

THE FUNERARY AEDICULAE OF POROLISSUM*

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Abstract: The present paper continues the analysis of the funerary monuments discovered in and around the Roman center from Porolissum (Dacia Porolissensis), setting forth a new, up-to-date catalogue and typological classification. This time, the investigation focused on the monuments belonging to aedicula type funerary structures. Accordingly, the finds from Porolissum were classified based on their preserved parts and conservation state. A total of 31 fragments coming from aediculae were identified. Among them 14 walls, three possible pedestal panels, two cornice fragments and 11 fragments of so-called Syrian arches. The funerary aedicula was one of the most frequent monument types found in the cemeteries around Porolissum. Resemblances with other important centers from Dacia Porolissensis are evident both from a typological and iconographic perspective, however at some point the local workshops developed an individual style. It is here that the aedicula with Syrian arch (“aedicula mit Archivolte”) was most popular among the local elites, the military environment seemingly also displaying a propensity for this monument type. The iconography is varied and at times surprising, the repertoire of usual genre scenes is tinted by images with erotic connotations, highly uncommon in Roman Dacia.

Keywords: aedicula; funerary monument; Porolissum; Dacia Porolissensis.

Rezumat: Acest studiu continuă analiza noastră asupra monumentelor funerare ce provin din centrul de la Porolissum, încercându-se realizarea unui catalog cât mai complet precum și propunerea unor tipologii realiste. De această dată atenția noastră s-a oprit asupra monumentelor ce provin de la construcții funerare de tip *aedicula*. Referitor la acest tip de monument funerar, descoperirile de la Porolissum au putut fi clasificate în funcție de elementele componente păstrate și starea lor de conservare. Am identificat un număr de 31 fragmente ce provin de la construcții funerare de tip *aedicula*. Dintre acestea 14 sunt pereți, trei posibile plăci de postamente, două fragmente de cornișe, 11 fragmente de așa-zise „frontoane siriene”. *Aedicula* funerară a constituit unul dintre tipurile de monumente frecvent întâlnite în necropolele din jurul orașului și castrului de la Porolissum. Tipologic și iconografic asemănările cu alte centre importante ale Daciei Porolissensis sunt evidente, însă atelierele locale ajung la un moment dat să își dezvolte un limbaj stilistic propriu, reușind să producă piese unice atât din punct de vedere arhitectonic cât și iconografic. Porolissum este centrul unde *aedicula* de tip clasic cu arhivoltă a cunoscut o mare popularitate în rândul elitelor locale. De asemenea și mediul militar își manifestă preferința pentru acest tip de monument, reprezentându-se în scene de gen sau propunând scene surprinzătoare cu conotații erotice în cadrul unor monumente mai modeste ca dimensiuni, *aedicula in antis*.

Cuvinte cheie: *aedicula*; monument funerar; Porolissum; Dacia Porolissensis.

Currently Porolissum is one of the best known sculptural centers from Roman Dacia as a result of the numerous studies published subsequent to the issue of the comprehensive catalogue by N. Gudea and V. Lucăcel in 1975¹. Since then, a series

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¹ Gudea, Lucăcel 1975.

of articles and books² have resumed the discussion on both old and new finds³, in an attempt to define the specificity of the workshops operating in this northern area of the province. The present paper is meant to continue our previous analysis on funerary stelae from Porolissum⁴.

Aediculae are thought to be monuments of north-Italic origin, entering Dacia via Pannonia⁵. The term “funerary aedicule” commonly applies to structures consisting of a roof supported by a hind wall and two side walls – when speaking of the so-called *in antis* types –, or by columns, in the case of more elaborate structures, also referred to as “classical aediculae”. Thus, the resulting niche under the roof houses the image of the deceased either in the form of “ronde-bosse” statues or as reliefs (either high or low) applied on the surface of the hind wall. The third part of the structure is the pedestal, supporting the roof and niche, also bearing the epitaph. All in all, one may argue that basically the funerary aedicula is a reduced image of a temple-type structure supported by a pedestal⁶.

The finds from Porolissum were classified according to their surviving parts and state of conservation. A total of 31 fragments coming from aediculae were identified. Among them 14 walls, three possible pedestal panels, two cornice fragments and 11 fragments of so-called Syrian arches.

The investigation focused on the architectural features, structural and stylistic characteristics, figural representations as well as their inherent chronological implications. This in turn opened the way to the discussion of a series of aspects regarding the production and diffusion of the funerary aediculae in and around Porolissum. Most of the fragments are stray finds, and their overall state of preservation is poor, furthermore due to the fact that the fragments cannot be interlinked based on their discovery context, in most cases it is impossible to know whether some of them belonged to the same monument. Consequently the number of fragments discussed here is by no means equivalent with the hypothetical number of aediculae from Porolissum. Furthermore some of the reconstructions (Pl. VI/A-B) have merely a visual purpose, it is by no means suggested that the respective elements come from the same monument.

The identified aedicula elements can be classified according to the following typology:

Hind walls:

Type I – wall of *aedicula in antis* with the full-figure representation of the deceased (Pl. V/A);

Type II – wall of “classical aedicule” (Pl. V/B);

Side walls:

Type I – architectural wall with depictions on one side, in two registers (Pl. V/C);

² Tóth 1978; Țeposu Marinescu 1982; Bianchi 1985; Gudea 1986; Gudea 1989; Gudea 1996; Gudea, Tamba 2001; Diaconescu 2003–2004; Petruț 2009; Bajusz 2011.

³ Floca, Wolski 1973; Bărbulescu 1977; Gudea 1978; Gudea 1982; Matei 1982; Gudea 2001; Gudea 2003; Gudea 2005; Gudea 2007; Crânguș-Balaci 2008; Petruț, Mustață 2010; Petruț et alii 2010; Petruț, Zăgreanu 2011; Dana, Zăgreanu 2013; Nemeti, Zăgreanu 2013.

⁴ Petruț, Zăgreanu 2011.

⁵ David, Mărghitan 1968, 130.

⁶ Diaconescu 2003–2004, 305.

Type II – profiled wall with depictions on both sides (Pl. V/D);
 Syrian arches;
 Pedestal panels;
 Cornice fragments.

Aedicula elements

1. Walls

The so-called *in antis* type, represents the earliest form of aedicula within the funerary architecture of the Italian Peninsula, yet due to its simplicity, it is the type most commonly associated with the so-called “provincial” aedicula, quite common in Dacia. According to Al. Diaconescu, provincial aediculae have their origin in this monument type⁷.

Hind walls		Side walls		
<i>In antis</i> type (low relief)	“Classical type” (high relief)	Architectural type	Profiled type	Uncertain
Ae1, Ae2, Ae3, Ae4	Ae5	Ae6, Ae7	Ae8, Ae9, Ae11, Ae13, Ae14	Ae10, Ae12

Tab. 1. Typological classification of the walls

Hind walls bearing the image of the deceased in high relief are believed to come from aediculae fitted with frontal columns⁸. This assumption is based on the primordial function of the high relief as substitute of “ronde-bosse” representations, as well as on the fact that some walls are not provided with orifices ensuring attachment to side walls⁹. There are however some inconsistencies regarding this theory. The restored dimensions of some of these walls (Ae1, Ae2, Ae3, and Ae4) are identical to the hind wall of the aedicula from Micia, thus rather suiting a simple *in antis* type structure. A large aedicula would commonly have much larger walls, with the relief arranged in separate registers. Therefore, the walls most likely come from the more modest *in antis* type, with good analogies in Dacia Porolissensis at Potaiasa¹⁰, Napoca¹¹, Gherla¹² and the rural areas of Zam-Sâncraie¹³, Dragu¹⁴. Furthermore, the recently identified piece from Şieu-Odorhei should also be added to this list¹⁵. The fragmentary state of the monuments hinders attempts of more accurate dating, nonetheless, based on the aforementioned analogies it can be asserted that this wall type probably emerged in the mid-2nd – early-3rd century AD. The sole instance of a hind wall coming from a “classical aedicula” is Ae5. The fragment displays a higher level of artistic skills than the rest of the material. Unfortunately its borders are not preserved, hence it is

⁷ Diaconescu 2003–2004, 307.

⁸ Ţeposu Marinescu 1982, 36.

⁹ Ţeposu Marinescu 1982, 36.

¹⁰ Floca, Wolski 1973, 16, no. 36, Fig. 48; 17, no. 42, Fig. 56; 18, no. 49, Fig. 64.

¹¹ Benea, Hica 2004, 131, no. 7, Pl. VII/3.

¹² Floca, Wolski 1973, 22–24, no. 69, Fig. 87.

¹³ Ţeposu Marinescu 1982, 221, no. 107, Pl. XLI.

¹⁴ Crânguş-Balaci, Matei 2008, 143–152, Pl. 1.

¹⁵ Zăgreanu 2011, 179–191, Pl. III, Fig. 5 a-b, Fig. 6 a-b.

impossible to assess the type and position of the cramp mortices. A further feature which is uncommon for aedicula walls in Dacia is the vertical double division line between the heads of the two figures. In the case of the so-called “classical aedicula”, the hind wall is flanked by two very short side walls, essentially a pair of projecting pilasters. Usually, the edges of these walls are shaped into pilasters. On the axis of each of the two side walls a freestanding column was placed with the role of supporting either a gable roof or a pyramidal roof with curved sides. The latter feature is specific to the funerary architecture of Northern Italy¹⁶.

