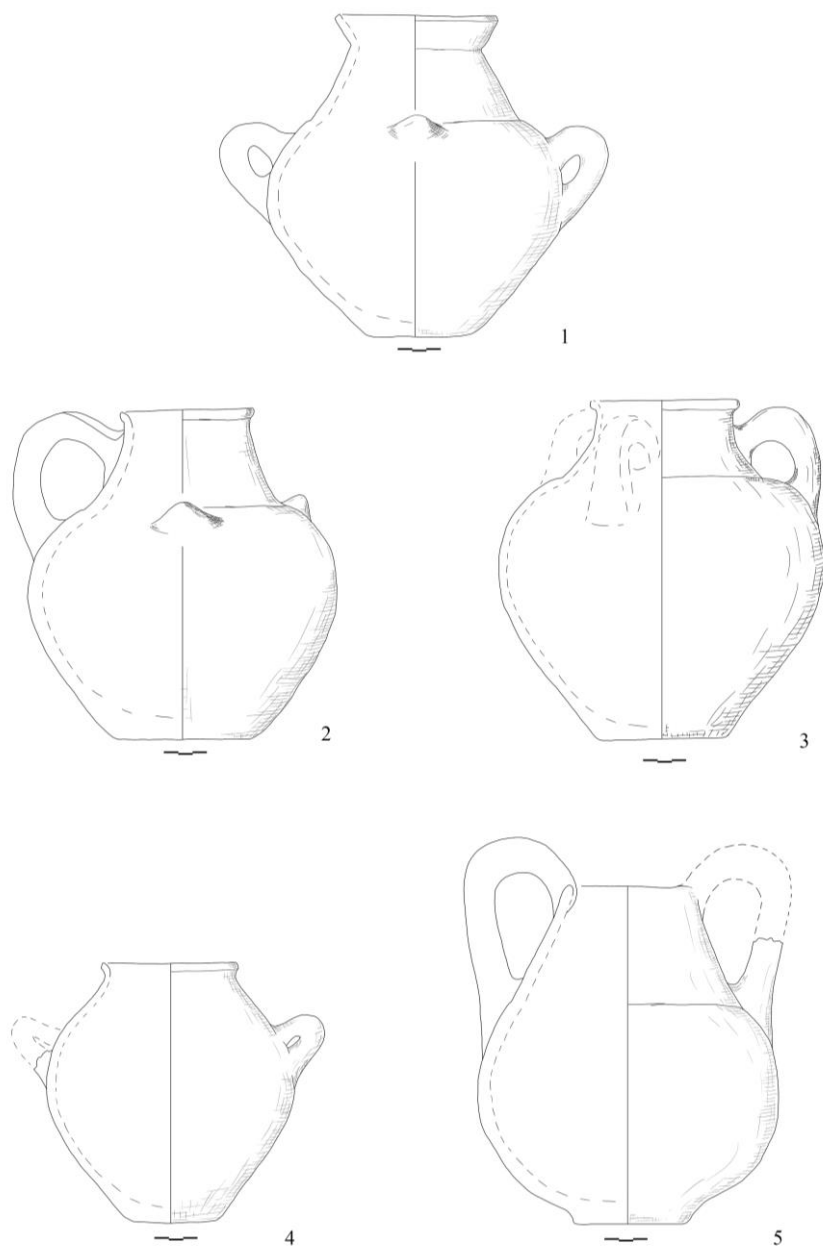


Fig. 17. Esenitsa (drawings – Y. Dimitrova, after Николов, Жекова 1982).

## Group 1

Most of the *amphora*-like vessels, *kantharos*-like vessels and jugs from the Kamenitsa find are characterized by a common silhouette and specifically repeated details. Their profile is S-shaped and consists of a flat, often slightly profiled base, an ovoid body, a closed-conical neck, and an open, funnel-shaped mouth; the transitions between body and neck as well as between the neck and the mouth are emphasized by indentations on the walls and a thickening of the mouth rim. The handles of the *amphora*-like vessels are placed on or just above the widest part of the body, at the lower part of the shoulders. This group also includes the decorated *kantharos* from Cherkovna, the *amphora*-like vessel, and the jugs (including the three-handled piece) from Esenitsa.

Seventeen vessels from the Plovdiv find (Fig. 3-7) and one from the Esenitsa find (Fig. 17/1) belong to the *amphora*-like vessels with this silhouette. The shape is one of the most popular in this category in the Balkan region.<sup>35</sup> *Amphorae* of this type are found in Toumba Thessaloniki in phases VIII-VI,<sup>36</sup> in Assiros in Phase 9,<sup>37</sup> Kastanas III-IV (types IIIId and IIle)<sup>38</sup> and in all the Late Bronze Age layers of Agyos Mammas (types IB, IIA and IIB),<sup>39</sup> which indicates that they appeared at the latest at the beginning of the period. This shape with a flat base or pedestal is considered typical of the Late Bronze Age in eastern Macedonia.<sup>40</sup> The *amphora* on a high pedestal with four handles (Fig. 3/2), which is almost identical to an *amphora* from Batak,<sup>41</sup> is close to the vessels from Assiros, phase 14, where its appearance is dated to the LH III A period.<sup>42</sup> New data from Ada Tepe from well-dated contexts with <sup>14</sup>C dates confirm the existence of the form as early as the mid-15<sup>th</sup> century BC.<sup>43</sup> The early appearance of the form can also be suggested by its presence in the complex from Vratitsa, dated broadly between the 17<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> centuries BC<sup>44</sup> and synchronized with Troy VI-VII.<sup>45</sup> The presence of bowls with spouts, Asenovets-type handles, the spherical bowls (cups according to the author) with everted mouth rims, and the shapes of the kitchenware

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<sup>35</sup> Иванов 2007, 252-253; Bozhinova, Jung, Mommsen 2013, 55; Димитрова 2014, 11-12 with literature; Nekhrizov, Tzvetkova 2018, Fig. 2/13, 15..

<sup>36</sup> Andreou-Psaraki 2007, 407-410, Fig. 9. KA 1427/1469.

<sup>37</sup> Wardle, Wardle 2007, 469, Pl. 7/a, 11, 13.

<sup>38</sup> Hochstetter 1984, 38-48, Taf. 10/1.

<sup>39</sup> Horejs 2007, 153-159.

<sup>40</sup> Koukouli-Chrysanthaki 1982, 233-234.

<sup>41</sup> Цончев, Милчев 1970, 190, Обр. 81.

<sup>42</sup> Wardle 1997, Fig. 2/1; Wardle, Wardle 2007, Pl. 13.

<sup>43</sup> Popov *et alii* 2017, 177, Abb. 14/1, 3; 179, Abb. 16/7; 182, Abb. 19/4.

<sup>44</sup> Hristova 2011, 120, fig. 7/1-4.

<sup>45</sup> Leshtakov 2009, 62.

suggest an earlier date for the Vratitsa complex, within the Middle Bronze Age, no later than the very beginning of the Late Bronze Age.<sup>46</sup> Two *amphorae* from Novgrad have a similar silhouette, which complex is dated to the Middle Bronze Age in the new studies.<sup>47</sup> The vessels from Novgrad and Vratitsa have small knobs on the shoulders, symmetrically placed between or above the handles. This feature is important as the presence of these knobs has been considered one of the arguments in favour of dating the find from Esenitsa to the very end of the period.

The form, again with knobs, is present in the assemblage from Troy, as it is the most numerous type among the group of the Knobbed Ware and is pointed to be an innovation with of Troy VII.<sup>48</sup> The close similarity between the exemplars of Novgrad and one of Troy prove the long occurrence of the form. As far as the vessels of Troy, all presented in the group of the Knobbed ware are considered as introducing a foreign ceramic tradition, to understand its origin parallels should be searched in the local pottery groups of the previous phases. A jar of the group known as Grey Minyan Ware that occurs in Early Troy VI has a similar silhouette to the described *amphorae*.<sup>49</sup> The further development of the type in Troy VIIa has handles that are moved up on the shoulders of the vessels<sup>50</sup> which development moves this type of jars away from the evolution of the *amphora*-like vessels in Thrace. The latest version of the last ones arrives as an innovation by newcomers at Troy VIIb.

The form is generally known from sites north of the Danube, where it appears together with vessels typical for the Žuto Brdo-Gârla Mare culture, its classical stage dated broadly from 15<sup>th</sup> to the middle of 13<sup>th</sup> century BC.<sup>51</sup> From the same cemetery is an *amphora* with two handles and two flat knobs between them<sup>52</sup> with close similarity to the *amphora* on a low pedestal from Plovdiv (Fig. 4/1).

Jugs with an S-shaped profile are represented by four vessels in the find from Plovdiv (Fig. 10) and by two vessels in the find from Esenitsa (Fig. 17/2-3), including

<sup>46</sup> To this day the prevailing opinion is that bowls with inverted rims and handles of the Asenovets type (wish-bone handles) are not found in clear Late Bronze Age contexts in the territory of Bulgaria. This type is completely absent from the pottery of Ada Tepe, Dragoyna, etc. An argument in favour of an earlier chronology of the Vratitsa site is the absence of cooking jars with a wide-open funnel-shaped mouth and an applied band immediately below the mouth. It can therefore be assumed that the complex dates back to at least the end of the Middle Bronze Age, if not earlier.

<sup>47</sup> Krauß 2024, 147, Fig. 8/5.

<sup>48</sup> Shape C84 in Blegen *et alii* 1958, 174-175, Fig. 218 and 265.

<sup>49</sup> Shape C48 in Blegen *et alii* 1953, 36, 133, Fig. 324 and 423 – 23.26.

<sup>50</sup> Blegen *et alii* 1958, Fig. 233 – 35.440.

<sup>51</sup> Șandor-Chicideanu, Constantinescu 2019, 150-151; 184, Pl. 24/2; 221, Pl. 61/3

<sup>52</sup> Șandor-Chicideanu, Constantinescu 2019, 173, Pl. 13/2a-b.

that with three handles. Both types of jugs from Kamenitsa have exact equivalents in the vessels from the necropolis at Zimnicea,<sup>53</sup> but earlier analogies can also be identified. The small vessels with oblique mouths and spherical bodies (Fig. 9/1-2) have similar silhouettes to the richly *Furchenstich*-decorated vessels from Ada Tepe from the mid-15<sup>th</sup> century structures.<sup>54</sup>

The spherical *kantharos* from Cherkovna (Fig. 16/1), three similarly shaped ones from Kamenitsa (Fig. 12/1-3) and several from Govora<sup>55</sup> have the silhouette emblematic of the Late Bronze Age.<sup>56</sup> They have widespread analogues throughout the southern Balkans, including north of the Danube, in complexes from the entire Late Bronze Age period.<sup>57</sup> Both types of *kantharoi*, as well as jugs, have analogues in the necropolis at Zimnicea.<sup>58</sup> Only the first type has parallels in the Dragoina complex, where similar vessels are found with decoration.<sup>59</sup> The form is known from early contexts, e.g. from the middle of the 15th century BC from Ada Tepe,<sup>60</sup> Kastanas,<sup>61</sup> and north of the Stara Planina – in the area of the Tei culture.<sup>62</sup>

Pear-shaped cups are also emblematic of the Late Bronze Age and typical of a wide area<sup>63</sup>, but the shape can be traced back the beginning of the Late Bronze Age

<sup>53</sup> Alexandrescu 1973, 98, Pl. IX, 17-19.

<sup>54</sup> Popov *et alii* 2017, 184, Abb. 21, 5; 199, Abb. 35, 6; Popov *et alii* 2024, 46, Fig. 17, 5; 55, Fig. 26; 62, Fig. 32, 1; 74, Fig. 42, 1.

<sup>55</sup> Berciu, Purcărescu, Roman 1961, 135, 1, 5-6.

<sup>56</sup> Hänsel 1976, 83.

<sup>57</sup> In the Thrace valley: Hänsel 1976, taf. 36/2; 70/5; Кънчев, Кънчева 1990, 10, обр. 9/ж; in the Rhodope Mountain: Попов 2009, 29, табл. 11; Нехризов 2008, обр. 2, 5; Кисъов 1993, 5, обр. 6/ и; 10, 14/б; Георгиева 2003, 162, обр. 1/9, 11; Grammenos 1979, 32, I/9; 35, III/1; II, ε; along the Struma Valley: Alexandrov *et al.* 2007, 381, tabl. 6/d; Wardle, Wardle 2007, 468, Pl. 14; and along the Mesta valley: Alexandrov 2002, fig. 14/4-8; 23/1, 5, 6; in eastern and central Macedonia: Koukouli-Chrysantaki 1982, pl. 9-10; Hochstetter 1984, 62-63, Abb. 15; Horejs 2007, 117-122, Abb. 61.

<sup>58</sup> Alexandrescu 1973, VIII/10-12.

<sup>59</sup> Bozhinova, Jung, Mommsen 2013, Taf. 3/1, 2, 5.

<sup>60</sup> Popov *et al* 2024, 74, Fig. 42/3; 75, Fig. 43/8.

<sup>61</sup> Hochstetter 1984, Taf. 8/7; 17/1.

<sup>62</sup> Leahu 2003, Pl. LXVIII/3, 9; LXX/7; Frînculeasa 2014, 251, Pl. 11/1-5.

<sup>63</sup> Bozhinova, Jung, Mommsen 2013, Taf. 5/1-2, 5; Detev 1981, Fig. 36/4; Дремсизова-Нелчинова 1984, Обр. 18, 20; Вълчанова 1985, Фиг. 3; Hänsel 1976, Taf. 11/1, 2, 4; Alexandrescu 1974, Fig. 2/4; Alexandrescu 1973, Fig. IX/1-6; Leshtakov 2009, 78, Fig. 8.

and even to the Middle Bronze: Chokoba-18,<sup>64</sup> Kastanas 18 Bauschicht<sup>65</sup> and Ada Tepe in contexts from the middle of the 15<sup>th</sup> century BC.<sup>66</sup>

## Group 2

The second group comprises vessels that have a smooth silhouette with flowing transitions between the individual parts. The *amphorae* in this group are two vessels from Plovdiv (Fig. 8) and two from Cherkovna (Fig. 14/1-2). *Kantharoi* are also presented in both finds, two in Plovdiv (Fig. 12/4-5) and one in Cherkovna (Fig. 16/2). The two jars with simple profile from Plovdiv are also considered to belong to this earlier group.

The *amphorae* in this group include a vessel from Plovdiv (Fig. 8/1) and the *amphorae* from Cherkovna. They are characterized by an ovoid body that merges smoothly into a funnel-shaped, open mouth without a pronounced neck. The handles are attached to the widest part of the body or the shoulders. The shape is represented in the early structures of the settlement on Ada Tepe near Krumovgrad, dated to the middle of the 15<sup>th</sup> century BC.<sup>67</sup> The antecessors of the form are to be seen in a vessel from the Svishtov Treasure, dated to the Middle Bronze Age,<sup>68</sup> the Vratitsa complex,<sup>69</sup> Polsko Kosovo,<sup>70</sup> and others. An indication for the early chronology of the form is its presence with only one vessel at the Dragoyna site, which handles being placed over the upper part of the body could be considered as a developed version of the type.<sup>71</sup>

Both *amphora* forms are presented in the complex in Kaimenska Čuka,<sup>72</sup> though the *kantharoi* and the bowls there are of different types. The absolute dating of the site spans a large period of time, between the 15<sup>th</sup> and the 11<sup>th</sup> century, with the excavators' preference for the second half of the Late Bronze Age, the 14<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> centuries BC.<sup>73</sup> A latter suggestion about its chronology at the beginning of the period seems more reasonable.<sup>74</sup>

<sup>64</sup> Петрова, Кацаров 2010, 127, оър. 2; Leshtakov, Tsirtsoni 2016, 486, Fig. 4-5.

<sup>65</sup> Hochstetter 1984, Taf. 7/5-7

<sup>66</sup> Popov *et alii* 2024, 78, Fig. 46/3,4.

<sup>67</sup> Popov *et alii* 2024, 46, Fig. 17, 2.

<sup>68</sup> Alexandrov *et alii* 2018, 490, Cat. No 218.

<sup>69</sup> Hristova 2011, 110, fig. 7/4.

<sup>70</sup> Krauß 2006, Abb. 10/2.

<sup>71</sup> Bozhinova, Jung, Mommsen 2013, Taf. 2/9.

<sup>72</sup> Stefanovich, Bankoff 1998, Fig. 29 and 30/A-B for the first type, and Fig. 33/A-C for the second type.

<sup>73</sup> Stefanovich, Bankoff 1998, 279-282.

<sup>74</sup> Krauß 2006, 18-19.

The biconical *amphora* with a cylindrical neck and a simple, unemphasized mouth from Plovdiv finds remote parallels in the sites from Bulgaria: the Bratanova Cave in the Strandzha Mountain area,<sup>75</sup> the Sandanski necropolis,<sup>76</sup> Yambol – Cherven Bair<sup>77</sup> and three vessels from Ada Tepe, two of which come from a 15<sup>th</sup> century.<sup>78</sup> Closer to it is a large jar, shape C10 from the local Early Aegean ware in Troy, with its evaluated variant from Troy V.<sup>79</sup> In Thrace, a prototype of the form is to be seen in the ditch site at Cherna gora, dated in the Early Bronze Age III.<sup>80</sup> Most parallels, though not exact, point toward an early date for the type.

The *kantharoi* in the second group have a similar silhouette, with flowing transitions. Those are one vessel from Plovdiv (Fig. 12/5) and one from Cherkovna (Fig. 16/2). Analogous vessels are found in the necropoleis at Borino,<sup>81</sup> Ovcharitsa-2,<sup>82</sup> and next to Nova Zagora. The last one, together with the necropolis from Zimnicea, present closest parallels to the *kantharoi* and the jars from this second group, as also to the cups.<sup>83</sup> The three mentioned sites are conventionally dated in the Late Bronze Age, respectively the necropoleis from Bulgaria – in the second part of the period. The Ovcharitsa-2 necropolis present more peculiar vessels and reassessment of its chronology is required too.

The two jugs from Plovdiv with an ovoid body that merges directly into an oblique mouth with a marked transition between the individual parts (Fig. 11/1-2) have almost identical silhouette to the small pear-shaped cups. Still, outside of the mentioned necropolises, jugs of this shape are not known from other Late Bronze Age sites. A vessel from the Krakra fortress in Pernik, dated to the end of the Early Bronze Age, has a very similar body silhouette, albeit with a specifically shaped handle.<sup>84</sup>

The vessel from Esenitsa with two horizontal handles is unusual (Fig. 17/4), and no other similar vessel is known from Bulgaria. The form of the body is very close to a vessel from the Cherkovna find, again a peculiar exemplar. We can probably look for the evolution of these vessels in the Middle Bronze Age amphorae, as they resemble

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<sup>75</sup> Теоклиева, Балабанов 1981, 11-12, Обр. 5.

<sup>76</sup> Alexandrov, Petkov, Ivanov 2007, Tabl. 4/g.

<sup>77</sup> Lichardus *et alii* 2002, Abb. 8/3

<sup>78</sup> Popov *et alii* 2024, 46 Fig. 17/3-4. The authors assume that “the ceramic inventory of the northeastern settlement should be dated to the first half of the 15<sup>th</sup> century, but not later than the middle of the same century” (p. 48 and note 31 on the same page).

<sup>79</sup> Blegen, Caskey, Rawson 1951, 245, Pl. 238.

<sup>80</sup> Leshtakov 2006, 420, Fig. 12/2-3

<sup>81</sup> Кисъов 1990, Фиг. 11.

<sup>82</sup> Kuncheva-Russeva 2000, Fig. 25.2.1.

<sup>83</sup> Кънчев, Кънчева 1990, Обр. 8/д and Обр. 9/а, б, д and ж; Alexandrescu 1974, Fig. 2/1-5.

<sup>84</sup> Александров 2003, 60, Обр. 5/3.

the vessel from the Svishtov hoard, defined by the authors as characteristic of the repertoire of the II-III phase of the Middle Bronze Age Tei local culture.<sup>85</sup> Closer parallels, though distant, are found in Maydos-Kilisetepe<sup>86</sup> and Troy VI,<sup>87</sup> again pointing an early chronology for the form.

The Cherkovna bowls find a parallel in one vessel from Chokoba-18A,<sup>88</sup> which has a similar silhouette to the second Cherkovna bowl but is decorated with knobs as the first bowl. However, the long chronology of the site, 2200-1260 BC, cannot help to determine more precisely the chronology of the vessel before the full publication of the site.<sup>89</sup> It should be noted that the Chokoba vessel represents a more developed variant of the form known also from Thasos<sup>90</sup> and Dragoyna<sup>91</sup> and is probably later than the vessels from Cherkovna. Again, a similar profile and knobs, but with high handles is a bowl from the Sandanski necropolis, referred to the later phase of the Late Bronze Age.<sup>92</sup> Richly decorated with *Furchenstich* bowls with a similar silhouette and handles have also been found in Ada Tepe, in contexts dating to the middle of the 15<sup>th</sup> century BC.<sup>93</sup>

## CONCLUSION

The collective finds of ceramic vessels considered in this study gave their name to a chronological horizon, conventionally referred to as the last phase of the Bronze Age. Contradictory, even with this definition, the possibility was admitted that it already began at the end of the Middle Bronze Age (Hänsel in the 1970s, Motzoi-Chicideanu in 2011). The attempt at a more precise chronological determination of the finds from Plovdiv, Cherkovna and Esenitsa is not definitive here due to the broad frameworks within which the individual forms can be dated. However, the parallels drawn from well-dated complexes indicate that the initial date of this horizon can almost certainly be set no later than the beginning of the Late Bronze Age.

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<sup>85</sup> Alexandrov *et alii* 2018, 367.

<sup>86</sup> Sazcı, Mutlu 2014, Fig. 6/a, Level VI, Middle Bronze Age.

<sup>87</sup> Blegen, Caskey, Rawson 1953, 66-67, Shape C65, Taf. 326/36.721; the shape is common during the Early and Middle period, produced in nearly all groups.

<sup>88</sup> Лецаков 2010, Обр. 1.

<sup>89</sup> Tsirtsoni 2021, Fig. 10.

<sup>90</sup> Koukouli-Chrysanthaki 1982, 234, Pl. 5/1.

<sup>91</sup> Bozhinova, Jung, Mommsen 2013, 56-58, Taf. 4/1-2.

<sup>92</sup> Alexandrov, Petkov, Ivanov 2007, Tabl. 4/f; 5/b.

<sup>93</sup> Popov *et alii* 2024, 73, Fig. 41/3; 78/1.



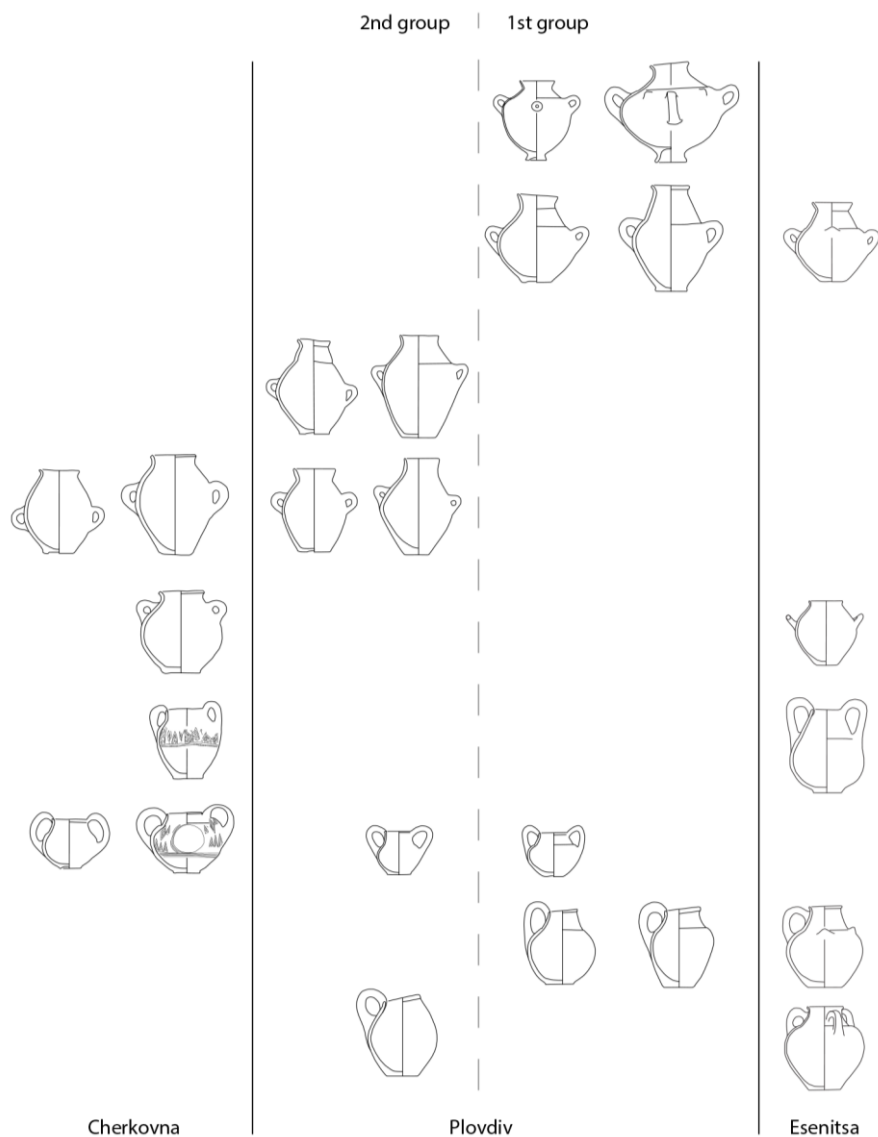


Fig. 18. Main vessel types from Plovdiv, Cherkovna and Esenitsa.

Two differentiated groups of vessels with characteristics respectively indicating later and earlier chronology are distinguished (Fig. 18). Both groups are present in the hoard from Plovdiv, with predominance of the first group, while the find from Cherkovna only contains vessels from the second group. This situation probably reflects chronological differences between the two finds, with the one from Cherkovna being the

earliest, followed by that from Plovdiv. The small number of vessels in the Esenitsa hoard, two of which have unique shapes, hampers precise definition. The amphora and the two jugs (Fig. 17), belong to the first group which indicates a later date for this find.

The given parallels of the individual vessel types do not allow the first (later) group to be placed within a narrow chronological range, as they occur in contexts that are dated within the frames of the Late Bronze Age as a whole. They all have predecessors in the Middle Bronze Age. Furthermore, the arguments in favour of dating the vessels to the final phase of the Bronze Age are contradicted by field data from the last two decades, in which vessels cited as examples of the final stage of the period have been found in contexts with  $^{14}\text{C}$  dating in the early phases of the Late Bronze Age. The vessels from Cherkovna demonstrate archaic characteristics for the Late Bronze Age and the chronology of the find should probably be placed no later than the earliest phase of the period or 16<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup> centuries BC, if not even earlier. The presence of pear-shaped jugs, *amphora*-like and *kantharos*-like vessels with a smooth silhouette in the Plovdiv complex suggests that its final date cannot be placed in the late phases of the period and certainly not in its final phase. The presence of some vessels that show characteristics of an earlier chronology than the main part of the group should be explained by the fact that they continued to be produced even after the introduction of new types. The peculiarities of the structure in which they were found – a pit (or a well) without a lining do not suggest long-term use, which could not have been longer than a few decades. Although these vessels are few (15% of all), the date of the structure have to be set not far from their chronology, or between the 15<sup>th</sup> and the 13<sup>th</sup> century BC.

An exact chronological definition of the three collective finds is not possible at this stage. Nevertheless, we hope that the paper will contribute on shifting the lower chronological boundary of the Plovdiv-Zimnicea-Cherkovna horizon to the beginning of the Late Bronze Age (or 15<sup>th</sup> century BC) at the latest. The first-ever precise photographic and graphic representation of the vessels from the three complexes offers the possibility of using them for further scientific research.

### Acknowledgements

The publication is part of the realization of a project 'Non-destructive archaeology: an interdisciplinary study of the settlement pattern of the Ludogorsko Plateau in the Bronze and Early Iron Age', contract between the National Archaeological Institute with Museum of the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences and the Bulgarian National Science Fund No. КП-06-H80/12 from 15.12.2023.

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# THE TYPOLOGY OF EARLY IRON AGE SETTLEMENTS OF TURKISH THRACE

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Umut M. DOĞAN

Edirne Archaeology and Ethnography Museum, Edirne, Türkiye,

e-mail: ark mud@gmail.com

ORCID ID: <https://orcid.org/0000-0003-1519-1551>

**Abstract:** This study, based on the surveys conducted for the author's PhD thesis, provides data and suggestions on the geographical distribution of the Early Iron Age settlements in Turkish Thrace, which constitutes a significant part of Eastern Thrace. The area from which the data were obtained consists of: the valleys fed by two major rivers, the Maritsa (Meriç) and Tundzha (Tunca) rivers in the province of Edirne, the valleys fed by the Süloğlu stream, the region north of the Saros Gulf, the Tozakli Valley and its immediate surroundings, near the Pinarhisar district of the Kırklareli province. This study area is an important data area for the region as it covers both the inner Eastern Thrace close to the Istranca Mountains and the coasts of the Saros Gulf in the South.

During the surveys conducted between 2021 and 2023, the centres found in this region during previous surveys were revisited and examined, and new centres were identified.

The observations made on the settlement typology largely coincide with the Early Iron Age data from other parts of Thrace. In addition to small and medium sized unfortified settlements situated in the valleys, fortress type settlements located at certain points of the valleys and built high above the river level were also identified. These two settlement types suggest that the village and hamlet-type lowland settlements established on the ridges close to the river beds along the valleys in the Early Iron Age may have been connected to the administrative centres in the fortress-type settlements established on high places.

**Rezumat:** Acest studiu, având ca punct de pornire cercetările de suprafață desfășurate de autor pentru lucrarea de doctorat, oferă date și sugestii privind distribuția geografică a așezărilor din prima epocă a fierului din Tracia Turcească, ce constituie o parte importantă a Traciei de Est. Aria de unde au fost colectate datele cuprinde: văile râurilor Marița și Tunca din provincia Edirne, văile deservite de râul Süloğlu, regiunea de la nord de golful Saros, valea Tozakli și zona imediat înconjurătoare, în apropierea districtului Pinarhisar din provincia Kırklareli. Această arie de studiu este importantă pentru regiune, deoarece acoperă atât interiorul Traciei de Est, în apropiere de Munții Istranca, cât și coastele golfului Saros în sud.

În cursul cercetărilor de suprafață desfășurate în anii 2021-2023 au fost revizitate și examinate așezări descoperite în cursul unor cercetări mai vechi și au fost identificate și noi centre.

Observațiile realizate pe marginea tipologiei așezărilor corespund în general cu datele privind prima epocă a fierului din alte părți ale Traciei. Pe lângă așezări nefortificate de dimensiuni mici și medii aflate pe văile râurilor, așezări fortificate au fost identificate, construite în zone înalte, în anumite puncte de-a lungul văilor. Existența acestor două tipuri de locuire sugerează că așezările de tip sat și cătun din zonele joase, stabilite pe malurile râurilor în prima epocă a fierului, ar fi putut fi conectate cu centrele administrative care ar fi existat în așezările fortificate situate în zonele înalte.

**Keywords:** Eastern Thrace, Early Iron Age, settlement typology, Maritsa (Meriç) Basin, Tundzha (Tunca) Basin, Edirne, Kırklareli, Saros Gulf.

**Cuvinte cheie:** Tracia de est, prima epocă a fierului, tipologia așezărilor, Marița, Tundža, Edirne, Kırklareli, Golful Saros.

## INTRODUCTION

The part of the Ancient Thrace Region within the borders of Turkey is separated from the other parts of the region by the Maritsa (Meriç) River in the west and the elevations formed by the Istranca (Yıldız) Mountains in the north and north-west. This area represents from a geographical perspective the "Eastern Thrace".

In the early 1980s, M. Özdoğan's surveys in the Marmara Region, including Eastern Thrace, were an important step in determining the Early Iron Age settlement distribution of the region, although they focused mostly on the prehistoric cultures preceding the Early Iron Age<sup>1</sup>. Another study that shed light on the settlement typology of the region was based on the surveys conducted by B. Erdoğan, again prioritising the areas offering data on the prehistoric habitation before the Early Iron Age<sup>2</sup>.

Since these studies consisted of short-term projects and primarily aimed at identifying pre-Iron Age settlements, they could not provide sufficient data on the qualitative and quantitative identities of the settlement distribution of the region during the Early Iron Age.

The surveys conducted by us in certain parts of the provinces of Edirne and Kırklareli between 2021 and 2023 within the scope of doctoral dissertation research have provided the opportunity to compile and reinterpret data on the Early Iron Age settlement archaeology of Eastern Thrace and to propose theories regarding habitation during this period. The data obtained during this survey, in which we used certain areas of the region for testing purposes, will hopefully lead in the future to an increase of the interest in Early Iron Age research in the region (Fig. 1).

During the surveys conducted in 2001-2003, both the Early Iron Age settlements recorded in previous years were re-examined and new settlements were identified, the focus of the research being on determining the topographical and geographical characteristics preferred for habitation by the local Early Iron Age communities in comparison with other historical periods.

## EARLY IRON AGE SETTLEMENTS IN TURKISH THRACE

The research has revealed that there was a significant increase in the number of settlements throughout the Thracian Region, especially in the Sacramento Valley, Strandzha (Istranca/Yıldız), and the Rhodopes during the Early Iron Age in

<sup>1</sup> Özdoğan 1982a, 21-58; Özdoğan 1982b, 37-49; Özdoğan 1983, 137-142; Özdoğan 1984, 63-68; Özdoğan 1985, 221-232; Özdoğan 1986a, 51-71; Özdoğan 1986b, 29-39.

<sup>2</sup> Erdoğan 1997; Erdoğan 1999.

comparison with the previous period<sup>3</sup>, although a significant number of these are the continuation of Bronze Age settlements<sup>4</sup>.

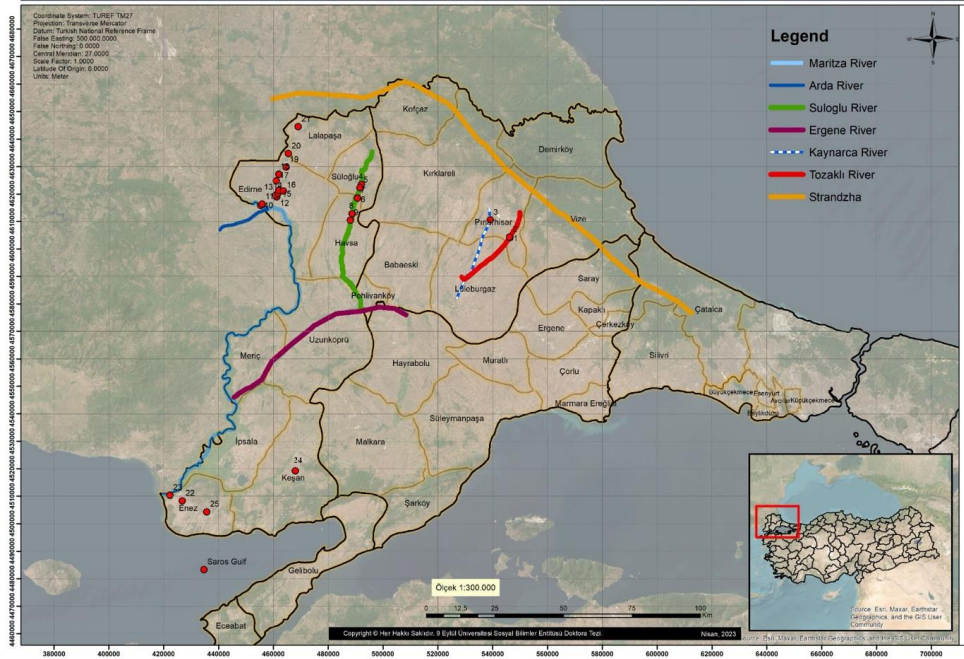


Fig. 1. Study Area. Turkish Thrace: 1. Beşiktepe; 2. Ovayolu; 3. Batak Değirmen; 4. Bekçitepe; 5. Kocatepe; 6. Ahmedî Kalfa; 7. Yukarıova; 8. Bağlıkarkası; 9. Cevizlik; 10. Bahçelik/Eski Kadın; 11. Kazanova; 12. Çardakaltı; 13. Çardaklı; 14. Hapishane; 15. Yorulmaz Çiftliği; 16. Köprübaşı; 17. Adatepe; 18. Alatepe; 19. Gölsırtı; 20. Su Akacağı; 21. Kokarca; 22. Hocaçeşme; 23. Ainos/Enez; 24. Keşan Mezarlık Tepe; 25. Umurbey.

The preferred locations are in the hilly areas, on the slopes, and near water sources. It is considered that caves or rock shelters were also used for settlements especially during the early phases of the Iron Age<sup>5</sup>.

Our research in Eastern Thrace has provided data which were compared with the results obtained from other parts of the Thracian Region. It can be noticed that Early Iron Age settlements, both on the plain and on heights, were generally established close to water sources, but with a sufficient distance to be protected from the negative effects of that source. In addition, the data obtained so far also showed that cemeteries

<sup>3</sup> Georgieva 2001, 83; Bozhinova 2012, 51; Zdravkova 2008, 495.

<sup>4</sup> Lesthakov 2004; Chapman *et alii* 2009, 165, Fig. 7.

<sup>5</sup> Ailincăi 2016, 201-202; Chapman *et alii* 2009, 173; Stamberova 2020, 141; Zdravkova 2008, 496.

or isolated burial structures such as dolmens are functioning in connection with the settlements, but not always in immediate vicinity.

### **Early Iron Age Settlements in the Maritsa Valley**

The immediate surroundings of the valley formed by the Evros River, which largely forms the Bulgarian-Turkish border, are currently under military control. For this reason, it is difficult to conduct detailed research in the valley. Even more, the ongoing floods and bed changes in the Evros Delta might have prevented the communities from settling too close to the river stream during the Early Iron Age, a situation also known from other historical periods. The fact that no settlement traces were found in an area of approximately 1 km in diameter in the sections of the river within the borders of the Edirne province can thus be explained by the flood risk in the lower part of the valley. Still, a scenario in which the thick alluvial fill formed over time may have covered the settlement traces cannot be completely overruled.

Nevertheless, the *Bahçelik/Eski Kadın* and *Kazanova* sites, which were discovered close to the area where the river enters Turkey, provide extremely important information about the Early Iron Age cultural structure of the region. Bahçelik, where a short-term excavation was carried out by the Edirne Museum Directorate in the 1990s, and the Kazanova Mound, located a few hundred metres north of it and identified by us for the first time, share a series of cultural traits. As a hypothesis, based on the high quality decoration and form characteristics of the ceramics from Bahçelik/Eski Kadın, it could be suggested that this area may have been in fact the burial ground of the Kazanova Mound rather than a settlement (Fig. 2).

### **Early Iron Age Settlements in the Tundzha (Tunca) Valley**

Numerous Early Iron Age settlements have been identified on both sides of the Tundzha (Tunca) River, which enters Turkish Thrace from the north and joins the Maritsa River near the provincial centre of Edirne. The sharp turns formed by the river as it flows formed natural terraces high above the water level. These terraces formed an ideal area for Early Iron Age communities to settle in the vicinity of the river.

In addition to *Çardakaltı*, *Yorulmaz Çiftliği*, *Köprübaşı*, *Ada Tepe* settlements<sup>6</sup>, which have been investigated in previous years in the regions close to the course of the river along the Tundzha (Tunca) Valley, *Göl Sırtı* (Fig. 3), *Ala Tepe* and *Suakacağı* (Fig. 4) settlements identified by us also offered surface finds indicating their belonging to the Early Iron Age (Fig. 1).

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<sup>6</sup> Erdoğru 1997, 274 sqq.



Fig. 2. Location of Kazanova Mound (Edited from Google Earth).



Fig. 3. General view of Ala Tepe Settlement from West.



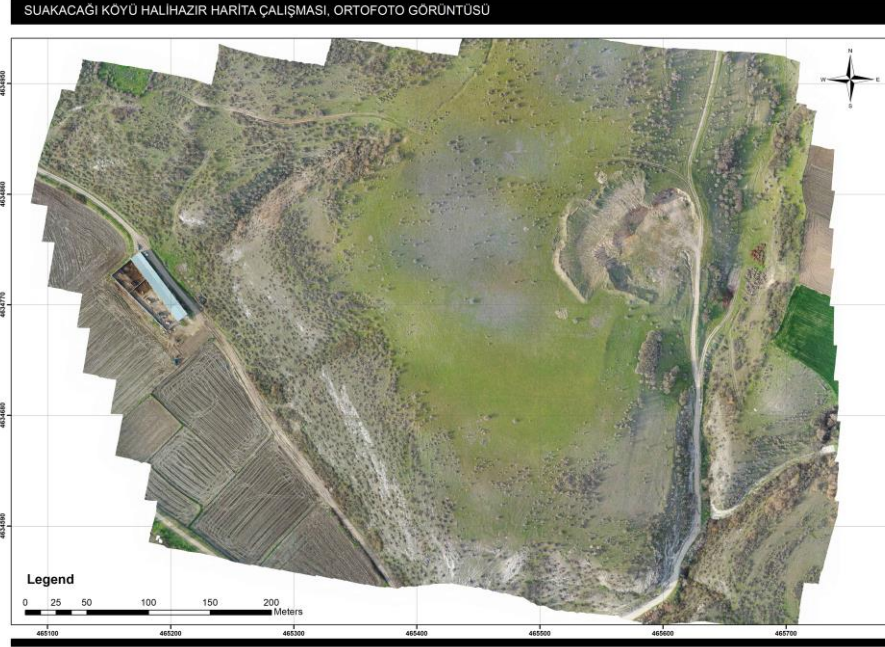


Fig. 4. 3D Model View of the Suakacağı settlement.

In addition, the site from Kokarca, which is situated outside the main corridor of this valley, but which we consider in the same group due to its proximity to the valley, seems to have been a very important settlement. Unfortunately, as it was massively affected due to the construction of a pond, it is difficult at present to ascertain the exact nature of the site. Still, the high quality of some of the pottery found at the surface suggests that the site from Kokarca may be a Late Bronze/Early Iron Age cemetery. Some of the shards recovered from the site clearly show the cultural connection of this centre, located on the foothills of the mountainous area in the northern part of Turkish Thrace, with Northern Thrace and the Southern Carpathians.

### Early Iron Age Settlements in the Süloğlu and Hasköy Valleys

Another region in Eastern Thrace with a high density of Early Iron Age data centres is the valley irrigated by the Süloğlu Stream. Located in the interior of Eastern Thrace, the Süloğlu Valley extends northwards from the Strandja Mountains. The Süloğlu Stream becomes the Hasköy Stream in the north and connects to the Maritsa (Meriç) River in the northwest.

The pottery shards recovered at the surface from the *Bekçitepe*, *Kocatepe* (Fig. 5), *Yukarı Ova*, *Ahmedi Kalfa* and *Bağlık Arkası* data sites located along the valley, on both

sides of the streams and close to the stream bed, are culturally compatible with finds from other parts of the region. In the case of the Kocatepe settlement<sup>7</sup>, which is the most important settlement of the valley, Early Iron Age finds are mostly clustered on the southern edge of the mound.

The settlement from Cevizlik (Fig. 6) in the Hasköy Valley is a centre that was investigated in previous years<sup>8</sup> but has been re-verified by us. The Cevizlik settlement, which seems to have spread over a much larger area compared to many other Early Iron Age settlements known in the region, may be one of the key settlements in terms of regional archaeology.



Fig. 5. Satellite view showing the approximate boundaries of the Kocatepe Mound (Edited from Google Earth).

### Early Iron Age Settlements in the northern part of Saroz Bay

The northern coastal line of the Saroz Gulf, which lies within the administrative boundaries of Enez and Keşan, the two southernmost districts of Edirne, is a fertile and strategic geographical area fed by the two rivers that are connected to the Evros River and the wide coastal band. The area is one of the gateways of Thrace to Anatolia, with both natural corridors opening eastwards and a short-distance

<sup>7</sup> On the EBA findings of the "Kocatepe Mound" identified by M. Özdoğan during his 1989 surveys, see: Özdoğan 2014.

<sup>8</sup> Czyborra 2001, 178, Taf. 5; 6/1-6; 30, 3.12; Erdoğan 1997.

maritime traffic line providing access to the Gallipoli peninsula and the northern Aegean islands. The Hisarlı Mountain, which extends parallel to the coastline in the east-west direction, complements the geographical landscape of the region. There are wide oval plains between the large and small hills in the area south of the mountain. These geographical traits of the region, together with the important water resources, have proved beneficial for the continued inhabitation of the area and supported the existence of settlements during the Iron Age.



Fig. 6. Satellite view showing the approximate boundaries of the Cevizlik Settlement  
(Edited from Google Earth).

Although not very detailed, there are reports indicating the presence of Late Bronze/Early Iron Age finds in this region<sup>9</sup>. During the research carried out by us, *Hoca Çeşme Mound*, *Değirmentepe/Umurbey Settlement*, *Hasköy Settlement* and *Göztepe Settlement* were investigated; in the same time, we verified whether there were any Early Iron Age materials among the pottery found during previous archaeological research in the ancient city of *Ainos* (Fig. 7).

<sup>9</sup> Beksaç 2014, 80, 90; Beksaç 2015, 263-264.





Fig. 7. General view of Enez (Ainos) Castel (Edirne Museum).

The former excavation director from Ainos, S. Başaran, pointed out that the dark grey, monochrome, burnished shards found in the fill on the bedrock surface, in Trenches IV, IVa-b, Mzü, H, and D in Enez Castle (the acropolis of the ancient city of Ainos), resemble the 2<sup>nd</sup> millennium BC pottery known from Thrace, Western Anatolia and the Troy region, in terms of paste, form and decoration<sup>10</sup>. Unfortunately, no examples of these ceramics were identified during the excavations in the Ainos excavation storage room. However, some wheel-made dark grey paste and burnished bazzi ceramics examined in the repository show significant similarities with the handmade pottery of the Early Iron Age. This proves that some ceramic practices representing the 7<sup>th</sup> century BC culture in Ainos continued the Early Iron Age tradition.

Among the pottery shards found at the surface of the other settlements analysed in the northern part of the Gulf of Saroz, no samples representing the Early Iron Age as clearly as the ones from Inner Eastern Thrace were found. The few finds obtained seem to indicate at this stage of the investigation the existence of short-term, small settlements.

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<sup>10</sup> Başaran, 1996, 108, Res. 3

### Early Iron Age Settlements in and around Tozaklı Valley

Our studies in the province of Kırklareli were limited to the Tozaklı Valley and its immediate surroundings near the town of Pınarhisar. During the surveys conducted here, the *Beşiktepe* fortress-type settlement and the *Ovayolu* Mound, located on opposite sides of the stream in the central part of the valley, yielded finds that can be dated to the Early Iron Age (Fig. 8).

In addition, a small area on the eastern skirts of the Batak Degirmen Mound, located at the intersection of two small streams in the northwestern part of the Tozaklı Valley, yielded a small number of finds dated to the Early Iron Age.



Fig. 8. 3D Model View of Beşiktepe and Ovayolu Settlements.

### OBSERVATIONS ON SETTLEMENT PRACTICES

The results obtained from the surveys conducted in the past in the Eastern Thrace Region, including the Early Iron Age cultures, and the surveys conducted by us in 2021-2023 reveal that there was remarkable settlement standardization in the region during this period. It can be noticed that certain geographical and topographic characteristics were preferred for site location in the Early Iron Age. The areas alongside rivers stand out as the most sought for places for the establishment of settlements during this period. The ridges or flat terraces on the riverbanks seem to have constituted ideal locations for the Early Iron Age settlers looking for advantageous locations. Nevertheless, it should be emphasised that only the widest parts of the valleys were preferred. Narrow and deep valleys seem to have been avoided, most probably because the risk of landslides and flood rifts was too high.

In general, the Early Iron Age settlements in Eastern Thrace can be clustered in two sub-groups in terms of their topographical characteristics: 1) In-valley and lowland

settlements; 2) Hilltop settlements. This suggestion is in line with the data documented in previous years. The first type, "in-valley and plain settlements", sometimes appear as mounds of prehistoric origin and sometimes as flat settlements starting with the Late Bronze Age or Early Iron Age and not containing thick archaeological layers.

No Early Iron Age settlement has been found on a slope or at the foot of a slope, both in our own surveys and in the regions surveyed during previous years. Likewise, no settlement has been found in areas more than 1 km away from water sources.

The flat settlements or mounds situated in the valleys were generally located on an embankment, a terrace or a low promontory that would not be affected by the flooding of the river, approximately 30 to 800 m away from the river sources.

In the case of the Early Iron Age settlements located on the plain it is almost impossible to determine their boundaries, situation that can be explained by the lack of fortifications made of stones.

Nevertheless, the main settlement boundaries can be approximated by considering the ceramic material distribution at the surface in the settlement areas. According to this distribution, in Eastern Thrace during the Early Iron Age, the largest settlements have an area of approximately 30.000 square metres, while the smallest settlement has an area of 2500 square metres.

At first glance, the close relationship of Eastern Thracian settlements with water resources suggests that these settlements relied on an agricultural economy. Nevertheless, it would not be wrong to think that such settlements, which were found in the *Süloğlu* Valley in Edirne, around Lalapasa, in the Tundzha (Tunca) Valley, around Hisarlı Mountain in the north of the Saroz Gulf, and in the parts of Kırklareli close to the Istranca Mountains, were involved in animal husbandry as well as agricultural production. This frequently encountered type of economy in the case of the Early Iron Age settlements from Eastern Thrace, based on agriculture and animal husbandry, seems similar to the settlement tradition of the Babadag culture of Romania in the north<sup>11</sup>.

The hilltop settlement phenomenon in Eastern Thrace has been presented in a general manner to scientific attention, based on the surveys conducted by us. The settlements of *Suakacağı*, *Çardakaltı* in Edirne, and *Beşiktepe* in Kırklareli can be considered as good examples for this type of settlement, with their locations on hills dominating the valley.

Fortress type settlements such as *Suakacağı*, *Çardakaltı* and *Beşiktepe* can be considered as the administrative centres of the lowland settlements in their vicinity. It is also conceivable that these fortified settlements played a martial role, being important in defending the areas they controlled. This hypothesis was taken into

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<sup>11</sup> Ailincăi 2016, 201.

consideration also in the case of fortified settlements situated in high places from Thrace and the area north from Thrace functioning during the Bronze Age<sup>12</sup>.

Thus, such fortress-type settlements from Eastern Thrace must be part of a tradition of fortress-type settlements established on strategic hills in the Middle Struma Valley, the Mesta Valley<sup>13</sup>, the Morova Valley in Serbia<sup>14</sup>, in the wider area around Dobruja<sup>15</sup> and along the shores of the Adriatic Sea<sup>16</sup>.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The fortress-type settlements in the region can be considered as the earliest archaeological reflection of Herodotus' commentary on "Thracians live in tribes" for the social structure of 5th century BC Thrace. Each hilltop settlement was the administrative centre of the villages and hamlets belonging to a single tribe, which spread in the valley and its immediate surroundings. In this sense, these structures could be considered as reflecting the Latin word *oppidum*<sup>17</sup>.

The fortress-type settlements identified in Eastern Thrace (Suakacağı, Çardakaltı and Beşiktepe) were probably used both in the chaotic/warlike social structure of the Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age transition phase of the 12<sup>th</sup> century BC and as administrative centres during the peaceful period of the Early Iron Age Phases I and II.

There are also many Late Iron Age, Late Antique and Medieval castles in the mountainous parts of Eastern Thrace. *Hasar Fortress*, *Burunucu Fortress*, *Düzorman Fortress*, *Gözyaka Fortress*, *Hamidiye Fortress*, *Karakoçan Tepe Fortress*, *Koruköy Fortress*, *Koyva Fortress*, *Üsküp Hisarcık Fortress*, *Maya Tepe Fortress*, *Kale Tepe Fortress*, *Düzorman Fortress*, *Armağan Fortress* and *Soğucak (Koru) Fortress* are only a few of them. The first phase of these and similar fortresses, which are outside the scope of our thesis research, may belong to the Early Iron Age. The fortress-type settlements such as Suakacağı, Çardakaltı and Beşiktepe, identified during our research, suggest that fortress-type settlements in the Early Iron Age may have been more widespread in Eastern Thrace. Therefore, the Late Period fortresses in the Strandja Mountains should be reconsidered from this perspective, as their beginning could be traced during earlier periods.

<sup>12</sup> Kiss 2012, 211 sqq.; Váczi 2007; Krause 2019; Ailincăi 2016, 202, fig. 2; Bejinariu 2017.

<sup>13</sup> Nenova 2018, 124, 131-135.

<sup>14</sup> Bulatovic, Filipovic 2017, 150, 158.

<sup>15</sup> Ailincăi 2016, 202.

<sup>16</sup> Lacono *et alii* 2001.

<sup>17</sup> The Latin word *oppidum*, meaning "fortified administrative centre", is more commonly used in modern literature for fortified fortresses established in the north-western Balkans in the Early Iron Age.

In her description of fortress-type settlements in the Thracian region, M. Vassileva links the destruction of mound-type settlements in the late 2<sup>nd</sup> millennium BC, which covers the Late Bronze Age, with the development of the settlement type on high ground<sup>18</sup>, contrary to opinions suggesting that such fortress-type settlements emerged after the second phase of the Early Iron Age<sup>19</sup>. However, as far as the Thracian Region is concerned, fortress-type settlements used during the transition phase and the EIA I-II periods should be distinguished from the fortress settlements with dry masonry stone architecture established towards the middle or in the second half of the 1<sup>st</sup> millennium BC.

While the fortresses of Suakacağı, Çardakaltı and Beşiktepe in Eastern Thrace are products of the Early Iron Age culture, many dry-stone fortified fortresses located high in the Strandja Mountains must have been built in response to the new socio-cultural structure created by the Early Iron Age, especially by the Aegean colonies.

The fact that many important Early Iron Age settlements have been identified even within the limited areal of our research in Eastern Thrace has proved that the region is in need of an extensive research. Long-term surveys in the valleys and on the mountain slopes will reveal a lot of new information about the Early Iron Age settlement culture in Eastern Thrace and the connection of settlements with religious structures such as dolmens.

As a final conclusion, although it is possible that warrior and nomadic cultures dominated the region during the transition phase from the Bronze Age to the Iron Age (12<sup>th</sup> century BC), the density of unfortified villages in the plain rather than in strategic locations points to a more peaceful life throughout the Early Iron Age.

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<sup>18</sup> Vassileva 2021, 30.

<sup>19</sup> Chapman *et alii* 2009, 172.

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# ARCHITECTURE, FUNERARY STRUCTURES AND CULT SITES IN TURKISH THRACE

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Umut M. DOĞAN

Edirne Archaeology and Ethnography Museum, Edirne, Türkiye,

e-mail: [arkmud@gmail.com](mailto:arkmud@gmail.com)

ORCID ID: <https://orcid.org/0000-0003-1519-1551>

**Abstract:** Excavations have been carried out at three Early Iron Age sites in Turkish Thrace. The Kilisetepe and Menekşe Çatağı Mounds of Maydos are located on the southern coastal line of the region, while the Aşağıpınar Mound is in the centre. The characteristic architecture of the region can only be defined by the few architectural finds from these sites.

What we know about the burial tradition comes from the largely destroyed dolmen structures and the Taşlıcabayır Tumulus excavated in Kırklareli. Nevertheless, our recent investigations have led us to propose some hypotheses about the funerary structures and practices of the region. These studies have led to new ideas about the chronology, phases and role of the Taşlıcabayır Tumulus in social communication during the period. This article summarises these hypotheses.

Among the studies carried out since the 2000s on the findings that shed light on the cult practices of Turkish Thrace, the rock-carved spaces called "Fırınkayalar", which are among the most striking elements, have been particularly addressed in this study and it has been tried to develop suggestions about the function of these unique structures based on cult and funerary practices in the north of Thrace.

**Rezumat:** Doar trei situri de la începutul epocii fierului au beneficiat de cercetări sistematice în Tracia turcească. Movilele Kilisetepe și Menekşe Çatağı din Maydos sunt localizate pe coasta de sud a regiunii, în timp ce movila Aşağıpınar se află în centru. Caracteristicile arhitecturii din această regiune nu pot fi definite decât pe baza acestor cercetări.

Ceea ce se cunoaște despre tradițiile funerare se bazează pe structurile de tip dolmen, în mare parte distruse, și tumulul Taşlıcabayır, cercetat în Kırklareli. Cu toate acestea, cercetările recente ale autorului permit formularea unor ipoteze privind structurile și practicile funerare din această regiune. Aceste studii au condus la noi idei privind, cronologia, fazele și rolul tumulului Taşlıcabayır în rețeaua socială a perioadei. Prezentul articol va prezenta sumar aceste idei.

Printre studiile desfășurate începând cu anii 2000 asupra descoperirilor ce fac lumină asupra practicilor de cult din Tracia Turcească, monumentele săpate în stâncă, de tip "Fırınkayalar", care sunt printre cele mai izbitoare structuri, au fost cu precădere luate în considerare în prezentul articol, încercându-se propunerea unor interpretări privind funcția acestor structuri unice, pornind de la practice funerare și de cult din nordul Traciei.

**Keywords:** Turkish Thrace, Early Iron Age, Architecture, Cult Structures, Tomb Structures, Fırınkayalar, Taşlıcabayır Tumulus, Hacılar Dolmen, Arpalık Dolmen.

**Cuvinte cheie:** Tracia turcească, prima epocă a fierului, arhitectură, amenajări de cult, amenajări funerare, Fırınkayalar, tumulul de la Taşlıcabayır, dolmenul de la Hacılar, dolmenul de la Arpalık.

## INTRODUCTION

All the existing information about the architecture, funerary structures and cult sites of the Early Iron Age in the part of Thrace that lies within the borders of Turkey and geographically constitutes the "Eastern Thrace" is based on excavations and research carried out after the 1980s.

The Taşlıcabayır Tumulus, excavated under the scientific supervision of M. Özdoğan in Asilbeyli Village, Kırklareli Province, not only filled an important gap in the information regarding the burial tradition of Eastern Thrace, but also provided very important data for understanding the Early Iron Age cultural structure of the region.

Following his master's thesis on the Dolmens of Eastern Thrace, M. Akman published articles on similar topics<sup>1</sup>. Another master thesis on Early Iron Age megalithic monuments in Turkish Thrace was written by R. Erdoğan<sup>2</sup>.

The excavations at Lalapaşa/Arpalık Dolmeni in Lalapaşa district of Edirne province, conducted by a scientific team including M. Akman, and the excavations at Hacılar Dolmeni<sup>3</sup> (monument which was removed to the garden of the Edirne Museum from its original location, due to conservation problems), also brought to light a series of finds important for learning more about this topic.

In the case of the surveys carried out by E. Beksaç in the 2000s, the interest was mainly focused on the megalithic cult monuments in the Eastern Thrace Region<sup>4</sup>.

The sites in Turkish Thrace that have been investigated for a long time, and in the case of which Early Iron Age levels have been identified, are Kırklareli Aşağıpınar, Tekirdağ Menekşe Çatağı and Maydos Kilisetepe mounds on the Gallipoli Peninsula. Although these studies have provided important clues about the architecture and cult practices of the period, they have not been sufficient to define the Early Iron Age cultural dynamics of Eastern Thrace as a whole.

In 2023, my PhD thesis<sup>5</sup> analysed the Early Iron Age culture of Turkish Thrace and its impact on Anatolia in the light of all available data. The article based on this work will both summarise the known data of the region from studies conducted since the 1980s and present the theories based on the new data obtained during research for the thesis.

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<sup>1</sup> Erdoğan 2005.

<sup>2</sup> Akman 1997.

<sup>3</sup> Akman 2010; Arpalık Dolmen finds are exhibited in the Edirne Museum.

<sup>4</sup> Beksaç 2006; Beksaç 2006a; Beksaç 2007; Beksaç 2008; Beksaç 2009; Beksaç 2009a; Beksaç 2010; Beksaç 2011; Beksaç 2012; Beksaç 2013; Beksaç 2014; Beksaç 2015; Beksaç 2016; Beksaç 2019; Beksaç, Beksaç 2017; Beksaç, Hatipler, Beksaç 2016; Beksaç, Beksaç 2018.

<sup>5</sup> Doğan 2023.

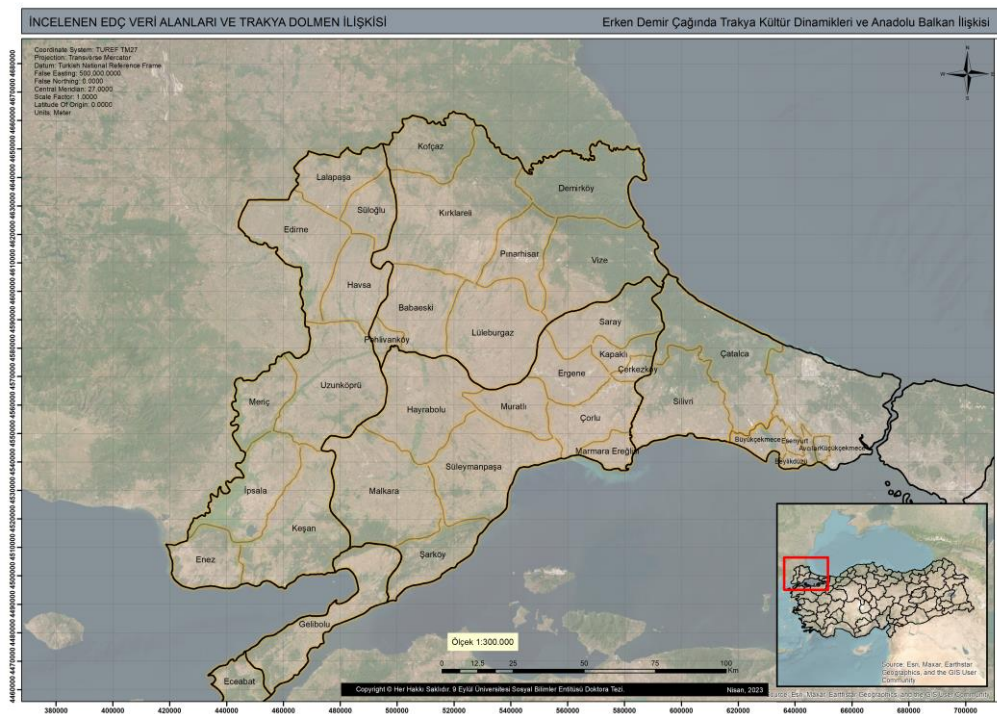


Fig. 1. Turkish Thrace.

## EARLY IRON AGE ARCHITECTURE IN TURKISH THRACE

Systematic archaeological excavations at two sites in the part of Thrace within the borders of Turkey provide information about the Early Iron Age architecture of the region. One of these sites is the Menekşe Çatağı Mound on the northern shore of the Sea of Marmara and the other is the Maydos Kilisetepe Mound in the central part of the Gallipoli Peninsula. The fact that both sites are located in the southern part of Eastern Thrace is a significant disadvantage. Both being geographically located in an area open to Anatolian influence, their findings are probably far from fully reflecting the architectural tradition of inner Eastern Thrace.

Unfortunately, the Early Iron Age levels, which constitute the last phase of the Menekşe Çatağı mound, were almost completely destroyed. As no extensive architectural elements were found, most of the data were obtained during the excavations carried out in the eastern section of the mound. In this section, quadrangular planned buildings with mudbrick walls built on the bedrock and the

remains of ovens and hearths built in the open area were unearthed. The walls of the identified rooms are 40-50 cm thick on average<sup>6</sup>.

Another type of dwellings uncovered during the excavations in the eastern part of Menekşe Çatagi are dugouts. The pits had an average diameter of 2.20-2.50 m, and a depth of 0.55-0.75 m. It was noticed that two of the pits had a semicircular low bench on the floor. Since the wooden slots found in the mudbrick wall next to one of the pits suggest that the pits were covered with a timber-supported roof, they were identified as dwellings and entered into the literature under the name of "pit shelters"/dugouts<sup>7</sup>.

The excavations that will enable the precise identification of the relationships between the different types of architectural elements unearthed in Level IV dating to the Early Iron Age at Maydos Kilisetepe Mound have not yet been completed. On the other hand, the heavy destruction caused by both the next layer and the Byzantine Period construction in this layer unfortunately makes it difficult to determine clearly the characteristics of the architecture of this period<sup>8</sup>.

Despite this situation, it was possible to observe that two different architectural approaches were used together in the case of the constructions identified in Level IV. These differences in the architectural practice emphasise the idea that there were two sub-phases of the settlement evolution in Maydos Level IV, and that two different social/ethnic groups lived together for at least a while. The Late Bronze Age sequence at Maydos, which extends towards the centre of the mound in the northwest-southeast direction, was maintained in the early sub-phase of Level IV. In the other sub-phase, it can be noticed that the plan and architectural workmanship of the rooms are quite different from the previous periods and the early sub-phase. Thus, the excavation team suggests that the inhabitants, who built the dugouts in Level IV, applying a different plan and workmanship in comparison with the Bronze Age architectural system of the mound, belonged to the population that migrated here and towards Troy from the northern parts of the Balkans and Thrace at the end of the 2<sup>nd</sup> millennium BC<sup>9</sup>.

In Level IV of Maydos Kilisetepe Mound, orthostat-type stone alignments are one of the structures that differ from the traditional Bronze Age architectural tradition<sup>10</sup>. This type of architectural practice points towards a Balkan influence, with

<sup>6</sup> Özdoğan, Işın 2003, 379, 380, Resim: 5-7.

<sup>7</sup> Özdoğan, Işın 2003, 379, 380, Res. 6-8; Özdoğan *et alii* 2004, 422.

<sup>8</sup> Sazcı, 2016; Başaran Mutlu 2018, 15.

<sup>9</sup> Başaran Mutlu 2018, 66.

<sup>10</sup> Sazcı 2013, 47.

origins known from Troy Level VIIb and dating back to Late Bronze Age architecture at Durankulak in Bulgaria and the Sabatinovka culture in the steppe region<sup>11</sup> (Fig. 2).



Fig. 2. Orthostatized building foundations from Troy, Level VIIb.

During the surveys conducted by us between 2021 and 2023, we did not find much data that could offer an idea about the Early Iron Age architecture of the region. Nevertheless, some topographical traces and observable findings at the two sites have helped us to develop some new ideas about the fortification architecture of this period.

Beşiktepe settlement, an Early Iron Age fortress located near Tozaklı Village, Pınarhisar District, Kırklareli Province, may have had a fortification system along the high terrace dominating the valley (Fig. 3). The slope forming an average angle of 30 degrees around the fortress is probably an indication of a fortification system. Some minor features on the surface suggest that the fortification here may have been a stone-based structure, but, of course, this could only be determined in the future by conducting excavations in the area.

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<sup>11</sup> Becks *et alii* 2006, 184-185.





Fig. 3. The Beşiktepe settlement, view from the East.

The sloping fortification system is a familiar feature of the surrounding cultures since the Bronze Age. The wooden and reed-mesh fortification system supported by a stone foundation, which was used in the case of the Middle Bronze Age Urnfield culture settlements in the southern part of Central Europe<sup>12</sup>, is quite suitable for the topographical characteristics of Beşiktepe. Late Bronze Age and Early Iron Age fortress-type settlements in the Morova Valley in the western part of Thrace used a similar type of defensive architecture<sup>13</sup>. Examples of a similarly planned, stone-based fortification system, supported by thick wooden posts placed behind it, are found as late as the Late Iron Age in the Danube region at the north<sup>14</sup>. There are also examples of stone-based urban fortifications in the Western Carpathians from the Middle Bronze Age to the Iron Age<sup>15</sup>. On the other hand, in Anatolia, the fortification system of the period at the Bademgediği Fortress, where Balkan-influenced ceramics were found in connection with the Late Bronze/Early Iron Age transition period, is known to have had a stone-based construction with a sloping exterior<sup>16</sup>.

All these parallels strengthen the suggestion that Beşiktepe, which appears to be an important Early Iron Age centre for Eastern Thrace, may have a similar fortified architecture (Fig. 4).

<sup>12</sup> Hansen *et alii* 2020; fig. 6, 9; Schußmann 2017, 65, fig. 12.

<sup>13</sup> Kapuran 2009, Fig. 3, 27.

<sup>14</sup> Rustoiu, Ferencz 2019, 11, fig. 7/3.

<sup>15</sup> Przybyła, Jędrsyk 2017, 100; Jędrsyk, Przybyła 2018, fig. 7.

<sup>16</sup> Maritsa (Meriç) 2003; Maritsa (Meriç), Mountjoy 2002; Maritsa (Meriç), Öz 2014.

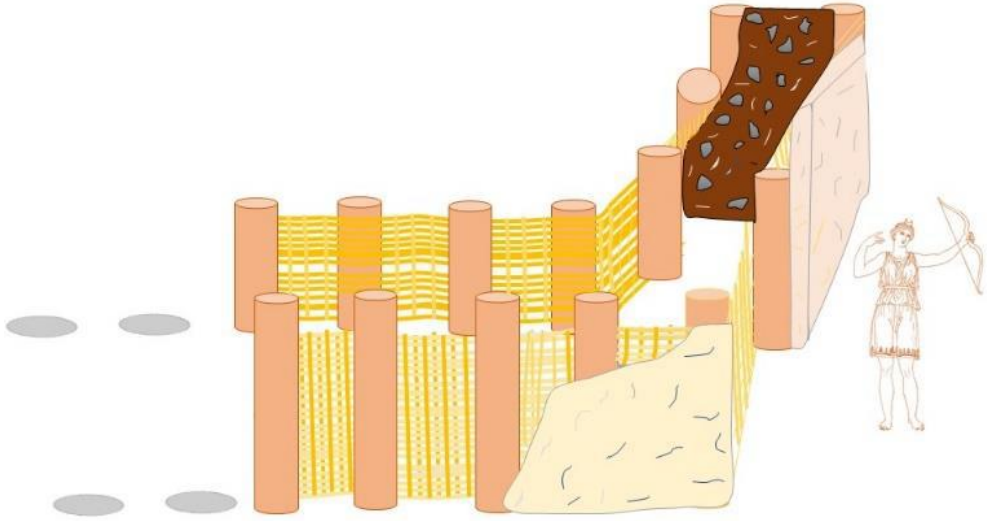


Fig. 4. Early Iron Age fortification system proposal with timber-cansite-mudbrick materials.

Some of the mudbrick fragments found during the rescue excavations at the *Bahçelik/Eski Kadın* site in the Maritsa (Meriç) Valley bear traces of twigs or reeds. Similar examples were also found during the surveys at the Ovayolu settlement in the Tozaklı Valley. Since the multi-layered settlement type of the Ovayolu settlement makes the dating of the mudbrick impossible, the fact that the *Bahçelik/Eski Kadın* site has only an Early Iron Age layer is extremely important. The finds from this site show that the traditional wattle-and-daub technique, which has been used since the prehistoric periods of the Thracian Region, was also used in the Early Iron Age architecture.

#### THE SIGNIFICANCE OF TAŞLICABAYIR TUMULUS FOR THE EARLY IRON AGE IN EASTERN THRACE

In Eastern Thrace, until recently, the only scientifically excavated stone burial mound is the Taşlıcabayır burial mound, near the village of Asilbeyli, just south of the provincial centre of Kırklareli. It was discovered during the Thracian Surveys conducted by M. Özdoğan in the 1980s and a small-scale rescue excavation was carried out in 1982<sup>17</sup>.

*The Taşlıcabayır Tumulus*, which was apparently destroyed before the excavation, is a kurgan type funerary structure sealed with a fill of unprocessed local stone and

<sup>17</sup> Özdoğan 1987.

soil mixture. It is estimated that the height of the tumulus was approximately 2 m and its diameter was between 7 and 10 m<sup>18</sup>. (Fig. 5)

The excavations at Taşlıcabayır yielded a total of 52 clay vessels, preserved completely, nearly completely, or in a fragmentary state. Some of them were found broken and thrown on the stone fill in the eastern part of the site. Another group of finds was uncovered clustered at the western end of the stone row on the northern side. It was as if this group had been left in an unorganised manner or even thrown here. Among the finds, only two vessels were obviously left in the area in a systematic and orderly manner.

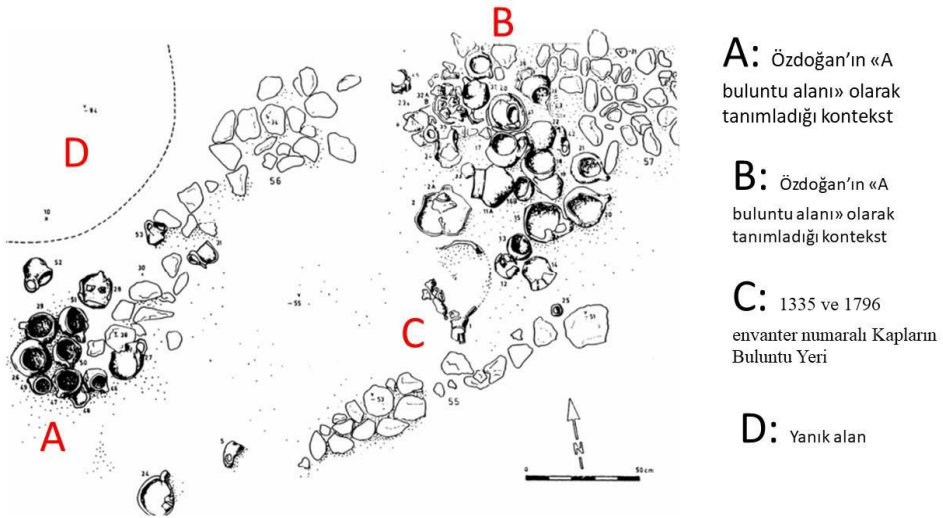


Fig 5. Taşlıcabayır Find Condition Drawing (Czyborra 2001)

The only human skeleton fragment recovered from the tumulus of Taşlıcabayır is a skull fragment found among the stone cluster on the north side.

On the north side of this stone cluster where the skull fragment was found, a circular area with a fire layer containing a bronze fibula was found. This burnt layer, full of ashes, strengthens the possibility of cremation in the area. In fact, the Late Bronze Age and Early Iron Age burial tradition of the region is represented by both inhumation burials (placed in a pit or on a simple stone podium inside burial mounds) and cremation burials (the ashes and bones placed inside an urn)<sup>19</sup>. At Taşlıcabayır, the skeleton was probably originally lying on a stone bench in a similar manner.

<sup>18</sup> Özdoğan 1985, 225; Özdoğan 1987, 7; Özdoğan 1996, 334-335; Özdoğan, Özdoğan 2007, 14; Yıldırım 2008, 71, Lev. XLIV: a-c

<sup>19</sup> Nenova 2018, 124, 131-135



The Taşlıcabayır Kurgan is described by M. Özdoğan as a trace of a cultural migration from the Steppes to the south during the Late Bronze Age<sup>20</sup>. However, when the ceramics found in the tumulus excavation are analysed in terms of both vessel forms and decorative elements, it can be noticed that there are two main pottery groups that can be dated to different periods.

The first group consists of vessels with simple dot and incised decorations, some with matte and some with glossy burnishing. This group consists of the finds from the Taşlıcabayır Tumulus (Fig. 6).



Fig. 6. Examples from the first group of finds from Taşlıcabayır Tumulus (Edirne Museum)

The ceramic finds representing the second group differ from the others in terms of paste, slip, form and decorative style. Museum inventory 1335, a deep bowl with double handles, and Museum inventory 1796, a ceremonial drinking vessel with four spouts, represent the second group (Fig. 7).

<sup>20</sup> Özdoğan 1987.



Fig. 7. Second group finds from the Taşlıcabayır Tumulus (Edirne Museum).

Almost all of the vessels in the first group from Taşlıcabayır bear traces of the Middle and Late Bronze Age tradition of the region or the northern Balkans in terms of their formal characteristics. Likewise, the simple dot decorations and various motifs made with incised lines on these vessels are a slightly degenerated continuation of the Late Bronze Age tradition of the region<sup>21</sup>. The closest analogies can be found at Ada Tepe and Gluhite Kamani, two centres in the Rhodope Mountains<sup>22</sup>.

The vessels forming the first group of the vessel repertoire recovered from the Taşlıcabayır Tumulus are dated to the Early Iron Age, the so-called "Transitional Phase". According to the chronology of the Thracian Region, which has been reconstructed by means of analogies and archaeometric analyses of the data obtained from new excavations in recent years, this "Transitional Phase" generally covers the 12<sup>th</sup> century BC.<sup>23</sup>

The ceremonial drinking vessel with spout (inventory number 1796), belonging to the second group of the finds, points at a first glance to a later phase of the Early Iron Age. Its attribution to a period when the communities of the region achieved a more sophisticated production style is based on both the competent manufacture and original form, and the print technique elements that stand out in the decoration style. In fact, it is noteworthy that, on the surface of this vessel, the printing technique was

<sup>21</sup> Hristova 2011; Hristova 2018; Leshtakov 2009; Bulatović, Filipović 2017; Horejs 2007.

<sup>22</sup> Nekhrizov, Tzvetkova 2018, 25.

<sup>23</sup> Dimitrova 2011, 73; Hristova 2018, 99; Bozhinova 2012, 51, 61; Dzhanfezova 2018, 310, 315; Leshtakov 2009, 58; Boyadzhiev 1995, 177; Nekhrizov, Tzvetkova 2018, 36. On this subject see also: Тодорова, 1973, 84-94; Panayotov 1989, 74-103; Panayotov 1995, 243-252.

used for decoration in addition to the ornamental elements made with the incised line technique. Decoration of pottery in the printing technique begins to be in use in and around the Thracian Region from the last decade of the 12<sup>th</sup> century BC, and gains more importance during Phases I and II of the Early Iron Age, i.e. from the 11<sup>th</sup> century BC onwards<sup>24</sup>.

Ina Czyborra suggests dating the ceremonial drinking vessel with pacifier (inventory number 1796), to the early 10<sup>th</sup>/9<sup>th</sup> century BC on the basis of its impressed decoration<sup>25</sup>. Still, the fact that the "S" shaped ornamental elements, which entered the decorative inventory at the end of the Early Iron Age Phase I, are not yet present on the ceremonial vessel from Tashligabayır suggests that it should be dated to an earlier period. In fact, <sup>14</sup>C analyses at Gluhite Kamani have dated the appearance of "S" shaped ornaments to the beginning of the 9<sup>th</sup> century BC.<sup>26</sup>

In this case, the 9<sup>th</sup> century BC can be considered the *terminus ante quem* for the ceremonial vessel with inventory number 1796. The last decade of the 12<sup>th</sup> century BC, when the first printed decorative elements appear, is the *terminus post quem* for this vessel.

The other vessel belonging to the second group of the Taşlıcabayır pottery finds, the dish with inventory number 1335, shows an interesting geographical and chronological diversity in terms of form. The vessel's origins in terms of form date back to the Troy VI and VIIa levels on the one hand, and to the Middle and Late Bronze Age in the north-western Balkan region on the other. Nevertheless, it can be noticed that the form was reinterpreted in various forms in the Early Iron Age in the area of Taşlıcabayır. Although there are no decorative elements on the surface, the paste characteristics suggest that this vessel, like the ceremonial drinking vessel, should be placed in the second group, and dated to the end of the Transitional Phase/Early Iron Age Phase I, albeit with some doubt.

The bronze bracelet (Fig. 8), with inventory number 1368, also part of the finds from the Taşlıcabayır Tumulus is a representative of a type that has been put into production with various variants since the Bronze Age in Central Europe and Balkan region<sup>27</sup>. This type is also found in a wide range from the last part of the Late Bronze Age to the 6<sup>th</sup> century BC<sup>28</sup>. In south-western Romania, one of the regions closest from a cultural perspective to Eastern Thrace, the close parallels of the Taşlıcabayır bracelet date to the Halstatt A phase, i.e. the Late Bronze Age.<sup>29</sup> In the light of these details, it is

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<sup>24</sup> Nekhrizov, Tzvetkova 2018, 22, 25; Ailincăi 2020, 463.

<sup>25</sup> Czyborra 2001, 108.

<sup>26</sup> Nekhrizov, Tzvetkova 2018, 26, 34.

<sup>27</sup> Falkenstein 2016, abb. 11/55.

<sup>28</sup> Konova 2018, 362, fig. 2.

<sup>29</sup> Lazăr 2011, 102, Pl. 92/2-11.

clear that the bracelet, as an example of the Late Bronze Age tradition from the Balkans, should be dated to the same period as the ceremonial vessel in the second group, i.e. somewhere between the late 12<sup>th</sup> and early 11<sup>th</sup> century BC.

Considering both the vessel forms and the main decorative elements applied on these vessels, it is possible to say that Taşlıcabayır Tumulus bears traces of the Middle and Late Bronze Age cultures of Central Europe and the north-western Black Sea, but exhibits also a cultural integrity with Early Iron Age Romania and south-eastern Bulgarian Thrace. On the other hand, many vessels display elements that can prove the existence of local production dynamics.



Fig. 8. Bronze bracelet from the Taşlıcabayır Tumulus (Edirne Museum).

The pottery repertoire of Taşlıcabayır Tumulus, in which both incised and impressed decoration techniques are used, reveals characteristics that can be dated to the Late Bronze Age-Early Iron Age transition period. The culture defined by this repertoire is characterised by some of its features in both Troy and İnönü Cave in Anatolia; therefore, it can be safely said that Taşlıcabayır is the source or at least on the transition line of the Early Iron Age Balkan culture.

#### **THE IMPORTANCE OF HACILAR DOLMENİ AND ITS FINDS FOR THE EARLY IRON AGE IN EASTERN THRACE**

The dolmens, popularly known as "kapaklıkaya" in Turkish Thrace, are concentrated in a location bordered by the provinces of Edirne and Kırklareli. Especially along the eastern slope of the valley formed by the Lalapaşa stream, the dolmens arranged in heaps attract attention. Like Lalapaşa, the Suloglu district of Edirne also has many

dolmens concentrated in the areas where the Yıldız Mountains begin to meet the plains and plateaus<sup>30</sup>.

Although dolmens can be traced along the line of the Lalapaşa, Suloglu and Kofçaz districts on the southern foothills of the Yıldız Mountains, they also have representatives in the Demirköy district of Kırklareli province, the towns of Üsküp and Yenice, and the village of Geçitağzı. M. Özdoğan<sup>31</sup>, who has conducted research and excavations in the region for many years, points to the Armagan Village northeast of the Kırklareli provincial centre as the last point where the dolmen culture can be identified in Turkish Thrace. Still, the Tahir Aga'in Çiftliği Dolmen discovered in the Orhaniye Quarter of Demirköy on the Black Sea coast of Thrace shows that this tradition continued further east<sup>32</sup>.



Fig. 9. Hacilar Dolmen, Edirne Museum.

One of the few excavated Early Iron Age tombs belonging to this type of funerary structure in Turkish Thrace is Hacilar Dolmeni and the other is Arpalık Dolmeni.

In 1983, it was decided to move the stone structure of Hacilar Dolmeni (Hacilar Village of Lalapaşa District, Edirne Province), to the garden of the Edirne Museum, due to its advanced state of degradation, and a small excavation was carried out on the spot after the removal (Fig. 9). It was suggested by the excavation team that the ceramic shards found during the excavation present analogies with the Early Iron Age materials known from Troy layer VIIb<sub>2</sub> and the Bulgarian Pšeničevo-Catalka culture.<sup>33</sup>

<sup>30</sup> Erdoğu 2005; Nenova 2018, 135; Özdoğan, Akman 1992; Özdoğan 1998.

<sup>31</sup> Özdoğan, Akman 1992, 410.

<sup>32</sup> <http://www.kirklarelienvanteri.gov.tr> ; Beksac, Nurengin Beksac 2018, 120.

<sup>33</sup> Akman 1997, Abb. 10, Taf. 15; Özdoğan, Akman 1992, 408, 412.

When all the vessels and shards from Hacilar Dolmeni in the Edirne Museum are analysed, it can be noticed that most of them have forms that have been in use in the Balkans since the Bronze Age<sup>34</sup>. It is known that these forms continued with some changes during the Early Iron Age in Transylvania, Carpathians and Thrace Region<sup>35</sup> (Fig. 10).



Fig. 10: Hacilar Dolmen Pottery Samples.

The forms and decorative styles of the complete, nearly complete or fragmentary pottery shards found during the excavations at Hacilar Dolmeni are generally characteristic of the Early Iron Age. Some forms, such as storage vessels, which were widely produced for daily use, bear traces of the Middle and Late Bronze Age traditions of the Northwest Balkan cultures. Nevertheless, in terms of detailed characteristics, the Early Iron Age cultures of the Eastern Rhodopes-Istrancalar and Babadag triangle present closer traits.

It cannot be missed that some of the pottery shards bear some characteristics of the first phase of the Early Iron Age. Nevertheless, the presence of many printed ornamental elements, especially the schematic bird figure, proves the existence of the Early Iron Age second phase at Hacilar Dolmeni. Although K. Nikov<sup>36</sup> dates the emergence of the bird motif in Thrace to the 8<sup>th</sup> century BC, recent research indicates that the use of this motif in the region dates back to the late Early Iron Age Phase I, i.e. the first half of the 10<sup>th</sup> century BC<sup>37</sup>.

As in Taşlıcabayır, the ceramics from Hacilar also exhibit some local characteristics. The fact that the closest analogy in terms of form and decorative

<sup>34</sup> Ilon 2015, Taf. 14/3; Kacsó 2012, Pl. 1/1; Leshtakov 2015, 72, Abb. 28/1; Neugebauer *et alii* 1994, Abb. 25/14; Prendi 1995; Taf. 2/2, 5/9; Sava 2019, 111, pl. 11/19; Zanolci *et alii* 2016, 310.; Gashi *et alii* 2013, Kat. Nr. 136, 161; Bălan *et alii* 2016, pl. I/ 10,11, 21, 22; Nenova 2019, fig. 10.3/II, 10.4/II.

<sup>35</sup> Nagy, Gogăltan 2012, Taf. 17/11; Gogăltan, Nagy 2012, 107, pl. 5/3, 7/6-8; Ailincăi 2016, fig. 20; Ailincăi 2020, fig. 2/25, 64, 89, 93, 94; Zanolci *et alii* 2016, 310, fig. 15/4; Dimitrova 2011, fig. 5; Hristova 2018, 100 etc. fig. 13; Groma 2015, 141, 142, abb. 3/17, 5/7.

<sup>36</sup> Nikov 2000, 308.

<sup>37</sup> I would like to thank Dr. Georgy Nekhrizov for sharing this information with me in the light of the data from his excavation at Gluhite Kamani.

elements of the Hacılar find with the museum inventory number 1782 was found in Level III of Gluhite Kamani<sup>38</sup> suggests that this type may be a locally produced vessel form of the Western Strandja-Eastern Rhodopes region (Fig. 11).



Fig. 11. Hacilar storage container (museum inventory 1782).

If the Hacilar Dolmeni is evaluated in terms of the pottery found during the excavations, it can be concluded that it was used in the interval between the end of Phase I of the Early Iron Age and the transition to Phase II, i.e. roughly in the 10<sup>th</sup> -9<sup>th</sup> centuries BC.

An example among the pottery preserved in the Edirne Museum in cases labelled "Hacilar Dolmeni" is close in form to the Early Iron Age cup forms, but is wheel-made. This shard is important both because it shows that the dolmen was also in use at the end of the Early Iron Age and because it shows that some of the form traditions continued into the Archaic Period.

### THE SIGNIFICANCE OF ARPALIK DOLMENI AND ITS FINDS FOR THE EARLY IRON AGE IN EASTERN THRACE

During the excavations conducted under the direction of the Edirne Museum in 1994 at Arpalık Dolmen (Fig. 12), located in the region of the Strandja Mountains in Lalapaşa, Edirne, a large number of complete or nearly complete jars were recorded in the museum inventory. The finds currently on display at the Edirne Museum are

<sup>38</sup> Nekhrizov, Tzvetkova 2018, fig. 6/21.



generally Early Iron Age materials that bear traces of the Central European Urnfield Culture<sup>39</sup> and the Late Wietenberg Culture<sup>40</sup>, although differing in detail. The form, paste and slip characteristics of the recovered pottery group are largely parallel to the finds from the Taşlıcabayır Tumulus.

The closest parallels for the pottery findings of Arpalık Dolmen can be found in the Early Iron Age Pšeničevo culture<sup>41</sup>, in Ravadinovo and Kabyle settlements<sup>42</sup>, in the vessel repertoire of Ada Tepe<sup>43</sup> Early Iron Age sanctuary on the Rhodope Mountains and in Troy<sup>44</sup>, with much better quality examples.

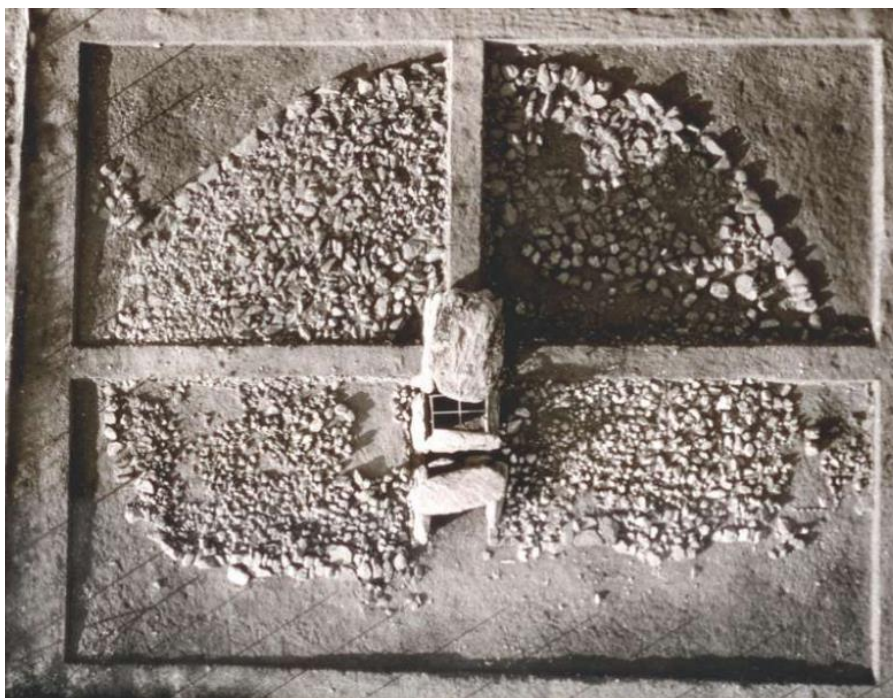


Fig. 12. The Dolmen from Arpalık.

One of the most remarkable vessels among the Dolmen finds is a jug with the museum inventory number 2669 (Fig. 13/a). The form of the vessel is not common in

<sup>39</sup> Bouzek 2006, fig. 1/1.

<sup>40</sup> Bălan *et alii* 2016, pl. III/83.

<sup>41</sup> Ailincăi 2020, fig. 2/132.

<sup>42</sup> Hristova 2018, fig. 11/5, 17/3.

<sup>43</sup> Dimitrova 2011, fig. 3/9.

<sup>44</sup> Hnila 2012, pl. 20/A. 106; Metzner-Nebelsick 2012, Fig. 5.



the Early Iron Age pottery repertoire of the region. It is significant that very close parallels of the form are found at Agios Mamas Mound<sup>45</sup>, Enkomi<sup>46</sup> and Troy<sup>47</sup> in the southern part of the Thrace Region.

This distribution is extremely important for the definition of the cultural network of relations. This jug form, albeit with standardised characteristics that do not require a very specific production workmanship, is found in the Late Bronze Age levels of Agios Mamas in Olynthos, Northern Greece. The fact that it is found in the material group defining the Balkan influenced Late Bronze Age-Early Iron Age period at Enkomi and in Level VIIa, which is defined as the earliest Balkan/Thracian influenced settlement phase at Troy, is remarkable in terms of proving that the cultural connection between Arpalık Dolmeni, Continental Greece and Northwestern Anatolia was established in the early stages of the "Aegean Migrations".

