

# THE POTSDHERDS IN ARCHAEOLOGICAL CONTEXT: POTTERY FROM LATE ROMAN FORT OF ULMETUM (4<sup>TH</sup>–6<sup>TH</sup> CENT. AD). REPORT ON THE 2012 ARCHAEOLOGICAL CAMPAIGN AT THE NORTH-WEST GATE. (I)\*

Ștefan - Emilian GAMUREAC\*\*

**Cuvinte cheie:** *ceramică, stratigrafie, cercetări arheologice*

**Keywords:** *pottery, stratigraphy, archaeological excavations*

**Abstract:** *The aim of this paper is to record accurately the archaeological findings of the 2012 excavations campaign at the north-west gate of the Late Roman fortification of Ulmetum – at present Pantelimonul de Sus, Constanța County, Romania. The potsherds are catalogued in a stratigraphic sequence in an attempt to contribute to a better dating of the pottery from this site. In this way some of the largely dated functional types of pottery may be more accurately dated in their chronological contexts. Also the presentation of the stratigraphy may contribute to a more accurate determination of the general phases of the Late Roman fortification use, even the context discoveries in the area of the north – west gate reduce the contribution only to particular aspects.*

**Rezumat:** *Scopul acestui articol este acela de a înregistra în ordine corectă descoperirile arheologice din campania de cercetări arheologice 2012 de la cetatea romană târzie Ulmetum – actualmente Pantelimonul de Sus, județul Constanța, România. Fragmentele ceramice sunt catalogate în funcție de nivelurile stratigrafice, în încercarea de a contribui la o mai bună datare a ceramicii din acest sit. În acest fel unele dintre*

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\*\* Ștefan – Emilian GAMUREAC: Department for Cultural Heritage, Ministry of Culture, Bucharest; e-mail: emilian\_gamureac@yahoo.com.

*tipurile funcționale ceramice pot fi datate mai precis în context cronologic. De asemenea, prezentarea stratigrafiei poate contribui la o determinare mai precisă a fazelor generale ale funcționării fortificației romane târzii de la Ulmetum, chiar dacă contextul descoperit în zona porții de nord-vest reduce această contribuție la aspecte particulare.*

Following the tradition of Romanian processing archaeology<sup>1</sup>, where the *scientific method* allows the archaeologists to present *objective* conclusions based upon the evidence, including Roman pottery, this paper is focused on presenting the potsherds in their original context as they were discovered in the archaeological layers. Fortunately, the method of the archaeological investigation permitted us to recover in the context the numismatic evidence existent in this area<sup>2</sup>. By this approach, it is possible to make a comparison between the dating of the stratigraphical levels and the potsherds discovered inside it.

The old archaeological excavations at the north – west gate of the late Roman fortification at Ulmetum were carried out by Vasile Pârvan during the 1912-1913 campaigns of research<sup>3</sup> and have highlighted the main monuments, the wall, gates and towers of the fortification. After many years of abandonment of the excavations, the Museum of National History and Archaeology Constanța started in 2004 a new research<sup>4</sup> including this area, which is still into an incipient phase. Since then some information about *vicus Ulmetum*, inhabited in the 2<sup>nd</sup> – 3<sup>rd</sup> century AD by *cives Romani et Bessi consistentes*, situated at the crossroads between Marcianopolis and Noviodunum and Histria to Danubian *limes*, where is presumed that a *quaestor* is attested<sup>5</sup>, has been brought into the light. From a passage of Procopius' *De aedificiis* we find out that the abandonment of the existing ancient stronghold of Ulmetum (ἐκ παλαιοῦ ὀχύρωμα, Οὐλμιτῶν ὄνομα) is due to the Sclaveni ambushes, and the reconstruction of the fortress is carried out during Justinian.<sup>6</sup> Also it will be enough to mention that according to Procopius, unlike the other fortified points in Scythia Minor, named φρούριον

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<sup>1</sup> In 1982 PhD prof. A. Suceveanu was able to present in context the late Roman pottery from an archaeological survey at Histria, providing an excellent material of study and an example of the rigor in archaeological excavation approach. The study is in use even now, despite the insufficient information/analogies at that time, and the inherent evolution of the ceramologic discipline over the years. SUCEVEANU 1982, p. 79: „The presentation of the pottery on the clearly individualised archaeological layers will surely contribute to a better knowledge of the evolution – no matter how slowly it will be – of this archaeological material category”.

<sup>2</sup> The numismatic evidence was carried out by Dan Vasilescu.

<sup>3</sup> PÂRVAN 1913, II. 1, p. 272-274.

<sup>4</sup> COVACEF 2004-2005, p. 440. The excavations in the area of north –west gate were started and coordinated by PhD Gheorghe Papuc, the former head of the archaeological team, alongside PhD Liviu Lungu.

<sup>5</sup> SUCEVEANU & BARNEA 1991, p. 100, 204.

<sup>6</sup> PROCOPIUS, *De aedificiis*, IV, 7, 17. Beyond this since ancient times there has been a stronghold, Ulmitôn by name, but since the barbarian Sclaveni had been making their ambushes there for a great length of time and had been tarrying there very long, it had come to be wholly deserted and nothing of it was left except the name. 18 So he built it all up from the foundations and thus freed that region from the menace and the attacks of the Sclaveni.

πρωτον Κυρίλλου ἀγίου ἐπώνυμον, Ἰβιδὰ πόλις, φρούριον (...) ὅπερ Αἰγισσον ὀνομάζουσι and φρούριον (...) Ἀλμυρις ὄνομα, the stronghold of Οὐλμιτῶν is described with the generic term of ὀχύρωμα. The reconstruction, at least partially, from the foundations of the new fortification was achieved during Justinian by the *lanciarium iuniores* military unit<sup>7</sup>.

Considering the previous excavations in the Roman fortress of Ulmetum, some considerations about general stratigraphic status and the correlations with different phases of the fortress use have been done. According to excavations in the south sector (the Paleo-Christian church of Ulmetum) there were established few periods that may be used as relative elements of guiding in our approach. Period A corresponds to 2<sup>nd</sup> – 3<sup>rd</sup> century habitation in the area, in connection with *vicus Ulmetum*. Period B corresponds to the second half of the 4<sup>th</sup> century AD dated by many coins from Constantius II, Constans, Valentinian I and Valens, also by Roman and Sântana de Mureș-Cernjachov culture pottery. Period C is related to the construction of the Late Roman fortress of Ulmetum in the end of the 4<sup>th</sup> - beginning of the 5<sup>th</sup> century and also to the period when the fortress was used by the Roman army (5<sup>th</sup> century). Period D corresponds to 6<sup>th</sup> century (reestablishment of the fortress during Justinian and later). Period E is related to the ottoman presence in the 17<sup>th</sup> century<sup>8</sup>.

During the 2012 archaeological campaign in the area of the north-west gate, we succeeded in continuing the previous year investigation in the northern tower of the gate – the tower no. 2. Despite previous old excavations since 1912-1913<sup>9</sup> in this area, a small part of the stratigraphical levels still can be observed, because the old excavations stopped above Roman layer corresponding the tower building, at 1.10 m of the actual height of the tower 2 but under the level of the interior plinth. The 2012 excavation begins with prolonging the section S1 (initially traced outside the fortress, also inside the tower 2) to the *intra muros* area (2 x 29.40 m). Inside the tower 2 and in the interior and exterior of the fortification, a grid was set up, dividing the surface into 15 of 2 x 2 m squares. Thus, the stratigraphical sequence inside the tower 2 can be described as following:

The layer of tower building (– 0.30 m in depth to the plinth) consists of 4-5 cm of clay mixed with mortar, plaster, small stones and fragments of bricks. The light brown layer of leveling consists of 25-30 cm of stones, small pottery fragments and sand. The yellow layer in which an oven was built has the upper part destroyed and it is situated beneath the previous one. Inside a Getic fragment of pottery was discovered. The oven was destroyed by the construction of the tower, by cutting it. Also the oven was built over a small north-south oriented wall made of stone, also cut by the construction of the tower. Inside the tower 2 the maximum depth of archaeological intervention was – 0.85 m, including the pit

<sup>7</sup> PÂRVAN 1913, II. 2, p. 379-384: ατω *Pedatura militum lanciarium iuniorum*.

