

POTTERY LAMPS FROM RATIARIA (FROM THE NEWEST EXCAVATIONS)

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After several decades the regular excavations of *colonia Ulpia Traina Ratiaria* was revived since 2013¹. As result were founded too much number of pottery including terra sigillata, amphorae, lamps. The aim of this paper is to presents the new result of discovered pottery lamps.

Several Bulgarian authors already mentioned clay lamps from Ratiaria in own publications. First Maria Čičikova published several lamps with marks from the city in her publication². In his book „The lamps from National Archaeological museum Sofia”, Georgi Kuzmanov also published pieces from Ratiaria in this collection³.

In 2002, Kuzmanov made primary typology devote to the lamps from Ratiaria⁴. Definite types serve as a good base for future study and work with this material.

Two years ago in 2014, Narcis Torbov from Vraca Regional museum of History published book for pottery lamps from the Northwest region of present day Bulgarian lands, where the artifacts from Ratiaria contents significant percent⁵.

Represented artifacts in this paper are from four new sectors excavated from 2013 to 2016. These are: Late Roman Residence, new Late Roman Thermae explored in 2013 and 2014⁶; sector north fortress wall/north quarter and part of the Roman legionary camp excavated in August 2016.

The lamps from newest excavations in Ratiaria can be divide in two chronological groups: lamps from Roman age and lamps from Late Roman period. Made typology is to abide by this of Kuzmanov which are very good base for supplement and improvement. So the types lamps from this paper reply on this of Kuzmanov 2002. From Roman age are widely spread five types with respective variants; in Late Roman period, we have four types.

Lamps with triangle nozzle surrounded by volutes (Pl. I, no. 1-4)

All examples with except of one from the type's lamps with volutes are strongly fragmentary (in most cases are preserved only the nozzle and volutes), which additionally make difficult this date. Some pieces bring the typical provincial characteristic of the roman lamps, but other part are certain indicator for import and trade contacts in the end of I century AD. From newest excavations, we have some examples from this type. The lamps are made from light-yellow or red-brown clay with covered of brown or red-brown thick slip. Despite uncertain data from the newest excavations and strongly fragmentary of the lamps, some specific of the pieces contribute to for their dating. Preserved wick-adjusting hole in the base of nozzle and absence of handles are evidence for belonging on founded lamps to earlier phase of manufacturing of this type, typical for the end of I century – beginnings of II century AD.

1. Preserved part of disk and nozzle. Red-brown clay. Red-brown slip. Rounded disk. Part of triangle nozzle with volutes.

Dimensions: preserved length – 5,2 cm.

Late Roman Thermae; GIV/62; depth 64,84 m; coordinates: S – 1,67 m; W – 1,50 m.

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¹ Димитров и др., 2014, сс. 303-306.

² Čičikova, 1974, pp. 162-163.

³ Кузманов, 1992, с. 10.

⁴ Кузманов, 2002, сс. 242-261.

⁵ Торбов, 2014, сс. 181-193.

⁶ Dimitrov, forthcoming.

2. Part of disk and nozzle. Light yellow clay. Red-brown slip. Rounded disk. Part of triangle nozzle with volutes.

Dimensions: preserved length – 5,5 cm.

Late Roman Thermae; GIV/62; depth 64,84-64,75 ml coordinates S – 1,00 m; W – 1,77 m.

3. Part of disk, nozzle and air nozzle. Brown clay. Brown slip. Rounded disk. Part of triangle nozzle with rosettes. Preserved air nozzle and two decorative handles into the disk.

Dimensions: preserved length – 6,2 cm; diameter – 6,2 cm.

Late Roman Thermae; GIV/53; depth 64,31-64,13 m; coordinates W – 1,27 m; N – 0,90 m.

4. Upper part of base and nozzle. Brown clay. Brown slip. Flat base.

Late Roman Residence.

Lamps with rounded nozzle surrounded by volutes (Pl. I, no. 5-6)

Distinctive lane on type II with parallel on type I is rounded front part of nozzle. The lamps are made from red or light brown clay with covered of red slip. This type commonly can be dated in period from the end of I to II century AD.

5. Part of disk and nozzle. Red clay. Red slip with metallic shine. Rounded disk. Triangle nozzle with volutes. Preserved filling hole.

Dimensions: preserved length – 3,5 cm.

Late Roman Residence; FV/ 48; depth – 63,52 m.

6. Part of disk and nozzle. Light brown clay. Brown slip with metallic shine. Nozzle with volutes. Rounded disk. Preserved part of relief decoration.

Dimensions: diameter – 7,2 cm.

Sector north quarter; FIII/80; depth – 65,75 m.

Lamps with figural handles (Pl. II, no. 7)

From this very interesting type we have only a handle of lamp. Prototype of this type are lamps with volutes, but here we have distinctive reflection in front of ring handle of the lamp. The only preserved handle are made from light-yellow clay. This fragment are covered with orange paint. The example was founded in the section between the Late Roman Residence and the bath from the same period, were this year was excavated part of Roman military camp.

