
PRELIMINARY REPORT OF THE EXCAVATIONS AT HISTRIA, THE ACROPOLIS CENTRE-SOUTH SECTOR (2015–2016)

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Abstract: 2015-2016 represented the second half of the initial archaeological research program implemented by the University of Bucharest team in Histria (Constanța County, Romania). We delimited the last Late Roman insula, divided into two nuclei (N and S), with two phases of functioning. Phase I: first half of the 6th c. – 559 (Kutrigur raid); Phase II: reign of Justin II – beginning of the 7th c.

Rezumat: Campaniile 2015-2016 au reprezentat a doua jumătate a proiectului inițial de cercetare arheologică implementat la Histria (jud. Constanța) de echipa Universității din București. În cursul săpăturilor am delimitat ultima insula de locuire romană târzie, compusă din două nuclee (N și S), ambele cu câte două faze de funcționare. Faza I: datată de la începutul sec. al VI-lea p.Chr. până în 559 (atacul cutrigurilor); Faza a II: datată de la domnia lui Iustin II până la începutul sec. al VII-lea p.Chr.

Keywords: Histria, Late Roman, insula, residential district, urban evolution.

Cuvinte cheie: Histria, epoca romană târzie, insula, cartier de locuințe, evoluție urbană.

The aim of this paper is to present the raw data resulted from the excavation in question, which can therefore be subjected to future scrutiny by other specialists, accompanied by our preliminary conclusions. Other articles will focus on the material discovered during excavations, and the final analysis will be published in the shape of a volume in the monographic series *Histria*¹.

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¹ For the first preliminary report see Bottez *et alii* 2015; for publications of the different categories of excavated material see Bădescu, Bottez 2014; Bivolaru, Bottez 2015; Vîlcu, Țârlea 2016; Bădescu, Ilescu 2016; Iliescu *et alii* 2017; Iliescu 2017; also see the three articles, on Late Roman pottery (by Iliescu *et alii* 2018), bone objects (by Beldiman *et alii* 2018) and coins (Țârlea *et alii* 2018) published in *Materiale și Cercetări Arheologice*. Five other articles (archaeological, epigraphic, pottery, archaeozoology and metal analyses results) will be published in the proceedings of the 6th International Black Sea Congress, probably in 2019.

THE PROJECT

The present research was undertaken according to an on-going excavation program financed by the University of Bucharest. After an initial 4-year program (2013-2016), a second 5-year program was approved (2017-2022). This project refers to the first dig organized by the University of Bucharest in Histria (Constanța County), and includes the excavation proper, as well as student training². The permanent team is formed by the authors of this paper, plus dr. Virgil Apostol ("Vasilie Pârvan" Institute of Archaeology, Bucharest) and dr. Corneliu Beldiman (University of Bucharest); there are also members from other institutions, with different specialties, who will collaborate according to the dig's evolution.

LOCATION OF THE SECTOR (Fig. 1)

The choice of the sector's location was important, as it covers a surface of approximately 50 (N-S) × 55 m (W-E), S of the centre of the acropolis of Histria, starting from **street c** and descending to the S part of the Late Roman defence wall, hence the sector's conventional name – *Acropolă Centru-Sud* (*Acropolis Centre-South* – acronym ACS). This central area of the acropolis is bound to have been covered by important monuments, as confirmed by the presence of several remarkable monuments around the sector: to the N lies the Episcopal Basilica³ (connected with the ACS sector through a N-S street), the most imposing monument identified at Histria up to the present moment and centre of the civic and religious life during the Late Roman period⁴; to the E lies the *Domus* Sector⁵, where several large buildings contemporary to the Episcopal Basilica are concentrated; one of them contains an apsidal hall, which was interpreted by some as the bishop's residence⁶; the sector's S limit is given by the Late Roman defence wall; to the S is located another Christian

² Already one former student is part of the team, while three others have started working on the material resulted from the excavation.

³ Suceveanu 2007.

⁴ The basilica is dated to the reign of Justinian, but it superposes an older one (4th c.) (Suceveanu 2007, 10; Bounegru 1993; Băjenaru 2003-2005), a situation that we also encounter in the basilica to the S (Angelescu, Bottez 2009, 202; Achim 2012, 128-131) that suggests a continuous presence of a church on the spot during the Late Roman period. For the most comprehensive and complete description of the Christian basilicas at Histria, see Achim 2012.

⁵ Condurachi 1954, 324-349; Bounegru, Lungu 2003-2005.

⁶ Bounegru, Lungu 2003-2005, 171, fig. 2; Sodini 1997, 452 interprets it as a banqueting hall.

basilica (in a sector conventionally named *Basilica Pârvan*)⁷; finally, to the W lies the *Cetate* Sector, probably a residential area during the Late Roman period⁸.

Apart from the sector's location in an area surrounded by important buildings, a crucial aspect for our choice was the fact that no modern excavations are attested for this part of the site, apart from the area of the Late Roman defence wall (excavated by Pârvan in 1914-1916).



Fig. 1. Location of the sector.

OBJECTIVES

The **general aim** of the dig is to clarify the evolution in time of the urban plan in the area between the *Cetate* and *Domus* sectors.

The sector's **specific objectives** are the following:

- 1) Obtaining a main N-S stratigraphic profile connecting **street c** to the N with the Late Roman defence wall to the S, from the current surface down to the bedrock;

⁷ For the results of recent, as well as old excavations in this area see Angelescu, Bottez 2009; Bottez 2014; Bottez 2015.

⁸ Munteanu 2011a, 33-42.

- 2) Identifying the Late Roman *insulae* and comparing them with those from previous periods, in order to understand the area's urban evolution;
- 3) Clarifying how the *insulae* from different periods were integrated in their contemporary urban plan and how they interacted with the surrounding complexes.

Objectives for 2015-2016: our main aim was to try to delimit the two nuclei (N and S) of the Late Roman *insula* we have been researching, which for now will be conventionally called α .

METHODOLOGY

The excavation units we use are 4×4m trenches, numbered from **C001** onwards; each trench is divided into 1×1 square, numbered A–D on a S–N direction and 1–4 on a W–E direction⁹. We are registering the layers and complexes that we uncover as contexts on sheets developed by the MoLAS¹⁰. Each context receives a name that contains the number of the trench (maximum of three digits) and that of the context (three digits)¹¹. All depths are taken with the optical level from the same point (conventionally called **point 0**), identified in the terrain by a nail set between two large slabs in **street c**, with the Romanian national topographic coordinates (STEREO70) 799964.3467,345599.9315.

We would also like to mention that all the discovered material is marked with the inventory number, followed by the site's initials, the year and context (which includes the number of the trench and of the context); e.g. 143) HIS14 10002.

RESULTS FOLLOWING THE 2013-2014 CAMPAIGNS

General stratigraphy

The stratigraphy is remarkably similar for the entire surface excavated until now (e.g. Fig. 22). The last living surfaces are superposed by a yellow layer of debris (generally registered as context 002 in all trenches), characterized by strong traces of burn, which represents the moment of destruction of the last building level. Above this layer and under the vegetal layer there is a grey layer of debris (generally registered as context 001 in all trenches), identical to 002, which marks the moment of the final collapse after the abandonment of the buildings affected by the fire.

⁹ We will be using the following abbreviations: **C** for square trench (*casetă* in Romanian), **Z** for wall (*zid* in Romanian), **P** for pavement, **T** for sidewalk (*trotuar* in Romanian), **ST** for street, **CR** for Roman building (*clădire romană* in Romanian), **pL** for present length, **pW** for present width.

¹⁰ Museum of London Archaeology Service.

¹¹ For example, the first context in *C001* is 1000 and in *C018* it is 18000.

As far as the living surfaces are concerned, they were identified at different depths and are generally highly solidified yellow clay layers, some of which had a complex structure (e.g. 7014, which is made of wooden planks superposed by a layer of hard yellow silt). In several cases (8006 and 10004–11003–12005), these layers had the same level as the plinths of the walls they functioned with, which indicates they must have been covered by different types of pavement that is now gone. Also, four stone pavements were identified (P001 in C002, C003, C004, C014 and C017; P002 in C014; P003 in C017 and P004? in C011).

Building structures

As far as the building structures are concerned, we have identified an *insula* from the last period when Istros functioned as a city, which we conventionally called *insula* α ¹².

This appears to be divided into two nuclei, separated by an alley that runs between Z018 and Z019. This structure resembles the large residences discovered in the *Domus* Sector to the E. In the N nucleus there seems to be an open courtyard paved with large stones (P001) and with a circular pit for draining rain water (similar to the one in the large residence N of the so-called *Basilica Pârvan*). We have little information concerning the S nucleus, other than it must have been delimited to the S by the Late Roman defence wall, which unfortunately was dismantled.

The *insula* seems to have had two construction phases; the second one was identified as some of the entrances providing access in Phase I (in Z002, Z021 and Z017) were blocked. Also, P001 seems to have been added in Phase II, as well as a series of other walls that changed the inner structure of the buildings. It is not yet clear to which phase belonged sidewalks T001, T002 and T003¹³.

We have also identified walls from previous structures (Z015, Z016, Z022, Z025 and Z026), which are still to be researched.

Among the most important structures discovered are two new streets, conventionally called ST01 and ST02. ST 01 delimited *insula* α to the W, and ST02 to the W (Fig. 2). If ST01 follows the usual trajectory (perpendicular on **street c** and leading to the Late Roman defence wall), ST02 presented us with an interesting situation. This street has two phases, with the earliest one perpendicular on **street c** and the second oblique to it, on a N-S direction. This change of the street plan suggests a major change of the urban plan in this part of the Histrian acropolis and seems to indicate the need to connect that sector of **street c** with the area to the S, namely to the so-called *Basilica Pârvan*.

¹² The *insulae* that will be discovered underneath will be called β , γ , δ etc.

¹³ Sidewalks were also identified in *Domus* I (Condurachi 1954, 326), **streets D** and **C**, N of the *Basilica Florescu* and E of the Late Roman defence wall N of the Great Gate (Munteanu 2011b, 236).



Fig. 2. General plan of the sector (2016).

Chronology

Given the fact that initially only a very small part of the material was studied, the only chronological considerations were made by comparing the construction phases to other structures in the area. The architectural similarities with the structures in the *Domus* Sector only support a general chronology for the 6th c. AD¹⁴, with Phase I of *insula* α to be dated possibly to the first half of the century, and Phase II to the second – these are the two phases established for the contemporary Episcopal Basilica situated N of the sector¹⁵. In the case of ST02, Phase I (perpendicular to **street c**) seems to have preceded *insula* α , which is contemporary to Phase II of ST02.

Excavation units (Fig. 3)

In 2015 we excavated trench C019 as a continuation of C001-004, 009-011 and 018, in order to finalize the main N-S profile of the sector. C019 aimed at connecting the main profile with the acropolis' limit, namely the Late Roman defence wall.

¹⁴ *Domus* I is dated to the first eight decades of the 6th c. (Condurachi 1954, 349).

¹⁵ Suceveanu 2007, 12-30.

The same year we uncovered the entire trajectory of the Late Roman *insula's* E limit, by opening C021 where *street c* and ST01 meet, as well as C022 and 025 to the S end of the *insula*. On the E side of ST01 we started C016, in order to establish ST01's width.

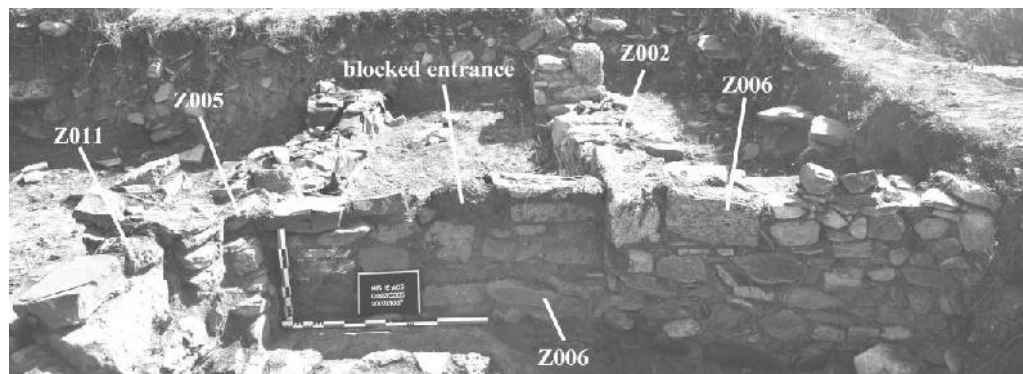


Fig. 3. C005 and *Baulk* C005-007: Z002 and Z006.

Along the *insula's* W side we excavated C020, 024 (2015), 028, 029, 032 and 033 (2016), towards the *Basilica Pârvoan* Sector. We also excavated towards the interior of the *insula* C023¹⁶.

As in 2015 we found what seems to be the *insula's* SE corner, we excavated on a E-W line trenches C027, 028, 030 and 031, in order to completely unveil the *insula's* S limit and what we supposed to be a street (ST03) that bordered it.

The following baulks were also excavated:

- between C002/C005 (the respective contexts were numbered according to the context in both trenches, e.g. context 2000 – 5000);
- between C005/C007 (the respective contexts were numbered according to the context in both trenches, e.g. context 5000 – 7000);
- between C007/C015 (the respective contexts were numbered according to the context in both trenches, e.g. context 7000 – 15000);
- between C015/C020 (the respective contexts were numbered according to the context in both trenches, e.g. context 15000 – 20000);
- between C028/C030 (the respective contexts were numbered according to the context in both trenches, e.g. context 28000 – 30000);
- between C030/C031 (the respective contexts were numbered according to the context in both trenches, e.g. context 30000 – 31000);

¹⁶ In C023 we stopped on the last level of debris. This trench was excavated in 2017.

Excavation results

A) Stratigraphy

C019 – the aim of this trench was for the sector's main profile to reach the Late Roman defence wall. This is why in this case the usual square trench (4 × 4 m) was replaced by a 12 × 4 m trench (which kept the indicative C). The squares were marked A-D/1-4 (S-N/W-E) for the initial 4 m, then continuing N-S with -A, -B, -C, up to -G. The numbering continued to be 1-4 every 4 m.

19000: modern/vegetal layer. The terrain's slope varies from +0.05 m in the N to -2.85 m in S, which determined a variation of the level of the first layer; thus, on the first four meters, from N to S, the layer was approx. 10 cm (+0.05 m/-0.15 m), and in the rest of the trench it decreases to approx. 5 cm. In this layer were discovered three coins (60/2015, 203/2015, 408/2015), as well as many pottery, bone, metal and glass fragments. It superposed the modern deposit layer **19002**. At the same time, it superposed **19001**, **19003** (**T004?**) and **19005**.

19001: upper (grey) debris layer of the last construction level. It was identified in squares A₁, D₂₋₄, -C₂₋₄, from -0.15 m in the N and -0.67 m in the S, to -0.30/-1.75 m (N/S). It consists of a loose, grey soil, with large and medium stones, as well as fragmentary construction material. In this layer pottery and bone fragments, as well as glass and metal objects were discovered. Two coins were also discovered there (204/2015 and 246/2015).

19002: modern layer, identified in squares A₄/D₄ from -0.09 (N)/-0.47 m (S) to -0.24 (N)/-0.53 m (S), as well as in squares -C₁₋₄/-G₁₋₄, from -1.05 to -3.75 m; in this area the layer was not completely excavated. It represents soil from previous excavations, and it determined the shape of the terrain's current slope. It consists of a loose, grey soil, in which many pottery and bone fragments were discovered, as well as glass and metal objects and architectural elements (two *cancelli* fragments, probably from the Episcopal Basilica).