<sup>8</sup> BĂJENARU, NOPCEA, VASILESCU, HEROIU, PETCU, DOBROTĂ & LEPĂDATU 2010; BĂJENARU, NOPCEA, VASILESCU & PETCU 2011.

<sup>9</sup> The archaeological excavations were conducted in this sector by Vasile Pârvan during 1912-1913, but the entire period of excavations took place between 1911-1914.

for the oven maintenance, which was constructed in the yellow sterile layer. In the *extra muros* and *intra muros* areas, the research was conducted in the old excavations, which affected the late Roman layers.

Inside the city walls, the archaeological excavation (squares 10-15) stopped under the level of mortar representing the construction time of the wall and was discovered at – 0.70 m of the actual topsoil. The concrete level lies over a yellow layer. Over the concrete layer, a variable thickness layer of filling containing ash was found. Over this ashes layer another yellow clay floor will be constructed, repeatedly repaired by three layers containing gray clay and small stones. It is important to note that the area is situated in the neighborhood of the entrance in the tower no. 2, and some of the restorations of the ground are linked to the need of access design of the road.

Systematizing the stratigraphical information, giving the monetary discoveries, there is possible to dispose the pottery findings in the chronological sequences<sup>10</sup> as following:

I. The deepest layer in the *intra muros* area may correspond to two different periods:

A) the period of 2<sup>nd</sup> – 3<sup>rd</sup> century from which some pottery and structures was discovered, but no coins;

B) the period Constantinian dynasty - Valens, given the 3 bronze coins minted during Constantius II (353-358) and one bronze coin from Constans or Constantius II (347-348), but no shards were discovered.

Considering that during the excavations, there were no stratigraphic clues for differentiating the two separate periods, and the processing of the pottery shards and coins was complete after the excavation was done, we decided to group the two periods in one single layer.

Inside the tower no. 2, probably in the period of 2<sup>nd</sup> – 3<sup>rd</sup> century, at an unknown moment, in the yellow clay a stone structure was built in *opus incertum* and over it, a small oven, both partially destroyed by the construction of the tower foundations. Over it, a possibly leveling layer was discovered, in a necessary moment of cleaning the area for preparation of the tower construction. In this layer were discovered 2 bronze coins from Valens, (364-378), from which one was discovered at the limit between the leveling and the construction layer, one bronze coin from Valentinianus I/Gratian (364-378) and one bronze coin from Constans (347-348).

II. The second layer was identified as the construction context of the fortification (Bauschutt), consisting of the yellow walking level mixed with mortar, plaster fragments and bricks. A building was erected probably during this time in the area. Dating the moment of construction is difficult, because no coin was found inside it in the *intra muros* area. However, the status is much relevant inside the tower no. 2, where the following coins were found: unknown emperor -

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<sup>10</sup> Following the example of SUCEVEANU 1982, the archaeological levels are described in down to up order.

SALVS REIPUBLICAE type (388-403), Arcadius (388-392), Valentinianus II (388-392), Theodosius I (388-395), Theodosius I (378-383). Dating: probably Theodosius I. The numismatic evidence may be also interpreted in the context of the next layer (III).

III. The third layer consisting of gray clay color and ash, mixed with small stones and pottery fragments may be interpreted as a occupational debris layer. Three bronze coins were discovered inside it: Valentinianus I (364-367), Valentinianus I (367-375) and Aelia Eudoxia (395-401/403-404). The Aelia Eudoxia coin (395-401/403-404) may be the *terminus* of the relative dating of this context. Dating: end of the 4<sup>th</sup> - beginning of the 5<sup>th</sup> century.

IV. The fourth layer consists of a compact yellow walking level identified in the *intra muros* area between the tower 2 and the square 14 (about 8 m), that is constructed over the ruins of a building. A single coin from Valentinianus II (388-392) was discovered in this layer. Dating: beginning – first half of the 5<sup>th</sup> century.

V. The next contexts are hard to be isolated, being the subject of the older archaeological interventions and filling. Though, three small layers containing gray color clay and small stones (probably a small street repeatedly restored allowing the access in the tower 2) were identified, one of these layers containing a bronze coin from Honorius (395-408). Dating: 5<sup>th</sup> century.

VI. The last layer does not contain any coins or structures/complexes, and the pottery discovered in it is related probably to the reestablishment of the fortress during Justinian times. It is possible that the layer represent rather a leveling of the Justinian time restoration than the filling of the military occupation. Dating: middle of 6<sup>th</sup> century or earlier.

During the archaeological excavations, there were observed the limit of old excavations (1912-1913) and the topsoil, but the old archaeological interventions have disrupted the upper stratigraphy making impossible to establish a surely chronological disposition of the superior levels.

## CATALOGUE

### Layer I A: the period of 2<sup>nd</sup> – 3<sup>rd</sup> century

1. Fragment of a bowl rim, 2012, S1, T2, h- 0.65 m, preserved height 3 cm, rim diameter 22 cm, semi-fine fabric wit inclusions: rare limestone fragments and black particles. The color is light yellow, the slip is of the same color, Munsell 2.5 Y 8/8 yellow. SUCEVEANU 2000, bowls type VI, p. 31, no. 25, pl. 8/25 2<sup>nd</sup> – 3<sup>rd</sup> century (Histria); BĂJENARU 2014, p. 109, fig. 3/29 ( 1<sup>st</sup> century AD, Histria).

2. Fragmentary rim of a handmade pot on Getic tradition, 2012, S1, T2, inside the oven, h – 0.45 – 0. 65 m, preserved height 3 cm, rim diameter 26 cm, coarse dark gray fabric with small stones and silver mica sparkles, button decoration

outside the ware rim, Munsell 1 for gley 3/very dark gray. SCORPAN 1973, fig. 1/3.

3. Fragmentary rim of a plate, 2012, T2, square 7, h-0.75 m, preserved height 1, 6 cm, rim diameter about 22 cm (or more) semi-fine reddish fabric with limestone particles, brown slip on the superior side of the rim, Munsell 2.5Y 6/3 light yellowish brown. TOPOLEANU 2000, p. 81, XX/181 (Halmyris, 2<sup>nd</sup>-4<sup>th</sup> century, West-Pontic bowl); BRUKNER 1981, T. 68/56 (2<sup>nd</sup> century); KUZMANOV 1985, p. 44, pl. 25/1, type I (4<sup>th</sup> century).

4. Fragmentary rim of a bowl, 2012, T2, S1, square 8, h-0.95 m, preserved height 2.4 cm, rim diameter about 26 cm, fine dark reddish-brick color, slip of the same color, Munsell 2.5 Y 8/8 yellow. TOPOLEANU 2000, p. 79, pl. XX/172 (West-Pontic provincial plate, 1<sup>st</sup> century AD). Pontic Sigillata, 2<sup>nd</sup> century AD.

### **Layer I B: the period Constantinian dynasty - Valens**

No shards examples

### **Layer II (Bauschutt) - S1, c.10-11, - 0.65 / 0.70 m**

5. Fragmentary rim of a pot, preserved height 3 cm, rim diameter 15 cm, coarse light gray color fabric with small stones in composition, brick color core, imperfect firing, secondarily fired on the inside and outside, Munsell 5Y 8/6 yellow. BOGDAN-CĂTĂNICIU & BARNEA 1979, fig. 162/5.10 (Tropaeum Traiani, NV).

6. Fragmentary rim of an amphora, preserved height 4 cm, rim diameter 10 cm, pink color fabric with limestone and iron oxide particles, beige color slip, Munsell (slip color) 5Y 8/8 yellow and 2.5 Y 8/6 yellow (fabric color). OPAIȚ 1996, p. 70, pl. 19/4 (Topraichioi, Opaț B-Ib Pontic type).

