

PRELIMINARY REPORT OF THE EXCAVATIONS AT HISTRIA – THE ACROPOLIS CENTRE-SOUTH SECTOR (IV). THE 2019-2020 CAMPAIGNS

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Abstract: The article provides the basic data for the 2019-2020 excavations on the *Acropolis Centre-South* Sector in Histria (Constanța County, Romania) by a team from the University of Bucharest, namely concerning the stratigraphy and building structures discovered in the excavation units investigated in the above-mentioned period. We also draw several conclusions concerning the setting and functionality of several internal spaces, as well as regarding the construction technique and materials used in *Insula Ix* (6th-7th c. AD), the residential block that constitutes the sector's main research objective.

Rezumat: Articolul conține informația de bază pentru campaniile 2019-2020 de săpături arheologice de pe Sectorul *Acropolă Centru-Sud* de la Histria (jud. Constanța), desfășurate de către o echipă a Universității din București, anume despre stratigrafia și structurile constructive descoperite în unitățile de săpătură investigate în perioada menționată. De asemenea, autorii trag o serie de concluzii referitoare la amenajarea și funcționalitatea a mai multe spații interne, precum și despre tehnicile și materialele constructive folosite în *Insula Ix* (sec. VI-VII p.Chr.), complexul de locuințe care constituie principalul obiectiv de cercetare al sectorului.

Keywords: Histria, Late Roman urbanism, construction technique, construction material, Late Roman pottery.

Cuvinte-cheie: Histria, urbanism roman târziu, tehnică de construcție, materiale de construcție, ceramică romană târzie.

INTRODUCTION

The present article is the fourth in a series of preliminary reports on the excavations undertaken by the team of the “Dinu Theodorescu” Laboratory of Archaeology, from the Faculty of History, University of Bucharest, on the *Acropolis Centre-South Sector* (henceforth **ACS**) in *Istros / Histria*, the ancient Milesian colony on the Western Black Sea Coast.

The results of the dig, which is located in the southern part of the ancient city’s acropolis (Fig. 1) and led to the identification of a Late Roman *insula* (6th-7th c. AD), are to be published in 1) preliminary reports (such as this one) that include basic stratigraphic data and information on the building structures identified, followed by short conclusions concerning the sector’s chronology and archaeological topography; 2) articles on the material discovered in the dig; and 3) in a number of volumes of the *Histria* monographic series, once the excavation of *Insula Ia* is concluded¹.

The excavation is done using 4×4 m Wheeler trenches (named **C001**, **C002** etc.), divided by 1 m baulks². The square trenches are divided in 1×1 m squares, numbered A-D (S-N) and 1-4 (W-E). All contexts are documented on MoLAS sheets³, all depths are taken from fixed points, using an optical level, and all structures are measured using the total station and their detailed plan is drawn and vectorized in AutoCAD (Fig. 2). The excavation stops on the last living surface before the final destruction of the buildings in this part of the city.

In 2019 and 2020, the excavation strategy (Fig. 2-4) aimed to continue the investigation of the *insula*’s northern nucleus⁴ (whose surface was already covered by Wheeler trenches), focusing the baulks between the square trenches – which led to the excavation of 12 baulks: **C009/C036**, **C010/C041**, **C013/C014**, **C013/C017**, **C017/C021**, **C023/C026**, **C026/C029**, **C029/C035**, **C029/C040**, **C035/C039**, **C036/C041**, and **C039/C041** respectively. In the southern sector we continued to extend the excavation by opening eight new square trenches, namely **C046-053**.

¹ For the publications of the results see Bottez 2022; Țârlea, Iliescu, Bottez 2022; Bugoi *et alii* 2023; Bugoi *et alii* 2024.

² Named by the two excavation units delimiting it (e.g. baulk **C043/C044**).

³ All contexts receive a code formed by the number of the excavation unit, followed by the number of the context (e.g. the vegetal layer in **C043** will be **43000**, the next layer **43001** etc; in the case of baulks, the code will combine those of the delimiting excavation units – e.g. the vegetal layer of baulk **C043/C044** will be **43000/44000**).

⁴ The codename of the spaces inside the *insula* are formed by the nucleus they are part of (N – north, or S – south), followed by the space number (e.g. NNSp06 is space no. 6 in the northern nucleus).

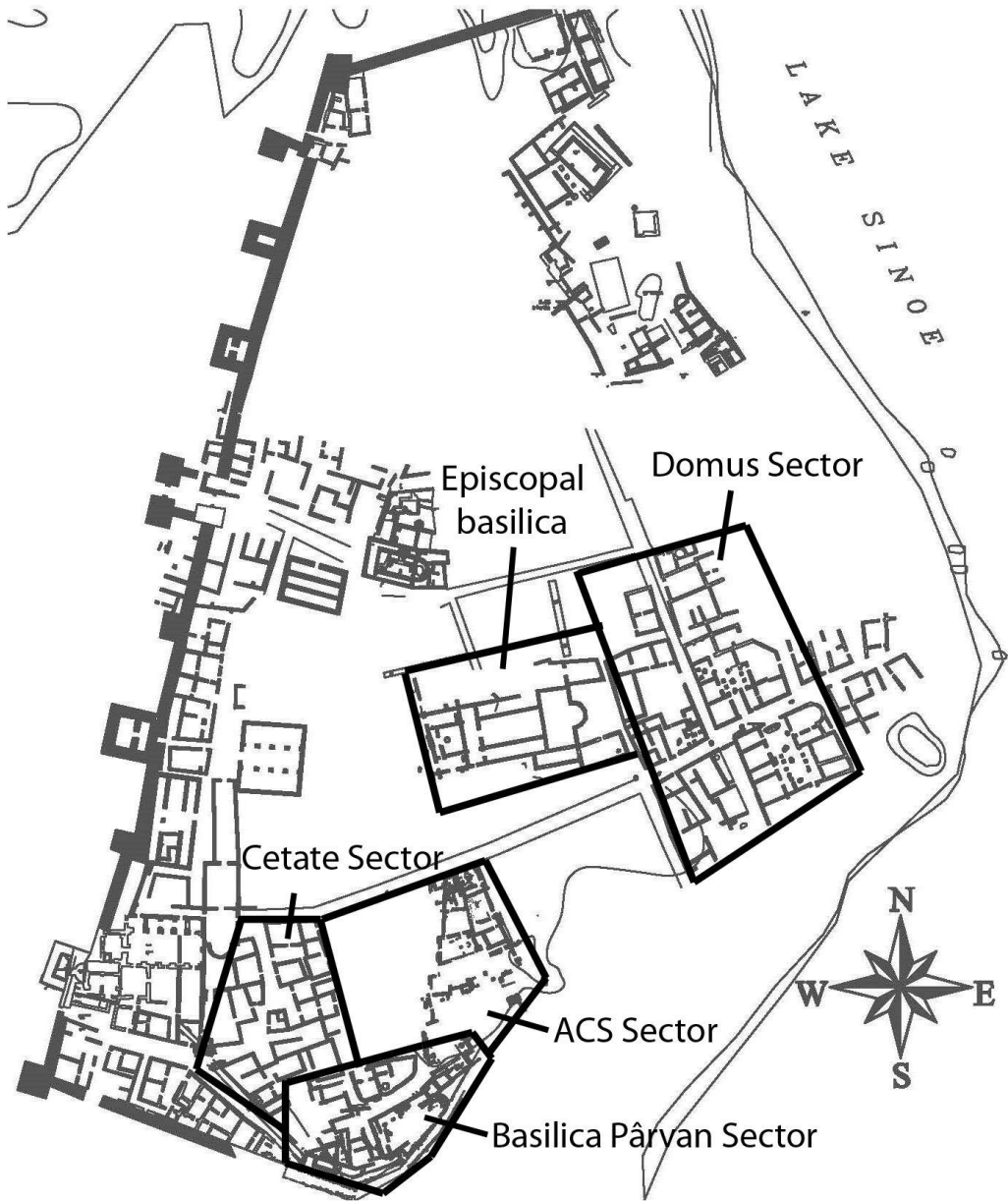


Fig. 1. Location of the sector on the acropolis of Istros (V. Bottez).

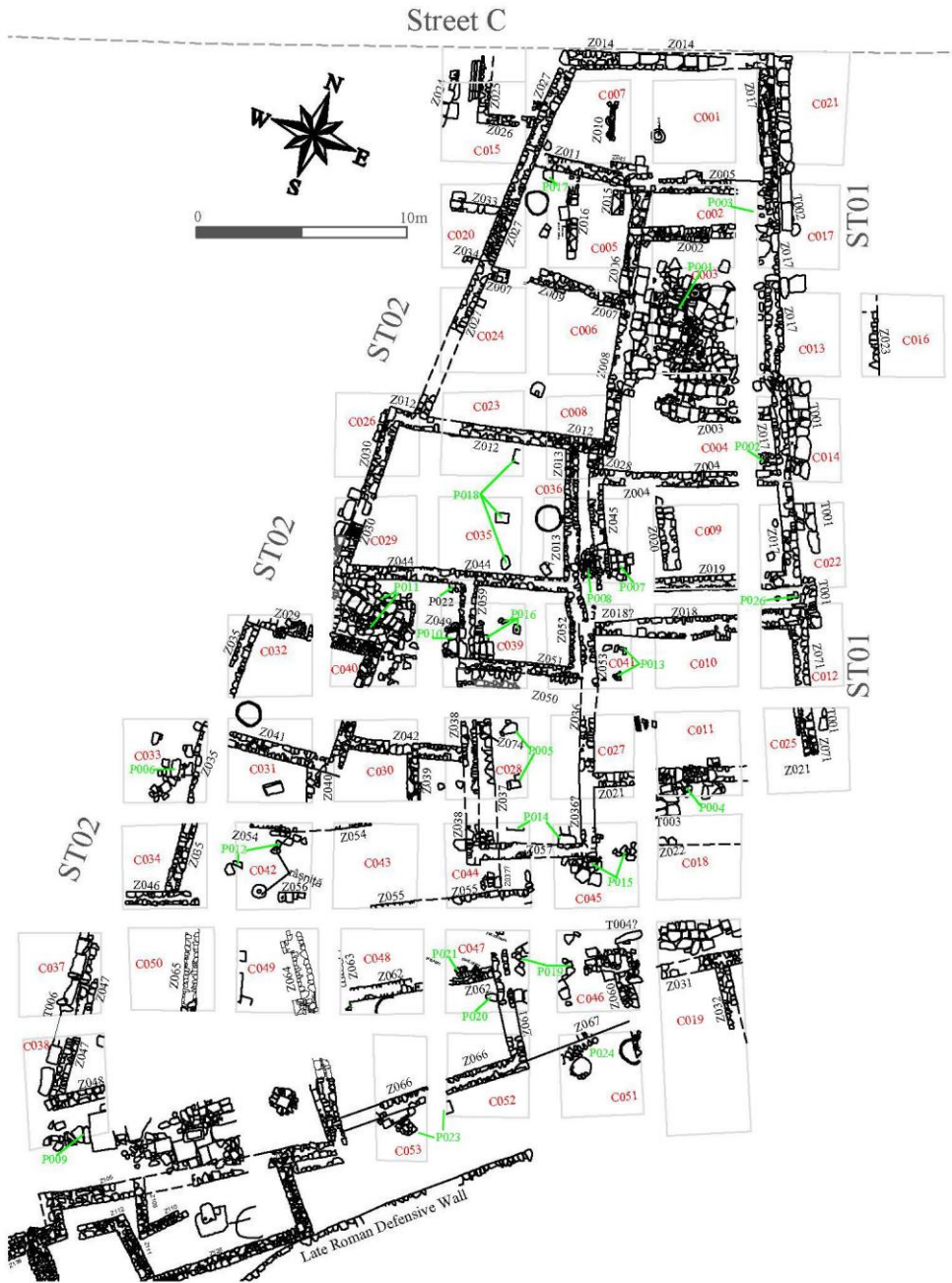


Fig. 2. Plan of the ACS Sector in 2020 (V. Bottez).



Fig. 3. Orthomosaic of the ACS Sector in 2020 (V. Bottez).

Bearing in mind that the initial aim is to stop the excavation on the final living surface, the stratigraphy in all these excavation units is fairly uniform (Fig. 5): a vegetal layer, followed by the so-called “grey debris” layer (the debris caused by the final, post-abandonment collapse of the different structures), the “yellow debris” layer (the debris caused by the final destruction of the functional buildings), underneath which we usually find the last living surface, consisting of stone pavements, hardened surfaces made out of silt, small stones, pebbles, pottery, and ceramic building material⁵ fragments, brick pavements and hardened yellow silt layers that represent (at least in most cases) the substructure of brick pavements. Those layers will be listed in the following pages, with their dimensions and position, in order to have a public evidence of the excavated layers.