Inventory no. 2668 (Fig. 13/b), another Arpalık Dolmeni cup form, is exhibited in the museum, and although its non-identical predecessors are widespread in the northern part of Thrace before the Early Iron Age, close parallels of the vessel are found in the early part of the Early Iron Age on a limited line in the eastern Rhodopes and the southern part of the Istranca Mountains<sup>48</sup>. Obviously, this form represents the culture of the Eastern Rhodopes and the southern part of the Strandja Mountains during the Early Iron Age. This connection supports J. Bouzek's thesis that there was an eastward cultural migration from Slovakia, Hungary and Transylvania in the late 2<sup>nd</sup> millennium BC.<sup>49</sup> The fact that the same form is also found in Troy indicates that the same geographical area was the source of the transfer of this cup type to Troy<sup>50</sup>.



Fig. 13. Examples of pottery from Arpalık Dolmen.

<sup>45</sup> Horejs 2007, 154, Abb. 104.

<sup>46</sup> Plides 1991, Fig. 52/2.

<sup>47</sup> Hnila 2012, pl. 204/33; Plides, 1991, Fig. 14/B45.

<sup>48</sup> Nekhrizov, Tzvetkova 2018, 25-27, Fig. 5/5.

<sup>49</sup> Bouzek 2006, 24.

<sup>50</sup> Hnila 2012, 169, Pl. 199/1133.

The pottery from Arpalık Dolmeni represents the transition period from the Late Bronze Age to the Early Iron Age, just like the finds from Taşlıcabayır in general, with their form development and analogies, the examples with groove-groove decoration on the neck, and their simplicity in general.

The bronze fibula with the inventory number 2335 from the Edirne Museum (Fig. 14) is a member of the "Bow-shaped Fibulae" group, which is a common form in the Balkans during the Late Bronze Age and Iron Age. Bow-shaped fibulae are classified according to their body shape, dimensions and ornamentation<sup>51</sup>.

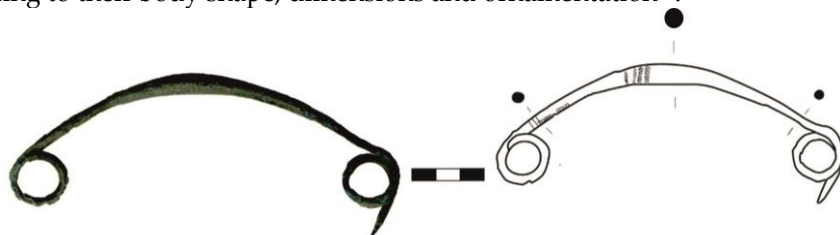


Fig. 14. Bronze fibula from Arpalık Dolmen (Edirne Museum, drawing: G. Batur).

The Arpalık Dolmeni example belongs to the "Double Spiral Fibulae" subgroup. The Double Spiral Fibulae, which are also divided into different subgroups according to the decorations on the body and the needle holding plate, were used from the 10<sup>th</sup> century BC to the 7<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> centuries BC.<sup>52</sup>

Although items quite close to the Arpalık find in terms of form characteristics are generally dated to the 7<sup>th</sup>/6<sup>th</sup> centuries BC, in fact, much higher quality examples of the form with twisted body ornaments are seen in the Balkan region at this date<sup>53</sup>. Therefore, the dating of the Arpalık fibula, which exhibits a much simpler workmanship and has a very simple form, to a date as late as the 7<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> century BC would be open to debate. However, the available data are not strong enough to date the Arpalık fibula before the 7<sup>th</sup> century BC. Therefore, it is considered that the spring fibula with inventory number 2335 from Arpalık Dolmeni can be placed in the early 7<sup>th</sup> century BC.

Another remarkable find from the Arpalık Dolmeni is a coloured glass bead registered in the Edirne Museum records under inventory number 2475 (Fig. 15). The spherical shaped bead is made of dark blue paste. The upper and lower edges of the hole in the centre are surrounded by a yellow glass thread. Between these two

<sup>51</sup> Bonev *et alii* 2015; Erdan, 2020, 61; Caner 1983, 29-31; Blinkenberg 1926, 45.

<sup>52</sup> Bonev *et alii* 2015, 117; Papadopoulos 2010, 239, 241-242, Fig. 4; Stamberova 2020, Fig. 2/2; Blinkenberg 1926, 80, 81, Fig. 74.

<sup>53</sup> Sana, Bejinariu 2012.

symmetrical glass strings in light relief, there is a yellowish grey painted wave motif surrounding the body.



Fig. 15. Glass Bead from Arpalık Dolmen (Edirne Museum).

In the Balkans, glass technology begins to flourish from the Late Bronze Age onwards. It is known that coloured glass beads were produced both in the Upper Danube cultures and in the Knovíz culture of Central Europe<sup>54</sup>, in Novo Mesto in Serbia<sup>55</sup> during the Ha A Phase, i.e. the Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age transition period. By the first millennium BC, the glass industry in Europe and the Balkan region has made a remarkable leap and important centres have emerged<sup>56</sup>.

The glass bead found at Arpalık Dolmeni is close to its Central European/Balkan counterparts as well as its Phoenician counterparts from the Mediterranean region in terms of its general ornamental style. The closest examples that can be compared with the Arpalık Dolmeni bead come from the excavations of the Temple of Artemis at Ephesus<sup>57</sup> and the Athena Sanctuary at Lindos<sup>58</sup> in Western Anatolia.

The beads from Ephesus and Lyndos differ in detail from those from Arpalık Dolmeni. In particular, the differences in detail between the Arpalık Dolmeni bead and the Ephesus bead must be due to "different workshops repeating the same style". Nevertheless, it is difficult to be very precise about the source of production. Although

<sup>54</sup> Venclová *et alii* 2011, 559.

<sup>55</sup> Henderson 1988, 436; Purowski 2010, 54, Rys 17; Giumlia-Mair 2009, 159, Fig. 11.

<sup>56</sup> Conte *et alii* 2018, 503–521; Dizdar 2004, 68.

<sup>57</sup> Pulsinger 2008, 264, kat. nr. 202; Wilfried 2008, kat. nr. 202.

<sup>58</sup> Pulsinger 2008, 264.

the Arpalık bead, like the Ephesus example, resembles the Phoenician bead tradition with its general stylistic characteristics, similar bead production examples from the Balkans, especially the Arpalık example, raise doubts about the production centre.

The pottery and other small finds recovered during the excavations at Arpalık Dolmeni indicate that this megalithic monument located on the southern side of the Strandzha was used in at least two different periods. In the light of the pottery finds, it appears that the dolmen, which was first built in the 12<sup>th</sup> century BC, was reused as a funerary structure in the late 8<sup>th</sup>-7<sup>th</sup> centuries BC.

### THOUGHTS ON SEVERAL SACRED SITES AND CULT STRUCTURES IN TURKISH THRACE

Since the culture of the Late Bronze Age and Early Iron Age in the region is not based on written documents, our knowledge of the religious aspects of this period is extremely scarce and is mostly based on the interpretation of limited archaeological material. Nevertheless, archaeological investigations conducted throughout the region show that there was a diversity of beliefs in different communities influenced by geographical features, yet certain principles were common.

In the religious identity of the Early Iron Age Thracian region, the preferred locations for the cult structures were the plains close to water sources, on the ridges of mountainous areas and dominating the environment<sup>59</sup>. Although the cult sites were generally located in rural areas outside the settlements, examples of cult sites coexisting with the settlements were also found<sup>60</sup>.

Apart from the researches of Prof. dr. Engin Beksaç, there is no systematic research or excavation on Early Iron Age cult sites in Turkish Thrace. E. Beksaç draws attention to the fact that the sites identified in these studies, such as the Çöke Rock Sanctuary in Doğanköy in the Lalapaşa district of Edirne, the Rock Sun Disc in the Suakacağı Village, and the Çataltepe Sanctuary in the Enez district, are arranged according to the southern horizon, indicating that these cult monuments, like the dolmens, are closely related to the winter solstice<sup>61</sup>. This is similar to the archaeo-astronomical views on the sanctuaries in other parts of Thrace<sup>62</sup>.

Both the results obtained from archaeo-astrophysical research, some belief forms observed in societies with similar sociological structures in Europe and Eurasia

<sup>59</sup> Baralis, Tonkova 2015, 336; Nekhrizov 2000, 322; Moglova, Stoev 2014a, 1385.

<sup>60</sup> Nekhrizov 2005, 156; Nenova 2018, 128.

<sup>61</sup> Beksaç 2011, 118.

<sup>62</sup> See also: Maglova *et alii* 2018; Maglova, Stoev 2014b; Maglova, Stoev 2020; Stoev *et alii* 2018; Fol 2008; Fol 2018.

throughout history, and some cult data existing in the region since the Neolithic Age have been evaluated together to develop the view that the Early Iron Age communities of the Thracian Region had a pantheon centred on the Sun God and Mother Goddess (Great Mother)<sup>63</sup>. From this perspective, the circle depictions carved on the bedrock surface in different sizes in concave or relief form in different parts of Thrace have been interpreted as a "sun disc" symbolizing the god<sup>64</sup>.

Rock reliefs identified as solar discs were found in Edirne at the site called "İğrek Kayalığı" in Lalapaşa district centre, near the Early Iron Age fortress settlement in Suakacağı village and in rural areas of Enez district. Rock reliefs interpreted as solar discs are found in northwestern Anatolia as well as in Thrace. One of them is in the rocky region within the borders of İlimtepe neighborhood of Körfez district in Kocaeli province (Fig. 16). The other one is in the Dilovası district of Kocaeli province. The province of Kocaeli, where these two reliefs were discovered, was within the Bithynia Region in the Ancient Period. Considering the information in the ancient sources that the people of Bithynia originated from Thrace, this sun disc relief shows itself as a trace of the cultural migrations from Thrace to Anatolia during the Iron Age.



Fig. 16. The Sun Disk Relief in Dilovası, İzmit (photo: E. Beksaç Arşivi).

<sup>63</sup> Bernd Ersöz 2006, 146; Maglova, Stoev 2014b; Maglova *et alii* 2018; Stoev *et alii* 2018; Maglova, Stoev 2020; Fol 2008; Fol 2018.

<sup>64</sup> Fol 1983; Fol, Fol 2008, 13, 64, 191; Maglova *et alii* 2016; Maglova *et alii* 2018; Marinova, Nenova 2008, Fig. 6, 7.

Although V. Fol<sup>65</sup> states that the rock reliefs identified as solar discs are located in the Tundzha (Tunca) Valley, Rhodope Mountains, Sakar Mountain and Strandja (Yıldız Mountains) of Thrace, similar traces have also been found in the mountainous area on the northern shores of the Gulf of Saroz in the south of Eastern Thrace. The rock monument in the countryside of Yazır village in Enez district, popularly known as "Fırınkaya" (Furnace Rock), has a half-carved relief that looks like a sun disc on the east-facing facade of the bedrock opposite the monument. There is information that the local people had a similar relief next to this relief, but it was broken and destroyed by historical artefact thieves.

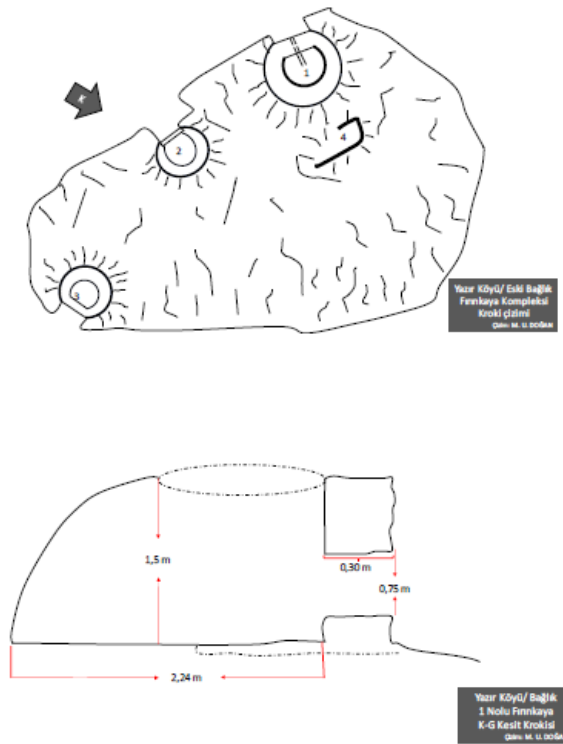


Fig. 17. Sketch drawings of Baglik Fırınkaya Complex.

The rock monuments called Fırınkaya are known archaeological finds of Thrace (Fig. 17, 18). These monuments are single rooms with one or more entrance openings and an open upper surface, formed by the carving of the bedrock. In Turkish Thrace, these monuments are found in the province of Kırklareli, in the district of Pınarhisar and in

<sup>65</sup> Fol 2007, 18-19.



the mountainous region around Enez in the south, and also in the Sakar and Rhodope Mountains in Bulgaria. It is not known whether these monuments were used in the Early Iron Age or in a later phase, and their function is not very clear. While V. Fol<sup>66</sup> says that these monuments are places where mystery rites were performed, researchers such as M. Vassileva, G. Nekhrizov<sup>67</sup>, etc. define these monuments as rock tombs.

Using as an argument the fact that there is a rock altar with labrys relief just behind Tavşantepe Fırınkayası, in the countryside of Çeribaşı Village, in the northern part of Saroz Bay, Turkish researchers point out that these monuments are cult-related cremation chambers<sup>68</sup>.

The main entrance of the Fırınkayalar is already wide enough to accommodate a corpse, but the presence of a large opening on top makes it difficult to define these monuments as rock-cut tombs. On the other hand, these monuments from Eastern Thrace were created by processing the limestone bedrock massif. Considering that the cremation process requires an average temperature of 600-750° C for 2.5-3 hours<sup>69</sup>, it is not possible for the furnace chambers to withstand this process several times.



Fig. 18. Soros Gulf, Yazir Village, Sarpdere Fırınkayası. View from the West.

<sup>66</sup> Fol 1998, 25-26.

<sup>67</sup> Nekhrizov 2015, 135; Vassileva 2012, 246.

<sup>68</sup> Beksaç, Nurengin Beksaç 2017, 611.

<sup>69</sup> Cengiz 2014, 77; Coşkun and Büken 2020, 131; Lapan 2019, 48-49.



Among other Early Iron Age burial customs identified in the western part of the Carpathians, there are cases when the corpse was left to decompose for a while in special protection areas. Some parts of the body, which were easily separated due to the disintegration of articulations, were placed in the grave and some of them were burned and stored at home or in another area. The analyses carried out on the corpses also indicated that in all burials, the area where the corpse was left to decompose was most probably protected from natural destruction and animal attacks<sup>70</sup>.

It can be assumed that this burial tradition practised in the Western Carpathians was dispersed to various parts of the Thracian Region during the Early Iron Age through a cultural migration and that the construction of the Kilinkayas coincided with the rock-cut burial practice that developed in this region. Perhaps the corpse placed in the rock through the main door was exposed to air circulation through the controlled opening of the main door and the roof hole cover at certain times, and this only accelerated the decomposition process of the corpse.

## CONCLUSION

In Turkish Thrace, where systematic excavations are scarce, even the findings obtained from short-term excavation projects or surveys point to the importance of the region during the Early Iron Age. The Early Iron Age research, which is expected to increase over time, will provide the scientific world with much more new information in the field of architecture, the identification of burial customs and cult practices.

Unfortunately, the Early Iron Age stratigraphy of the systematically excavated settlements of Maydos Kilisetepe, Menekşe Çatağı and Aşağıpınar is unclear. Excavations in a settlement or a cult centre used exclusively or intensively in the Early Iron Age will strengthen our knowledge, especially on architectural features.

On the other hand, it is certain that the data from the mounds of Menekşe Çatağı in the coastal part of Thrace, and especially from Maydos Kilisetepe, which is connected to Troy further south, will not always be identical with those concerning the cultural environment in the interior of Thrace. In this respect, excavations and research in the interior of Eastern Thrace are important.

Archaeological excavations should be carried out in the vicinity of these monuments in order to test the theories on the dating and use of the rock monuments known as Fırınkaya.

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<sup>70</sup> Ailincăi 2016, 206.

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## THE EARLY IRON AGE POTTERY TYPOLOGY IN TURKISH THRACE

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Umut M. DOĞAN

Edirne Archaeology and Ethnography Museum, Edirne, Türkiye,

e-mail: [arkmud@gmail.com](mailto:arkmud@gmail.com)

ORCID ID: <https://orcid.org/0000-0003-1519-1551>

**Abstract:** Since the Early Iron Age in the Thracian Region is characterised by the existence of illiterate communities, the archaeological record represents the most important source of information for defining this period of the region's history. The best represented category of archaeological finds is undoubtedly the pottery.

The research on the pottery finds from Turkish Thrace, which constitutes a large part of Eastern Thrace, is generally based on short-term projects of the 1980s and 1990s, and the definitions and theories put forward during these periods have survived until today without much change. In recent years, increased research in the Balkans has led to a diversification of the documentation, information and interpretations regarding the Early Iron Age pottery repertoire.

Within the scope of the doctoral thesis prepared by the author between 2021 and 2023, the pottery repertoire of the region has been classified and its cultural connections have been discussed based on revisiting the results of old excavations and surveys carried out in Turkish Thrace and evaluating the results of new surveys.

The data reveal that the Early Iron Age pottery of Eastern Thrace was influenced by the pottery of the Middle and Late Bronze Age societies of the northern and north-western Balkan region, especially during the first phase of the period. In addition, it could be determined that the Early Iron Age communities from Eastern Thrace developed cultural relations both within the limits of this territory and with other parts of Thrace.

With an Early Iron Age culture that is open to environmental interaction but also has strong internal dynamics, Eastern Thrace was a noteworthy transitional region for the transmission of Balkan cultural elements carried to Anatolia, the Aegean and the Mediterranean at the beginning of the period.

**Rezumat:** Dat fiind faptul că prima epocă a fierului în regiunea Traciei este caracterizată de existența unor comunități ce nu cunoșteau scrisul, cea mai importantă sursă de cunoaștere rămâne cea a descoperirilor arheologice. Dintre acestea, cea mai răspândită categorie este cea a ceramicii.

Studierea descoperirilor ceramice din Tracia turcească, regiune ce constituie o parte importantă a Traciei de Est, au fost în general bazate pe proiecte de scurtă durată desfășurate în anii 1980 și 1990, iar definițiile și teoriile puse în circulație au continuat să fie utilizate până în prezent fără mari schimbări. Recent, dezvoltarea cercetărilor pe această temă în Balcani a dus la o diversificare a documentației, informației și interpretărilor privind repertoriul ceramic al primei epoci a fierului.

Ca parte a lucrării de doctorat pregătite de autor între anii 2021 și 2023, s-a propus o clasificare a repertoriului ceramic al regiunii și s-au discutat legăturile culturale cu alte regiuni, pe baza vechilor cercetări arheologice și cercetări de suprafață, la care s-a adăugat evaluarea rezultatelor cercetărilor de suprafață întreprinse recent.

Datele obținute arată că ceramica primei epoci a fierului din Tracia de Est a fost influențată de tradițiile păstrate din Bronzul Mijlociu și Târziu din nord și nord-vestul a regiunii balcanice, în special la începutul primei epoci a fierului. În plus, există dovezi că aceste comunități din Tracia de Est întrețineau legături nu doar în interiorul regiunii, ci și cu celelalte părți ale Traciei.



Cu o primă epocă a fierului caracterizată de deschidere spre interacțiuni cu alte zone, dar și de o dinamică internă puternică, Tracia Răsăriteană a reprezentat o regiune importantă pentru transmiterea trăsăturilor culturale balcanice spre Anatolia, Egeea și Mediterana la începutul acestei perioade.

**Keywords:** Eastern Thrace, Early Iron Age, Pottery, Ceramic Forms, Northern Balkans.

**Cuvinte cheie:** Tracia de est, Perioada timpurie a epocii fierului, ceramică, forme, Nordul Balcanilor.

## INTRODUCTION

Although the Early Iron Age pottery of the Thracian Region is generally recognized for its specific form, decoration and clay characteristics, it is often overlooked that it shows significant differences in detail within the chronological period of approximately six centuries. So much so that the Early Iron Age pottery from Anatolian cities such as Troy and Gordion is often referred to with general names such as "Buckelkeramik", "Knobbed Ware", "Barbarian Pottery", "Balkan Pottery", etc., and most researchers do not pay attention to the changes that can be noticed in the succeeding archaeological layers.

The ceramics of the period found in the Turkish Thrace during the surveys of M. Özdoğan and in the last layer of the excavations in Aşağıpınar are not described in detail, but with a general designation such as "Late Bronze Age ceramics" or "Early Iron Age ceramics"<sup>1</sup>. A similar practice can be seen in the case of the surveys in the Thracian part of Istanbul<sup>2</sup>. In the 1980s, I. Czyborra conducted a research on the Early Iron Age in Eastern Thrace, covering Turkey, Bulgaria and Greece, and, for the first time, the ceramics of the region were classified in detail in terms of period characteristics and published in a catalogue<sup>3</sup>.

This study, based on pottery found during older surveys in Turkish Thrace, during excavations and also found during the surveys carried out by us between 2021-2023, will try to present the form classification, decoration characteristics and cultural connections of the Early Iron Age ceramics in the region (Fig. 1).

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<sup>1</sup> Özdoğan 1982a; Özdoğan 1982b; Özdoğan 1983; Özdoğan 1984; Özdoğan 1985; Özdoğan 1986a; Özdoğan 1986b; Özdoğan 1988; Özdoğan 1990; Özdoğan 1996; Özdoğan 1998.

<sup>2</sup> Aydıngün, Aydıngün 2013, 65-78; Dönmez 2011, 19-25; Dönmez 2017, 93-116.

<sup>3</sup> Czyborra 2001.

## COMPOSITION AND TECHNOLOGICAL DETAILS OF THE EARLY IRON AGE POTTERY FROM EASTERN THRACE

All the Early Iron Age material of the region is handmade and the paste consists of poorly sieved earthenware with different sized stones, sand and sometimes organic material. On the other hand, a remarkable feature of most of the ceramics is the presence of "mica" in the paste, which provides a white lustre when exposed to light.

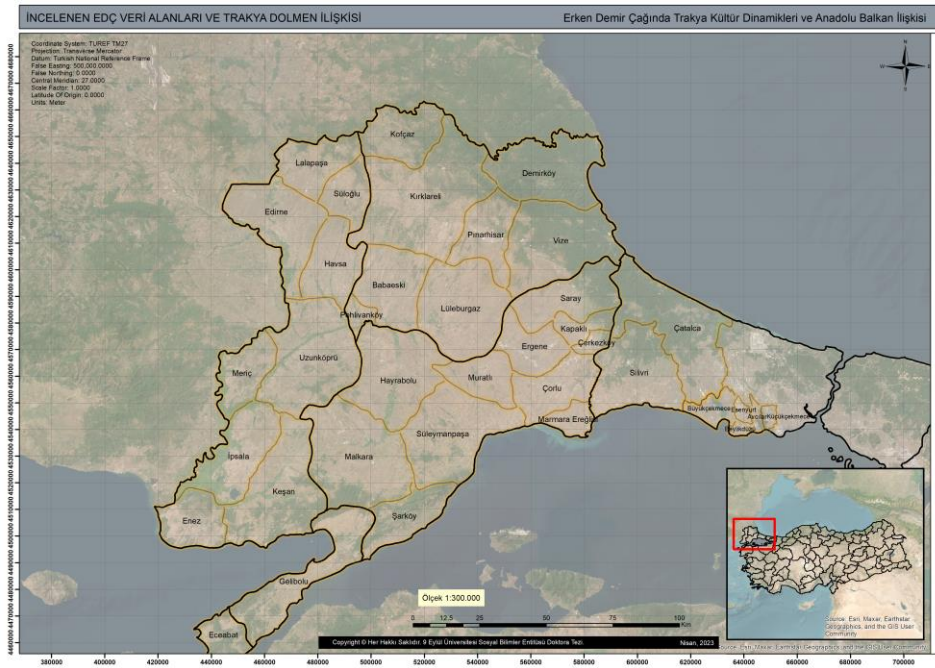


Fig. 1. The area under study. Turkish Thrace.

It is considered that the pottery was fired at an average temperature of 400-600°C. Differences in the colour of the paste can be observed due to the low temperature. Although the paste structure of the examined potsherds is generally in black, grey, blackish grey tones, it could be noticed that some of the vessels have yellowish red, light brown, or reddish brown tones.

The vessels have sometimes a slip in shades of the paste colour made by thinning the paste, and sometimes they are decorated with a slip in shades of grey, blackish grey, red and brown colours, different from the paste colour.

Portable X-ray Fluorescence Spectrometry (P-XRF) elemental chemical analyses of twelve different sherds from several analysed sites revealed high levels of silica, aluminium and iron in the ceramics of the region<sup>4</sup> (Fig. 2).

The two base sherds, found at the Kocatepe settlement in the Suloglu Valley in the North-North-eastern part of Edirne and the Yukarıova settlement in the Tozaklı Valley in the west of Pınarhisar District of Kırklareli Province respectively, give us clues about the method of shaping vessels by hand in Eastern Thrace during the Early Iron Age. The wicker traces on the base of both vessels suggest that the vessels were placed on a wicker base and left to dry during pottery production.

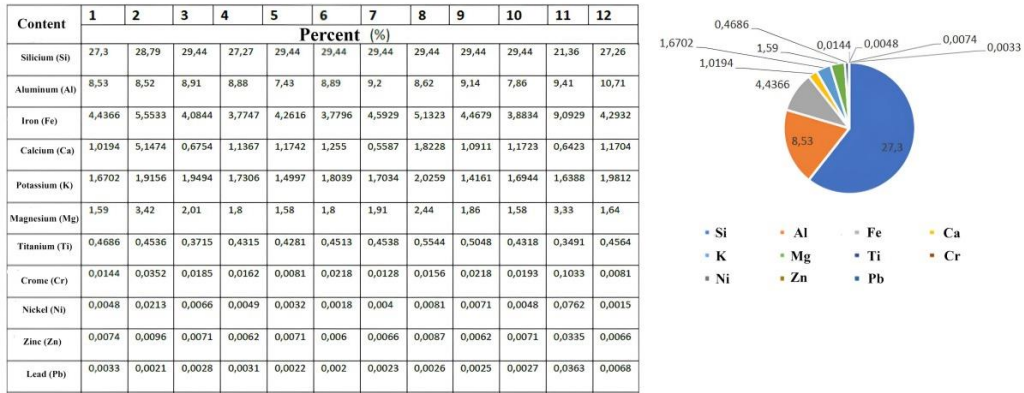


Fig. 2. Elements and their ratios in the paste content of ceramics from Turkish Thrace.

### MAIN VESSEL FORMS IDENTIFIED IN TURKISH THRACE

The identification of different forms of pottery in Eastern Thrace and the determination of form types were mainly based on the complete or nearly complete vessels from the excavations at Taşlıcabayır Tumulus, Aşağıpınar Mound and Menekşe Çatağı Mound. Due to the detailed classification of the vessels, the forms and the main types of these forms could be identified, and the ceramic sherds found during the surveys could be grouped in terms of form by making use of this classification.

Accordingly, the main vessel forms in the region are categorised under five main headings: *liquid service vessels*, which can be defined as *jugs* or *mugs*, *single-handled drinking vessels*, *double-handled drinking vessels*, *dining vessels* and *storage vessels*. In addition to these, examples that can be defined under the headings of *cult vessels*,

<sup>4</sup> The analyses were carried out by dr. Ramazan Hacımustafoğlu, Faculty Member of Torbalı Vocational High School, Dokuz Eylül University, İzmir.

*potsherds, miniature vessels and unique forms*, which are represented by fewer examples, were identified.<sup>5</sup>

### Jugs

One of the most frequently encountered forms in the Early Iron Age excavations and researches in the Eastern Thrace Region is the jug.

I. Czyborra, in her diagram of the distribution and sub-types of this vessel type in the region, suggests that only one form, the jug, remains within the borders of Eastern Thrace<sup>6</sup>. However, the analyses carried out by us have revealed that the jug and mash pot form, which was in use in Eastern Thrace during all phases of the Early Iron Age, comprises eight distinct types (S/M.1-8) (Fig. 3, Tab. 1).

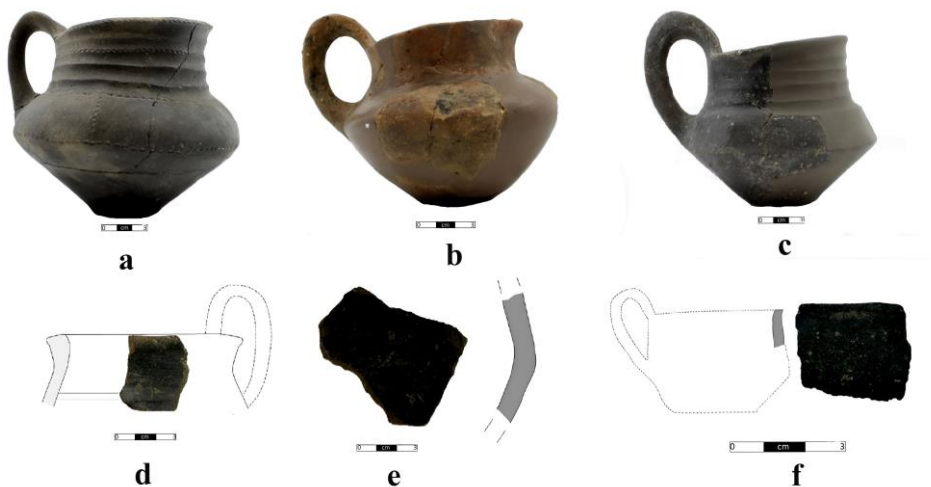


Fig. 3. Jugs.

Some of the eight different jug forms also present further variations. For example, the items included in type S/M. 1 with high necks with fluted decoration represent sub-type S/M. 1a, while the jugs with lower necks constitute sub-type S/M 1b.

The best examples of the jug form can be found among the finds from Taşlıcabayır Tumulus. Apart from these, both the excavations at the Ağaşıpınar Mound and the excavations at the Menekşe Çatağı Mound yielded all or nearly all vessels that can be classified in the jug form. In addition, during the surveys conducted in the Turkish Thrace, Arpalık Dolmen and Hacılar Dolmen, Maydos

<sup>5</sup> Forms are only briefly defined in this article. For the details of the form distinction, see: Doğan 2023.

<sup>6</sup> Czyborra 2001, 61, Karte 122.

Kilisetepe excavations yielded many sherds that can be classified as different types of the jug form.

### Single Handle Drink Cups

Single-handled drinking vessels constitute another large group among the complete or almost completely preserved Early Iron Age pottery repertoire of the region. Although some of the types have a form similar to the jugs, they are differentiated from them by their size and purpose of use. This form is very rich in terms of variety as well as density of finds. Seventeen different types (K. 1-17) were found in Eastern Thrace excavations, especially the items from the excavation of Taşlıcabayır Tumulus (Fig. 4, Tab. 2)<sup>7</sup>.



Fig. 4. Cups.

### Double Handle Drink Cups

The double-handled drinking vessels represent a form that is also known in the literature as "Kantharos-Like Vessel" because of its resemblance to the kantharos form in the Ancient Aegean vessel repertoire. They usually have two opposite high handles above the level of the rim and a bulging body with a bulging belly. This form essentially represents ceremonial drinking vessels, which were widely used in the Balkans, the Aegean and the Near East since the beginning of the Bronze Age.

<sup>7</sup> Özdoğan 1987.

There are three types of this form (ÇKK. 1-3). The sherd found during the excavations at Taşlıcabayır Tumulus and inventoried in the Edirne Museum with the inventory number 1340 is a representative of the ÇKK. 1 type (Fig. 5a). A sherd found at Hacılar Dolmen and registered as artefacts for study at the Edirne Museum is an example of type 2 (Fig. 5b), while another sherd found at Menekşe Çatağı Mound and registered at the Tekirdağ Museum under inventory number 2682 is an example of type 3 (Fig. 5c).



Fig. 5. Double Handle Drink Cups.

### Food Containers

Among the examples described under the heading of food vessels are deep bowls without handles and their small and splayed types, jars of large volume, and large and splayed vessels with handles used for cooking.

The specimens that have been found in various forms within the borders of Turkish Thrace so far are divided into five types (YK. 1-5), according to the differences in their formal characteristics.

Among the finds, all or almost all of the food vessels are large-sized vessels with deep body. The excavations at Bahçelik/Eski Kadın Rescue Excavation, Aşağıpınar Excavations and Menekşe Çatağı Mound yielded complete or nearly complete examples of this form.

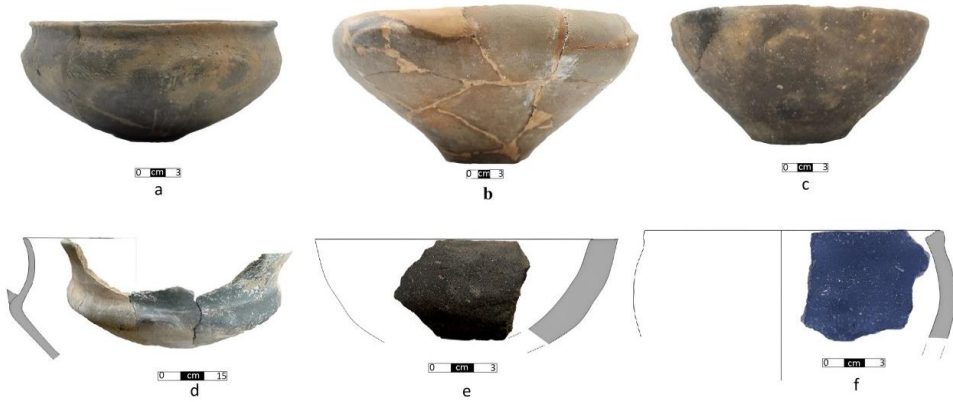


Fig. 6. Food Containers.

### Storage Containers

One of the most common types of pottery used in cultures where agriculture and shepherd culture was the dominant lifestyle is the large-sized, wide-mouthed storage vessels where cereals and liquids were stored. These vessels usually have a rough appearance and sloppy workmanship and are sometimes adorned with plastic ornaments.

According to the classification of all vessels and sherds found in Turkish Thrace, six different types of storage vessel forms (DK. 1-6) were identified in the region.

The vessel with the inventory number 1782 (Fig. 7/a), which was found in fragments during the excavation of Hacilar Dolmen, restored and exhibited in the Edirne Museum in a nearly complete form, resembles the "Amphora Type" vessels common among the Balkan Early Iron Age cultures, but its lack of handles suggests that it was a storage vessel used locally. This vessel represents *DK. 1 Type*.

*DK. Type 2* is divided into two sub-groups. Two vessels dated to the Early Iron Age found at the Aşağı Pınar Mound and recorded in the Kırklareli Museum under inventory numbers 269 and 508 (Fig. 7/b-c) and another similar vessel with inventory number 29, which is described as "Kırklareli Find" in the Museum inventory record, represent the *DK. 2 Type* and can be analysed in two subgroups with some details

The *DK. 3 type* storage vessels, which have a flat rim with a width equal to the body diameter, a steep profile lip, a conical body and a partially raised round base, are represented by the example with inventory number 1535 (Fig. 7/d) found during the excavations at Taşlıcabayır Tumulus and exhibited at the Edirne Museum, and the vessel with inventory number 2792 found at Menekşe Çatağı Mound and preserved at the Tekirdağ Museum (Fig. 7/e).





Fig. 8. Storage Containers.

The vessel with museum inventory number 1117 (Fig. 7/f), which was brought to the Kırklareli Museum as a find from the Aşağıpınar Mound, is an example of the DK. 4 type storage vessel of Eastern Thrace with a wide mouth that does not form a straight line, a conical body that narrows in a near-vertical curve from the mouth to the bottom, and a slightly protruding and defined base.

The DK. 5 type storage vessel resembles the two cup forms of the region (K.9 and K.10). These storage vessels, which are much larger than mugs, are represented by a vessel from Aşağıpınar, which is registered in the inventory of the Kırklareli Museum under the number 268 (Fig. 7/g). Since almost half of the vessel is reconstructed, it is not known whether it had handles or not.

Apart from these, the rim (Fig. 8) and neck fragment identified with the code BAT. 1 found in the cult well during the archaeological surveys around the Çatalca district of Istanbul in Thrace, and the fragment numbered HAC. 2 (Fig. 8) found in the excavation of Hacılar Dolmen represent a different form of storage vessel.

The flaring rim and the shoulder section, which turns outwards from the neck with a deep curve, are close to the vessel profile of the amphora-like storage vessels known from many important sites dated to the Late Bronze and Early Iron Age such as Babadag<sup>8</sup>, Insula Banului<sup>9</sup>, Saharna<sup>10</sup>, Troy<sup>11</sup>, Bulgaria Ada Tepe<sup>12</sup>, Agios Mamas

<sup>8</sup> Ailincăi 2020, fig. 2/5

<sup>9</sup> Ailincăi 2020, fig. 2/43, 50

<sup>10</sup> Ailincăi 2020, fig. 2/43, 96

<sup>11</sup> Aslan 2011.

<sup>12</sup> Dimitrova 2011, fig. 2/1

Mound<sup>13</sup>. Therefore, it can be said that these three sherds constitute the *DK. 6 type* of the Eastern Thracian storage vessel forms.

In addition, the sherd of a storage vessel with inventory number BAH. 27 (Fig. 8), one of the sherds found during the museum excavations at the Bahceklik/Eski Kadın data site in the Maritsa Valley, is unlike other storage vessel forms with its flaring profile with thick lip rim and coarse paste. Nevertheless, the profile of this sherd is reminiscent of a form that has parallels in Late Bronze Age amphora type storage vessels<sup>14</sup>. The wide mouth opening of vessel BAH. 27 reveals that this vessel represents a wide-mouthed storage vessel rather than an amphora type. All these characteristics suggest that vessel BAH. 27 is *a local form produced in Eastern Thrace*.

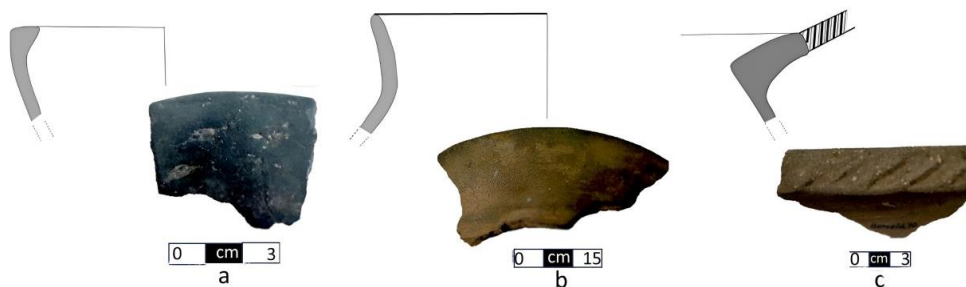


Fig. 8. Storage containers.

### Other Forms

The ceremonial drinking vessel found in the excavation of Taşlıcabayır Tumulus and recorded in the inventory of Edirne Museum under the number 1796 is a vessel of a type that could have been used in a cult ceremony, based on its unique character (Fig. 9).

The vessel has a small mouth with flaring lip and a short and narrow neck with a concave bow profile and fluted pattern. The body widens outwards from the neck to the center with a wide curve, continues to narrow in the lower half and ends with a flat base plane close to the diameter of the rim. The vessel has two perforated handles on the abdomen, and what makes it unique are the four spouts rising vertically on the shoulder.

<sup>13</sup> Horejs 2007, Abb. 99/BII.

<sup>14</sup> Horejs 2007, Abb.134.

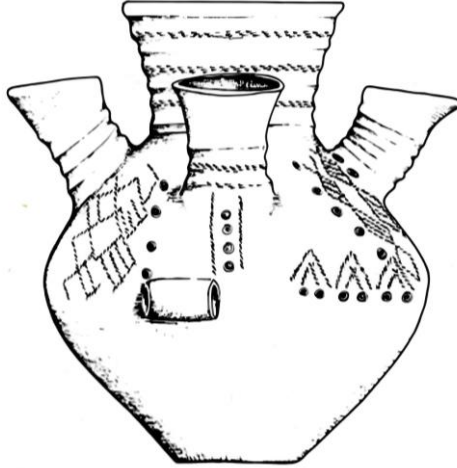


Fig. 9. Taşlıcabayır Tumulus, Ceremony Container (Edirne Museum).



0 cm 5

a



0 cm 2

b



0 cm 2

c



0 cm 5

d

Fig. 10. Unique vessels.

A vessel from the Late Bronze-Early Iron Age finds of the Menekşe Çatağı Mound, exhibited in the Tekirdag Museum under inventory number 2907, is recorded in the excavation committee and museum records under the name "pot base". (Fig. 10/a)

The vessel has an open cylindrical form with upper and lower sides, and the upper and lower lip edges with a flaring profile, and is hand-made.

The excavations at the Menekşe Çatağı Mound yielded examples of miniature vessels, consisting of small bowls in different forms and shapes, quite clumsily shaped. Two items preserved in the Tekirdag Museum are recorded under inventory numbers 2605 and 2770 (Fig. 10/b-c).

In the section of the Suakacağı settlement, which was used as a sand quarry by DSI in the early 2000s, we found a footed bowl SA. 2, included in the Late Bronze/Early Iron Age vessel repertoire of Eastern Thrace as a vessel form for which there are no analogies. The vessel has a rounded top with raised sides and a pedestal base with a high pedestal foot. The partially preserved elevation in the centre of the top is remarkable. SA 2 may have been an incense burner or a footed oil lamp/candle holder (Fig. 10/c).

### POTTERY DECORATION

The decorations on the ceramics found during the excavations and surveys in Eastern Thrace were obtained by using several main techniques: *Relief Technique*, *Engraving Technique*, *Stamp Technique*, *Primer Paint Technique*.

Relief decoration generally includes horn-shaped, lump-shaped, button-shaped and channelled decorations added to the surface before the vessel was fired.

In Early Iron Age pottery literature, the terms *buckelkeramik* or *knobbed ware* are used for vessels with relief decoration on the surface. Whether this relief is pointed and long, resembling a horn, point-shaped or almond-shaped, it is described by the German word *buckel* or the English word *knobbed*. However, it is problematic to identify large horn-shaped protrusions and small dot-shaped or almond-shaped bumps on the vessel surface as separate decorative applications within the same nomenclature.

Horn-shaped semi-plastic ornamentation is a typical and widespread form of decoration for the Early Iron Age in other parts of the Balkans, but is represented by few examples in Turkish Thrace. Nevertheless, the dot or almond-shaped small lump ornamentation usually found on the shoulder of the vessel and the horizontal channelled ornamentation more common on the neck of the vessel are frequently encountered especially on the "Transition Phase" ceramics, which constitute the first chronological phase of the Early Iron Age in Thrace (Fig. 11).



Fig. 11. Examples of vessels with channelled decoration on the neck.

The decorations made using the scraping technique with the help of a tool before the vessel is fired include *Zigzag Sequence*, *Inverted 'V' Motif*, *Inverted Scalloped Triangle*, *Bevelled Scanning Frieze*, *Inverted Scalloped Frieze*, *Notch Scratch Sequence*, *Nail Scratch Sequence*, *Butterfly Motif*, *Lozenge*, *Inverted Spiral Circle*<sup>15</sup> (Tab. 6).

In the Printing Technique, which is applied on the surface of the vessel with the help of various tools or by finger pressing, with relief (positive) or carved (negative) moulds prepared in advance before drying, *single concentric*, *concentric concentric circle in a series*, *wave motif consisting of uninterrupted 'S' sequences*<sup>16</sup>, *Bidirectional Spiral Array*, *Hook-shaped "S" Array*, *Bevelled 'S' Array*, *Dot Array*, *Pit Dot Array*, *Pit Printed Checkerboard*, *Pit Triangle Arrays*, *Thorn Arrays*, *Rope Printed Thin Rope*, *Chevron*, *Schematic Bird motifs* were determined (Tab. 7).

The printing technique appears in the ceramic decoration technology of the Thracian region during Phases I and II of the Early Iron Age. Especially at Ada Tepe and Gluhite Kamani, two important centres in the Rhodope Mountains, the dating based on C14 analyses suggests that this technique was introduced in the last decade of the 12<sup>th</sup> century BC<sup>17</sup>. The technique became widespread in the region from the 11<sup>th</sup> century BC onwards<sup>18</sup>.

<sup>15</sup> The *Inward Spiralling Circle motif*, which was defined as a printing technique motif in my thesis, is revised in this article and treated as an ornamental element of the engraving technique.

<sup>16</sup> The *Wave Motif*, which was defined as an engraving technique motif in my thesis, has been revised in this article and handled as an ornamental element of the printing technique.

<sup>17</sup> Nekhrizov, Tzvetkova 2018, 22, 25.

<sup>18</sup> Ailincăi 2020, 463.

In addition, the *Finger Printed Rope Strings* seen on the rim and neck of many storage vessels can be considered as an ornamental element of this technique.

The Painting Technique, which is performed using the liquid obtained by diluting the slip applied on the surface of the jar, is represented by only two examples in the region. One of these vessels, both of which can be dated to the last phases of the period, is a vase with inventory number 2009/ 74 preserved in the Kırklareli Museum as a find from Aşağıpınar and a wheel-made vase fragment found during the excavations at Ainos (Fig. 12).



Fig. 12. Decorated ceramic examples in Slips Paint Technique: a. Inv. No: 2009/ 74/ Kırklareli Museum; b. Ainos Excavation Find.

### ANALOGIES AND CULTURAL COMMUNICATION

It is possible that many of the vessels found in the Tumulus of Taşlıcabayır, whose early phase dates to the "Transitional Phase" (12<sup>th</sup> century BC) represent the result of the cultural and commercial ties established in the 2<sup>nd</sup> millennium BC along the Central Europe – Transylvania and Southeastern Europe line, as reflected both in form and decoration. The connection with the northern/northwestern Balkans is particularly evident in the forms of S/M 1 and S/M 2 jugs<sup>19</sup>, K.1<sup>20</sup>, K.2<sup>21</sup>, K.9<sup>22</sup>, K. 13<sup>23</sup> mugs, and YK.

<sup>19</sup> Neugebauer *et alii* 1994, 165, Abb. 92; Bălan *et alii* 2016, pl. 3/12-13, 23, 24, 87-88; Berciu 1967, 59, Fig. 17/1; Leshtakov 2015, 65, Abb. 22/9; Bulatović, Filipović, 2017, fig. 5; Hristova 2018, Fig. 2/4-5; Leshtakov 2009, fig. 9; Hristova 2011, fig. 4/1-2; Nenova 2019, fig. 25

<sup>20</sup> Neugebauer *et alii* 1994, abb. 92; Puskás 2015, pl. 16/1; Micea, Florecu 1980; Bălan *et alii* 2016, pl. III.

<sup>21</sup> Ljuština, Dmitrović 2015, 41, fig. 13; Puskás 2015, fig. 4, pl. 2/3, pl. 9/5; Bălan *et alii* 2016, pl. III/83; Niculiță *et alii* 2016, 315, fig. 20/4-6

<sup>22</sup> Berciu 1967, 124, 125, fig. 58/4

<sup>124</sup>, YK. 225 dinner vessels. Considering that each of these forms has parallels in the Thracian Region and its immediate surroundings during the Early Iron Age, it could be hypothesised that the northern/northwestern Balkan culture made a significant contribution to the Early Iron Age culture of Thrace in the 2<sup>nd</sup> millennium BC.

Nevertheless, the vessel representing S/M. 3 type jugs and recorded in the Edirne Museum records under inventory number 1347 as a find from Taşlıcabayır Tumulus exhibits a more regional characteristic. Its closest parallel is found at Gluhite Kamani<sup>26</sup> and its form has been known in the Thracian region since the Late Bronze Age<sup>27</sup>. The fact that this jug form was found in the Early Iron Age only at Taşlıcabayır at the foot of the Strandz Mountains and at the Gluhite Kamani Sanctuary in the Rhodope Mountains, which are belong to the same cultural area, suggests that this form was created in Eastern Thrace.

Similarly, among the earliest examples of the ÇKK. 1 drinking vessel form are the kantharos-type vessels from the Valchitran Treasure in Bulgaria, dating to the Late Bronze Age<sup>28</sup>. It is possible to say that this form emerged from the internal dynamics of the Thracian Region and spread in the Eastern Thrace and Pšeničevo cultural regions during the transition to the Early Iron Age.

The S/M.8 type jugs and the K. 7 and K.12 type mugs seem to continue some of the pottery traditions of the Middle or Late Bronze Age in various parts of the Thracian Region. In fact, it is possible to define the S/M.3 type jug form and the K.4 and K.8 type mugs, whose parallels are found only in a narrow area in the eastern part of Thrace, under the heading of "Eastern Thracian Type" vessels.

In the same time, the S/M.2 and S/M.3 types represented by the finds from Taşlıcabayır Tumulus and the S/M.4 type jugs represented by the Arpalık Dolmen find with inventory number 2669 were spread as far as Troy<sup>29</sup>. This situation is extremely important as it shows the Anatolian connection during the Eastern Thracian Early Iron Age Transitional Phase.

Other ceramic data shedding light on the relationship between Eastern Thrace and Anatolia during the Early Iron Age include BAH. 24 from Bahçeli in the Maritsa Valley,

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<sup>23</sup> Bălan *et alii* 2016, pl. III/77; Krauß 2018, fig. 2/3; Hristova 2018, fig. 1/ 2,6,7; Nenova 2019, fig. 10/2, pl. 28; Leshtakov 2009, fig. 8

<sup>24</sup> Bălan *et alii* 2016, pl. II/47, Pl. III/37; Nenova 2018, 203, 164, pl. 14/a; Sava 2019, pl. 4/9.

<sup>25</sup> Ilon 2015, Taf. 14/3; Kacsó 2012, Pl. 1/1; Leshtakov 2015, 72, Abb. 28/1; Neugebauer *et alii* 1994, Abb. 25/14; Prendi 1995, Taf. 2/2, 5/9; Sava 2019, 111, pl. 11/19.

<sup>26</sup> Nekhrizov, Tzvetkova 2018, fig. 6/10.

<sup>27</sup> Horejs 2007, taf. 125-127; Hristova 2018, fig. 5/5.

<sup>28</sup> Penkova, Meofher 2018; Venedikov, Gerassimov 1975, 7, 17, 27 sqq.; Nenova 2018, 107.

<sup>29</sup> Leshtakov 2009, Fig. 12; Hnila 2012, pl. 199/715.



GS. 5 from Gölsirtı in the Tunca Valley, and AT. 3 from Adatepe in the upper part of the Tunca Valley. The closest analogue of this type of ornamentation is found in the Babadag culture<sup>30</sup> and in Troy layer VIIb<sub>1</sub><sup>31</sup>. On the other hand, it is noteworthy that this type of rope ornamentation, which is not very common, was also found in the Early Iron Age levels of İnönü Cave in the Black Sea Region of Anatolia<sup>32</sup>. The zigzag motif with a series of dots, which we call the "Transitional Phase" from the Late Bronze Age to the Early Iron Age, is almost identical to the zigzag motif seen on the cup found at Taşlıcabayır and exhibited in the Edirne Museum under inventory number 1349<sup>33</sup>.

It is possible to find parallels for some of the forms and decorative features we have identified in the Early Iron Age ceramics of Eastern Thrace in the Aegean and Mediterranean regions outside Anatolia.

The YK. 2 type dinner vessels find parallels not only in the Balkan region but also in the handmade burnished "Barbarian Ceramics" extending from continental Greece to Cyprus. Among the handmade burnished coarse-paste vessel groups (HBW) recovered from the GH IIIB levels of important Mycenaean cities such as Tiryns and Mykenai and the LH IIIC level at Dimini, there are very close analogues of YK. 2b type vessels<sup>34</sup>. The same type of vessel forms from Kastanas<sup>35</sup> in northern Greece can be considered as an intermediate link in a cultural migration from Eastern Thrace to continental Greece. Although the easy-to-produce, non-specific nature of the vessel form makes it difficult to establish a cultural communication link through similarity of form, the occurrence of examples of YK. 2 type in the Late Bronze Age and Early Iron Age settlements in the south, where ceramic elements of Balkan origin are widespread, draws attention to some extent. In fact, it is noteworthy in this context that the close form of the bowl from Taşlıcabayır, which represents the YK. 2b type, was also found in Cyprus<sup>36</sup> during the same period. Similarly, the handmade, burnished, rough ceramics (HBW) found in some centres in continental Greece are reminiscent of the form of S/M. 2 type jugs in terms of their profile characteristics<sup>37</sup>.

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<sup>30</sup> Ailincăi 2011, fig. 11/II.

<sup>31</sup> Hnla 2012, Kat. Nr: 103-104.

<sup>32</sup> Ekmen *et alii* 2020, fig. 13.

<sup>33</sup> Ekmen *et alii* 2021, fig. 10.

<sup>34</sup> Romanos 2011, 18, 20.

<sup>35</sup> Pilides 1991, fig. 37.

<sup>36</sup> Pilides 1991, fig. 50.

<sup>37</sup> Pilides 1991, fig. 3, 4/M10, 7/9-10.

## CONCLUSION AND EVALUATION

The sherds from Turkish Thrace, most of which are out of context, can only be classified based on their form and decoration. The identification and dating attempts made using the typology have shown that a significant portion of the ceramics from Eastern Thrace, especially in the "Transitional Phase" of the Early Iron Age, are related to the cultures in the northern and north-western Balkans. The pottery tradition traced back to the Middle and Late Bronze Age in the northern and north-western Balkans seems to have had a significant influence on the creation of the Early Iron Age ceramics of Eastern Thrace by the end of the 2<sup>nd</sup> millennium BC.

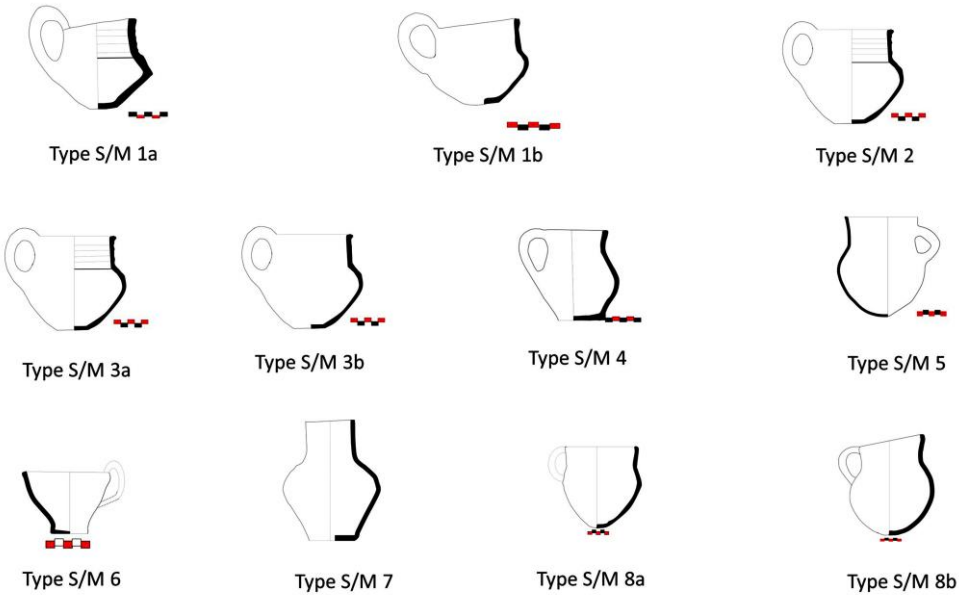
Nevertheless, the Thracian region, with its own dynamics, carried some strong elements of the tradition produced during the Bronze Age into the Early Iron Age. It is clear that many vessel forms had a direct or indirect influence on Eastern Thrace via Bulgaria. As an example, the excavations of the Tashlıcabayır Tumulus and the excavations of the Dren-Delyan cemetery area brought to light vessels of the same type from almost two different ends of the Thracian Region. This observation, together with the fact that there is a close similarity of context of these finds, is important for showing the extent of the spread of the culture within the region.

In the Early Iron Age, the cultures of Turkish Thrace, both in the Transitional Phase and during Phases I and II, exhibit common traits with the Pšeničevo and Babadag cultural environments. In some cases, vessel forms and decorations show features that are restricted to the eastern part of Thrace, thus strengthening the idea of local production. Some of the vessels found at Taşlıcabayır, in particular, provide evidence for the existence of this local production dynamic.

All these suggestions reveal that the cultural dynamics of the Early Iron Age in Eastern Thrace was very vibrant, both in terms of its openness to other parts of the Balkans and its local strength.

Considering the influence of the ceramic culture of the region on Anatolia to the south, Eastern Thrace can be considered as a transit route for cultural migrations from the Balkans to Anatolia and the Aegean in the Early Iron Age, especially during the "Transition Phase".

It is difficult to establish a definite link between the region and the "Barbarian Ceramic" culture of the Aegean and Eastern Mediterranean. It is important and remarkable that some of the forms and decorative elements found in Turkish Thrace have parallels in some settlements in the western Aegean and eastern Mediterranean. Undoubtedly, it is very difficult to establish a cultural connection between these regions based only on pottery analogies. However, while analysing the ethno-cultural mobility in all these spaces, especially during the 12<sup>th</sup> century BC, the possible influence of Eastern Thrace on its neighbouring regions should also be taken into consideration.



Tab. 1. Types of Jugs.

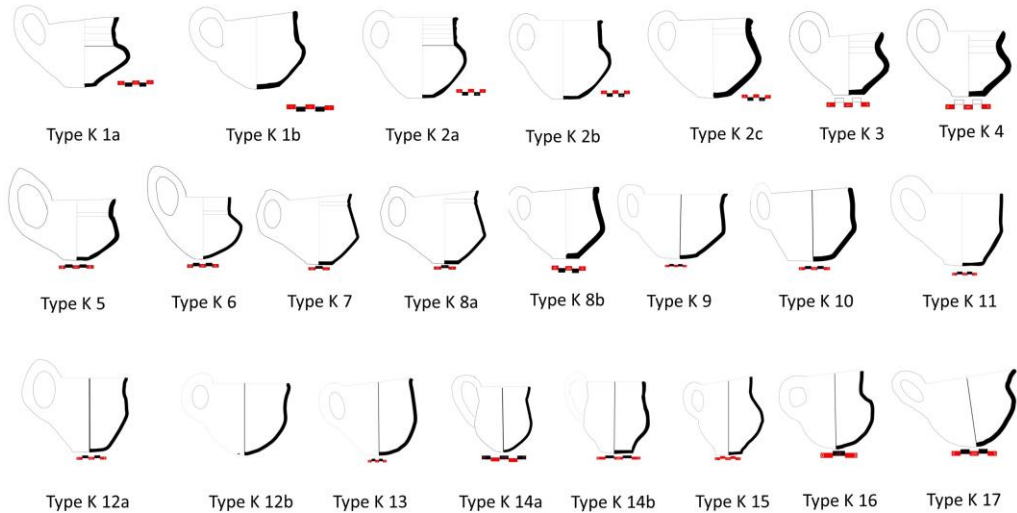


Table. 2. Types of Cups.

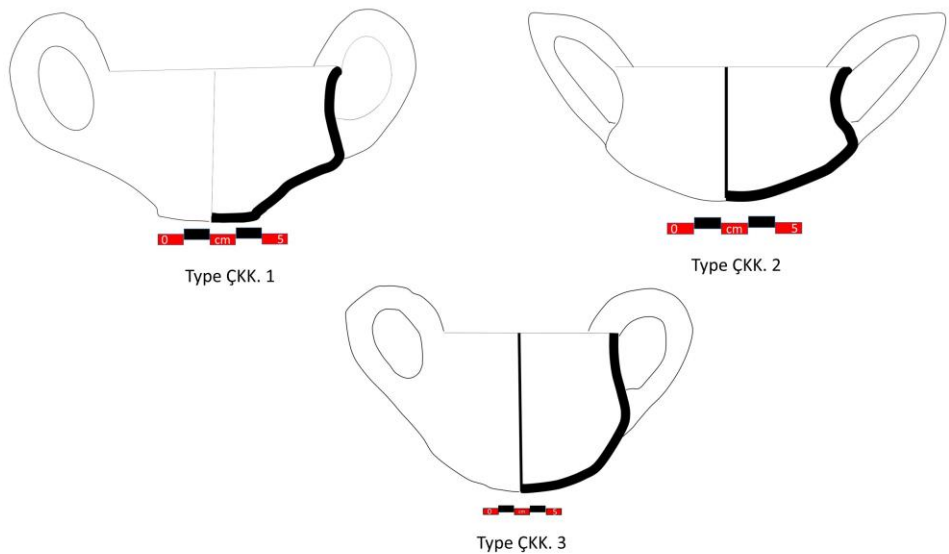


Table 3. Types of Double Handle Mug.

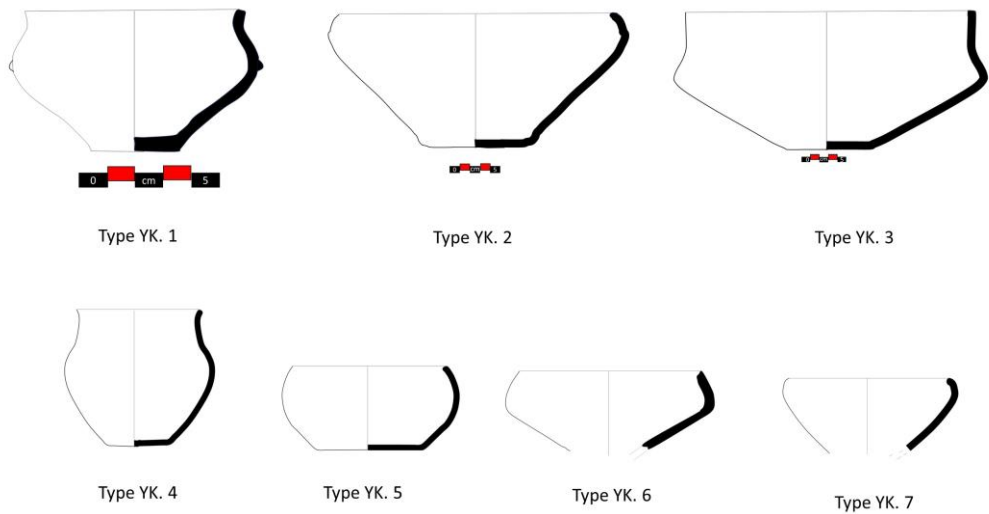


Table 4. Types of Food Container.

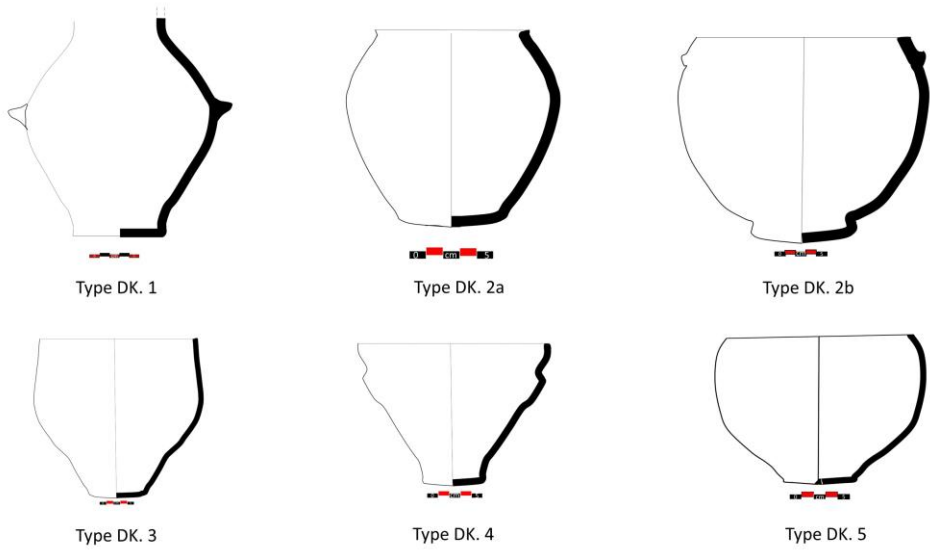


Table 5. Types of Storage Container.

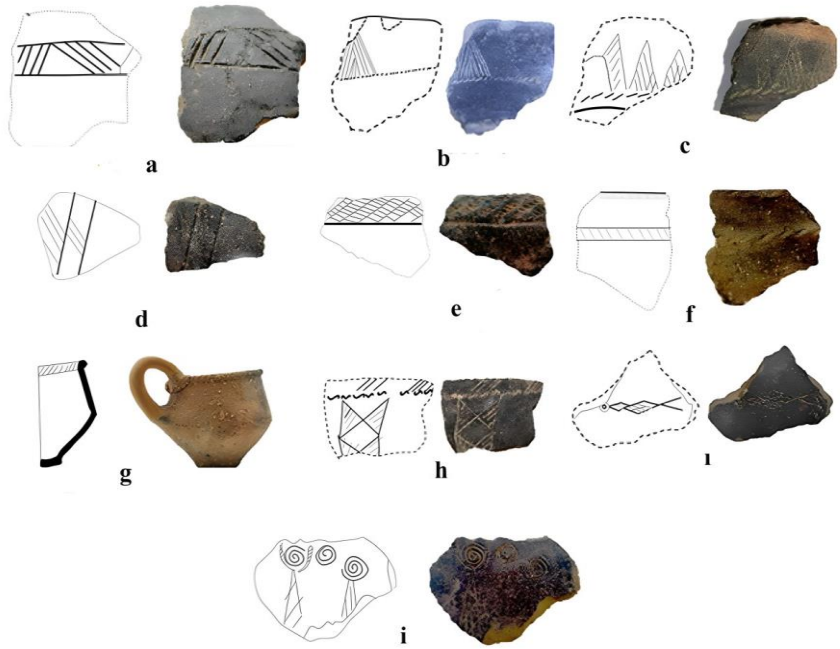


Table 6. Engraving Technique Motifs.

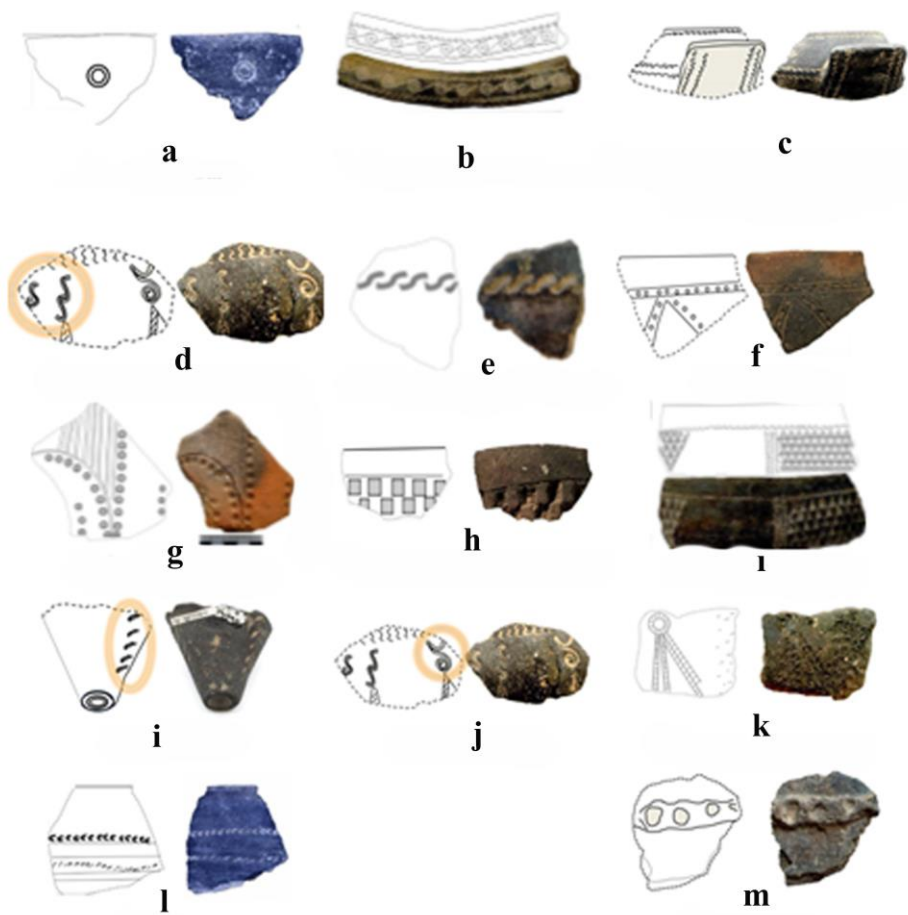


Table 7. Stamped decoration.

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# A UNIQUE DEPICTION OF A PASSAGE FROM OVID'S *FASTI* ON A LAMP FOUND IN A GRAVE AT FORUM IULII (FRÉJUS, FRANCE)

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**Laurent CHRZANOVSKI**

Doctoral and Postdoctoral School of History and Philology,  
"Lucian Blaga" State University of Sibiu, Romania  
l.chrzanovski@icloud.com  
ORCID ID: 0000-0002-1554-6538

**Chérine GÉBARA**

Head of the "Service de l'archéologie du Département du Var" (retired)  
Direction de l'Ingénierie Territoriale, Département du Var, France  
cgebara2019@gmail.com

**Abstract:** The article focuses on a special artifact found among the funerary offerings in a pyre grave discovered at the Pauvadou necropolis of Forum Iulii (Fréjus, southern France). It is a unique North African lamp made in the workshops of *Clodius Helianus*. The decoration of the discus presents a theme never before encountered on oil lamps, namely, a scene from Ovid's *Fasti* depicting the conclusion of a story about the luckless Pan attempting to take advantage of the queen Omphale in her sleep. Choosing the wrong bed, he finds Hercules there instead of Omphale. In the depicted scene, the couple is laughing, while Hercules generously holds up the god, who is still recovering from the shock of his short struggle with Hercules. The context of the grave is also briefly discussed.

**Rezumat:** Articolul se concentrează asupra unui artefact excepțional găsit printre ofrandele funerare ale unui mormânt de incinerare descoperit în necropola Pauvadou de la Forum Iulii (Fréjus, sudul Franței). Este vorba despre opaiț nord-african unic, realizat în atelierele lui Clodius Helianus. Decorul discului prezintă o temă nemaîntâlnită până acum pe lămpile cu ulei, și anume o scenă din *Fasti* de Ovidiu, care descrie finalul unei povești despre nefericitul Pan care încearcă să profite de regina Omphale în somn. Alegând patul greșit, el îl găsește pe Hercule în loc de Omphale. În scena descrisă, cuplul râde, în timp ce Hercule îl sprijină cu generozitate pe zeu, care încă își revine din șocul scurtei sale lupte cu Hercule. Contextul mormântului este, de asemenea, discutat pe scurt.

**Keywords:** Forum Iulii, Necropolis, Roman lamp, Iconography, Hercules, Omphale, Pan.

**Cuvinte cheie:** Forum Iulii, Necropolă, Opait roman, Iconografie, Hercule, Omphale, Pan.

## THE CONTEXT: TOMB 113 FROM THE PAUVADOU NECROPOLIS AT FRÉJUS (C. GÉBARA)

Forum Iulii was founded by Julius Caesar around 49 BCE on a site located at the mouth of the Argens river in eastern Provence, between the Maures and Estérel mountains. One of the main naval bases of the imperial fleet in the western Mediterranean, the city enjoyed the status of a Roman colony and territorial capital (*civitas*), and in 29-27 BCE veterans of the Legio VIII were settled there. The port's

privileged geographical position and strategic importance contributed to its economic prosperity based on a thriving land and sea trade. Its population, built around a core of settlers of Italian origin, came from different backgrounds linked to a local tribal substratum that had been either subordinated or assimilated, namely, the Deciates, Suelterians and Oxybians.

As in all Roman cities, the space reserved for the dead was located on the town peripheries. Two necropolises, Pauvadou and Saint-Lambert, were discovered to the north and east of the ancient city walls. Excavations took place between 1982 and 1987.

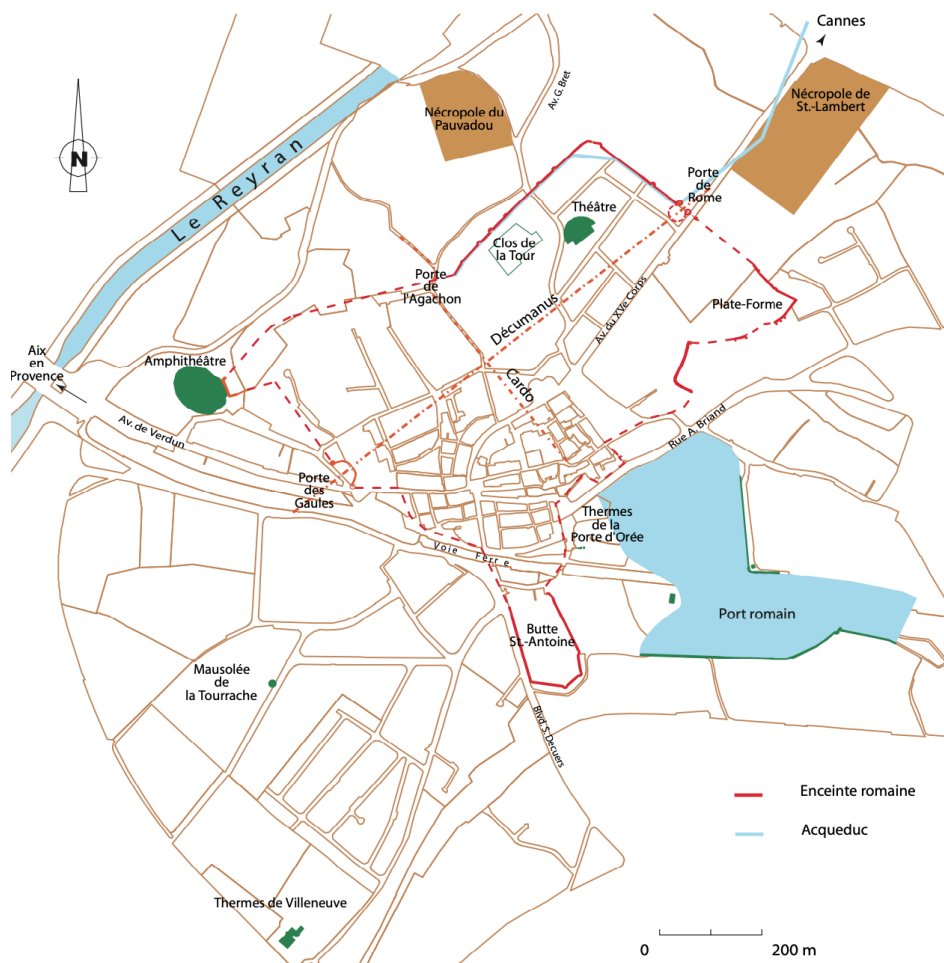


Fig. 1. Location of the two necropolises on the city map @ C. Gébara, F. Laurier.

Tomb 113 is a pyre tomb (primary cremation structure) situated in the central part of the Pauvadou necropolis. The date of the burial is between 100 and 150 CE. It was richly furnished, but because it was partly disturbed by a construction trench dug at the same time as the emergency excavation, the precise position of many of the offerings could not be ascertained.



Fig. 2. Tomb 113 upon discovery © C. Gébara.

The cremation took place inside an irregular, subquadrangular pit dug in the ground, at least 1.20 m long and 1.10 m wide. Two zones could be distinguished on the oxidized bottom of the pit: the first, marked by a charcoal-rich deposit, located at the northern end, the second, nearer to the centre, consisting of burnt bone remains and charcoal, as well as some burnt animal bones. Among the bones was a pig's lumbar vertebra. The human bone remains belonged to a single adult of undetermined sex.

Grave furnishings were heaped around a large jug found on top of the cremated remains; the jug was used as a funerary urn (no. 1). To the east were two broken ceramic footed bowls (nos. 3-4), to the west, a clay oil lamp (no. 2), also fragmented, a bronze needle (no. 5) and a large square iron nail (no. 6). Other finds from the pit included iron nails (nos. 7-8), one still with a fragment of burnt bone stuck to it, and another clay oil lamp (no. 9), but their original position could not be specified. An abundance of finds was grouped in the other part of the pit. Three jugs were standing upright, one to the north (no. 19), another to the east (no. 12) and the third to the west (no. 11). To the south, two fragmented footed bowls (nos. 13 and 14) lay under one of

the two bowls described above (no. 3) and under them a clay lamp (no. 15) and probably another one (no. 10). In addition, a large bronze nail (no. 18) was found to the west of one of the fragmented bowls (no. 14). A glass *balsamarium* (no. 16) lay on a patch of charcoal, leaning against one of the jugs (no. 19), with two other fragments of a glass object (no. 17) to the north of this jug.

The four bowls grouped alongside the western edge of the pit seem to have been broken ritually, probably thrown into the pit after a libation had been performed for the dead. The four oil lamps in the pit, especially the two lying under bowls nos 13 and 14, contribute to an interpretation of the funerary ritual that took place at this tomb.

### THE LAMPS<sup>1</sup> (L. Chrzanovski)

#### a. Lamps from the set of offerings in the central part of the pit

##### *Lamp 1*

The first lamp (T113, no. 2), found together with a bronze needle and a large, square-sectioned iron nail lying on top of it, is a late version of a standard African lamp of Loeschcke type VIII/Bussière type D.II.2/Bonifay type 4c, to be dated during the whole second half of the second century CE.

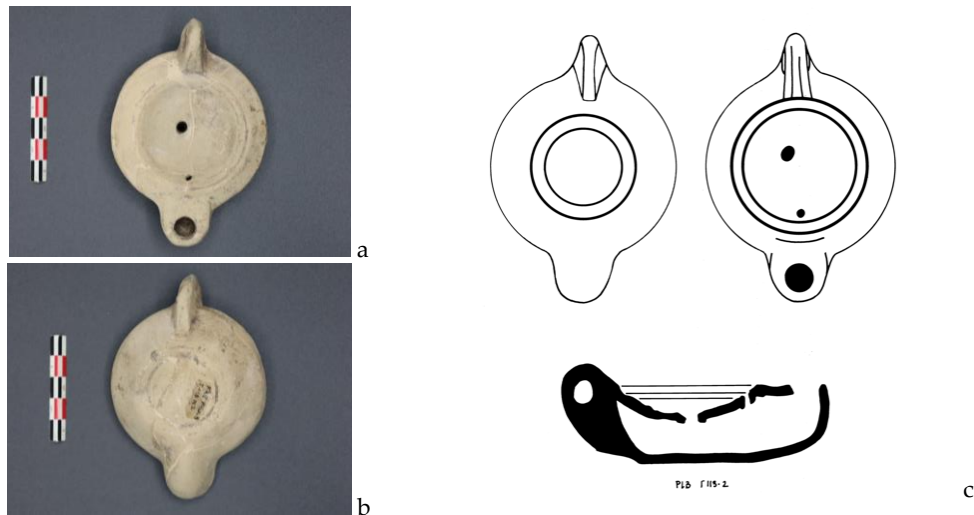


Fig. 3. a-c: Lamp no. 1 (T113, n.2). Drawings © Direction du Patrimoine – Département du Var; pictures © Direction de l'Archéologie et du Patrimoine, Ville de Fréjus.

<sup>1</sup> Abbreviations used for the dimensions of the lamps: L. = length of the lamp body; L. (with handle) = total length of the lamp including the handle; W. = Width of the lamp body; H. = Height of the lamp body; H. (with handle) = total height including the handle.



**Characteristics:** Light brown clay; dark brown slip, almost entirely worn; dimensions: L. (with handle)=10.30 cm; L.=9.00 cm; W=7.2 cm; H. (with handle)=4.20 cm; H.=2.70 cm.

**Description:** Lamp with rounded nozzle, set off by an impressed line terminating in an impressed dot on either side. Slightly concave shoulder. Deep, plain discus, framed by a double ring; filling hole slightly off-centre and a small air hole pierced just inside the ring, next to the nozzle. Bottom slightly depressed inside a low ring base. Moulded handle, pierced, bearing two lengthwise grooves.

### Lamp 2

The second lamp (T113, n. 9), found together with iron nails in a spot that could not be precisely located, is a common version of a standard African lamp of Loeschcke type VIII/Bussière type D.II.2/Bonifay type 4a, from the second century CE.

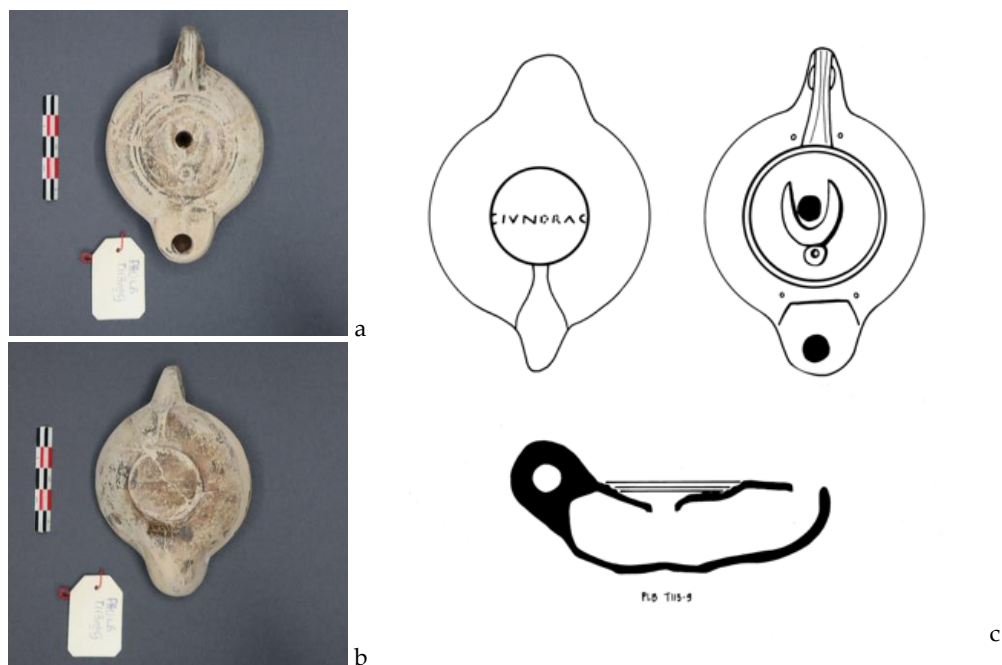


Fig. 4. a-c. Lamp n. 2 (T113, n.9). Drawings © Direction du Patrimoine – Département du Var; pictures © Direction de l'Archéologie et du Patrimoine, Ville de Fréjus.

**Characteristics:** Light brown clay; dark brown slip; dimensions: L. (with handle)=10.70 cm; L.=9.00 cm; W=7.30 cm; H. (with handle)=4.30 cm; H.=2.80 cm.

**Description:** Lamp with rounded nozzle, set off by an impressed line terminating in an impressed dot on either side. Slightly concave shoulder. Double concentric rings framing a deep discus adorned with a closely-spaced lunar crescent and dotted circle. Filling hole inside the crescent, off-centre. Circular base, slightly concave in the center,

a mark in Latin: CIVNDRAC, impressed on it. Moulded handle, pierced, marked with a double groove; an impressed dot on the shoulder on either side of it.

**Iconography:** Crescent moon on a globe.

The crescent moon on a dotted circle, also described in the literature as a “pendant” or “amulet”, is a very popular motif on Italian, African and Iberian lamp products. In Gaul, it is to be found on lamps from a batch attributed to Caius Clodius, discovered on the Sainte-Marguerite 2 wreck off the coast of Cannes, and it was copied unchanged by workshops at Montans (Tarn).

**Mark:** CIVNDRAC is the mark of the workshops of Caius Iunius Draco, of which two main ateliers are located in Proconsular Africa (the largest in present-day Tunisia and the second in Tripolitania), as well as, most probably, subsidiary workshops in Mauritania. Their activity is well defined, between 120 and 200 CE. The factories of Caius Iunius Draco, as well as those of his two African contemporaries, Caius Iunius Alexis and Marcus Novius Iustus, were veritable industries, flooding with their products markets in the capital, the western and southern Mediterranean provinces and the major centres of Gallia and Germania.

**Bibliography for the iconography:** Bussière 2000, motif I.b.7.4, pp. 165-166, with references to all known parallels; Casas i Genover, Soler i Fusté 2006, pp. 84-85; Épave de Sainte-Marguerite 2: Pollino 1994, n. 81, p. 184; Montans workshops: Bergès 1989, n. 219, p. 91 and fig. 41.

**Bibliography for the mark:** Bailly 1962, p. 89; Sotgiu 1968, pp. 74-77; Bailey 1988, p. 98; Bonnet 1988, pp. 97-106; Bussière 2000, pp. 144, 223; Casas I Genover, Soler Fusté 2006, pp. 49-50; see in particular Haley 1990.

## **b. Lamps from the set of offerings in the western part of the pit**

Despite its fragmentariness the lamp (no. 15) found under the two broken footed bowls can be classified as a late version of a standard African lamp of Loeschcke type VIII/Bussière type D.II.2/Bonifay type 4c, dated to the second half of the second century CE.

*Lamp no. 3 (T113, n.15)*

**Characteristics:** Light brown clay; dark brown slip, almost entirely worn. L. 2.97 cm (max., fragment of nozzle), H. 2.17 cm; H. (with handle) 3.76 cm

**Description:** Two elements of a lamp: part of a rounded nozzle and a moulded handle, pierced and marked with two grooves.



Fig. 5. Lamp n. 3 (T113, n.15) Drawings © Direction du Patrimoine – Département du Var.

*Lamp no. 4 (T. 113, n. 10)*

The second lamp (no. 10), found near the first one, is a standard version of North African lamps with a shoulder adorned with bunches of grapes, vine leaves and tendrils, belonging to Loeschke type VIII/Bussière type D.X.5/Bonifay type 12, dated from 150 to 225 CE.

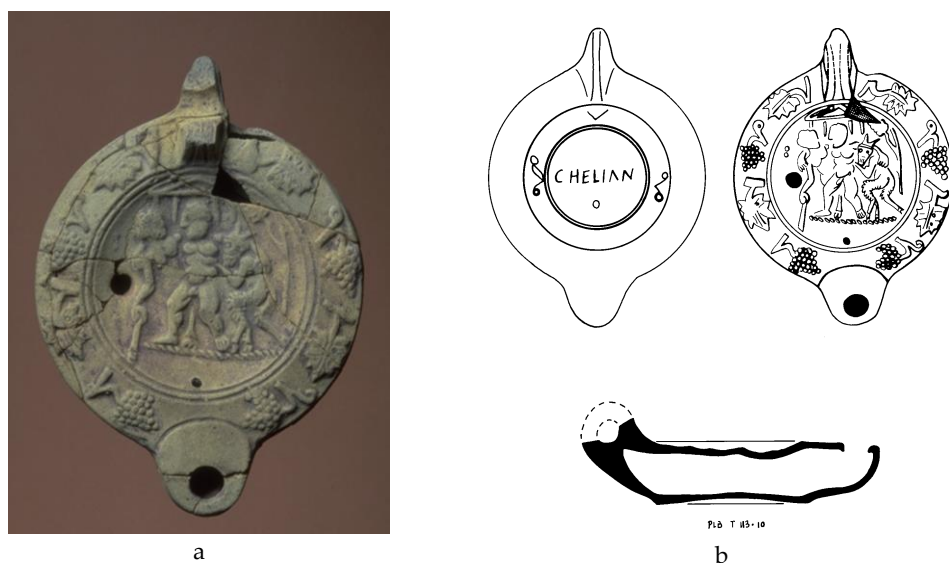


Fig. 6. a-b. Lamp n. 4 (T. 113, n. 10); Drawings © Direction du Patrimoine – Département du Var ; picture © P. Folliot.

**Characteristics:** Yellowish beige clay with sandy inclusions; dark orange to brown slip, almost entirely worn; L=10.27 cm, L. (with handle)=11.90 cm, W=8.66 cm, H=2.89 cm, H. (with handle)=3.59 cm (max.).

**Description:** Lamp with rounded nozzle, set off by a semicircular line. Slightly concave shoulder, adorned with bunches of grapes, vine leaves and tendrils. Relief

ring between grooved concentric circles framing a large, deep discus. Discus adorned with a scene including Omphale, Hercules and Pan. A small air-hole pierced in the discus below the scene. The base depressed, inside a low base ring accentuated by a groove on the inside. Schematic V-shaped motif with scrolling ends incised on the base at right angle to the lamp's line of symmetry, simple V-shaped motif under the handle. The mark CHELIAN incised in the centre of the base. Moulded handle (upper part broken), pierced, two grooves incised on its top.

**Iconography:** This scene, for which there is no known parallel, depicts a passage from Ovid's *Fasti* (II, 2, 303-308\*). Hercules is depicted accompanying Omphale "to the Tmolus, all planted with vines, forests of Bacchus". The Queen decides to spend the night in a cave, which her servants have carefully prepared. She exchanges clothes with Hercules, who soon finds himself naked, as Omphale's shoes, tunic and wraps are far too tight for him. After the meal, they both lie down in separate beds, so as to be pure the next day and offer "a sacrifice at daybreak to the inventor of the vine". Pan, who has been watching the couple since their arrival, waits until they are both asleep before attempting to take advantage of Omphale. Deceived by the bristly hair of the Nemean lion's skin covering Omphale's bed, he thinks he will find the object of his desires in the other bed that is covered with "soft, fine cloth". But here he falls into a trap: "he begins to lift the tunic slightly; the legs it covers are bristly, and all covered with rough hair"... for it is indeed Hercules that the luckless god has disturbed. Awakened, Hercules pushes him off and Pan falls back with a loud noise. Omphale "calls for her women, asks for torches, and the torches that have just been brought in light up the scene". Pan, for his part, "groans, all bruised from his heavy fall, and barely lifts his crumpled limbs from the ground".

Having discovered what has happened, Hercules and Omphale laugh heartily. \* Quotes translated from M. Nisard (ed. et trad.) "*Ovide, Fastes II: Février*", Paris 1857.

It is this final moment of the myth that the workshops of Caius Helianus have immortalised in this scene: the action takes place in front of the grotto where the couple have taken up residence for the night, which is rendered as a temple with a tympanum and a four-column portico (a), situated in the heart of a gigantic vineyard of Tmolus, here rendered as a vine with a characteristic leaf on one branch (b).

Moreover, the choice of the type of lamp and, therefore, of the shoulder decoration, alternating vine leaves and bunches of grapes on branches, is particularly judicious, since these motifs, in addition to the vine represented on the medallion, create an allusion to the sacrifice that the protagonists in the scene wish to make to Bacchus.

A naked Omphale, on the left, is leaning out of the temple, letting an extinguished torch fall to the ground on her right (c). She turns her head towards Hercules, who is shown standing centre stage. The hero, emerging from the building

in the simplest of garb, has his body and head turned towards Omphale, with whom he exchanges looks, while supporting a staggering Pan with his left arm, his hand firmly on the god's back. Pan, on the right, is holding on to Hercules with his left arm, while turning his face away from the laughing lovers and toward the viewer. Interestingly, two of the legs of Hercules' bed can be observed in the background, standing on a carefully rendered ground line; the first is between Hercules' legs and the second between Pan's (d).



Fig. 7. Detail of the discus of the lamp. Graphic elaboration © Laurent Chrzanovski.

**Mark:** CHELIAN is a mark of the workshop of Caius Helianus, located in Proconsular Africa and active between 175 and 220/225 CE. However, the chronology of this workshop is still far from clear, especially as regards the first phase of its operation. In fact, unlike the long lists of lamps belonging to better-known North African factories, only a very few with the mark CHELIAN are known. Above all, only a handful come from well-defined stratigraphic contexts: dated between 200 and 220 CE, they could at most indicate a flourishing peak in the workshop's production (and not its whole period of activity as suggested by Jean Bussière).

Lastly, it should be noted that the chronological range chosen by Bussière refers to the work of Jean Deneauve, who places the CHELIAN mark among those of his "second group" of great African workshops (i.e., factories that began their activity in the second century CE), succeeding the group of "first factories", among which the one of Caius Iunius Draco is one of the better known.

**Bibliography for the mark:** Deneauve 1969, pp. 84–86; Bussière 2000, p. 221; Bémont, Chew 2007, p. 406; Sancier 2011, p. 186; Corda, Perra 2022, p. 240.

