



JOURNAL OF ANCIENT HISTORY AND ARCHAEOLOGY

Institute of Archeology and Art History of
Romanian Academy Cluj-Napoca
Technical University Of Cluj-Napoca



JAHA
JOURNAL OF ANCIENT HISTORY
AND ARCHAEOLOGY

Journal of Ancient History and Archaeology

DOI: <http://dx.doi.org/10.14795/j.v8i4>

ISSN 2360 266x

ISSN-L 2360 266x



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JOURNALS

No. 8.4 /2021

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Design & layout:
Petru Ureche

A STREET WITH A VIEW OVER THE CENTURIES. THE CERAMIC MATERIAL FROM THE STREET A IN FRONT OF THE CRYPT BASILICA AT HISTRIA (I)

Abstract: This paper discusses the ceramic assemblage discovered during the 2007 and 2018 campaigns in the on the route of street A, north of the Crypt Basilica, one of the few urban arteries revealed from the road network of late Roman Histria. The analyzed ceramic inventory, which is in a very advanced state of fragmentation, covers the period of the 1st – 6th centuries AD and includes almost all ceramic categories: transport, storage, table ware and cooking vessels. The statistical analysis shows the dominance of table wares, followed by transport vessels and cooking wares. In the case of the latter, this category includes both wheel or the handmade fragments. Each category is analyzed based on morphological and functional criteria, and the discussion extends to the issue of production centers. Considering the rich ceramic variety, especially the transport vessels and fine pottery, shows the commercial connections of Histria with large manufacturing centers, especially in the Aegean, Pontic and Micro-Asian, both during the early Roman period and in the Late Antiquity. During the 2nd and 3rd centuries the transport vessels arrived carrying wine and oil mainly from south Pontic and Aegean centers, while and the finer pottery has a Pontic and local origin, with few imports. By contrast, during Late Antiquity, Aegean amphorae dominate as the main imports in this category, represented especially by the well known types LRA 1 and LRA 2, in close connection with the *annona militaris*. There are still Pontic containers, such as the Kuzmanov XVI type of amphorae and a single Levantine amphora. Starting from the chronological and typological distribution of the ceramic material, the paper aims to answer questions related to the economic relations of History in the Roman era, the issues regarding a local and regional production and the changes that can be observed in the transition from the Principality to the Late Antiquity.

Keywords: *Late Antique street; Histria; Early and Late Roman pottery; local and regional economy.*

ARCHAEOLOGICAL INTRODUCTION

Between 2002 and 2013, with some interruptions, a team from the Institute of Archeology “Vasile Pârvan” from Bucharest resumed the research of the Crypt Basilica of Histria, as well as its surroundings, especially the areas north and east of the cult building¹. However, the 2018

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DOI: 10.14795/j.v8i4.695

ISSN 2360 – 266X

ISSN-L 2360 – 266X

¹ ACHIM 2012, 141–145, fig. 15–18; ACHIM 2014; ACHIM *et alii* 2014; ACHIM *et alii* 2021,

archeological campaign, instead, was dedicated to the research of the street A², located immediately north of the Christian building.

The exposed surface of street A in 2018 is located north of the Christian basilica, more precisely from the northwest corner of the narthex to the north, and continues in the direction of another street (conventionally called D)³, with an east-west route and comparable constructive features, with which it intersects at about 12 meters from the Christian edifice.

Street A follows a north-south route, with a low ascending slope to the north and a slight axis deviation in a north-easterly direction. Archaeological excavations in 2018 allowed the effective research of 8 linear meters of street surface, in an area between building B to the east, rooms 1 and 2 of group I investigated by A. Petre on the north side of the Main Square (during the campaigns in 1958 and 1959), section S3⁴ to the north and the Christian basilica to the south (**Fig. 1a–b**; **Fig. 2a–b**).

