

---

## PRELIMINARY REPORT OF THE EXCAVATIONS AT HISTRIA, THE ACROPOLIS CENTRE-SOUTH SECTOR (2017-2018)

---

Valentin Bottez \*

**Abstract:** 2017-2018 represented the first half of the second archaeological research program implemented by the University of Bucharest team in Histria (Constanța County, Romania). After four years of excavations, we identified the limits of the last Late Roman *insula*, which is divided into two nuclei (N and S) and had two phases of functioning marked by changes in the residential complex's plan. The first phase is dated between the beginning of the 6<sup>th</sup> c. AD and up to 559 (the Kutrigur raid); the second phase started around the reign of Justin II and ended in the first half of the 7<sup>th</sup> c. AD.

**Rezumat:** Campaniile 2017-2018 au reprezentat prima jumătate a celui de-al doilea proiect 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-a: 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.

### INTRODUCTION

This paper will present the results obtained in 2017-2018 by the team from the “Dinu Theodorescu” Laboratory of Archaeology (Faculty of History, University of Bucharest) at Istros (Istria, Constanța County, Romania), on the *Acropolis Centre-South Sector*, on the city's acropolis (Fig. 1). As this is a preliminary report, it contains only the raw data obtained during the field research and subsequent lab work, in order to make it accessible for researchers interested in the subject, as well as some preliminary conclusions. We are publishing in parallel the material resulted from the excavations and finally, once excavation of the 6<sup>th</sup>-7<sup>th</sup> c. AD *insula* concludes, all the results will be published in a general synthesis in the shape of a volume in the monographic series *Histria*<sup>1</sup>.

---

\* University of Bucharest; e-mail: valentin.bottez@istorie.unibuc.ro

<sup>1</sup> For the first preliminary reports see Bottez, Lițu, Țârlea 2015; Bottez *et alii* 2018; Bottez *et alii* 2019. For publications of the different categories of excavated material see Bădescu, Bottez 2014; Bădescu, Bivolaru 2015; Bivolaru, Bottez 2016; Vîlcu, Țârlea 2016; Bădescu, Iiescu 2016; Iliescu *et alii* 2017; Iliescu 2017; Iliescu, Bottez 2018; Beldiman *et alii* 2018; Lițu *et alii* 2018; Țârlea *et alii* 2018; Beldiman *et alii* 2019; Iliescu, Bottez 2021a; Iliescu, Bottez 2021b; Iliescu, Bottez 2021c; Lițu, Bottez, Țârlea 2021; Achim *et alii* 2021; Lițu, Bottez 2021.

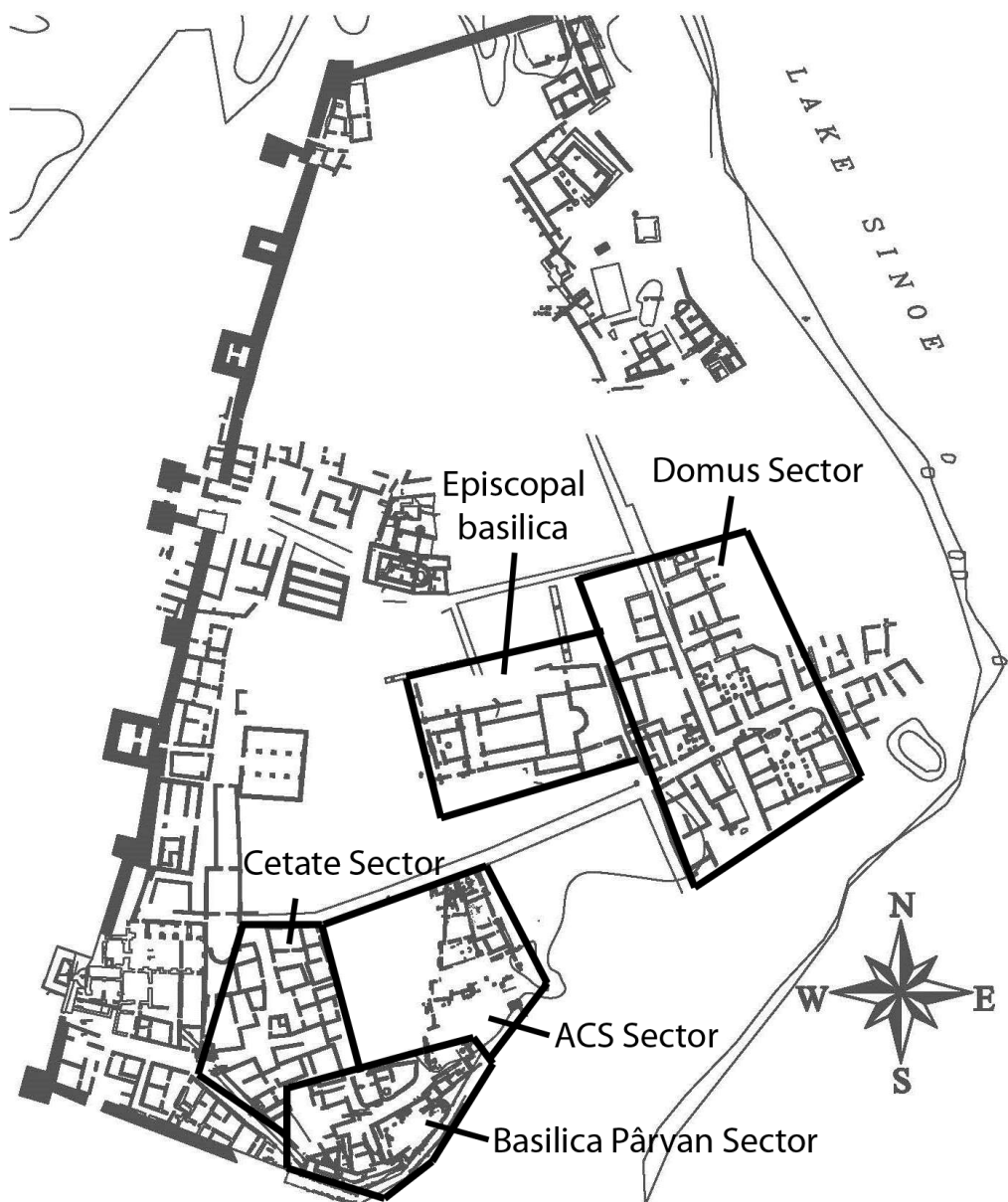


Fig. 1. Location of the sector on the acropolis of Istros (topographic plan C. Mehedințeanu).

The objectives<sup>2</sup> of the second project financed and implemented by the University of Bucharest is to continue researching the *insula's* entire surface, using (4×4 m) Wheeler square trenches<sup>3</sup> as excavating units, and at the same time digging up the baulks, in order to obtain in the end the complex's complete plan.

#### EXCAVATION UNITS (NEW AND CONTINUED) FOR 2017-2018 (Fig. 2-3)<sup>4</sup>

During these two years we added to the 33 square (4×4 m) trenches<sup>5</sup> dug in the first four campaigns another 12 new ones. In 2017, in order to follow the trajectory of the street that delimits the *insula* to the W (conventionally named **ST02**) and find its intersection with **street d**, which passes N of the so-called *Basilica Pârvoan*<sup>6</sup>, three new square trenches were excavated (**C034**, **C037** and **C038**<sup>7</sup>), which helped us further identify the plan of the *insula's* S nucleus<sup>8</sup>. Two others (**C035** and **C036**) were excavated in order to completely uncover the S limit of the N nucleus, and excavation continued in **C023**, which was started in 2015. We also excavated seven baulks, between **C002/C003**, **C003/C006**, **C005/C006**, **C005/C020**, **C006/C024**, **C020/C024** and **C023/C024**, in order to continue uncovering the N nucleus.

In 2018 we excavated seven new square trenches, **C039**, **C040**, **C041**, **C042**, **C043**, **C044** and **C045**, which helped us further the research of the S nucleus. We also continued excavating in sq. A<sub>1</sub> of **C008**, a square trench started in 2013. Finally, we dug up six baulks between **C008/C004**, **C008/C036**, **C023/C008**, **C023/C035**, **C035/C036** and **C034/C042** in order to continue uncovering the N nucleus.

The identified structures helped better delimit a series of internal spaces in the *insula* (Fig. 4).

<sup>2</sup> For our project's general objectives and methodology, see Bottez *et alii* 2018, 282-284.

<sup>3</sup> A square trench is called *casetă* in Romanian, which is abbreviated "C" we therefore note the square trenches **C001**, **C002** etc.

<sup>4</sup> We are using as illustration the latest available plan, presenting the situation at the end of the 2021 campaign, as it provides a clearer general picture for the context in 2018.

<sup>5</sup> Divided in 1×1 m squares, marked A-D on a S-N direction, and 1-4 on a W-E direction.

<sup>6</sup> Angelescu, Bottez, Achim 2017.

<sup>7</sup> In the case of **C038**, the initial square trench (4×4m) was extended approximatively 1 m southwards, in order to uncover the intersection of **ST01** with **Street D**.

<sup>8</sup> Henceforth, when mentioning a certain space in one of the nuclei, we will note first the letter corresponding to the nucleus (N or S), the abbreviation **Sp**, and the **number** – e.g., **space 11 of the southern nucleus** = **SSp11**, **space 03 of the northern nucleus** = **NSp03**.







Fig. 3. The Acropolis Centre-South Sector in 2022 (V. Bottez).

