

## LAMPS DISCOVERED AT HISTRIA, IN THE ACROPOLA CENTRU-SUD SECTOR IN 2014

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**Cuvinte cheie:** *Antichitatea târzie, epocă romană, Scythia, Histria, opaițe.*

**Keywords:** *Late Antiquity, Roman period, Scythia, Histria, lamps.*

**Rezumat:** Chiar dacă reprezintă o categorie ceramică importantă, atât sub aspectul cantității materialului descoperit în timpul cercetărilor arheologice, cât și sub cel al informațiilor cronologice pe care le oferă, opaițele nu au captat, încă, suficient interesul specialiștilor.

**Summary:** Even if it represents an important ceramic category, given the quantity of material discovered during archaeological excavations, as well as the chronological information they offer, lamps have not drawn enough the attention of specialists.

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Research on the *Acropolă Centru-Sud* Sector started in 2013, through an initial four-year research project financed and coordinated by the University of Bucharest<sup>1</sup>. The sector covers a surface of approximately 50 × 40 m (2000m<sup>2</sup>) and is located S of the centre of the acropolis of Histria (and of *street c*), namely in an area of great importance for the city throughout its existence (**Pl. 1**). N of the sector lies the Episcopal Basilica<sup>2</sup>; to the E lies Sector *Domus*<sup>3</sup>, where a series of large buildings are concentrated, dated to the same period as the Episcopal Basilica; to the S the sector is delimited by the Late Roman defence wall; to the SW lies another Christian basilica (in a sector conventionally named *Basilica*

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<sup>1</sup> A preliminary report by V. Bottez, Al. Lițu and Al. Țârlea, containing all the details, is in print in *Materiale și Cercetări Arheologice* 2015.

<sup>2</sup> SUCEVEANU 2007.

<sup>3</sup> CONDURACHI *et alii* 1954, p. 324–349; BOUNEGRU & LUNGU 2003–2005.

*Pârvan*)<sup>4</sup>; finally, to the W lies the *Cetate* Sector, probably a residential area during the Late Roman period<sup>5</sup>.

The sector's general objective is to bring to light the Late Roman district between the *Cetate* and *Domus* sector, following which we will continue by uncovering what is left of the Early Roman district underneath and the Greek one further down, until we reach the bedrock.

The sector's specific objectives aim at obtaining stratigraphical data through a main N–S stratigraphic profile connecting **street c** to the N with the Late Roman defense wall to the S; also, we intend to delimit the Late Roman *insulae* and compare them with those from previous periods, in order to understand the area's urban development. Finally, we intend to identify the N–S and E–W streets in order to understand how the area covered by the sector was connected with the surrounding complexes.

We have therefore developed the excavation in a way that would fulfill the general and specific objectives mentioned above (**Pl. 2**). In order to obtain a N–S profile we opened in 2013 four trenches on a N–S direction (*C001-004*), followed in 2014 by another four (*C009, 010, 011* and *018*). In 2013 we opened another four trenches (*C005, 006, 007, 008*) W of the first four, trying to identify the W limits of *CR01*. In 2014 we tried to identify *CR01*'s E limits and opened *C012, 013, 014, 016* and *017* to the E, along what proved to be a street (*ST01*). We also opened *C015* to the W in order to identify *CR01*'s W limit, which we finally succeeded by discovering a second street, *ST02*. Until the present moment we have also excavated several baulks between the different trenches, in order to better understand certain layers or structures.

From a stratigraphical point of view, in all excavation units we stopped digging once we reached the latest living surface (second half of the 6<sup>th</sup> c. AD), as we intend to first delimit the *insula* from that period and only afterwards to continue down to previous periods. The main stratigraphic results generally indicate that, under a vegetal layer, lies the debris of the last construction level (second half of the 6<sup>th</sup> – beginning of the 7<sup>th</sup> c. AD). We were able to distinguish two moments in the formation of this debris layer: the earliest, characterised by intense burn traces, marks the destruction of the last construction level; the latest, containing far fewer burn traces, marks the final collapse of those buildings after their abandon and possible spoliation.

We also had some very interesting results concerning the structures in this area. We identified a large building, with a large inner court, similar to those in the *Domus* sector, conventionally called *CR01*. It has two construction phases, identifiable through a series of changes in its structure and plan. *CR01* is delimited to the N by **street c** and to the E and W by the two streets (*ST01* and

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<sup>4</sup> For the results of recent, as well as old excavations in this area see ANGELESCU & BOTTEZ 2009, BOTTEZ 2014; an article written by V. Bottez on the Greek building discovered in this area will appear in the BARIS volume with the proceedings of the International Pontic Studies Congress held in Belgrade in 2013.

<sup>5</sup> MUNTEANU 2011, p. 33-42.

ST02) we discovered in 2014. We also discovered that CR01 had sidewalks on part of its E side and maybe on its S side. From a chronological point of view, up to the present moment there is no indication to suggest that the building was raised earlier than the 6<sup>th</sup> c. AD. Its second construction phase can be dated – at the present stage of the research – to the reign of Iustinus II. Its functionality remains uncertain for now, but it seems to have been a residence. In it we discovered a large quantity of pottery, part of which is published in the present paper<sup>6</sup>.

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### I. LAMPS – *Lucernae*

Even if it represents an important ceramic category, given the quantity of material discovered during archaeological excavations, as well as the chronological information they offer, lamps have not drawn enough the attention of specialists. So, with the exception of the *lucernae* published in excavation reports and in general works, very few studies were dedicated exclusively to lamps<sup>7</sup>.

#### I.1.1. Iconomu 1967, type XXX, no. 754<sup>8</sup>

*General description of the type:* the body is piriform, with the spout as a prolongation, the disc is small, flat and oval, surrounded by a double protruding rib that forms a duct on the spout and includes the flame orifice. The margin is narrow, oblique and slightly rounded, the handle is blade-shaped, the base is oval

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<sup>6</sup> Another paper on the pottery discovered in this sector by Al. Bădescu and Al. Bivolaru is in print in *Materiale și Cercetări Arheologice* 2015.