7. Part of handle. Beige clay. Light brown slip. Handle with form of palmette.

Dimensions: preserved length – 3,6 cm; preserved height – 3,1 cm.

Zone between sector late roman bath and the late roman residence.

Lamps with rounded nozzle (Pl. II-IV, no. 8-25)

This is the most popular type lamps on the territory of Ratiaria. Almost all examples bring the typical provincial characteristic of manufacturing. Unfortunately, we have only two almost completed examples from newest. Almost all pieces are from the variant with short rounded nozzle who is reduced to the discus. To make on impression that the all published by Kuzmanov lamps are from other two variants of the type (lamp with heart nozzle and examples with nozzle separated from the discus with arc similar). All lamps are moulded in warn out mould.

One example has not use and have trace of cement. This lamp may be being deposited in wall of temple or another building. Similar situation are registered on the territory of Sexaginta Prista⁷ in Apollo's temple and Anhialo in Isis temple⁸.

All lamps are made from beige, light-yellow or brownish clay (some of them with impurity of sand and small quartz particles). The lamps are covered with orange, red or brown metallic or not metallic lustre. All examples can be dated in period from II-III century AD. In spite of widely

⁷ Върбанов, Драгоев, 2011, cc. 75-76.

⁸ Русев, 2015, cc. 100-101.

spread of this type in this period, we have not enough evidence for fate of Ratiaria in II-III century AD. Founded pottery and amphorae of this period on the territory of the town is a little, but the lamps are widely spread.

8. Part of disk. Brown clay. Brown slip with poor quality. Rounded disk with several circles. Dimensions: diameter – 7,0 cm.

Sector north quarter; FIV/feeler 1.

9. Part of disk and nozzle. Red-brown clay. Red slip with poor quality. Semicircle nozzle. Rounded disk.

Dimensions: preserved length – 5,1 cm; preserved height – 2,0 cm.

Late Roman Residence; FV/ 34-44.

10. Part of lamp. Preserved nozzle and disk. Beige clay with mica. Brownish slip with poor quality. Semicircle nozzle. Rounded, decorated disk. Flat base.

Dimensions: preserved length – 7,0 cm; diameter – 4,2 cm; height – 2,0 cm.

Late Roman residence; F/V.

11. Part of disk and nozzle. Red clay. Red slip with metallic shine. Semicircle nozzle. Rounded disk with preserved relief decoration.

Dimensions: diameter – 8,0 cm.

Late Roman Residence; FV/21.

12. Part of disk. Well refined orange clay. Red slip with poor metallic shine. Rounded disk with several circles.

Dimensions: diameter – 5,5 cm.

Late Roman Residence; FV/34.

13. Part of disk, shoulders and base. Well refined red clay. Red slip with metallic shine. Rounded disk. Flat base.

Dimensions: diameter – 6,0 cm; diameter of base – 3,0 cm; height – 3,1 cm.

Late Roman Residence; FV.43.

14. Part of disk and nozzle. Ocher clay. Red slip with metallic shine. Rounded disk. Nozzle with volutes.

Dimensions: diameter – 5,0 cm; height – 2,0 cm.

Late Roman Residence; FV/34; depth – 64,60-64,17 m.

15. Part of disk, shoulders and base. Well refined ocher clay. Brown slip with metallic shine. Rounded disk. Flat base.

Dimensions: diameter – 6,0 cm; height – 2,5 cm.

Late Roman Residence; FV.23; depth – 65,93-64,78 cm.

16. Part of handle and disk. Red clay. Red slip with poor quality. Handle with two channels. Preserved part of decoration.

Dimensions: preserved height – 2,1 cm.

Late Roman Residence; FV/54; depth – 64,49-64,18 m.

17. Part of handle and base. Red clay. Red-orange slip. Concave base.

Dimensions: preserved length – 2,9 cm.

East from Late Roman Residence; GV/31; depth – 64,24-63,96 m.

18. Part of disk, shoulders and base. Brown-beige clay. Brown-red slip with metallic shine. Rounded disk. Concave base.

Dimensions: diameter – 7,2 cm; height – 2,6 cm; diameter of base – 3,0 cm.

Late Roman Residence; FV.37; depth – 63,94-63,65 m.

19. Part of shoulders and base. Orange clay. Red dark slip. Angled shoulders. Concave base.

Dimensions: diameter – 5,0 cm; height – 2,9 cm; diameter of base – 2,0 cm.

Late Roman Residence; FV. 37; depth – 63,94-63,65 m.

20. Part of disk and nozzle. Red clay. Red slip. Part of semicircle nozzle. Rounded disk. Dimensions: diameter – 7,0 cm.

Late Roman Residence; FV/54; depth – 64,18-63,78 m.

21. Part of disk and shoulders. Beige clay. Gray slip with poor quality. Angled shoulders. Rounded disk with relief decoration.

Dimensions: diameter – 6,0 cm.

Late Roman Residence; FV/24; depth – 64,73 m.