At the current stage of the research, still unfinished in this perimeter, street A reaches a maximum width of 3.25 m at its southern end (or about 11 Roman feet). On the east side of the street revealed a discontinuous alignment of limestone blocks, alternating with green shale blocks, which faithfully follow the line of the disused B construction, most likely forming a sidewalk or refuge on the right side of the street (with a width of about 0.70 m).

The depositional complex that forms the street looks like a relatively flat surface, covered by a continuous, compact “pavement”, mounted in a layer of yellow-gray earth, of hard consistency. The pavement made of green shale pebbles and rare limestone, harmoniously combined with small fragments of construction material (*tegulae*) and ceramics, has gaps in the southern and northern extremities. The pebbles alternate with some elements of green shale and limestone, with a pronounced flat surface and dimensions larger than 10 cm, which are scattered without apparent pattern over the entire surface of the street. Over the three centuries of use of the A street, many interventions have continually changed the general aspect and feel of this access route. The changes found consist of the successive rearrangement of the practicable area, the possible shift of the street route from west to east, depending on the functionality cycles of the buildings on the north side of the Main Square, the arrangement and maintenance of a street system, e.g. gutters, e.g. gutters (C4) for draining rainwater and wastewater (**Fig. 2a**).

Research began in the 2007 campaign, supplemented

478–480, fig. 1–4, 10.

² This traffic artery is named after a local identification system used by A. Petre, during the excavations carried out in 1958 and 1959 in the sector of the Main Gate of the late Roman city of Histria, see PETRE 1962a, especially 389–390, pl. IV. The same system for identifying the road network in the area north of Main Square is adopted by F. Munteanu, see MUNTEANU 2011. The route of the road artery under discussion seems to correspond, at least in part, to B4 street defined by the architect M. Mărgineanu- Cârstoiu - see MĂRGINEANU-CĂRSTOIU 1984, 306–310, fig. 3, 5.

³ PETRE 1962a, 390–391, pl. IV; MUNTEANU 2011, 236, fig. 1, 3–4. D Street is designated in a previous contribution by A.S. Ștefan as street 5 - see ȘTEFAN 1974, 45, fig. 4.

⁴ ACHIM/BĂLDESCU/MUNTEANU 2008, 169.

in 2018, showed that on a section to the north, Street A completely overlaps an early Roman period building (CR G⁵), which does not appear to have functioned later than the end of the third century AD. Chr. and whose exact destination has not yet been determined at this stage of the research.

As the stratigraphic succession was already affected by excavations in the area during the 4th decade of the 20th century, as noted by A. Petre in his report published in 1962⁶, we could observe that the latest recognizable surface of the street today was covered by a very fine modern layer (at average depths of 0.86/0.96 m). Two successive layers, not exceeding 25–30 cm thick, gray-yellow in color, of hard and medium consistency soil, seal the dismantled and leveled remains of the CR G building and its western flank, forming the surface of street A, up to the limit of the blocks that may consist of a sidewalk. These two layers contain a large amount of lithic material, construction material and delivered an important lot of ceramic finds as well as 16 bronze coins.

The numismatic finds⁷ are distributed unevenly on the researched surface, with a higher concentration in the northern half of the excavation (in section B3, especially in the eastern half of it), at depths ranging between 0.83 and 0.93 m (from the point reference in the area of the northern perimeter wall of the basilica). Only four coins come from section C3 and from comparable depths. It is also worth mentioning that in the areas in the immediate vicinity of the street, to the east and west, the research undertaken in 1931 by Scarlat Lambrino and 1958–1959 by A. Petre illustrates monetary discoveries belonging to the same chronological intervals. (**Fig. 2b**).

