

## ROMAN LAMPS DISCOVERED AT HISTRIA, IN THE ACROPOLIS CENTRE-SOUTH SECTOR (2013 and 2015)

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**Keywords:** Late Antiquity, Roman period, Scythia, Histria, lamps

**Abstract:** Even if it represents an important ceramic category, given the quantity of material discovered during archaeological excavations, as well as the chronological information they offer, lamps have not drawn enough the attention of the specialists. The fragments presented in this paper pertain to seven types, six of which were produced in the eastern part of the Empire or were imitated in the provinces on the western Black Sea shore, while the last type is a North African production.

**Cuvinte-cheie:** Antichitatea târzie, epocă romană, Scythia, Histria, opaițe

**Rezumat:** Chiar dacă reprezintă o categorie ceramică importantă, atât din punct de vedere al cantității materialului descoperit în timpul cercetărilor arheologice, cât și al aceluia al informațiilor cronologice oferite, opaițele nu atrag încă suficient interesul specialiștilor. Fragmentele prezentate în acest articol se încadrează în șapte tipuri, șase fiind fabricate în zona orientală a Imperiului Roman sau imitate în provinciile vest-pontice, ultimul reprezentând un tip de opaiț nord-african.

The *Acropolă Centru-Sud* Sector<sup>1</sup> is the newest sector opened at Histria (Constanța County, Romania). Excavation was started in 2013, in the frame of an initial four-year research project financed entirely by the University of Bucharest.

The sector is located on the city's acropolis, inside the Late Roman citadel (Fig. 1). To its south lies the Basilica Pârvan Sector, to the west the Cetate and Terme Sectors, to its north the Episcopal Basilica and to its east the so-called *Domus* Sector, a Late Roman district composed of four large residences that must have had an official/public use.

The excavation's main objective is to delimit a Late Roman *insula* discovered in the sector, located immediately south of *street c* (Figs. 2 and 3) and flanked to the east by a street conventionally named *ST01* and to the west by a street conventionally named *ST02*. After finishing the research of the Late Roman *insula*, the team intends to excavate the lower layers, in order to investigate *insulae* from previous periods and to determine how the city's street plan evolved during different historic periods. Another objective is to obtain a general profile connecting *street c* (north) to the Late

Roman defence wall (south), in order to better understand the stratigraphy of the southern part of the acropolis. The excavation has reached (and we will also stop on this level for the time being) the last dwelling level, that is the late 6<sup>th</sup> c. AD living surface.

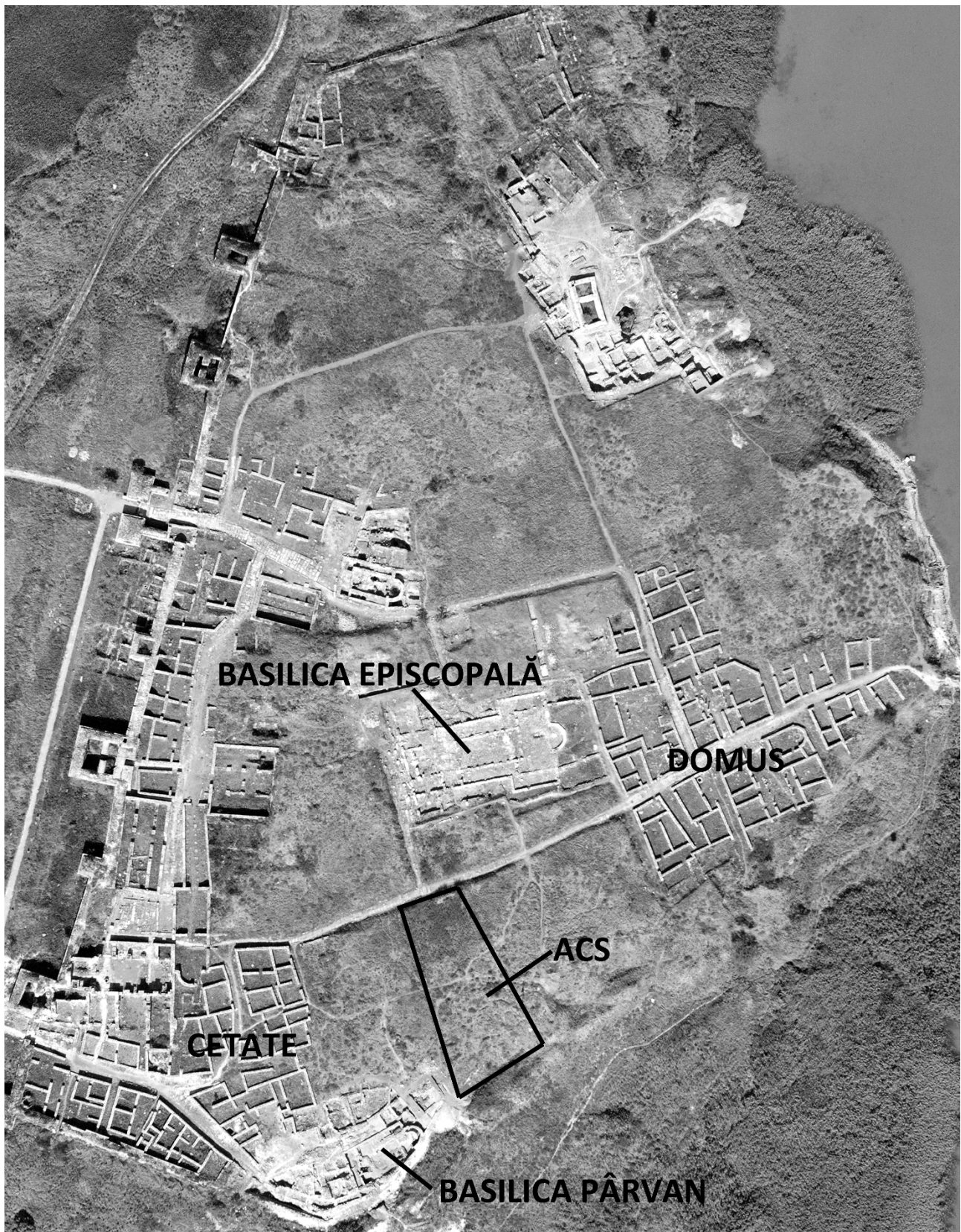
In 2015, we started eight new excavation units (**C019–026**) in order to continue uncovering the limits identified in 2014 by the discovery of two new streets to the east and to the west. In addition, a longer excavation unit (**C019**) was started in order to obtain the main stratigraphic profile of the sector.