Some of these pieces were incorrectly catalogued as so-called “family stelae”¹⁷. Considering their dimensions and the cramp mortices on the upper edge, it is obvious that we are not dealing with stelae. All of these finds were discovered within the distribution area of aediculae: Potaissa, Gherla and Porolissum. Analogies can be found in Dalmatia¹⁸, although in variants with two registers, the upper one comprising the bust of the deceased (rather than the full-figure representation), while the lower one displaying mythological or symbolic motifs. The closest analogy is a wall from Augsburg¹⁹, with the figures of the deceased exceeding the upper edge of the wall in similar fashion to the examples from Dacia. The monuments from Augsburg are dated to around 170 AD²⁰. Not surprisingly they display a superior level of craftsmanship, but even so, hypothetically they still could have served as models for the pieces from Dacia. The skills of the craftsmen involved in the production of funerary monuments were crucial in the execution of this type of reliefs. Walls of aedicula type funerary structures with the full-figure representation of the deceased are also known from Rome²¹, dated to the 3rd century AD. Furthermore the aediculae from Celeia²², dated to the early-2nd century AD, also need mentioning. The local elites of the Norican settlement, emulating the funerary practices of the Italian Peninsula represented their deceased wearing the toga, displaying in this way their citizen status.

Since all aedicula walls are stray finds, there are no three pieces found together, and thus no possibility for at least the partial reconstruction of an aedicula from Porolissum. Based on analogies it seems there were usually a number of specific combinations, e.g. hind walls with family depictions mostly associated with architectural side walls.

A total of seven fragmentary side walls were identified among the finds from Porolissum. Although some pieces are highly fragmentary (Ae6, Ae7), it is still possible to include them into the category of architectural walls with two figural registers. Analogies for this wall type are known in Dacia Porolissensis at Potaissa²³, Gilău²⁴, and Sutoru²⁵. Interestingly enough, the upper register of all these pieces contains

¹⁶ Diaconescu 2003–2004, 311.

¹⁷ Pop, Soroceanu 1968, 351–355.

¹⁸ Sergeievski 1935, 18–19, Pl. V.

¹⁹ Oblenroth 1953, 32–38; CSIR III I/I Raetia, Noricum 1973, 23, no. 17, taf. 5.

²⁰ CSIR III, I/I Raetia, Noricum 1973, 23, no. 17, taf. 5.

²¹ Kraus 1990, 285.

²² Šajn 2012, 376, C5.

²³ Nemeti, Nemeti 2014, 248, no. 1, Pl. III/1.

²⁴ Nemeti, Nemeti 2014, 249, no. 3, Pl. III/4.

²⁵ Cociș et alii 2009, 55–57, no. 4, Pl. III, Fig. 1, 2; 53–67, 57, no. 5, Pl. IV, Fig. 1 a-d.

the same depiction of the rider on foot walking next to his horse. It seems that in the environment of the auxiliary troops there was a marked propensity for aediculae with architectural walls as well as for the abovementioned iconographic model. The case of Ae7 is particularly interesting. The piece is clearly unfinished. The left side of the relief field, much thicker than the sculpted part, was merely smoothed with the claw-chisel, thus prepared for further sculpting. In the lower part, the line bordering another register is noticeable. Most likely the piece was abandoned prior to completion, then broken in two fragments for reuse as building material.

The rest of the fragments belong to the profiled type with a single register and depictions on both sides. Just as in the case of the stelae, the profiled frames replace the usual architectural motifs (predominantly columns). Analogies for these wall types come from the workshops in Potaissa²⁶, Gherla²⁷, but also the rural settlement from Gârbou²⁸. The fairly well-preserved monuments from Potaissa and the one from Gârbou, were dated to the period subsequent to the mid-2nd century AD. Fragments A10 and A11 belong to side walls with decoration on both sides, however given their fragmentary state, any further assessments are problematic. In the case of further two pieces - A12, decorated with an unidentifiable anthropomorphic figure, and Ae9, ornamented with vine tendrils springing from a *kantharos* - their advanced state of deterioration hinders any additional evaluation.

2. Syrian arches

The architectural elements discussed here draw on a very specific syncretic element of Roman cultic architecture which originated in the Orient, hence the general and somewhat inaccurate term of “Syrian arch”. This element made its way to the western part of the Empire from very early on²⁹. In architecture, it entails a distinctive arrangement of the entablature which unlike the classical Greco-Roman design, bends up to form an arch in the middle of the structure³⁰. This element was at some point adopted in funerary architecture and became quite common in larger aediculae³¹. The funerary structures of this type known from Noricum were designated as “aedicula mit Archivolte” by G. Kremer. One of the most emblematic aedicula with Syrian arch is the one from Šempeter³² in the aforementioned province. The monuments from Porolissum must have been however somewhat less sophisticated.

The finds from Porolissum yield a total of ten such elements, including one discovered in 2008 (Ae24), in addition to a number of fragments recently identified in museum storehouses, and older publications. The issue of the Syrian arches, with or without incorporated pediments, identified at Porolissum does emerge periodically since their first publication by N. Gudea and V. Lucăcel in 1975³³. Their interpretation

²⁶ Floca, Wolski 1973, 12-13, no. 14.

²⁷ Floca, Wolski 1973, 24, Fig. 88-89.

²⁸ Floca, Wolski 1973, 26, no. 81, Fig. 99.

²⁹ Hrnčiarik 2014, 101.

³⁰ Hrnčiarik 2014, 99-100.

³¹ For examples from Noricum see Kremer 2001, 57-134.

³² Kremer 2001, 27-34.

³³ Gudea, Lucăcel 1975, 36-37.

has varied strongly since then, being designated in publications as: arches³⁴, gate arches³⁵, lintels³⁶, and pediments³⁷. The reason for this increased focus resides in the fact they suggested to the authors the existence of complex funerary structures in Porolissum. This aedicula element remains unknown in the rest of the province. A possible exception may come from Apulum, unfortunately however the piece was published without illustration almost half a century ago³⁸. Commenting on this issue while analysing two monumental pilasters from Napoca, M. Bărbulescu asserted that the two architectural elements were directly associated within a massive funerary structure. The author argued that pediments and arches of this type were placed on top of the respective monumental pilasters, thus forming the entrance into certain types of mausolea³⁹. A similar view was expressed earlier by C. Pop, who used the term “gate arches” in his description⁴⁰. Al. Diaconescu asserted for the first time that the respective elements were parts of certain types of aediculae⁴¹. The relatively recent discovery of a Syrian arch during the excavation of a funerary complex in Porolissum in 2008⁴² is a decisive argument in favour of the funerary nature of these architectural elements. As stated above, in our view these elements come from large funerary aediculae, which seem to have been a characteristic of the funerary architecture from Porolissum.

The finds from Porolissum can be included in three types. Among these only Type I (Pl. V/E) incorporates triangular pediments, drawing on the so-called “Syrian pediment” albeit in a simplified monolithic version, consisting of an entablature curving up into an arch and a triangular pediment above. One may notice that the arch does not penetrate the field of the proper pediment, but only interrupts the entablature. As mentioned above Type II (Pl. V/F) consists only of the arched entablature or archivolt, which can also be interpreted as an “arcuated lintel”⁴³. Type III (Pl. V/G) is similar to the latter category, but is in addition also provided with geometrical decoration. Based on the dimensions of the preserved pieces, this type is typical for monuments of reduced size. A number of analogies can be cited for these elements from Noricum: Šempeter⁴⁴, Flavia Solva⁴⁵, Sankt Peter in Holz⁴⁶; Pannonia: Intercisa⁴⁷, Gorsium⁴⁸; Germania Superior: Nyon⁴⁹. There is no certainty regarding to the roofs associated with the type II and III arches, which were either gable, vaulted or pyramidal. In addition to these pieces a series of sculptural fragments published by Á. Buday in

³⁴ Gudea, Lucăcel 1975, 37.

³⁵ Pop 1977, 125.

³⁶ Bărbulescu 2003, 118, note 115.

³⁷ Diaconescu 2003-2004, 316; Crînguș-Balaci 2008, 291.

³⁸ Civiltà 223, G. 20.

³⁹ Bărbulescu 2003, 118, note 115.

⁴⁰ Pop 1977, 125.

⁴¹ Diaconescu 2003-2004, 316.

⁴² See Gudea et alii 2009, 150-154.

⁴³ See Hrnčiarik 2014, 101.

⁴⁴ Kremer 2001, 27-34; Kremer-Molitor 2006, 83, Fig. 2; Lupa 13256.

⁴⁵ Lupa 1209.

⁴⁶ Lupa 5052.

⁴⁷ Lupa 3995.

⁴⁸ Lupa 4042.

⁴⁹ Lupa 8520.

1915⁵⁰ were later incorrectly interpreted as fragments of Roman arches similar to the abovementioned types. They are in fact medieval sculptural pieces, mostly fragments of window frames and tracery.

Type I	Type II	Type III
Ae20, Ae21, Ae22, Ae23, Ae24	Ae25, Ae26, Ae27, Ae28, Ae29	Ae30, Ae31

Tab. 2. The typological distribution of the Syrian arches from Porolissum.

3. Cornice fragments

Two pieces of cornices with dentils must also be mentioned (Ae18, Ae19). These cornices were probably mounted on arches of type II and III as part of funerary aediculae. One other similar fragment is known from Gherla⁵¹.

4. Pedestal panels

Among the funerary inscriptions known from Porolissum, there are three epigraphic panels (Ae15, Ae16 and Ae17), with somewhat uncertain functionality. In the present paper these are included among the inscription panels of aedicula bases. In the case of panel Ae15, the hypothesis according to which it was engaged in the wall of a mausoleum or funerary enclosure can be excluded from the very start, due to its upright orientation. L. Țeposu Marinescu mistakenly includes it among the funerary altars⁵². The cross-section of the piece is however characteristic to panels engaged in various masonry structures (mainly walls and pedestals). Hence the most plausible interpretation is that of a panel covering the masonry pedestal of an aedicula. The dimensions of the piece corroborate this hypothesis. In this case the width of the pedestal was around 96 cm, thus corresponding to most aedicula hind walls known in Dacia, which usually have around 90 cm in width⁵³. A similar pedestal was proposed for the graphic reconstruction of the aedicula from Micia⁵⁴. The elegant decoration and carefully executed letters suggest that the panel was part of a funerary structure which displayed a quite high level of craftsmanship. Fragment Ae17 (for the illustration see the publication cited below) had probably a similar functionality, although its poor preservation state hinders a more conclusive analysis (see below).