<sup>7</sup> We must mention here I. Barnea, who wrote an article on the lamps decorated with Christian symbols (BARNEA 1944), C. Iconomu, with a work dedicated to the Greek and Roman lamps in the Archaeological Museum of Constanța (ICONOMU 1967). In that catalog, the author presented the different types of lamps, using the essential morphological and decoration elements as classification criteria. Due to the lack of archaeological discovery context, only a small part of the types and variants presented could be dated. C. Iconomu signed two other articles, in 1970 and 1976, the former on a deposit of *lucernae* discovered at Tomis (ICONOMU 1970), the latter on the lamp moulds discovered in the same site (ICONOMU 1976). In the 70' two other articles on lamps were published, the first by Gh. Papuc, on the imported lamps at Tomis (PAPUC 1976), the second by C. Scorpan, who analysed the Roman-Byzantine lighting devices discovered in Scythia (SCORPAN 1973). There are also two other articles, one on the lamps discovered at Capidava (COVACEF & CORBU 1991; COVACEF 1993) and the other on the Greek and Roman lamps in the collections of the Museum of Brăila (HARTUCHE & BOUNEGRU 1982). In 1994, Emilian Popescu published an analysis of the early Christian objects discovered at Histria, in which one chapter is dedicated to the lamps decorated with Christian symbols (POPESCU 1994). *During the last two decades two site-monographs were published by F. Topoleanu (TOPOLEANU 2000) and I. C. Opriș (OPRIȘ 2003), which have chapters dedicated to the lamps, as well as a work, by F. Topoleanu, dedicated to the ancient lamps in the collection of the Prahova County History and Archaeology Museum (TOPOLEANU 2012).*

<sup>8</sup> General analogies: ICONOMU 1967, p. 27 - 28, fig. 54, p. 140, no. 727, inv. MINAC 6794 (5<sup>th</sup> 6<sup>th</sup> c. AD); WELKOV 1935, p. 156, Pl. 20, fig. 2/10 (6<sup>th</sup> c. AD); PERLZWEIG 1961, p. 199, no. 2935, Pl. 46 (6<sup>th</sup> c. AD); BASS & DOORNINCK Jr. 1982, p. 201, L 22, fig. 9-5 (beginning of 7<sup>th</sup> c. AD); GOMOLKA-FUKHS 1982, p. 166-67, pl. 69, no. 673.

and flat. The disc is decorated with protruding radial lines, which could suggest a North-African influence<sup>9</sup>.

*Origin:* morphologically similar to the Oriental type Iconomu LI, this type of lamps were – probably – also produced in Scythia, at Halmyris<sup>10</sup>. Anyway, the quality of the material and the finishing are arguments in favor of a provincial production in the Western Black Sea. The two lamps discovered at Histria pertain to variant A.

*Diffusion:* in Scythia they are attested at Halmyris<sup>11</sup>, Tomis<sup>12</sup>, Histria<sup>13</sup> and Dinogetia<sup>14</sup>; Atena<sup>15</sup>, Iatrus<sup>16</sup>, Sadovec<sup>17</sup>.

*Dating:* second half of the 6<sup>th</sup> c. AD

*Catalog\**

1. Lamp (fragmentary, the spout and part of the disc are missing), bivalve mould. Oxidant primary burn, uniform, fine paste, yellowish red (5YR4/6), with limestone deposits on the inner and outer surfaces; very small iron oxide particles and very fine pores. Dimensions: Lp = 72 mm, Dp = 59 mm, Hp = 43 mm; Hb = 12.5 mm; Gr max handle = 16 mm; l max handle = 22 mm. Histria 2014, sector ACS, context 16002, package 361, **Pl. 3-4/1**. Approx. 55% of the body was preserved. The disc is small, slightly oval, concave, with the oil orifice in the centre, delimited by a margin with two bands that start near the handle towards the spout in order to form the duct. The side is decorated with radial lines, the ring-shape base with a hardly visible cross in the centre. The handle is blade-shaped, trapezoidal (with the larger side outwards), attached to the side.

2. Lamp (fragmentary, with the spout, handle and 60 % of the body missing), bivalve mould. Oxidant primary burn, uniform, fine paste, light red (2.5YR6/8), with limestone deposits on the inner and outer surfaces; very small iron oxide particles and very fine pores. Dimensions: Lp = 79 mm, lp = 29 mm, Hp = 31 mm; Hb = 15 mm. Histria 2014, sector ACS, context 10001, package 51, **Pl. 3-4/2**. The disc is slightly oval, concave, with the oil orifice in the centre, delimited by a margin with two bands that start near the handle towards the spout. The side is decorated with radial lines and the base is ring-shaped.

<sup>9</sup> TOPOLEANU 2000, p. 202.

<sup>10</sup> TOPOLEANU 2000, p. 214 – 215.

<sup>11</sup> TOPOLEANU 2000, 215, cat. no. 561 - 564, pl. LXX/561 - 564; OPAIȚ 1991, p. 267, note 38.

<sup>12</sup> ICONOMU 1967, p. 27 - 28, fig. 54, p. 140, no. 727, inv. MINAC 6794; BARNEA 1968, p. 540, fig. 51.3 (dated to the 6<sup>th</sup> c. AD).

<sup>13</sup> Inv. MNIR 17469.

<sup>14</sup> BARNEA 1966, p. 243, Fig. 5/2.

<sup>15</sup> PERLZWEIG 1961, p. 199, no. 2935, Pl. 46.

<sup>16</sup> GOMOLKA-FUKHS 1982, p. 166-67, pl. 69, no. 673.

<sup>17</sup> WELKOV 1935, p. 156, Pl. 20, fig. 2/10.

\* Abbreviations: CN = Centre North; Lp = lungime păstrată/preserved length; lp = lățime păstrată/ preserved width; Dp = diametru păstrat/preserved diameter; Hp = înălțimea păstrată/preserved border; Hb = înălțimea bordurii/height of the border; Gr max handle = grosime maxima/maximum thickness of the handle; l max handle = lățime maxima/maximum width of the handle; MINAC = Muzeul de Istorie Națională și Arheologie Constanța (Museum of National History and Archaeology Constanța); MNIR = Muzeul Național de Istorie a României (Romanian National History Museum).

### I.1.2. Iconomu 1967, type XXX<sup>18</sup>

*General description of the type:* the body is large, tronconic, flat, with a wide side, decorated with 6-7 concentric rings<sup>19</sup> interrupted by the sides of the duct in the spout area and by the rig-shaped handle.

*Origin:* given the poor quality of the workmanship and clay, this type of lamp was probably produced in the Western Black Sea area, maybe even locally.