19004: highly-solidified shells layer, probably a substructure for **T004?** (**19003**). The layer was identified in squares C₁ and C₃ at -0.40 m, and is approx. 0.1 m thick. It consists of a yellow soil, mixed with sand and shells. In square C₁ the layer is approx. 0.6 m long and 0.3 m wide, while in square C₃ it is approx. 0.5 × 0.3 m. In square C₁ the layer was excavated in order to take a sample of the shells for analysis, as well as in order to verify if the layer superposes **Z031**¹⁷ (**19011**), which it does not. Superposed by **19001**; it superposed **19009**.

19005: the lower (yellow) layer of debris of the last construction phase (-0.20/-0.30 m (N) and -0.65/-1.30 m (S)). It covered squares A₁₋₄ - D₁₋₄, -A₁₋₄, -B₁₋₄. It consists of a loose, yellow soil, containing medium stones, as well fragments of pottery and construction material. It also contains metal, bone and glass fragments. In this layer one coin was discovered, 861/2015 (square A₃), at +0.94 m. Superposed by **19001** and **19002**; it superposed **19003**, **19006**, **19011** (**Z031**) and **19012** (**Z032**).

19006: living surface/silt floor, identified in squares A₁₋₄, B₁₋₂ and -A₃, at a depth between -1.18 m and -1.20 m. On its surface pottery, bone, glass, and metal fragments were discovered. Superposed by **19002** and **19005**, and the floor was destroyed in its S part by the lower level of debris (**19005**).

¹⁷ Z is the abbreviation from the Romanian word "zid", which means *wall*.

19007: Greek layer (possibly Hellenistic), identified in squares -C₁, -C₂ and -B₁, at a depth between -2.11m and -2.38 m, with variations given by the contexts it superposed. It is a compact, yellow layer, with inclusions of shells and pottery shards, most of them Hellenistic. Superposed by 19001. The excavation stopped on this level.

19008: ancient filling layer (palaeosoil?)/levelling layer, identified in squares -C₂, -C₄, -D₂ and -D₄, at -2.31 m. It is characterised by a yellow-brownish compact silt, on which pottery, bone and metal fragments were discovered. It neighbours 19007 and is partially superposed by the latter; superposed by 19002.

19009: levelling layer/living surface, identified in square C₁ after layer 19004 was excavated. It was identified at +0.39 m, and is made of a compact, yellow soil in which there are pebbles. Pottery fragments were also discovered on its surface. This layer, as 19004, does not superpose 19011 (Z031). Superposed by 19004.

19010: layer of debris, identified at a depth between -2.27m/-2.74 m, in squares -D₁ and -E₁. It consists of a loose, grey layer, with large stones; initially we thought it represented the debris of the defence wall. Later we also hypothesized that it could represent the debris of another building. This debris can be dated to the period after the defence wall was dismantled, when the fortification at Vadu was raised. Superposed by 19002.

19013: debris of the Late Roman defence wall, identified at -2.87, in squares -E₁₋₄ – -F₁₋₄. Compact level, made up of large and very large stones, as well as fragmentary construction material mixed with a grey, loose soil, in which pottery, bone and metal fragments were discovered. Superposed by 19002 and 19010. The excavation stopped on this level.

C020

20000: modern/vegetal layer (+0.77 m/+0.55 m), identified on the trench's entire surface. Two coins were discovered there, one in square B₂ (79/2015; +0.54 m) and the other in square C₂ (104/2015; +0.46 m). It superposed layer 20001 and context 20002 (Z027).

20001: upper (grey) layer of debris of the last construction phase (+0.55 m – +0.45 m). It covered the trench's entire surface and consisted of a loose brown-greyish soil, with medium and large stones, as well as fragmentary construction material. It also contains many pottery, metal, glass, bone and charcoal fragments. Superposed by 20000; it superposed 20002 (Z027; except for the area where the wall appears in squares C₄-D₄), 20003, 20005 (Z033), 20006 and 20007, except for the area in squares C₄-D₄. In this layer two coins were discovered in squares B₂ (248/2015, +0.17 m) and D₁ (249/2015, +0.28 m), as well as the head of a terracotta statuette (210/2015) in square D₄, at +0.47 m.

20003: the lower (yellow) layer of debris of the last construction phase (+0.45 m – +0.03 m). The layer first appeared in square D₄ and then extended in squares D₂ and C₄. It consists of a yellow, loose soil, with medium stones and fragments of pottery and construction material. It also has inclusions of metal, bone and glass fragments. In this layer four coins were discovered, one (282/2015) in square D₃, at + 0.20 m, another two (307/2015) in square C₂, at +0.02 m, and the fourth (336/2015) in square B₄, at +0.15 m. In the same layer, in square D₄, we discovered a ceramic protome/statue head, at +0.03 m. Superposed by 20001; it superposed elements that appear in squares D₂, C₄-D₄: 20002 (Z027), 20004 and 20007.

20004: levelling layer/living surface, consisting of highly compacted yellow silt, identified in the N side of C020 in squares D₁₋₃, at +0.02 m. In square D₁ is a large rectangular stone similar to a threshold. It is superposed by 20001 and 20003 and could represent the living surface of 20002 (Z027); it could also be connected to living surface 20006, identified S of the presumed threshold, given the levels at which the two layers were identified (20004: +0.02 m, 20006: -0.02 m in the NW corner, -0.01 m in the SE one).

20006: living surface (floor), consisting of highly compacted yellow-greyish silt, identified S of the possible threshold and structure 20005 (Z033), which delimits levels 20004 and 20006. The layer was identified in squares A-C₁₋₂, but was broken by the debris layer 20001 in squares B₁₋₂. Unfortunately, no coin was discovered on this level.

20007: levelling layer/living surface, identified in squares A-D₃₋₄, at +0.03 m, as a highly compacted yellowish-grey soil. Superposed by 20001, it seems to have represented the living surface of Z027, as it lies E of the latter, and seems to be connected with layers 20004 and 20006, given the depth at which they were identified. Excavation in C020 was stopped on layers 20004, 20006 and 20007.

C021

The initial 4 × 4m trench was extended approx. 1 m northwards, in order to cover the area where ST01 intersects *street c*.

21000: modern/vegetal layer (+0.92 m – +0.55 m), identified on the trench's entire surface. In it pottery, bone, metal and glass fragments were discovered. A coin was also identified (168/2015) in it, as well as two marble fragments (106/2015, 134/2015) and a glass bead (105/2015). It superposed 21001.

21001: debris layer of the last construction phase; identified at +0.55 m – +0.16 m (squares A₃₋₄ – B₃₋₄)/-0.03 m (squares C₃₋₄ – D₃₋₄). Apart from stones and earth, the layer also contains pottery, bone, metal and glass fragments, as well as construction material. Four coins were found in the layer (206/2015, 207/2015, 283/2015, 374/2015), along with two weights (310/2015, 337/2015) and a fragment of a millstone (376/2015). Superposed by 21000, it is neighbouring 21002 in squares A₂ – B₂ and it superposed 21002 (squares C₂ – D₂), 21003 and 21004.

C022

22000: modern/vegetal layer (+0.64 m – +0.46 m), identified on the trench's entire surface. In this layer two coins were discovered, one (250/2015) in square D₄, at +0.55 m, and the second (611/2015) in square B₄, at +0.26 m. It superposed layer 22001.

22001: upper (grey) layer of debris of the last construction phase (+0.46 m – +0.17 m), identified on the trench's entire surface. It consists of a loose, brown-greyish soil, with large and medium stones, fragmentary construction material, as well as pottery fragments. In this layer metal, bone and glass fragments were also discovered, as well as two coins: 663/2015 in square B₄, at +0.25 m and 928/2015 in square A₃, at +0.17 m. Superposed by 22000, it superposed 22002, as well as contexts 22003 (Z017), 22004 (Z019) and 22005 (T001). The layer has not yet been completely excavated, with the exception of squares A-B₂, where we reached layer 22002, on which we stopped.

22002: lower (yellow) debris layer of the last construction phase, identified in squares A-B₂. It started at +0.25 m, but the layer was not completely excavated. It consists of a loose soil, with

medium stones and pebbles, as well as fragments of construction material. It also contains pottery, bone glass and metal fragments. Superposed by 22001. The excavation stopped on this level.

C023

23000: modern/vegetal layer (+0.88 – +0.73/+0.47 m), identified on the trench's entire surface. In it pottery, bone, metal and glass fragments were discovered, as well as four coins (169/2015, 170/2015, 171/2015 and 691/2015). It superposed 23001.

23001: the debris layer of the last construction phase; identified at +0.73 m, but in squares B₂₋₃ it reaches deeper than in the rest of the trench (+0.47 m). The layer was not completely excavated, but it contains stones, as well as pottery, bone, metal, glass and construction material fragments. Excavation stopped in C023 on this level.

C024

24000: modern/vegetal layer (+0.70 m – +0.33 m), covering the entire surface of the trench, and consisting of a loose, brown-greyish soil, with pebbles. In this layer, 13 coins were discovered: 409/2015, A₃, +0.62 m; 410/2015, B₃, +0.62 m; 447/2015, B₄, +0.63 m; 448/2015, C₃, +0.56 m; 449/2015, C₄, +0.63 m; 480/2015, A₃, +0.42 m; 481/2015, A₃, +0.43 m; 482/2015, B₂, +0.40; 483/2015, C₂, +0.41 m; 502/2015, A₂, +0.40 m; 503/2015, B₂, +0.40; 549/2015, A₄, +0.48 m; 550/2015, D₄, +0.47 m. It superposed 24001.

24001: the upper (grey) debris layer of the last construction phase (+0.33 m – +0.19 m). Identified on the trench's entire surface, it consisted of a loose, brown-greyish soil with many inclusions (large and medium stones, pottery and construction material fragments). Apart from all these, bone, as well as metal and glass fragments were discovered. Four coins were also discovered in this layer: 578/2015, A₂, +0.39 m; 579/2015, B-C/₁, +0.25 m; 612/2015, A₄, +0.38 m; 637/2015, C-D/₁, +0.20 m. Superposed by 24000; it superposed 24002, 24003 (Z027), 24004 and 24005.

24002: lower (yellow) debris layer of the last construction phase, consisting of a loose yellow soil, with large and medium stones, pottery and construction material fragments. It covered approx. the entire surface of the trench, except for squares C-D/₃₋₄, where 22003 (Z027) was discovered. As far as the depth is concerned, it reached +0.19 m and +0.16 m E of Z027, and +0.07 W of Z027, variations given by the structures it superposes. Apart from pottery, bones, metal and glass fragments were also discovered in this layer. Superposed by 24001, it superposed 24004 and 24005. West of Z027 the excavation stopped on this level.

24004: living surface/floor, consisting of a highly compacted yellow silt with inclusions – pebbles and pottery fragments. Identified in squares C-D/₁, at +0.09 m. On this level metal and glass fragments were discovered, but no coins. It is possible that it was the living surface corresponding to wall Z027 and the continuation of the living surface 20006 in C020. Superposed by 24002. East of wall Z027, in squares C-D/₁, the excavation stopped on this level.

24005: living surface/levelling layer, identified in squares A-B/₁₋₂. It is a compact layer yellow-grey silt layer, in which we found pebbles and pottery fragments. Coin 728/2015 was discovered in this layer, in square A₂, at +0.12 m. Superposed by 24002. Given the depth at which it was identified, it is probable that 24004 and 24005 functioned at the same time; it is possible that this living surface superposed Z027's trajectory in the area the wall was destroyed (in C024's S part), thus constituting a new entrance during the building's second functioning phase. The excavation stopped on this level.

C025

25000: modern/vegetal layer. The earth deposited there during previous excavations raised the level up to +0.13 m in the W part, and +0.78 m in the E part. The layer's lower limit is at 0.00 m on the entire surface of the trench, except for the SE corner (squares A₃₋₄), where it reaches -0.34 m. It was identified on the trench's entire surface. In it pottery, bone, metal and glass objects were identified, as well as seven coins (504/2015, 551/2015, 552/2015, 580/2015, 581/2015, 582/2015, 613/2015), a fragment of marble *cancelli* (554/2015), a fragmentary applied decoration (587/2015) and two weights (614/2015 and 639/2015). It superposed 25001.

25001: the upper (grey) debris layer of the last construction phase; identified at 0.00 m, but in squares A₃₋₄ it reached deeper than in the rest of the trench (-0.34 m); to the W-NW the layer was identified at -0.51 m. Apart from stones and earth, the layer contains pottery, bone, metal, charcoal, glass and construction material fragments. In it a coin (800/2015) and a loom-weight (835/2015) were discovered. Superposed by 25000, it neighboured Z017 (25005) and 25006 and it superposed 25002 in squares B₁ – D₁.

25002: the lower (yellow) debris layer of the last construction phase; identified in squares B₁₋₂ – D₁₋₂ between -0.51/-0.66 m. Apart from stones and earth, the layer contained pottery, bone, metal, glass and construction material fragments. Superposed by 25001, it neighboured 25004 and Z017 (25005) and it superposed 25007.

25004: compact layer of yellow silt, identified in squares A₁₋₂ at -0.50m. It is a living surface that corresponds to layer 18002 in C018. On this layer pottery, bone and glass fragments we discovered. The excavation stopped on this level. Superposed by 25001, it neighboured 25002 and superposed Z017 (25005).

25007: compact layer of yellow silt, identified in squares B₁₋₂ – D₁₋₂ at -0.65m. It is a living surface west of Z017 (25005), which seems to superpose the wall's plinth and seems to be the same layer as 25004. On this level pottery and bone fragments we discovered. The excavation stopped on this level. Superposed by 25002, it neighbours 25004 and Z017 (25005).

C026

26000: modern/vegetal layer (+1.02/+0.75 m), identified on the trench's entire surface. In it we discovered pottery, bone, metal and glass objects, as well as four coins (638/2015, 678/2015, 679/2015 and 692/2015). It superposed 26001.

26001: the upper (grey) debris layer of the last construction phase; identified in squares A₁, A₄, B₁₋₄, C₁, C₂, C₄, D₁₋₄, cut by Z030 (26002). To the N, it started at a much lower level (+0.63 m) than in the rest of the trench (V: +0.71 m; E: +0.81 m) and continued down to +0.67 (N-W)/+0.45 (E) m. Apart from stones and earth, the layer contained pottery, bone, metal, glass and construction material fragments, and in squares C₂ and D₃ many fragments of a large *dolium* were identified. Two coins were also found in it (702/2015 and 738/2015). Superposed by 26000, it neighboured Z030 (26002) and superposed 26003 and 26004.

26003: compact layer of yellow silt, initially considered a yellow silt floor, but later considered to be part of the lower (yellow) debris layer of the last construction phase (see 26004). Identified in squares C₁₋₂ – D₁₋₂, starting from +0.67 m and reaching down to +0.37 m. In this layer we discovered a fashioned stone, considered to be a threshold. Superposed by 26001, it neighbours Z030 (26002) and superposes 26005.

26004: layer of loose yellow-reddish soil, representing the lower (yellow) debris layer of the last construction phase. It was identified E of Z030 (26002), in squares A₃₋₄, B₃₋₄ and C₄, starting from +0.45 m and reaching -0.08 m. Apart from stones and earth, the layer contained pottery, bone, metal and glass fragments. We also discovered in it one coin (770/2015) and a loom weight (801/2015). Superposed by 26001, it neighboured Z030 (26002) and superposed 26007.

26005: compact layer of yellow silt, identified W of Z030 (26002), in squares A₁₋₂, B₁₋₂, C₁₋₃, D₁₋₄, starting from +0.37 m. In this layer we identified stone slabs-oriented SW-NE, which indicates the existence of a pavement for Phase I of ST02. Superposed by 26003, it neighboured Z030 (26002). The excavation stopped on this level.

26007: compact layer of yellow silt, identified E of Z030 (26002), in squares A₃₋₄ – C₃₋₄, starting from -0.08 m. It is a living surface associated with layer 26005. Superposed by 26004, it neighboured Z030 (26002). The excavation stopped on this level.