22. Lamp with semicircle nozzle. Beige clay. Reddish slip. Semicircle nozzle. Rounded disk – broken in the middle. Broken handle. Flat base. Remains of walling up.

Dimensions: length – 7,0 cm; diameter – 6,0 cm; height – 2,5 cm; diameter of flat – 3,0 cm.

Area between Late Roman residence and decumanus maximus.

23. Part of disk. Red clay. Red slip. Rounded disk.

Dimensions: diameter – 5,5 cm.

Roman legionary camp; FIV/10; depth – 65,54 m; coordinates: N – 1,19 m; E – 2,54 m.

24. Part of disk and shoulders. Red clay. Red slip with poor quality. Rounded disk with several concentric circles.

Dimensions: diameter – 6,6 cm; height – 2,7 cm.

Sector north quarter; FIII/90.

25. Semicircle nozzle. Gray clay. Without slip. Semicircle elongated nozzle.

Dimensions: preserved length – 4,0 cm.

Roman legionary camp; FIV/30.

Firmalampen

On base of distinctive characteristics, the materials of the type can be divided in two variants.

Kuzmanov 2002, type VI (Pl. IV-V, no. 26-28)

Lamps with sharp cut discus and shoulders. All lamps are made of beige clay and body covered with red or red-brown paint. The examples are supplied with knob situated in base of shoulders. Unfortunately, we have not preserved marks of this type. Available stratigraphic evidence the type can be dated to the end of I-II century AD.

26. Part of disk with shoulders. Beige clay. Red slip. Knob handles. Rounded disk.

Dimensions: preserved length – 6,2 cm.

Late Roman Thermae; GIV/63.

27. Part of disk with shoulders. Beige clay. Brown slip. Knob handles. Centered filling nozzle. Rounded disk.

Dimensions: diameter – 7,5 cm.

Late Roman residence.

28. Part of disk and shoulders. Beige clay. Brown surface. Knob handles. Rounded disk.

Dimensions: preserved length – 5,9 cm.

Late Roman Residence; FV/53; depth – 64,4 m; coordinates – N – 0,68 m; E – 1,14 m.

Kuzmanov 2002, type VIII (Pl. V, no. 29-31)

From this type are presented several lamps. The clay is light orange, beige or light yellow. The lamps are covered with red or red-orange paint and have a knob in base of shoulders. From newest excavations we have preserved the mark FORTIS. The most important are evidence from the provincial imitation of imperial lamps with mar dated between second half of II to IV century.

29. Part of disk and shoulders. Orange clay. Brown slip with poor metallic shine. Knob handles. Rounded disk.

Dimensions: preserved length – 5,4 cm.

Late Roman residence.

30. Part of disk, shoulders and base. Orange clay. Red slip. Angled shoulders. Rounded disk. Flat base.

Dimensions: preserved length – 4,5 cm.

Late Roman Thermae; GIV/53.

31. Mark with firmalampen. Light yellow clay. Brown slip. Rounded disk – broken in the middle. Flat base with mark FORTIS.

Dimensions: diameter – 6,3 cm; length – 3,0 cm; diameter base – 4,3 cm.

Late Roman residence.

Many nozzle lamps (Pl. V, no. 32)

This lamp represents significant interest. Since 70s of the 20th century have founded several lamps from type lamps with many nozzle, but they are rectangular body. This is the first similar artifact. The example is made from light yellow clay. This pieces have date II-III century.

32. Part of many nozzle lamps. Light yellow clay with pink tone. Preserved three nozzles. Flat base.

Dimensions: preserved length – 7,2 cm; height – 4,5 cm.

Sector north quarter; FIII/44; depth – 63,66 m; coordinates – S – 1,26 m; W – 2,80 m.

Late Roman lamps

In this chronological group from newest excavations was founded four types, one of which is a very important.

Asia Minor lamps (Pl. VI, no.33)

This fragment is the first founded fragments of the group founded not only at Ratiaria but also in all region of Dacia Mediterranean in Late Roman period. This group absent in the Kuzmanov's collection and by Torbov, who collect almost all lamps in north-west present Bulgarian lands⁹. The type have to be dated in V century AD¹⁰.

33. Part of handle and base. Brown clay. Dark brown slip. Anchor handle.

Dimensions: preserved height – 2,0 cm.

Late Roman Thermae; GIV/62; depth – 64,76-64,46 m; coordinates: E – 0,53 m; S – 1,30 m.

Pear-shaped lamps with heart disk (Pl. VI, no. 34)

This is one of the most widely spread type in Late Roman period around the Danube. He is especially popular after the middle of V and all VI century AD. The example from Ratiaria are made from rough red-brown clay with impurity of quartz and sand. That is a rough local imitation on staring form. The lamp were founded in sector Late Roman bath and can be dated to the end of V – early VI century AD, but the date of this example is more later¹¹.

34. Pear-shaped lamp. Brown clay. Pear-shaped body with decoration of rosette on the disk and indented line on the shoulders. Ringing handle. Broken nozzle. Concave base 33/13.

Dimensions: Height – 3,2 cm; Length – 9,5 cm.

