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Near the villages Saharna Veche and Saharna Nouă, in the county Rezina, from the 40ies of the 20th century are known several getic fortresses, such as: Saharna Mare (Смирнов 1949, 93-96; Смирнов 1949а, 189-202; Arnăuț 2000, 93-104; Niculiță, Niciș 2002, 66-84; Niculiță, Zanoci, Matveev, Niciș 2003, 241-252), Saharna Mică (Смирнов 1949а, 189-202), Saharna-“La Revichin” (Levinschi, Șcipachin, Negură 2000, 87-100; Levinschi 2001, 103-116; Levinschi, Covalenco, Abâzov 2002, 41-48; Матеевич 2002, 258-260) etc. As a result of the ground field researches from 2002, in this region was discovered a new getic fortification, called Saharna-“La Șanț”. This fortress is placed to the South-East of the fortress Saharna Mare, on the abrupt and rocky bank of the narrow path “Valea Crac”. The entrance of the fortification had a semi-oval form and occupied a surface of 180×65 m (fig. 1/1). Form the north part the settlement was naturally protected by the abrupt bank of the ravine, and form west, east and south – by an artificial defensive system. At present, the vestiges of the protection system is under the form of a prominence that has the height of 1,6-1,7 m and with the width at the base of 12-14 m (fig. 1/2).

With the purpose to research the defensive system and the character of the cultural layer, in the north-western part of the monument in the year 2003, was traced a section with the dimensions of 28×2 m (fig. 2). As a result of the archaeological investigations, were discovered the vestiges of a defensive system, represented by two rows of pits dug in the native rock of the promontory. The pits had a diameter of around 30 cm, and the width of approximately 20 cm. The distance between the rows is 1,0-1,7 m. In the space between the pits were discovered stones, whose dimensions vary between 30×20×15 and 80×40×20 cm. The layer of rocks was superimposed by a layer of burned ground mixed with fragments of carbonized sticks. The dimensions of the stick fragments that were conserved in the padding vary from 10 up to 20 cm in length and from 8 to 18 cm in diameter. These discoveries permit to assume the existence of a palisade that consisted of two rows of sticks fixed vertically. The space between the rows was filled with stones and ground. Therefore, this defensive system protects the fortress from the vulnerable parts – from west, east, and south describing a semi-circle.

Under the ruins of the palisade were discovered the ruins of a furnace (fig. 3) of a quadrilateral form with the dimensions of 0,94×0,74. The furnace hearth had the width of 5-7 cm and was placed on a layer of rocks of limestone with the medium dimensions of 0,15×0,10×0,05 m. In the northern and western part were conserved fragments from the furnace vault on a height of 0,10-0,15 m. Both on the furnace health and in its immediate vicinity were discovered fragments of hand-made getic ceramics (fig. 4).

A similar situation is attested at the settlement Popești, Giurgiu County. Here under the wall foundation built in the period immediate after Tei cultural complex belongind to the Late Bronze Age (Palincaș 1997, 174) were discovered two

hearth: V21/Σ/91 and V24/Σ/91. The authors of the excavations consider plausible the hypothesis that the hearths and the ash reflects the traces of the special activity undertaken before the building of the wallum, basing on two arguments: first, the position and the state of the hearth, situated immediately under the wall in their entirety and, second, the ash was covered shortly after the fire stopped, because otherwise it would have been blown by the wind (Palincaș 1997, 177-178).

The archaeological material gathered during the archaeological excavations is represented by ceramics and fragments of animal bones. The ceramics is represented by fragments of hand-made pots and fragments of Hellenistic amphorae.

Hand-made ceramics is done from a paste of clay with impurities of chamotte. The burning is uninformed, and the color varies from grey to brick-like. It represents, especially, fragments of pots. The ornament used for decoration of pots is in relief – alveolar cords, cylindrical prominences, plaited prominences, etc. (fig. 5; fig. 6). Similar ceramics was discovered during the archaeological investigations at the neighboring fortresses from Saharna-“La Revichin” (Levinschi, Șcipachin, Negură 2000, 87-100), Saharna Mare and Saharna Mică (Niculiță, Zanoci, Matveev, Nicic 2003), and from other settlements of traco-getic origin – Alcedar (Haheu 1998, fig. 9-11), Ofatinți (Мелюкова 1954, 66), Butuceni (Niculiță, Teodor, Zanoci 2002, fig. 87-89), Potârca (Niculiță, Matveev, Potângă 1999, fig. 17-19) etc.