METHODOLOGY

The ceramic inventory is featured according to the main functional categories: transport, tableware, cook ware and storage. Each category consists of several types, listed according to the known production areas and chronology. The transport vessels are features firstly according to the greater area of production, e.g. Pontic and Aegean, secondly according to chronology (early or late Roman) and thirdly, according to content, when known. The principle of functionality applies to the rest of the featured categories. Concerning the table wares, the finds were first separated between liquids containers – *vasa potatoria* and serving vessels. The latter, is subdivided into dishes, bowls cups and mugs. The principle extends to the last categories, storage

⁵ CR G is a rectangular construction (5.80 × 3.20 m), with massive walls to the east and north, using a pink mortar as a binder, which adheres to the western wall of building B, on the exterior - see ACHIM/DIMA 2019, 91–94.

⁶ PETRE 1962a, 392.

⁷ The numismatic analysis performed by M. Dima in 2018–2019 and communicated as a oral presentation *Sectorul Basilica cu Criptă de la Histria în lumina descoperirilor monetare din Campania 2018*, at the Annual Session of the „Vasile Pârvan” Institute of Archaeology (March 2019), showing that two coins from the analyzed group (**99, 102**) are attributable to the Greek period (**Fig. 2b black**); three other coins (**88, 91, 97**) from the 2nd – 3rd centuries AD come from the areas adjacent to street A and in one case from the street (**Fig. 2b blue**); six late Roman coins date from the 4th century to the beginning of the 6th century AD (**89, 93, 95, 98, 104**, piece **101** being discovered outside the archaeological context) / (**Fig. 2b red**); finally, another six coins (**90, 92, 94, 96, 100, 103**) are issues of Justinian I, Justin II, Mauricius Tiberius (**Fig. 2b green**) - see Fig. 2b.