7. Fragmentary rim of an amphora, preserved height 5.5 cm, rim diameter 12 cm, dark brick color fabric with small limestone particles in composition, reddish slip, Munsell 2.5Y 7/4 pale yellow. Possibly the same type with no. 9.

### **Layer III (occupational debris) - S1, c.12, - 0.70 – 0.80 m**

8. Fragmentary lid with incurved rim, preserved height about 3 cm, rim diameter 28 cm, coarse light whitish color fabric with small stones in composition, slip of the same color, secondarily fired on the inside and outside, Munsell 2.5Y 8/4 pale yellow.

9. Fragmentary rim of a pot, preserved height 2.4 cm, rim diameter 34 cm, coarse brown color fabric with lithic inclusions, slip of the same color, Munsell 5Y 7/8 yellow. FIDANOVSKI 1990, T32/32 (Ulpiana, 3<sup>rd</sup>-4<sup>th</sup> century); KUZMANOV 1985, p. 50, pots type I, pl. 29/32 (5<sup>th</sup> century).

### **Layer III (occupational debris) - S1, c.10, - 0.60 – 0.70 m**

10. Fragmentary rim of a pot, preserved height 2 cm, rim diameter 16 cm, semi-coarse reddish color fabric with limestone fragments, slip of the same color, secondarily fired on the outside, Munsell 7.5Y 6/8 reddish yellow. SUCEVEANU 1982, p. 94, fig. 11/32 (Histria, second half of the 6<sup>th</sup> century) (?).



11. Fragmentary rim of a pot, preserved height 2,3 cm, rim diameter 12.5 cm, the rim is horizontal, flat, semi-coarse light gray color fabric with small limestone fragments, slip of the same color, Munsell 2.5Y 4/2 dark greyish brown. KLENINA 2006, fig. 2/7 (Novae); KUZMANOV 1985, p. 51, pots type II, pl. 30/39 (5<sup>th</sup> century).

12. Fragmentary median part of an amphora with red *dipinti* in Greek (μ), reddish color fabric with small limestone fragments and iron oxide in composition, whitish slip, Munsell 10 YR 7/8, yellow.

**Layer III-IV - S1, c.12-13, 0.60 / 0.70 m**

13. Fragmentary base of a pitcher or jug, preserved height 2,5 cm, base diameter 10 cm, light red – whitish color fabric, slip of the same color, traces of decoration with red painting on the outside, Munsell 10 YR 8/8 yellow.

**Layer IV (first half 5<sup>th</sup> c. - first quarter 5<sup>th</sup> c.) - S1, c.13-14, - 0.80 m**

14. Fragmentary pot, preserved height 4 cm, rim diameter 14 cm, coarse gray color fabric with small stones and sand in composition, the shape of the rim was accidentally distorted before firing, Munsell 7,5YR 5/1 grey. BAUMANN 1995, p. 402, pl. I/5, pots type III, (Valea Morilor, 4<sup>th</sup> century).

15. Spinder-whorl made of brick, height 1.5 cm, diameter 3.2 cm.

16. Fragmentary rim of an amphora, preserved height 5.5 cm, rim diameter 11 cm, reddish color fabric with iron oxide particles in composition, Munsell 10R, 5/8 red. PARASCHIV 2006, p. 26, pl. 5/31, 32, Pontic type no. 5.

**Layer IV-V - S1, c.14-15, - 1.10 – 1.20 m**

17. Fragmentary rim of an amphora, preserved height 4.5 cm, rim diameter 10 cm, homogenous reddish color fabric with small particles of limestone in composition, whitish slip, Munsell 2.5Y 7/8 yellow. OPAIȚ 1996, p. 70, pl. 19/4 (Topraichioi, Opaî B-Ib Pontic type).

18. Fragmentary rim of a casserole, preserved height 2.7 cm, rim diameter about 30 cm, semi-coarse light reddish color fabric with sand and small black particles, slip of the same color, secondarily fired on the outside Munsell 10 YR 7/6 yellow. OPAIȚ 1991 A, p. 158, pl. 35/206; OPAIȚ 2004, p. 55, imported casseroles, type II (5<sup>th</sup> century).

19. Fragmentary rim of a jug or pitcher, preserved height 2.5 cm, base diameter 10 cm, semi-coarse whitish color fabric with small limestone particles in composition, slip of the same color, Munsell 5Y 8/2 pale yellow.

20. Fragmentary upper part of a casserole, preserved height 5.5 cm, rim diameter 32 cm, semi-coarse light gray color fabric with sand, dark gray slip, Munsell 1 for Gray 5/gray. UENZE 1992, Tafel 64/1; OPAIȚ 2004, frying pans, type I, Pl. 42/1 (4<sup>th</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> century).

**Layer IV-V - S1, c.14, +/- 1.00 m**

21. Fragmentary rim of a LR 2 type amphora, preserved height 4 cm, rim diameter 10 cm, whitish color fabric with slip of the same color, Munsell 10YR 8/1 light.

22. Fragmentary rim of a pot, preserved height 4 cm, rim diameter 12 cm, coarse light gray color fabric with sand and silver mica in composition, whitish-gray slip, secondarily fired on the outside, Munsell 5 YR 8/1 white. UENZE 1992, Tafel 97/16-20; KUZMANOV 1985, p. 51, pots type II, pl. 30/38, 43 (4<sup>th</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> century).

23. Fragmentary rim of a pot, preserved height 3.5 cm, rim diameter 12 cm, semi-coarse light gray color fabric with limestone particles, slip of the same color, secondarily fired on the inside and outside, Munsell 5 YR 6/1 gray. KLENINA 2006, fig. 8/1-3; UENZE 1992, Tafel 97/16-20.

24. Fragment of the median part of a ware, preserved fragment: 6 x 8.5 cm. The fabric is rough, pale gray color, semi-coarse, with limestone, various small particles and silver mica in composition, decorated with lines and waves, Sântana de Mureș-Cernjachov culture, Munsell 5 YR 5/1 gray.

25. Loom-weight manufactured from brick, rough processing.

**Layer V (Honorius - 5<sup>th</sup> century) - S1, c.14-15, - 0.85 m**

26. Fragmentary rim of a pot, preserved height 2 cm, rim diameter 12 cm, coarse light grayish color fabric with sand and small limestone fragments, secondarily fired on the outside, and inside, Munsell 5Y, 7/3 pale yellow. TOPOLEANU 2000, pl. XXX/257-259, West-Pontic Pots, type V, variant B (Halmyris, 4<sup>th</sup> – 7<sup>th</sup> century).

27. Fragmentary rim of an amphora, preserved height 4.5 cm, rim diameter 8 cm, reddish color fabric with small limestone fragments and iron oxide, Munsell 2.5Y 8/4 pale yellow. OPAIȚ 2010, fig. 9-11.

28. Fragmentary rim and handle of an amphora, preserved height 5 cm, rim diameter 7 cm, reddish color fabric with limestone fragments, secondarily burned at the inside and outside, Munsell 2.5Y 8/4 pale yellow. OPAIȚ 2010, fig. 9-11.

**Layer V (Honorius - 5<sup>th</sup> century) - S1, c.15, - 0.70 – 0.80 m**

29. Fragmentary rim of a pot, preserved height 4.5 cm, rim diameter 17 cm, coarse light gray color fabric with small lithic fragments, slip of the same color, Munsell 2 for Glaz 6/1 bluish gray. OPAIȚ 1991 A, pl. 26/156-157, p. 153 type III, (Independența/Murighiol, 4<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> century).

30. Rim fragment of a pot, preserved height 3 cm, rim diameter 7.5 cm, dark reddish color fabric with limestone particles, secondarily fired on the outside, Munsell 10 YR 4/6 dark yellowish brown. OPAIȚ 1991 A, pl. 26/156-157, p. 153 type III, (Independența/Murighiol, 4<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> century); SUCEVEANU 1982, p. 84, fig. 6/7 (Histria, first three quarters of the 4<sup>th</sup> century) (?); KUZMANOV 1985, p. 51, pots type II, pl. 30/36 (5<sup>th</sup> century).