The pottery we will present in the following pages was discovered in units excavated in 2013 and 2015. The general stratigraphy in all of these units is:

- a vegetal layer of various thickness;
- a greyish layer of debris (moment of final abandon of the last Late Roman dwelling level);
- a yellow-reddish layer of debris (moment of destruction of the last Late Roman dwelling level);
- the last living surfaces of the structures comprised by the Late Roman *insula*<sup>2</sup>.

<sup>1</sup> For the preliminary results of this excavation, see Bottez *et alii* 2015.

<sup>2</sup> The details of all the layers identified were published in Bottez *et alii* 2016. For the fragments discovered in C005, 011 and 018 see the relevant stratigraphy in Bottez *et alii* 2015.



*Fig. 1. Location of the ACS Sector on the Histrian acropolis in 2013.*



**Fig. 2.** The ACS Sector in 2015.



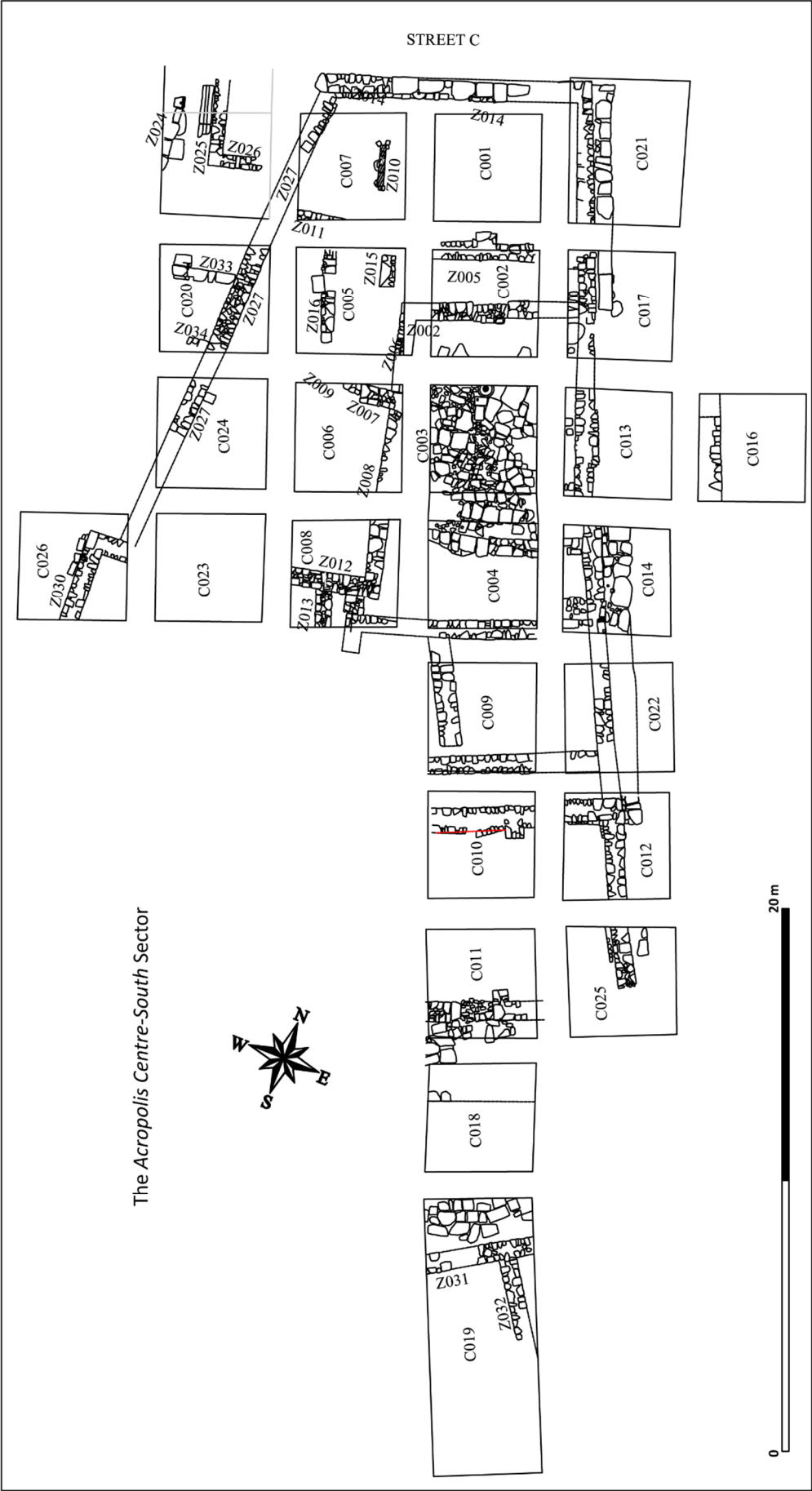


Fig. 3. Plan of the ACS Sector and units excavated in 2015.

## LAMPS – *Lucernae*

Even if it represents an important ceramic category, given the quantity of material discovered during archaeological excavations, as well as the chronological information they offer, lamps have not drawn enough the attention of the specialists<sup>3</sup>. So, with the exception of the *lucernae* published in excavation reports and in general works, very few studies were dedicated exclusively to lamps<sup>4</sup>.

### I. EASTERN LAMPS AND WESTERN BLACK SEA IMITATIONS

Between the 4<sup>th</sup> c. and the first half of the 7<sup>th</sup> c. AD, most lamps came from the Roman Empire's eastern part, especially from Asia Minor and Greece. Because of their success, more lamp types were imitated locally. As the stage of the research does not allow the clear delimitation of all the types according to their production area, we will present together the six types discovered at Histria in 2013 and 2015.

