

## SALSOVIA: CHRONOLOGICAL LANDMARKS

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**Abstract:** *This paper presents lamps and selected vessels from Mahmudia. The pieces discussed come both from recent excavations at the site of Salsovia and from a collection held by the village school. The paper begins with a discussion of the written evidence for the site of Salsovia, before offering a brief summary of the archaeological investigation of Late Roman activity at the site.*

*The citadel on the promontory west of Mahmudia, Tulcea County was known in the Roman period as Salsovia. Prior to 2004, the site had not been the focus of systematic fieldwork; all knowledge of its history came from ancient sources and chance finds. Among the latter, the most important role was played by the inscriptions, which have been published on several occasions, very often with contradictory interpretations. One theory based on a particular interpretation of the epigraphic sources was that of Vasile Pârvan, according to which Salsovia was abandoned after the defeat of Emperor Valens at Adrianopole. This paper, briefly discusses evidence from the 2004 and 2007 excavation seasons and reviews published epigraphic evidence from the site and its vicinity. The latter includes a military diploma from A.D. 97, three further inscriptions dated between the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> centuries AD, and a tile with a funerary text from the 5<sup>th</sup> or 6<sup>th</sup> century. Several ceramic finds and coins from the local school collection were also published in the past.*

*Project funding from the British Academy and Ivy Primrose allowed three stages of the research to be completed, in 2003, 2004 (two seasons) and 2007. Institutul de Cercetări Eco-Muzeale provided research support, laboratory space and storage facilities. The first stage of the project was the topographic survey of the site, including both the citadel and the wider settlement, undertaken in 2003. This work provided the necessary framework for finds collection and both magnetometry and resistivity surveys.*

*The 2004 and 2007 excavation seasons witnessed the opening of four trenches, two inside the citadel and two on the extra mural area to the west. Despite the fact that most of the surface of the site was badly damaged by previous disturbance, several buildings and a segment of the city defensive wall were identified. The upper levels investigated at Salsovia are clearly dated by the finds in the 4<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> centuries, invalidating the theory that claimed that the site was abandoned after the Adrianopole disaster. All of the archaeological finds published in this article: tableware, stamped decoration ceramic, cooking ware and lamps are of Late Roman date. Coins from the Mahmudia school collection are published here as well.*

*Archaeological investigation thus enabled the team to address a range of issues that had previously only been the subject of scholarly hypotheses, such as the extent and character of the late defences and absence of evidence for settlement on the site after the 6<sup>th</sup> century. The evidence suggests the abandonment of the site at Salsovia occurred sometime in the late 5<sup>th</sup> or 6<sup>th</sup> century after a massive conflagration. Evidence for this comes in the form of a burnt layer across all parts of the site archaeologically investigated to date. In his discussion of the lamps and selected ceramics, Florin Topoleanu suggests that this destruction may be linked to the events of A. D. 559, the invasion of the Cutriguri tribe. Their invasion has been associated with burnt destruction layers at Halmyris. The value*

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*of comparing evidence from the the two neighboring sites from Salsovia and Halmyris were constantly in the minds of the authors. Other explanations are, however, possible.*

**Rezumat:** *Lucrarea de față prezintă opaițele romane și ceramica decorată de la Mahmudia, obiecte rezultate din cercetările sistematice întreprinse în zona cetății Salsovia. Materialul numismatic din colecția școlii locale a fost și el studiat cu această ocazie.*

*Cetatea Salsovia, aflată pe un promontoriu la marginea de vest a com. Mahmudia, jud. Tulcea, este printre primele a cărui nume antic a fost identificat în Dobrogea. Până de curând nu a fost cercetată prin săpături arheologice sistematice sau de salvare, astfel că, cele câteva repere ale istoriei sale au fost schițate cu ajutorul izvoarelor antice și a descoperirilor întâmplătoare. Dintre acestea din urmă cele mai importante sunt inscripțiile, a căror editare succesivă a prilejuit interpretări și nuanțări, uneori contradictorii. În acest sens amintim aici doar ipoteza formulată de V. Pârvan, după care cetatea ar fi fost părăsită în urma catastrofei lui Valens.*

*Pornind de la această teorie, în articolul de față, autorii completează istoria Romană a sitului de la Mahmudia cu date noi, oferite de rezultatele campaniilor arheologice din anii 2004 și 2007, nu înainte de a face o tecere în revistă a materialelor publicate până în prezent. Este vorba de o diplomă militară din anul 97 p.Chr., trei inscripții datate în sec. II-III p.Chr. și o țiglă cu text funerar incizat, dataată în sec. V-VI p.Chr. Au fost publicate de asemenea diverse vase ceramice și monede păstrate în colecția muzeului școlii din Mahmudia.*

*Finațarea de la British Academy și Ivy Primrose a făcut posibile trei etape de cercetare de teren în 2003, 2004 și 2007. Institutul de Cercetări Eco-Muzeale a oferit suportul de cercetare, laboratoare și spații de depozitare. Prima etapă a cercetării a fost realizarea ridicării topografice a zonei cetății și a așezării civile de la sud de aceasta, finalizată în 2003. Modelul digital al terenului a oferit suportul spațial pentru viitoarele rezultate ale cercetării, material ceramic de la suprafață, magnetometrie și rezistivitate electrică, contexte arheologice și materiale identificate în săpătură.*

*În campaniile din 2004 și 2007 au fost practicate două secțiuni în cetate (S I și S III) și altele două în zona extramurană de vest (S II și S IV). Deși în cea mai mare parte suprafețele cercetate erau afectate de intervenții antropice anterioare, au fost descoperite mai multe edificii, din care se remarcă o clădire cu mai multe încăperi și un segment al zidului de incintă. Cele patru niveluri de locuire identificate în cetate sunt datate în sec. IV-VI p.Chr., înfirmând astfel teoria încetării locuirii după dezastrul de la Adrianopole. Aceiași încadrare cronologică o are și materialul arheologic publicat în articol.*

*Ultimul nivel de locuire la Sasovia a fost distrus de un eveniment violent. Pe baza datării materialului studiat și a analogiilor cu alte situri din zonă F. Topoleanu consideră că acest eveniment ar fi putut surveni în 559 p.Chr., cu ocazia raidului cutrigurilor. Evenimentul a fost surprins stratigrafic și la Halmyris pe nivelul 10 care prezintă urme puternice de incendiere. De altfel, corelarea stratigrafiei dar și analogiile descoperirilor din cele două cetăți vecine, au stat permanent în atenția autorilor. Alte explicații pentru incendierea sitului sunt totuși posibile.*

*În sfârșit, cele doua campanii de cercetări arheologice sistematice, au prilejuit și unele corecții și completări la informațiile transmise până acum de literatura de specialitate. Dintre acestea amintim aici doar de constatarea grosimii reale a zidului de incintă, 2,40 m, și a faptului că, după încetarea locuirii în cetate, la jumătatea sec. VI p.Chr., nu se confirmă existența locuirii medieval.*

**Key words:** *Salsovia, Mahmudia, Legio I Iovia, Legio I Italica, stamped decoration, lamps.*

**Cuvinte cheie:** *Salsovia, Mahmudia, Legiunea I Iovia, Legiunea I Italica, decot imprimat, opaițe.*

In 1906, when referring to the section of the Roman limes on the Danube between the mouth of river Prut and the Black Sea, V. Pârvan identified only three points were suitable “...for guarding by eye the right shore against those willing to cross by force”. The three

locations are Isaccea (Noviodunum), Tulcea (Aegyssus) and "...the heights of Beş-Tepe hill, west of Mahmudia, that we should call Salsovia"<sup>1</sup>.

Despite the fact that Salsovia was one of the first citadels to be identified in Dobruja, it remained uninvestigated by systematic archaeological research until recently<sup>2</sup> and therefore, the so far, very few attempts to establish some chronological landmarks in its existence, relied exclusively on ancient sources or accidental discoveries. Among the latter the most important are the inscriptions, the interpretation of which caused a great deal of debate and controversy. It is worth mentioning here the hypothesis according to which Salsovia was deserted after the disaster suffered by the Emperor Valens at Adrianopole<sup>3</sup>.

The first important ancient document referring to Salsovia is a military diploma discovered in the area of the ruins in 1907<sup>4</sup>. The text provides a clear date for the issue of the diploma, the third consulate of the Emperor Nerva Caesar Augustus in office with his colleague L. Verginius Rufus in the year A.D. 97. The beneficiary of the diploma may well be one of the soldiers deployed on the Danube frontier between Halmyris and Aegyssus<sup>5</sup>. Unfortunately the name of the province, that of the auxiliary unit and that of its commander are missing from the fragmentary document. There were various attempts to fill in this space on the ancient document with various military units that might have been stationed at Salsovia under the Flavian dynasty: *Ala I Flavia Gaetulorum* or *Ala I Claudia Gallorum* and *Cohors III* or *III Gallorum*, any other speculation being risky<sup>6</sup>. *Cohors VII Gallorum*<sup>7</sup> may also be advanced as a possibility, but all that can be stated with confidence is that this was one of *Gallorum* units stationed in Moesia Inferior<sup>8</sup>. Importantly, the military diploma introduces the name of a previously unknown<sup>9</sup> governor of the Moesia Inferior province, a certain Iulius Mar(?inus), perhaps the father of a praetorian legate of Bithynia and Pontus province<sup>10</sup>.

Salsovia was clearly integrated within a wider network of Roman settlements on the Lower Danube by the end of the 1<sup>st</sup> century A.D. The *Classis Flavia Moesica* was operating in the area, having been created two decades earlier by Emperor Vespasian<sup>11</sup>. Another epigraphic document, discovered in 1865 and later "rediscovered" in 1903<sup>12</sup> is a marble plaque with inscriptions on both sides. The "rediscovery" story was told in great detail by the archbishop R. Nietzhammer<sup>13</sup>. Initially the block of marble served as a funerary monument, but it was subsequently reworked and dedicated as a votive inscription. The funerary monument refers to a centurion by the name of Flavius Festus.<sup>14</sup> The reading of the text led to some debate as to the

<sup>1</sup> Pârvan 1906, 24.

<sup>2</sup> Topoleanu *et alii* 2005; Haynes *et alii* 2007; Topoleanu *et alii* 2008.

<sup>3</sup> Pârvan 1906, p. 43-44.

<sup>4</sup> CIL XVI, 41; Moisil 1908, 501-505.

<sup>5</sup> Suceveanu, Barnea 1991, 108.

<sup>6</sup> Aricescu 1977, 81.

<sup>7</sup> Suceveanu, Barnea 1991, 66.

<sup>8</sup> ISM V, 300.

<sup>9</sup> DID II, 77.

<sup>10</sup> CIL IX, 4965; ISM V, 299-300, nr. 291.

<sup>11</sup> DID II, 61; Suceveanu, Barnea 1991, 67; Bounegru, Zahariade 1996, 91-93.

<sup>12</sup> Moisil 1905, 563; Pârvan 1906, 25-43.

<sup>13</sup> Nietzhammer 2010 (1909), 174-175.

<sup>14</sup> Pârvan 1906, 26.

title of legion in which heserved, due to the fact that only ‘*legio I*’ was preserved in the text, while the full title of the unit was missing,

The first scholar<sup>15</sup> to interpret the text, as well as many others who followed him, believed that the form of the letters indicated an early date, and therefore argued that the only viable candidate for the legion would be *legio I Italica*<sup>16</sup>, the legion that took over this sector from *legio V Macedonica* after 167 when the latter was transferred to Dacia and located at Potaissa<sup>17</sup>.

The dating of the funerary inscription to the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> centuries A.D. can be narrowed down with a *terminus post quem* in the reign of Diocletian (284-305). Diocletian’s restructuring of the led to significant changes in what became Scythia Minor. The name of Salsovia appears in both *Tabula Peutingeriana* (VIII-4) and *Itinerarium Antonini* (226-4), its occupation under the Principate seems highly likely<sup>18</sup>. It is entirely possible that an auxiliary unit from the army of Moesia was stationed at Salsovia between the reigns of Trajan and Diocletian though no military base of that period has been identified at the site to date<sup>19</sup>.

The history of the Roman settlement in the first centuries A.D. may be complemented by the archaeological finds from the collection of the local school<sup>20</sup>, parts of which published three decades ago<sup>21</sup>. The coins from Nero, Titus, Domitian, Trajan, Septimius Severus, Gordian III, Probus, Maximianus, Diocletian and Constantine I<sup>22</sup> and the pottery and glass objects<sup>23</sup>, were all found within the walls of the citadel<sup>24</sup>.

For the understanding of the next stage of the citadel’s existence, the votive inscription from the other side of the above-mentioned marble block is of great importance. The piece was probably mounted in a statue base or a relief (simulacrum) depicting Sol Invictus<sup>25</sup>. The inscription is mentioning the name of the site where it was found - *cast(ris) Salsoviensib(us)*, confirming the information provided by the ancient sources<sup>26</sup>.

By the orders of Emperor Licinius Augustus and his son Licinius Caesar, the troop commanders and the military units themselves were to burn incense and make libations for *Deus Sanctus Sol* every year on November 18<sup>th</sup>. The date is that of the New Year, according to the Syro-Palestinian calendar and the honoring of the god Sol in the first day of the month Dios, reveals the importance of this deity as protector of the Roman army<sup>27</sup>.

<sup>15</sup> Moisil 1905, 563-566.

<sup>16</sup> Popescu 1976, 283, nr. 290; ISM V, 298, nr. 290a; Zahariade 1988, 68; Suceveanu, Barnea 1991, 60, 70.

<sup>17</sup> Aricescu 1977, 32-33.

<sup>18</sup> Aricescu 1977, 135.