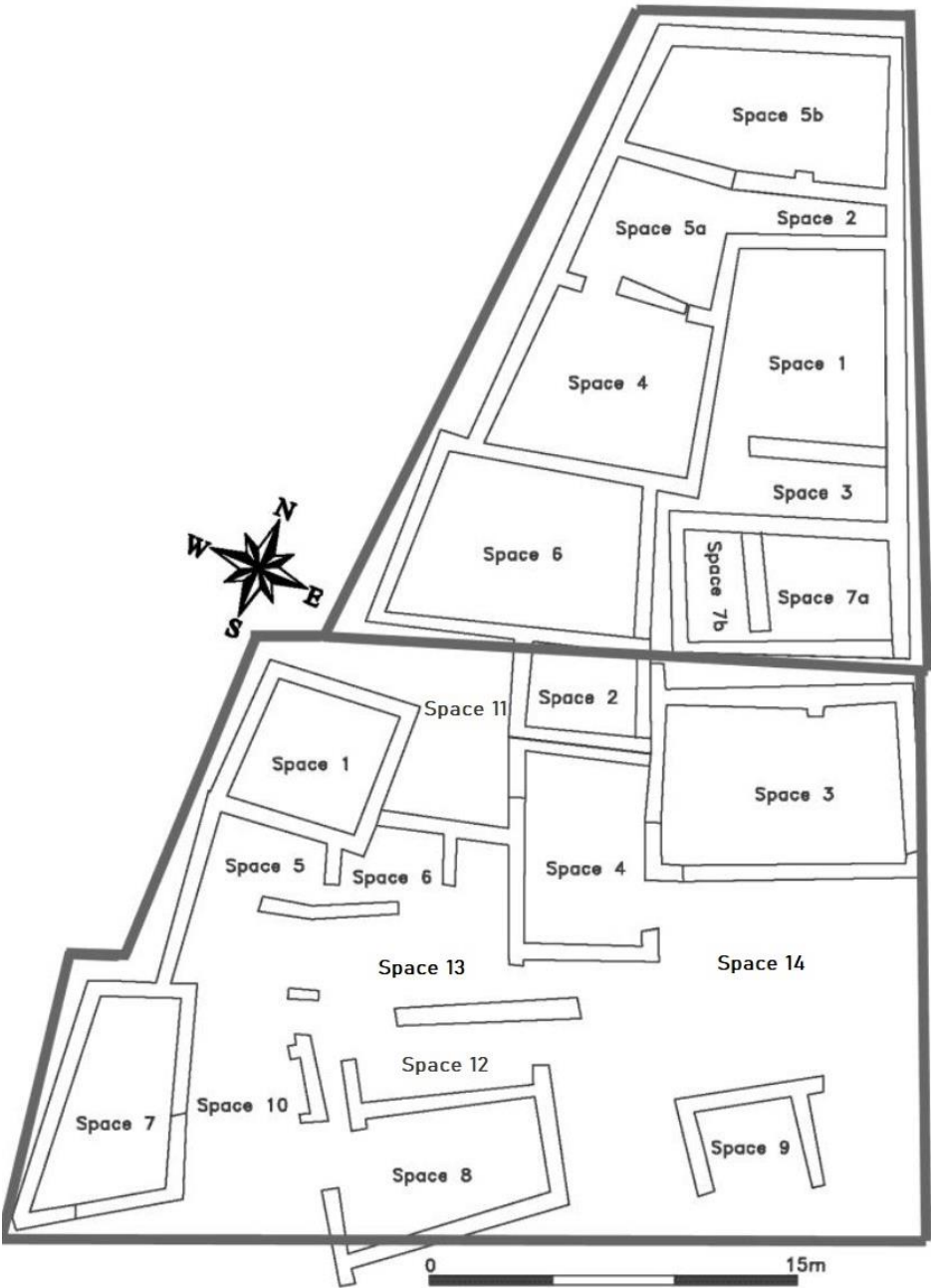


Fig. 4. Internal spaces in the *Acropolis Centre-South Sector* (V. Bottez).

## STRATIGRAPHY

The stratigraphy is uniform (Fig. 5) on the entire excavated surface. The first layer<sup>9</sup> in every surface is the vegetal layer, which sometimes contains a large number of discoveries, especially coins. The second layer is what we conventionally call the *grey debris layer*<sup>10</sup>, which is the debris caused by the final collapse of the last standing buildings, after the abandonment of the city. The third is the so-called *yellow debris layer*<sup>11</sup>, which represents the debris caused by the destruction of the last dwelling level. Underneath follow the different living surfaces – stone or brick pavements, compact yellow silt floors or their substructions.

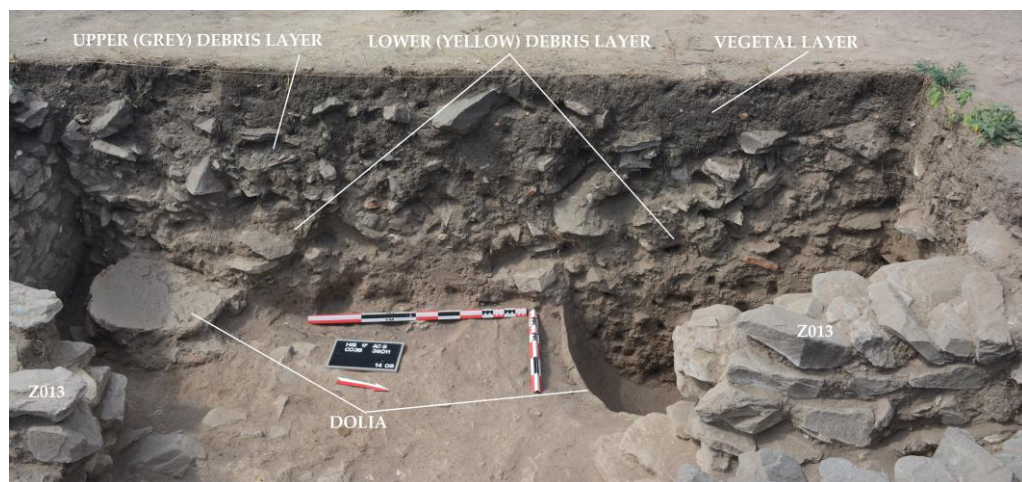


Fig. 5. Western profile of C036, with the general stratigraphy (V. Bottez).

### The vegetal/modern fill layer

It was identified at different depths, function of the variations in the slope of the terrain, in **C035** (context **35000**; +0.89/+0.25 m in sq. C<sub>1-2</sub>, D<sub>1-2</sub>, and +1.15/+1.05 m in sq. A<sub>1</sub>), **C036** (context **36000**; between +0.88/+0.71 m in sq. A<sub>1</sub> and +0.48 m in sq. D<sub>1</sub>), **C037** (context **37000**: +1.00/+0.69 m), **C038** (context **38000**: +0.31 m/-0.01 m), **C039** (context **39000**: +1.05 m/+1.09 m in sq. A<sub>1</sub>-D<sub>1</sub>, respectively +0.80 m/+0.94 m in sq. A<sub>4</sub>-D<sub>4</sub>; it contained a large number of iron nails and pottery fragments), **C040** (context **40000**: +1.21 m/+1.10 m in sq. A<sub>1</sub> and +0.92 m/+0.84 m in sq. A<sub>2</sub> and A<sub>3</sub> respectively), **C040** (context **41000**: +0.89 m – +0.76 m, with the exception of sq. A<sub>4</sub>, where it reaches the

<sup>9</sup> Contexts bearing in each excavating unit the number **000** – e.g., **24000** in C024, **35000** in C035 etc.

<sup>10</sup> Contexts usually bearing in each excavating unit the number **001**.

<sup>11</sup> Contexts usually bearing in each excavating unit the number **002**.



depth of +0.47 m), **C042** (context **42000**: +1.21 m – +0.86 m, with the exception pf sq. A1, where it reaches the depth of +0.57 m), **C043** (context **43000**: +0.71 m and +0.48 m), **C044** (context **44000**: +0.70 – +0.54 m in sq. D<sub>1-4</sub>, +0.38/-0.01 m in sq. A<sub>1</sub>), **C045** (context **45000**: +0.30/+0.21m – -0.01/-0.47 m in sq. D<sub>1</sub> and B<sub>4</sub>, respectively), **baulk C002/C003** (context **2000/3000**: +0.84 m – +0.57m/+0.34 m), **baulk C003/C006** (context **3000/6000**: +0.81 m/+0.88 m – +0.82 m/+0.63 m), **baulk C005/C006** (context **5000/6000**: +0.87 m – +0.44 m), **baulk C005/C020** (context **5000/20000**: +0.73 m/+0.83 m – +0.29 m/+0.75 m), **baulk C006/C024** (context **6000/24000**: +0.75 m/+0.40 m – +0.50 m), **baulk C020/C024** (context **20000/24000**: +0.73 m/+0.51 m), **baulk C023/C024** (context **23000/24000**: +0.75 m – +0.48 m), **baulk C008/C036** (context **8000/36000**: +0.85/+0.86 m in sq. A<sub>1</sub>, and A<sub>5</sub> respectively, and +0.79 m/+0.78 m in sq. A<sub>3</sub>, and A<sub>4</sub>, respectively), **baulk C008/C004** (context **8000/4000**: +0.78 m – +0.58 m), **baulk C023/C008** (context **23000/8000**: +0.73 m/+0.86 m – +0.42 m in sq. E<sub>1</sub>/ +0.59 m in sq. D<sub>1</sub>), **baulk C023/C035** (context **23000/35000**: +0.86 m/+0.88 m – +0.37 m in sq. A<sub>2</sub> /+0.46 m in sq. A<sub>3</sub>), **baulk C034/C042** (context **34000/42000**: +1.02 m – +0.46 m), and in **baulk C035/C036** (context **35000/36000**: +0.85 m – +0.64 m in C<sub>1</sub>). It is formed of greyish-brown soil, with inclusions of sandy silt and shells. The layer usually contains pottery fragments, bones, ceramic construction material<sup>12</sup>, glass and metal objects.

### The upper, “grey” debris layer

This was identified in all trenches, namely in **C034** (context **34001**: +0.64 – +0.44 m in sq. A<sub>1</sub>, +0.83 m – +0.71 m in sq. D<sub>4</sub>; context **34002**: +0.59 m in sq. B<sub>1</sub> – +0.12 m in sq. B<sub>1-2</sub>-D<sub>1-2</sub>, and between +0.71 m in sq. D<sub>4</sub> – +0.30 m in sq. B<sub>4</sub>-D<sub>4</sub>), **C035** (context **35001**: +1.05/+0.80 m – +0.25/-0.02 m), **C036** (context **36001**: +0.71 in sq. A<sub>1</sub>/+0.48 m in sq. D<sub>1</sub> – +0.57 m in sq. A<sub>1-4</sub>-D<sub>1-4</sub>)/+0.19 m in sq. A<sub>1-2</sub>-D<sub>1-2</sub>), **C037** (context **36007**: +0.39/-0.28 m), **C038** (context **38002**: -0.01 m in sq. A<sub>1-4</sub> and D<sub>1-4</sub> – -0.63 m in sq. A<sub>1</sub>/-0.26 in sq. C<sub>3</sub>), **C039** (context **39001/39009**: +1.05 m – +0.40 m), **C040** (context **40001**: +0.92 m – +0.74 m; south of **Z029 (40004)**, in sq. A<sub>1</sub>, mud brick fragments were discovered), **C041** (context **41001**: +0.76 m in sq. C<sub>2</sub>/+0.47 m in sq. A<sub>4</sub> – +0.68 m in sq. A<sub>2</sub>/+0.59 m in sq. D<sub>4</sub>/+0.15 m in sq. A<sub>4</sub>; a large quantity of well-preserved pottery was discovered in this layer), **C042** (context **42001**: +0.85 m – +0.68 m), **C043** (context **43001**: +0.48 m – +0.09 m), **C044** (context **44001**: +0.54 m in sq. D<sub>4</sub> – -0.04 m in sq. A<sub>1</sub>), **C045** (context **45001**: -0.01/-0.24 m in sq. D<sub>1-4</sub> – -0.47/-0.67 m in sq. A<sub>3-4</sub>/C<sub>3-4</sub>), **baulk C002/C003** (context **2001/3001**: +0.57/+0.34 m in sq. 4<sub>3</sub> – +0.20/+0.38 m in sq. 2<sub>4</sub>), **baulk C003/C006** (context **3001/6001**: +0.45 m – +0.63 m in sq. B to E), **baulk C005/C006** (context **5001/6001**: +0.44 m/+0.83 m – +0.33/+0.19 m in sq. 1<sub>4</sub>), **baulk C005/C020** (context **5001/20001**: +0.29 m/+0.75 m –

<sup>12</sup> Henceforth CBM.