Late Roman Thermae; GIV/62.

Wheel made lamps with flat disk (P. VI, no. 35)

These lamps are widely spread after the end of III century. At Ratiaria the example are founded in stratigraphic levels after the middle of IV century. The structure is rough with brownish sandy clay.

⁹ Торбов, 2014, Цит. с., сс. 181-193.

¹⁰ Кузманов, 1992, с. 40.

¹¹ Topoleanu, 2012, p. 200.

35. Wheel made lamp. Rough structure. Brownish sandy clay. Rounded disk. Semicircle nozzle. Flat base. Broken handle.

Dimensions: Dimension: diameter of disk – 5,5 cm; length – 7,0 cm; diameter of base – 3,8 cm.
Late Roman Residence.

Wheel made lamps with glazed surface (Pl. VI-VII, no. 36-39)

Determinate are two types from this group which date is middle IV-V century AD¹². The examples are made of brick-red clay and covered surface with green, green-brown and green-yellow glaze.

36. Wheel made lamp. Yellow-beige clay. Without slip. Rounded disk. Centered fuel neck. Small handle. Semicircle, broken nozzle. Small, concave base 123/13.

Dimension: diameter of disk – 5,9 cm; length – 9,2 cm; diameter of base – 4,2 cm.
Late Roman Residence.

37. Part of disk, shoulders and base. Wheel made with glazed surface. Yellow-brown clay. Yellow-green glaze. Rounded disk. Broken handle. Broken nozzle. Flat base.

Dimensions: Diameter of disk – 6,0 cm.

Sector north quarter; III/90; depth – 65,38 m.

38. Handle. Wheel made with glazed surface. Gray clay. Green glaze. Ringing handle.

Dimensions: Height - 4,0 cm.

Late Roman Residence; FV.

39. Handle. Wheel made with glazed surface. Gray clay with pink tone. Green glaze. Anchor handle.

Dimensions: Height - 3,5 cm.

Late Roman Residence; FV.

Finally, some important remarks can be made for lamps of Ratiaria and economical state of the region between Oescus and Ratiaria in Roman and Late Roman period.

In Roman time widely spread are several type lamps. Available evidence have not been answer on question whether some of earlier pottery lamps would be before middle of I century AD. Last year's excavation was conducted at August. May be was explored part of early roman legionary camp¹³, but unfortunately were not founded pieces of lamps.

The most widely spread are lamps from period II-III century AD. Interesting is the fact that the pottery and amphorae from this period are too little, so we do not know exactly where is the Colonia Ulpia Ratiaria.

In Late Roman period dominated wheel made lamps¹⁴. Only one example may be is from the group Asia Minor lamps.

Some important remarks have to mark from the region between Oescus and Ratiaria from Bulgarian part of Danube limes. In Roman period have not difference among this region and other roman province (founded terra sigillata, amphorae, lamps and pottery are similar and conventional with other provinces).

In Late Roman period set in fundamental alteration. It is important to know that for Oescus II we have no evidence. On the base of artifacts from Ratiaria and another several places the situation is the following:

Except one fragment, we have no evidence for import or imitation of North African or Asia Minor lamps.

Totally, wheel made lamps dominated.

¹² Gudea, 2008, pp. 108-111.

¹³ Димитров и др., 2017, под печат.

¹⁴ Кузманов, 2002, с. 250.

In this region, also we have no evidence for LRC or North African red slip wares with the exception of three fragments founded at Ratiaria¹⁵.

Considerable in small number are also the amphorae from these regions. All lamps founded in Castra Martis are wheel made¹⁶. All amphorae are local types of the so-called table amphorae¹⁷. The percent of wheel made lamps in Ratiaria is significant and the same goes for the group of table amphorae.

Whether this is the picture for the Bulgarian part of the Danube limes during the Late Roman period it is still early to say. The future excavations and especially the analysis of unpublished materials from the Regional Museum could answer this question.

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ABBREVIATIONS

- AOR – Археологически Открития и Разкопки, София
ИБМ – Известия на Бургаския Музей, Бургас
ИАИ – Известия на Националния Археологически Институт, София
РП – Разкопки и проучвания, София
ГАИМ – Годипник на археологическия Институт с Музей, София

¹⁵ Кузманов, Грудев, 2013, с. 368, Т. I, 1-2.

¹⁶ Кузманов, 2005, сс. 186-187.

¹⁷ Кузманов, 2005, сс. 178-179.

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Plate IV. No. 21-25. Lamps with rounded nozzle; no. 26-27. Firmalampen Kuzmanov 2002, type VI.

Plate V. No. 28. Kuzmanov 2002, type VI; no.29-31. Lamps Kuzmanov 2002, type VIII; no. 32. Many nozzle lamps.

Plate VI. No. 33. Asia Minor lamps; no. 34. Pearshaped lamp; no. 35. Wheel made lamp with flat disk; no. 36-37. Wheel made lamps with glazed surface.

Plate VII. No. 38-39. Wheel made lamps with glazed surface.