<sup>19</sup> Aricescu 1977, 105: *Ala Gallorum Flaviana, Ala I Gallorum et Pannoniorum, Cohors I Chalcidenorum, Cohors II Chalcidenorum Sagittariorum, Cohors I Flavia Numidarum*.

<sup>20</sup> The initiator of the school museum was teacher A. Uzum. The collection was permanently enhanced by students and teachers especially by dr. V. Lungu, now a researcher at the Institute of South-East European Studies in Bucharest. Currently the archaeological finds are displayed in cases provided by prof. F. Stoica, whom we thank for her kind support and cooperation.

<sup>21</sup> Oberlander-Târnoveanu 1980, 63-74.

<sup>22</sup> Oberlander-Târnoveanu 1980, 66, 69, nr. 1-6, 9-11, 20-21.

<sup>23</sup> Oberlander-Târnoveanu 1980, 63-65, nr. 11-19.

<sup>24</sup> Oberländer-Târnoveanu 1980, 73.

<sup>25</sup> Pârvan 1906, 27; Pippidi 1969, 299; ISM V, 297; Suceveanu, Barnea 1991, 220.

<sup>26</sup> *Tabula Peutingeriana VIII, 4; Itinerarium Antonini, 226-227; Geograful Anonim din Ravenna IV, 5.*

<sup>27</sup> Popescu 1976, 284; Pârvan 1906, 38, believes that November 18<sup>th</sup> ‘was perhaps his (Licinius) birthday or that of his son’.

Interpretation of the inscription led to scholarly debate, concerning its dating, significance and, indeed, the very names of the military units stationed in the fort. The dating of the inscription to 322 A.D. was originally suggested by V. Pârvan, who wrote extensively about the conflict between Licinius, who was behind the instruction and Constantine the Great, the emperor who granted Christianity toleration within the Roman Empire<sup>28</sup>. The obvious importance of the document for understanding the first years of Christianity in Dobruja was later recognized by various authors, who reassessed the dating, proposing a date of 322-323<sup>29</sup>, or perhaps an even wider date range 314-322, questioning the degree of influence the new religion in the fourth century<sup>30</sup>.

Regarding the military unit stationed at Salsovia at the beginning of the 4<sup>th</sup> century A.D., the unanimous opinion is that this was a *vexillatio* from *legio I Iovia*, headquartered at Noviodunum<sup>31</sup>. This detached group of soldiers mentioned in the inscription is most likely a cavalry troop<sup>32</sup>, perhaps independent from the mentioned legion<sup>33</sup>. The possibility that the unit was originally an auxiliary formation remains, however, with much depending on the way we read the term *praepositus* here<sup>34</sup>. It is worth mentioning the fact that the name of Valerius Romulus, military governor of the province-*v(ir) p(erfectissimus) dux*, is known only from this document<sup>35</sup>.

The military reorganization undertaken by Constantine the Great after A. D. 324 when he, the victor of the battle of Chrysopolis, took over the eastern provinces, has been linked in the scholarly literature to the the abandoning of the forts from Dinogetia and Salsovia<sup>36</sup>. The restoration of troop numbers on the Lower Danube limes has in turn been linked to the reign of Constantius II (A.D. 324-361 A.D.) when *milites Constantiniani* are found here. Certainly the *Notitia Dignitatum, Or. (XXXIX, 26)*, mentions the presence at Salsovia of *milites quinti Constantiniani*<sup>37</sup>.

One other inscription dated by epigraphers to the 4<sup>th</sup> century A.D. was broken into six fragments spread between the site at Mahmudia and the village of Rândunica<sup>38</sup>. Judging by the text of the inscription and the dimensions of the blocks it was carved on, it is very likely that it was part of a commemorative monument, funerary or triumphal, of importance and dimensions comparable with those of the *Tropaeum Traiani* from Adamclisi<sup>39</sup>. Unfortunately, the fragmentary state of preservation of the document prevents us from understanding the dating of the monument or its association with a known historical event. A few speculations were

<sup>28</sup> Pârvan 1906, 28-30 the historian argues that 'the inscription from Salsovia is one of the rare documents, one could say the only decisive document regarding the religious policy of the Emperor of the East'.

<sup>29</sup> DID II, 383; Popescu 1976, 284; Aricescu 1977, 111; ISM V, 298-299; Zahariade 1988, 68, 83; Suceveanu, Barnea 1991.

<sup>30</sup> Pippidi 1969, 296, 299-300.

<sup>31</sup> Pârvan 1906, 38; DID II, 373; Aricescu 1977, 110-112; Suceveanu, Barnea 1991, 211.

<sup>32</sup> Zahariade 1988, 83.

<sup>33</sup> Aricescu 1977, 112; Zahariade 1988, 73.

<sup>34</sup> Popescu 1976, 285.

<sup>35</sup> Pârvan 1906, 42; Popescu 1976, 285.

<sup>36</sup> Zahariade 1988, 75.

<sup>37</sup> Pârvan 1906, 41; DID II, 390; Aricescu 1977, 118; Zahariade 1988, 87; Suceveanu, Barnea 1991, 214.

<sup>38</sup> CIL III, 14214; Doruțiu 1964, 133-134; Popescu 1976, 285, nr. 272.

<sup>39</sup> Popescu 1976, 285; Aricescu 1977, 131; Zahariade 1988, 68.

attempted. The existence of names of Roman, oriental and even indigene origin on the list of fallen soldiers and officers, led scholars to believe that ‘...at least three different’<sup>40</sup> contingents took part in the battle. Almost everyone agrees on the presence of *vexillationes* from *legio I Iovia*<sup>41</sup>, while the soldiers with eastern names could come from a cavalry unit, *cuneus equitum Arcadam*<sup>42</sup>, headquartered at Talmonium (Halmyris), as testified by *Notitia Dignitatum, Or(XXXIX,18)*. But of course the eastern names were rather common in the area and therefore the above, is just a working supposition.

The event commemorated by the monument has been placed under the reign of Constantius II by some scholars<sup>43</sup>, but it is perhaps more likely that it records a victory of the emperor Valens (364-378 A.D.) against the Goths<sup>44</sup>.

In the 4<sup>th</sup> century A.D. naval units operating under the jurisdiction of the legions could have been stationed here; the *Notitia Dignitatum, Or(XXXIX, 35)* mentions only the names of a couple of such units, *Cohors musculorum Scythicorum* and *Classis in Plateypegiis* but not their location<sup>45</sup>. Whatever the situation, it is hard to see any evidence for defensive operations by the fleet on the Lower Danube in the 4<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> centuries A.D.<sup>46</sup>, not only is other direct evidence for these units missing but the increasing frequency of attacks across the Danube appears to suggest that no effective river fighting force was present.

The last epigraphic document discovered among the ruins at Mahmudia was part of the Eniceicu collection, donated to the History Museum from Galați<sup>47</sup> and it is a tile fragment with a short funerary text written in Greek. The object probably marked the grave of ‘Porfīros, God’s servant’. The name is now for the first time attested in Scythia Minor, but it is very common on the Latin inscriptions. The tile, loosely dated to the 5<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> centuries A.D.<sup>48</sup> indicates, unsurprisingly, that Christians were present at the site by at least this time.

The 6<sup>th</sup> century A.D. is marked by the reign of emperor Justinian (527-565) when Dobruja had its last years of prosperity. This prosperity is manifested materially in the remains of an intensive programme of reconstruction. The name of Salsovia is missing from the list of reconstructed or newly built citadels sent by Procopius from Caesarea, but so are the names of Histria Tropaeum Traiani or Dinogetia, where archaeological excavations have revealed extensive evidences for reconstruction works at this time. It was the lack of reference to Salsovia in Procopius’ list that led V. Pârvan to conclude that Salsovia was abandoned sometime in the 4<sup>th</sup> century A.D., perhaps under Valens<sup>49</sup> and this theory was later adopted by other specialists<sup>50</sup>.

<sup>40</sup> DID II, 397; Gostar 1980, 310.

<sup>41</sup> DID II, 397; Gostar 1980, 308-311; Suceveanu, Barnea 1991, 213.

<sup>42</sup> Aricescu 1977, 131; Suceveanu, Barnea 1991, 213.

<sup>43</sup> DID II, 397.

<sup>44</sup> Nicorescu 1937, 214; DID II, 397; Popescu 1976, 287; Aricescu 1977, 131; Gostar 1980, 310.

<sup>45</sup> Pârvan 1906, 41; Aricescu 1977, 120-121; Bounegru 2010, 140-141.

<sup>46</sup> Bounegru, Zahariade 1996, 22-28.

<sup>47</sup> The collection is being studied for publication. Information from C. Căldăraru.

<sup>48</sup> Popescu 1976, 288, nr.273.

<sup>49</sup> Pârvan 1906, 43-44.

<sup>50</sup> DID II, 422; Barbu 1982, 692-693.

The absence of Salsovia from the list of Procopius must, however, be set alongside its appearance in the Ravenna Cosmography (47, 49), the travel guide of Hierocles (4) or the list of religious residences *Notitia Episcopatum* (531-532).

In the school museum from Mahmudia there are a few ceramic fragments with clearly date to the 4<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> centuries A.D.<sup>51</sup>. Coins from this period are also strongly represented; most of them are of the 4<sup>th</sup> century (Licinius, Constantius I, Constantius II, Constantius Gallus, Arcadius and Honorius)<sup>52</sup>, but two are dated to the 5<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> centuries (Theodosius II and Justin II)<sup>53</sup>. Other coins from the reigns of Justinian, Justin II and Mauricius Tiberius<sup>54</sup>, are mentioned in old records from the school collection but without further details. In 1991 the study of the coins from the local school collection was reinitiated<sup>55</sup>, and some of the pieces known to have been there were shown to be missing. Relatively recently these coins were published, together with those from the collections of the History and Archaeology Museum of the Institutul de Cercetari Eco-Muzeale Tulcea<sup>56</sup>. In addition, we should note a small hoard, containing six silver pieces from the reigns of Diocletian, Maximianus Herculis, and Constantius Chlorus<sup>57</sup>, two others coins from Constantius II<sup>58</sup> but these remain unpublished. It is evident that the school collection, which contains a number of items of uncertain provenance, has suffered the loss and deterioration of some pieces in recent years, while new pieces have supplemented the older holdings. The current state of the collection is that only five pieces survive from the old, published group, while fifteen coins have been added recently. Of the latter two are dated in the 3<sup>rd</sup> century A.D., eleven are dated in the 4<sup>th</sup> century A.D. and only one is dated in the 5<sup>th</sup> century A.D.

Alongside the antiquarian interest in coins from Salsovia there were some attempts to calculate the size of the Late Roman citadel. P. Polonic briefly surveyed the site and claimed that it measured 120 × 150 m, with a ditch 50 m wide and 8 m deep<sup>59</sup>. His calculations have subsequently been widely repeated<sup>60</sup>, but as we will see they require significant correction. During the Second World War a segment of the precinct wall was exposed, and was found to measure some 2 m in width<sup>61</sup>. Much of the exploitation of the site by the local community has gone unrecorded, but there are some references to it in the surrounding literature. Various observers have noted the local populations use of the site as a stone quarry, their efforts to dismantle the walls and reuse the faced stones<sup>62</sup>, others talk about the bricks, coins, storage vessels (*dolia*) and the numerous pottery fragments recovered<sup>63</sup>, occasionally detailing

<sup>51</sup> Oberländer-Târnoveanu 1980, 65-66, nr. 21-25.

<sup>52</sup> Oberländer-Târnoveanu 1980, 69-70, nr. 7-8, 12-14, 16-19.

<sup>53</sup> Oberländer-Târnoveanu 1980, 69-70, nr. 15, 22.

<sup>54</sup> Mitrea 1987, 176, nr. 29

<sup>55</sup> Poenaru-Bordea, Lungu 1991, vol. 1, 411-415, vol. 2, 377

<sup>56</sup> Ocheșeanu 2006

<sup>57</sup> Ocheșeanu 2006, 394, inv. 48627-48632.

<sup>58</sup> Inv. 11274, 39738.

<sup>59</sup> Cf. Doruțiu 1964, 133, note 7.

<sup>60</sup> ISM V, 297; Zahariade 1988, 138-139, etc.

<sup>61</sup> Drăghicescu 1943, 421.

<sup>62</sup> Netzhammer 2010, 174.

<sup>63</sup> Moisil 1905; Pârvan 1906; Popescu 1976, 282, etc.

distinctive finds, such as pottery with stamped decoration<sup>64</sup>, or even the ceramic piping frequently found on the slopes of Beștepe hills<sup>65</sup>.

### Fieldwork at Salsovia<sup>66</sup>

In the spring of 2003, funded by a research grant raised by I. Haynes, D. Bogdan from Babeş-Bolyai University Cluj-Napoca and D. Lees started the detailed mapping of the area of the citadel and the settlement abutting it to the south using a GPS rtk unit. The Digital Terrain Model produced (Fig. 1) was tied into the Romanian national projection system with Stereo 70 coordinates, allowing any subsequent site investigation to be accurately placed within a standard geospatial framework.

The second stage of the research, funded by the British Academy, involved geophysical survey and systematic field walking. Resistivity profiles were undertaken in targeted areas. These identified the layout of keywalls and roads in the fortified citadel area and the settlement to the south. Most fruitful, however, was the magnetometry survey undertaken by D. Shiel and F. Robertson, archaeogeophysicists from GSB, Bradford under the direction of I. Haynes. The data collected revealed a clear image of the citadel's defensive system, together with various internal buildings (Fig. 2). We can also better characterize the scale and size of the site. The NS wall on the western side of the precinct is preserved for a length of 133 m while the EW wall on the southern side is 110 m long. The western wall has suffered because of the constant erosion that affects the northern part of the plateau. The deep re-entrant, identified as a defensive ditch by Polonic, of exaggerated dimensions, is in reality a natural feature<sup>67</sup> albeit one coopted for defense by the inhabitants of Salsovia. Of the internal buildings Building A, a large square structure with multiple rooms, is of particular note. This structure, which lay in the western part of the intra-mural area responded particularly well to the magnetometry survey, which showed that it covered at least 24.8 m NS by 25.1 m EW.