We must also bear in mind the fact that the archaeological contexts were severely damaged in the southern part of the sector, towards the **Late Roman Defensive Wall** (henceforth **LRDW**). The latter was dismantled and then damaged to such a level that the highest point at which we identified it in the **ACS Sector** was around -1.70 m, and there only a thin portion was preserved of the inner parament. Therefore, all the layers

⁵ Henceforth CBM.

that connected the southern structures of the *insula* to the LRDW were destroyed, at least partially.

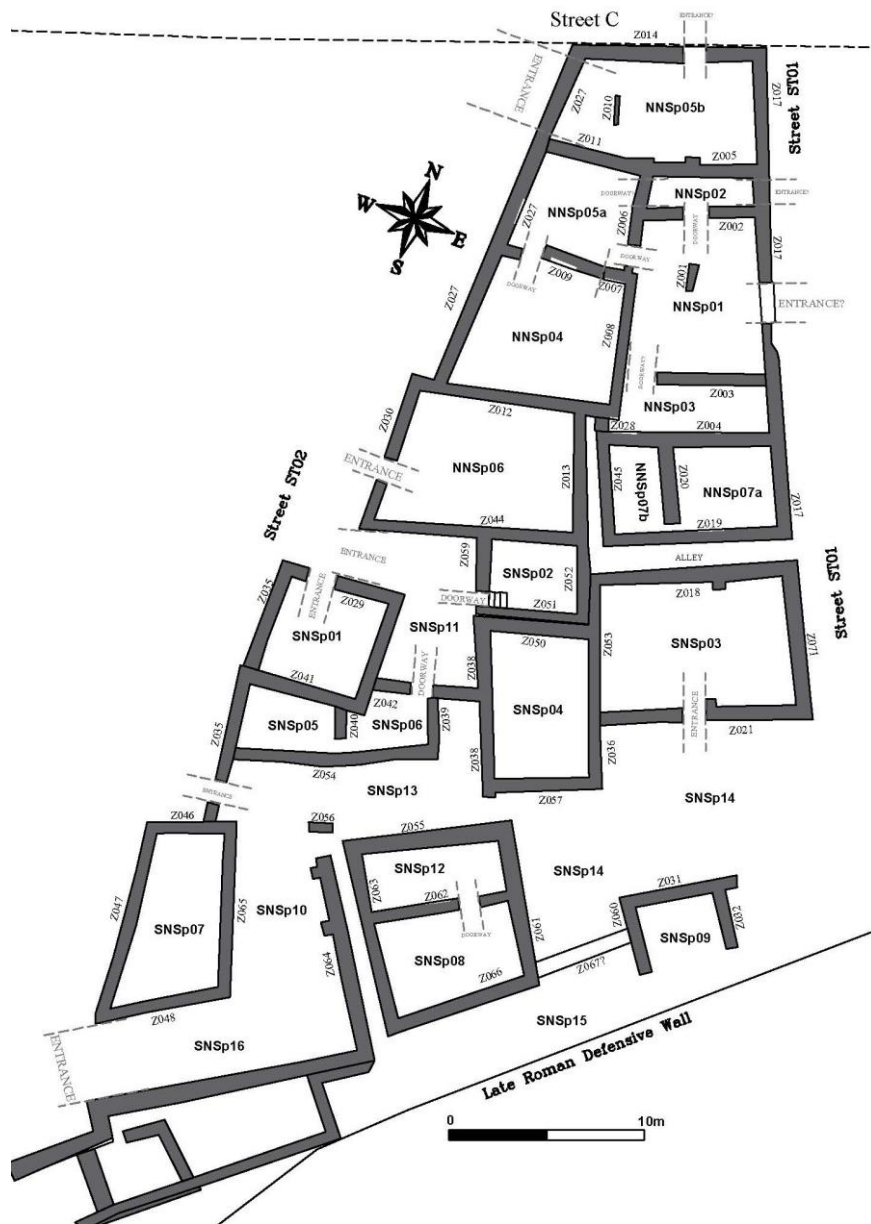


Fig. 4. Topographic plan of the ACS Sector with internal spaces in 2020 (V. Bottez).



Fig. 5. Stratigraphic succession in C053 (V. Bottez).

STRATIGRAPHY

Modern layer

This layer was identified only in one area, namely **C050** (context **50000**: +0.84 m/+0.52 m), and constitutes a modern deposit, caused probably by recent excavations.

The vegetal layer

This layer was identified at different depths, depending on the inclination of the sloped terrain, in **C046** (context **46000**: +0.07 m/-0.23 m), **C047** (context **47000**: +0.29 m/+0.04 m), **C048** (context **48000**: +0.55 m/+0.36 m), **C049** (context **49000**: +0.91 m/+0.65 m), **C050** (context **50001** : +0.52 m/+0.33 m), **C051** (context **51000**: -0.57 m/-0.66 m in the N-W area of the section), **C052** (context **52000**: -0.24 m/-0.27 m), **C053** (context **53000**: +0.35 m/+0.01 m), **baulk C009/C036** (context **9000/36000**: +0.82 m/+0.64 m), **baulk C010/C041** (context **10000/41000**: +0.75 m/+0.46 m in sq. A₁, +0.75 m/+0.34 m in sq. B₁), **baulk C013/C014** (context **13000/14000**: +0.72 m/+0.50 m), **baulk C013/C017** (context **13000/17000**: +0.86 m/+0.76 m in sq. A₁, +0.86 m/+0.66 m in sq. A₄), **baulk C017/C021** (context **17000/21000**: +0.84 m/+0.57 m), **baulk C023/C026** (context **23000/26000**: +0.92 m/+0.60 m), **baulk C026/C029** (context **26000/29000**: +0.92 m/+0.60 m), **baulk C029/C035** (context **29000/35000**: +0.97 m/+0.86 m in sq. A₁, +0.97 m/+0.36 m in sq. E₁,

+0.97 m/+0.53 m in sq. F₁), **baulk C029/C040** (context 29000/40000: +0.70 m/+0.65 m), **baulk C035/C039** (context 35000/39000: +1.02 m/+0.86 m), **baulk C036/C041** (context 36000/41000: +0.93 m/+0.82 m), and **baulk C039/C041** (context 39000/41000: +1.04 m/+0.70 m). The layer is composed of greyish-brown soil, with sandy silt and shells inclusions. It usually contains pottery shards, osteological fragments, CBM, glass and metal objects.

The upper, "grey" debris layer

It was identified in all the excavated square sections and baulks, such as **C046** (context 46001: -0.23 m/-0.56 m), **C047** (context 47001: +0.04 m/-0.32 m), **C048** (context 48001: +0.54 m/+0.16 m in sq. A₁, -0.15 m/-0.40 m in sq. D₃), **C049** (context 49001: +0.65 m/+0.36 m), **C050** (context 50002: +0.33 m/-0.04 m), **C051** (context 51001: -0.66 m/-0.55 m in sq. B₁₋₄, A₁₋₃, -B₁), **C052** (context 52001: -0.27 m/-0.52 m), **C053** (context 53001: +0.01 m/-0.31 m), **baulk C009/C036** (context 9001/36001: +0.64 m/+0.45 m), **baulk C010/C041** (context 10001/41001: +0.34 m/+0.15 m in sq. A₁, +0.34 m/+0.23 m in sq. B₁), **baulk C013/C014** (context 13001/14001: +0.50 m/+0.14 m), **baulk C013/C017** (context 13001/17001: +0.76 m/+0.61 m in sq. A₁, +0.66 m/+0.40 m in sq. A₃₋₄), **baulk C017/C021** (context 17001/21001: +0.57 m/+0.23 m), **baulk C023/C026** (context 23001/26001: +0.70 m/+0.29 m), **baulk C026/C029** (context 26001/29001: +0.60 m/+0.29 m), **baulk C029/C035** (context 29001/35001: +0.86 m/+0.76 m in sq. A₁, +0.36 m/+0.05 m in sq. D₁), **baulk C029/C040** (context 29001/40001: +0.65 m/+0.41 m), **baulk C035/C039** (context 35001/39001: +0.86 m/+0.57 m), **baulk C036/C041** (context 36001/41001: +0.82 m/+0.54 m in sq. A₁₋₄, +0.71 m/+0.45 m in sq. A₅₋₆), **baulk C039/C041** (context 39001/41001: +0.70 m/+0.31 m). Mainly, this layer usually contains stone construction materials, inclusions of pottery fragments, CBM, osteological material, glass and metal objects.

The lower, "yellow" debris layer

This debris layer was also identified in mostly all trenches, with the exception of **C046**, **C051**, **baulk C013/C014**, **baulk C017/C013**, **baulk C021/C017** and **baulk C029/C040**. The ones with yellow debris present are **C026** (context 26004: -0.08 m/-0.63 m, which was initially excavated in 2015, with a thickness of +0.45 m/-0.08 m), **C029** (context 29005: -0.20 m/-0.60 m, initially excavated in 2016, with depths between +0.50 m/-0.20 m), **C046** (context 46003: -0.14 m/-0.49 m), **C047** (context 47002: -0.32 m/-0.58 m), **C048** (context 48002: +0.16 m/-0.37 m in sq. A₁, -0.40 m/-0.53 m in sq. D₁), **C049** (context 49002: +0.36 m/-0.07 m), **C050** (context 50003: -0.04 m/-0.14 m), **C052** (context 52002: -0.35 m/-0.77 m in the N part, -0.35 m/-1.04 m in the S part), **C053** (context 53002), **baulk C009/C036** (context 9002/36002: +0.45 m/+0.15 m), **baulk C010/C041** (context 10002/41002: +0.15 m/-0.77 m S of Z18, +0.23 m/-0.03 m above Z18), **baulk C023/C026**

(context 23002/26002: +0.29 m/-0.40 m S of Z12⁶), **baulk C026/C029** (context 26002/29002: +0.29 m/-0.57 m), **baulk C029/C035** (context 29002/35002: +0.25 m/-0.55 m in sq. B-C₁, +0.05 m/-0.70 m in sq. D₁, +0.14 m/-0.68 m in sq. F₁), **baulk C035/C039** (context 35002/39002: +0.57 m/+0.17 m), **baulk C036/C041** (context 36002/41002: +0.54 m/+0.0 m), and **baulk C039/C041** (context 39002/41002: +0.31 m/+0.06 m). The soil of which it is composed is yellow coloured, often with reddish or black traces of burning and with inclusions of sandy silt and shells. The layer mainly contains stone construction material, inclusions of pottery fragments, CBM, osteological material, glass and metal objects.

The Late Roman defensive wall debris layer

This particular kind of debris layer was identified only in proximity to the perimeter wall. The trenches in which it is present is **C052** (context 52009: -1.00 m/ -1.86 m) and **C053** (context 53009: -1.75 m; context 53011, **superposed by 53009**). They consist of brownish-grey soil, with inclusions of green schist, pottery, osteological material, metal objects, glass and CBM. In **53009** were discovered a bronze buckle and a wholly preserved bronze lamp.

The CBM fill layer

The layer was identified only in **C052** (context 52010: -0.78 m/-0.88 m), near the **Late Roman defensive wall** (Fig. 6). It is very compact, yellow coloured, mainly consists of CBM, yellow clay and has inclusions of stone and pottery. It most probably constituted a substructure for **P023**⁷ and lead to the **LRDW** but was partially destroyed by the slope that was created following the dismantling of the latter.

Adobe debris layers

One such layer was identified in **baulk C029/C035** (context 29006/35006: -0.27 m/-0.68 m). It had a strong reddish colour and inclusions of schist, large adobe pieces and CBM (Fig. 7). This debris layer is part of a mudbrick structure located in **NNSp06**⁸ (Fig. 2 and 4), which is currently being excavated.

In 2019, an agglomeration of mud bricks, most likely a collapsed wall (Fig. 8, context 49004), was identified in **C049**, sq. C-D₁₋₃, at +0.02 m. Its approximate dimensions are 1.92×0.84 m, and it was oriented E-W.

⁶ Z is short for *zid* (Romanian for *wall*).

⁷ P is short for *pavaj* (Romanian for *pavement*).

⁸ **NNSp06** is covered by **C008**, **C023**, **C026**, **C029**, **C035** and **C036**.