The ceramics turned on potter's wheel is represented by fragments of walls of Hellenistic amphorae. Their fragmentary state does not allow us to establish the import centers.

On the basis on the discovered materials – hand-made ceramics and fragments of Hellenistic amphorae – it is possible to establish the general chronology of the fortress between the 4th and 3rd centuries BC.

The relatively thin cultural layer, and the rather small quantity of the collected materials comparatively with the one from the fortress Saharna Mare, denotes the fact that Saharna-„La Șanț” was not populated so intensively and was used probably only as a fore-post of the vis-à-vis fortress.

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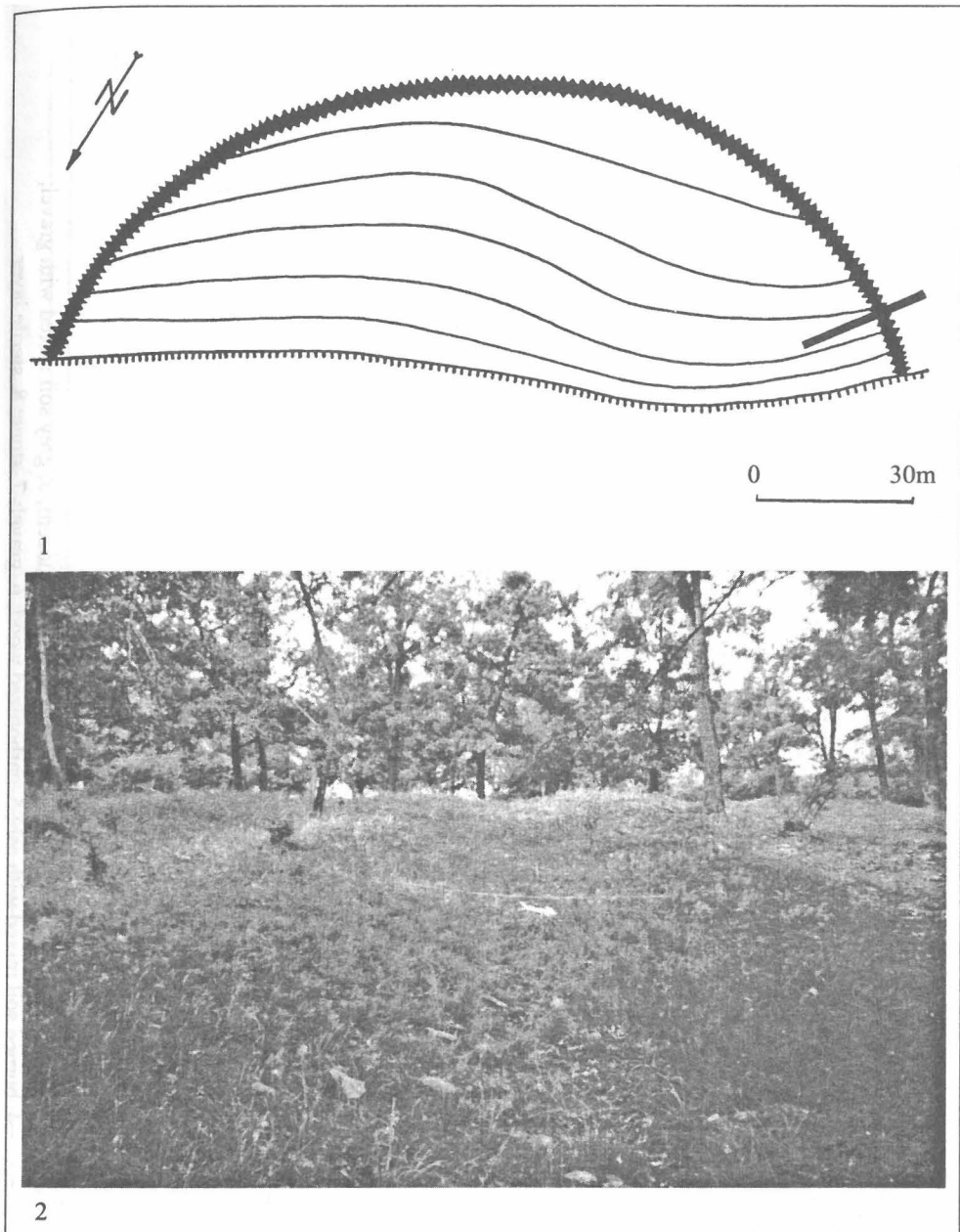