In Autumn 2004, D. Bogdan led a team back to the site to reopen a First World War trench. By opening up this trench and cutting back from its twentieth century edges, the team could generate sections to view the site stratigraphy and ground proof the magnetometry data while minimizing the impact of their work on otherwise undisturbed deposits.<sup>68</sup> This strategy concentrated on the area of 20<sup>th</sup> century trenching closest to Building A and led to the opening of an L-shaped evaluation trench measuring 6 m E-W by 3 m N-S and 2.3 m deep. While this was sufficient to ground truth geophysics results, it did not disturb pre-C 4<sup>th</sup> deposits.

<sup>64</sup> DID II, 493.

<sup>65</sup> Netzhammer 2010, 171.

A more detailed account of the project design and the first seasons of work may be found in Haynes *et alii* 2007. The full excavation report is now being completed.

<sup>67</sup> We thank Prof. Dr Gh. Romanescu of the Faculty of Geography and Geology at Iași for his observations.

<sup>68</sup> See Haynes *et alii* 2007. All excavation at the site was undertaken using Single Context Planning and georeferenced with Stereo 70 coordinates. A full technical report of the excavations is forthcoming.



Fig. 1.

Together the results were sufficiently compelling to suggest that more extensive excavation would be worthwhile. What follows summarises the results of the investigation of the the C4-C6 structures at the site.



Fig. 2.

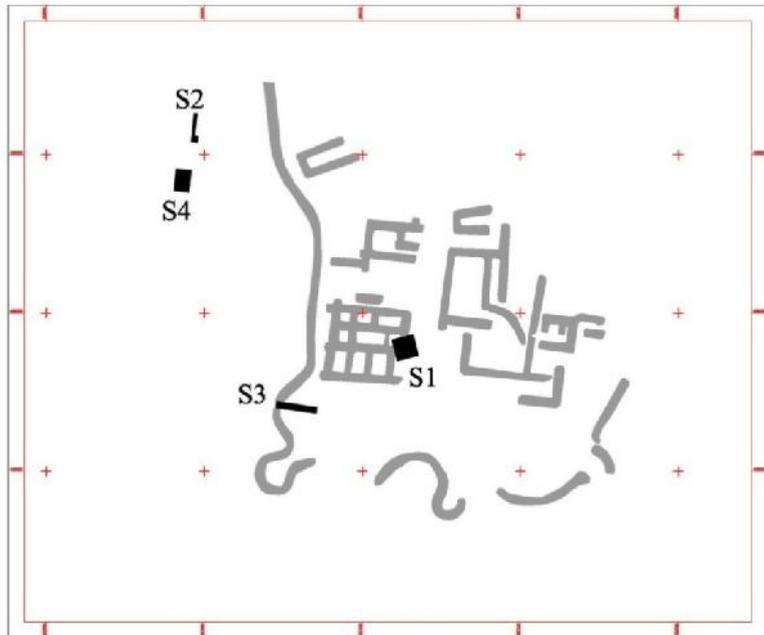


Fig. 3.

In 2007, the full project team returned to Salsovia. The first task was to reopen, enlarge and excavate that part of Building A exposed in the 2004 season. Provisional indications were that this building was of particular importance to the wider operation of the site and that its investigation would illuminate both the wider organization of the complex and also its development in the Late Roman Period. The evaluation area was expanded to encompass an area of  $7 \times 7$  m (SI, Fig. 3). In the early stages of the excavations it became clear that Building A was wider than the geophysics results suggested, having at least another row of rooms on its eastern side. The walls of these rooms remained invisible to the magnetometer, as they had been robbed in the modern times to a depth of over 2 m (Fig. 4-5). Three of the eastern rooms of the building were identified within SI, defined by 1 m thick walls, with stone and clay foundations. The N-S wall was exposed for a height of 1.3 m, while the E-W one was badly robbed, only the lowermost part of its foundation being preserved.

The first identified level (N1), the latest occupation and use phase of this space, is represented by a clay floor at 29.84 m above sea level in room 1 and by a much lower irregular clay walking surface in room 2, at an elevation of 28.34 m. This walking surface was truncated by various pits that seemed to have been used for holding amphorae and other vessels in upright positions, as well as by a relatively large and shallow rectangular pit ( $1.5 \times 1 \times 0.5$  m) lined with wooden planks<sup>69</sup>. The main features inside the eastern room were two large *dolia* in a relatively good state of preservation. This room was sealed by debris from a major fire that baked the sundried bricks of the upper walls and caused them to collapse, covering the scorched floor and the large storage vessels found within.

Only in room number 3 of Building A were earlier phases of occupation identified and excavated. A solid floor (N2) made from stone chips over a clay foundation, was encountered at 29.13 m above sea level. This clearly represented an earlier walking surface within the room. The surface was preceded by an earlier phase of activity associated with an earlier floor constructed in the same manner as N2 but lying 28.74 m above sea level (N3). It is, however, difficult to link this floor surface to any of the structures around it due to truncation caused by later stone robbing activity. It was in this area, that the traces of the earliest identified phase, represented by debris from the dismantling of an earlier building (N4), were discovered. These deposits were clearly cut by the foundations of Building A. A second evaluation trench (SII),  $9 \times 2$  m, was opened on the northern end of the lower plateau, west of the citadel in the attempt to explore extra-mural settlement. The main discovery here was a Getic sunken featured building, 24.11 m above sea level, which significantly pre-dates Late Roman activity at the site. The detailed presentation of this very interesting feature will be made in a future publication. Some of the late Roman finds presented in the catalogue were identified in the upper layers excavated here, mainly in the topsoil and other eroded deposits.

The most significant results for the understanding of the life within the late Roman citadel were provided by the excavations in SIII, a long E-W trench ( $13 \times 3$  m) over the western defensive wall (Fig. 6-9). Traces of a long First World War trench were identified here too, along with stone robbing activities, concentrated mainly on the finely worked stones on the outer face of the defensive wall. The precinct wall is the earliest identified structure in this part of the site, but as the excavation was not taken all the way down to the natural, the moment of its construction was impossible to establish. It certainly withheld its defensive function

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<sup>69</sup> C<sup>14</sup> dates from these planks will be presented separately.

throughout the existence of the fort, being contemporary with the internal buildings until the very last occupation phase.

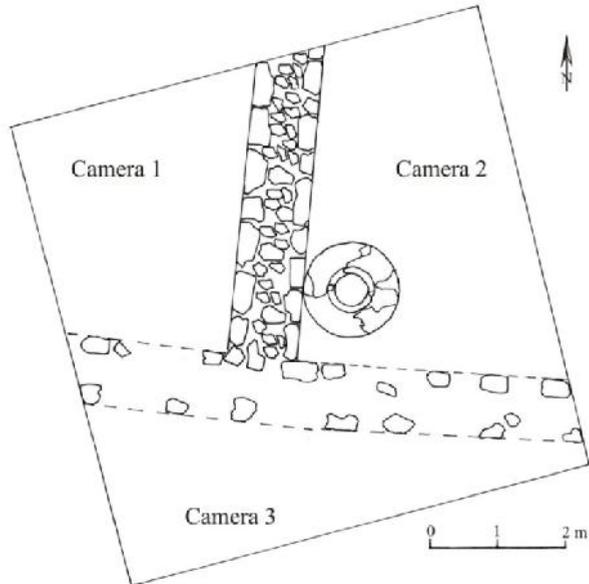


Fig. 4.



Fig. 5.

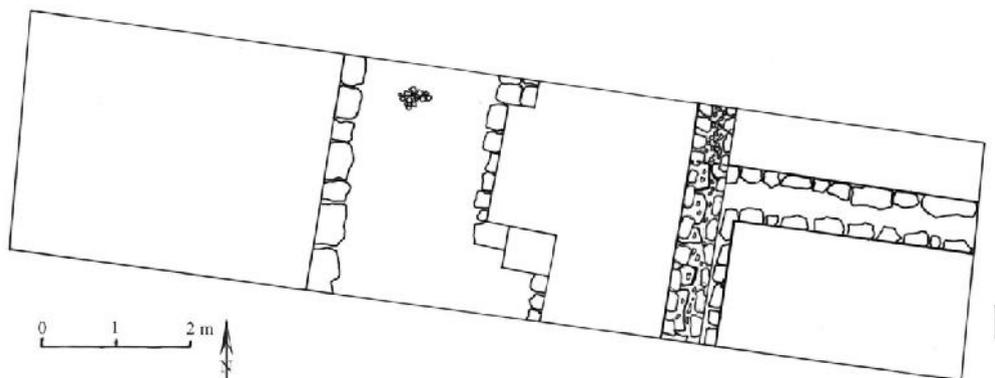


Fig. 6.



Fig. 7.



Fig. 8.



Fig.9.

Both faces of the citadel wall (the external face only survived for a couple of rows, as most of it had been robbed away) were constructed with big stone blocks, finely worked, bounded with mortar, while the core was made of quarry stones and mortar. Inside SIII the wall measured 2.4 m wide for a length of 1.7 m and was wider and characterized by returns to the south (3.3 m) and north (2.83m). Given the relatively reduced dimensions of the archaeological trench, the significance of this varying width of the wall remains uncertain. These elements might be part of a bastion, internal tower or buttress.

In the intra-mural area, 1.6 m east of the precinct wall, the north-western corner of a building was identified (Building B). The 0.7 m wide walls, constructed with worked stones, in rows alternating with brick rows, bounded with mortar, in the *opus mixtum* technique, were exposed for a height of 0.9 m. The appearance, the dimensions and the construction technique, as well as its proximity to the defensive wall, seem to indicate the fact that this building is an official one, perhaps with a military function.



Fig. 10.



Fig. 11.

Building B has a second construction phase, preserved to a height of 0.5 m, with walls that narrow down to 0.55 m and a reduced quality in the construction technique. The N-S wall extends towards the northern edge of the trench, a new room being now added to the building. Each of the two construction phases has two occupation phases in the form of clay floors on a mixed make up layer. As in SI, it was possible to demonstrate that the latest occupation phase (N1) ended with the building burning down. This latest floor of the building was identified at 31.07 m from the sea level. Underneath it, an earlier clay floor (N2) was found at 30.94 m

above sea level, laid over the deposit resulted from dismantling of the first phase walls. The internal space of the first stone, brick and mortar building also has two occupation phases. The latest of the two is a clay floor found at 30.42 m from the sea level, on which demolished debris fell at the moment of disuse. This floor seems to have been in use for a long period of time, with several clay repairs, requested by subsidence problems visible in the corner of the trench. The lowermost occupation phase within this building is a clay walking surface, 30.25 m above sea level.

A fourth trench (SIV) measuring  $7 \times 5$  m was excavated in the 2007 season on the lower plateau west of the citadel (Fig. 10-11). The uppermost archaeological feature was a hard clay floor at 25.9 m from the sea level (approximately 1.1 m under the actual walking surface). The construction cut and a few of the post holes from a timber framed wall were identified along the eastern edge of the trench. All the archaeological finds from this trench are dated in the late Roman period. Here again it was possible to note that activity was sealed in a burnt destruction layer.

As with any site of this time, there are considerable issues with residuality to contend with when examining the ceramic assemblage. At Salsovia, it is clear that these have been complicated in some areas by First World War trenching and earlier stone robbing activity. With this in mind, it is nonetheless possible to present some diagnostic material from the late Roman occupation of the site. The artefacts selected for this report are: table ware, cooking ware and lamps. A fuller treatment of materials is forthcoming.

### Catalogue<sup>70</sup>

#### TABLEWARE (vasa escaria)

For illustrating this ceramic type, we selected 30 plate rim fragments, all dated between the second half of the 4<sup>th</sup> century and the end of the 6<sup>th</sup> century, most of them produced in the area of Asia Minor. The types identified at Salsovia are some of the most common in the Roman Empire, a good example being type Hayes 3.

#### African Red Slip Ware

##### HAYES 1972, Form 87

The sides of the vessels are inclined, with the rim of triangular shape in section. There are three variations of this type, all dated in the second half of the 5<sup>th</sup> century and the 6<sup>th</sup> century.

1. Fragment, rim; Salsovia 2004, S I, topsoil; Dimensions: D = 38 cm, Hp.=2.3 cm; ICM, f.i; Pl. I/1

<sup>70</sup> We take the opportunity to thank C. Geanbai and Dr. S. Ailincăi for the drawings, G. Dincu for the photographs and C. Kaim for editing. Catalogue abbreviations: D=diameter; S=excavation trench; H=height (with the handle); N=level; Hp=preserved height; inv.=inventory; L=length f.i.=without inventory; Lp=preserved length; Pl.=plate; Lat.p=preserved width col. Școala=Mahmudia school collection; Gp=preserved thickness; ICM=Institutul de Cercetări Eco-Muzeale.

Fine fabric, compact, hard, with rare red particles or golden mica, reddish brown colour (2,5YR5/8)<sup>71</sup>, red slip (10R5/8), shiny.

Analogies: Hayes 1972, Form 87 A, 135-136, fig. 24/2; Atlante I, 93-94, pl. XLI/5-7; Topoleanu 2000, type IX, 73-74, no. 152, pl. XVIII.