#### I.1. Iconomu 1967, type XXX, no. 754<sup>5</sup>

**General description of the type:** the body is piriform, with the spout as a prolongation, the disc is small, flat and oval, surrounded by a double protruding rib that forms a duct on the spout and includes the flame orifice. The margin is

narrow, oblique and slightly rounded, the handle is blade-shaped, and the base is oval and flat. The disc is decorated with protruding radial lines, which could suggest a North-African influence<sup>6</sup>.

**Origin:** morphologically similar to the Oriental type Iconomu LI, this type of lamps were, probably, also produced in *Scythia Minor*, at *Halmyris*<sup>7</sup>. Anyway, the quality of the material and the finishing are arguments in favour of a provincial production in the Western Black Sea.

**Diffusion:** in *Scythia* they are attested at *Halmyris*<sup>8</sup>, *Tomis*<sup>9</sup>, *Histria*<sup>10</sup> and *Dinogetia*<sup>11</sup>; *Athens*<sup>12</sup>, *Iatrus*<sup>13</sup>, Sadovec<sup>14</sup>.

**Dating:** second half of the 6<sup>th</sup> c. AD.

### CATALOGUE

1. Lamp (disc fragment), bivalve mould. Oxidant primary burn, uniform, fine paste, light reddish brown (5YR6/4), reddish yellow slip (5YR6/8), with limestone deposits on the inner and outer surfaces; very small iron oxide particles and very fine pores. Dimensions<sup>15</sup>: Lp = 23 mm; lp = 28 mm. Histria 2015, sector ACS, context 23000, package 617, Fig. 4/1. Approx. 10% of the disc was preserved. The margin is decorated with protruding radial lines.

#### I.2. Iconomu 1986, type XXXIII; Iconomu 1986, type LI, Variant I, subvariant I; Bailey 1988, type Q 3227 MLA<sup>16</sup>

**General description of the type:** these lamps have a long and tall body, with a small, oval disc, bordered by protruding ribs. The flat handles, decorated with vegetal, geometric or cross motives are specific for this type. Most

<sup>3</sup> We would like to thank Alexandru Bădescu (National Museum of Romanian History, Bucharest) for his help in analysing the lamps presented in this paper.

<sup>4</sup> The first to study this problem were I. Barnea, who wrote an article on the lamps decorated with Christian symbols (Barnea 1944) and C. Iconomu, with a work dedicated to the Greek and Roman lamps in the Archaeological Museum of Constanța (Iconomu 1967). The latter presented in the catalogue different types of lamps, using the essential morphological and decoration elements as classification criteria. Due to the lack of archaeological discovery context, only a small part of the types and variants presented could be dated. C. Iconomu published two more articles, one on a deposit of *lucernae* discovered at *Tomis* (Iconomu 1970) and a second one on the lamp moulds discovered in the same site (Iconomu 1976). In the '70, two other articles on lamps were published. The first one analyses the imported lamps at *Tomis* (Papuc 1976) and the second one the Roman-Byzantine lighting devices discovered in *Scythia* (Scorpan 1973). Two other articles are dealing with the lamps discovered at Capidava (Covacef, Corbu 1991; Covacef 1993) and another one presents the Greek and Roman lamps in the collections of the History Museum in Brăila (Harțuche, Bounegru 1982). E. Popescu also included a chapter dedicated to the lamps decorated with Christian symbols in his analysis of the early Christian objects discovered at Histria (Popescu 1994). During the last two decades, two site-monographs (*Halmyris* and *Capidava*) published by F. Topoleanu (Topoleanu 2000) and I. C. Opreș (Opreș 2003), have chapters dedicated to the lamps, as well as a paper by F. Topoleanu, dedicated to the ancient lamps in the collection of the Prahova County History and Archaeology Museum (Topoleanu 2012).

<sup>5</sup> General analogies: Iconomu 1967, p. 27–28, fig. 54, p. 140, no. 727, inv. MINAC 6794 (5<sup>th</sup>–6<sup>th</sup> c. AD); Welkov 1935, p. 156, Pl. 20, fig. 2/10 (6<sup>th</sup> c. AD); Perlzweig 1961, p. 199, no. 2935, Pl. 46 (6<sup>th</sup> c. AD); Bass,

Doornink Jr. 1982, p. 201, L 22, fig. 9/5 (beginning of 7<sup>th</sup> c. AD); Gomolka-Fukhs 1982, p. 166–167, pl. 69, no. 673.

<sup>6</sup> Topoleanu 2000, p. 202.

<sup>7</sup> Topoleanu 2000, p. 214–215.

<sup>8</sup> Topoleanu 2000, p. 215, cat. nos. 561–564, pl. LXX/561–564; Opaît 1991, p. 267, note 38.

<sup>9</sup> Iconomu 1967, p. 27–28, fig. 54, p. 140, no. 727, inv. MINAC 6794; Barnea 1968, p. 540, fig. 51/3 (dated to the 6<sup>th</sup> c. AD).

<sup>10</sup> Bădescu, Bottez 2014, p. 225–227, 237–238, Pl. 3–4/1–2.

<sup>11</sup> Barnea 1966, p. 243, Fig. 5/2.

<sup>12</sup> Perlzweig 1961, p. 199, no. 2935, Pl. 46.

<sup>13</sup> Gomolka-Fukhs 1982, p. 166–167, pl. 69, no. 673.

<sup>14</sup> Welkov 1935, p. 156, Pl. 20, fig. 2/10.

<sup>15</sup> Abbreviations used in the text: ACS = *Acropolă Centru-Sud Sector*; Lp = lungime păstrată/preserved length; lp = lățime păstrată/ preserved width; Dp = diametru păstrat/preserved diameter; Hp = înălțimea păstrată/preserved height; Hb = înălțimea bordurii/height of the border; Gr max handle = grosime maxima/maximum thickness of the handle; l max handle = lățime maxima/maximum width of the handle; MINAC = Muzeul de Istorie Națională și Arheologie Constanța (Museum of National History and Archaeology Constanța).