*Diffusion:* the only known analogy in Dobroudja is at Noviodunum, and the author of the study on this type of lamps at Noviodunum considers that it is an imitation of a metal North-African prototype produced in the 2<sup>nd</sup> – 3<sup>rd</sup> c. AD<sup>20</sup>.

*Dating:* second half of the 5<sup>th</sup> – first half of the 6<sup>th</sup> c. AD.

#### Catalog

3. Lamp (disc and handle fragment), bivalve mould. Oxidant primary burn, uniform, fine paste, light red (2.5YR6/6); very fine sand, very small mica particles, very fine pores. Dimensions: Lp = 50.3 mm, lp = 40 mm, Hb = 22.3 mm; Gr max handle = 12 mm; l max handle = 26 mm. Histria 2014, sector ACS, context 9001-10001, package 914, **Pl. 3-4/3**. Approx. 35% of the disc and handle were preserved. The margin is decorated with seven protruding parallel lines, set outside a circle around the oil orifice.

### I.2. Iconomu 1986, type XXXVII, variant II; Bruneau 1965, no. 4707<sup>21</sup>

*General description of the type:* the body is round or oval, with a wide spout as a prolongation. The disc is small, round or oval, slightly concave, bordered by a protruding rib that can be circular or open, forming a duct on the spout. The blade-shaped handle is low and rounded on the upper part. The base is round sometimes framed by two incised circles. The margin is decorated with small, compact pearls, usually set in three - four or up to six rows, parallel to the rib on the disc's margin. The disc can be decorated with floral and geometric motifs

<sup>18</sup> Analogies: BAUMANN 2009, p. 261, no. 142, p. 296, Fig. 18/142; BUSSIÈRE 2000, p. 379-380, no. 4236-4326.

<sup>19</sup> BAUMANN 2009, p. 261 (the piece from Noviodunum has 6 rings, the one from Histria 7).

<sup>20</sup> BAUMANN 2009, p. 261, no. 142.

<sup>21</sup> General analogies: ICONOMU 1967, p. 25 - 26, variant III, fig. 50, p. 136, inv. MINAC 885 (6<sup>th</sup> c. AD); ICONOMU 1986, type XXXVII, variant II, p. 80 - 83, Pl. VI/8 (6<sup>th</sup> c. AD); BRUNEAU 1965, p. 141, no. 4707 - 4709, Pl. 33 (6<sup>th</sup> c. AD); SCORPAN 1978, p. 160-161, no. 17, Pl. IV (6<sup>th</sup> c. AD); PREDA 1980, p. 30-31, Pl. LIV, M 251 (4<sup>th</sup> - 5<sup>th</sup> c. AD); BASS, DOORNINCK Jr. 1982, p. 193, L 12, fig. 9-4 (beginning of 7<sup>th</sup> c. AD); VASILČIN 1984, p. 23, no. 1 - 3, Pl. 1 (6<sup>th</sup> c. AD); DENEUEVE 1969, p. 224, type VII, no. 1135, Pl. CII (6<sup>th</sup> c. AD); VÂLCEANU & BARNEA A 1975, p. 210, fig. 1/3, 4 (6<sup>th</sup> c. AD); HARTUȚHE & ANASTASIU 1976, p. 270, no. 557 (5<sup>th</sup> c. AD); PETRE 1987, p. 80, E 127, Pl. 148, fig. 243 b (5<sup>th</sup> - 6<sup>th</sup> c. AD); BAILEY 1988, p. 371, fig. 162, Forma Eph. B, p. 391, Pl. 112, Q3192 - 3194 (6<sup>th</sup> c. AD); CRAWFORD 1990, p. 82, fig. 427 (6<sup>th</sup> c. AD); KUZMANOV 1992, p. 229 - 230, type 5, no. 8, 9, 11, 12, Pl. 45 (6<sup>th</sup> c. AD); KADEEV & SOROCIAN 1989, p. 73, fig. 30/5 (4<sup>th</sup> - 5<sup>th</sup> c. AD); COVACEF & CORBU 1991, p. 293, 295, fig. 1/13 (6<sup>th</sup> c. AD); ABADIE-REYNAL & SODINI 1992, p. 71 - 72, L 35, fig. 29 (6<sup>th</sup> - beginning of 7<sup>th</sup> c. AD); BĂLUȚĂ 1994, p. 222, no. 102 -103, Pl. VII/11, 15 (6<sup>th</sup> c. AD); POPESCU 1994, p. 353, no. 4, fig. 55 a, p. 354 - 359, no. 5 a, g, fig. 56 - 61 (6<sup>th</sup> c. AD); BAUMANN 2009, p. 258, no. 134, p. 292, Fig. 14/134 (second half of the 5<sup>th</sup> c. AD).

(twisted circular cord, garlands, rosettes, small circles, palm leaves, volutes, grooves). On the base there can be a *planta pedis* stamp, and towards the handle and spout the fish-tail decorative motif is used, or small circles of crosses<sup>22</sup>. The paste is of good quality and, in general, the workmanship is good. Depending on the shape of the disc's rib we have at least three variants. The five following fragments belong to two of them.

*Origin:* they were produced in Asia Minor at Ephesus and Miletus<sup>23</sup>. As they were produced as early as the 3<sup>rd</sup> c. AD<sup>24</sup>, they are attested in *Scythia Minor* starting with the following century<sup>25</sup> and up to the 7<sup>th</sup> c. AD<sup>26</sup>, with the maximum diffusion during the 5<sup>th</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> c. AD<sup>27</sup>. They were surely imitated in different Danubian centres<sup>28</sup>. At Halmyris, of the 49 complete or fragmentary lamps of this kind discovered<sup>29</sup>, 30 were discovered on level 12, near a pottery kiln<sup>30</sup>, which suggests that Halmyris can be considered a production centre for lamps<sup>31</sup>.

*Diffusion:* in *Scythia* they are attested at Callatis<sup>32</sup>, Tomis<sup>33</sup>, Histria<sup>34</sup>, Halmyris<sup>35</sup>, Capidava<sup>36</sup>, Sacidava<sup>37</sup>, Dinogetia<sup>38</sup>, Noviodunum<sup>39</sup>, Piatra Frecăței<sup>40</sup>, Kaliakra<sup>41</sup>, Sadovec<sup>42</sup>, Thasos<sup>43</sup>, Delos<sup>44</sup>, Cartagina<sup>45</sup>, Yassi Ada<sup>46</sup> and Sardis<sup>47</sup>.