Dating: first half of the 6<sup>th</sup> century A.D.

### Late Roman C Ware

#### HAYES 1972, Form 1

Seen as the direct descendant from Form Hayes 4 Candarli, it has vertical and curved sides with a simple, rarely thickened rim. The four known variations are dated at the end of 4<sup>th</sup> century and the 5<sup>th</sup> century A.D.

2. Fragment, rim; Salsovia 2007, S III, N 1, topsoil; Dimensions: D=19 cm, Hp.=2.10 cm; ICEM, f.i; Pl. I/2.

Fine fabric, reddish brown (2,5YR5/8), sporadic white limestone particles, darkish slip (2,5YR4/8)

Analogies: Hayes 1972, Form 1A, 325-0327, fig. 65/1,2; Atlante I, 232, pl. CXI/1, 4, 5; Topoleanu 2000, type VII, 44-45, no. 8-13, pl. I, II, XII.

Dating: second half of the 4<sup>th</sup> century-first half of the 5<sup>th</sup> century A.D.

3. Fragment, rim; Salsovia, *pass*; school collection, inv. 56; Dimensions: D=19.7 cm, Hp.=5.3 cm; Pl. I/3.

Fine fabric, reddish brown (2,5YR6/8), reddish thin slip (10R6/8), incompletely applied and exfoliated to the exterior, reddish brown at the interior.

Analogies: Hayes 1972, Form 1 A, B, 325-327, fig. 65/ 1-4; Atlante I, 232, pl. CXI/ 1, 3-5; Topoleanu 2000, type VII, 44-45, no. 8-15, pl. I, II, XII.

Dating: first half of the 5<sup>th</sup> century A.D.

#### HAYES 1972, Form 3

The most widely spread form of the Phocaeen tableware has curved sides, slightly wavy, or almost straight, with a vertical rim, straight or thickened in the lower part, most of the time concave towards the exterior. The rim sometimes has cogwheel a decorated exterior, or painted black, brown or white. Many vessels have a stamped decoration on the base. The eight known types (A-H) are distinguished by the rim aspect that presents a progressive shortening and thickening. They are to be dated in the second half of the 5<sup>th</sup> century and the 6<sup>th</sup> century A.D.

#### Form 3A

4. Fragment, rim; Salsovia 2007, S III, N 1, disturbed context; Dimensions: D=35 cm, Hp.=3.69 cm; ICEM, f.i., Pl. I/4.

Fine fabric, reddish brown (2,5YR5/8), sporadic white limestone particles, light reddish brown slip at the interior (2,5YR6/8), reddish paint on the exterior of the rim (10R5/8).

<sup>71</sup> Colours defined by *Munsell soil color charts. Year 2000* revised edition, New York, 2000.

Analogies: Hayes 1972, Form 3A, 331; Delgado 1975, 287-288, pl. LXXVI/175; Abadie-Reynal, Sodini 1992, 19, CF60-63, fig. 3; Topoleanu 2000, type IX, 47-48, no. 21-22, pl. III.  
 Dating: second half of the 5<sup>th</sup> century A.D.

### Form 3B

5. Fragment, rim; Salsovia 2004, S I, topsoil; Dimensions: D=31 cm, Hp.=2.8 cm; ICEM, f.i., Pl. I/5.  
 Fine fabric, hard, reddish brown (10R5/8), sporadic white limestone particles, brown traces on the exterior of the rim (2,5YR4/2), reddish brown slip at the interior (10R5/6).  
 Cogwheel decoration on the exterior of the rim in one register.  
 Analogies: Hayes 1972, Form 3B, 329, 331, 333, fig. 67/1, 2, 4, 5; Atlante I, 232, pl. CXI/11-13; Bottger 1982, 62, pl. 37/422; Abadie-Reynal Sodini 1992, 19, CF64-67, fig. 71; Topoleanu 2000, 48-49, no. 23-26, pl. III, XV; Mocanu 2011 A, 232-233, no. 13-17, pl. 3.  
 Dating: 5<sup>th</sup> century A.D.
6. Fragment, rim; Salsovia 2007, S I, backfill of robbing trench; Dimensions: D=36 cm, Hp. = 3.37 cm; ICEM, f.i.; Pl. I/6.  
 Fine fabric, golden mica intrusions, reddish brown (10R5/8), its own slip, sporadic traces of dark brown paint on the exterior of the rim.  
 The exterior of the rim is cogwheel decorated in a single register.  
 Analogies and dating: see no. 5.
7. Fragment, rim; Salsovia 2007, S I, topsoil; Dimensions; D=27 cm, Hp.=4.24 cm; ICEM, f.i. Pl. I/7.  
 Fine fabric, very rare golden mica and limestone intrusions, reddish brown (10R5/8), light red slip (2,5YR6/8), reddish brown paint on the exterior of the rim.  
 Analogies and dating: see no. 5.
8. Fragment, rim; Salsovia 2007, S I, backfill of robbing trench; Dimensions: D=32 cm, Hp.=2.87 cm; ICEM, f.i.; Pl. I/8.  
 Fine clean fabric, silver mica intrusions reddish brown (5YR6/8), reddish brown slip (2,5YR5/8).  
 Analogies and dating: see no. 5.
9. Fragment rim; Salsovia 2007, S I, backfill of robbing trench; Dimensions: D=28 cm, Hp=3.63 cm; ICEM, f.i.; Pl. I/9.  
 Fine fabric, silver mica intrusions, light reddish brown (2,5YR6/6), its own slip.  
 Analogies and dating: see no. 5.
10. Fragment, rim; Salsovia 1977, *passim*; Dimensions: D=32 cm, Hp.=3.7 cm, Lp=12.4 cm; ICEM, f.i.; Pl. I/10.  
 Fine fabric, limestone intrusions, light reddish brown (10R7/8), reddish brown(10R6/8), compact.  
 Analogies and dating: see no. 5.

## Form 3C

- 11.** Fragment, rim; Salsovia 2004, S I, topsoil; Dimensions: D=27 cm, Hp.=3.1 cm, Lp.=7.7 cm; ICEM, f.i.; Pl. I/11.  
Fine fabric, limestone and silver mica intrusions, reddish brown (10R5/8), reddish slip (2,5YR5/6), consistent, vague traces of black paint on the exterior of the rim.  
Analogies: Hayes 1972, Form 3C, 329, 333, fig. 67/7, 9, 68/10; Atlante I, 232, pl. CXII/2-4; Abadie-Reynal, Sodini 1992, 19-20, CF 68-76; Topoleanu 2000, 49-50, no. 27-34, pl. III-IV A.D.; Mocanu 2011a, 233-235, no. 18-39, pl. 3-4.  
Dating: second half of the 5<sup>th</sup> century and the 6<sup>th</sup> century A.D.
- 12.** Fragment, rim; Salsovia 2004, S I, topsoil; Dimensions: D=35 cm, Hp.=3 cm; ICEM, f.i.; Pl. I/12  
Fine fabric, sporadic limestone intrusions, reddish brown (10R5/8), reddish brown slip (10R4/8), consistent.  
Analogies and dating: see no. 11.
- 13.** Fragment, rim; Salsovia 2004, S I, topsoil; Dimensions: D=38 cm, Hp.=2.8 cm, Lp.=9,4 cm; ICEM, f.i.; Pl. I/13.  
Fine compact fabric, sporadic limestone intrusions, reddish brown (10R5/8), reddish brown slip (10R5/6), consistent, darker on the rim.  
The exterior of the rim is cogwheel decorated in a single register.  
Analogies and dating: see no. 11.
- 14.** Fragment, rim; Salsovia 2004, S I, topsoil; Dimensions: D=29 cm, Hp.=3 cm, Lp.=6.4 cm; ICEM, f.i.; Pl. I/14.  
Fine fabric, sporadic limestone intrusions, light reddish brown (10R6/6), light red slip (2,5YR5/6), thin, chipped, with vague traces of red paint.  
Analogies and dating: see no. 11.
- 15.** Fragment, rim; Salsovia, 2007, S I, topsoil; Dimensions: D=38 cm, Hp.=4.05 cm; ICEM, f.i.; Pl. I/15.  
Fine fabric, sporadic limestone intrusions, light reddish brown (10R5/8), it has its own slip.  
Analogies and dating: see no. 11.
- 16.** Fragment, rim; Salsovia, *passim*; school collection, inv 62; Dimensions: D=29 cm, Hp.= 3.1 cm, Lp.=7.9 cm; Pl. II/16.  
Fine fabric, sporadic limestone intrusions, reddish brown (10R5/8), reddish brown slip (10R5/8), with vague traces of black paint on the exterior of the rim.  
Analogies and dating: see no. 11.
- 17.** Fragment, rim; Salsovia, *passim*; school collection, inv. 137; Dimensions: D=33 cm, Hp.=3.5 cm; Pl. II/17.  
Fine fabric, limestone intrusions, reddish brown (2,5YR5/8), reddish brown slip (2,5YR5/6).  
Analogies and dating: see no. 11.

**HAYES 1972, Form 3D**

- 18.** Fragment, rim; Salsovia, 2007, S I, backfill of robbing trench; Dimensions: D=26 cm, Hp.=3.26 cm; ICEM, f.i.; Pl. II/18.  
 Fine fabric, limestone and silver mica intrusions, reddish brown (10R5/8), light reddish brown slip (2,5YR5/8).  
 The exterior of the rim is cogwheel decorated in three parallel registers.  
 Analogies: Hayes 1972, Form 3D, 333, fig. 68/13; Atlante I, 232, pl. CXII/5; Topoleanu 2000, type. IX, 50, no. 35-38, pl. IV.  
 Dating: second half of the 5<sup>th</sup> century A.D.

**HAYES 1972,Form 3E**

- 19.** Fragment, rim; Salsovia 2004, S I,topsoil; Dimensions; D=16 cm, Hp=2.7 cm; ICEM, f.i.; Pl. II/19.  
 Fine fabric, limestone and sporadic pebbles intrusions, reddish brown (2,5YR4/8), reddish slip (10R5/8), some traces of black paint on the exterior of the rim.  
 Analogies: Hayes 1972, Form 3E, 329, 351, 333, fig. 6814-15; Atlante I, 232, pl. CXII/6-8; Topoleanu 2000, 50-51, no. 39-46; Mocanu 2011a, 236-238, no. 44-66, pl. 5-6.  
 Dating: second half of the 5<sup>th</sup> century and 6<sup>th</sup> century A.D.
- 20.** Fragment, rim; Salsovia 2007, S I, topsoil; Dimensions: D = 31 cm, Hp. = 4.20 cm ;ICEM, f.i.; Pl. II/20.  
 Fine fabric, sporadic limestone and silver mica intrusions, reddish brown (10R5/8), reddish slip (10R6/8)  
 The exterior of the rim is fully cogwheel decorated in a single register.  
 Analogies and dating: see no. 19.
- 21.** Fragment, rim; Salsovia, 2007, S I, topsoil; Dimensions: D=30 cm, Hp.=3.63 cm; ICEM, f.i.; Pl. II/21.  
 Fine fabric, limestone and sporadic silver mica intrusions, reddish brown (10R5/8), reddish slip (10R4/8), vague traces of brown paint on the rim.  
 The exterior of the rim is cogwheel decorated.  
 Analogies and dating: see no. 19.

**HAYES 1972, Form 3F**

- 22.** Fragment, rim; Salsovia, *passim*; school collection, inv.61; Dimensions: D=33 cm, Hp.=3.6 cm, Lp.=8.8 cm; Pl. II/22.  
 Fine fabric, limestone intrusions, reddish brown (10R6/8), reddish slip (10R5/8), thick, consistent.  
 The exterior of the rim is cogwheel decorated.

Analogies: Hayes 1972, Form 3F, 329, 331, 333, 335, fig. 69/17, 19, 23-25; Atlante I, 232, pl. CXII/9-11, CXIII/1,2; Kuzmanov 1993, type. II, 36, fig. 2/b; Topleanu 2000, 51-52, no. 47-56, pl. V-VI; Mocanu 2011a, 238-239, no. 67-80, pl. 6-7.

Dating: first half of the 6<sup>th</sup> century A.D.

- 23.** Fragment, rim; Salsovia 2004, S I, topsoil; Dimensions: D=32 cm, Hp.= 3.35 cm; ICEM, f.i.; Pl. II/23.  
Fine fabric, limestone intrusions, reddish brown (2,5YR5/8), reddish slip (10R5/8).  
The exterior of the rim is cogwheel decorated.  
Analogies and dating: see no.22.
- 24.** Fragment, rim; Salsovia 2004 S I, topsoil; Dimensions: D=35 cm, Hp.=2.8 cm; ICEM, f.i.; Pl. II/24.  
Fine, compact, hard fabric, limestone intrusions, reddish brown (10R6/6), light red slip (10R4/8).  
The exterior of the rim is cogwheel decorated.  
Analogies and dating: see no. 22.
- 25.** Fragment, rim; Salsovia 2004, S I, topsoil; Dimensions: D=25 cm, Hp.=2.7 cm; ICEM, f.i.; Pl. II/25.  
Fine fabric, sporadic limestone intrusions, reddish color (10R4/6), slightly darker, consistent slip (10R4/8).  
Analogies and dating: see no. 22.
- 26.** Fragment, rim; Salsovia 2004, S I, topsoil; Dimensions: D=26 cm, Hp.=2.8 cm; ICEM, f.i.; Pl. II/26.  
Fine fabric, limestone intrusions, reddish brown color (10R6/8), has its own slip.  
Analogies and dating: see no. 22.
- 27.** Fragment, rim; Salsovia 2004, S I, topsoil; Dimensions: D=33 cm, Hp.=2.4 cm; ICEM, f.i.; Pl. II/27.  
Fine fabric, very sporadic limestone intrusions, red brown color (2,5YR6/8), reddish slip (10R5/8),consistent.  
Analogies and dating: see no. 22.