Fig. 1. Saharna „La Şanţ”: 1. plan-scheme of the fortress;
2. the ruins of the defensive system.

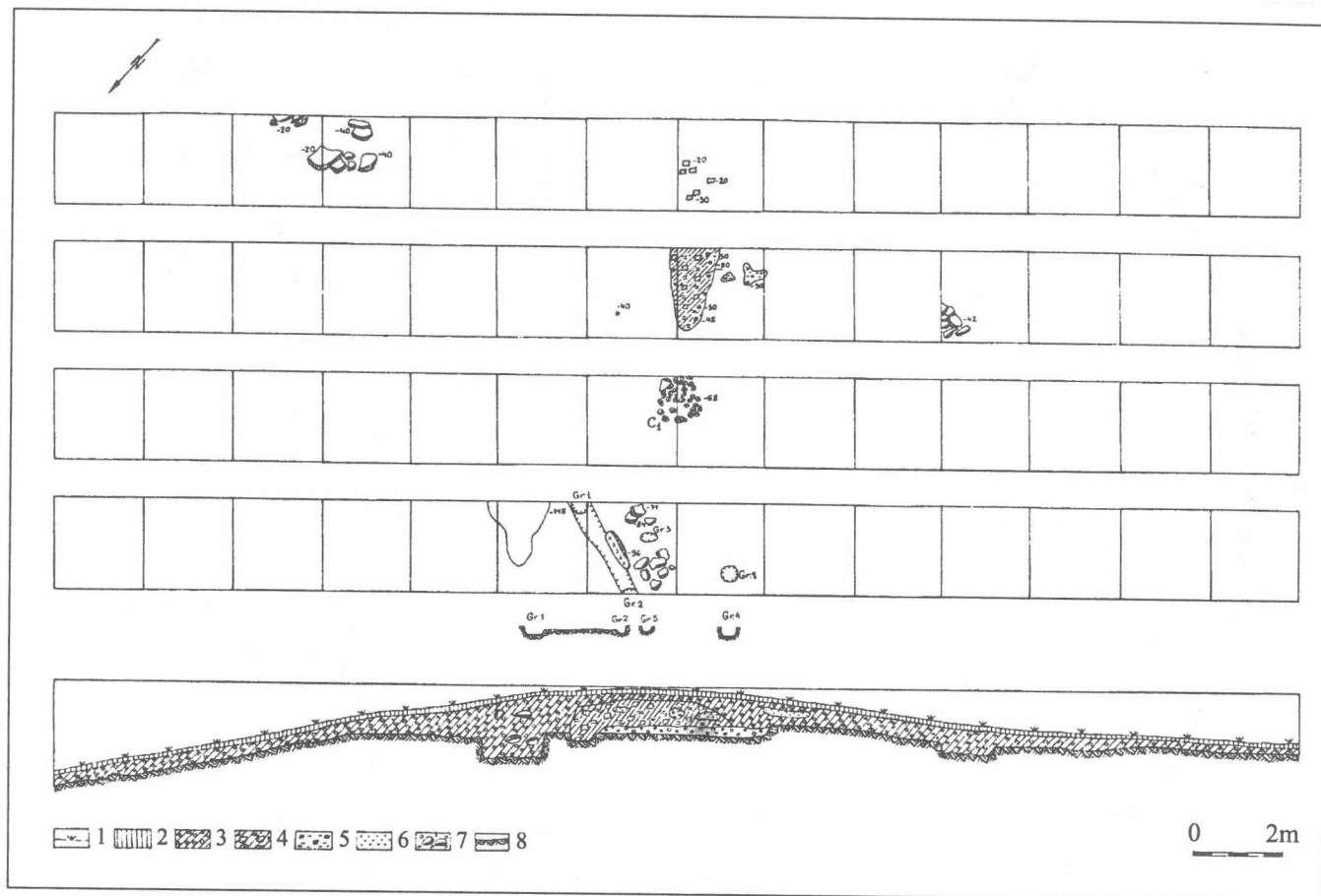


Fig. 2. Plan and profile of Section 1: 1. vegetal layer; 2. chernozem; 3. grey soil mixed with gravel; 4. burned soil mixed with ash; 5. carbonized wood; 6. gravel; 7. stone; 8. sterile layer.