<sup>16</sup> General analogies: Iconomu 1967, type XXXIII, p. 28–30, fig. 58 (6<sup>th</sup> c. AD); Iconomu 1986, type LI, variant I, subvariant I, p. 100–101, Pl. IX/12 (6<sup>th</sup> c. AD); Scorpan 1978, p. 160, no. 16, Pl. IV/16 (6<sup>th</sup> c. AD); Covacef, Corbu 1991, p. 288–289, 291, fig. 1/1, 2, 3, 10, 12 (6<sup>th</sup> c. AD); Kuzmanov 1992, p. 43–44, type 38, no. 319 (6<sup>th</sup> c. AD); Popescu 1994, p. 362, no. 8 d, fig. 67, 363, no. 9 a, fig. 72 (6<sup>th</sup> c. AD); Băluță 1994, p. 221–222, no. 96, 97, Pl. VII/5, 6 (6<sup>th</sup> c. AD); Topoleanu 2000, p. 182–189, especially p. 183; Covacef, Corbu 1991, p. 287–296, fig. 1–2; Tudor 1978, p. 92, fig. 24/4, 25/3, 6 (Sucidava-Celei); Gomolka 1968, p. 197–198; Menzel 1969, p. 99, no. 640, Pl. 54/12; Bass, Doornink Jr. 1982, p. 194, 197, L 13–19.

specialists agree that this type of lamp was produced in *Moesia Secunda*<sup>17</sup>, but it is highly probable that it was also produced in *Scythia*.

**Origin:** as with types 3 and 5 presented below, these lamps were produced in Asia Minor, mainly at *Ephesus* and *Miletus*<sup>18</sup>. The large number of discoveries is an argument for their production in the Western Black Sea region.

**Diffusion:** *Tomis*<sup>19</sup>, *Histria*<sup>20</sup>, *Halmyris*<sup>21</sup>, *Sucidava*<sup>22</sup>, *Capidava*<sup>23</sup>, *Noviodunum*<sup>24</sup>, *Chersonesos*<sup>25</sup>, *Aquis*, *Novae*, *Odarci*, *Kaliakra*<sup>26</sup> or in *Moesia Secunda*, with no certain place of discovery<sup>27</sup>.

**Dating:** 550–650 AD.

#### CATALOGUE

2. Lamp (fragmentary, the lower half, the spout and a part of the disc are missing), bivalve mould. Oxidant primary burn, uniform, fine paste, reddish yellow (7.5YR6/6), with limestone deposits on the outer surface; very small iron oxide particles and very fine pores. Dimensions: Lp = 51 mm, Dp = 68 mm, Hp = 48 mm, Hb = 12 mm, Gr max handle = 13 mm, I max handle = 39 mm. Histria 2013, sector ACS, context 4001, package 192, Fig. 4/2. The disc is slightly oval, concave, with the oil orifice in the centre. The body is tall and round. The handle is in the shape of a Byzantine cross with double contour and a small circle in the middle. The double contour continues on the body to the spout, in order to delimitate the disc from the side by forming two ducts. The sides are decorated with radial/vegetal motives.
3. Lamp (the handle is preserved), bivalve mould. Oxidant primary burn, uniform, fine paste, yellowish red (5YR5/6), with limestone deposits on the outer surface; very small iron oxide particles and very fine pores. Dimensions: Lp = 49 mm, lp = 38 mm, Gr max handle = 11 mm, I max handle = 32 mm. Histria 2013, sector ACS, context 2001, package 26, Fig. 4/3.

#### I.3. Iconomu 1986, type XXXVII, variant II; Bruneau 1965, no. 4707<sup>28</sup>

**General description of the type:** the body is round or oval, with a wide spout as a prolongation. The disc is small, round or oval, slightly concave, bordered by a protruding rib that can be circular or open, forming a duct on the spout. The blade-shaped handle is low and rounded on the upper part. The base is round, sometimes framed by two incised circles. The margin is decorated with small, compact pearls, usually set in three, four or up to six rows, parallel to the rib on the disc's margin. The disc can be decorated with floral and geometric motifs (twisted circular cord, garlands, rosettes, small circles, palm leaves, volutes, grooves). On the base, there can be a *planta pedis* stamp, and towards the handle and spout there is either a fish-tail decorative motif, or a small circle of crosses<sup>29</sup>. The paste is of good quality and, in general, the workmanship is good. Depending on the shape of the disc's rib, there are at least three variants. The five following fragments belong to two of them.

**Origin:** they were produced in *Asia Minor* at *Ephesus* and *Miletus*<sup>30</sup>. As they were produced as early as the 3<sup>rd</sup> c. AD<sup>31</sup>, they are attested in *Scythia Minor* starting with the following century<sup>32</sup> and up to the 7<sup>th</sup> c. AD<sup>33</sup>, with the maximum diffusion during the 5<sup>th</sup>–6<sup>th</sup> c. AD<sup>34</sup>. They were surely imitated in different Danubian centres<sup>35</sup>. At *Halmyris*, of the 49 complete or fragmentary lamps of this type discovered<sup>36</sup>, 30 were found on level 12, near a pottery kiln<sup>37</sup>, which suggests that *Halmyris* can be considered a production centre for lamps<sup>38</sup>.

<sup>17</sup> Bailey 1988, p. 399; Chrzanovski, Zuhralev 1998, p. 174.

<sup>18</sup> Gomolka 1968, p. 197–198.

<sup>19</sup> Iconomu 1967, p. 148, no. 770; Barnea 1968, p. 539, fig. 50/5 (6<sup>th</sup> c. AD).

<sup>20</sup> Bădescu, Bottez 2014, p. 230–231, 237–238, Pl. 3–4/13.

<sup>21</sup> Topoleanu 2000, p. 186, cat. nos. 474, 477, p. 351, pl. LIX/474, 477; 187, cat. nos. 481, 352, pl. LX/481 (6<sup>th</sup> – beginning of the 7<sup>th</sup> c. AD; cat. no. 474 does not have the circular incision at the handles' intersection; cat. no. 477 has a circular incision in the lower part; cat. no. 481 has circular incisions at the end of the upper handles and at their intersection).