Plate I. No. 1-4. Lamps with triangle nozzle surrounded by volutes; no. 5-6. Lamps with rounded nozzle surrounded by volutes.

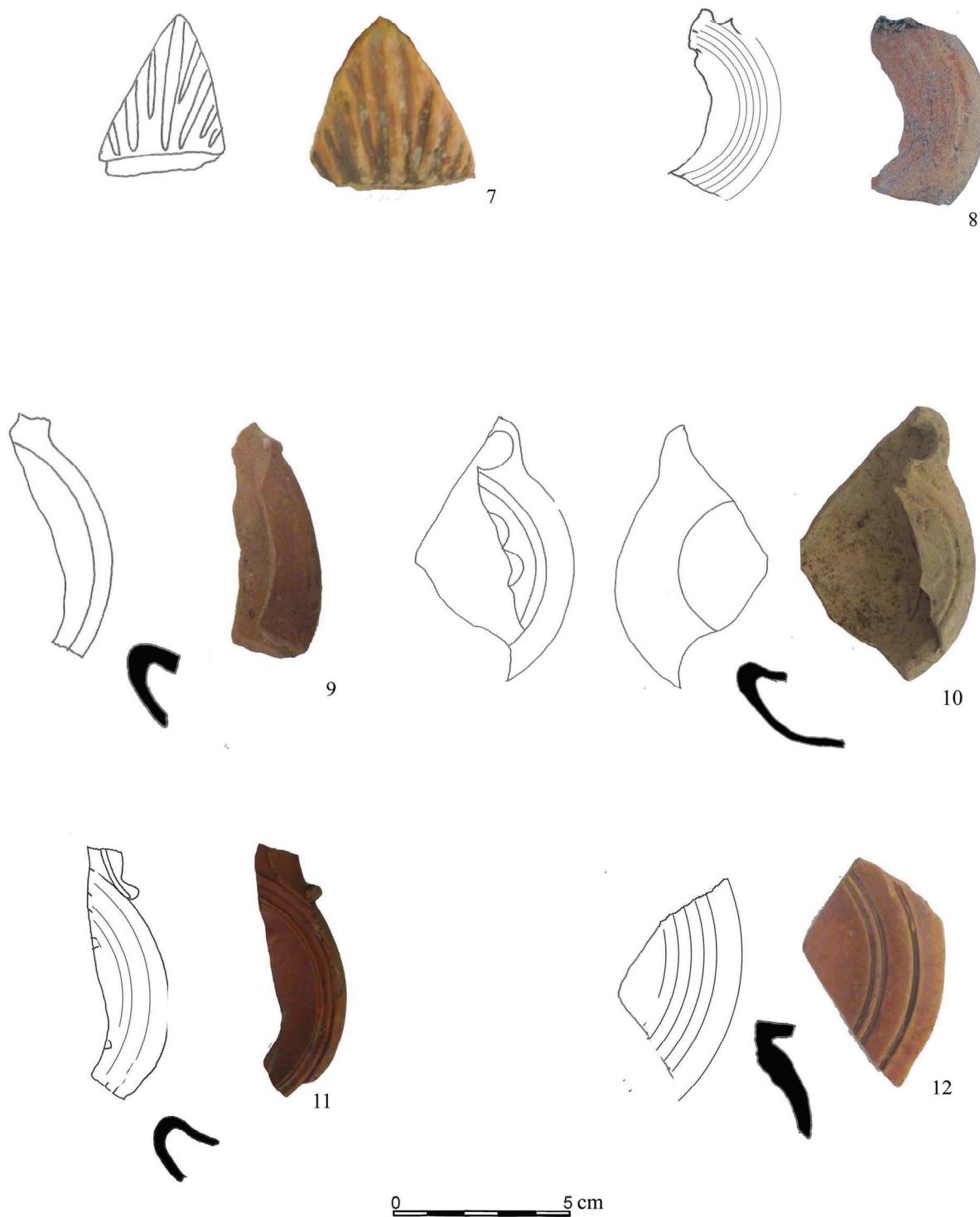


Plate II. No. 7. Lamps with figural handles; no. 8-12. Lamps with rounded nozzle.