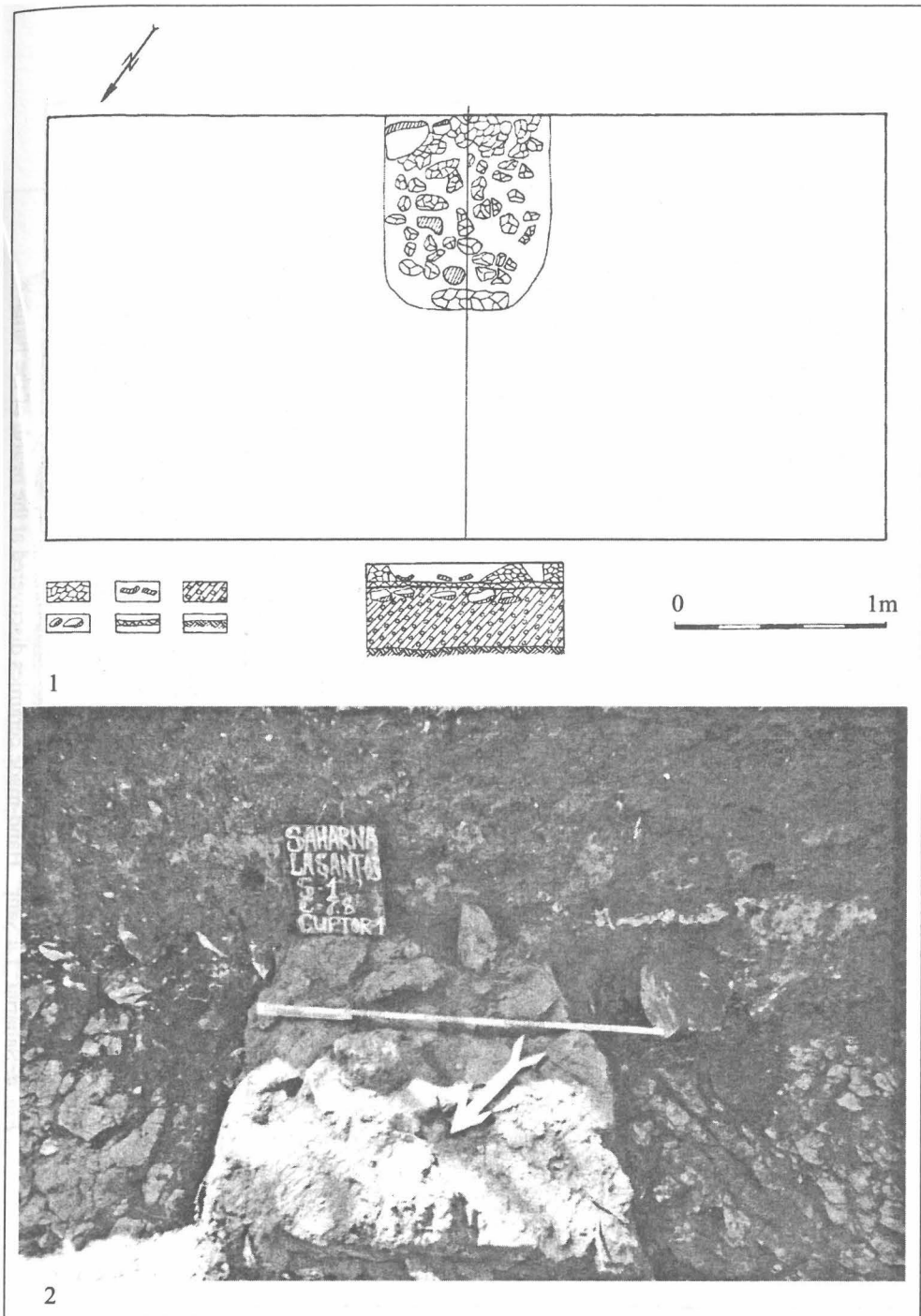


Fig. 3. Saharna „La Șanț”: 1. plan of the furnace; 2. ruins of the furnace (sight from north).