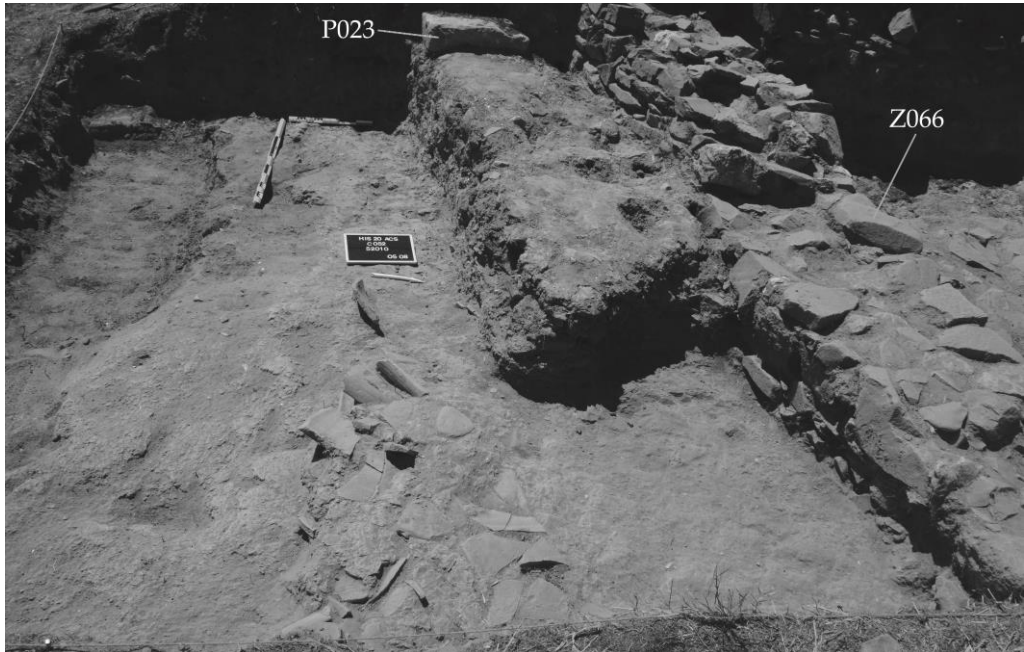


Fig. 6. Context 52010, P023 and Z066 (CBM fill layer) (V. Bottez).

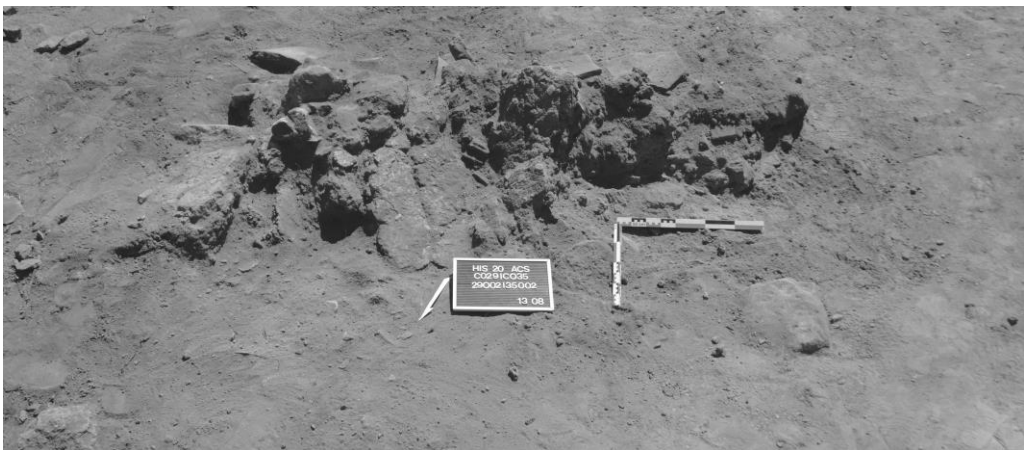


Fig. 7. Context 29006/35006 in NNSp06 (debris of a mudbrick structure) (V. Bottez).

Living surfaces

There are a few types of living surfaces currently identified in *insula* Ia. Those are the stone and brick pavements, as well as very hard yellowish silt and pebbles floors and potential floors, where we also include street surfaces and all their substructures. The

pavements, floors, as well as the streets will be presented in the constructive structures section.

The potential floors represent compact yellow silt layers hardened by constantly walking on them. These layers were unearthed in **C048** (context **48005**: -0.53 m, delimited to the NW by **Z063**, to the S by **Z062**; context **48006**: -0.37 m in sq. A₃, delimited to the N by **Z062**, to the W by **Z063**), **C050** (context **50004**: -0.14 m, -0.20 m, -0.28 m in sq. A-D₁₋₃; context **50005**: +0.10 m, +0.09 m, -0.06 m in sq. A-D₄), **C051** (context **51002**: -0.96 m in sq. B₃, -1.26 m in sq. -B₃, -A₁₋₂, -B₁₋₄, A₁₋₄, B₂₋₄, bordered by **Z060** in sq. B₄, by **Z067** in sq. B₁₋₂), **C052** (context **52011**: -1.04 m, sq. A-B₃₋₄, -B₁₋₂; context **52012**: -1.44 m in sq. -A₁₋₄, -B₁₋₄, -A'₁₋₄), **C053** (context **53003**: -0.45 m, sq. A-B₁₋₂, delimited to the N by **P023**, **Z066**; context **53006**: -0.45 m in sq. C-D₁₋₂, delimited to the S by **Z066**), **C010/C041** (context **10003/41003**: -0.77 m in sq. A₁, -0.68 m in sq. C₁), **C035/C039** (context **35003/39003**: +0.17 m), **C036/C041** (context **36003/41003**: +0.41 m, +0.31 m in sq. A₄₋₆), and **C039/C041** (context **39003/41003**: +0.06 m in sq. B-D₁).

There are also substructures for the different floors and pavements, which usually present themselves as compact yellow silt layers.

Such substructures for pavements and floors were identified in **C026** (context **26007**: -0.63 m on the W side of **NNSp06**, delimited to the W by **Z030**), **C029** (context **29006**: -0.45 m, delimited by **Z030** and **Z044**; context **29008**: -0.60 m in sq. B₂₋₄, C₃, D₂₋₄), **C046** (context **46002**: -0.43 m/-0.47 m in sq. A-B₁₋₃, delimited to the N by **T004**⁹, E by **Z060**; context **46004**: sq. D₁₋₂ and D₄), **C047** (context **47003**: -0.70 m in sq. C-D₁₋₃; context **47008**: -0.69 m in sq. A-B₁₋₃, delimited to the N by **Z062**, to the E by **Z061**; context **47009**: -0.84 m in sq. D₄), **C049** (context **49005**: -0.09 m in sq. A-D₁₋₃, associated with **Z064**; context **49006**: +0.08 m in sq. B-D₄, associated with **Z064**), **C052** (context **52003**: -0.64 m in sq. D₄; context **52004**: -0.74 in squares C-D₁₋₃, delimited to the S by **Z066**, E by **Z061**; context **52007**: -0.56 in sq. A₁₋₃), **C053** (context **53008**: -0.47 m in sq. -A₁₋₂, B'₁₋₂), **C009/C036** (context **9005/36005**: +0.25 m, +0.15 m in the pothole), **C023/C026** (context **23005/26005**: +0.15 m, sq. D₁, at the intersection between **Z012** and **Z027**; context **23006/26006**: between -0.40 m and -0.31 m, bordered to the N by **Z012**), **C026/C029** (context **26007/29007**: -0.57 m in squares A₃₋₄, delimited to the W by **26006/29006** and **Z030**), **C029/C035** (context **29004/35004**: -0.55 m in sq. B-C₁, associated with **Z044**; context **29005/35005**: -0.70 m in sq. C-D₁, it is possible that it might be the same one as **29004/35004**).

These layers contain inclusions such as shells, charcoal, pottery and osteological material, glass and CBM. They were broken in certain areas due to the pressure applied by the stones of the upper debris layer. The excavation was halted for most of these layers, as the objective for the *insula* is to research its last functioning phase.

⁹ T is short for *trotuar* (Romanian for *sidewalk*).



Fig. 8. Context 49004 and Z064 (adobe debris layer) (V. Bottez).



Fig. 9. Context 13003/17003 (structure with unknown functionality in C017/C013) (V. Bottez).

BUILDING STRUCTURES

Undetermined structure

13003/17003: A structure with unknown functionality (Fig. 9) was discovered in 2020 in **bauk C013/C017** (Fig. 2-3), at +0.73 m. It is made of 2 limestone slabs measuring 0.67×0.71 m and 0.4×0.99 m and is set against **Z017**.

Entrances/doorways

47007: the doorway (Fig. 10) was discovered in 2019 in **Z062** in **C047**, sq. B-C₁, at -0.41 m and it is made of unfashioned and fashioned (*spolia*) stones, CBM fragments, all bound with earth. The doorway is oriented NNW-SSE, has a rectangular shape and measures 1.02×0.80 m. In the *insula*'s second functioning phase (dated starting with the reign of Justin II), it was blocked with stones and CBM courses, bound with soil.

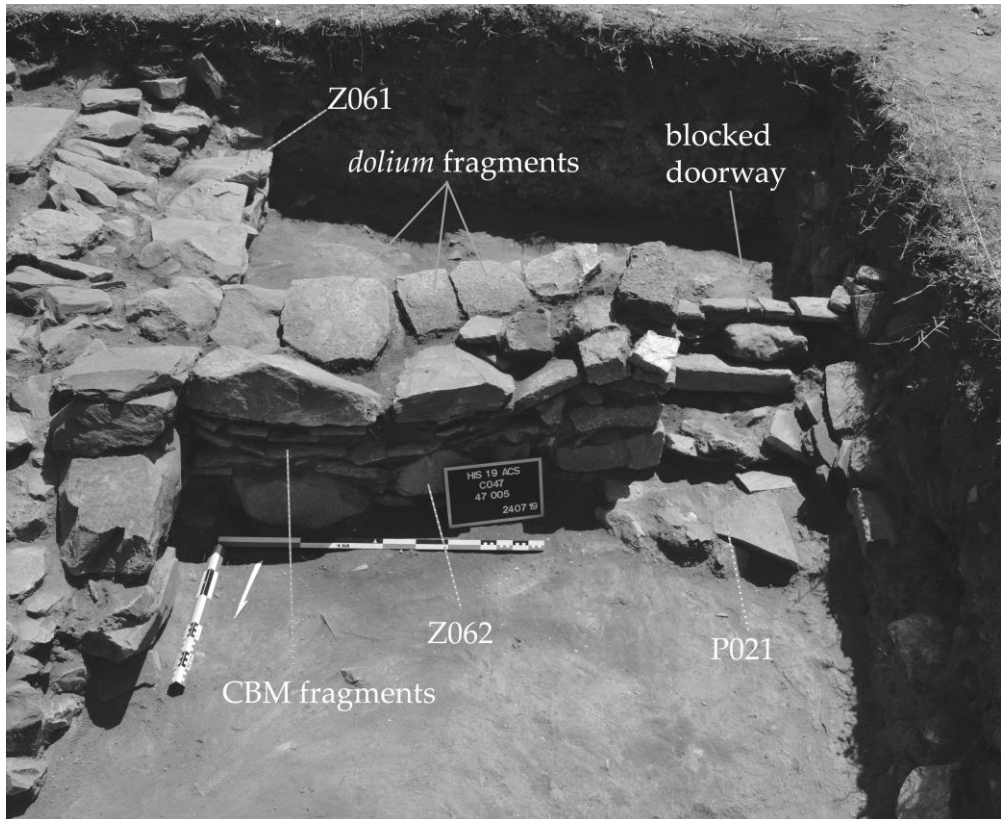


Fig. 10. Doorway 47007, P021 and Z062 (V. Bottez).

26003/29003: a threshold was partially identified in the 2016 campaign in **C029** and in 2019 was fully unearthed in **C026/C029**, square A_2 , at +0.26 m, thus completing the unveiling of the entrance from street **ST02** to the *domus*. Oriented NW-SE, it has a rectangular shape, and it is built of unfashioned and fashioned (*spolia*) stones bound with earth by limestone fragments. Its measurements are 0.76×0.66×0.46 m (five courses visible) and it is associated with **Z030**, **T005** and **ST02**.

Streets

ST01: initially discovered in 2014, new segments were identified in 2020 in baulks **C013/C014** (13002/14002), **C013/C017** (13002/17002) and **C017/C021** (17002/21002), at depths between +0.23 m/+0.4 m. The yellow soil in all segments is compact, with small pottery, stones and osteological inclusions and has areas where the streets surface was broken. In baulk **C017/C021**, **ST01** is bordered to the W by **T002**, in baulk **C013/C017** by **Z017** and by the undetermined structure **13003/17003** and in **C013/C014** by **T001**.

ST02: first discovered in 2014 in **C015**, a new segment was unearthed in 2019 in baulk **C026/C029** at +0.39 m. The soil is compact and has small inclusions of stones and shells. The street makes the connection between **Street C** and the *Basilica Pâravan* Sector, and this segment is parallel with **Z030** and **T005**.

Sidewalks

T001: initially discovered in 2014, a new segment (context **13003/14003**) was revealed in 2020 in baulk **C013/C014**. Oriented NNW-SSE, it has rectangular shape, and it is built of fashioned green schist and limestone tiles. The segment measures 1.12×0.85×0.2 m, it is set against **Z017**, and it borders **ST02** to the W.

T002: it was first discovered in 2014 and in 2020 a new segment (context) was unearthed in **C017/C021**, built of unfashioned and fashioned large and very large sized limestone and green schist tiles. The segment measures 1×0.5 m, it borders **ST02** to the E and it is set against **Z017** to the W.