+0.23 m/+0.52 m in sq. A to D), **baulk C006/C024** (context **6001/24001**: +0.40/+0.50 m – -0.01/-0.05 m in sq. A to E), **baulk C020/C024** (context **20001/24001**: +0.51 m/+0.04 m – -0.22 m), **baulk C023/C024** (context **23001/24001**: +0.48 m – -0.01 m; many reconstructable amphoras were discovered in this layer), **baulk C008/C036** (context **8001/36001**: +0.51/+0.78 m – +0.28/+0.15 m in sq. 1-5), **baulk C023/C008** (context **23001/8001**: +0.59 m – +0.25 m), **baulk C023/C035** (context **23001/35001**: +0.31 m – +0.04 m), **baulk C034/C042** (context **34001/42001**: +0.46 m – +0.35 m), **baulk C008/C004** (context **8001/4001**: +0.58/+0.78 m – +0.20/+0.64 m in sq. C to A), and in **baulk C035/C036** (context **35001/36001**: +0.64 m – -0.02 m). It is formed of greyish-brown soil, with inclusions of sandy silt and shells. The layer usually contains mainly stone construction material, with inclusions of pottery fragments, bones, ceramic construction material, glass and metal objects.

### The lower, “yellow” debris layer

This layer was also identified in all trenches, namely in **C008** (context **8002**: -0.22 m – -0.54 m in sq. A<sub>1</sub>, which was left unexcavated in 2013, when the trench was first dug), **C023** (context **23002**: +0.21/-0.42 m in the S side – +0.29/-0.20 m in the N side; context **23005**: -0.42 m – -0.70 m, part of the lower debris, differentiated from **23002** by strong traces of firing), **C034** (context **34003**: +0.30 m – -0.09 m), **C035** (context **35002**: -0.02 m – -0.34 m; context **35004** and **35005**: -0.30/-0.47 m, it is part of the yellow debris layer, characterised by strong traces of firing), **C036** (context **36002**: +0.02 – -0.56 m in sq. A<sub>1</sub>-D<sub>1</sub>, W of **Z013**; context **36003**: +0.57/+0.29 m; context **36004**: +0.42 – -0.50 m in sq. B-C<sub>2-3</sub>, in the area where **Z013** is broken and in between **Z013** and **Z045**), **C037** (context **37002**: +0.28 – -0.37 m), **C038** (context **38008**: -0.26 m – -0.40 m), **C039** (context **39002**: +0.77 m – +0.08 m; context **39003**: +0.91 m – +0.75 m in sq. D<sub>1</sub>, W of **Z059**), **C040** (context **40002**: +0.74 m – +0.67 m; context **40003**: +0.91 m – +0.50 m, identified in sq. A<sub>1</sub>-A<sub>2</sub> and B<sub>1</sub>), **C041** (context **41002**: identified in sq. B<sub>1</sub>-D<sub>1</sub>, +0.58 – +0.06 m, but the layer was not dug entirely; context **41003**: identified in sq. D<sub>3-4</sub> at +0.52 m – +0.26 m; context **41004**: identified in sq. A<sub>3-4</sub> and C<sub>3-4</sub>, at +0.51 m – -0.60 m; context **41009**: identified in sq. A<sub>3-4</sub> and in sq. C<sub>3-4</sub>, at -0.60 m – -0.69 m), **C042** (context **42002**: +0.68 m – -0.16 m), **C043** (context **43002**: +0.09 – -0.19 m), **C044** (context **44002**: identified in sq. B<sub>1-4</sub> – C<sub>1-4</sub> and D<sub>1</sub>, at -0.10 m – -0.27/-0.35 m; context **44003**: identified in sq. D<sub>2-4</sub>, at -0.33 m – -0.52 m), **C045** (context **45002**: -0.24/-0.64 m – -0.36/-0.42/-0.74/-0.83 m in sq. A<sub>1-4</sub> and B<sub>3-4</sub>-C<sub>3-4</sub>), **baulk C002/C003** (context **2002/2003**: +0.38 m – +0.19; the layer was not entirely dug), **baulk C003/C006** (context **3003/6003**: identified only in sq. E<sub>1</sub>, at +0.35 – +0.24 m; the layer was not entirely dug), **baulk C005/C006** (context **5002/6002**: +0.33 m – -0.11 m), **baulk C005/C020** (context **5002/20002**: +0.52 m – +0.01 m), **baulk C006/C024** (context **6002/24002**: -0.01 m – -0.03/-0.05 m), **baulk C023/C024** (context **23002/24002**: +0.06 m – -0.06 m), **baulk C008/C036** (context

8002/36002: +0.15/+0.28 m – -0.44 m), **baulk C023/C008** (context 23002/8002: +0.30 m – -0.43 m), **baulk C023/C035** (context 23002/35002: +0.04/-0.29 m in sq. A<sub>1</sub> – +0.20/-0.30 m in sq. A<sub>4</sub>), **baulk C034/C042** (context 34002/42002: +0.35 m – -0.21 m), and **baulk C035/C046** (context 35002/36002: -0.02 m – -0.44 m; the layer shows strong traces of firing in its lower part). It is formed of yellow soil, often with reddish or black traces of firing, with inclusions of sandy silt and shells. The layer usually contains mainly stone construction material, with inclusions of pottery fragments, bones, ceramic construction material, glass and metal objects.

### Living surfaces

There are two types of living surfaces that we identified in *insula Iα*, namely stone (P001-006, P008-012, and P017-018) and brick (P007, P013, and P016) pavements, as well as very hard yellow silt and pebbles floors; among these are the surfaces of the streets (ST01 and 02, Fig. 2-3), as well as external alleys, such as the one between Z013-Z045 (context 36005: identified at +0.09/+0.10 m, in sq. A<sub>2-3</sub>-D<sub>2-3</sub>).

There are also the substructions for the different pavements, which usually present themselves as compact yellow silt layers. The first three categories will be described in the constructive structures section, while here we will only be presenting the latter.

Such substructures for pavements were identified in C023, both north (context 23004 in **Space no. 4**: -0.20/0.16 m in sq. C-D<sub>1-4</sub>; the layer was not completely excavated, so we do not have the lower level) and south (context 23006 in **Space no. 6**: -0.70 m and -0.50 m) of Z012 (context 23003), in C034 (context 34007: -0.09 m in sq. B<sub>4</sub>-D<sub>4</sub>), in C036 (context 36011: identified at -0.32 – -0.52 m in sq. B<sub>2-3</sub>-C<sub>2-3</sub>; context 36014: identified at -0.52 m, in sq. A<sub>1</sub>-D<sub>1</sub>; research was halted on this layer; context 36016: identified at -0.41 m, in sq. D<sub>2-3</sub>; it could be the equivalent of context 36011), in C038 (context 38009: identified at -0.36 m – -0.47 m, in sq. A<sub>1-4</sub> and E<sub>1-4</sub>; context 38010: identified at -0.29 m – -0.40 m in sq. B<sub>3-4</sub> and D<sub>3-4</sub>, delimited by wall Z047/context 38006 and Z048/context 38007), in C039 (context 39011: identified at +0.08 m, in sq. B-D<sub>3-4</sub>; in sq. B<sub>3</sub>-B<sub>4</sub> the layer is covered by a significant layer of charcoal and ceramic construction material – mainly bricks –, which indicates the area, **SSp02** of *insula Iα*, was covered by a pavement, and 39011 was its substruction; at +0.22 m in sq. C<sub>4</sub>, we discovered a fashioned, rectangular marble block with a rectangular socket in its upper side, which probably constituted the base for a wooden column/pillar; the excavation was stopped on this level); in C040 (context 40006: identified at +0.72/+0.76 m in sq. A-B/<sub>3-4</sub> and C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>; to the N, the layer covers P011, namely context 40007, up to the stone sewer, which probably indicates 40006 represents the last living surface of **SSp11**), in C041 (context 41010: identified at -0.69 m, in sq. A-C<sub>3-4</sub>, it probably represented the substruction of P013, namely context 41013, the brick pavement of **SSp03**; traces of charcoal; context 41011: discovered at +0.31 m, in sq. D<sub>3-4</sub>;

probably the substruction of **P007**, identified in **NSp07b** in 2017), in **C042** (context **42003**: identified at -0.16 m, in sq. B-C<sub>1-4</sub>, and D<sub>1</sub>, where we also discovered a burnt wooden beam), in **C043** (context **43003**: identified at -0.19 m in sq. C<sub>3</sub> and -0.31 m in C<sub>4</sub>; it is the same layer as **42003**, probably the living surface or substruction of the living surface in **SSp12**; the excavation was halted on this layer), in **C044** (context **44004**: identified at between -0.27 m and -0.35 m in sq. B-C<sub>1-4</sub> and in D<sub>1</sub>), in **C045** (context **45008**: identified at between -0.39 m and -0.42 in sq. B<sub>3-4</sub> – D<sub>3-4</sub>; it is the substruction of **P015** and could be the same layer as **45009**, but the latter was identified much lower; context **45009**: identified at -0.74 in sq. A<sub>1-2</sub> and A<sub>4</sub>, at -0.83 in A<sub>3</sub>, and at -0.62 in B<sub>3-4</sub>; it is the substruction of **P015**), in **baulk C005-006** (context **5003/6003**: identified at +0.01 m – -0.11 m), in **baulk C005-020** (context **5003/20003**: identified at +0.01 m – +0.10 m; in sq. C<sub>1</sub> and D<sub>1</sub> was identified a *dolium* over which the layer was set), in **baulk C006-024** (context **6003/24003**: identified only in sq. A<sub>1</sub> and E<sub>1</sub>, at -0.03 m and -0.05 m, respectively; the excavation was halted on this layer), in **baulk C020-024** (context **20003-24003**: identified at -0.22 m in sq. A<sub>3-4</sub>; the layer is delimited to the North by context **20004/24004** and to the W by **Z027**, namely context **20005/24005**; excavation was stopped on this layer), in **baulk C023-024** (context **23003/24003**: identified at -0.08 m – +0.10 m only in sq. A<sub>1</sub> and A<sub>4</sub>), in **baulk C008-036** (context **8006/36006**: identified at +0.32 m in sq. A<sub>5</sub>; it is the substruction of **P007**), in **baulk C008-036** (context **8007/36007**: identified at -0.44 m in sq. A<sub>1-2</sub> and partially in A<sub>3</sub>; it could be the same **36014**; the excavation was stopped on this level), in **baulk C023-008** (context **23003/8003**: identified at between -0.07 m and -0.12 m in sq. C-D<sub>1</sub>, and E<sub>1</sub>; the excavation was halted on this layer; context **23004/8004**: identified at -0.43 m in sq. A<sub>1</sub> and partially in B<sub>1</sub>; probably the substruction of **P018**; the excavation was halted on this layer), in **baulk C023-035** (context **23004/35004**: identified at -0.30 m in sq. A<sub>4</sub>; the excavation was halted on this layer), in **baulk C034-042** (context **34003/42003**: identified at -0.21 m on the entire surface of the baulk; in sq. A<sub>1</sub> we identified the mud brick structure previously identified in **C042**), in **baulk C008-004** (context **8002/4002**: identified at +0.20 m, on all the baulk's surface), in **baulk C035-036** (context **35003/36003**: identified at -0.44 m on roughly the entire surface of the baulk; strong traces of firing).