A further similar piece is the funerary inscription Ae16. In this case the possibilities of interpretation are multiple, including that of a panel incorporated into a funerary enclosure, a mausoleum or an aedicula base. None of the possibilities can be excluded at this stage, as recent archaeological investigations revealed the existence of funerary enclosures and quite monumental funerary mounds in the cemetery of Porolissum on Ursoieș Hill⁵⁵. The extensive width (133 cm) compared to the dimensions of most aedicula hind walls known from Porolissum does not exclude the possibility that it was part of an aedicula pedestal (Pl. VI/B).

⁵⁰ Buday 1915, 75, 103, Fig. 16; 78, 103, Fig. 19; 75, 103, Fig. 17; 78, 104, Fig. 20.

⁵¹ Zăgreanu 2007, 262–263, no. 6, Fig. 15.

⁵² Țeposu Marinescu 1982, 166, A 25.

⁵³ Țeposu Marinescu 1982, 219.

⁵⁴ Diaconescu 2003–2004, 324, Fig. 117.

⁵⁵ Gudea et alii 2008, 201–204; Gudea et alii 2009, 150–154; Petruț et alii 2010, 81–87.

The iconography

1. Representations of the deceased

The deceased are usually represented in full figure from a frontal perspective in a familial setting, usually with their spouse and children (Ae1-Ae5). In the case of Ae1 and Ae4 however there is no certainty that there were additional figures. Two of the male figures are portrayed in the military mantle, the *sagum* (Ae2, Ae7), one is wearing only a sleeved tunic (*tunica manicata*) (Ae8b), while one character is wearing the toga (Ae3), which is quite uncommon for funerary reliefs in Dacia. The figure on horseback (Ae6) is wearing a sleeved tunic reaching down below the knees, fastened around the waist, a mantle, trousers (*braccae*), and probably short boots. On fragment Ae7, a bearded standing figure clad in a short tunic and *sagum* holds a long object, probably a weapon. Women are usually depicted wearing the *palla* (Ae1, Ae8b). In the case of Ae1 the woman's pose follows the model known as "La Piccola Ercolanese". The *volumen* in the hand of the female figure on Ae3 probably suggested the citizen status of the deceased. Despite the unequal quality and state of preservation of the reliefs, on account of the iconography, one might suggest that at least two of these monuments are the products of the same workshop due to the similar composition employed (Ae2, Ae3), displaying mirror products of the same iconographic model.

Monument Ae8 containing the depiction of a couple is quite surprising⁵⁶. The two figures are represented hugging and seem to be kissing tenderly. Based on their pose, one may assume that we are dealing with an erotic scene. The image is unique and somewhat shocking in the context of funerary sculpture in Roman Dacia. Interestingly enough, the scene is rendered on the outer face of the wall, thus intended to be seen. The inner side contains the figure of a female waiting servant. This is most likely not the depiction of a brothel scene, which usually would convey a rather more direct expression of a sexual act. One might speculate that it is the monument of a soldier, who wished to be portrayed associated with certain military and manly virtues, such as virility. Though rendered somewhat crudely, the relief presents an intimate and passionate love scene. According to our knowledge there is hitherto no analogy for the monument in the Roman Empire.

The female figure portrayed on Ae5 displays the so-called Faustina Major-type hairstyle, which would suggest a dating to the Antonine period. However, the use of the drill is usually placed in the 3rd century AD. There is of course no certainty that the hairstyle depicted on the funerary monument was not fashionable at the time of the person's death or at any certain time during its life. This iconographic element should rather be viewed as a *terminus post quem*. The hairstyle of the male figure is reminiscent of Emperor Traianus' hairdo, popular in Dacia under Antoninus Pius and Septimius Severus⁵⁷, indicating a possible dating for the monument to the late-2nd - early-3rd century AD.

The equestrian representation on side wall Ae6 displays the rider moving forward at a slow pace. It presents stylistic similarities with further five reliefs known from Dacia Porolissensis, which may suggest a common workshop located probably

⁵⁶ See Zăgreanu 2015.

⁵⁷ Ciongradi 2007, 28.

at Napoca or Porolissum⁵⁸. The object held by the figure in his right hand, is possibly either a long sword (*spatha*) or a staff. The relief belongs to model 1 according to the typology of I. Nemeti and S. Nemeti⁵⁹. The horse is depicted in motion. Part of the animal's mane may be distinguished, while the harness elements, the bridle, reins and bit, are carefully sculpted. The saddle is also rendered. The depiction of the animal is disproportional, with oversized legs. Based on analogies from the province, the monument may be dated to the second half of the 2nd century AD.

2. Mythological and magic motifs

The funerary symbolism associated with Hercules is mainly linked to his accomplishment of taming Cerberus and thus overcoming death⁶⁰. On the arch Ae22 the deity is depicted while performing the first task in Eurystheus' service, i.e. fighting the Nemean lion. On the right edge of the arch the hero is portrayed choking the lion, while his club is represented next to the scene.

The Gorgon head appears on arch Ae20, occupying the center of the relief field, with a wind protoma depicted on the left edge. Placing this depiction in the center of the monument was intended to make the face of the deity as visible as possible in line with its apotropaic qualities. The wind protoma is depicted on the same arch in the form of an adult male. Although the right edge of the arch is damaged, it is very likely that it was carrying the same type of depiction.

The center of arch Ae21 contains fragments of a scene comprising of a hand holding a snake. In this case we might be dealing with the depiction of Oceanus, guardian of the Isles of the Blessed⁶¹. This type of representations is found on Greek vessels of the classical period, where the deity holds a snake and a fish, in accordance with the prophecy regarding the afterlife and the wealth thereafter. Since the monument is fragmentary, any further iconographic assessment is purely conjectural. Arch Ae26 contains an enigmatic depiction of a figure with hands clasped together facing the center of the arch. The face of the figure is not well discernible as the stone is weathered in that area. In front of the figure either a feather or a leaf is represented. This is likely a very crude depiction of a mythological figure, which unfortunately remains unknown. Further fragmentary depictions of figures with pointed hats, likely images of Attis appear on two side walls (Ae10, Ae11).

The adze (*ascia*) is an extremely well diffused symbol in the funerary art of Roman Gaul especially in Lyon and the Rhone valley⁶². On the monuments from Lyon, the representations of adzes are most often accompanied by specific epigraphic formulas, the most frequent being: *sub ascia dedicavit* (or the acronym: SAD)⁶³. Deciphering the meaning of the representation may be approached from the textual evidence. J. E. Sandys believed that the symbol and afferent formula indicate a recent grave already consecrated to the Manes, but which is still pending completion. Two funerary inscriptions,

⁵⁸ Nemeti, Nemeti 2014, 241.

⁵⁹ Nemeti, Nemeti 2014, 242.

⁶⁰ Bărbulescu 2003, 260.

⁶¹ Ferri 2003, 601.

⁶² Carroll 2006, 81.

⁶³ Sandys 1919, 19.

from Rome and Ostia, use the phrase with opposite meaning: *deasciare* (the exact form being *deasciaverit*), denoting the usurpation of a grave by erasing and replacing the original epitaph. Based on this Fr. Prévot showed that the phrase *sub ascia dedicavit* was designed precisely to prevent the usurpation of graves, bearing a legal connotation⁶⁴. In Dacia, six funerary monuments with the depiction of this symbol were hitherto identified⁶⁵, although the afferent epigraphic formula is not attested. In Porolissum the adze is represented on arch Ae20, associated with the depiction of the wind.

3. The funerary banquet

No direct representations of the funerary banquet are known on aedicula walls from Porolissum, however the symbolism inherent to the scene is reflected by the representation of a female waiting servant⁶⁶. The representation appears on the interior of side wall Ae8a. The relief shows a female waiting servant clad in a tunic and possibly a *palla*. The figure holds a flagon in her right hand, while a towel is hanging on her left (*mantella*). Together with the “Griffschale” these implements composed the hand-washing set used by servants during banquets, thus the relief serves as a symbol for the funerary banquet⁶⁷.

4. Marine symbols

Of the marine symbols most commonly encountered in Dacia, dolphins seem to have been the most popular⁶⁸. In general, dolphins appear on the funerary monuments in the spandrels, the attic, or even in the relief fields of stelae or on the pediments of altars⁶⁹. They appear on two aedicula arches from Porolissum: Ae22 – associated with the scene of Hercules slaying the Nemean lion, and Ae27 – as the principal iconographic element of the piece. Furthermore the corners of arch Ae21 contain the fragmentary representations of two snakes, in addition to the central scene which features a figure holding a snake in his right hand. It is thought that the snake in funerary context is a symbol of immortality⁷⁰. Its depiction on monuments is rather rare, being encountered especially on aediculae walls. Two representations are known from Micia and one from Ampelum⁷¹.

The epigraphy

The only monuments which provide epigraphic information are the aedicula pedestal panels: Ae15, Ae16 and Ae17. From the first one we learn that the monument was dedicated by Cassius Martialis, *beneficiarius consularis* probably of Oriental origin, to his deceased wife Iulia Iustina. Based on the technical and ornamental details of the panel, it must have belonged to a quite elaborate and expensive monument. Although the letters are elegant, the sculptor failed to accurately estimate the size of

⁶⁴ Prévot 2005, 88-89.

⁶⁵ Chiș 2004, 111.

⁶⁶ See Petruț, Mustață 2010.

⁶⁷ Petruț, Mustață 2010, 172, note 11.

⁶⁸ Chiș 2004, 211-212.

⁶⁹ Chiș 2004, 211-212.

⁷⁰ Prieur 1991, 188-189.

⁷¹ Chiș 2004, 191.

a few lines, so due to lack of space in the second row, letter A at the end of the name Iustina was downsized and crammed into the end of the line, just like in the case of the two *hastae* belonging to number XLII in the third line.