## CONCLUSIONS

As said above, the rich offerings, numbering no less than four lamps, and their positioning within the pit of pyre grave T113 from the Pauvadou necropolis reflect a specific funerary ritual performed in honour of the dead. This grave is in itself a very important discovery among the whole group of graves from the necropolis of Forum Iulii and will be the subject of further discussion.

The grave has turned out to be important for another reason as well, because one of the lamps that have been recorded from this burial has turned out to be the source of much new information. For one, it has added yet another example to the repertoire of scenes from literary sources, enriching the highly eclectic and rare selection of representations of myths and fables on oil lamp discuses. This repertoire is made up almost exclusively of original creations issuing from the workshops of Rome, Africa, Asia Minor and the Aegean world. And secondly, the grave context has contributed significantly to a revisiting of the dates of the workshop of Caius Helianus. It can now be said with certainty that the beginning of operations of this workshop are earlier than generally proposed, hence probably around 175 CE and not 200 CE; the latter date is an old proposition, not supported by sufficient stratigraphic data.

## Aknowledgements

This article could not have been made without the precious help of the Direction du Patrimoine – Département du Var and of the Direction de l'Archéologie et du Patrimoine, Ville de Fréjus, its director, Dr. Pierre Excoffon and his team (in particular Héléne Garcia and Juliette Bouix) and, last but not least, to Iwona Zych (Warsaw) who took care of the proofreading and corrections of the English manuscript.

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## ROMAN TRACES IN THE FORTIFIED SETTLEMENT AT BEIDAUD (TULCEA COUNTY)

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**Iulia ILIESCU**

Department of Ancient History, Archaeology and Art History,  
Faculty of History, University of Bucharest, Romania  
iulia-alexandra.iliescu@istorie.unibuc.ro  
ORCID ID: 0000-0002-9260-608X

**Radu-Octavian STĂNESCU**

„Gavrilă Simion” Eco-Museum Research Institute, Tulcea, Romania  
radu.o.stanescu@gmail.com  
ORCID ID: 0000-0003-2694-2066

**Abstract:** The case study of the present paper is a series of archaeological materials discovered during the research carried out between 1976 and 1980 in the fortified settlement from the *Beidaud Archaeological Microzone*. As a result of these campaigns, archaeological features belonging to the Early Iron Age, Archaic and Roman periods were identified. While the prehistoric and Archaic finds have been discussed extensively in several studies, the archaeological complexes and materials belonging to the Roman period have been treated only tangentially, consisting of brief mentions of their discovery. In this context, we aim to make use of this assemblage of Roman artefacts, composed exclusively of ceramic finds. The lot is of particular interest from a chronological point of view, as the data obtained contribute to a better understanding of the stratigraphy of the fortified settlement, by determining more clearly the different periods of habitation and use. At the same time, they offer clues to the simultaneous functioning of the Roman-era sequence in the fortified settlement and another Roman rural settlement identified nearby. Lastly, from a socio-economic perspective, the variety of ceramic products helps to draw a general picture of the trade and cultural contacts that characterised the provincial rural world in this period.

**Rezumat:** Studiul de față se concentrează pe un grup de materiale arheologice descoperite în cursul cercetărilor întreprinse între 1976 și 1980, în așezarea fortificată din Microzona Arheologică Beidaud. În cursul acestora au fost documentate complexe arheologice aparținând epocii bronzului, fierului, arhaice și romane. În timp ce descoperirile preistorice și arhaice au fost publicate pe larg, materialele și complexele de epocă romană au fost menționate doar tangențial. Astfel, scopul acestui articol este de a valorifica ansamblul ceramic de epocă romană. Acest lot este de un interes deosebit pentru o mai bună înțelegere a stratigrafiei așezării, prin clarificarea etapelor locuirii. În același timp, poate oferi indicii referitoare la contemporaneitatea locuirii romane în așezarea fortificată și în așezarea rurală aflată în apropiere. Nu în ultimul rând, din perspectivă socio-economică, analiza diversității formelor ceramice contribuie la enunțarea unor observații despre contactele culturale și comerciale care caracterizează mediul rural provincial al epocii.

**Keywords:** rural settlement, *Moesia Inferior*, Roman pottery, Beidaud, old excavations, imports.

**Cuvinte cheie:** așezare rurală, *Moesia Inferior*, ceramică romană, Beidaud, cercetări vechi, importuri.

## INTRODUCTION

The *Beidaud Archaeological Microzone* (BAM henceforth) is in the commune of Beidaud, Tulcea County. In ancient times, it was part of the province *Moesia Inferior*, *Scythia* respectively, and it was close to the ancient cities of *Istros/Histria* (ca. 25 km NW) and *Orgame/Argamum* (ca. 31 km W-SW) (Fig. 1). So far, this micro-region includes a Neolithic site, a fortified settlement on Calebair Hill (the area discussed in the paper), and a Roman rural settlement with its tumular funerary space on the “Dealul cu Cișmea” point<sup>1</sup> (Fig. 2).



Fig. 1. Location of *Beidaud Archaeological Microzone* within the Roman Empire ([https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Roman\\_Empire\\_125\\_general\\_map.SVG](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Roman_Empire_125_general_map.SVG) and <https://klokantech.github.io/roman-empire/#4.07/48.332/23.863>, processed by the authors).

<sup>1</sup> Bottez 2022, 36; Stănescu, Bottez, Iliescu 2023.



Fig. 2. Plan of the *Beidaud Archaeological Microzone* with the main sites (after Bottez 2022, Fig. 1).

### STATE OF ART

The first archaeological investigations were conducted by G. Simion and E. Lăzurcă in 1976-1977, followed by a second campaign between 1979-1980<sup>2</sup>. The team investigated two main perpendicular trenches of the same size (140 × 1.5 m), resembling an inverted T-shape: the first one oriented N-S (S1) and the second – E-W (S2) (Fig. 3). The main results of these excavations were the identification of the settlement defence system built in the second half of the 6<sup>th</sup> c. BC and composed of a ditch, possibly doubled by a second one on the northern and western sides of the settlement, and wooden walls<sup>3</sup>. Furthermore, several archaeological features, mainly dwellings and pits, dating from various periods (*i.e.*, from the Early Iron Age to the Late Roman period) have been discovered.

<sup>2</sup> Simion, Lăzurcă 1980.

<sup>3</sup> Ailincăi 2020, 106; Bottez 2022, 36.



More recently, within the research project conducted by the University of Bucharest (UB) and the “Gavrilă Simion” Eco-Museum Research Institute of Tulcea (ICEM), the investigations in this area have been revived, with a multi-disciplinary approach being applied (field surveys, geophysics, geoarchaeology, archaeological excavation, archaeothanatology etc.)<sup>4</sup>.

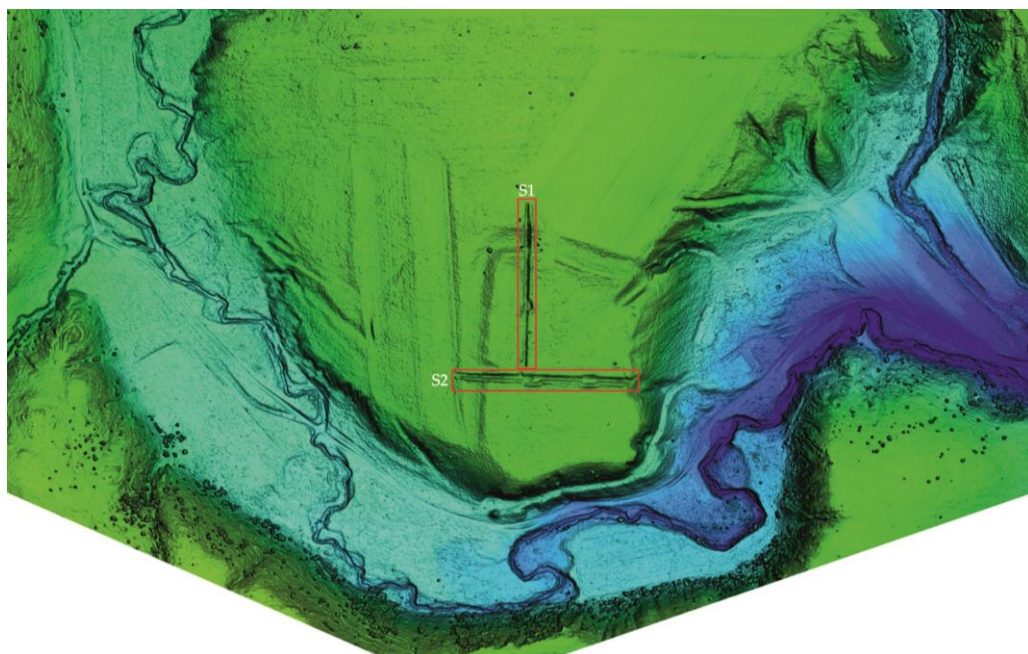


Fig. 3. DEM of the fortified settlement and environs  
(after Bottez 2022, Fig. 13, with annotations by the authors).

The preliminary results of the 1976-1980 campaigns were published shortly after the excavations were completed<sup>5</sup>, only to be re-discussed two decades later<sup>6</sup>. In both cases, the focus was on the chronology of the identified structures, with those of the Early Iron Age and Greek period being discussed in detail. The Roman features, rarely identified, had been treated only tangentially, consisting of brief mentions of their discovery<sup>7</sup>.

<sup>4</sup> For a more thorough presentation of the project see Bottez 2021; Bottez 2022.

<sup>5</sup> Simion, Lăzurcă 1980.

<sup>6</sup> Simion 2003, 79-98.

<sup>7</sup> Since very little information was published about the Roman complexes and materials from this excavation, we gladly accepted S. Ailincăi's proposal to study them and disseminate the results. We would like to thank him for this opportunity.

As for the archaeological materials discovered during this research, the focus was on Greek and Iron Age pottery: in their 2007<sup>8</sup> and 2010<sup>9</sup> papers, V. Lungu and P. Dupont analysed a part of the Greek pottery. In 2020, S. Ailincăi discussed the Iron Age finds and published for the first time a general plan and the profiles of both trenches excavated by G. Simion<sup>10</sup>; even if they are incompletely preserved, these records help to better understand the stratigraphy of the settlement and contextualise the archaeological artefacts. The most recent study, signed by V. Lungu, P. Dupont and S. Ailincăi, analyses Archaic transport amphorae found in these contexts<sup>11</sup>.

### ROMAN FEATURES AND MATERIALS

By analysing G. Simion's unpublished documentation (excavation journals, drawings, etc.), records of several Roman features have been found in both trenches: from the first trench only one complex is mentioned – a pit or dwelling identified between “dwelling no. 3” and “dwelling no. 4” (Fig. 3/a). In the second trench, a so-called “Roman pit” is marked on the plan, but unfortunately, no supplementary information on it is preserved (Fig. 7/a); two other pits with Roman materials are described and could also be identified on the general plan.

The archaeological material recovered from these features, as well as other contexts dating from different periods, consists mainly of pottery, with very few pieces from other categories being recorded or kept in the museum's collection. The lot is composed of 101 artefacts<sup>12</sup> dating from the Roman period which, in terms of the discovery context, fall into three main groups: 13 items from Trench no. 1, 64 from Trench no. 2, and 24 with uncertain context (marked only with the discovery year or otherwise unmarked) (Fig. 18).

#### a. Trench no. 1 (S1)

From the first trench, excavated between 1976 and 1977, four pieces were found in the area conventionally named by G. Simion as “extension of dwelling no. 3” (because he couldn't separate it from this feature); two are residual finds from “dwelling no. 4” and “pit. no. 1”, respectively; one was found in sq. 128-130; and five are *passim* (Fig. 4).

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<sup>8</sup> Lungu, Dupont, Simion 2007.

<sup>9</sup> Dupont, Lungu 2010.

<sup>10</sup> Ailincăi 2020.

<sup>11</sup> Lungu, Dupont, Ailincăi 2023.

<sup>12</sup> The material was also studied microscopically using a Stereomicroscope Optika 10SZR 10 – 7-65x. All microphotographs illustrated in the figures were taken at 15× magnification. We are very grateful to Florian Mihail (ICEM Tulcea) for his help in this regard.

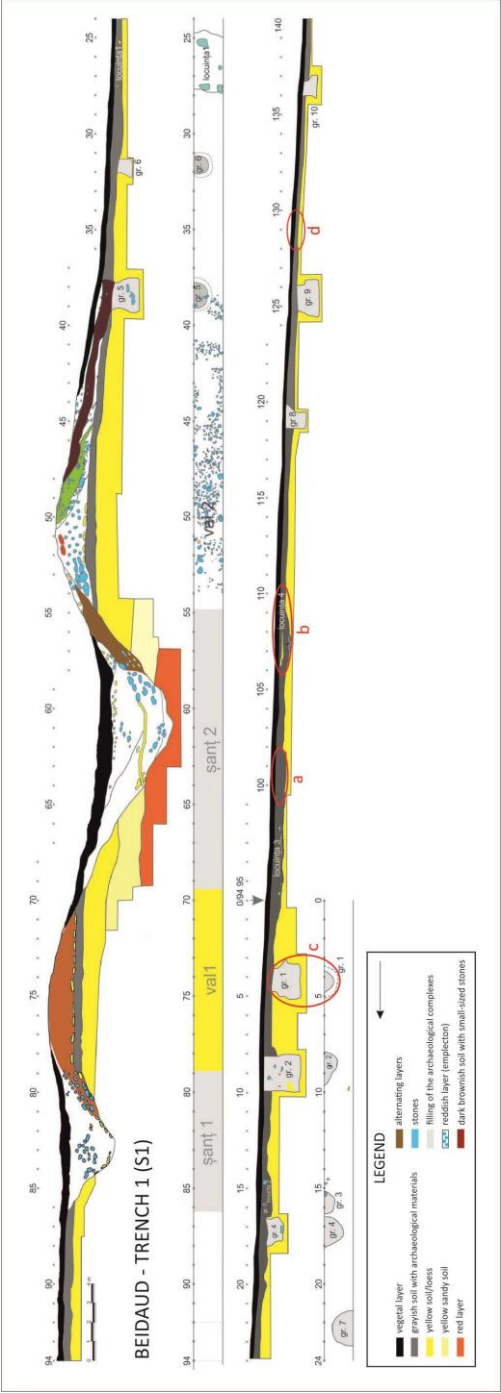


Fig. 4. Stratigraphy and ground of trench no. 1 (after Ailincăi 2020, Fig. 4, with annotations by the authors).

The only information recorded on the first feature (Fig. 4/a) is that it is either a dwelling or a pit from the Roman period, with pottery dated to the 3<sup>rd</sup>-4<sup>th</sup> centuries AD. According to G. Simion, this material is composed of "very large and smaller-sized grey vessels, and vessels made of whitish clay"<sup>13</sup>, which may correspond to the Lower Danube Kaolinitic Ware (LDKW)<sup>14</sup>. Underneath, Early Iron Age artefacts were found. The Roman materials identified in this complex are two transport amphorae, a pitcher and a cooking vessel, and cover the period between the 2<sup>nd</sup> and early-4<sup>th</sup> centuries AD. The first vessels are fragmentary containers for carrying wine of the Heracleian narrow-necked light-clay group/Šelov type amphorae (cat. nos. 1-2; Fig. 5/1-2). Since only the handles have survived, it is very difficult to determine with certainty the typological variant within this group, but they seem to be specific to its early variants (Šelov B-D) that are dated between the late-1<sup>st</sup> century and the mid-3<sup>rd</sup> century AD<sup>15</sup>. The other finds are provincial vessels: the base of a Suceveanu 2000, type L pitcher (cat. no. 3; Fig. 5/3), a type with an extensive chronology from the 2<sup>nd</sup> to the 4<sup>th</sup> century<sup>16</sup>, and the upper part of a cooking casserole made of kaolinitic clay (cat. no. 4; Fig. 5/4), dated between the 2<sup>nd</sup> and the 3<sup>rd</sup> century AD<sup>17</sup>.

The next complex is "dwelling no. 4" (Fig. 4/b), which is described as having a very thin clay floor on which a large amount of adobe was found. G. Simion dated it to the Early Iron Age, based on the imported and autochthonous pottery discovered (Fikellura amphorae and hand-made cooking vessels, respectively). A single object specific to the Early Roman period was identified, *i.e.*, a West-Pontic jug of Suceveanu 2000, XLV type produced in several variants but easily recognised by the discoid rim (cat. no. 5; Fig. 5/5)<sup>18</sup>. It is most likely a residual find that could come from the previous complex located in its proximity.

"Pit no. 1" (Fig. 4/c) is not described specifically, the original notes offering only the general characterisation of the twelve pits discovered in this trench: they are either small, medium, or large-sized, with numerous Greek and indigenous pottery fragments, zooarchaeological remains, sling bullets, mud, ash and charcoal found inside<sup>19</sup>. However, the plan and profile of Trench no. 1 allow the dimensions of pit no.

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<sup>13</sup> Excavation journals, ICEM Archive.

<sup>14</sup> Daszkiewicz *et alii* 2010; Dyczek 2016.

<sup>15</sup> Šelov 1986, 397; Baumann 1995, 102, cat. no. 45, Pl. XLVI/2; Khalvashi 2009, 33-34, type 5; Брыков 2016, 42-44, types S IV C2 and CIV J; Kassab Tezgör 2020, 48-49, cat. nos. 97 and 101.

<sup>16</sup> See the discussion in Nuțu, Constantinescu, Ailincăi 2021, 237-242.

<sup>17</sup> Baumann 2003, 190-191, cat. no. 44; Honcu 2014a, 95, cat. no. 230, Pl. 27/230; Nuțu, Mihăilescu-Bîrliba 2018, 94-95, cat. no. 11, Fig. 9/11.

<sup>18</sup> Suceveanu 2000, type XLV, 144-150, Pls. 68-69.

<sup>19</sup> Simion, Lăzurcă 1980, 47.

1 to be estimated: 1.10 m diameter in the upper part and 1.80 towards the bottom, and 1.20 m depth. The only Roman find from this complex is a fragmentary pitcher like cat. no. 3, but of which the rim and neck are preserved (cat. no. 6; Fig. 5/6).

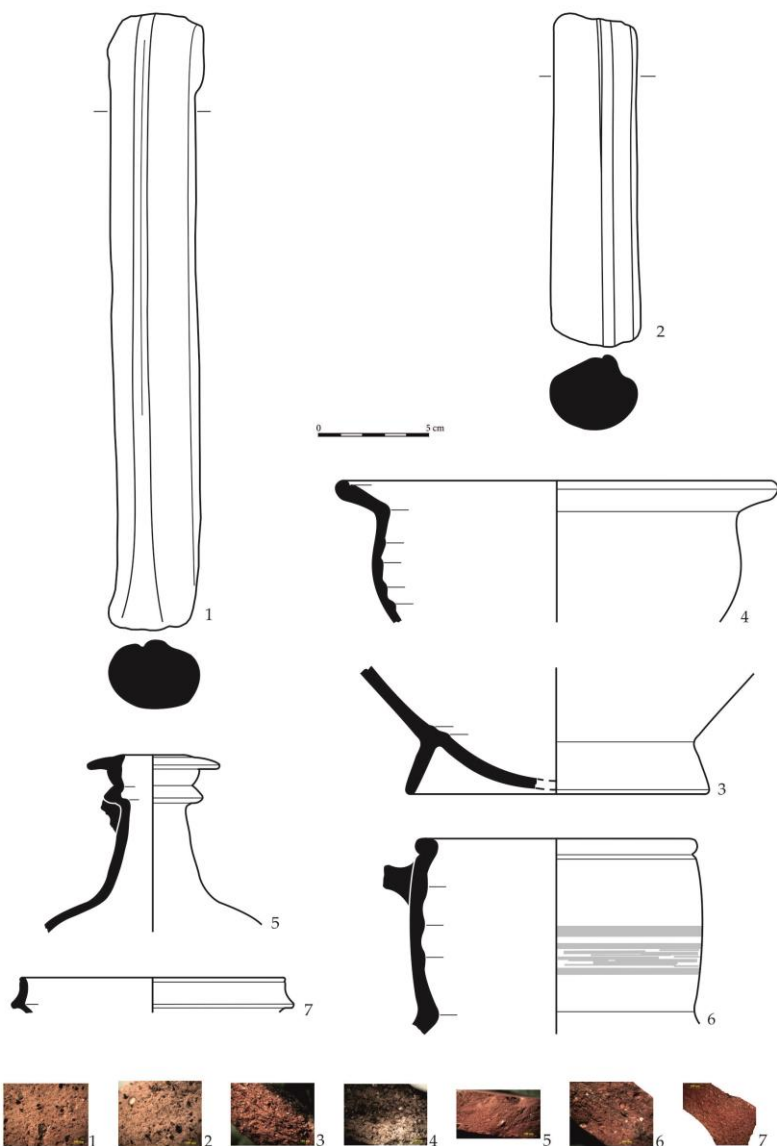


Fig. 5. Pottery from Trench no. 1: 1-2. Heracleian narrow-necked light-clay amphorae; 3, 6. Suzeveanu 2000, type L pitchers; 4. cooking casserole; 5. Suzeveanu 2000, XLV type jug; 7. Zhuravlev 2010, type 30 provincial bowl.



The last vessel was found in sq. 128-130, on whose surface no archaeological complex has been identified (Fig. 4/d). This shard is a provincial imitation after Pontic sigillata bowls of Zhuravlev 2010, type 30<sup>20</sup> (cat. no. 7; Fig. 5/7) and was produced throughout the 2<sup>nd</sup> – 3<sup>rd</sup> centuries AD.

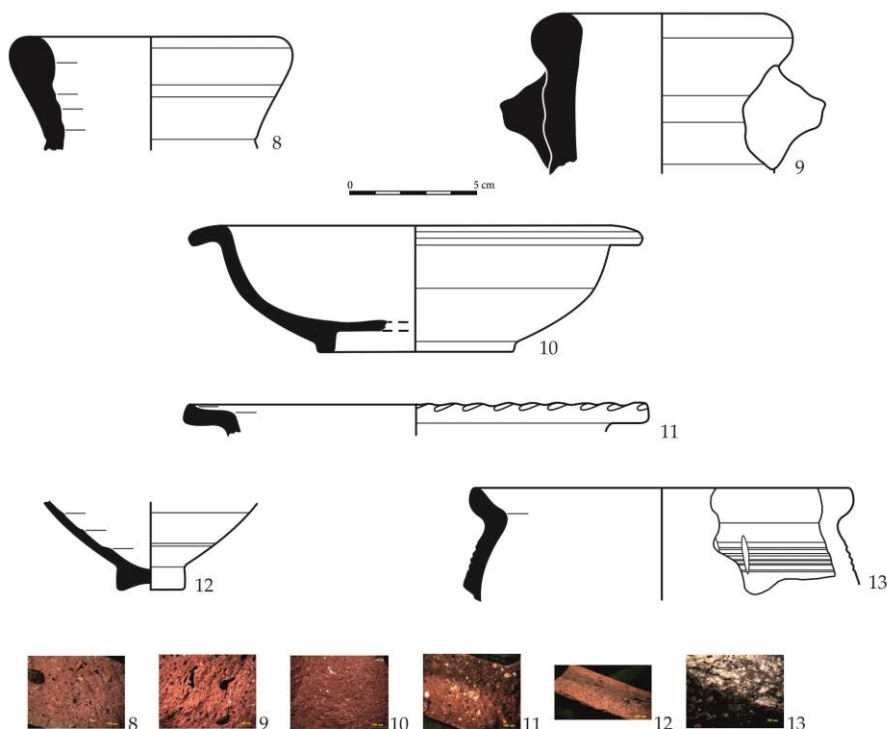


Fig. 6. Pottery from Trench no. 1: 8. LR 2B amphora; 9. Kuzmanov XV amphora; 10. Hayes 2B bowl; 11. regional Thracian bowl; 12. Opaît 2004, type 1 mug; 13. Medieval jar.

Finally, even if the context of discovery is unknown (therefore, *passim*), there are several fragments that are significant because of the chronological interval to which they belong to, *i.e.* 5<sup>th</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> centuries AD: an olive oil Late Roman 2B amphora of Aegean origin<sup>21</sup> (cat. no. 8; Fig. 6/8); a West-Pontic Kuzmanov XV amphora for

<sup>20</sup> For Pontic sigillata bowls see Журавлев 2010, 60-61, Form 30.2, Pl. 27; Mocanu 2021, 103-105, Form 12, Fig. 29/35-38. For imitations see Băjenaru 2013, 50, cat. nos. 17-18, Pl. 3/17-18, and notes 44-45.

<sup>21</sup> Pieri 2005, 86-88.

carrying wine<sup>22</sup> (cat. no. 9; Fig. 6/9); a Micro-Asian bowl of the Late Roman C group, type Hayes 2B<sup>23</sup> (cat. no. 10; Fig. 6/10); and a bowl belonging to the regional Thracian ware<sup>24</sup> (cat. no. 11; Fig. 6/11). The last find of this group is a provincial thin-walled mug of Opaïț 2004, type I (cat. no. 12; Fig. 6/12), which was used during both the Early and Late Roman times<sup>25</sup>; given the assemblage it belongs to, this piece is also dated to the Late Roman period.

Among the materials unearthed during the research of the second vallum of the settlement is a unique find at Beidaud, mentioned by G. Simion in his journal as having been discovered alongside other Greek and Roman pottery fragments. It is a fragmentary jar dated to the Mediaeval period (with a wide time span, from the 10<sup>th</sup> c. until the 13<sup>th</sup> century) which is decorated with horizontal and vertical lines in the upper part of the body<sup>26</sup> (cat. no. 13; Fig. 6/13). The importance of this piece lies in the fact that it represents the only evidence so far for a post-Roman presence at this point, which may suggest a particular interest for the region.

## **b. Trench no. 2 (S2)**

The excavations carried out in the second trench led to the discovery of a larger number of Roman era finds, from various contexts (Fig. 7). Only one dwelling was identified in this trench, but its precise location is unknown, as it is not marked on the plan<sup>27</sup>. Out of the 20 pits documented on the surface of the trench (one even called "Roman pit" – Fig. 7/a), only two contain Roman materials (pits nos. 15 and 18). Other pieces are isolated finds from the western ditch and squares 46-48 or come from unknown contexts.

<sup>22</sup> Kuzmanov 1985, 20-21, type XV.

<sup>23</sup> Hayes 1972, 327-328, cat. no. 4 (with different rim). For a close analogy in rim shape see Arsen'eva, Domžalski 2002, 481, cat. no. 607, Fig. 16/607.

<sup>24</sup> Băjenaru 2018a, 504, Fig. 4/76.

<sup>25</sup> Opaïț 2004, 66-67, type I.

<sup>26</sup> Stănică 2015, 217-218, type F.1.1.

<sup>27</sup> G. Simion mentions that the remains of a very poorly preserved dwelling attributed to the Coslogeni culture were discovered beneath the western ditch: Simion 2003, 82. However, it is very unlikely to be the same as the one with the Roman materials.

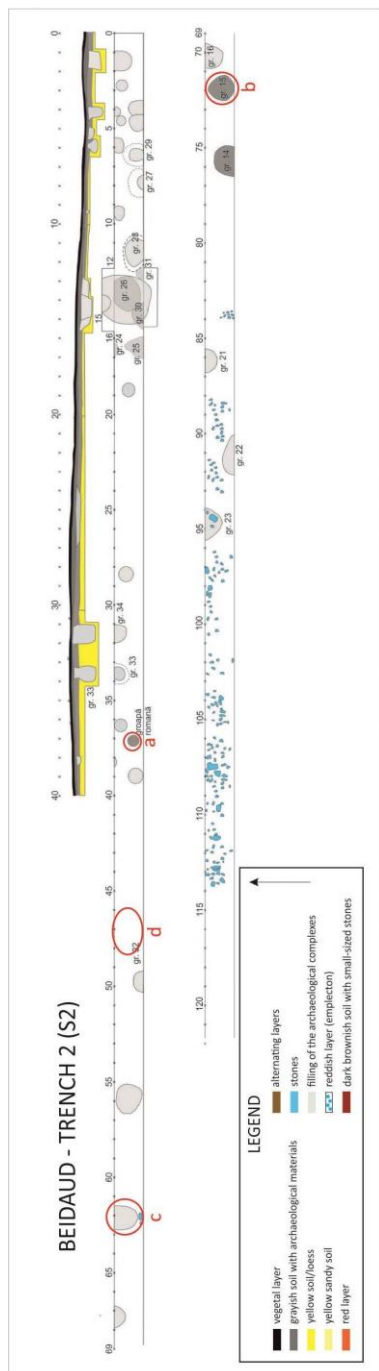


Fig. 7. Stratigraphy and ground of trench no. 2 (after Ailincăi 2020, Fig. 3, with annotations by the authors).

The documentation offers a vague description of the dwelling: while not completely excavated, it had a considerable size (but the exact measurements could not be determined) and contained mainly Greek and indigenous pottery. In addition, four finds belonging to the Roman period were identified: two sherds of Troesmis X amphorae (the fabric indicates two different vessels, cat. nos. 14-15; Fig. 8/14-15), a type of wine amphorae for which the production centres are assumed to be in either the North-Pontic area, or the West-Pontic one<sup>28</sup> (or both). Alongside amphorae, the handle of a Suceveanu 2000, type L pitcher (cat. no. 16; Fig. 8/16) and the upper part of a provincial bowl of Suceveanu 2000, type III/Zhuravlev 2010, type 17<sup>29</sup> (cat. no. 17; Fig. 8/17) were found as well. This assemblage covers the span from the mid-1<sup>st</sup> to the 2<sup>nd</sup>/3<sup>rd</sup> centuries AD.

One of the features with the most accurate description is “pit no. 15” (fig. 7/b). It was completely excavated, thus its dimensions could be measured: its total height was ca. 2.1 m, while having a base (ca. 2.5 m) that was wider than the mouth (ca. 1.4 m). Documented deep burn traces, especially in its lower part, are evidence of deliberate fire at some point. In this pit, a large quantity of ash, charcoal, mud fragments, two iron nails and another one made of bronze were found. The ceramic repertoire comprises numerous Roman pottery vessels (of which 28 identified in the museum’s collection), such as amphorae, pitchers that the author dates to the 1<sup>st</sup> – 2<sup>nd</sup> centuries AD, one *unguentarium*, several drinking vessels, Getic pottery, and a spindle whorl. Regarding its functionality, the most viable hypothesis would be that the pit was initially used for storing foodstuffs, and later repurposed as a waste pit.

The amphorae are represented only by Pontic containers. Besides three Heracleian narrow-necked light-clay vessels (cat. nos. 18-20; Fig. 8/18-20) and a Troesmis X shard (cat. no. 21; Fig. 8/21), a couple of fragments belonging to North-Pontic amphorae have been found: cat. no. 22 is a rim shard of Rădulescu 1976, type 4c/Opaiț 1987, type III<sup>30</sup> (Fig. 8/22), while cat. no. 23 is a handle that most probably belongs to a Zeest 72/73 amphora<sup>31</sup>, although it is not excluded that it may come from other types, such as Zeest 77<sup>32</sup> (Fig. 9/23). The entire amphora assemblage covers the chronological interval between the mid-1<sup>st</sup> century and the mid-3<sup>rd</sup> century AD.

<sup>28</sup> Paraschiv 2006a, 26, type 4; Opaiț, Grigoraș 2022, 63. Moreover, some authors also consider an Aegean origin: Opaiț 2015, 329-330.

<sup>29</sup> For Pontic sigillata bowls see Журавлев 2010, 55, Form 17.1, Pl. 24. For provincial vessels see Suceveanu 2000, 14-15, type III, Pl. 2.

<sup>30</sup> Rădulescu 1976, 104, Pl. IV/2, 2a; Opaiț 1987, 251, type III, Fig. 5/1a-b.

<sup>31</sup> Зеест 1960, 111-112, рис. XXX/72; Голофаст 2010, 99, Pl. 25/18-25. Another Zeest 72/73 amphora fragment is recorded in the Roman settlement nearby: Iliescu, Stănescu, Bottez 2022, 92-93, 105, cat. no. 60, Fig. 16/60.

<sup>32</sup> Зеест 1960, 113-114, рис. XXXII/77a.

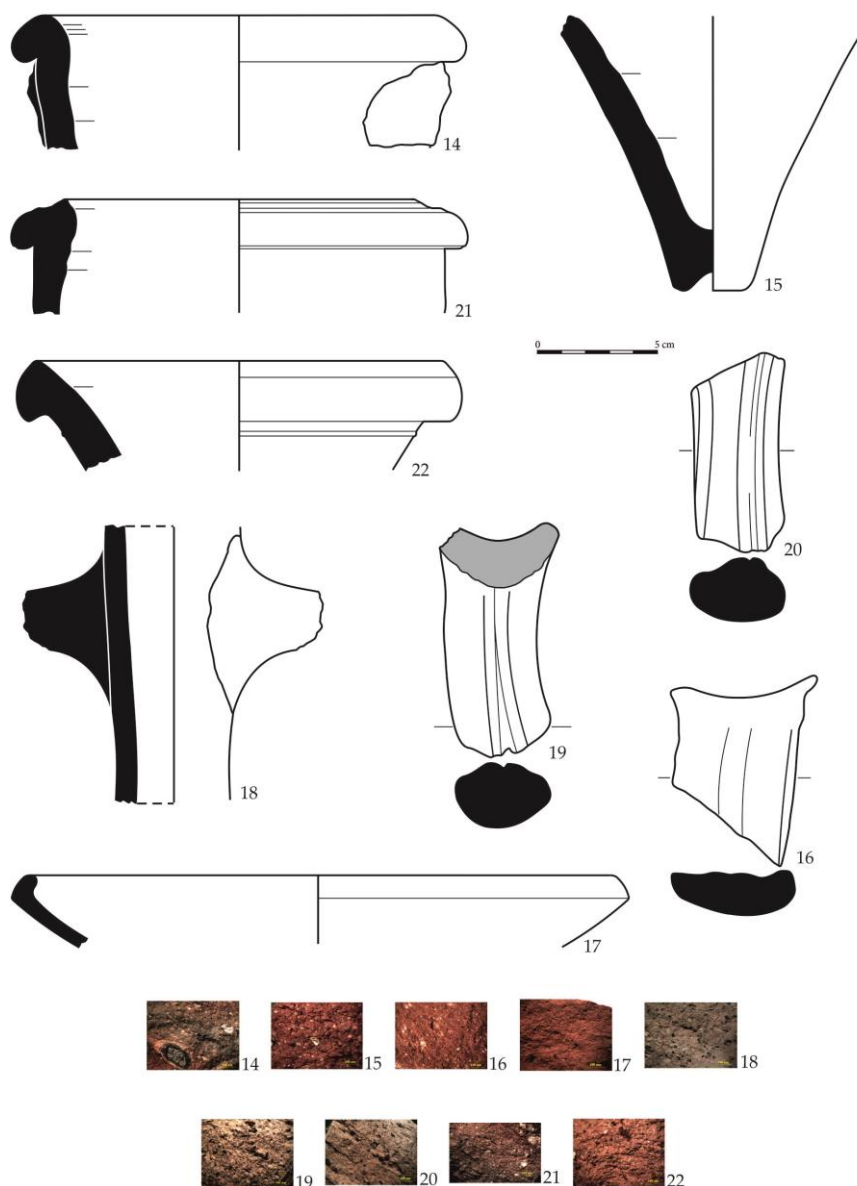


Fig. 8. Pottery from Trench no. 2: 14-15, 21. Troesmis X amphorae; 16. Suceveanu 2000, type L pitcher; 17. Suceveanu 2000, type III/Zhuravlev 2010, type 17 bowl; 18-20. Heracleian narrow-necked light-clay amphorae; 22. Rădulescu 1976, type 4c/Opaiț 1987, type III amphora.

The impressive number of Suceveanu 2000, type L pitchers stand out in this complex (cat. nos. 24-35; Figs. 9/24-30; 10/31-35). They illustrate several variants, both in terms of size and capacity, as well as the fabric they are made of. Most of them are large vessels having the rim diameter exceeding 10 cm, made of coarse fabric, un-slipped and in some cases covered with bands of white paint on the neck and shoulders (cat. nos. 24-26; Fig. 9/24-26). Another variant represented by solely one find is small-sized (with the rim diameter of ca. 7 cm), made of fine fabric and with a good quality slip, with metallic hues (cat. no. 30; Fig. 9/30).

Other finds from the pit are fine wares, such as Pontic Sigillata bowls of Suceveanu 2000, type IV/Mocanu 2021, Form 8<sup>33</sup> with rouletting on the inner surface (cat. no. 36; Fig. 10/36), provincial imitations after Pontic sigillata bowls of Suceveanu 2000, type III/Zhuravlev 2010, type 17 (cat. no. 37; Fig. 10/37), and one-handed thin-walled mugs of Suceveanu 2000, type XXXII (cat. no. 38; Fig. 10/38)<sup>34</sup>, all of them being specific to the late-1<sup>st</sup> century and the early-3<sup>rd</sup> century AD. Another vessel in this group is a ring base that could come from either a bowl or a plate (cat. no. 39; Fig. 10/39).

The coarse wares are exclusively represented by vessels made of kaolinitic clay. The most frequent are the cooking pots of Honcu 2017, type I, attested through three rim shards that may come from vessels with no handles or one/two-handled<sup>35</sup> (cat. nos. 40-42; Fig. 11/40-42). They are followed by one Popilian 1976, type 4 mug<sup>36</sup> (cat. no. 43; Fig. 11/43) and a type III lid, according to the typology of Ștefan Honcu<sup>37</sup> (cat. no. 44; Fig. 11/44). These types are generally dated to the 2<sup>nd</sup> – early-3<sup>rd</sup> century AD.

The last piece from this complex is one entirely preserved *unguentarium* which is also mentioned by Gavrilă Simion (cat. no. 45; Fig. 11/45). The object is made of clay, in a shape clearly inspired by glass vessels<sup>38</sup>; it can be included in the category of bulbous/globular *unguentaria* with round or pear-shaped body and flat base<sup>39</sup>. This type started to be produced in the late-1<sup>st</sup> century BC and in some areas, including *Moesia Inferior*, continued to be used during the 2<sup>nd</sup> – 3<sup>rd</sup> centuries<sup>40</sup>.

<sup>33</sup> Suceveanu 2000, 17-18, type IV, cat. no. 3; Mocanu 2021, 99-101.

<sup>34</sup> Suceveanu 2000, 100-107, type XXXII, cat. nos. 4-5, 15-17, 34, 36, etc.

<sup>35</sup> Honcu 2017, 43-50.

<sup>36</sup> Popilian 1976, 107, type 4.

<sup>37</sup> Honcu 2017, 132-134, type III.

<sup>38</sup> Rossi 2009, 273, cat. no. 12, Pl. 68/12; Antonaras 2019, 89, cat. no. 51.

<sup>39</sup> Anderson-Stojanović 1987, 91, Fig. 1/f.

<sup>40</sup> Anderson-Stojanović 1987, 113. For 2<sup>nd</sup> century finds see Rossi 2009, 273, cat. no. 12, Pl. 68/12 – glass variant; Kan Şahin, Lafli, Buora 2024, 143, cat. no. 143, Fig. 6.3/1a-c – clay variant. For 3<sup>rd</sup> century vessels see Antonaras 2019, 89, cat. no. 51 – glass variant; Trakosopoulou-Salakidou, Panti 2024, 125, Fig. 5.11/d – clay variant. For finds in *Moesia Inferior* see Rădulescu 1975, 349-350, Fig. 14 (*Tomis*); Simion 1984, pl. 15/8 (*Noviodunum*); Lungu, Chera 1986, 107, Pl. V/55 (*Tomis*); Rusu-Bolindeț *et alii* 2018, 195, cat. no. 530, sheet by C. Neagu (*Histria*).

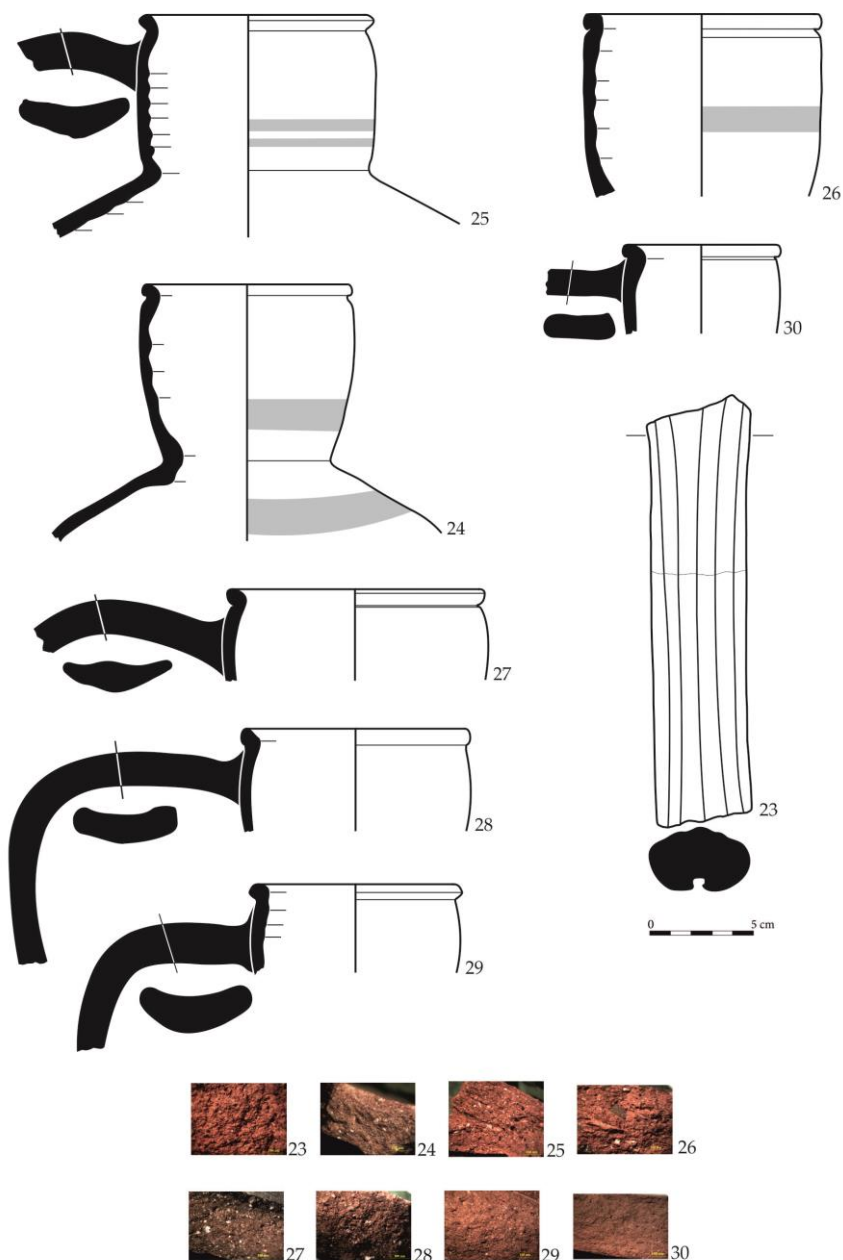


Fig. 9. Pottery from Trench no. 2: 23. Zeest 72/73 (?) type amphora; 24-30. Suceveanu 2000, type L pitchers.

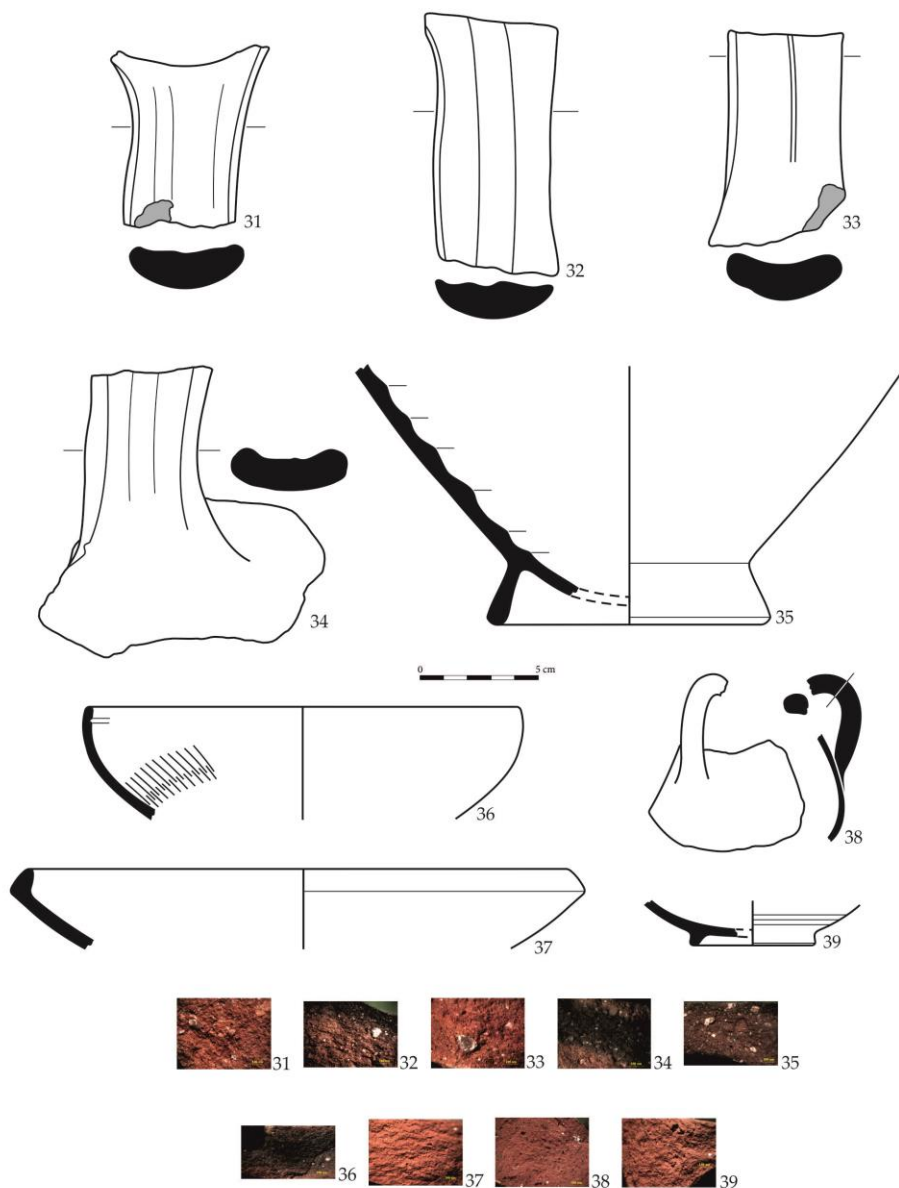


Fig. 10. Pottery from Trench no. 2: 31-35. Suceveanu 2000, type L pitchers; 36. Suceveanu 2000, type IV/Mocanu 2021, Form 8 bowl; 37. Suceveanu 2000, type III/Zhuravlev 2010, type 17 bowl; 38. Suceveanu 2000, type XXXII thin-walled mug; 39. bowl/plate.



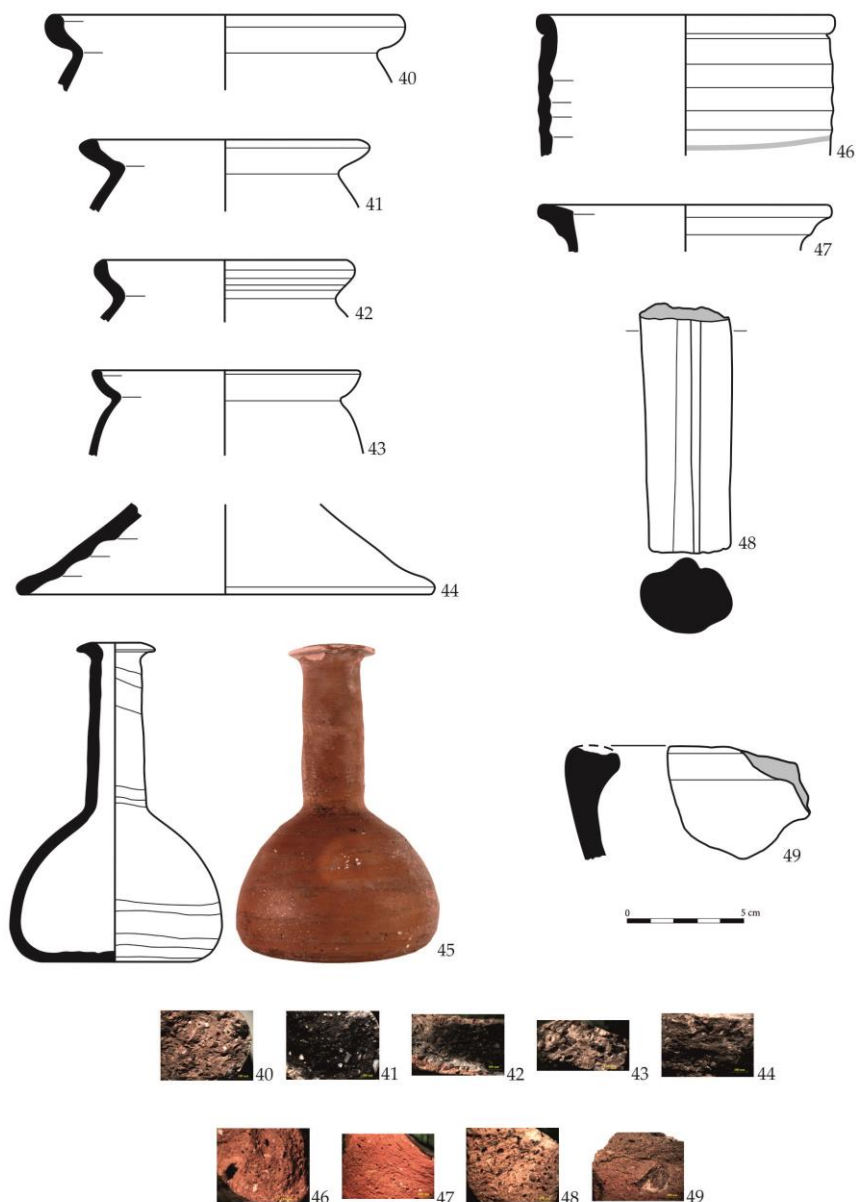


Fig. 11. Pottery from Trench no. 2: 40-42. Honcu 2017, type I pots; 43. Popilian 1976, type 4 mug; 44. Honcu 2017, type III lid; 45. *unguentarium/balsamarium*; 46. Suceveanu 2000, type L pitcher; 47. Suceveanu 2000, type XLV A/6 pitcher; 48. Heracleian narrow-necked light-clay amphora; 49. Dressel 24 *similis* amphora.

The material recovered from pit no. 15 is quite homogeneous chronologically, making it possible to date the complex to the 2<sup>nd</sup> century. At this time, it cannot be determined with certainty whether there was more than one phase of its use. An element that could indicate two distinct phases are the strong burn marks on some of the pottery vessels (cat. nos. 21, 27-28, 30, 32-35, 41, 43), suggesting that they were already inside when the pit was set on fire. The rest of the lot shows no such traces, which may imply that after this time the pit continued to be used and the waste deposited in it.

The next feature is "pit no. 18" (Fig. 7/c), described as having large dimensions, leading G. Simion to believe that it might have been a pit-house. A significant quantity of ash/charcoal, several stones and Greek pottery shards are mentioned among the discoveries. The only Roman era artefacts that have been identified are two vessels for storing and pouring liquids, which are probably residual finds: a Suceveanu 2000, type L pitcher (cat. no. 46; Fig. 11/46) and a Suceveanu 2000, type XLV A/6 pitcher dated to the 2<sup>nd</sup> century<sup>41</sup> (cat. no. 47; Fig. 11/47).

Among the isolated finds one can mention a handle fragment from a Heracleian narrow-necked light-clay amphora (cat. no. 48; Fig. 11/48) and an Aegean olive oil amphora of Dressel 24 type<sup>42</sup> (cat. no. 49; Fig. 11/49) from the western ditch, followed by two Suceveanu 2000, type L pitcher fragments (cat. nos. 50-51; Fig. 12/50-51) from squares 46-48, which do not correspond to any complex/structure on the plan (Fig. 7/d). Finally, no less than 25 fragmentary vessels belonging to amphorae, fine ware and cooking ware come from unknown contexts. Besides several body shards of a Late Roman 2 container (cat. no. 52; Fig. 12/52), the upper part of a possible variant of an Opaïț 2003, type 4 table amphora<sup>43</sup> (cat. no. 53; Fig. 12/53), as well as a handle from an unidentified type of table amphora/pitcher are preserved (cat. no. 54; Fig. 12/54). To these, a rim shard and a ring-base of two Suceveanu 2000, type L pitchers can be added (cat. nos. 55-56; Fig. 12/55-56). The rim fragment (cat. no. 55) illustrates a coarser variant of these containers, with thicker walls; based on other finds within the province, it can be dated to the 2<sup>nd</sup>-3<sup>rd</sup> centuries<sup>44</sup>.

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<sup>41</sup> Suceveanu 2000, 145, cat. no. 6, Pl. 68/6.

<sup>42</sup> Opaïț 2007, 628-629.

<sup>43</sup> Opaïț 2003, 216, type 4.

<sup>44</sup> Streinu, Achim 2021, 138, cat. no. 44, Fig. 13/44; Gamureac, Topoleanu, Ailincăi 2023, 112, cat. no. 241, Fig. 24/241; Bogdan-Cătănciu, Barnea 1979, 181, NII 4(3), Fig. 146/4.3.

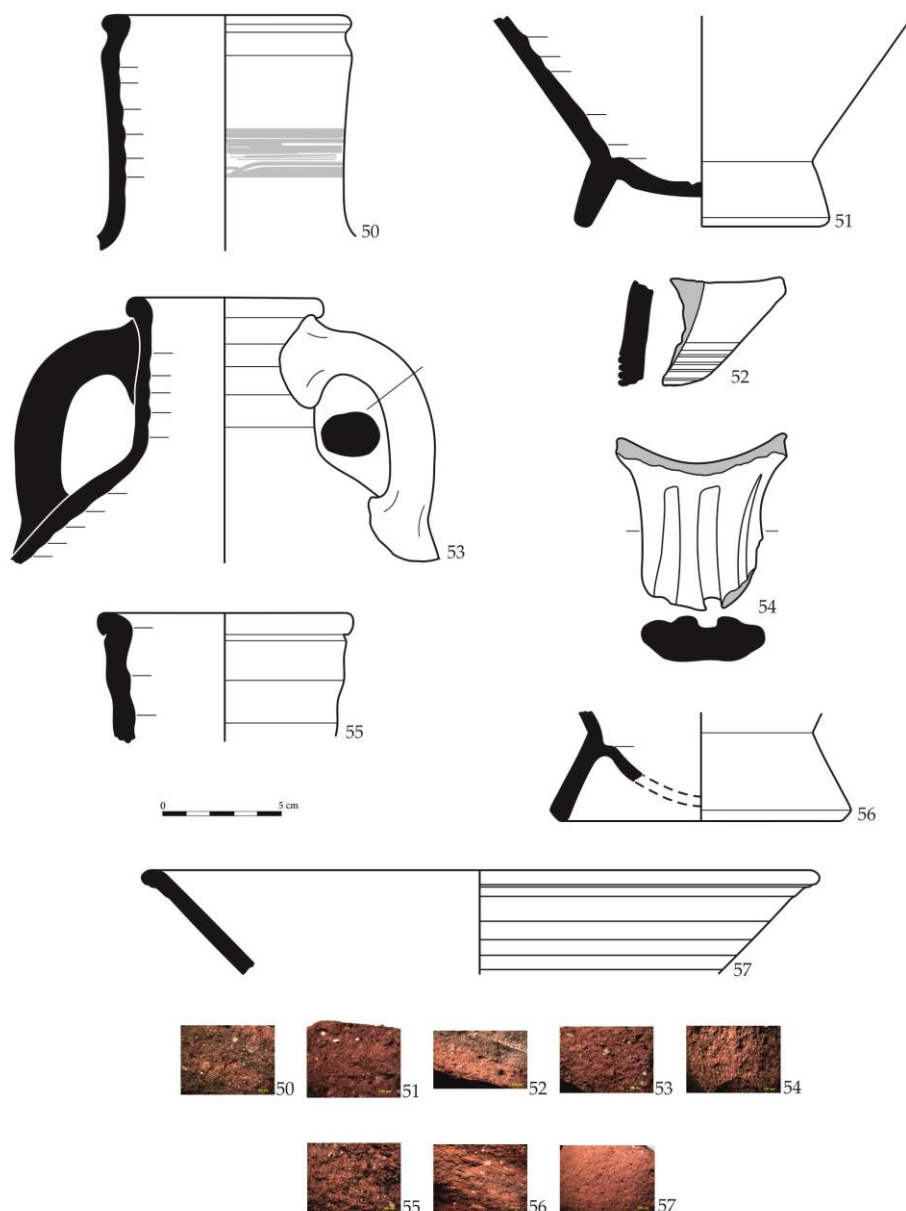


Fig. 12. Pottery from Trench no. 2: 50-51, 55-56. Suceveanu 2000, type L pitchers; 52. LRA 2; 53. Variant of Opaïț 2003, type 2 table amphora; 54. unidentified table amphora; 57. ESC Atlante H 2 plate.

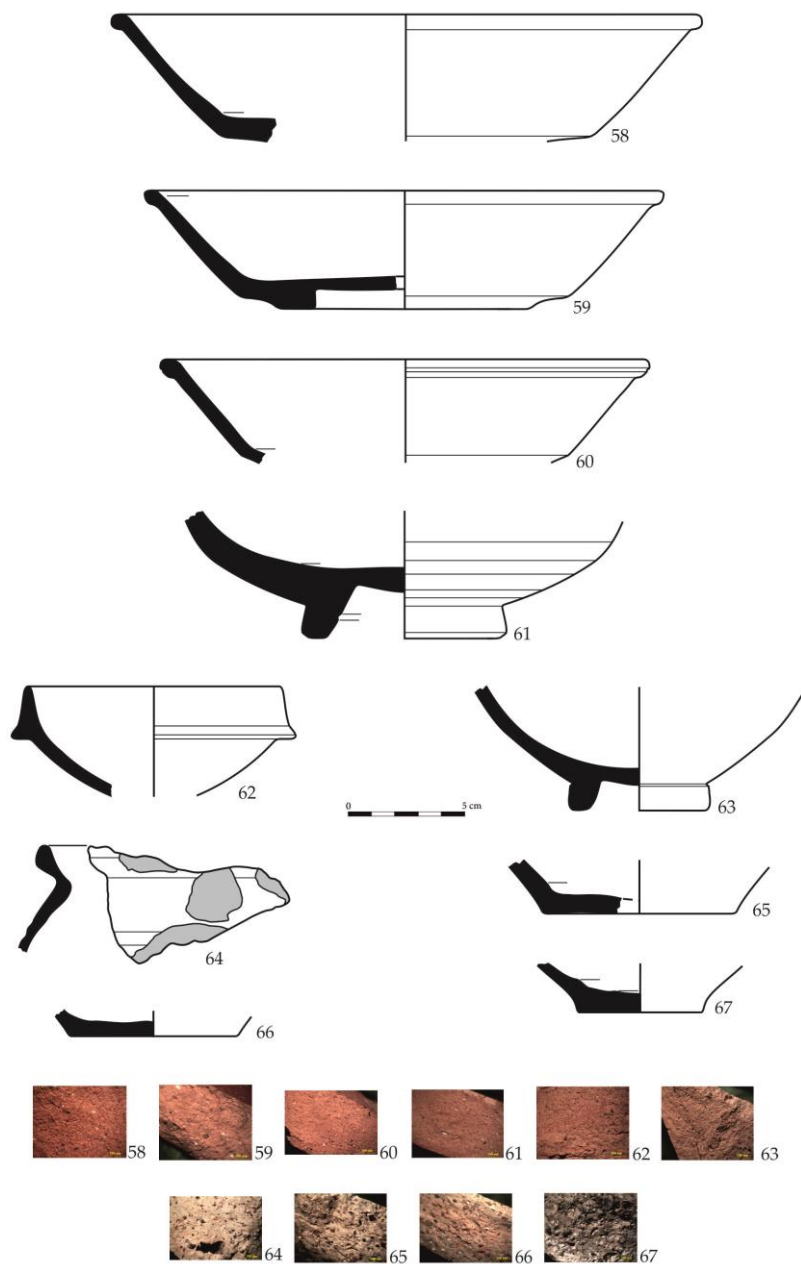


Fig. 13. Pottery from Trench no. 2: 58-60. ESC Atlante H 2 plates; 61. ESC Atlante H 1 deep bowl; 62-63. ESC Atlante L 19 bowls; 64. Honcu 2017, type 1 pot; 65-67. LDKW base shards.

Fine wares are represented by Eastern Sigillata C/Pergamene Red Slip vessels, with four Atlante H 2 plates<sup>45</sup> (cat. nos. 57-60; Figs. 12/57; 13/58-60), one Atlante H 1 deep bowl<sup>46</sup> (cat. no. 61; Fig. 13/61) and two Atlante L 19 bowls<sup>47</sup> (cat. nos. 62-63; Fig. 13/62-63). These types are specific for the Early Roman period, being dated between the early-2<sup>nd</sup> century and the 3<sup>rd</sup> one.

As for the cooking vessels, the Lower Danube Kaolinitic Ware group represents the majority. A rim fragment is typical for the already attested type of pots – Honcu 2017, type I (cat. no. 64; Fig. 13/64). Several flat bases could belong to the same type of vessels<sup>48</sup> (cat. nos. 65-67; Fig. 13/65-67), as it is the case with two handle fragments<sup>49</sup> (cat. nos. 68-69; Fig. 14/68-69). Other wares made from the same type of fabric are a frying pan/tray with large flat base<sup>50</sup> (cat. no. 70; Fig. 14/70), and four lids identical to cat. no. 44 (cat. nos. 72-75; Fig. 14/72-75). In addition, a provincial imitation after Aegean casseroles of Knossos type 2<sup>51</sup> (cat. no. 71; Fig. 14/71) and a lid of Honcu 2017, type III made of fine reddish fabric<sup>52</sup> (cat. no. 76; Fig. 14/76) are also attested. These finds are generally dated to the 2<sup>nd</sup> – 3<sup>rd</sup> centuries AD.

Lastly, among the materials in this group is a handmade spindle whorl, biconical in shape (cat. no. 77; Fig. 14/77). It is quite possible that this is the find from “pit no. 15” that G. Simion mentions in his notes. However, as no details are recorded about this piece (shape, dimensions, production technique), it remains only a hypothesis. On the other hand, an argument in favour of this educated guess is provided by the typological similarities that can be noted between the materials in “pit no. 15” and those of unknown context, especially in the case of kitchenware. An interesting detail about this category is

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<sup>45</sup> Hayes 1985, 77-78.

<sup>46</sup> Hayes 1985, 77.

<sup>47</sup> Hayes 1985, 76.

<sup>48</sup> Although it may also come from other types of vessels such as pitchers or mugs. See for instance Rusu-Bolindeț *et alii* 2018, 248, cat. no. 686, sheet by M. Mocanu (for a pinched-mouth pitcher in the collection of ICEM); 259, cat. no. 720, sheet by M. Mocanu (for a one-handled pot/mug from *Beroe*); 269, cat. no. 750, sheet by C. Neagu (for a miniature pot from *Carsium*); etc.

<sup>49</sup> Identical handles can be seen on a couple of drinking vessels from Jijila (Stănescu *et alii* 2021, 163, cat. nos. 31-32, Fig. 11/31-32), but the specimens from Beidaud seem to come from larger vessels, most likely pots.

<sup>50</sup> Such finds are attested in *Drobeta*, *Durostorum*, *Nicopolis ad Istrum*, *Romula*, and the rural settlement at Jijila: Popilian 1976, 214, cat. nos. 843-844, and 847, Pl. LXIX/843-844, 847; Mușețeanu 2003, 113, cat. nos. 67 and 70, Pl. 39/67, 70; Sultov 1985, 84, Pl. XLII/1-4; Negru, Streinu 2016, 52, inv. no. 1885, Pl. 50/1885; Stănescu *et alii* 2021, 158, cat. no. 21, Fig. 10/21.

<sup>51</sup> Hayes 1983, 106 and 122, cat. nos. 81-89, Fig. 7. For the discussion regarding these imitations see Băjenaru 2013, 63-64; Honcu 2017, 89.

<sup>52</sup> Honcu 2017, 132-134, cat. nos. 314-317, Pl. XXXI/286-289.

the fact that the two groups preserve different morphological parts: if in the case of the pieces from "pit no. 15" we are dealing with fragments that attest the upper part of the vessels, the *passim* finds preserve rather their lower part. This raises the question of whether all these finds could come from the same context.

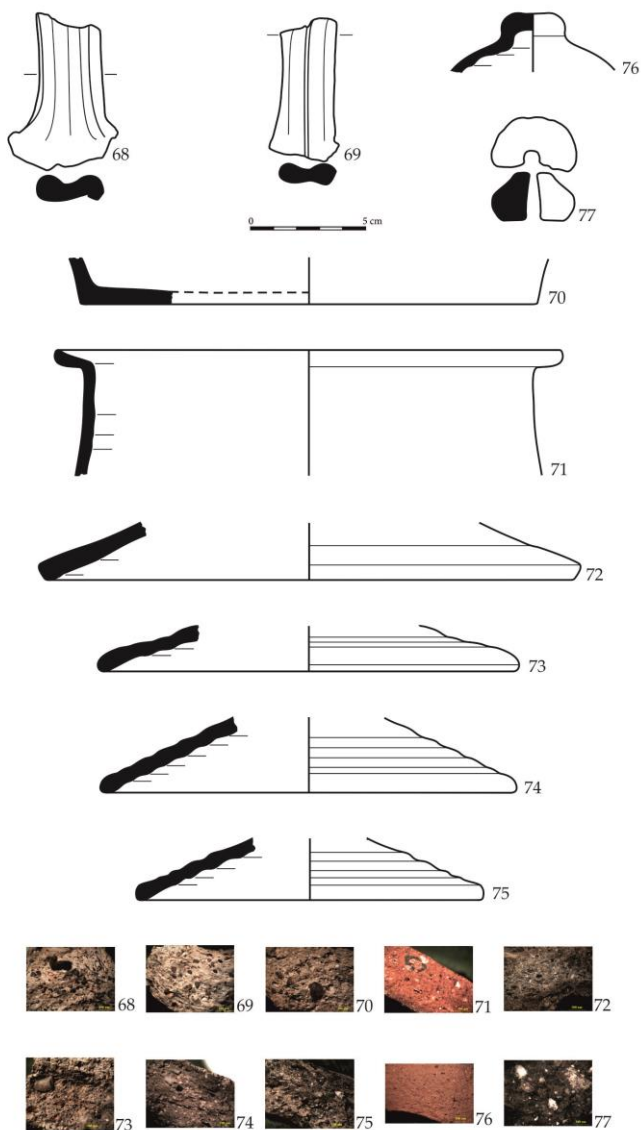


Fig. 14. Ceramic finds from Trench no. 2: 68-69. LDKW pot/mug handles; 70. frying pan/tray; 71. Knossos type 2/Honcu 2017, type 2 casserole; 72-76. Honcu 2017, type III lids; 77. handmade spindle whorl.

### c. Passim

The last part of the analysed lot comes from unknown contexts. This situation was caused either by damaged context tags, or otherwise missing tags. However, they are worthy of consideration because they enrich the variety of products observed so far with new forms and types.

Both wine and olive oil amphorae are attested. Among the wine containers, one can mention two handles of the Heracleian narrow-necked light-clay group, quite damaged because of the soil conditions (cat. nos. 78-79; Fig. 15/78-79), and five Troesmis X vessels that show different rim shapes - rolled (cat. no. 83; Fig. 15/83) or hooked (cat. nos. 80-82, and 84; Fig. 15/80-82, 84). As for the olive oil amphorae, solely the rim of a Dressel 24 *similis* amphora<sup>53</sup> is attested (cat. no. 85; Fig. 15/85); the better state of conservation enabled to classify this find in variant C, which is specific to the 2<sup>nd</sup> century AD<sup>54</sup>.

A well-represented category is tableware, with nine vessels that can be assigned to Eastern Sigillata C, Pontic Sigillata and Early Pontic Red Slip wares. The first group includes only one vessel, an Atlante H 1 deep bowl (cat. no. 86; Pl. 16/86). Pontic Sigillata comprises a fragment of a plate with vertical rim of type Atlante I<sup>55</sup> (cat. no. 87; Pl. 16/87); as it is a body part, it is very difficult to say to which variant the fragment might belong to<sup>56</sup>.

The provincial fine ware is more varied and, in many cases, seems to copy different foreign productions. There are shapes inspired by Pergamene imports, such as Mocanu 2021, Form 4 bowls that imitates the Atlante H 2 vessels<sup>57</sup> (cat. no. 88; Pl. 16/88); Suceveanu 2000, type XVIII bowls, which are most likely influenced by Atlante L 19 vessels<sup>58</sup> (cat. nos. 89-90; Pl. 16/89-90); or Suceveanu 2000, type V bowls that resembles Atlante H 4 type<sup>59</sup> (cat. no. 91; Fig. 16/91). The same tendency is observed in the case of the plates with vertical rim of Mocanu 2021, Form 3<sup>60</sup>, that borrow many morphological features from the Pontic Sigillata vessels, especially from Zhuravlev 2010, Forms 1-4<sup>61</sup> (cat. no. 92; Fig. 16/92).

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<sup>53</sup> Opaiț 2007; Opaiț, Tsaravopoulos 2011.

<sup>54</sup> Opaiț 2007, 631, Fig. 7/39.

<sup>55</sup> Hayes 1985, 93, type 1, Tav. XXII/2, and XXIII/1.

<sup>56</sup> Similar to Журавлев 2010, Pls. 11/62 (Form 1.1.2); 12/69 (Form 1.3.2); 12/73 (Form 2.1.1); 14/86-87 (Form 2.2); 15/89, 92-94 (Form 3.1.1); 17/101, 104; 18/108; 19/125 (Form 4.2).

<sup>57</sup> Mocanu 2021, 128, Fig. 38/17-20.

<sup>58</sup> Suceveanu 2000, 71-73, 76, cat. nos. 9-11, 14, 19, 48, Pls. 26/9-11, 14; 27/19; 28/48. For the ESC vessels see Hayes 1985, 74, Form L 19, Tav. XVII/5-7.

<sup>59</sup> Suceveanu 2000, 21-23, cat. nos. 4, 19, 24, Pl. 3/4, 19, 24. For the ESC type see Hayes 1985, 78, Form H 4, Tav. XVIII/4.

<sup>60</sup> Mocanu 2021, 126, Form 3.

<sup>61</sup> Журавлев 2010, 45-47.

Other finds are a Suceveanu 2000, type VI B bowl<sup>62</sup> that presents a groove on the rim (cat. no. 93; Fig. 16/93), and a red-slipped base fragment with rouletted decoration that could come from either a bowl or a plate (cat. no. 94; Fig. 16/94).

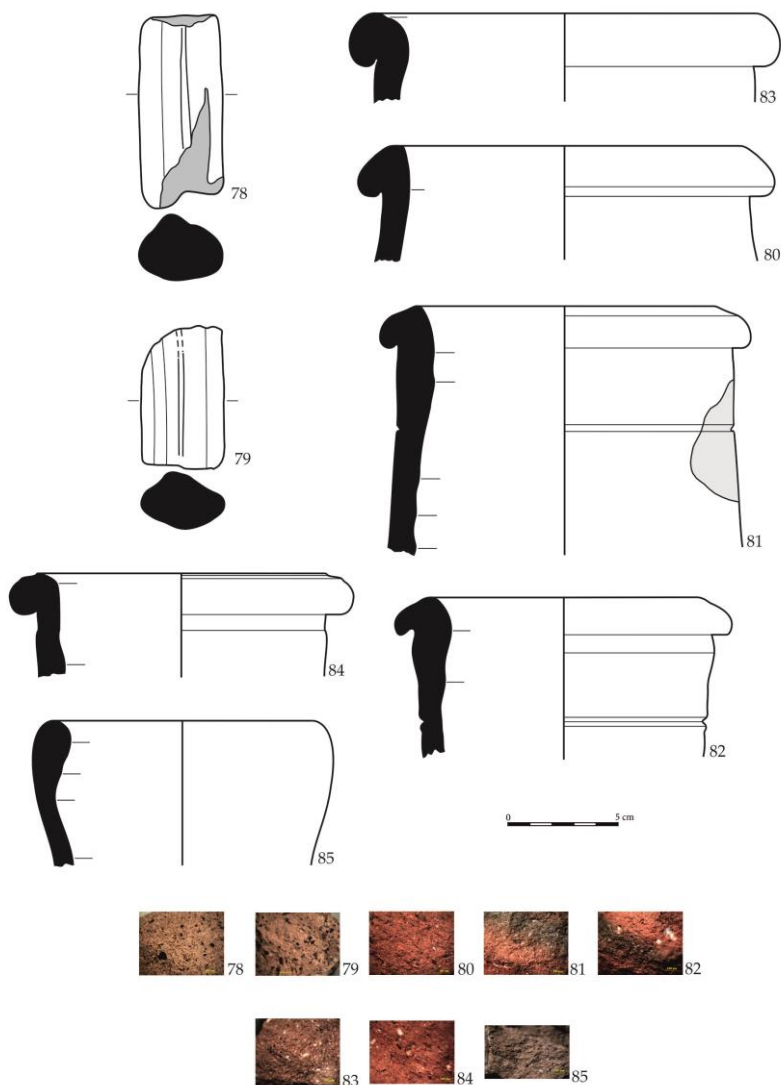


Fig. 15. *Passim* finds: 78-79. Heracleian narrow-necked light-clay amphorae; 80-84. Troesmis X amphorae; 85. Dressel 24 *similis* amphora.

<sup>62</sup> Suceveanu 2000, type VI B, 32-34, Pl. 9.



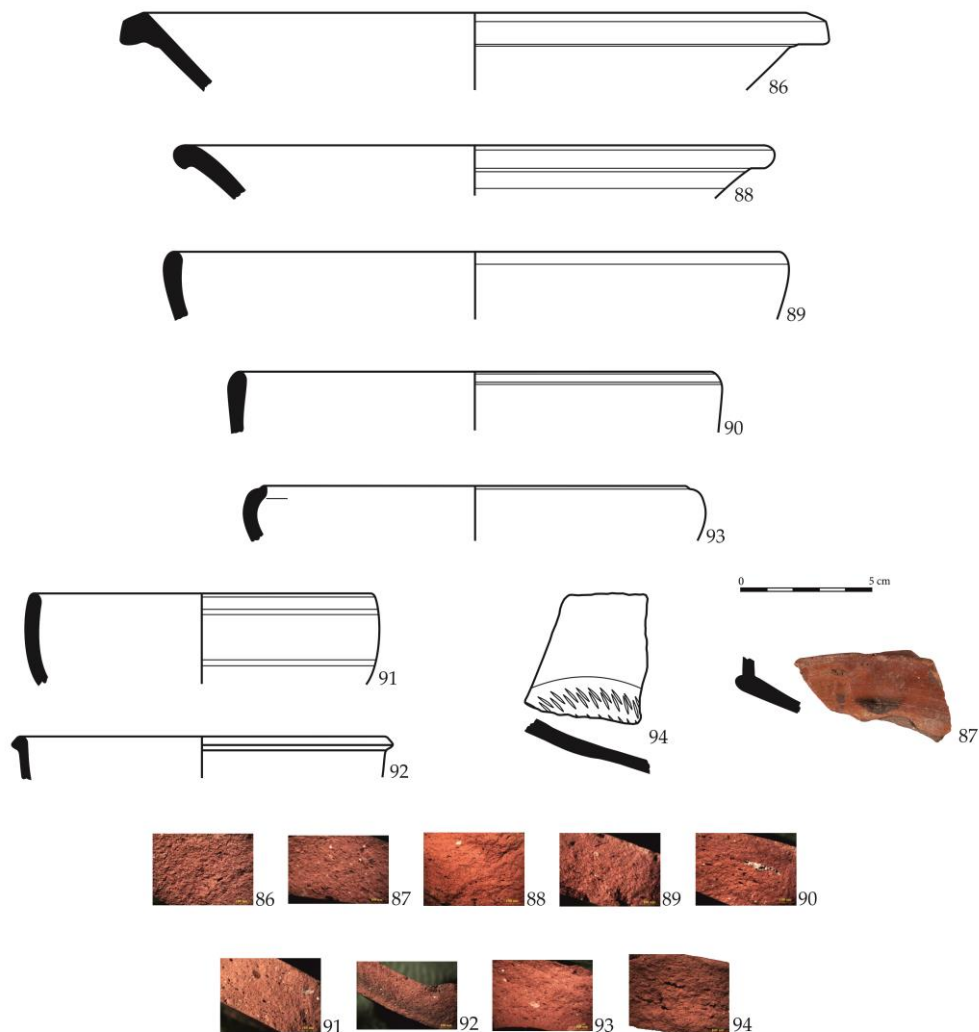


Fig. 16. *Passim* finds: 86. ESC Altante H 1 deep bowl; 87. PS Atlante I plate; 88. EPRS Mocanu 2021, Form 4 bowls; 89-90. Suceveanu 2000, type XVIII bowls; 91. Suceveanu 2000, type V bowl; 92. EPRS Mocanu 2021, Form 3; 93. Suceveanu 2000, type VI B bowl; 94. decorated base fragment.

Three pieces belong to *vasa potatoria*, but they are typologically unclassifiable as only their lower part is preserved: a ring-base of a jug/pitcher (cat. no. 95; Fig. 17/95), a flat, slightly concave base of a pitcher/mug (cat. no. 97; Fig. 17/97), and a small base from a drinking vessel (cat. no. 96; Fig. 17/96). The last vessels are cooking wares, represented by pots and casseroles. The pots include a single piece belonging to one of the most

common types of cooking vessels, namely Suceveanu 2000, type XXXV<sup>63</sup> (cat. no. 98; Fig. 17/98a-b). As for the casseroles, another Knossos type 2/Honcu 2017, type II vessel (cat. no. 99; Fig. 17/99), one Sultov 1985, Type 3a container<sup>64</sup> (cat. no. 100; Fig. 17/100), and a Baumann 1995, type I/Băjenaru 2018b, type 6A casserole made of kaolinitic clay<sup>65</sup> (cat. no. 101; Fig. 17/101) are attested. These types are dated to the 2<sup>nd</sup>-4<sup>th</sup> centuries.

## DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

The material discussed throughout this paper confirms G. Simion's initial hypothesis regarding a Roman habitation sequence in the fortified settlement which appears to have begun in the late-1<sup>st</sup> c. or early-2<sup>nd</sup> century AD and to continue into the Late Roman period. The incipient phase of this habitation is quite well defined, especially if one considers the discoveries from clear archaeological contexts. In this case, the most relevant complexes are "extension of dwelling no. 3" from trench 1, respectively "pit no. 15" from trench 2, both dating from at least the 2<sup>nd</sup> century. Although these complexes do not seem to function later than the mid-3<sup>rd</sup> century, discoveries from other structures or from unknown contexts allow the chronological horizon from the fortified settlement to be extended. Unfortunately, the archaeological contexts of the Late Roman finds have not been recorded, making it impossible to determine the extent or nature of habitation for this period, but it is quite certain that it lasted until the late-6<sup>th</sup> century. The latest pieces that can be mentioned in this respect are the LR 2 (cat. no. 8) and Kuzmanov XV amphorae (cat. no. 9). At the same time, there is very scarce data to support a post-Roman functioning phase (cat. no. 13), so hopefully further research will shed light on this matter.

It is worth noting that the chronology of the Roman phase of the fortified settlement corresponds very well with the dwelling in the Roman rural settlement (to the W of the fortified settlement), where a period of functioning spanning the 2<sup>nd</sup> – mid-4<sup>th</sup> centuries could be determined<sup>66</sup>. Therefore, it becomes quite clear that habitation at the two points, on either side of the Hamangia River (Fig. 2), functioned concurrently and that the whole area enjoyed a heightened interest from the local communities. At the present stage of research, it seems that the fortified settlement on the Calebair Hill was inhabited longer than the Roman rural settlement and the question is raised whether the specific features of the area (favourable geographical position, the existence of a defensive system that may still have been functional) could

<sup>63</sup> Suceveanu 2000, type XXXV, 113-117, Pls. 48-50.

<sup>64</sup> Sultov 1985, 86, Type 3a, Pl. XLIII/5.

<sup>65</sup> Baumann 1995, 408, type I, Pl. IV/1; Băjenaru 2018b, 246, type 6A, Fig. 9/40.

<sup>66</sup> Iliescu, Stănescu, Bottez 2022, 94-95.

have contributed to this. For these reasons, it would be very valuable to resume research in this area to identify structures related to the last dwelling phase and to determine seasonality of site occupation.

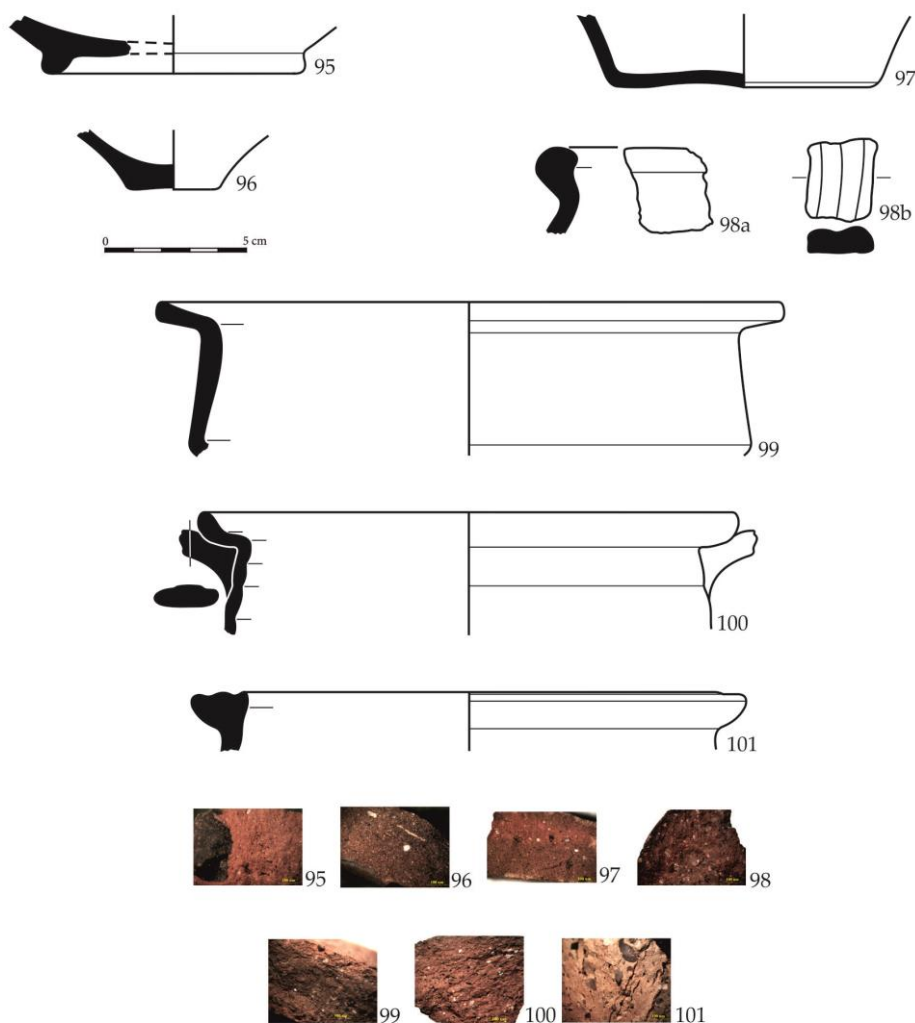


Fig. 17. *Passim* finds: 95. jug/pitcher; 96-97. drinking vessels; 98a-b. Suceveanu 2000, type XXXV pot; 99. Knossos type 2/Honcu 2017, type II casserole; 100. Sultov 1985, Type 3a casserole; 101. Baumann 1995, type I/Băjenaru 2018b, type 6A casserole.

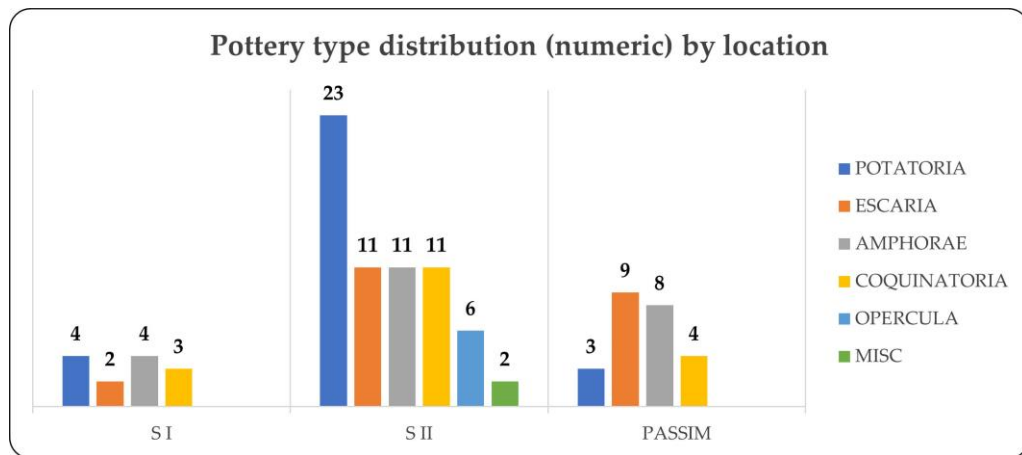


Fig. 18. Numeric distribution of the pottery by location and functional categories.

The ceramic assemblage covers all functional categories. A close-up look at the distribution of pottery sherds reveals that one in three fragments belongs to the liquid vessel group, while the tableware, cooking ware and transport amphorae groups are almost on par with each other (Fig. 19). From an economic perspective, it makes a significant contribution, confirming and completing the data obtained so far for the Roman rural settlement<sup>67</sup>. The repertoire is composed mainly of imported products, from either farther or closer areas. In case of the former, one can mention the presence of Aegean and Asia Minor commodities, such as the olive oil carried in Dressel 24 *similis* amphorae and their successor (LRA 2), and fine tableware of Eastern Sigillata C, respectively Late Roman C group. Connections within the Pontic Basin are better represented, in particular due to amphorae. Wine was brought from the northern Black Sea, as indicated by Zeest 72/73, Rădulescu 1976, type 4c and Troesmis X packages, considering the possibility that the latter type was produced in this area. Sigillata Pontica, most probably also produced in the North-Pontic basin, has a modest presence, with a couple of bowls and plates present in this lot. As for the South-Pontic area, the early variants of the narrow-necked light-clay amphorae (types B-C) certify the preference for Heracleian wine.

<sup>67</sup> Iliescu, Stănescu, Bottez 2022, 95.

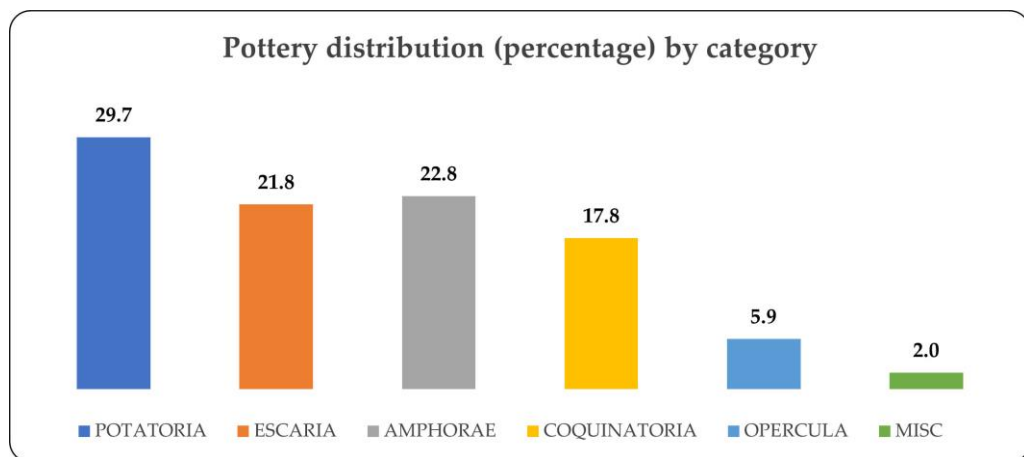


Fig. 19. Distribution of the pottery by functional categories.

At a provincial scale, the high occurrence of pitchers, tableware and cooking vessels is notable. In the analysed material, the very large presence of Suceveanu 2000, type L pitchers is a peculiarity, with a wide morphologic and petrographic diversity. Generally, this type of pitchers has been associated with wine consumption, even more so as traces of pitch have been found inside some containers<sup>68</sup>. Of course, other purposes such as carrying and storing water shall not be ruled out<sup>69</sup>. No pitchers with resin coating have been found in the presently analysed lot, indicating that wine might not have been the main content of these vessels, if ever.

As far as the cooking pottery is concerned, the vessels made of kaolinitic clay predominate over ferruginous variants, with a 3:1 ratio. Two of the centres producing such ware are in the central and southern part of nowadays Dobruja, in Castelu and *Durostorum*<sup>70</sup>, respectively, but it is very likely that there were other workshops that have not been yet identified. The repertoire includes vessels for various cooking activities (pots and lids for boiling, frying pans, casseroles). The properties of this type of clay are well known (*e.g.*, high porosity, thermal shock resistance), so the popularity of these containers is not surprising. A similar situation regarding the frequency of the LDKW and its morphological variety was observed in the Roman settlements at Jijila-

<sup>68</sup> Harizanov 2020, 100; Opaiț, Grigoraș 2022, 47.

<sup>69</sup> Moreover, some pitchers have been found in funerary contexts, where they served either as urns for cremated remains or as grave goods. For an extensive discussion see Oța 2013, 66 and 196.

<sup>70</sup> Băjenaru 2018b, but for the Late Roman period; Mușețeanu 2003. It is also considered the possibility of producing LDKW pottery in the workshops in *Novae*: Daszkiewicz *et alii* 2010, 38.

Izvor<sup>71</sup> and Niculițel-Cornet<sup>72</sup>. In addition, the provincial casseroles that imitate Aegean/Micro-Asian prototypes are much scarcer.

The last in this group is the Early Pontic Red Slip Ware, representing half of all tableware attested. The ware may have been produced in either West- or South-Pontic area during the 2<sup>nd</sup> – 4<sup>th</sup> centuries AD<sup>73</sup>. A particular feature of this production is the strong influence of the most popular shapes manufactured in the pottery workshops from Asia Minor and the northern Black Sea. In the case of the analysed lot, the closest similarities are with the Eastern Sigillata C, respectively Sigillata Pontica production.

The results obtained from the study of the Roman ceramic assemblage complement the data observed for earlier periods, thus the fortified settlement at Beidaud is outlined as a complex site with a long habitation period, spanning more than twelve centuries (from the mid-6<sup>th</sup> century BC until the late-6<sup>th</sup> century AD). The local communities seem to have been in contact with the main urban centres on the western Black Sea coast (Istros and Orgame) from the very beginning, developing intense commercial and cultural links<sup>74</sup>. These connections continue in later periods, and the material under investigation stands as proof of the diversity of goods (both in terms of types of products and their quality) that reached the local market. Thus, the study and re-contextualization of the old finds aids in giving a clearer picture of this settlement and, at the same time, brings to the fore new directions for future research.

## CATALOGUE<sup>75</sup>

### *a. Trench no. 1 = S1*

1. **Fragmentary Heracleian narrow-necked light-clay amphora; handle (Fig. 5/1).** Even oxidising firing. Semi-fine fabric, light brown (7.5YR 6/4); no slip applied; inclusions: numerous pyroxenes, rare quartzite and iron oxide particles.  
Dimensions: Lhandle = 28.8 cm; Whandle = 4.1 cm; HTh = 3 cm.  
Context: BEID 77 Cetate, S1, □ 100-102, dwelling 3. Inv. no. 16940.

<sup>71</sup> Stănescu *et alii* 2021, 184-185.

<sup>72</sup> Gamureac, Topoleanu, Ailincăi 2023, 89-104.

<sup>73</sup> Mocanu 2021, 122.