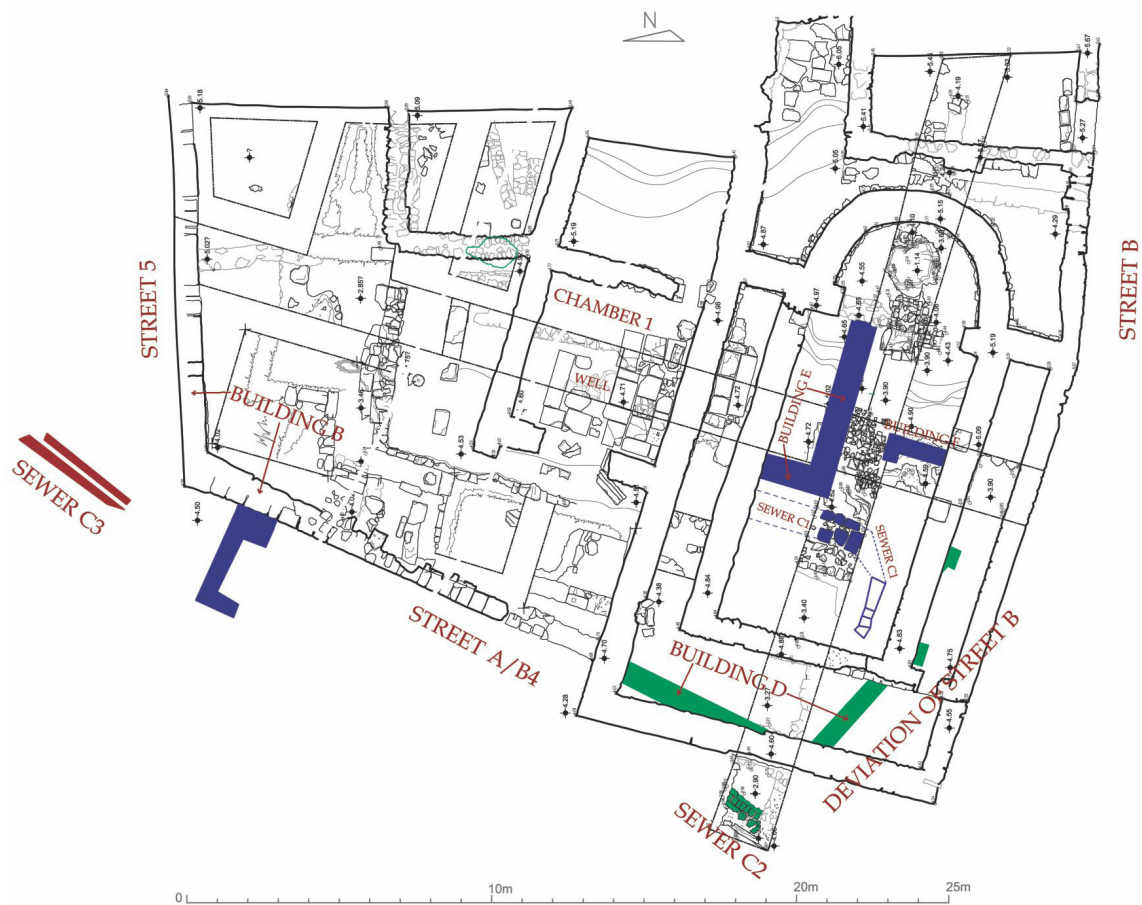


Fig.1a. Plan of the Crypt Basilica and the its northern side (I. Achim and architect I. Băldescu).



Fig.1b. Aerial view of the Crypt Basilica and its surroundings, including Street A (D. Ștefan, L. Cliante, 2021).

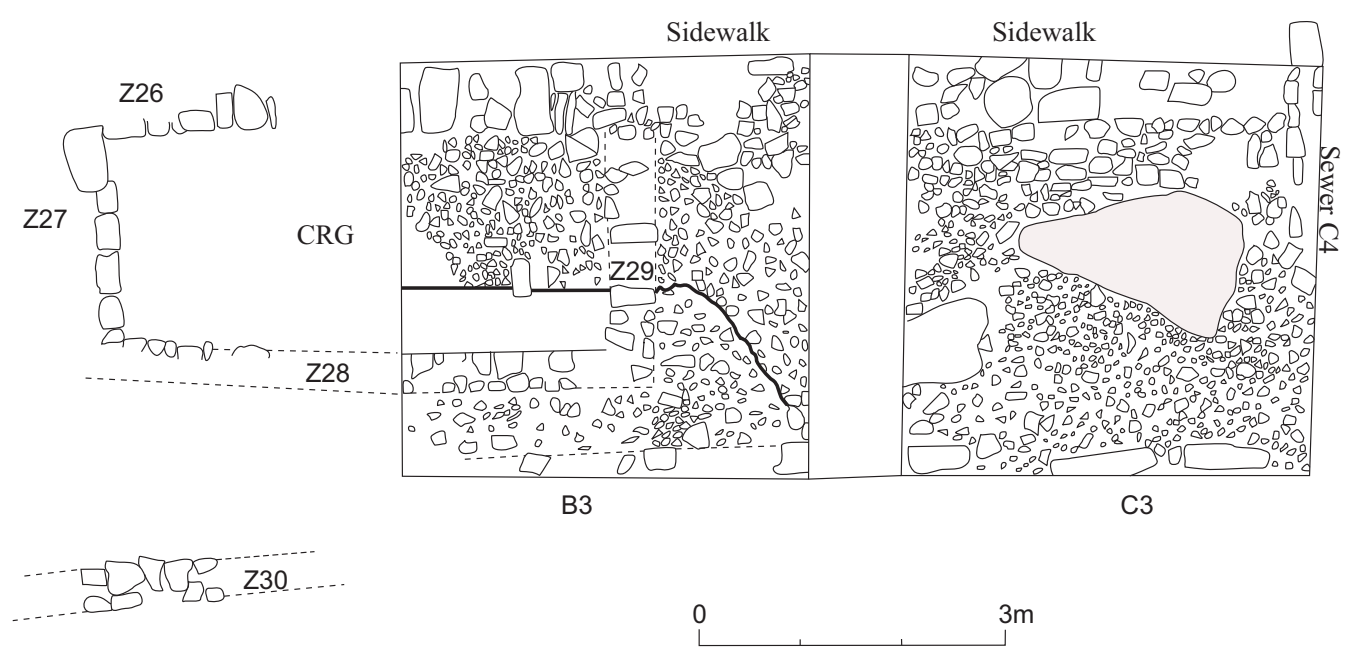


Fig.2a. Detailed plan of the 2018 excavation of the street A. (I. Achim, V. Bottez).