### **HAYES 1972, Form 8**

The main characteristic of this form is the horizontal rim, with the external edge oriented downwards, slightly concave and decorated with fine grooves upper part. It is dated in the second half of the 5<sup>th</sup> century and the first half of the 6<sup>th</sup> century A.D.

- 28.** Fragment, rim and the upper part of the body shard; Salsovia 1977, *passim*; Dimensions: D=21cm, Hp.=3.6 cm ; ICEM, f.i.; Pl. II/28.  
Semi-fine fabric, sporadic pebbles and limestone intrusions, brownish red color (2,5R6/6), reddish brown slip (2,5YR6/8),thick and not very adhesive.

Analogies: Hayes 1972, Form 8, 342, fig. 70/1, 2; Hayes 1992, 93, deposit 9/9, fig. 31; Topoleanu 2000, type. XVIII, 59-60, no. 94-98, pl. X-XI; Mocanu 2011a, 240, no. 88-89, pl. 7.  
 Dating: second half of the 5<sup>th</sup> century, first half of the 6<sup>th</sup> century A.D.

- 29.** Fragment, rim; Salsovia, *pass*; school collection, inv. 121; Dimensions: D=14 cm, Hp.=3 cm, Lp.=5.7 cm; Pl. II/29.  
 Fine fabric, limestone and sporadic silver mica intrusions, reddish color (10R4/8),  
 Analogies and dating: see no. 28.
- 30.** Fragment, rim; Salsovia 2007, S I, topsoil; Dimensions: D=14.5 cm, Hp.=2.48 cm; ICEM, f.i.; Pl. II/30.  
 Fine, clean fabric, reddish brown color (10R5/8), light reddish brown slip (10R6/8), thick, traces of reddish brown paint on the exterior of the rim (2,5YR4/6).  
 Analogies and dating: see no. 28.

### STAMPED DECORATION TABLEWARE

The late Roman tableware with stamp decoration is an important chronological landmark, due to the many published artifacts that can be used as analogies, most of them for the oriental pottery, but the North African one is relatively well represented as well. The fragmentary state of preservation of the Salsovia lot does not allow a secure typological identification. In the absence of physical and chemical analysis, it is very difficult to establish the exact production centers. Based on the analogies, sometimes close to identical, the six decoration motifs were provisionally considered to be of Phocaean origin. Some of the darker fabric vessels could be part of the *Pontic Red Slip Ware* category. The fragment no. 35, decorated with dolphin and zebra, has no identified close analogies.

### Late Roman C Ware

#### Zoomorphic motifs:

##### *Lion*

- 31.** Fragment, base; Salsovia, 2007, S III, N 1; Dimensions : Lp.=3.78 cm, Lat.p.=3.24 cm, Gp.=0.82 cm; ICEM, inv. 49911; Pl. III/31.  
 Fine fabric, very rare limestone and pebble intrusions, light reddish brown color (10R5/8), its own slip.  
 The decoration presents a moving lion, pattern repeated in a circle at the interior around the center.  
 Analogies: Hayes 1972, motif 38/l-o, 39/p-q, variant, group II A,B and III, 359, fig. 75;  
 Dating: second half of the 5<sup>th</sup> century, 6<sup>th</sup> century A.D.
- 32.** Fragment, base; Salsovia, 2007, S III, N 1; Dimensions: Lp.=4.00 cm, Lat.p.=2.40 cm, Gp.=0.46 cm; ICEM, inv. 49912; Pl. III/32.

Fine fabric, very rare limestone and pebble intrusions, reddish brown color (5YR6/6), its own silky slip.

Central decoration: on the interior the head of a lion turned left and the front paws are preserved.

Analogies: Hayes 1972, motif 37h, group III, 359, Fig. 75 (identical)

Dating: the end of the 5<sup>th</sup> century-second half of the 6<sup>th</sup> century A.D.

### *Birds*

- 33.** Fragment, base; Salsovia, 2007, S III, N 1; Dimensions: Lp=8.83 cm, Lat.p.=4.51 cm, Gp.=0.93 cm; ICEM, inv. 49913; Pl. III/33.

Fine fabric, very rare limestone and silver mica intrusions, light brown color (2,5YR6/6), reddish brown slip at the interior (2,5YR6/8), thick, dull.

Central decoration: on the interior in a circle around the center four chicks are presented, surrounded by rare concentric circles. On the exterior finely scratched concentric circles.

Analogies : Hayes 1972, motif 46, group II, 361, fig. 77/b-d; Popescu 1965, 706, fig. 5/5; Papuc 1973, 167, fig. 7/6-8.

Dating: second half of the 5<sup>th</sup> century, 6<sup>th</sup> century A.D.

- 34.** Fragment base; Salsovia, 2007, S III, N 1; Dimensions: Lp.=6.97 cm, Lat.p.=6.98 cm, Gp.=1.10 cm; ICEM, inv. 49914; Pl. III/34.

Fine hard and compact fabric, very rare white limestone intrusions, reddish brown colour (2,5YR5/6), reddish slip (2,5YR5/8), consistent, mat.

Central decoration: on the interior in a circle around the center, the fragmentary image of a peacock is preserved.

Analogies : Hayes 1972, motif 48-50, group III, 361-362, fig. 77/f, h; Papuc 1973, 177, fig. 16/5-9; Topoleanu 2000, 61, no. 101, pl. XIV.

Dating: 6<sup>th</sup> century A.D.

### *Dolphin*

- 35.** Fragment, base; Salsovia, 2007, S III, N 1; Dimensions: Lp.=8.46 cm, Lat.p.=4.94 cm, Gp.=0.82 cm; ICEM, inv. 49915; Pl. III/35.

Fine fabric, sporadic white limestone intrusions, reddish brown colour (2,5YR5/6), reddish slip (2,5YR5/8), consistent, mat.

Central decoration: on the interior a dolphin and probably a very stylized zebra.

Analogies: Hayes 1972, motif 45, group II-III, 361, fig. 76/n-p; Popescu 1965, 706, fig.7/1; Aricescu 1971, 354-355, fig. 4a; Munteanu, Papuc 1976, 149-150, pl. II, fig. 6; Papuc 1973, 167, fig 10.

Dating: 5<sup>th</sup> century A.D.

### *Christian motifs – double contoured cross*

- 36.** Fragment, base; Salsovia, 2007, S III, N 1; Dimensions: Lp=4.53 cm, Lat.p.=5.16 cm, Gp.=0.70 cm ; ICEM, inv. 49916; Pl. III/36.

Fine fabric, very few limestone and silver mica intrusions, reddish colour (2,5YR6/8), its own slip.

Central decoration: on the interior a double contoured cross with flattened ends.

Analogies: Hayes 1972, motif 71, group II A, C and III, 365-367, fig. 79/b ; Popescu 1965, 707, fig. 7/3 6; Papuc 1973, 180, no. 6, fig. 23; Abadie-Reynal, Sodini 1992, 28, CF 41, fig. 10, pl. 2; Topoleanu 2000, 67, no. 129, pl. XV; Mocanu 2011b, 299, no. 15, fig. 4/22.

Dating: second half of the 5<sup>th</sup> century, 6<sup>th</sup> century A.D.

- 37.** Fragment, base; Salsovia, 2007, S I, topsoil; Dimensions: Lp.=4.48 cm, Lat.p.=3.47 cm, Gp.=0,5 cm; ICEM, inv.49917; Pl.III/37.

Gryearated fabric limestone and sporadic golden mica intrusions light reddish brown color (10R5/8).

Central decoration: on the interior a double contoured cross with flattened ends.

Analogies and dating: see no. 36.

### COOKING WARE

The vast majority of the vessels in this category is represented by the food cooking pots. Among them, the common elements are the rough, hard fabric, with iron oxide, pebbles and limestone intrusions and the rim shape that allows the placement of the lid on top. The selected types for illustrating the late Roman period, are local west Pontic products.

- 38.** Fragmentary pot, part of the rim and handle preserved; Salsovia 2004, S I, topsoil; Dimensions: D=16 cm, Hp.=4.05 cm ; ICEM, f.i.; Pl. IV/38

Rough reddish brown fabric, with white limestone and fine sand intrusions, own slip, secondary fired.

Relatively high rim, diagonally flaring, concave towards the interior.

Analogies: Böttger 1982, type VII, 143, no. 595, pl. 48; Suceveanu 1982, 84, fig. 7/10; Opreș 2003, 114-115, type. I – version; Topoleanu 2000, type. IV, 109, no. 250 – version, pl. XXIX.

Dating: first half of the 5<sup>th</sup> century A.D.

- 39.** Fragmentary pot, rim; Salsovia 2004, S I, topsoil; Dimensions: D=14 cm, Hp.=4.48 cm; ICEM; Pl. IV/39.

Light brown fabric, with pebble, limestone and sporadic silver mica intrusions, grey slip.

The rim is short, vertical with a significant thickening towards the exterior and a lid edge.

Analogies: Topoleanu 2000, type V, var. B, 110-111, no. 256-261 – version, pl. XXIX- XXX; Bogdan-Cătănicu, Barnea 1979, 188, NV 5(6) – version, fig. 162 ; Böttger 1982, type. VII, version, 144, pl. 48.

Dating: end of the 5<sup>th</sup> century, 6<sup>th</sup> century A.D.

- 40.** Fragmentary pot, rim; Salsovia 2004, S I, topsoil; Dimensions; D=19 cm, Hp.=2.59 cm; ICEM, f.i.; Pl. IV/40.

Light brown fabric, with pebble and limestone intrusions, own slip, secondary fired.

Analogies and dating: see no. 39.

- 41.** Fragmentary pot, rim; Salsovia 2004, S I, topsoil; Dimensions: D=24 cm, Hp.=3.50 cm; ICEM, f.i.; Pl. IV/41.  
Light brown fabric, with pebble, limestone and silver mica intrusions, own slip, secondary fired.  
Analogies and dating: see no. 39.
- 42.** Fragmentary pot, rim; Salsovia 2004, S I, backfill of WWI trench; Dimensions: D=17 cm, Hp.=4.97cm; ICEM, f.i.; Pl. IV/42.  
Beige fabric, with pebble, limestone and iron oxide intrusions, own slip.  
Analogies and dating: see no. 39.
- 43.** Fragmentary pot, rim; Salsovia 2004, S III, topsoil; Dimensions: D=19 cm, Hp.=3.70cm; ICEM, f.i.; Pl. IV/43.  
Light grey fabric incompletely fired, fine sand, iron oxide and sporadic white mica intrusions, own slip, secondary fired.  
The flaring rim is concave towards the interior and convex towards the exterior, globular body.  
Analogies: Topoleanu 2000, type VIII, 113, no. 271-275, pl. XXXI-XXXII.  
Dating: 5<sup>th</sup> century, end of 7<sup>th</sup> century A.D.
- 44.** Fragmentary saucepan, rim; Salsovia 2004, S III, topsoil; Dimensions: D=28.6 cm, Hp.=5.44 cm; ICEM, f.i.; Pl. IV/44.  
Yellowish white fabric with fine sand, iron oxide and silver mica intrusions, own slip, secondary fired.  
Analogies: Topoleanu 2000, type I, 119, no. 304-305, pl. XXXVI (with bibl.).  
Dating: 2<sup>nd</sup> century-6<sup>th</sup> century A.D.

### LAMPS

All 14 fragmentary lamps discovered at Salsovia are dated between the 4<sup>th</sup> and the 6<sup>th</sup> (7<sup>th</sup>) centuries. Some of them are of Attian origin, with a crescent on the disc or a trapezoidal nozzle, others are of Ephesus type, with vines and grapes on the edge, or north-Africans and local imitations.

- 45.** Lamp, part of the handle and edge is missing, the slip is detached on the upper part; Salsovia 2007, S3, NIV; Dimensions: L=10.22 cm; D=7.10 cm; H=3.40 (4.76) cm; ICEM, inv. 49918; Pl. V/45  
Made in a fine fabric mould, incompletely fired, with limestone and sporadic silver mica intrusions; yellowish-beige color (10 YR6/4), brown paint (10YR 6/4), thick, worn; used.  
The basin is round with short rounded nozzle and lamellar handle; the discus is slightly concave with a circular rib, the edge is slightly convex, flattened base; the discus is decorated with a lunula, the edge with a row of globes, a transversal line separates the nozzle from the edge and the base is decorated with concentric circles.

Analogies: Broneer 1930, type XXVIII, 269, no. 1309, fig. 194, 49 / 6 (nozzle type); Ivanyi 1935, type X, 97-98, no. 870, pl. XXXV; Perlzweig 1961, 134, no. 1081-1104, pl. 22; Bruneau 1965, 137, no. 4672, pl. 32; Iconomu 1967, type XXIV, 128, no. 663, fig. 148; Iconomu 1986, type XXVIII, 73-74, pl. V, fig. 9; Poulou-Papadimitriu 1986, 600, no. 36, fig. 33; Kuzmanov 1992, type XXIII, 32, no. 209; Böttger 2002, 187-188, no. 2261-2294, pl. 41; Topoleanu 2000, type II, 179, no. 455, pl. LVI; Tzevreni 2011, 217, no. 132-133.  
 Dating: 3<sup>rd</sup> century-4<sup>th</sup> century A.D.