T004: first identified in 2015 in **C019**, a new segment was discovered in 2019 in **C046** (46008). The structure is oriented E-W, it is built of green schist and stones, and it measures 2.35×1.30 m. The pavement was severely affected by the destruction of the last level of habitation, with only five slabs entirely preserved and another covered by a large rectangular block of limestone.

T005: identified in 2016 in **C026**, a new segment was revealed in 2019 in baulk **C026/C029** (26004/29004) at +0.59 m. The sidewalk is oriented NW-SE, parallel with **ST02** and **Z030**, it has a rectangular shape, and the tiles measure 0.50×0.43 m.

Pavements

P007: first discovered in 2017 in **C036**, a new segment was uncovered in **baulk C009/C036 (9006/36006)**, sq. A₁ (Fig. 11). Oriented E-W, the pavement is built of brick tiles bound with earth that measure approximately 0.32×0.32 m. Its measurements in the baulk are 0.92×0.40 m and after the 2019 campaign the total size of the structure is 1.5×1 m. Some tiles are partially out of place due to the damage done by the yellow debris layer.

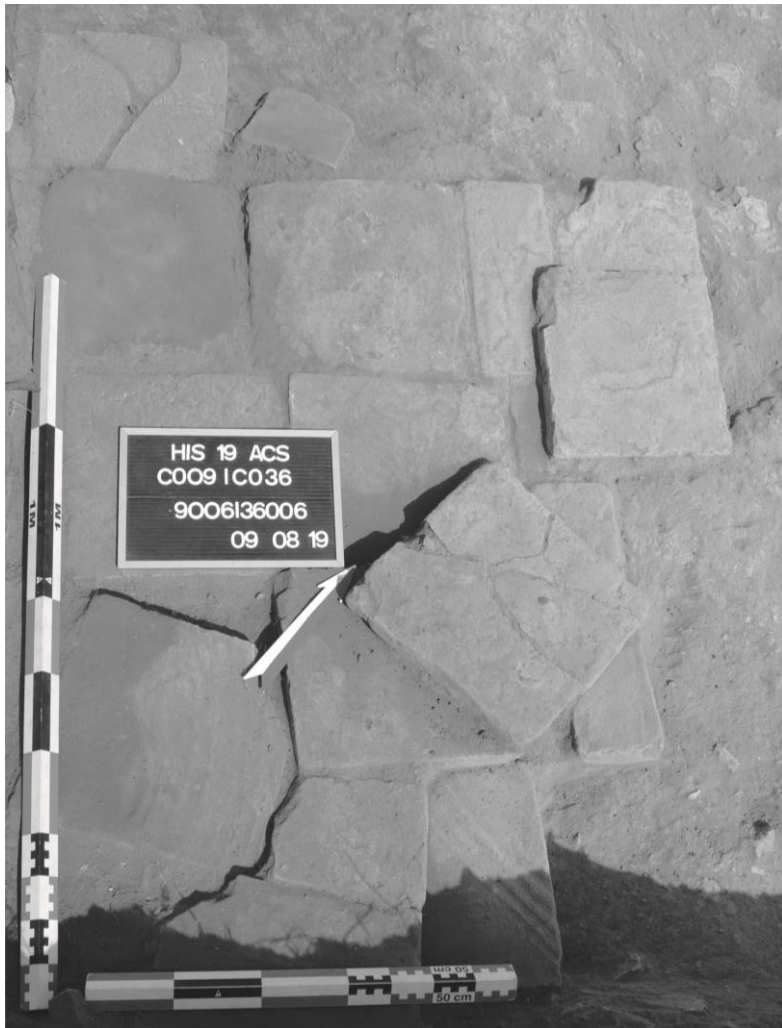


Fig. 11. P007 (V. Bottez).

P011: initially identified in 2018, new parts were unearthed in 2019 in **C040**, sq. A₄ and C-D₁₋₄, at +0.53 m and **baulk C029/C040**, squares A₁₋₄, at +0.69 m (Fig. 12). It is oriented E-W, has a rectangular shape and it is built of unfashioned and fashioned (*spolia*) medium and large sized stones bound with earth. In **C040** the tiles appeared after the breaking of the floor (**40006**) that overlays it; and there is also a canal/sewer that crosses through the pavement. Possible explanations for the depth discrepancies are the existence of more than one phase of the structure or the pressure applied by the yellow debris layer.

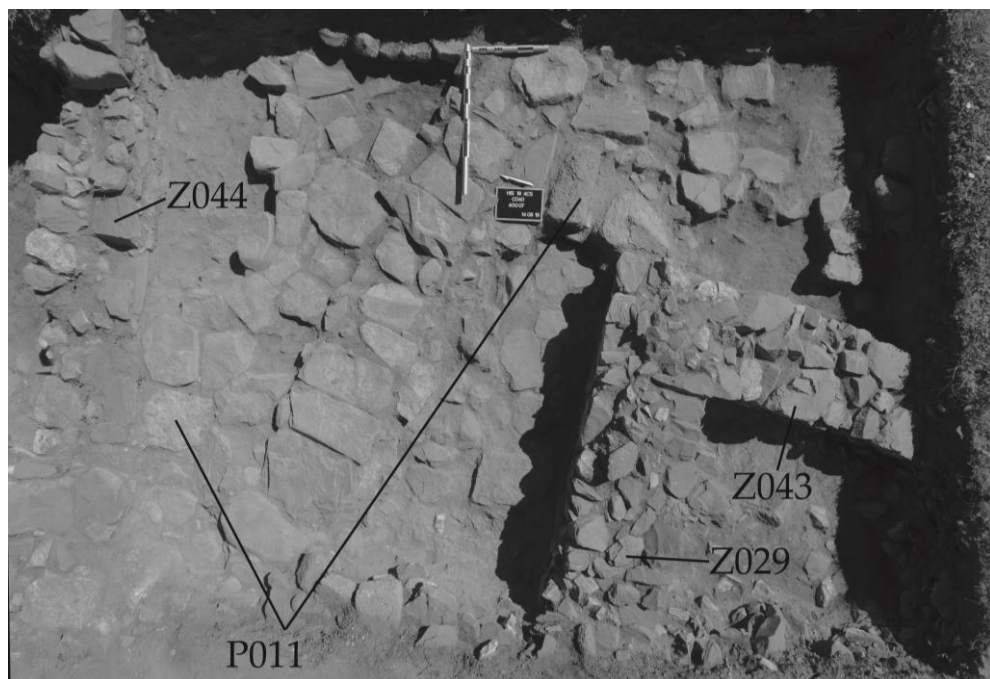


Fig. 12. **P011**, **Z029**, **Z043** and **Z044** (V. Bottez).

P019: two segments were identified in 2019 in **C046** (**46007**), squares A-B₁, and **C047** (**47004**), squares A-C₄ (Fig. 13 and 14). The segments are oriented N-S and are built of limestone slabs. In **C046** it measures 1.4×0.5 m and the tiles are poorly conserved, while in **C047** its measurements are 3.26×0.65 m and it is set against **Z061**. **P019** is associated with **Z031**, **Z060** and **Z061**.

P020: discovered in 2019 in **C047** at -0.55 m (Fig. 14), the pavement is composed by of only one slab, identified in layer **47008**. The tile measures 0.6×0.3 m and it is probably part of a dismantled pavement later covered by substructure **47008**. Associated with substructure **47008** and **Z061**.



Fig. 13. P019 (context 46007) (V. Bottez).



Fig. 14. P019, P020, Z061, and Z062 (V. Bottez).

P021: it was excavated in 2019 in **C047** (Fig. 10), and it is built of stone tiles closely positioned near **Z062** and the possible entrance **47007**. The tiles were identified in a substructure (**47003**) made of compact yellow clay with small schist and shell inclusions and it is considered that they formed the pavement whose substructure was found in sq. C-D₁₋₃ (**47003**). It is associated with **Z062**, substructure **47003** and entrance **47007**.

P022: it was identified in 2019 in **baulk C035/C039 (35004/39004)**, sq. A₁. The pavement (Fig. 15) is oriented E-W, and it is built of CBM bound together with earth. It measures 0.50×0.40 m and it is affected by the lower debris layer. **P022** resembles the brick pavement (**P007**) from **C036** and **baulk C009/C036**. Associated with **35005/39005** and **35006/39006**.



Fig. 15. Remains of **P022** (V. Bottez).

P023: it was discovered in 2020 in **C052 (52008)**, sq. A₁, at -0.45 m (Fig. 16), and in **C053 (53005)**, sq. B₁₋₂, at -0.45 m. The irregular shaped structure is oriented E-W, it measures 1×0.7 m and it is built of large sized schist and limestone tiles that measure 0.25×0.35 m. The pavement is parallel with **Z066** (Fig. 23), and it seems to continue to **C052**, square A₁, where a large limestone tile measuring 0.6×0.28×0.12 m which continues to the W profile was identified.



Fig. 16. Z066 and P023 (V. Bottez).

P024: unveiled in 2020 in **C051 (51005)** at -0.55 m, the rectangular shaped structure is oriented E-W, and it is built of fashioned schist and limestone tiles. It measures 1.9×0.7 m and it seems to be parallel with **Z067**.

Walls

Z004: was originally discovered in 2013, and a new segment (**9003/36003**) was identified in 2019, in **baulk C009/C036**, sq. D₁, enabling the complete unearthing of the wall. Oriented E-W, it is built of unfashioned and fashioned (*spolia*) medium sized stones bound with earth. The new segments measure 1.42×0.68×0.60 m (three courses identified) in **C009/C036**. It intersects in the same baulk with **Z020 (9004/36004)**, which is oriented N-S.

Z005: first discovered in 2013 and then in 2015, a new segment was identified in 2020, **baulk C021/C017**, sq. A₁, at +0,50 m. The wall is oriented E-W, has a rectangular shape and it is built of unfashioned and fashioned (*spolia*) stones bound with earth. Its measurements are 0.92×0.54 m. It intersects with **Z017** and on the N side **Z005** was not unearthed due to the narrow space.

Z012: it was initially identified in 2013, and then in 2015, 2017 and 2018, with a new wall segment unearthed in 2020 in **baulk C023/C026**. The segment is oriented E-W, it is built of unfashioned and fashioned (*spolia*) stones bound with earth and it

measures 1.2×0.6×1.07 m (two, respectively four courses visible). On the S side of **Z012** a fragmentary adobe plaster which continues W along the wall to **C026** was discovered between -0.21 m/-0.45 m, measuring 0.68 m in length, 0.30 m in width and a maximum thickness level of 0.12 m. Another discovery on the S side was a possible palmette-decorated column base made of limestone. A possible segment of the wall's foundation seems to consist of a 15-20 cm layer of adobe. **Z012** represents the N limit of **NNSp06**, along with segments from **C008**, **C023**, **C026**. It intersects **Z027** and delimits two substructures (**23005/26005** and **23006/26006**).

Z017: discovered in 2013 and 2016, three new segments (**13004/14004**, **17004/13004** and **21005/17005**) were identified in 2020 in **baulk C013/C014**, sq. A₁ at +0.50 m, **baulk C017/C013**, sq. A₁ at +0.61 m and **baulk C021/C017**, sq. A₁ at +0.33 m. Oriented NNW-SSE, the segments are built of unfashioned and fashioned (*spolia*) medium- and large-sized stones bound with earth and their measurements are 1.15 m in length and between 0.66/0.90 m width in **baulk C013/C014**, 1×0.66 m in **baulk C017/C013** and 1×0.60 m in **baulk C021/C017** (between one and two identifiable courses). In this campaign, the identified wall segments measure a total of 3.15 m in length which add to the 35.15 m previously identified. The segments are parallel with sidewalks **T001**, **T002** (who border the wall to the E), street **ST01** and in **C021/C017** the wall intersects with **Z005** (**21004/17004**). In **baulk C013/C014**, **Z017** also changes its trajectory on a N-S direction, as it is displaced approx. 30 cm to the east.

Z018: first discovered in 2014 and later in 2018, a new segment (**41004/10004**) was identified in **baulk C041/C010**, sq. D₁, at -0.03 m. It is oriented E-W, and it is built of unfashioned and fashioned (*spolia*) medium- and large-sized stones bound with earth and the measurements are 1.46×0.87×0.58 m (four courses identified, the fifth was partially replaced with a yellow clay filling, at the moment it was dismantled down to the present level). It seems that this segment of **Z018** had an initial phase where on the surface it functioned as an entrance, and a second phase where the entrance was blocked and on the surface a silt floor was overlaid (some traces of hard yellow silt were found over it in 2020).

Z020: it was first identified in 2014 in **C009**, with a new segment (**9004/36004**) unearthed in 2019, in **baulk C009/C036**. The wall is oriented N-S, built of unfashioned and fashioned (*spolia*) stones bound with earth, and it measures 4.2×0.84×0.44 m (four courses identified). The wall intersects with **Z004**, oriented E-W, in the same baulk.