31. Fragmentary rim of a dish, preserved height 3 cm, rim diameter 26 cm, fine reddish fabric with small limestone particles, secondarily fired on the inside and outside, slip of the same color, Munsell 2.5Y 8/8 yellow. Relative analogies: HAYES 2008, p. 201, fig. 25/801, 803 late Çandarli ware. HAYES 2008 fig. 38, p. 238-239, fig. 38/1251-1254 Phocaeen Red Slip ware Form 3 A, 5<sup>th</sup> century AD. Also HAYES 2008, p. 245, fig. 42/1330 (context of 6<sup>th</sup> century or earlier).



32. Fragmentary rim of a pot, preserved height 2.4 cm, rim diameter 12 cm, coarse light beige fabric with sand and small lithic fragments, slip of the same color, Munsell 2.5Y, 8/2 pale yellow. OPAIȚ 1991 A, pl. 26/156-157, p. 153 type III, (Independența/Murighiol, 4<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> century).

33. Fragmentary rim of a pot, preserved height 3.8 cm, rim diameter 10 cm, semi-fine brick color fabric with limestone particles, slip of the same color, Munsell 10 YR 7/6 yellow. TOPOLEANU 2000, p. 112, pl. XXX/266, West - Pontic pots (Halmyris 4<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> century).

34. Fragmentary base of a pot (?), preserved height 3 cm, base diameter 10 cm, semi-coarse light reddish fabric with limestone and iron oxide particles in composition, slip of the same color, secondarily fired on the outside, Munsell 10 YR 7/8 yellow.

**Layers V-VI (beginning of the 5<sup>th</sup> - 6<sup>th</sup> century) - S1, c.12-13, - 0.40 – 0.50 m**

35. Fragment of amphora rim, preserved height 4 cm, rim diameter 8 cm, semi-coarse brick color fabric with limestone particles in composition, light yellow slip, Munsell 2.5Y 8/6 yellow. Possibly Pontic Kuzmanov 15 type (?). TOPOLEANU 2000, p. 151, type VII, pl. XLVIII/391 (4<sup>th</sup>-7<sup>th</sup> century); OPAIȚ 2004, p. 28 (5<sup>th</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> century); also strong resemblance with another type of amphora rim: BRUKNER 1981, T162/66.

36. Fragmentary rim of a plate, preserved height 1.8 cm, rim diameter 32 cm, fine, homogenous light reddish fabric, yellowish-red slip, Munsell 2.5Y 7/8 yellow. ARSENEVA & DOMZALSKI 2002, p. 426-427, fig. 11/296, Late Pontic Red Slip Ware, type 3, late 4<sup>th</sup> – middle 5<sup>th</sup> century.

**Layer VI - S1, c.14-15, - 0.30 - 0.60 m**

37. Fragmentary rim and handle of Pontic amphora, (ANTONOVA 5/KUZMANOV XVI type), preserved height 7 cm, rim diameter 8 cm, dark brick color fabric with iron oxide and limestone particles, slip of the same color, secondarily fired on the inside and outside, Munsell 10YR 7/4 very pale brown. PARASCHIV 2006, p. 36-38, pl. 10/74, Pontic amphora type 12 (second half of the 5<sup>th</sup> – beginning of the 7<sup>th</sup> century); TOPOLEANU 2000, type VIII, p. 152, pl. L/400 (Halmyris, middle of the 5<sup>th</sup>-beginning of the 7<sup>th</sup> century); KUZMANOV 1985, type XVI; OPAIȚ 1991 A, pl. 12/72 (Independența/Murighiol).

38. Fragmentary base of a pitcher, preserved height 4 cm, base diameter 8 cm, semi-fine light reddish color fabric, slip of the same color, ring foot, Munsell 2.5 Y 8/3 pale yellow.

39. Fragmentary rim of a pot, preserved height 3.5 cm, rim diameter 16 cm, semi-coarse light gray fabric with limestone particles in composition, gray slip, Munsell 2 for gray 2.5/1 5PB bluish black. The form survives a long period of time. Early analogies at Durostorum in the 2<sup>nd</sup> – 3<sup>rd</sup> century AD (MUȘETEANU & ELEFTERESCU 1992, p. 224, fig. 1/17). Later analogies: TOPOLEANU 2000, p. 116-117, Halmyris, pots type XIV, pl. XXXIV/294-296 (6<sup>th</sup>-7<sup>th</sup> century); BOGDAN-CĂTĂNICIU & BARNEA 1979, fig. 168/5.2, 5.3, 5.5, 5.9 (Tropaeum Traiani, 6<sup>th</sup> century); UENZE 1992, Tafel 76/10.

40. Fragment of a rim and handle from a pot, preserved height 3.3 cm, rim diameter 20 cm, coarse reddish fabric with limestone fragments, the slip is dark gray color, the handle is relatively round in section, Munsell 2.5Y, 2.5/1 black. KLENINA 2006, fig. 4/4 (Novae); TOPOLEANU 2000, p. 116-117, Halmyris, pots type XIV, pl. XXXIV/294-296 (6<sup>th</sup>-7<sup>th</sup> century); BOGDAN-CĂTĂNICIU & BARNEA 1979, fig. 168/5.2, 5.3, 5.5, 5.9 (Tropaeum Traiani, 6<sup>th</sup> century).

41. Fragmentary rim and handle of a pot, preserved height 2.7 cm, rim diameter 18 cm, semi-fine beige color fabric with limestone fragments, the slip is light grayish – beige the handle is oval in section, decorated with grooves, Munsell 2.5Y 3/3 dark olive brown. KLENINA 2006, fig. 4/4 (Novae); TOPOLEANU 2000, p. 116-117, Halmyris, pots type XIV, pl. XXXIV / 294-296 (6<sup>th</sup>-7<sup>th</sup> century); BOGDAN-CĂTĂNICIU & BARNEA 1979, fig. 168/5.2, 5.3, 5.5, 5.9 (Tropaeum Traiani, 6<sup>th</sup> century).

42. Fragmentary rim of a pot, preserved height 1.8 cm, rim diameter 12 cm, semi-coarse light yellow color fabric with limestone particles, slip of the same color, Munsell 1 for gray 8/1 light greenish grey. TOPOLEANU 2000, p. 116-117, Halmyris, pots type XIV, pl. XXXIV/294-296 (6<sup>th</sup>-7<sup>th</sup> century); BOGDAN-CĂTĂNICIU & BARNEA 1979, fig. 168/5.2, 5.3, 5.5, 5.9 (Tropaeum Traiani, 6<sup>th</sup> century).

43. Fragment of a LR2 amphora type rim, preserved height 5,5 cm, rim diameter 10 cm, homogenous light reddish fabric with limestone particles in composition, light beige slip, Munsell 5Y 6/8 olive yellow. OPAIȚ 2014, p. 46, fig. 9; OPAIȚ 1991 A, p. 139-140, type II, pl. 8/52, 55 (5<sup>th</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> century).

**Layer VI (combined with some other intrusions) - S1, c.14-15, - 0.30 - 0.70 m**

44. Amphora rim, preserved height 5.5 cm, rim diameter 9 cm, dark reddish – brick color fabric with iron oxide and limestone particles in composition, the core is gray color, whitish slip, Munsell (fabric) 2.5YR 3/6 dark red, and the slip is 5Y 8/2 pale yellow. SUCEVEANU 1982, p. 101, fig. 16/59 (Histria, end of the 6<sup>th</sup> century – beginning of the 7<sup>th</sup> century); KLENINA 2006, jug, fig. 2/8 (Novae); OPAIȚ 2004, p. 31, Sinopean/OPAIȚ D-III (5<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> century) (?); TOPOLEANU 2000, p. 143, type XVI, pl. XLV/365 (5<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> century) (?); Pontic Opait B-Ib (?).