In case of the second monument (Ae16) we learn that Aelius Vitalianus, member of the municipal elite, erected a collective funerary monument for his mother, son and granddaughter. Based on the names involved, a Celtic origin may be implied. The fact that the inscription mentions several persons and the dedicator fulfils an important local magistrature (*augur*), suggests that the respective epigraphic panel was part of a sophisticated funerary structure, either a “classical” aedicula, or perhaps even a mausoleum. Aelia Nice, the mother of Aelius Vitalianus is present on another inscription at Porolissum commemorating her daughter⁷². Her age represents a record, according to the epitaph she passed away at 90 years of age. Based on the *nomen* Aelius, their citizenship was probably obtained under Emperor Hadrianus. According to Á. Szabó the inscription should be dated to the first decades of the 3rd century AD⁷³. The career of Aelius Vitalianus may have followed the following steps: *augur* of the municipium, then *sacerdos* and finally *quinquennalis*. In order to obtain the latter office, he was required to fulfil a further important office beside the decurionate. In the 4th line R. Ardevan proposed the following reading: *pontif. q. q.*, since *pontifex* cannot be followed by other *honores municipales*, and the two letters OO must be interpreted as shorthand for *quinquennalis*⁷⁴. According to the interpretation of I. Piso the text should be read as: *augur et q(uin)q(uennalis)*. At the end of the 4th row and at the start of the 5th row the text reads: *matri fil(io) et / nept[i]ae*⁷⁵.

In case of fragment Ae17 the epitaph is all but lost, only a few letters in the second row have survived. According to I. Piso the name Aurelius Dexter⁷⁶ appears on the panel which can be dated to the 3rd century AD based on the lack of the *cognomen*.

Conclusions

The funerary aedicula was among the popular types of funerary monuments which populated the necropolis around Porolissum. From a typological and iconographical point of view, resemblances with other important centers of Dacia Porolissensis are obvious, even so the local workshops did develop at some point an individual style from all perspectives. Porolissum is the center where the so-called aedicula with “Syrian arch” or archivolt (Pl. VI/C) seems to have been very popular amongst the local elites, a trait which clearly sets apart the monuments from Porolissum in the context of the funerary architecture of Roman Dacia. One of the main problems in assessing this monument type in Roman Dacia is the lack of the epigraphic evidence which can be clearly associated with aediculae, given their complex structure and the fact that the large majority of the material is comprised of stray finds. This hinders any straightforward inferences on the social, ethnic or cultural identity of commemorators and persons commemorated alike.

⁷² Petruț, Zăgreanu 2011, 205, no. 13, Pl. 2/13.

⁷³ Szabó 2007, D 23.

⁷⁴ Ardevan 1998, 440, R 491.

⁷⁵ Piso 2014, 127-128, no. 6, Fig. 6.

⁷⁶ Piso et alii 2015.

Catalogue⁷⁷

Aedicula walls

Ae1. Fragment of hind wall (Pl. I/Ae1).

Prov: Porolissum.

Loc: MJIAZ. Inv. no.: 222.

Gudea, Lucăcel 1975, 41, no. 133, Fig. 133; Țeposu Marinescu 1982, 221, no. 104; Gudea 1989, 786–787, no. 89; Husar 1999, 205, no. 48; Petruț 2009, 111, no. 44.

The left side of the wall is preserved, the right side, including the border was probably intentionally cut off.

H: 82 cm; W: 27 cm; Th: 24 cm. Limestone.

The relief depicts a woman dressed in a *palla*. The traces of the coarse finishing on the left edge and the fact that the right side of the relief is clearly incomplete suggest the panel was reused in antiquity or at a later stage, possibly in the medieval period. The respective edge was crudely worked with the point, being subsequently smoothed with the claw-chisel in the upper part. Some possible wedge holes suggest that the piece may have been split using the “feather and wedges” technique. Furthermore the irregular surface of the edge hindered the possibility of attachment to another wall, thus substantiating the fact that we are dealing with a later intervention. The opposite edge presents no such marks. Originally a male figure may have stood next to the female representation, a composition typical for aediculae hind walls.

Ae2. Fragment of hind wall (Pl. I/Ae2).

Prov: Porolissum, the Wesselényi-Teleki collection.

Loc: MJIAZ. Inv. no.: 1045.

Pop, Soroceanu 1968, 351, no. 1, Fig. 1; Țeposu Marinescu 1972, 220, no. 102; Țeposu Marinescu 1982, 220–221, no. 103; Floca, Wolski 1973, 25–26, no. 77; Gudea, Lucăcel 1975, 41, no. 132, Fig. 132; Bianchi 1985, 278, no. 189; Gudea 1989, 786, no. 88; Husar 1999, 205, no. 47; Petruț 2009, 111, no. 45.

The piece is fragmentary, preserving only the central area, the upper part is lacking completely. The relief is highly weathered.

H: 124 cm; W: 68 cm; Th: 32 cm. Limestone.

The relief contains the depiction of a family. The two parents can be well distinguished in the back, while only a couple of lines are preserved from the child's representation. The male figure on the left side wears a short tunic and a mantle. The female figure stands on the right side dressed in a long tunic and *palla*.

Ae3. Fragment of hind wall (Pl. I/Ae3).

Prov: Porolissum, the Wesselényi-Teleki collection.

Loc: MJIAZ. Inv. no.: 1046.

Pop, Soroceanu 1968, 351, no. 2, Fig. 2; Floca, Wolski 1973, 26, no. 78; Gudea, Lucăcel 1975, 40, no. 131, Fig. 131; Țeposu Marinescu 1982, 220, no. 102; Bianchi 1985, 278, no. 188; Gudea 1989, 785–786, no. 82; Husar 1999, 205, no. 46; Petruț 2009, 112, no. 46.

Fragmentary. Only a central portion of the relief is preserved. The relief is extremely worn.

H: 60 cm; W: 55 cm; Th: 30 cm. Limestone.

⁷⁷ The following abbreviations were used for the description of the sculptural pieces: Prov = provenance; Loc = place of preservation; H = height; W = width; Th = thickness; L = length; D = diameter; r = row; dist = distance between the lines; MJIAZ = Muzeul Județean de Istorie și Artă Zalău (The County Museum of History and Art, Zalău).

The remains of two figures dressed in richly draped garments can be seen, a female on the left in a *palla* holding a *volumen* and a child in front of her, the male figure on the right apparently wearing a toga.

Ae4. Fragment of hind wall (Pl. I/Ae4).

Prov: Porolissum.

Loc: MJIAZ.

Petruț 2009, 113, no. 48, Pl. 17.

Fragmentary. Only the lower left corner of the wall is preserved.

H: 32 cm; W: 37.5 cm; Th: 14 cm; base frame: 15 cm. Sandstone.

The feet and the lower part of a female figure's dress (long tunic or *palla*) can be seen on the relief.

Ae5. Fragment of hind wall (Pl. I/Ae5).

Prov: Porolissum.

Loc: MJIAZ.

Petruț 2009, 113, no. 49, Pl. 17/49.

Fragmentary. Only a central portion of the wall is preserved.

H: 25 cm; W: 43 cm; Th: 16 cm. Limestone.

High relief originally containing the depiction of a male (right side) and female figure (left side), of which only the two heads were preserved. The female displays a "Faustina Maior"-type hairstyle, parted in the middle and bun in the upper part. She is also wearing earrings with globular pendants. The male figure has his hair combed forward in line with the trends of the early-2nd century AD. His face is shaved clean. The figures have prominent eyes, the edges are worked with the drill, resulting in a realistic effect, also the eyelids are marked. The ears are projecting. The two are divided by a line comprised of a double moulding. Dated to the early-3rd century AD (based on stylistic criteria, see above).

Ae6. Fragment hind wall. (Pl. I/Ae6).

Prov: Porolissum.

Loc: Jibou. Identified in 1937 embedded in the wall of house Fleischer from Jibou, where it can be found today. According to C. Daicoviciu it comes from the cemetery of Porolissum.

Daicoviciu 1940, 324, no. 2, Fig. 21; Gudea 1989, 789-790, no. 107, Pl. CCCI; Nemeti 2003, 316, no. 16, Fig. 1; Petruț 2009, 109, no. 40; Nemeti, Nemeti 2014, 254, no. 18, Pl. I/5.

Fragmentary. Most of the right side of the relief is preserved.

H: 78 cm; W: 60 cm. Limestone.

The wall is bordered on the right side by an engaged column. The relief contains the depiction of a rider in a rectangular niche.

Ae7. Fragment of right side wall (Pl. II/Ae7).

Prov: Porolissum. Discovered inside a wall.

Loc: MJIAZ. Inv. no.: 466.

Gudea, Lucăcel 1975, 41, no. 134; Gudea 1989, 787, no. 90; Petruț 2009, 109, no. 41.

The lower register of the wall is preserved. The right side of the relief is unfinished.

H: 58 cm; W: 53 cm; Th: 16 cm; frame: 4.5 cm. Limestone.

The relief displays a standing figure dressed in a short tunic and *sagum*. Despite the weathering of the relief one can notice that the man is wearing a beard and is also holding a long object with both hands, probably a weapon. The frame, present on the right side, is undecorated.

Ae8. Fragment of right side wall (Pl. I/Ae8 a-b).

Prov: Porolissum. Discovered in 1982, in the area of the *porta praetoria* of the fort. Reused in the wall of a buttress on the north-eastern side, at ca. 20 m from the gate tower.

Loc: MJIAZ. Inv. no.: CC 723/2015.

Zăgreanu 2015, forthcoming.

Fragmentary. Reconstructed from several fragments.

H: 150 cm; W: 46 cm; Th: 14 cm.