Z027: initially discovered in 2014 in **C007** and later in **C015**, **C020**, **C024** and the baulks between them, a new section (**23004/26004**) was identified in 2020 in **baulk C023/C026** at +0.36 m. It is oriented NNE-SSW, built of unfashioned and fashioned (*spolia*) variable sized stones bound with earth and measures 1.2×0.67×0.2 m (one course visible). The wall intersects **Z012** in this baulk.

Z030: the wall was initially identified in 2015 in **C026** and in 2016 in **C029**. In 2019 a new segment was discovered in the baulk separating those two excavation units, namely **C026/C029**, in sq. A₂, at +0.63 m. Its measurements in the baulk's area are 0.40×0.68×0.86 m and it is built of unfashioned and fashioned (*spolia*) stones bound with earth. The structure is oriented NW-SE and in the S-W direction the wall is dismantled by the debris. A threshold (**26003/29003**), which gave access to the *domus* from the street is connected to the wall. In 2020 the excavations resumed in **C029**, and the lower debris layer was completely excavated, thus unveiling the lower part of the wall. Initially, its height measured 0.56 m (seven courses visible), but after the remaining debris was fully excavated, it changed to 1.2 m (11 courses visible).

Z031: initially identified in 2015 in **C019**, a new segment was discovered in 2019 in **C046**. This segment measures 1.10×0.70 m and it is built of unfashioned and fashioned (*spolia*) stones bound with earth, oriented E-W. The wall intersects with **Z060 (46005)**, oriented N-S and with the **T004** sidewalk, oriented E-W.

Z044: it was initially identified in 2016 in **C029**, and later in 2017, in **C035** and **C036**, and 2018 in **baulk C035/C036**, while in 2019 and 2020 four new segments were uncovered in **C029/C035 (29003/35003)**, **C029/C040 (29003/40003)**, **C035/C039 (35005/39005)** and **C036/C041 (36004/41004)**. The segments measure 1×0.66×0.35/1.22 m in **C029/C035**, 3.94×0.70×0.52 m in **C029/C040**, 3.8×0.62×0.25/0.64 m in **C035/C039**, 1.90×0.63×0.65 m in **C036/C041** and are built of unfashioned and fashioned (*spolia*) medium sized stones bound with earth. In **C035/C039**, **Z044** is oriented E-W, with a varying height in sq. A₁ of 0.25 m (three courses visible) and in sq. A₃₋₄ of 0.64 m (six courses identified), and it intersects with **Z059 (35006/39006)**, oriented N-S. The segment in **C036/C041** was discovered at +0.69 m (six courses visible) and it intersects with **Z052 (36005/41005)**. Also in 2020, in **C029** the lower debris layer was fully excavated, thus the height of the segment there changed to 1.23 m and also a plinth (three courses visible) was discovered. The wall is associated with **Z030**, **Z052**, **Z058** and **Z059**, and also with pavements **P007**, **P011** and **P022**.

Z050: first discovered in the 2018 campaign in **C039** and **C041**, a new segment was unearthed in 2019, in the baulk between those two square sections, namely **C039/C041**, in sq. A₁. The segment (**39005/41005**) is rectangular, measuring 1.04×0.38 m and it is built of unfashioned and fashioned (*spolia*) stones and CBM bound with earth. The wall is oriented E-W and set against **Z051 (39004/41004)**.

Z051: originally discovered in 2018, a new segment was unearthed in 2019, in **baulk C039/C041**. The wall is built of unfashioned and fashioned (*spolia*) stones bound with earth and has a rectangular shape. It measures 1.05×0.47×0.38/0.20 m, height of 0.38 m/0.20 m (five, respectively three courses found). It is set against wall **Z050 (39005/41005)**, and it delimits the **39003/41003** floor to the N.

Z053: the wall was initially discovered in 2018, with a new segment identified in the 2019 campaign, in sq. A₃ of **baulk C036/C041**, at +0.71 m. It is built of unfashioned and fashioned (*spolia*) stones bound with earth, oriented N-S and measures 0.79×0.60×0.38/0.50 m (four, respectively three courses visible), where it also has an associated pavement, made of CBM. The segment intersects with **Z044 (36004/41004)**, and it delimits to the W the **36003/41003** floor.

Z058: was identified in 2016 in **C032** and in 2018 in **C040**, but also in 2019, in **baulk C029/C040 (29004/40004)**. It is made of unfashioned and fashioned (*spolia*) stones bound with earth and his measurements are 0.70×0.44×0.23 m (one course discovered). The wall has a rectangular shape, and it is oriented NE-SW, while it also intersects with **Z044**, and it is bordered to the E by the **P011** pavement.

Z059: first identified in 2018, a new segment (**35006/39006**) was unearthed in 2019, in **baulk C035/C039**, sq. A₂. It is built of unfashioned and fashioned (*spolia*) stones bound with earth and it is oriented N-S. The measurements are 0.88×0.78×0.16/0.57 m (two, respectively eight courses visible). **Z059** intersects in the same baulk with **Z044 (35005/39005)**, oriented E-W.

Z060: discovered in 2019 and 2020 in **C046 (46005)**, sq. A-C₄ and B-C₃ (Fig. 17), and **C051 (51004)**, the wall segments are built of unfashioned and fashioned (*spolia*) stones bound with earth and are oriented N-S. In **C046** the measurements are 1.90×0.70 m (two courses identified) and it intersects **Z031**. It is associated with sidewalk **T004**, oriented E-W, while in **C051** it measures 0.6×0.3×0.24 m (one course visible).

Z061: the wall segments were discovered first in 2019 in **C047 (47006)** at -0.28 m, in sq. A₃-D₄ (fig. 14) and then in 2020 in **C052**. They are built of unfashioned and fashioned (*spolia*) medium- and small-sized stones bound with earth, they have a rectangular shape and are oriented N-S. In **C047** the measurements changed to 2.98×0.72×0.36 m (three courses visible on the W side), and we established that it intersects with **Z062 (47005)** and is set against pavement **P019**, while in **C052** the wall measures 0.9×0.7×0.2 m (two, respectively three courses visible) and it intersects with **Z066**.

Z062: the wall was discovered in 2019 in two different trenches (Fig. 19 and 20), namely **C047 (47005)**, at -0.11 m in sq. B-C₂₋₃, and **C048 (48003)**. It is built of unfashioned and fashioned (*spolia*) medium- and small-sized stones bound with earth, but also CBM and *dolia* fragments. The wall has a rectangular shape, and it is oriented E-W. In **C047** the segment measures on his N side 1.46×0.55×0.60 m (six courses visible) and it intersects with **Z061 (47006)**, which is oriented N-S, and there also seems to be a blocked entrance in the W end (**47007**). In **C048** the segment measurements are 3.44×0.56×0.62/0.53 m (five, respectively seven courses visible), while the courses from the top of the wall are leaning N, disrupted by the debris. It intersects in the same square section with **Z063**, which is mostly covered by **baulk C048/C049**.

Z063: it was discovered in 2019 (Fig. 20) in C048, sq. A-C1. The wall is oriented N-S, it is built of unfashioned and fashioned (*spolia*) stones bound with earth and it measures 3×0.30×0.65 m. Most of the wall segment is covered by baulk C048/C049 and it intersects Z062 in the same square trench, which is oriented E-W.

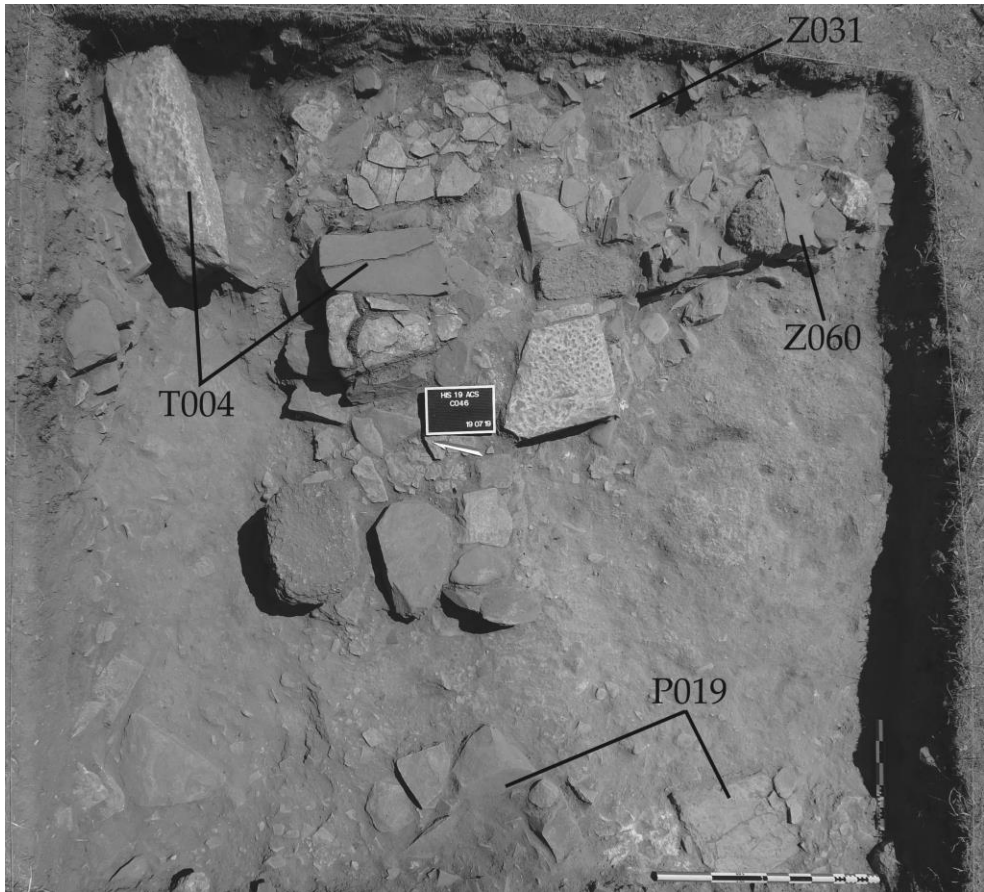


Fig. 17. Z060, P019 and T004 (V. Bottez).

Z064: identified in the 2019 campaign in C049, sq. A-D₃₋₄, at +0.47 m (Fig. 21 and 22), and represents the continuation of a wall from the Eastern buildings of the *Basilica Pârvoan* Sector. The segment is built of unfashioned and fashioned (*spolia*) stones bound with earth, it has a rectangular shape, and it is oriented NW-SE. In sq. A₃ and D₃, two counterforts were discovered. The measurements are 3.93×0.72×0.51 m (five, respectively four courses visible).



Fig. 18. Z061 (V. Bottez).

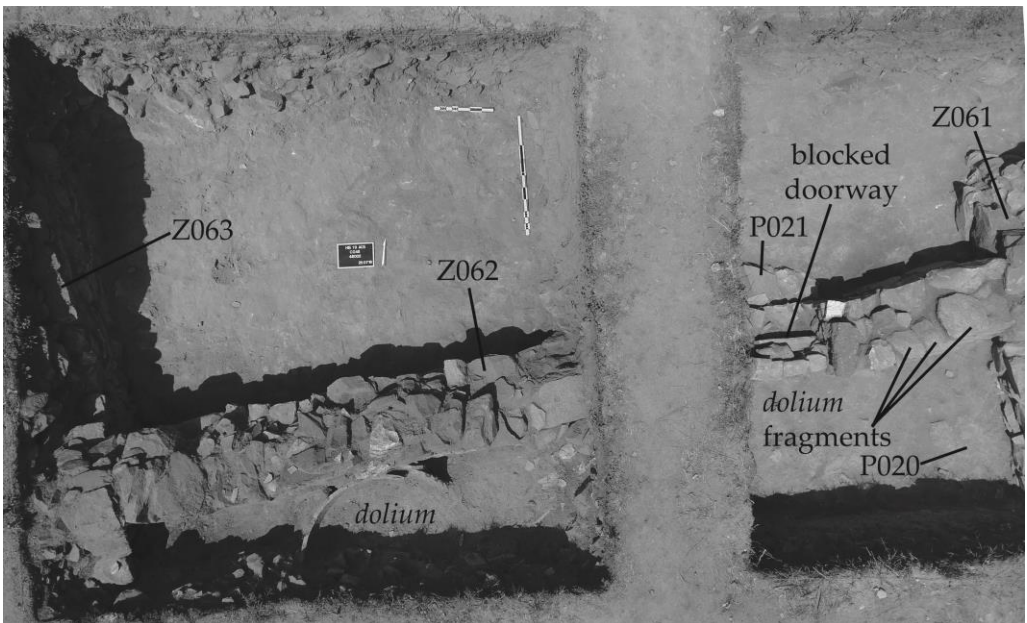


Fig. 19. Z062 and Z063 (V. Bottez).