C027

27000: modern/vegetal layer, consisting of a grey, loose soil, identified on the trench's entire surface. The layer is approx. 0.40 m thick (+0.49 m – +0.10 m), and in it a coin (52/2016), as well as many pottery, bone, metal and glass fragments were discovered. It superposed the layer of grey debris 27001.

27001: upper (grey) layer of debris of the last construction phase (+0.10 – -0.29 m). It covered the trench's entire surface. Its highest level is in the NW part of the trench (squares A₁₋₂ – D₁₋₂, +0.50 m), and it descends towards the SE (squares A₃₋₄– D₃₋₄, +0.06 m). It consisted of a loose brown-greyish soil, with medium and large stones, as well as construction material fragments (some of them large, especially in squares A₁₋₄). To the NE, in square D₄, we discovered many mud and fired bricks. We also discovered there many pottery, metal, bone, charcoal and glass fragments, as well as three coins in squares A₂ (168/2016, -0.04m), A₃ (226/2016, -0.12m) and C₁–D₁ (193/2016, +0.10/-0.29 m) respectively. Also, in 27001 we discovered two Greek Hellenistic inscriptions¹⁸, in squares B₂ (277/2016, -0.13 m) and A₂ (278/2016, -0.32 m) respectively. Superposed by 27000, the layer partially superposes the trajectories of 27003 (Z036) and 27004 (Z021).

27002: the lower (yellow) layer of debris of the last construction phase (-0.29 m/-0.43 m), identified on the trench's entire surface. It consists of a loose, yellow soil, with medium stones, construction material, pottery fragments, metal, bone and glass fragments. Superposed by 27001; it cuts through the trajectory of 27003 (Z036) and 27004 (Z021) and it superposed the living surfaces (floors) 27005 and 27006.

27005: layer of very compact yellow silt, with inclusions of pebbles and medium stones (living surface). Identified in squares A₂₋₄ and B₂₋₃, W and SE of 27004 (Z021), between -0.29/-0.43 m. Initially identified in the trench's SE part (-0.26 m) where it is very compact and has no

¹⁸ The two inscriptions, which were discovered one hour apart on the same day, are dated to the 3rd – 2nd c. BC based on their paleographic characteristics. One of them is a dedication to Poseidon Helikonios (presented by Alexandra Lițu at the 6th International Black Sea Congress held in Constanța, in September 2017; it will be published in the Congress' proceedings), the other, a honorary decree for an unknown benefactor of the city.

inclusions. To the W the floor is broken and has inclusions of pebbles and medium stones. Superposed by 27001; it is cut by 27002.

27006: layer of very compact, yellow-reddish silt (living surface), identified in square D₁ (NW), W of 27003 (Z036), at -0.31 m. On this and near this layer were discovered fragments of construction material. Superposed by 27001 and partially by 27002; cut by 27002.

C028

28000: modern/vegetal layer, identified on the trench's entire surface. Between +0.80 m – +0.62 m thick in squares A₁₋₄/B₁₋₄ and +0.39 m respectively in squares C₄-D₄. It consists of a grey, loose soil with inclusions (stones and fragmentary construction material). In it, many pottery, bone, metal and glass fragments were discovered, and in square D₃ three coins were identified (53/2016, +0.75 m; 54/2016 and 55/2016 at +0.73 m). It superposed 28001.

28001: upper (grey) layer of debris of the last construction phase. It was excavated between +0.62 m (squares A₁₋₄, B₁₋₄, C₁₋₃, D₁₋₃) / +0.39 (C₄-D₄) and +0.53 (A₁₋₂/D₁₋₂) / +0.06 m (A₃₋₄) and 0.00 m (D₃₋₄). Identified on the trench's entire surface, it consisted of a grey, loose soil, with pebbles and medium stones and fragmentary construction material. It also contained inclusions of pottery, bone, metal and glass fragments. In this layer two coins were discovered (194/2016, A₃, +0.28 m and 274/2016, D₃, +0.11 m). Superposed by 28001; it superposed 28002.

28002: the lower (yellow) layer of debris of the last construction phase. Identified on the trench's entire surface, it was discovered at +0.53 m – +0.33 m (squares A₁₋₂/D₁₋₂) and +0.05 m and -0.60 m (squares A₃₋₄/D₃₋₄) respectively, and consisted of a yellow, compact soil, with inclusions of stones and construction material. E of Z038 (28006), in squares D₃₋₄, the soil has a brick-red colour due to the construction material found in large quantities in this area. In this layer four coins were discovered (227/2016, C₂, +0.60 m; 228/2016, D₁, +0.56 m; 409/2016, B₃, -0.26 m; 440/2016, A₁, +0.26 m), as well as pottery, bone, metal and glass fragments. Superposed by 28001; it superposed 28003, 28004, 28006, 28007, 28008 and 28009.

28003: living surface made of highly compacted yellow soil with few inclusions (stones). Identified in squares B₁ and D₁, at +0.33 m; it could continue in squares A₁ and C₁. On this surface pottery, bone, metal and construction material fragments were discovered. Superposed by 28001; associated with 28005 and 28006.

28004: living surface (floor), identified at -0.60 m in squares A₃₋₄ – D₃₋₄, consisting of a compact yellow soil with few inclusions (stones). On the floor's surface a fragment of a burnt beam was discovered, oriented N-S in squares D₃₋₄, passing under a globular storage amphora with ribs, discovered in square C₃, while part of the beam fell over a slab oriented E-W (possible pavement). In square B₃ was discovered a partially reconstructible oriental amphoreta, and under one of its fragments, a fragmentary bronze container, stuck in the floor. When the beam was removed, we discovered many nails in it, while two additional nails were found on the floor. On the floor's entire surface, we identified strong traces of burn and many fragments of burnt wood, probably from the beam. On this level we identified pottery, bone, metal, glass and construction material fragments, as well as traces of charcoal and wood. Superposed by 28002; associated with 28009 and possibly with 28007.

28008: living surface (floor), consisting of a very compact yellow soil, and identified in squares A₂₋₃ – D₂₋₃, at -0.46 m to the N and -0.35 m to the S respectively. Delimited to the W, E

and N by building contexts 28006 (Z038) and 28007 (Z037). In square A₃ a metal fragment was identified lying on the floor, while on the entire level pottery, bone, metal and construction material fragments were discovered. Superposed by 28002; associated with 28006 (Z038) and 28007 (Z037). In this trench, during the straightening of the E profile, we discovered a coin (504/2016).

C029

29000: modern/vegetal layer, identified on the trench's entire surface, between +1.03 m and +0.67 m, and consisting of a dark, loose soil. In this level we discovered many pottery, bone, metal, glass and construction material fragments. It superposed 29001.

29001: upper (grey) layer of debris of the last construction phase. Identified on the trench's entire surface, it is approx. 0.17 m thick (+0.67 m – +0.50 m). The compact grey soil was mixed with many stones and fragmentary construction material. We noticed a higher concentration of stones in the W part of the trench (squares A₁₋₂ – C₁₋₂ and D₁₋₃), as well as in its S part. In this layer we discovered a coin (195/2016, B₃, +0.63 m), as well as pottery, bone, metal, glass and construction material fragments. Superposed by 29000; it superposed 29005.

29005: the lower (yellow) layer of debris of the last construction phase, spotted in squares B₂₋₄ – D₂₋₄. Identified between +0.50 m – -0.20 m, it consists of a loose yellow-grey soil, with inclusions of stones and construction material fragments. This layer destroyed the living surface (floor) 29006. On its entire surface we registered strong traces of burning, as well as a considerable quantity of fragments of burnt mud bricks. Also, in squares B₂ and B₃ we discovered many metal fragments. Apart from these, in this layer we discovered pottery – among which a stamped handle (281/2016) –, bone, glass and charcoal fragments. Superposed by 29001; it superposed 29006; delimited by 29002 (Z030) and 29004 (Z044).

29006: living surface (floor). Identified in square D₂, at -0.13 m, it consisted of a very compact yellow soil, on which pottery fragments were discovered. Superposed by 29005; it partially superposes 29005.

29007: the layer that blocked the entrance in Z030 (29002); identified in squares D₁ – D₂, at +0.60 m. It consists of stones and fragmentary construction material, mixed with earth. It is 1.20 m long and 0.70 m wide. Superposed by 29001; associated with 29002 (Z030) and 29003 (T005).

C030

30000: modern/vegetal layer, identified on the trench's entire surface, between +0.95 m – +0.90 m, with the exception of square A₁, where it descends down to +0.46 m. It consisted of a loose, grey soil, with inclusions of stones and pottery fragments. In this layer we identified four coins (109/2016, C₁, +0.82 m; 138/2016, B₄, +0.89 m; 139/2016, D₁, +0.85 m; 140/2016, A₄, +0.77 m), as well as many pottery, bone, metal and glass fragments. It superposed 30001.

30001: the upper (grey) debris layer of the last construction phase, a compact grey soil, mixed with stones and fragmentary construction material. It was identified on the trench's entire surface, with a variable thickness of +0.90 m – +0.56 m and +0.46 m – +0.56 m respectively. Two coins (407/2016, C₄, +0.55 and 408/2016, B₄, +0.50 m) were discovered in this layer, as well as pottery, bone, metal and glass fragments. Superposed by 30000; it superposed 30002.

30002: the lower (yellow) debris layer of the last construction phase, identified in squares A₃, B₁₋₃ and D₂₋₄, between +0.56 m and +0.50 m, respectively +0.09 m for squares A₁₋₃. It consisted

of a compact yellow soil, mixed with stones and fragmentary construction material. In squares A₁₋₃ it was cut by a pit filled with brown soil. In square D₄ were discovered several bronze objects (a pair of silver-plated bronze earrings, inv. no. 444/2016, a probable hair pin and a bronze leaf), and on its entire surface we discovered pottery, bone, metal and glass fragments. Superposed by 30001; it superposed 30005 and 30006.

30005: living surface (floor), made up of a very compact yellow soil and identified at +0.64 m, in squares A₁₋₄ – B₁₋₄ and C₁. The floor is broken in A₁-A₃ and sunk down to a much lower level (+0.09 m). To the W (squares B₁-C₁) it is delimited by construction context 30004 (Z043), to the N (squares C₁-C₃) by construction context 30003 (Z042), and to the NE (square C₄) by a threshold. On this layer's surface were discovered pottery, bone, metal, glass and construction material fragments. Superposed by 30002; associated with 30004 (Z043), 30003 (Z042).

30006: living surface (floor), identified in squares D₂₋₄, at +0.50 m, consisting of a very compact yellow soil. The floor is broken in squares D₂₋₃. In D₂ it was preserved only near construction context 30004 (Z043) and in D₄ on a larger surface. Near the floor there is a threshold and construction context 30003 (Z042). Very close to the floor, in the upper layer 30002, in square D₄, we discovered the previously-mentioned bronze objects. On this layer we discovered pottery and metal fragments. Superposed by 30002.

C031

31001: modern/vegetal layer, identified on the trench's entire surface, between +1.08 m and +0.94 m. It was a loose, grey soil, mixed with stones and fragmentary construction material. In this layer we discovered pottery, bone, metal and glass fragments. It superposed 31001.

31001: upper (grey) debris layer of the last construction phase. Identified on the trench's entire surface, it is approx. 0.60 m thick (+0.94 m – +0.34 m). It consists of a compact grey soil, with inclusions of stones and fragmentary construction material. On its entire surface we discovered pottery, bone, metal and glass fragments, as well as a coin (609/2016, A₄, +0.46 m). Superposed by 31001; it superposed 31002 and 31003 (Z041).

31002: the lower (yellow) debris layer of the last construction phase was identified in squares A₁₋₄ – B₁₋₄, C₁, C₄ and partially in D₁₋₄. It consisted of a compact yellow soil, mixed with stones and fragmentary construction material. In squares A₄ and B₄ we noticed a stone alignment, possibly from a wall (preserved L = 1.28 m, l = 0.22 m, h max = 0.23 m, h min = 0.07 m). In squares A₂-A₃ we uncovered a large slab of stone, possibly from a previous pavement. In squares D₁-D₂ we found many *dolium* fragments, and on its entire surface we found pottery, bone, metal and glass fragments. Superposed by 31001; associated with 31003.

C032

32000: modern/vegetal layer. Identified on the trench's entire surface, between +1.05 m and +0.85 m. It consisted of a loose, grey soil, mixed with stones and fragmentary construction material. In this layer three coins were discovered (141/2016, C₄, +0.79 m, 142/2016, D₁, +0.73 m and 169/2016, B₁, +0.67 m), as well as pottery, bone, metal and glass fragments. It superposed 32001.

32001: upper (grey) debris layer of the last construction phase. Identified on the trench's entire surface, with a maximum thickness of 0.50 m (+0.85 m – +0.36 m), it consisted of a compact grey soil, with inclusions of stones and fragmentary construction material. In this layer we discovered an architectural fragment decorated with a bucranium and garlands (382/2016),

as well as pottery, bone, metal and glass objects. Superposed by 32000; it superposed 32002 (Z035), 32003 (Z029) and 32004.

32004: the lower (yellow) debris layer of the last construction phase. Identified in squares A₂₋₄ – C₂₋₄ and D₃₋₄, between +0.70 m (squares B₁ – D₁)/ +0.40 m (A₂₋₄ – D₂₋₄) and +0.03 m. It consisted of a compact, yellow-grey soil, mixed with stones and fragmentary construction material. It is delimited by walls 32002 (Z035) and 32003 (Z029). On its entire surface we discovered many pottery, bone, metal and glass fragments, as well as a reused stone sewage segment (548/2016). A coin was discovered in this layer (505/2016, C₃, +0.09 m). Superposed by 32001; associated with 32002 (Z035) and 32003 (Z029).

32005: living surface (floor), made up of a very compact yellow soil. It was identified in square C₄, at +0.41 m and was delimited to the N, in square D₄, by construction context 32003 (Z029). No archaeological material was discovered on this surface. Superposed by 32004; possibly associated with 32003 (Z029); it superposed 32007.

32006: substructure layer for street ST02; identified in squares B₁– D₁, at +0.33 m. It consists of a very compact yellow soil, with inclusions of shells and pebbles. It is 2.00 m long and 0.77 m wide. It is delimited to the S and at E by construction contexts 32002 (Z035) and 32003 (Z029). No archaeological material was discovered on its surface. Superposed by 32004.

32007: living surface (floor), identified in squares A₁₋₄, B₂₋₄ and C₃₋₄, at +0.10 m, consisting of a very compact yellow soil, with shell inclusions. No archaeological material was discovered on this floor, except for one coin (644/2016, A₁, +0.03 m). It is delimited by construction contexts 32002 (Z035) and 32003 (Z029). Superposed by 32004 and 32005.

C033

On this trench's surface we found soil deposited there from the excavations in the *Basilica Pârvan Sector*, which was removed prior to starting the excavation.

33000: modern/vegetal layer. Identified on the trench's entire surface, between +0.96 m – +0.48 m. It consisted of a loose, grey soil, mixed with stones and fragmentary construction material. In the trench's E side, we identified and partially uncovered wall Z035 (33002), that we first identified in C032, and which continues southwards. After removing the layer, in the central and E part of the trench we discovered elements of the pavement of ST02 (33003). In this layer were discovered many pottery, metal and bone fragments. It superposed 33001.

33001: the upper (grey) debris layer of the last construction phase; identified in squares C₁–D₁ (in the NW part of the trench) at +0.48 m; we did not finish excavating the layer in 2016. The slightly compact grey layer was mixed with stones and few fragments of construction material. The pavement of ST02 (33003) and wall Z035 (33002) were identified during the excavation of the previous layer (33000) at a higher level than the upper debris layer. In this layer were discovered pottery, bone, metal and glass fragments. Superposed by 33000.