Both sides of the wall are decorated. In the inner side: a female waiting servant holding a flagon in her right hand. The rendering of the hand is slightly disproportionate compared to the rest of the body. The figure is depicted with an oval face, however the portrait is poorly preserved. She is wearing a tunic with a round collar around the neck, while a *palla* is covering her shoulders and right arm. She is holding a flagon in her right hand, while a towel (*mantella*) is hanging on her left shoulder. In certain parts the relief preserves traces of red dye. On the outer side an erotic scene comprising a kissing couple is represented. The female figure is wearing a tunic fastened around the waist. She is represented resting her left hand on the male figure's shoulder, while her right hand, covered by the dress folds is directed towards his waist. The male figure seems to be wearing a sleeved tunic, ending above the knee. They are both wearing some sort of footwear (*calcei*). The male figure holds his left hand on his partner's raised leg, seemingly pulling her towards him. The scene is worked in low relief, despite a general sense of crudeness, the complexity of the movements and care for details are noteworthy. The considerable height of the wall is surprising, as well as the abundant free space remaining below the relief.

Ae9. Side wall fragment (Pl. II/Ae9).

Prov: Porolissum.

Loc: MJIAZ.

Gudea, Lucăcel 1975, 41, no. 134; Petruț 2009, 109, no. 41.

Fragmentary. Only the lower end of a side wall is preserved.

H: 43 cm; W: 34 cm; Th: 13 cm. Sandstone.

The relief displays a *kantharos* with a vine stalk growing out of it. The vessel is apparently undecorated; it has a globular body, narrow neck and mouth opening, and no clearly visible base. The two handles end in volutes. On the lower frame of the wall, on the left edge, there is a rectangular cramp mortice.

Ae10. Fragment of side wall (Pl. II/Ae10 a-b).

Prov: Porolissum.

Loc: MJIAZ. Inv. no.: 1758.

Gudea, Lucăcel 1975, 40, no. 126, Fig. 126; Gudea 1989, 788, no. 97; Chiș 2007, no. 35; Petruț 2009, 110, no. 42.

A fragment from the upper part of the wall is preserved.

H: 36 cm; W: 29 cm; Th: 12 cm; frame: 14 cm. Limestone.

The lower part of the relief displays a male head (Ae10 a), while the outer part probably a vine tendril (Ae10 b). The elongated shape of the head may suggest the depiction of Attis with the Phrygian cap. The outer part contains a cramp mortice 2 cm deep and 3 cm in diameter.

Ae11. Fragment of side wall (Pl. II/Ae11 a-b).

Prov: Porolissum.

Loc: MJIAZ.

Unpublished.

H: 32 cm; W: 20 cm; Th: 12 cm; frame: 14 cm. Limestone.

Fragment of the left upper corner of the wall is preserved.

b. The wall was decorated on both sides. The relief displays a male head, possibly Attis with the Phrygian cap (Ae11 a), while the external side contains an elongated object in the shape of an animal horn (Ae11 b).

Ae12. Wall fragment (Pl. II/Ae12).

Prov: Porolissum.

Loc: MJIAZ. Inv. no: 257.

Gudea, Lucăcel 1975, 45, no. 153, Fig. 153; Țeposu Marinescu 1982, 207, no. 39; Gudea 1989, 792, no. 137, Pl. CCCV.

Fragmentary. A small portion of the relief field is preserved.

H: 24 cm; W: 32 cm; Th: 9 cm. Limestone.

The relief displays the head of a bearded man.

Ae13. Side wall fragment (Pl. II/Ae13).

Prov: Porolissum. Discovered in the auxiliary fort from Pomet Hill in 1982 embedded in the *porta praetoria*.

Loc: MJIAZ. Inv. no.: P 82 AP m - 89 g.

Unpublished.

Fragmentary. Only the upper right corner of the side wall is preserved. Reconstructed from four adjoined pieces.

H: 36; W: 21 cm; Th: 11 cm; frame: 14 cm. Limestone.

Ae14. Wall fragment (Pl. II/Ae14).

Prov: Porolissum.

Loc: MJIAZ.

Unpublished.

A small fragment of the frame is preserved.

H: 20 cm; W: 16 cm; H: 8 cm; frame: 10 cm. Limestone.

Pedestal panels

Ae15. Pedestal panel (Pl. II/Ae15).

Prov: Porolissum. Discovered in 1946 under Pomet Hill.

Loc: MJIAZ. Inv. no.: 212.

Macrea 1956, 114-116, no. 14, Fig. 10; AE 1958, no. 288; Gudea, Lucăcel 1975, 16, no. 16, Fig. 16; Țeposu Marinescu 1982, 166, no. 25; Gudea 1989, 771, no. 52, Pl. CCLXXVIII; Schallmayer et alii 1990, 417, no. 541; ILD 701; HD 044150.

Intact. The edges of the frame are chipped off in certain places.

H: 160 cm; W: 60 cm; Th: 30 cm; inscription field: 116 × 60 cm; letter H: 7.5 cm; dist.: 1.5 cm. Limestone.

Pedestal panel with inscription. The inscription field is bordered by a profiled frame decorated with floral motifs. The text employs the abbreviation *BE* instead *BF*; the ending phrase is also rare. Based on the lack of the *praenomen* the inscription can be dated towards the late-2nd - early-3rd century AD.

D(is) M(anibus) / Iulia Iustina / vix(it) ann(is) XLII / Cassius / Martialis / be(neficiarius) co(n)-s(ularis) / coniugi / carissimae / Iustina / coniux / sit tibi / terra levis.

Ae16. Pedestal panel (Pl. II/Ae16).

Prov: Porolissum. It was brought to the courtyard of Teleki castle in Jibou. In 1957 it entered the collection of MJIAZ.

Loc: MJIAZ. Inv. no.: 1024.

Daicoviciu 1940, 324, no. 4 (published only one fragment); AE 1944, 48; AE 1977, 663; Gudea, Lucăcel 1975, 16-17, no. 17, Fig. 17; Gudea 1989, 769, no. 39, Pl. CCLXXVI; Ardevan 1998, 440, R. 491; Ruscu 1998, 171; ILD 700; Szabó 2007, 42-43, D23; Petruț 2009, 115-116, no. 52, Pl. 19; Mihailescu-Bîrliba 2010, 172, nos. 329-332; Piso 2014, 127-128, no. 6, Fig. 6; HD 20325; Lupa 13202.

Fragmentary. A part of the upper frame as well as a central piece of the epigraphic field are missing. The panel was reconstructed from four adjoining pieces.

H: 133 cm; W: 74 cm; Th: 20 cm; inscription field: 112 × 60 cm; letter H: 6 cm; dist.: 2-2.5 cm. Limestone.

According to Ardevan 1998: *Aeli(a) Nice [vi]x(it) annis XC Ael(ius) / Victor vi[x(it)] annis IIII Aelia Mam/mutio vix(it) annis XXII Ael(ius) Vitalia/nus augu(r) [po]ntifex Q.Q. (?) matri et fli(o et) / neptiae b(ene) m(erentibus).*

According to Piso 2014: *Aelia Nice [v]ix(it) annis XC Ael(ius) / Victor vix(it) [a]nnis IIII Aelia M[a]mmutio / vix(it) a[n]nīs XXII Ael(ius) Vitalia/nus augur et q(uin)q(uennalis) matri fil(io) et / nept[ia]e b(ene) m(erentibus).*

Ligatures: in r. 1: AE, NN; in r. 2: NN, AE, M[A?]; r. 3: AE; r. 4: AV, VR; r. 5: T[I?], AE. In r. 3 letter O is miniaturized. Dated after the start of the Severan period, based on the municipal status of the town.

Ae17. Pedestal panel (Pl. III/Ae17).

Prov: Porolissum. Discovered in the auxiliary fort, reused.

Loc: MJIAZ. Inv. no.: P. 80 A. P. 41.

Piso et alii 2015, 220, no. 8, Fig. 23.

Fragmentary. Only the left upper corner is preserved.

H: 35 cm; W: 53 cm; Th: 21 cm; inscription field: 14 × 38 cm; frame: 6.5 cm; letter H: 7.5 cm (r. 1), 6 cm (r. 2); dist. 2 cm. Limestone.

The upper side holds a cramp mortice indicating that the panel was attached to a structure.

Afu[r(elius) Dext[er] ...]. Dated to the 3rd century AD, based on the lack of a *cognomen*.

Cornice fragments**Ae18.** Cornice fragment with dentils (Pl. III/Ae18).

Pov: Porolissum.

Loc: MJIAZ. Inv. no.: P 82 AP m 152.

Unpublished.

Fragmentary. A small fragment of a cornice with a dentil is preserved.

H: 9 cm; W: 13 cm; Th: 7 cm. Limestone.

Ae19. Cornice fragment with dentils (Pl. III/Ae19).

Prov: Porolissum.

Loc: MJIAZ. Inv. no.: P 82 AP m 41.

Unpublished.

Fragmentary. A small fragment of a cornice with two dentils is preserved.

H: 20 cm; W: 16 cm; Th: 8 cm; dentils: 4 × 4 cm. Limestone.

The structure displaying this cornice must have been quite impressive.

Fragment of an aedicula roof; preserving two dentils of 4 × 4 cm. The item comes from a rather impressive structure.

Syrian arches

Ae20. Syrian arch with triangular pediment (Pl. III/Ae20).

Prov: Porolissum.

Loc: MJIAZ. Inv. no.: 221.

RR 239, G 51; Civiltá 233, G 21; Pop 1971, 64, no. 5; Gudea, Lucăcel 1975, 37, no. 113, Fig. 113; Ţeposu Marinescu 1982, 223, no. 7; Gudea 1989, 783, no. 65; Chiş 2003, 338, no. 7, Fig. 3; Petruţ 2009, 117, no. 54, Pl. 19.

Nearly intact. Reconstructed from two adjoining pieces, the right end is broken.

H: 74 cm; L: 117 cm; Th: 27 cm; inner D: 103 cm. Limestone.

The relief field is bordered by a simple moulded frame. On the short side as well as along the arch, the moulding is doubled by a bead and reel string. The center of the composition displays a Gorgon head. The left edge displays a male head, a so-called “wind protoma” blowing air towards the center of the arch. To the left of this image, an adze (*ascia*) is placed. Probably the same image was represented on the opposite edge.