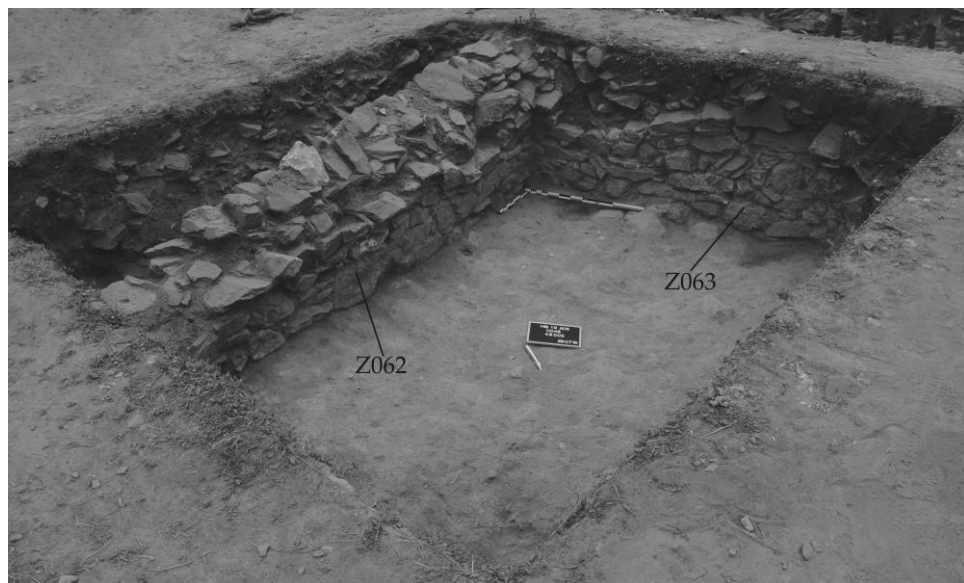


Fig. 20. Z062 and Z063 (V. Bottez).



Fig. 21. Z064 (V. Bottez).

Z065: unearthed in 2019 in C050, sq. A-D₃, at +0.44 m, the wall is built of unfashioned and fashioned (*spolia*) stones bound with earth (Fig. 22). It is oriented NE-SW and has a length of 3.82 m and a height of approximately 0.69 m (eight courses identified). The wall delimits a living surface (50004) to the E and a potential floor (50005) to the W.



Fig. 22. Z065 (with Z064 in the background) (V. Bottez).

Z066: identified in the 2020 campaign in C052 (52006) and C053 (53004), the two segments have a combined length of 5.2 m, and their width is 0.7 m (Fig. 23). They are oriented E-W, built of unfashioned and fashioned (*spolia*) stones and CBM bound with earth. In C052 the wall is better preserved (six courses visible), while in C053 it was severely affected by the debris (one, respectively two courses visible). They are both parallel with the **Late Roman defensive wall** and in C053 the wall intersects with Z061.

Z067: it was identified in 2020 in C051, sq. B₁₋₂, at -0.55 m. Oriented E-W, it has a rectangular shape, and it is built of unfashioned and fashioned (*spolia*) stones bound with earth. It measures 0.66×0.27×0.1 m (one course identified).

The Late Roman defensive wall: discovered in 2020 in C052 at -1.78 m and in C053 at -1.69 m, at the S limit of the acropolis (Fig. 23-25). Both segments are oriented SW-NE, run in a straight line and are built using fashioned (including *spolia*) and unfashioned stones bound with mortar. Their measurements are 3.74×0.37×0.1 m in C052 and 2.2×0.8 in C053 (one course identified in both, as the objective was to identify the wall's trajectory, but they should continue to descend at least another 2 m).

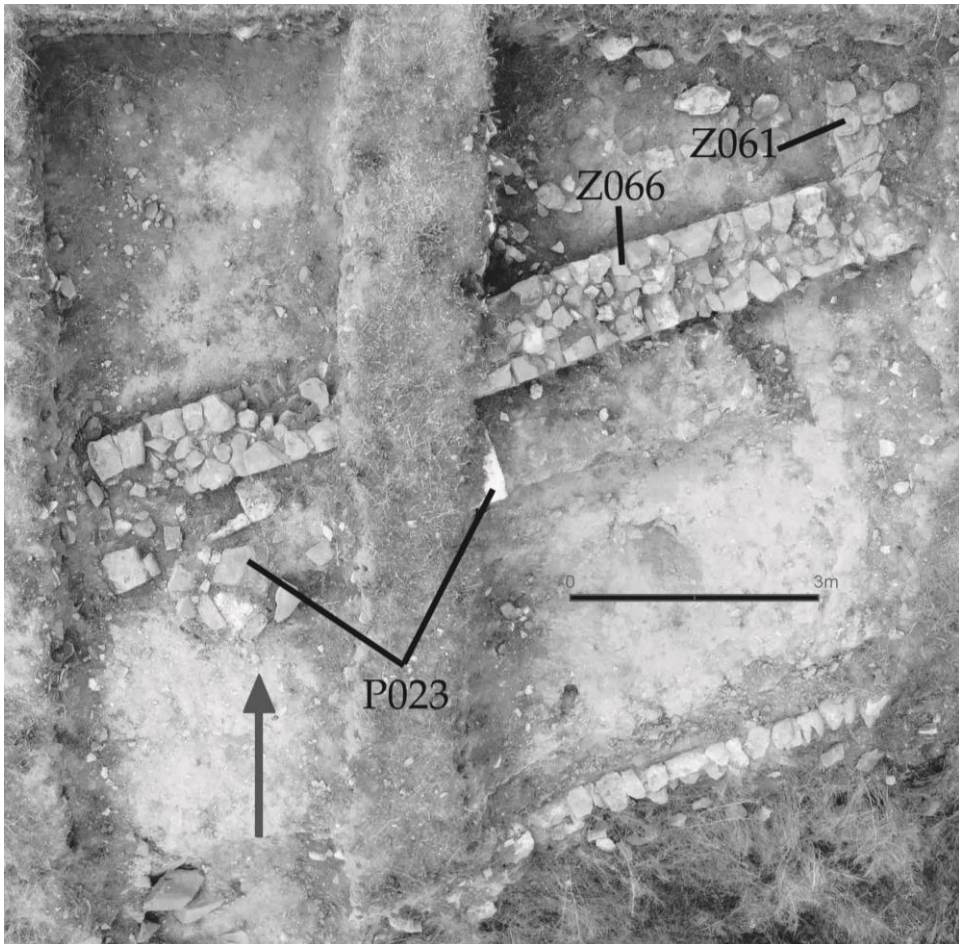


Fig. 23. Z066 and P023 (V. Bottez).

FINAL REMARKS

Even without combining the information presented above with the detailed analysis of the discovered material – and this will be done in the final publications –, we can still draw a series of preliminary conclusions, which maybe will be modified once we continue the excavation.

The streets

Thus, the excavation of baulks C013/C014, C017/C013, and C021/C017, on the eastern side confirm that the buildings along ST01 were lined with discontinuous sidewalks, developed and adapted to a specific use in connection to the structures they bordered.

The structure (17003/13003) consisting of two large stone slabs (Fig. 9), identified in **C017/C013**, could represent what is left of the **T002** sidewalk, after the segment of **Z017** was dismantled, to create a new entrance to the inner courtyard; another possibility is that, together with the beginning of **T002** to the south, it could have provided the base for support elements (columns/wooden poles?) that could have flanked the main entrance to the inner courtyard, in an area that **Z017** is wider; a third possibility is that it could have been just a bench by the side of the entrance¹⁰.

Spaces

NNSp06 (Fig. 4 and 26). The excavation of **baulks C023/C026, C026/C029, C029/C035** led to the uncovering of the entire room that forms **NNSp06** and to the identification of several interesting pieces of information. First of all, the impressive quantity of **CBM** and adobe construction material/mud bricks, coupled with the identification of a plinth to **Z044** (Fig. 27), indicates not only that **NNSp06** had a brick pavement, but that it probably had a second level, and that the first one was lower than the level of **ST02**. This explains why **T005** was set in front of the entrance – to prevent the flooding, and not as a second phase of the building¹¹. Also, along the southern side of **Z012** (in **baulk C023/C026**) we discovered a thick (10-12 cm) layer of adobe facing/plaster (Fig. 28), which indicates that **NNSp06** was probably insulated against humidity.

NNSp07b. The excavation of **baulk C009/C036** led to a better understanding of **NNSp07b** (Fig. 4 and 29), which was created by the building of **Z020** which, together with **Z004** and **Z045**, delimited it. At that point, **Z019**, which used to delimit **NNSp07** to the south was already dismantled, and a hard yellow silt layer passed over it. **NNSp07b** though received a brick pavement with a hard yellow silt substruction and, to other knowledge, is the only space which functioned in the first half of the 7th c. AD from *Insula Ia*. The dating is ensured by the discovery of two nearly complete *spatheia* of type Keay 26/Bonifay 33, variant 3B (Fig. 30/1-2) in the corner formed between **Z020** and **Z004**.

SNSp14. Although we cannot follow the trajectory of **ST01** as far south as the **LRDW** (due to the presence there of a topographic point that is part of the national topographic grid – and therefore cannot be removed), it is fairly clear that **Z071** stops at the intersection with **Z021**, and that the space developing westwards (**SNSp14**) is an open one. The first argument for this theory is the presence of two sidewalk-like structures, called **T003** and **T004?**, which were either part of the same pavement or (more likely) they constituted borders between an open space between **Z021** and **Z031**, called **SNSp14** (Fig. 4). **P015** and **P019** were probably also part of this paved, open

¹⁰ We would like to thank Prof. Adam Rabinowitz for the last suggestion.

¹¹ In Bottez *et alii* 2018, 316, we noted that **T005** was associated with the *blocked* entrance to **NNSp06**, a hypothesis which we have now abandoned.

space. What could the latter's functionality have been? Our working theory is that it could represent part of the trajectory of an old street that ran along the **LRDW** towards the so-called *Basilica Pârvan* to the west, or at least it provided access from **ST01** to the space along the **LRDW**, which we called **SNSp15**.

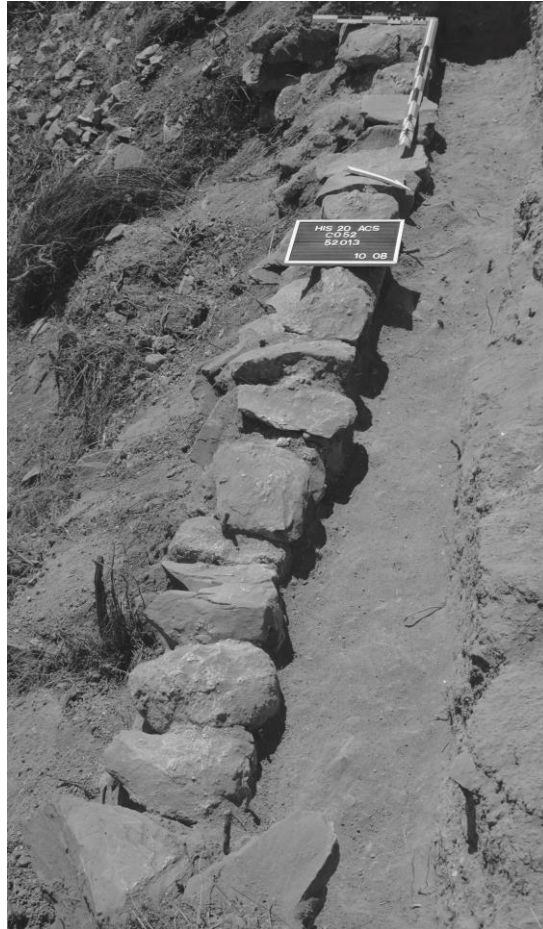


Fig. 24. The **LRDW** in **C052** (V. Bottez).

SNSp15 (Fig. 4). This space was later blocked/delimited by **Z067** (which could have also marked an entrance to it), a *dolium* was added and it was transformed in a storage space. **P024** consolidated the area around the stone support structure built for a *dolium*, a large fragment of which was discovered collapsed eastwards, over **Z060**, which could indicate that this structure was already destroyed when the *dolium* collapsed from its place. The large slab of stone in the SW part of **C052**, south of **Z066**,

coupled with the stones found further west, in **C053**, along **Z066**, could have represented a pavement that covered **SNSp15** at least partially. The discovery of **Z060** helped delimit **SNSp15** to the east, as well as **SNSp09** (of which only **Z031** and **Z032** was known, until now) to the west.