Baulk between C002/C005

2000/5000: modern/vegetal layer. It covered the entire surface of the baulk (squares A₁–D₁), and was identified between from +0.76 m to +0.65 m (square A₁) and +0.56 m (square D₁) respectively. It consisted of a loose, grey soil, mixed with stones and fragmentary construction material. In this layer pottery, bone, metal and glass fragments were discovered. It superposed 2001/7001.

2001/5001: the upper (grey) debris layer of the last construction phase. Identified on the entire surface of the baulk, from +0.65 m (square A₁) and +0.56 m (square D₁) to +0.26 m (square A₁) and +0.29 m (E of *2003/5003*, *Z006*) and + 0.09 m (W of *2003/5003*, *Z006*) respectively. The compact grey soil contained inclusions of stones and fragmentary construction material. During its excavation we noticed in squares A₁-B₁ a stone alignment-oriented N-S and another oriented NW-NE. In this layer we discovered two coins (813/2016, D₁, +0.28 m; 833/2016, D₁, +0.29 m), as well as many pottery, bone, metal and glass fragments. It superposed *2002/5002* and *2005/5005*.

2002/5002: the lower (yellow) debris layer of the last construction phase. Identified in squares C₁-D₁, E and W of construction context *2003/5003* (*Z006*) respectively, between +0.29 m (to the E)/ +0.09 m (to the W) to -0.04 m (to the E)/ -0.01 m (to the W). It consists of a compact yellow soil, with inclusions of stones and fragmentary construction material. In the entire layer pottery, bone, metal and glass fragments were discovered. Superposed by *2001/5001*; it superposed *2006/5006*; associated with *2003/5003* (*Z006*) and *2004/5004* (*Z002*).

2005/5005: substructure of pavement *P001* in *C003* – *C004*. The layer was identified in square A₁, at +0.26 m, and consisted of a compact yellow soil, mixed with shells. In the S corner of square A₁ we noticed a layer of shells on which pavement *P001* was laid, which was identified in trenches *C003* – *C004*; stones from this pavement can be seen near construction context *2004/5004* (*Z002*). Near this layer of shells, we noticed an area of very compact soil, mixed with shells. On this layer's surface we discovered pottery fragments. Superposed by *2001/5001*; associated with *2003/5003* (*Z006*) and *2004/5004* (*Z002*).

2006/5006: living surface (floor), identified in squares C₁-D₁, at -0.01 m in the area W of construction context *2003/5003* (*Z006*) and at -0.04 m in the area E of it. The floor was made of a compact yellow soil, with inclusions of small pebbles and shells. Identified E and V of construction context *2003/5003* (*Z006*); the layer is better preserved W of the latter. In *C005*, near the floor, there is a wall (*Z015*) that seems to have been used as a living surface or possibly as a substructure for a now destroyed pavement. No archaeological material was discovered on its surface. Superposed by *2002/5002*; associated with *2003/5003* (*Z006*).

Baulk between C005/C007

5000/7000: modern/vegetal layer; Identified on the entire surface of the baulk (squares A₁-6), with a thickness varying from +0.86 m and +0.77 m respectively, to +0.55 m. It consisted of a loose, grey soil, mixed with stones and fragmentary construction material, including mud bricks. In this layer we discovered a coin (700/2016, A₄, +0.63 m), many pottery fragments, among which there were a stamped handle, several terracotta statuette fragments and a bone fragment, probably from a belt, as well as bone and glass fragments. It superposed *5001/7001*.

5001/7001: the upper (grey) debris layer of the last construction phase; identified on the entire surface of the baulk (squares A₁-6), the layer varies in thickness, from +0.55 m and +0.58 m in square A₁, +0.40 m in A₂, to +0.31 in squares A₃-A₄ and +0.05 in A₆. It consisted of a loose, grey soil, with inclusions of stones and fragments of construction material (including mud bricks). During the layer's excavation we noticed an alignment of five stones in squares A₄-A₅, as well as another (4-5 courses) in the profile. In square A₁ we discovered a fragment of a marble cornice (716/2016). We also discovered four coins (730/2016, A₂, +0.40 m; 731/2016, A₆,

+0.37 m; 732/2016, A₄, +0.23 m; 733/2016, A₅, +0.09 m), and an arrow tip, as well as pottery, bone, metal and glass fragments. Superposed by 5000/7000; it superposed 5002/7002.

5002/7002: the lower (yellow) debris layer of the last construction phase. Identified on the entire surface of the baulk, between +0.58 m (square A₁)/ +0.05 m (square A₆) to -0.45 m (to the N) and -0.15 m (to the S) respectively. It consists of a compact yellow soil, with inclusions of stone and fragments of construction material. The layer is delimited by wall Z005 (5003/7003) and Z011 (5005/7005) on the entire surface of the baulk. In this layer we discovered three coins (750/2016, A₆, -0.21 m; 769/2016, A₂, +0.16 m; 770/2016, A₄, -0.08 m), a terracotta statuette fragment (614/2016, D₁, +0.16 m), pottery—including a stamped handle (619/2016)—, bone, metal, glass and charcoal fragments. Superposed by 5001/7001; it superposed Z005 (5003/7003) and Z011 (5005/7005) and 5006/7006.

5006/7006: living surface (floor). Identified in squares A₁-A₄, at two distinct levels (+0.15 m in A₁ and -0.15 m in A₂-A₄), it consisted of a very compact yellow soil, with small pebbles inclusions. The layer was identified S of construction context 5005/7005 (Z011). In square A₁, near the layer there is a large slab of stone. In squares A₂-A₄, the layer covered Z045 that was first discovered in C005 and which continues in the baulk. No archaeological material was discovered on the layer's surface. Superposed by 5002/7002; associated with 5004/7004 (Z045).

Baulk between C007/C015

7000/15000: modern/vegetal layer. Identified on the entire surface of the baulk (squares A₁-F₁), it has a variable thickness (from +0.80 m to +0.73 m in square A₁ and from +0.30 m to +0.15 m in square F₁) due to the baulk's topography, which follows a S-N slope. It consisted of a loose, grey soil, mixed with stones and fragmentary construction material. On the entire layer pottery, bone, metal and glass fragments were discovered. It superposed 7001/15001 and 7002/15002.

7001/15001: the upper (grey) debris layer of the last construction phase; identified only in square A₁, between +0.73 m and +0.68 m. The loose, grey soil, contained inclusions of stones and fragments of construction material. In this layer four coins were discovered (730/2016, A₂, +0.40 m; 731/2016, A₆, +0.37 m; 732/2016, A₄, +0.23 m; 733/2016, A₅, +0.09 m), as well as pottery and bone fragments. Superposed by 7000/15000; it partially superposes 7002/15002.

7002/15002: the lower (yellow) debris layer of the last construction phase; identified on the entire surface of the baulk (squares A₁-F₁), its thickness varies (from +0.68 m in A₁ and +0.15 m in F₁ respectively, to -0.21 m) imposed by the topography. Between this layer and construction context 7003/15003 (Z027), we noticed small traces of a grey silt level in square A₁ (-0.34 m) and traces of a larger yellow silt floor in squares C₁-F₁. In this layer seven coins were discovered (610/2016, D₁, +0.38 m; 611/2016, D₁, +0.13 m; 658/2016, D₁, -0.15 m; 681/2016, A₁, +0.08 m; 714/2016, B₁, -0.12 m; 715/2016, C₁, -0.21 m; 848/2016, F₁, -0.30 m) as well as pottery, bone, metal and glass fragments. Superposed by 7001/15001 in square A₁ and by 7000/15000 in the rest of the trench.

When we cleaned trench C007, we discovered a coin (867/2016) on the floor S of the mud brick wall.

Baulk between C015/C020

15000/20000: modern/vegetal layer. It covered the entire surface of the baulk (squares A₁-A₄), and was identified from +0.76 m to +0.58 m. It consisted of a loose, grey soil, mixed with stones.

In square A4 a ring was discovered (717/2016, A₄, +0.65 m), probably made of bronze. In this layer pottery, bone, metal and glass fragments were discovered. It superposed 15001/20001.

15001/20001: the upper (grey) debris layer of the last construction phase. Identified on the entire surface of the baulk, with a variable thickness from +0.58 m (W)/ +0.71 m (E) down to +0.15 m (W, square A₁)/ +0.42 m (E, square A₄). It consisted of a loose, grey soil, with inclusions of stones and fragmentary construction material. In this layer we discovered a coin (751/2016, A₂, +0.52 m), pottery, bone, metal and glass fragments. Superposed by 15000/20000; it superposed 15002/20002.

15002/20002: the lower (yellow) debris layer of the last construction phase. Identified on the entire surface of the baulk; we did not finish excavating this layer in 2016. Starting from a varying level +0.15 m (square A₁) and +0.42 m (square A₄). It consists of a compact yellow soil, mixed with stones and fragmentary construction material. In square A₄ we discovered Z027, a continuation from C007 to C020. In this layer we found many glass fragments, as well as fragmentary and entirely-preserved large iron nails. Apart from these, we found a coin (793/2016, A₄, +0.28 m), as well as pottery and bone fragments. Superposed by 15001/20001; it superposed 15003/20003 (level of street ST02).

Baulk between C028/C030

28000/30000: modern/vegetal layer. Identified on the entire surface of the baulk (squares A₁-D₁), it was made up of a grey, loose soil, with inclusions of stones, and it was approx. 0.15 m thick (+0.98 m – +0.83 m). In this layer we found two coins (476/2016, D₁, +0.98 m and 477/2016, C₁, +0.98 m), as well as pottery, metal and construction material fragments. It superposed 28001/30001.

28001/30001: the upper (grey) debris layer of the last construction phase; made up of a loose grey soil, mixed with stones and fragmentary construction material. Identified on the entire surface of the baulk (squares A₁-D₁), the layer has a variable thickness, between +0.83 m and +0.65 m (square D₁), down to +0.54 m (square A₁). In this layer pottery, bone, metal and glass fragments were discovered. Superposed by 28000/30000; it superposed 28002/30002.

28002/30002: the lower (yellow) debris layer of the last construction phase; identified on the entire surface of the baulk (squares A₁-D₁), with a variable thickness of approx. 0.22 m (+0.54 m to +0.32 m in square A₁) and 0.33 m (+0.65 m to +0.32 m square D₁). It consisted of a compact yellow soil, with inclusions of stones and fragmentary construction material. This layer was also identified N and S of Z042 (28004/30004; oriented E-W). Also, when it was being excavated, we noticed that Z039 from C030 (30007) continued there. On its entire surface we discovered pottery, bone, metal and glass fragments. Superposed by 28001/30001; it superposed 28003/30003.

28003/30003: living surface (floor); identified in squares A₁-B₁ and D₁, at +0.33 m S of construction context 28004/30004 (Z042) and at +0.32 m N of it, respectively. It consists of a very compact yellow soil and it represents the continuation of the living surface 28003 in C028 and of 30006 in C030. It was identified N and S of construction context 28004/30004 (Z042). Superposed by 28002/30002; associated with Z042 (28004/30004).

Baulk between C030/C031

30000/31000: modern/vegetal layer. It covered the entire surface of the baulk (squares A₁-D₁) and has a variable thickness, between +0.99 m to +0.54 m (squares A₁ – B₁ E), and between +0.75 m (squares A₁ – B₁) and +0.87 m (squares C₁ – D₁) respectively. The loose, grey soil was mixed

with stones and fragmentary construction material. In this layer two coins were discovered (682/2016, A₁, +0.82 m and 701/2016, A₁, +0.75 m), as well as pottery, bone, metal and glass fragments. It superposed 30001/31001.

30001/31001: the upper (grey) debris layer of the last construction phase. Identified on the entire surface of the baulk, with a variable thickness between +0.54 m (A₁ – B₁ E) / +0.75 m (A₁ – B₁ V) / +0.87 m (C₁ – D₁) and +0.41 m (A₁) / +0.58 (D₁). It consisted of a compact grey soil, with inclusions of stones and fragmentary construction material. During the layer's excavation we noticed that the debris in squares C₁ – D₁ is more compact than in squares A₁ – B₁. In this layer we discovered two coins (734/2016 and 735/2016, C₁, +0.75 m), pottery, bone, metal and glass fragments. Superposed by 30000/31000; it superposed 30002/31002.

30002/31002: the lower (yellow) debris layer of the last construction phase; identified on the entire surface of the baulk, the layer was identified at different levels, between +0.41 m (square A₁) / +0.58 m (square D₁) and +0.25 m (square A₁) / +0.42 m (square D₁). It consists of a very compact yellow soil, with inclusions of stones and fragments of construction material. Construction context 31003 (Z041), that continues from trench C031, cuts the layer 30002/31002 in square C₁. In this layer bone, metal, glass and pottery fragments were discovered, including a stamped handle (740/2016). Superposed by 30001/31001; it superposed 30003/31003 (Z041).

B) Building structures

B.1 Walls (Fig. 1)

Z002 (2004/5004): first identified in 2013; in 2015 (Fig. 3) we uncovered a new segment when excavating the baulk C002/C005 (2004/5004), in square B₁, at +0.39/+0.61 m (S/N). The wall is oriented E-W and was built of unfashioned medium stones (limestone, green schist), bound with earth. Up to the present moment the wall has been uncovered for a length of 6.61 m (the E end is in C017) and is 0.63 m wide and 0.53 m high (4-5 courses). To the S of the baulk, near the wall, we discovered two stones that are part of pavement P001 in C003 – C004. It is delimited by the living surfaces 2005/5005 (square A₁, +0.26 m) to the S, and 2006/5006 to the N (squares C₁ – D₁, -0.04 m). Superposed by the upper debris layer (2001/5001); it was built together with Z006 (2003/5003) and is associated with the living surfaces 2005/5005 and 2005/5006.

Z005 (5003/7003): it was first identified in 2013; in 2015 (Fig. 4) we uncovered another segment in the baulk C005/C007, in squares A₅– A₆; it was built of unfashioned and fashioned large and medium stones (limestone, green schist), bound with earth. In C005/C007 it was uncovered for a length of 1.30 m, a width of 0.83 m and a height of 0.40 m (3-4 courses). We must mention that the wall is very badly preserved, as it is tilting strongly northwards from its original position. Superposed by the lower layer of debris (5002/7002); Z011 (5005/7005) is set against it.

Z006 (2003/5003): the wall was first discovered in 2013; in 2015 (Fig. 3) we excavated another segment in the baulk C002/C005, in squares A₁ – D₁, at +0.64 m (square B₁) and +0.14 m (square D₁). It is oriented N-S and was built of unfashioned and fashioned large and medium stones (limestone, green schist), bound with earth. It was uncovered for a length of 3.40 m and a height of 0.30/1.00 m; it is 0.70 m wide (maximum 10 courses). In its N segment, at +0.14 m, there is a concentration of stones that represents a blocked entrance (2007/5007; in squares C₁ – D₁, at +0.56 m). The blocked entrance practically constitutes a new wall, made up of stones and

fragmentary bricks/roof tiles, bound with earth. It is 1.70 m long and 0.34 m wide; it is preserved for a height of 0.52 m. Superposed by the upper debris layer (2001/5001).



Fig. 4. Baulk C005-007: Z005, Z011 and Z045.