Ae21. Syrian arch with triangular pediment (Pl. III/Ae21).

Prov: Porolissum.

Loc: MJIAZ. Inv. no.: 1025.

Gudea, Lucăcel 1975, 48, no. 137, Fig. 137 a-c; Gudea 1989, 795, no. 164.

Fragmentary. Reconstructed from three fragments.

Fragment no. 1 (left): H: 71 cm; W: 68 cm; Th: 22 cm. Fragment no. 2 (center): H: 36 cm; W: 24 cm; Th: 9 cm. Fragment no. 3 (right): H: 58 cm; W: 37 cm; Th: 21 cm. Frame (left and right end fragments): 10 cm. Limestone.

The fragment from the center probably features Oceanus holding a snake in his right hand and a fish in the left. The fragments from the left and right end of the arch, both display a coiled up snake. Its body is covered in scales rendered with incised thin lines.

Ae22. Syrian arch with pediment (Pl. III/Ae22).

Prov: Porolissum.

Loc: MJIAZ.

Bărbulescu 1977, 187-188, no. 79, Pl. IX/1; Bărbulescu 2003, note 115, Pl. XVII/2; Petruţ 2009, 117, no. 55, Pl. 20.

Fragmentary. The right half of the arch is preserved.

H: 44 cm; W: 106 cm; Th: 24 cm. Limestone.

The relief register is bordered by a simple frame, still partly visible on the short side and along the line of the arch. The end of the arch displays the scene of Hercules fighting the Nemean lion. To his left, a seahorse is depicted. The center probably featured a Gorgon head. On the upper side of the right edge there is a cramp mortice with a width of 3.5 cm.

Ae23. Syrian arch with pediment (Pl. IV/Ae23).

Prov: Porolissum.

Loc: MJIAZ.

Unpublished.

Fragmentary. A small portion of the central part of the arch is preserved.

H: 26 cm; W: 38 cm; Th: 20 cm; frame: 5 cm. Limestone.

The relief field displays a vine stalk motif. A simple frame runs along the line of the arch. The lower edge displays a cramp mortice 5 cm deep and 3 cm wide.

Ae24. Syrian arch with pediment (Pl. IV/Ae24).

Prov: Porolissum. Discovered during the excavations from 2008 carried out in the necropolis from Ursoieș Hill, in the area of a possible funerary enclosure.

Loc: MJIAZ.

Petruț 2009, 117, no. 56, Pl. 20.

Fragmentary. Only the right end of the arch is preserved.

H: 44 cm; W: 106 cm; Th: 24 cm. Limestone.

The surface is badly weathered, even so it seems that it was undecorated.

Ae25. Syrian arch (Pl. IV/Ae25).

Prov: Porolissum.

Loc: MJIAZ. Inv. no.: 220.

Gudea, Lucăcel 1975, 37, no. 111, Fig. 111; Țeposu Marinescu 1982, 224, no. 8; Gudea 1989, 783, no. 69; Petruț 2009, 118, no. 57, Pl. 2.

Fragmentary. The left half of the arch is preserved.

H: 63 cm; W: 39; Th: 15 cm; frame: 3-4 cm. Limestone.

The decoration consists of an elaborately rendered vine stalk.

Ae26. Syrian arch (Pl. IV/Ae26).

Prov: Porolissum.

Loc: MJIAZ. Inv. no.: 228.

Gudea, Lucăcel 1975, 37, no. 112, Fig. 112; Țeposu Marinescu 1982, 224, no. 9; Gudea 1989, 783-784, no. 70; Petruț 2009, 119, no. 58.

Fragmentary. The right half of the arch is preserved, the surface is badly weathered.

H: 58 cm; W: 50 cm; Th: 18 cm; frame: 3-4 cm. Limestone.

The relief field is bordered by a simple frame. The end of the arch contains the depiction of a male figure with hands clasped together.

Ae27. Syrian arch (Pl. IV/Ae27)

Prov: Porolissum.

Loc: MJIAZ. Inv. no.: 253.

Gudea, Lucăcel 1975, 37, no. 112, Fig. 112; Țeposu Marinescu 1982, 224, no. 10; Gudea 1989, 783, no. 71; Petruț 2009, 119-120, no. 59.

Fragmentary. The right edge of the arch is preserved.

H: 39 cm; W: 25 cm; Th: 16 cm; frame: 4 cm. Limestone.

The relief field is bordered by a simple frame. The relief displays a dolphin, most likely rendered symmetrically on the other side as well.

Ae28. Syrian arch (Pl. IV/Ae28).

Prov: Porolissum.

Loc: MJIAZ. Inv. no.: 1757.

Gudea, Lucăcel 1975, 37, no. 110; Gudea 1989, 783, no. 68.

Fragmentary. Part of the left half of the arch is preserved.

H: 66; W: 57 cm; Th: 15 cm. Limestone.

The arch seems to be undecorated.

Ae29. Syrian arch (Pl. IV/Ae29).

Prov: Porolissum.

Loc: MJIAZ.

Unpublished.

Fragmentary. More than half of the left side is preserved.

H: 64 cm; W: 52; Th: 16 cm. Limestone.

The arch seems to be undecorated. It displays a cramp mortice in the upper side.

Ae30. Syrian arch (Pl. IV/Ae30).

Prov: Porolissum.

Loc: MJIAZ. Inv. no.: 1028.

Gudea, Lucăcel 1975, 37, no. 109, Fig. 109; Gudea 1989, 783, no. 67.

Fragmentary. The central part of the piece is preserved.

H: 18 cm; W: 52 cm; Th: 25 cm. Limestone.

The line of the arch is decorated by a moulded frame doubled by a bead row.

Ae31. Syrian arch (Pl. IV/Ae31).

Prov: Porolissum.

Loc: MJIAZ. Inv. no.: P 82 AP m 82.

Unpublished.

Fragmentary. A small portion of the central part is preserved.

H: 15 cm; W: 27 cm; Th: 10 cm; frame W: 7 cm. Limestone.