- 46.** Fragmentary lamp, only part of the edge and nozzle preserved; Salsovia 2007, S3, N II; Dimensions : Lp.=5.71 cm; ICEM, inv. 49919; Pl. V/46.  
 Made in a fine fabric mould, yellowish (2,5Y7/3), with limestone and sporadic silver mica intrusions, light brown slip (2,5Y5/4), partially preserved, used.  
 The edge is decorated with a row of projecting gryeaes and one of the lateral panels with the pine branch motif; on the nozzle there is a lateral incision near the wick hole. This last detail clearly identifies the lamp as a trapezoidal nozzle type.  
 Analogies: Bruneau 1965, 137, no. 4671, pl. 32; Topoleanu 2000, type I, 178-179, no. 454, pl. LVI; Böttger 2002, pl. 24-37, *passim*.  
 Dating: 4<sup>th</sup> century A.D.
- 47.** Fragmentary lamp, only the handle and part of the basin are preserved; Salsovia 2007, S3, NI, topsoil; Dimensions: Lp.=3.55 cm, Hp.=4.78 cm; ICEM, inv. 49920; Pl. V/47.  
 Made in a fine fabric mould but not very carefully finished; fine clay with sporadic pebble and silver mica intrusions, yellowish color (2,3Y7/3), own slip; not used.  
 Round basin, concave discus with four circular incisions, wide straight edge, lamellar handle, incompletely perforated, decorated with three incisions in the middle, extending towards the base.  
 Analogies: Broneer 1930, type XXVII, *passim*; Perlzweig 1961, pl. 30-37, *passim*; Petropoulos 1999, pl. 20-50, *passim*; Koutoussaki 2008, pl. XIX-XXX, *passim*.  
 Dating: 3<sup>rd</sup>-4<sup>th</sup> century A.D.
- 48.** Fragmentary lamp, only the lower back side is preserved; Salsovia 2007, S3, N II; Dimensions: Lp.=6.00 cm, Hp.=3.00 cm; ICEM, inv. 49921; Pl. V/48  
 Made in a fine fabric mould, carefully finished, fine clay with sporadic limestone and silver mica intrusions, reddish brown color (2,5YR3/8), traces of reddish paint (10R5/8), not used.  
 Round basin; the handle extends towards the base and it is marked with two V shaped incisions; round flat base circled with one incision;  
 Analogies and dating: see no. 47.
- 49.** Fragmentary lamp, only part of the edge preserved; Salsovia 2007, S 1, N I; Dimensions: Lp.=4.78 cm, Hp.=2.37cm; ICEM, inv. 49922; Pl. V/49.  
 Made in a fine fabric mould, carefully finished; fine clay, reddish pink color (5YR7/6), reddish brown paint (5YR3/4), partly worn; used.  
 On the convex edge a segment of the vine and grape decoration is still visible; the discus is surrounded by a double rib.

Analogies: Miltner 1927, type X, Form 2, no. 1450-1696, pl. VIII-IX; Perlzweig 1961, 160, no. 2046, pl. 33 ; Iconomu 1986, type XL, 86, pl. VIII/10,11; Bailey 1988, 382-383, Q 3110-3115; Topoleanu 2000, type VII, varianta B / 2, 201, no. 516, pl. LXIV.

Dating : 4<sup>th</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> century A.D.

- 50.** Fragmentary lamp, only part of the edge and the nozzle canal are preserved; Salsovia 2007, S 1, topsoil; Dimensions: Lp.=6.04 cm; ICEM, inv. 49923; Pl. V/50.

Made in a fine fabric mould, carefully finished, fine hard clay, sporadic limestone intrusions, red color (2,5YR4/8), own slip, thick and consistent, very little worn, intensively worn.

The basin is oval with wide straight edge and a semicircular panel; the slightly concave discus is marked with a projecting rib that splits on the nozzle, forming a canal with parallel sides; on the edge there are three decoration motives: branch, cross with gryeaars between the arms and flower; the discus is decorated with what seems to be a cross.

Analogies: Hayes 1972, type II A, 310-315; Ennabli 1976, motif N2 +A1-3 (version) + H1; Topoleanu 2000, type I, var. A, 190-192, no. 487-495, pl. LXI.

Dating: 5<sup>th</sup> century A.D.

- 51.** Fragmentary lamp, only part of the edge and the nozzle canal are preserved; Salsovia 2007, SIV, N 1; Dimensions: Lp.=5.92 cm.; ICEM, inv. 49924; Pl. VI/51.

Made in a mould, fine clay, rough at the interior, visibly worn, reddish brown color, (2,5YR5/6), reddish slip (2,5 YR5/8), worn; used.

Same description as the previous one; on the edge panel there are two decoration motives: triangle and pearled horseshoes.

Analogies: Hayes 1972, type IIB, 310-315; Ennabli 1976, motif D1 + L5 (version); Topoleanu 2000, type I, var. B, 192-194, pl. LXI-LXII.

Dating: 5<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> century A.D.

- 52.** Fragmentary lamp, only part of the edge is preserved; Salsovia 2007, SIV, topsoil; Dimensions: Lp.=3.30 cm; ICEM, inv. 49925; Pl. VI/52.

Made in a mould, fine clay, intensely worn, reddish brown color (2,5 YR5/6), reddish slip (2,5YR5/8), used.

On the edge panel there is a single decoration motif: pearled horseshoes.

Analogies and dating: see no. 51.

- 53.** Fragmentary lamp, only the lower back side is preserved; Salsovia 2007, S 1, topsoil; Dimensions: Lp.=5.80 cm, Hp.=3.22cm; ICEM, inv. 49926; Pl. VI/53.

Made in a fine fabric mould, carefully finished, fine hard clay, sporadic limestone intrusions, reddish color (10R5/6), own slip with traces of reddish brown paint (2,5YR4/4). The circular base and the rib that connects it to the handle are preserved.

Analogies: Hayes 1972, type IIB, 310-315; Topoleanu 2000, type I, var. B, 192-194, pl. LXI-LXII.

Dating: 5<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> century A.D.

- 54.** Fragmentary lamp, only part of the base is preserved; Salsovia 2007, S III, N 4; Dimensions: Lp.=5.77 cm; ICEM, inv. 49927; Pl. VI/54.  
Made in a mould, fine hard clay, sporadic silver mica intrusions, light red color (2,5YR5/6), reddish slip (2,5YR5/8), fragmentary.  
Long nozzle, flat base with a long ellipsoidal incision made in the mould.  
Analogies: Broneer 1930, type XXVIII, 217-219, 222, no. 832, 834, 839, 847, 880, fig. 148-152, 155; Perlzweig 1961, pl. 35-36, 43; Bovon 1966, 70, no. 478, pl. 12; Koutoussaki 2008, 312-313, 390, no. 534.4, 537.5, 707.1, pl. LIV, LXVII.  
Dating: 5<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> century A.D.
- 55.** Fragmentary lamp, only part of the lower half is preserved; Salsovia 2007, S III, N 1; Dimensions: Lp.=11.10 cm, Hp.=2.00 cm; ICEM, inv. 49928; Pl. VI/55.  
Made in a worn mould, fine clay, pebbles, limestone and sporadic silver mica intrusions, reddish brown color (5 YR6/8), own whitish slip (5YR6/6).  
Piriform basin, circular, flat base, connected to the handle with a rib.  
Analogies: Topoleanu 2000, type IX, 203-205.  
Dating: 5<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> century A.D.
- 56.** Fragmentary lamp, part of the handle, edge and discus are preserved; Salsovia 2007, S 1, backfill of stone robbing trench; Dimensions: Lp.=4.62 cm, Hp.=3.84 cm; ICEM, inv. 49929; Pl. VI/56.  
Made in a mould, but not very carefully finished, fine hard clay, limestone intrusions, yellowish white color (2,5 YR8/2), own slip.  
Piriform basin, with a flat upper part; lamellar handle outwardly oriented; small round discus surrounded by two ribs; large, central filling hole; wide edge decorated with radial lines; rib between the handle and the base.  
Analogies: Gomolka 1966, 249, 291-356, no. 15, pl. II/15 ; Iconomu 1967, type XXX, 27-28, 139, no. 723, fig. 56; Iconomu 1986, type. XLVI, 92-93, pl. VIII/8, 9; Kuzmanov, Băcvarov 1986, type.VII, 56-57, no. 109-111, pl. XIV; Topoleanu 2000, type IX, 204, no. 527, pl. LXV; Stancev 1995, 128-130, no. 21, pl. 13; Conte 2005, 53-60, no. 10, pl. 24, fig. 10; Gomolka-Fuchs 2007, 297-299, pl. 40/2268.  
Dating: 6<sup>th</sup>-7<sup>th</sup> century A.D.
- 57.** Fragmentary lamp, only part of the base is preserved; Salsovia 2007, S III, N 1, Dimensions: Lp.=5.05 cm; ICEM, inv. 49930; Pl. VI/57.  
Fine clay, silver mica intrusions, pinkish white color (7,5YR7/4), own slip.  
A single fragment from the circular base is preserved.  
Analogies: Iconomu, 1986, type LI, LII, 180-185; Topoleanu, 2000, type VII, 182-188, no. 463-486, pl. LVII-LX; Topoleanu, 2012, 193-207, no. 115-124, pl. XIV-XV.  
Dating: 6<sup>th</sup>-7<sup>th</sup> century A.D.
- 58.** Fragmentary lamp, only the handle, part of the edge and discus are preserved; Salsovia 2007, S III, backfill of WWI trench, Dimensions: Lp.=6.02 cm, Hp.=2.93 cm; ICEM, inv. 49931; Pl. VI/58.

Made in a worn mould, semifine clay, limestone and silver mica intrusions, pinkish brown color (2,5YR7/6), traces of light reddish brown paint (2,5YR5/8).

Lamellar handle; round concave discus, surrounded by a shoulder, central filling hole; tilted edge, decorated with gryeares in a flower shape; one gryeare on each side of the handle.

Analogies: Bovon 1966, 86, no. 602, pl. 16; Iconomu 1986, type L – version, 98-99, pl. IX/10, 11; Kuzmanov 1992, type XXXVIII, 44, no. 322.

Dating: 5<sup>th</sup>-7<sup>th</sup> century A.D.

## COINS

The coins from the Mahmudia school collection were published in several articles and studies, and there are some questions concerning the provenance of certain items (see. cat. No. 51, 52, 57). This is the reason for adding here the 19 coins currently in the school collection, pieces relevant for the understanding of the 4<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> century at Salsovia<sup>72</sup>.

### Roman Empire

#### **Probus**

59. Salsovia, *passim*; col. school; Pl. VII/59.

Av. IMP PROBVS P F AVG; radiated armored torso with helmet on the left, holding a scepter on the right shoulder and a shield on the left shoulder.

Rv. PAX AVGVSTI; in the left field P; in ex. XXI; Pax on the left holding a olive tree branch and scepter.

Pink, NZ, p. 53, Siscia, issued. 7, year 280 A.D.

Cf. Estiot, TM, 5, 1983, p. 107, no. 1485, Siscia, issued. 7, years 279-280 (A – VGVSTI).

1. Ant. ↓ 3,42 g; 21.9×20.5 mm.

Bibliography : Oberländer-Târnoveanu, 1980, 69, no. 6.

#### **Maximian Herculus**

60. Salsovia, *passim*; col. school ; Pl. VII/60.

Av. IMP C M A MAXIMIANVS AVG; radiated draped torso, on the right.

Rv. CONCORDIA MI – LITVM; the Emperor with *parazonium* (towards the right), receiving the Victoria from Jupiter (with scepter); in the central field, Γ; in ex. XXI.

Cf. RIC, V/2, p. 291, no. 607, Cyzic, year c. 293 A.D.

2. Ant. ↓ 3,90 g; 21,2 mm.

Bibliography : Poenaru- Bordea, Lungu, 1991, vol. 1, 411, no. 2, vol. 2, 379, pl. I/2.

### Late Roman Empire (294-498)

61. Salsovia, *passim*; col. school; Pl. VII/61.

Type *Genio Populi Romani*; in ex., HTΓ.

<sup>72</sup> The catalogue was kindly reviewed by dr. A. Vâlcu and dr. Th. Işvoreanu from Institute of Archaeology Vasile Pârvan, Bucharest, to whom we are grateful.

RIC, VI, p. 531, no. 19b, Heraclea, issued. 4, years 297-298.

3.Follis ↙ 8,06 g; 27.8×26.3 mm.

Bibliography: Poenaru- Bordea, Lungu, 1991, vol. 1, 412, no. 12, vol. 2, 379, pl. I/12; Suceveanu *et alii* 2003, 173, note 278.

### Maximinus Daza Caesar

62. Salsovia, *passim*; col. school; Pl. VII/62.

Type *Genio Caesaris*; in the left field, ✱; in the right field, Γ; in ex. •SM•SD•.

RIC, VI, p. 500, no. 37, Serdica, issued. 4, years 297-298.

4.Follis ↓ 5.62 g; 26.2 mm.

Bibliography: Poenaru-Bordea, Lungu, 1991, vol. 1, 412, no. 13, vol. 2, 379, pl. I/13; Suceveanu *et alii* 2003, 173, note 278.

### Valeria

63. Salsovia, *pass*; col. school; Pl. VII/63.

Type *Veneri Victrici*; in the left field, Δ; in the right field, ✱; in ex., MKV.

RIC, VI, p. 588, no. 58, Cyzic, issued. 2, years 309-310.

5.Follis ↓ 4.72 g; 23.8×22.8 mm.

Bibliography: Poenaru-Bordea, Lungu, 1991, vol. 1, p. 411, no. 3, vol. 2, 379, pl. I/3.

### Constantine the Great

64. Salsovia, *passim*; col. school; Pl. VII/64.

Type *Iovi Conservatori Avgg*; in the left field ; in the right field A; in ex. SMN.