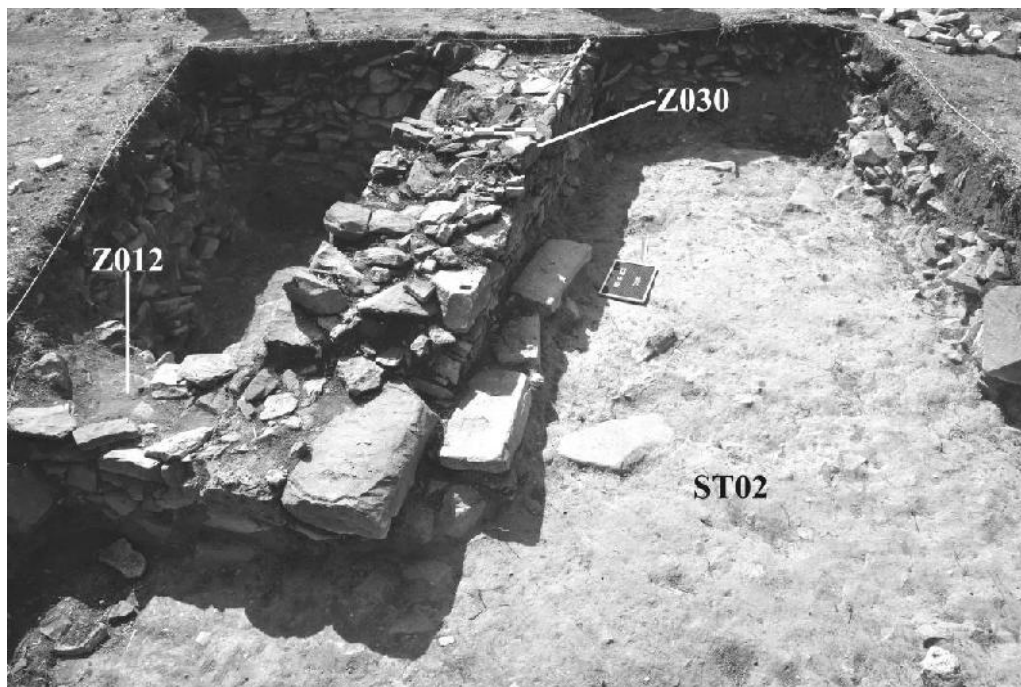


Fig. 5. C026: Z012, Z030 and ST02.

In square B₁, Z006 continues eastwards with Z002 (2004/5004), oriented SSW-NNE, and to the N, in square D₁, with Z005 (5003/7003). Therefore, the wall was initially built as a delimiting

wall for the inner courtyard of the building¹⁹ and N of the intersection with Z002 it continues at walking level as a threshold between Z002 and Z005. It is delimited to the E by the living surfaces 2005/5005 (square A₁, +0.26 m) and 2006/5006 (squares C₁ – D₁, -0.04 m); W of the blocked entry 2007/5007, the wall is delimited by the living surface 2006/5006.

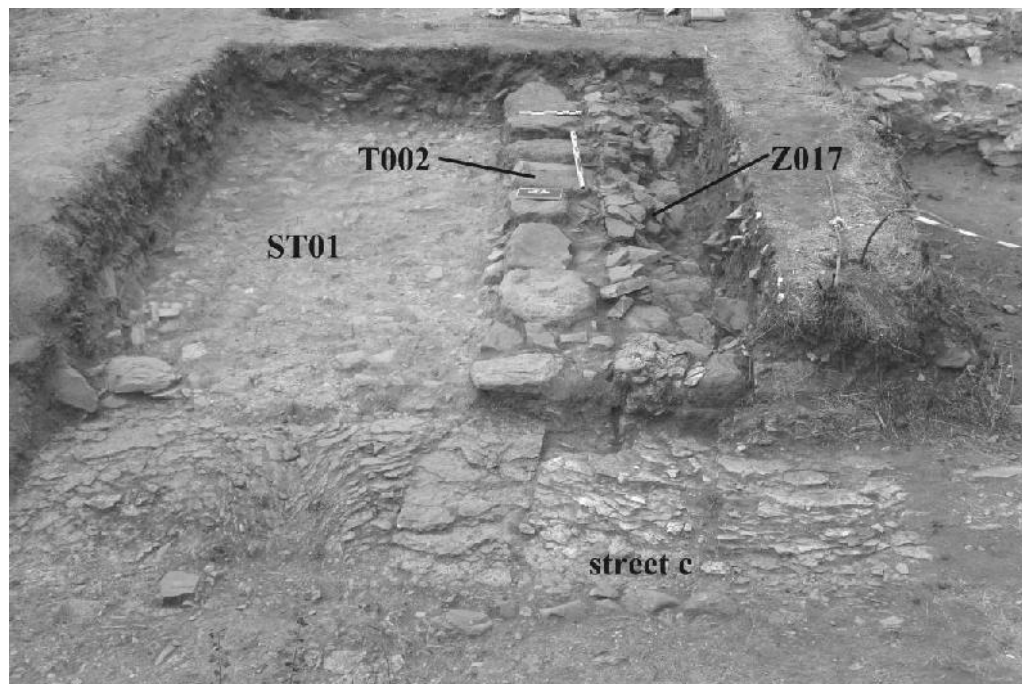


Fig. 6. C021: Z017, T002 and ST01.

Z011 (5005/7005): the wall was first discovered in 2013; in 2015 (Fig. 4) we completely uncovered it when we excavated the baulk C005/C007, where it was identified in squares A₁ – A₄, at +0.55 m. The wall was built of unfashioned and fashioned large and medium stones (limestone, green schist), bound with earth. It is oriented almost W-E, and has a total length of 4.30 m, it is 0.65 m wide and 0.80 m high (5 courses). The N face of the wall seems to have been built on a layer of silt, and in squares A₁ – A₂ it is very badly preserved, as it collapsed during the last years. It is delimited to the S by the living surface 5006/7006. Superposed by the lower layer of debris (5002/7002); it intersects Z005 (5003/7003); it superposed Z045 (5004/7004).

Z012: identified in 2013 in C006, C008 and C026 (26006, identified at +0.58 m; Fig. 8). In C026, the wall is oriented E-W and is built of medium stones and pebbles (green schist, limestone), bound with earth; it was uncovered for a length of 1.26 m and a width of 0.65m, and 5 courses have been identified until now (approx. h 0.43 m). Superposed by debris layer 26001 and it could have functioned with Z030 (26002).

¹⁹ P001 in Bottez *et alii* 2015, 169.



Fig. 7. C022: Z017, Z019, T001 and ST01.



Fig. 8. C027: Z012, Z036 and context 27005.

Z017²⁰: the wall was identified in trenches C012 (12002, from +0.04 m), C013 (13002, from +0.60 m), C014 (14002, from +0.67 m), C017 (17004, from +0.57 m), C021 (21002, from +0.54 m; Fig. 6), C022 (22003, from +0.45 m; Fig. 7) and C025 (25005, from +0.13 m; Fig. 9), which brings the wall's total length to 35.12m; its width is 0.60 m (0.85m in a 2 m-long segment in C013, where we suppose there used to be an entrance). A number of 2-5 courses was uncovered up to the present moment, and the wall is oriented NNW-SSE. It was built of medium stones and pebbles (green schist, limestone) and bricks, bound with earth. Superposed by the debris layer 001 or 002 in the different trenches, it functioned with T001 and T002, with Z014 (in C021), with Z005 and 002 (in C017), with Z019 (in C022), with Z003 and 004 (in C014), with Z018 (in C012), with Z021 (in C025) and with ST01. In C025, in squares B₂-C₂, the wall seems to have been destroyed

²⁰ The first segments of the wall were presented in Bottez *et alii* 2015, 167-168.

and superposed by a hard, yellow silt floor (25004), possibly constituting a new entrance in this part of the building.



Fig. 9. C025: Z017 and T001.

Z019 (22004): identified in 2014, in C009 (9005, from +0.30 m; Fig. 7). We later uncovered another segment (L=0.76 m; l=0.67 m; h=0.16 m, one course uncovered up to the present moment) in C022 (at +0.45 m), which brings the wall's total length to 6.25 m, on a height of 1-4 courses. It was built of medium stones and pebbles. It functioned with Z017 and is probably to be connected to the first construction phase of *insula* α .

Z021 (27004): a new 0.89 m-long (0.67m wide) segment was identified in 2016 in C027 (from -0.02 m), in squares A₄-B₄. Built of fashioned and unfashioned large and medium stones (green schist, limestone), bound with earth, the wall is oriented E-W. Three courses were uncovered until now, on an approx. height of 0.28 m. The wall was dismantled to the W, where a hard yellow-silt living surface was identified over its former trajectory (27005). Superposed by the debris layer 27001; cut by the lower debris layer 27002; associated with 27005 and possibly associated with Z036 (27003).

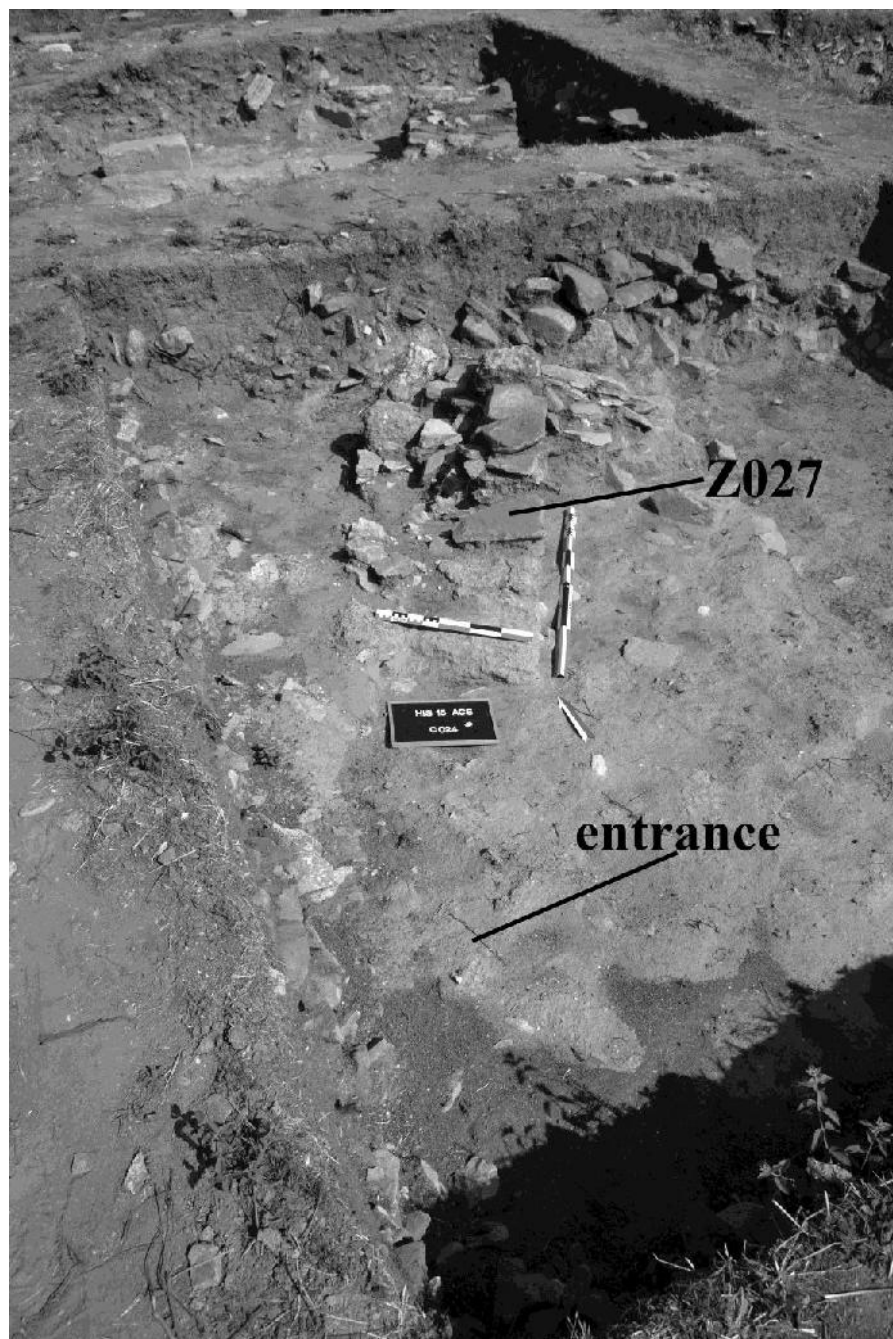


Fig. 10. C024: Z027.

Z027 (20002; 24003; 7003/15003): first identified in 2013 in C007 (7015, from -0.37 m); oriented NNE-SSW. We identified in 2015 three new segments (0.60 m wide; the N segment is 0.82 m wide, as it corresponds to the foundation) in C024 (at +0.31 m; Fig. 10) and C020 (at +0.63m; Fig. 11), and in the baulk C007/C015 (squares A₁ – F₁, at +0.52/+0.24 m; Fig. 12), which brings the wall's total length to 13.64 m. Superposed by 20000 and 24001 and partially by 24002, it was cut by 20001. At the present moment we cannot say with certainty that it functioned with the living surfaces 24004 and 24005, but it seems that the latter was laid over the wall's trajectory after the segment in the trench's S part was destroyed, thus constituting a new entrance. It was raised in the first functioning phase of *insula* α and has the orientation specific to Phase II of ST02. It was built of medium stones and pebbles (green schist, limestone), bound with earth. In squares B₁–F₁ of the baulk C007/C015, between the wall and ST02, we noticed a layer of yellow silt mixed with shells (7014²¹), which was excavated in order to reach the level of the wall; this living surface was laid over the segment of dismantled wall in the second phase of functioning of Phase II of the Late Roman *insula*. It was superposed by the lower layer of debris (7002/15002). Near the wall, on the street level, we discovered a coin (659/2016, D₁, -0.14 m). It destroyed Z026, which belonged to structures from Phase I of the Late Roman *insula* (*insula* β).



Fig. 11. C020: Z027, Z033 and ST02.

Z029 (32003; Fig. 13): discovered in C032, squares D₂ – D₄, at +0.80 m. It is oriented E-W and is built of unfashioned and fashioned medium stones and pebbles (limestone, green schist), bound with earth. Up to the present moment we uncovered it for a length of 2.90 m and a height of

²¹ Bottez *et alii* 2015, 162.

0.54 m (11 courses); it is 0.73 m wide. It is delimited to the S by the living surfaces 32006 (square D₄, +0.40 m) and 32007 (squares A₁ – A₄, B₂ – B₄, C₃ – C₄, +0.10 m). Superposed by the upper debris layer (32001); it functioned together with Z035 and the living surface 32006; the lower debris layer was identified on both sides of the wall.



Fig. 12. Baulk C007-C015: Z027.

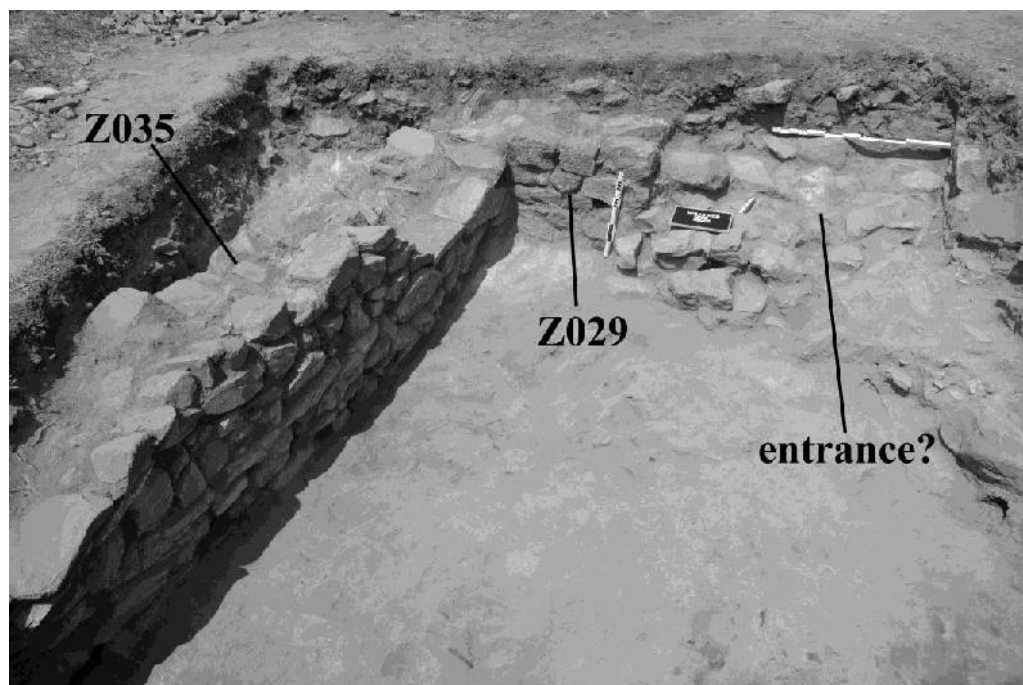


Fig. 13. C032: Z029 and Z035.