SNSp08 and **SNSp12** (Fig. 4). These two are treated together, as it is clear they form a separate building. **Z055**, **Z063** and **Z061** delimit a rather narrow space, called **SNSp12**. **Z061**, **Z062** and **Z066** delimit a newly identified space, namely **SNSp08**, which also was a storage space, as a fragmentary large *dolium* was discovered *in situ*, near its northwestern corner. **P021** consolidates the floor in front of doorway between **SNSp12** and **SNSp08**, which also supports the hypothesis that **SNSp12**, to the north, was an open space. We must also note that the doorway was blocked, probably during the *insula's* second functioning phase. Some very interesting information comes from these spaces, as far as the construction technique is concerned. In the eastern part of **Z062**, between the doorway and **Z061**, the wall was built of – apart from greenschist stones, bound with earth – CBM, and also *dolium* fragments (Fig. 10), cut to fit the width of the wall – which is a first in this sector and, indeed (from what we know, at least), in *Istros*.

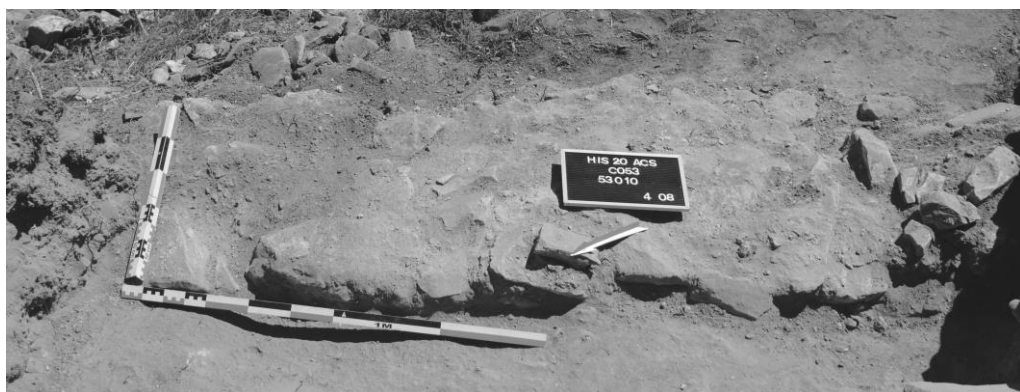


Fig. 25. The LRDW in **C053** (V. Bottez).

SNSp10 (Fig. 4). **Z064** and **Z065**, together maybe with **Z056** to the north, delimit a newly identified space, namely **SNSp10**. The conformation of this space remains to be investigated by future excavations, as there is a clear difference in building quality between **Z064** and **Z065** on one side (regular material, tightly built – Fig. 21 and 22), and **Z056** (made up of rather loose pieces of *spolia*). **SNSp10** is probably delimited by a wall to the south, which we will identify once we excavate the area south of **C049** and **C050**.



Fig. 26. NNSp06 (V. Bottez).

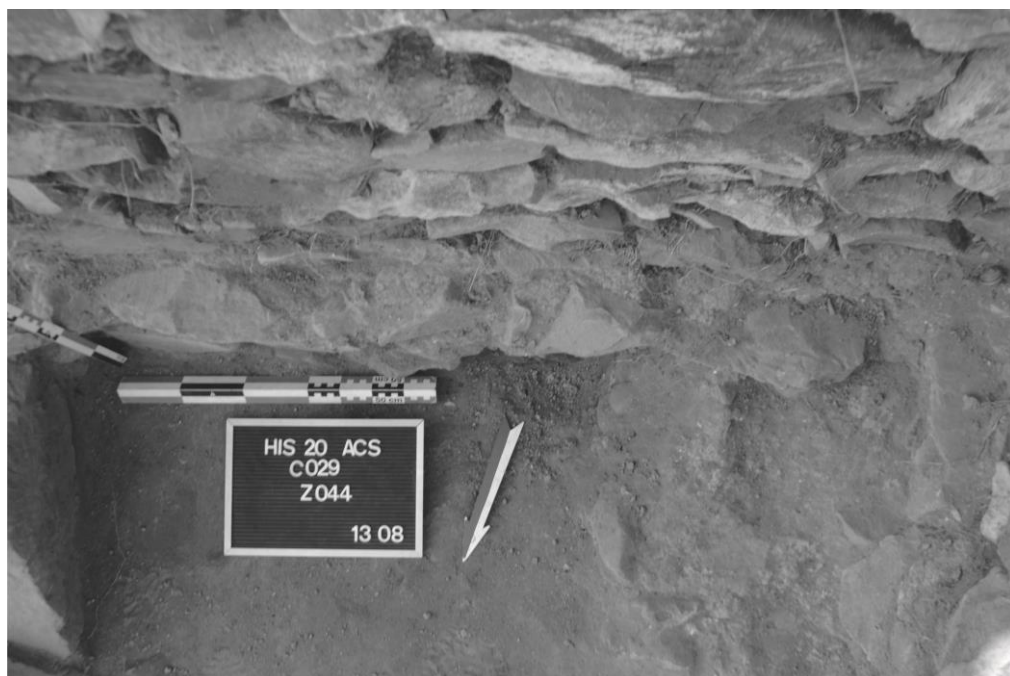


Fig. 27. Plinth of Z044 (V. Bottez).



Fig. 28. Adobe insulation of the southern face of Z012 (V. Bottez).

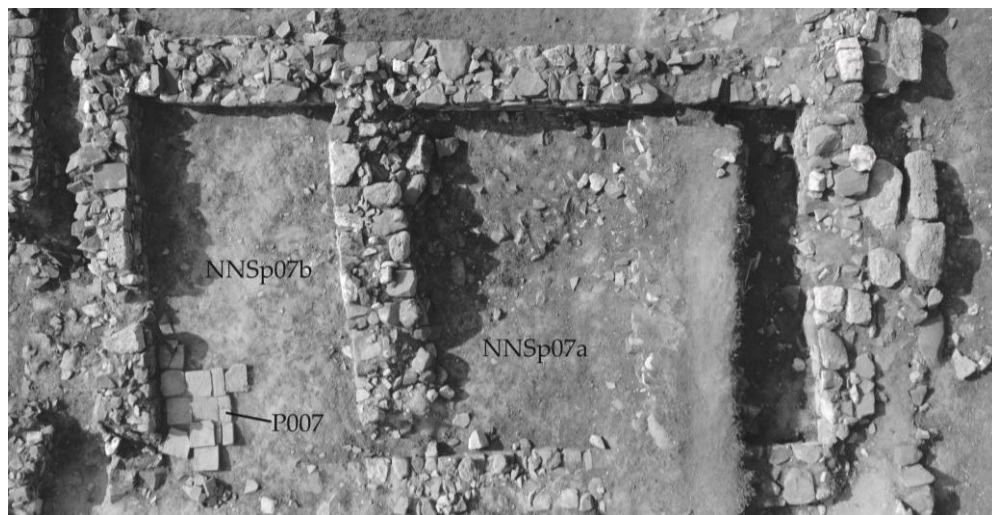


Fig. 29. NNSp07a and NNSp07b (V. Bottez).

The roofs

Although a future article will give more precise figures, the *tegulae* and *imbrices* discovered in 2019-2020 indicate a clear trend, namely that the Laconian ones predominate (with a huge difference in the case of the *imbrices* – only a few, fragmentary Corinthian *imbrices* were identified). We therefore expect that most of the

roofs used Laconian tiles, and some used a hybrid system (Corinthian *tegulae* with Laconian *imbrices*). At the same time, we must note that in none of the excavated spaces did we find roof tiles of the same type (size wise), which indicated that most of them were *spolia*. A third aspect is the fact that we identified many fragments of roof tiles used as construction materials *in the walls*. All three aspects indicate that we will not be able to have a clear final image on the roofs that covered *Insula Ia*.

Remarks on the pottery

The ceramic material discovered during the 2019-2020 campaigns follows the directions observed for the previous years¹². All functional categories are attested (from storage and transport vessels to cooking and tableware), and each is characterized by a wide morphological and typological diversity. Chronologically, the vast majority of the material is dated to the 6th – early-7th c. AD, which is not unusual, given the general archaeological complex they belong to. For the first phases of *Insula Ia*, one can mention the numerous East-Mediterranean amphorae (*e.g.*, LRA 1, LRA 2, LRA 4; unillustrated)¹³, as well as North-African¹⁴, Micro-Asian¹⁵ and probably Pontic tableware – ARSW, types Atlante XLVI/10 (Fig. 30/3) and Hayes 104 B (Fig. 30/4); LRCW, Form Hayes 3, types E-H (Fig. 31/2-3, 6-7); PRSW, Form 3 (Fig. 32/5) –, and lighting objects¹⁶ (Fig. 33). The last phase of the building, dated to the late-6th – first decades of the 7th century, is represented by several North-African *spatheion* amphorae of type Keay 26/Bonifay 33, variant 3B¹⁷ (Fig. 30/1-2), the late variants of the Late Roman C production (Form Hayes 10, types B-C; Fig. 31/4-5), the “Grey gritty ware” pots of type Kuzmanov 1985, VII/62 (Fig. 32/1), and the late Micro-Asian and Danubian lamps.

Moreover, pottery from earlier periods has also been found, but in much smaller numbers. Thus, several discoveries seem to be related to the previous building, *Insula Ib*, which functioned in the 4th-5th centuries. To this horizon belong a North-African bowl of type Hayes 62 (Fig. 30/5), the early forms of Phocaeen tableware (LRCW, Form Hayes 1; Fig. 31/1), as well as most of the Pontic Red Slip Ware (Form 1 B plates – Fig. 32/2; Forms 4-5 bowls – Fig. 33/3-4).

¹² See Bottez *et alii* 2018, 321, Fig. 27/1-5; Bottez 2022, 261, Fig. 30-31.

¹³ For previous East-Mediterranean amphorae see Bădescu, Bivolaru 2015.

¹⁴ For the complete repertoire of the African Red Slip Wares discovered on this Sector between 2013 and 2020 see Iliescu, Bottez 2021a, 138-140.

¹⁵ Several Late Roman C vessels dated to the 6th century were recently published: Țârlea, Iliescu, Bottez 2022, 153-161.

¹⁶ For a more detailed presentation of the lamps from the *Acropolis Centre-South* Sector see Iliescu, Bottez 2021b.

¹⁷ For the complete repertoire of the small-sized *spatheia* discovered on this Sector between 2013 and 2020 see Iliescu, Bottez 2021a, 134-138.

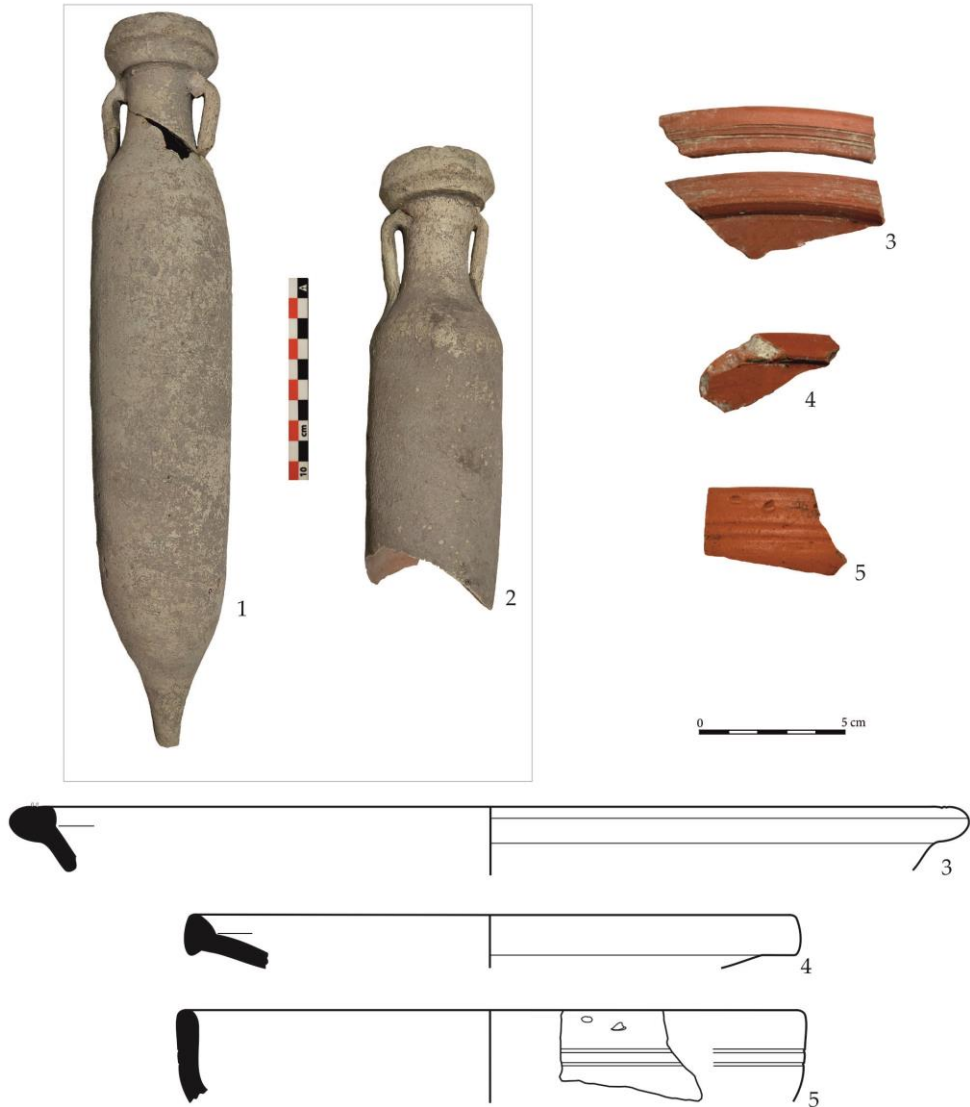


Fig. 30. North-African pottery: 1-2. *Spatheion*-type amphorae, Keay 26/Bonifay 33 type, variant 3B; 3. ARSW, Atlante XLVI/10 type bowl; 4. ARSW, Hayes 104 B type plate; 5. ARSW, Hayes 62 type bowl (I. Iliescu).