<sup>74</sup> Lungu, Dupont, Ailincăi 2023, 234. The authors discuss not only the settlement at Beidaud, but also the one at Vișina, in the hinterland of Orgame.

<sup>75</sup> Abbreviations used in the catalogue: BD = base diameter; D = diameter; Dint = interior diameter; DPT = depth; FD = foot diameter; H = height; HTh = handle thickness; KD = knob diameter; L = length; Lhandle = handle length; MPD = maximum preserved diameter; ND = neck diameter; NH = neck height; PH = preserved height; RD = rim diameter; Th = thickness; W = width; WGT = weight; Whandle = handle width.

Analogies: Внукoв 2003, 126, рис. 49/11 (group S IV type); Samsun Museum (Kassab Tezgör 2020, 48, variant S IV B<sub>1</sub>, cat. no. 97, Pls. XIX/6, and XXXIX/5); Telița-Amza (Baumann 1995, 102, cat. no. 45, Pl. XLVI/2).

2. **Fragmentary Heracleian narrow-necked light-clay amphora; handle (Fig. 5/2).** Even oxidising firing. Semi-fine fabric, pale brown (10YR 7/4); no slip applied; inclusions: pyroxenes, quartzite, iron oxide particles, sizeable grog.  
Dimensions: Lhandle = 15 cm; Whandle = 3.9 cm; HTh = 3.2 cm.  
Context: BEID 77 Cetate, S1, □ 100-102, dwelling 3, -0.55/-0.60 m. Inv. no. 16990.  
Analogies: Gonio-Apsarus (Khalvashi 2009, 33-34, Pl. 18/1b); Ordu Museum (Kassab Tezgör 2020, 49, variant S IV C<sub>2</sub>, cat. no. 99, Pls. XIX/8, and XXXIX/7); *Panticapaeum* (Голофаст 2010, 95, рис. 19/18).
3. **Fragmentary Suceveanu 2000, type L pitcher; ring base (Fig. 5/3).** Even oxidising firing; coarse fabric, yellowish red (5YR 5/6); no slip added; inclusions: numerous quartzite particles, some gold mica flakes and limestone grains. Soot traces are observed on both sides of the vessel.  
Dimensions: FD = 13.4 cm; MPD = 17.8 cm; PH = 5.8 cm; Th = 0.5 cm.  
Context: BEID 77 Cetate, S1, □ 100-102, dwelling, -0.70 m. Inv. no. 16988.  
Analogies: *Dinogetia* (Opaiț, Grigoraș 2022, 48, inv. nos. 1091 and 1206, Pls. 2/1091 and 3/1206); *Histria* (Alexandrescu 1966, 207, XXIV.6, Pl. 99/XXIV.6); Niculițel (Gamureac, Topoleanu, Ailincăi 2023, 110, cat. nos. 213 and 217, Fig. 23/213, 217); Telița (Baumann 2003, 186-187, cat. no. 19); *Tomis* (Băjenaru 2013, 71, cat. no. 106, Pl. 13/106).
4. **Fragmentary casserole; upper part of the profile (Fig. 5/4).** Uneven oxidising firing. Coarse fabric, kaolinitic, light brownish grey (10YR 6/2); no slip applied; inclusions: numerous quartzite particles, rarer limestone and iron oxide grains. Soot traces are observed on the rim and the lower part of the body.  
Dimensions: RD = 20 cm; MPD = 20 cm; PH = 6.4 cm; Th = 0.7/0.4 cm.  
Context: BEID 77 Cetate, S1, □ 100-102, dwelling, -0.70 m. Inv. no. 16989.  
Analogies: *Histria* (Alexandrescu 1966, 208, XXIV.8, Pl. 99/XXIV.8); Niculițel (Honcu 2014a, 95, cat. no. 230, Pl. 27/230); Telița (Baumann 2003, 190-191, cat. no. 44); Topolog (Nuțu, Mihăilescu-Bîrliba 2018, 94-95, cat. no. 11, Fig. 9/11).
5. **Fragmentary Suceveanu 2000, type XLV jug; rim and neck (Fig. 5/5).** Even oxidising firing; fine fabric, red (2.5YR 5/6); unevenly spread, metallic, weak red (2.5YR 4/2) slip on the outer surface; inclusions: rare quartzite and limestone grains, muscovite flakes.  
Dimensions: RD = 3.1 cm; MPD = 9.6 cm; PH = 7.8 cm; Th = 0.4 cm.  
Context: BEID 77 Cetate, S1, dwelling 4, 0/-0.40 m. Inv. no. 16864.  
Analogies: *Beroe* (Petre 1987, 16, grave E 154, Pl. 22/31d); *Histria* (Suceveanu 2000, 144-150, Pls. 68-69); Niculițel (Honcu 2014b, 83, cat. no. 183, Pl. 24/183); Poiana (Rusu-Bolindeț *et alii* 2018, 218, cat. no. 596, sheet by C. Băjenaru and C. Vlad).
6. **Fragmentary Suceveanu 2000, type L pitcher; neck and handle (Fig. 5/6).** Even oxidising firing. Coarse fabric, yellowish red (5YR 5/6); no slip applied; inclusions: muscovite flakes, quartzite and limestone grains; with traces of white paint on the neck.  
Dimensions: RD = 13 cm; MPD = 13.4 cm; PH = 9 cm; Th = 0.6 cm; HTh = 1.6 cm; Whandle = 5.2 cm.  
Context: BEID 79 Cetate, S1, pit 1, 0/-0.40 m.

Analogies: *Callatis* (Opaïț, Ionescu 2016, 66, KT 35, Pl. X/53); *Dinogetia* (Opaïț, Grigoraș 2022, inv. nos. 812, 1296 and 2012, Pls. 2/812 and 3/1296, 2012); Poiana (Rusu-Bolindeț *et alii* 2018, 222, cat. no. 608, sheet by C. Băjenaru and L. Nedelea); Poșta-Cotul Celicului (Nuțu, Constantinescu, Ailincăi 2021, 239, Fig. 6); Sarichioi-Sărătura (Baumann 1995, 204, cat. no. 53, Pl. XIII/11); *Tanais* (Гутуев, Хауменко 2021, 540, рис. 10/1); Telița (Baumann 2003, 192, cat. no. 50).

7. **Fragmentary Zhuravlev 2010, type 30 bowl; rim (Fig. 5/7).** Even oxidising firing. Very fine fabric, red (2.5YR 5/6); reddish brown (2.5YR 5/4) slip applied on interior and reddish brown (5YR 5/4) on exterior; inclusions: numerous limestone grains.  
Dimensions: RD = 12 cm; MPD = 12.8 cm; PH = 1.6 cm; Th = 0.35 cm (rim)/0.2 cm (body).  
Context: BEID 77 Cetate, S1, □ 128-130.  
Analogies: *Histria* (Suceveanu 2000, 73, cat. no. 22, Pl. 27/22); *Tomis* (Băjenaru 2013, 50, cat. nos. 17-18, Pl. 3/17-18).
8. **Fragmentary LR 2B amphora; rim and neck (Fig. 6/8).** Uneven oxidising firing. Semi-fine fabric, reddish yellow (5YR 6/6) inside and very pale brown (10YR 7/3) outside; self-slip applied; inclusions: numerous limestone and quartzite particles, iron oxide grains, rare gold mica flakes.  
Dimensions: RD = 10 cm; MPD = 11 cm; PH = 4.5 cm; Th = 1.5 cm/0.6 cm.  
Context: BEID 76 Cetate, S1.  
Analogies: *Dinogetia* (Opaïț, Grigoraș 2022, 107, variant B1, with references for similar finds); *Tropaeum Traiani* (Grigoraș, Panaite 2021, 94, subtype 4, with references for similar finds).
9. **Fragmentary Kuzmanov XV amphora; rim, neck, and handle (Fig. 6/9).** Even oxidising firing. Semi-fine fabric, red (2.5YR 4/6); traces of very pale brown (10YR 7/3) paint on the exterior; inclusions: muscovite flakes, quartzite, limestone, and iron oxide particles.  
Dimensions: RD = 8 cm; MPD = 10.2 cm; PH = 6.4 cm; Th = 1.9 cm/1 cm.  
Context: BEID 76 Cetate.  
Analogies: Opaïț 2004, 28, with references; *Aegyssus* (Stănescu 2018, 215, cat. no. 18, Fig. 6/5); *Dinogetia* (Opaïț, Grigoraș 2022, 95-96); (*L/Ibida*) (Paraschiv 2014, 425); *Ulmetum* (Băjenaru 2023, 680-681, Figs. 4/60-61 and 5/83-86).
10. **Fragmentary Hayes 2B bowl; complete profile (Fig. 6/10).** Even oxidising firing. Fine fabric, red (2.5YR 5/6); same colour slip applied on both surfaces; inclusions: numerous limestone particles, fine muscovite flakes.  
Dimensions: RD = 15 cm; MPD = 17.8 cm; BD = 7.8 cm; H = 5 cm; Th = 0.5 cm.  
Context: BEID 76 Cetate.  
Analogies: *Tanais* (Arsen'eva, Domžalski 2002, 481, cat. no. 607, Fig. 16/607).
11. **Fragmentary „regional Thracian” bowl; rim (Fig. 6/11).** Uneven oxidising firing. Semi-fine fabric, brown (7.5YR 5/3) inside and yellowish red (5YR 5/6) outside; no slip applied; inclusions: numerous quartzite particles, limestone and iron oxide grains, fine muscovite flakes.  
Dimensions: RD = 18 cm; PH = 1.2 cm; Th = 0.5 cm.  
Context: BEID 76 Cetate.  
Analogies: *Karasura* (Rauh 2001, 82, Fig. 2/1); *Ulmetum* (Băjenaru 2018a, 504, Fig. 4/76).
12. **Fragmentary Opaïț 2004, type I mug; lower part of the profile (Fig. 6/12).** Incomplete oxidising firing. Fine fabric, reddish yellow (5YR 6/6) exterior and light brownish grey (10YR 6/2) core; reddish yellow (5YR 6/6), metallic slip applied on the outer, upper surface, while



the inner one is yellowish red (5YR 5/8); inclusions: rare quartzite particles, fine limestone grains and muscovite flakes.

Dimensions: BD = 2.6 cm; MPD = 8.4 cm; PH = 3.5 cm; Th = 0.3 cm.

Context: BEID 76 Cetate.

Analogies: For Early Roman finds: Niculițel (Gamureac, Topoleanu, Ailincăi 2023, 87, Fig. 8/42-57; Honcu 2014b, 85, cat. nos. 195-196, Pl. 25/195-196); Stejaru (Topoleanu 2021, 153, cat. no. 4, Pls. I/4 and VII/4, with analogies). For Late Roman finds: Opaț 2004, 66-67, type I.

13. **Fragmentary Medieval jar; rim (Fig. 6/13).** Uneven oxidising firing, soot traces. Coarse fabric, dark grey (10YR 4/1); no slip applied; inclusions: numerous quartzite particles, rare iron oxide grains.

Dimensions: RD = 15 cm; MPD = 15.4 cm; PH = 4.4 cm; Th = 0.8 cm.

Context: BEID 76 Cetate, S1, □ 46-47, 0/-0.35 m.

Analogies: *Dinogetia* (Stănică 2015, Pl. 6/2); Isaccea (Mănucu-Adameșteanu 2021, 42, ICEM – nr. col. 52; 270, ICEM – nr. col. 724); Nufăru (Damian *et alii* 2007, 117, Fig. 16 and note 82 for further references).

#### **b. Trench no. 2 = S2**

14. **Fragmentary Troesmis X amphora; rim and neck (Fig. 8/14).** Incomplete oxidising firing. Coarse fabric, red (2.5YR 5/8) exterior and greyish brown (10YR 5/2) core; red (2.5YR 5/6) slip on the outer surface; inclusions: numerous quartzite particles, rare limestone and fine gold mica.

Dimensions: RD = 16 cm; MPD = 19.1 cm; PH = 5.6 cm; Th = 1.3 cm.

Context: BEID 79 Cetate, S2, dwelling, -1.00/-1.10 m.

Analogies: *Callatis* (Opaț, Ionescu 2016, 63, KT 91-92, Pl. VII/35-36); *Dinogetia* (Opaț, Grigoraș 2022, 63, inv. no. 1138, Pls. 14/1138 and 99/1138, and references); *Histria* (Suceveanu 1982, 102, cat. no. 70, Pl. 6/70); Niculițel (Nuțu, Stanc, Paraschiv 2014, 58, cat. no. 74, Pl. 12/74); *Troesmis* (Opaț 2015, 329, Pl. 13a-b; Waldner 2016, 324, cat. no. K 925, Taf. 38/925).

15. **Fragmentary Troesmis X amphora; base (Fig. 8/15).** Even oxidising firing. Coarse fabric, red (2.5YR 4/6); same-colour slip; inclusions: numerous quartzite particles, rare muscovite flakes, limestone, and grog.

Dimensions: BD = 3.4 cm; MPD = 12.2 cm; PH = 11.5 cm; Th = 1.1 cm.

Context: BEID 80, dwelling.

Analogies: *Dinogetia* (Opaț, Grigoraș 2022, 63, inv. no. 2225, Pl. 16/2225).

16. **Fragmentary Suceveanu 2000, type L pitcher; handle (Fig. 8/16).** Even oxidising firing. Coarse fabric, yellowish red (5YR 5/6); no slip applied; inclusions: numerous muscovite flakes and quartzite particles, rare limestone grains.

Dimensions: Lhandle = 7.8 cm; Whandle = 5.1 cm; PH = 2.4 cm; HTh = 1.8 cm.

Context: BEID 80, dwelling.

Analogies: *Callatis* (Opaț, Ionescu 2016, 66, KT 64, Pl. XI/63); *Dinogetia* (Opaț, Grigoraș 2022, 48, inv. no. 0000, Pl. 1/0000); *Histria* (Suceveanu 1982, 95, cat. no. 32, Pl. 1/32; 102, cat. no. 65, Pl. 6/65); Niculițel-Cornet (Gamureac, Topoleanu, Ailincăi 2023, 110, cat. no. 224, Fig. 23/224); Telița (Baumann 2003, 186-187, cat. no. 20).

17. **Fragmentary Suceveanu 2000, type III/Zhuravlev 2010, type 17 bowl; upper part of the profile (Fig. 8/17).** Even oxidising firing. Fine fabric, red (2.5YR 5/6); red (2.5YR 4/6) slip on both sides, with dark reddish grey (2.5YR 4/1) hues on the outside; inclusions: fine muscovite flakes, rare limestone grains.  
 Dimensions: RD = 25 cm; MPD = 26 cm; PH = 3 cm; Th = 0.6 cm.  
 Context: BEID 79 Cetate, S2, dwelling + BEID 79 Cetate, S2, pit 15, -1.90 m. Inv. nos. 20570 + 18917.  
 Analogies: *Histria* (Suceveanu 2000, 15, cat. no. 6, Pl. 2/6; Streinu, Achim 2021, 141, cat. no. 74, Fig. 17/74); *Troesmis* (Waldner 2016, 280, cat. no. K 364, Taf. 15/K 364).
18. **Fragmentary Heracleian narrow-necked light-clay amphora; neck (Fig. 8/18).** Even oxidising firing. Coarse fabric, very pale brown (10YR 7/3); no slip applied; inclusions: pyroxene, quartzite particles, rare limestone and iron oxide grains.  
 Dimensions: ND = 4.1 cm; PH = 11.5 cm; Th = 0.8 cm.  
 Context: BEID 79 Cetate, S2, pit 15, -1.90 m. Inv. no. 18859.  
 Analogies: Poroz (Внуков 2003, С IVA<sub>2</sub> рис. 45/8); Внуков 2016, type С IVA<sub>2</sub>, Pl. 1/7; *Arrubium* (Paraschiv 2004, 143, cat. no. 1, Pl. II/1).
19. **Fragmentary Heracleian narrow-necked light-clay amphora; handle (Fig. 8/19).** Even oxidising firing. Coarse fabric, pale brown (2.5YR 7/4); no slip applied; inclusions: pyroxene, quartzite and iron oxide grains.  
 Dimensions: L = 9.1 cm; Whandle = 4 cm; Th = 0.8 cm; HTh = 2.6 cm.  
 Context: BEID 79 Cetate, S2, pit 15, -1.90/-2.10 m. Inv. no. 18873.  
 Analogies: Внуков 2003, рис. 49/5, 11; Внуков 2016, С IV С, рис. 1/12; *Panticapaeum* (Голофаст 2010, 84-85, рис. 3/32; 86, рис. 12/22, 21/46, 62-64; 96, рис. 30/1; 31/7).
20. **Fragmentary Heracleian narrow-necked light-clay amphora; handle (Fig. 8/20).** Even oxidising firing. Coarse fabric, very pale brown (10YR 7/3); no slip applied; inclusions: numerous pyroxene particles, iron oxide grains, rare quartzite particles, fine muscovite flakes.  
 Dimensions: L = 8.3 cm; Whandle = 3.7 cm; HTh = 2.8 cm.  
 Context: BEID 79 Cetate, S2, pit 15, -1.90/-2.10 m. Inv. no. 18876.  
 Analogies: See cat. no. 19.
21. **Fragmentary Troesmis X amphora; rim and neck (Fig. 8/21).** Incomplete oxidising firing. Coarse fabric, brown (7.5YR 5/3), dark grey core (7.5YR 4/1); no slip applied; inclusions: fine silver and gold mica flakes, numerous quartzite particles, rare iron oxide grains.  
 Dimensions: RD = 14.4 cm; MPD = 19 cm; PH = 4.8 cm; Th = 1.2 cm (neck)/2.6 cm (rim).  
 Context: BEID 79 Cetate, S2, pit 15, -1.90 m. Inv. no. 18866.  
 Analogies: Acic Suat (Muşat-Streinu 2017, 287, cat. no. 1, Fig. 5/1); Sarichioi-Sărătura (Baumann 1995, 208, cat. no. 110, Pl. XX/1a); *Troesmis* (Waldner 2016, 322-323, cat. no. K 909, Taf. 37/K 909); *Tropaeum Traiani* (Bogdan-Cătănciu, Barnea 1979, 184, N III 3(4), Fig. 152/3.4).
22. **Fragmentary Rădulescu 1976, type 4c/Opaiţ 1987, type III amphora; rim (Fig. 8/22).** Even oxidising firing. Coarse fabric, yellowish red (5YR 5/6); red self-slip (2.5YR 5/6); inclusions: numerous quartzite particles, rare limestone, iron oxide, and grog.  
 Dimensions: RD = 17 cm; MPD = 18.6; PH = 4.7 cm; Th = 1.6 cm.  
 Context: BEID 79 Cetate, S2, pit 15, -1.90 m. Inv. no. 18852.

Analogies: *Arrubium* (Paraschiv 2004, 144, cat. no. 6, Pl. II/6); *Histria* (Suceveanu 1982, 102, cat. no. 71, Pl. 6/71; Băjenaru 2014, 110, cat. no. 50, Fig. 4/50; 115-116, cat. nos. 125-127, Fig. 8/125-127; Streinu, Achim 2021, 133, cat. no. 16, Fig. 6/16); (*L*)*Ibida* (Opaiț, Paraschiv 2012, 114-115, Figs. 2-3); *Panticapaeum* (Голофаст 2010, 88, рис. 11/9-10; 26/20-22); *Straja* (Rădulescu 1976, 104, Pl. IV/2, 2a); *Tanais* (Науменко 2012, 65-66, рис. 2/11, 3/6-6a).

23. **Fragmentary Zeest 72/73 (?) amphora; handle (Fig. 9/23).** Even oxidising firing. Coarse fabric, red (2.5YR 5/8); no slip applied; inclusions: numerous quartzite particles, limestone and iron oxide grains, fine muscovite flakes.  
Dimensions: L = 20.5 cm; Whandle = 4.9 cm; HTh = 3 cm.  
Context: BEID 79 Cetate, S2, pit 15, -1.90/-2.10 m. Inv. no. 18877.  
Analogies: Zeest 1960, 111-112, рис. XXX/72; Amasra Museum (Kassab Tezgör 2020, 71, cat. no. 145, Pl. XLIV/2); Berezan (Masyuta 2021, 88-89, Fig. 4/1); *Panticapaeum* (Голофаст 2010, 99, рис. 25/18-25).
24. **Fragmentary Suceveanu 2000, type L pitcher; rim, neck and shoulder (Fig. 9/24).** Even oxidising firing. Coarse fabric, red (2.5YR 4/6); no slip applied; with two bands of pink paint (7.5YR 7/4) applied on the neck and shoulder; inclusions: numerous quartzite and iron oxide particles, rare muscovite flakes and holes (from bioclasts?).  
Dimensions: RD = 10.2 cm; MPD = 20.6 cm; PH = 12.6 cm; Th = 0.5 (body)/0.3 (neck) cm.  
Context: BEID 79 Cetate, S2, pit 15, -1.90 m.  
Analogies: See cat. no. 6.
25. **Fragmentary Suceveanu 2000, type L pitcher; rim, neck, and handle (Fig. 9/25).** Even oxidising firing. Coarse fabric, red (2.5YR 5/8); no slip applied; with two bands of white paint applied on the neck; inclusions: numerous quartzite particles, rare limestone grains and muscovite flakes.  
Dimensions: RD = 10.2 cm; MPD = 19 cm; PH = 11.5 cm; Th = 0.7/0.4 cm; HTh = 1.4 cm; Whandle = 5 cm.  
Context: BEID 79 Cetate, S2, pit 15, -1.90 m. Inv. no. 18187.  
Analogies: See cat. no. 6.
26. **Fragmentary Suceveanu 2000, type L pitcher; rim and neck (Fig. 9/26).** Uneven oxidising firing. Coarse fabric, yellowish red (5YR 5/6) exterior and grey (5YR 5/1) interior; no slip applied; with a band of pink paint (7.5YR 7/3) applied on the neck; inclusions: muscovite flakes and quartzite particles, rare limestone grains.  
Dimensions: RD = 11.6 cm; PH = 10.6 cm; Th = 0.7 cm.  
Context: BEID 79 Cetate, S2, □ 46-48, -1.90/-2.10 m. Inv. no. 18855.  
Analogies: See cat. no. 6.
27. **Fragmentary Suceveanu 2000, type L pitcher; rim, neck, and handle (Fig. 9/27).** Uneven oxidising firing. Coarse fabric, reddish brown (5YR 4/3); no slip applied; inclusions: numerous quartzite, some limestone particles and muscovite flakes. Soot traces are observed on both sides of the vessel, including the handle.  
Dimensions: RD = 12 cm; MPD = 12.4 cm; PH = 4.4 cm; Th = 0.6 cm; HTh = 1.4 cm; Whandle = 4.9 cm.  
Context: BEID 79 Cetate, S2, pit 15, -1.90 m. Inv. no. 18851.  
Analogies: See cat. no. 6.

28. **Fragmentary Suceveanu 2000, type L pitcher; rim, neck, and handle (Fig. 9/28).** Even oxidising firing, soot traces. Coarse fabric, reddish brown (5YR 4/4); no slip applied; inclusions: numerous quartzite and some limestone particles, rare iron oxide grains. Dimensions: RD = 11 cm; MPD = 11.6 cm; PH = 5/11.3 cm; Th = 0.3 cm; HTh = 1.2 cm; Whandle = 4.9 cm. Context: BEID 79 Cetate, S2, pit 15, -1.50 m. Analogies: See cat. no. 6.
29. **Fragmentary Suceveanu 2000, type L pitcher; rim, neck, and handle (Fig. 9/29).** Even oxidising firing. Coarse fabric, yellowish red (5YR 5/6); no slip applied; inclusions: numerous quartzite, rare muscovite flakes and limestone particles. Dimensions: RD = 10 cm; MPD = 10.4 cm; PH = 8.2 cm; Th = 0.6 cm; HTh = 1.8 cm; Whandle = 5.5 cm. Context: BEID 79 Cetate, S2, pit 15, -1.90 m. Inv. no. 18868. Analogies: See cat. no. 6.
30. **Fragmentary Suceveanu 2000, type L pitcher; rim, neck, and handle (Fig. 9/30).** Even oxidising firing. Fine fabric, yellowish red (5YR 5/6); red slip (2.5YR 5/6), slightly metallic, applied on the exterior; inclusions: rare muscovite flakes, small limestone and quartzite particles. Soot traces are observed on the handle. Dimensions: RD = 7.5 cm; MPD = 7.8 cm; PH = 4.4 cm; Th = 0.5 cm; HTh = 1.1 cm; Whandle = 3.5 cm. Context: BEID 79 Cetate, S2, pit 15, -1.90 m. Analogies: *Durostorum* (Mușețeanu 2003, 96, cat. nos. 333, 335-336, and 338-339, Pl. 32/333, 335-336, 338-339); *Histria* (Suceveanu 2000, 159, cat. no. 5, Pl. 75/5); Poșta-Frecăței (Rusu-Bolindeț *et alii* 2018, 248, cat. no. 687, sheet by M. Mocanu); Telița-Amza (Baumann 2003, 186-187, cat. no. 20); *Tomis* (Rusu-Bolindeț *et alii* 2018, 222, cat. nos. 608-610, sheets by C. Băjenaru and L. Nedelea).
31. **Fragmentary Suceveanu 2000, type L pitcher; upper part of the handle (Fig. 10/31).** Even oxidising firing. Coarse fabric, yellowish red (5YR 5/6); self-slip reddish brown (5YR 5/3), occasionally reddish grey (5YR 5/2); inclusions: numerous quartzite, rare muscovite flakes and limestone particles. Dimensions: L = 6.7 cm; W = 4.9 cm; PH = 3.5 cm; HTh = 1.5 cm. Context: BEID 79 Cetate, S2, pit 15, -1.90 m. Inv. no. 18871. Analogies: See cat. no. 7.
32. **Fragmentary Suceveanu 2000, type L pitcher; handle (Fig. 10/32).** Even oxidising firing. Coarse fabric, soot traces, reddish brown (5YR 5/4); no slip applied; inclusions: numerous quartzite and limestone particles, rare muscovite flakes. Soot traces are observed on both sides of the handle. Dimensions: L = 10.2 cm; W = 4.9 cm; HTh = 1.4 cm. Context: BEID 79 Cetate, S2, pit 15, -1.90/-2.10 m. Inv. no. 18883. Analogies: See cat. no. 7.
33. **Fragmentary Suceveanu 2000, type L pitcher; lower part of the handle (Fig. 10/33).** Even oxidising firing. Coarse fabric, yellowish red (5YR 5/6); no slip applied; inclusions: numerous quartzite, rare limestone particles. Shallow soot traces are observed on the outside. Dimensions: L = 9 cm; W = 4.9 cm; HTh = 1.5 cm.

Context: BEID 79 Cetate, S2, pit 15, -1.90/-2.10 m. Inv. no. 18884.

Analogies: See cat. no. 7.

34. **Fragmentary Suceveanu 2000, type L pitcher; lower part of the handle (Fig. 10/34).** Uneven oxidising firing. Coarse fabric, dark greyish brown (10YR 4/2) on the outside and yellowish red (5YR 5/6) on the inside; no slip applied; inclusions: numerous quartzite, some limestone grains. Shallow soot traces in the lower part of the vessel.

Dimensions: L = 11.3 cm; W = 12.2/5.1 cm; Th = 0.6 cm; HTh = 1.3 cm; Whandle = 5.1 cm.

Context: BEID 79 Cetate, S2, pit 15, -1.90/-2.10 m. Inv. no. 18861.

Analogies: See cat. no. 7.

35. **Fragmentary Suceveanu 2000, type L pitcher; ring base (Fig. 10/35).** Uneven oxidising firing; coarse fabric, reddish brown (5YR 4/3); no slip applied; inclusions: numerous quartzite, some limestone particles and gold mica flakes. Soot traces are observed on both sides of the vessel.

Dimensions: FD = 11.4 cm; MPD = 21 cm; PH = 10.8 cm; Th = 0.5 cm.

Context: BEID 79 Cetate, S2, pit 15, -1.90 m. Inv. no. 18988.

Analogies: *Dinogetia* (Opaiț, Grigoraș 2022, 48, inv. no. 1321, Pl. 3/1321); *Histria* (Suceveanu 2000, 159, cat. no. 3, Pl. 77/3); Niculițel (Nuțu, Stanc, Paraschiv 2014, 61, cat. no. 103, Pl. 15/103; Gamureac, Topoleanu, Ailincăi 2023, 110, cat. nos. 213, 223, Fig. 23/213, 223); Telița (Baumann 2003, 186-187, cat. no. 19; Nuțu, Constantinescu, Ailincăi 2021, 236, Fig. 4/2; 238, Fig. 5/3).

36. **Fragmentary Suceveanu 2000, type IV/Mocanu 2021, Form 8 bowl; missing base (Fig. 10/36).** Uneven oxidising firing. Fine fabric, yellowish red (5YR 5/6) on the outside, dark grey (5YR 4/N) on the inside; dark reddish grey (5YR 4/2) slip with metallic dark grey (5YR 4/1) hues on both surfaces; inclusions: fine muscovite flakes, rare quartzite and limestone particles.

Dimensions: RD = 18 cm; MPD = 18 cm; PH = 4.7 cm; Th = 0.4 cm.

Context: BEID 79 Cetate, S2, pit 15, -1.90 m. Inv. no. 18918.

Analogies: *Aegyssus* (Mocanu, Nuțu 2023, 206, Pl. VII/6-11); *Histria* (Suceveanu 2000, 17-18, cat. no. 3, Pl. 2/3; Băjenaru 2014, 113, cat. nos. 70-71, Fig. 5/70-71); *Knossos* (Sackett 1992, 224, cat. T1.11, Pl. 169/11; 232, cat. D3.2, Pl. 173/2); Telița (Baumann 1995, 95, cat. no. 56, Pl. LXII/2); *Tomis* (Băjenaru 2013, 51, cat. nos. 21-22, Pl. 3/21-22); *Troesmis* (Waldner 2016, 265, cat. nos. K 185-186, Taf. 8/K 185-186; Mocanu 2021, 100-101, cat. nos. 24-25, Fig. 27/24-25).

37. **Fragmentary Suceveanu 2000, type III/Zhuravlev 2010, type 17 bowl; upper part of the profile (Fig. 10/37).** Even oxidising firing. Fine fabric, red (2.5YR 5/6); same colour slip applied on both surfaces; inclusions: fine muscovite flakes, rare limestone particles.

Dimensions: RD = 22 cm; MPD = 23 cm; PH = 3.3 cm; Th = 0.6 cm.

Context: BEID 79 Cetate, S2, pit 15, -1.90 m + BEID 79 Cetate, S2, □ 54-56, -0.40/-0.60 m. Inv. no. 18916.

Analogies: See cat. no. 17.

38. **Fragmentary Suceveanu 2000, type XXXII mug; body and handle (Fig. 10/38).** Even oxidising firing. Fine fabric, red (2.5YR 4/6); reddish brown (5YR 4/3) slip on the outside surface; inclusions: quartzite, rare limestone particles, fine muscovite flakes.

Dimensions: L = 6.3 cm; W = 4.5 cm; Lhandle = 4.4 cm; Whandle = 1 cm; Th = 0.2 cm; HTh = 0.8 cm.

Context: BEID 79 Cetate, S2, pit 15, -1.90 m. Inv. no. 18908.

Analogies: *Beroe*-Piatra Frecăței (Petre 1987, 15, E 143 b.1, Fig. 26d; 15, A 334 bis.1, Fig. 27a; 16, E 154.2, Fig. 31e; Rusu-Bolindeț *et alii* 2018, 259, cat. no. 721, sheet by M. Mocanu); *Histria* (Suceveanu 2000, 100-106, cat. nos. 4-5, 15-17, 34, 36, 38-39, 50, Pls. 42-44); *Tomis* (Bucovaia, Pașca 1992, 249, M19/2 (inv. 38429), Pl. 2/38428; 266-267, M44/4 (inv. 38461), Pls. 2/38461 and 7/38461).

39. **Fragmentary bowl/plate; ring base (Fig. 10/39).** Even oxidising firing. Fine fabric, yellowish red (5YR 5/8); no slip applied; inclusions: fine muscovite flakes, rare limestone and iron oxide grains.

Dimensions: RD = 5 cm; MPD = 9 cm; PH = 1.9 cm; Th = 0.3 cm.

Context: BEID 79 Cetate, S2, pit 15, -1.90 m. Inv. no. 18910.

Analogies: –

40. **Fragmentary Honcu 2017, type I pot; rim (Fig. 11/40).** Uneven oxidising firing. Coarse fabric, kaolinitic, light grey (10YR 7/2) on the outside, light reddish brown (2.5YR 7/3) on the inside; no slip applied; inclusions: numerous quartzite particles, rare iron oxide grains.

Dimensions: RD = 14.4 cm; MPD = 15 cm; PH = 3.2 cm; Th = 0.9/0.4 cm.

Context: BEID 79 Cetate, S2, pit 15, -1.90 m. Inv. no. 18912.

Analogies: *Durostorum* (Mușeteanu 2003, 109-110, cat. nos. 10-12, 18, 26-28, Pls. 36/10-12, 18, and 37/26-28); Jijila (Stănescu *et alii* 2021, 157, cat. nos. 17-19, Fig. 9/17-19); (*L*)*Ibida* (Honcu 2017, 46, cat. no. 9, Pl. I/8); Niculițel (Gamureac, Topoleanu, Ailincăi 2023, 96-97, cat. nos 105-123, Fig. 15/105-123); *Noviodunum* (Honcu 2017, 47-48, cat. nos. 15-17, 19, 21, Pl. II/14-16, 18, 20; Stănică, Streinu, Streinu 2021, 80, cat. no. 4.1.4, Pl. V/30; Topoleanu, Gamureac 2021, 114-116, cat. nos. 93-95 and 98); Telița (Baumann 2003, 186-187, cat. nos. 21-22); *Tomis* (Băjenaru 2013, 64, cat. no. 70, Pl. 9/70); Topolog (Nuțu, Mihăilescu-Bîrliba 2018, 95, cat. nos. 12-13, Fig. 9/12-13); *Troesmis* (Opaiț 1980a, 348, cat. no. 2, Pl. I/2; Waldner 2016, 306-309, cat. nos. K688-731, Taf. 28-29/K688-631).

41. **Fragmentary Honcu 2017, type I pot; rim (Fig. 11/41).** Uneven oxidising firing. Coarse fabric, kaolinitic, very pale brown (10YR 7/3) on the outside, very dark grey (GLEY 1 3/N) and grey (5Y 6/1) on the inside; no slip applied; inclusions: numerous quartzite particles, rare limestone and iron oxide grains. Soot traces are observed on the outside.

Dimensions: RD = 11 cm; MPD = 12 cm; PH = 3 cm; Th = 0.6/0.3 cm.

Context: BEID 79 Cetate, S2, pit 15, -1.90 m. Inv. no. 18913.

Analogies: See cat. no. 40.

42. **Fragmentary Honcu 2017, type I pot; rim (Fig. 11/42).** Incomplete oxidising firing. Coarse fabric, kaolinitic, light reddish brown (2.5YR 6/4), with grey core (10YR 6/1); no slip applied; inclusions: numerous quartzite particles, fine muscovite flakes.

Dimensions: RD = 10 cm; MPD = 11 cm; PH = 2.6 cm; Th = 0.6/0.4 cm.

Context: BEID 79 Cetate, S2, pit 15. Inv. no. 18914.

Analogies: See cat. no. 40.

43. **Fragmentary Popilian 1976, type 4 mug; rim (Fig. 11/43).** Even oxidising firing. Coarse fabric, kaolinitic, very pale brown (10YR 7/3); no slip applied; inclusions: numerous quartzite particles, rare limestone and iron oxide grains. Soot traces are observed on the outside.

Dimensions: RD = 11 cm; MPD = 11 cm; PH = 3.5 cm; Th = 0.3 cm.

Context: BEID 79 Cetate, S2, pit 15. Inv. no. 18915.

Analogies: *Beroe*-Piatra Frecăței (Rusu-Bolindeț et alii 2018, 259, cat. no. 720, sheet by M. Mocanu); *Durostorum* (Mușețeanu 2003, 111, cat. nos. 39, 45, Pl. 37/39, 45); Jijila (Stănescu et alii 2021, 162, cat. no. 30, Fig. 11/30); *Noviodunum* (Simion 1984, 86, Pl. XV/2; Simion 2007, 317, Figs. 11/5 and 14/5); *Romula* (Popilian 1976, 202-203, cat. nos. 665, 673-674, Pl. LVII/665, 673-674; Negru, Streinu 2016, 52, nos. 2712 and 3502, Pl. 51/2712, 3502; Rusu-Bolindeț et alii 2018, 181, cat. no. 488, sheet by M. Negru, S. Popovici, G. Mihai); *Sucidava* (Popilian 1976, 202-203, cat. nos. 666-672; Pl. LVII/666-672); *Troesmis* (Opaiț 1980a, 355, cat. no. 39, Pl. VIII/3).

44. **Fragmentary Honcu 2017, type III lid; lower half of the profile (Fig. 11/44).** Uneven oxidising firing. Coarse fabric, kaolinitic, light grey (10YR 7/2); no slip applied; inclusions: numerous quartzite particles, rare limestone grains and grog. Soot traces are observed on both sides of the lid.

Dimensions: D = 17 cm; PH = 3.8 cm; Th = 0.7 cm.

Context: BEID 79 Cetate, S2, pit 15, -1.90 m. Inv. no. 18911.

Analogies: *Durostorum* (Mușețeanu 2003, 114, cat. nos. 77 and 79, Pl. 39/77, 79); (*L*)*Ibida* (Honcu 2017, 133, cat. nos. 312-313, Pl. XXXI/284-285); Niculițel (Gamureac, Topoleanu, Ailincăi 2023, 104, cat. nos. 180-181, Fig. 19/180-181); *Romula* (Negru, Streinu 2016, 56-57, nos. 2402, 2558 and 2881, Pl. 59/2402, 2558, 2881); *Troesmis* (Waldner 2016, 316-317, cat. nos. K 830 and K834-836, Taf. 34/K 830, 834-836).

45. **Complete clay unguentarium (Fig. 11/45).** Even oxidising firing. Fine fabric, red (10R 5/6), red (10R 4/6) slip on exterior; inclusions: limestone grains and muscovite flakes.

Dimensions: RD = 3.8 cm; ND = 2.7 cm; MPD = 8.7 cm; PH = 13 cm; NH = 6 cm; BD = 5.7 cm; DPT = 12.6 cm; WGT = 163 g; Th = 0.2 cm.

Context: BEID 79 Cetate, S2, pit 15, -1.90 m. Inv. no. 20700.

Analogies: *Noviodunum* (Simion 1984, Pl. 15/8); Thessaloniki (Trakosopoulou-Salakidou, Panti 2024, 125, Fig. 5.11/d); *Tomis* (Rădulescu 1975, 349-350, Fig. 14; Lungu, Chera 1986, 107, Pl. V/55); British Museum (Kan Şahin, Laflı, Buora 2024, 143, cat. no. 143, Fig. 6.3/1a-c).

46. **Fragmentary Suceveanu 2000, type L pitcher; rim and neck (Fig. 11/46).** Even oxidising firing; coarse fabric, yellowish red (5YR 5/6); no slip applied; with traces of white paint on the neck; inclusions: numerous quartzite particles, rare limestone grains and muscovite flakes.

Dimensions: RD = 12 cm; MPD = 12.4 cm; PH = 5.8 cm; Th = 0.5 cm.

Context: BEID 79 Cetate, S2, pit 18, □ 60-62.

Analogies: See cat. no. 6.

47. **Fragmentary Suceveanu 2000, type XLV A/6 jug; rim (Fig. 11/47).** Even oxidising firing; fine fabric, red (2.5YR 5/6); slip of the same colour on inner surface, dark reddish grey (2.5YR 3/1) slip on outer surface; inclusions: fine limestone and quartzite particles, rare muscovite flakes.

Dimensions: RD = 12 cm; MPD = 12.2 cm; PH = 1.9 cm; Th = 0.3 cm.

Context: BEID 79 Cetate, S2, pit 18, □ 60-62.

Analogies: *Histria* (Suceveanu 2000, 145, cat. no. 6, Pl. 68/6); *Noviodunum* (Simion 1984, 85, Pl. XIV/3); Poiana (Rusu-Bolindeț et alii 2018, 219, cat. no. 601, sheet by C. Băjenaru and C. Vlad); *Tomis* (Băjenaru 2013, 56, cat. nos. 40-41, Pl. 6/40-41); *Troesmis* (Waldner 2016, 290, cat. no. K 483, Taf. 19/K 483).

48. **Fragmentary Heracleian narrow-necked light-clay amphora; handle (Fig. 11/48).** Even oxidising firing; semi-fine fabric, pink (7.5YR 7/3); no slip applied; inclusions: numerous quartzite and pyroxene particles, iron oxide grains.  
Dimensions: Lhandle = 10.2 cm; Whandle = 3.6 cm; HTh = 2.8 cm.  
Context: BEID 79 Cetate, S2, western ditch, □ 92-94, -0.20 m.  
Analogies: Внуков 2016, С IV D, рис. 4/16; *Panticapaeum* (Голофаст 2010, 84-85, рис. 3/28).
49. **Fragmentary Dressel 24 amphora; rim (Fig. 11/49).** Uneven oxidising firing. Coarse fabric, light brown (7.5YR 6/4) outside, light red (2.5YR 6/6) inside; very pale brown (10YR 7/4) self-slip; inclusions: muscovite flakes, grog, hyaline quartz and limestone particles.  
Dimensions: L = 5.8 cm; PH = 4.4 cm; Th = 0.8 cm (neck)/1.7 cm (rim).  
Context: BEID 80 Cetate, S2, □ 34-35, western ditch, 6<sup>th</sup> layer.  
Analogies: *Callatis* (Opaïț, Ionescu 2016, 67, KT 34, Pl. XII/69); *Dinogetia* (Opaïț, Grigoraș 2022, 102, inv. no. 2046, Pl. 73/2046); *Tanais* (Opaïț 2007, 628-629, Fig. 2/4).
50. **Fragmentary Suceveanu 2000, type L pitcher; rim and neck (Fig. 12/50).** Uneven oxidising firing. Coarse fabric, brown (7.5YR 5/3) outside, yellowish red (5YR 5/6) inside; traces of white slip on the neck; inclusions: numerous quartzite, rare limestone particles.  
Dimensions: RD = 9.6 cm; MPD = 10.4 cm; PH = 9.6 cm; Th = 0.7 cm.  
Context: BEID 79 Cetate, S2, □ 46-48, -0.20/-0.40 m. Inv. no. 20633.  
Analogies: See cat. no. 6.
51. **Fragmentary Suceveanu 2000, type L pitcher; ring base (Fig. 12/51).** Even oxidising firing; coarse fabric, red (2.5YR 5/6); no slip applied; inclusions: numerous mica flakes (silver and gold) and quartzites, rare limestone and iron oxide grains.  
Dimensions: FD = 10 cm; MPD = 16.4 cm; PH = 8.5 cm; Th = 0.6 cm.  
Context: BEID 79 Cetate, S2, □ 46-48, -0.20/-0.40 m. Inv. no. 20636.  
Analogies: See cat. no. 35.
52. **Fragmentary LR 2 amphora; body (7 shards) (Fig. 12/52).** Uneven oxidising firing. Semi-fine fabric, yellowish red (5YR 5/6) inside and greyish brown (10YR 5/2) outside; no slip applied; inclusions: muscovite flakes, fine quartzite, and rare limestone grains.  
Dimensions: varying sizes – from 4 × 4 cm (the smallest) to 13 × 5.5 (the largest)  
Context: BEID 79 Cetate, S2.  
Analogies: Pieri 2005, 86-90, Pls. 23-27 (for the main type).
53. **Fragmentary Opaïț 2003, type 4 (?) table amphora; rim, neck, and handle (Fig. 12/53).** Even oxidising firing. Coarse fabric, red (2.5YR 5/6); no slip applied; inclusions: numerous quartzite, rare limestone and iron oxide particles.  
Dimensions: RD = 7.5 cm; MPD = 17.5 cm; PH = 11 cm; Th = 1 cm/0.5 cm; HTh = 1.8 cm.  
Context: BEID 79 Cetate, S2.  
Analogies: *Noviodunum* (Topoleanu, Gamureac 2021, 123-124, cat. no. 143; with differences in rim diameter and shape of the handle).
54. **Fragmentary table amphora; handle (Fig. 12/54).** Even oxidising firing. Semi-fine fabric, reddish yellow (5YR 6/8); red (2.5YR 5/6) slip on the outside; inclusions: numerous muscovite flakes, rare limestone and quartzite particles.  
Dimensions: L = 6.7 cm; Whandle = 5 cm; PH = 4.1 cm; Th = 0.6 cm; HTh = 1.9 cm.  
Context: BEID 79 Cetate, S2.



Analogies: –

55. **Fragmentary Suceveanu 2000, type L pitcher; rim and neck (Fig. 12/55).** Even oxidising firing. Coarse fabric, yellowish red (5YR 5/6); no slip applied; inclusions: numerous quartzite limestone particles, rare iron oxide grains and shell fragments.  
Dimensions: RD = 10 cm; MPD = 10.2 cm; PH = 5.2 cm; Th = 1.35 cm/0.9 cm.  
Context: BEID 79 Cetate, S2.  
Analogies: *Histria* (Streinu, Achim 2021, 138, cat. no. 44, Fig. 13/44); Niculițel (Gamureac, Topoleanu, Ailincăi 2023, 112, cat. no. 241, Fig. 24/241); *Tropaeum Traiani* (Bogdan-Cătănicu, Barnea 1979, 181, NII 4(3), Fig. 146/4.3).
56. **Fragmentary Suceveanu 2000, type L pitcher; ring base (Fig. 12/56).** Incomplete oxidising firing. Coarse fabric, red (2.5YR 5/6) with brown (7.5YR 5/3) core; reddish brown (2.5YR 5/4) slip on the exterior; inclusions: numerous quartzite particles and muscovite flakes, rarer limestone grains.  
Dimensions: FD = 11.5 cm; MPD = 12.3 cm; PH = 4.4 cm; Th = 0.5 cm.  
Context: BEID 79 Cetate, S2.  
Analogies: See cat. no. 35.
57. **Fragmentary Atlante H 2 plate; upper part of the profile (Fig. 12/57).** Even oxidising firing. Very fine fabric, light red (2.5YR 6/6); red (2.5YR 4/8) metallic slip applied on both surfaces; inclusions: rare quartzite and limestone particles, fine muscovite flakes.  
Dimensions: RD = 27 cm; MPD = 27.6 cm; PH = 4.3 cm; Th = 0.7 cm.  
Context: BEID 79 Cetate, S2.  
Analogies: *Argamum* (Mocanu 2021, 53, n. 137); Jijila (Stănescu *et alii* 2021, 170-171, cat. nos. 53-55, Fig. 16/53-55); Niculițel (Mocanu 2014, 69, cat. nos. 127-130, Pl. 17/127-130); *Tomis* (Băjenaru 2013, 45, cat. nos. 3-4, Pl. 2/3-4); *Troesmis* (Mocanu 2021, 53, cat. no. 26, Fig. 12/26; Waldner 2016, 251, cat. no. K 27, Taf. 2/K 27).
58. **Fragmentary Atlante H 2 plate; missing base (Fig. 13/58).** Even oxidising firing. Very fine fabric, light red (2.5YR 6/6); red (2.5YR 4/6) slip applied on both surfaces; inclusions: numerous quartzite, rarer limestone particles, fine muscovite flakes.  
Dimensions: RD = 24 cm; MPD = 24.4 cm; PH = 5.3 cm; Th = 0.5 cm/ 1.2 cm.  
Context: BEID 79 Cetate, S2.  
Analogies: See cat. no. 57.
59. **Fragmentary Atlante H 2 plate; complete profile (3 parts) (Fig. 13/59).** Even oxidising firing. Very fine fabric, light red (2.5YR 6/6); red (2.5YR 4/6) slip applied on both surfaces; inclusions: numerous quartzite and limestone particles, rare iron oxide grains, fine muscovite flakes.  
Dimensions: RD = 21 cm; MPD = 21.2 cm; H = 4.8 cm; FD = 10 cm; Th = 0.5 cm/1 cm.  
Context: BEID 79 Cetate, S2.  
Analogies: See cat. no. 57.
60. **Fragmentary Atlante H 2 plate; missing base (Fig. 13/60).** Even oxidising firing. Very fine fabric, red (2.5YR 5/6); red (2.5YR 4/8) slip applied on both surfaces; inclusions: limestone particles, rare quartzite, and fine muscovite flakes.  
Dimensions: RD = 20 cm; MPD = 20.2 cm; PH = 4.3 cm; Th = 0.5 cm.  
Context: BEID 79 Cetate, S2.

Analogies: See cat. no. 57.

61. **Fragmentary Atlante H 1 deep bowl; base (Fig. 13/61).** Even oxidising firing. Very fine fabric, light red (2.5YR 6/6); red (2.5YR 4/6) slip applied on both surfaces; inclusions: fine muscovite flakes, rare quartzite, limestone, and iron oxide particles.  
Dimensions: BD = 8 cm; MPD = 18.1 cm; PH = 5.2 cm; Th = 0.8 cm.  
Context: BEID 79 Cetate, S2.  
Analogies: *Athens* (Hayes 2008, 201, cat. no. 804 (P 34981), Fig. 25/804); *Knossos* (Hayes 1983, 118, Fig. 2/2; Sackett 1992, 251, U19, Pl. 191/19); *Troesmis* (Opaît 1980a, 357, cat. no. 56, Pl. X/3).
62. **Fragmentary Atlante L 19 bowl; upper part of the profile (Fig. 13/62).** Even oxidising firing. Very fine fabric, pink (7.5YR 7/4); red (2.5YR 4/6) slip applied on both surfaces; inclusions: quartzite and iron oxide grains, fine muscovite flakes.  
Dimensions: RD = 10.5 cm; MPD = 11.9 cm; PH = 4.5 cm; Th = 0.5 cm.  
Context: BEID 79 Cetate, S2.  
Analogies: *Histria* (Suceveanu 2000, 60, cat. no. 1, Pl. 22/1); Niculițel (Mocanu 2014, 68, cat. no. 120, Pl. 16/120); Sarichioi-Sărătura (Mocanu 2018, 78, cat. no. 3, Pl. III/3); *Tomis* (Băjenaru 2013, 45, cat. no. 5, Pl. 2/5); *Troesmis* (Waldner 2016, 250, cat. nos. K 16-22, Taf. 1/K 16-22).
63. **Fragmentary Atlante L 19 bowl; lower part of the profile (Fig. 13/63).** Even oxidising firing. Very fine fabric, light red (2.5YR 6/6); red (2.5YR 4/6) slip applied on both surfaces; inclusions: rare quartzite particles, fine muscovite flakes.  
Dimensions: BD = 5.6 cm; MPD = 13.6 cm; PH = 5.1 cm; Th = 0.5 cm.  
Context: BEID 79 Cetate, S2.  
Analogies: *Athens* (Hayes 2008, 199-200, cat. nos. 788 (P 9868) and 790 (P 31974), Fig. 24/788, 790); Sarichioi-Sărătura (Mocanu 2018, 78, cat. no. 34, Pl. III/4); *Tomis* (Băjenaru 2013, 45, cat. no. 5, Pl. 2/5).
64. **Fragmentary Honcu 2017, type I pot; rim (Fig. 13/64).** Even oxidising firing. Coarse fabric, kaolinitic, light grey (10YR 7/2); no slip applied; inclusions: numerous quartzite particles, rare iron oxide grains. Soot traces are observed on the outside.  
Dimensions: RD = could not be determined; L = 7.2 cm; PH = 4.6 cm; Th = 0.3 cm.  
Context: BEID 79 Cetate, S2.  
Analogies: See cat. no. 40.
65. **Fragmentary pot (?); base (Fig. 13/65).** Even oxidising firing. Coarse fabric, kaolinitic, light grey (10YR 7/2); no slip applied; inclusions: numerous quartzite particles, rarer iron oxide grains. Soot traces are observed on the outer surface.  
Dimensions: BD = 8 cm; MPD = 10.8 cm; PH = 2.2 cm; Th = 0.6 cm.  
Context: BEID 79 Cetate, S2.  
Analogies: *Beroe-Piatra Frecăței* (Rusu-Bolindeț *et alii* 2018, 259, cat. no. 720, sheet by M. Mocanu; for a one-handed pot); *Carsium* (Rusu-Bolindeț *et alii* 2018, 269, cat. no. 750, sheet by C. Neagu; for a small-sized pot); *Noviodunum* (Stănică, Streinu, Streinu 2021, 78, Pl. IV/18-19; for drinking vessels); *ICEM Tulcea* (Rusu-Bolindeț *et alii* 2018, 248, cat. no. 686, sheet by M. Mocanu; for a pinched-mouth pitcher).
66. **Fragmentary pot (?); base (Fig. 13/66).** Even reducing firing. Coarse fabric, kaolinitic, grey (10YR 5/1); no slip applied; inclusions: numerous quartzite particles. Soot traces are observed on the inner surface.

Dimensions: BD = 7 cm; MPD = 8.2 cm; PH = 1 cm; Th = 0.5 cm.

Context: BEID 79 Cetate, S2.

Analogies: See cat. no. 65.

67. **Fragmentary pot (?); base (Fig. 13/67).** Uneven oxidising firing. Coarse fabric, kaolinitic, very pale brown (10YR 7/3); grey (10YR 5/1) self-slip applied on outer surface; inclusions: numerous quartzite particles, rarer iron oxide grains. Soot traces are observed on the outer surface.

Dimensions: BD = 5.2 cm; MPD = 8.6 cm; PH = 2 cm; Th = 0.4 cm.

Context: BEID 79 Cetate, S2.

Analogies: See cat. no. 65.

68. **Fragmentary pot; lower part of the handle (Fig. 14/68).** Even oxidising firing. Coarse fabric, kaolinitic, pale brown (2.5YR 8/2); traces of light brown (7.5YR 6/4) slip on the exterior; inclusions: numerous quartzite and limestone, rarer iron oxide particles.

Dimensions: L = 6.8 cm; W = 4.7 cm; Whandle = 2.8 cm; Th = 0.4 cm; HTh = 0.9 cm.

Context: BEID 79 Cetate, S2.

Analogies: Jijila (Stănescu *et alii* 2021, 162, cat. no. 31, Fig. 11/31).

69. **Fragmentary pot; lower part of the handle (Fig. 14/69).** Even oxidising firing. Coarse fabric, kaolinitic, pale brown (2.5YR 8/2); no slip applied; inclusions: numerous quartzite and iron oxide particles, rarer limestone grains.

Dimensions: PH = 6.1 cm; Whandle = 2.4 cm; HTh = 0.7 cm.

Context: BEID 79 Cetate, S2.

Analogies: Jijila (Stănescu *et alii* 2021, 162, cat. no. 32, Fig. 11/32); Niculițel (Honcu 2014a, 89, cat. no. 203, Fig. 26/203).

70. **Fragmentary tray/pan; base (Fig. 14/70).** Even oxidising firing. Coarse fabric, kaolinitic, pale brown (10YR 6/3); no slip applied; inclusions: quartzite particles, rare limestone and iron oxide grains. Soot traces are observed on both sides of the vessel.

Dimensions: BD = 20 cm; MPD = 21 cm; PH = 2 cm; Th = 0.5 cm.

Context: BEID 79 Cetate, S2.

Analogies: *Drobeta* (Popilian 1976, 214, cat. nos. 843-844, and 847, Pl. LXIX/843-844, 847); *Durostorum* (Mușețeanu 2003, 113, cat. nos. 67 and 70, Pl. 39/67, 70); Jijila (Stănescu *et alii* 2021, 158, cat. no. 21, Fig. 10/21); *Nicopolis ad Istrum* (Sultov 1985, 84, Pl. XLII/1-4); *Romula* (Popilian 1976, 214, cat. no. 845, Pl. LXIX/845; Negru, Streinu 2016, 52, inv. no. 1885, Pl. 50/1885).

71. **Fragmentary Knossos type 2/Honcu 2017, type II casserole; upper part of the profile (Fig. 14/71).** Even oxidising firing. Coarse fabric, red (2.5YR 5/6); soot traces on the outside; no slip applied; inclusions: numerous quartzite and limestone particles, rare iron oxide grains, fine muscovite flakes.

Dimensions: RD = 22 cm; MPD = 22.1 cm; PH = 5.4 cm; Th = 0.4 cm.

Context: BEID 79 Cetate, S2.

Analogies: *Argamum* (Honcu 2016, 299-300, casseroles – type II, Pl. II/21); Beidaud – Roman settlement (Iliescu, Stănescu, Bottez 2022, 88 and 101, cat. no. 34, Fig. 11/34); *(L)Ibida* (Honcu 2017, 89, cat. no. 162, Pl. XVI/154); *Tomis* (Băjenaru 2013, 63-64, cat. no. 68, Pl. 9/68).

72. **Fragmentary Honcu 2017, type III lid; lower half of the profile (Fig. 14/72).** Incomplete oxidising firing. Coarse fabric, reddish yellow (5YR 6/6) with grey (2.5YR 6/1) core; no slip

applied; inclusions: numerous quartzite particles, sizable grog, rare bioclasts. Soot traces are observed on both sides, on the rim.

Dimensions: RD = 23 cm; MPD = 23.5 cm; PH = 2.4 cm; Th = 0.8 cm.

Context: BEID 79 Cetate, S2.

Analogies: Beidaud – Roman settlement (Iliescu, Stănescu, Bottez 2022, 101, cat. no. 35, Fig. 12/35); (*L*)*Ibida* (Honcu 2017, 133, cat. no. 312, Pl. XXXI/284); *Noviodunum* (Topoleanu, Gamureac 2021, 119, cat. no. 116).

73. **Fragmentary Honcu 2017, type III lid; lower half of the profile (Fig. 14/73).** Even oxidising firing. Coarse fabric, kaolinitic, light grey (2.5Y 7/2); no slip applied; inclusions: numerous quartzite, iron oxide particles, fine muscovite flakes.  
Dimensions: RD = 18 cm; MPD = 18.3 cm; PH = 2 cm; Th = 0.7 cm.  
Context: BEID 79 Cetate, S2.  
Analogies: See cat. no. 44.
74. **Fragmentary Honcu 2017, type III lid; lower half of the profile (Fig. 14/74).** Even oxidising firing. Coarse fabric, kaolinitic, very pale brown (10YR 7/3); no slip applied; inclusions: numerous quartzite particles, fine muscovite flakes, rare iron oxide grains. Soot traces are observed on both sides.  
Dimensions: RD = 18 cm; MPD = 18.1 cm; PH = 3.2 cm; Th = 0.5 cm.  
Context: BEID 79 Cetate, S2.  
Analogies: See cat. no. 44.
75. **Fragmentary Honcu 2017, type III lid; lower half of the profile (Fig. 14/75).** Even oxidising firing. Coarse fabric, kaolinitic, light grey (2.5Y 7/1); no slip applied; inclusions: numerous quartzite, rare limestone particles. Soot traces are observed on both sides.  
Dimensions: RD = 15 cm; MPD = 15.2 cm; PH = 2.6 cm; Th = 0.5 cm.  
Context: BEID 79 Cetate, S2.  
Analogies: See cat. no. 44.
76. **Fragmentary Honcu 2017, type III lid; knob (Fig. 14/76).** Even oxidising firing. Fine fabric, yellowish red (5YR 5/6); no slip applied; inclusions: fine gold mica flakes, rare quartzite and limestone particles.  
Dimensions: KD = 2.4 cm; MPD = 7 cm; PH = 2.5 cm; Th = 0.4 cm.  
Context: BEID 79 Cetate, S2.  
Analogies: (*L*)*Ibida* (Honcu 2017, 133, cat. nos. 314-315, Pl. XXXI/286-287); Niculițel (Honcu 2014a, 97, cat. nos. 238-239, Fig. 28/238-239; Gamureac, Topoleanu, Ailincăi 2023, 104, cat. no. 178, Fig. 19/178); *Noviodunum* (Topoleanu, Gamureac 2021, 118-119, cat. no. 116).
77. **Fragmentary spindle whorl; half (Fig. 14/77).** Uneven oxidising firing. Coarse fabric, dark grey (7.5YR 4/1) interior and light brown (7.5 YR 6/4) exterior; no slip applied; inclusions: sizable quartzite particles, rare limestone grains, fine muscovite flakes.  
Dimensions: BD = 2.8 cm; MPD = 3.6 cm; PH = 2 cm; Th = 1.4 cm; Dint = 0.8 cm.  
Context: BEID 79 Cetate, S2.  
Analogies: *Beroe*-Piatra Frecăței (Petre 1987, 39, A 263, Fig. 108e); *Capidava* (Oprîș, Rațiu 2017, 131, cat. no. 149, Pl. 25/149); Caričin Grad (Bavant, Ivanišević 2019, 142-143, cat. nos. 1323, 1328, Pl. XXIX/1323, 1328); *Nicopolis ad Istrum* (Falkner 2007, 97-99, cat. no. 6.92, Fig. 6.6.92); Sadovec (Uenze 1992, 449, cat. B 331, Taf. 14/44; 477, cat. D. 94, Taf. 14/41; 534, cat. SK 197, Taf. 14/43).

*c. Passim*

78. **Fragmentary Heracleian narrow-necked light-clay amphora; handle (Fig. 15/78).** Even oxidising firing. Semi-fine fabric, pink (7.5YR 7/4); no slip applied; inclusions: pyroxenes, iron oxide particles, quartzite grains.  
Dimensions: Lhandle = 6.4 cm; Whandle = 3.8 cm; HTh = 2.5 cm.  
Context: BEID *passim*.  
Analogies: *Panticapaeum* (Голофаст 2010, 85, рис. 3/1, 25; 104, рис. 29/5); *Troesmis* (Opaït 1980b, 301-302, variant B<sub>1</sub>, Pl. VII/3).
79. **Fragmentary Heracleian narrow-necked light-clay amphora; handle (Fig. 15/79).** Even oxidising firing. Semi-fine fabric, pink (7.5YR 7/4); no slip applied; inclusions: pyroxenes, iron oxide particles, quartzite grains.  
Dimensions: Lhandle = 6.4 cm; Whandle = 3.8 cm; HTh = 2.5 cm.  
Context: BEID *passim*.  
Analogies: *Panticapaeum* (Голофаст 2010, 84-85, рис. 3/20); *Tanais* (Науменко 2012, 69, рис. 12/5).
80. **Fragmentary Troesmis X amphora; rim and neck (Fig. 15/80).** Even oxidising firing. Coarse fabric, red (2.5YR 5/8); no slip applied; inclusions: numerous quartzite and gold mica particles, grog.  
Dimensions: RD = 16 cm; MPD = 19 cm; PH = 5.2 cm; Th = 1.15 cm.  
Context: BEID *passim*.  
Analogies: *Dinogetia* (Opaït, Grigoraş 2022, 63, inv. no. 1138, Pl. 14/1138); Niculiţel (Nuţu, Stanc, Paraschiv 2014, 58, cat. no. 74, Pl. 12/74); Topolog (Nuţu, Mihăilescu-Bîrliba 2018, 92, cat. no. 6, Fig. 7/6); *Troesmis* (Waldner 2016, 323, cat. no. K 917, Taf. 37/K 917).
81. **Fragmentary Troesmis X amphora; rim and neck (Fig. 15/81).** Incomplete oxidising firing. Coarse fabric, red (2.5YR 5/8) exterior and grey (2.5YR 5/1) core; no slip applied; inclusions: fine quartzite particles, muscovite flakes, rare limestone grains.  
Dimensions: RD = 13 cm; MPD = 16.8 cm; PH = 11.2 cm; Th = 1.2 cm/1.6 cm.  
Context: BEID 76 Cetate, *passim*.  
Analogies: See cat. no. 80.
82. **Fragmentary Troesmis X amphora; rim and neck (Fig. 15/82).** Incomplete oxidising firing. Semi-fine fabric, red (2.5YR 5/8); no slip applied; inclusions: numerous quartzite particles, rare limestone and iron oxide grains, fine muscovite flakes.  
Dimensions: RD = 12 cm; MPD = 15.2 cm; PH = 7.2 cm; Th = 1 cm/1.8 cm.  
Context: BEID 76 Cetate, *passim*.  
Analogies: See cat. no. 80.
83. **Fragmentary Troesmis X amphora; rim (Fig. 15/83).** Complete oxidising firing. Semi-fine fabric, brown (7.5YR 5/4); no slip applied; inclusions: fine quartzite and limestone particles, muscovite flakes, rare pyroxene particles.  
Dimensions: RD = 17 cm; MPD = 19.4 cm; PH = 4 cm; Th = 1.2 cm/1.8 cm.  
Context: BEID 76 Cetate, *passim*.

Analogies: *Argamum* (Paraschiv 2006b, 293, cat. nos. 11-12, Pl. I/11-12); *Dinogetia* (Opaiț, Grigoraș 2022, 63, inv. no. 1190, Pl. 15/1190); *Troesmis* (Waldner 2016, 323, cat. nos. K 914, 918 and 921, Taf. 37/K 914, 918, 921).

84. **Fragmentary Troesmis X amphora; rim and neck (Fig. 15/84).** Complete oxidising firing. Semi-fine fabric, red (2.5YR 5/6); reddish brown (2.5YR 5/4) slip applied on both surfaces; inclusions: numerous quartzite particles, rare limestone and mica flakes (silver and gold). Dimensions: RD = 13 cm; MPD = 15.5 cm; PH = 4.6 cm; Th = 1.1 cm/1.6 cm. Context: BEID 76 Cetate, *passim*. Analogies: See cat. no. 21.
85. **Fragmentary Dressel 24 similis amphora; rim (Fig. 15/85).** Even oxidising firing. Semi-fine fabric, greyish brown (10YR 5/2); light grey (10YR 7/2) self-slip; inclusions: quartzite particles, muscovite flakes, rare limestone particles, crushed shell fragments. Dimensions: RD = 12 cm; MPD = 13.6 cm; PH = 6.5 cm; Th = 0.8 cm/1.6 cm. Context: BEID 76 Cetate, *passim*. Analogies: *Callatis* (Opaiț, Ionescu 2016, 68, KT 10, Pl. XIII/76); *Dinogetia* (Opaiț, Grigoraș 2022, 105, inv. no. 2051, Pl. 73/2051); *Noviodunum* (Simion 1984, 84, Pl. XII/1); *Troesmis* (Opaiț 1980b, 296, type III A, Pl. IV/5).
86. **Fragmentary Atlante H 1 deep bowl; upper part of the profile (Fig. 16/86).** Even oxidising firing. Fine fabric, light red (2.5YR 6/6); red (2.5YR 4/6) slip on both surfaces; inclusions: fine limestone and quartzite particles, rare muscovite flakes. Dimensions: RD = 25 cm; MPD = 26.9 cm; PH = 3 cm; Th = 0.45 cm/1.1 cm. Context: BEID 76 Cetate, *passim*. Analogies: *Athens* (Hayes 2008, 200, cat. no. 801 (P 25219), Fig. 25/801); *Iluraton* (Zhuravlev 2002, 245, Fig. 4/6); *Knossos* (Hayes 1983, 118, Fig. 2/2; Sackett 1992, 232, cat. D3.4a, Pl. 174/4a; 251, cat. U18, Pl. 191/18a-b); Niculițel (Mocanu 2021, 52, cat. no. 18, Fig. 10/18); *Troesmis* (Waldner 2016, 251, cat. no. K 26, Taf. 2/K 26).
87. **Fragmentary Atlante I/Zhuravlev 2010, types 1-4 plate; body shard (Fig. 16/87).** Even oxidising firing. Fine fabric, red (2.5YR 5/6); red (2.5YR 4/6) slip with weak red (2.5YR 4/2) traces on both surfaces; inclusions: fine muscovite flakes, limestone particles. Dimensions: L = 5.4 cm; W = 2.9 cm; PH = 2.1 cm; Th = 0.4 cm. Context: BEID 76 Cetate, *passim*. Analogies: *Aegyssus* (Mocanu, Nuțu 2023, 206, Pl. VI/8-9); *Belbek* (Журавлев 2010, 131-132, cat. nos. 62, 69, 73, Pls. 11/62, and 12/69, 73; 134, cat. nos. 86-87, 89, 92-94, Pls. 14/86-87, and 15/89, 92-94; 135-136, cat. nos. 101, 104, 108, Pls. 17/101, 104, and 18/108); *Histria* (Băjenaru 2014, 112, cat. no. 62, Fig. 5/62; Suceveanu 2000, 65, cat. no. 12, Pl. 23/12); Sarichioi-Sărătura (Mocanu 2018, 79, cat. nos. 11-12, Pls. III/11, and IV/12); *Tomis* (Băjenaru 2013, 50, cat. nos. 12-13, Pl. 3/12-13).
88. **Fragmentary EPRS Mocanu 2021, Form 4 bowl; rim (Fig. 16/88).** Even oxidising firing. Fine fabric, red (2.5YR 5/8); red (2.5YR 5/6) slip partially visible on the inside; inclusions: fine muscovite flakes, rare limestone and quartzite particles. Dimensions: RD = 22 cm; MPD = 22.8 cm; PH = 2 cm; Th = 0.6 cm. Context: BEID 76 Cetate, *passim*.

Analogies: Jijila (Stănescu *et alii* 2021, 174, cat. no. 69, Fig. 16/69); (*L*)*Ibida* (Mocanu 2022, 104, Form 4, Fig. 5/31); Niculițel (Mocanu 2014, 73, cat. no. 148, Fig. 20/148).

89. **Fragmentary Suceveanu 2000, type XVIII bowl; rim (Fig. 16/89).** Even oxidising firing. Fine fabric, red (2.5YR 5/6); slip of the same colour applied on both surfaces; inclusions: fine muscovite flakes, quartzite, limestone and iron oxide particles.

Dimensions: RD = 23 cm; MPD = 23.5 cm; PH = 2.5 cm; Th = 0.55 cm.

Context: BEID 76 Cetate, *passim*.

Analogies: *Histria* (Suceveanu 2000, 71-73, 76, cat. nos. 9-11, 14, 19, 48, Pls. 26/9-11, 14; 27/19; 28/48; Streinu, Achim 2021, 143, cat. no. 86, Fig. 17/86); Niculițel (Gamureac, Topoleanu, Ailincăi 2023, 83, cat. no. 20, Fig. 6/20); *Noviodunum* (Topoleanu, Gamureac 2021, 96, cat. no. 20); Poiana (Rusu-Bolindeț *et alii* 2018, 207, cat. no. 564, sheet by C. Băjenaru and C. Vlad).

90. **Fragmentary Suceveanu 2000, type XVIII bowl; rim (Fig. 16/90).** Even oxidising firing. Fine fabric, red (2.5YR 5/6); red (2.5YR 5/8) slip applied on both surfaces; inclusions: limestone and iron oxide particles, rare quartzite, fine muscovite flakes.

Dimensions: RD = 18 cm; MPD = 18.6 cm; PH = 2.3 cm; Th = 0.4 cm.

Context: BEID 76 Cetate, *passim*.

Analogies: See cat. no. 89.

91. **Fragmentary Suceveanu 2000, type V B bowl; rim (Fig. 16/91).** Even oxidising firing. Fine fabric, reddish yellow (5YR 6/6); red slip (2.5YR 4/6) applied on both surfaces; inclusions: quartzite and limestone particles, rare muscovite flakes.

Dimensions: RD = 13 cm; MPD = 13.5 cm; PH = 3.5 cm; Th = 0.45 cm.

Context: BEID 76 Cetate, *passim*.

Analogies: *Histria* (Suceveanu 2000, 21-23, cat. nos. 4, 19, 24, Pl. 3/4, 19, 24); Poiana (Rusu-Bolindeț *et alii*, 208, cat. no. 568, sheet by C. Băjenaru and C. Vlad); *Tropaeum Traiani* (Bogdan-Cătănciu, Barnea 1979, 180, NII 2(4), Fig. 143/2.4).

92. **Fragmentary EPRS Mocanu 2021, Form 3 plate; rim (Fig. 16/92).** Even oxidising firing. Fine fabric, red (2.5YR 5/6); weak red slip (2.5YR 4/2) applied on both surfaces; inclusions: fine muscovite flakes, limestone particles.

Dimensions: RD = 14 cm; MPD = 14.4 cm; PH = 1.6 cm; Th = 0.3 cm.

Context: BEID 76 Cetate, *passim*.

Analogies: *Histria* (Suceveanu 2000, type XVII, 64-65, cat. no. 8, Pl. 8; 66, cat. nos. 20-21, Pl. 24/20-21; Băjenaru 2014, 109, cat. no. 26, Fig. 3/26; Streinu, Achim 2021, 144, cat. no. 92, Fig. 18/92); (*L*)*Ibida* (Mocanu 2022, 103-104, Form 2, Fig. 5/30); Niculițel (Gamureac, Topoleanu, Ailincăi 2023, 82, cat. no. 10, Fig. 5/10); *Tomis* (Rusu-Bolindeț *et alii* 2018, 206, cat. no. 562, sheet by C. Băjenaru and C. Vlad); *Troesmis* (Opaț 1980a, 358, cat. no. 65, Pl. XIV/1); Yambol (Alexandrova 2013, 44-45, type VI-I, nos. 137, 139, 145, 155-157).

93. **Fragmentary Suceveanu 2000, type VI B bowl; upper part of the profile (Fig. 16/93).** Even oxidising firing. Fine fabric, red (2.5YR 5/6); same colour, metallic slip applied on exterior, while reddish brown (2.5YR 5/4) applied on interior surface; inclusions: fine muscovite flakes, rare quartzite and limestone particles.

Dimensions: RD = 16 cm; MPD = 17.6 cm; PH = 2.1 cm; Th = 0.4 cm.

Context: BEID 76 Cetate, *passim*.

Analogies: Acic Suat (Mușat-Streinu 2017, 290, cat. no. 14, Fig. 5/14); Beidaud – Roman settlement (Iliescu, Stănescu, Bottez 2022, 102-103, cat. nos. 43-44, Figs. 12/42 and 13/43); *Histria* (Suceveanu 2000, type VI, 32-34, cat. nos. 32-46, Pl. 9/32-46; Băjenaru 2014, 109, cat. no. 30, Fig. 3/30; 113, cat. no. 69, Fig. 5/69); *Tomis* (Băjenaru 2013, 52-53, cat. nos. 25-31, Pl. 4/25-31; Rusu-Bolindeț *et alii* 2018, 210, cat. nos. 572 and 574; sheets by C. Băjenaru and L. Nedelea).

94. **Fragmentary bowl/plate; base shard (Fig. 16/94).** Even oxidising firing. Fine fabric, yellowish red (5YR 5/8); red (2.5YR 5/6) slip applied on interior; inclusions: muscovite flakes, rare quartzite particles. The vessel preserves two rouletting bands on the inside.  
Dimensions: L = 4.7 cm; W = 5.1 cm; Th = 0.6 cm.  
Context: BEID 76, *passim*.  
Analogies: –
95. **Fragmentary jug; ring base (Fig. 17/95).** Even oxidising firing. Fine fabric, yellowish red (5YR 5/6); no slip applied; inclusions: numerous limestone particles, rare muscovite flakes and quartzite.  
Dimensions: BD = 9 cm; MPD = 11.5 cm; PH = 2 cm; Th = 0.7 cm.  
Context: BEID 76 Cetate, *passim*.  
Analogies: –
96. **Fragmentary mug; base (Fig. 17/96).** Even oxidising firing. Fine fabric, yellowish red (5YR 5/6); greyish brown (10YR 5/2) self-slip on the outside; inclusions: fine muscovite flakes, rare quartzite, limestone, and iron oxide grains.  
Dimensions: BD = 3.1 cm; MPD = 6.8 cm; PH = 2 cm; Th = 0.4 cm.  
Context: BEID 76 Cetate, *passim*.  
Analogies: Similar to cat. no. 12.
97. **Fragmentary jug/mug; base (Fig. 17/97).** Even oxidising firing. Fine fabric, reddish brown (5YR 5/4); pale brown (10YR 6/3) self-slip; inclusions: numerous quartzite particles, rare limestone and iron oxide grains.  
Dimensions: RD = 9 cm; MPD = 1.8 cm; PH = 2.5 cm; Th = 0.5 cm.  
Context: N/A. Inv. no. 18909.  
Analogies: –
98. **Fragmentary Suceveanu 2000, type XXXV pot; rim and handle (Fig. 17/98).** Even oxidising firing. Coarse fabric, yellowish red (5YR 4/6); no slip applied; inclusions: numerous quartzite and limestone grains, rare muscovite flakes. Shallow soot traces are observed on the rim.  
Dimensions: Rim: L = 2.6 cm; W = 3 cm; PH = 3 cm; Th = 1.4/0.6 cm; Handle: L = 2.5 cm; W = 2.4 cm; HTh = 0.9 cm.  
Context: BEID 78, *passim*.  
Analogies: Acic Suat (Mușat-Streinu 2017, 291-292, cat. nos. 21-24, Fig. 6/22-24); *Callatis* (Opaiț, Ionescu 2016, 74, KT 17, and 150-151, Pls. XXII/129, and XXIII/130-131); Cogea lac (Lungu, Bounegru, Avram 1990, 170, Fig. 7/2); Fântânele (Angelescu 1998, 221, cat. nos. 10-11, Pl. VII/10-11; 223, cat. no. 41, Pl. IX/41; 225, cat. no. 73, Pl. X/73; 227, cat. no. 101, Pl. XII/101); *Histria* (Suceveanu 2000, 113-117, Pls. 48-50; Streinu, Achim 2021, 147-148, cat. nos. 109-112, Fig. 26/109-112); *Tomis* (Băjenaru 2013, 65, cat. no. 80, Pl. 10/80); *Tropaeum Traiani* (Bogdan-Cătănciu, Barnea 1979, 182, NII 5(2), Fig. 146/5.2).



99. **Fragmentary Knossos type 2/Honcu 2017, type II casserole; upper part of the profile (Fig. 17/99).** Even oxidising firing. Fine fabric, yellowish red (5YR 5/6); dark reddish grey (5YR 4/2) self-slip on the outside; inclusions: quartzite, limestone and muscovite flakes. Dimensions: RD = 22 cm; MPD = 22.2; PH = 5.5 cm; Th = 0.5 cm. Context: N/A. Inv. no. 18123. Analogies: See cat. no. 71.
100. **Fragmentary Sultov 1985, Type 3a casserole; upper part of the profile (Fig. 17/100).** Even oxidising firing. Coarse fabric, yellowish red (5YR 4/6); no slip applied; inclusions: numerous limestone particles and iron oxide grains. Soot traces are observed on the outside. Dimensions: RD = 19 cm; MPD = 19.2 cm; PH = 4.3 cm; Th = 0.7 cm/0.4 cm; HTh = 0.75 cm. Context: BEID *passim*. Analogies: *Nicopolis ad Istrum* (Sultov 1985, 86, Type 3a, Pl. XLIII/5); Niculițel (Gamureac, Topoleanu, Ailincăi 2023, 90, cat. no. 65, Fig. 10/65); *Romula* (Negru, Streinu 2016, 53, no. 1881, Pl. 53/1881); *Troesmis* (Opaiț 1980a, 348-351, cat. no. 4, Pl. I/4).
101. **Fragmentary Baumann 1995, type I/Băjenaru 2018, type 6A casserole; rim (Fig. 17/101).** Even oxidising firing. Coarse fabric, very pale brown (10YR 8/3); light brown (7.5YR 6/4) self-slip on the outside; inclusions: numerous quartzite grains, fine muscovite flakes. Dimensions: RD = 16 cm; MPD = 19.6 cm; PH = 2.1 cm; Th = 0.6 cm. Context: BEID 77 Cetate, *passim*. Analogies: Beidaud – Roman settlement (Iliescu, Stănescu, Bottez 2022, 97, cat. no. 8, Fig. 8/8); Telița (Baumann 1995, 408, type I, Pl. IV/1); *Tropaeum Traiani* (Bogdan-Cătănicu, Barnea 1979, 181, NII 2(27), Fig. 144/2.27; 183, NIII 2(13), Fig. 151/2.13).

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# ROMAN LAMPS FROM THE EXTRAMURAL AREA OF AEGYSSUS

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Vlad CIUR

"Gavrilă Simion" Eco-Museum Research Institute, Tulcea, Romania

ciurvlad@gmail.com

ORCID ID: 0009-0005-3320-8128

**Abstract:** In 2018, a rescue excavation that took place in the town of Tulcea, Tulcea county, Romania, offered new data regarding the habitation in the area around the ancient fortification of Aegyssus. At the property situated on Berzei Street no. 3, several artifacts dating from the Hellenistic period and up to the Early Byzantine period were unearthed. In this paper, we will focus on the lamps discovered during this excavation, out of which 11 specimens were chosen for a more detailed discussion about their production, circulation and iconography.

**Rezumat:** În 2018, o săpătură de salvare care a avut loc în orașul Tulcea, județul Tulcea, România, a oferit noi date cu privire la locuirea din jurul fortificației antice Aegyssus. La proprietatea situată pe strada Berzei nr. 3, au fost descoperite mai multe artefacte datând din perioada elenistică până în perioada bizantină timpurie. În acest articol, ne vom concentra asupra lămpilor descoperite în cadrul acestei săpături, din care 11 exemplare au fost alese pentru o discuție mai detaliată despre producția, circulația și iconografia lor.

**Keywords:** Moesia Inferior, Roman lamps, ancient habitation, Aegyssus, local production.

**Cuvinte cheie:** Moesia Inferior, lămpi romane, locuire antică, Aegyssus, producție locală.

## INTRODUCTION

Under the Monument Hill, in the modern town of Tulcea, in Dobruja region, Romania, lay the ruins of the ancient city *Aegyssus*. Due to its geographical position (Fig. 1), the fortress played a significant strategic role in the defensive system of the Danubian *limes* for the majority of its existence under the Roman authority.

Down the hill, the extramural settlements are now completely covered, and unfortunately destroyed, by the modern houses and streets constructed in a chaotic urbanistic development. While the intramural area of *Aegyssus* continues to be studied through systematic archaeological research, it is only through rescue excavations that we can obtain new information regarding the development of communities from outside the city walls.

Over the years, these offered valuable evidence for the presence and evolution of extramural settlements, and the correlation of already acquired data with future finds will be of great help in constructing a more detailed overview. We briefly mention the previously conducted excavations at Gloriei Street no. 62<sup>1</sup> and Veseliei Street no. 9<sup>2</sup>,

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<sup>1</sup> Nuțu, Costea 2010.

where important discoveries related to ancient habitation were made. In this paper, we will focus on another excavation situated in the vicinity of these plots, on Berzei Street, particularly on the lamps found there<sup>3</sup>.

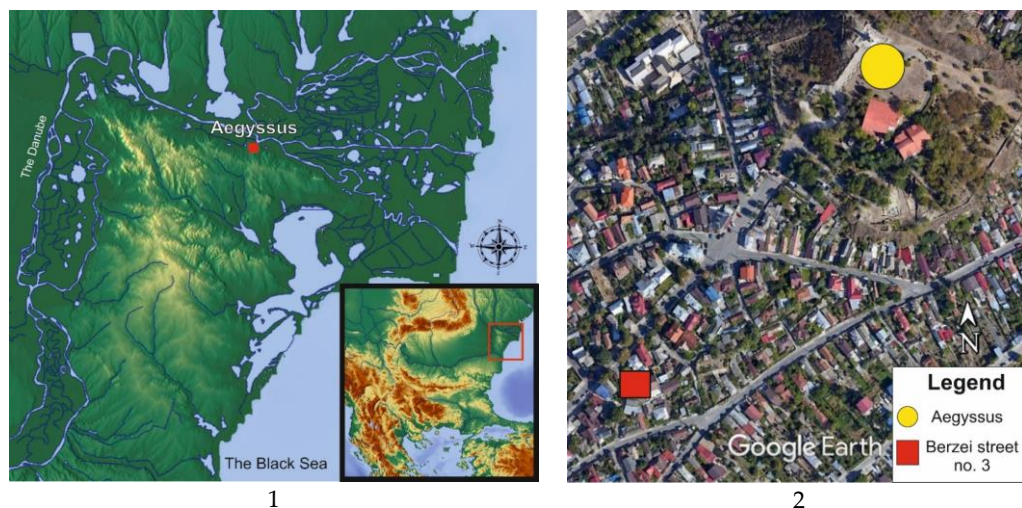


Fig. 1. Map of the geographical location of Aegyssus (1); The placement of Berzei Street no. 3 plot (2) (Google Earth).

## THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

A rescue excavation was undertaken in the spring of 2018, at the property situated on Berzei Street no. 3 in Tulcea (Fig. 1), located at approximately 200 m south-west of the ancient city<sup>4</sup>. There, three sections oriented approximately on the east-west axis were excavated, in which the traces of two parallel walls, **Z1** and **Z2**, were found (Pl. 2). Unfortunately, these two segments were almost completely dismantled by modern interventions. Due to the recent habitation in the area, the ancient building was severely damaged, to the point in which the elevation and the functionality of this edifice is unknown.

Besides the two walls, other 13 archaeological features were unearthed, consisting of household pits and hearths. Almost all of the lamp fragments come from

<sup>2</sup> Paraschiv, Stănică 2004.

<sup>3</sup> From a total number of 18 fragmentary lamps we've selected 11 for this discussion, mainly because the poor state of preservation of the other 7 pieces does not allow us to group them in a typological category, nor could we draw any significant conclusions regarding them.

<sup>4</sup> This excavation was previously discussed in Mocanu, Nuțu 2023, 203-204 and in Nuțu 2022, 129-131.

the filling of one feature (Cx 12), a 2.65 × 2.15 m waste pit, where the most of the finds were also discovered. The depth at which the feature was discovered was -2.20/-2.30m. The pit itself is of semi-circular shape and stepped towards the center, with a depth of 1.30-1.50 m. The fill of the feature consists of brown soil with yellowish microlayers, brick pigment and ash<sup>5</sup>.

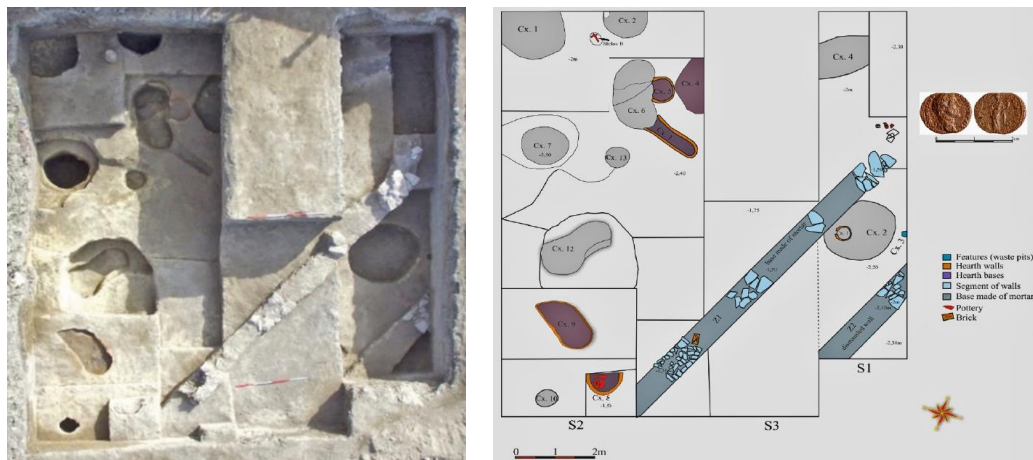


Fig. 2. Drone view and ground plan of the excavation (after Mocanu, Nuțu 2023, 214, Pl. II).

A coin issued by Antoninus Pius dates it to the middle/second half of the 2<sup>nd</sup> century AD. Alongside the lamps, in Cx. 12 were found multiple pottery fragments of tableware, drinking vessels and terracotta figurines, as well as two pieces from a potential altar or a statute base<sup>6</sup>. The majority of the fragments can be dated to the first three centuries AD, mainly the 2<sup>nd</sup> century AD, but sporadic elements of Hellenistic and Late Roman period (4<sup>th</sup> century onwards) are present as well.

The finds from this survey correlate with the other rescue excavations mentioned above, located near the plot from Berzei Street no. 3, where archaeological materials from ancient habitation levels were also uncovered. However, it was only on the Berzei Street that ancient building structures were unveiled. At Gloriei Street no. 62 and Veseliei no. 9, both of them being located very near the plot on Berzei Street no. 3, a significant number of diverse pottery fragments were found. These excavations provide important evidence for the presence of extramural habitation, as well as the

<sup>5</sup> Mocanu, Nuțu 2023, 203-204; Nuțu 2022, 130-131.

<sup>6</sup> Nuțu 2022, 131-135.

influx of imported goods from different regions of the Roman Empire such as Asia Minor, Gaul, Greece, Italy, the Levant and Northern Africa<sup>7</sup> into the area.

## CATALOGUE

### A. Lamps with angular nozzle and volutes (Loeschcke Type I)

These lamps are amongst the earliest such products of the Roman imperial period, their manufacturing starting in the Italic Peninsula, at the end of the 1<sup>st</sup> century BC and continuing up to the 3<sup>rd</sup> century AD. The angular nozzle is inspired by the lamps of the Hellenistic period, made initially in Greek workshops and, through trade, eventually reaching Italy where the romans made similar specimens<sup>8</sup>.

Two volutes accentuate the nozzle and separate it from the body of the lamps. The shoulder of these specimens is narrow, the discus is marked by one or multiple circular grooves and it is usually decorated by a variety of motifs. According to S. Loeschcke, a more precise chronology for the variants of this type can be proposed based on the shape of the nozzle and the size of it in relation with the rest of the lamp<sup>9</sup>. However, as D. M. Bailey points out, this approach should be made with caution<sup>10</sup>. The iconographic repertoire of this type is impressively various, with depictions of gods, mythological characters, everyday life, zoomorphic and naturalistic representations etc.

1. **Description:** Almost complete lamp, the handle is missing and the discus is broken. Circular small body, narrow shoulder with a circular incised groove separating it from the slightly concave discus. Some parts of the decoration are still barely noticeable, resembling the lower and upper parts of a staff (*thyrsus?*), but the representation is undistinguishable due to the poor preservation state. Short nozzle, flanked by volutes. Soot traces on the nozzle and the body. Flat ring-base. Poorly executed, made using worn moulds. The firing and the slip are uneven (Fig. 3/1).

**Context:** S I, Cx 4.

**Dimensions**<sup>11</sup>: L= 7.05 cm; W= 4.67 cm; H= 2.5 cm; Db= 2.3 cm; Dd=3.5 cm; Dfh= 1.1 cm; Dwh= 1.01 cm.

**Colour:** Clay: 2.5YR 6/8 (light red).

**Dating:** 1<sup>st</sup>-2<sup>nd</sup> centuries AD.

<sup>7</sup> See Mocanu 2023; Mocanu, Nuțu 2023; Nuțu, Costea 2010.

<sup>8</sup> Broneer 1930, 79.

<sup>9</sup> Loeschcke 1919, 24-26.

<sup>10</sup> Bailey 1980, 126.

<sup>11</sup> Abbreviations used for the dimensions in the catalogue: L= length; Lp= preserved length; W= width, Wp= preserved width; H= height; Hp= preserved height; Dd= discus diameter; Db= base diameter; Dfh= filling-hole diameter; Dwh= wick-hole diameter; Hw= handle width.

**Analogies:** Alicu, Nemeş 1977, 38, cat. no. 3, Pl. I/3; Кузманов 1992, 18, cat. no. 51; Loeschcke 1919, 25, Abb. 1/Type I variant B; Menzel 1969, 30, cat. no. 109, Abb27/1.

**Origin:** Provincial workshop.

## B. Lamps with rounded nozzle and volutes (Loeschcke Type IV)

Similar with the above-mentioned type, the main differences are the shape of the nozzle and the volutes. In the case of Loeschcke Type IV, the nozzle is circular, and both volutes have inverted tips, rather than just one inverted tip as in the case of Type I. Their production began in Italy in the early years of the Augustan period<sup>12</sup>, and they are found until the second half of the third century<sup>13</sup>. From a morphological point of view, lamps of this type have various shapes (the discus and the nozzle can vary in size and proportions) and the specimens can be with or without handles<sup>14</sup>. They were produced both in the western and eastern workshops.