These layers contain inclusions, such as shells, charcoal, pottery and bones, glass and ceramic construction material. They were broken in certain areas by the stones of the upper debris layer; as our objectives are to research the last functioning phase of the *insula*, we usually did not excavate these layers completely.

### Levelling layers

Such layers were usually identified under living surfaces, in **C036** (context **36012**: compact brown soil layer identified at -0.03/-0.34, in sq. D<sub>2-3</sub>; context **36013**: shells layer

identified at +0.02/-0.18 m, in sq. A<sub>2-3</sub>; both **36012** and **36013** could represent the lower part of/substruction of **36005**).

In **C036** was discovered a layer of soil (context **36009**) inside the *dolium*, at between -0.21 – -0.81 m; the layer was made up of brown, loose soil, containing pottery, bones and ceramic construction material.

We also identified modern layers, formed by dirt excavated in the *Basilica Pârvoan* Sector, in **C034** (context **34000**: identified at +1.09 m/+0.83m – +0.64 m; Fig. 10), in **C038** (context **38001**: identified at +0.09 m in sq. A<sub>1-4</sub> and B<sub>1-4</sub>, at -0.11 m in sq. E<sub>1-4</sub>, at -0.36 m in sq. E<sub>4</sub>). The layer is composed of loose, greyish-brown soil, and contains many pottery fragments and bones, as well as ceramic construction material and glass.

### CONSTRUCTIVE STRUCTURES (Fig. 2-3)

#### Walls

**Z004** (Fig. 15): was first identified in 2013, and two new segments (**8005/36005** and **8003-8003/4003-4004**) were discovered in 2017-18, at +0.42 m in sq. A<sub>5</sub> of **baulk C008/C036**, and at +0.66 m in **baulk C008/C004**, in sq. A<sub>1</sub>. Oriented W-E, it is built of unfashioned and fashioned (*spolia*) medium-size stones bound with earth. The new segments measure 1.07×0.65×0.23 m in **C008/C036** and 1.47×0.65×0.45 m in **C008/C004**. It intersects **Z045** (context **8004/36004**) in **baulk C008/C036**, and together with **Z017**, **019** and **2020**, they delimit **SSp03**.

**Z008**: the wall was initially identified in 2013 in **C006** and **C008**. The new segment was identified in **baulk C006/C008** (context **6003/8003**), at +0.48 m. The wall is built of large and medium unfashioned and fashioned (*spolia*) stones, bound with earth. The new segment measures 1.1×0.70 m and is preserved on five courses. It is oriented N/NE-S/SW.

**Z009**: the wall was initially identified in 2013 in **C006**, and in 2017 new segments were identified at +0.32 m in sq. E<sub>1</sub> of **baulk C006/C024** (context **6004/24004**) and at +0.44 m in sq. A<sub>1-3</sub> of **baulk C005/C006** (context **5004/6004**), measuring 0.90×0.65×0.37 m (three courses identified) and 4×0.61×0.52 m (five courses identified) respectively (Fig. 6). The wall is built of unfashioned and fashioned (*spolia*) large-, medium-size stones and pebbles, as well as ceramic construction material, bound with earth. It has a WNW-ESE orientation. It belongs to the second phase of *insula* Ia, when it was built to partially block the large entrance provided by **Z007**, from **NSp04** to **NSp05**.

**Z012** (**23005/8005**): was first researched in 2013 in **C008** and in 2015 in **C026**. New segments were identified at +0.18/+0.58 m in 2017 in **C023** (context **23003**) and at +0.53 m in 2018, in sq. B<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>1</sub> of **baulk C023/C008**. The new segments measure 3.40×0.65×0.89 m (seven courses uncovered) and 1.22×0.65×0.93 m (seven courses uncovered),

respectively. The wall is oriented WNW-ESE, and it is built of mostly green schists and limestone large- and medium-sized unfashioned and fashioned (*spolia*) stones and ceramic construction material. In its W part there is a segment that was preserved 20-30 cm lower than the rest of the wall, which could have represented a passageway between NSp04 and NSp06.



Fig. 6. Z009 and entrance (V. Bottez).



**Z013** (Fig. 4, 14): was previously researched in **C008** and **C036**. In 2018 a new segment (context **8003/36003**) was identified at +0.56 m in sq. A2-3 of **bauk C008-036**. The new segment measures  $1.23 \times 0.72 \times 0.35/1.07$  m (11 courses identified), and is built of large- and medium-sized stones, bound with earth. The wall represents the E limit of **NSp06**.

**Z018**: first discovered in 2014, in **C010** and **C012**, it has a W-E orientation. In 2018 a new segment (Fig. 7, 19-20) was identified at +0.67 (sq. C3) and +0.31 m (sq. C4) in **C041** (context **41007**). It is built of unfashioned and fashioned (*spolia*) green schist and limestone large- and medium-sized stones; we must mention the presence of very large (given the wall's dimensions) limestone blocks. The new segment measures  $1.20 \times 0.61 \times 1.25$  m (eight courses identified). In sq. C4 the wall was dismantled/destroyed and reaches the same height as the silt floor/substruction (context **41011**), namely +0.31m.

**Z027**: the wall was first identified in 2013-2014, and it is built of large- and medium-sized, unfashioned and fashioned (*spolia*) green schists and limestones. In 2017 a new segment was identified (context **20005/24005**) at +0.51 m. It measures  $1 \times 0.65 \times 0.55$  m (identified on four courses). It represents the eastern side of **ST02**.

**Z029**: first identified in **C032**. A new segment was identified in 2018 (Fig. 8-9), at +1.11 m in sq. B-C<sub>1-2</sub> of **C040** (context **40004**). It is built of large- and medium-sized green schist and limestone stones, as well as ceramic construction material. Oriented E-W, the identified wall segment measures  $2.30 \times 0.62 \times 0.60$  (identified on four to seven courses). This wall, oriented W-E, represents the northern limit of **SSp01**.

**Z035**: previously identified in **C032** (Fig. 9) and **C033**; a new segment was identified in 2017 in **C034** (context **34006**), containing an entrance (Fig. 10). It is built of unfashioned and fashioned (*spolia*), large- and medium-sized green schists and limestones, and it has a N-S orientation. The northern part of the segment was identified at 0.55 m and is  $1.10 \times 0.58 \times 0.50$  m (identified on five courses). The southern part of the segment was discovered at +0.58 m and is  $1.0 \times 0.56 \times 0.60$  m (identified on four courses).

**Z036**: was previously identified in **C027** (context **27003**) and **C041** (context **41006**, which was mistakenly registered as **Z053** and will be described at that respective number). The new segment was identified in 2018 (Fig. 11-12) at -0.07 m in **C045** (context **45005**). It is made of unfashioned and fashioned (*spolia*), large- and medium-sized green schists and limestones, bound with earth. It measures  $1.50 \times 0.70 \times 0.55$  m (four courses were identified).

**Z038**: the wall was first identified in **C028** (context **28006**), on a N-S orientation. In 2018 a new segment (Fig. 13) was identified in **C044** (context **44007**), at +0.28 m in sq. C-D<sub>2</sub>. It is made of large- and medium-sized, unfashioned and fashioned (*spolia*) stones, bound with earth. The new segment is  $1.90 \times 0.58 \times 0.50$  m (identified on four courses). There is a possible entrance in the segment's southern side.



Fig. 7. Z018 and P013 in C041 (V. Bottez).

**Z043:** discovered in previous campaigns; in 2018 it was also identified in **C040** (context **40005**) at +0.88 m in sq. A-C<sub>2</sub> (Fig. 8). Made up of large- and medium-sized, unfashioned and fashioned (*spolia*) green schists and limestones, bound with earth. Oriented N-S, the segment measures 2.15×0.65×0.58 m (four courses were identified). It is the eastern wall of **SSp01**.

**Z044:** identified during previous campaigns in **C035** (context 35003) and **C036** (context 36008). In 2018 a new segment was discovered in **baulk C035-036** (context 35004/36004), at +0.81 m, and has a W-E orientation. It is made up of large- and medium-sized, unfashioned and fashioned (*spolia*) green schists and limestones, bound with earth, and measures 1.10×0.65×1.29 m (identified on 11 courses).



Fig. 8. SSp01, 02, 04 and 011 (V. Bottez).

**Z045** (Fig. 14-15): discovered first in 2013 in **C008**; new segments were identified in 2017 in **C036** (context 36006) and 2018, in **baulk C008-036** (context 8004/36004, in sq. A3-4), at +0.54 m. It is made of large- and medium-sized, unfashioned and fashioned (*spolia*) green schists and limestones, bound with earth. The final dimensions are 5.75×0.73×0.36 m (identified on two courses).

**Z046:** identified in 2018 (Fig. 10) in **C034** (context 34005), sq. A1-4, at +0.44/+0.63 m. It is made up of large- and medium-sized, unfashioned and fashioned (*spolia*) green schists and limestones, bound with earth. Oriented SSW-NNE, it measures 4×0.65×0.68 m (identified on five courses).





Fig. 9. Z029 and Z035 in C032 (V. Bottez).



Fig. 10. Z035 (with entrance), Z036 and ST02 in C034 (V. Bottez).



Fig. 11. Z036, Z057 and P014 in C045 (V. Bottez).