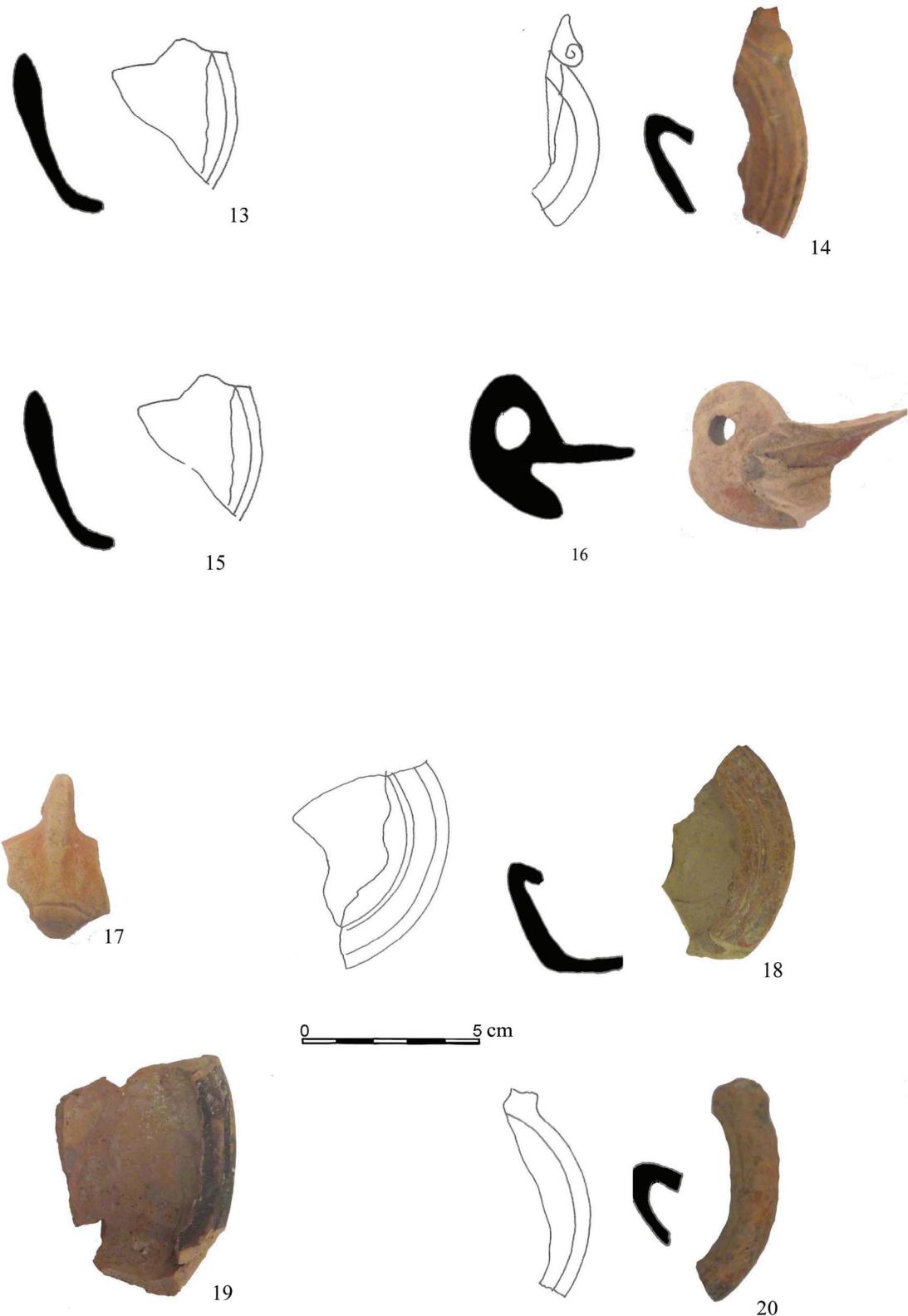


Plate III. No. 13-20. Lamps with rounded nozzle.