2. **Description:** Almost complete lamp (part of the discus is broken), circular body, undecorated shoulder, slightly concave and broken discus, marked by three circular grooves. The decoration is still distinguishable and it depicts a centrally placed altar (*ara*) with flames on top, flanked by an *oinochoe* (to the right) and a *patera* (to the left). Ogival elongated nozzle, flanked by two rounded tip volutes with a trefoil motif in the middle. Filling-hole partially preserved, placed in the lower field. Pierced lamellar handle. Flat ring-base, with a *planta pedis* motif. Uniform slip and overall good quality (Fig. 3/2).

**Context:** S I, Cx 4.

**Dimensions:** L= 10.4 cm; W= 6.5 cm; H= 2.28 cm/3.63 cm; Db= 3.6 cm; Dd= 4.8 cm; Dwh= 1.10 cm; Hw= 0.8 cm.

**Colour:** Clay: 10R 7/8 (light red); slip: 2.5YR 5/8 (red).

**Dating:** 1<sup>st</sup>- 2<sup>nd</sup> centuries AD.

**Analogies:** Identical in shape and decoration with two specimens from *Noviodunum*: Baumann 2009, 226, cat. no. 15 and 16.

**Origin:** Import (Italy?).

## C. Lamps with circular reservoir and short nozzle (Loeschcke Type VIII)

One of the most popular and wide spread types, its simple shape and the visual versatility offered by the discus resulted in a production of various specimens throughout all the Empire. At the same time, the diverse styles of the nozzle present in this type (circular, semi-circular, heart-shaped etc.) led to multiple established

<sup>12</sup> Loeschcke 1919, 37.

<sup>13</sup> Loeschcke 1919, 38.

<sup>14</sup> Bailey 1988, 154-183.

variants<sup>15</sup>. The lamps in our catalogue of which the nozzle or parts of it are still visible are of Loeschcke's H, K and R variants.<sup>16</sup>

3. **Description:** Fragmentary lamp, preserved in half. Circular body, undecorated narrow shoulder, slightly convex discus marked by a circular incised groove. On the discus part of the decoration is visible, resembling a curved tail and two legs of an animal (possibly a monkey). Short heart-shaped nozzle. Flat ring-base. Unevenly applied slip (Fig. 3/3).

**Context:** S I, Cx 4.

**Dimensions:** Lp= 6.56 cm; Wp= 3.4 cm; H= 2.4 cm.

**Colour:** Clay: 5YR 6/1 (gray), slip: 7.5YR 4/1 (dark gray).

**Dating:** 2<sup>nd</sup>-3<sup>rd</sup> centuries AD.

**Analogies:** Loeschcke 1919, Type VII; Ionomu 1967, type XX; Кузманов 1992, 26, cat. no. 142.

**Origin:** Import (?).

4. **Description:** Almost complete lamp, the nozzle and handle are missing and part of the discus is broken. Circular body, with a narrow, inclined shoulder decorated by a row of ovoids placed in a radial pattern. The discus is slightly concave, marked by two circular lines. Convex ring-base. Traces of soot from the usage of the lamps are visible in the nozzle area. Fine clay, with few mica and limestone inclusions. A thin layer of slip is still preserved (Fig. 3/4).

**Context:** S II, Cx 12.

**Dimensions:** L= 6.55 cm; w= 5.3 cm; H= 2.25 cm; Db= 3.05 cm; Dd= 3.7 cm.

**Colour:** 2.5 YR 6/8 (light red); slip: 2.5YR 5/6 (red).

**Dating:** 2<sup>nd</sup> century AD.

**Analogies:** Bailey 1988, 342. Q 2746, Pl. 84; Loeschcke 1919, 31, Type VIII, Abb. 7/Variant R.

**Origin:** Import (Asia Minor?).

5. **Description:** Fragmentary lamp, part of the discus and the handle are preserved. Circular discus, decorated by a rosette of which 12 petals are visible. Short and undecorated shoulder. Lamellar, not pierced handle, with two perpendicular incised grooves. Filling-hole placed centrally, in the middle of the motif (Fig. 4/5).

**Context:** S I, Cx 4.

**Dimensions:** Lp= 6.8 cm; Wp= 6 cm; Dfh= 0.6 cm; Hw= 1.1 cm.

**Colour:** Clay: 2.5YR 7/8 (light red); slip: 2.5YR 5/4 (reddish brown).

**Dating:** 2<sup>nd</sup>-3<sup>rd</sup> centuries AD.

**Analogies:** Bailey 1988, 343, Q2747, Pl. 84; Кузманов, Минчев 2018, 64, cat. no. 176 and Tbl. XIII; Ionomu 1967, 109, cat. no. 550, Fig. 131.

**Origin:** Provincial (?).

6. **Description:** Fragmentary lamp, part of the reservoir and the handle are preserved. Circular body, with a concave, undecorated shoulder. The discus is almost entirely broken, on its upper part a small trace of the decoration is still visible, but due to the fragmentary state it is

<sup>15</sup> For a detailed overview see Loeschcke 1919, Type VIII, 49-66.

<sup>16</sup> Loeschcke 1919, 31, Abb. 7.



undistinguishable. Annular pierced handle, with traces of soot on it. Flat ring-base. Fine clay with limestone particles. Heavily worn slip (Fig. 4/6).

**Context:** S II, Cx 12.

**Dimensions:** Lp= 2.25 cm; Wp= 6.23 cm; Db= 3.75 cm; Hw= 0.8 cm; H= 2.6/4.47 cm.

**Colour:** Clay: 2.5YR 6/8 (light red); slip: 10R 5/8 (red).

**Dating:** 2<sup>nd</sup>-3<sup>rd</sup> centuries AD.

**Analogies:** Bauman 2009, Type VII; Кузманов, Минчев 2018, Type XXVII, Variant 5; Topoleanu 2016, 72, cat. no. 14, Pl. II.

**Origin:** Provincial workshop (?).

7. **Description:** Fragmentary lamp, part of the reservoir. Circular, large body. Wide, undecorated shoulder. 4 petals from a rosette motif are still visible. Fine clay. Unevenly applied slip (Fig. 4/7).

**Context:** S II, Cx4.

**Dimensions:** Lp= 3.51 cm; Wp= 2.75 cm; Hp= 1.05 cm.

**Colour:** Clay: 2.5YR 7/6 (light red), 2.5YR 6/8 (light red).

**Dating:** 2<sup>nd</sup>-3<sup>rd</sup> centuries AD.

**Analogies:** see no. 5.

**Origin:** Provincial workshop (?).

8. **Description:** Fragmentary lamp, part of the discus and the shoulder are preserved. Heavily inclined shoulder, separated by the concave discus by two circular grooves. On the lower part, close to where the nozzle would have been placed, a spiral motif is still preserved. Fine clay with few limestone inclusions. Different colours, due to uneven firing (Fig. 4/8).

**Context:** S II, Cx 12.

**Dimensions:** Lp= 3.75, Wp= 4.17 cm; Hp= 2.65 cm.

**Colour:** Clay: 2.5YR 7/8 (light red); slip: 5YR 6/8 (reddish yellow).

**Dating:** 2<sup>nd</sup>-3<sup>rd</sup> centuries AD.

**Analogies:** Baumann 2009, 232, cat. no. 37 and Fig. 6; Buzdugan *et alii* 2000, nos. 4 and 5, Fig. 8; Iconomu 1967, 64, cat. no. 199 and Fig. 31;

**Origin:** Import (?).

9. **Description:** Fragmentary lamp, only a small part of the lamp is preserved. The discus is concave, shoulder decorated by a radial pattern of ovolos, poorly impressed. Short rounded nozzle, with traces of usage. Most of the slip is intact (Fig. 4/9).

**Context:** S II, Cx 12.

**Dimensions:** Lp= 2.82 cm; Wp= 3 cm.

**Colour:** Clay: 10R 6/8 (light red); slip: 2.5YR 5/8 (red).

**Dating:** 2<sup>nd</sup> century AD.

**Analogies:** Baumann 2009, Type X; Bussière, Rivel 2012, 161, cat. no. 159; Iconomu 1967, type XX; Loeschcke 1919, 31, Type VIII, Abb. 7/ Variant K.

**Origin:** Provincial.



Fig. 3. Roman Lamps from Aegyssus.

#### D. *Firmalampen* (Loeschcke X)

This type of lamps is characterized by a circular body, with an elongated, bridged nozzle. Initially made in Northern Italy<sup>17</sup>, *firmalampen* type lamps (Loeschcke type IX and X) production quickly spread in different areas of the Roman world. They are strongly connected with the military settlements throughout the Empire, but can be also found they are found in various other contexts. The terminology, of German origin, translates to “factory lamp”, in order to emphasize the role of the stamp as a guarantee for the origin of the product, crafted by a professional, renowned lamp-maker.

Multiple marks of these producers are known in the region, mainly from the military sites along the Danube<sup>18</sup>. There are several such marks that circulated in *Moesia Inferior* between the 1<sup>st</sup> and the 4<sup>th</sup> centuries AD, making *firmalampen* one of the most long-lasting types of lamps in the region<sup>19</sup>. One such lamp was found at Berzei no. 3, but due to the absence of the stamped base we cannot assign this piece to a specific producer or workshop.

10. **Description:** Fragmentary lamp, part of the nozzle channel is preserved. Bridged groove on the nozzle, continuing towards the discus. Fine clay, with no visible inclusions. Heavily worn slip. Traces of soot from the usage. (Fig. 4/10)

**Context:** S II, Cx 12.

**Dimensions:** Lp= 3.75 cm; pW= 4.17 cm; pH= 2.65 cm.

**Colour:** Clay: 5YR 7/6 (reddish yellow); slip: 2.5YR 5/8 (red).

**Dating:** 2<sup>nd</sup> century AD.

**Analogies:** Baumann 2009, 220-223, cat. no. 2-4 and Fig. 1-2; Topoleanu 2016, 82, cat. no. 38 and Pl. V; Кузманов, Минчев 2018, 97-98, cat. nos. 387-391 and Tbl XXVIII; Čičikova 1987, 169-170, cat. nos. 154-163 and Pl. XVIII-XX; Nicolae 1994, 199, cat. no. 2 and Pl. I-II.

**Origin:** Provincial (?).

#### E. Late Roman Micro-Asian lamps Broneer type XXIX

Also referred to as Ephesian-type or micro-Asian lamps, they were one of the most popular types in Late Antiquity. They were initially produced in *Ephesus*, hence the name of the type, and later in different workshops from Asia Minor<sup>20</sup> and other parts of the Empire, including in the province of *Scythia*, at *Halmyris*<sup>21</sup>. One characteristic of these lamps are the decorative patterns under the body<sup>22</sup>, also known as “fishtail” motifs. These

<sup>17</sup> Loeschcke 1919, 67-85.

<sup>18</sup> For a more detailed overview of circulation of *firmalampen* in the region see Ciur 2023, 55-65.

<sup>19</sup> Chrzanowski 2020, 216.

<sup>20</sup> Katsioti 2017, 215-223.

<sup>21</sup> Topoleanu 1996, 91-94; Topoleanu 2000, 208-215.

<sup>22</sup> Bailey 1988, 371, Fig. 162.

lamps have a great variety of decorations especially on the shoulder (globules, grapevines, circles), while on the discus Christian motifs are often depicted.

11. **Description:** Fragmented lamp, only the handle and a small part of the reservoir are preserved. Lamellar, not pierced handle. On the preserved parts of the shoulder, a motif resembling tendrils can still be seen. Fine clay, with inclusions of mica particles. The slip is heavily affected by limestone, parts of it are hardly visible. (Fig. 4/11)

**Context:** S II, Cx 12.

**Dimensions:** Lp= 2.95 cm; Wp= 5.04 cm; Hp= 25.1/38.7 cm; Hw=0.97 cm.

**Colour:** Clay: 7.5 YR6/3 (light brown); slip: 2.5YR 4/4 (reddish brown).

**Dating:** 5<sup>th</sup> -7<sup>th</sup> centuries AD.

**Analogies:** Bailey 1988, 388, cat. no. Q3162, Pl. 109; Broneer 1930, 281, cat. no. 1420, Pl. XX; Iconomu 1967, 134, cat. no. 696; Iliescu, Bottez 2019, 190, Fig. 4/1; Кузманов, Минчев 2018, 113, cat. no. 298, Tbl. XXXV; Menzel 1969, 97, cat. no. 629, Abb.80/5; Topoleanu 2000, 201, cat. no. 517, Pl. LXIV.

**Origin:** Import (Asia Minor, *Ephesus?*).

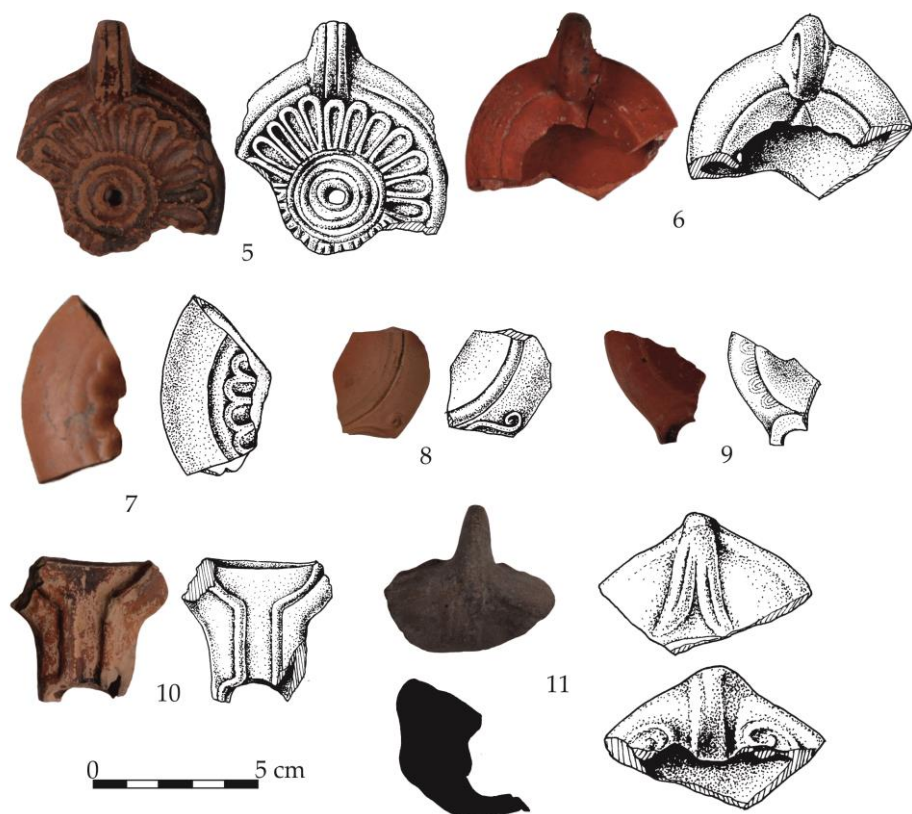


Fig. 4. Roman lamps from Aegyssus.

## CONSIDERATIONS

Currently, there is no concrete proof for a local production of lamps at or near *Aegyssus*, and the development of the modern town of Tulcea makes the research on this topic a complicated endeavour. However, if we take into consideration the presence of a Roman (and romanized) population throughout several centuries, the activity of a workshop or multiple workshops producing not only lamps, but also other pottery goods, is a possible scenario.

Moreover, the presence of the Roman fleet, *Classis Flavia Moesica* (epigraphically attested by two bricks bearing the stamp CLFM)<sup>23</sup>, a temporary presence of detachments of *Legio V Macedonica* (confirmed by a roof tile bearing the stamp LEG V MAC)<sup>24</sup> and of *Cohors II Flavia Brittonum* (a brick bearing the stamp CH II F BR was discovered inside the city walls, in a context dated to the second half of the 3<sup>rd</sup> century AD)<sup>25</sup>, as well as the existence of a *vexilatio egissensis* (a unit of *Legio I Jovia*, attested by a funerary stela dedicated to a local equestrian, at the beginning of the 4<sup>th</sup> century AD)<sup>26</sup> and the overall strategic importance of *Aegyssus* imply the existence of an influx of products towards the city<sup>27</sup>. This would have been essential for both the military personnel and the civilians living inside and outside the city walls during the entire period of the Roman control over the area. Whether this supply was provided by workshops adjacent to the city or spread throughout the territory of *Aegyssus*, or even by the provincial lamp-producing centres<sup>28</sup>, it is still up for debate in the absence of conclusive evidence.

As for the circulation of the above-presented lamps, we should note the presence of the Loeschcke Type I specimen at *Aegyssus* (cat. no. 1) as this particular type is quite rare in the region of Dobruja, with similar finds currently known at *Callatis*<sup>29</sup> and *Tomis*<sup>30</sup>. In the rest of the province, they were discovered at *Novae*<sup>31</sup>, *Odessos*<sup>32</sup>, *Oescus*<sup>33</sup>. Being one of

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<sup>23</sup> Gudea 2005, 460; Nuțu 2018, 204. For a more detailed discussion on the presence and activity of *Classis Flavia Moesica* in the region see Bounegru, Zahariade 1996, 7-22, 91-98; Matei-Popescu 2010, 245-255.

<sup>24</sup> Nuțu 2018, 203.

<sup>25</sup> Opaît 1981, 297-298.

<sup>26</sup> Barnea 1950, 175-184.

<sup>27</sup> For a more detailed overview of the mentioned military units and their presence at *Aegyssus* and in the region see Aricescu 1997, 32-37, 110-112; Matei-Popescu 2010, 35-76, 198-199.

<sup>28</sup> Ionomu 1986, 127-154; Nuțu 2019, 166-172.

<sup>29</sup> Ionomu 1967, 57, cat. no. 168.

<sup>30</sup> Georgescu 2017, 45-46, cat. no. 3, Fig. 4; Ionomu 1967, 57 cat. nos. 165-167.

<sup>31</sup> Čičikova 1987, 154-155, cat. nos. 1-7, Pl. 1.; Кузманов 1992, 18, cat. no. 49.

<sup>32</sup> Кузманов, Минчев 2018, 55, cat. no. 147, Tbl. X.

the first types of Roman lamps made in the Augustan period, Loeschcke Type I specimens are representative not only for the beginnings of the imperial lamp-making industry, but also as evidence for the trading of Roman goods and the emergence of workshops in the newly conquered provinces in the first two centuries AD.

Considering the poor execution and the heavily worn-out moulds that were used in producing it, this particular piece can be interpreted as a local or regional product (possibly an imitation after an original lamp). In addition, the dating coincides with the peak of the imperial lamp-making production; hence, such a low-quality lamp is more likely to be the result of a less experienced producer or of a workshop focused on supplying a local clientele rather than taking part into a long-distance trading.

The other type of voluted lamp in our catalogue (Loeschcke IV) enjoyed a relatively more spread circulation in the region, with discoveries published from *Callatis*<sup>34</sup>, *Carsium*<sup>35</sup>, *Noviodunum*<sup>36</sup>, *Sacidava*<sup>37</sup>, *Tomis*<sup>38</sup>, *Troesmis*<sup>39</sup>. In *Moesia Inferior*, lamps of this type were also found at *Apollonia Pontica*<sup>40</sup>, *Durostorum*<sup>41</sup>, *Novae*<sup>42</sup>, *Odessos*<sup>43</sup>, *Oescus*<sup>44</sup>. The specimen from *Aegyssus* (cat. no. 2) is identical with two pieces from *Noviodunum*<sup>45</sup>, in the same province. The motif of the altar can be found on several lamps depicted in similar matter, alongside different gods and deities such as *Athena/Minerva*<sup>46</sup>, *Eros*<sup>47</sup>, *Fortuna*<sup>48</sup>, *Isis*<sup>49</sup>, *lares*<sup>50</sup>, *maenads*<sup>51</sup>. In this case, the decoration can be interpreted from a symbolical standpoint as a ritualistic libation scene (?), and

<sup>33</sup> Торбов 2022, 107-109, nos. 31, 32, 38, 42 and 43.

<sup>34</sup> Topoleanu, Croitoru 2015, 96-98, cat. no. 22.

<sup>35</sup> Buzdugan *et alii* 2000, 439, cat. nos. 2-3, Fig. 8.

<sup>36</sup> Baumann 2009, 226-230, cat. nos. 15-29.

<sup>37</sup> Scorpan 1978, 157, cat. no. 6, Pl. I.

<sup>38</sup> Iconomu 1967, Type XI, 58-61.

<sup>39</sup> Topoleanu 2016, 64, cat. no. 1, Pl. I.

<sup>40</sup> Кузманов 1992, 19, nr. cat. 63.

<sup>41</sup> Кузманов, Бъчваров 1986, 44-45, cat. no. 6.

<sup>42</sup> Čiškova 1987, 155-157, cat. nos. 7-26, Pl. I-IV; Кузманов 1992, 19-20, cat. nos. 61, 64, 67 and 68.

<sup>43</sup> Кузманов 1992, 19-20, cat. nos. 62, 69 and 70.

<sup>44</sup> Кузманов 1992, 19, cat. no. 66.

<sup>45</sup> Baumann 2009, both lack traces of usage, like in our case, and one comes from the civilian settlement, and the other from a funerary context.

<sup>46</sup> Bailey 1980, Q1338; Bailey 1988, Q3290.

<sup>47</sup> Bailey 1988, Q2380, Q3022, Q3304.

<sup>48</sup> Bailey 1980, Q1100.

<sup>49</sup> Bailey 1988, Q1974.

<sup>50</sup> Bailey 1980, Q 1207; Deneauve 1969, cat. no. 594.

<sup>51</sup> Bailey 1980, Q905, Q1208.

one notable aspect in this regard is the discovery of the two fragments that could be part of a small domestic altar (or a statue base)<sup>52</sup>. However, in the absence of more compelling evidence for a religious context, we cannot prove the precise functionality, and the association between this lamp and the possible altar fragments is just a hypothesis worth mentioning.

Although a popular and widespread category of lamps, *firmalampen* (Loeschcke Type IX and X) are not as well attested at *Aegyssus* for the moment, as they are in other sites in the area, the main cause being the current state of research. Besides our no. 10, another fragment of *firmalampen* (of Loeschcke type IX) is known from the intramural area that, based on the poor quality of the execution, is most likely a regional (or even local) product<sup>53</sup>. In neither of the cases was the stamp preserved.

Only one fragment, no. 11, dates from the Late Roman period (4<sup>th</sup> century AD and onwards). The chronology of the Ephesian-type lamps is still a debated topic<sup>54</sup>, therefore our proposed chronological frame (5<sup>th</sup>-7<sup>th</sup> centuries AD) covers the range of this type's circulation in the area, and a more precise dating can be problematic, especially if we take into account the disturbance of the archaeological strata. Unfortunately, its fragmentary state of conservation does not allow a more complex analysis, besides some typological and chronological considerations.

The symbolism behind the representations on lamps is a topic of high interest, which can provide insightful information regarding the cultural particularities of a person or a community. A. Crnobraja conducted a comprehensive study on the symbolic interpretation of different motifs found on the lamps from *Moesia Superior* and their potential meanings<sup>55</sup>. The items from Berzei Street no. 3 offer additional data for the iconographical repertoire of the province, and further research can improve our understanding of the symbolism of these motifs and, eventually, the different factors that may have influenced particular representations.

## CONCLUSIONS

The above presented lamps are, alongside the other findings from this plot, a significant source of information for the study of ancient habitation in the extramural area of *Aegyssus*, a rather difficult endeavour if we consider the urban evolution of the modern town of Tulcea. Unfortunately, it is only through these rescue excavations

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<sup>52</sup> Nuțu 2022, 131-133.

<sup>53</sup> Opaiț, Sion, Vasiliu 1980, 272, Fig.7/2.

<sup>54</sup> Bailey 1988, 372; Katsioti 2017, 215-17.

<sup>55</sup> For a detailed overview see Crnobraja 2006.

that the extramural area of *Aegyssus* can be documented and interpreted, and this is another reason of why the findings from Berzei no. 3 are of an especially high interest.

In addition, the first two specimens from this catalogue enrich our knowledge on the circulation of the voluted lamps of Loeschcke types I and IV, which are, as stated above, quite rare findings in this region. The presence of these early-imperial products (1<sup>st</sup>-2<sup>nd</sup> centuries AD) constitutes new evidence for the influx of western or western-inspired lamps in a conquered territory. As for the Broneer type XXIX lamp, it constitutes evidence for the continuity of the habitation in an area in which products from Asia Minor were still imported.

Lamps are an important part of the archaeological record, and in our case, they represent evidence for the development of a population aligned to the Roman lifestyle. Although the context in which this excavation took place was disturbed, these lamps offer new important information regarding the habitation of a local community in the area and, by correlating them with the other findings from the vicinity, we can significantly improve our knowledge about the ancient past of *Aegyssus* and its surroundings.

At the same time, on a macro level, they can be studied as indicators for the development of a complex system of production and trading at a large, interprovincial scale. The lamps presented in this paper, as well as the other findings from Berzei street no. 3, reflect the economic ties that the local community had with both the western and eastern markets of the Roman Empire<sup>56</sup>.

Finally, we can conclude that the data we have obtained from the excavation at the plot from Berzei Street no. 3 testify to the presence of communities with economic ties to a wide network of traded goods, as seen from the lamps presented in this paper, and from the other findings published previously as well. Together with the terracottas and the altar (?) fragments, they are important in the hypothetical reconstruction of local religious manifestations which, given the actual context of the modern Tulcea overlaying the ancient *Aegyssus*, is a strenuous effort.

### Aknowledgements

I would like to express my gratitude towards my colleagues Camelia Geanbai, for the drawings, and dr. George Nuțu, for the overall assistance in redacting this paper.

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<sup>56</sup> For a detailed analysis of the origin of tableware fragments found at Berzei street no. 3, see Mocanu, Nuțu 2023, 204-208.



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# OPAÎTE ROMANE INEDITE DESCOPERITE ÎN SECTORUL „FALEZĂ EST” DE LA ARGAMUM (sec. VI-VII p.Chr.)

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**Gabriel-Ionuț GRUMĂZESCU**

Institutul de Cercetări Eco-Muzeale “Gavrilă Simion”, Tulcea, Romania

[gabrielgrumazescu97@gmail.com](mailto:gabrielgrumazescu97@gmail.com)

ORCID ID: <https://orcid.org/0009-0005-3096-813X>

**Abstract:** In this paper, 24 unpublished Late Roman lamps discovered during campaigns conducted since the last century in the ‘Eastern cliff’ sector of the Argamum fortress will be presented. These lamps are dated between the 6<sup>th</sup>-7<sup>th</sup> c. AD and can be divided into four groups: a) Pontic lamps; b) African type lamps; c) Balkan type lamps; d) Micro-Asiatic type lamps. In the current endeavor, in addition to the data related to typology, previously published information regarding the pottery workshops of Scythia were also taken into account. Furthermore, we discuss about a possible intra-provincial trade network.

**Rezumat:** În cadrul acestei lucrări, vor fi prezentate 24 de opaițe inedite din perioada romană târzie descoperite în campaniile desfășurate încă din secolul trecut în sectorul “Faleză Est” de la Argamum. Aceste lămpi pot fi datate între sec. VI-VII p.Chr. și au fost împărțite în patru grupe: a) lămpi pontice; b) lămpi de tip african; c) lămpi de tip balcanic; d) lămpi de tip microasiatic. În studiul de față, pe lângă datele legate de tipologie, au fost luate în considerare informații publicate anterior cu privire la atelierele de olărit din Scythia. De asemenea, discutăm despre o posibilă rețea comercială intra-provinsială.

**Keywords:** Argamum, intra-muros, Pontic lamps, African type lamps, Balkan type lamps, Micro-asiatic type lamps.

**Cuvinte cheie:** Argamum, intra-muros, lămpi pontice, lămpi de tip african, lămpi de tip balcanic, lămpi de tip microasiatic.

## INTRODUCERE

Fortificația greco-romană Orgame/Argamum<sup>1</sup> (Fig. 1) a fost construită pe un promontoriu calcaros cunoscut sub denumirea de Capul Doloșman, situat pe malul actualului lac Razelm, în antichitate golf al Mării Negre. Firul toponimiei cartografice (cel mai probabil de origine turcă) poate fi urmărit până la nivelul Evului Mediu, de unde pot fi descifrate anumite particularități ale terenului: doloșman – talașman, însemnând loc încercuit, cerc (împrejmuire, fortificat)<sup>2</sup>.

Prima mențiune despre orașul antic grecesc o datorăm lui Hecateu din Milet (sec. VI-V a.Chr.) care menționează *Ὀργάμη πόλις ἐπιω τῷ Ιστρω*<sup>3</sup>. Ulterior, forma

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<sup>1</sup> Lista Monumentelor Istorice – cod LMI: TL-I-s-A-05808.

<sup>2</sup> Mărgineanu-Cârstoiu, Mănușu-Adameșteanu 1998, 233; Mănușu-Adameșteanu 2001, 8.

<sup>3</sup> *Orgame, oraș pe Istru*.

latinizată a numelui apare într-un document epigrafic cunoscut ca Horothesia lui Laberius Maximus, emis de guvernatorul roman în anul 100 p.Chr., în care se delimitau teritoriile celor două orașe învecinate – Histria și Argamum (teritoriul argamensilor se afla în partea de nord a chorei histriene)<sup>4</sup>. De asemenea, Argamum este menționat în lucrarea lui Procopius din Cesarea (*De Aedificiis*, IV, 11, 20) într-o formă ușor modificată: *Argamo*<sup>5</sup> – *Ergamia/Ergina*<sup>6</sup>.

Cercetările arheologice sistematice din acest sit au început în anul 1926, la inițiativa profesorului ieșean Paul Nicorescu, și s-au desfășurat pe parcursul a șapte campanii (1926-1932). Acestea au avut ca scop dezvelirea incintei din epoca romano-bizantină<sup>7</sup>. Abia în 1965 săpăturile au fost reluate de către Maria Coja și continuate, fără întrerupere, până în prezent, pe mai multe sectoare.

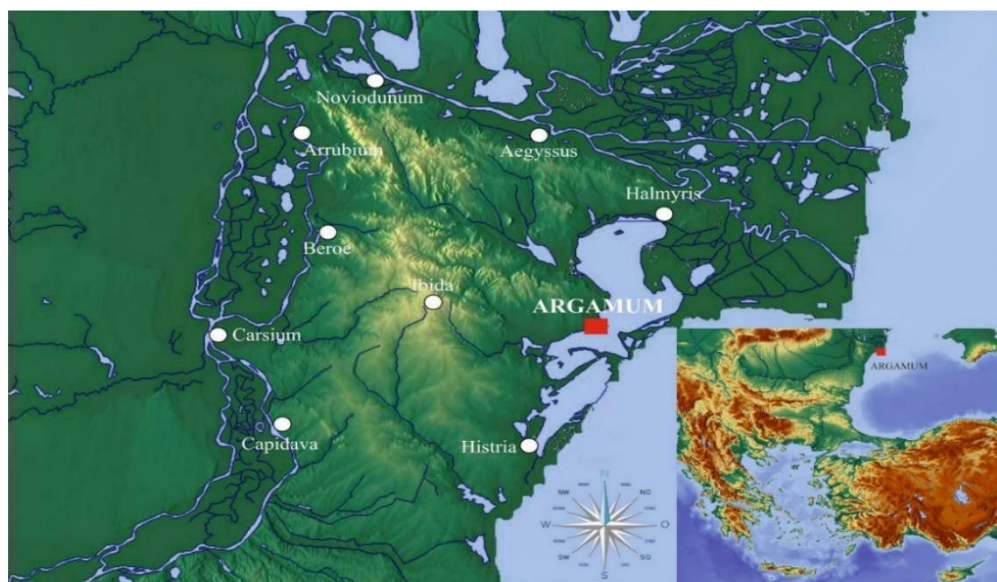


Fig. 1. Principalele orașe romane din Dobrogea/ The main Roman cities of Dobruja.

<sup>4</sup> Pârvan 1916, 563; ISM I, 68.

<sup>5</sup> Fontes II, 1970, III. Procopii Cesariensis, *De Aedificis* (IV, 11, 20, 5, 475).

<sup>6</sup> Popa-Lisseanu 1939, Fontes, 31 (vezi și nota 10), 32.

<sup>7</sup> Nicorescu 1944, 96. Acesta menționează: „Les vestiges des murailles ont une hauteur de 2 à 3 m”.

## SECTORUL „FALEZĂ EST” DE LA CETATEA ARGAMUM

Sectorul „Faleză Est” este situat *intra muros*, în partea de sud-est a fortificației, în apropierea lacului Razelm (Fig. 2-3). În 1970 Maria Coja efectuează aici un mic sondaj (cu dimensiunile de 15 × 1,5 m) pe care îl va extinde în anul 1979<sup>8</sup>. Din 1981 săpăturile din acest sector s-au desfășurat sub îndrumarea Mihaelei Mănucu-Adameșteanu.

Pe lângă vestigiile arhaice și elenistice<sup>9</sup>, aici au fost identificate și edificii din perioada romană târzie. Cercetarea acestor edificii (ER, ED, EA, EN) a conturat principalele etape edilitare. Acestea au fost încadrate cronologic în mai multe faze: a) N1: sfârșitul sec. al VI-lea – Heraclius; b) N2a: sfârșitul sec. al VI-lea – Justin II și Sofia / Mauriciu Tiberiu; N2b: Anastasius – Justinian; N3: posibil cu două faze – sec. V p.Chr<sup>10</sup>. De asemenea, în proximitatea turnului 8 (T8) a fost identificată o stradă orientată spre poarta din capul promontoriului și o alta orientată Vest-Est<sup>11</sup>.

În ciuda campaniilor de lungă durată, în urma cărora au ieșit la lumină numeroase și interesante contexte, multe informații au rămas din păcate încă inedite. Acest lucru se poate observa și în privința obiectelor de iluminat, doar cele din epoca greacă fiind publicate<sup>12</sup>.

Scopul acestui material e analiza lămpilor de epocă romană târzie descoperite în sectorul „Faleză Est” de la Argamum.

## CATALOGUL OPAIȚELOR<sup>13</sup>

Lămpile incluse în acest catalog aparțin unor tipuri cunoscute care se regăsesc în diverse provincii ale Imperiului Roman. Lotul poate fi împărțit, după ariile de proveniență, în patru grupe: a) lămpi pontice (nr. cat. 1-3); b) lămpi de tip african (nr. cat. 4-5); c) lămpi de tip balcanic (nr. cat. 6-13); d) lămpi de tip microasiatic (nr. cat. 14-24). În cadrul acestora am identificat mai multe tipuri.

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<sup>8</sup> Mocanu 2020, 119.

<sup>9</sup> Mănucu-Adameșteanu 1999, 145.

<sup>10</sup> Mănucu-Adameșteanu *et alii* 1994, 49.

<sup>11</sup> Mănucu-Adameșteanu 1999, 145.

<sup>12</sup> Topoleanu 2013, 43-65.

<sup>13</sup> Abrevieri utilizate în catalog: nr. inv. – număr inventar; L – lungime; Lp – lungime păstrată; l – lățime; lp – lățime păstrată; Doa – diametrul orificiului de alimentare; Dof – diametrul orificiului pentru fitil; H – înălțime, Hp – înălțime păstrată; Hb – înălțime bazin; Ht – înălțime toartă.

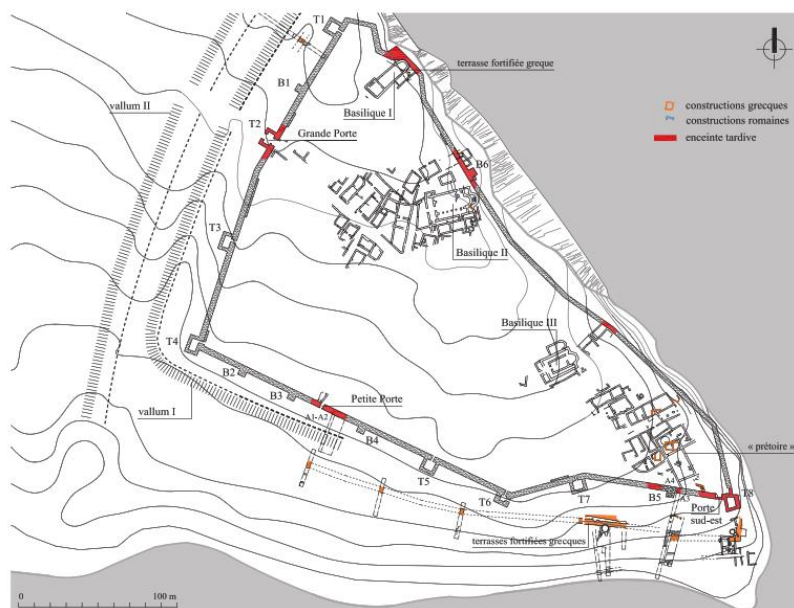


Fig. 2. Planul cetății Argamum / *The Plan of Argamum fortress*  
(Mărgineanu-Cârstoiu, Apostol 2017, Fig. 3).

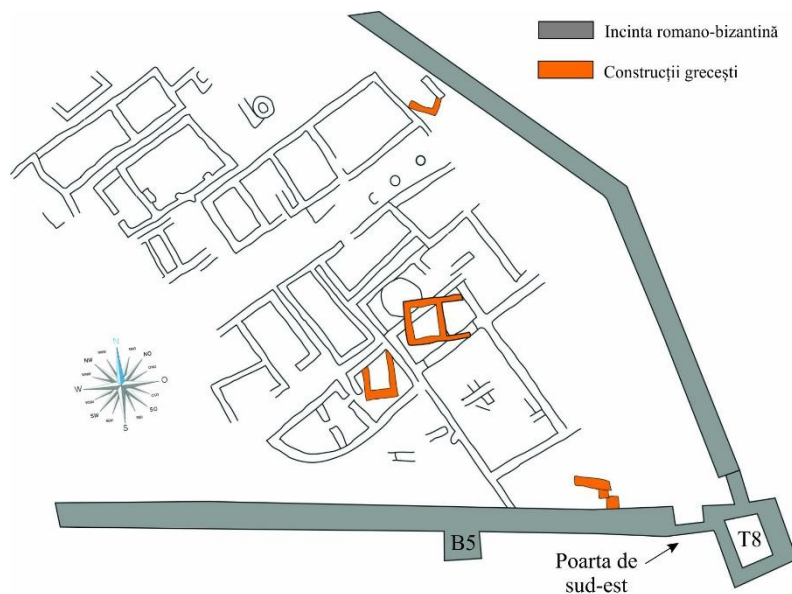


Fig. 3. Sectorul "Faleză Est" / *The "Eastern Cliff" Sector.*  
(detaliu după Mărgineanu-Cârstoiu, Apostol 2017, Fig. 3).



**a) Lămpi pontice (Iconomu 1967, tip XXX – variantă a tipului nord-african)**

În cadrul descoperirilor lychnologice din perioada romană târzie din sectorul „Faleză Est” au fost identificate trei piese (nr. cat. 1-3) ce pot fi încadrate în categoria opaițelor produse cu precădere în provincia Scythia. Acest tip îmbină caracteristici morfologice preluate de la tipul nord-african<sup>14</sup> și elemente din spațiul microasiatic<sup>15</sup>, îmbinări care se pot observa asupra exemplarului nr. 3 – bordura înclinată la aproximativ 45° fiind una dintre trăsăturile lămpilor balcanice/iustinianee<sup>16</sup>, iar discul plat, dublu perforat este o caracteristică preluată de la opaițele nord-africane. Pentru decor nu am întâlnit în bibliografia de specialitate analogii, însă discul cordiform este, de asemenea, o trăsătură specifică lămpilor "iustinianee".

**1. ARGAMUM 1991, □C8, Edificiul D, N1, -0,50 m**

*Dimensiuni:* Lp= 5,6 cm; lp= 3,4 cm; Doa= 1,4 cm.

*Stare de conservare:* fragment din valva superioară (disc și bordură).

*Tehnică și material:* pastă de culoare 5YR 5/8 yellowish red, cu particule de calcar și mica argintie în compoziție, urme de ardere secundară.

*Descriere și decor:* disc plat, perforat central de orificiul de alimentare larg, delimitat de o nervură dublă, profilată. Acesta este decorat cu un motiv în formă de acoladă cu volute. Bordura este înclinată și decorată cu linii radiale puternic profilate.

*Datare:* sfârșitul sec. VI – al doilea deceniu al sec. VII p.Chr.

*Analogii:* Băluță 1994, 222, cat. nr. 105, Pl. VIII/1; Iconomu 1967, 140, nr. cat. 724-725, 144, Fig. 162-724, Fig. 163-725; Iconomu 1976, 136-137, Fig. 3-5; Streinu, Pârvulescu 2020, 188, cat. nr. 11, Pl. III/11; Topoleanu, Doru, Haynes 2012, 142, Pl. VI/56, 57; Topoleanu 2012, 204-205, cat. no. 122, Pl. XV/122.

**2. ARGAMUM 1993, □C16, Edificiul R, N1, -1,60 -2,10 m**

*Dimensiuni:* Lp= 4,4 cm; lp= 4,7 cm.

*Stare de conservare:* fragment din valva inferioară (bază).

*Tehnică și material:* pastă de culoare 2.5YR 5/8 red; particule de calcar și mica argintie în compoziție.

*Descriere și decor:* bază plată, conturată de o bandă neglijent finisată; se păstrează o singură nervură profilată pe lateralul bazinului.

*Datare:* sfârșitul sec. VI – al doilea deceniu al sec. VII p.Chr.

*Analogii:* vezi cat. nr. 1.

**3. ARGAMUM 1999, □α, -0,30 m**

*Dimensiuni:* Lp= 3,7 cm; lp= 3,5 cm; Doa= 1,0 cm.

*Stare de conservare:* fragmentar; disc și o porțiune din bordură.

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<sup>14</sup> Hayes 1972, IIA/B.

<sup>15</sup> Hayes 1992, tip 11/12.

<sup>16</sup> Iconomu 1986, 100-104, tip LI.

*Tehnică și material:* pastă de culoare 7.5YR 7/6 reddish yellow; rare particule de calcar și mica argintie în compoziție. Se pot observa urme de ardere secundară în apropierea ciocului și în jurul orificiului drept de alimentare.

*Descriere și decor:* disc plat, dublu perforat de orificiile de alimentare, în apropierea torții. Bordura este înclinată, delimitată de disc printr-o nervură ce se deschide pentru a forma un canal, cuprinzând și orificiul pentru fitil. Discul este decorat cu un motiv cordiform cu vârful spre canal, cu linii scurte răsfrânte pe margini și un posibil motiv zoomorf în centru. Canalul este flancat de două cercuri dublu profilate.

*Date:* sec. VI-VII p.Chr.

*Observații:* exemplarul pare a fi o creație rezultată în urma îmbinării unor elemente specifice tipurilor nord-africane și balcanice. Bordura înclinată la aproximativ 45° este una dintre trăsăturile lămpilor balcanice, iar discul plat, dublu perforat este o caracteristică preluată de la opaițele nord-africane.

*Analogii:* Ionomu 1967, 144, Fig. 161 – nr. 725, Fig. 163 – nr. 726, Fig. 165 – nr. 735, Fig. 166 – nr. 743; Kostova, Dobрева 2008, 168, nr. 20, Pl. 121/20; Curta 2017, 190, Fig. 22, 191, Fig. 23, Fig. 24; Bădescu, Bottez 2014, 238, Pl. IV/1, 2; Bădescu 2021, 560, Pl. 191/5, 566, Pl. 197/66, 568, Pl. 199/8, 8; Severeanu 1936, 81, Fig. 95, 82, Fig. 97; Sandu 1981, 174, Pl. IV/5; Cirelli 2015, 104, Fig. 29; Bivolaru, Bottez 2016, 135, nr. 1, Fig. 4; Archer 1995, 205, Fig. 3/9, 10, 11; Lako 1984, 204, Tab. X/2, 4, 5, 6, 7; Diaconescu, 1995, 265, Pl. III/1-a, b, c, 268, Pl. IV/1-6. În cadrul analogiilor prezentate formele și tipurile sunt apropiate, însă decorul imprimat pe disc diferă de cel al exemplarului nostru.

## **b) Lămpi de tip African (Hayes 1972, IIB)**

### **4. ARGAMUM 2000, □2, -0,60-0,80 m.**

*Dimensiuni:* L=12,7 cm; l=7,2 cm; Ht=4,7 cm; Hb=3,5 cm/, Doa=1,1 cm.

*Stare de conservare:* piesă aproape întreagă; lipsește o parte din orificiul pentru fitil.

*Tehnică și material:* opaiț de dimensiuni mari, pastă de culoare 2.5YR 6/8 light red. În compoziția pastei se observă mici particule de calcar, mica argintie și ceramică pisată. Prezintă urme de ardere secundară în apropierea ciocului.

*Descriere și decor:* disc circular, concav, perforat central de orificiul de alimentare, ce se delimitează de bordură printr-o nervură profilată care se deschide pentru a forma un canal, cuprinzând și orificiul pentru fitil. Bordura orizontală este delimitată de o nervură ușor profilată. Toarta este lamelară, ascuțită spre vârf, netezită la exterior și se unește cu baza printr-o bandă profilată. Baza este plată, delimitată de un cordon profilat. Pe disc au fost imprimate mici vârfuri (ca cele de săgeți), asemenea unor linii radiale dispuse în jurul orificiului de alimentare și câte o granulă la capătul fiecăreia. Pe bordură și canal se regăsește același decor ca și cel de pe disc.

*Date:* sec. VI p. Chr.

*Analogii:* Băluță 1964, 290-291, Pl. VI/1; Băluță 1994, 219, Pl. VIII/2; Garnett 1975, Pl. 44/I. 69-152, 20, 23, 30; Hayes 1972, Pl. XXI/a; Iliescu, Bottez 2021, 146, Fig. 10/1; Ivantchik 2002, 367, Fig. 9/35-38; Kostova, Dobрева 2008, 167, nr. 20, Pl. 121/19; Koutoussaki 2008, Pl. LXV/511, 514, Pl. LXVI/521; Petridis 2007, 52, Fig. 8; Streinu, Pîrvulescu 2020, 96, Pl. II/10; Topoleanu

2000, 192-194, nr. 496-501, Pl. LXI/496, Pl. LXII/498-501; Topoleanu 2016, 114, Pl. DA8/DA9 (apud Bémont, Chew 2009, pl. 89); Wilmet 2005, 302, Pl. 135, Fig. 8.

*Observații:* pentru acest exemplar putem presupune, în baza morfologiei și a tehnicii de modelare, inclusiv a calității pasteii, confecționarea în zona vest-pontică. Nu excludem posibilitatea ca acesta să fi fost produs chiar la Argamum.

## 5. ARGAMUM, *Passim*.

*Dimensiuni:* Lp= 6,2 cm; lp= 4,4 cm.

*Stare de conservare:* fragment din valva inferioară, include zona ciocului.

*Tehnică și material:* pasta de culoare 2.5YR 5/8red, rare impurități de calcar.

*Descriere și decor:* bază plată, circulară, delimitată de un cordon profilat.

*Datare:* sec. VI-lea p.Chr.

*Analogii:* vezi nr. 4.

### c) Lămpi de tip balcanic – Hayes 1992, tip 10/ Ionomu 1986, tip LI

Lămpile încadrate în acest tip sunt nelipsite printre descoperirile din zona Dunării și a Asiei Mici. Lămpile grupului balcanic pot fi încadrate în două tipuri diferite (Hayes 1992, tip 10 – Hayes 1992, tip 11/12). În primul tip (Hayes 1992, tip 10) putem include un singur exemplar. Acesta ar putea proveni din unul din cele două centre cunoscute, fie din cel din regiunea Constantinopolului, fie din cel de la Halmyris<sup>17</sup>. Lipsa unor elemente de decor a determinat probabil ca acest tip să nu fie atât de popular printre obiectele de iluminat din perioada respectivă. Din cele 55 de exemplare cunoscute<sup>18</sup> (Hayes 1992, tipurile 9 și 10, identice ca formă, dar cu canalul deschis, respectiv închis) doar 19 opaite aparțin tipului 10. Acesta poate fi integrat grupului de opaite de tip balcanic, fiind identificate un număr semnificativ în Scythia, la Tropeum Traiani<sup>19</sup>, Sacidava<sup>20</sup>, Oltina/*Altinum* (în cuptor)<sup>21</sup>, Histria<sup>22</sup>, Tomis<sup>23</sup>, Varna/*Odessos*<sup>24</sup> și la Halmyris<sup>25</sup> care este atestat ca centru producător. La Argamum au fost identificate alte cinci exemplare specifice tipului 10 (un catalog complet este în curs de pregătire).

De asemenea, încadrăm în tipologia lămpilor balcanice un fragment ce prezintă caracteristici morfologice ale tipurilor Hayes 1992, tipurilor 8, 9 și 10. Decorul slab

<sup>17</sup> Topoleanu 2019, 341-347.

<sup>18</sup> Topoleanu 2019, 343.

<sup>19</sup> Cătănicu, Barnea 1979, Fig. 170/9.1.

<sup>20</sup> Scorpan 1978, 161, nr. 18, Pl. IV.

<sup>21</sup> Irimia 1968, Fig. 18/2.

<sup>22</sup> Bivolaru, Bottez 2016, 138, nr. 10, Fig. 4.

<sup>23</sup> Ionomu 1986, Pl. X/4.

<sup>24</sup> Kuzmanov, Minchev 2018, Pl. LX, 892-895.

<sup>25</sup> Topoleanu 2000, 206, nr. 532-537.

vizibil justifică o utilizare îndelungată a tiparului, deși calitatea pastei din care a fost realizat este de bună calitate și asemănătoare cu cea specifică tipului 10.

Cel de-al doilea tip din cadrul eșantionului „balcanic” este cunoscut în bibliografia de specialitate sub diferite denumiri – „cu bordură lată”<sup>26</sup>, cu „disc cordiform”<sup>27</sup>, „bizantine”<sup>28</sup>, „dunărene”<sup>29</sup>, iustinianee<sup>30</sup> sau de „tip Saraçhane”<sup>31</sup> (Hayes 1992, tip 11/12; Iconomu 1986, tip LI). Perioada de maximă răspândire coincide cu cea a domniei împăratului Iustinian I, de unde și denumirea de *lucernae* „iustinianee”. În această perioadă sunt printre cele mai populare opaițe din dioceza Thraciei<sup>32</sup> sau Asia Mică<sup>33</sup>. De asemenea, în zonă au fost descoperite fie tipare<sup>34</sup>, fie numeroase exemplare<sup>35</sup> care pot justifica încadrarea tipului în categoria lămpilor de tip balcanic.

### Hayes 1992, tip 10

#### 6. Argamum 1998, nr. inv. 45188, □C21,-0,65 m.

*Dimensiuni:* L=9,9 cm; l=5,9 cm; Ht=4,8 cm; Hb=3,4 cm; Doa=1 cm; Dof=1,2 cm.

*Stare de conservare:* întreg, restaurat.

*Tehnică și material:* pastă de culoare 5YR 5/8 yellowish red. Aceasta conține mică argintie și particule de calcar. Piesa prezintă urme de ardere secundară în jurul ciocului și pe bazin.

*Descriere și decor:* disc concav, perforat central de orificiul de alimentare, delimitat de bordură printr-un umăr puternic profilat. Toarta este modelată în formă de rulou, canelată pe lungime, neglijent atașată. Bază circulară, adâncită. Prezintă mici defecțiuni (produse prin presare) pe bazinul drept.

*Datare:* sec. VI-VII p. Chr.

*Analogii:* Hayes 1992, Pl. 21/47-56; Kuzmanov, Minchev 2018, Pl. LX/892-895; Topoleanu 2000, Pl. LXVII/532-536; Topoleanu 2019, 344, nr. 4-6.

### Hayes 1922, tip 8/9/10

#### 7. Argamum, □1, -0,33 m.

*Dimensiuni:* Lp=2,9 cm; lp=4 cm.

*Stare de conservare:* fragment din valva superioară, cu amprenta torții.

<sup>26</sup> Iconomu 1967, tip XXXII.

<sup>27</sup> Iconomu 1967, tip XXXIII.

<sup>28</sup> Menzel 1954, 59.

<sup>29</sup> Diaconescu 1995, 270-274.

<sup>30</sup> Iconomu 1986, tip LI.

<sup>31</sup> Hayes 1992, type 11-13.

<sup>32</sup> Topoleanu 2012, 193.

<sup>33</sup> Vitelli 1982, 194, 197, L 13-19.

<sup>34</sup> Tonceva 1953, 81-87.

<sup>35</sup> Hayes 1992, 83, type 11-14; în cuptorul de la Oltina au fost descoperite opaițe ce aparțin tipurilor Hayes 1992, tip 10 – Hayes 1992, tip 10 și 11/12.

*Tehnică și material:* pastă de culoare 2.5YR 4/8 red, angobă proprie; particule de calcar în compoziția pastei.

*Descriere și decor:* disc concav, cu o nervură în formă de zig-zag; bordură îngustă, decorată cu același motiv, intens șters și proporțional mult mai mic; toarta a fost probabil în formă de rulou, nu se păstrează (presupunere în baza amprente).

*Datare:* sec. VI-VII p.Chr.

### Hayes 1992, tip 11/12; Iconomu 1986, tip LI

#### 8. Argamum 1982, nr. inv. 44382, □4, -0,80/-0,85 m.

*Dimensiuni:* Lp= 10,2 cm; l=6,1 cm; Hb=3,6 cm; Ht=6,3cm; Db; L=5 cm, l=4 cm.

*Stare de conservare:* lipsesc ciocul, un fragment din bazin și din disc.

*Tehnică și material:* opaițul a fost confecționat cu ajutorul unui tipar bivalv de bună calitate. Pasta are culoarea 2.5YR5/8 red, angobă 7.5YR7/6 reddish yellow, este de bună calitate, fără impurități.

*Descriere și decor:* Corpul este piriform, binconvex în secțiune, înalt. Discul oval, perpendicular pe axul lung, este ușor concav, delimitat de o nervură dublă, cea interioară deschizându-se în dreptul ciocului, formând un canal. Bordura este lată, cu unghi de 45°, decorată cu linii scurte radiale reliefate. Toarta fitoformă este dispusă ușor oblic, redând motivul stilizat al arborelui vieții, întipărit într-un cadru cu aspect triunghiular, mărginit de o nervură profilată, cu două volute la bază, două ramuri scurte și un romb în partea superioară, în care este incizată, în mijloc, o linie scurtă în poziție verticală; baza este plată, cordiformă, delimitată de o nervură.

*Datare:* sec. VI-VII p.Chr.

*Analogii:* Bailey 1988, Pl. 115, Q3231 MLA; Băluță 1994, 219, Pl. VII/6; Curta 2017, 214, Fig. 41/20, 22, 23; etc; Hayes 1992, Pl. 22/89, 90; Kuzmanov, Minchev 2018, Pl. LV/734; Severeanu 1936, 85, nr. 114, fig. 105; Streinu, Pîrvulescu 2020, 184, nr. 7, pl. 6-8, 7; Тончева 1953, Fig. VI, nr. 114; Topoleanu 2000, 186, nr. 478; Topoleanu 2012, 202, nr. 119, Pl. XIV/119.

#### 9. Argamum 1985, dărâmătură sud de Z1, -0,85 m

*Dimensiuni:* Lp=3,4 cm; lp=4,1 cm.

*Stare de conservare:* fragmentar.

*Tehnică și material:* modelat într-un tipar de bună calitate, pasta de culoare 2.5YR 5/8 red, angobă 7.5YR 2/6 pinkish white; sporadic particule de calcar și mica argintie în compoziție.

*Descriere și decor:* toartă în formă de cruce dublu conturată, cu laturile ușor curbate și lățite la capete, decorată cu un cerc profilat la intersecția brațelor.

*Datare:* sec. VI-VII p.Chr.

*Analogii:* Baumann 2009, 296, Fig. 18/140 bis; Bădescu, Bottez 2014, 238, Pl.4/13; Curta 2017, 201, Fig. 30-33; Hayes 1992, 87, nr. 71-78, Pl. 22/71-78; Iconomu 1967, 28-30, tip XXXIII, 29, fig. 58, nr. 148, nr. 771; Iconomu 1986, Pl. IX/12; Kuzmanov 1992, 45, nr. 325; Kuzmanov, Minchev 2018, Pl. L/733, Pl. LIV/786, Pl. LV/801-802; Talmațchi, Sova 2015, 183, Fig. 24/5; Topoleanu 1984, 588, Pl. III/5; Topoleanu 2000, 186, nr. 474, Pl. LIX/474, 187, Pl. LX/481; Žuravlev 2007, 230, 23/2-3.

**10. ARGAMUM 1991, nr. inv. 45918, Edificiul R, □C10**

*Dimensiuni:* Lp=7,1 cm; lp=6,5 cm; Ht=5 cm/Hb=2,1 cm; Doa=1,4 cm.

*Stare de conservare:* fragmentar, se păstrează valva superioară, fără cioc.

*Tehnică și material:* pastă fină, de culoare 5YR 6/8 reddish yellow, angobă 7.5YR 5/1 gray, cu rare impurități, rar mica și particule de calcar în compoziție. Prezintă urme de ardere secundară pe interior, în proximitatea ciocului.

*Descriere și decor:* disc concav, perforat central de orificiul de alimentare; acesta se delimitează de bordură prin două nervuri puternic profilate, cea din interior deschizându-se pentru a forma un canal cu laturile ușor curbate, cuprinzând și orificiul pentru fitil. Bordura înclinată la 45° este decorată cu linii radiale scurte. Toarta este în formă de cap uman cu barbă și coafură înaltă, poziționată oblic pe umărul opaițului.

*Datare:* sec. VI p. Chr.

*Analogii:* Curta 2017, 208, Fig. 37/38; Ionomu 1967, 146, nr. 764, 767, 768 etc; Irimia 1968, 397, Fig. 18/3; Kuzmanov 1992, 44, nr. 324; Petković *et alii*, 2015, 81-82, Fig. 1; Talmațchi, Șova 2015, 183, Fig. 24/6; Topoleanu 2000, 85, nr. 470/472, Pl. LVIII; Topoleanu 2016, 115, Pl. XI/DA 16 (*apud* Bemont, Chew 2007, pl. 90).

**11. ARGAMUM 1993, □C 13**

*Dimensiuni:* Lp=2,9 cm; lp=2,3 cm.

*Stare de conservare:* fragmentar; reprezentat doar de toartă.

*Tehnică și material:* pastă de culoare 7.5YR 7/6 reddish yellow, în compoziția sa se observă particule de calcar și mica argintie.

*Descriere și decor:* toartă semidiscoidală decorată cu trei nervuri mediane pe lungime.

*Datare:* sec. VI-VII p. Chr.

*Analogii:* Băluță 1994, 219, Pl. VII/5; Bădescu 2021, 562, Pl. 193/21-24, Pl. 194/28, 30, 31; Bogdan-Cătănciu, Barnea 1979, Fig. 173/9.1; Curta 2017, 196, Fig. 27; Chrzanovskii 2013, 114; Kostova, Dobrev 2008, 167, nr. 18, Pl. 121/18; Kuzmanov 1992, 122, nr. 315; Kuzmanov, Michev 2018, Pl. LV/805- 816; Opriș, Rațiu 2017, 110, Pl. 17/98; Streinu, Pîrvulescu 2020, 184, nr. 6, Pl. II/6; Topoleanu 2000, 187, nr. 480, Pl. LX/480; Topoleanu 2012, 199, nr. 116, Pl. XIV/116; Topoleanu 2016, Pl. XI, DA14 (*apud* Bemont, Chew 2007, pl. 90).

**12. ARGAMUM 1999, □C4, -0,70/-0,90 m**

*Dimensiuni:* Lp= 4 cm; lp=2,2 cm.

*Stare de conservare:* fragmentar, bordură.

*Tehnică și material:* pastă de culoare 5YR 5/8 yellowish red, angobă 2.5YR 8/2 pinkish white; particule de calcar și mica în compoziție.

*Descriere și decor:* fragment de bordură ușor înclinată, decorată cu linii radiale profilate și câte o granulă la capătul fiecărei linii. Discul este delimitat de două nervuri profilate, cea din interior deschizându-se pentru a forma un canal cu laturile ușor curbate, iar cea din exteriorul discului se încheie sub forma unei volute în apropierea canalului. Pe disc se observă un posibil decor în formă spirală.

*Datare:* sec. VI-VII p. Chr.

Analogii: Băluță 1994, 221-222, nr. 96-97, Pl. VII/5; Iconomu 1967, 29, Fig. 58; Iconomu 1986, Pl. IX/12; Kuzmanov 1992, 122, nr. 319; Popescu 1994, 362, nr. 8d, Fig. 67, 363, nr. 9, Fig. 72; Scorpan 1978, 160, nr. 16, Pl. IV/16.

**13. ARGAMUM 1991, □C2, ED/N1, -0,40 m**

*Dimensiuni:* Lp=5 cm; lp=3,1 cm.

*Stare de conservare:* fragment de bază.

*Tehnică și material:* pastă de culoare 10YR 6/4 light yellowish brown, cu nisip, ceramică pisată, particule de calcar și mica în compoziție.

*Descriere și decor:* bază ovoidală, ușor adâncită, delimitată de o nervură profilată.

*Datate:* sec. VI-VII p.Chr.

*Analogii:* Vezi nr. 10.

Cinci dintre opaițele încadrate în categoria lămpilor balcanice (nr. cat. 6-10) provin, cel mai probabil, din capitala Imperiului. Un singur exemplar (nr. cat. 11) sugerează o posibilă producție provincială/regională, datorită calității și a texturii pastei poroase (cu ceramică pisată, cochilii pisate, particule fine de nisip, calcar și, într-o proporție redusă, mica argintie). Facilitățile conferite de transportul naval plasează aceste opaițe ca marfă adiacentă în transportul de mărfuri importate în provincie.

**d) Lămpi de tip microasiatic - Late Roman Asia Minor type – Boneer 1930, tip XXIX, grup 3/4**

Un număr de unsprezece opaițe pot fi atribuite zonei Asiei Mici, fiind asemănătoare tipului XXIX după Oscar Brooneer, cu cele două grupe (cu canal deschis și canal închis)<sup>36</sup>. Starea fragmentară a pieselor noastre ne împiedică să le atribuim cu precizie vreuneia din cele două grupe. Ele par să fi fost foarte populare la Argamum, reprezentând 45,8% din totalul lămpilor romano-bizantine din sectorul studiat. Confectionate în zona micro-asiatică (Efes sau Milet), astfel de opaițe s-au răspândit în diferite colțuri ale Imperiului, având o frecvență ridicată în bazinul Mării Egeene și zona vest-pontică. Este posibil ca astfel de piese să fi fost produse și în zona vest-pontică. Aici ne referim la Halmyris, unde, în apropierea unui cuptor datat spre sfârșitul sec. al VI p.Chr. și începutul secolului următor, au fost descoperite 30 de astfel de opaițe fără urme de utilizare<sup>37</sup> și la Tomis<sup>38</sup>.

Lămpile microasiatice (nr. cat. 14-24) pot fi considerate ca fiind produse sau imitate în tot bazinul Mării Egee, dar și în provincia Scythia. Prelucrarea unor mari cantități de opaițe poate cauza uzura celor două valve<sup>39</sup>. Un alt criteriu în baza căruia

<sup>36</sup> Brooneer 1930, 115.

<sup>37</sup> Topoleanu 1996, 91-94; Topoleanu 2000, 208-209.

<sup>38</sup> Iconomu 1986, 80-82.

<sup>39</sup> Iconomu 2013, 90.

putem identifica zona de confecționare a acestor lămpi este pasta, de bună calitate, fină, care pe lângă mica argintie conține de cele mai multe ori și particule de calcar. Lămpile produse în Asia Mică sunt de culoare maronie sau portocalie, acoperite cu un slip asemănător (maroniu, portocaliu sau gri), destul de comune fiind și piesele care nu prezintă slip.

#### 14. Argamum 2000, □C7

*Dimensiuni:* Lp=4 cm; lp=4,1 cm.

*Stare de conservare:* fragment din valva superioară, zona ansei, cu bordură și disc.

*Tehnică și material:* pastă de culoare 5YR 6/8 reddish yellow, cu particule de calcar și mica argintie în compoziție.

*Descriere și decor:* disc concav, delimitat de un umăr profilat, decorat cu linii scurte dispuse radial în jurul orificiului de alimentare. Bordura este înclinată, rotunjită, decorată cu granule poziționate pe cinci șiruri. Toarta lamelară este rotunjită și canelată pe lungime.

*Datare:* sec. VI-VII p.Chr.

*Analogii:* Băluță 1994, 222, nr. 102-103; 218 pl. VII/11, 15; Chichikova 1999, 105-196, Fig. 1; Fragoulis, Minasidis, Mentzos 2014, 304, Fig.11/2; Güngör 2015, 204, Pl. 3/18-24; Ionomu 1967, 26, Fig. 49; Ionomu 1986, Pl. VI/7; Iliescu, Bottez 2021, 190, Fig. 4 (*Micro-Asian lamps*), 196, Fig. 7 (*Micro-Asian lamps*), 197, Fig. 8 (*Micro-Asian lamps*); Karivieri 1996, 253, nr. 305, Pl. 48; Opreș, Rațiu 2017, 108, Cat. No. 102, 111, Pl. 18/Cat. No. 102; Poulou-Papadimitriou 1986, 593, Fig. 10, a 12; Petre 1987, 80, Pl. 148, 243/b; Perlzweig 1961, 192, nr. 2807, Pl. 44; Schoolman 2012, 212, Pl. 4/7, SF4509, SF6718, SF5852.

#### 15. Argamum 1991, □C7, Edificiul D sub N1, -0,55, -085 m

*Dimensiuni:* Lp=4 cm; lp=3 cm.

*Stare de conservare:* fragmentar, se păstrează o mică porțiune din valva inferioară cu bază.

*Tehnică și material:* pastă de culoare 2.5YR 5/8 red, angobă 5YR 5/6 yellowish red, particule de calcar și mica în compoziție.

*Descriere și decor:* bază circulară este ușor adâncită, delimitată de o bandă profilată. Nervura delimitează baza decorată cu patru granule (amplasate cruciform) și una în mijlocul acestora în centrul bazei. Ciocul este flancat de o pereche de nervuri decorate cu mici cercuri incizate și un altul cu o granulă în mijlocul nervurilor.

*Datare:* mijlocul sec. VI p. Chr.

*Analogii:* vezi nr. cat. 14.

#### 16. Argamum 1998, □C21, -0,70, -0,90 m

*Dimensiuni:* Lp=5,2 cm; lp=4,9 cm.

*Stare de conservare:* fragmentar, porțiune din valva inferioară.

*Tehnică și material:* pastă de culoare 5YR 5/8 yellowish red, angobă 2.5YR 5/8 red, cu particule de calcar și mica argintie în compoziție.

*Descriere și decor:* biconvex în secțiune, fragmentul mic de bordură păstrează câteva granule și amprenta torții lamelare. Baza este ușor adâncită, delimitată de o bandă profilată, decorată cu mici linii incizate. Semnul crucii este realizat pe bază prin granule. Toarta se termină în „coadă de pește” cu un cerc incizat în centru.



*Datate:* sec. VI-VII p.Chr.

*Analogii:* vezi nr. cat. 14.

**17. Argamum 1985, în loc. RB**

*Dimensiuni:* Lp=6,2 cm; lp=4,3 cm.

*Stare de conservare:* fragment din valva inferioară.

*Tehnică și material:* pastă de culoare 5YR 6/8 reddish yellow, angobă 10R 4/8 red, cu pietricele de mici dimensiuni și particule de calcar în compoziție.

*Descriere și decor:* bază ușor adâncită, delimitată de o nervură profilată. În mijlocul bazei a fost imprimată marca *planta pedis*. Toarta se termină în „coadă de pește” din care se păstrează doar vârful înotătorii.

*Datate:* sec. VI-VII p.Chr.

*Analogii:* vezi nr. cat. 14.

**18. Argamum 1990, Edificiul N, sector central, N2, -0,40/-0, 80 m**

*Dimensiuni:* Lp=2,3 cm; lp=2,2 cm.

*Stare de conservare:* fragmentar, se păstrează doar toarta.

*Tehnică și material:* pastă de culoare 7.5YR 6/8 reddish yellow, angobă 2.5YR 5/8 red. Conține calcar, mica și ceramică pisată.

*Descriere și decor:* toartă lamelară, rotunjită, dublu canelată pe lungime.

*Datate:* a doua jumătate a sec. VI p.Chr.

**19. Argamum 1990, exterior Edificiul N, N2, -0,7/-0,9 m**

*Dimensiuni:* Lp=3,1 cm; lp=4 cm; Ht=3,1 cm.

*Stare de conservare:* fragmentar; se păstrează toarta și un fragment de bordură.

*Tehnică și material:* pastă de culoare 5YR 6/6 reddish yellow, angobă 2.5YR 5/8 red, conține particule de calcar și mica.

*Descriere și decor:* disc concav, bordură înclinată, toartă lamelară. Între toartă și bază a fost imprimată o bandă stilizată, dublu canelată pe lungime (posibil motivul „coadă de pește”).

*Datate:* a doua jumătate a sec. VI p. Chr.

*Analogii:* vezi nr. cat. 14.

*Observații:* având în vedere lipsa decorului standard pe care îl regăsim imprimat pe valva superioară (granule) și posibil al benzii ce unește toarta cu baza, exemplarul în cauză poate fi considerat o producție provincială/regională/locală. De asemenea, putem lua în considerare ipoteza că tiparul utilizat pentru modelarea exemplarului în discuție să fi fost realizat după un prototip importat, la care meșterul cel mai probabil a înălțurat sau modificat decorul. Așadar, în baza celor menționate putem considera exemplarul ca fiind o producție vest-pontică.

**20. Argamum 2000, □C8**

*Dimensiuni:* Lp=2,3 cm; lp=4,2 cm.

*Stare de conservare:* fragment de bordură.

*Tehnică și material:* pastă făinoasă, de culoare 2.5YR 5/8 red, angobă 2.5YR 4/8 red. Conține calcar și mica argintie.

*Descriere și decor:* bordură înclinată, decorată cu cinci șiruri de granule. Pe bordură se mai păstrează doar amprenta torții lamelare.

*Datare:* sec. VI-VII p.Chr.

*Analogii:* vezi nr. cat. 14.

**21. Argamum 1990, Edificiul N, N2, -0,70 -0,90 m**

*Dimensiuni:* Lp=3,6 cm; lp=4 cm.

*Stare de conservare:* fragment din valva inferioară.

*Tehnică și material:* pastă de culoare 2.5YR 4/8 red, angobă 2.5YR 5/8 red, calcar și mica în compoziție.

*Descriere și decor:* biconvex în secțiune. Toarta se termină în „coadă de pește”. Baza este delimitată de o bandă profilată, puțin vizibilă, datorită utilizării intense a tiparului.

*Datare:* a doua jumătate a sec. VI p.Chr.

*Analogii:* vezi nr. cat. 14.

**22. Argamum 1993, C13, -0,55/-1 m**

*Dimensiuni:* Lp=3,5 cm; lp=4,2 cm; Doa=1,1 cm.

*Stare de conservare:* fragment din valva superioară (disc, bordură, toartă).

*Tehnică și material:* pastă de culoare 2.5YR 5/8 red, conține particule de calcar și mica.

*Descriere și decor:* disc concav, delimitat de o nervură subțire slab vizibilă. Bordura este înclinată, ușor rotunjită, decorată cu trei șiruri de granule. Toartă lamelară este neglijent finisată.

*Datare:* sec. VI-VII p. Chr.

*Analogii:* vezi nr. cat. 14.

**23. Argamum 1991, C1, N2B, N1**

*Dimensiuni:* Dof=1,1 cm.

*Stare de conservare:* fragment de cioc.

*Tehnică și material:* pastă de culoare 5YR 4/1 dark gray, angobă 2.5YR 5/1 gray (datorită arderii secundare, angoba este puțin vizibilă). Se pot observa particule de calcar și mica în compoziție.

*Descriere și decor:* biconvex în secțiune, prezintă urme de ardere secundară pe cioc.

*Datare:* mijlocul sec. VI p.Chr.

*Analogii:* vezi nr. cat. 14.

*Observații:* culoarea pastei și textura sunt asemănătoare cu cele ale opaițelor produse în centrul de la Halmyris (vezi casetă text Topoleanu 2000, 210, nr. 542), așadar, putem sugera producerea exemplarului de față în centrul mai sus menționat.

**24. Argamum 1991, □C10, Edificiul R, - 0,60 m, N2**

*Dimensiuni:* Lp= 3 cm; lp= 3,6 cm.

*Stare de conservare:* fragment de bordură cu toartă.

*Tehnică și material:* pastă de culoare 5YR 5/8 yellowish red, angobă 2.5YR 5/8 red, conține particule de calcar și mica.

*Descriere și decor:* biconvex în secțiune, discul este ușor adâncit, delimitat de două nervuri profilate. Bordura este înclinată, rotunjită, decorată cu granule plasate pe patru șiruri. Toarta lamelară, dublu canelată pe lungime, a fost ciobită din vechime.

*Datare:* a doua jumătate a sec. VI p.Chr.

*Analogii:* vezi nr. cat. 14.

### CONSIDERAȚII FINALE

Materialul lychnologic descoperit în sectorul „Faleză Est” se prezintă într-o stare de conservare fragmentară; doar un singur opaiț este întreg (restaurat) și un altul se păstrează în porție de 90%. Restul lotului este compus din opaițe aflate în diferite stadii de fragmentare (toartă, disc, bazin, cioc etc.).

Studierea acestui lot ne oferă posibilitatea de a contura o imagine de ansamblu referitoare la obiectele de iluminat folosite în perioadă romană târzie la Argamum. Integrarea lămpilor într-un cadru socio-economic poate direcționa o analiză în sfera comerțului, producției și nu în ultimul rând a reconstituirii traseului parcurs. Printre materialele lychnologice din sectorul analizat au fost identificate cinci tipuri (Iconomu 1967, tip XXX – nr. cat. 1-3; Hayes 1972, IIB – nr. cat. 4-5; Hayes 1992, tip 10, nr. cat. 6; Hayes 1992, tip 8/9/10 – nr. cat. 7 – variantă neidentificată cu precizie; Hayes 1992, tip 11/12 – nr. cat. 8-13; Broneer 1930, tip XXIX, Gr. 3/4 – nr. cat. 14-24).

Dacă ne raportăm la decor, sunt prezente numeroase modele și motive simple (linii, puncte, cercuri, spirale) sau reprezentări elaborate (vegetale, reprezentări antropomorfe), la care se adaugă și alte motive – (cruce – puncte realizate sub forma unei cruci, motive zoomorfe – „coadă de pește”).

În cadrul eșantionului nostru se pot observa mai multe modele de aplicare a decorului: opaițe ce au fost decorate doar pe valva superioară (Hayes 1992, tip 11/12 – Pl. 1-2/ nr. cat. 8-13, opaițe decorate pe ambele valve (Hayes 1972, tip IIB nr. cat. 4; Broneer 1930, tip XXIX, Group 3/4 Pl.1-2/ nr. cat. 14 - 24) și un singur exemplar fără niciun element de decor ( Hayes 1992, tip 10 Pl. 1-2/ nr. cat. 6.).

Tipul Broneer XXIX (45,8%) este cel mai bine reprezentat în totalul de opaițe din sectorul „Faleză Est”, urmat de tipurile Hayes 1992, tip 11/12 (25%), Iconomu 1967, tip XXX (12,5%), Hayes 1972, IIB (8,3%), Hayes 1992, tip 10 (4,2%), și opaițul singular pe care nu am reușit să-l încadrăm tipologic concret (Hayes 1992, tip 8/9/10 (?) – 4,2%).

Procentajul prezentat se justifică în contextul intensificării contactelor comerciale între zona orientală a Imperiului și zona vest-pontică în timpul Antichității târzii, prin schimbările administrative începute la sfârșitul sec. al III-lea și continuate până în sec. al VI-lea, când a fost organizată *quaestura Iustiniana exercitus*.

Cercetările arheologice efectuate la cetatea Argamum au adus noi dovezi asupra unei posibile producții ceramice interne. Conform modelelor elaborate de Peacock au fost reperate două modele de producție: atelierul individual și nucleul de ateliere<sup>40</sup>.

Săpăturile arheologice din secolul trecut au scos la lumină trei cuptoare situate în două zone. Două cuptoare au fost identificate în proximitatea Bazilicii I în afara zidului de apărare. Acestea au fost construite din materiale provenite de la edificii

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<sup>40</sup> Peacock 1982, 9; Opaiț 1996, 29, 31.

romane timpurii, aveau formă semicirculară alungită (potcoavă), diametrul de 1-1,30 m și erau orientate cu *praefurnium*-ul spre lac (spre est). Al treilea cuptor a fost descoperit în capul promontoriului, în același loc cu cuptorul elenistic. Acesta era circular, cu diametrul de 1,30 m, orientat spre est, cu gura de alimentare spre lac<sup>41</sup>.

După fragmentele ceramice descoperite la nivelul cuptoarelor, acestea au fost datate într-un interval cronologic larg, respectiv sec. IV-VI p.Chr<sup>42</sup>.

Pe lângă cuptoarele menționate, la 4 km vest de cetate, pe malul lacului Razelm, în punctul cunoscut de localnici sub denumirea de *La Zimbru*, a fost identificat un nucleu de ateliere. Pe o suprafață de circa 100 mp<sup>43</sup> s-au reperat resturile mai multor cuptoare, prezentându-se sub forma unor amprente înroșite arse, dintre care doar două au putut fi cercetate, celelalte fiind complet degajate de lama excavatorului<sup>44</sup>. Primul cuptor era de dimensiuni mari (3,60 m pereții laterali, 1,90 m peretele opus gurii de alimentare), de formă trapezoidală. Din acesta s-au păstrat camera de combustie și o porțiune din vatră. În proximitate au fost identificate urmele altui cuptor, cu dimensiuni asemănătoare.

Prezența cuptoarelor în cetate și în afara zidurilor de apărare poate constitui un posibil argument pentru justificarea unei producții interne, inclusiv a opaițelor. În lipsa unor tipare sau a altor elemente ce pot justifica manufacturarea lor la cetatea Argamum, nu putem afirma cu certitudine producerea lămpilor în cuptoarele descoperite aici, însă, sperăm ca viitoarele cercetări arheologice să aducă dovezi concrete privind producția de *lucernae* de la Argamum.

Trei opaițe (Iconomu 1967, tip XXX – nr. cat. 1-3 – tipologie rezultată în urma preluării anumitor caracteristici de la tipul oriental Hayes 1992, 11/12 și lucernele nord-africane – Hayes 1972, IIA/B) au fost probabil manufacturate în Scythia.

Cele două opaițe încadrate în categoria lămpilor nord-africane (Hayes 1972, tip IIB – nr. cat. 4-5) prezintă anumite caracteristici în baza cărora se poate afirma că sunt cel mai probabil manufacturate în provincie/regional. Opaițul nr. cat. 4 a fost modelat într-un tipar efectuat cel mai probabil după un prototip importat, păstrând dimensiunile standard ale celor provenite din provinciile *Africa Proconsularis* și *Byzacena*. Pasta din care a fost modelat exemplarul este asemănătoare cu cea a

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<sup>41</sup> Coja 2005, 74.

<sup>42</sup> Coja 1977, 165.

<sup>43</sup> În urma unor cercetări de suprafață efectuate în anul 2009 de către George Nuțu, acesta era de părere că panta în care au fost realizate cercetările arheologice din 1974 este prea mică pentru a justifica numărul de cuptoare estimat de Maria Coja (20-30 de cuptoare). Cel mai probabil suprafața ar fi trebuit să aibă o întindere mai mare comparativ cu cele specificate de autoarea săpăturii (Nuțu 2019, 116-117).

<sup>44</sup> Coja 1977, 166.

capacelor descoperite la L(I)bida<sup>45</sup>. În ceea ce privește decorul imprimat și ulterior finisat pentru a proiecta imaginea stilizată a unor vârfuri de săgeți, nu au fost identificate analogii concrete. Lampa păstrează forma și dimensiunile, dar decorul „nou” de pe valva superioară și tehnica de realizare ne indică o posibilă producție provincială/regională a acestui exemplar, și poate chiar argamensă. În baza dimensiunilor, lucerna nr. cat. 5 poate fi considerată o imitație locală/provincială după opaițele nord africane.

Opaițul încadrat în tipul Hayes 1992, 10 (nr. cat. 6) poate fi considerat un exemplar de import, produs cel mai probabil în vecinătatea Constantinopolului, însă, nu excludem și posibilitatea provenienței sale din centrul de la Halmyris<sup>46</sup>.

În ceea ce privește opaițul pe care nu am reușit să îl integrăm tipologic concret (nr. cat. 7), putem presupune pe baza decorului puțin vizibil, datorat unei utilizări îndelungate a tiparului, că este cel mai probabil un exemplar provincial.

Lămpile cunoscute ca opaițe de tip balcanic<sup>47</sup> (nr. cat. 8-13) au fost produse în atelierele microasiatice, însă nr. cat. 13 poate fi considerat o producție locală, în virtutea execuției și a pastei grosiere (particule de nisip fin, granule de calcar, ceramică pisată, cochilii pisate și mica argintie într-o proporție redusă).

Cele mai numeroase opaițe din cadrul eșantionului sunt cele încadrate de Oscar Broneer în tipul XXIX, Gr. 3/4, de origine micro-asiatică (nr. cat. 14-24). Tipul în discuție a fost produs în Asia Mică la Efes și Milet, din sec. V p.Chr. până în sec. VII p.Chr<sup>48</sup>. Multiplele imitații apărute în diferite regiuni ale Imperiului, printre care bazinul Mării Egee și zona vest-pontică<sup>49</sup>, respectiv la Halmyris, ne pot sugera posibilitatea producerii acestora regional/provincial. Opaițele fabricate regional/provincial sunt descrise ca fiind opaițe cu pastă de bună calitate, cu textură fină, însă, pe lângă particulele de mică (specifice zonei micro-asiatice), se adăugau în compoziția pastei granule de calcar<sup>50</sup>.

Opaițele provenite din centrele Asiei Mici au pasta de culoare maronie sau roșiatică, acoperită de un slip de aceeași culoare sau cenușiu. O trăsătură bine definită a lămpilor de import sunt pasta micacee, atribuită în mod special produselor din Efes, și cu mica aurie și argintie specifică produselor provenite din Sardis<sup>51</sup>.

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<sup>45</sup> Ibba 2024, 267-296 (vezi Fig. 3b, Fig. 5b, 9b).

<sup>46</sup> Topoleanu 2019, 341-347.

<sup>47</sup> Bass, Doorninck 1982, 196.

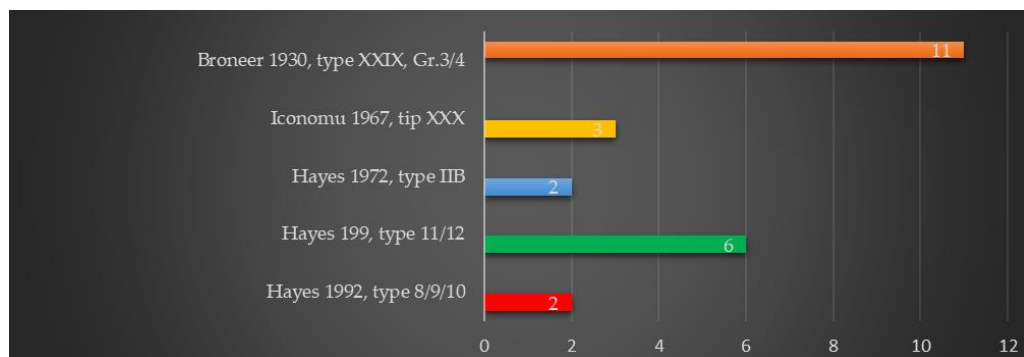
<sup>48</sup> Bădescu, Bottez 2014, 228.

<sup>49</sup> Iliescu, Bottez 2021, 187.

<sup>50</sup> Iliescu, Bottez 2014, 187.

<sup>51</sup> Iliescu, Bottez 2014, 187.

Lămpile de tip micro-asiatic din cadrul eșantionului de față pot fi divizate în două categorii: opaițe produse regional/provincial/local și opaițe produse în zona microasiatică. Din centrele micro-asiatice au fost identificate nouă opaițe (nr. cat. 14-21, 24) în baza calității execuției, având un aspect îngrijit, acoperite cu un slip de culoare roșiatică (nr. cat. 15 – 10R 4/8 red; nr. cat. 17 – 2.5 YR 5/8 red; nr. cat. 18 – 5YR 5/6 yellowish red). De asemenea, două opaițe pot fi considerate ca fiind manufacturate regional, provincial sau local (nr. cat. 22-23), fiind de calitate inferioară, observându-se uzura tiparului și a finisajului neglijent, dar și culoarea pastei și a texturii exemplarului nr. cat. 23 (5YR 4/1 dark gray) care este asemănătoare cu cea a opaițelor produse în centrul de la Halmyris (vezi casetă text Topoleanu 2000, 210, nr. 542); așadar, putem sugera producerea exemplarului de față în centrul de la Halmyris.



Grafic. 1. Reprezentare tipologică/ *Typological representation*.

Cu siguranță, multe dintre mărfurile de la Argamum (inclusiv opaițe) proveneau din alte centre ale Scythiei. Concret, până în prezent cunoaștem câteva cazuri de ateliere atestate, precum cele de la cetatea Halmyris<sup>52</sup> în care au fost produse tipurile O. Broneer 1930, tip XXIX Gr. 3-4 dar și alte tipuri încadrate în tipologia opaițelor „balcanice” (Hayes 8/9/10). Manufacturarea în provincie a tipului Iconomu 1967, XXX poate fi argumentată și prin numeroasele exemplare descoperite, dar și prin prezența tiparelor. În Scythia acestea au fost atestate la Halmyris<sup>53</sup>, Histria<sup>54</sup>, Dinogetia<sup>55</sup>, Tomis<sup>56</sup>, Noviodunum<sup>57</sup>, Sacidava<sup>58</sup>, în diferite regiuni ale Imperiului (Atena<sup>59</sup>),

<sup>52</sup> Suceveanu *et alii* 2003, 105; Topoleanu 2000, 208-209; Chrzanovski, Zhuravlev, Topoleanu 2019, 125-159; Topoleanu 2019, 341-347.

<sup>53</sup> Topoleanu 2000, 202-203, cat. nr. 522-524, Pl. LXV/522-524.

<sup>54</sup> Bădescu, Bottez 2014, 226-227, car. nr. 1-2, Pl. 3/1-2; Iliescu, Bottez 20921, Fig. 12/3, 5.

<sup>55</sup> Grumăzescu 2023, 135, cat. nr. 5, Fig. 3/5.

<sup>56</sup> Iconomu 1967, 27-28, Fig. 54, 140, nr. cat. 727; Iconomu 1976, 135-146.

răspândite cu preponderență în zona vest-pontică. Opaițe atribuite tipului în discuție au fost descoperite și în celelalte sectoare ale cetății Argamum<sup>60</sup>.

La Oltina au fost descoperite în interiorul unui cuptor opaițe ce aparțin tipurilor Hayes 1992, 10 și 11. Tipurile micro-asiatice în discuție sunt atestate în diferite zone ale provinciei: Callatis<sup>61</sup>, Capidava<sup>62</sup>, precum și în centrele mai sus menționate.

Așadar, preponderența relațiilor comerciale cu zonele microasiatice se reflectă și în cadrul descoperirilor lychnologice de la cetatea Argamum, în sectorul „Faleză Est”, dar și în celelalte sectoare<sup>63</sup>.

### **Mulțumiri**

Mulțumim și pe această cale colegilor Camelia Geanbai, pentru desene, și mai ales dr. Florin Topoleanu pentru sfaturi și recomandări bibliografice.

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<sup>57</sup> Baumann 2009, 295, Fig. 17/138, 298, Pl. 146 (*apud* Topoleanu 1984).

<sup>58</sup> Scorpan 1978, 161, cat. nr. 20, Pl. V/20.

<sup>59</sup> Perlzweig 1961, 199, no. 2935, Pl. 46.

<sup>60</sup> Colecția Muzeului de Istorie și Arheologie din Tulcea - nr. inv. 45914 și alte 21 de exemplare inedite.

<sup>61</sup> Băluță 1994, 201, cat. nr. 11 (Colecția Severeanu)?

<sup>62</sup> Opriș, Rațiu 2017, 108, cat. no. 102, 111, Pl. 18/102.

<sup>63</sup> Peste 50% dintre lămpile romano-târzii descoperite la cetatea Argamum se încadrează în tipologia lămpilor micro-asiatice.

## a) Lămpi pontice

Nr. Cat.	Zona de producție	Tipologie	Datare
1	Vest – pontică	Iconomu 1967, tip XXX	sec. VI – VII p.Chr.
2	Vest – pontică	Iconomu 1967, tip XXX	sec. VI – VII p.Chr.
3	Vest – pontică	Iconomu 1967, tip XXX	sec. VI - VII p.Chr.

## b) Lămpi de tip african

Nr. Cat.	Zona de producție	Tipologie	Datare
4	Vest – pontică	Hayes 1972, IIB	sec. VI p.Chr.
	Vest – pontică	Hayes 1972, IIB	Sec. VI p.Chr.

## c) Lămpi de tip balcanic

Nr. Cat.	Zona de producție	Tipologie	Datare
6	Constantinopol	Hayes 1992, tip 10	sec. VI-VII p.Chr.
7	Provincial/Halmyris	Hayes 1992, tip 8/9/10 (?)	sec. VI-VII p.Chr.
8	Constantinopol	Hayes 1992, tip 11/12/ Iconomu 1986, tip LI	sec. VI-VII p.Chr.
9	Constantinopol	Hayes 1992, tip 11/12/ Iconomu 1986, tip LI	sec. VI-VII p.Chr.
10	Constantinopol	Hayes 1992, tip 11/12/ Iconomu 1986, tip LI	sec. VI p.Chr.
11	Constantinopol	Hayes 1992, tip 11/12/ Iconomu 1986, tip LI	sec. VI p.Chr.
12	Constantinopol	Hayes 1992, tip 11/12/ Iconomu 1986, tip LI	sec. VI-VII p.Chr.
13	Provincial	Hayes 1992, tip 11/12/ Iconomu 1986, tip LI	sec. VI-VII p.Chr.

## d) Lămpi de tip microasiatic

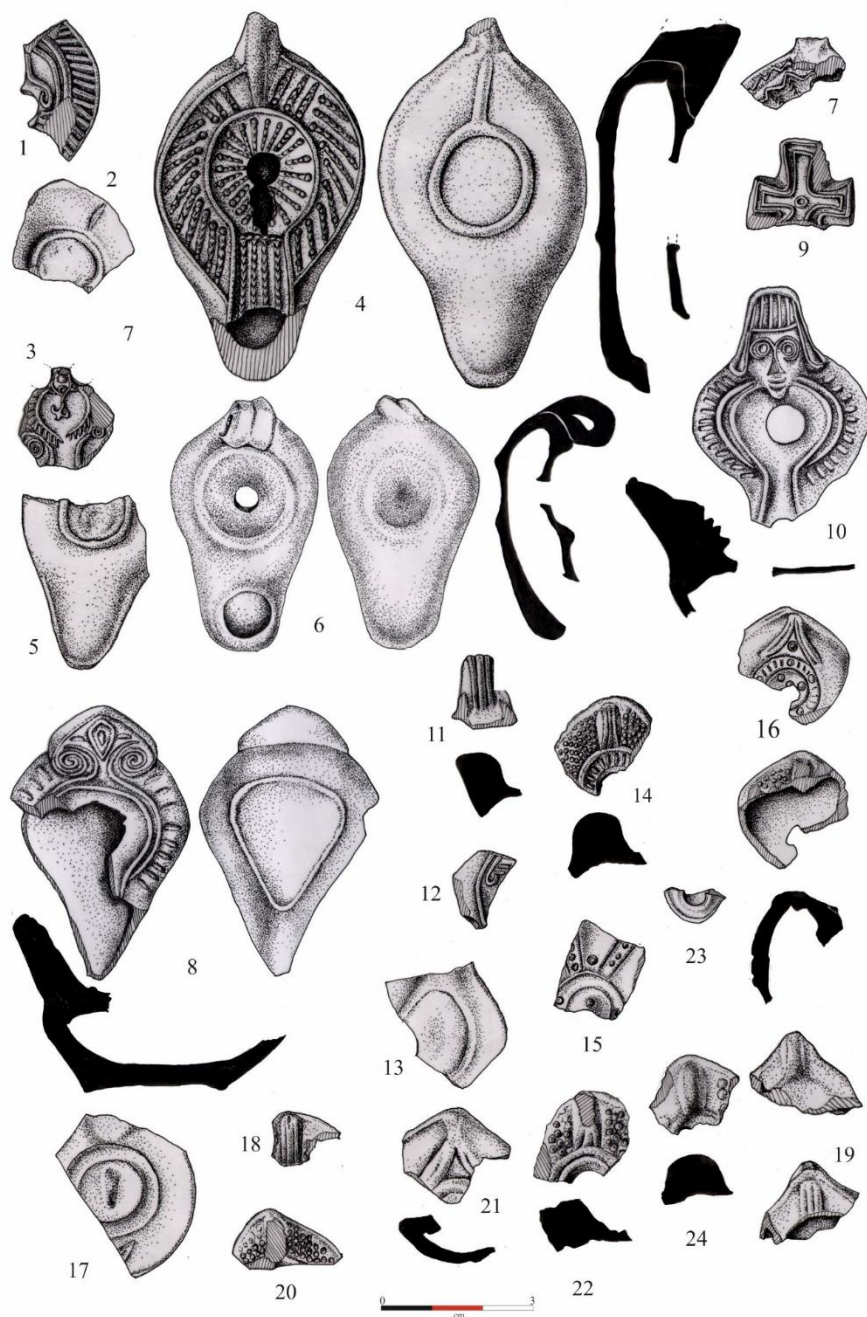
Nr. Cat.	Zona de producție	Tipologie	Datare
14	Microasiatic	Broneer 1930, tip XXIX, Gr. 3/4	sec. VI-VII p.Chr.
15	Microasiatic	Broneer 1930, tip XXIX, Gr. 3/4	sec. VI p.Chr.
16	Microasiatic	Broneer 1930, tip XXIX, Gr. 3/4	sec. VI-VII p.Chr.