Fig. 14. C029: Z030, Z044 and T005.

Z030 (26002; 29002): identified in C026 (from +0.87 m; Fig. 5) and in C029, in squares A1-2 – D1-2, at +0.90 m (Fig. 14). It was built of unfashioned and fashioned large, medium stones and pebbles (green schist, limestone and *spolia*), bound with earth. Oriented N-S, it was uncovered on a total length of 8.45 m and up to 11 courses were unearthed until the present moment (approx. 0.98 m high). Superposed by the debris layer 26001, it functioned with Z012 (26006),

thereby delimiting to the W and N the living surface 26007. It was built together with Z044 (29004) and is associated with sidewalk T005 (29003). In squares D₁-D₂ of C029, we identified a blocked entrance (29007). Superposed by the upper layer of debris (29001) and to its E and W it is associated with the lower layer of debris (29005).

Z031 (19011) (Fig. 15): identified in 2015 at -0.48 m, it was built of medium unfashioned stones and pebbles, bound with earth. Four courses were uncovered, on a height of approx. 0.45 m (L=4 m; l=0.70 m). It is oriented WSW-ENE and could have had a blocked entrance starting 0.92 m E from the trench's W side (the presumed entrance would have been 1 m long). It was built at the same moment with Z032 (19012). Superposed by layer 19005.

Z032 (19012) (Fig. 15): identified in 2015, starting from -0.68 m. Built of medium unfashioned stones and pebbles, bound with earth. Three courses were uncovered (approx. 0.27 m high), on a preserved length of 3 m and a width of 0.65 m. Oriented NNW-SSE, it was built at the same time with Z031 (19011). Superposed by layer 19005.

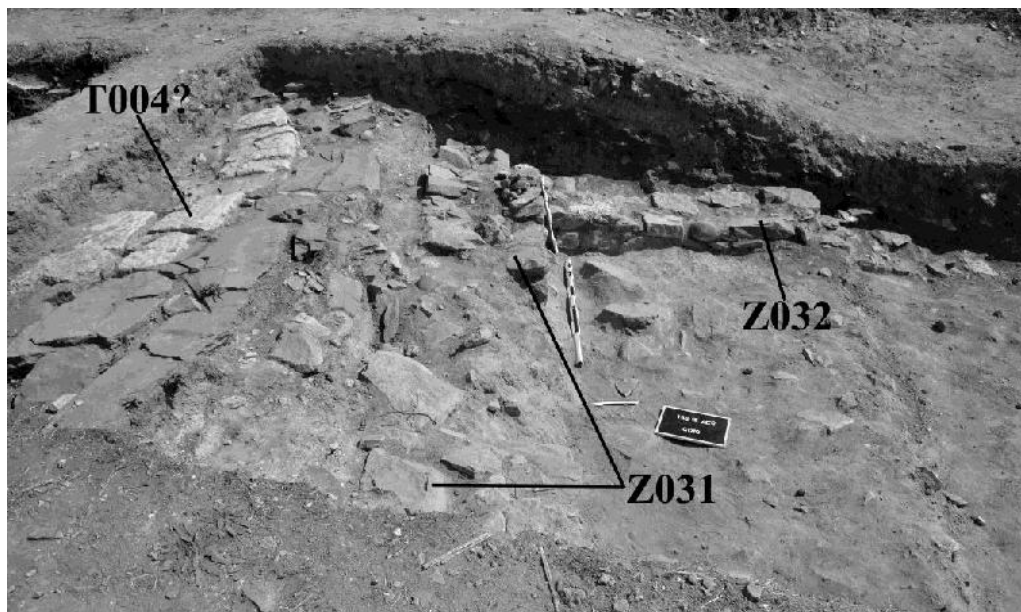


Fig. 15. C019: Z031, Z032 and T004.

Z033 (20005; Fig. 11): identified in squares C₁₋₂ of C015, from +0.09 m, on a present length of 2.30 m, a width of 0.43 m and a height of approx. 0.15 m (1-2 courses). Built of large and medium stones (green schist, limestone and *spolia*), bound with earth and is oriented WSW-ENE. Set against the wall's N face we discovered a large stone (L=0.65 m, l=0.38 m), that could have represented a threshold or an entrance. Given the level at which it was identified, it could have functioned with the living surfaces 20004 and 20006. Superposed by the debris layer 20001.

Z034 (20008; Fig 10): identified in square A₂ of C020. Only three stones bound with earth were preserved, on a length of 0.75m starting westwards from Z027. For now, it remains unclear with which contexts this wall functioned.

Z035 (32004 and 33002): uncovered in C032, squares A₁ – C₁ and D₁₋₂ (+0.77 m in square B₁; Fig. 12) and +0.55 m (square D₂) and in C033 (squares A₄ – D₄, at +0.73 m; Fig. 16). The wall is oriented N-S and was built of unfashioned and fashioned medium stones and pebbles (limestone, green schist), bound with earth. It is uncovered up to the present moment for a length of 7.98 m (it is 0.80 m wide) and a height of 0.28 m (1-2 courses in C033) / 0.70m (6 courses in C032), and it intersects Z029 (32003) near the N side of C032. It is also clear that it intersects Z041 in the baulk C031/C033, which remains unexcavated for now. It is delimited to the W by ST02 (context 32006 in squares B₁ – D₁ in C032, and in C033 by 33003). Superposed by the upper debris layer (32001 and 33001); the lower debris layer was uncovered on both sides of the wall.

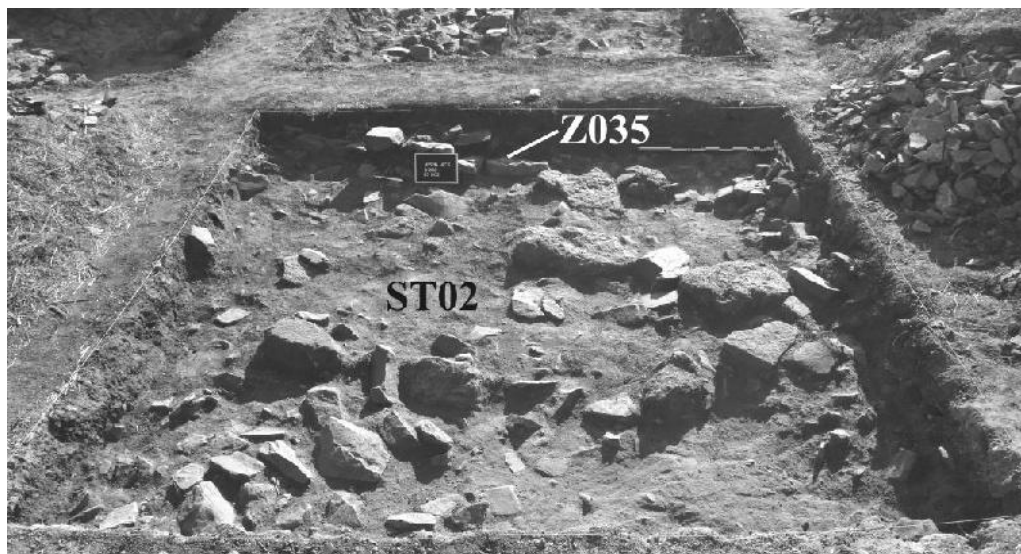


Fig. 16. C033: Z035 and ST02.

Z036 (27003; Fig. 8): identified in C027 (at +0.19m), in squares D₂₋₃. It was built of fashioned and unfashioned medium stones and pebbles (green schist, limestone), bound with earth. Oriented NNW-SSE, it was uncovered for a length of 1.06 m and has a width of approx. 0.67 m; four courses have been identified up to the present moment (approx. 0.52 m high). It was dismantled to the S; Superposed by the upper debris layer (27001) and cut by the lower debris layer (27002); possibly associated with Z021 (27004) and Z018 to the N.

Z037 (28007; Fig. 17): identified in C028, at -0.25 m, in squares A₃–D₃. The wall is oriented NNW-SSE on a length of approx. 2 m, then its N extremity turns W. Built of unfashioned and fashioned large and medium stones, and bound with earth, the wall was uncovered for a length of 2.66 m, with 3 visible courses (0.45 m high) and is 0.53 m wide. The stone that marks the wall's turn westwards was incorporated in Z038 (28006). Superposed by the lower layer of debris (28002) and was possibly associated with the living surface 28004.

Z038 (28006; Fig. 17): identified in C028 at +0.54 m, in squares A₂ – D₂. It was built of unfashioned and fashioned large and medium stones and bricks, bound with earth. Oriented

NNW-SSE and uncovered for a present length of 2.57 m, a width of 0.72 m and a height of 0.95 m (eight courses). Towards the S extremity, in square A₂, we noticed two courses that could correspond to an entrance that could have been blocked at a later date. To the W lies the living surface 28003 (+0.33 m). Superposed by the debris layer 28001; associated with the living surfaces 28003 and 28008 and with Z042 (28005).

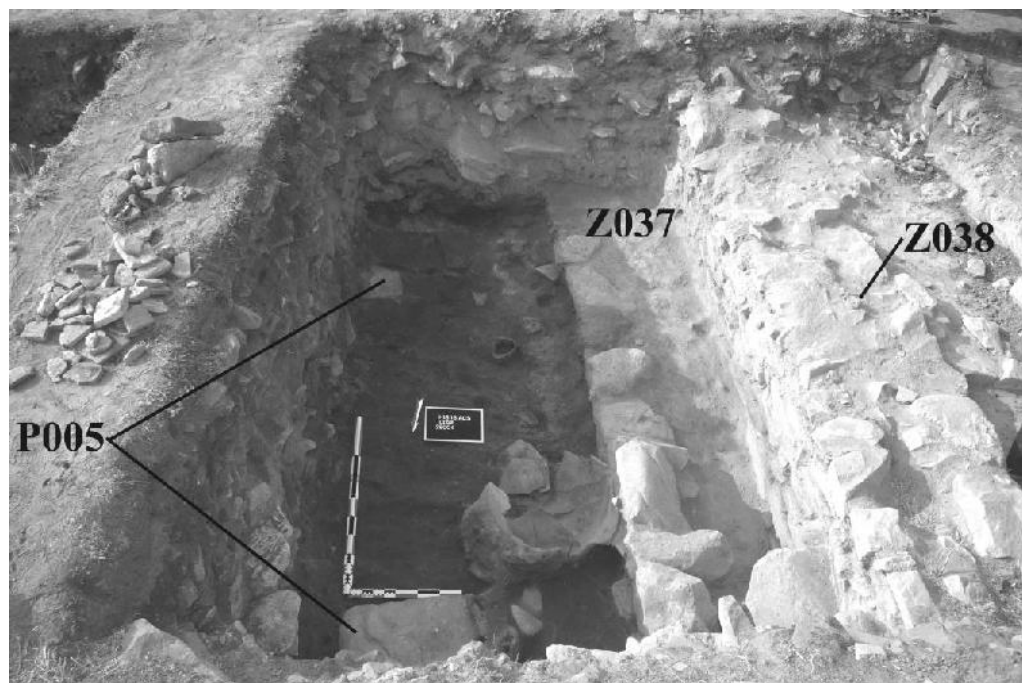


Fig. 17. C028: Z037, Z038 and P005.

Z039 (30007; Fig. 18 and 20): identified in C030, in squares A₄-B₄, at +0.74 m. The wall is oriented NNW-SSE and was built of unfashioned and fashioned very large (limestone slabs), large and medium stones and bricks, bound with earth. Up to the present moment it was uncovered for a length of 2.10 m and a height of 0.37 m (4-5 courses), and is 0.55 m wide. It intersects wall Z042 in the E part of its entrance, and it even blocks (from the S) 0.23 m of the former, which suggests it was added at a later date. W of the wall there is a living surface (30005). Superposed by the upper debris layer (30001); built after Z042 (30003) and Z043 (30004) and it can be associated to the living surfaces 30005 and 30006.

Z040 (30003/31003; Fig. 19): was identified in the baulk C030/C031 (30003/31003), in squares A₁ – B₁, at +0.51 m. The wall was built of unfashioned large and medium stones (limestone, green schist), bound with earth. Oriented NNW-SSE, it has been uncovered, up to the present moment, for a length of 1.70 m and a height of 0.36 m (two courses); it is 0.60 m wide. In square C₁, the wall is superposed by Z041 (31003) and therefore should be dated before

the latter. North of their intersection we uncovered an alignment of stones that could represent the continuation of Z040 north of Z041. Superposed by the lower layer of debris (30002/31002).

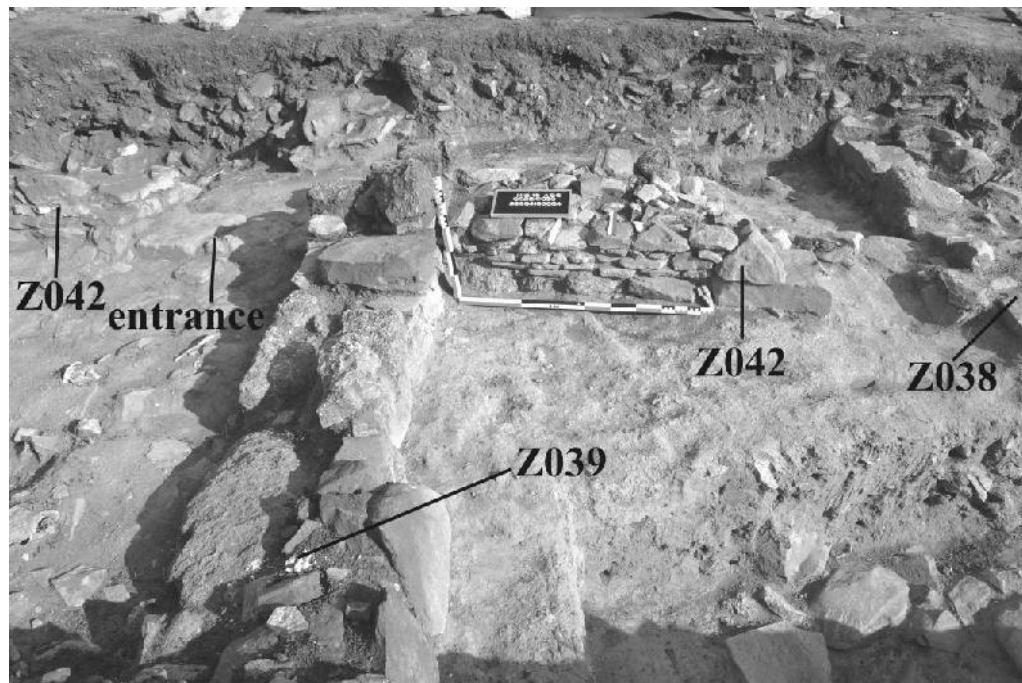


Fig. 18. Baulk C028-C030, C030 and C028: Z039 and Z042.