45. Fragment of amphora rim, preserved height 4 cm, rim diameter 8 cm, reddish color fabric with limestone and black mica in composition, secondarily fired. Munsell 5Y 8/4 pale yellow. NUȚU, STANC & PARASCHIV 2014, p. 60, pl. 14/93 (Niculițel). Possibly LRA 1 type.

46. Fragment of rim and handle LR 1 type amphora, preserved height 11 cm, rim diameter 10 cm, beige fabric with limestone particles in composition, Munsell 5Y 8/4 pale yellow. OPAIȚ 1991 A, p. 146, type I (RILEY LR 1 type) pl. 17/101-105.

47. Fragmentary rim and handle of an amphora, preserved height 9 cm, rim diameter 8 cm, beige-yellow fabric with limestone particles in composition, Munsell 2.5Y 8/4 pale yellow. Possibly LRA 1 type.

***Passim - S1, c.10, - 0.40 m (old excavations)***

48. Amphora rim fragment, preserved height 4.5 cm, rim diameter 10 cm, dark brick color fabric with limestone particles, slip of the same color, Munsell 7.5 YR 6/8 reddish yellow. Possibly Pontic Amphora Opait B-I type (4<sup>th</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> century).

49. Loom weight, rudimental manufactured of a brick, perforated, thickness 4.5 cm, length 15 cm, width 12.5 cm .

50. Fragmentary amphora foot, preserved height 6 cm, light reddish color fabric with limestone particles in composition, slip of the same color, Munsell 2.5Y 8/3 pale yellow.

The small area excavated made impossible an attempt to systematize the pottery in a graphic of percentage repartition on the functional categories, types or provenience, being irrelevant for such a small quantity of findings. Giving this, some remarks may be concluded about the clearly identified pottery imports and the occurrence of some functional categories.

First of all, the imports, excepting amphorae, are rare and relevant only for the period of 4<sup>th</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> century. The almost absence in this area of the Phoccean tableware (one example no. 31), typical for any military fortification in the 6<sup>th</sup> century in Balkans, (but present in other areas of the Ulmetum fortification) show the real extent of the old excavations from 1912-1913 which effectively removed the majority of the late layers. As a matter of fact the original layers inside the tower 2 are described in 1913 by Vasile Pârvan,<sup>11</sup> (at least 5 layers were excavated) including remarks about debris, a 45 cm ash layer, burned grains, tiles and bricks. It may be easy to estimate that excepting the burned grains, the status was similar near the tower 2, in the rest of our excavation unit. It is also possible that the VI<sup>th</sup> layer represents in fact a part of the disturbed soil caused by the reconstruction of the fortification in the middle of 6<sup>th</sup> century. The fragment of ware decorated with lines and waves also indicates a possible north Danube origin.

A number of wares, pots in majority, also few casseroles, are classified into the kitchen ware functional category. They are noticed on all levels, notably the pots presenting a groove on the top of the rim for fixing the lid (few variants). The majority of them are presumably locally produced, but since the casseroles may be imported from other provinces, as the analogies show, it will not be impossible that some of the pots were produced in different areas.

The amphorae, equally frequent as the kitchen ware, come from Pontic and Aegean areas of production. Among some identified types it can be noted Kuzmanov XV/Antonova V, Kuzmanov XVI, Carthage LRA 1 and LRA 2. Even if some amphorae shards find some relative analogies in bibliography, I preferred not to identify them at all, considering the small fragments and the fact that they can be identified in future research on the basis of the consecrated works (PARASCHIV 2007, OPAIȚ 2004, TOPOLEANU 2000, OPRIȘ 2003) and many other examples from specialized articles. Also a wrong classification of the potsherds may not sustain the aim of this paper, conducting to unnecessary errors caused by the wrong fabrics identification.

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<sup>11</sup> PÂRVAN 1913, II. 1, fig. 28, p. 274. The fig. 28 representing the original excavation in the tower 2 is reproduced in the illustration.

A spindle whorl and two weights for vertical loom demonstrate basic domestic activities in the area, presumably connected to a civilian habitation inside or outside the fortification.

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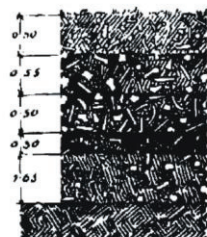




Pl. I Archaeological excavations: section S1 inside Tower 2 and in the *intra muros* area.

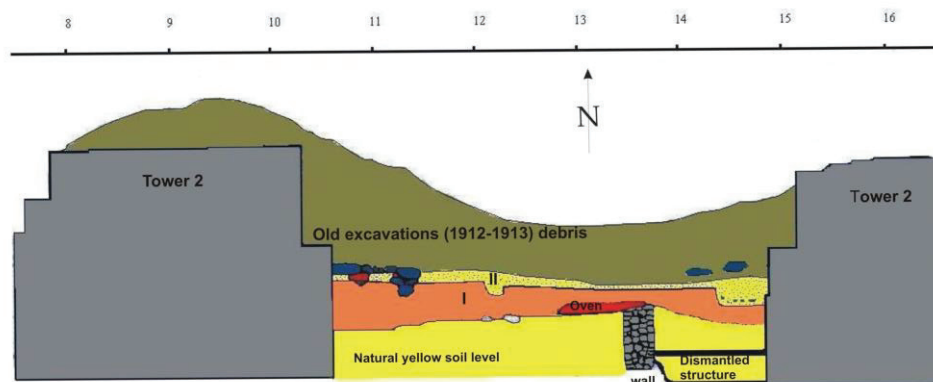


SECTIVNE PRIN DARAMATVRIILE  
DIN INTERIORUL TVRNVLVI DE N.  
AL PORTII DE N-V.

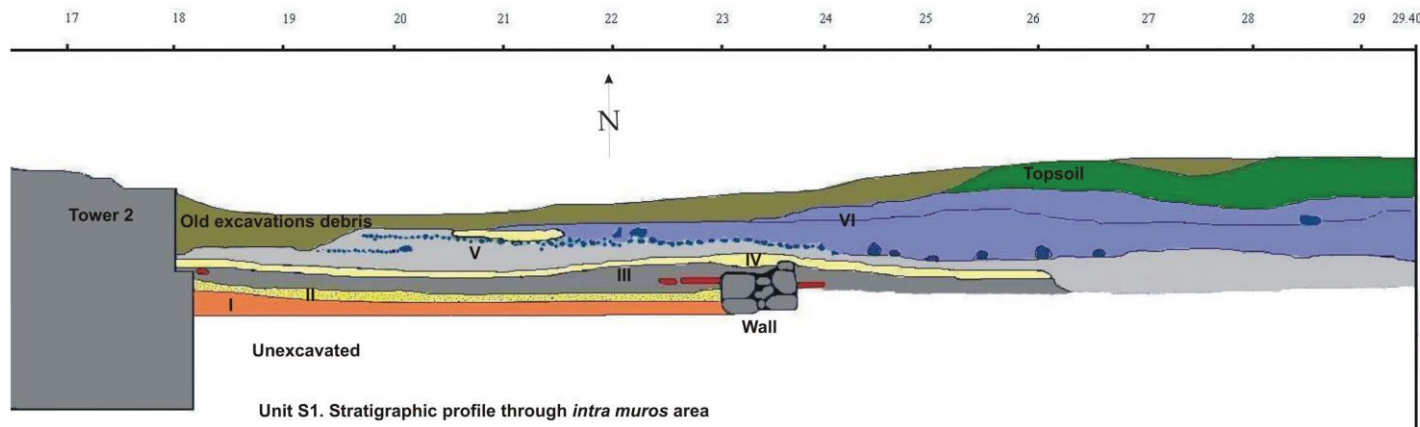


PAMANT VEGETAL CV  
OLANE SI PIETRE MICI.  
OLANE CV PIATRA,  
PAMANT SI MOLOZ.  
PIATRA, CARAMIDA,  
MOLOZ SI PVTINE OLANE.  
CENVA APROAPE CVRATA.  
PAMANT CV CENVA SI  
PVTINE RESIVRI DE  
CARAMIDA SI PIATRA.