<sup>22</sup> Tudor 1948, p. 169, fig. 20/5 (dated, together with other lamps, to the 4<sup>th</sup>–6<sup>th</sup> c. AD).

<sup>23</sup> Opriș 2003, p. 171, cat. no. 416, pl. LXI/416 (the Byzantine cross with double contour is decorated with five circles inscribed on the cross' arms; dated to the 6<sup>th</sup> – beginning of the 7<sup>th</sup> c. AD).

<sup>24</sup> Bauman 2009, p. 260, no. 140, p. 296, Fig. 18/140 bis, Pl. 3/140.

<sup>25</sup> Chrzanovski, Zuhralev 1998, p. 173–174, N. 110 (dated between 550 and 650 AD).

<sup>26</sup> Bailey 1988, p. 399, plate 115/Q 3227 MLA (at Aquis, such lamps were dated to the end of the 6<sup>th</sup> – beginning of the 7<sup>th</sup> c. AD).

<sup>27</sup> Bailey 1988, p. 399, plate 115/Q 3227 MLA.

<sup>28</sup> General analogies: Iconomu 1967, p. 25–26, variant III, fig. 50, p. 136, inv. MINAC 885 (6<sup>th</sup> c. AD); Iconomu 1986, type XXXVII, variant II, p. 80–83, Pl. VI/8 (6<sup>th</sup> c. AD); Bruneau 1965, p. 141, nos. 4707–4709, Pl. 33 (6<sup>th</sup> c. AD); Scorpan 1978, p. 160–161, no. 17, Pl. IV (6<sup>th</sup> c. AD); Preda 1980, p. 30–31, Pl. LIV, M 251 (4<sup>th</sup>–5<sup>th</sup> c. AD); Bass, Doornink Jr. 1982, p. 193, L 12, fig. 9/4 (beginning of 7<sup>th</sup> c. AD); Vasilčin 1984, p. 23, nos.

1–3, Pl. 1 (6<sup>th</sup> c. AD); Deneauve 1969, p. 224, type VII, no. 1135, Pl. CII (6<sup>th</sup> c. AD); Vâlceanu, Barnea 1975, p. 210, fig. 1/3, 4 (6<sup>th</sup> c. AD); Harțușe, Anastasiu 1976, p. 270, no. 557 (5<sup>th</sup> c. AD); Petre 1987, p. 80, E 127, Pl. 148, fig. 243 b (5<sup>th</sup>–6<sup>th</sup> c. AD); Bailey 1988, p. 371, fig. 162, Forma Eph. B, p. 391, Pl. 112, Q3192–3194 (6<sup>th</sup> c. AD); Crawford 1990, p. 82, fig. 427 (6<sup>th</sup> c. AD); Kuzmanov 1992, p. 229–230, type 5, nos. 8–9, 11–12, Pl. 45 (6<sup>th</sup> c. AD); Kadeev, Sorocian 1989, p. 73, fig. 30/5 (4<sup>th</sup>–5<sup>th</sup> c. AD); Covacef, Corbu 1991, p. 293, 295, fig. 1/13 (6<sup>th</sup> c. AD); Abadie-Reynal, Sodini 1992, p. 71–72, L 35, fig. 29 (6<sup>th</sup> – beginning of 7<sup>th</sup> c. AD); Băluță 1994, p. 222, nos. 102–103, Pl. VII/11, 15 (6<sup>th</sup> c. AD); Popescu 1994, p. 353, no. 4, fig. 55 a, p. 354–359, no. 5 a, g, fig. 56–61 (6<sup>th</sup> c. AD); Bauman 2009, p. 258, no. 134, p. 292, Fig. 14/134 (second half of the 5<sup>th</sup> c. AD).

<sup>29</sup> Topoleanu 2000, p. 209.

<sup>30</sup> Perlzweig 1961, p. 100–101; Bruneau 1965, p. 140–141; Menzel 1969, p. 94–97.

<sup>31</sup> Iványi 1935, p. 14, type 11, Pl. XXXVIII/6; Lerat 1954, p. 29, Pl. XIII/188; Bernhard 1955, p. 131, no. 336, Pl. XCIV; Deneauve 1969, p. 224, Pl. CU/1135.

<sup>32</sup> Barnea 1967, p. 247–251, fig. 16/2; Preda 1980, p. 30–31, Pl. LIV/M 251.

<sup>33</sup> Bass, Doornink Jr. 1982, p. 193, L 9, fig. 9–3, 9–4.

<sup>34</sup> Perlzweig 1961, p. 101, no. 349, Pl. 10, p. 192, no. 2807, Pl. 44; Topoleanu 2000, p. 209.

<sup>35</sup> Iconomu 1986, p. 147–148.

<sup>36</sup> Topoleanu 2000, p. 208–214.

<sup>37</sup> Topoleanu 1996.

<sup>38</sup> Topoleanu 2000, p. 209.

**Diffusion:** in *Scythia* they are attested at *Callatis*<sup>39</sup>, *Tomis*<sup>40</sup>, *Histria*<sup>41</sup>, *Halmyris*<sup>42</sup>, *Capidava*<sup>43</sup>, *Sacidava*<sup>44</sup>, *Dinogetia*<sup>45</sup>, *Noviodunum*<sup>46</sup>, *Piatra Frecăței*<sup>47</sup>, *Kaliakra*<sup>48</sup>, *Sadovec*<sup>49</sup>; elsewhere at *Thasos*<sup>50</sup>, *Delos*<sup>51</sup>, *Carthagina*<sup>52</sup>, *Yassi Ada*<sup>53</sup> and *Sardis*<sup>54</sup>.