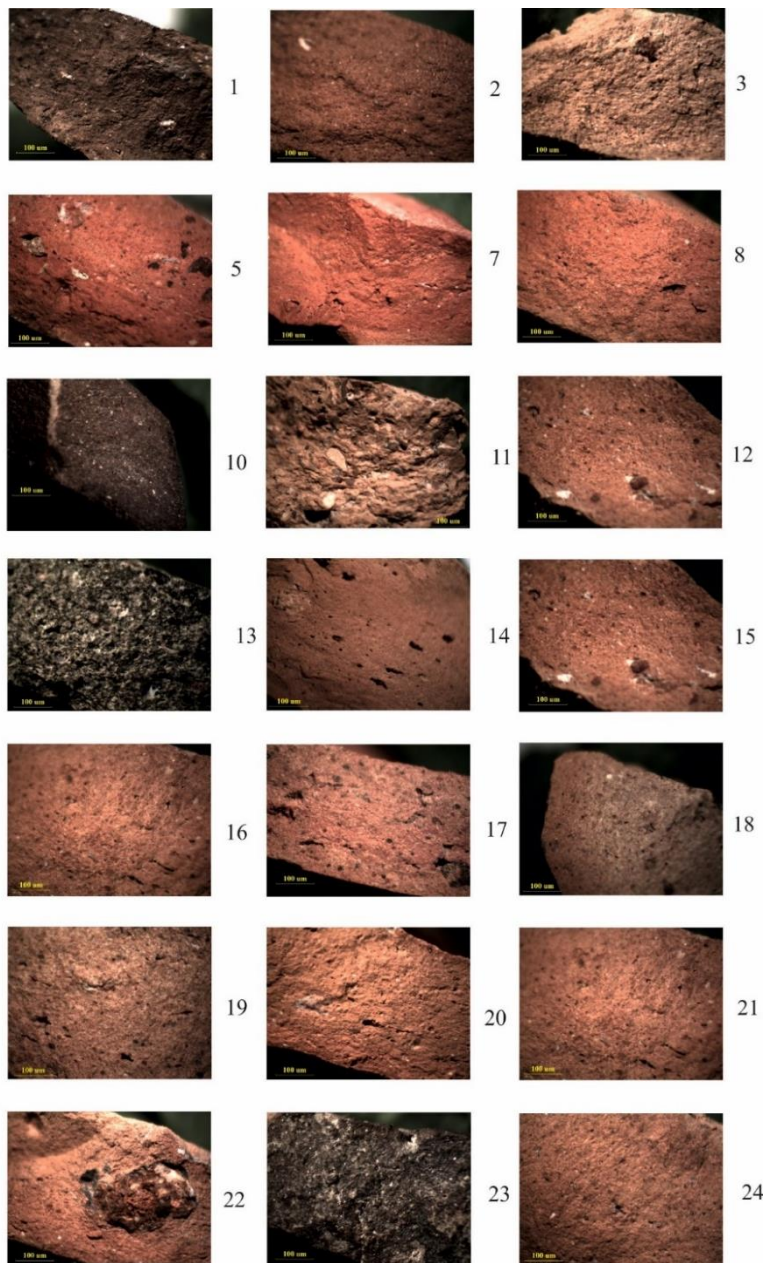
17	Microasiatic	Broneer 1930, tip XXIX, Gr. 3/4	sec. VI-VII p.Chr.
18	Microasiatic	Broneer 1930, tip XXIX, Gr. 3/4	a II-a jum. a sec. VI p.Chr.
19	Microasiatic	Broneer 1930, tip XXIX, Gr. 3/4	a II-a jum. a sec. VI p.Chr.
20	Microasiatic	Broneer 1930, tip XXIX, Gr. 3/4	sec. VI-VII p.Chr.
21	Microasiatic	Broneer 1930, tip XXIX, Gr. 3/4	a II-a jum. a sec. VI p.Chr.
22	Provincial/ regional	Broneer 1930, tip XXIX, Gr. 3/4	sec. VI-VII p.Chr.
23	Provincial/ regional	Broneer 1930, tip XXIX, Gr. 3/4	a II-a jum. a sec. VI p.Chr.
24	Microasiatic	Broneer 1930, tip XXIX, Gr. 3/4	sec. VI-VII p. Chr.



Planșa 1. 1. Hayes 1992, tip 10; 2. Hayes 1992, tip 8/9/10; 3-8. Hayes 1992, tip 11/12; 9-10. Hayes 1972, tip IIB; 11-13. Iconomu 1967, tip XXX; 14-24. Broneer 1930, tip XXIX, Grupele 3/4.



Planșa 2. 1. Hayes 1992, tip 10; 2. Hayes 1992, tip 8/9/10; 3-8. Hayes 1992, tip 11/12; 9-10. Hayes 1972, tip IIB; 11-13. Iconomu 1967, tip XXX; 14-24. Broneer 1930, tip XXIX, Grupele 3/4.



Planșa 3. 1-3. Iconomu 1967, tip XXX; 5. Hayes 1972, IIB; 7. Hayes 1992, tip 8/9/10 (?); 8, 10, 11, 12, 13. Hayes 1992, tip 11/12; 14-24. Broneer 1930, tip XXIX, Gr. 3/4 ( $\times 20$ ).

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# WE SEE IT TODAY, BUT WHAT IS IT?

## AN INTRIGUING FIGURAL IMAGE ON A CERAMIC VESSEL FROM HISTRIA

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**Iulia ILIESCU**

Department of Ancient History, Archaeology and Art History,  
Faculty of History, University of Bucharest, Romania  
iulia-alexandra.iliescu@istorie.unibuc.ro  
ORCID ID: 0000-0002-9260-608X

**Irina ACHIM**

“Vasile Pârvan” Institute of Archaeology of Romanian Academy,  
Bucharest, Romania  
achimirina@yahoo.com  
ORCID ID: 0000-0002-2582-1775

**Abstract:** The paper brings to the foreground a ceramic artefact discovered in 2023 in Histria, in the “Basilica with Crypt” Sector, in a trench located in the vicinity of the Christian monument. The item was discovered in a 6<sup>th</sup> century AD context in a fragmentary state of preservation. It belongs most probably to a large-sized plate and stands out for its decoration consisting of a partially preserved anthropomorphic representation and a *graffito*. The authors propose a contextual, typological and stylistic analysis of the fragment, which aims not only to reconstruct the technological and functional aspects of the ceramic fragment, but also to discuss the archaeological context that delivered it.

**Rezumat:** În lucrarea de față este adus în prim-plan un fragment ceramic descoperit în anul 2023 la Histria, în Sectorul *Basilica cu Criptă*, într-o secțiune aflată în vecinătatea monumentului creștin, piesă care provine dintr-un context databil în sec. VI p.Chr. Artefactul fragmentar aparține cel mai probabil unui platou de mari dimensiuni și se remarcă prin decoratie, constând într-o reprezentare antropomorfă și un *graffito* parțial păstrate. Autorii propun o analiză contextuală, tipologică și stilistică a acestui fragment, care vizează nu doar reconstituirea aspectelor tehnologice și funcționale ale piesei ceramice, ci și discutarea contextului arheologic din care aceasta provine.

**Keywords:** Late Antiquity, tableware, stamped decoration, province of *Scythia*, Christian symbols/iconography.

**Cuvinte cheie:** antichitatea târzie, veselă de masă, decor șampilat, provincia *Scythia*, simboluri creștine.

## INTRODUCTION

The “Basilica with Crypt” Sector represents the only active research in recent years in the perimeter of an *intra muros* Christian monument at Histria. The Christian edifice itself is significant for the *Main Gate/Main Square* urban microzone of Late Roman Histria and gained scientific attention starting with the fourth decade of the last century, with the excavations carried out by Marcelle and Scarlat Lambrino in *Sector*

A<sup>1</sup>, which allowed the almost complete unveiling of the basilica and the extensive research of the area north of it<sup>2</sup>.

The monument covers the eastern part of the open space in front of the Main Gate and is connected to the urban space through a complex network of streets, whose configuration is partially known and verified in the field<sup>3</sup> (Fig. 1). Since 2018, research has been undertaken outside the Christian complex, in the area adjacent to it to the north and west, in order to investigate the road network that links the edifice to the surrounding area.

One of the few structures placed to the north of the Christian Basilica was identified by A. Petre in 1958-1959 and represents a north-south street (named by the author *street A*) at the eastern limit of the buildings on the north side of the Main Square<sup>4</sup> (Fig. 1).

The investigations were conducted between 2018 and 2023 in the perimeter of street A and its adjacent buildings to the west, near the only vehicular gateway into the city. Street A was excavated in two campaigns<sup>5</sup> (2018 and 2022) with a total length of about 12 m being uncovered. In the form in which it has survived, the street seems to be the result of a continuous activity, but in successive stages, as is the case with the neighbouring structures (Fig. 1). Its pavement is made of extremely rare green schists and limestones bound with compact yellow silt. This *battuto* is preserved on a continuous surface, has a slight slope to the south, and has yielded rich ceramic and numismatic material. A recent study on the ceramic finds from the perimeter of street A

<sup>1</sup> The unpublished archaeological documentation of the Lambrinos, held in the archives of the "Vasile Pârvan" Institute of Archaeology, permits the reconstruction of the rhythm and manner in which the field research progressed in September and October 1931, in the area of the basilica – see Archive IAVP (copies), S. and M. Lambrino, *Recent Field Notebook 1929-1931* (commencing on 8<sup>th</sup> of September 1931), Sector A and *Histria – Album no. 6*, f. 242 (for the plan of the monument).

<sup>2</sup> Achim 2014, 265-266, note 3, Fig. 2.

<sup>3</sup> Oppermann 2010, 75-76, Pls. 5, 2 and 9, 1-2; Achim 2012, 141-145, Figs. 15-18; Born 2012, 84-90, Figs. 84-87; Achim 2014, in particular 270-272, Figs. 4, 16, 18-19 (for the Christian monument), and Mărgineanu-Cârstoiu 1984, 303-314, Figs. 3, 5; Stefan 2019, 72-78, Figs. 35-37 (for ancient urban setting and the road network).

<sup>4</sup> For the street A and the neighbouring buildings westwards see Petre 1962, 389-390, 392-393, Pls. III-IV. For a new discussion based exclusively on A. Petre's research about this group of buildings, their chronology and relationships with nearby monuments see Munteanu 2011, 237, 242-248, Figs. 1-4.

<sup>5</sup> Achim, Dima 2019; Achim *et alii* 2023, 194-195, Figs. 3-4.

shows that the material is in an advanced state of fragmentation, but extremely varied in terms of chronology and functionality<sup>6</sup>.



Fig. 1. "Basilica with Crypt" Sector and the surrounding area – drone view (photo: L. Clianțe, 2022).

<sup>6</sup> Streinu, Achim 2021, in particular 151-152, Fig. 32. The analysis offered by A. Streinu highlighted the main functional ceramic categories and determined that transport amphorae for wine have a significant share in the assemblage, in proportions almost equal to those of tableware. This data can represent further evidence to understand the functionality of these spaces and the street next to it.

The interior of Room 1 from the Group I identified by A. Petre on the northern side of the Main Square was excavated to a maximum depth of 1.84 m, but no coherent built structures have been found. The ceramic fragment in question comes from a compact yellow clay floor unveiled in 2023 inside Room 1<sup>7</sup> (Figs. 2-3). The large amount of rubefied adobe present in this layer indicates the violent destruction of a lightweight structure which was oriented towards street A (Figs. 4-5). The rich ceramic assemblage, characterised by a very fragmentary preservation state and broad chronology, found together with three coins dating to the 6<sup>th</sup> century AD<sup>8</sup> and a Greek countermarked coin of the 3<sup>rd</sup> century BC are further arguments for the successive reconstructions/repairs of the last living surface, with materials from other areas. It is also worth noting that in the layers overlying this level (at depths between 1 m and 1.60 m), 6<sup>th</sup> century coins are found alongside other currency, ranging from the Early to the Late Roman period<sup>9</sup>.

The chronological diversity of the material is also reflected in the ceramic inventory, where one finds vessels belonging to the Greek (Archaic, Classical, and Hellenistic), Early Roman and Late Roman periods. Among the pottery specific to the first group one can mention *lekanai* with two horizontal and high handles (Fig. 6/1), containers for storing and pouring liquids (including Hellenistic pitchers *à une anse pastillée*<sup>10</sup> – Fig. 6/5; Hellenistic mould-made bowls with relief decoration<sup>11</sup> and even a fragmentary mould for producing this type of vessels – Fig. 6/6), and tableware (such as Archaic bowls with dull reddish slip – Fig. 6/2; or black-glazed fish-plates and bowls – Fig. 6/3-4). The next horizon is represented by 2<sup>nd</sup> century wine amphorae (e.g., Dressel 2-4 type of Coan origin<sup>12</sup> – Fig. 7/1; Aegean “carrot” type<sup>13</sup> – Fig. 7/2),

<sup>7</sup> Achim *et alii* 2024, 197-198, Fig. 5a-c. Our warmest thanks go to Bianca Profiran, who took part in the 2022-2023 archaeological campaigns and whose technical skills were a great asset to the team.

<sup>8</sup> The numismatic analysis of Mihai Dima (National Bank of Romania Museum) reveals the presence of following specimens: M.121 – Justin II and Sofia, ½ follis, Thessalonica, year 10 (AD 574-575); M.122 – Justin II and Sofia, ½ follis, Nicomedia, illegible year; M.123 – Justinian I, follis, Constantinople, off. €, AD 527-538. We are very grateful to Dr. M. Dima for his numismatic insights, feedback and constant assistance.

<sup>9</sup> For example, M.107 – Bronze coin issued at Istros to Claudius I (very rare); M.108 – Justin II and Sofia, follis, Constantinople, off. Δ, year 9 (AD 573-574); M.110 – Licinius I, nummus, Heraclea, off. Γ, beginning of 313 (RIC, VI, 541, no. 73); M.111 – Constantius II, AE3, FEL TEMP REPARATIO type, AD 351-361.

<sup>10</sup> Coja 1979, 47, cat. nos. 30-33, Pl. 5.

<sup>11</sup> See more finds and considerations in Domăneanțu 2000.

<sup>12</sup> Peacock, Williams 1986, 105-106, Class 10.

<sup>13</sup> Opaît, Grigoraș 2022, 59, inv. no. 450, Pl. 13/450.

cooking pots of Honcu 2017, Type I<sup>14</sup> (Fig. 7/3), and tableware in a wide variety of 2<sup>nd</sup> – 3<sup>rd</sup> centuries bowls (e.g., Pontic thin-walled bowls with rouletted decoration on the outside – Fig. 7/4; carinated bowls with wavy bands of Suceveanu 2000, Type XVIII/31-32<sup>15</sup> – Fig. 7/5; or local conical bowls with incurved rim<sup>16</sup> – Fig. 7/6). A significant discovery for the Late Roman period is a fragmentary deep bowl belonging to the so-called „Foederati ware”<sup>17</sup> decorated with burnished bands on the inner surface, both wavy and simple, and dated to the 4<sup>th</sup> century (Fig. 8/6). The last functioning phases are represented by 6<sup>th</sup> century wine amphorae of Late Roman 1<sup>18</sup> (Fig. 8/1-2), Late Roman 4<sup>19</sup> (Fig. 8/3) or Kuzmanov XVI<sup>20</sup> types (Fig. 8/4), as well as by LRCW Form 10 B plates<sup>21</sup> (Fig. 8/5).

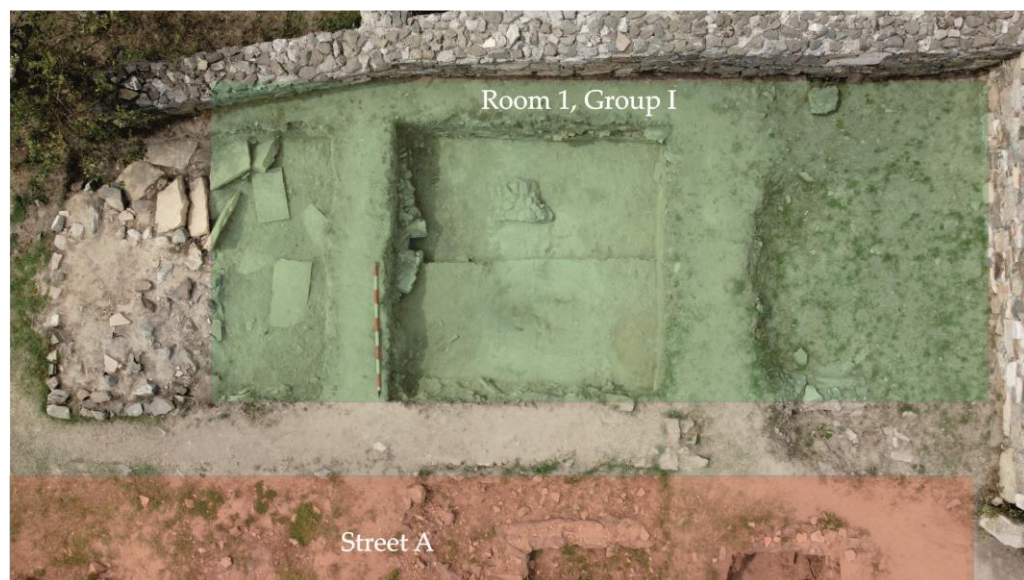


Fig. 2. Detail of Room 1, Group I – drone view (photo L. Cliante, 2022).

<sup>14</sup> Honcu 2017, 43-50, type I.

<sup>15</sup> Suceveanu 2000, 74, cat. nos. 31-32, Pl. 27/31-32. For a similar find from this sector see Streinu, Achim 2021, 144, cat. no. 93, Fig. 18/93.

<sup>16</sup> For a detailed discussion regarding this type see Streinu, Achim 2021, 141.

<sup>17</sup> See an in-depth discussion at Swan 2019, 457-476.

<sup>18</sup> Pieri 2005, 70-77.

<sup>19</sup> Pieri 2005, 105-107.

<sup>20</sup> Кузманов 1985, 22-23.

<sup>21</sup> Hayes 1972, 343.



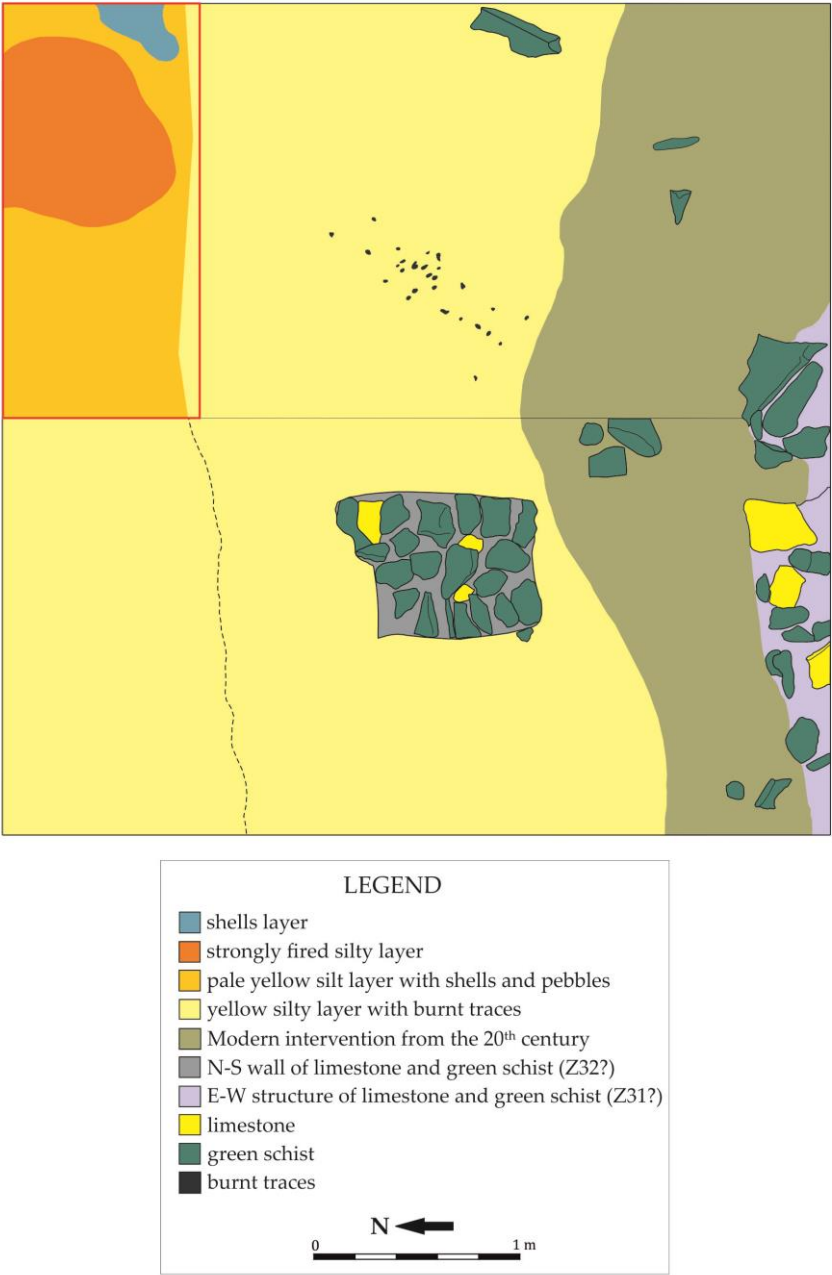


Fig. 3. Plan of Trench B4 with the discovery area of the ceramic shard (drawing by B. Profiran and I. Achim, 2022).





Fig. 4. View over the Eastern (1) and Northern (2) profiles of Trench B4 (photos by I. Achim, 2023).

### THE FIND IN QUESTION

The piece of interest for the current study is a pottery shard found in a fragmentary state of preservation, as only a small segment of the base has survived (Fig. 9/1-2). Although there are no morphological elements that would allow us to estimate its original dimensions, there are certain indications, like the circular incisions on the outer surface of the base made during wheel-throwing, that suggest it was a large-sized open vessel, with the rim diameter exceeding 30 cm. The macroscopic analysis enabled to determine several aspects of the vessel's technological process: it was made of semi-fine fabric in which

quartz, mica and iron oxides are present (Fig. 9/2). The vessel was wheel-thrown and, even though no slip was applied, it is very likely that it was smoothed before firing. All these features indicate that the piece belongs to tableware and represents a large-sized platter. What must be emphasized, however, is that the fabric characteristics distinguish this vessel from the main Late Antique tableware productions (*i.e.*, African Red Slip Ware, Late Roman C Ware, Late-Roman Light-Coloured or Pontic Red Slip Ware), being most likely the product of a provincial workshop. Based on the decorative elements that will be presented below, the fragment can be assigned to the Late Roman horizon, most probably to the 6<sup>th</sup> century.

Unfortunately, the decoration is incomplete, a small segment composed of several elements being preserved, each of which fragmentary. The most visible element is a stamped anthropomorphic representation, followed by two unclear motifs made in the same technique, seen in the upper part of the fragment, and a *graffito post cocturam*.

The anthropomorphic figure is rendered as a human bust in profile, preserving the rear half of the head and the shoulders: as for the facial features, a small part of the character's exophthalmic eyes, short neck and hair can be seen. This manner of representation is very similar to that found on North-African tableware produced in Late Antiquity, as exemplified by several busts stamped on 6<sup>th</sup> century plates<sup>22</sup> (Fig. 10/1-2). The other stamped motifs are very difficult to interpret because of their very advanced state of fragmentation. One educated guess is that the vertical line, which, although interrupted, seems to continue upwards, represents the lower arm of a Latin cross, an element similar to another commonly found on African Red Slip wares and which is part of a more complex motif – a standing figure holding close against body, in the left hand, a “cross on staff”<sup>23</sup> (Fig. 10/3). Another hypothesis is that the line is part of an upturned spear, which is another motif quite frequently used in this period, also on North-African tableware<sup>24</sup> (Fig. 10/4-6). If these assumptions are taken into account, then the tiny stamp preserved in the left corner of the fragment could be interpreted as the lower part (the feet) of a second anthropomorphic representation, since both the cross and spear are usually associated with human figures holding them (saints and warriors, respectively)<sup>25</sup>.

<sup>22</sup> Hayes 1972, 269, Type 252, Fig. 52/252i (on a Form 104A vessel); Cardarelli 2022, 338, FU.15.2, Tav. 91/2 (on a Form 104A vessel).

<sup>23</sup> Hayes 1972, 265, Type 234d, Fig. 51/234d (on Forms 103B and 104); Cardarelli 2022, 326-327, FU.1.4, FU.1.5A, FU.1.8, Tav. 75/1, 3-4, and 77/1 (on Form 104A plates).

<sup>24</sup> Cardarelli 2022, 330-331, FU.3.2-5, Tav. 81/2-3, 82/1-4, and 83/4SNI.

<sup>25</sup> Hayes 1972, 227.

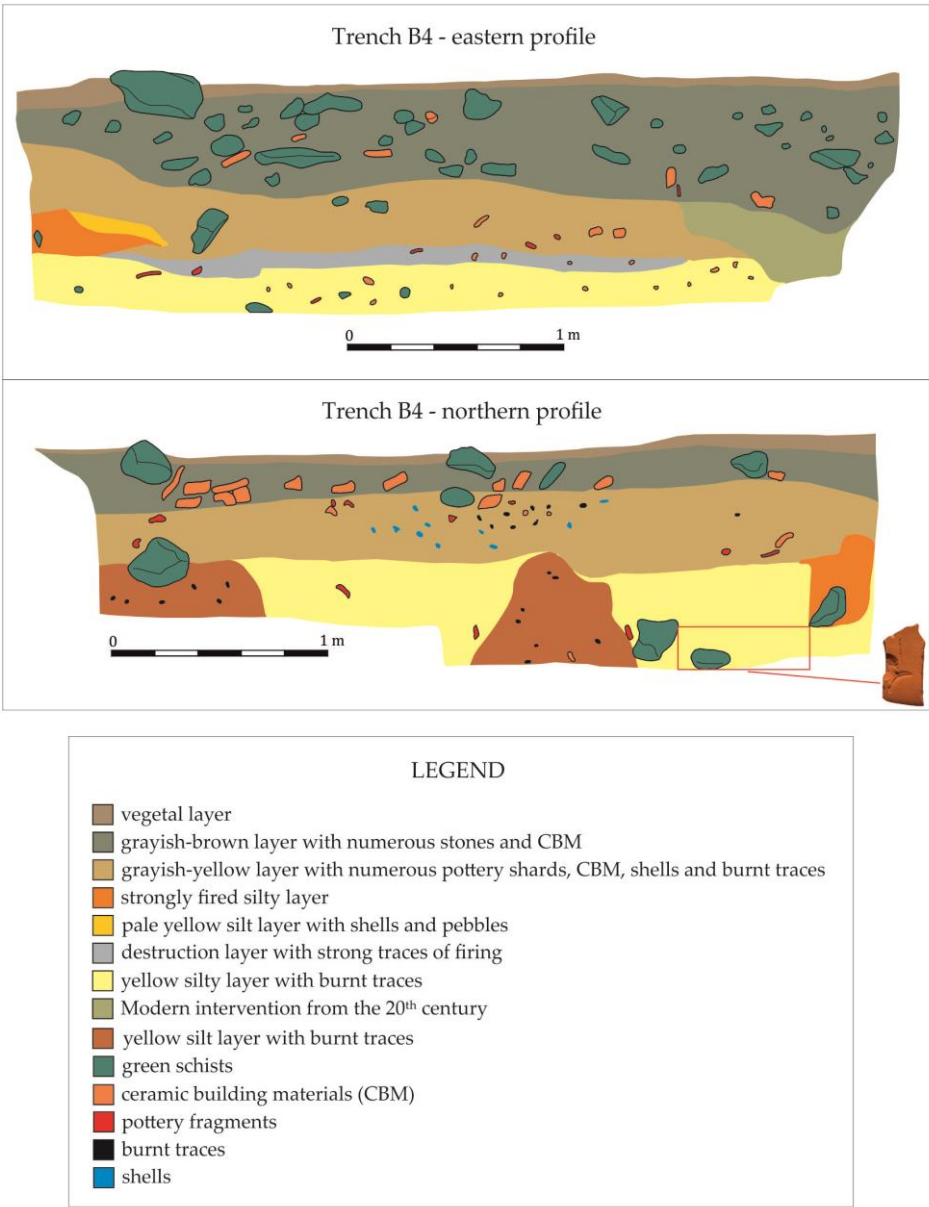


Fig. 5. Stratigraphy of Trench B4 – Eastern (1) and Northern (2) profiles (drawings by B. Profiran, I. Achim and I. Iliescu).

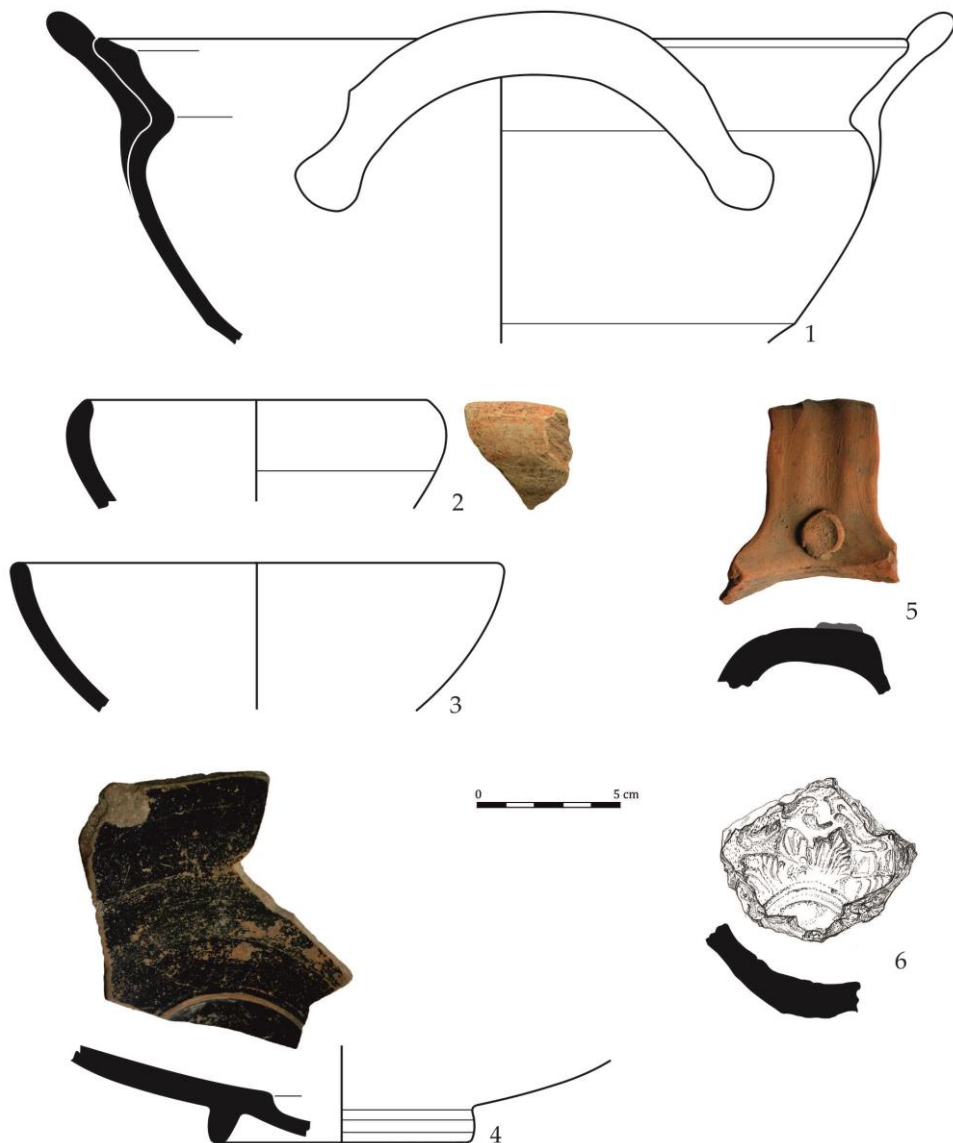


Fig. 6. Greek pottery from Trench B4  
(1-5. drawings and photos by I. Iliescu; 6. by B. Profiran).

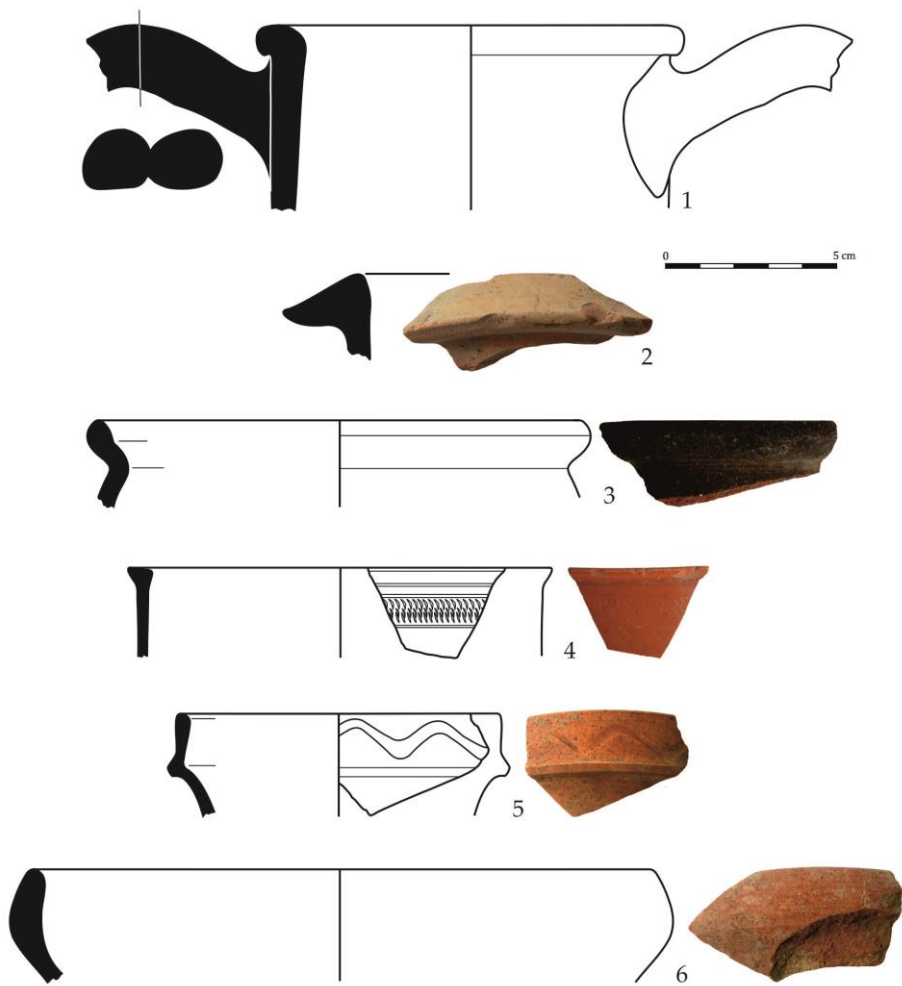


Fig. 7. Early Roman pottery from Trench B4  
(drawings and photos by I. Iliescu).

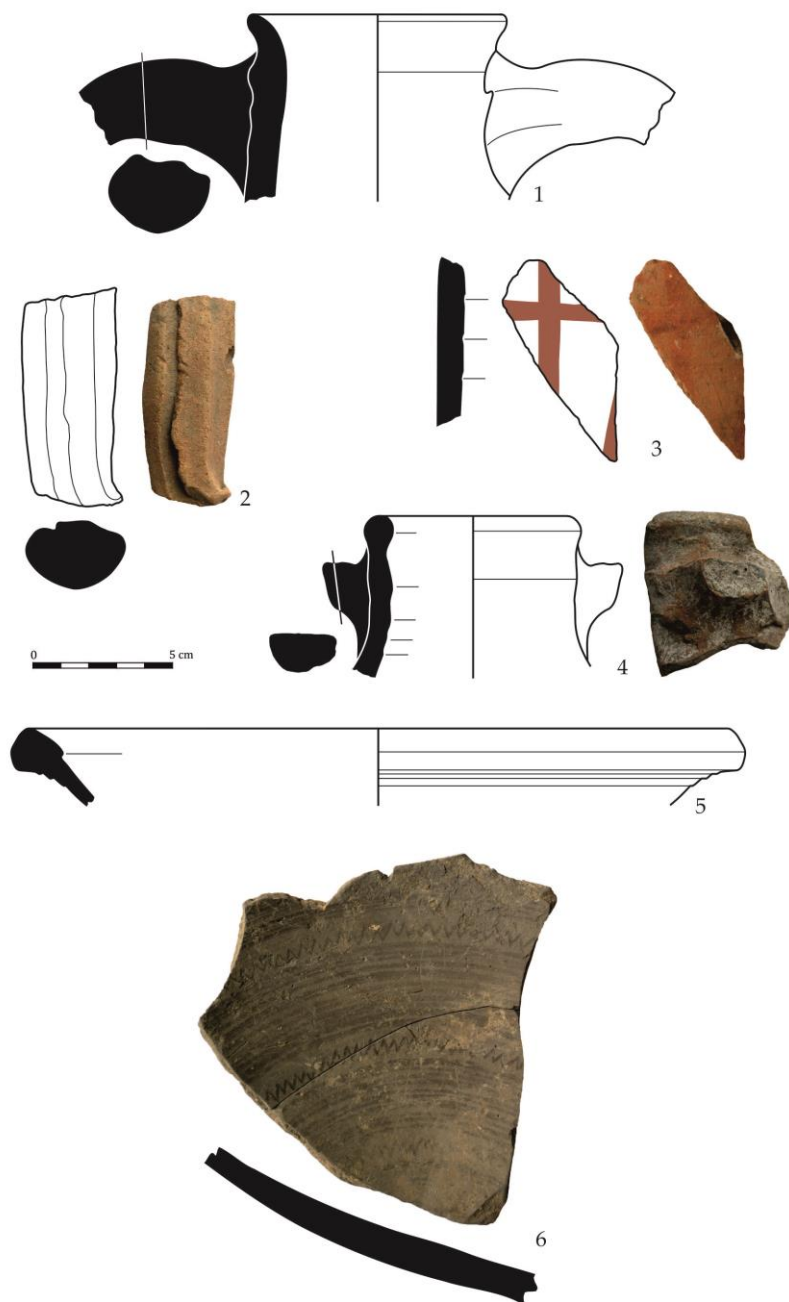


Fig. 8. Late Roman pottery from Trench B4 (drawings and photos by I. Iliescu).

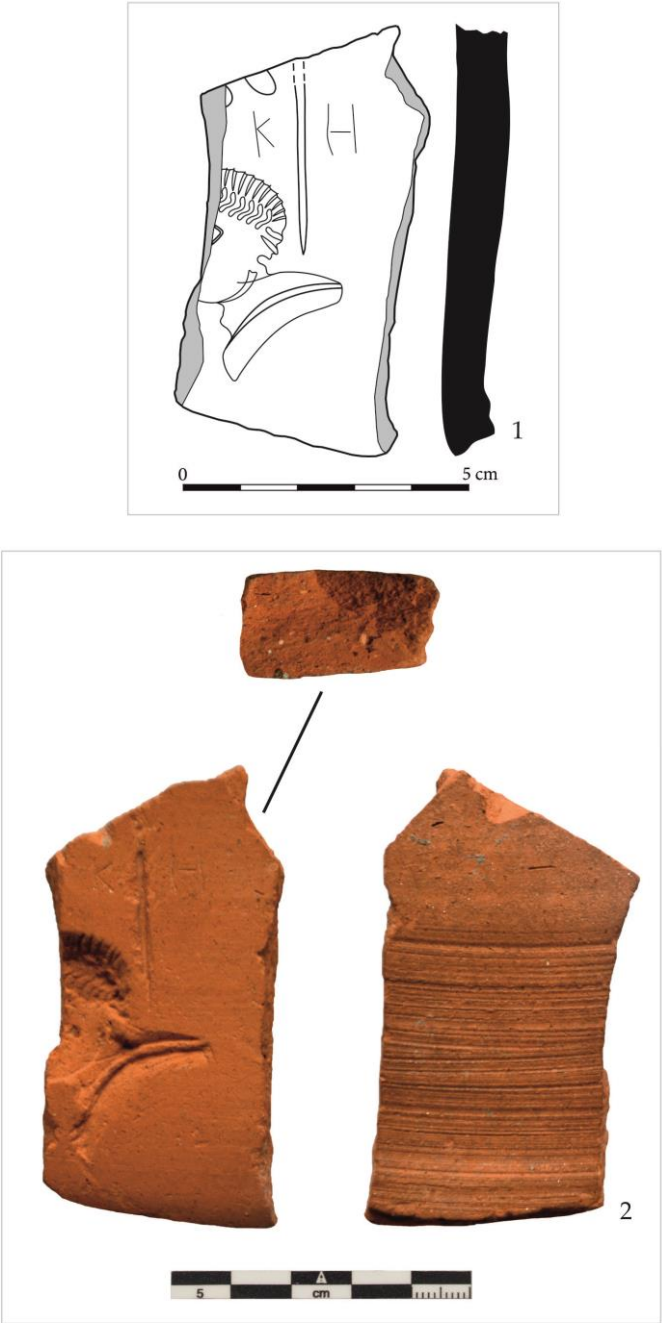


Fig. 9. The ceramic shard under scrutiny (drawing and photos by I. Iliescu).

Understanding the piece is made even more difficult by the *graffito* written on either side of the vertical haste, which has been preserved in an equally fragmentary manner. The only two visible letters are K H (Fig. 9). In the current context, their meaning is difficult to decipher, as there are several variations of terms or names from which they could come. The closest parallel so far, both in terms of the letters and the way they are arranged, is the mention on a 13<sup>th</sup> century Engolpion cross found at Păcuilul lui Soare, which refers to Virgin Mary<sup>26</sup>. Another possible reading, proposed by Dragoș Hălmagi after direct observation of the object, could be K(ύΡΙΕ) Η(σΟΥ)<sup>27</sup>.

The two letters, together with the poorly preserved decoration, are therefore insufficient to reconstruct the written reference on the shard. However, if one considers the Christian significance of these letters, the likelihood that the stamped vertical haste represents the arm of a cross is reinforced, as numerous examples are documented on different media in which religious messages are written on either side of the cross arms<sup>28</sup>.

## DISCUSSION / INTERPRETATION

The find is as interesting as it is problematic. In analysing the fragment, one could not help noting the fairly high similarities with the African Red Slip Ware: human busts in profile, with exophthalmic eyes and short hair, are a recurring motif in North-African ware, and are often used to border a central motif, be it an anthropomorphic representation or other symbols related to the sphere of Christian religion. Examples from the first half of the 6<sup>th</sup> century are very suggestive in this respect, in which the human bust is repeated twice, on either side of a saint<sup>29</sup> (Fig. 11/3-4) or a cross<sup>30</sup> (Fig. 11/1-2). Other representations that further help to understand the shard are those found on large-sized plates also belonging to the first half of the 6<sup>th</sup> century, in which the busts placed both frontally and in profile accompany a fully rendered figure in military dress holding a spear in the right hand with the tip upwards and a globe in

<sup>26</sup> IGLR, no 185.

<sup>27</sup> For a similar inscription see Bull. ép. 1987, 677 = SEG 35, 736 (Paleochristian funerary inscription from Macedonia – same letters flanking a cross). We would like to thank Dragoș Hălmagi for his epigraphic insights and valuable comments.

<sup>28</sup> See for instance IGLR, nos. 64a (for silverware), 80a-d and 132 (for tableware), 130 (for *dolia*), 146, 148 and 153-154 (for amphorae), 198 (for bricks), 211 (for limestone), etc.

<sup>29</sup> Waagé 1948, 51, Fig. 32/1; Bejaoui 1997, 171-172, nos. 102-103, Figs. 102-103; 174, no. 105, Fig. 105; Cardarelli 2022, 325, FU.1.2, subtype A; 327, FU.1.8; 328, FU.1.11, subtype A, and FU.1.12.

<sup>30</sup> Waagé 1948, 51, Fig. 32/5; Bejaoui 1997, 198, no. 128, Fig. 128; Cardarelli 2022, 355, CR.11.5; 357-359, CR.12.3, FU.12.5 and FU.12.10.



the left hand<sup>31</sup> (Fig. 11/5-6). Thus, they are commonly used to form elaborate, composite decorative patterns that cover a large part of the vessels' floor.



Fig. 10. Decorative motifs on North-African tableware: 1-2. Human busts in profile; 3. Anthropomorphic representation with a cross; 4-6. Anthropomorphic representations with spear (after 1-2. Cardarelli 2022, Tav. 91/2-3; 3. Cardarelli 2022, Tav. 75/1; 4-6. Cardarelli 2022, Tav. 81/3 and 82/3-4).

However, the specific features of the piece in terms of fabric, shape (slightly curved towards the area where the base ring would have been applied) and decoration (tightly packed motifs in a *horror vacui* style) distinguish it from all Late Antique tableware. This raises the question of whether it can be considered an inspiration after

<sup>31</sup> Cardarelli 2022, 330-331, FU.3.4 and FU.3.5, subtypes A and B.

external prototypes and, more specifically, a regionally made product trying to follow the fashion imposed by the North-African tableware. This would not be a singular case, as the strong influence of this ware on other productions has been discussed on several occasions by the scholars. Due to its outstanding quality, as reflected in its intricate shapes and superb, elaborate decorations, African Red Slip Ware was very prestigious and enjoyed great popularity, but it was not as affordable as other tableware groups. This has led, on the one hand, to the development in different regions (Hispania, the Italian Peninsula, Greece or Egypt) of cheaper derivatives resembling these products, in which specific shapes are reproduced<sup>32</sup>. On the other hand, some of the vessels made in the North-African workshops influenced other major Late Antique tableware productions from the Eastern Mediterranean and the Black Sea basin: for example, in the case of Phocaean Red Slip Ware, some morphological features, decorative motifs and patterns are adapted<sup>33</sup>; for the Pontic Red Slip Ware, a recent study brings into question the morphological connections between the most popular African shapes and the emblematic forms of Pontic production<sup>34</sup>.

In fact, this tendency to faithfully reproduce or incorporate specific North-African features was also observed in other categories of goods, such as amphorae, cooking vessels<sup>35</sup> or lighting objects. Of these, the impact of North-African lamps seems to have been much stronger: being made of the same high-quality fabric as the African Red Slip Ware and displaying complex decorations on the shoulder and discus, they genuine products are not as numerous as the lamps, which imitate or are inspired by these prototypes. Imitating North-African lamps seems to have been a global phenomenon, attested in numerous regions of the Late Roman world, such as the Aegean basin<sup>36</sup> and, more recently, the Ionian-Adriatic basin<sup>37</sup>. The West Pontic region joins the other areas in which such copies have been produced, since in many settlements in the province both faithful imitations and inspirations are attested<sup>38</sup>.

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<sup>32</sup> Aquilué 2008; Fontana 1998; Bonifay 2004, 460; Bonifay 2014, 80.

<sup>33</sup> See Hayes 1972, 328 for the discussion regarding the influence of ARSW Form 59 on LRCW Form 2; 346, for the similarities in decoration.

<sup>34</sup> For a detailed discussion, see Domžalski 2021, 164-168.

<sup>35</sup> Bonifay 2014, 76-79, and 84-85; Castaldo 2020, 264-268.

<sup>36</sup> Karivieri 1996, 39, 57-59; Petridis 2019.

<sup>37</sup> De Mitri 2023, 382-384, Fig. 5.

<sup>38</sup> See Iliescu, Bottez 2021, 219, note 122. More recent finds are attested at Capidava – Petcu, Georgescu, Petcu-Levei 2022, 328-329, cat. nos. 6-8, Fig. 8/6-8 – and Dinogetia – Grumăzescu 2023, 134-135, cat. no. 2, Figs. 2/2 and 3/2; 139-140, cat. no. 8, Figs. 2/8 and 3/8.

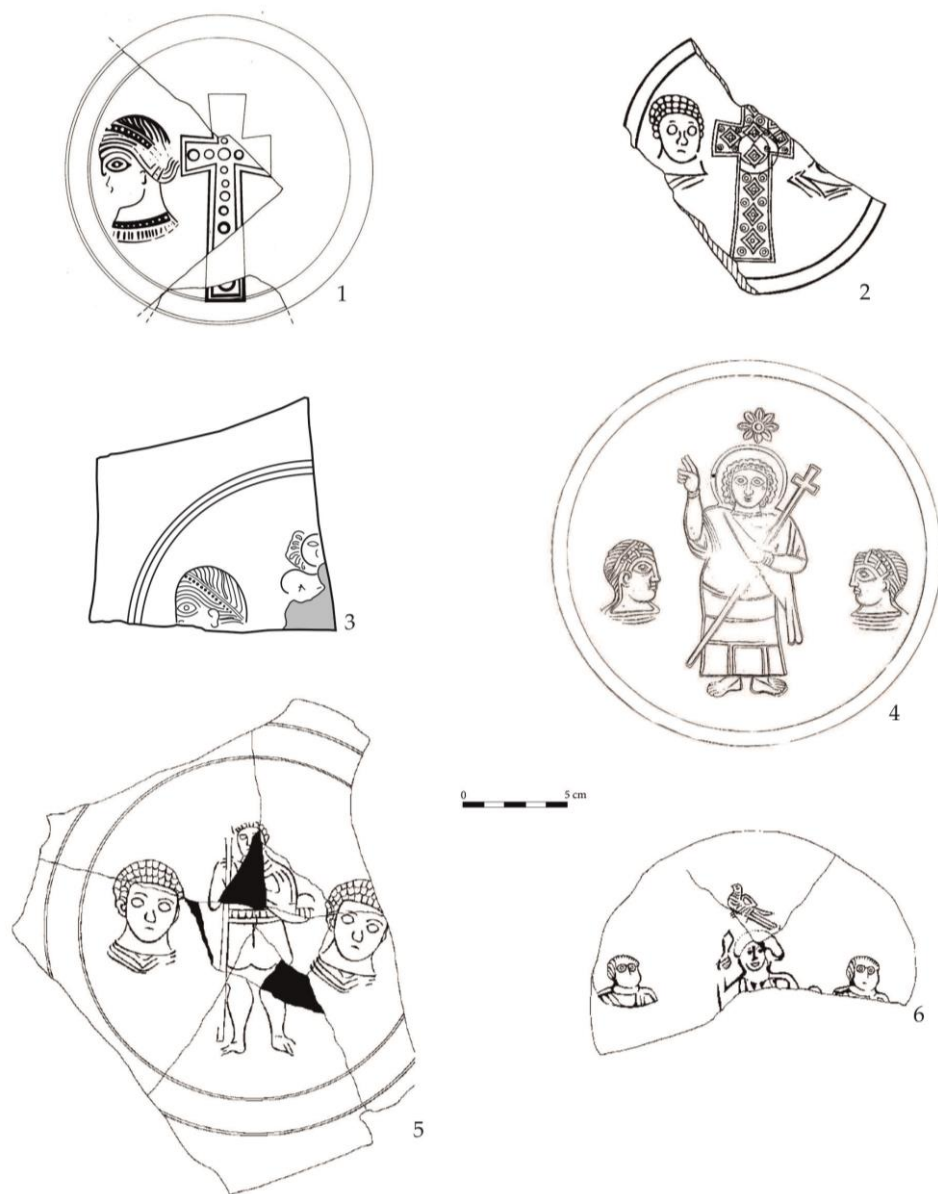


Fig. 11. Iconographic patterns involving human busts: 1-2. Bust(s) flanking a central cross; 3-4. Busts flanking a Christian representation; 5-6. Busts flanking a central motif with no religious connotation (after 1. Cardarelli 2022, Fig. 62/1; 2. Opreș 2003, Pl. V/1; 3. IAVP Archive (copies), S. and M. Lambrino, *Histria. Field Notebook no. 1 (1928-1929)*, f. 89, cat. no. 192bis; 4. Cardarelli 2022, Fig. 64/3; 5-6. Opreș 2003, Pls. IV/2 and V/2).

Coming back to the piece under analysis, given this cultural framework that characterises the Roman world during Late Antiquity, the vessel can be considered as an attempt by regional/local craftsmen to produce a lower quality and therefore cheaper tableware, reminiscent of the original products. On the other hand, there are several technical features which impede the full acceptance of this hypothesis. One argument in this respect is related to the decorative pattern, which is composed by too crowded motifs, unusually arranged to produce a complex scene: even though it is impossible to determine the complete decoration, which would certainly have covered much of the floor, one can notice that the preserved motifs are disposed towards the edge of the base, not in the centre, and some of them almost overlap. Also, the orientation of the scene(s) is inappropriate, being totally opposite to the other productions mentioned above; it seems that the whole scene is oriented from the inside to the outside, and not the other way around. Finally, the depth of the stamp, especially visible in the head area, led us to try to look at the piece also from the perspective of a production tool (a possible mould for relief decorated vessels), but there are a few elements that do not support this hypothesis either.

To conclude, we once again emphasize the particular character of this discovery from Histria, which raises many questions which cannot be answered for now. At this stage, based on its preservation state and the absence of other helpful elements (conditions of discovery, absence of similar finds), overinterpretation is redundant, and hopefully future finds will help clarify its meaning.

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**SUR LES PAS DE DUMITRU BERCIU.  
NOUVELLES DONNEES SUR L'HABITAT HAMANGIA DE « GOLOVIȚA » /  
« DRUMUL VACILOR » A BAIA (TULCEA)**

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**Laurent CAROZZA**

CNRS, UMR 5602 Géographie de l'Environnement Toulouse, France  
e-mail: carozza.laurent@wanadoo.fr  
ORCID ID: 0000-0002-3861-7474

**Cristian MICU**

Institutul de Cercetări Eco-Muzeale „Gavrilă Simion” Tulcea, România  
e-mail: cristianmicu72@gmail.com  
ORCID ID: 0000-0002-6933-6739

**Florian MIHAIL**

Institutul de Cercetări Eco-Muzeale „Gavrilă Simion” Tulcea, România  
e-mail : florianhamangia@yahoo.com  
ORCID ID : 0009-0002-3781-6225

**Albane BURENS**

CNRS, UMR 5602 Géographie de l'Environnement Toulouse, France  
e-mail: albane.burens@univ-tlse2.fr  
ORCID ID: 0000-0002-3352-4471

**Laurence MANOLAKAKIS**

CNRS, UMR 8215 Trajectoires, Université Paris 1-Panthéon-Sorbonne, France  
e-mail: laurence.manolakakis@cnrs.fr  
ORCID ID: 0000-0001-5311-9433

**Raluca KOGĂLNICEANU**

Universitatea „1 Decembrie 1918” din Alba Iulia, România  
e-mail: raluca.kogalniceanu@gmail.com  
ORCID ID: 0000-0002-2244-2251

**Sorin-Cristian AILINCĂI**

Institutul de Cercetări Eco-Muzeale „Gavrilă Simion” Tulcea, România  
e-mail: sailincai@gmail.com  
ORCID ID: 0000-0002-6936-1942

**Abstract:** In the early 1950s, Dumitru Berciu began the archaeological researches at Ceamurlia de Jos (Tulcea county), on the same site in which Vasile Pârvan had previously flagged up the presence of a barrow affected by the works on the embankment of the Medgidia-Babadag-Tulcea railway. The discoveries made on this occasion will help define a new Neolithic culture - Hamangia. In the same time, during some field archaeological research carried out in the vicinity of the village of Baia (Tulcea county), in the proximity of Golovița lakeside, at the location also known as « Drumul Vacilor », a new settlement assigned to the Hamangia culture was discovered. Even though Dumitru Berciu will publish in 1966 a share of the materials found during the archaeological excavations carried out in the last settlement in the monograph of Hamangia culture, due to the lack of a general

design and maps, the accurate location of the site and investigated area was not possible. Based on this finding, during 2023-2024, the team of the archeological mission « Archéologie du delta du Danube » conducted new research in the « Drumul Vacilor » point. The first results of the new research project in Baia will be presented in this article.

**Rezumat:** La începutul anilor 1950, Dumitru Berciu începea cercetările arheologice de la Ceamurlia de Jos (jud. Tulcea), pe locul în care anterior Vasile Pârvan semnală prezența unui complex tumular afectat de lucrările la terasamentul căii ferate Medgidia-Babadag-Tulcea. Descoperirile realizate cu această ocazie vor contribui la definirea unei noi culturi neolitice – Hamangia. În aceeași perioadă, în cadrul unor cercetări de suprafață realizate în apropierea localității Baia (jud. Tulcea), nu departe de malul lacului Golovița, în punctul numit "Drumul Vacilor", a fost descoperită o nouă locuire atribuită culturii Hamangia. Cu toate că în anul 1966, în monografia culturii Hamangia, Dumitru Berciu va publica o parte a materialului descoperit în timpul săpăturilor arheologice realizate în această ultimă așezare, în absența unui plan general și a hărților nu a fost posibilă o localizare exactă a sitului și a zonei cercetate. Pornind de la această constatare, în perioada 2023-2024, echipa misiunii arheologice « Archéologie du delta du Danube » a realizat noi cercetări în punctul « Drumul Vacilor ». Primele rezultate ale noului proiect de cercetare de la Baia vor fi prezentate în acest articol.

**Résumé :** Au début des années 1950, Dumitru Berciu engage des fouilles archéologiques à Ceamurlia de Jos, à l'emplacement même du tumulus où Vasile Parvân avait découvert une statue menhir. En reprenant l'étude de ce monument, Dumitru Berciu identifie les premiers vestiges attribués à la culture Néolithique de Hamangia. Alors qu'il fouille à Ceamurlia de Jos, ses collaborateurs identifient à leur tour à Baia, non loin des rives du lac Golovița, au lieu-dit « Drumul Vacilor », un autre habitat de la culture Hamangia. Dumitru Berciu publie en 1966 une partie des matériaux mis au jour sur ce site, mais il n'y fait figurer aucun plan ni carte, rendant ainsi impossible la localisation exacte de l'habitat de Baia « Golovița ». En 2023 et en 2024, l'équipe de la mission archéologique franco-roumaine « Archéologie du delta du Danube » est revenue sur le terrain, à « Drumul Vacilor », dans le but de localiser le site fouillé par Dumitru Berciu et d'entreprendre de nouvelles recherches. L'objet de cet article est de présenter succinctement les premiers résultats obtenus au cours des deux dernières campagnes.

**Keywords:** Neolithic, Hamangia, settlement, diagnosis, ceramics, archives.

**Cuvinte cheie:** Neolitic, Hamangia, locuire, diagnostic, ceramică, arhive.

**Mots clés :** Néolithique, Hamangia, habitat, diagnostic, céramique, archives.

## INTRODUCTION

Depuis quelques années, l'essentiel des travaux de la mission franco-roumaine « Archéologie du delta du Danube » porte sur la zone éponyme de la culture Hamangia, sur les rives de l'actuel lac Golovița. En 2023, notre collectif de recherche s'est orienté vers l'étude des premiers peuplements néolithiques de la zone du bas Danube, et plus particulièrement vers l'étude des communautés du Néolithique de la culture Hamangia. Cette culture tient une place particulière en Europe, car elle représente, au travers de ses productions matérielles et artistiques, l'image aboutie d'une Europe « à l'origine du monde contemporain ». Notre projet se recentre sur cette culture Hamangia qui se développe à la fin du 6<sup>e</sup> millénaire avant notre ère (vers

5300-5200 BC). Elle précède l'émergence du complexe culturel KGK VI (Kodjadermen-Gumelnița-Karanovo VI). Sa singularité réside dans le fait qu'elle se développe sur une aire géographique restreinte – allant du littoral de la mer Noire au bas Danube – et qu'elle tisse des liens avec les complexes culturels Boian en Roumanie et Sava en Bulgarie. De fait, la culture Hamangia est précurseure des sociétés complexes qui s'épanouiront sur les rives de la mer Noire dans la zone de Varna.

Notre programme repose sur deux approches complémentaires. La première consiste en la reprise des données, en majorité inédites, issues des travaux anciens conduits sur les prestigieux sites éponymes de la culture Hamangia. À l'appui d'un partenariat avec l'Institut d'Archéologie « Vasile Pârvan » de l'Académie Roumaine, nous avons réétudié les abondantes archives et collections transmises par l'archéologue Dumitru Berciu qui a mis au jour, dans les années 1950 et 1960, l'existence de la culture Hamangia <sup>1</sup>. Notre équipe a récemment achevé la réalisation des catalogues et l'étude des données issues des fouilles conduites par Dumitru Berciu sur les habitats de Ceamurlia de Jos et de Baia « Golovița » <sup>2</sup>. C'est donc logiquement que nous engageons la seconde étape de ce travail par la reprise des données issues des fouilles conduites sur le site de Cernavodă, entre 1955 et 1960 <sup>3</sup>. Le travail de fond que nous poursuivons constitue un préalable à une synthèse d'envergure. Il importait de ne pas laisser ces collections en déshérence alors que nous ambitionnions de revenir sur le terrain et de reprendre les fouilles sur ces sites éponymes.

Parallèlement à ces travaux, notre équipe ambitionne de revenir sur le terrain dans le but de conduire des sondages et des fouilles extensives sur différents établissements majeurs de la culture Hamangia. Nous avons d'ores et déjà réalisé des prospections sur le site de Ceamurlia de Jos, mais ce dernier s'avère très érodé et peu propice à la conduite d'une fouille extensive. Notre choix s'est naturellement porté sur l'habitat de « Golovița » / « Drumul Vacilor ». Le site a été découvert par Vasile Canarache <sup>4</sup> et sondé par Dumitru Berciu entre 1953 et 1961 (au cours de 4 campagnes

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<sup>1</sup> Berciu 1966.

<sup>2</sup> Carozza *et alii* 2020 ; Carozza, Micu, Burens 2022 ; Carozza *et alii* sous presse ; Manolakis, Mihail 2022.

<sup>3</sup> Nous tenons à remercier l'Institut « Vasile Pârvan » pour avoir mis à notre disposition les archives et les mobiliers issus des collections Berciu conservés à l'Académie Roumaine. Nous souhaitons saluer ici la mémoire de Monsieur Eugen Nicolae. Nous lui serons toujours redevables de nous avoir facilité l'accès aux collections conservées à l'Institut de Bucarest et d'avoir observé avec bienveillance les recherches que nous conduisons dans le cadre de l'Institut « Vasile Pârvan ». Les travaux sur les matériaux issus des fouilles de Dumitru Berciu à Baia et à Ceamurlia de Jos n'auraient pas été possibles sans l'aide de Radu Băjenaru, Cristian Ștefan, Roxana Dobrescu, Oana Damian, Adrian Bălășescu. Les travaux en cours sur le site de Cernavodă sont réalisés en collaboration avec Raluca Kogălniceanu.

<sup>4</sup> Berciu 1966, 232, note 1.

de sondages). Les publications et les archives de fouille indiquent que cet habitat n'a fait l'objet que de recherches ponctuelles, limitées à de longues tranchées, et non de fouilles extensives. Par ailleurs, nous ignorions encore en 2023 presque tout de la nature du site, de sa localisation exacte et de son extension.

C'est pourquoi nous avons réalisé une première campagne de diagnostic sur le terrain pour tenter de localiser le site. Puis nous avons engagé en 2024 une fouille extensive. À l'appui de prospections géophysiques et pédestres et de tranchées de diagnostic, nous avons pu identifier une zone au fort potentiel archéologique caractérisée par la présence de fosses, de silos et de sols archéologiques bien préservés.

### L'HABITAT DE BAIA « GOLOVIȚA » : ETAT DES CONNAISSANCES

#### Dumitru Berciu inventeur de la culture Hamangia

Au début des années 1950, Dumitru Berciu, jeune professeur au département d'histoire de l'Université de Bucarest, est un membre important de l'équipe du chantier de fouille antique de Histria (département de Constanța). Animé par la volonté de rechercher les peuplements les plus anciens, Dumitru Berciu reprend des investigations sur les marges du lac de Golovița, près du village de Ceamurlia de Jos (fig. 1). Au début du 20<sup>e</sup> siècle, l'éminent archéologue Vasile Pârvan avait mis au jour, le long des travaux de construction de la ligne de chemin de fer Medgidia-Tulcea <sup>5</sup>, un grand tumulus protohistorique ayant livré un mobilier exceptionnel, dont une statue menhir. En 1952, Dumitru Berciu engage des recherches de terrain et reprend les fouilles sur le tumulus de Ceamurlia de Jos. Là, il met en évidence, sous le monument, les structures d'une occupation plus ancienne qu'il va avec pertinence attribuer au Néolithique. Dumitru Berciu et son équipe vont investir ce terrain, réaliser des prospections et des sondages sur l'ensemble de la marge du lac Golovița, entre Ceamurlia de Jos et Baia.

L'analyse détaillée des carnets de terrain écrits de la main de Dumitru Berciu montre que, si le fouilleur a engagé sa recherche sur le tumulus et l'occupation néolithique de Ceamurlia de Jos, il a rapidement diversifié ses recherches sur d'autres établissements, répondant ainsi aux injonctions de Mihai Roller de réécrire de l'histoire de la Roumanie. Roller, propagandiste au Parti Communiste Roumain écrivait ainsi « le terme paléolithique » doit être remplacé par celui de « sauvagerie » et le terme « néolithique » par celui de « barbarie » <sup>6</sup>. Roller a initié l'idéologisation des recherches archéologiques en déplaçant les polarités de la recherche non plus

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<sup>5</sup> Pârvan 1925.

<sup>6</sup> Pleșa 2006, 169.

vers l'archéologie antique mais vers l'étude des périodes pré- et post-romaines. Nous savons par l'analyse des carnets de terrain de Dumitru Berciu que Roller s'est clairement impliqué dans la mise en œuvre de ce projet en se déplaçant sur le terrain.

C'est dans ce contexte que Dumitru Berciu mobilise une partie de l'équipe et des moyens alloués à la fouille de la cité antique de Histria, dans le but de conduire des recherches sur les périodes pré- et protohistoriques.

Dumitru Berciu fut le premier à identifier les traits caractéristiques de la culture néolithique Hamangia et à clairement exprimer que les céramiques mises au jour et publiées par Vasile Pârvan se rapportaient à la période néolithique, et non à l'âge du Bronze. Cette avancée significative pour le début des années 1950 fait de la zone de Baia le berceau de la culture Hamangia. Bien qu'une partie des travaux de terrain de Berciu aient été publiés <sup>7</sup>, il existe encore une certaine confusion quant à la dénomination des lieux et des sites riverains de l'actuelle lagune Razim-Sinoe et du lac Golovița, occupés durant le Néolithique. Cette confusion relève pour partie de changements toponymiques, l'agglomération de Hamangia étant notamment devenue Baia. On note, chez certains auteurs, des erreurs d'attribution réunissant en une seule entité les sites de Ceamurlia de Jos et de Baia « Golovița » (fig. 1). D'autres publications mentionnent l'existence du tell néolithique de Hamangia <sup>8</sup>, alors que le seul tell mis au jour se trouve dans le village de Baia et propose une séquence uniquement chalcolithique <sup>9</sup>.

Pour lever les doutes, nous avons repris les archives, les publications et tenté de localiser les découvertes effectuées par l'équipe de Dumitru Berciu. L'investissement de Dumitru Berciu dans la zone de Baia-Hamangia s'échelonne de 1952 à 1961, avec une interruption de 5 ou 6 années correspondant aux fouilles conduites par le collectif dont il est le leader sur le site de Cernavodă (fig. 2). Les archives indiquent que les fouilles de Ceamurlia de Jos et de Baia « Golovița » ont été organisées par l'Institut de l'Académie en 1952-1954 et 1960-1961. La campagne de terrain de 1954 ne figure pas dans l'ensemble des comptes rendus <sup>10</sup>, alors même que nous possédons des archives relatives à une campagne de terrain datées de cette année-là.

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<sup>7</sup> Berciu 1966.

<sup>8</sup> \*\*\* *Lista Monumentelor Istorice 2015*, Monitorul Oficial al României, Partea I, nr. 113/bis/15.II.2016, 2507.

<sup>9</sup> Carozza, Micu, Burens 2022.

<sup>10</sup> Pippidi, Berciu 1965, 29, note 7.

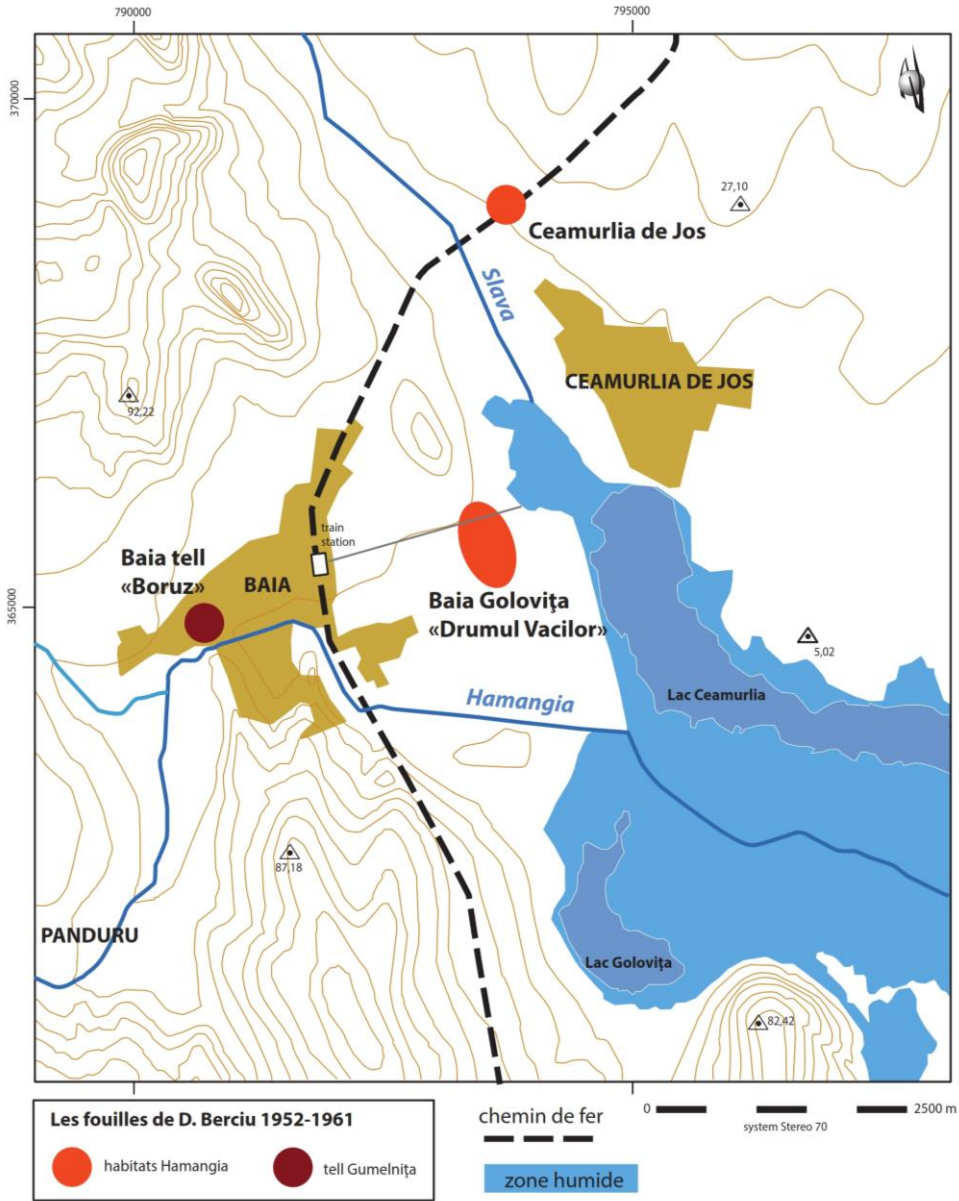


Fig. 1. : Carte de la zone de Baia et de Ceamurlia de Jos positionnant les sites fouillés par Dumitru Berciu / Map of the area Baia and Ceamurlia de Jos positioning the sites excavated by Dumitru Berciu (DAO L. Carozza CNRS).

Nous connaissons avec précision la localisation des fouilles conduites à Ceamurlia de Jos. Les différents plans dressés figurent la voie de chemin de fer et les tumulus fouillés. En 1952, l'équipe de Berciu prospecte à environ 1 km au nord-ouest de la fouille, dans une zone où se trouvaient trois tumulus. Berciu déclare avoir découvert dans cette zone du matériel attribuable à la culture Hamangia <sup>11</sup>. Cette même année, Vasile Canarache prospecte à Baia et découvre des céramiques caractéristiques de la culture Hamangia au lieu-dit « Drumul Vacilor » <sup>12</sup>. Il s'agit là de la première mention de l'habitat de Baia « Golovița », dont Dumitru Berciu engagera la fouille dès 1953. Nous ne disposons d'aucun plan qui permette de localiser cette découverte ni même les fouilles conduites sur ce site. Pour Dumitru Berciu, la dénomination Hamangia prime alors sur la toponymie.

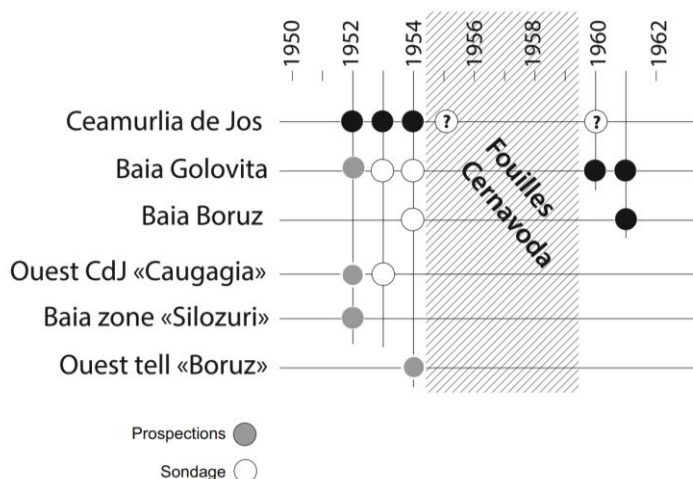


Fig. 2 : Chronogramme des recherches de terrain conduites par Dumitru Berciu et son équipe dans la zone de Baia et de Ceamurlia de Jos / *Chronology of field researches conducted by Dumitru Berciu and his team in the area of Baia and Ceamurlia de Jos* (DAO L. Carozza CNRS).

### Positionner les fouilles anciennes : relecture des archives et retour sur le terrain

Si les publications – notamment la monographie de 1966 <sup>13</sup> – et les archives de fouilles permettent de positionner avec précision les fouilles réalisées sur le site de Ceamurlia de Jos, il n'en est pas de même pour les recherches conduites à Baia « Golovița ». Aucun plan n'est publié et les archives ne livrent aucune carte à grande échelle précisant la position de la fouille. Les carnets de terrain et un croquis indiquent que

<sup>11</sup> Berciu, Carnet 1, 32.

<sup>12</sup> Berciu, Carnet 1, 86 ; Berciu 1966, 232, note 1.

<sup>13</sup> Berciu 1966.

Dumtru Berciu aurait fouillé près d'un chemin nommé « Drumul Vacilor ». Le croquis dressé par Dumitru Berciu (incluant des aberrations au niveau des échelles) montre qu'il a réalisé une série de tranchées longitudinales entre deux grands tumulus nommés 1 et 2. La cote notée sur le plan semble indiquer que le tumulus 1 mesure environ 50 m de diamètre ; aucune information n'est donnée quant au tumulus 2 (fig. 3). On observe une incohérence d'échelle entre le plan coté au 1 : 2000 et les longueurs des tranchées SI (141 m) et SIA (36 m) dont les échelles ne concordent pas. Quoi qu'il en soit, si l'on reporte le croquis réalisé par Dumitru Berciu à l'échelle de l'ensemble du site, les deux seuls tumulus suffisamment proches pour se caler sur le plan de Dumitru Berciu sont ceux situés à l'angle du chemin dit « Drumul Vacilor » et de la voie de desserte agricole. Si l'on considère les cotes du dessin, les autres tumulus sont trop distants pour correspondre au levé de terrain. Les décalages d'orientation observés entre le levé actuel et le croquis Dumitru Berciu pourraient témoigner du fait que le tracé du « Drumul Vacilor » a pu changer au cours du temps. Quoi qu'il en soit, ce plan nous renseigne sur la stratégie de fouille adoptée par Dumitru Berciu. Le fouilleur a réalisé de longues tranchées implantées dans le sens général de la pente depuis le tumulus. Des élargissements ont été effectués lorsque des structures ont été découvertes. Il demeure toutefois difficile de localiser avec précision les structures et les sols mis au jour et décrits par Dumitru Berciu dans ses carnets.

### **La fouille d'Elena Lăzucă**

En 1974, une fouille de sauvetage est réalisée par le musée de Tulcea, à l'emplacement d'un tumulus affecté par des travaux d'irrigation, au lieu-dit « Drumul Vacilor »<sup>14</sup>. À cette occasion, une grande fosse située sous le tumulus a été observée. Le plan général dessiné par Elena Lăzucă montre bien l'emplacement du tumulus 1, à l'intersection du « Drumul Vacilor » et des voies de desserte agricole, ce que ne permet toutefois pas de lever les doutes quant au croquis dressé par Dumitru Berciu. En effet, nous n'arrivons pas à certifier que les deux fouilleurs ont identifié le même tumulus. Toutefois, la fouille conduite par Elena Lăzucă constitue une première accroche pour tenter de revenir sur le terrain. Nous disposons également en 2023 d'une carte topographique conservée dans les archives de l'ICEM Tulcea figurant l'extension supposée du site de Baia « Golovița » (fig. 4). Sur ce document, on observe un trait au crayon rouge qui semble figurer l'extension nord du site, alors que nous ne disposons d'aucune information sur la zone au sud du « Drumul Vacilor », au-delà de la fouille d'Elena Lăzucă.

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<sup>14</sup> Lăzucă 1980.



### **BAIA « GOLOVIȚA » : NOUVELLES RECHERCHES DE TERRAIN**

C'est sur cette base, à l'appui des archives Berciu et Lăzarcă, que nous avons organisé une première campagne de recherche de terrain. Engager la fouille d'un nouveau site requiert de mettre en œuvre des méthodes et une problématique adaptées. Dans le cas spécifique d'habitat ouvert de Baia « Golovița », nous avons été confrontés à la difficulté de caractériser des vestiges d'habitats au sein d'un très vaste espace, non limité. Nous savons aujourd'hui que les habitats de la culture Hamangia correspondent à de vastes habitats ouverts, non clos de fossés, formés de zones où se concentrent des structures d'habitats (fosses-silos, puits, foyers) et des espaces « vides » où la densité des vestiges est très faible <sup>15</sup>. Ces vastes zones sont caractérisées par la présence en nombre de structures en creux. En dehors de ces zones où se concentrent des rejets domestiques, il est difficile de décrire les formes et l'organisation de l'habitat. À ce jour, nous ne connaissons par exemple aucun plan de ce qui peut être considéré comme une maison, qui soit datée du Néolithique Hamangia.

Dans ce contexte, le site de « Golovița » se révèle essentiel : les observations réalisées par Dumitru Berciu ont révélé l'existence de sols d'occupation ou de paléosols, mais également d'unités d'habitation dont certaines sont incendiées. Dans ses carnets de terrain, Dumitru Berciu a décrit la fouille partielle d'une unité d'habitation incendiée. Les mobiliers conservés dans les réserves de l'Institut d'Archéologie « Vasile Pârvan » valident cette hypothèse : la masse de céramiques surcuites et déformées est conséquente. Les archives de terrain, et notamment les sections de sondages dessinées par l'équipe de Dumitru Berciu, montrent l'existence de fosses-silos, mais également de sols de circulation clairement identifiés.

En 2023, l'essentiel des parcelles cultivées sur l'emprise du site de Baia « Golovița » étaient semées en maïs. La récolte très tardive ne nous a pas permis d'accéder aux zones pour lesquelles nous soupçonnions la présence de vestiges importants, notamment le long du supposé tracé du « Drumul Vacilor ». Nous avons réalisé un diagnostic test dans une zone incluse dans le périmètre du site où les prospections géophysiques avaient révélé la présence d'indices (zone 1). Une seconde zone a également fait l'objet d'un diagnostic.

#### **Résultats des recherches dans la Zone 1 (nord)**

Les sondages que nous avons réalisés en septembre 2023 ont été implantés dans une zone où la pente est marquée (environ 4 %). Dans ce secteur, les prospections géophysiques avaient mis en évidence des indices de structures en creux. En surface, les prospections pédestres avaient livré du mobilier céramique non tourné et des

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<sup>15</sup> Berciu 1966, 59, 232 ; Hașotti 1997, 23 ; Voinea, Neagu 2008, 10, 16.

éléments lithiques taillés. Nous avons opté pour la réalisation d'un test en implantant 10 sondages dans le sens de la pente (fig. 5). L'ensemble des sondages a été nettoyé manuellement et les sections ont été relevées dans leur intégralité. Nous livrerons ici une planche de synthèse de stratigraphies représentatives (fig. 5).

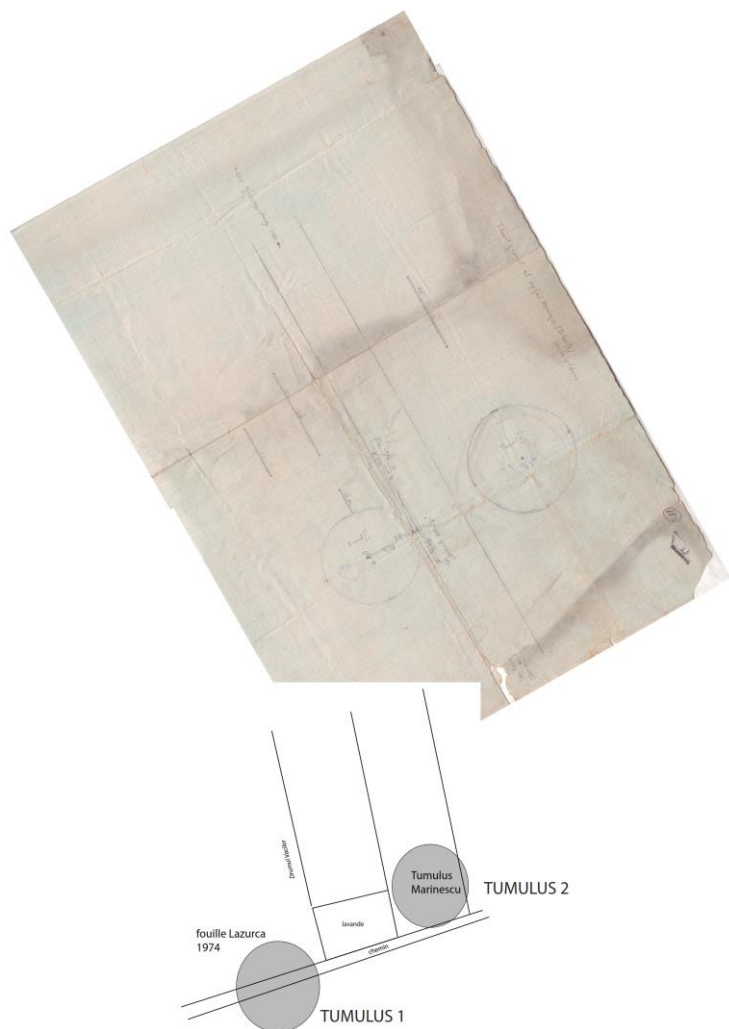


Fig. 3. : Croquis situant les tranchées réalisées dans la zone de Baia « Golovița » au lieu-dit « Drumul Vacilor » d'après les archives de Dumitru Berciu conservées à l'Académie Roumaine, Institut « Vasile Pârvan » / Sketch situating the trenches made in the area Baia „Golovița”, at the place known as “Drumul Vacilor” according to the archives of Dumitru Berciu preserved/kept at the Romanian Academy, “Vasile Pârvan” Institute of Archaeology.

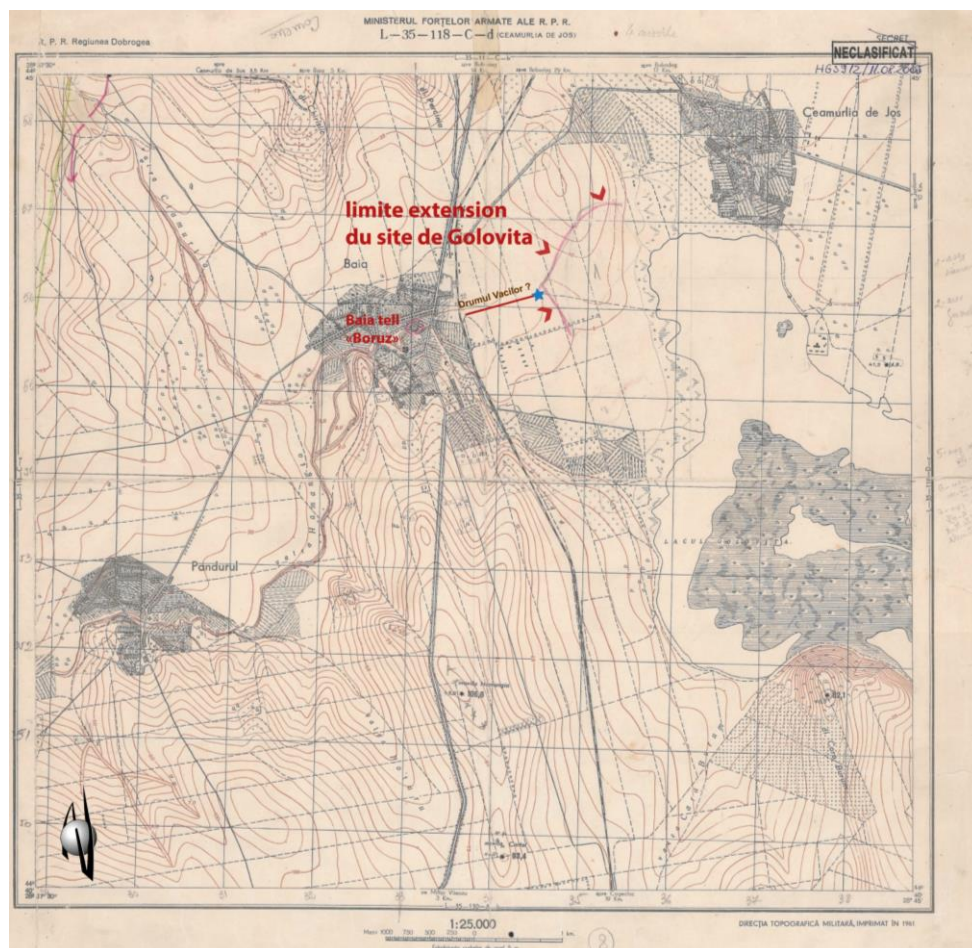


Fig. 4. : Carte topographique de 1961 figurant le zonage archéologique et l'extension supposée de l'habitat de Baia « Golovița » (trait rouge) / Topographic map of 1961 showing the archaeological zoning and the assumed extension of the habitat of Baia « Golovița » site (marked in red).

La zone diagnostiquée a été sélectionnée en raison de la présence de mobilier céramique et lithique en surface. Les prospections géophysiques avaient révélé de probables fosses et creusements. Les tranchées de diagnostic n'ont pas mis au jour de structures archéologiques évidentes. L'analyse des logs montre l'existence d'un processus d'érosion relativement dynamique en raison des travaux agricoles intensifs. Si l'existence d'une occupation protohistorique est avérée, avec notamment la présence de tumulus en bordure de plateau, l'érosion semble très forte dans ce secteur. L'analyse du mobilier céramique recueilli en surface et dans le sondage 10 montre que l'occupation de cette zone remonte à la fin de l'âge du Bronze. Les quelques fragments de céramique découverts

peuvent être considérés comme spécifiques de l'horizon Noua-Coslogeni, c'est à dire entre 1600 et 1100 av. J.-C.<sup>16</sup>. Compte tenu de ces résultats, nous n'avons pas poursuivi les opérations de diagnostic dans cette zone.

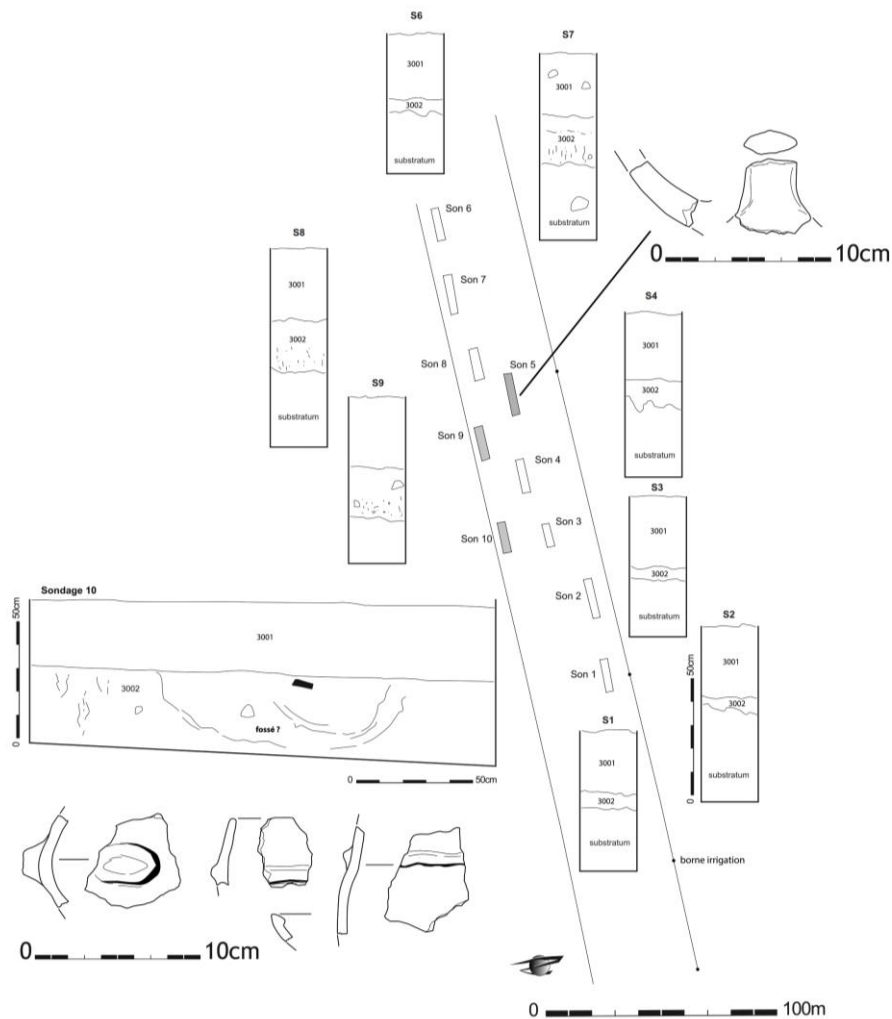


Fig. 5. : Plan des sondages-diagnostic réalisés dans une parcelle de la Zone 1 de Baia (dessin et DAO L. Carozza CNRS). Sont figurés les croquis schématiques des stratigraphies et des mobiliers céramiques mis au jour / *Representation of the archaeological surveys carried out on in a plot of land in Area 1 of Baia. On the map the stratigraphic sketches and ceramic shards revealed are shown* (dessin S.C. Ailincăi).