The stratigraphy of Tower 2 *apud* PÂRVAN 1913, p. 274 Fig. 28

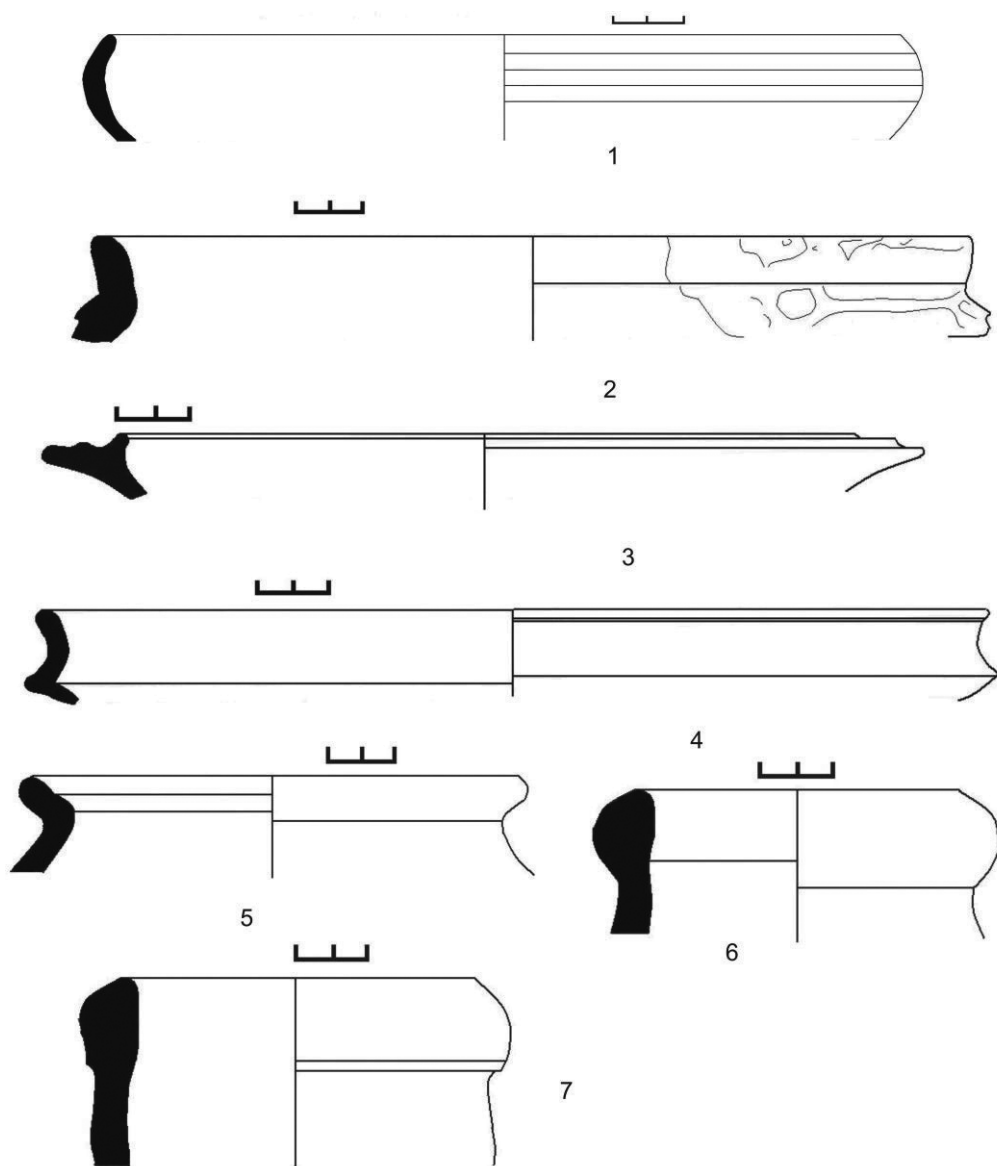


Unit S1. Stratigraphic profile through Tower 2

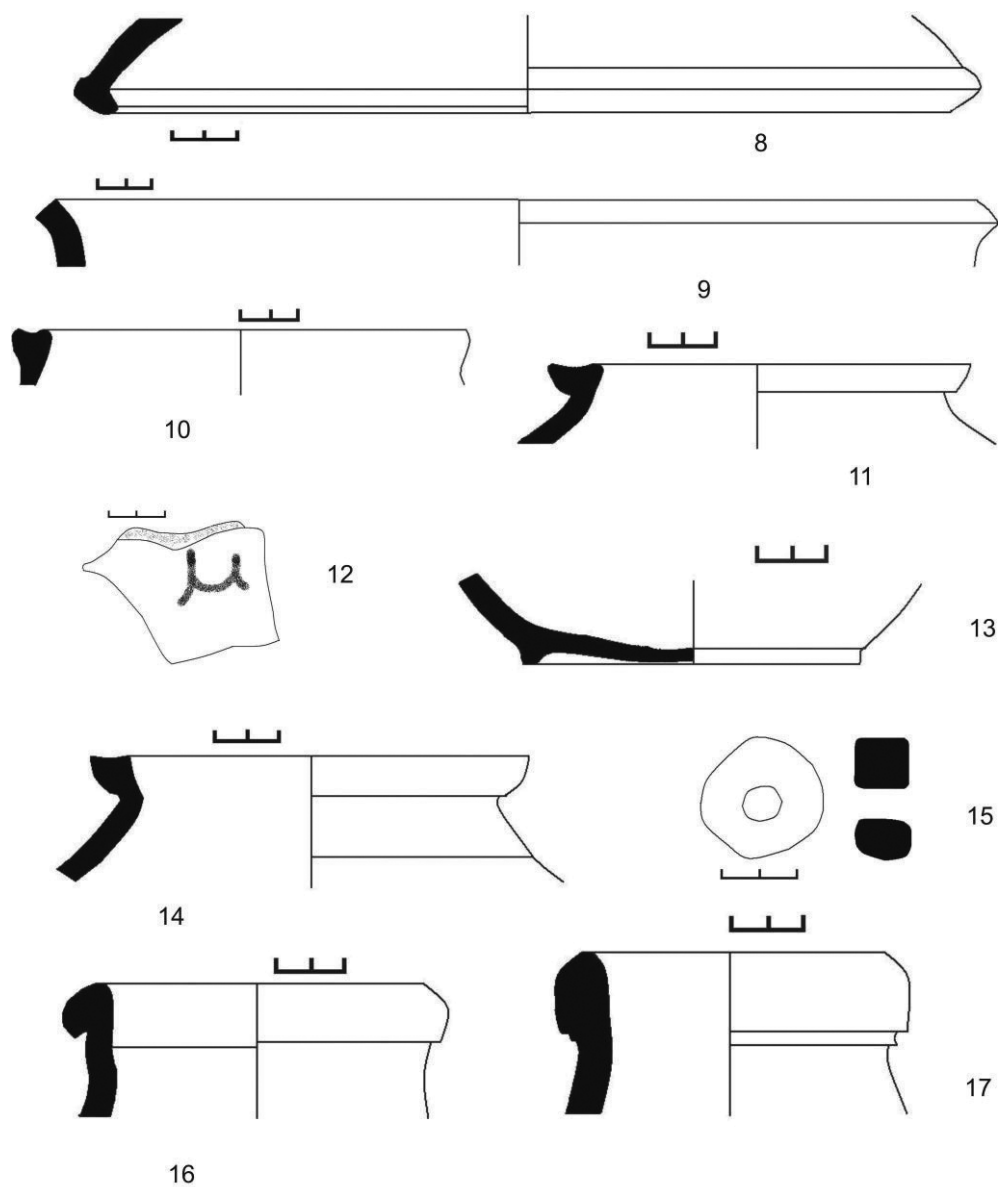