*Dating:* 6<sup>th</sup> c. AD.

<sup>22</sup> TOPOLEANU 2000, p. 209.

<sup>23</sup> PERLZWEIG 1961, p. 100 - 101; BRUNEAU 1965, p. 140 - 141; MENZEL 1969, p. 94 - 97.

<sup>24</sup> IVÁNYI 1935, p. 14, type 11, Pl. XXXVIII/6; LERAT 1954, p. 29, Pl. XIII/188; BERNHARD 1955, p. 131, no. 336, Pl. XCIV; DENEUEVE 1969, p. 224, Pl. CU/1135.

<sup>25</sup> BARNEA I 1967, p. 247 - 251, fig. 16/2; PREDA 1980, p. 30-31, Pl. LIV/M 251.

<sup>26</sup> BASS & DOORNINCK Jr. 1982, p. 193, L 9, fig. 9 - 3, 9 - 4.

<sup>27</sup> PERLZWEIG 1961, p. 101, no. 349, Pl. 10, p. 192, no. 2807, Pl. 44; TOPOLEANU 2000, p. 209.

<sup>28</sup> ICONOMU 1986, p. 147 - 148.

<sup>29</sup> TOPOLEANU 2000, p. 208 - 214.

<sup>30</sup> TOPOLEANU 1996.

<sup>31</sup> TOPOLEANU 2000, p. 209.

<sup>32</sup> PREDA 1980, p. 30-31, Pl. LIV, M 251.

<sup>33</sup> ICONOMU 1967, p. 25 - 26, fig. 50, p. 136, no. 703, inv. MINAC 885.

<sup>34</sup> CONDURACHI *et alii* 1959, 278, 280, fig. 5/2; CONDURACHI *et alii* 1960, 242, fig. 15/1; POPESCU 1994, p. 353, no. 4, fig. 55 a, p. 354 - 359, no. 5 a, g, fig. 56 - 61; SUCEVEANU 2007, p. 220, pl. LXXIX/107 - 109; inv. MNIR 131023.

<sup>35</sup> TOPOLEANU 2000, p. 211-213, no. 548-555, pl. LXIX.

<sup>36</sup> COVACEF & CORBU 1991, p. 293, 295, fig. 1/13; OPRİȘ 2003, 173, cat. no. 427 - 429, pl. LXIII/427 - 429.

<sup>37</sup> SCORPAN 1978, p. 160-161, no. 17, Pl. IV.

<sup>38</sup> BARNEA I 1966, 252-253, Fig. 10/3, 12/2.

<sup>39</sup> BAUMANN 2009, p. 258, no. 134, p. 292, Fig. 14/134.

<sup>40</sup> VÂLCEANU & BARNEA 1975, p. 210, fig. 1/3, 4.

<sup>41</sup> VASILČIN 1984, p. 23, no. 1 - 3, Pl. 1.

<sup>42</sup> KUZMANOV 1992, p. 229 - 230, type 5, no. 8, 9, 11, 12, Pl. 45.

<sup>43</sup> ABADIE-REYNAL & SODINI 1992, p. 71 - 72, L 35, fig. 29.

<sup>44</sup> BRUNEAU 1965, p. 141, no. 4707 - 4709, Pl. 33.

<sup>45</sup> DENEUEVE 1969, p. 224, type VII, no. 1135, Pl. CII.

<sup>46</sup> BASS & DOORNINCK Jr. 1982, p. 193, L 12, fig. 9-4.

<sup>47</sup> CRAWFORD 1990, p. 82, fig. 427.



### I.2.1. Variant 1A

These lamps have the margin decorated with small compact pearls, set in four parallel rows.

#### *Catalog*

4. Lamp (fragmentary, disc and handle), bivalve mould. Oxidant primary burn, uniform, fine paste, redish yellow (5YR7/6); redish yellow slip (5YR6/6); very small iron oxide particles and very fine pores. Scarce secondary burn traces near the spout, which indicates a short period of use. Dimensions: L = 85.5 mm, D = 60.8 mm, Hb = 11 mm; Gr max handle = 8.5 mm; l max handle = 20.5 mm. Histria 2014, sector ACS, context 11002, package 112, **Pl. 3-4/4**. Slightly oval concave disc, with an oil orifice in the middle, delimited from the margin by a cord leading up and around the spout, forming a duct. The margin is wide, decorated with four rows of pearls set in a semicircle. The spout is rounded, with one burn orifice. The body is approximately round, the handle is blade-shaped, grooved and fixed on the margin.

5. Lamp (disc fragment), bivalve mould. Oxidant primary burn, uniform, fine paste, redish yellow (5YR7/6); very small iron oxide particles and very fine pores. Secondary burn traces near the spout. Dimensions: Lp = 56 mm, lp = 39.5 mm, Hb = 12 mm. Histria 2014, sector ACS, context 14001, package 255, **Pl. 3-4/5**. Approx. 35% of the disc was preserved. Burn traces near the burn orifice on the spout.

6. Lamp (disc fragment), bivalve mould. Oxidant primary burn, uniform, fine paste, redish yellow (5YR7/6); very small iron oxide particles and very fine pores. Secondary burn traces in the central area of the disc. Dimensions: Lp = 33 mm, lp = 25 mm, Hb = 9 mm. Histria 2014, sector ACS, context 5002, package 41, **Pl. 3-4/6**. Approximately 15% of the disc was preserved. Burn traces near the oil orifice in the middle.

7. Lamp (disc fragment), bivalve mould. Oxidant primary burn, uniform, fine paste, redish yellow (5YR6/6); red slip (2.5YR5/6); very small iron oxide particles and very fine pores. Dimensions: Lp = 45 mm, lp = 22.5 mm, Hb = 15.5 mm. Histria 2014, sector ACS, context 9001, package 59, **Pl. 3-4/7**. Approximately 20% of the disc was preserved.

8. Lamp (lower half fragment), bivalve mould. Oxidant primary burn, uniform, fine paste, red (2.5YR5/6); very small iron oxide particles and very fine pores. Strong traces of secondary burn after the lamp was broken. Dimensions: Lp = 44 mm, lp = 42 mm, Hp = 18 mm. Histria 2014, sector ACS, context 1001-7001, package 473, **Pl. 3-4/8**. Approximately 30% of the lower half was preserved.