RIC, VII, p. 603, no. 23, Nicomedia, years 317-320.

6.AE ↘ 2.57 g; 19.2×18.2 mm.

Bibliography: Oberländer-Târnoveanu, 1980, 69, no. 16.

65. Salsovia, *passim*; col. school; Pl. VII/65.

Type *D N Constantini Max Avg*; in the crown, VOT / XXX; in ex. •SMHΔ.

RIC, VII, p. 554, no. 93, Heraclea, years 327-329.

7.AE ↖ 2,95 g; 20×18,7 mm.

Bibliography: Oberländer-Târnoveanu, 1980, 69, no. 13.

### Constantius II Caesar

66. Salsovia, *passim*; col. school; Pl. VII/66.

Type *Gloria Exercitus* (2 st.); in ex. [•]SMHA•.

LRBC, I, no. 911 or 921, Heraclea, per. II, years 330-335.

RIC, VII, p. 558, no. 123 or p. 559, no. 133, Heraclea, years 330-333.

8.AE ↓ 2.36 g; 18.2×16.3 mm; badly worn.

Bibliography: Poenaru-Bordea, Lungu, 1991, vol. 1, 411, no. 4, vol. 2, 379, pl. I/4.

### Urbs Roma

67. Salsovia, *passim*; col. school; Pl. VII/67.  
 Type *Lupa Capitolina*; in ex. •CONSC•.  
 LRBC, I, no. 1022, Constantinople, per. II, years 330-335.  
 RIC, VII, p. 582, no. 85, Constantinople, years 333-335.  
 9.AE ↑ 1,83 g; 19×17,1 mm.  
 Bibliography: Poenaru-Bordea, Lungu, 1991, vol. 1, 412, no. 14, vol. 2, 379, pl. I/14;  
 Suceveanu *et alii* 2003, 173, note 286.

### Constans Caesar

68. Salsovia, *passim*; col. school; Pl. VII/68.  
 Type *Gloria Exercitus* (1 st.); in ex. SMTSΔ.  
 LRBC, I, no. 848, Thessalonic, per. IIIa, years 335-337.  
 RIC, VII, p. 529, no. 225, Thessalonic, years 336-337.  
 10.AE ↘ 1.25 g; 17.1 mm; deformed by an impact (av. convexe / rv. concave).  
 Bibliography: Poenaru-Bordea, Lungu, 1991, vol. 1, 411, no. 10, vol. 2, 379, pl. I/10.

### Constantine the Great

69. Salsovia, *passim*; col. school; Pl. VIII/69.  
 Type *Gloria Exercitus* (1 st.); in ex. CONSH.  
 LRBC, I, no. 1024, Constantinople, per. IIIa, years 335-337.  
 RIC, VII, p. 589, no. 137, Constantinople, years 336-337.  
 11.AE ↑ 1.56 g; 14.6×13.8 mm.  
 Bibliography: Poenaru-Bordea, Lungu, 1991, vol. 1, 411, no. 5, vol. 2, 379, pl. I/5.

### Constantius II

70. Salsovia, *passim*; col. school ; Pl. VIII/70.  
 Type *Gloria Exercitus* (1 st.); in ex. SMTSA.  
 LRBC, I, no. 855, Thessalonic, per. IIIb, years 337-341.  
 RIC, VIII, p. 407, no. 56, Thessalonic, September 9<sup>th</sup> 337 – spring 340.  
 12.AE ↙ 1.60 g; 15.9 mm.  
 Bibliography :Oberländer-Târnoveanu, 1980, 69, no. 7.

### Constans

71. Salsovia, *passim*; col. school; Pl. VIII/71.  
 Type *Fel Temp Reparatio* (hut); in the left field, \*; in ex. SMHΔ.  
 LRBC, II, no. 1889, Heraclea, years 346-350.  
 RIC, VIII, p. 435, no. 74, Heraclea, years 348-351.  
 13.AE<sub>2</sub> (reduced) ↙ 2.44 g; 21×19.5 mm; worn.  
 Bibliography: Poenaru-Bordea, Lungu, 1991, vol. 1, 411, no. 6 (dar Nicomedia), vol. 2,  
 379, pl. I/6.

**Constantius II**

72. Salsovia, *passim*; col. school; Pl. VIII/72.

Type *Fel Temp Reparatio* (FH<sub>3</sub>); in the left field, Γ; in ex. SMTS.

LRBC, II, no. 1681, Thessalonic, years 351-354.

RIC, VIII, p. 419, no. 189, Thessalonic, December 25<sup>th</sup> 350-November 6<sup>th</sup> 355.

14. AE<sub>3</sub>↷ 1.75 g; 16.8 mm; badly worn.

Bibliography: Oberländer-Târnoveanu, 1980, 69, no. 8.

73. Salsovia, *passim*; col. school; Pl. VIII/73.

15. AE<sub>3</sub>↷ 1,67 g; 16,8×15,4 mm.

Bibliography: Poenaru-Bordea, Lungu, 1991, vol. 1, 411, no. 7 (dar “½ maiorina”), vol. 2, 379, pl. I/7.

**Constantius II**

74. Salsovia, *passim*; col. school; Pl. VIII/74.

Type *Fel Temp Reparatio* (FH<sub>4</sub>); behind the torso, Δ; in the left field, Γ•; in ex. [CONS .].

LRBC, II, no. 2030, Constantinople, years 351-354.

RIC, VIII, p. 457, no. 109, Constantinople, March 15<sup>th</sup> 351 – November 6<sup>th</sup> 355.

16. AE<sub>2</sub> (reduced) ↑ 3.33 g; 17.7 mm; corroded.

Bibliography: Poenaru- Bordea, Lungu, 1991, vol. 1, 411, no. 11, vol. 2, 379, pl. I/11.

**Theodosius I**

75. Salsovia, *passim*; col. school; Pl. VIII/75.

Type *VOT / X / MVL T / XX*<sup>73</sup>; in ex. •SMHΔ.

Cf. RIC, IX, p. 196, no. 19(c)3.2, Heraclea, December 25<sup>th</sup> 350-November 6<sup>th</sup> 355.

LRBC, II, no. 1968, Heraclea, year 383.

17. AE<sub>4</sub>↑ 1.20 g; 14.1×13 mm.

Bibliography: Oberländer-Târnoveanu, 1980, 69, no. 15 (dar Theodosius II).

**Unspecified**

76. Salsovia, *passim*; col. school; Pl. VIII/76.

Type *Salus Reipublicae* (2); in the left field. • / +; in ex. [SMNA?].

LRBC, II, no. 2411 or 2412, Nicomedia, years 383-392.

18. AE<sub>4</sub>↶ 1,37 g; 12.2 mm.

Bibliography: Poenaru-Bordea, Lungu, 1991, vol. 1, 411, no. 8, vol. 2, 379, pl. I/8.

<sup>73</sup> VOT / X in a form recorded by RIC, IX, 196, nota 19(c).

### Theodosius II

77. Salsovia, *passim*; col. school; Pl. VIII/77.

Type *Gloria Romanorum* (22).

Unspecified issuing mint, years 408-416.

19. AE<sub>3</sub>↑ 1.91 g; 15.1 × 13.8 mm.

Bibliography: Poenaru-Bordea, Lungu, 1991, vol. 1, 411, no. 9, vol. 2, 379, pl. I/9.

During the 2007 excavation season a single coin<sup>74</sup> was found, a few fragmentary others being impossible to read.

### Constantius II

78. Salsovia, 2007, S III, topsoil; ICEM, inv. 60286; Pl. VIII/78.

Type *Fel Temp Reparatio*

Constantinople, years 348-351

AE ↓ 5.18 g; 21.5 × 23.4 mm

RIC VIII, 458, no. 81

In the left field Γ, in ex. CONSZ\*

### Conclusions

A quick look at the selective catalogue of finds reveals the fact that a large proportion of the listed objects were retrieved from disturbed, modern contexts. This is due to the numerous human activities that took place on the area of the Roman site from Mahmudia in the last centuries of the second millennium, the First World War trenches and stone robbing activity which often went down two or more metres. However, some of the finds presented were found *in situ* or in well defined contexts belonging to a specific occupation phase, most of these in the destruction deposits.

At this stage in the study of the Roman site at Salsovia, it is worth considering the evidence and interpretations from the neighbouring site of Halmyris. The citadel from Halmyris is located on the south bank of the River Danube, 13 km south-east from Salsovia, and it is so far the only Roman fortification from this part of the Lower Danubes where excavators have reached natural<sup>75</sup>.

The first noticeable similarity between the two sites mentioned above is that both show evidence for extensive destruction by fire. This is recorded at Salsovia in all excavated areas and marks the abandonment of the citadel. At Halmyris two of the late occupation phases were sealed by fire destruction debris. These were N10, documented across the entire site, and associated with the invasion of A.D. 559<sup>76</sup> and N11 the fire destruction deposits from which

<sup>74</sup> The coin was identified by dr. M. Iacob, to whom we are grateful.

<sup>75</sup> Topoleanu 2000; Suceveanu *et alii*, 2003; Zahariade, Alexandrescu 2011.

<sup>76</sup> Topoleanu 2000, 249-250; Suceveanu *et alii* 2003, 38.

have been dated to between A.D. 568-569 and 586-587.<sup>77</sup> As most of the studied ceramic types and lamps from Salsovia are dated earlier than mid 6<sup>th</sup> century A.D., F. Topoleanu hypothesises that the firey destruction of the citadel that marked its abandonment may also be linked to the Cutriguri invasion. If he is correct then this may be part of a much larger pattern, as scholars have claimed to see similar traces of destruction by the Cutriguri at several other fortresses in Dobrudja. In all cases, of course, it is vital to remember that it is very difficult to demonstrate unequivocally a link between a historically documented invasion and archaeological evidence for a site's destruction. Not only does the possibility remain that other undocumented incursions devastated some Roman stations, but it is also possible that some sites were put to the torch by their owners when Roman forces were withdrawn. It remains a possibility that Salsovia was in fact fired rather earlier than the invasion of the Cutrigurian incursion.

What we can say, however, is that at the time the fires swept through Salsovia, the large square building (Building A) uncovered in SI was still functional, and both the precinct and the stone and mortared building from SIII were standing, while the lower plateau was occupied by timber framed constructions with clay walking surfaces.

At this stage in the research on Salsovia, Topoleanu's argument about the similarities with Halmyris and his attempts to date the last occupation phase are provisional. More comprehensive analysis, which will bring together all the evidence from the site, is ongoing. What we can demonstrate beyond doubt, however, is that the site at Salsovia remained a vibrant settlement in the late Roman Empire, surrounded by a solid defensive wall and with a thriving settlement west of the main citadel until the very end of its existence, most likely sometime in the second half of the 6<sup>th</sup> century A.D.

The suggestion that Salsovia was abandoned in the 4<sup>th</sup> century A.D. can be conclusively dismissed. At the same time, the complete lack of any finds or structures that can demonstrably be shown to post-date the 6<sup>th</sup> century anywhere in the excavated areas requires us to dismiss the hypothesis that there was a garrison here until the end of the 10<sup>th</sup> century A.D.<sup>78</sup>

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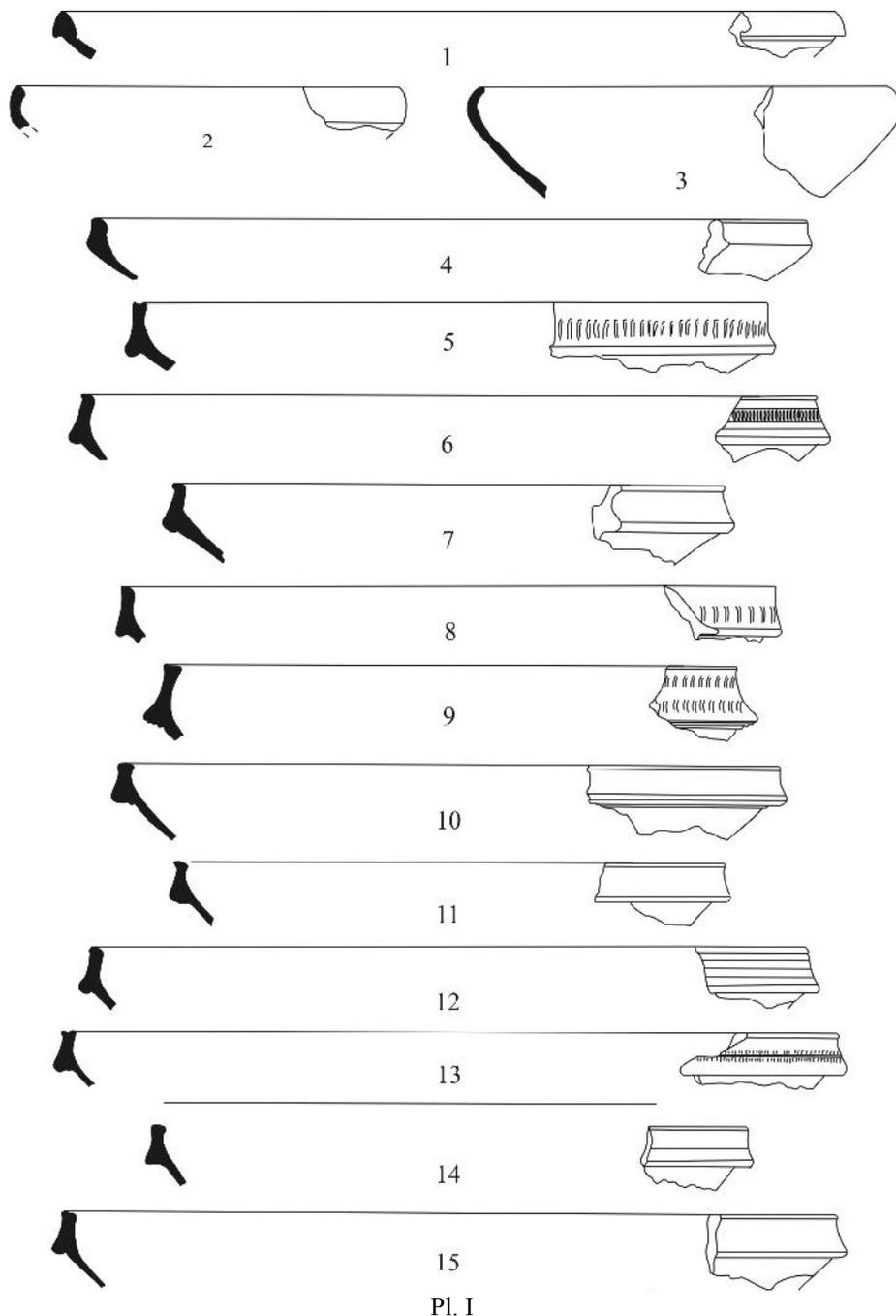
<sup>77</sup> Topoleanu 2000, 250-251; Suceveanu *et alii*, 2003, 38-39.