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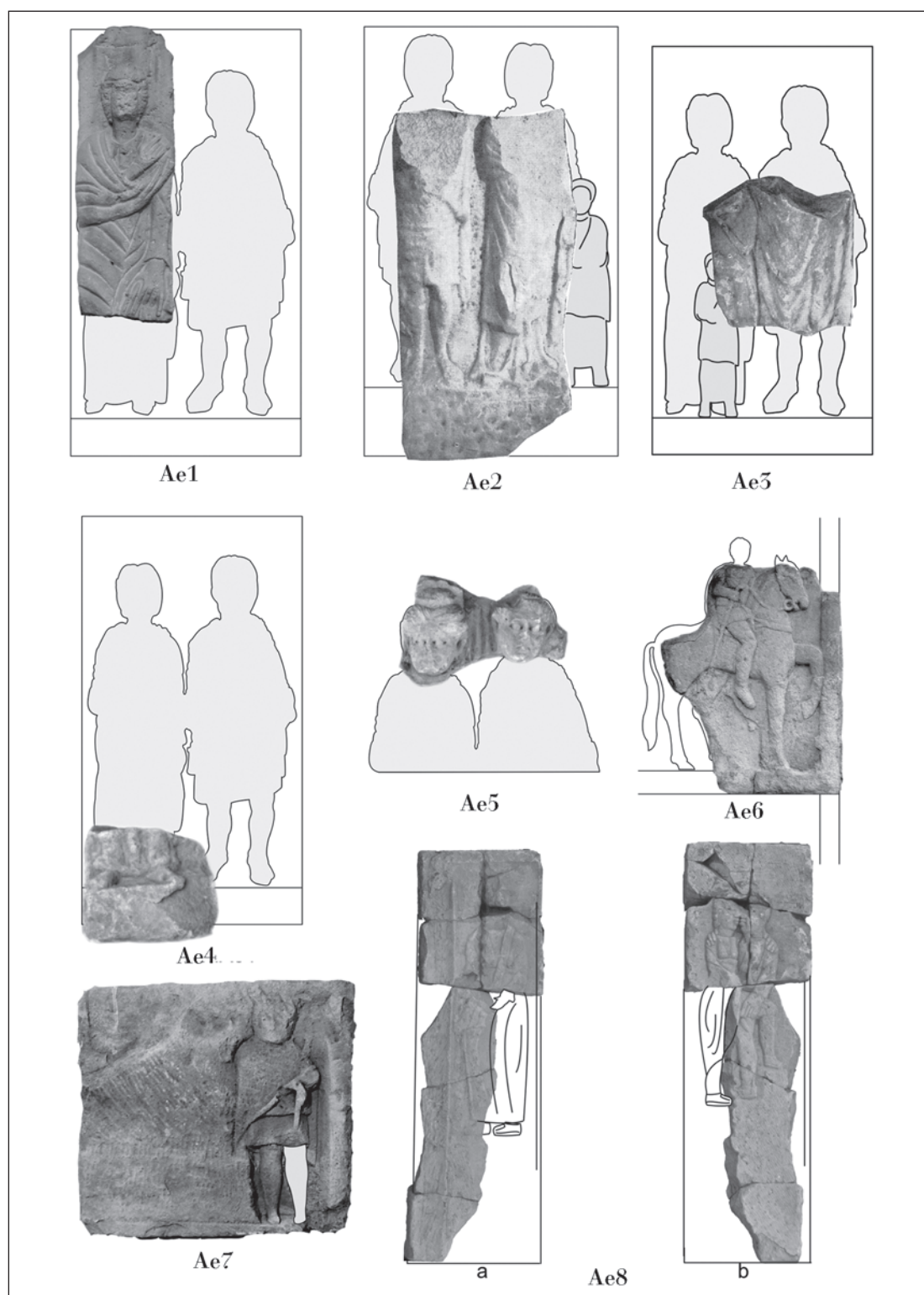
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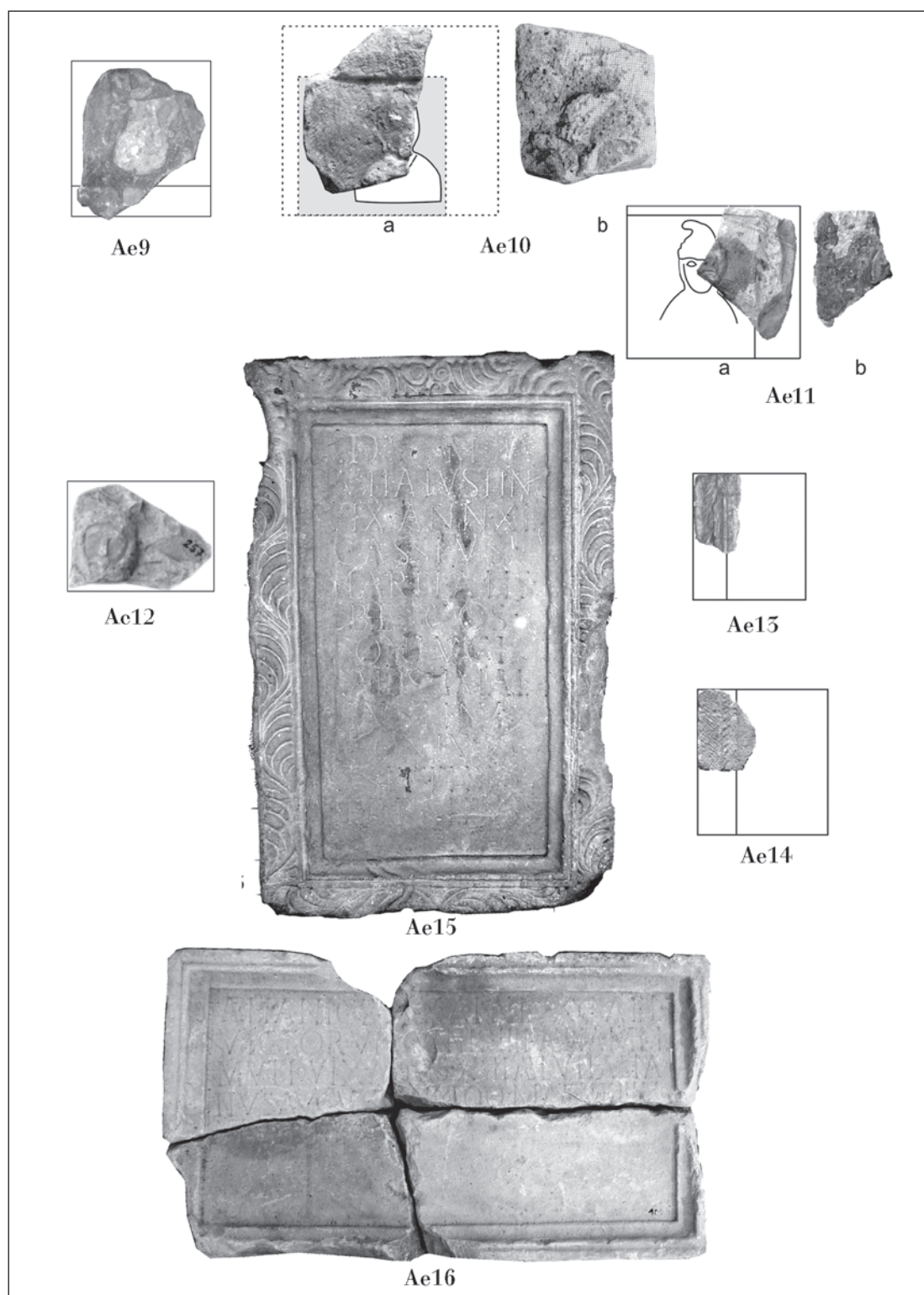
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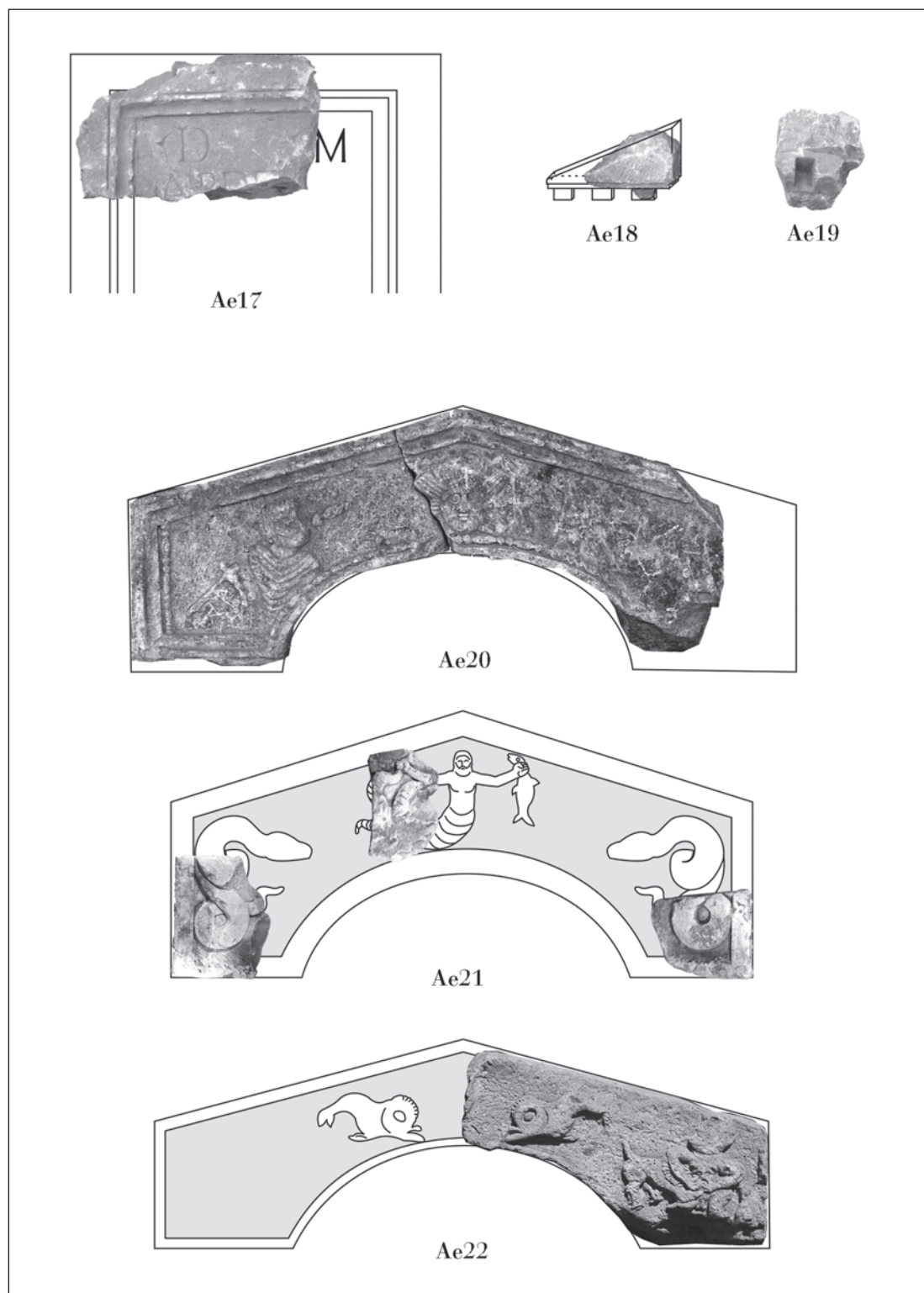
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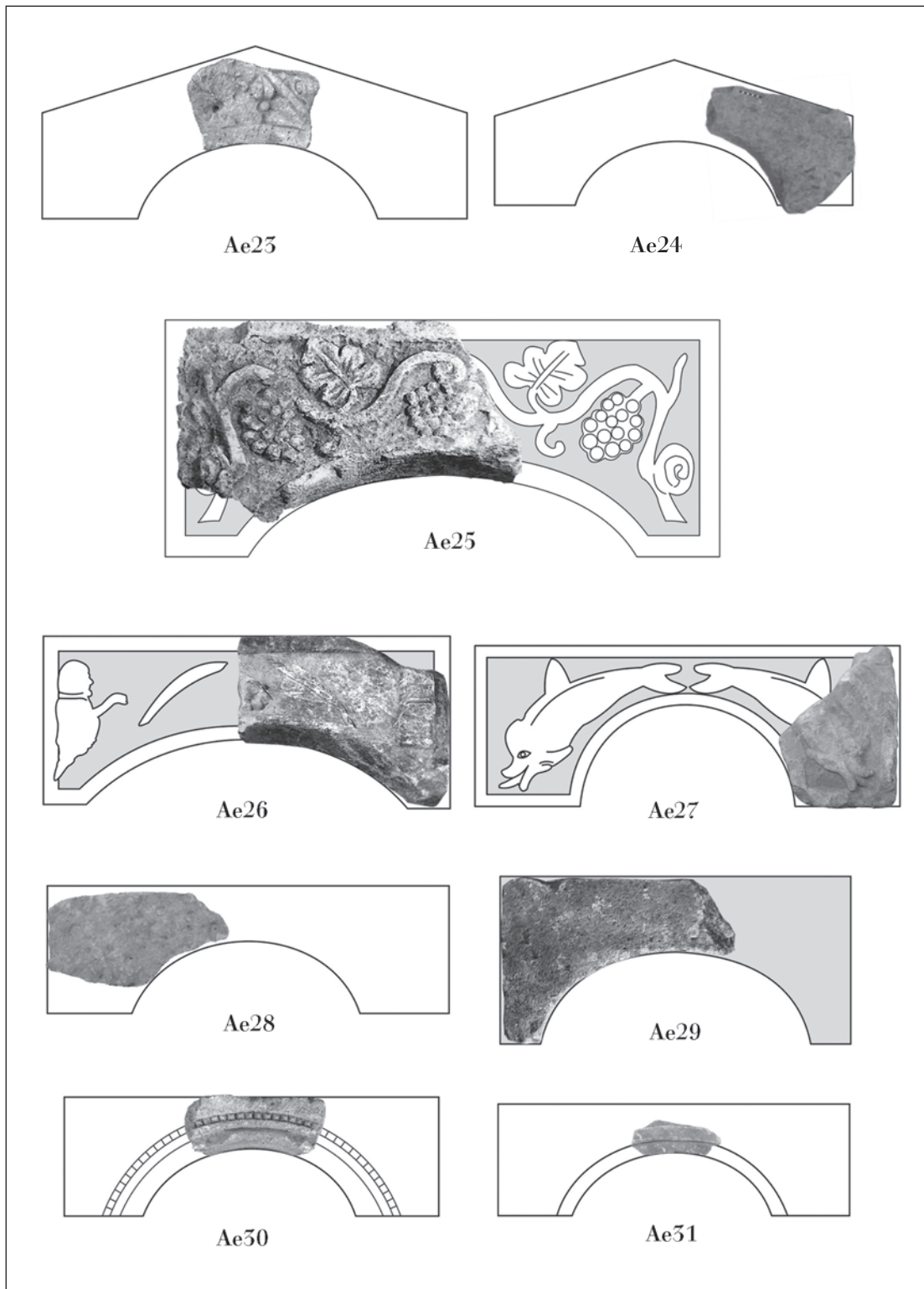
Pl. I. Aedicula walls (photos and graphic R. Zăgreanu).