9. Lamp (lower half fragment), bivalve mould. Oxidant primary burn, uniform, fine paste, red (2.5YR5/6); very small iron oxide particles and very fine pores. Dimensions: Lp = 47 mm, lp = 33.5 mm, Hp = 21.5 mm. Histria 2014, sector ACS, context 11001, package 168, **Pl. 3-4/9**. Approximately 30% of the lower half was preserved.

### I.2.2. Variant 1B

The margin is decorated with larger and less compact pearls, compared with the previous variant, and they are set in three parallel rows. The mould was rather used, as most pearls are flattened.

*Catalog*

10. Lamp (disc fragment), bivalve mould. Oxidant primary burn, uniform, fine paste, light reddish brown (2.5YR6/4); very small iron oxide particles and very fine pores. Dimensions: Lp = 55.5 mm, lp = 28 mm, Hb = 13 mm. Histria 2014, sector ACS, context 8001, package 38, **Pl. 3-4/10**. Approximately 35% of the disc was preserved.

*Diffusion:* Halmyris<sup>48</sup>.

*Dating:* 6<sup>th</sup> c. AD.

**I.2.3. Variant 2***Catalog*

11. Lamp (fragmentary, part of the disc, spout and lower half was preserved), bivalve mould. Oxidant primary burn, uniform, fine paste, light reddish brown (2.5YR6/4); very small iron oxide particles, very fine and rare mica particles and very fine pores. Secondary burn traces on the outer disc surface, between the oil orifice and the spout orifice. Dimensions: Lp = 63.5 mm, lp = 23 mm, Hp = 28 mm; Hb = 15 mm. Histria 2014, sector ACS, context 7001, package 130, **Pl. 3-4/11**. Approximately 20% of the body was preserved.

**I.3. Iconomu 1986, type XL<sup>49</sup>**

*General description of the type:* round body, spout detached from the body, round and concave disc, wide margin, flat and round base; disc decorated with a rosette and five double leaves (clover)<sup>50</sup>.

*Origin:* produced in Asia Minor, most probably at Ephesus and Miletus.

*Diffusion:* unknown place of discovery/Ploiești<sup>51</sup>

*Dating:* 5<sup>th</sup> c. AD.

*Catalog*

12. Lamp (fragmentary, part of the disc), bivalve mould. Oxidant primary burn, uniform, fine paste, light reddish yellow (5YR6/6), red angoba (2.5YR5/8); very small iron oxide particles. Dimensions: Lp = 46.5 mm, lp = 19.5 mm, Hp = 7 mm; Hb = 6 mm. Histria 2014, sector ACS, context 8001, package 49, **Pl. 3-4/12**. Approximately 15% of the disc was preserved. The disc was round and was probably decorated with five double clover leaves.

**I.4. Iconomu 1986, type XXXIII; Iconomu 1986, type LI, Variant I, subvariant I; Bailey 1988, type Q 3227 MLA**

*General description of the type:* these lamps have a long and tall body, with a

<sup>48</sup> TOPOLEANU 2000, p. 214, no. 560, pl. LXX.

<sup>49</sup> General analogies: SVOBODĂ 2006, p. 40, no. 248, approx. 500-600 AD; BAILEY 1988, p. 386-387, Q 3144-3158, pl. 108-109, approx. 500-600 AD; ICONOMU 1986, p. 86, type XL, var. I, pl. 7/10 (second half of the 4<sup>th</sup> - 5<sup>th</sup> c. AD; ICONOMU 1967, p. 25, 134, type XXVII, no. 696, fig. 158 (5<sup>th</sup> c. AD); BRUNEAU 1965, p. 140, no. 4702-4705, pl. 33 (first half of the 5<sup>th</sup> c. AD); PERLZWEIG 1961, p. 101, no. 349, 350, pl. 10 (5<sup>th</sup> c. AD); MILTNER 1937, p. 191, no. 216 (end of the 4<sup>th</sup> - 5<sup>th</sup> c. AD); BAUMANN 2009, p. 260, no. 140, p. 296, Fig. 18/140 bis, Pl. 3/140 (6<sup>th</sup> c. AD).

<sup>50</sup> For a detailed description see TOPOLEANU 2012, p. 212.

<sup>51</sup> TOPOLEANU 2012, p. 212-213, no. 127, pl. XV/127.



small, oval disc, bordered by protruding ribs. The flat handles, decorated with vegetal, geometric or cross motives are specific for this type. Most specialists agree that this type of lamp was produced in *Moesia*<sup>52</sup>, but it is highly probable that it was also produced in *Scythia*.

*Origin*: as with types 3 and 5 presented above, these lamps were produced in Asia Minor, mainly at Ephesus and Miletus<sup>53</sup>. The large number of discoveries is an argument for their production in the Western Black Sea region.

*Diffusion*: Tomis<sup>54</sup>, Halmyris<sup>55</sup>, Sucidava<sup>56</sup>, Capidava<sup>57</sup>, Noviodunum<sup>58</sup>, Chersonesos<sup>59</sup>, Aquis, Novae, Odarci, Kaliakra<sup>60</sup> or in *Moesia*, with no certain place of discovery<sup>61</sup>.

*Dating*: 550 – 650 AD.

#### Catalog

13. Lamp (fragmentary, cruciform handle, fragmentary body). Oxidant primary burn, uniform, fine paste, redish yellow (5YR6/6); very small iron oxide particles and very fine pores. Dimensions: Lp = 56 mm, lp = 49 mm; Gr max handle = 8.5 mm; l max handle = 39.5 mm. Histria 2014, sector ACS, context 11000, package 112, **Pl. 3-4/13**. Approximately 25% of the body was preserved. The handle is in the shape of a Byzantine cross with double contour and a small circle in the middle<sup>62</sup>.

### 1.5. Iconomu 1986, type LI, Variant I, subvariant II

*General description of the type*: pear-shaped body, prolonged spout and thick walls. Slightly concave disc, surrounded by a strong protruding rib. Flat base, marked by a protruding rib. The handles can be decorated with anthropomorph, zoomorph, geometric or Christian motives<sup>63</sup>.

*Origin*: produces mainly at Ephesus and Miletus<sup>64</sup>, starting with the 5<sup>th</sup> c. AD., reached the peak of their diffusion during the following century<sup>65</sup> and kept

<sup>52</sup> BAILEY 1988, p. 399; CHRZANOVSKI & ZUHRAVLEV 1998, p. 174.

<sup>53</sup> GOMOLKA 1968, p. 197 -198.