**Dating:** 6<sup>th</sup> c. AD.

#### CATALOGUE

4. Lamp (fragmentary, the spout and a part of the disc are missing), bivalve mould. Oxidant primary burn, uniform, fine paste, light yellowish brown (10YR6/4), weak red slip (10YR4/2), with limestone deposits on the inner and outer surfaces; very small iron oxide particles and very fine pores. Dimensions: Lp = 76 mm, Dp = 63 mm, Hp = 29 mm, Hb = 6 mm, Gr max handle = 9 mm, I max handle = 22 mm. Histria 2015, sector ACS, context 20003, package 342, Fig. 4/4. The disc is small, round, concave, with the oil orifice in the centre. The margin is wide, decorated with four rows of pearls set in a semicircle. The body is approximately round, the base is round and flat and the handle is blade-shaped, grooved and fixed on the margin.
5. Lamp (fragmentary, the spout and approx. 60% of the body are missing), bivalve mould. Oxidant primary burn, uniform, fine paste, reddish yellow (7.5YR7/6), with limestone deposits on the inner and outer surfaces; very small iron oxide particles and very fine pores. Dimensions: Lp = 54 mm, lp = 63 mm, Hp = 43 mm, Gr max handle = 11 mm, I max handle = 17 mm. Histria 2013, sector ACS, context 1002, package 92, Fig. 4/5. The disc is small, round and concave. The margin is wide, decorated with six rows of pearls set in a semicircle. The body is approximately round and the handle is blade-shaped, grooved and fixed on the margin.
6. Lamp (fragmentary, the spout, a part of the handle and 60% of body are missing), bivalve mould. Oxidant primary burn, uniform, fine paste, light red (2.5YR6/8), yellowish red slip (5YR5/6), with limestone deposits on the inner and outer surfaces; very small iron oxide particles and very fine pores. Dimensions: Lp = 53 mm, lp = 51 mm, Hp = 32 mm. Histria 2015, sector ACS, context 22000, package 456, Fig. 4/6. Slightly oval concave disc, with an oil orifice in the middle, delimited from the margin by a cord leading up and around the spout, forming a duct. The margin is wide, decorated with four rows of pearls set in a semicircle. The body is approximately round, the handle is blade-shaped, grooved and fixed on the margin.
7. Lamp (lower part fragment), bivalve mould. Oxidant primary burn, uniform, fine paste, light brown (7.5YR6/4), reddish brown (2.5YR4/4) and dark grey (7.5YR4/1) slip, with limestone deposits on the inner and outer surfaces; very small iron oxide particles and very fine pores.

Dimensions: Lp = 33 mm, lp = 32 mm, Hp = X mm. Histria 2015, sector ACS, context 26001, package 715, Fig. 4/7. Approx. 20% of the lower part was preserved. The lower half it is decorated with geometric motives.

8. Lamp (lower half fragment), bivalve mould. Oxidant primary burn, uniform, fine paste, pink (7.5YR7/4), reddish yellow slip (7.5YR6/6), with limestone deposits on the inner and outer surfaces; very small mica and iron oxide particles and very fine pores. Dimensions: Lp = 43 mm, lp = 26 mm, Hp = 22 mm. Histria 2015, sector ACS, context 19002, package 378, Fig. 4/8. Approx. 30% of the lower fragment was preserved. The lower half it is decorated with geometric motives.

#### I.4. Iconomu 1986, type XXXVIII, variant II; Williams 1981, no. 401<sup>55</sup>

**General description of the type:** the body is round and flat, with a small and round disc, and it has a narrow duct on the spout. The margin, wide and at an angle, is decorated with two rows of pearls. The base is round, with *planta pedis* in the centre, "fish tail" motif towards the handle and two incised bands towards the spout<sup>56</sup>.

**Diffusion:** in *Scythia* they are attested at *Histria*<sup>57</sup>, *Halmyris*<sup>58</sup> and *Tomis*<sup>59</sup>. Two lamps discovered at *Tomis* are considered by the paper's authors as produced there and imitating models from Asia Minor<sup>60</sup>. But the ones discovered at *Halmyris* are very likely eastern products, judging by their paste and high quality of execution<sup>61</sup>.

**Origin:** eastern centres.

**Dating:** 5<sup>th</sup> c. AD.

#### CATALOGUE

9. Lamp (fragmentary, handle and a part of the margin), bivalve mould. Oxidant primary burn, uniform, fine paste, reddish yellow (7.5YR7/6), with limestone deposits on the inner and outer surfaces; very small iron oxide particles and very fine pores. Dimensions: Lp = 53 mm, lp = 21 mm, Hp = 28 mm, Gr max handle = 13 mm, I max handle = 15 mm. Histria 2015, sector ACS, context C018, passim, package 31, Fig. 4/9. The preserved margin is decorated with two rows of large and less compact pearls, set in a semicircle. The handle is blade-shaped, grooved and fixed on the margin.

<sup>39</sup> Preda 1980, p. 30–31, Pl. LIV, M 251.

<sup>40</sup> Iconomu 1967, p. 25–26, fig. 50, p. 136, no. 703, inv. MINAC 885.

<sup>41</sup> Condurachi *et alii* 1959, p. 278, 280, fig. 5/2; Condurachi *et alii* 1960, p. 242, fig. 15/1; Popescu 1994, p. 353, no. 4, fig. 55 a, p. 354–359, no. 5 a, g, fig. 56–61; Suceveanu 2007, p. 220, pl. LXXIX/107–109; Bădescu, Bottez 2014, p. 227–229, 237–238, Pl. 3–4/4–9.

<sup>42</sup> Topoleanu 2000, p. 211–213, no. 548–555, pl. LXIX.

<sup>43</sup> Covacef, Corbu 1991, p. 293, 295, fig. 1/13; Opreș 2003, p. 173, cat. nos. 427–429, pl. LXIII/427–429.

<sup>44</sup> Scorpan 1978, p. 160–161, no. 17, Pl. IV.

<sup>45</sup> Barnea 1966, p. 252–253, Fig. 10/3, 12/2.

<sup>46</sup> Bauman 2009, p. 258, no. 134, p. 292, Fig. 14/134.

<sup>47</sup> Vâlceanu, Barnea 1975, p. 210, fig. 1/3, 4.

<sup>48</sup> Vasilčin 1984, p. 23, no. 1–3, Pl. 1.

<sup>49</sup> Kuzmanov 1992, p. 229–230, type 5, nos. 8, 9, 11, 12, Pl. 45.

<sup>50</sup> Abadie-Reynal, Sodini 1992, p. 71–72, L 35, fig. 29.

<sup>51</sup> Bruneau 1965, p. 141, nos. 4707–4709, Pl. 33.