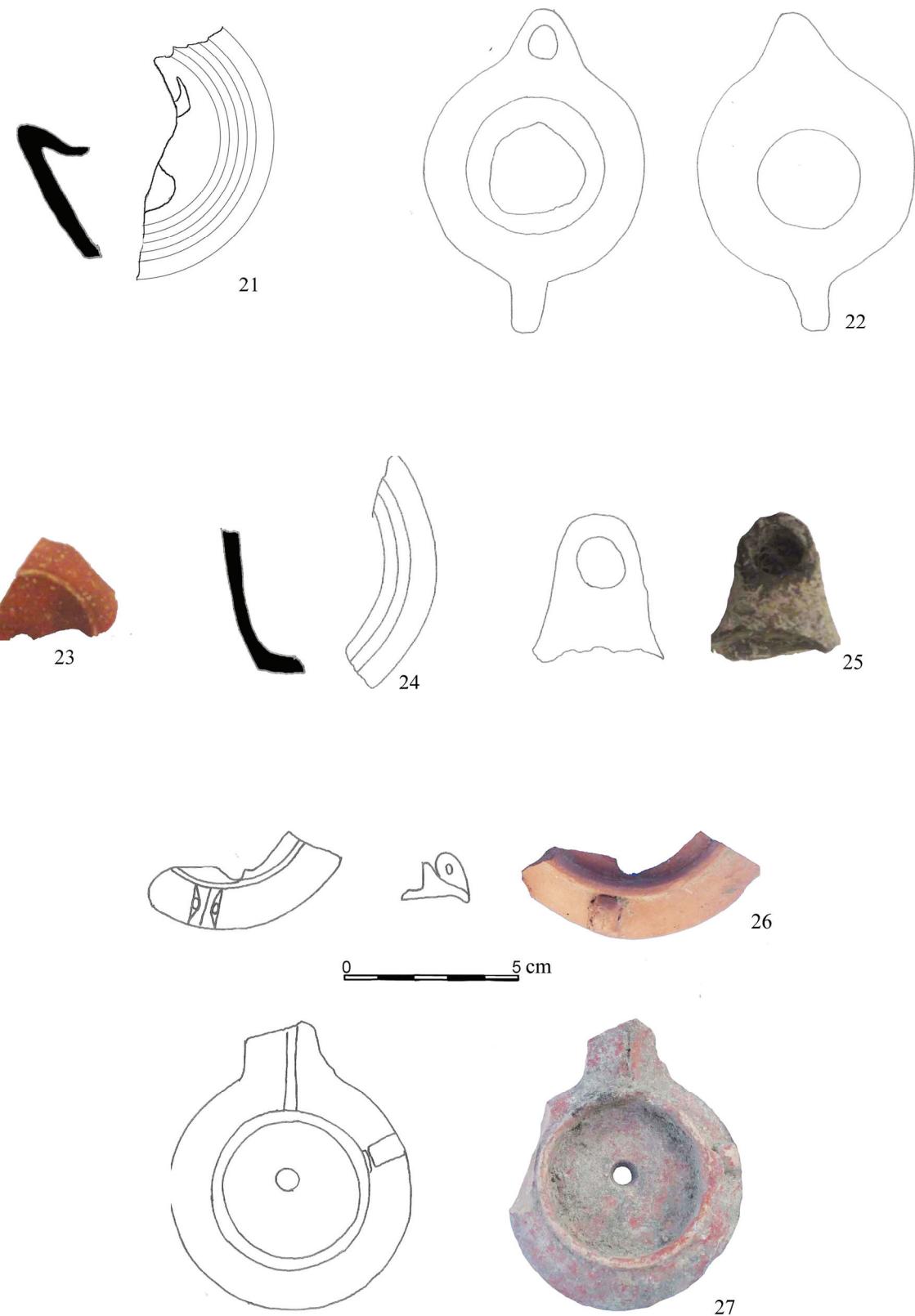


Plate IV. No. 21-25. Lamps with rounded nozzle; no. 26-27. Firmalampen Kuzmanov 2002, type VI.