Unit S1. Stratigraphic profile through *intra muros* area

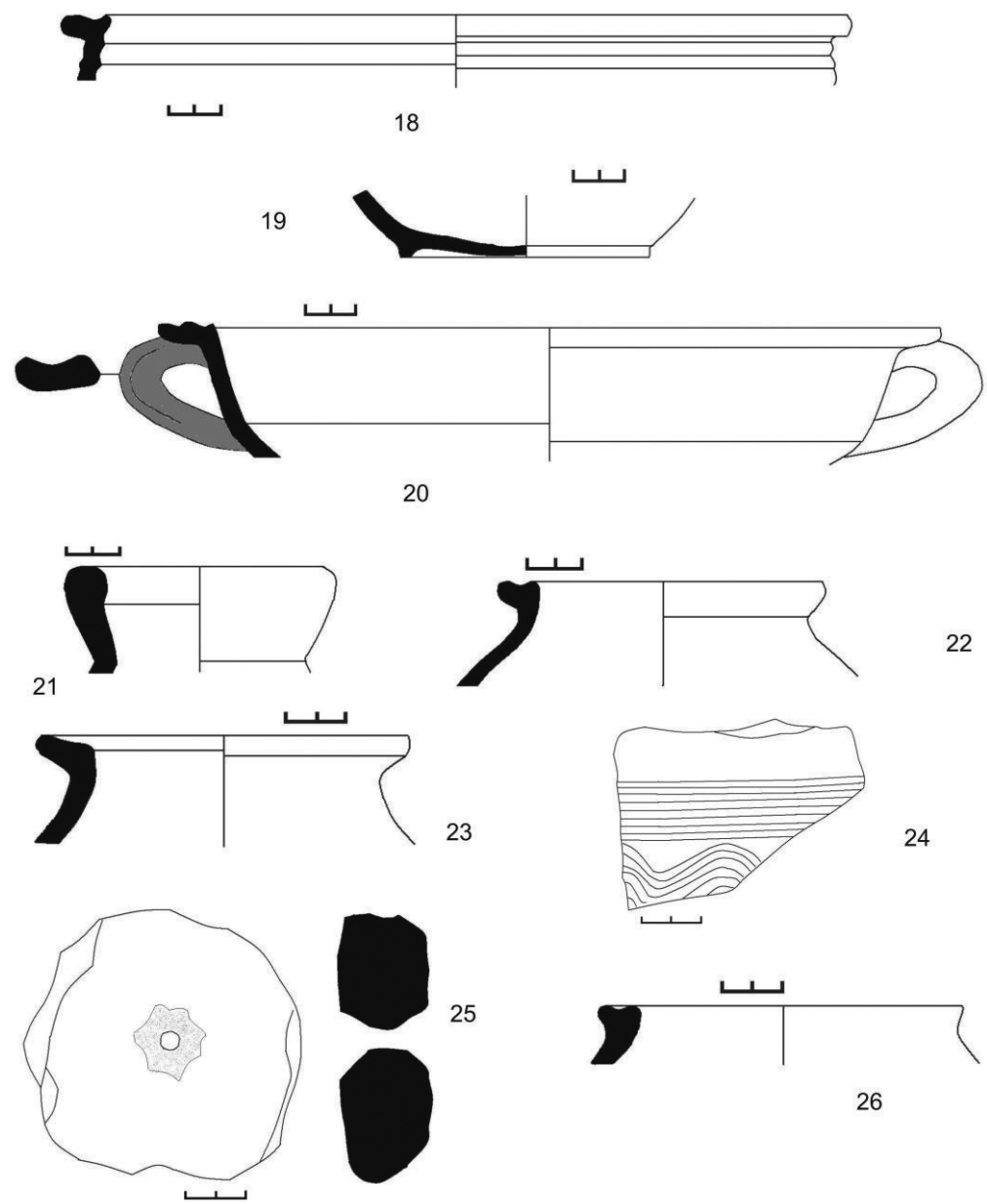
Pl. II



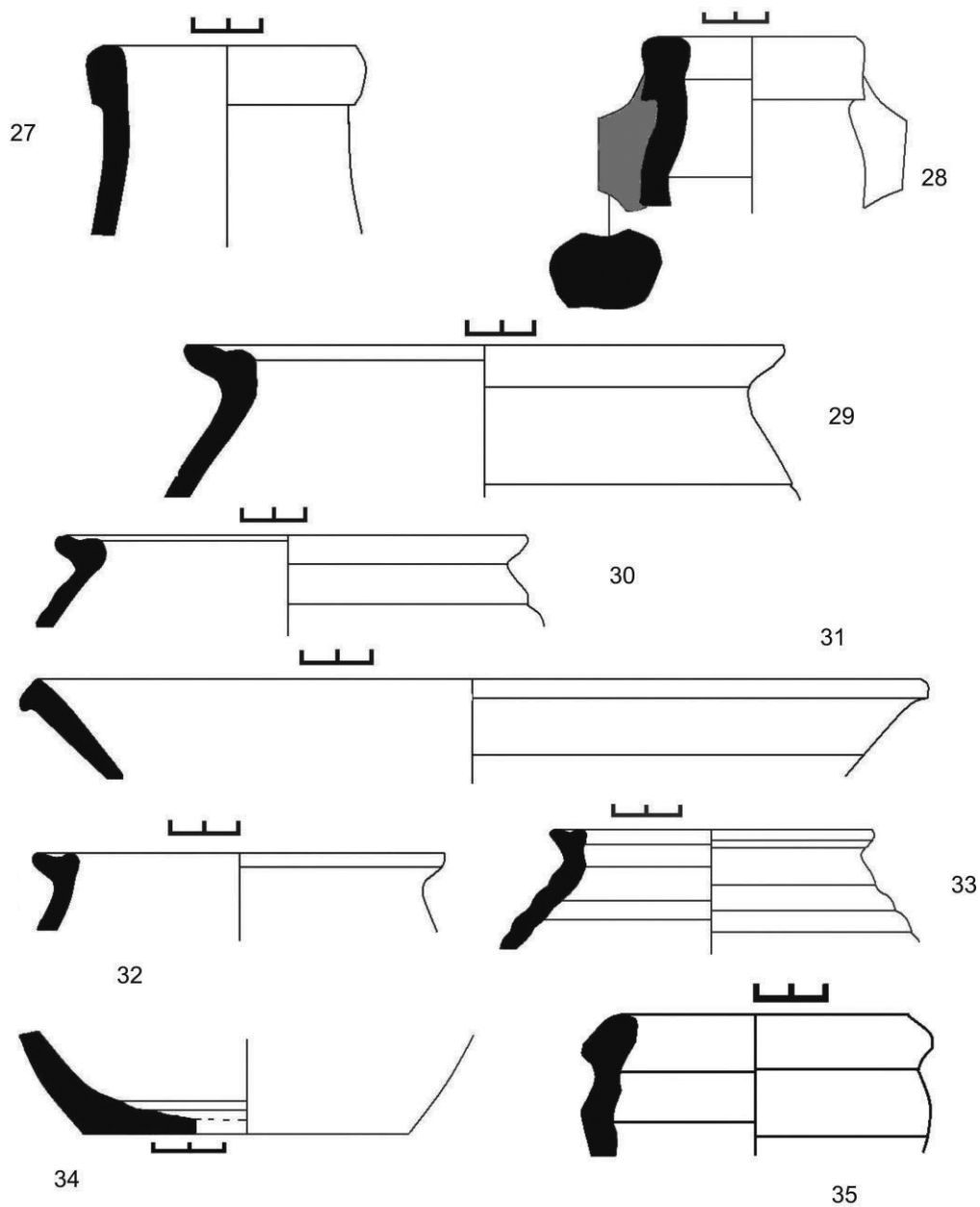
Pl. III (cat. 1-7)