<sup>54</sup> ICONOMU 1967, p. 148, no. 770; BARNEA 1968, p. 539, fig. 50.5 (6<sup>th</sup> c. AD).

<sup>55</sup> TOPOLEANU 2000, p. 186, cat. no. 474, 477, p. 351, pl. LIX/474, 477; 187, cat. no. 481, 352, pl. LX/481 (6<sup>th</sup> – beginning of the 7<sup>th</sup> c. AD; cat. no. 474 does not have the circular incision at the handles' intersection; cat. no. 477 has a circular incision in the lower part; cat. no. 481 has circular incisions at the end of the upper handles and at their intersection).

<sup>56</sup> TUDOR 1948, p. 169, fig. 20.5 (dated, together with other lamps, to the 4<sup>th</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> c. AD).

<sup>57</sup> OPRIȘ 2003, p. 171, cat. no. 416, pl. LXI/416 (the Byzantine cross with double contour is decorated with five circles inscribed on the cross' arms; dated to the 6<sup>th</sup> – beginning of the 7<sup>th</sup> c. AD).

<sup>58</sup> BAUMANN 2009, p. 260, no. 140, p. 296, Fig. 18/140 bis, Pl. 3/140.

<sup>59</sup> CHRZANOVSKI & ZUHRAVLEV 1998, p. 173-174, N. 110 (dated between 550 and 650 AD).

<sup>60</sup> BAILEY 1988, p. 399, plate 115/Q 3227 MLA (at Aquis such lamps were dated to the end of the 6<sup>th</sup> – beginning of the 7<sup>th</sup> c. AD).

<sup>61</sup> BAILEY 1988, p. 399, plate 115/Q 3227 MLA.

<sup>62</sup> Inv. MNIR 48859.

<sup>63</sup> For a detailed description see TOPOLEANU 2000, p. 182-183.

<sup>64</sup> GOMOLKA 1968, p. 197 -198.

<sup>65</sup> MENZEL 1969, p. 99, no. 640, Pl. 54/12.

being used during the first half of the 7<sup>th</sup> c. AD<sup>66</sup>. Due to the presence of large quantities of these lamps in the Lower Danube area, especially during the 6<sup>th</sup> c. AD<sup>67</sup>, this type of lamp was also surely produced in the Western Black Sea area.

*Diffusion:* Yassi Ada<sup>68</sup>, Ephesus<sup>69</sup> and Miletus<sup>70</sup>, *Moesia Secunda*<sup>71</sup>, Sucidava<sup>72</sup> and Halmyris<sup>73</sup>.

*Dating:* 6<sup>th</sup> – beginning of the 7<sup>th</sup> c. AD<sup>74</sup>

#### Catalog

14. Lamp (fragmentary, part of the disc and spout), bivalve mould. Dimensions: Lp = 40 mm, lp = 25.5 mm, Hp = 10 mm. Histria 2014, sector ACS, context 11000, package 112, **Pl. 3-4/14**. Approximately 10% of the body was preserved. On the margin, near the spout it was decorated with protruding volutes.

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<sup>66</sup> BASS & DOORNINCK Jr. 1982, p.194.

<sup>67</sup> TOPOLEANU 2000, p. 183.

<sup>68</sup> BASS & DOORNINCK Jr. 1982, p.194, 197, L 13 -19.

<sup>69</sup> BAILEY 1988, p. 387, Q 3151, 3152, 3156, pl. 109.

<sup>70</sup> GOMOLKA 1968, p. 197 -198.

<sup>71</sup> GOMOLKA 1968, p. 197 -198.

<sup>72</sup> TUDOR 1978, p. 92, fig. 24/4, 25/3, 6.

<sup>73</sup> TOPOLEANU 2000, p. 185, no. 471, p. 350, pl. LVIII/471.

<sup>74</sup> The 34 lamps from Halmyris were discovered in layers ranging from the first half of the 6<sup>th</sup> to the beginning of the 7<sup>th</sup> c. AD.