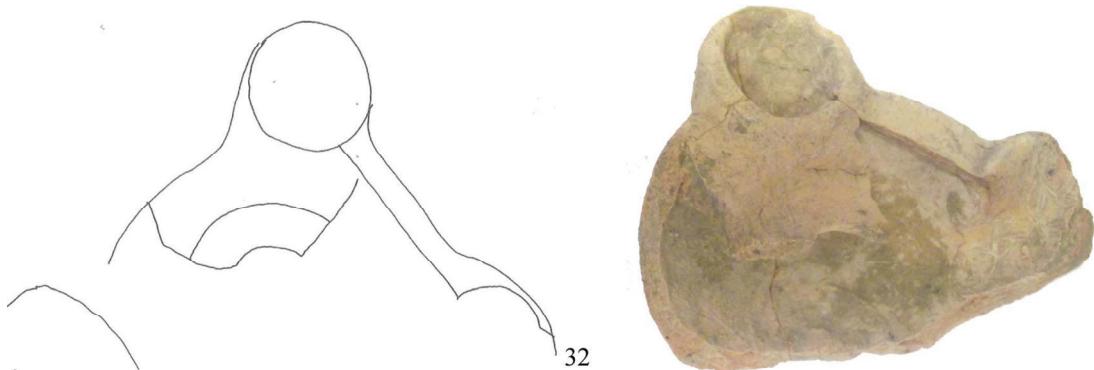
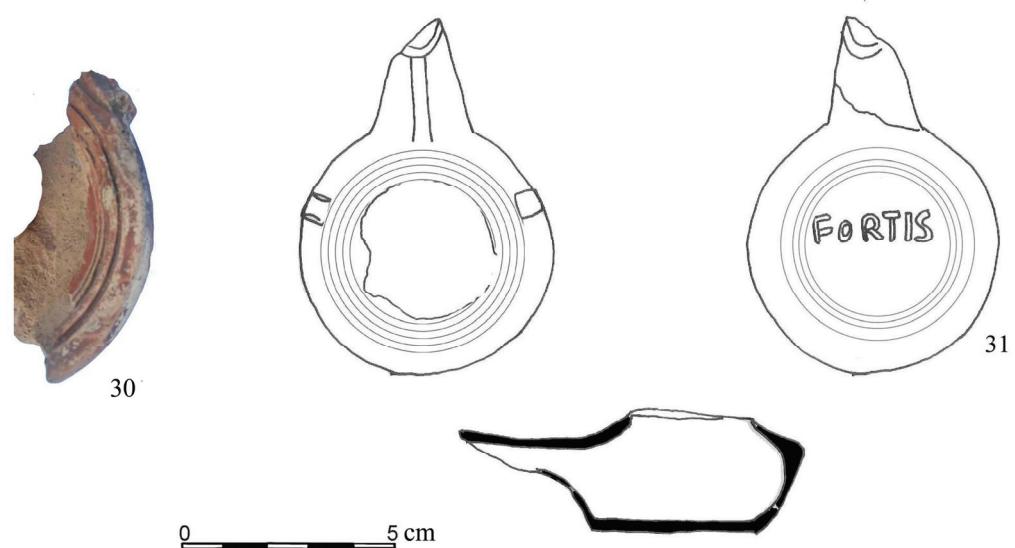
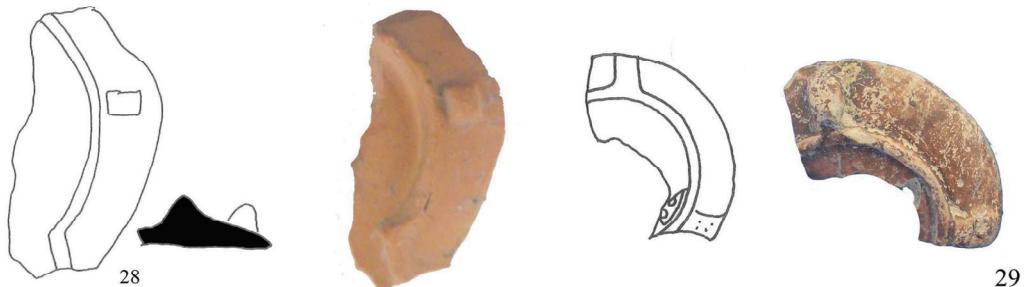
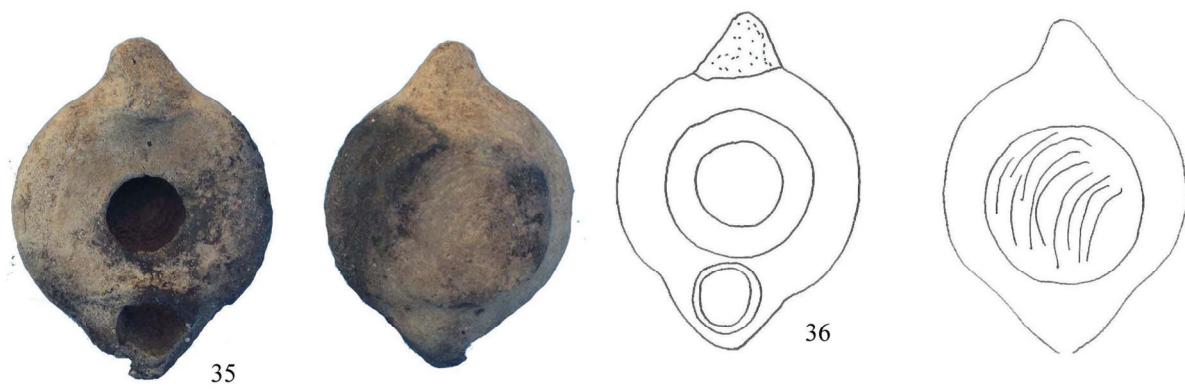
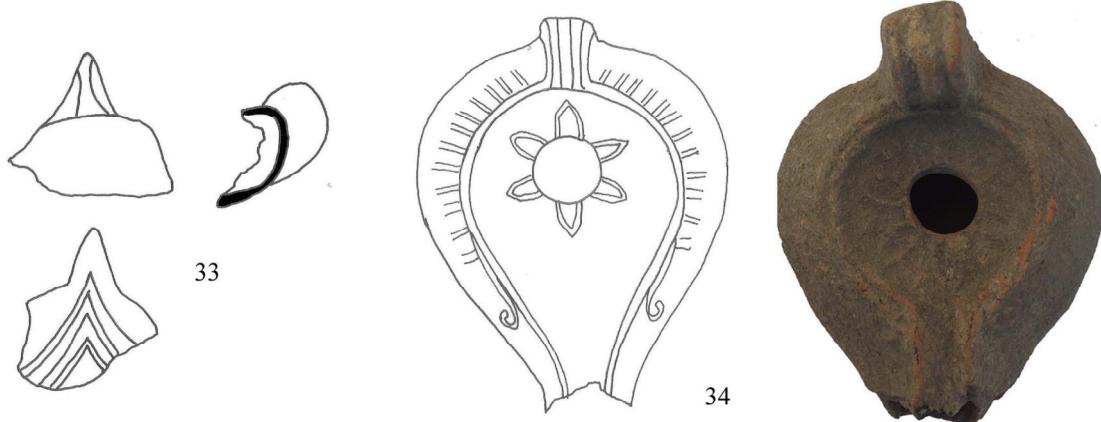


Plate V. No. 28. Lamps Kuzmanov 2002, type VI; 29-31. Lamps Kuzmanov 2002, type VIII; no. 32. Many nozzle lamp.



0 5 cm



Plate VI. No. 33. Asia Minor lamps; no. 34. Pearshepad lamp; no. 35. Wheel made lamp with flat disk; no. 36-37. Wheel made lamps with glazed surface.



Plate VII. No. 38-39. Wheel made lamps with glazed surfce.