<sup>16</sup> Ailincăi *et alii* 2023.

### Résultats des recherches dans la Zone 2 (parcelle Marinescu)

La zone comprise entre le « Drumul Vacilor » et les deux tumulus potentiellement identifiés sur le croquis de fouille de Dumitru Berciu semble caractérisée par un fort potentiel archéologique <sup>17</sup>. Les prospections conduites sur la parcelle et sur le tumulus ont en effet livré du mobilier néolithique.

Deux sondages ont été réalisés (Son. 11 et Son. 12) à proximité du tumulus 2 identifié par Dumitru Berciu. Les tessons de céramiques observés dans la parcelle appartenant à Mme Liliana Marinescu étaient majoritairement localisés dans le tumulus occupant l'extrémité ouest de la parcelle, le long du chemin (fig. 6). Ces tessons, ornés de motifs imprimés de pointillés obliques, témoignent d'une occupation néolithique (culture Hamangia).

Le tumulus, dont la hauteur est estimée à 3 mètres, culmine à 11,80 m d'altitude. Il a fait l'objet d'une première localisation mais devra être topographié plus précisément. Un ensemble de blocs retournés par les travaux agricoles reposent sur le sommet.

Les deux sondages (Son. 11 et Son. 12) se sont révélés négatifs. Ils présentent la même stratigraphie : un niveau de terre arable (Us 2001) se développe entre -0 et -0,30 m, et un second niveau granuleux grisâtre (Us 2002) se situe entre -0,30 et -0,50 m. Ce dernier est caractérisé par la présence de bioturbations et de petites granules blanches. Le substratum, formé ici d'un loess jaune compact, est altéré.

Malheureusement rien ne permet d'estimer l'extension des vestiges archéologiques sur la base de ces deux sondages. La présence de mobilier en surface montre l'existence de niveaux ou structures, mais il est probable que l'aménagement du tumulus ait remobilisé du mobilier néolithique au moment de son édification. Seules des recherches dans les parcelles attenantes permettraient d'évaluer l'extension du site.

### Résultats des recherches dans la zone 2 (parcelles 45020, 45021, 50629)

Nous avons poursuivi notre diagnostic en élargissant nos recherches à une vaste surface constituée de 3 parcelles (non cultivées au moment de la fouille) <sup>18</sup>. En surface, les prospections ont livré du mobilier céramique et lithique qui se rapporte, dans son ensemble, à la culture Hamangia. Toutefois, nous avons identifié des zones où des matériaux de construction (briques de terre cuite et roches) correspondent à des constructions modernes, rapportées par les exploitants à la période communiste. Nous avons réalisé 20 tranchées et ouvert de petites fenêtres de fouille dans cette parcelle

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<sup>17</sup> Nous tenons à remercier Monsieur et Madame Marinescu de nous avoir permis de réaliser les deux sondages.

<sup>18</sup> Nous tenons tout particulièrement à remercier Monsieur Coli Bușu de nous avoir permis de réaliser les 20 tranchées.

(fig. 7) de manière à évaluer la conservation des niveaux archéologiques néolithiques. Nous présentons ci-après quelques-unes des structures mises au jour ainsi que les mobiliers associés.

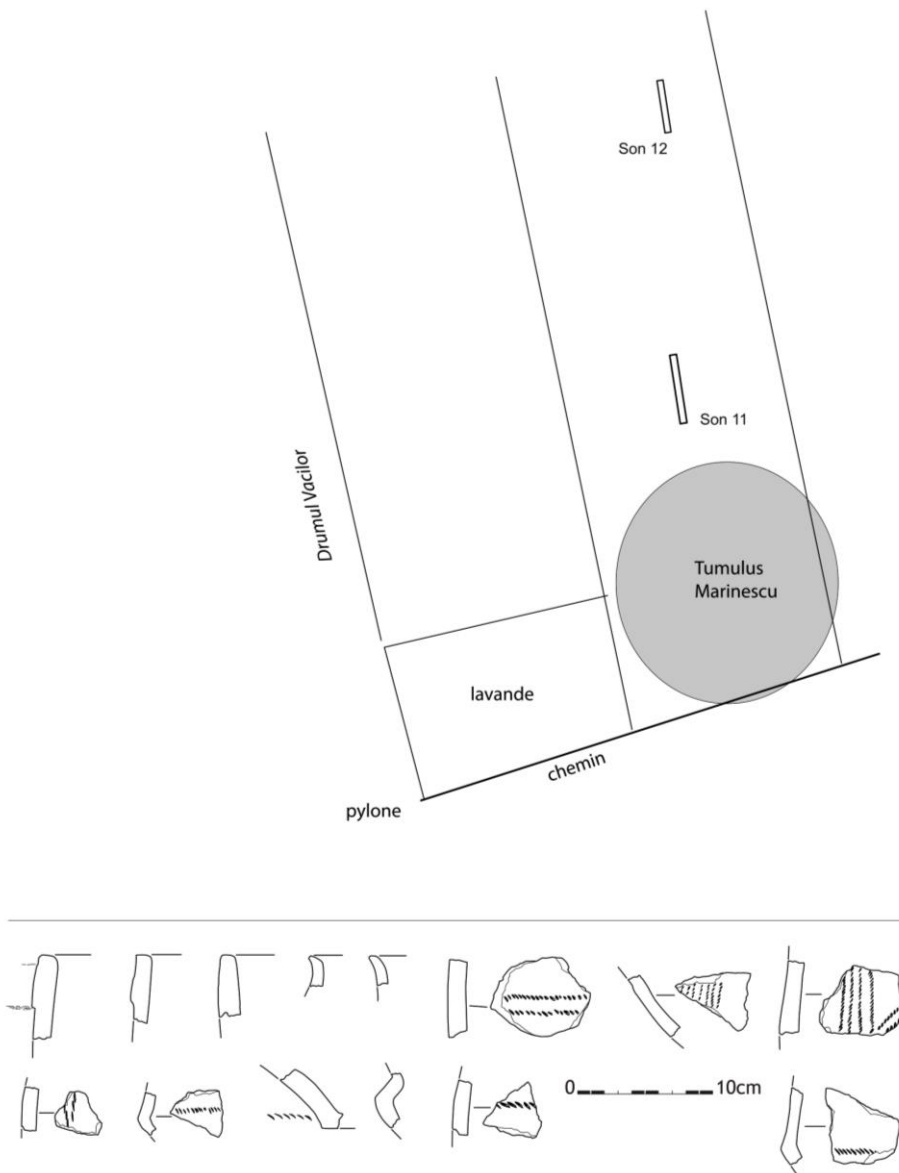


Fig. 6. : Sondages réalisés près du tumulus 2 (parcelle Marinescu) et mobilier céramique mis au jour sur le tertre (dessin et DAO L. Carozza CNRS) / *Archaeological surveys carried out near Tumulus 2 (Marinescu's plot) and ceramic shards uncovered on the mound.*

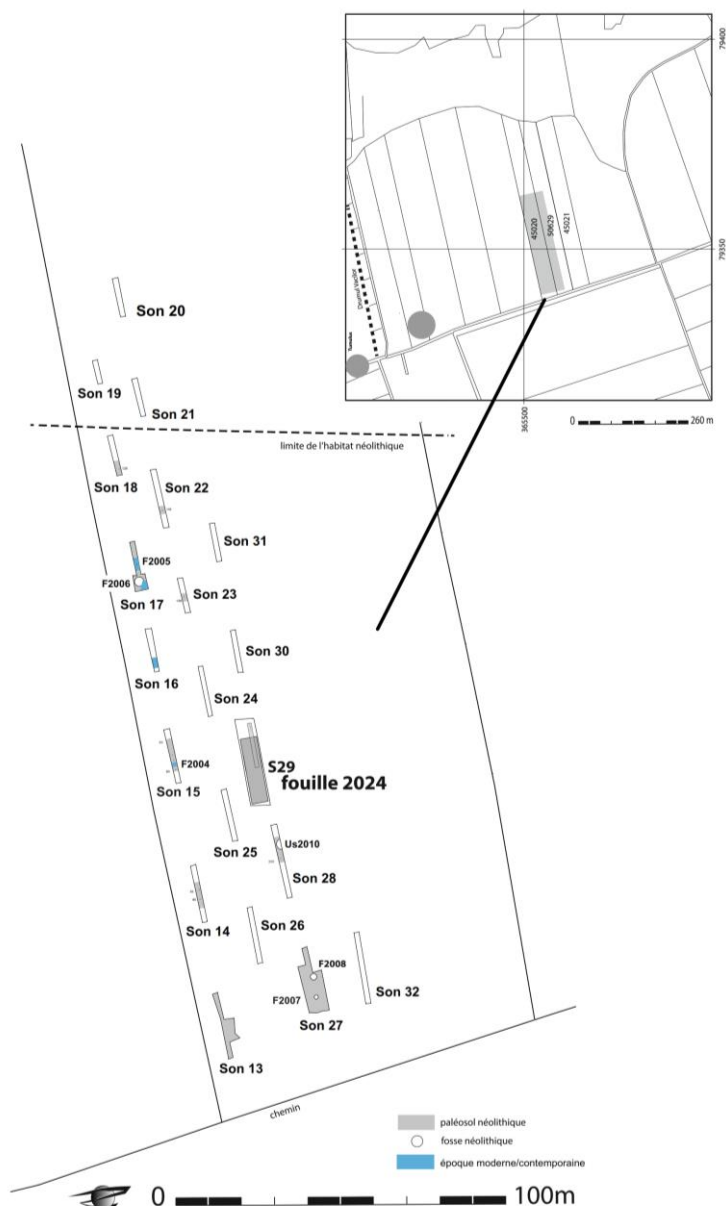


Fig. 7. : Carte des sondages et de la fouille réalisés dans la Zone 2. En grisé apparaissent les sondages positifs ; en bleu les structures modernes et contemporaines (DAO L. Carozza CNRS)  
 / Map of archaeological surveys and excavations in Area 2. Positive surveys are shown in grey; modern and contemporary structures are shown in blue.

*Le sondage 13*

Le sondage 13 correspond à une tranchée de 20 m de long sur 1,20 m de large au sein de laquelle nous avons ouvert une petite fenêtre de fouille de 6 m sur 2,50 m. Les premiers vestiges sont apparus sous la semelle de labour, il s'agissait de fragments de céramique et de quelques restes de grande faune (mammifères). Un premier paléosol a livré une nappe d'objets, peu épaisse (5 à 10 cm), de faible densité.

Le mobilier céramique mis au jour (37 fragments) se rapporte dans son intégralité au Néolithique - culture Hamangia (fig. 8 n° 1 à 9). Un gobelet caréné orné de lignes de pointillés horizontales et de chevrons obliques (fig. 8 n° 3) est caractéristique des productions céramiques Hamangia. Deux autres décors de pointillés (n° 8 et 9) confirment cette attribution chrono-culturelle. Les grands vases à panse peignée verticalement (fig. 8 n° 1) ou les motifs réalisés à la barbotine (fig. 8 n° 2) sont également très fréquents dans les ensembles domestiques du Néolithique moyen. La fouille a livré un petit grattoir en silex.

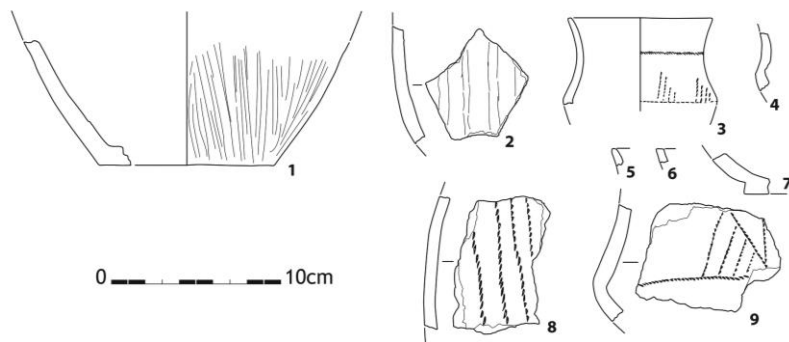


Fig. 8. : Céramiques découvertes dans le sondage 13 (DAO L. Carozza CNRS) /  
*Pottery found in survey 13.*

*Le sondage 17 : époque contemporaine et néolithique*

La tranchée 17 a livré divers aménagements contemporains et néolithiques. Une fosse néolithique (Fait 2006), apparue aux alentours de -0,60 m sous la surface du sol actuel, est recoupée par un aménagement contemporain (Fait 2005). La fouille a permis de mettre en évidence une grande fosse circulaire de 2,90 m de diamètre. Celle-ci est en partie recoupée par l'aménagement d'une unité d'habitation semi-enterrée de type « bordei » (fig. 9). Cette unité en creux apparaît sous le niveau de labour. On y enregistre la présence d'un foyer formé d'une sole simple modelée, accolée à la paroi de la construction. Sur ce foyer prennent place une mince couche de cendres et un élément céramique datant de la fin du 19<sup>e</sup> siècle de notre ère. Des clous en fer et de rares petits fragments de briques crues ont également été mis au jour.



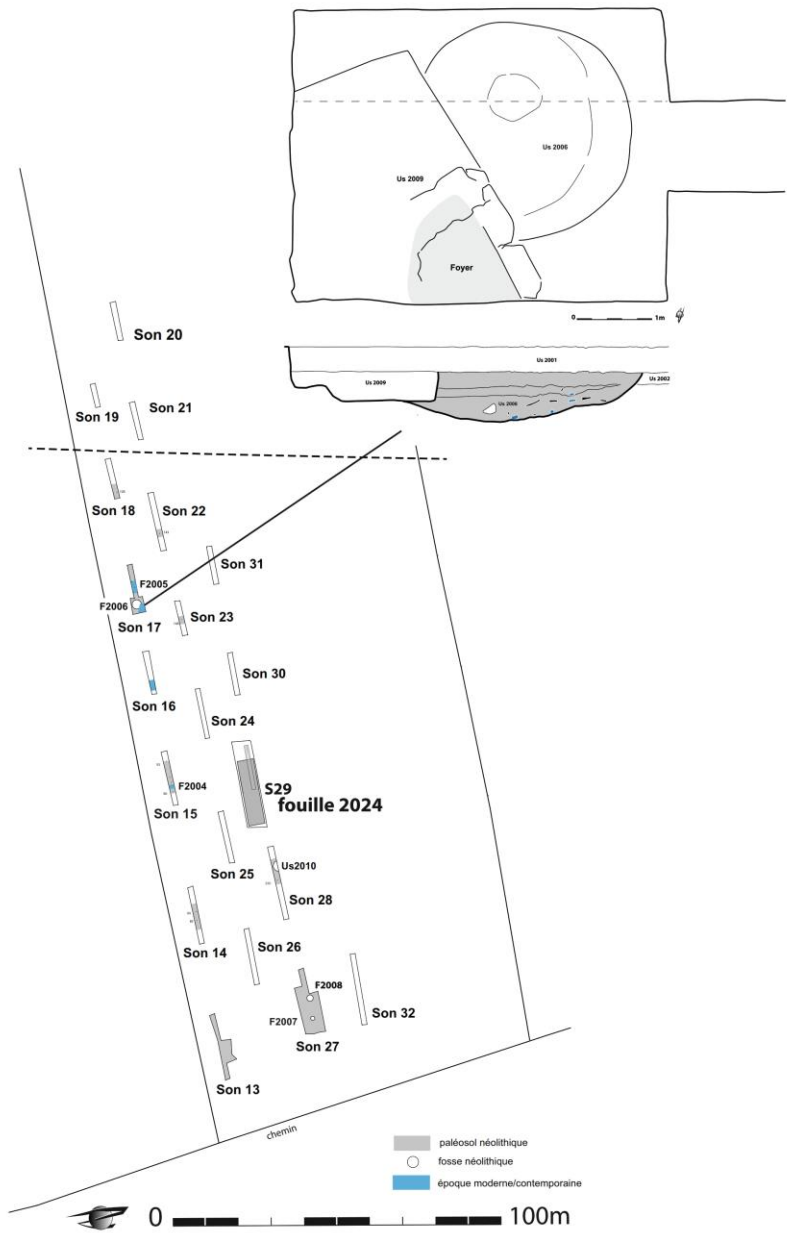


Fig. 9. : Plan et section des structures F 2006 et 2009 découvertes dans le sondage 17 (DAO L. Carozza CNRS) / Map and section of F 2006 and 2009 structures found in survey 17.

La fosse néolithique est peu profonde (prof. max. 0,35 m) et présente un profil en cuvette caractérisé par un léger surcreusement excentré. Le remplissage se compose de deux horizons comportant du mobilier néolithique. Le premier niveau, fort de 10 cm, est composé d'un limon fin granuleux gris caractérisé par la présence de bioturbations, d'une forte densité de céramiques, de racines et de traces de fousseurs. Le second horizon se développe à la base du creusement ; il est formé d'un limon fin jaune. Le dépôt se caractérise par la présence de gros restes de faune, de céramique mais également d'industrie lithique taillée. Le mobilier céramique est constitué de 282 fragments représentant une masse de 10,799 kg. Le comptage a permis d'identifier 53 éléments de formes (fig. 10 et 11). On note la présence de formes biconiques carénées (fig. 10 n° 2, 3, 6) ou de formes à épaulement et méplat (fig. 10 n° 1, 4). D'autres vases, plus petits, correspondent à des gobelets au profil sinueux (fig. 10 n° 7, 8) dont l'un est décoré de trois lignes de pointillés disposées sous le bord. D'une manière générale, le registre décoratif est essentiellement composé de pointillés. On observe toutefois un décor formé de fines incisions verticales (fig. 10 n° 13). Si les fonds sont dans leur grande majorité plats et bombés, on remarque la présence d'un petit pied cylindrique, orné sur sa face interne d'un motif de croix réalisé selon la technique du pointillé (fig. 10 n° 11). D'autres formes, telles les cols fermés de bouteilles (fig. 10 n° 24, 26) sont caractéristiques de la culture Hamangia. Les céramiques de cuisson ou de stockage sont tout aussi caractéristiques (fig. 11). On observe des pots à panse globuleuse ornés de minces cordons verticaux (fig. 11 n° 3, 12). De nombreux fragments de panse portent des motifs de cordons appliqués ou réalisés à la barbotine. L'assemblage livré par la fosse 2006 est caractéristique de la culture Hamangia, le registre décoratif des récipients se compose de motifs pointillés organisés en lignes horizontales et en chevrons. Les formes sont quant à elle plus originales, grâce à la présence de nombreux vases biconiques carénés, d'habitude plus rares. La forme des céramiques domestiques est représentative de cette culture de la première moitié du 5<sup>e</sup> millénaire avant notre ère.

#### *Le sondage 27*

Le sondage 27 correspond à une tranchée large de 1,20 m et longue de près de 20 mètres (fig. 12). Dès l'amorce de la tranchée, nous avons mis au jour une fosse circulaire (fig. 12). Nous avons alors décidé d'ouvrir une fenêtre plus importante, large de 5,80 m et longue de 12 mètres. Un paléosol peu épais (Us 2002) a été mis au jour sur l'ensemble de la surface. Il comportait de nombreux restes céramiques, de la faune et des éléments lithiques taillés. Ce sol a livré plus de 300 fragments de céramiques et de nombreux éléments typologiques tous attribués à la culture Hamangia. Le registre décoratif de la céramique est riche ; il est composé de décors aux pointillés et d'associations entre de fines cannelures et des pointillés. Ce type de combinaison est attesté dans les mobiliers issus des fouilles de Dumitru Berciu ; il est

estimé caractéristique du faciès « Golovița » de la culture Hamangia. Entre autres éléments caractéristiques, on remarque un fond portant l'empreinte d'une vannerie sur sa face extérieure. Cet assemblage est complété par des éléments recueillis dans le niveau de labour (Us 2001), comme le col d'une bouteille orné d'un motif de pointillés horizontaux associés à des chevrons verticaux.

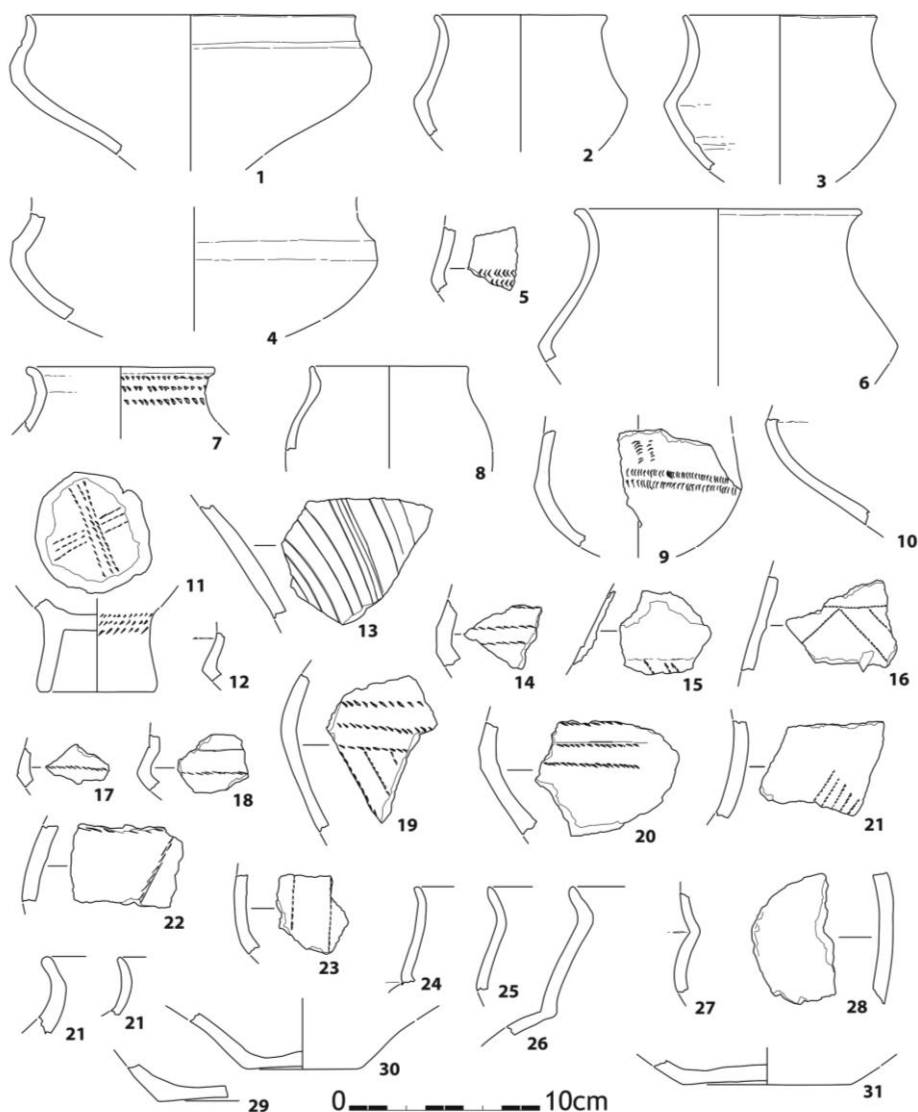


Fig. 10 : Céramiques découvertes dans la structure F 2006, sondage 17 (DAO L. Carozza CNRS)  
/ Pottery found in F 2006 structure, Survey 17.

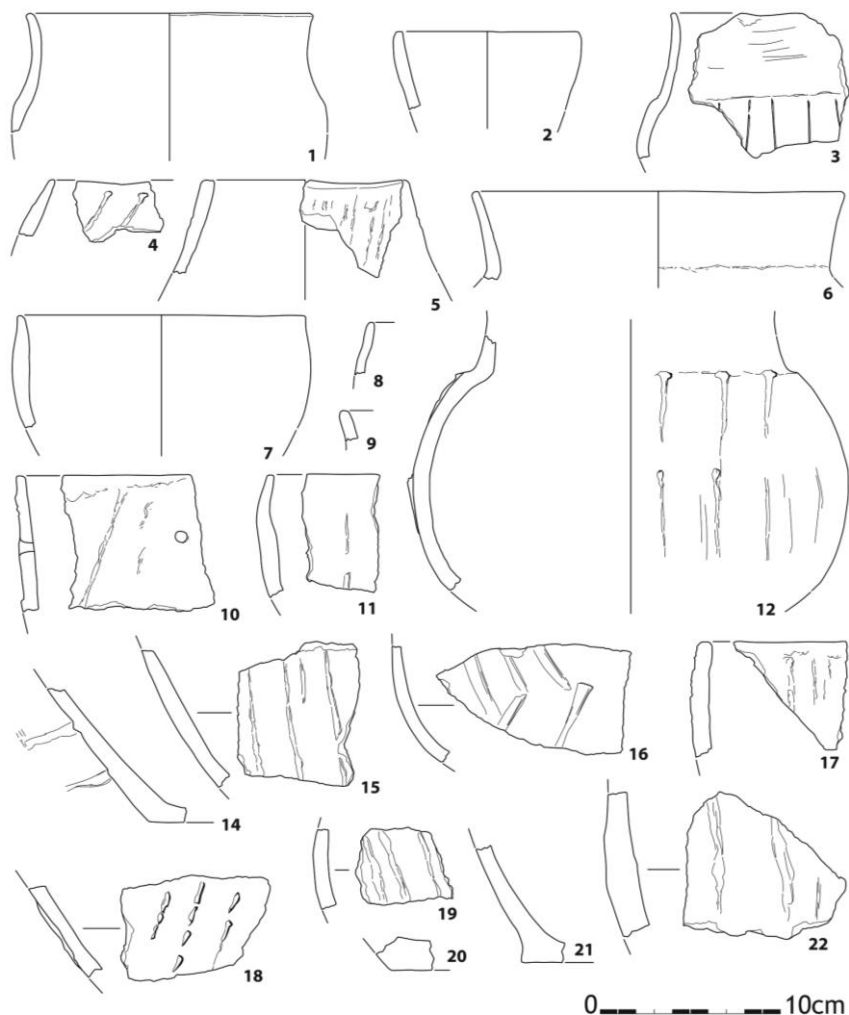


Fig. 11. : Céramiques découvertes dans la structure F 2006, sondage 17 (DAO L. Carozza CNRS)  
 / Pottery found in F 2006 structure, Survey 17.

Le décapage a également permis de mettre au jour deux fosses creusées dans le loess. Le Fait 2007 correspond à petite cuvette ovale (2,10 x 1,50 m) et profonde de 0,30 m (fig. 12). Son remplissage est formé d'un limon loessique très fin, beige clair, comportant de nombreux rejets domestiques, dont une forte densité de restes céramiques (128 tessons). Les éléments les plus nombreux se trouvaient au centre de la structure. Les formes sont toutes caractéristiques de la culture Hamangia (fig. 13). On remarque notamment une grande jatte carénée (fig. 13 n° 10) ornée de trois lignes

de pointillés horizontaux ; une urne biconique carénée (fig. 13 n° 11) ornée d'un motif de métopes obliques enserré dans des lignes horizontales. Un pot à panse galbée et col cylindrique fermé (fig. 13 n° 6), dont le décor est formé de chevrons emboîtés, est également caractéristique du faciès « Golovița » de la culture Hamangia. Nous avons réalisé une datation radiocarbone dans le but de mieux appréhender la chronologie absolue de l'occupation :

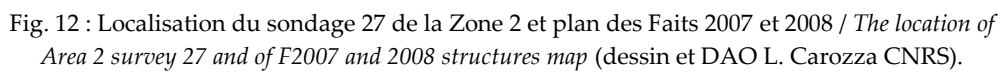
Beta – 677745 : GLVT F2007 5820 +/- 30 BP : 4731 – 4586 calBC (84,7%) ; 4784 – 4744 calBC (8,2%) ; 4569 – 4552 calBC (2,5%).

Cette datation est tout à fait compatible avec la chronologie de la culture Hamangia et caractérise la fin de la période, à la fin de la première moitié du 5<sup>e</sup> millénaire avant notre ère.

Le Fait 2008 a été mis au jour cinq mètres plus à l'est de la cuvette 2007 (fig. 12). Cette structure de plan circulaire (1,70 m) est profonde de 0,60 m (fig. 12). Les parois sont légèrement évasées. L'analyse du remplissage révèle 14 faciès sédimentaires différents qui éclairent la manière dont la fosse s'est colmatée.

Le comblement de cette fosse s'organise en 5 phases principales, selon deux étapes d'effondrement des parois séparées par une phase de rejets domestiques. Le sommet de la séquence est quant à lui plutôt caractérisé par un remplissage anthropique avec une phase de rejets domestique marquée (13, 15 et 14 bloc de terre à bâtir). La question du lien stratigraphique avec le paléosol Us 2002 est plus difficile à trancher. Tout porte en effet à croire que le sol se développe sur le comblement de la fosse, mais cette zone est très proche de la surface et est affectée par les travaux de labours agricoles. Dumitru Berciu indiquait d'ailleurs dans son carnet de terrain la présence d'au moins deux phases d'occupation. Cette question devra être réévaluée dans le cadre d'une fouille extensive, à l'appui d'observations plus tranchées.

Quoi qu'il en soit, le mobilier céramique mis au jour dans la fosse 2008 est révélateur, par sa très forte fragmentation (373 fragments dont la majorité est formée d'esquilles et de très petits tessons – 78,5 %), d'un remplissage anthropique issu de sols de circulation. Le remplissage n'est pas le produit de rejets primaires (à l'image de la fosse 2007). D'un point de vue typologique, nous disposons d'un petit lot formé de tessons décorés au pointillé (fig. 14 n° 1 à 11 et 13 à 24). Les motifs de lignes horizontales et de chevrons emboîtés sont une fois encore représentatifs de la culture Hamangia. On observe la présence d'un micro-vase (fig. 14 n° 12) et de récipients de plus grande contenance, au profil plutôt ouvert (fig. 14 n° 26 à 29). Certaines panses portent des motifs verticaux réalisés à la barbotine.



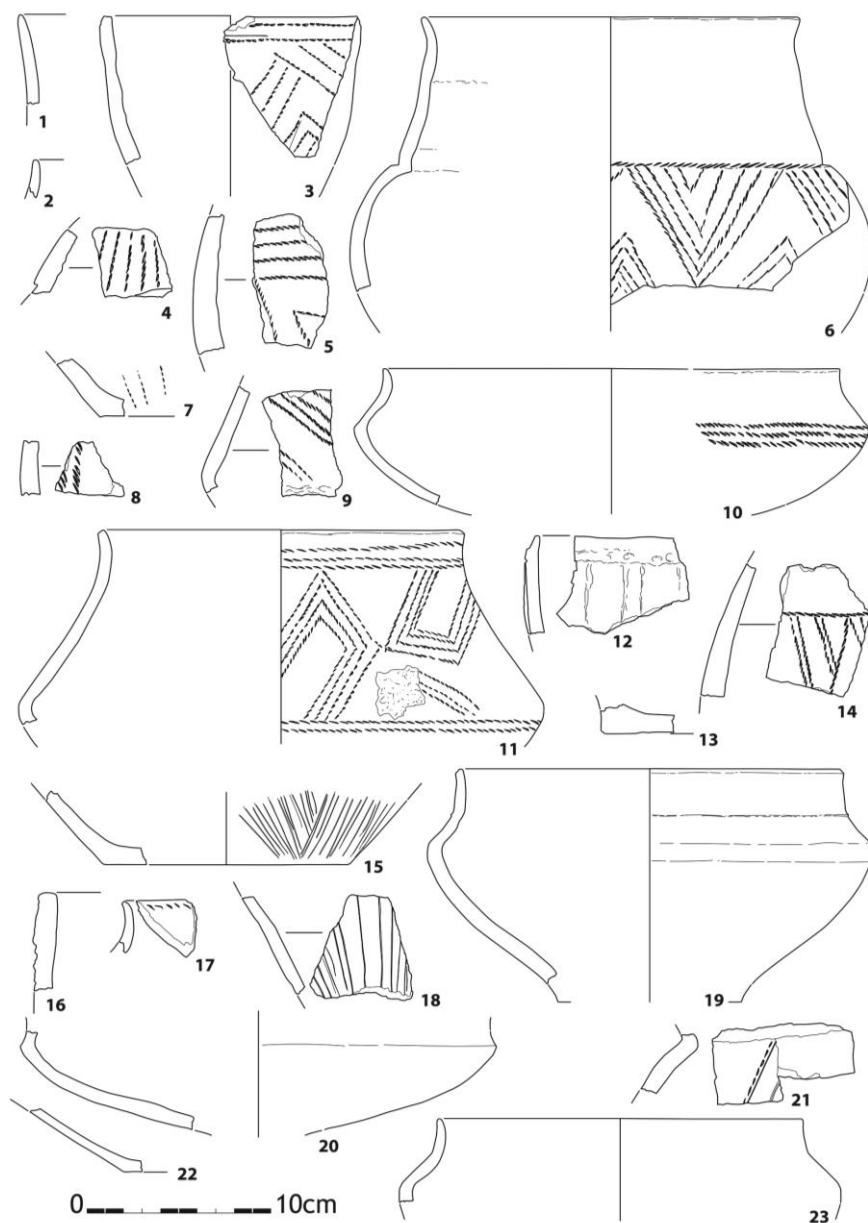


Fig. 13. : Céramiques découvertes dans la fosse Fs 2007 du sondage 27 / *Ceramic found in Fs 2007 pit from survey 27* (DAO L. Carozza CNRS).

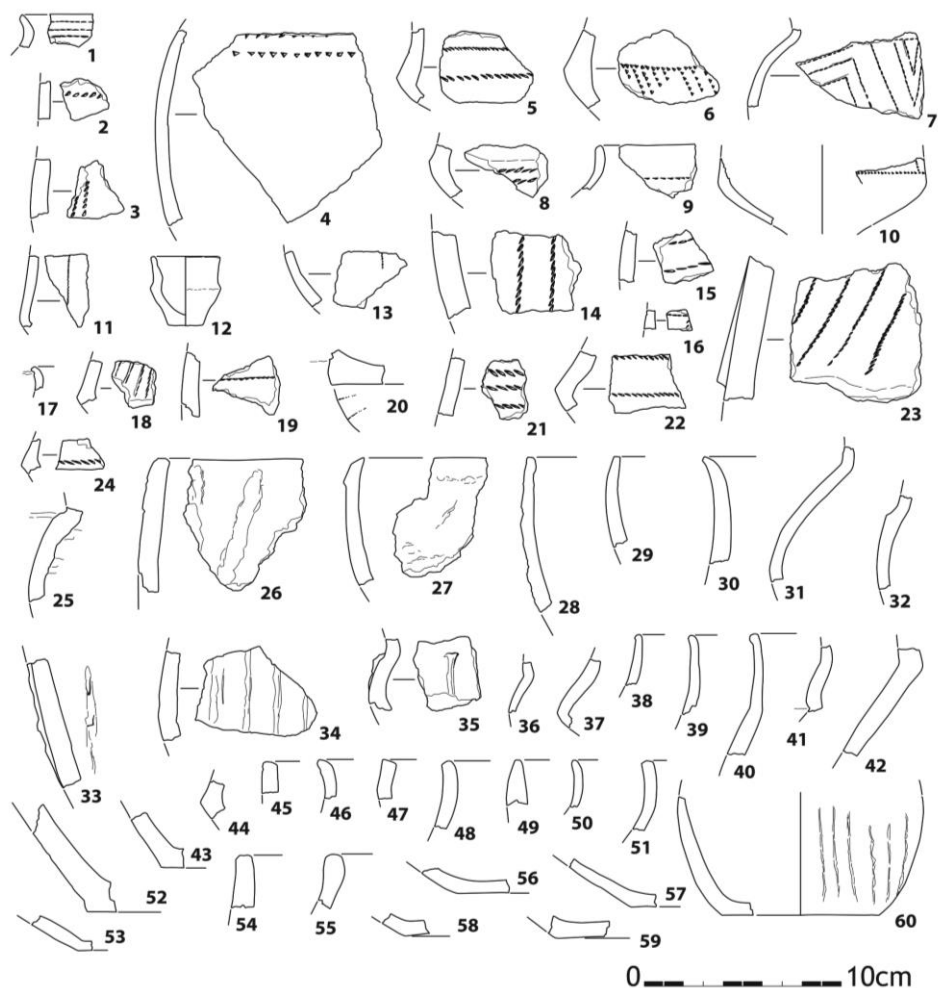


Fig. 14. : Céramiques découvertes dans la fosse Fs 2008 du sondage 27 / Pottery discovered in pit no. 2008 from survey 27 (DAO L. Carozza CNRS).

### Les acquis du diagnostic

La campagne de fouille 2023 a révélé que l'occupation néolithique se développe plutôt au sud du « Drumul Vacilor ». Cela indique que le site de Baia « Golovița » correspond à un établissement de très grande taille (plus de 3 ha). À ce jour, nous ne disposons que d'une vision très partielle du développement de l'habitat de « Golovița » ; l'un des enjeux de nos travaux à venir est de poursuivre les prospections de surface (pédestres et géophysiques) ainsi que les diagnostics par tranchées.



La méthode de diagnostic que nous avons mise en œuvre lors de la campagne de 2023 est fondée sur la réalisation de tranchées resserrées (densité de 10 %). Elle s'avère particulièrement adaptée pour appréhender l'emprise d'un habitat de très grandes dimensions, aux occupations discontinues. Les résultats acquis dans la partie centrale de la zone 2 montrent bien la discontinuité des occupations (sols, fosses...) se développant sur la bordure du glacis qui surplombe les rives du lac Golovița. En cela, nos observations corroborent les données publiées par Dumitru Berciu. Ce dernier décrivait en effet la présence d'un sol archéologique auquel était associé des structures d'habitat (fosses, cuvettes et silos).

Il nous reste en revanche à questionner le phasage du paléosol tel que décrit par Dumitru Berciu. Celui-ci dépeint deux phases d'occupation distinctes. Nos premières observations sur le terrain montrent que ces paléosols ne peuvent être appréhendés sans tenir compte des questions taphonomiques. Nous avons en effet observé de nombreuses bioturbations (actions racinaires, terriers de fouisseurs) à l'origine de perturbations. Par ailleurs, ce sol a localement été perturbé par des travaux agricoles anciens et plus récents ; les formations sédimentaires observées relèvent davantage de processus pédologiques que de constructions anthropiques (niveau de sol plus brun, colluvions de pente...). L'un des enjeux de la fouille à venir sera notamment d'observer, sur des décapages plus extensifs, les liens stratigraphiques existants entre ces sols et les structures, comme nous l'avons déjà fait dans pour les faits 2006 et 2008.

Un autre acquis de cette première campagne de fouille a été de montrer la richesse et la diversité des assemblages mobiliers. Le contenu des fosses dépotoirs, riche de nombreuses formes céramiques, permet d'assurer sans équivoque l'attribution chrono-culturelle de l'occupation de ce secteur du site. Les formes et les décors renvoient tous à la culture Hamangia ; les analogies avec le contenu de la fosse fouillée par Elena Lăzrucă sont flagrantes. La datation obtenue pour la fosse F 2007 (4731-4552 cal BC) peut être observée au regard des 4 datations obtenues pour les ensembles fouillés (fig. 15) :

Golovița SI GcE	Poz-138299	5890±50 BP	4833-4710	4901-4612
Golovița GrC	Poz-138298	6160±50 BP	5208-5043	5289-4953
Golovița - Drumul Vacilor	Poz-140757	5850±35 BP	4785-4684	4798-4608
Golovița GrE	RoAMS-1178.53	5864±36 BP	4826-4709	4898-4616

La date de la fosse F 2007, bien que légèrement plus récente, se rapproche de celle obtenue pour la fosse fouillée par Elena Lăzrucă sous le tumulus 1 : 4798-4608 BC. Les autres datations réalisées pour la fosse Gr E indiquent une plage temps maximale comprise entre 4901 et 4612 BC, que l'on peut affiner (4850-4750 BC). Cette date est tout à fait compatible avec les données communément admises pour la phase III de la culture Hamangia, ultime étape avant le développement de la culture chalcolithique de Gumelnița.

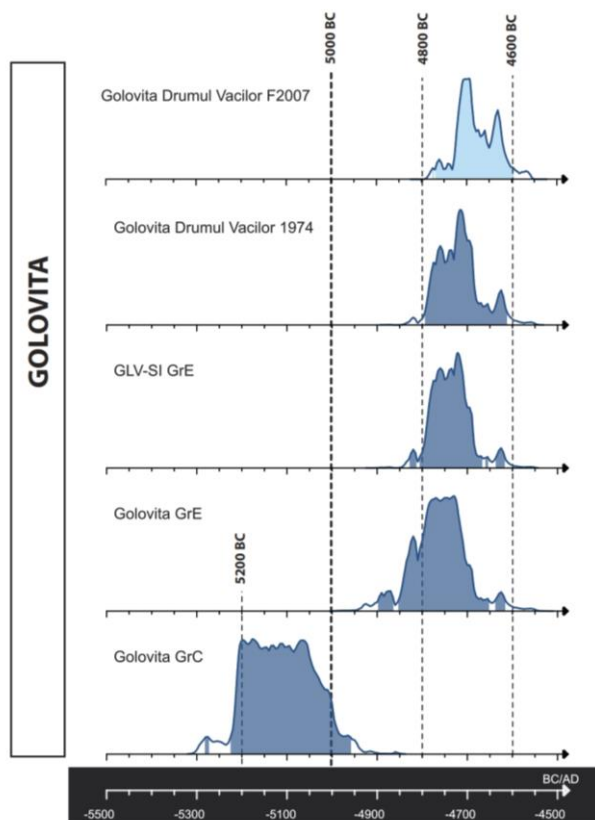


Fig. 15 : Compilation des datations radiocarbone obtenues pour différents ensembles du site néolithique de Baia « Golovița » / *Compilation of radiocarbon dating obtained for different Neolithic structures of the archaeological site Baia « Golovița »* (DAO L. Carozza CNRS).

Les données radiocarbone indiquent donc que nous ne sommes pas en présence d'une occupation unique, contrairement à ce qu'avait indiqué par Dumitru Berciu. Le site est plus probablement formé de la juxtaposition de plusieurs étapes de développement de l'habitat, dont la phase initiale se situerait à la fin du 6<sup>e</sup> millénaire avant notre ère (GrC :  $6160 \pm 50$  BP ; 5289-4953 BC). Cette datation se rapproche de celles obtenues pour le site de Cheia dans le département de Constanța ( $6141 \pm 29$  BP ; 5206-5003 BC et  $6138 \pm 44$  BP 5212-4963 BC)<sup>19</sup>. Ce sont pour l'heure les dates les plus anciennes obtenues pour la culture Hamangia. Ces données préliminaires montrent qu'il est nécessaire de remettre à plat l'ensemble de la documentation relative à la culture Hamangia, à l'appui de nouvelles données de fouille.

<sup>19</sup> Balase *et alii* 2014, 118, Table 7.1.

## LA CAMPAGNE DE FOUILLE 2024 : PREMIERS RESULTATS

L'objectif de la campagne 2024 était d'ouvrir une première fenêtre de fouille sur le site, dans le but de mettre en évidence des structures d'habitat. Pour ce faire, nous avons réalisé un décapage mécanique sur une surface de 150 m<sup>2</sup>, longue de 25 mètres et large de 6 m (fig. 7). Dans cette zone, nous avons mis en évidence en 2023 une succession de niveaux de circulation ou de paléosols susceptibles de permettre d'identifier des zones d'habitat.

La fouille manuelle a été conduite cette année sur une surface d'environ 100 m<sup>2</sup> (fig. 7). Elle a permis de mettre en lumière une stratigraphie puissante de plus de 0,80 m, composée d'au moins deux niveaux d'habitat distincts, puissants de 0,40 m. Il est particulièrement intéressant (car peu fréquent) de disposer d'une telle séquence stratigraphique sur un habitat de plein air, qui plus est situé sur un rebord de plateau. Nos observations sur le terrain corroborent celles réalisées dans les années 1950 et 1960 par Dumitru Berciu – dont on pouvait douter de la pertinence. Il avait alors observé que le site de « Drumul Vacilor » se composait de deux phases d'occupation. Cette donnée interroge cependant sur les modalités de la puissance de la formation sédimentaire et sur l'origine des matériaux mobilisés. Il est possible qu'une partie importante du matériel sédimentaire soit en fait issu de la dégradation de structures bâties en terre crue. Nous orientons notre fouille dans l'objectif de caractériser des signatures sédimentaires (méthode ethno-faciès sédimentaires)<sup>20</sup>. Cette approche nous permettra de caractériser des unités domestiques (maisons, constructions), des paléosols et des zones d'activité.

La fouille a révélé la présence de fosses creusées dans le substratum loessique, notamment un vaste creusement circulaire de plus de 3 m de diamètre et profond de 0,60 m (F 2013). Le comblement de ce creusement est constitué de rejets domestiques (céramique, faune et outillage lithique). L'achèvement de la fouille de cette structure permettra d'en préciser la fonction et de définir le lien stratigraphique avec les niveaux de sols contigus. Les premières observations montrent que cette structure est surmontée par des niveaux d'accumulation formant une couche d'apparence homogène, puissante de plus de 0,40 m (Us 2011 et 2010). Ces deux couches sont chacune formées de rejets domestiques constituant des paléosols continus. L'analyse de la distribution spatiale des matériaux constituant ces niveaux révèle des zones où la densité des accumulations est nettement plus forte qu'ailleurs. Elle met également en lumière des zones « vides » de tout vestige. Ces données vont dans le sens d'une organisation de l'espace qu'il conviendra d'explorer sur une grande surface pour en appréhender la structuration (présence de maisons ? de zones de circulation ?). Pour l'heure, l'absence de structures

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<sup>20</sup> Brochier 1994.

construites (murs en terre crue, poteaux, foyers...) ne nous permet pas d'identifier d'unités d'habitation. La nature des artefacts mis au jour est cependant riche d'informations. Les céramiques, nombreuses, sont fortement fragmentées, phénomène qui résulte d'un processus de piétinement important. Dans des zones circonscrites, les céramiques forment des accumulations plus denses combinées à des restes osseux de faune. Ces zones de rejets domestiques sont associées à un abondant matériel lithique taillé (plus de 240 pièces), essentiellement constitué d'outillage. Ces zones denses en mobilier sont caractérisées par un caractère volontaire et organisé. La présence d'autres outils du quotidien (meules, broyeurs, outils en matière dure animale) suggère que cette partie du site a pu constituer, à certains moments, une zone d'activité spécialisée (traitement de boucherie et de peausserie par exemple). Les deux unités stratigraphiques décrivent toutefois des organisations différentes. À la base, on observe des zones d'activité et de dépôts bien distinctes, alors que l'horizon supérieur est plus hétérogène. Seule une fouille extensive permettra d'appréhender les liens entre zones d'activités et de probables unités d'habitation.

### PERSPECTIVES

Les premières campagnes de fouille nous ont permis de préciser la situation de l'habitat de Baia « Golovița ». Les prospections de surface montrent que l'occupation néolithique attribuée à la culture Hamangia se développe à partir du « Drumul Vacilor », en direction du sud. Au nord du « Drumul Vacilor » on observe des occupations datant de la fin de l'âge du Bronze et de l'Antiquité, mais aucun vestige néolithique n'a, à ce jour, été découvert. En surface, les vestiges se développent sur plus de 500 mètre de long (fig. 16). La petite surface diagnostiquée au centre de l'habitat (Zone 2) montre que les vestiges sont inégalement répartis. Certaines tranchées ont livré des paléosols associés à des fosses, d'autres montrent uniquement un paléosol dégradé. Ailleurs, comme dans la tranchée 29, les vestiges semblent mieux préservés et présentent une stratification claire. Cette observation corrobore partiellement les données publiées par Dumitru Berciu qui décrivait une stratigraphie puissante de plus de 0,80 m avec au moins 2 étapes d'habitat. Seule une fouille extensive, notamment en élargissant la surface S29, permettra de mieux comprendre l'organisation de l'habitat. Un autre acquis de ces premières campagnes de fouille a été de préciser la chronologie de l'occupation du site de Baia « Golovița ». Alors que cet habitat est considéré, suite aux propositions de Dumitru Berciu, comme caractéristique de la phase ancienne de la culture Hamangia (Hg II), la réalité s'avère plus complexe. Sur 5 datations réalisées, seule une (GLV GrC fouille Berciu) peut être considérée comme représentative de la phase II de la culture Hamangia. Les 4 autres datations, obtenues pour différents contextes (Gr E fouille Berciu, fosse sous le tumulus Lăzurcă, fosse 2007), montrent des occupations qui s'échelonnent entre 4800 et 4650 BC (fig. 15). Ces données chronométriques assurent la

contemporanéité théorique entre certaines étapes de l'occupation des habitats de Ceamurlia de Jos et de Baia « Golovița ». De toute évidence, le site de Baia « Golovița » ne peut être considéré comme une entité unique, relevant d'une seule occupation, mais plutôt comme le produit de multiples occupations qui se sont succédées dans le temps et qui se sont déplacées au sein d'un large périmètre. L'un des objectifs de notre projet de recherche est d'appréhender cette dynamique d'occupation et de comprendre, au travers du statut des zones domestiques, les rythmes de déplacement de l'habitat.

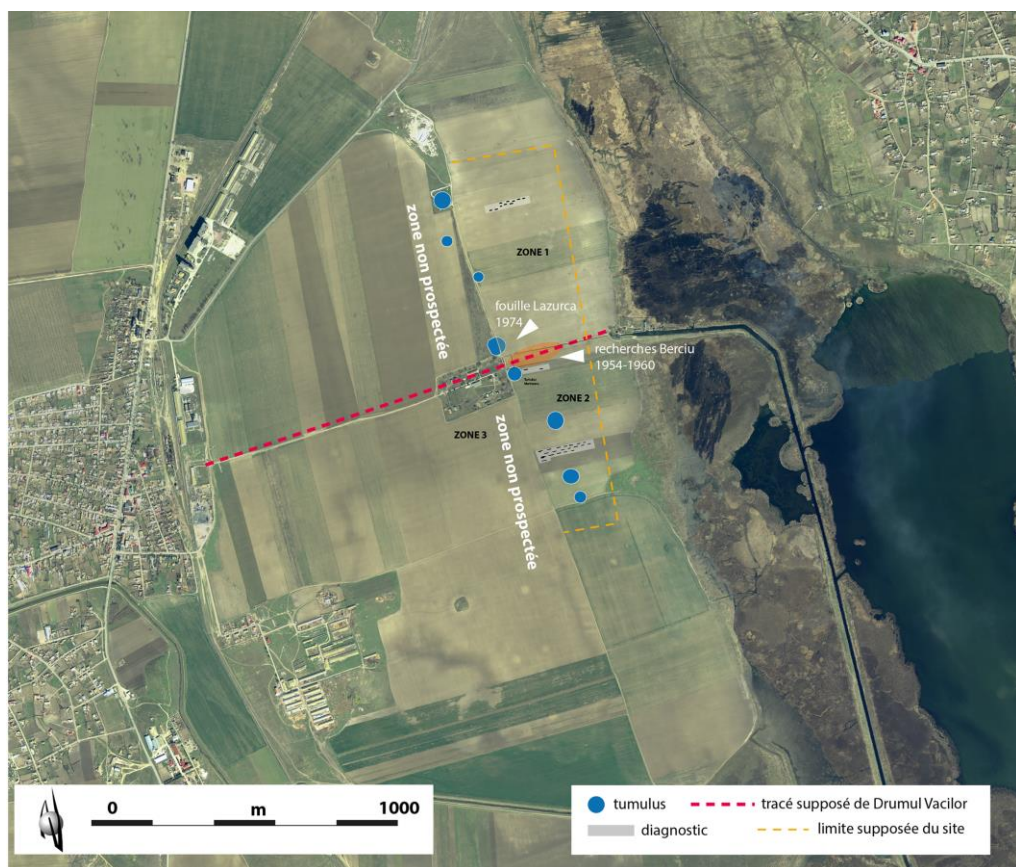


Fig. 16 : Recherches autour des occupations pré et protohistoriques de la zone de Baia « Golovița ». Position des zones diagnostiquées et zone d'extension supposée des occupations néolithique Hamangia et de l'âge du Bronze / *Researches on the pre and protohistoric occupations of the area of Baia « Golovița ». Location of the confirmed areas and the zone of presumed expansion of the Neolithic Hamangia and Bronze Age occupations.*

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## PRELIMINARY REPORT OF THE EXCAVATIONS AT HISTRIA – THE ACROPOLIS CENTRE-SOUTH SECTOR (IV). THE 2019-2020 CAMPAIGNS

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**Valentin BOTTEZ**

“Dinu Theodorescu” Laboratory of Archaeology  
Department of Ancient History, Archaeology and History of Art,  
Faculty of History, University of Bucharest  
valentin.bottez@istorie.unibuc.ro  
ORCID ID 0000-0003-2210-7530

**Radu PENEĂ**

“Dinu Theodorescu” Laboratory of Archaeology  
Department of Ancient History, Archaeology and History of Art,  
Faculty of History, University of Bucharest  
penea.radu@yahoo.com  
ORCID ID 0009-0009-6206-0037

**Iulia ILIESCU**

“Dinu Theodorescu” Laboratory of Archaeology  
Department of Ancient History, Archaeology and Art History,  
Faculty of History, University of Bucharest  
iulia-alexandra.iliescu@istorie.unibuc.ro  
ORCID ID: 0000-0002-9260-608X

**Abstract:** The article provides the basic data for the 2019-2020 excavations on the *Acropolis Centre-South* Sector in Histria (Constanța County, Romania) by a team from the University of Bucharest, namely concerning the stratigraphy and building structures discovered in the excavation units investigated in the above-mentioned period. We also draw several conclusions concerning the setting and functionality of several internal spaces, as well as regarding the construction technique and materials used in *Insula 1a* (6<sup>th</sup>-7<sup>th</sup> c. AD), the residential block that constitutes the sector's main research objective.

**Rezumat:** Articolul conține informația de bază pentru campaniile 2019-2020 de săpături arheologice de pe Sectorul *Acropolă Centru-Sud* de la Histria (jud. Constanța), desfășurate de către o echipă a Universității din București, anume despre stratigrafia și structurile constructive descoperite în unitățile de săpătură investigate în perioada menționată. De asemenea, autorii trag o serie de concluzii referitoare la amenajarea și funcționalitatea a mai multe spații interne, precum și despre tehnicile și materialele constructive folosite în *Insula 1a* (sec. VI-VII p.Chr.), complexul de locuințe care constituie principalul obiectiv de cercetare al sectorului.

**Keywords:** Histria, Late Roman urbanism, construction technique, construction material, Late Roman pottery.

**Cuvinte-cheie:** Histria, urbanism roman târziu, tehnică de construcție, materiale de construcție, ceramică romană târzie.

## INTRODUCTION

The present article is the fourth in a series of preliminary reports on the excavations undertaken by the team of the “Dinu Theodorescu” Laboratory of Archaeology, from the Faculty of History, University of Bucharest, on the *Acropolis Centre-South* Sector (henceforth **ACS**) in *Istros / Histria*, the ancient Milesian colony on the Western Black Sea Coast.

The results of the dig, which is located in the southern part of the ancient city's acropolis (Fig. 1) and led to the identification of a Late Roman *insula* (6<sup>th</sup>-7<sup>th</sup> c. AD), are to be published in 1) preliminary reports (such as this one) that include basic stratigraphic data and information on the building structures identified, followed by short conclusions concerning the sector's chronology and archaeological topography; 2) articles on the material discovered in the dig; and 3) in a number of volumes of the *Histria* monographic series, once the excavation of *Insula Ix* is concluded<sup>1</sup>.

The excavation is done using 4×4 m Wheeler trenches (named **C001**, **C002** etc.), divided by 1 m baulks<sup>2</sup>. The square trenches are divided in 1×1 m squares, numbered A-D (S-N) and 1-4 (W-E). All contexts are documented on MoLAS sheets<sup>3</sup>, all depths are taken from fixed points, using an optical level, and all structures are measured using the total station and their detailed plan is drawn and vectorized in AutoCAD (Fig. 2). The excavation stops on the last living surface before the final destruction of the buildings in this part of the city.

In 2019 and 2020, the excavation strategy (Fig. 2-4) aimed to continue the investigation of the *insula*'s northern nucleus<sup>4</sup> (whose surface was already covered by Wheeler trenches), focusing the baulks between the square trenches – which led to the excavation of 12 baulks: **C009/C036**, **C010/C041**, **C013/C014**, **C013/C017**, **C017/C021**, **C023/C026**, **C026/C029**, **C029/C035**, **C029/C040**, **C035/C039**, **C036/C041**, and **C039/C041** respectively. In the southern sector we continued to extend the excavation by opening eight new square trenches, namely **C046-053**.

<sup>1</sup> For the publications of the results see Bottez 2022; Țârlea, Iliescu, Bottez 2022; Bugoi *et alii* 2023; Bugoi *et alii* 2024.

<sup>2</sup> Named by the two excavation units delimiting it (e.g. baulk **C043/C044**).

<sup>3</sup> All contexts receive a code formed by the number of the excavation unit, followed by the number of the context (e.g. the vegetal layer in **C043** will be **43000**, the next layer **43001** etc; in the case of baulks, the code will combine those of the delimiting excavation units – e.g. the vegetal layer of baulk **C043/C044** will be **43000/44000**).

<sup>4</sup> The codename of the spaces inside the *insula* are formed by the nucleus they are part of (N – north, or S – south), followed by the space number (e.g. **NNSp06** is space no. 6 in the northern nucleus).

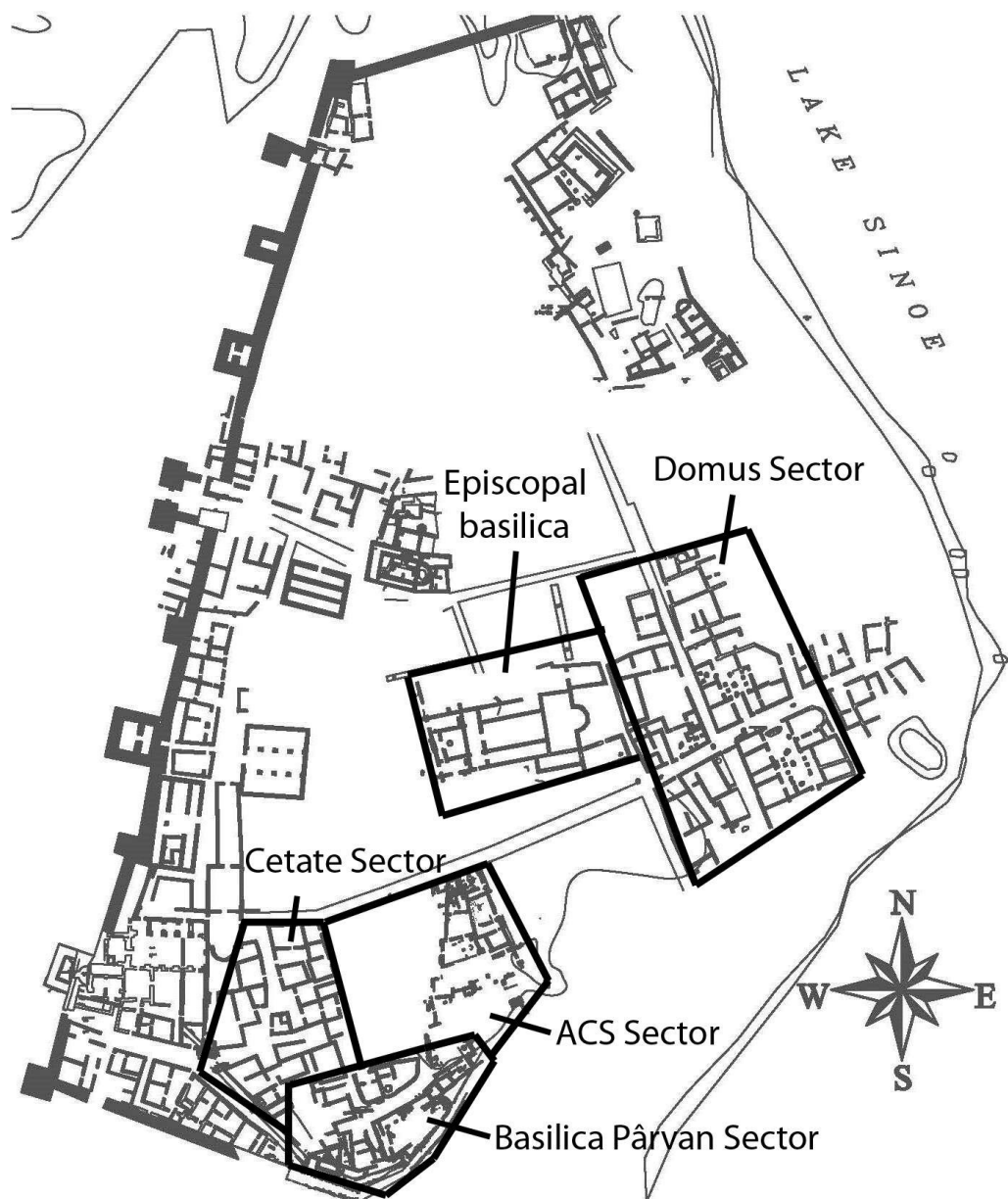


Fig. 1. Location of the sector on the acropolis of Istros (V. Bottez).

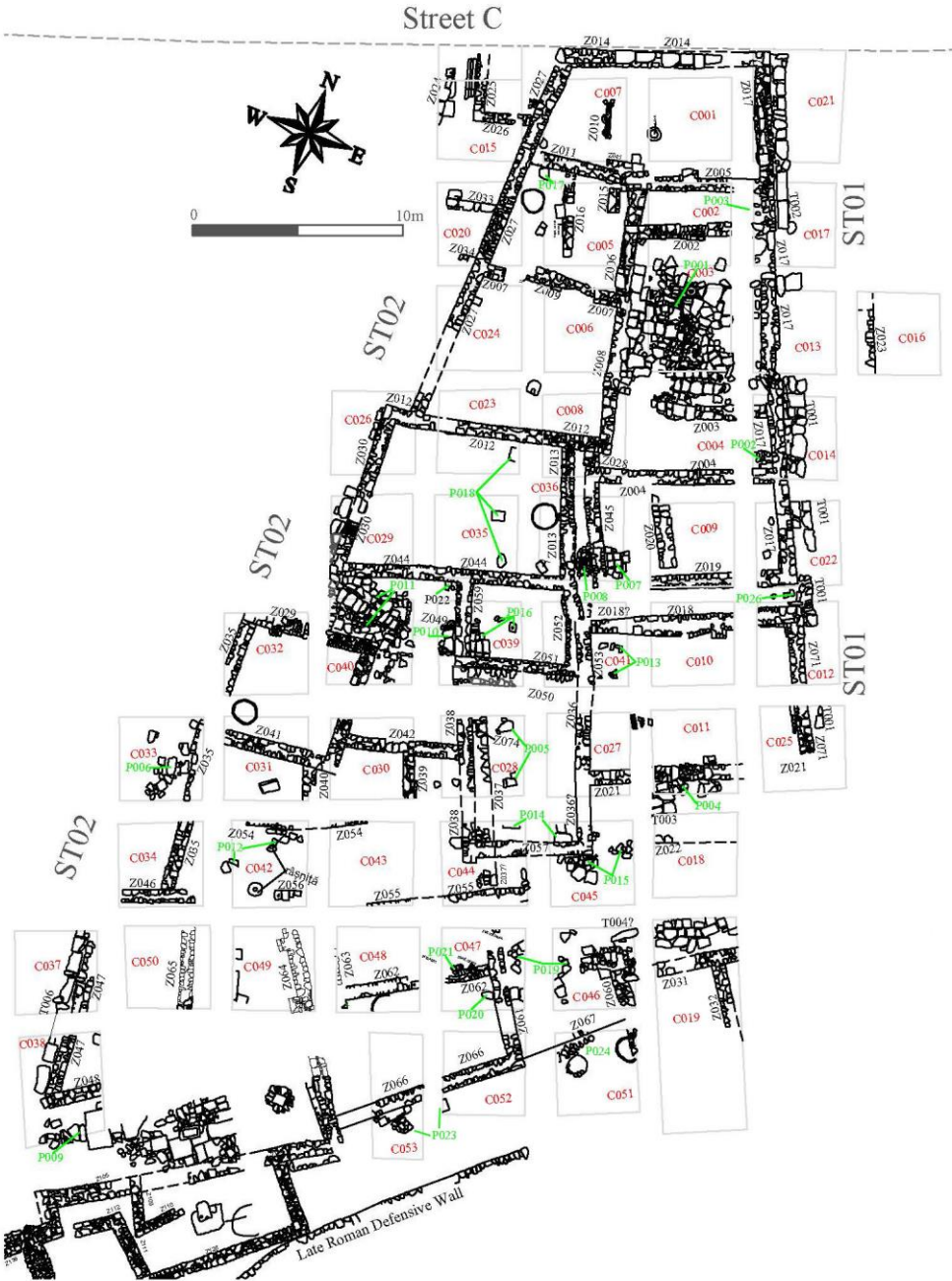


Fig. 2. Plan of the ACS Sector in 2020 (V. Bottez).



Fig. 3. Orthomosaic of the ACS Sector in 2020 (V. Bottez).

Bearing in mind that the initial aim is to stop the excavation on the final living surface, the stratigraphy in all these excavation units is fairly uniform (Fig. 5): a vegetal layer, followed by the so-called “grey debris” layer (the debris caused by the final, post-abandonment collapse of the different structures), the “yellow debris” layer (the debris caused by the final destruction of the functional buildings), underneath which we usually find the last living surface, consisting of stone pavements, hardened surfaces made out of silt, small stones, pebbles, pottery, and ceramic building material<sup>5</sup> fragments, brick pavements and hardened yellow silt layers that represent (at least in most cases) the substructure of brick pavements. Those layers will be listed in the following pages, with their dimensions and position, in order to have a public evidence of the excavated layers.

We must also bear in mind the fact that the archaeological contexts were severely damaged in the southern part of the sector, towards the **Late Roman Defensive Wall** (henceforth **LRDW**). The latter was dismantled and then damaged to such a level that the highest point at which we identified it in the **ACS Sector** was around -1.70 m, and there only a thin portion was preserved of the inner parament. Therefore, all the layers

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<sup>5</sup> Henceforth CBM.



that connected the southern structures of the *insula* to the LRDW were destroyed, at least partially.

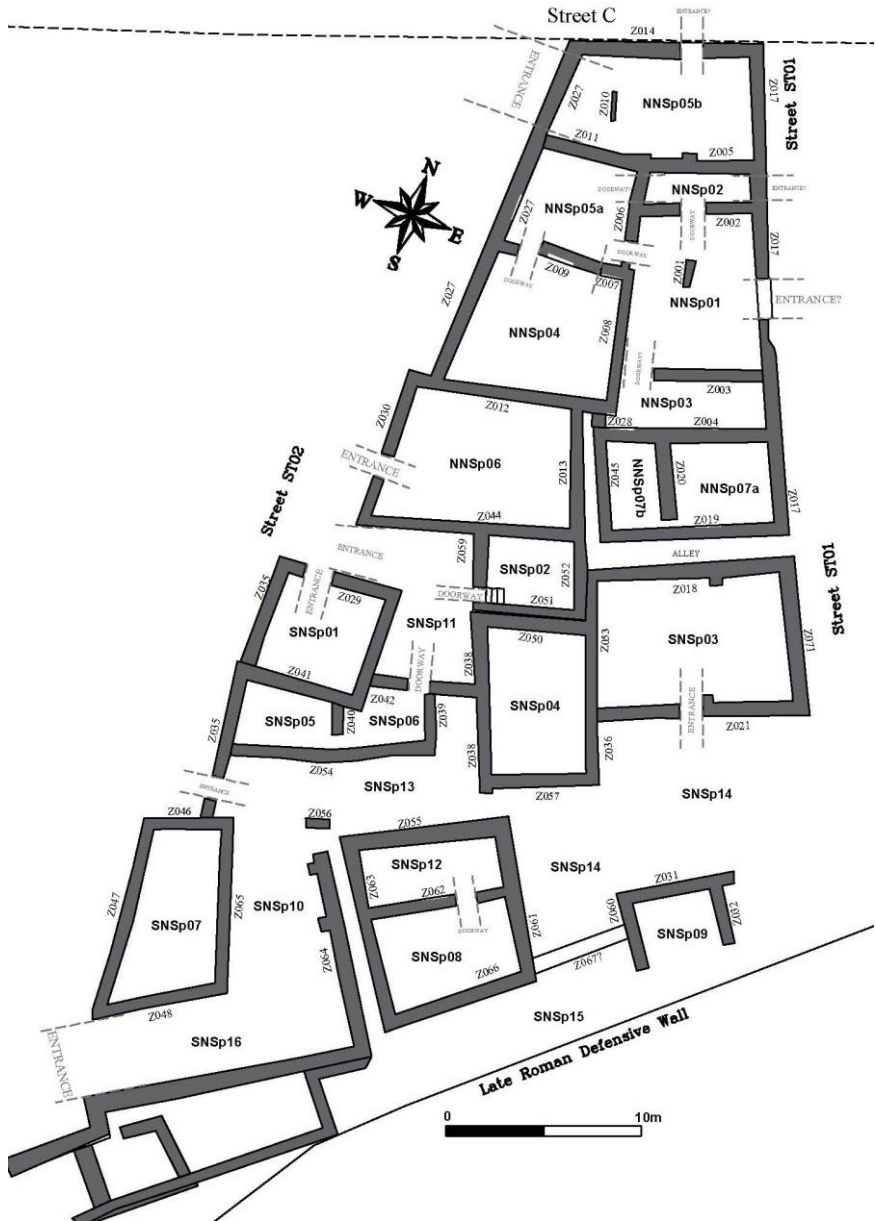


Fig. 4. Topographic plan of the ACS Sector with internal spaces in 2020 (V. Bottez).



Fig. 5. Stratigraphic succession in C053 (V. Bottez).

## STRATIGRAPHY

### Modern layer

This layer was identified only in one area, namely **C050** (context **50000**: +0.84 m/+0.52 m), and constitutes a modern deposit, caused probably by recent excavations.

### The vegetal layer

This layer was identified at different depths, depending on the inclination of the sloped terrain, in **C046** (context **46000**: +0.07 m/-0.23 m), **C047** (context **47000**: +0.29 m/+0.04 m), **C048** (context **48000**: +0.55 m/+0.36 m), **C049** (context **49000**: +0.91 m/+0.65 m), **C050** (context **50001**: +0.52 m/+0.33 m), **C051** (context **51000**: -0.57 m/-0.66 m in the N-W area of the section), **C052** (context **52000**: -0.24 m/-0.27 m), **C053** (context **53000**: +0.35 m/+0.01 m), **baulk C009/C036** (context **9000/36000**: +0.82 m/+0.64 m), **baulk C010/C041** (context **10000/41000**: +0.75 m/+0.46 m in sq. A<sub>1</sub>, +0.75 m/+0.34 m in sq. B<sub>1</sub>), **baulk C013/C014** (context **13000/14000**: +0.72 m/+0.50 m), **baulk C013/C017** (context **13000/17000**: +0.86 m/+0.76 m in sq. A<sub>1</sub>, +0.86 m/+0.66 m in sq. A<sub>4</sub>), **baulk C017/C021** (context **17000/21000**: +0.84 m/+0.57 m), **baulk C023/C026** (context **23000/26000**: +0.92 m/+0.60 m), **baulk C026/C029** (context **26000/29000**: +0.92 m/+0.60 m), **baulk C029/C035** (context **29000/35000**: +0.97 m/+0.86 m in sq. A<sub>1</sub>, +0.97 m/+0.36 m in sq. E<sub>1</sub>,

+0.97 m/+0.53 m in sq. F<sub>1</sub>), **baulk C029/C040** (context 29000/40000: +0.70 m/+0.65 m), **baulk C035/C039** (context 35000/39000: +1.02 m/+0.86 m), **baulk C036/C041** (context 36000/41000: +0.93 m/+0.82 m), and **baulk C039/C041** (context 39000/41000: +1.04 m/+0.70 m). The layer is composed of greyish-brown soil, with sandy silt and shells inclusions. It usually contains pottery shards, osteological fragments, CBM, glass and metal objects.

### The upper, "grey" debris layer

It was identified in all the excavated square sections and baulks, such as **C046** (context 46001: -0.23 m/-0.56 m), **C047** (context 47001: +0.04 m/-0.32 m), **C048** (context 48001: +0.54 m/+0.16 m in sq. A<sub>1</sub>, -0.15 m/-0.40 m in sq. D<sub>3</sub>), **C049** (context 49001: +0.65 m/+0.36 m), **C050** (context 50002: +0.33 m/-0.04 m), **C051** (context 51001: -0.66 m/-0.55 m in sq. B<sub>1-4</sub>, A<sub>1-3</sub>, -B<sub>1</sub>), **C052** (context 52001: -0.27 m/-0.52 m), **C053** (context 53001: +0.01 m/-0.31 m), **baulk C009/C036** (context 9001/36001: +0.64 m/+0.45 m), **baulk C010/C041** (context 10001/41001: +0.34 m/+0.15 m in sq. A<sub>1</sub>, +0.34 m/+0.23 m in sq. B<sub>1</sub>), **baulk C013/C014** (context 13001/14001: +0.50 m/+0.14 m), **baulk C013/C017** (context 13001/17001: +0.76 m/+0.61 m in sq. A<sub>1</sub>, +0.66 m/+0.40 m in sq. A<sub>3-4</sub>), **baulk C017/C021** (context 17001/21001: +0.57 m/+0.23 m), **baulk C023/C026** (context 23001/26001: +0.70 m/+0.29 m), **baulk C026/C029** (context 26001/29001: +0.60 m/+0.29 m), **baulk C029/C035** (context 29001/35001: +0.86 m/+0.76 m in sq. A<sub>1</sub>, +0.36 m/+0.05 m in sq. D<sub>1</sub>), **baulk C029/C040** (context 29001/40001: +0.65 m/+0.41 m), **baulk C035/C039** (context 35001/39001: +0.86 m/+0.57 m), **baulk C036/C041** (context 36001/41001: +0.82 m/+0.54 m in sq. A<sub>1-4</sub>, +0.71 m/+0.45 m in sq. A<sub>5-6</sub>), **baulk C039/C041** (context 39001/41001: +0.70 m/+0.31 m). Mainly, this layer usually contains stone construction materials, inclusions of pottery fragments, CBM, osteological material, glass and metal objects.

### The lower, "yellow" debris layer

This debris layer was also identified in mostly all trenches, with the exception of **C046**, **C051**, **baulk C013/C014**, **baulk C017/C013**, **baulk C021/C017** and **baulk C029/C040**. The ones with yellow debris present are **C026** (context 26004: -0.08 m/-0.63 m, which was initially excavated in 2015, with a thickness of +0.45 m/-0.08 m), **C029** (context 29005: -0.20 m/-0.60 m, initially excavated in 2016, with depths between +0.50 m/-0.20 m), **C046** (context 46003: -0.14 m/-0.49 m), **C047** (context 47002: -0.32 m/-0.58 m), **C048** (context 48002: +0.16 m/-0.37 m in sq. A<sub>1</sub>, -0.40 m/-0.53 m in sq. D<sub>1</sub>), **C049** (context 49002: +0.36 m/-0.07 m), **C050** (context 50003: -0.04 m/-0.14 m), **C052** (context 52002: -0.35 m/-0.77 m in the N part, -0.35 m/-1.04 m in the S part), **C053** (context 53002), **baulk C009/C036** (context 9002/36002: +0.45 m/+0.15 m), **baulk C010/C041** (context 10002/41002: +0.15 m/-0.77 m S of Z18, +0.23 m/-0.03 m above Z18), **baulk C023/C026**



(context **23002/26002**: +0.29 m/-0.40 m S of **Z012**<sup>6</sup>), **baulk C026/C029** (context **26002/29002**: +0.29 m/-0.57 m), **baulk C029/C035** (context **29002/35002**: +0.25 m/-0.55 m in sq. B-C<sub>1</sub>, +0.05 m/-0.70 m in sq. D<sub>1</sub>, +0.14 m/-0.68 m in sq. F<sub>1</sub>), **baulk C035/C039** (context **35002/39002**: +0.57 m/+0.17 m), **baulk C036/C041** (context **36002/41002**: +0.54 m/+0.0 m), and **baulk C039/C041** (context **39002/41002**: +0.31 m/+0.06 m). The soil of which it is composed is yellow coloured, often with reddish or black traces of burning and with inclusions of sandy silt and shells. The layer mainly contains stone construction material, inclusions of pottery fragments, CBM, osteological material, glass and metal objects.

### The Late Roman defensive wall debris layer

This particular kind of debris layer was identified only in proximity to the perimeter wall. The trenches in which it is present is **C052** (context **52009**: -1.00 m/ -1.86 m) and **C053** (context **53009**: -1.75 m; context **53011**, **superposed by 53009**). They consist of brownish-grey soil, with inclusions of green schist, pottery, osteological material, metal objects, glass and CBM. In **53009** were discovered a bronze buckle and a wholly preserved bronze lamp.

### The CBM fill layer

The layer was identified only in **C052** (context **52010**: -0.78 m/-0.88 m), near the **Late Roman defensive wall** (Fig. 6). It is very compact, yellow coloured, mainly consists of CBM, yellow clay and has inclusions of stone and pottery. It most probably constituted a substructure for **P023**<sup>7</sup> and lead to the **LRDW** but was partially destroyed by the slope that was created following the dismantling of the latter.

### Adobe debris layers

One such layer was identified in **baulk C029/C035** (context **29006/35006**: -0.27 m/-0.68 m). It had a strong reddish colour and inclusions of schist, large adobe pieces and CBM (Fig. 7). This debris layer is part of a mudbrick structure located in **NNSp06**<sup>8</sup> (Fig. 2 and 4), which is currently being excavated.

In 2019, an agglomeration of mud bricks, most likely a collapsed wall (Fig. 8, context **49004**), was identified in **C049**, sq. C-D<sub>1-3</sub>, at +0.02 m. Its approximate dimensions are 1.92×0.84 m, and it was oriented E-W.

<sup>6</sup> **Z** is short for *zid* (Romanian for *wall*).

<sup>7</sup> **P** is short for *pavaj* (Romanian for *pavement*).

<sup>8</sup> **NNSp06** is covered by **C008**, **C023**, **C026**, **C029**, **C035** and **C036**.

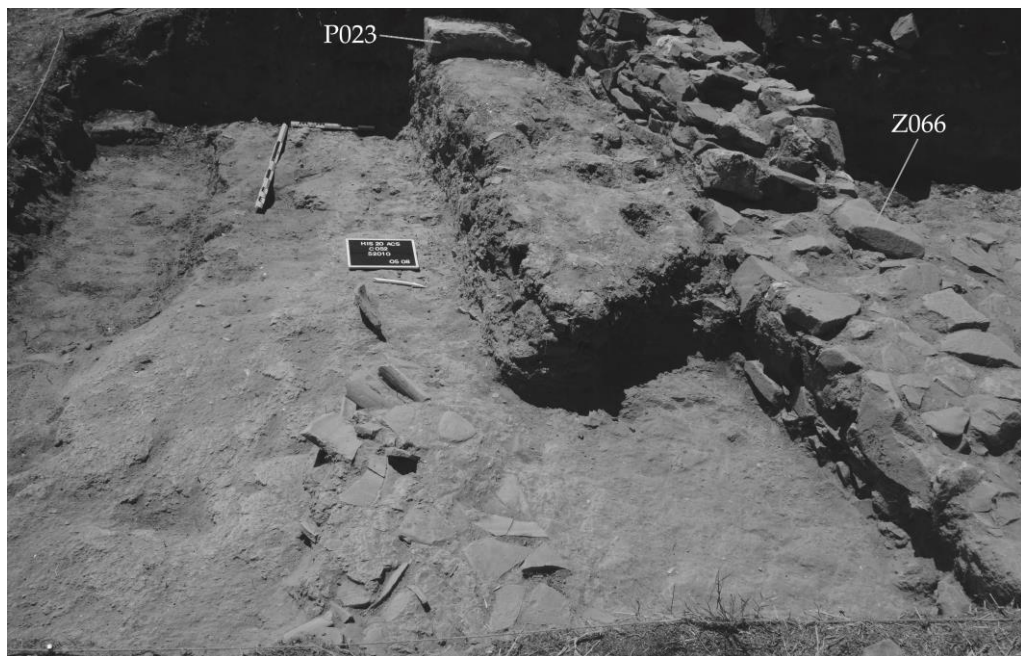


Fig. 6. Context 52010, P023 and Z066 (CBM fill layer) (V. Bottez).

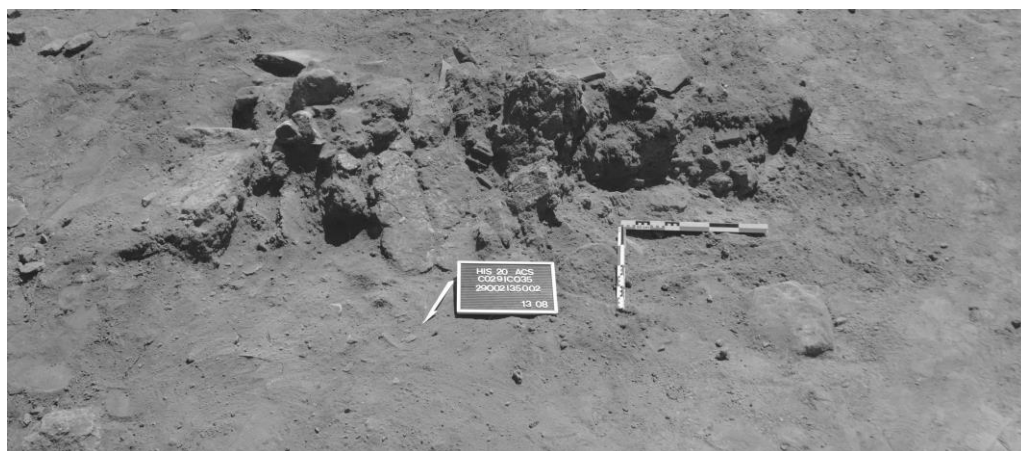


Fig. 7. Context 29006/35006 in NNSp06 (debris of a mudbrick structure) (V. Bottez).

### Living surfaces

There are a few types of living surfaces currently identified in *insula* Ia. Those are the stone and brick pavements, as well as very hard yellowish silt and pebbles floors and potential floors, where we also include street surfaces and all their substructures. The

pavements, floors, as well as the streets will be presented in the constructive structures section.

The potential floors represent compact yellow silt layers hardened by constantly walking on them. These layers were unearthed in **C048** (context **48005**: -0.53 m, delimited to the NW by **Z063**, to the S by **Z062**; context **48006**: -0.37 m in sq. A<sub>3</sub>, delimited to the N by **Z062**, to the W by **Z063**), **C050** (context **50004**: -0.14 m, -0.20 m, -0.28 m in sq. A-D<sub>1-3</sub>; context **50005**: +0.10 m, +0.09 m, -0.06 m in sq. A-D<sub>4</sub>), **C051** (context **51002**: -0.96 m in sq. B<sub>3</sub>, -1.26 m in sq. -B<sub>3</sub>, -A<sub>1-2</sub>, -B<sub>1-4</sub>, A<sub>1-4</sub>, B<sub>2-4</sub>, bordered by **Z060** in sq. B<sub>4</sub>, by **Z067** in sq. B<sub>1-2</sub>), **C052** (context **52011**: -1.04 m, sq. A-B<sub>3-4</sub>, -B<sub>1-2</sub>; context **52012**: -1.44 m in sq. -A<sub>1-4</sub>, -B<sub>1-4</sub>, -A'<sub>1-4</sub>), **C053** (context **53003**: -0.45 m, sq. A-B<sub>1-2</sub>, delimited to the N by **P023**, **Z066**; context **53006**: -0.45 m in sq. C-D<sub>1-2</sub>, delimited to the S by **Z066**), **C010/C041** (context **10003/41003**: -0.77 m in sq. A<sub>1</sub>, -0.68 m in sq. C<sub>1</sub>), **C035/C039** (context **35003/39003**: +0.17 m), **C036/C041** (context **36003/41003**: +0.41 m, +0.31 m in sq. A<sub>4-6</sub>), and **C039/C041** (context **39003/41003**: +0.06 m in sq. B-D<sub>1</sub>).

There are also substructures for the different floors and pavements, which usually present themselves as compact yellow silt layers.

Such substructures for pavements and floors were identified in **C026** (context **26007**: -0.63 m on the W side of **NNSp06**, delimited to the W by **Z030**), **C029** (context **29006**: -0.45 m, delimited by **Z030** and **Z044**; context **29008**: -0.60 m in sq. B<sub>2-4</sub>, C<sub>3</sub>, D<sub>2-4</sub>), **C046** (context **46002**: -0.43 m/-0.47 m in sq. A-B<sub>1-3</sub>, delimited to the N by **T004**<sup>9</sup>, E by **Z060**; context **46004**: sq. D<sub>1-2</sub> and D<sub>4</sub>), **C047** (context **47003**: -0.70 m in sq. C-D<sub>1-3</sub>; context **47008**: -0.69 m in sq. A-B<sub>1-3</sub>, delimited to the N by **Z062**, to the E by **Z061**; context **47009**: -0.84 m in sq. D<sub>4</sub>), **C049** (context **49005**: -0.09 m in sq. A-D<sub>1-3</sub>, associated with **Z064**; context **49006**: +0.08 m in sq. B-D<sub>4</sub>, associated with **Z064**), **C052** (context **52003**: -0.64 m in sq. D<sub>4</sub>; context **52004**: -0.74 m in squares C-D<sub>1-3</sub>, delimited to the S by **Z066**, E by **Z061**; context **52007**: -0.56 m in sq. A<sub>1-3</sub>), **C053** (context **53008**: -0.47 m in sq. -A<sub>1-2</sub>, B'<sub>1-2</sub>), **C009/C036** (context **9005/36005**: +0.25 m, +0.15 m in the pothole), **C023/C026** (context **23005/26005**: +0.15 m, sq. D<sub>1</sub>, at the intersection between **Z012** and **Z027**; context **23006/26006**: between -0.40 m and -0.31 m, bordered to the N by **Z012**), **C026/C029** (context **26007/29007**: -0.57 m in squares A<sub>3-4</sub>, delimited to the W by **26006/29006** and **Z030**), **C029/C035** (context **29004/35004**: -0.55 m in sq. B-C<sub>1</sub>, associated with **Z044**; context **29005/35005**: -0.70 m in sq. C-D<sub>1</sub>, it is possible that it might be the same one as **29004/35004**).

These layers contain inclusions such as shells, charcoal, pottery and osteological material, glass and CBM. They were broken in certain areas due to the pressure applied by the stones of the upper debris layer. The excavation was halted for most of these layers, as the objective for the *insula* is to research its last functioning phase.

<sup>9</sup> T is short for *trotuar* (Romanian for *sidewalk*).



Fig. 8. Context 49004 and Z064 (adobe debris layer) (V. Bottez).



Fig. 9. Context 13003/17003 (structure with unknown functionality in C017/C013) (V. Bottez).



## BUILDING STRUCTURES

### Undetermined structure

**13003/17003:** A structure with unknown functionality (Fig. 9) was discovered in 2020 in **baulk C013/C017** (Fig. 2-3), at +0.73 m. It is made of 2 limestone slabs measuring 0.67×0.71 m and 0.4×0.99 m and is set against **Z017**.

### Entrances/doorways

**47007:** the doorway (Fig. 10) was discovered in 2019 in **Z062** in **C047**, sq. B-C<sub>1</sub>, at -0.41 m and it is made of unfashioned and fashioned (*spolia*) stones, CBM fragments, all bound with earth. The doorway is oriented NNW-SSE, has a rectangular shape and measures 1.02×0.80 m. In the *insula*'s second functioning phase (dated starting with the reign of Justin II), it was blocked with stones and CBM courses, bound with soil.

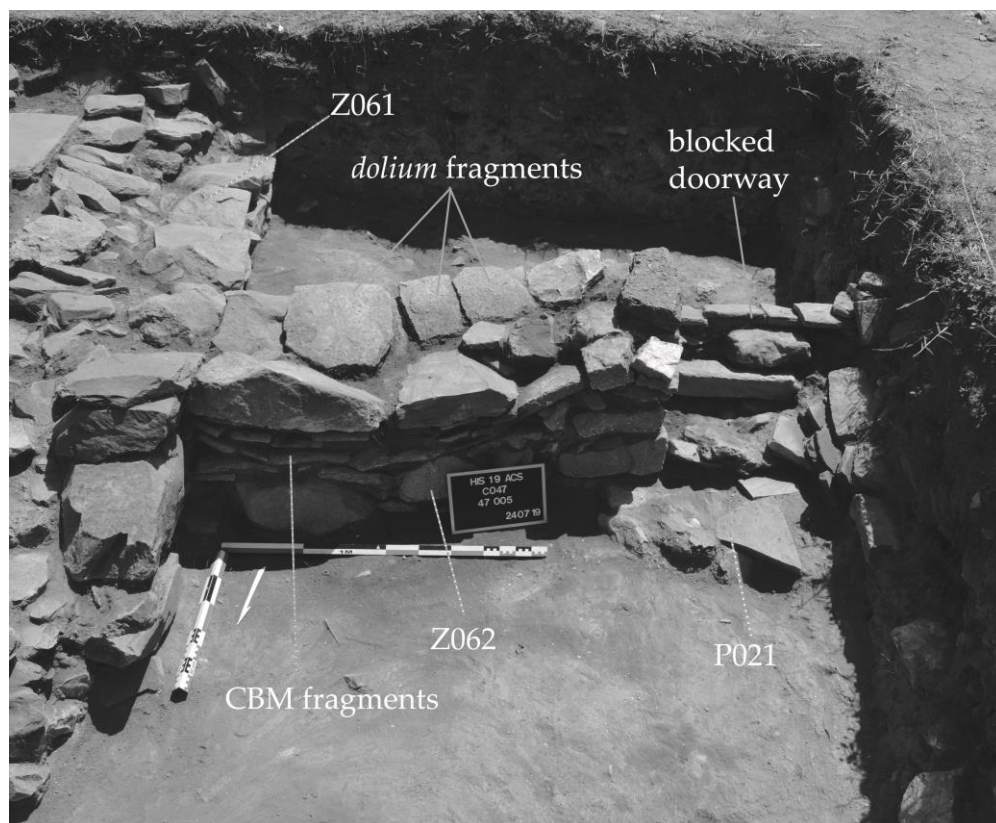


Fig. 10. Doorway **47007**, **P021** and **Z062** (V. Bottez).

**26003/29003:** a threshold was partially identified in the 2016 campaign in **C029** and in 2019 was fully unearthed in **C026/C029**, square A<sub>2</sub>, at +0.26 m, thus completing the unveiling of the entrance from street **ST02** to the *domus*. Oriented NW-SE, it has a rectangular shape, and it is built of unfashioned and fashioned (*spolia*) stones bound with earth by limestone fragments. Its measurements are 0.76×0.66×0.46 m (five courses visible) and it is associated with **Z030**, **T005** and **ST02**.

### Streets

**ST01:** initially discovered in 2014, new segments were identified in 2020 in baulks **C013/C014** (13002/14002), **C013/C017** (13002/17002) and **C017/C021** (17002/21002), at depths between +0.23 m/+0.4 m. The yellow soil in all segments is compact, with small pottery, stones and osteological inclusions and has areas where the streets surface was broken. In baulk **C017/C021**, **ST01** is bordered to the W by **T002**, in baulk **C013/C017** by **Z017** and by the undetermined structure **13003/17003** and in **C013/C014** by **T001**.