Fig. 12. Z036, Z057, and P014 (V. Bottez).





Fig. 13. Z038, Z057, P014 (V. Bottez).

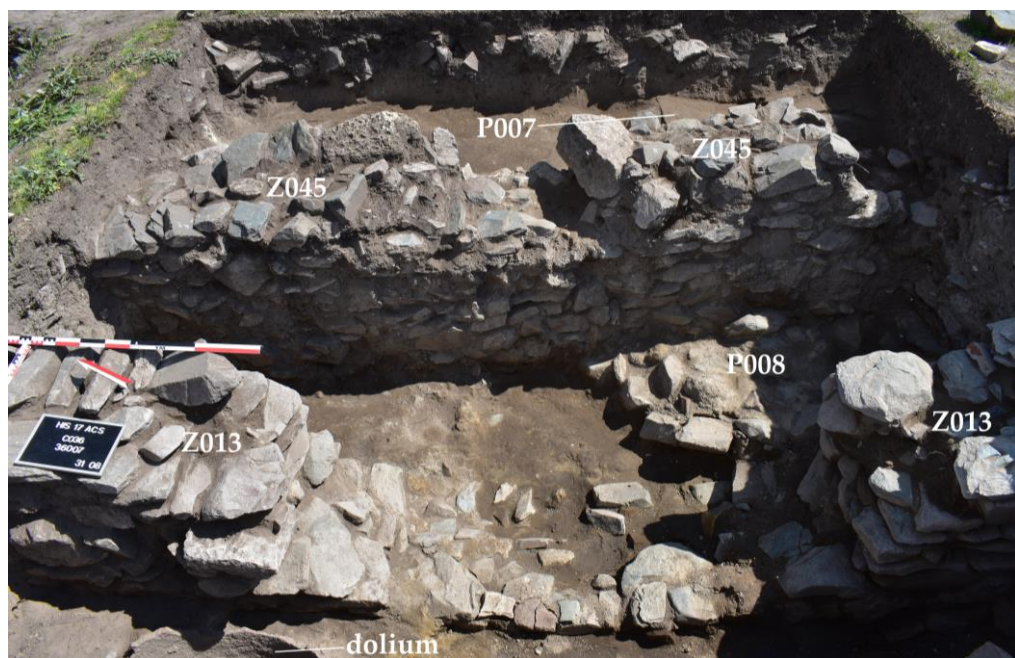


Fig. 14. Z013, Z045, P007 and P008 (V. Bottez).

**Z047** (Fig. 16-17): was identified in **C037** (context 37003), **C038** (context 38006), and **bauk C037-038** (context 37003/38006), at -0.21 m, and measures 6.8×0.65/0.70×0.63 m (identified on a maximum of seven courses). It is made of medium-sized, unfashioned (in **C038** were discovered unfashioned stones with traces of mortar, which suggests they were reused) and fashioned (*spolia*) green schists and limestones. It has a N-S orientation and delimits **ST02** to the east.

**Z048** (Fig. 17): the wall was discovered in 2017 (context 38007) in **C038**, at -0.34 m. It is made up of medium- and small-sized, unfashioned and fashioned (*spolia*) green schists and limestones. It measures 2.0×0.60×0.31 m and has a SW-NE orientation.

**Z049** (Fig. 8): was identified in 2018 in **C039** (context 39012) only in sq. C1, at +0.90 m. It is oriented WSW-ENE and is built of small, unfashioned rectangular stones bound with earth. The preserved dimensions are 0.93×0.46×0.15 m (only one course was uncovered). A Doric capital (*spolia*) was discovered on its northern side.

**Z050** (Fig. 8, 18): was identified in 2018 at +0.56/+0.60 m in **C039** (context 39007) and at +0.46 m in **C041** (context 41012). Oriented WSW-ENE, it is made of large- and medium-sized green schist and limestones bound with earth, as well as pebbles and CBM. Its dimensions are 5.50×0.70×0.60 m. The wall represents the northern limit of **SSp04**, and was set parallel and against **Z051**, which lies north of it.

**Z051** (Fig. 8, 18-19): was identified in 2018, at +0.57 m in **C039** (context 39008) and at +0.52 m in **C041** (context 41008). Oriented WSW-ENE, it is made of large- and medium-sized, unfashioned and fashioned (*spolia*) green schists and limestones, bound with earth. It measures 5.50×0.50 (preliminary dimension) ×0.33/0.50 m (four courses were identified). It represents the southern limit of **SSp02**.

**Z052** (Fig. 7, 19): was identified in 2018 at +0.55/+0.76 m in **C041** (context 41005). Oriented NNW-SSE, it is made up of large- and medium-sized, unfashioned and fashioned (*spolia*) green schists and limestones, bound with earth. Its dimensions are 2.90×0.75×0.67 m (five courses were identified). It is doubled by another wall, **Z053** (context 41006), to the E. It represents the eastern limit of **SSp02**.

**Z053** (= **Z036**; Fig. 7, 19-20): was identified in 2018, at +0.69/+0.55 m in sq. A-D3 of **C041** (context 41006). Oriented NNW-SSE, it is made up of very large- (limestone blocks), large- and medium-sized, unfashioned and fashioned (*spolia*) green schists and limestones, bound with earth. Its dimensions are 3.98×0.70×1.20 m (12 courses were identified). It represents the western limit of **SSp03**.

**Z054** (Fig. 21-22): was identified in 2018 at +0.57 m in **C042** (context 42007), and at +0.66 m in **C043** (context 43004). It is oriented WSW-ENE, and is made up of medium- and small-sized, unfashioned and fashioned (*spolia*) green schists and limestones, bound with earth. Its current dimensions are 6.55×0.30 (the rest is in the baulk) × 1.00 m (10 courses were identified). It seems to represent the southern limit of **SSp05** and **SSp06**.





Fig. 15. Z004 and Z045 (V. Bottez).



Fig. 16. Z047, T006, and ST02 in C037 (V. Bottez).

**Z055** (Fig. 23): was identified in 2018 at +0.36 m in **C043** (context **43005**), at +0.20 m in **C044** (context **44008**), and at -0.11 m in **C045** (context **45007**). It is oriented WNW-ENE, and is made up of large-, medium- and small-sized, unfashioned and fashioned

(*spolia*) green schists and limestones, bound with earth. Its current dimensions are 8.30×0.75×0.28/0.44 m (two to four courses were identified). It is not clear if the wall ended or is just dismantled in **C045**. The wall represents the southern limit of **SSp13**.

**Z056** (Fig. 24): identified in 2018 at +0.57 m in squares A<sub>3-4</sub> of **C042** (context **42006**). It is oriented WSW-ENE, and it is made of medium- and small-sized, unfashioned green schists and many elements of *spolia* (column base, cubic aqueduct element), bound with earth. Its dimensions are 1.40×0.44×0.70 m (it was identified on four courses).

**Z057** (Fig. 12-13, 28): was identified in 2018, at +0.16 m in sq. C<sub>3-4</sub> of **C044** (context **44006**), and at +0.09 m in sq. C1-2 of **C045** (context **45004**). It is oriented WSW-ENE and is made of large- and medium-sized, unfashioned and fashioned (*spolia*) green schists and limestones, as well as CBM, all bound with earth. Its dimensions are 4.10×0.73×0.64-0.45 m (three to seven courses were identified). To its north we discovered **P014** (contexts **44005** and **45003**), and it represents the southern limit of **SSp04**.

**Z059** (Fig. 8, 18): was identified in 2018 at +0.84 m in sq. B-D<sub>2</sub> of **C039** (context **39004**). It is oriented NNW-SSE, and it is made up of large- and medium-sized, unfashioned and fashioned (*spolia*) green schists and limestones, bound with earth. Its dimensions are 2.76×0.75×0.80 m (five courses were identified). In sq. B<sub>2</sub>, the wall has an entrance, with a threshold (a 0.78×0.32 m fashioned limestone block, identified at +0.98 m) that leads to three steps (context **39006**) descending into **SSp02**.

### Sidewalks:

**T006** (Fig. 16-17): identified in 2017 at +0.08/-0.06 m in **C037** (context **37004**), and at -0.41/-0.32 m in sq. B-D<sub>2</sub> of **C038** (context **38005**). Oriented N-S, it runs along **Z047**, and is made of large very large and large, unfashioned and fashioned (*spolia*) green schists and limestones, bound with compacted silt. Its final dimensions are 10.70×0.90 m.

### Streets:

**ST02** (Fig. 2-3, 10, 16-17): was initially identified in 2014 in **C015**, then its trajectory was followed southwards in the following two campaigns, in **C020**, **024**, **026**, **029**, **032** and **033**. The street is covered by a layer of very compact silt, mixed with pebbles and small stones, as well as fragments of pottery and CBM – the classic *battuto*<sup>13</sup>. In 2017-2018 it was again identified in **C034** (context **34004**; identified at +0.29/+0.18 m), **C037** (context **37005**; identified at -0.26/-0.37 m) and **C038** (context **38004**; identified at -0.48 m), and in **bauk C020/C024** (context **20002/24002**; identified at -0.01/+0.09 m).

<sup>13</sup> Lavan 2020, 13-14.





Fig. 17. Z047, Z048, ST02, T006 and P009 in C038 (V. Bottez).



Fig. 18. Z050, Z051, Z059, Can02, P016 and Tr01, in C039 (V. Bottez).



## Pavements

**P001:** the pavement was initially identified in 2013 in **C003** and **C006**. In 2017 another fragment was identified at +0.20/+0.38 m in **baulk C002-003** (context **2003-3003**; 4×1 m), at +0.40 m in **baulk C003-006** (context **3002-6001**; 4×1 m) and at +0.42 m in **baulk C006-008** (context **6004-8004**; 1.30×1.36 m). The pavement is built of very large and large, unfashioned and fashioned (*spolia* – e.g., a column base in **2003/3003**) green schists and limestones. In the northern part of **baulk C002-003**, the pavement (and therefore its connection to **Z002**) is missing; in **baulk C006-008**, the pavement was preserved only in the north-western part of sq. A<sub>5</sub>, and SE of it only what seems to be its substructure was identified (context **6005-8005**).

**P007** (Fig. 14, 25): identified in 2017, at +0.29 m in the SE part (sq. A-B<sub>4</sub>) of **C036** (context **36010**). The preserved fragment (1.50×0.85 m) has a trapezoidal shape and is made of 1.53×1.10×3 cm pavement bricks, bound with yellow silt. In sq. C-D<sub>4</sub> we identified the substructure (context **36010**) of the same pavement (yellow silt layer). It constitutes the living surface of **NSp07b**, which was identified as the most recent functioning phase, and was dated by the discovery of type 3 *spatheia* (Fig. 26, 30) at the beginning of the 7<sup>th</sup> c. AD.