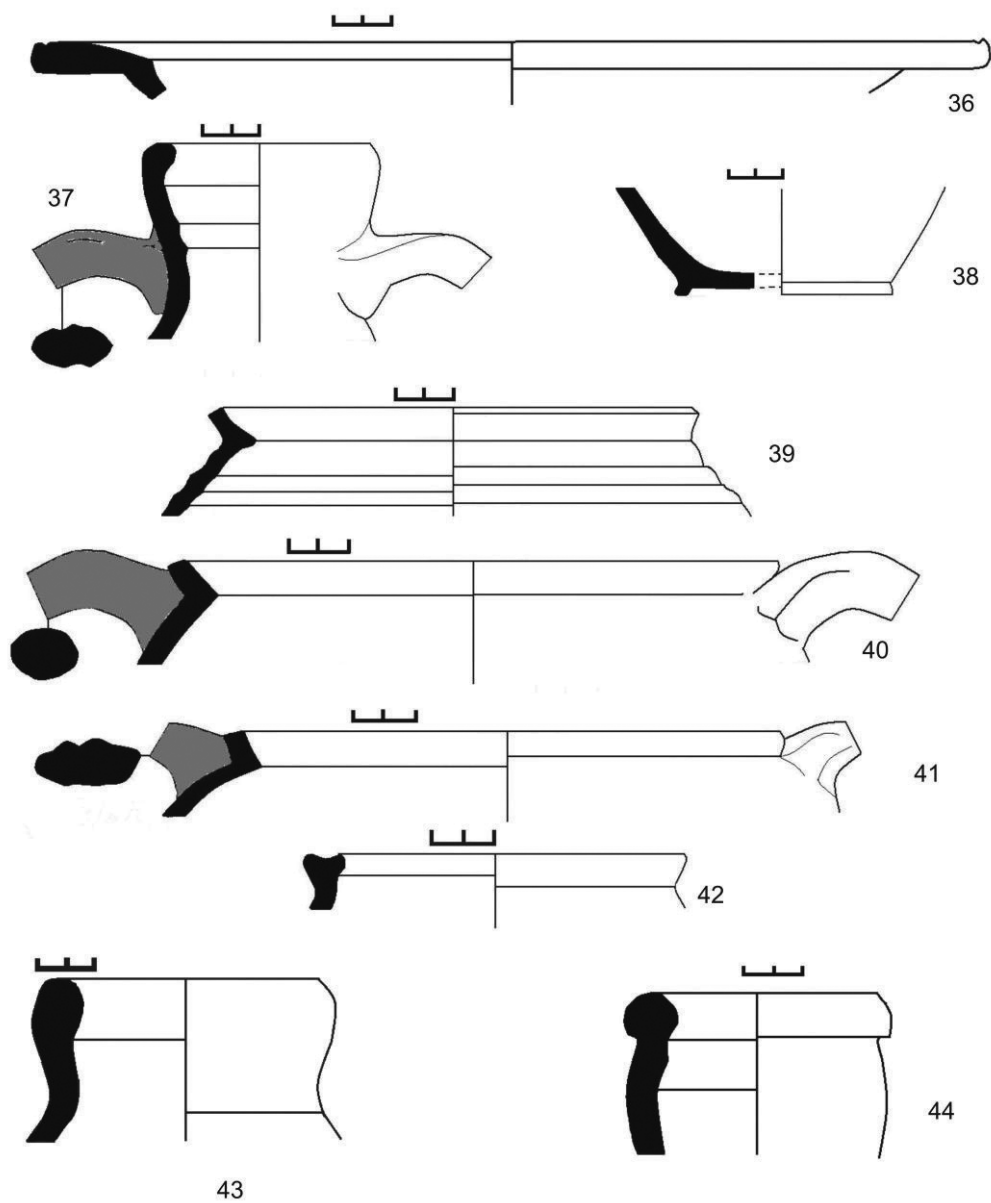
Pl. IV (cat. 8-17)



Pl. V (cat. 18-26)

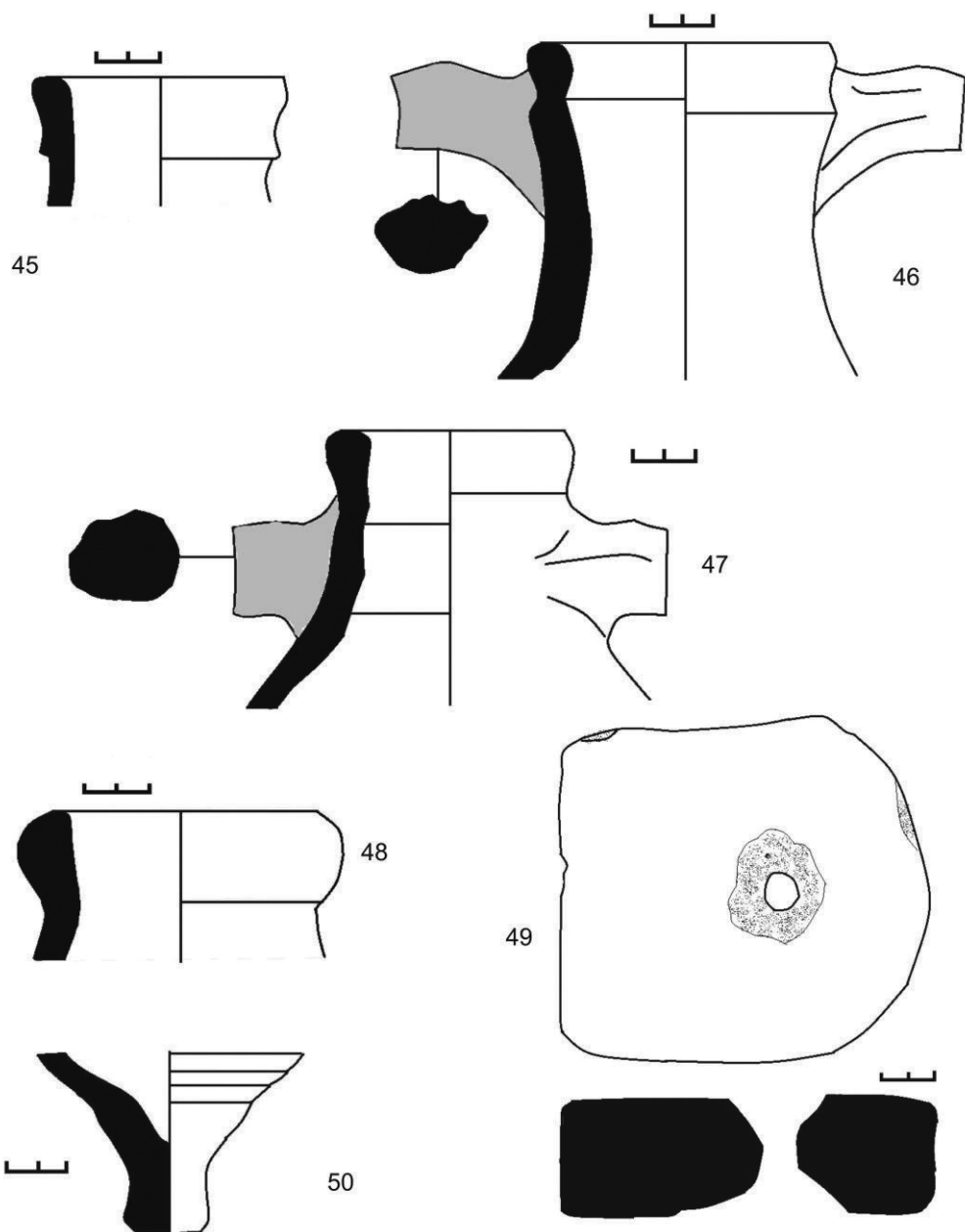


Pl. VI (cat. 27-35)



Pl. VII (cat. 36 – 44)





Pl. VIII (cat. 45 – 50)