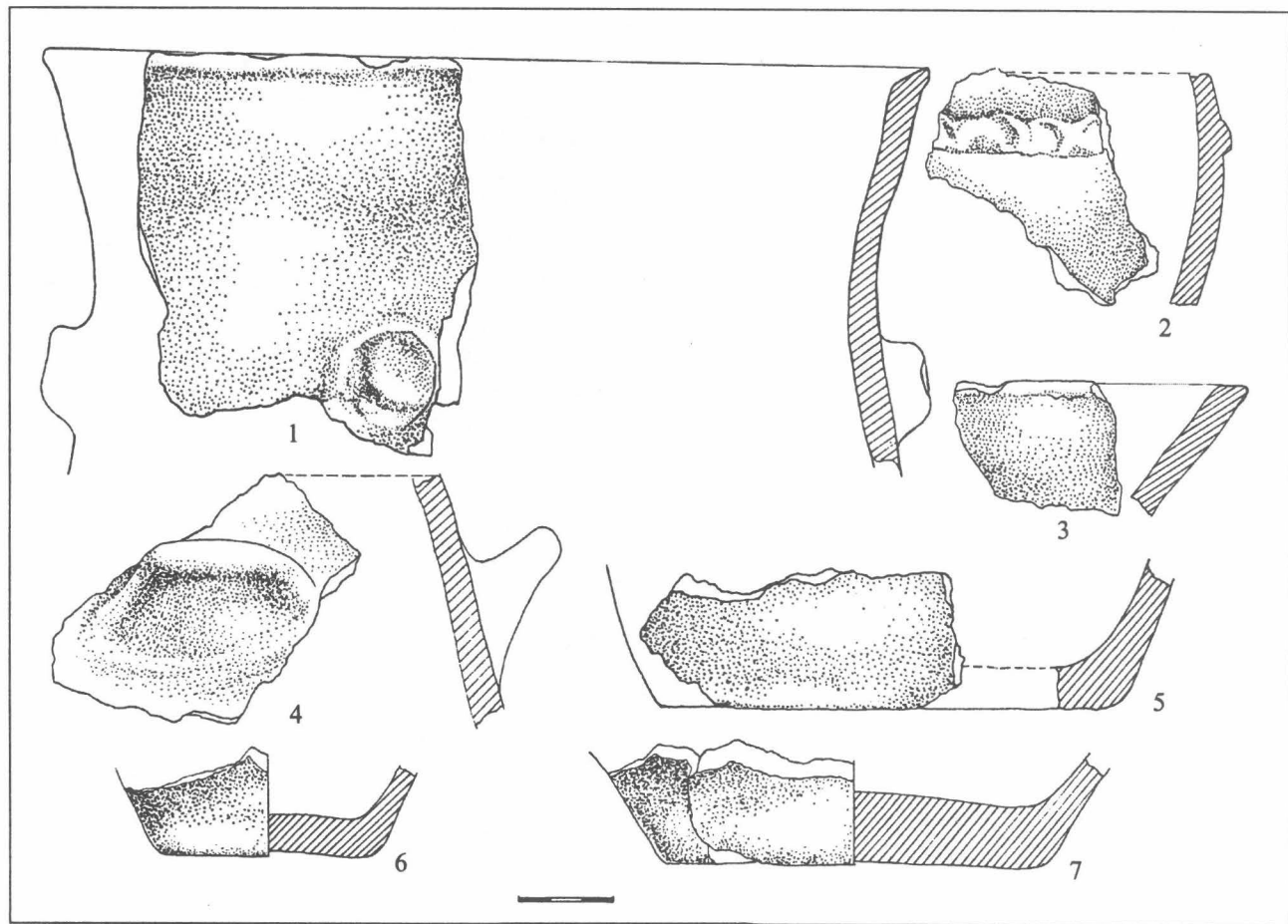


Fig. 4. Saharna „La Șanț”. Hand-made ceramics discovered at the hearth of the furnace.