<sup>52</sup> Deneauve 1969, p. 224, type VII, no. 1135, Pl. CII.

<sup>53</sup> Bass, Doornink Jr. 1982, p. 193, L 12, fig. 9–4.

<sup>54</sup> Crawford 1990, p. 82, fig. 427.

<sup>55</sup> General analogies: Condurachi *et alii* 1959, p. 280, fig. 5 (Histria, 5<sup>th</sup>–6<sup>th</sup> c. AD); Iconomu 1967, type XXXI, p. 28, nos. 756–757, 145, figs. 173–174 (6<sup>th</sup> c. AD); Iconomu 1986, type XXXVIII, variant II, p. 83–85, Pl. VI/10 (5<sup>th</sup> c. AD); Menzel 1969, p. 97, no. 623, Abb. 79/7, 97, no. 627, Abb. 80/2 (5<sup>th</sup> c. AD); Harțușe, Anastasiu 1976, p. 269–270, no. 556 (5<sup>th</sup> c. AD); Scorpan 1978, p. 159–160, no. 13, Pl. 111/13, XV/13 (5<sup>th</sup> c. AD); Cătănciu, Barnea 1979, p. 188, N V9 (1), fig. 164/9.1 (5<sup>th</sup> c. AD); Williams 1981, Pl. 18/401 (4<sup>th</sup>–5<sup>th</sup> c. AD); Kadeev, Sorocian 1989, p. 73–74, fig. 36 (4<sup>th</sup>–5<sup>th</sup> c. AD); Abadie-Reynal, Sodini 1982, p. 69, L 30, fig. 28 (6<sup>th</sup> c. AD).

<sup>56</sup> Topoleanu 2000, p. 180.

<sup>57</sup> Suceveanu 2007, p. 218, pl. LXXIX/96–98.

<sup>58</sup> Topoleanu 2000, p. 180, cat. nos. 458, 348, pl. LVI/458.

<sup>59</sup> Iconomu 1986, p. 169.

<sup>60</sup> Iconomu 1986, p. 169.

<sup>61</sup> Topoleanu 2000, p. 180.

### I.5. Iconomu 1986, type LII; Topoleanu 2000, variant B

**General description of the type:** medium, oval body with a thick, prolonged spout. Large, concave disc with a strong shoulder and a slightly convex margin. The oil orifice is in the centre of the disc, and the rolled handle is decorated with an axial groove. The base is round or oval, flat or slightly concave. The paste and execution are of low quality.

**Diffusion:** this type is attested at *Halmyris*<sup>62</sup>.

**Origin:** considering its shape, this seems to be an imitation of type Iconomu LI<sup>63</sup>.

**Dating:** 6<sup>th</sup> – beginning of the 7<sup>th</sup> c. AD.

#### CATALOGUE

10. Lamp (fragmentary, the spout and a part of the disc are missing), bivalve mould. Oxidant primary burn, uniform, fine paste, very pale brown (10YR7/4), yellowish red slip (5YR5/6) with limestone deposits on the inner and outer surfaces; very small iron oxide particles and very fine pores. Dimensions: Lp = 97 mm, Dp = 55 mm, Hp = 31.5 mm, Gr max handle = 18 mm, I max handle = 22 mm. Histria 2015, sector ACS, context 19005, package 341, Fig. 4/10. The disc is small, slightly oval, concave, with the oil orifice in the centre, delimited by a margin with two bands that start near the handle towards the spout in order to form the duct. The base is oval and flat. The handle is circular, grooved and fixed on the margin.

### I.6. Iconomu 1986, type XL

Taking into account the presence or absence of the duct on the spout there are two variants, each with two subvariants determined by the decoration on the margin<sup>64</sup>. The one discovered at *Histria* pertains to variant B, subvariant 2.

#### I.6.1. Iconomu 1986, type XL, variant B, subvariant 2<sup>65</sup>

**General description of the type:** the margin is decorated with a vine motif.

**Diffusion:** imitations of the type are attested in *Scythia Minor* at *Halmyris*<sup>66</sup>.

**Origin:** there is a consensus regarding its producer – Ephesus<sup>67</sup>. Because of the similarities with the lamps from Asia Minor, it is difficult to separate the imported ware from the local imitations, all being of a mediocre quality<sup>68</sup>.

Given the lack of a shiny angoba, the paste's quality, as well as certain defects, the 11 lamps discovered at *Halmyris* were considered products of the Western Black Sea workshops<sup>69</sup>.

**Dating:** 4<sup>th</sup>–5<sup>th</sup> c. AD.

#### CATALOGUE

11. Lamp (fragmentary, the handle, the spout and 60% of body are missing), bivalve mould. Oxidant primary burn, uniform, fine paste, reddish yellow (7.5YR6/6), red slip (2.5YR5/6), with limestone deposits on the inner and outer surfaces; very small iron oxide particles and very fine pores. Dimensions: Lp = 27 mm, Ip = 52 mm, Hp = 15 mm. Histria 2015, sector ACS, context 26004, package 791, Fig. 4/11. The disc is slightly oval, concave, bordered by a protruding circular rib. The margin is decorated with vine and grapes.

## II. NORTH-AFRICAN LAMPS

In the 2015 excavation in the ACS Sector at Histria a single North-African lamp fragment was discovered, of which most of the disc was preserved. The closest analogy is a lamp in the Mainz Central Museum collection<sup>70</sup>.

### II.1. Menzel 1969, Abb. 79/7, variant; Bailey 1963, Q3123 MLA<sup>71</sup>

**General description of the type:** The disc has two oil orifices, located symmetrically in the lower half of a cross, while two suns are represented in the upper half.

**Diffusion:** no known perfect analogies.

**Origin:** produced in Alexandria starting with the 4<sup>th</sup> c. AD, exported only starting with the 5<sup>th</sup> c. AD in the eastern part of the Empire<sup>72</sup>.