Z041 (31003; Fig. 19): identified in 2015 in C031, in squares C₁₋₄ – D₁₋₄, at +0.72 m. It is oriented almost W-E, built of unfashioned and fashioned large and medium stones (limestone, green schist), bound with earth. It was uncovered for a length of 4 m and a height of 0.82 m (six courses); it is 0.78 m wide. The wall superposes Z040 (30003/31003) and continues in the baulk between C030/C031, where it intersects Z043 (30004). Superposed by the upper debris layer (31001) and has the lower debris layer (30002) on both sides.

Z042 (28005, 28004/30004, 30003; Figs. 18, 19 and 20): identified in 2016 in square C₁ of C028, at +0.41 m, in square C₁ of the baulk C028/C030 at +0.71 m and in squares C₂ – C₃ of C030, at +1.00 m. It was built of fashioned and unfashioned large and medium stones and bricks, bound with earth. It is oriented WSW-ENE and was uncovered for a total length of 5.23 m (0.66 m wide in C028 and 0.60 m in C030) and on a maximum of 6 courses up to the present moment (0.36 m high). In C030 it intersects Z039 (30007). A living surface (+0.33 m) was discovered both N and S of the wall (28003), possibly cut by the wall when it was built. It was superposed by the upper debris layer in C028 (28001) and C030 (30001), as well as by the lower one (28002/30002) in C028/C030; associated with the living surface 28003 and Z038 (28006). In the E part of C030 (square C₄) there is an entrance in the wall (L=1.12 m), with a threshold made of three large stones. It intersects/is interwoven with Z043 (30004) in the W part of C030 (square C₁). In C030

the wall can be associated with the living surfaces 30005 (S of the wall, from +0.64 m) and 30006 (N of the wall, from +0.50 m).

Z043 (30004; Figs. 19 and 20): identified in C030 (at +0.96 m), in squares B₁ – D₁. The wall is oriented N-S and is built of unfashioned and fashioned large and medium stones (limestone, green schist), bound with earth. Up to the present moment it was uncovered for a length of 2.46 m, on four courses (0.51 m high) and is 0.70 m wide. Z042 (30003) is set against it in square C₁; possibly associated with the living surfaces 30005 (at +0.64 m) to the S, and 30006 (at +0.50 m) to the N; superposed by the upper debris layer (30001).

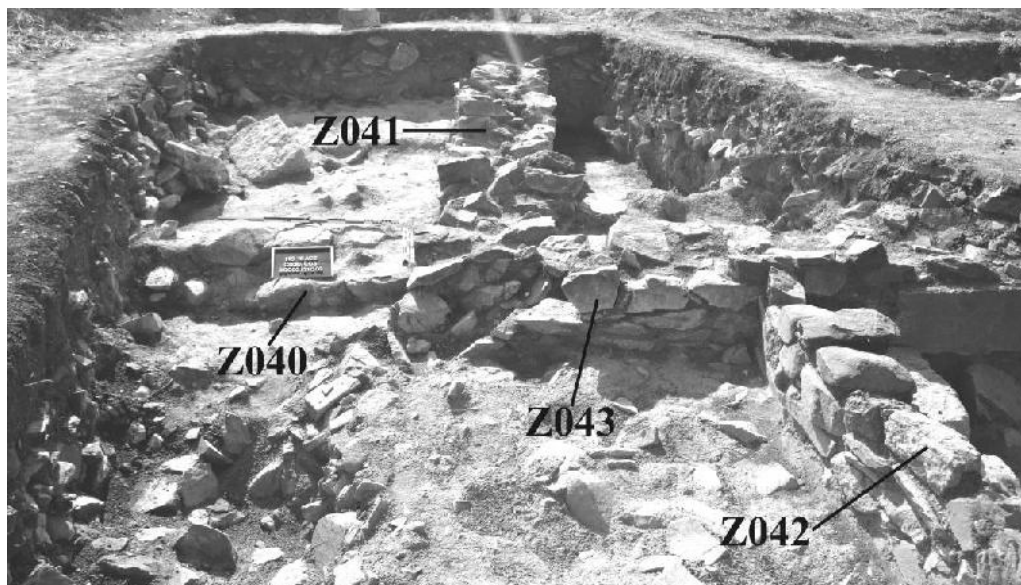


Fig. 19. C031, Baulk C031-C030 and C030: Z040, Z041, Z042 and Z043.



Fig. 20. Baulk C031-C030, C030 and Baulk C030-C028: Z039, Z042 and Z043

Z044 (29004; Fig. 14): identified in C029 (+0.72 m), in squares A₁₋₄. It was built of unfashioned and fashioned large and medium stones (limestone, green schist), bound with earth. It is oriented WSW-ENE and was uncovered for a length of 3.80 m, and a height of 0.41 m (five courses up to the present moment); it is 0.60 m wide. It was built together with Z030 (29002) and

therefore is associated with sidewalk *T0005* (29003) and the blocked entrance 29007; associated with the lower layer of debris (29005) and is superposed by the upper one 29001.

Z045 (5004/7004; Fig. 4): the wall was discovered when we excavated the baulk *C005/C007* (5004/7004), in squares *A*₅ – *A*₆, at -0.21 m. It was built of unfashioned and fashioned large and medium stones (limestone, green schist), bound with yellow silt, is oriented almost E-W, and has a present length of 1.80 m, a width of 0.30 m wide and a height of 0.23 m (one course). The wall is parallel to *Z005* (5003/7003). At its E end we discovered a stone set against it to the N. On its W segment we noticed the yellow silt that bound the stones together. Near the wall, to the E, we discovered several iron nails and a large quantity of glass shards. Superposed by the lower layer of debris (5002/7002); associated with the living surface 5006/7006; it is superposed by wall *Z011* (5005/7005). Wall *Z045* probably belongs to the previous phase of the Late Roman *insula* (*insula* β), which functioned before the 6th c. AD, and should be associated with *Z015* and *Z016*.

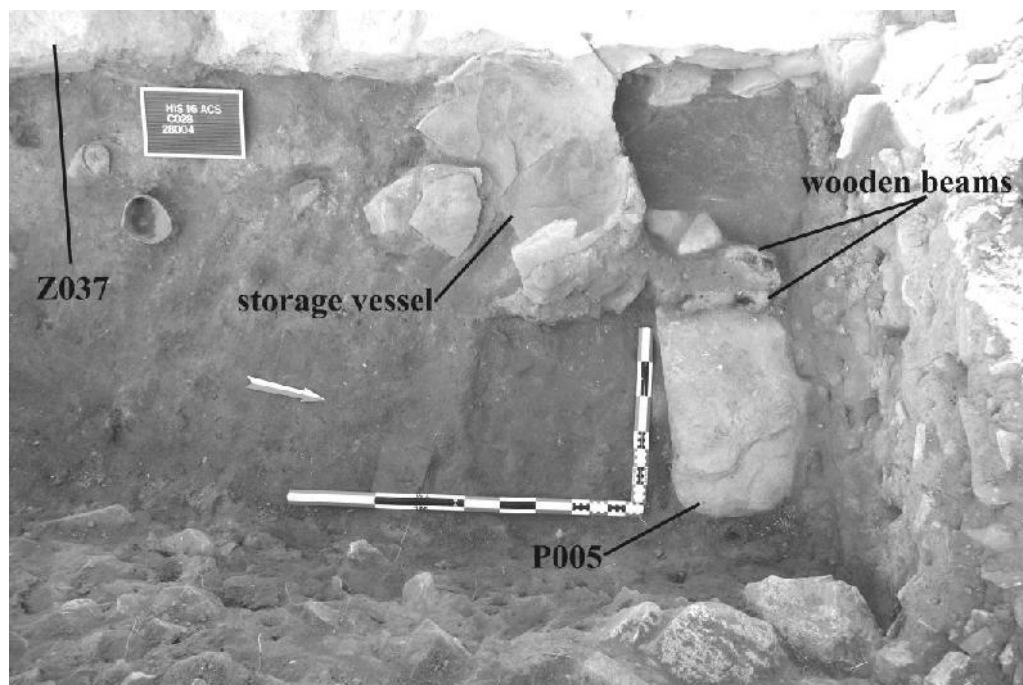


Fig. 21. *C028*: *P005*, storage vessel and wooden beams.

B.2 Pavements

P005 (28009; Figs. 17 and 21): identified in *C028*, at -0.48 m (S) and -0.40 m (N), in squares *A*₄ and *D*₄ (between these squares no other elements of the pavement were discovered. Three elements (two of stone and one of brick) were discovered in the S part (*A*₄), with a total length of 0.60 m (E-W) and a width of 0.46 (N-S) m, and one in the N corner (*D*₄), with a total length of 0.72 m (E-W) and a width of 0.40 m (N-S). On the NW side of the slab in *D*₄ we discovered a fragment of a burnt wooden beam (maybe part of a shelving system for depositing amphorae)

and a globular storage amphora with ribs, which would indicate that this particular area was used for storing vessels. It could have functioned with the living surface 28004 (-0.60 m). Superposed by the upper debris layer (28002).

B.3. Sidewalks

T001 (22005, 25006): was partially identified in 2014 in *C012* (12006) and in *C014* (14004). In 2015 we identified a new segment in *C022* (22005; Fig. 7), 1.20 m long and 0.89 m wide, at +0.50 m, in squares C-D₃) and another in *C025* (25006, at +0.04 m, in square D₄; Fig. 9), for a length of 0.95 m and a width of 0.65 m. It was made of large and medium stones and pebbles (green schist, limestone, probably *spolia*), bound with earth. Superposed by 22001, it functioned with *Z017* and with *ST01* (it is located 0.25 m above the street level).

T002 (21002) (Fig. 6): partially uncovered in 2014 in *C017*; in 2015 a new segment was identified in *C021*, at +0.33(N) / +0.56 m (S), in squares A₂-D₂. It was made of large limestone slabs (0.90×0.56/0.21×0.58 m), bound with earth, and was uncovered for a length of 4.98 m. Superposed by the upper layer of debris (21001), it is associated with *Z017* and is located approx. 0.40 m above the level of *ST01*.

T004? (19003; Fig. 15): identified in the N part of *C019*, in squares C-D₁₋₄, at -0.24 m. It is oriented WSW-ENE and was made of large and medium stones (green schist and limestone; relatively good workmanship), as well as *spolia* (fashioned limestone stones and a fragment of a Roman stone water pipe); it was identified for a length of 3.5 m (W-E) and a width of 1.5 m (N-S). In squares C₃-D₃ the pavement's orientation changes slightly northwards. It had a substructure, the layer 19004. It is not clear if it is a sidewalk or a street pavement, or a pavement inside a building.

T005 (29003; Fig. 14): discovered in *C029* (+0.62 m), in squares B₁-D₁. Four large and medium stone slabs were discovered in 2015, fashioned and unfashioned, for a length of 2.15 m and a width of 0.64 m. It has the same orientation as *Z030* (29002). Superposed by the upper debris layer (29001); associated with *Z030* (29002) and the blocked entrance 29007.

B.4. Streets

ST01 (21004, 25003): identified in previous campaigns in *C017*, *C013*, *C014* and *C012*; in 2015 two new segments were identified, in *C021* (Fig. 6) and in *C022* (Fig. 7). It is oriented NNW-SSE and was built using medium stones and pebbles, bound with earth and forming a very compact and solid surface; the street has now been identified for a total length of 35 m; its total width is probably 4 m, as indicated by *Z023* (*C016*) that delimits it to the E. In the N part of *C021* it was identified at -0.03 m, and in its S part at +0.16 m, which indicates a slope southward; *ST01* intersects *Street C* at the latter's level. Two coins were discovered on the street level (446/2015, 479/2015²²), an architectural fragment (452/2015) and several metal objects, among which there was a bronze key (437/2015). The street was superposed by the upper layer of debris. It functioned with *T001*, *T002* and *Z017*. In *C025*, the street (25003) was identified in squares A₃₋₄ (from -0.64 m),

²² A preliminary analysis dated them to the reigns of Augustus and the 4th-3rd c. BC, which unfortunately means that they were out of context.

C₃₋₄ and D₃₋₄ (from -0.21 m); in squares B₃₋₄ it was destroyed by the debris layer 25001. In square C₃ we found a very solid layer of yellow-greyish silt that probably represented the street surface.

ST02 (20004, 20006, 24004, 26005, 33003): identified in previous campaigns in C015; in 2015 we continued to follow it southwards and we identified it partially in C020 (Fig. 11), C024 (Fig. 10), C026 (Fig. 5) and C033 (Fig. 16). In C020, ST02 was identified at +0.02 m (D₁₋₃), as a very compact layer of yellow silt (20004), delimited to the S by Z033 (+0.09 m). This wall's connection to the street is not yet clear, but for now we consider it likely that it was part of Phase I of the Late Roman *insula* (*insula* β), and therefore was disaffected when the second phase of ST02 was built over it. S of Z033 ST02 continues again as a very compact yellow silt floor 20006 (-0.01 m), broken by the debris layer (20001) in the centre of the trench. In C024, ST02 seems to have been preserved only in the NW corner, again as a very compact yellow silt floor (24004) identified at +0.09 m, as it was in C026 (26006; at +0.37 m). In C033 it was identified at +0.73 m, in squares A₂₋₃ and B₂₋₄ – D₂₋₄. Part of its pavement was preserved, made of large (max. 0.80 m × 0.46 m) stone slabs (limestone and schist); it is delimited to the E, in squares A₄ – D₄, by wall Z035 (33002). It is superposed by the upper debris layer (33001). Between 2013 and 2016 ST02 was uncovered for a length of almost 41 m; we do not know what its width was; in C015 it was 4 m, which corresponds to the width of ST01, but further S ST02 has an irregular trajectory, with the different walls of the *insula* reaching further W. Therefore, we will have to wait until the entire length of its W side has been excavated to obtain a clear image.

ST03?: given the fact that in C018-C019 we have two pavements that could represent sidewalks (T003 and T004, parallel to one another), it is possible that we have another street in between. If this is the case it would delimit the Late Roman *insula* to the S, and its level would be the compact yellow silt layer identified in 2014 (18002).

FINAL REMARKS

As far as the stratigraphy is concerned, the results obtained in 2015 and 2016 confirm those obtained in 2013-2014. Generally (Fig. 22), in the square trenches we excavated there is a first vegetal/modern intervention layer of varying thickness, followed by a first layer of greyish debris, representing the moment of final abandonment and destruction of the site. Below lies a layer of yellowish debris, with strong traces of burn, which represents the moment of destruction of the last construction phase. Under this layer we uncovered the living surfaces of the last construction phase, be it the delimiting streets' pavements, stone pavements or hard silt floors (20004, 20006, 24004, 24005, 25004, 25007, 26005 and 26007). In C001 we excavated the *dolium* buried there, and we used flotation in order to recover the plant remains, particularly the seeds, in an effort to establish what was deposited in it (the results are yet to come). The vessel was intentionally filled up with construction material, soil and pottery fragments, in order to prevent the collapse of the yellow silt floor that covered the *dolium* in the *insula* α's second phase of functioning (second half of the 6th c. AD). In the S part of C019 the stratigraphy was disturbed when the defensive wall was dismantled in order to build the fort in Vadu, and we did not manage to identify the

defensive wall itself (and it is possible that it was completely dismantled). As a consequence, the terrain was eroded and older layers were exposed, including some Greek layers, which will be researched in the future.