**P008** (Fig. 14): identified in 2017 at -0.28 m in sq. A-B<sub>3</sub> of **C036** (context **36015**), between **Z013** and **Z045**. It is made of medium- and small-sized green schists and limestones and was identified on a surface of 1.80×0.80 m.

**P009** (Fig. 17): was identified in 2018 at -0.36/-0.56 in sq. E1-4 of **C038** (context **38003**). It is made of very large and large unfashioned green schists and fashioned limestones, sometimes as large as 1.72×1.25 m; it is oriented WSW-ENE and was identified in **C038** on a surface of 3.80×1.72 m (bringing the current dimensions of the entire pavement to 9.20×3.95 m). In sq. E2-3 was identified a threshold, to which also belonged the slab discovered in the modern layer (context **38000**) and the upper debris layer (context **38002**). This is the pavement of an inner court of a previously identified residence that can be associated with the Christian Basilica to the south<sup>14</sup>.

**P010** (Fig. 27): identified in 2018, at +0.90/+1.00 m in sq. B-C1 of **C039** (context **39005**). There are three remaining stones, two green schists and one limestone forming a surface of 0.90×0.50 m. What we previously identified as **Z049** could, in fact, be a limit for this pavement, which could have served as a platform for easy access to the entrance to **SSp02**.

---

<sup>14</sup> Angelescu, Bottez and Achim 2017, 137, Fig. 42.



Fig. 19. Z018, Z052 and Z053 (V. Bottez).



Fig. 20. Z053 in C041 (V. Bottez).

**P011** (Fig. 8): was identified in 2017, at +0.70/+0.77 m in sq. A-B<sub>3-4</sub> and C-D<sub>1-4</sub> of **C040** (context **40007**). The stones in the pavement mostly have an irregular shape, but some are fashioned (*spolia*), bound with yellow silt. In the middle of the pavement there is a row of slightly higher stones, set on a slightly different orientation from the rest of the stones, which constitute the cover of a sewer leading out of what seems to be an inner courtyard, offering access to **SSp02**, **SSp06** and maybe **SSp04**.

**P012**: identified in 2018 at -0.07 m, in sq. C<sub>2-3</sub> and D<sub>2-4</sub> of **C042** (context **42004**; Fig. 21). It is made up of large, unfashioned and fashioned stone slabs (0.47×0.30/0.20×0.28 m), covering a surface of 1.60×1.32 m. As the stones are not very stable, there is a possibility that they, in fact, represent an unidentified destroyed structure. Near it was discovered the upper part of the millstone, whose lower part was discovered in sq. A2.

**P013** (Fig. 7): identified in 2018, at -0.53/-0.60 m in sq. C<sub>3-4</sub> and A<sub>3-4</sub> of **C041** (context **41013**). Made of large- and medium-sized fashioned stones and fragments of CBM (pavement bricks), all bound with yellow silt and covering a surface of 1.13×0.40 m. In sq. B<sub>3-4</sub> the pavement seems to have been destroyed, and only its substruction is visible (context **41010**). Immediately south of it we discovered a burnt wooden beam.

**P014**: was identified in 2018, at -0.40 m in sq. D<sub>2-4</sub> of **C044** (context **44005**; Fig. 13), and at -0.23 m in sq. D<sub>1</sub> of **C045** (context **45003**; Fig. 11-12). Preserved partially, it is made of large- (reaching 0.84×0.64 m) and medium-sized green schists and limestones. This is clearly the living surface of **SSp04**.

**P015** (Fig. 28): identified in 2018, at -0.19 m, in sq. B-C<sub>1-3</sub> of **C045** (context **45006**); it is made of very large and large, unfashioned and fashioned green schists, covering a surface of 2.20×1.10 m. We identified its substructure in A<sub>1-4</sub> and B<sub>3-4</sub> – D<sub>3-4</sub>, and several slabs were discovered in other parts of the trench, which were probably part of the same pavement. The type and dimensions of the construction material, as well as the proximity of **T003** and **T004** (to the east), indicate that this could be the pavement of an open courtyard, maybe even of a small stret connected to **ST01**.

### Threshold

**5005/6005**: the structure was identified at +0.35 m, in sq. A<sub>4</sub> of **bauk C005-006**, and it connects **NSp01** (the inner courtyard) and **NSp5a**. It is built of unfashioned and fashioned very large, large and medium-sized green schists and limestones. Its dimensions are 1.10×0.42 m. In the area between the threshold and **Z007** we discovered a concentration of metal and glass fragments, probably from a window.



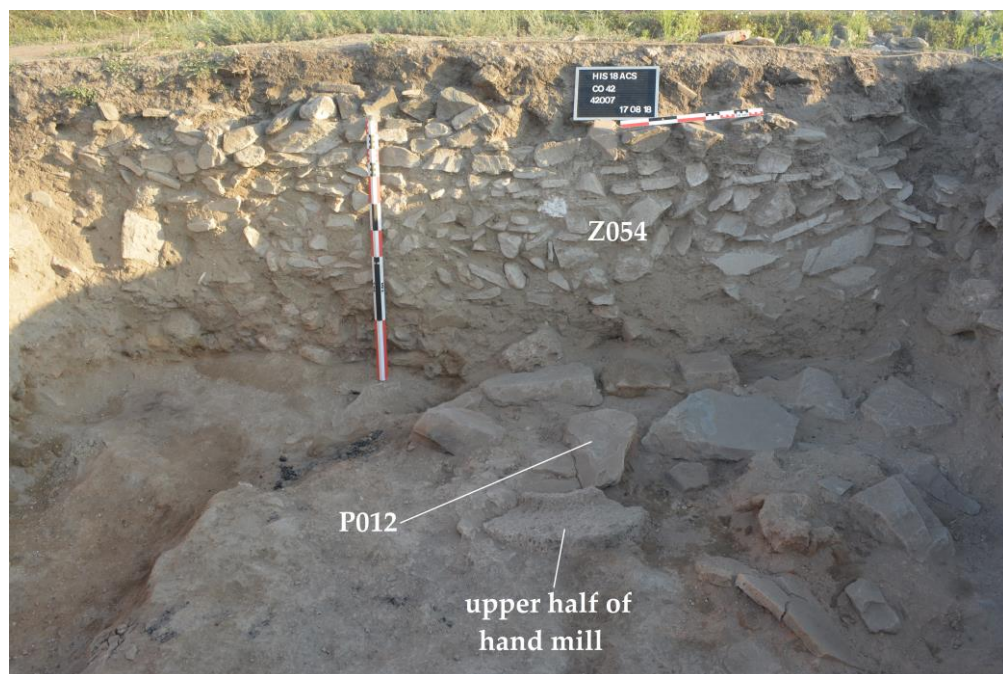


Fig. 21. Z054, P012 in C042 (V. Bottez).



Fig. 22. Z054 in C043 (V. Bottez).





Fig. 23. Z055 in C043 (V. Bottez).



Fig. 24. Z056 in C042 (V. Bottez).

### Mud brick structures

**23003/35003** (Fig. 29): debris of a wall identified in 2017, at -0.29/-0.14 m in sq. A<sub>1-3</sub> of baulk **C023-035**. It contains unfashioned green schists and limestones, covering a surface of 2.75×1.70 m. In sq. A<sub>3</sub> there is a concentration of medium- and small-sized CBM fragments, mixed with iron nails, other metal objects and many pottery fragments (among which a globular vessel, similar to the one discovered in **C035** in

2017). All this agglomeration was strongly fired, and many charcoal fragments were identified in the mix. The excavation was halted on this layer.

**42005:** identified in 2018, at +0.02 m in sq. A<sub>1</sub> of **C042**, although adobe was discovered all over context **42002**. It probably represents the debris of a collapsed mud brick wall, covering a surface of 1.00×0.84 m. The excavation was halted on this layer.



Fig. 25. P007 (V. Bottez).





Fig. 26. Type 3 *spatheion* at the corner of Z004 and Z020 (V. Bottez).



Fig. 27. P010 in C039 (V. Bottez).



Fig. 28. Z057 and P015 in C045 (V. Bottez).



Fig. 29. 23003-35003 and P018 in N5p06 (V. Bottez).



### Staircases

**Tr01**<sup>15</sup> (context **39006**; Fig. 8, 18): identified in 2018, at +0.76/+0.56/+0.36 m (the three steps), in sq. B<sub>2-3</sub> of **C039**. The steps (0.75×0.28×0.19 m; 0.80×0.39×0.17; 0.84×0.32×0.20 m) are made of large, rectangular, fashioned limestone slabs, together with small stones, all bound with yellow silt. The structure's dimensions are 0.83×0.83×0.62 m.

### Water installations/sewers

**Can001** (Fig. 8): was identified in 2018, at +0.70m in sq. C<sub>4</sub> and D<sub>1-3</sub> of **C040**, as it is part of **P011**. Around 10 large green schists and limestones were identified at a slightly higher level than the rest of the pavement and set on a different direction (E-W) than the rest of the pavement. They constitute the cover of the canal connecting space 11 to **ST02**. As it is very hard to imagine that water could have been brought this way from a water source (aqueduct, etc.), the structure most likely represents a sewer, evacuating used water to **ST02** and maybe into street c that, judging from the structure of the similar street b (the parallel street running parallel, north of the Episcopal Basilica), should have a large sewer under its pavement<sup>16</sup>.

**Can002** (Fig. 8, 18): was identified in 2018, at +0.27 m in sq. C<sub>3</sub> of **C039** (context **39010**). Oriented WSW-ENE, it is made of medium and small brick fragments, bound with yellow silt, and its dimensions are 0.42×0.42×0.12 m, the water canal proper 0.16 m wide. It leads WSW, under **Z059**, and probably evacuated used water. The question is: from where? **SSp02** was probably a cellar of some sort; in any case its living surface was much lower than the pavement outside, even subterranean. Given the difference in altitude (around 0.40 m), it is hard to connect **Can001** with **Can002**, even though they occupy roughly the same space. The only possibility they were connected is if **Can001** was very deep, reaching the level of **Can002**. This is a possibility we are going to investigate in future campaigns. Could **SSp02** have been used for water storage? It had a (probably) wooden pillar in the middle, and we could not identify any traces of hydraulic mortar, so it is hard to think of this space as a cistern<sup>17</sup>. On the other hand, it could have been used for water storage in barrels or *dolia*.

<sup>15</sup> The abbreviation comes from the Romanian *trepte* (steps/staircase).

<sup>16</sup> Condurachi 1954, 325-326 for **street c**, named β in the first monographic volume; for **street b**, see 352-357.