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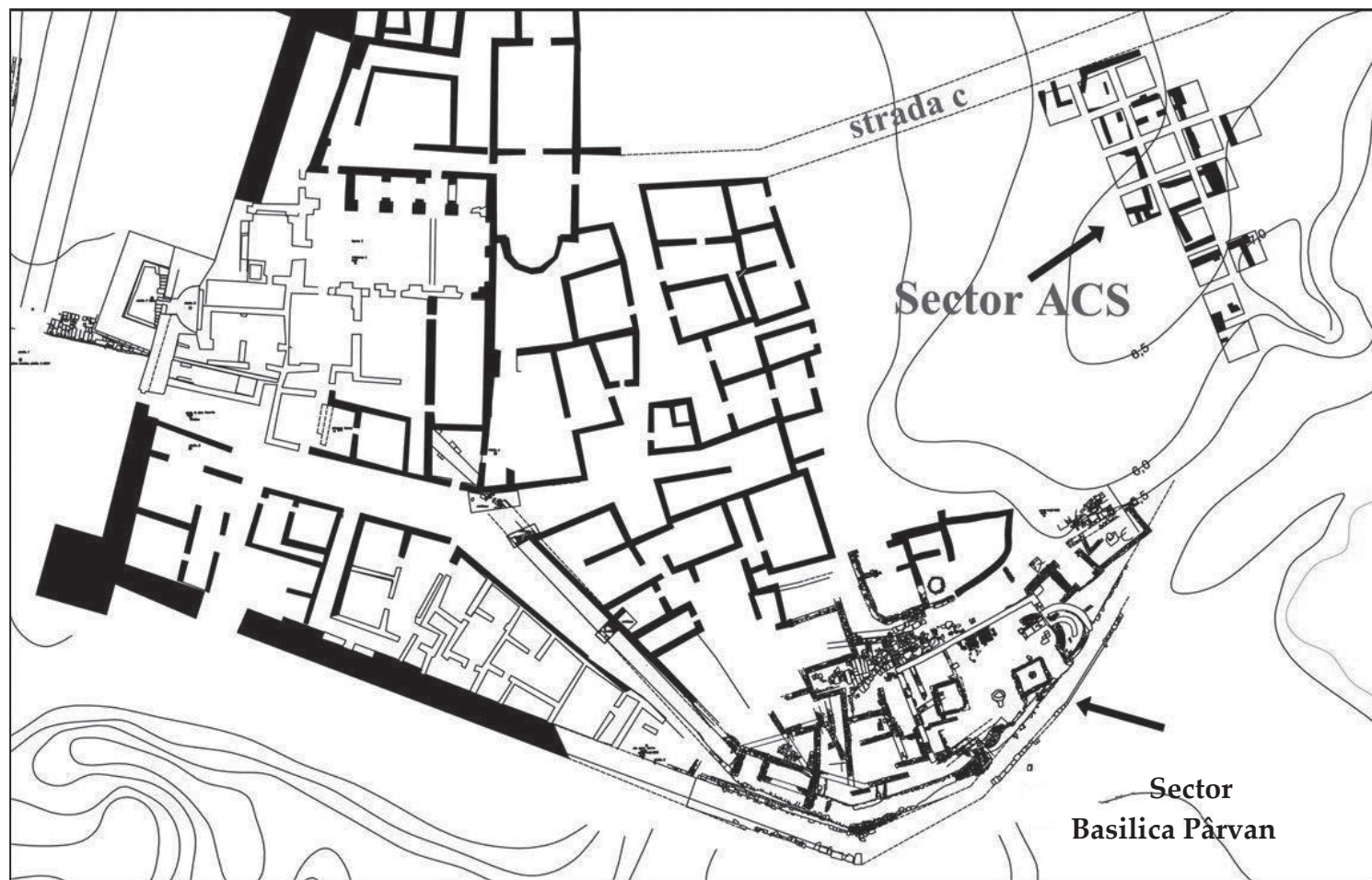
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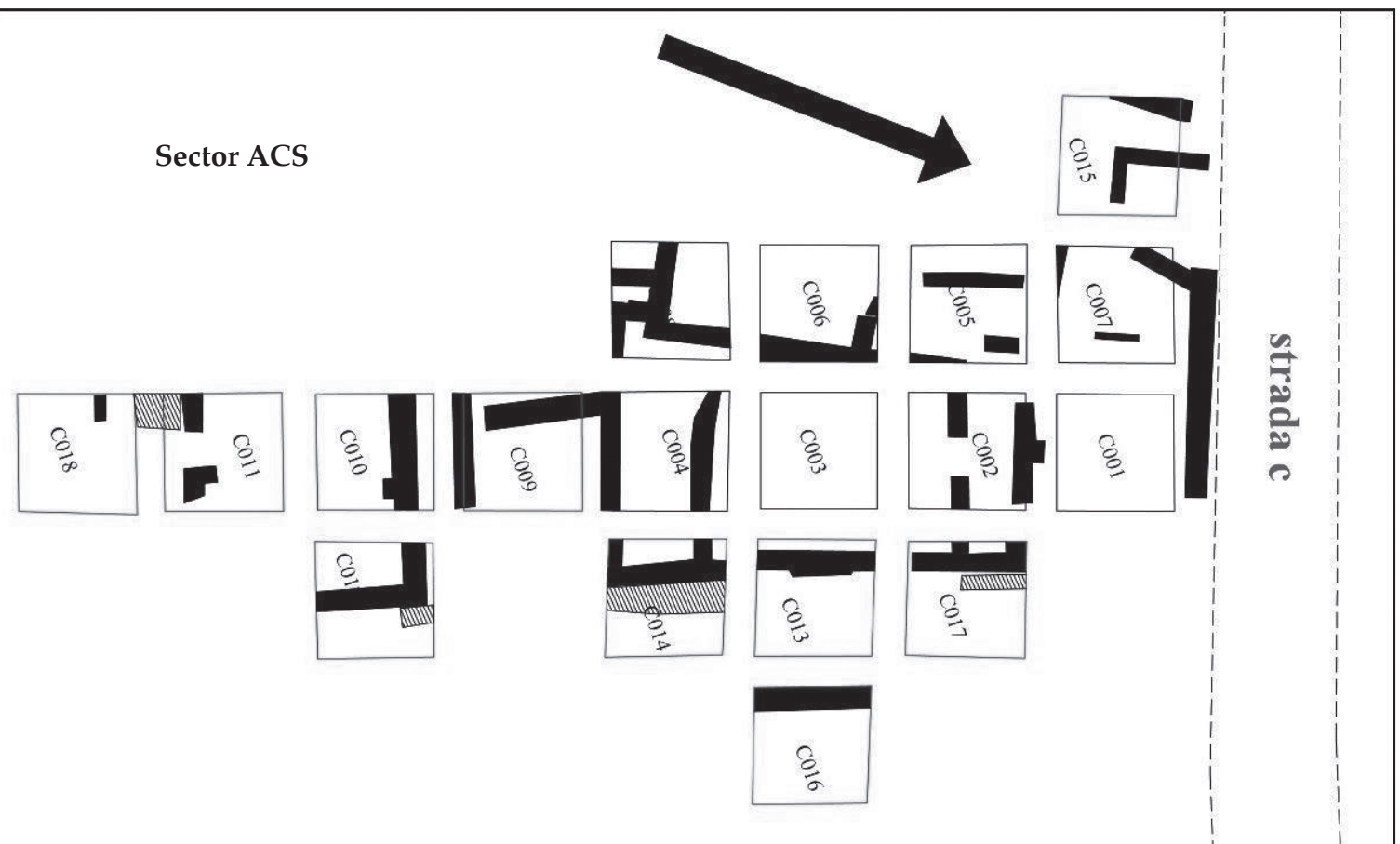
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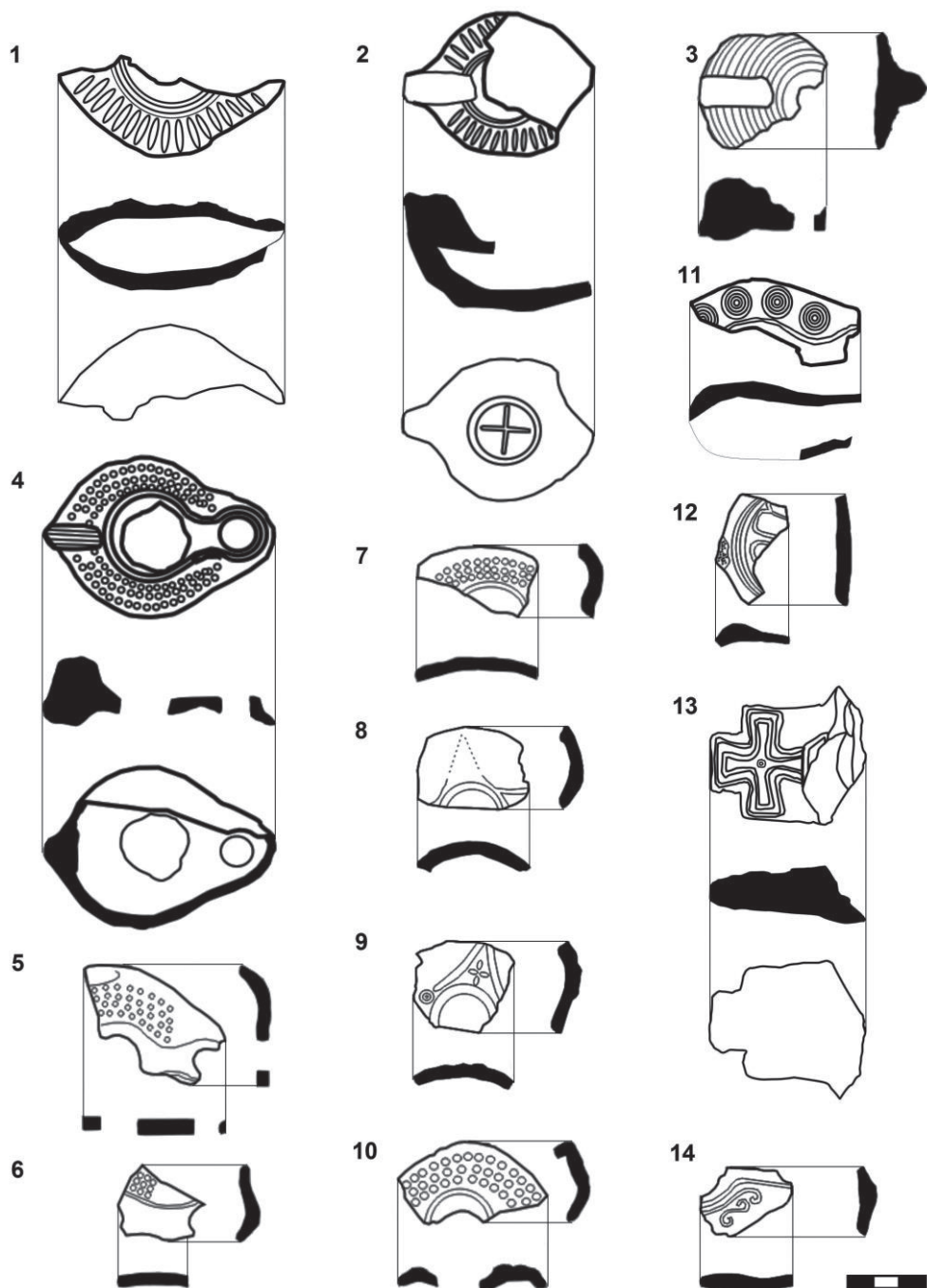