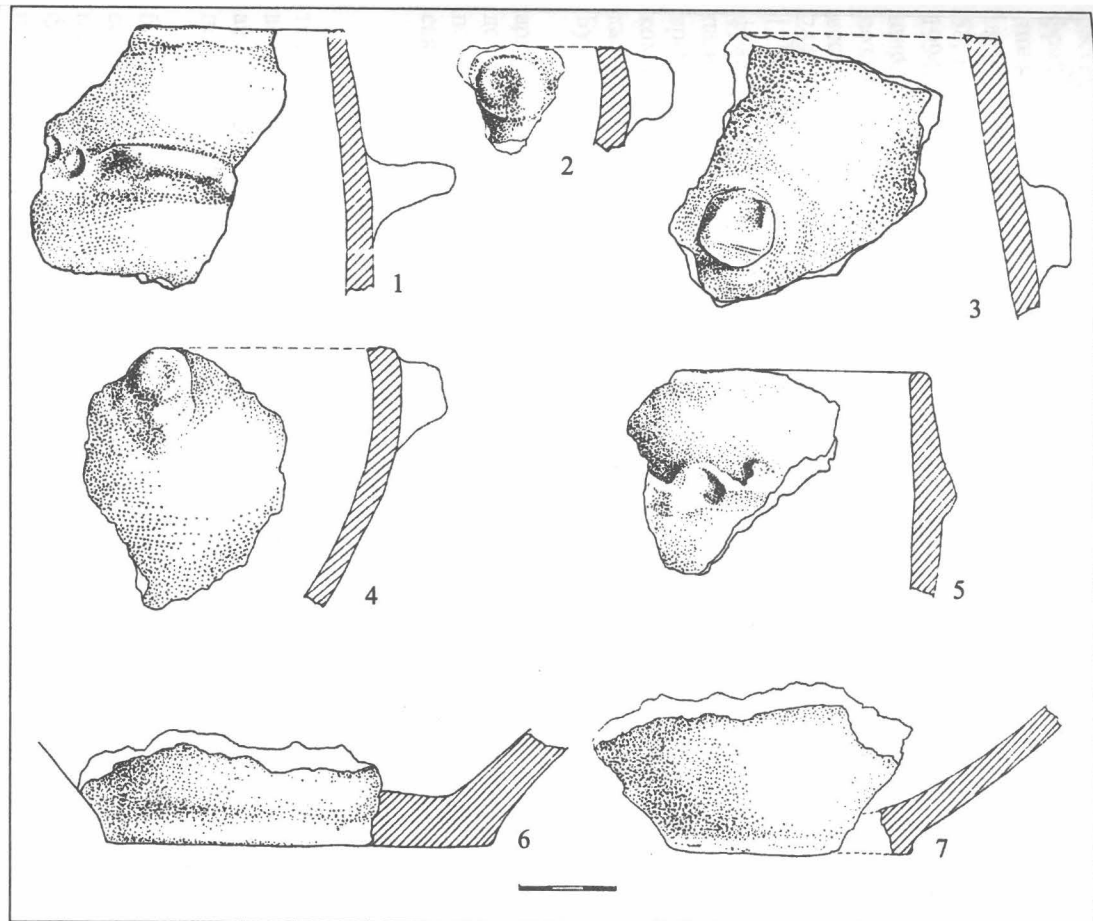


Fig. 5. Sahara „La Şaţ”. Hand-made ceramics discovered inside the fortress.