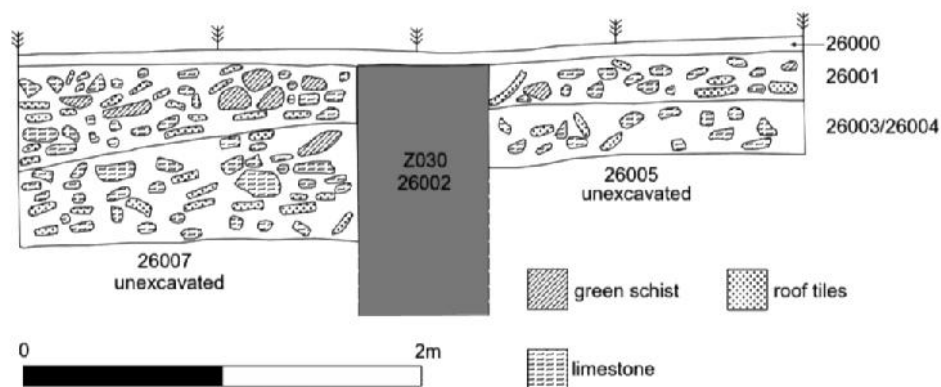


Fig. 22. Southern profile of C026.

The excavations during 2015-2016 provided important new information concerning *insula* α , which seems to be divided into two nuclei (N and S), divided by a narrow alley. If future excavations will prove this hypothesis, the S segment of Z017 will have to be renamed. As far as individual structures are concerned, we continued to uncover the *insula*'s E side (Z017). In C021 we identified the remaining segment of T002 (first uncovered in 2014) and the intersection between ST01 and *street c*, following the former's lean slope. On the W side we continued to uncover Z027 southwards (C020, C024) and in C026, where Z027 has a *decroche* of 1.12 m westwards. In C020 we identified a wall (Z033) that seems to pertain to the *insula*'s previous phase (*insula* β), to which also pertain Z015 and 016. In C019 we uncovered a pavement that was probably a sidewalk (T004?). If we consider the fact it has a pendant to the N (T003 in C018), it is possible that the living surface between the two (18002) was in fact another street (ST03?) that delimited the *insula* to the S. This street could be indeed *street d*, which passes N of the *Basilica Pârvoan*. In C019 a change in the orientation of the stones of T004 seems to indicate a possible change of trajectory of this supposed street, from WSW-ENE to SW-NE, which could indicate itself a change of trajectory of the Late Roman defensive wall. Two walls (Z031 and 032), oriented WSW-ENE and NNW-SSE, probably belonged to a Late Roman building that was set against the defensive wall. We identified three new entrances, one in Z030 in C029 (filled up in the second phase, when T005 was also added), connecting street ST02 with the building; a second in Z042 in C030, connecting two rooms of the southern nucleus and the third in Z006 in baulk C002-005. A fourth possible entrance could have existed in Z029 in C032 (Fig. 13).

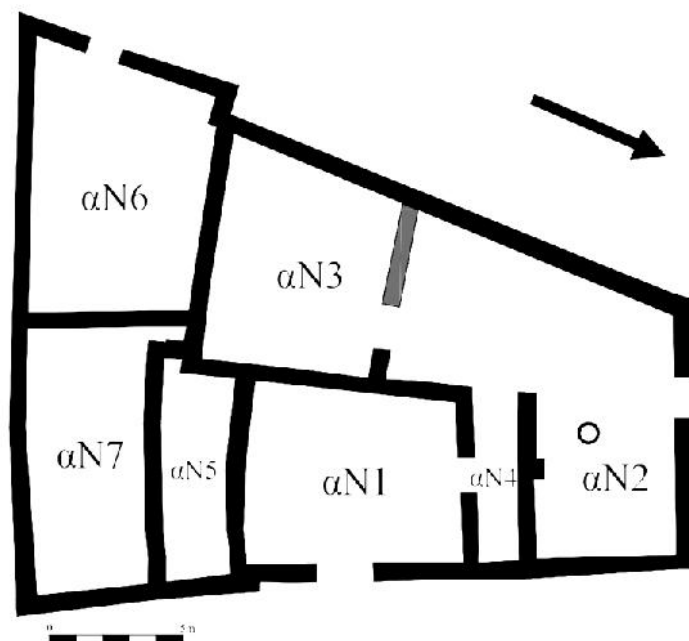


Fig. 23. Phase I of the N nucleus of *insula* α.

There are several elements that clearly differentiate the two construction phases of the *insula*'s two nuclei (Figs. 23-25 and 6) and mark the creation of new internal spaces, probably with different uses. First, there are four areas in which the walls were dismantled down to the living surface and then covered by a hard yellow silt floor, an action that probably transformed them in new entrances in the second construction phase of the *insula* (at the same time some of the initial entrances were blocked): the corner formed by Z017-Z021 (C025; Fig. 9) and that formed by Z021 and Z036 (C027; Fig. 8); also, Z018 and Z019 suffered the same transformation²³. Finally, Z027 in C007 and the baulk between C007-C015 (Fig. 12), as well as in C024 (Fig. 10) was also partially dismantled and a living surface was laid over its former trajectory. This, combined with the construction of new walls such as Z011 and the mud-brick wall Z010 (in C007)²⁴, lead to the reconfiguration of the rooms in the W and SE parts of the N nucleus, as well as the E room of the S nucleus.

²³ See Bottez *et alii* 2015.

²⁴ It should be stressed that the *dolium* in C001 was covered by a living surface during *insula* α's second phase.

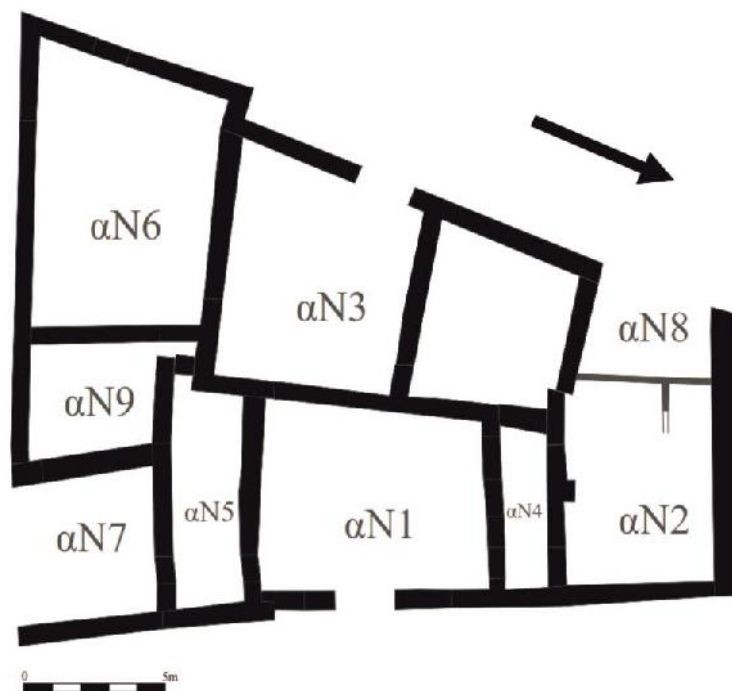


Fig. 24. Phase II of the N nucleus of *insula* α .

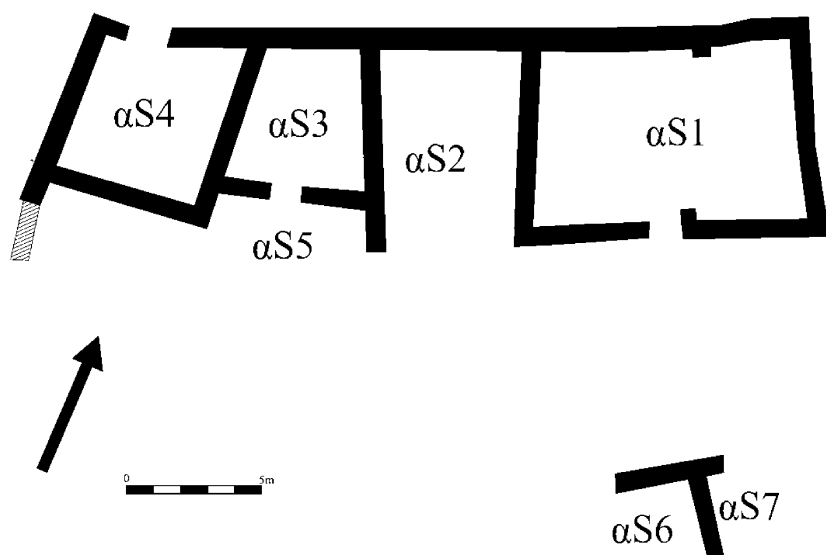


Fig. 25. Phase I of the S nucleus of *insula* α .

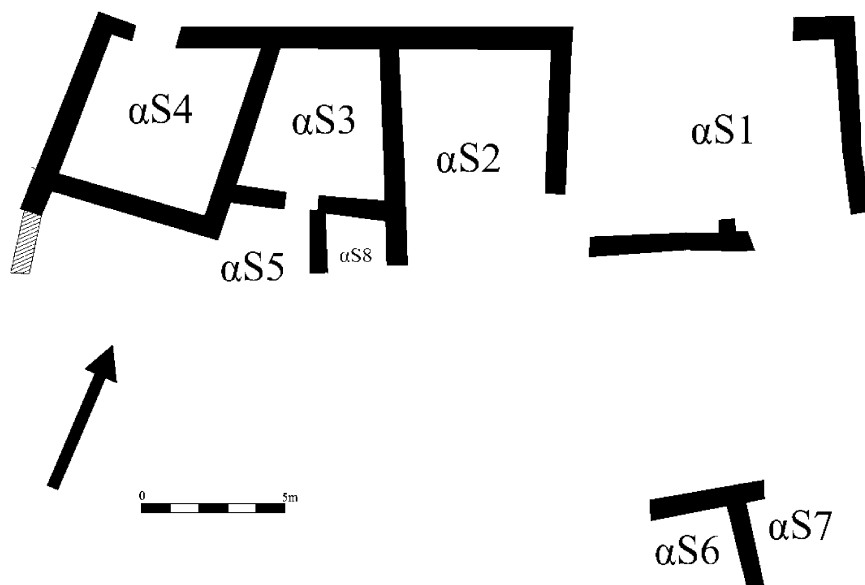


Fig. 26. Phase II of the S nucleus of *insula* α .

Following the publication of some of the pottery and the coins discovered in 2013-2014 in the *Acropolis Centre-South Sector*, we have now managed to refine the chronology of *insula* α (6th c. AD – e.g. Fig. 27/1-5²⁵). A coin was found on the living surface 7014 in 2014, and this structure was laid over the dismantled segment of Z027, which therefore proves it belonged to the *insula*'s second construction phase. The coin is a *follis* dated to the reign of Justin II (Fig. 27.6)²⁶, which corresponds perfectly to the reconstruction attested throughout the Late Roman city²⁷. Furthermore, accepting the same chronology for *insula* α and the rest of the Late Roman city, it would mean that the *insula*'s first phase could have functioned between the reigns of Anastasius and that of Justin II.

²⁵ Fig. 27: 1. Phocaean plate, Hayes 1 A type, dated between the end of the 4th and the first half of the 5th c. AD (Iliescu *et alii* 2017, 48, cat. no. 1, Pl. I/1); 2-3. North-african bowls, Hayes 99 B type, dated in the 6th c. AD (Iliescu, Bottez 2018); 4. Amphora lid, Peacock 1984, fig. 75/91-92 type, dated between the 4th and the beginning of the 7th c. AD (Bădescu, Bivolaru 2015, 200, cat. no. 68, Fig. 7/14); 5. Eastern lamp, Iconomu 1986, XXXVII type, variant II, dated in the 6th c. AD (Bivolaru, Bottez 2016, 137, cat. no. 4, Fig. 4/4).

²⁶ As mentioned before – Vîlcu, Țârlea 2016, no. 20, 163-164, Fig. 3.

²⁷ That is the last construction phase at Histria, which functioned between the reigns of Justin II and Phocas – for the chronology of the last two phases at Histria see G. Florescu in Condurachi *et alii* 1954, 81-82, 87, Suceveanu 2007, 12-30 and Munteanu 2011, 34.

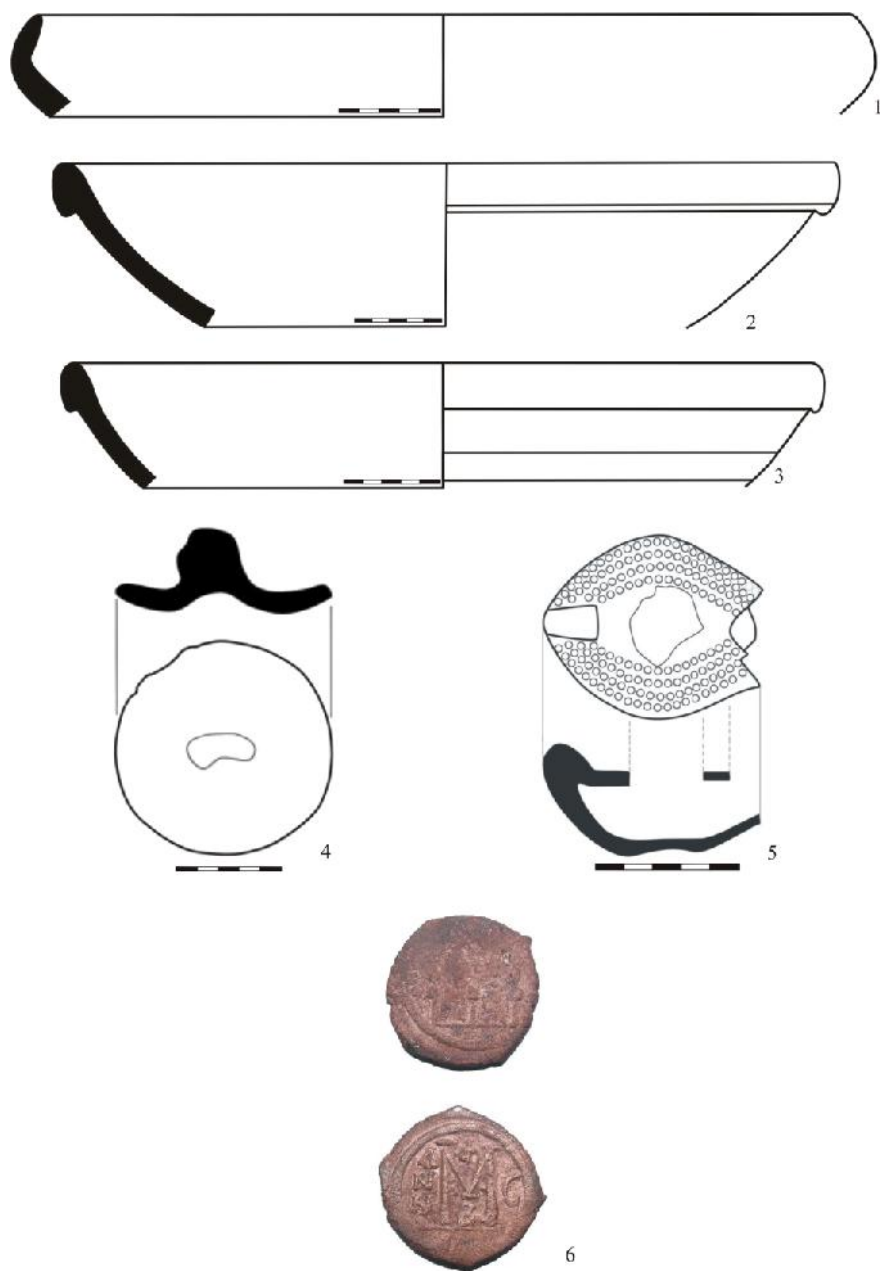


Fig. 27. Material discovered in the ACS Sector.

FUTURE OBJECTIVES

In 2016 we finished the initial four-year project financed by the University of Bucharest. The second project (2017-2021) aims to finish the excavation of *insula* α (trenches and baulks, test trenches etc.), in order to be able to publish the results in a monographic volume in the *Histria* series. In order to accelerate the publication, we will therefore focus on the excavation and research of the material from the N nucleus, and then pass to the S one. After the publication we will continue excavating *insula* β , in order to obtain an image of the changes that occurred in the city plan in this area of the acropolis during the different periods of time.

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