Pl. 1

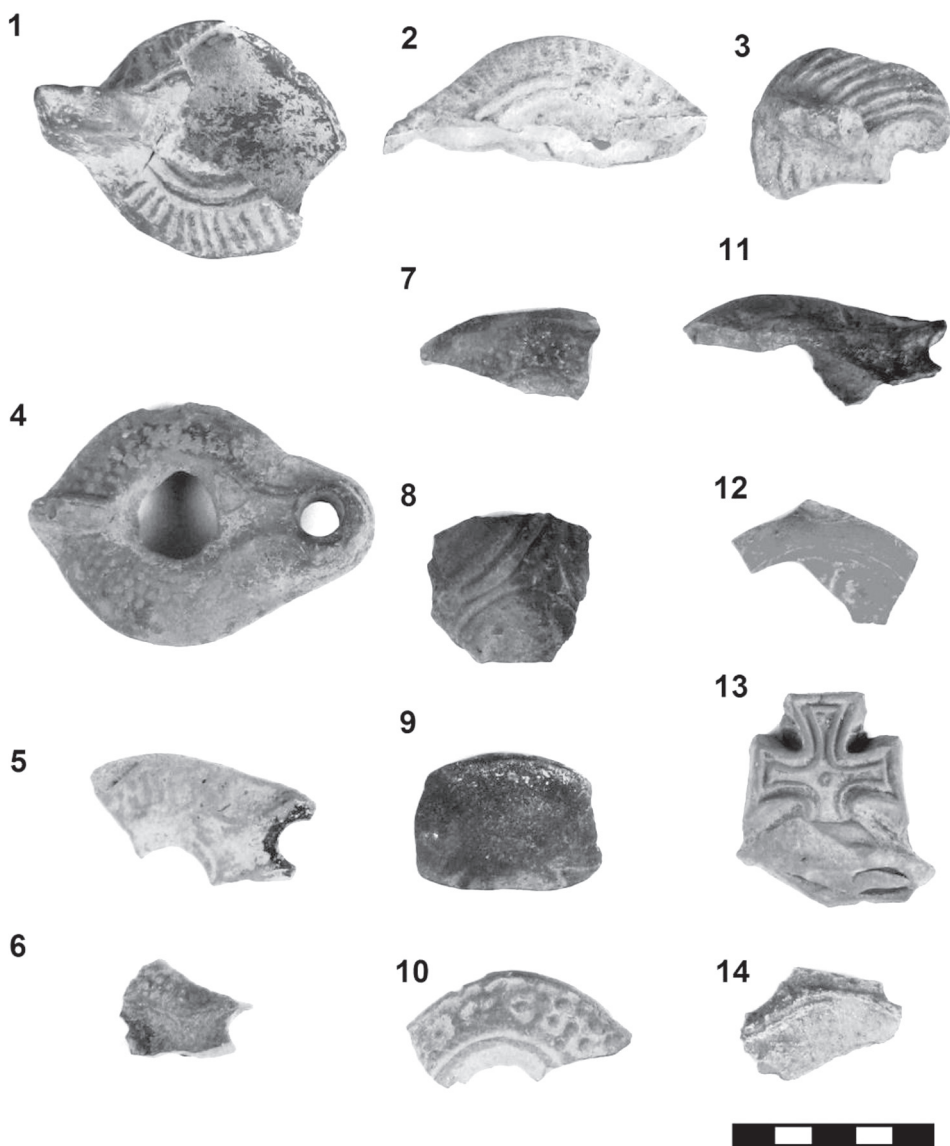


Pl. 2





Pl. 3



Pl. 4