**ST02:** first discovered in 2014 in **C015**, a new segment was unearthed in 2019 in baulk **C026/C029** at +0.39 m. The soil is compact and has small inclusions of stones and shells. The street makes the connection between **Street C** and the *Basilica Pâravan* Sector, and this segment is parallel with **Z030** and **T005**.

### Sidewalks

**T001:** initially discovered in 2014, a new segment (context **13003/14003**) was revealed in 2020 in baulk **C013/C014**. Oriented NNW-SSE, it has rectangular shape, and it is built of fashioned green schist and limestone tiles. The segment measures 1.12×0.85×0.2 m, it is set against **Z017**, and it borders **ST02** to the W.

**T002:** it was first discovered in 2014 and in 2020 a new segment (context) was unearthed in **C017/C021**, built of unfashioned and fashioned large and very large sized limestone and green schist tiles. The segment measures 1×0.5 m, it borders **ST02** to the E and it is set against **Z017** to the W.

**T004:** first identified in 2015 in **C019**, a new segment was discovered in 2019 in **C046** (46008). The structure is oriented E-W, it is built of green schist and stones, and it measures 2.35×1.30 m. The pavement was severely affected by the destruction of the last level of habitation, with only five slabs entirely preserved and another covered by a large rectangular block of limestone.

**T005:** identified in 2016 in **C026**, a new segment was revealed in 2019 in baulk **C026/C029** (26004/29004) at +0.59 m. The sidewalk is oriented NW-SE, parallel with **ST02** and **Z030**, it has a rectangular shape, and the tiles measure 0.50×0.43 m.

## Pavements

**P007**: first discovered in 2017 in **C036**, a new segment was uncovered in **baulk C009/C036 (9006/36006)**, sq. A<sub>1</sub> (Fig. 11). Oriented E-W, the pavement is built of brick tiles bound with earth that measure approximately 0.32×0.32 m. Its measurements in the baulk are 0.92×0.40 m and after the 2019 campaign the total size of the structure is 1.5×1 m. Some tiles are partially out of place due to the damage done by the yellow debris layer.

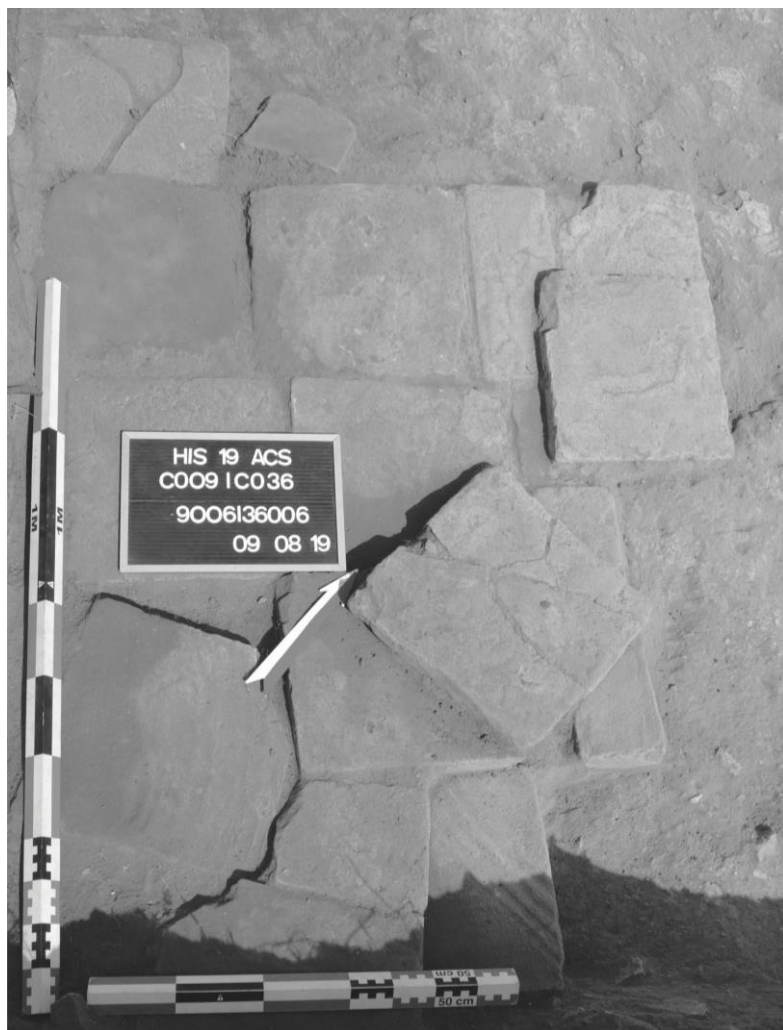


Fig. 11. **P007** (V. Bottez).

**P011**: initially identified in 2018, new parts were unearthed in 2019 in **C040**, sq. A<sub>4</sub> and C-D<sub>1-4</sub>, at +0.53 m and **baulk C029/C040**, squares A<sub>1-4</sub>, at +0.69 m (Fig. 12). It is oriented E-W, has a rectangular shape and it is built of unfashioned and fashioned (*spolia*) medium and large sized stones bound with earth. In **C040** the tiles appeared after the breaking of the floor (**40006**) that overlays it; and there is also a canal/sewer that crosses through the pavement. Possible explanations for the depth discrepancies are the existence of more than one phase of the structure or the pressure applied by the yellow debris layer.

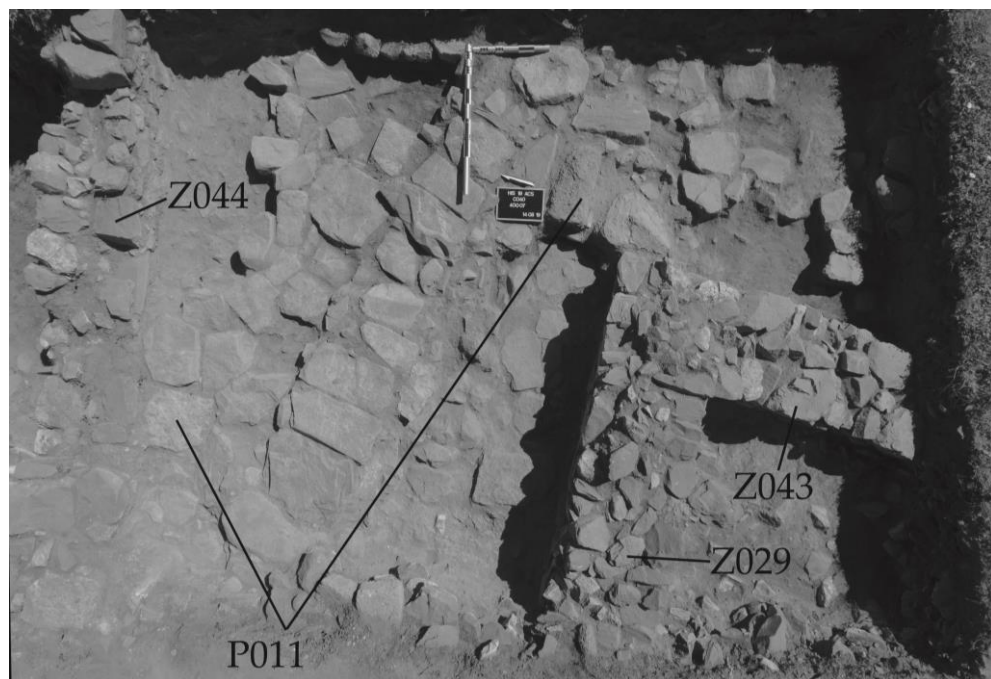


Fig. 12. **P011**, **Z029**, **Z043** and **Z044** (V. Bottez).

**P019**: two segments were identified in 2019 in **C046** (**46007**), squares A-B<sub>1</sub>, and **C047** (**47004**), squares A-C<sub>4</sub> (Fig. 13 and 14). The segments are oriented N-S and are built of limestone slabs. In **C046** it measures 1.4×0.5 m and the tiles are poorly conserved, while in **C047** its measurements are 3.26×0.65 m and it is set against **Z061**. **P019** is associated with **Z031**, **Z060** and **Z061**.

**P020**: discovered in 2019 in **C047** at -0.55 m (Fig. 14), the pavement is composed by of only one slab, identified in layer **47008**. The tile measures 0.6×0.3 m and it is probably part of a dismantled pavement later covered by substructure **47008**. Associated with substructure **47008** and **Z061**.





Fig. 13. P019 (context 46007) (V. Bottez).



Fig. 14. P019, P020, Z061, and Z062 (V. Bottez).

**P021:** it was excavated in 2019 in **C047** (Fig. 10), and it is built of stone tiles closely positioned near **Z062** and the possible entrance **47007**. The tiles were identified in a substructure (**47003**) made of compact yellow clay with small schist and shell inclusions and it is considered that they formed the pavement whose substructure was found in sq. C-D<sub>1-3</sub> (**47003**). It is associated with **Z062**, substructure **47003** and entrance **47007**.

**P022:** it was identified in 2019 in **baulk C035/C039 (35004/39004)**, sq. A<sub>1</sub>. The pavement (Fig. 15) is oriented E-W, and it is built of CBM bound together with earth. It measures 0.50×0.40 m and it is affected by the lower debris layer. **P022** resembles the brick pavement (**P007**) from **C036** and **baulk C009/C036**. Associated with **35005/39005** and **35006/39006**.



Fig. 15. Remains of **P022** (V. Bottez).

**P023:** it was discovered in 2020 in **C052 (52008)**, sq. A<sub>1</sub>, at -0.45 m (Fig. 16), and in **C053 (53005)**, sq. B<sub>1-2</sub>, at -0.45 m. The irregular shaped structure is oriented E-W, it measures 1×0.7 m and it is built of large sized schist and limestone tiles that measure 0.25×0.35 m. The pavement is parallel with **Z066** (Fig. 23), and it seems to continue to **C052**, square A<sub>1</sub>, where a large limestone tile measuring 0.6×0.28×0.12 m which continues to the W profile was identified.



Fig. 16. Z066 and P023 (V. Bottez).

**P024:** unveiled in 2020 in **C051 (51005)** at -0.55 m, the rectangular shaped structure is oriented E-W, and it is built of fashioned schist and limestone tiles. It measures 1.9×0.7 m and it seems to be parallel with **Z067**.

### Walls

**Z004:** was originally discovered in 2013, and a new segment (**9003/36003**) was identified in 2019, in **baulk C009/C036**, sq. D<sub>1</sub>, enabling the complete unearthing of the wall. Oriented E-W, it is built of unfashioned and fashioned (*spolia*) medium sized stones bound with earth. The new segments measure 1.42×0.68×0.60 m (three courses identified) in **C009/C036**. It intersects in the same baulk with **Z020 (9004/36004)**, which is oriented N-S.

**Z005:** first discovered in 2013 and then in 2015, a new segment was identified in 2020, **baulk C021/C017**, sq. A<sub>1</sub>, at +0,50 m. The wall is oriented E-W, has a rectangular shape and it is built of unfashioned and fashioned (*spolia*) stones bound with earth. Its measurements are 0.92×0.54 m. It intersects with **Z017** and on the N side **Z005** was not unearthed due to the narrow space.

**Z012:** it was initially identified in 2013, and then in 2015, 2017 and 2018, with a new wall segment unearthed in 2020 in **baulk C023/C026**. The segment is oriented E-W, it is built of unfashioned and fashioned (*spolia*) stones bound with earth and it

measures 1.2×0.6×1.07 m (two, respectively four courses visible). On the S side of **Z012** a fragmentary adobe plaster which continues W along the wall to **C026** was discovered between -0.21 m/-0.45 m, measuring 0.68 m in length, 0.30 m in width and a maximum thickness level of 0.12 m. Another discovery on the S side was a possible palmette-decorated column base made of limestone. A possible segment of the wall's foundation seems to consist of a 15-20 cm layer of adobe. **Z012** represents the N limit of **NNSp06**, along with segments from **C008**, **C023**, **C026**. It intersects **Z027** and delimits two substructures (**23005/26005** and **23006/26006**).

**Z017**: discovered in 2013 and 2016, three new segments (**13004/14004**, **17004/13004** and **21005/17005**) were identified in 2020 in **bauk C013/C014**, sq. A<sub>1</sub> at +0.50 m, **bauk C017/C013**, sq. A<sub>1</sub> at +0.61 m and **bauk C021/C017**, sq. A<sub>1</sub> at +0.33 m. Oriented NNW-SSE, the segments are built of unfashioned and fashioned (*spolia*) medium- and large-sized stones bound with earth and their measurements are 1.15 m in length and between 0.66/0.90 m width in **bauk C013/C014**, 1×0.66 m in **bauk C017/C013** and 1×0.60 m in **bauk C021/C017** (between one and two identifiable courses). In this campaign, the identified wall segments measure a total of 3.15 m in length which add to the 35.15 m previously identified. The segments are parallel with sidewalks **T001**, **T002** (who border the wall to the E), street **ST01** and in **C021/C017** the wall intersects with **Z005** (**21004/17004**). In **bauk C013/C014**, **Z017** also changes its trajectory on a N-S direction, as it is displaced approx. 30 cm to the east.

**Z018**: first discovered in 2014 and later in 2018, a new segment (**41004/10004**) was identified in **bauk C041/C010**, sq. D<sub>1</sub>, at -0.03 m. It is oriented E-W, and it is built of unfashioned and fashioned (*spolia*) medium- and large-sized stones bound with earth and the measurements are 1.46×0.87×0.58 m (four courses identified, the fifth was partially replaced with a yellow clay filling, at the moment it was dismantled down to the present level). It seems that this segment of **Z018** had an initial phase where on the surface it functioned as an entrance, and a second phase where the entrance was blocked and on the surface a silt floor was overlaid (some traces of hard yellow silt were found over it in 2020).

**Z020**: it was first identified in 2014 in **C009**, with a new segment (**9004/36004**) unearthed in 2019, in **bauk C009/C036**. The wall is oriented N-S, built of unfashioned and fashioned (*spolia*) stones bound with earth, and it measures 4.2×0.84×0.44 m (four courses identified). The wall intersects with **Z004**, oriented E-W, in the same bauk.

**Z027**: initially discovered in 2014 in **C007** and later in **C015**, **C020**, **C024** and the baulks between them, a new section (**23004/26004**) was identified in 2020 in **bauk C023/C026** at +0.36 m. It is oriented NNE-SSW, built of unfashioned and fashioned (*spolia*) variable sized stones bound with earth and measures 1.2×0.67×0.2 m (one course visible). The wall intersects **Z012** in this bauk.

**Z030:** the wall was initially identified in 2015 in **C026** and in 2016 in **C029**. In 2019 a new segment was discovered in the baulk separating those two excavation units, namely **C026/C029**, in sq. A<sub>2</sub>, at +0.63 m. Its measurements in the baulk's area are 0.40×0.68×0.86 m and it is built of unfashioned and fashioned (*spolia*) stones bound with earth. The structure is oriented NW-SE and in the S-W direction the wall is dismantled by the debris. A threshold (**26003/29003**), which gave access to the *domus* from the street is connected to the wall. In 2020 the excavations resumed in **C029**, and the lower debris layer was completely excavated, thus unveiling the lower part of the wall. Initially, its height measured 0.56 m (seven courses visible), but after the remaining debris was fully excavated, it changed to 1.2 m (11 courses visible).

**Z031:** initially identified in 2015 in **C019**, a new segment was discovered in 2019 in **C046**. This segment measures 1.10×0.70 m and it is built of unfashioned and fashioned (*spolia*) stones bound with earth, oriented E-W. The wall intersects with **Z060** (**46005**), oriented N-S and with the **T004** sidewalk, oriented E-W.

**Z044:** it was initially identified in 2016 in **C029**, and later in 2017, in **C035** and **C036**, and 2018 in baulk **C035/C036**, while in 2019 and 2020 four new segments were uncovered in **C029/C035** (**29003/35003**), **C029/C040** (**29003/40003**), **C035/C039** (**35005/39005**) and **C036/C041** (**36004/41004**). The segments measure 1×0.66×0.35/1.22 m in **C029/C035**, 3.94×0.70×0.52 m in **C029/C040**, 3.8×0.62×0.25/0.64 m in **C035/C039**, 1.90×0.63×0.65 m in **C036/C041** and are built of unfashioned and fashioned (*spolia*) medium sized stones bound with earth. In **C035/C039**, **Z044** is oriented E-W, with a varying height in sq. A<sub>1</sub> of 0.25 m (three courses visible) and in sq. A<sub>34</sub> of 0.64 m (six courses identified), and it intersects with **Z059** (**35006/39006**), oriented N-S. The segment in **C036/C041** was discovered at +0.69 m (six courses visible) and it intersects with **Z052** (**36005/41005**). Also in 2020, in **C029** the lower debris layer was fully excavated, thus the height of the segment there changed to 1.23 m and also a plinth (three courses visible) was discovered. The wall is associated with **Z030**, **Z052**, **Z058** and **Z059**, and also with pavements **P007**, **P011** and **P022**.

**Z050:** first discovered in the 2018 campaign in **C039** and **C041**, a new segment was unearthed in 2019, in the baulk between those two square sections, namely **C039/C041**, in sq. A<sub>1</sub>. The segment (**39005/41005**) is rectangular, measuring 1.04×0.38 m and it is built of unfashioned and fashioned (*spolia*) stones and CBM bound with earth. The wall is oriented E-W and set against **Z051** (**39004/41004**).

**Z051:** originally discovered in 2018, a new segment was unearthed in 2019, in baulk **C039/C041**. The wall is built of unfashioned and fashioned (*spolia*) stones bound with earth and has a rectangular shape. It measures 1.05×0.47×0.38/0.20 m, height of 0.38 m/0.20 m (five, respectively three courses found). It is set against wall **Z050** (**39005/41005**), and it delimits the **39003/41003** floor to the N.



**Z053:** the wall was initially discovered in 2018, with a new segment identified in the 2019 campaign, in sq. A<sub>3</sub> of **baulk C036/C041**, at +0.71 m. It is built of unfashioned and fashioned (*spolia*) stones bound with earth, oriented N-S and measures 0.79×0.60×0.38/0.50 m (four, respectively three courses visible), where it also has an associated pavement, made of CBM. The segment intersects with **Z044 (36004/41004)**, and it delimits to the W the **36003/41003** floor.

**Z058:** was identified in 2016 in **C032** and in 2018 in **C040**, but also in 2019, in **baulk C029/C040 (29004/40004)**. It is made of unfashioned and fashioned (*spolia*) stones bound with earth and his measurements are 0.70×0.44×0.23 m (one course discovered). The wall has a rectangular shape, and it is oriented NE-SW, while it also intersects with **Z044**, and it is bordered to the E by the **P011** pavement.

**Z059:** first identified in 2018, a new segment (**35006/39006**) was unearthed in 2019, in **baulk C035/C039**, sq. A<sub>2</sub>. It is built of unfashioned and fashioned (*spolia*) stones bound with earth and it is oriented N-S. The measurements are 0.88×0.78×0.16/0.57 m (two, respectively eight courses visible). **Z059** intersects in the same baulk with **Z044 (35005/39005)**, oriented E-W.

**Z060:** discovered in 2019 and 2020 in **C046 (46005)**, sq. A-C<sub>4</sub> and B-C<sub>3</sub> (Fig. 17), and **C051 (51004)**, the wall segments are built of unfashioned and fashioned (*spolia*) stones bound with earth and are oriented N-S. In **C046** the measurements are 1.90×0.70 m (two courses identified) and it intersects **Z031**. It is associated with sidewalk **T004**, oriented E-W, while in **C051** it measures 0.6×0.3×0.24 m (one course visible).

**Z061:** the wall segments were discovered first in 2019 in **C047 (47006)** at -0.28 m, in sq. A<sub>3</sub>-D<sub>4</sub> (fig. 14) and then in 2020 in **C052**. They are built of unfashioned and fashioned (*spolia*) medium- and small-sized stones bound with earth, they have a rectangular shape and are oriented N-S. In **C047** the measurements changed to 2.98×0.72×0.36 m (three courses visible on the W side), and we established that it intersects with **Z062 (47005)** and is set against pavement **P019**, while in **C052** the wall measures 0.9×0.7×0.2 m (two, respectively three courses visible) and it intersects with **Z066**.

**Z062:** the wall was discovered in 2019 in two different trenches (Fig. 19 and 20), namely **C047 (47005)**, at -0.11 m in sq. B-C<sub>2-3</sub>, and **C048 (48003)**. It is built of unfashioned and fashioned (*spolia*) medium- and small-sized stones bound with earth, but also CBM and *dolia* fragments. The wall has a rectangular shape, and it is oriented E-W. In **C047** the segment measures on his N side 1.46×0.55×0.60 m (six courses visible) and it intersects with **Z061 (47006)**, which is oriented N-S, and there also seems to be a blocked entrance in the W end (**47007**). In **C048** the segment measurements are 3.44×0.56×0.62/0.53 m (five, respectively seven courses visible), while the courses from the top of the wall are leaning N, disrupted by the debris. It intersects in the same square section with **Z063**, which is mostly covered by **baulk C048/C049**.

**Z063:** it was discovered in 2019 (Fig. 20) in **C048**, sq. A-C<sub>1</sub>. The wall is oriented N-S, it is built of unfashioned and fashioned (*spolia*) stones bound with earth and it measures 3×0.30×0.65 m. Most of the wall segment is covered by baulk **C048/C049** and it intersects **Z062** in the same square trench, which is oriented E-W.

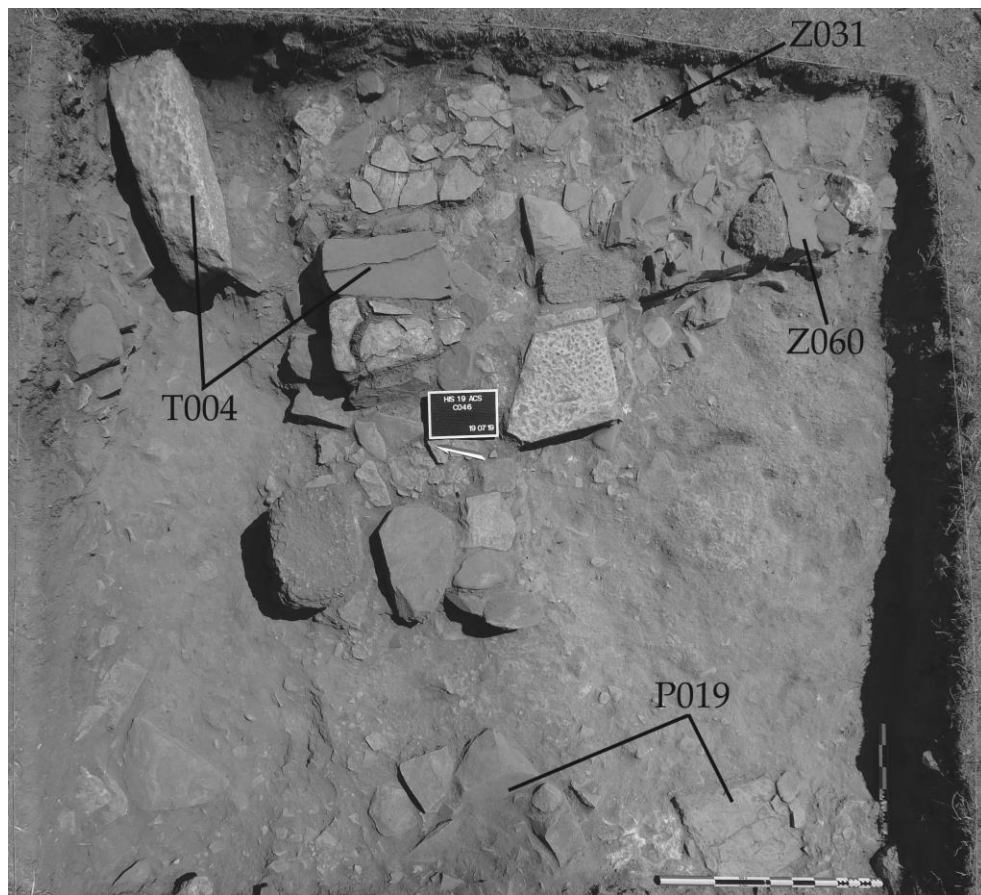


Fig. 17. **Z060**, **P019** and **T004** (V. Bottez).

**Z064:** identified in the 2019 campaign in **C049**, sq. A-D<sub>3-4</sub>, at +0.47 m (Fig. 21 and 22), and represents the continuation of a wall from the Eastern buildings of the *Basilica Pârva* Sector. The segment is built of unfashioned and fashioned (*spolia*) stones bound with earth, it has a rectangular shape, and it is oriented NW-SE. In sq. A<sub>3</sub> and D<sub>3</sub>, two counterforts were discovered. The measurements are 3.93×0.72×0.51 m (five, respectively four courses visible).



Fig. 18. Z061 (V. Bottez).

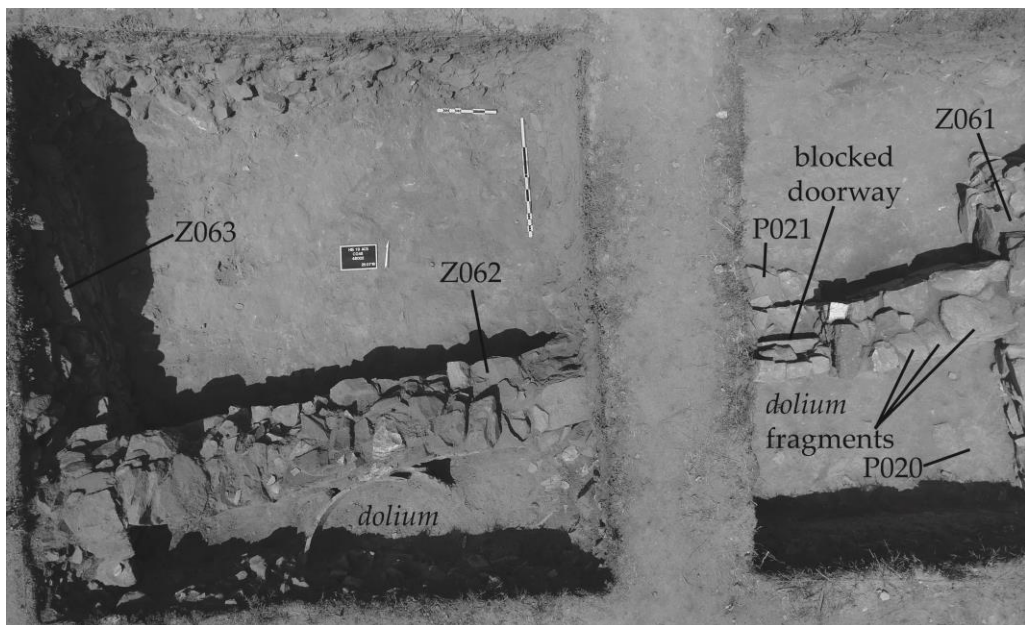


Fig. 19. Z062 and Z063 (V. Bottez).



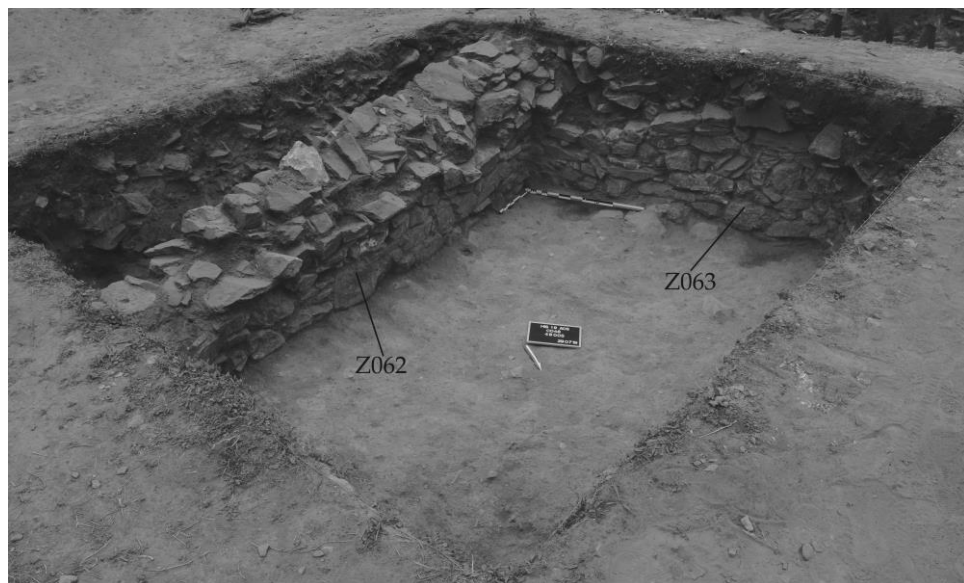


Fig. 20. Z062 and Z063 (V. Bottez).

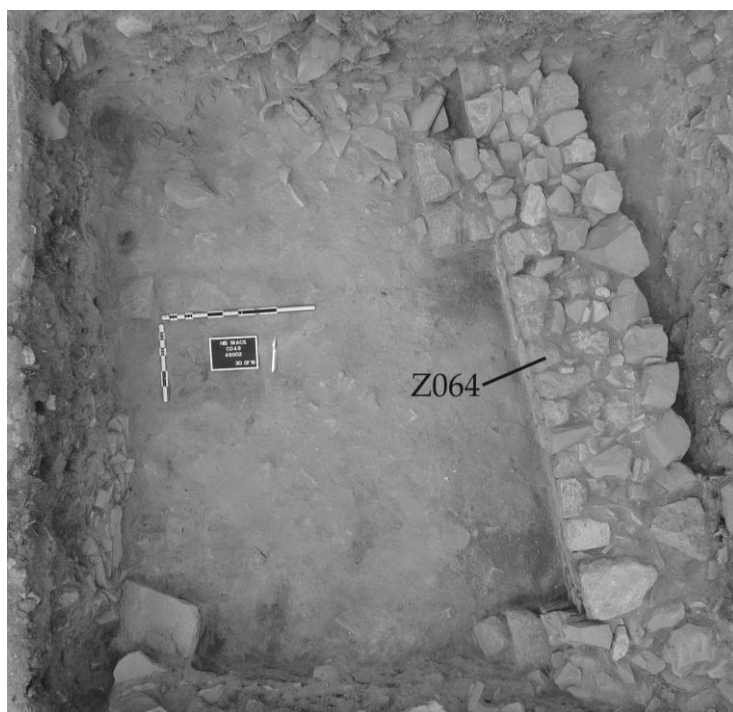


Fig. 21. Z064 (V. Bottez).

**Z065:** unearthed in 2019 in **C050**, sq. A-D<sub>3</sub>, at +0.44 m, the wall is built of unfashioned and fashioned (*spolia*) stones bound with earth (Fig. 22). It is oriented NE-SW and has a length of 3.82 m and a height of approximately 0.69 m (eight courses identified). The wall delimits a living surface (**50004**) to the E and a potential floor (**50005**) to the W.



Fig. 22. Z065 (with Z064 in the background) (V. Bottez).

**Z066:** identified in the 2020 campaign in **C052** (**52006**) and **C053** (**53004**), the two segments have a combined length of 5.2 m, and their width is 0.7 m (Fig. 23). They are oriented E-W, built of unfashioned and fashioned (*spolia*) stones and CBM bound with earth. In **C052** the wall is better preserved (six courses visible), while in **C053** it was severely affected by the debris (one, respectively two courses visible). They are both parallel with the **Late Roman defensive wall** and in **C053** the wall intersects with **Z061**.

**Z067:** it was identified in 2020 in **C051**, sq. B<sub>1-2</sub>, at -0.55 m. Oriented E-W, it has a rectangular shape, and it is built of unfashioned and fashioned (*spolia*) stones bound with earth. It measures 0.66×0.27×0.1 m (one course identified).

**The Late Roman defensive wall:** discovered in 2020 in **C052** at -1.78 m and in **C053** at -1.69 m, at the S limit of the acropolis (Fig. 23-25). Both segments are oriented SW-NE, run in a straight line and are built using fashioned (including *spolia*) and unfashioned stones bound with mortar. Their measurements are 3.74×0.37×0.1 m in **C052** and 2.2×0.8 in **C053** (one course identified in both, as the objective was to identify the wall's trajectory, but they should continue to descend at least another 2 m).

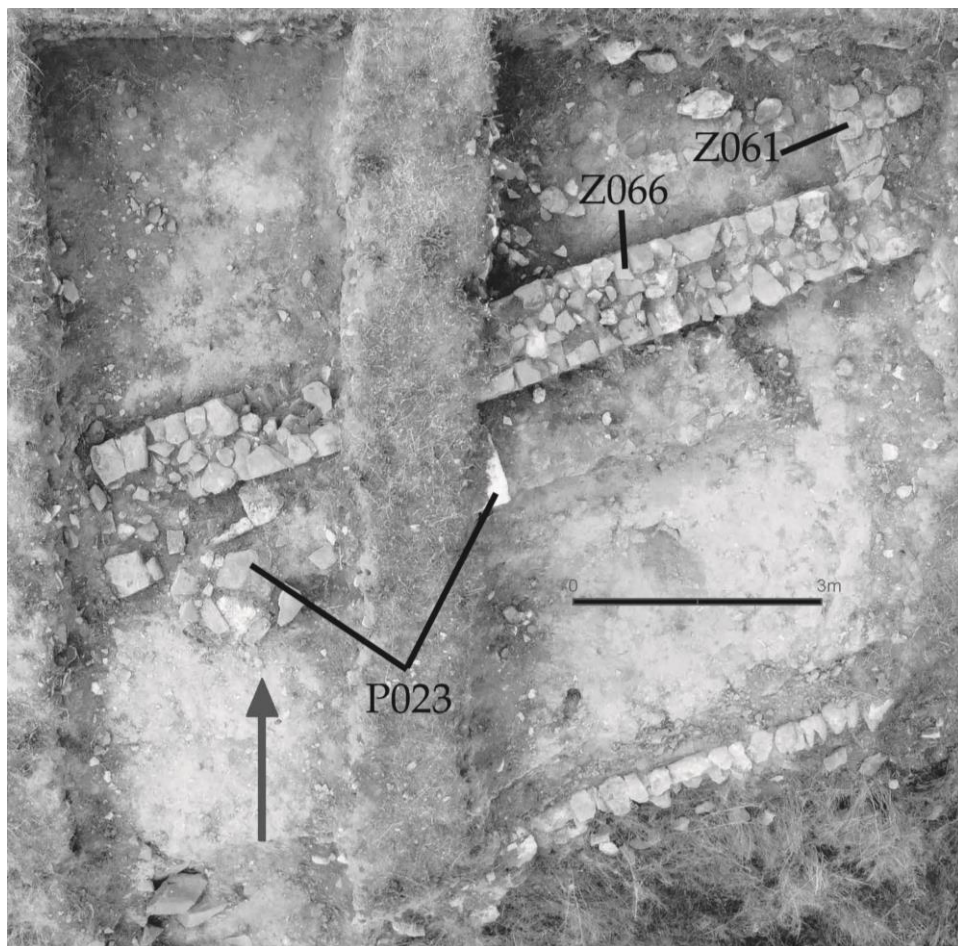


Fig. 23. Z066 and P023 (V. Bottez).

### FINAL REMARKS

Even without combining the information presented above with the detailed analysis of the discovered material – and this will be done in the final publications –, we can still draw a series of preliminary conclusions, which maybe will be modified once we continue the excavation.

#### The streets

Thus, the excavation of baulks C013/C014, C017/C013, and C021/C017, on the eastern side confirm that the buildings along ST01 were lined with discontinuous sidewalks, developed and adapted to a specific use in connection to the structures they bordered.

The structure (**17003/13003**) consisting of two large stone slabs (Fig. 9), identified in **C017/C013**, could represent what is left of the **T002** sidewalk, after the segment of **Z017** was dismantled, to create a new entrance to the inner courtyard; another possibility is that, together with the beginning of **T002** to the south, it could have provided the base for support elements (columns/wooden poles?) that could have flanked the main entrance to the inner courtyard, in an area that **Z017** is wider; a third possibility is that it could have been just a bench by the side of the entrance<sup>10</sup>.

### Spaces

**NNSp06** (Fig. 4 and 26). The excavation of **baulks C023/C026, C026/C029, C029/C035** led to the uncovering of the entire room that forms **NNSp06** and to the identification of several interesting pieces of information. First of all, the impressive quantity of **CBM** and adobe construction material/mud bricks, coupled with the identification of a plinth to **Z044** (Fig. 27), indicates not only that **NNSp06** had a brick pavement, but that it probably had a second level, and that the first one was lower than the level of **ST02**. This explains why **T005** was set in front of the entrance – to prevent the flooding, and not as a second phase of the building<sup>11</sup>. Also, along the southern side of **Z012** (in **baulk C023/C026**) we discovered a thick (10-12 cm) layer of adobe facing/plaster (Fig. 28), which indicates that **NNSp06** was probably insulated against humidity.

**NNSp07b**. The excavation of **baulk C009/C036** led to a better understanding of **NNSp07b** (Fig. 4 and 29), which was created by the building of **Z020** which, together with **Z004** and **Z045**, delimited it. At that point, **Z019**, which used to delimit **NNSp07** to the south was already dismantled, and a hard yellow silt layer passed over it. **NNSp07b** though received a brick pavement with a hard yellow silt substruction and, to other knowledge, is the only space which functioned in the first half of the 7<sup>th</sup> c. AD from *Insula Ia*. The dating is ensured by the discovery of two nearly complete *spatheia* of type Keay 26/Bonifay 33, variant 3B (Fig. 30/1-2) in the corner formed between **Z020** and **Z004**.

**SNSp14**. Although we cannot follow the trajectory of **ST01** as far south as the **LRDW** (due to the presence there of a topographic point that is part of the national topographic grid – and therefore cannot be removed), it is fairly clear that **Z071** stops at the intersection with **Z021**, and that the space developing westwards (**SNSp14**) is an open one. The first argument for this theory is the presence of two sidewalk-like structures, called **T003** and **T004?**, which were either part of the same pavement or (more likely) they constituted borders between an open space between **Z021** and **Z031**, called **SNSp14** (Fig. 4). **P015** and **P019** were probably also part of this paved, open

<sup>10</sup> We would like to thank Prof. Adam Rabinowitz for the last suggestion.

<sup>11</sup> In Bottez *et alii* 2018, 316, we noted that **T005** was associated with the *blocked* entrance to **NNSp06**, a hypothesis which we have now abandoned.

space. What could the latter's functionality have been? Our working theory is that it could represent part of the trajectory of an old street that ran along the **LRDW** towards the so-called *Basilica Pârvan* to the west, or at least it provided access from **ST01** to the space along the **LRDW**, which we called **SNSp15**.



Fig. 24. The **LRDW** in **C052** (V. Bottez).

**SNSp15** (Fig. 4). This space was later blocked/delimited by **Z067** (which could have also marked an entrance to it), a *dolium* was added and it was transformed in a storage space. **P024** consolidated the area around the stone support structure built for a *dolium*, a large fragment of which was discovered collapsed eastwards, over **Z060**, which could indicate that this structure was already destroyed when the *dolium* collapsed from its place. The large slab of stone in the SW part of **C052**, south of **Z066**,



coupled with the stones found further west, in **C053**, along **Z066**, could have represented a pavement that covered **SNSp15** at least partially. The discovery of **Z060** helped delimit **SNSp15** to the east, as well as **SNSp09** (of which only **Z031** and **Z032** was known, until now) to the west.

**SNSp08** and **SNSp12** (Fig. 4). These two are treated together, as it is clear they form a separate building. **Z055**, **Z063** and **Z061** delimit a rather narrow space, called **SNSp12**. **Z061**, **Z062** and **Z066** delimit a newly identified space, namely **SNSp08**, which also was a storage space, as a fragmentary large *dolium* was discovered *in situ*, near its northwestern corner. **P021** consolidates the floor in front of doorway between **SNSp12** and **SNSp08**, which also supports the hypothesis that **SNSp12**, to the north, was an open space. We must also note that the doorway was blocked, probably during the *insula's* second functioning phase. Some very interesting information comes from these spaces, as far as the construction technique is concerned. In the eastern part of **Z062**, between the doorway and **Z061**, the wall was built of – apart from greenschist stones, bound with earth – CBM, and also *dolium* fragments (Fig. 10), cut to fit the width of the wall – which is a first in this sector and, indeed (from what we know, at least), in *Istros*.

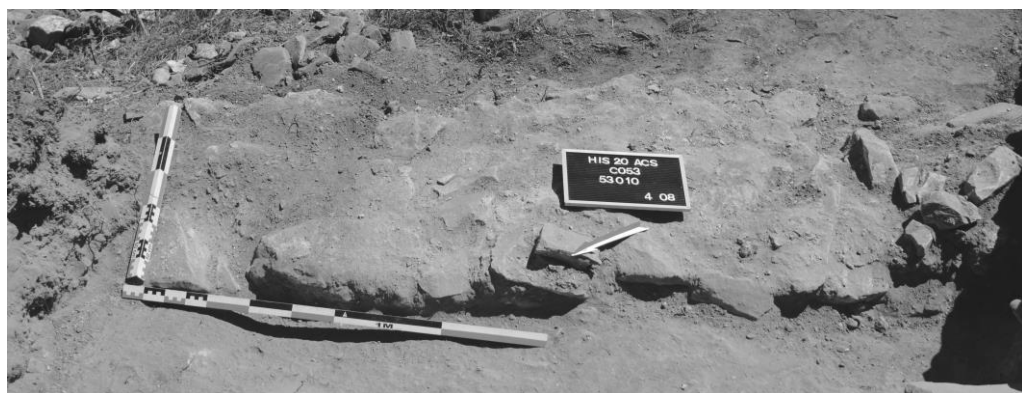


Fig. 25. The LRDW in **C053** (V. Bottez).

**SNSp10** (Fig. 4). **Z064** and **Z065**, together maybe with **Z056** to the north, delimit a newly identified space, namely **SNSp10**. The conformation of this space remains to be investigated by future excavations, as there is a clear difference in building quality between **Z064** and **Z065** on one side (regular material, tightly built – Fig. 21 and 22), and **Z056** (made up of rather loose pieces of *spolia*). **SNSp10** is probably delimited by a wall to the south, which we will identify once we excavate the area south of **C049** and **C050**.



Fig. 26. NNSp06 (V. Bottez).

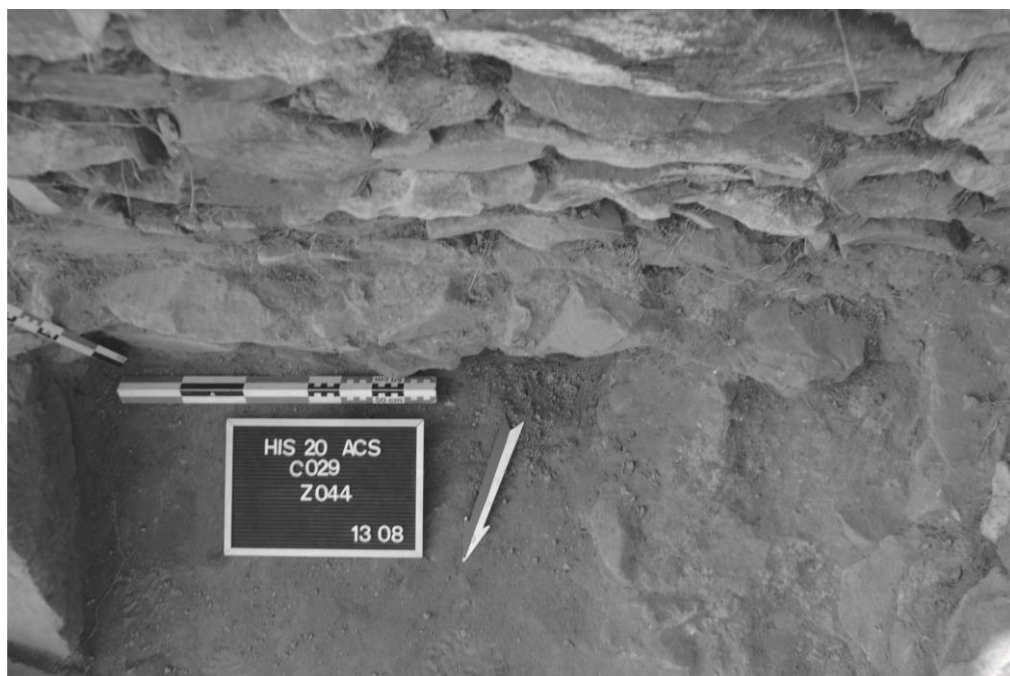


Fig. 27. Plinth of **Z044** (V. Bottez).



Fig. 28. Adobe insulation of the southern face of Z012 (V. Bottez).



Fig. 29. NNSp07a and NNSp07b (V. Bottez).

### The roofs

Although a future article will give more precise figures, the *tegulae* and *imbrices* discovered in 2019-2020 indicate a clear trend, namely that the Laconian ones predominate (with a huge difference in the case of the *imbrices* – only a few, fragmentary Corinthian *imbrices* were identified). We therefore expect that most of the



roofs used Laconian tiles, and some used a hybrid system (Corinthian *tegulae* with Laconian *imbrices*). At the same time, we must note that in none of the excavated spaces did we find roof tiles of the same type (size wise), which indicated that most of them were *spolia*. A third aspect is the fact that we identified many fragments of roof tiles used as construction materials *in the walls*. All three aspects indicate that we will not be able to have a clear final image on the roofs that covered *Insula Ia*.

### Remarks on the pottery

The ceramic material discovered during the 2019-2020 campaigns follows the directions observed for the previous years<sup>12</sup>. All functional categories are attested (from storage and transport vessels to cooking and tableware), and each is characterized by a wide morphological and typological diversity. Chronologically, the vast majority of the material is dated to the 6<sup>th</sup> – early-7<sup>th</sup> c. AD, which is not unusual, given the general archaeological complex they belong to. For the first phases of *Insula Ia*, one can mention the numerous East-Mediterranean amphorae (e.g., LRA 1, LRA 2, LRA 4; unillustrated)<sup>13</sup>, as well as North-African<sup>14</sup>, Micro-Asian<sup>15</sup> and probably Pontic tableware – ARSW, types Atlante XLVI/10 (Fig. 30/3) and Hayes 104 B (Fig. 30/4); LRCW, Form Hayes 3, types E-H (Fig. 31/2-3, 6-7); PRSW, Form 3 (Fig. 32/5) –, and lighting objects<sup>16</sup> (Fig. 33). The last phase of the building, dated to the late-6<sup>th</sup> – first decades of the 7<sup>th</sup> century, is represented by several North-African *spatheion* amphorae of type Keay 26/Bonifay 33, variant 3B<sup>17</sup> (Fig. 30/1-2), the late variants of the Late Roman C production (Form Hayes 10, types B-C; Fig. 31/4-5), the “Grey gritty ware” pots of type Kuzmanov 1985, VII/62 (Fig. 32/1), and the late Micro-Asian and Danubian lamps.

Moreover, pottery from earlier periods has also been found, but in much smaller numbers. Thus, several discoveries seem to be related to the previous building, *Insula Ib*, which functioned in the 4<sup>th</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> centuries. To this horizon belong a North-African bowl of type Hayes 62 (Fig. 30/5), the early forms of Phocaean tableware (LRCW, Form Hayes 1; Fig. 31/1), as well as most of the Pontic Red Slip Ware (Form 1 B plates – Fig. 32/2; Forms 4-5 bowls – Fig. 33/3-4).

<sup>12</sup> See Bottez *et alii* 2018, 321, Fig. 27/1-5; Bottez 2022, 261, Fig. 30-31.

<sup>13</sup> For previous East-Mediterranean amphorae see Bădescu, Bivolaru 2015.

<sup>14</sup> For the complete repertoire of the African Red Slip Wares discovered on this Sector between 2013 and 2020 see Iliescu, Bottez 2021a, 138-140.

<sup>15</sup> Several Late Roman C vessels dated to the 6<sup>th</sup> century were recently published: Țârlea, Iliescu, Bottez 2022, 153-161.

<sup>16</sup> For a more detailed presentation of the lamps from the *Acropolis Centre-South* Sector see Iliescu, Bottez 2021b.

<sup>17</sup> For the complete repertoire of the small-sized *spatheia* discovered on this Sector between 2013 and 2020 see Iliescu, Bottez 2021a, 134-138.



Fig. 30. North-African pottery: 1-2. *Spatheion*-type amphorae, Keay 26/Bonifay 33 type, variant 3B; 3. ARSW, Atlante XLVI/10 type bowl; 4. ARSW, Hayes 104 B type plate; 5. ARSW, Hayes 62 type bowl (I. Iliescu).

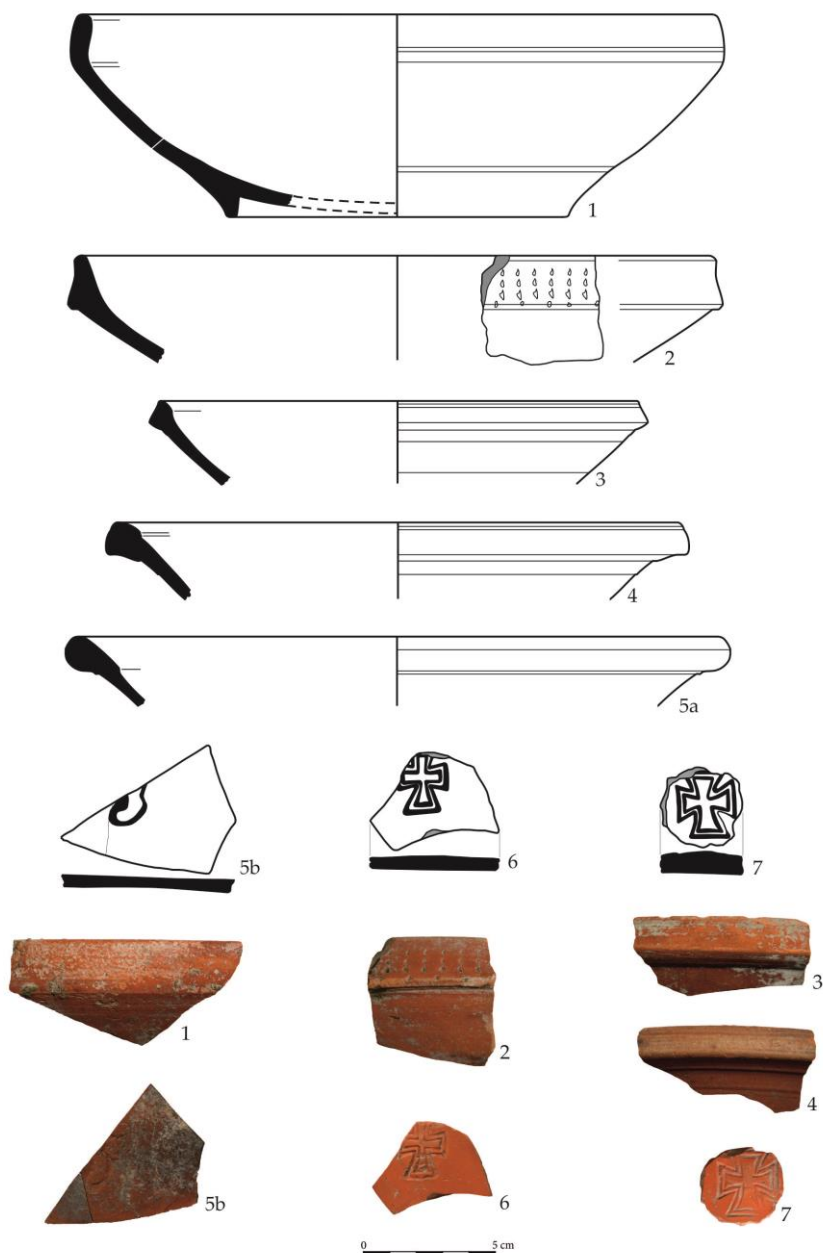


Fig. 31. Micro-Asian pottery – Late Roman C tableware: 1. Form Hayes 1; 2. Form Hayes 3, type E; 3. Form Hayes 3, type H; 4. Form Hayes 10, type B; 5. Form Hayes 10, type C; 6-7. Form 3 base fragments with stamped decoration (I. Iliescu).

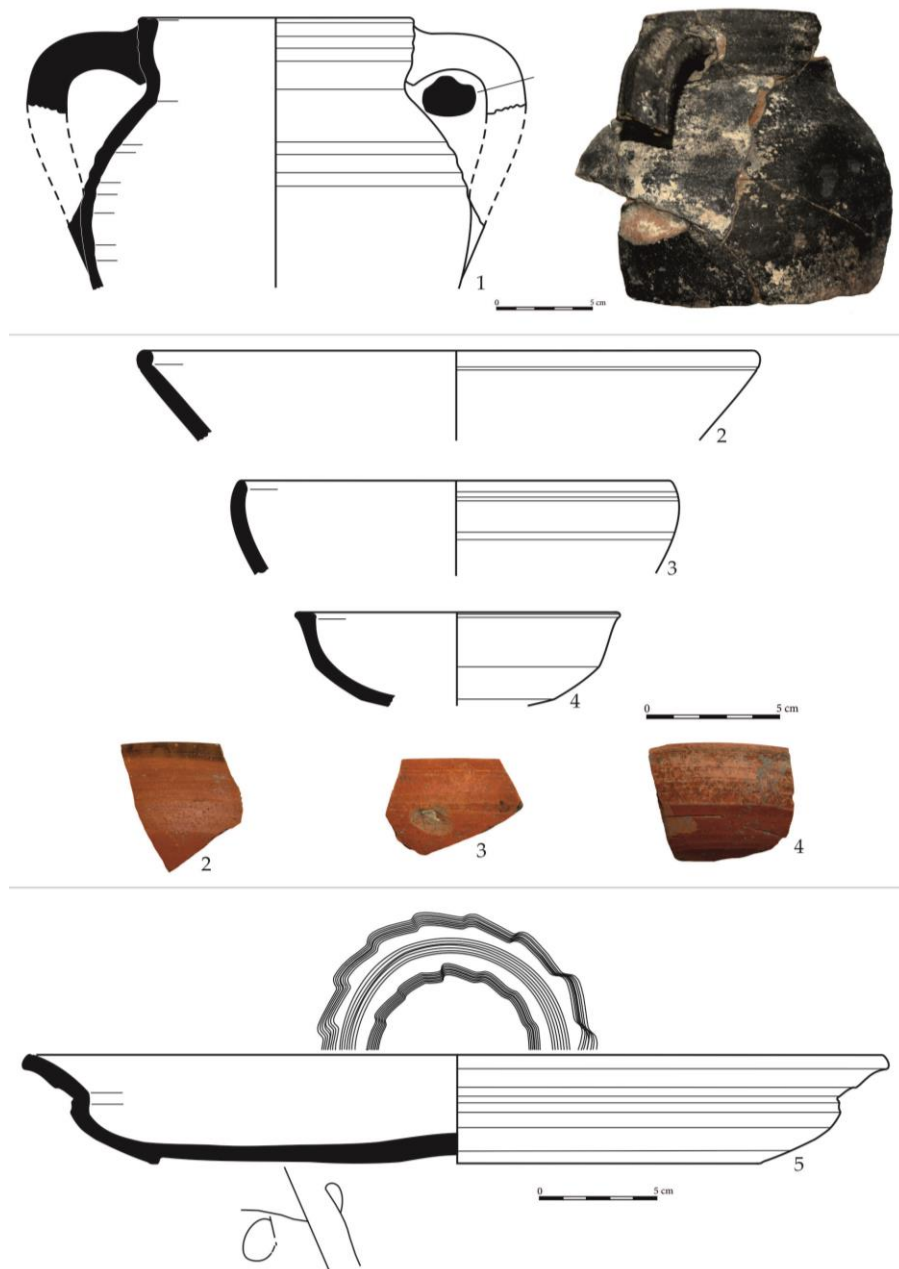


Fig. 32. Pontic pottery: 1. "Grey gritty ware" pot, type Kuzmanov 1985, type VII/62; 2-5. Pontic Red Slip Ware: 2. Form 1 B plate; 3. Form 4 bowl; 4. Form 5 bowl; 5. Form 3 platter (I. Iliescu).

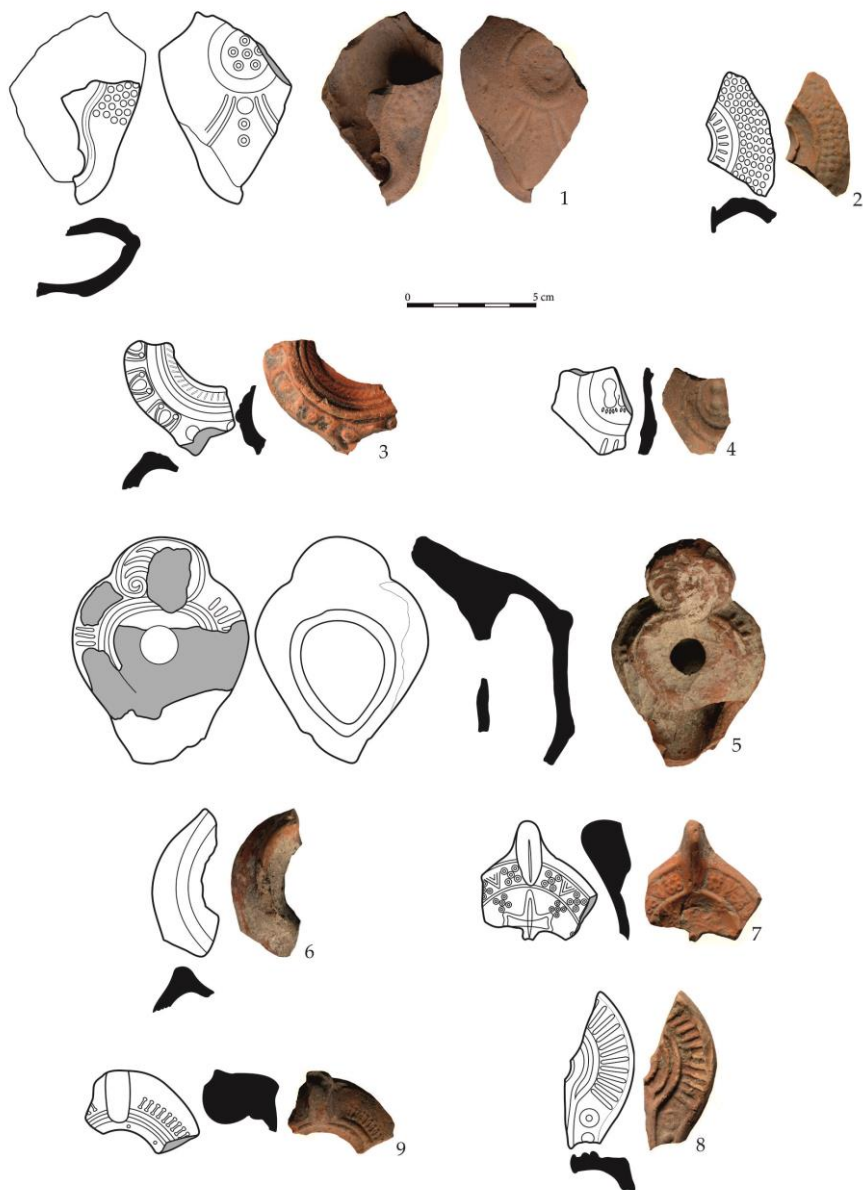


Fig. 33. Lamps: 1-4. Asia Minor type lamps (Broneer XXIX, Group 3-4); 5. Danubian type lamp (Iconomu 1967, type XXXIII); 6. Constantinople type lamp (type Hayes 9); 7. North-African type lamp, Athenian imitation (Atlante X/Hayes 1972, type II); 8. North-African type lamp, provincial imitation (Iconomu 1986, type XLVI, variant II); 9. Danubian type lamp (Iconomu 1967, type XXXII) (I. Iliescu).

### FUTURE OBJECTIVES

In the following years, the excavation will develop by the digging of the area south of **C049** and **C050**, thereby finalising the joining with the *Basilica Pârvan* Sector. We will also have to start new cassettes along **ST02**, in order to uncover the western side of *Insula Ia* and continue excavating the baulks in the northern and southern nuclei. Finally, we will have to excavate the consistent layer of debris in **NNSp06**, that could indicate a hearth and an internal adobe/mudbrick structure.

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## RECENZII ȘI NOTE BIBLIOGRAFICE

**Alina Streinu, *Vase antice de sticlă din colecția „Maria și George Severeanu”, Muzeul Municipiului București Seria Colecția „Maria și George Severeanu” III, Cetatea de scaun, Târgoviște, 2019, 264 p., ISBN 978-606-537-447-8.***

Volumul *Vase de sticlă din colecția „Maria și Dr. George Severeanu”* a fost publicat la Editura Cetatea de Scaun din Târgoviște, în anul 2019. Cu această ocazie sunt studiate și prezentate vasele din material vitric aflate în Colecția Severeanu aflată în custodia Muzeului Municipal din București.

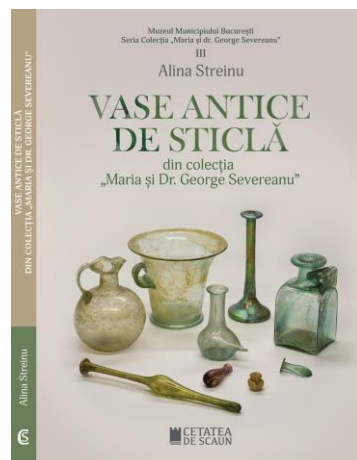
Majoritatea recipientelor sunt întregi, fapt care sugerează că au fost descoperite în complexe închise, probabil morminte. Pentru multe din artefactele studiate nu sunt informații despre locul în care au fost identificate sau despre contextul stratigrafic.

Industria vitrică antică relevă aspecte importante referitoare la economia perioadei, la stilul de viață și nivelul de trai, dar și la raportul dintre estetică și utilitate.

Volumul are 264 de pagini, din care 50 de planșe, fiind structurat în trei capitole, având la final un catalog cu obiectele studiate. Capitolele au titluri sugestive, precum: *Industria vitrică antică, Conținutul recipientelor din sticlă. Uleiuri, unguente și rețete farmaceutice, Vasele de sticlă din colecția „Maria și Dr. George Severeanu”, fiind împărțite la rândul lor în subcapitole.*

Primul capitol, *Industria vitrică antică*, debutează cu descrierea principalelor tehnici de fabricare a vaselor de sticlă în perioada antică, și anume, modelarea pe un nucleu tare, turnarea în tipar, suflare liberă sau în tipar. Tot în cadrul acestui subcapitol sunt analizate și principalele tehnici de decorare ale vaselor, realizarea micilor excrescențe, fațetarea etc. De asemenea, sunt menționate proprietățile fizice și chimice ale sticlei. În următorul subcapitol este abordat comerțul cu vase din sticlă. Autoarea pornește de la textele antice pentru a înțelege valoarea obiectelor din diferite materiale în antichitate, dar și cum se raportau anticii la obiectele alcătuite din material vitric. Alina Streinu discută despre fenomenul comerțului cu sticlă în diferite perioade, sec. I-IV p.Chr (p. 24-27).

În continuare, sunt analizate atelierele de producție a lingourilor din sticlă (*Beni Salama, Iudeea, Galia, Spania*), dar și atelierele de producție a obiectelor finite (*Italia, Galia, Colonia Agrippnensis, Salonic*). Sunt amintite și câteva cuptoare pentru



producerea sticlei descoperite în spațiul românesc, precum cel de la Ulpi Traiana Sarmizegetusa, cel de la Apulum, cel de la Grădiștea Muscelului etc. Fenomenul reciclării este și el abordat, fiind menționate cele mai importante descoperiri arheologice care să ateste această practică. Capitolul I se încheie cu câteva informații prețioase despre meșterii sticlari, statutul lor social, amintind și câteva nume de meșteri cunoscuți din Antichitate precum: Ennion, Frontinus, Amaranthus.

Sub titlul *Conținutul recipientelor din sticlă. Uleiuri, unguente și rețete farmaceutice*, cercetătoarea discută despre substanțele care erau depozitate sau păstrate în vasele de sticlă. Principalele substanțe analizate și descrise sunt: vinul, uleiul de măsline, alte tipuri de ulei. În primele subcapitole, se discută despre uleiul de măsline, principalele soiuri de măsline, de asemenea, este descris și felul în care se obțineau uleiurile. Prin analiza autorilor antici precum: Pliniu, Ovidiu, Suetoniu, Apuleius, Soranus, Celsus etc. s-au identificat principalele utilizări ale uleiului, și anume, în scop medical, în cosmetică, în scop culinar, în scop religios etc. Acest capitol este argumentat cu fragmente din textele antice, cu rețete pentru diferite afecțiuni, dar și menționarea plantelor medicinale și cum erau ele întrebuințate de către persoanele din antichitate. De asemenea, este surprinsă și preferința pentru utilizarea sticlei în domeniul farmaceutic și cosmetic, pentru că proprietățile sticlei permiteau păstrarea în condiții optime a unguentelor, a uleiurilor parfumate.

În capitolul *Conținutul recipientelor din sticlă. Uleiuri, unguente și rețete farmaceutice*, se discută despre substanțele care erau depozitate sau păstrate în recipientele din sticlă. Principalele substanțe depozitate sau transportate analizate și descrise sunt: vinul, uleiul de măsline, alte tipuri de ulei, substanțe farmaceutice. În primele subcapitole, se discută despre uleiul de măsline, principalele soiuri de măsline, de asemenea, este descris și felul în care se obțineau uleiurile. Prin analiza autorilor antici precum: Pliniu, Ovidiu, Suetoniu, Apuleius, Soranus, Celsus etc. s-au identificat principalele utilizări ale uleiului, și anume, în scop medical, în cosmetică, în scop culinar, în scop religios etc. Acest capitol este argumentat cu fragmente din textele antice, cu rețete pentru diferite afecțiuni, dar și menționarea plantelor medicinale și cum erau ele întrebuințate de către persoanele din antichitate. De asemenea, este surprinsă și preferința pentru utilizarea sticlei în domeniul farmaceutic și cosmetic, deoarece aceste recipiente permiteau păstrarea în condiții optime a unguentelor, a uleiurilor parfumate.

Ultimul capitol, *Vasele de sticlă din colecția „Maria și Dr. George Severeanu”*, este cel mai important și complex. Autoarea prezintă tipologia recipientelor de sticlă din colecția Severeanu, alcătuită din 154 de piese, identificând analogiile care se stabilesc între acestea și alte vase similare descoperite pe întreg teritoriul Imperiului Roman, dar și în arealele apropiate. Pentru identificarea analogiilor, utilizează lucrări precum:



C. Isings, *Roman Glass from dated finds*, catalogul descoperirilor de la Augusta Raurica, Sardis și Dura-Europos, repertoriul vitric descoperit la Salonic, iar pentru spațiul românesc: lucrările lui Mihai Bucovală, C. Drăghici, Sever-Petru Boțan. Pentru început, cercetătoarea împarte vasele din colecția Severeanu în vase de transport, veselă de masă și recipiente cosmetice. Cu excepția a trei piese (o baghetă, *unguentaria* nr. 80 și 136) niciun alt vas din colecție nu are cunoscut locul de proveniență. Acest aspect face ca o datare cât mai corectă să fie imposibil de realizat.

Pentru fiecare tip de vas sunt date diferite analogii din zona Moesiei Inferior, dar și din spațiul est-carpatic. Astfel, se evidențiază faptul că recipientele au o proveniență locală, dar în același timp se oferă și un tablou al răspândirii pieselor într-un areal vast.

Cartea are la sfârșit un catalog foarte bine organizat, în care sunt descrise toate piesele. Acestea sunt frumos ilustrate și desenate. Având în vedere că lucrarea este tradusă și în limba engleză, o face accesibilă unui număr mare de specialiști. Aceasta se adresează atât specialiștilor în domeniu, cât și cititorilor pasionați de istoria antică.

În cele din urmă putem afirma faptul că lucrarea Alinei Streinu reprezintă o contribuție esențială privind analiza materialului vitric din perioada antică. Cartea, bine structurată, se remarcă printr-o prezentare clară despre evoluția industriei vitrice, despre principalele substanțe păstrate în vasele de sticlă, dar și despre principalele tipuri de vase și răspândirea lor.

**Mălina-Andreea LIBIȚ**

Muzeul Județean "Ștefan cel Mare" Vaslui, Romania  
malinalibit@gmail.com

## O notă scurtă la o lungă recenzie

Fiind unul din autorii care au semnat volumul *Dinogetia II* urmăresc cu deosebită atenție impactul său științific asupra colegilor arheologi și istorici, din țară sau străinătate. Apariția recenziei semnate de colegul Dorel Paraschiv (mai departe D.P.), bine cunoscut specialist în ceramica romană, în Peuce, serie nouă 21, 2023, p. 316-319, mi-a atras atenția. Recenzia este plăcută, cu un ton cursiv și atrăgător. Cu atât mai surprins am fost de prezența unor inexactități, de neînțeles la un specialist de talia autorului recenziei.

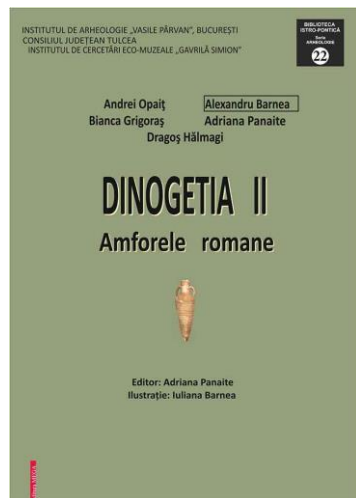
Astfel, nu ne explicăm cum a fost posibil să confunde *spatheia* de mici dimensiuni, Bonifay tip 33.b-c,<sup>1</sup> cu *spatheia* de tip Bonifay 32, de dimensiuni mai mari și care pot fi asemănate cu tipul Keay 26.<sup>2</sup>

Totuși, dacă aceste erori de încadrare tipologică pot fi înțelese, eu însumi făcând uneori asemenea greșeli, mai puțin scuzabile sunt următoarele două exemple, în care ni se reproșează ignorarea unor amfore descoperite la Dinogetia și publicate în secolul trecut. Consider că semnalarea acestor carențe denotă o citire superficială a volumului recenzat.

Primul exemplu se referă la reproșul pe care D.P. ni-l face în legătură cu absența din lucrarea noastră a unui tip de amforă publicat de Gh. Ștefan încă din 1941. Este de neînțeles cum autorul recenziei a omis paginile 82-83 și planșa 46 din *Dinogetia II*, unde prezentăm exact această amforă. La nota 435 chiar cităm lucrarea lui D.P.

A doua "omisiune" ce ni se reproșează este o amforă sinopeană, publicată în 1967 de I. Barnea ca fiind medievală. De mirare este faptul că D.P. a "sărit" paginile 70-71 și planșa 28, unde discutăm și ilustrăm amfora respectivă, în cadrul subcapitolului "Amfore sinopeene-tip Kassab Tezgör D Snp." Am omis să citez paralela stabilită de D.P. pentru această amforă cu una descoperită la Capidava, dar care este total diferită de tipul discutat de noi.

O ultimă constatare este despre o interpretare istorică greșită a valorii documentare a amforelor de către D.P., atunci când pune pe seama lotului restrâns de amfore analizate prezența scăzută a amforelor LRA 1 și numărul mare de amfore-



<sup>1</sup> Bonifay 1984, 127-129, Fig. 69/B-C.

<sup>2</sup> Keay 1984, 212-219, Fig. 90/9-11.

burduf. Realitatea, în opinia noastră este alta. Nu credem că numărul mic de amfore LRA 1 și ponderea ridicată numeric a amforelor-burduf sunt rezultatul unui triaj preferențial făcut de arheologi pe șantier, nici al manipulării repetate a materialului arheologic în depozitele muzeelor. Noi credem că aici este vorba de o prezență accentuată a comerțului liber, purtător al acestor amfore-burduf deci de o preferință pentru vinul egean. Rămâne ca statistici viitoare, ce se vor efectua pentru mai multe situri, să stabilească cum au variat aceste două tipuri de comerț, cel liber și cel organizat de stat.

Mărturisesc că, dacă nu erau aceste două erori grave făcute de D.P., nu aş fi scris aceste rânduri. E bine, însă, să avertizăm cititorii că uneori chiar și recenziile specialiștilor buni trebuie verificate. Pot apărea multe surprize...

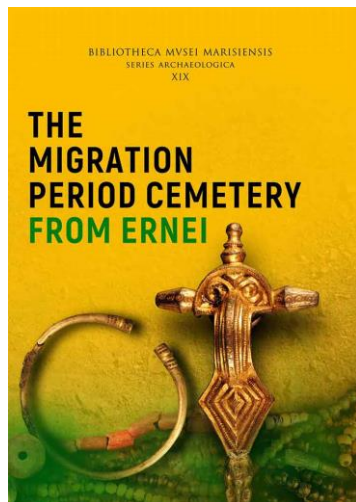
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**Andrei Opaiț**  
aopait@gmail.com

**Alpár Dobos, Sándor Berecki (eds.), *The migration period cemetery from Ernei*, Bibliotheca Mvsei Marisiensis, Series Archaeologica, XIX, Editura Mega, Cluj-Napoca, 2023, 192 p., 47 pl., 40 fig., ISBN 978-606-020-636-1.**

This book represents the results of the archaeological rescue excavations that took place in the summer of 2015 in the Ernei commune, near Târgu Mureș, in Mureș county, Transylvania, necessary for the construction of the “Alternative Eastern Bypass Road of Târgu Mureș Municipality”. The excavations were undertaken in the Ernei-Köles-kert archaeological site (RAN code 116661.02), located between the left bank of the Mureș River and the right bank of Terebici river, on a terrace. The volume is edited by Alpár Dobos and Sándor Berecki, and contains the valuable works of several other researchers: Márton Ferenczi, Szilárd Sándor Gál, Mihály Huba Hógyes, Norbert Kapcsos and Zsolt Körösfői, that also took part in the excavations.



In the *Introduction* (11-15 p.) the authors describe the archaeological background of the area, where multiple artifacts of various chronological periods were discovered, from the Neolithic period (Criș culture), the Bronze Age (Wietenberg and Noua cultures), the Early Iron Age (Gáva culture), the Roman period, and from the Late Antiquity to the Middle Ages. However, the subject of the book is centered around a cemetery composed of 70 burials, dated between the middle and the third quarter of the 5<sup>th</sup> century AD, during the Migration period.

In the second chapter – *Catalogue of the graves* (17-41 p.), each grave is described in a very elaborate manner, even if the vast majority of them were greatly disturbed, therefore making the exhaustive research a rather difficult endeavor. The catalogue consists of data regarding the orientation and the dimensions of the graves, the presence (or absence) of grave goods, as well as details about the age, sex and stature of individuals, where possible. The careful observation of every detail during excavation (stratigraphical evidences for the existence of coffins, analysis regarding the process of reopening, extensive descriptions of the grave goods and their spatiality etc.) is very important especially in this case, where several burials have suffered various disturbances. Just in one case (grave no. 43), the burial was not disturbed, representing an opportunity for more in-depth research.

Chapter III – *Anthropological analysis* (43-49 p.) represents a selection of osteological remains (bones, teeth), in which the author delves into different physical aspects observed through “macro-morphological” methods. In total, the remains of 24 individuals were analyzed, the majority of which are children. Only 3 individuals’ gender could be certainly identified (2 males and 1 female) and, in one case (grave no. 43, female), the stature was determined (1.53 m). Even though multiple factors such as the poor state of preservation of the bones, high acidity of the soil and the reopening of graves disrupted the anthropological analysis, some pathological data (dental diseases, physical trauma, metabolic lesion etc.) regarding the individuals could still be collected.

In the Chapter IV – *Grave reopening* (51-62 p.), the phenomenon of reopening of the graves, characteristic of this period, is briefly presented. With numerous parallels in Western Europe and Central Danube region, in the case of Transylvania the necropolis from Ernei stands out. As stated above, only one grave was left undisturbed, the rest of them showing clear evidence of reopening. Visible differences in soil show the way in which every grave was reopen, as we can see from the figures provided by the authors and, based on the observations from the field, it seems that the graves were opened at a relatively short period of time after the burials. Although the detailed study of this custom is still at the beginning, in this book we are presented with a well-documented case, and with relevant references and analogies.

The fifth chapter (*Burial Customs*, 59-62 p.) highlights the importance of this particular necropolis in the historical context of the region. Additionally, some particularities of the burials such as the orientation (mainly W-E) and their spatial distribution are concisely presented. Unfortunately, due to the factors mentioned above regarding the poor state of the skeletal remains, the only archaeological evidence for the positioning of the bodies is the sole undisturbed grave (no. 43). The individual was placed lying on her back, with arms extended, parallel to the body, a common positioning for the deceased of that period, thus one can expect that the rest of the bodies would have been placed in a similar way. In the case of 15 graves, evidence for the presence of coffins were observed. The emergence and distribution of the row-grave cemeteries, mentioned previously in the book, is also discussed in detail in this chapter.

Chapter VI – *Analysis of the grave goods* (63- 106 p.) offers a comprehensive description of the artifacts found in the necropolis, being structured in 5 main parts. The first category discussed are the dress accessories and jewellery (63-93 p.), including beads, brooches, pins, bracelets, rings and buckles. The second subchapter (93-94 p.) describes the only 3 weapons discovered, 2 spearheads and one possible arrowhead. Several tools (94-98 p.) such as combs, spindle-whorls and knives were

also found in the burials from Ernei. Pottery (98-103 p.) and glass vessels (104-106 p.) are the subject of the last two subchapters, in which the authors discuss about typological, chronological and technological aspects, as well as some implications regarding the burial rites and the connection between pottery and the individuals, especially in the case of pottery. According to the authors, the nature of these grave goods is a testimony for the influence of both the Hun Age elite and of the Late Roman funerary customs on this Gepidic community, as well as the evidence for cultural and economic ties of this community with other regions of Europe.

Finally, in the *Conclusions* part (107-117 p.) the authors offer their final remarks on the results of the excavations undertook at Ernei and the significance of this key discovery in the study of the Gepidic communities of the Transylvanian Plateau. In a period of political and social changes such as the 5<sup>th</sup> century AD, the necropolis from Ernei is a clear example for the customs and particularities of a certain group.

There are 40 figures throughout the text include maps, aerial views, on-field pictures during the excavations, several images of the grave goods and plans of the spatial distribution of the burials, alongside 47 plates containing good quality pictures and drawings of the artifacts and graves. Moreover, the authors even managed to provide radiocarbon dating charts for 3 of the graves (nos. 43, 46 and 48), which correlates with the data collected from the grave goods. The volume is published in English, thus the information presented can be more accessible by a larger audience. At the same time, the *Bibliography* is composed of up-to-date works and well-established publications from the past.

To conclude, taking into consideration the fact that this necropolis is one of the largest of its kinds in the Carpathian Basin (even though it was in use for just a brief period), the current volume represents a very important contribution which enriches our understanding of the transition between Late Antiquity and Early Middle Ages, and also offers new valuable data for further research. Giving the poor preservation of the skeletal remains, I consider that the authors succeeded in both obtaining as much information as possible from the excavations and in delivering it in a very well-structured and scientific manner.

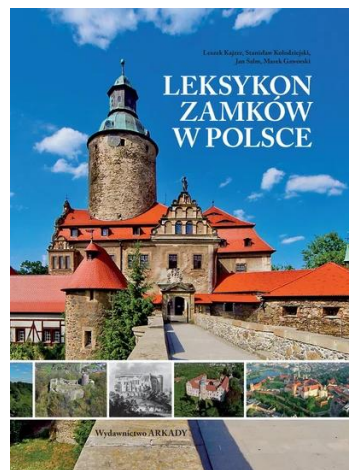
**Vlad CIUR**

“Gavrilă Simion” Eco-Museum Research Institute, Tulcea, Romania  
ciurvlad@gmail.com

ORCID ID: 0009-0005-3320-8128

**Leszek Kajzer, Stanisław Kołodziejski, Jan Salm, Marek Gaworski, *Leksykon zamków w polsce*, Arkadi, Warszawa, 2022, pp. 592, ISBN: 978-83-213-5213-8**

"Leksykon Zamków w Polsce" (The Lexicon of Castles in Poland), authored by Leszek Kajzer, Stanisław Kołodziejski, Jan Salm, and Marek Gaworski, a team of distinguished Polish historians and architects, is an ambitious and comprehensive work that delves into one of the country's most captivating architectural and historical legacies: its castles. Published by Arkady in 2022, the book positions itself as a definitive guide to Poland's medieval and Renaissance fortifications and castles, a heritage shaped by centuries of conflict, power struggles, and artistic achievements. The lexicon blends historical depth with architectural precision, but its execution, while admirable, leaves room for critique in certain areas.



The 2022 edition of the lexicon is a continuation and significant expansion of a work that has long been regarded as a cornerstone in the study of Polish castles. Earlier editions of the lexicon laid the foundation for the comprehensive and detailed exploration of Poland's architectural heritage, establishing the authors as leading figures in the field of castellology.

The first edition of "Leksykon Zamków w Polsce" appeared in 1994 and was celebrated for its pioneering approach. It offered a systematic catalog of castles across Poland, combining historical insights with architectural analysis. However, its scope and depth were limited compared to contemporary standards, partly due to the state of archaeological research at the time and the constraints of publishing resources.

Subsequent editions addressed these limitations by incorporating new archaeological discoveries, improved historical methodologies, and updated architectural surveys. The lexicon grew in both scope and detail, with each edition reflecting advancements in the study of Polish medieval and Renaissance fortifications. Notably, the inclusion of detailed maps, photographic documentation, and architectural plans became a hallmark of the work, enriching its academic and visual appeal.

The extended edition from 2001 incorporated new archaeological discoveries and historical research. It expanded the catalog to include additional castles, including lesser-known ruins, reflecting a growing interest in documenting less prominent sites. Enhanced visual elements, such as basic architectural plans, began to appear.

A revised edition from 2010 marked a significant improvement in both content and presentation. It featured updated entries based on recent archaeological findings and restoration projects. High-quality photographs, detailed maps, and architectural diagrams enriched the reader's experience. The text also offered a deeper exploration of each castle's historical and cultural context.

An anniversary edition was published in 2015 to celebrate over two decades since the lexicon's debut, this edition paid homage to the progress made in the study of Polish castles. It included detailed case studies of key sites and addressed modern conservation efforts. The 2015 edition was praised for its more accessible format, appealing to both specialists and history enthusiasts.

While earlier editions were groundbreaking for their time, they often focused on major and well-preserved sites. In contrast, the latest edition strives for inclusivity by documenting lesser-known and even ruined structures, acknowledging their cultural and historical significance. This approach not only broadens the lexicon's appeal but also highlights the authors' commitment to preserving Poland's entire castellological heritage, regardless of a site's current condition. Each edition reflects the evolving state of archaeological research, historical scholarship, and the authors' dedication to documenting and preserving Poland's rich architectural legacy.

The most recent 2022 edition, the subject of the present review, represents the most comprehensive and visually engaging iteration to date, and can be considered as a culmination of decades of meticulous work, setting a new benchmark in the field. It benefits from years of accumulated research, including findings from ongoing restoration projects and archaeological excavations. Furthermore, it places a greater emphasis on regional diversity, exploring how different historical and cultural influences shaped castle construction in various parts of Poland.

In summary, the evolution of "Leksykon Zamków w Polsce" from its early editions to the 2022 release mirrors the progress of Polish historiography and architectural studies. Each edition builds on the strengths of its predecessors, with the latest version standing as a testament to the ongoing effort to document and celebrate Poland's rich historical landscape.

The lexicon (the 2022 edition) is organized alphabetically, offering readers an encyclopedic format that is both accessible and practical for reference purposes. It covers hundreds of castles, ranging from grand royal residences, like Wawel Castle in Kraków (p. 238-244) to lesser-known regional strongholds, such as the ruins of Bobolice Castle (p. 87-88). Each entry includes key information about the castle's location, historical significance, architectural features, and current condition. Photographs, maps, and architectural plans accompany the text, providing a visual complement to the detailed descriptions.



The castles presented in "*Leksykon Zamków w Polsce*" are a testament to Poland's rich and diverse historical and architectural heritage. As previously mentioned, this comprehensive lexicon includes hundreds of entries, ranging from monumental and well-preserved fortresses to enigmatic ruins, providing a detailed exploration of the country's castellological landscape. Each castle reflects a unique blend of historical eras, cultural influences, and architectural styles, making the book a valuable resource for understanding Poland's past.

Prominent structures such as Malbork Castle and Wawel Castle receive significant attention in the lexicon. Malbork, the largest brick castle in the world and a UNESCO World Heritage Site, is celebrated for its Gothic architecture and historical importance as the headquarters of the Teutonic Order. The book provides an in-depth analysis of its architectural innovations, its role in medieval politics, and its subsequent transformations (p. 291-298). Similarly, Wawel Castle in Kraków is explored in detail, with discussions on its evolution from a medieval fortress to a Renaissance royal palace, highlighting its role as a cultural and political center in Polish history (p. 238-244).

The lexicon also traces the architectural evolution of castles, from early wooden fortifications to massive stone strongholds and later Renaissance and Baroque adaptations. The inclusion of architectural plans, diagrams, and detailed descriptions helps readers understand how these castles were constructed and adapted over centuries to meet changing military and residential needs. For example, the transformation of Książ Castle into a palatial residence demonstrates the adaptability of these structures to new cultural and political realities (p. 511-513).

On the other hand, the lexicon showcases the remarkable regional diversity of Polish castles. In the north, the influence of the Teutonic Order is evident at castles like those from Gniew (p. 173-174) and Kwidzyn (p. 258-261), characterized by their imposing brickwork and defensive layouts. The south features castles such as those from Niedzica (p. 316-317) and Czorsztyn (p. 140-141), perched on dramatic mountain landscapes and reflecting a mix of defensive and residential purposes. The central regions include castles like those from Czersk (p. 134-136) and Oporów (p. 345-346), which demonstrate the interplay between medieval fortifications and Renaissance aesthetics. This regional approach emphasizes how local geography, and history shaped the development of these sites. For instance, castles in Silesia often exhibit Germanic architectural influences, reflecting the region's historical ties to the Holy Roman Empire, while those in Lesser Poland bear the marks of Italian Renaissance aesthetics.

Beyond the well-known landmarks, the lexicon also sheds light on lesser-known castles and ruins, many of which are integral to local identities and folklore. For instance, the ruins of Chojnik Castle, set amidst the Sudetes Mountains, are not only

an architectural treasure but also a source of legends that enrich the cultural tapestry of the region (p. 207-209). Similarly, castles like the one from Kórník (p. 235-237) reveal the layers of history embedded in smaller communities, from medieval foundations to Baroque and Neo-Gothic transformations.

A positive aspect is that a significant portion of the book is dedicated to castles that have fallen into ruin, highlighting the fragility of Poland's architectural heritage. Sites such as the remnants of Krzyżtopór Castle (p. 503-506) and Bolków Castle (p. 96-99) are explored for their historical significance, even as they face ongoing challenges in preservation. The lexicon serves as a poignant reminder of the fragility of these structures and the cultural loss that their neglect would entail. By including these ruins, the authors underscore the importance of documenting and protecting these structures, which remain powerful symbols of Poland's past. However, the book stops short of offering concrete suggestions for preservation strategies or engaging with contemporary debates about restoration practices. Given the authors' expertise, their insights on these issues would have been a valuable addition to the lexicon.

As one can observe, a notable strength of the lexicon is its effort to represent the diversity of Poland's regions. The authors highlight how geography, political circumstances, and cultural influences shaped the construction and evolution of castles in different parts of the country. Despite this regional sensitivity, the book sometimes falters in providing adequate historical context for the castles' roles in broader historical events. While individual entries are detailed, the lexicon lacks a cohesive narrative that ties these structures to key moments in Polish history, such as the Swedish Deluge (1655-1660), the partitions (1772, 1793, 1795), or the Napoleonic Wars (1803-1815). A more integrated historical framework would have enriched readers' understanding of how these castles fit into the larger tapestry of Poland's past.

Another one of the book's greatest strengths is that the authors succeed in documenting a staggering array of castles across Poland, highlighting not only well-preserved structures but also ruins and sites with scant remains. This inclusivity reflects a commendable dedication to capturing the full spectrum of Poland's castellological heritage. The authors' credentials lend the book considerable authority. Leszek Kajzer and Stanisław Kołodziejski are renowned experts in Polish medieval history and archaeology, while Jan Salm and Marek Gaworski bring along a rich architectural expertise. Together, they provide a nuanced understanding of the historical and cultural contexts in which these castles were constructed and used.

The entries demonstrate meticulous research, incorporating primary sources, archaeological findings, and previous scholarly works. This level of detail elevates the lexicon beyond a mere catalog, making it a valuable resource for historians, architects, and especially for preservationists, because while celebrating Poland's castellological

wealth, the book also highlights the challenges of preservation. Many of the castles documented are at risk due to neglect, environmental factors, or limited funding for restoration. The authors' detailed descriptions of each castle's current condition serve as a call to action for continued conservation efforts, emphasizing the need to safeguard these sites for future generations. However, the focus on academic precision sometimes comes at the expense of readability. The writing style can be dense, with technical terminology that may challenge non-specialist readers. While this is understandable given the book's intended audience, it limits the lexicon's appeal to casual enthusiasts of Polish history or architecture.

Another one of the *"Leksykon Zamków w Polsce"*'s strength is the visual presentation, which is undeniably impressive. The high-quality photographs capture the castles from various angles, showcasing their architectural details and surrounding landscapes. These images bring the text to life, allowing readers to appreciate the beauty and diversity of Poland's castles. The inclusion of maps and architectural plans is equally praiseworthy, as they provide valuable context and help readers understand the spatial organization of these structures. However, the book's design is not without flaws. The dense layout, with tightly packed text and small font size, can make reading a strain. Additionally, while the photographs are stunning, the lack of a consistent labeling system for the images occasionally causes confusion. Readers might struggle sometimes to connect specific descriptions in the text to their corresponding visuals. A more deliberate integration of text and imagery would have enhanced the book's usability.

As an academic work, *"Leksykon Zamków w Polsce"* caters primarily to professionals, and serious enthusiasts. Its encyclopedic format and depth of detail make it an invaluable reference for those researching Polish castles or medieval architecture. However, this focus on academic rigor limits its accessibility to general readers. The lack of a glossary is particularly problematic. Many entries use specialized architectural and archaeological terms without explanation, which may alienate readers unfamiliar with the terminology. A glossary or an introductory chapter explaining key concepts would have broadened the book's appeal without compromising its scholarly integrity.

As a short conclusion, I personally believe that *"Leksykon Zamków w Polsce"* remains a monumental achievement that reflects the dedication and expertise of its authors: Leszek Kajzer, Stanisław Kołodziejski, Jan Salm, and Marek Gaworski. It stands as an essential resource for anyone interested in Polish castles, offering a wealth of information that is both comprehensive and authoritative. The book's visual elements and regional inclusivity further enhance its value as a reference work. Despite a few shortcomings, nevertheless, this book remains a landmark publication

in the field of Polish castellology. Its detailed documentation of Poland's castles ensures that this architectural heritage will be preserved, not only in stone but also in scholarship, for future generations.

**Raul-Alexandru TODIKA**

"Babeş-Bolyai" University of Cluj-Napoca

[todikaraul@yahoo.com](mailto:todikaraul@yahoo.com)

<https://orcid.org/0000-0001-8691-1929>

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- Simion, G., Cantacuzino, G. 1962, *Cercetările arheologice de la Telița (com. Poșta, r. Tulcea, reg. Constanța)*, *Materiale și Cercetări Arheologice* 8, 373-381.
- Teleagă, E. 2014, *Pecetea lui Skyles și tumulii fastuoși de la Agighiol și Cugir: omisiune și falsificare în fondarea mitului "strămoșilor" românilor, geto-dacii*, *Studii și Cercetări de Istorie Veche și Arheologie*, 65 (3-4), 295-318.
- Bonev, A. 1995, *The Gold Treasure from the Vulchitrun Village (Pleven District) and the Problems of cultural Contacts in Southeast Europe in the Second Half of the Second Millenium BC*, in Bailey, D., W., Panayotov, I. (eds.), *Prehistoric Bulgaria*, *Monographs in World Archaeology* 22, Madison Wisconsin, 277-308.
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