<sup>17</sup> Although some Greek period cisterns in Olbia were lined with a very compact silt – I. Polinskaya, A. Buysikh, *Divine presences in the South temenos at Olbia Pontica* (presentation given at the *Convegno internazionale – Il mondo è pieno di dèi. Il politeismo in Grecia: archeologia e contesti*, 19-20 May 2022, Sapienza University, Rome), so hydraulic mortar is not compulsory for identifying such a structure.

INFORMATION PROVIDED BY THE POTTERY<sup>18</sup>

The largest part of the ceramic material discovered in 2017-2018 is dated to the Late Roman period, mainly to the 6<sup>th</sup> c. AD, represented by numerous categories, with adjacent forms, types, and variants. From a geographical perspective, the material originates from different regions of the Roman world, both from its western and eastern part. The western area is represented so far exclusively by North-African products: wine carried in *spatheion*-type amphorae (Fig. 30/1-2) and fine tableware – apart from the common types, such as the Form 99 bowls (unillustrated), during the 2017-2018 campaigns were discovered two new forms, one Form 91B bowl (Fig. 30/3) and a Form 105A platter (Fig. 30/4)<sup>19</sup>. The Oriental part of the Empire is much better represented, with both common products – wine carried in LR 1, LR 3 or LR 4 amphorae, olive oil carried in LR 2 amphorae<sup>20</sup> (unillustrated); fine tableware, such as the plates belonging to the Form 1 (Fig. 30/5), 3 (Fig. 30/6) and 10 (unillustrated) of the *Late Roman C* group<sup>21</sup>; or Micro-Asian lamps (Fig. 31/4-5)<sup>22</sup> –, as well as rare products attested, like a small bowl of the *Late Roman Light-Coloured* group (Fig. 31/1) or a fragment belonging to a Constantinople-type lamp decorated with temple façade (Fig. 31/6). From the 2017-2018 archaeological campaigns, it is worth mentioning the quite large number of finds belonging to the *Pontic Red Slip Ware* group, exclusively represented by the Forms 1 (Fig. 31/2) and 3 (Fig. 31/3), but also the lamps made at a provincial scale, such as those of the type Iconomu 1967, XXXIII/Iconomu 1986, LI, variant I (Fig. 31/7).

## CONCLUSIONS

As far as the *insula's* chronology is concerned, the discovery of the living surface of **NSp07b** (P007 and its substructure) provided significant information. The addition of **Z020** corresponds to the creation of this space by the division of **NSp07** into two areas. The pottery discovered in connection with **P007** indicates that **NSp07b** functioned as late as the beginning of the 7<sup>th</sup> c. AD, which makes it, up to now, the most recent structure in the *insula*.

---

<sup>18</sup> I would like to warmly thank Assistant Professor Iulia Iliescu for the information and the illustration concerning the Late Roman pottery discovered in the *Acropolis Centre-South Sector*.

<sup>19</sup> For the complete discussion regarding the North-African products discovered on this Sector during the 2013-2020 campaigns, see Iliescu, Bottez 2021a.

<sup>20</sup> Finds from previous campaigns were published in Bădescu, Bivolaru 2015.

<sup>21</sup> Similar finds but from previous campaigns are published in Iliescu *et alii* 2017 or Iliescu, Bottez 2021c.

<sup>22</sup> For the complete lamps' repertoire, see Iliescu, Bottez 2021b.

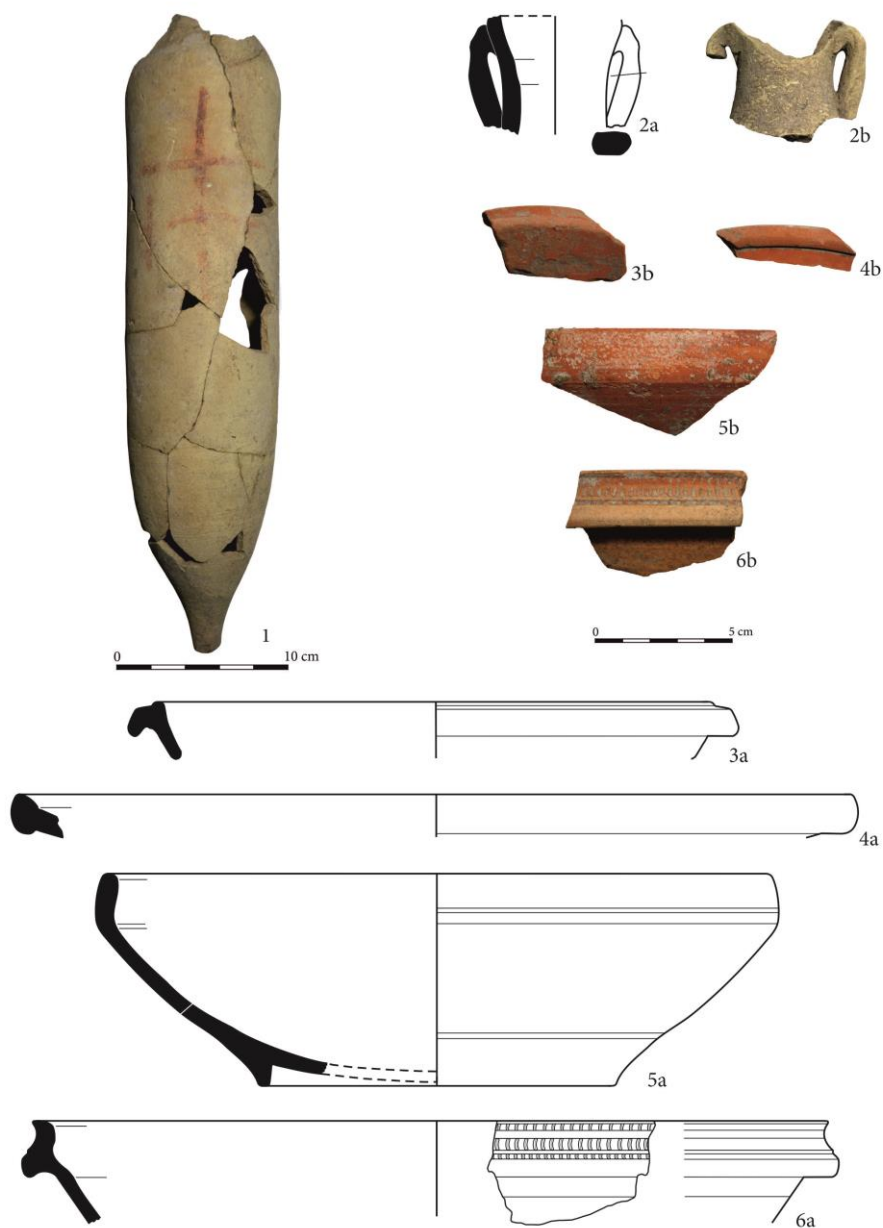


Fig. 30. 1-2. *Spatheion*-type amphorae; 3. ARSW, Form 91B, bowl; 4. ARSW, Form 105A platter; 5. LRCW, Form 1B plate; 6. LRCW, Form 3F plate (1-4. *apud* Iliescu, Bottez 2021a, Figs. 4/1 and 4, 6/3 and 9, 8/3 and 8; 5-6. unpublished) (I. Iliescu).

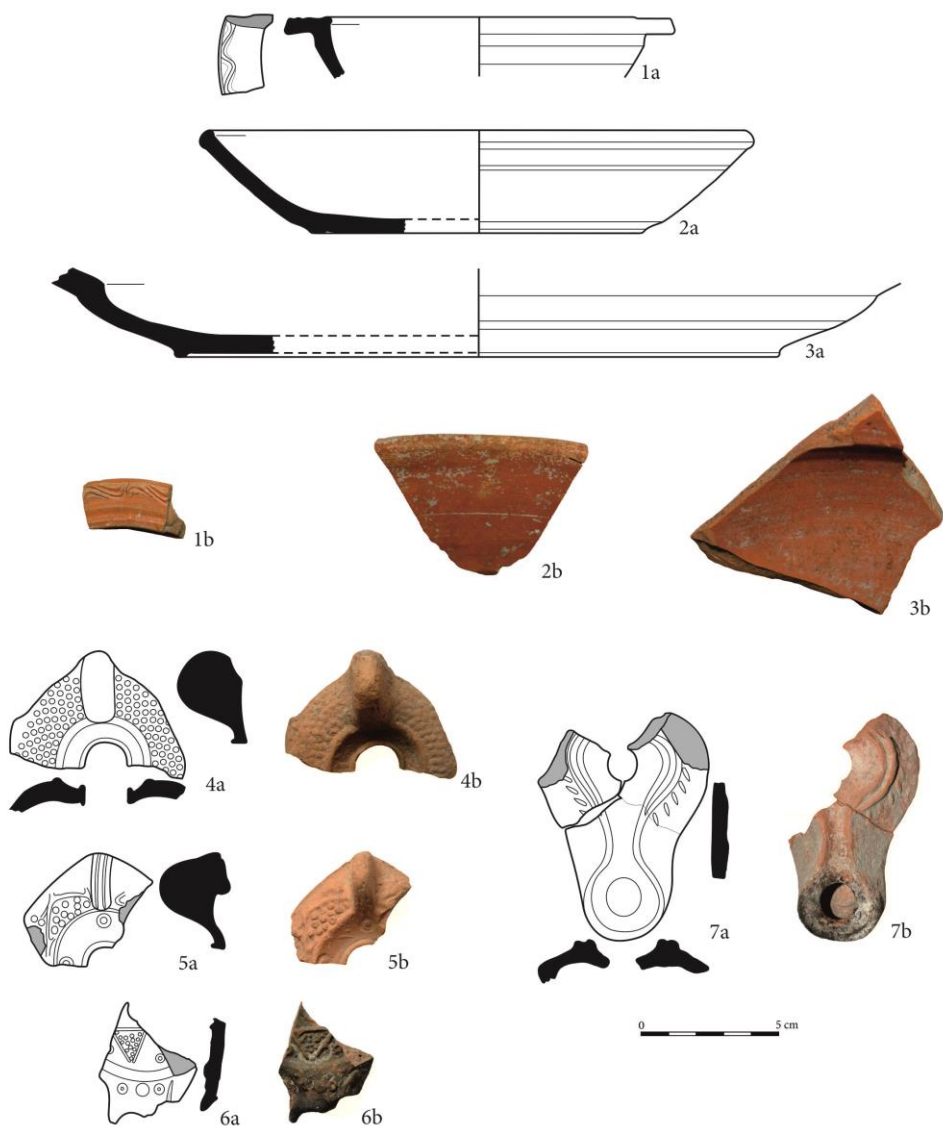


Fig. 31. 1. Late Roman Light-Coloured bowl; 2. PRSW, Form 1 plate; 3. PRSW, Form 3 platter; 4-5. Micro-Asian lamps, type Broneer XXIX, Group 3-4; 6. Constantinople lamp, type Hayes 8; 7. Danubian lamp, type Iconomu 1967, XXXIII/Iconomu 1986, LI, variant I (1-3. unpublished; 4-7. *apud* Iliescu, Bottez 2021b, Figs. 7/1 and 5, 9/3, 13/6) (I. Iliescu).