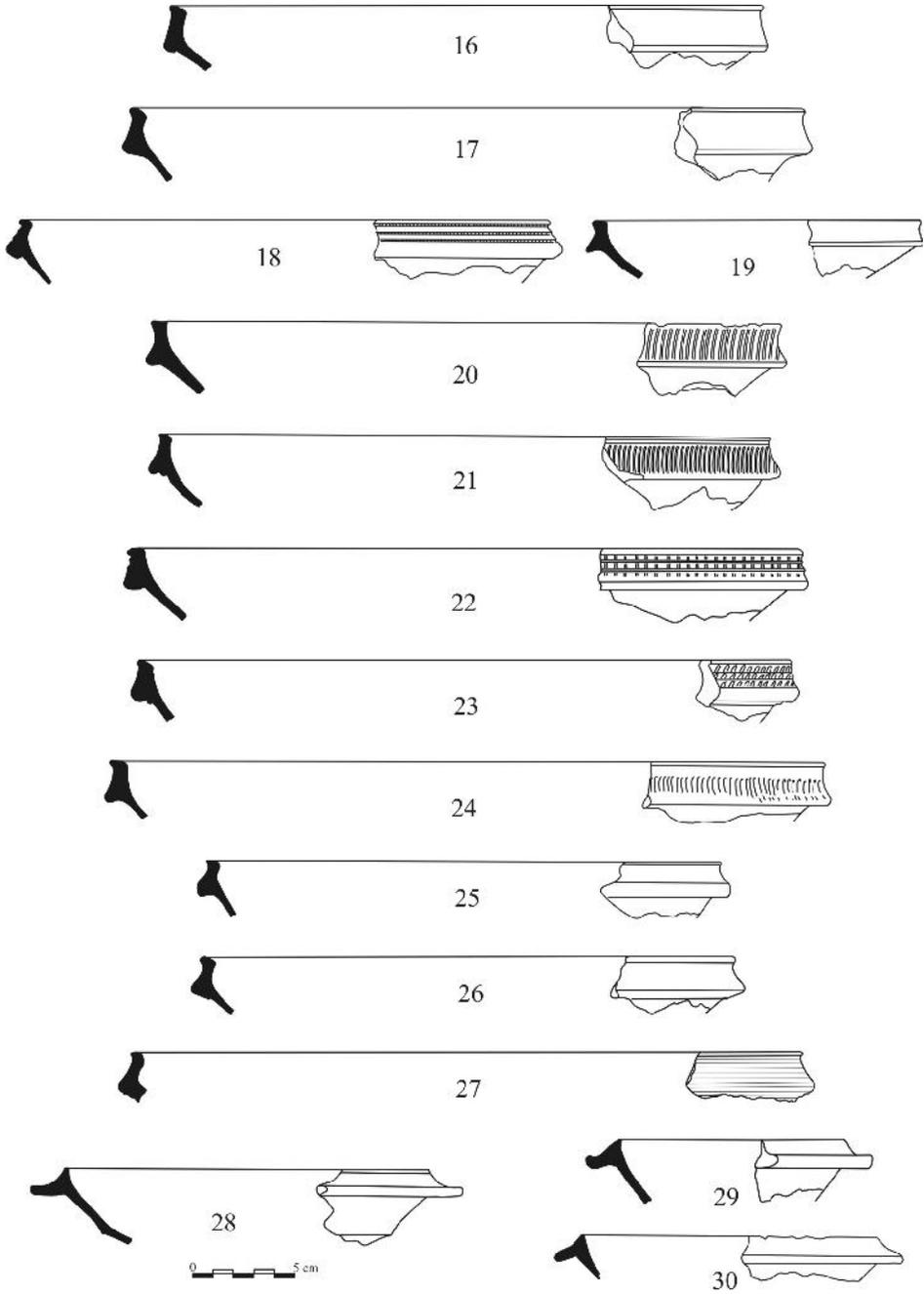
<sup>78</sup> Mănuțu-Adameșteanu 2010, 224.

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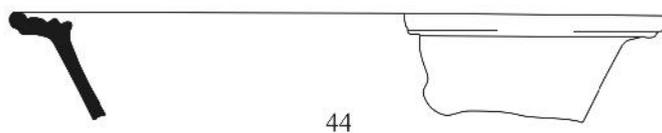
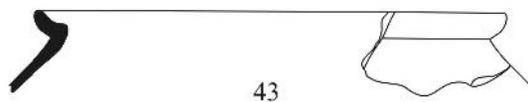
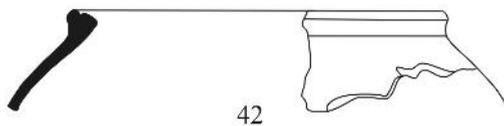
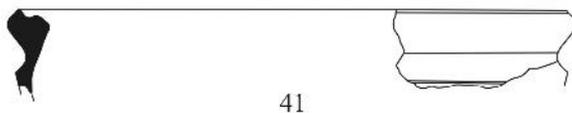
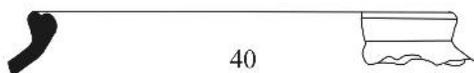
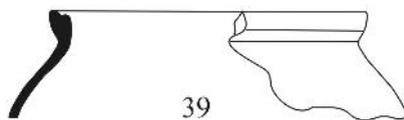
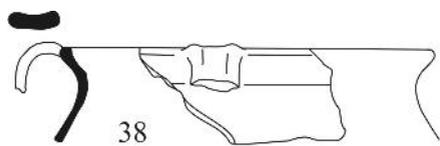




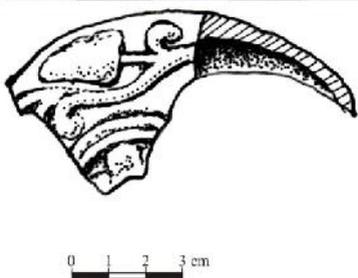
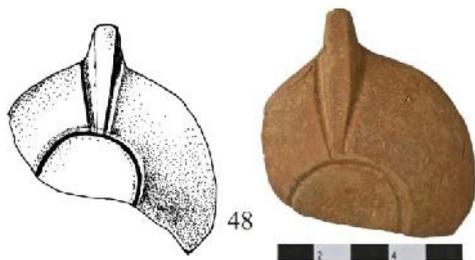
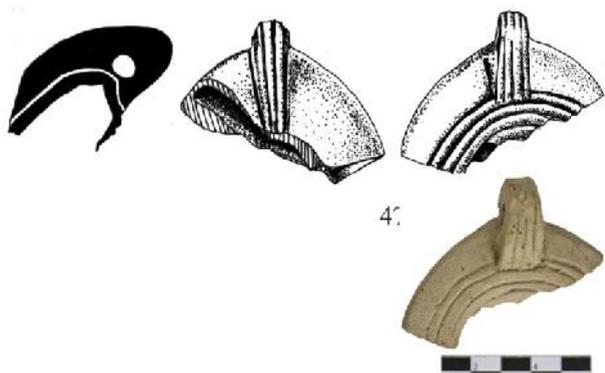
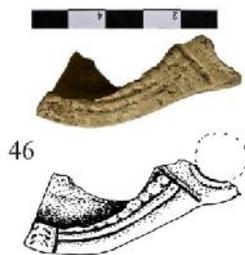
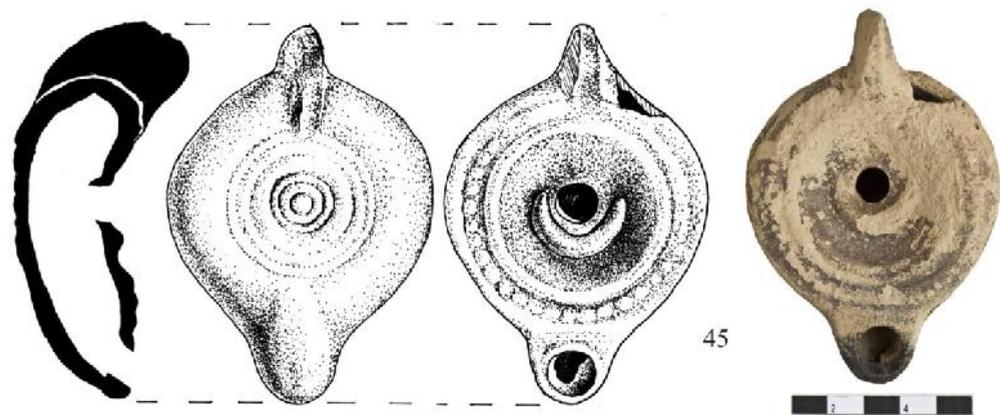
Pl. II



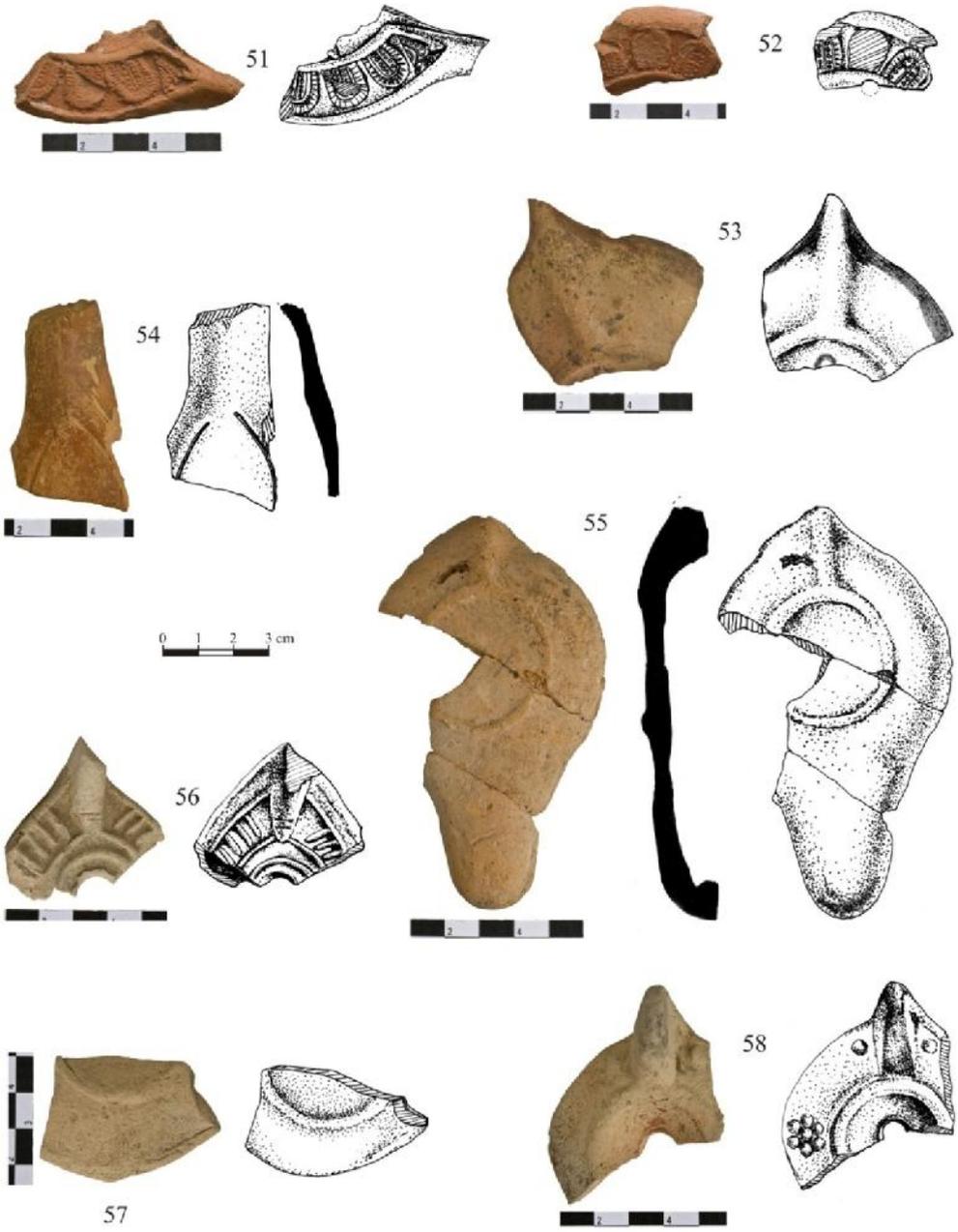
Pl. III



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Pl. V



Pl. VI



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Pl. VIII