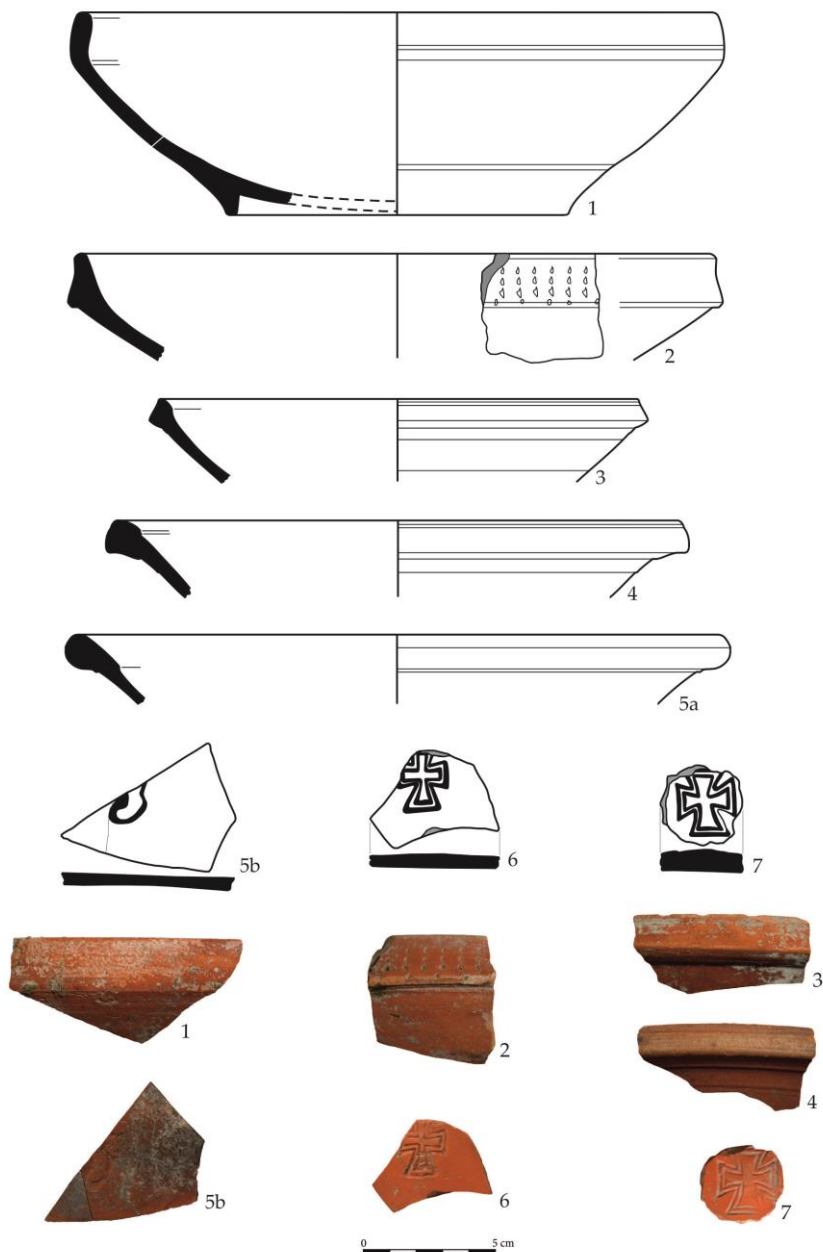


Fig. 31. Micro-Asian pottery – Late Roman C tableware: 1. Form Hayes 1; 2. Form Hayes 3, type E; 3. Form Hayes 3, type H; 4. Form Hayes 10, type B; 5. Form Hayes 10, type C; 6-7. Form 3 base fragments with stamped decoration (I. Iliescu).

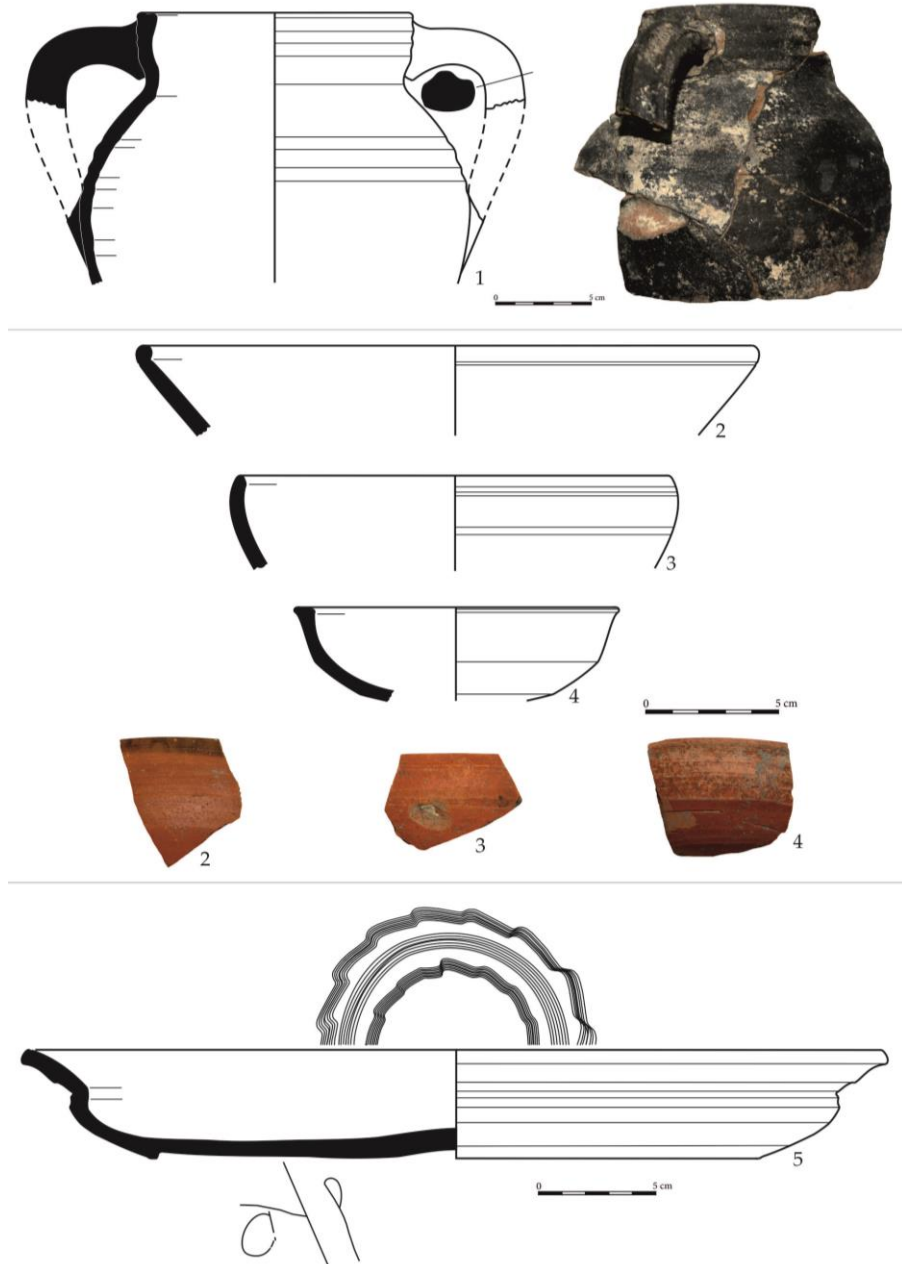


Fig. 32. Pontic pottery: 1. "Grey gritty ware" pot, type Kuzmanov 1985, type VII/62; 2-5. Pontic Red Slip Ware: 2. Form 1 B plate; 3. Form 4 bowl; 4. Form 5 bowl; 5. Form 3 platter (I. Iliescu).

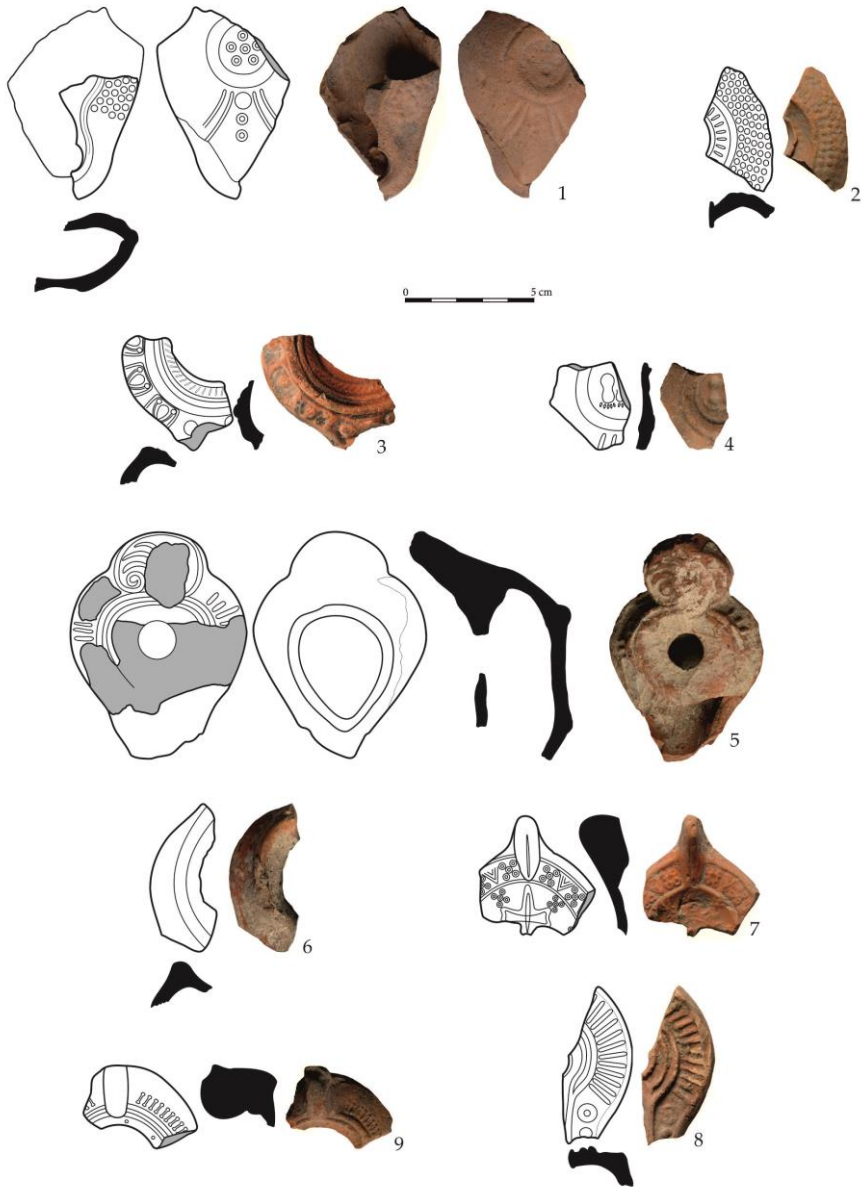


Fig. 33. Lamps: 1-4. Asia Minor type lamps (Broneer XXIX, Group 3-4); 5. Danubian type lamp (Iconomu 1967, type XXXIII); 6. Constantinople type lamp (type Hayes 9); 7. North-African type lamp, Athenian imitation (Atlante X/Hayes 1972, type II); 8. North-African type lamp, provincial imitation (Iconomu 1986, type XLVI, variant II); 9. Danubian type lamp (Iconomu 1967, type XXXII) (I. Iliescu).

FUTURE OBJECTIVES

In the following years, the excavation will develop by the digging of the area south of **C049** and **C050**, thereby finalising the joining with the *Basilica Pârvan* Sector. We will also have to start new cassettes along **ST02**, in order to uncover the western side of *Insula Ia* and continue excavating the baulks in the northern and southern nuclei. Finally, we will have to excavate the consistent layer of debris in **NNSp06**, that could indicate a hearth and an internal adobe/mudbrick structure.

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