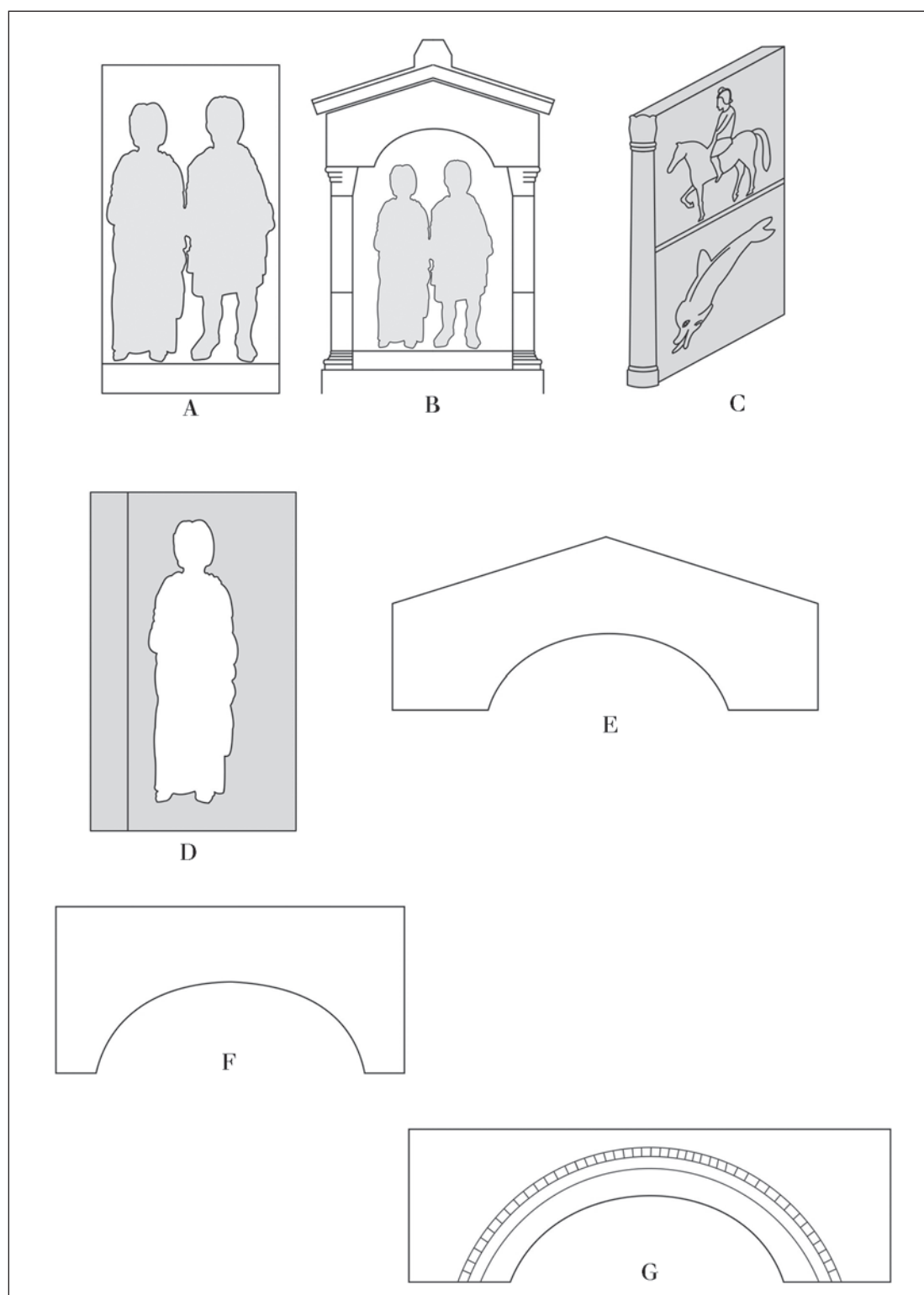
Pl. II. Ae9-Ae14. Aedicula wall fragments; Ae15-Ae16. Pedestal panels (photos and graphic R. Zăgreanu).



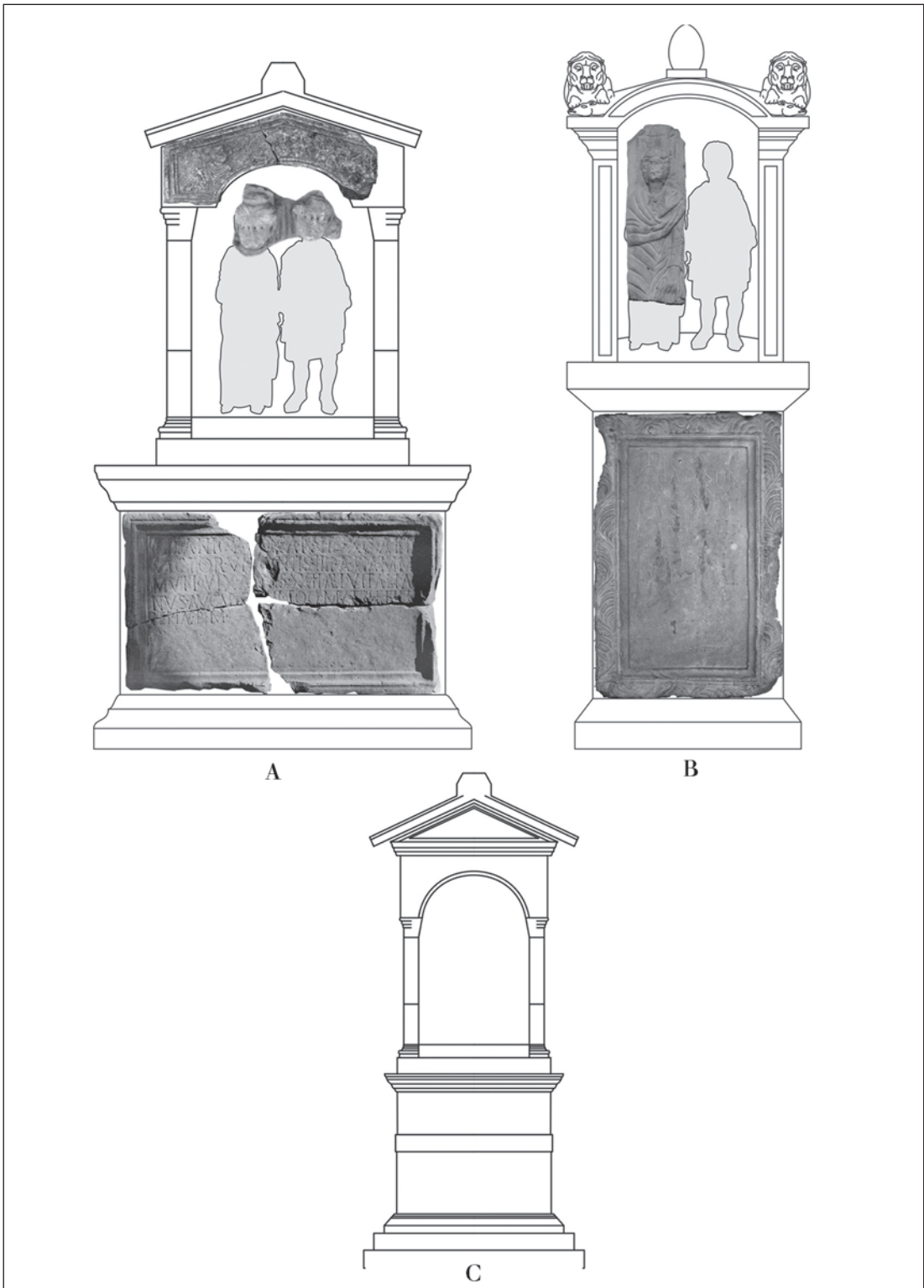
Pl. III. Ae17. Pedestal panel; Ae18-Ae19. Cornice fragments; Ae20-Ae22. Syrian arches (photos and graphic R. Zăgreanu).



Pl. IV. Syrian arches (photos and graphic R. Zăgreanu).



Pl. V. Aedicula wall and arch typology (graphic R. Zăgreanu).



Pl. VI. Reconstructions proposed for aediculae from Porolissum (graphic R. Zăgreanu).