The continuous excavations have uncovered the trajectory of many walls, which helped us delimit a series of new internal spaces in both the northern and the southern nucleus. Many of those spaces were paved. Thus, after 2018, we obtained a much clearer image of the way the interior of *insula* Ia looked like. In the northern nucleus, **NSp01**, an inner courtyard, is paved (**P001**) in stone and maybe had a surrounding wooden-columns peristyle; **NSp02** (**P003**) and **NSp03** (**P002**), which could have played the role of porticoes to the open courtyard, also preserve the traces of stone pavements; **NSp05a** preserves the ruins of what seems to have been at least partially a stone pavement, while **NSp04**, even if no traces are preserved, seems to have had a brick pavement, as **Z008** and **Z012** have plinths (Fig. 32), with yellow silt layers (substructures) reaching their level; there is no indication that **NSp07** was paved, but once it was divided into two by **Z020**, **NSp07b** was paved with rectangular pavement bricks (**P007**). In the southern nucleus, **SSp02** was paved, as **Z052** had a plinth (Fig. 19) and parts of the brick pavement (**P016**) were discovered in **C039** (Fig. 18); **Z018** and **Z071** in **SSp03** had a plinth (Fig. 33), and in **C041** we discovered **P013** (Fig. 7), made of stones and bricks, maybe with wooden planks used as a substructure<sup>23</sup>; **SSp11** is still covered by a pavement that is crossed by a sewer (Fig. 6); **SSp13** could have been covered by a brick and stone pavement (Fig. 19), and **SSp04** seems to have been paved (Fig. 12) in stone (**P014**); **P015** (Fig. 28) covers **SSp14**, which could have been an open area (alley leading to **ST01**? open courtyard?).



Fig. 32. Z008 and Z012, with plinths (V. Bottez).

<sup>23</sup> In 2021, we discovered in **baulk C041-010** burnt wooden planks/beams that could have been part of the same substructure.



Fig. 33. Z018 and Z071, with plinths (V. Bottez).

Although the available data indicates that most spaces had only one architectural level, **NSp06** and **SSp02**'s living surfaces were much lower than the outside level (in the case of **SSp02** the staircase constitutes the means of access and way of transit from the higher to the lower level), which suggests that they probably had a second floor; in this case, we take into consideration the possibility that this second level elevation was made of adobe or mud bricks, set on the stone foundation and elevation of the first floor.

As far as the functionality of each of the spaces is concerned, apart from the open spaces (**NSp01**, **SSp11** and **SSp14**), **NSp06** and **NSp05**, then **NSp05b**, and **SSp13** seem to have functioned as both food storage- and cooking areas (maybe *cauponae*?), the presence of a *dolium* indicating that **SSp01** was also a food storage area<sup>24</sup>.

<sup>24</sup> A preliminary study of the presence of *dolia* in *insula* Ia was presented by B. Grigoraș, G. Dinu, and V. Bottez at the *Els dolia en les províncies d'Hispania en època romana. Estat de la qüestió i perspectives*, Tarragona, 7<sup>th</sup> to 9<sup>th</sup> of September 2022, and will be published in the conference proceedings.

## BIBLIOGRAPHY

- Achim, I., Bottez, V., Angelescu, M., Cliante, L., Țârlea, A., Lițu, A. 2021, *A city reconfigured: old and new research concerning Late Roman urbanism in Istros*, in Tsatskheladze, G., Avram, A., Hargrave, J. (eds.), *The Greeks and Romans in the Black Sea and the Importance of the Pontic Region for the Graeco-Roman World (7<sup>th</sup> century BC – 5<sup>th</sup> century AD): 20 Years On (1997-2017). Proceedings of the Sixth International Congress on Black Sea Antiquities (Constanța – 18-22 September 2017)*, Oxford, 477-487.
- Angelescu, M.V., Bottez, V., Achim, I. 2017, *Histria. New research on the Early Christian basilicas in the southern part of the acropolis*, *Dacia*, N.S. 61, 103-154.
- Bădescu, A., Bivolaru, A. 2015, *Oriental amphorae discovered at Histria in the Acropolis Centre-South Sector (2014)*, *Materiale și Cercetări Arheologice*, serie nouă 11, 193-208.
- Bădescu, A., Bottez, V. 2014, *Lamps discovered at Histria, in the Acropola Centru-Sud Sector in 2014*, *Pontica* 47, Suppl. III, 223-238.
- Bădescu, A., Iliescu, I. 2016, *Late Roman pottery discovered at Histria in the Acropolis Centre-South Sector (2015). Vasa escaria – Late Roman C wares*, *Materiale și Cercetări Arheologice*, serie nouă 12, 141-149.
- Beldiman, C., Bottez, V., Țârlea, A., Beldiman, D.-M. 2018, *Histria Acropolă Centru-Sud. Date asupra artefactelor din materii dure animale (I)*, *Materiale și Cercetări Arheologice*, serie nouă 14, 169-195.
- Beldiman, C., Bottez, V., Beldiman, D.-M., Bivolaru, A. 2019, *Histria – Acropolă Centru-Sud. Date asupra artefactelor din materii dure animale (II)*, *Materiale și Cercetări Arheologice*, serie nouă 15, 105-122.
- Bottez, V., Țârlea, A., Lițu, A., Iliescu, I., Constantin, A. 2019, *Recent research on Late Roman dwellings on the acropolis of Istros (Constanța County, Romania)*, *Revista Centrului de Istorie Comparată a Societăților Antice*, serie nouă 5, 105-120.
- Bivolaru, A., Bottez, V. 2016, *Roman lamps discovered at Histria, in the Acropolis Centre-South Sector (2013 and 2015)*, *Materiale și Cercetări Arheologice*, serie nouă 12, 131-140.
- Bottez, V., Lițu, A., Țârlea, A. 2015, *Preliminary results of the excavations at Histria, the Acropolă Centru-Sud Sector (2013-2014)*, *Materiale și Cercetări Arheologice*, serie nouă 11, 157-192.
- Bottez, V., Țârlea, A., Lițu, A., Iliescu, I. 2018, *Preliminary report of the excavations at Histria, the Acropolis Centre-South Sector (2015-2016)*, *Peuce*, serie nouă 16, 281-324.

- Bottez, V., Țârlea, A., Lițu, A., Iliescu, I. 2019, *Late urban planning in Istros. A previously unknown 6<sup>th</sup> c. AD insula on the city's acropolis*, Romanian Archaeological Institute in Athens Bulletin 1, 125-137.
- Condurachi, Em. (coord.), Florescu, G., Canarache, V., Dimitriu, S., Pippidi, D.M., Cantacuzino, Gh., Stoian, I., Zirra, V. 1954, *Histria. Monografie arheologică*, I, Bucharest, 1954.
- Iliescu, I. 2017, *Studiu asupra ceramicii de servit, descoperite la Histria, pe Sectorul Acropolă Centru-Sud*, Philohistoriss 5, 6-22.
- Iliescu, I., Bottez, V. 2018, *Late Roman African Red Slip Ware from the Acropolis Centre-South Sector (Histria)*, Materiale și Cercetări Arheologice, serie nouă 14, 155-167.
- Iliescu, I., Bottez, V. 2021a, *Late Roman Lamps discovered in Istros, on the Acropolis Centre-South Sector (2013-220 campaigns)*, Peuce, serie nouă 20, 181-224.
- Iliescu, I., Bottez, V. 2021b, *Late Roman tableware imports (from recent research in Histria/Istros)*, in Tsetskhladze, G., Avram, A., Hargrave, J. (eds.), *The Greeks and Romans in the Black Sea and the Importance of the Pontic Region for the Graeco-Roman World (7th century BC – 5th century AD): 20 Years On (1997-2017). Proceedings of the Sixth International Congress on Black Sea Antiquities (Constanța – 18-22 September 2017)*, Oxford, 571-575.
- Iliescu, I., Bottez, V. 2021c, *North-African Imports Attested in the West-Pontic Area. Late Roman Products Recently Discovered in Istros*, in Mrabet, A., Bohâlțea Mihuş, F. (eds.), *In Africa et in Moesia. Frontières du monde romain. Partager le patrimoine de l'Afrique du Nord et du Bas Danube / Borders of the Roman World. Sharing Heritage of North Africa and the Lower Danube*, Bucharest, 131-150.
- Iliescu, I., Bottez, V., Țârlea, A., Lițu, A., Bivolaru, A. 2017, *Late Roman C wares discovered at Histria in the Acropolis Centre-South sector (2013 and 2014)*, Materiale și Cercetări Arheologice, serie nouă 13, 47-72.
- Lavan, L. 2020, *Public Space in Late Antiquity, I., Streets, Processions, Fora, Agorai, Macella, Shops*, Leiden – Boston.
- Lițu, A., Bottez, V. 2021, *Three new inscriptions from the Acropolă Centru-Sud Sector in Istros*, Revista Centrului de Istorie Comparată a Societăților Antice, serie nouă 7, 85-94.
- Lițu, A., Bottez, V., Țârlea, A. 2021, *Cultes marins, cultes ioniens en mer Noire*, in Tsetskhladze, G., Avram, A., Hargrave, J. (eds.), *The Greeks and Romans in the Black Sea and the Importance of the Pontic Region for the Graeco-Roman World (7th century BC – 5th century AD): 20 Years On*



- (1997-2017). *Proceedings of the Sixth International Congress on Black Sea Antiquities (Constanța – 18-22 September 2017)*, Oxford, 142-151.
- Lițu, A., Țârlea, A., Iliescu, I., Bottez, V. 2018, *Timbres amphoriques inédits du Secteur Acropole Centre-Sud (ACS) d'Histria (2013-2018)*, Peuce, serie nouă 16, 31-40.
- Țârlea, A., Georgescu, M., Vîlcu, A. 2018, *The compositional analysis of copper and bronze Greek coins found at Histria (Acropolis Centre-South Sector) using a portable X-Ray fluorescence spectrometer*, *Materiale și Cercetări Arheologice*, serie nouă 14, 197-210.
- Vîlcu, A., Țârlea, A. 2016, *Descoperiri monetare recente la Histria (Sectorul Acropolă Centru-Sud)*, *Materiale și Cercetări Arheologice*, serie nouă 12, 159-166.