**Dating:** 5<sup>th</sup> c. – first half of the 6<sup>th</sup> c. AD.

#### CATALOGUE

12. Lamp, (disc fragment with two burning orifices), bivalve mould. Oxidant primary burn, uniform, fine paste, pink (7.5YR7/4), strong brown slip (7.5YR5/6), with limestone deposits on the inner and outer surfaces; very small iron oxide particles and very fine pores. Dimensions: Lp = 36 mm; Ip = 51 mm; Hp = 6 mm; Hb = X. Histria 2015, sector ACS, context 20003, package 290 (Fig. 4/12). Approx. 85% of the disc was preserved. The disc is small, round, concave, decorated with a cross, with two stars above and two filling-holes below the horizontal arms.

<sup>62</sup> Topoleanu 2000, p. 206–207, cat. nos. 532–538, pl. LXVI–LXVII/532–538.

<sup>63</sup> Iconomu 1986, p. 104–105.

<sup>64</sup> Topoleanu 2000, p. 199.

<sup>65</sup> General analogies: Iconomu 1986, p. 86, type XL, Pl. VII/11 (4<sup>th</sup>–5<sup>th</sup> c. AD); Perlzweig 1961, p. 160, no. 2046, Pl. 33 (second half of the 4<sup>th</sup> c. AD); Szentleleky 1969, p. 119, fig. 208 a, b (4<sup>th</sup>–5<sup>th</sup> c. AD); Scorpan 1978, p. 159, no. 10, Pl. 11/10 (4<sup>th</sup> c. AD); Opaît 1991, p. 265–266, no. 6–9, Pl. 76/1–6 (end of the 4<sup>th</sup> c. AD); Zubar 1993, p. 58, fig. 22/5 (4<sup>th</sup>–5<sup>th</sup> c. AD).

<sup>66</sup> Topoleanu 2000, p. 199, cat. nos. 511–521, pl. LXIII/511–518.

<sup>67</sup> Menzel 1969, p. 94; Iconomu 1986, p. 86.

<sup>68</sup> Iconomu 1986, p. 141.

<sup>69</sup> Topoleanu 2000, p. 199.

<sup>70</sup> Menzel 1969.

<sup>71</sup> Bailey 1963, p. 384.

<sup>72</sup> Menzel 1969, p. 94, Abb. 79/7.



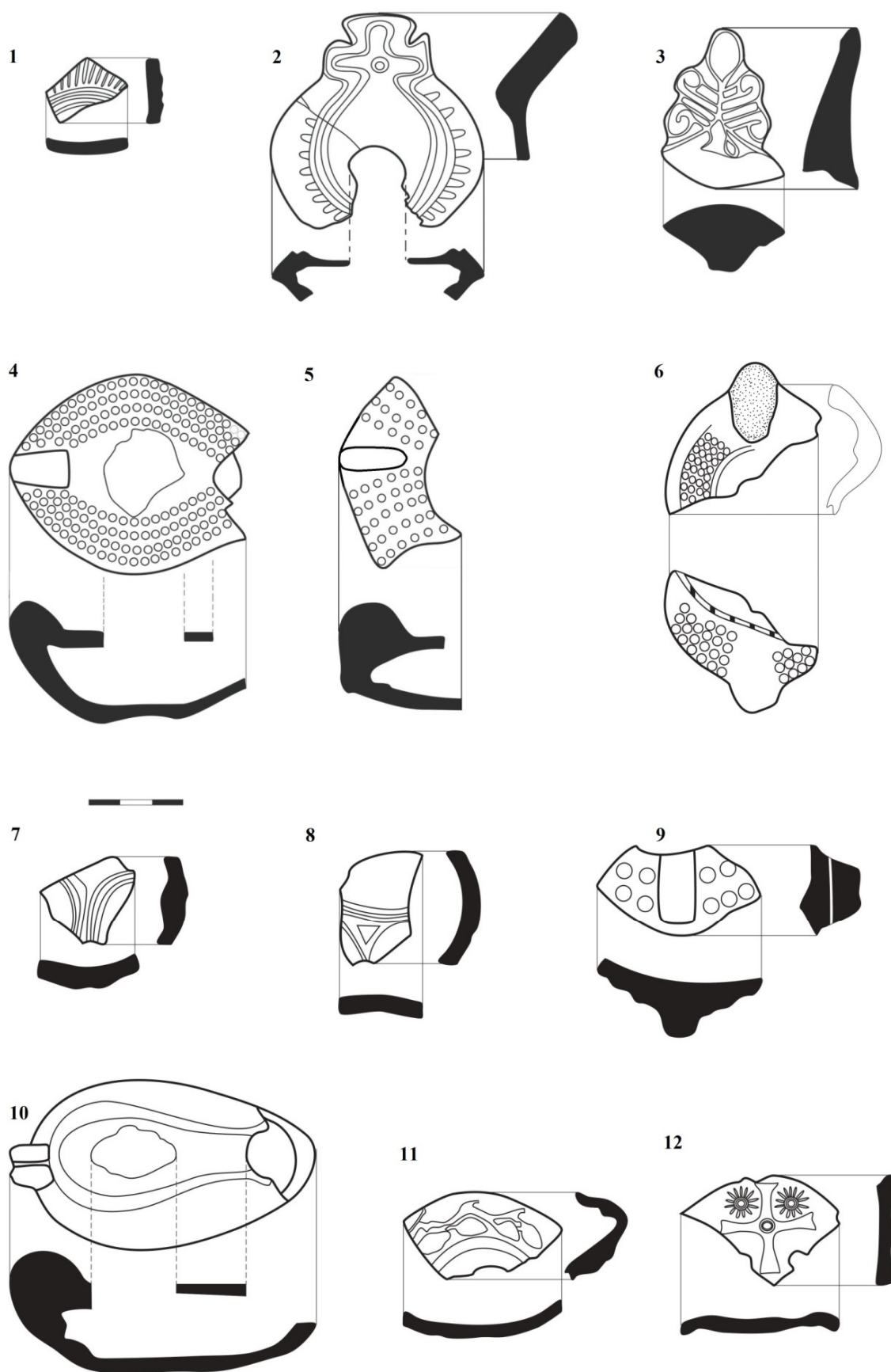


Fig. 4. Lucernae from the ACS Sector (2015).

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