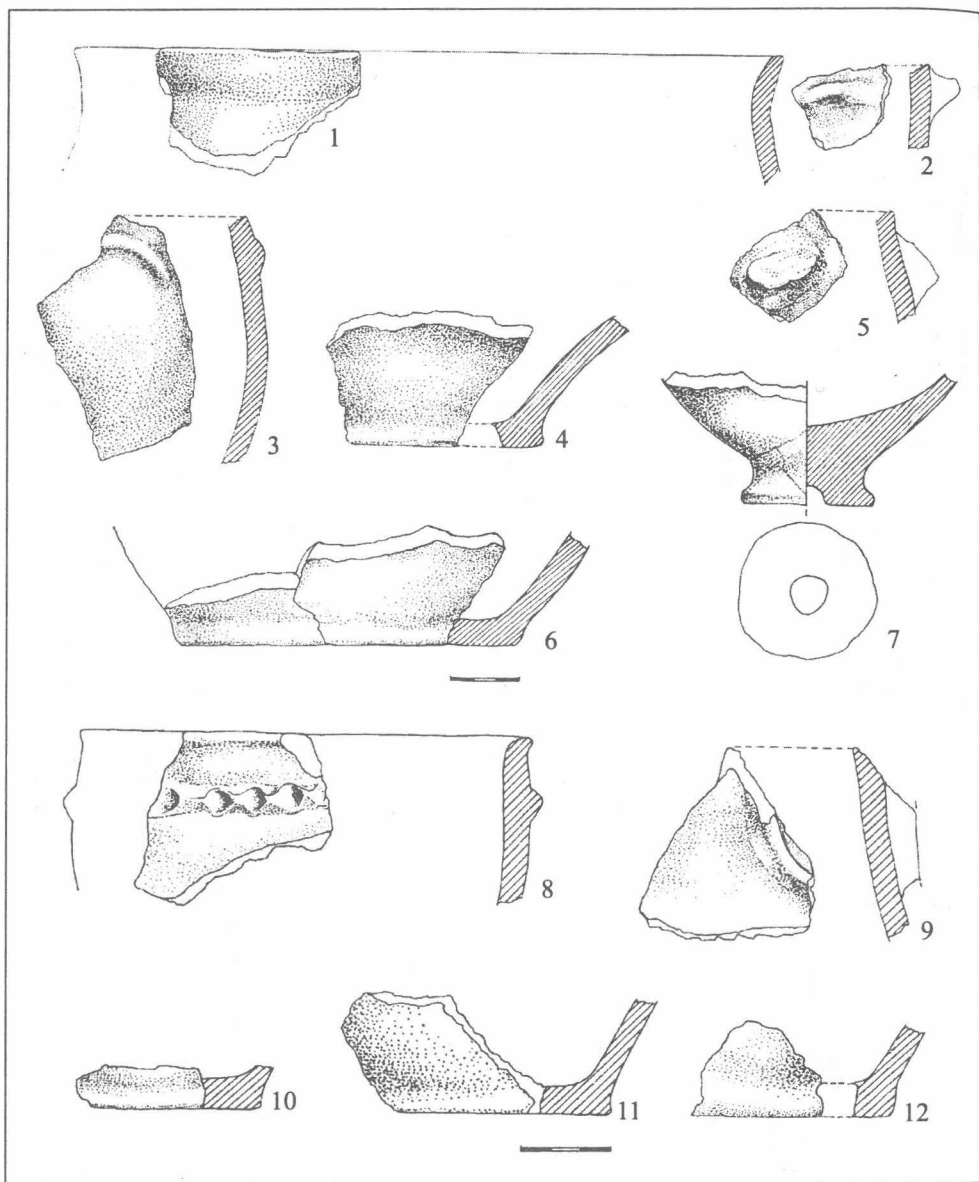


Fig. 6. Saharna „La Şanţ”. Hand-made ceramics discovered inside the fortress.