Fig.2b. Archaeological features and distribution of coins on the excavated surface in 2018 (I. Achim, M. Dima).

vessels and cookware (e.g. pots, casserole, pans, bowl and lids). We refrained from going into the historiography of each main type, as they have been discussed and large and referenced the relevant literature, focusing instead on

highlighting the less frequent finds and integrating them into their respective categories.
As we are not dealing with a closed context, rather one that suffered several interventions, we considered it

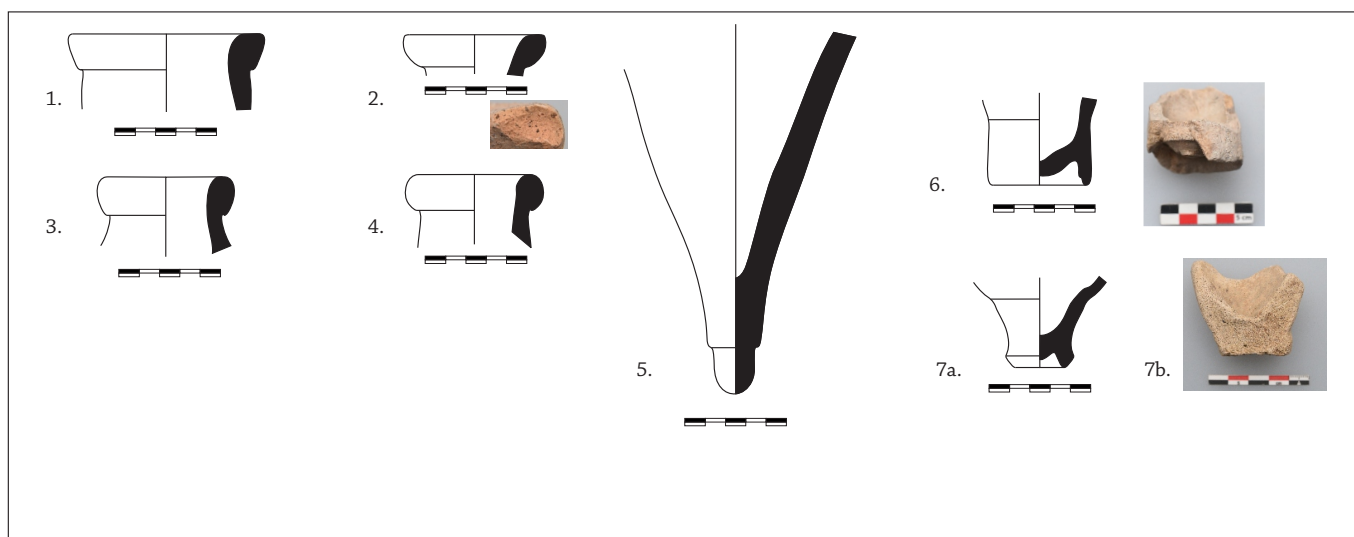


Fig.3. Heraclea amphorae

useful to reference foremost the analogies from the site, followed by analogies in the province and the main typologies already established for the roman period ceramics, which are referenced as such (e.g. eastern *sigillata*, ESA, ESC, ARS or Late Roman C ware). The goal is to highlight patterns of production and trade at Histria, identifying the most common vessels as well as evolution and changes in trading areas. The main purpose is to emphasize the frequency of a particular type of vessel among the discoveries from a certain period, followed by suggesting a larger regional context for similar finds. One other goal is to try to pin potential local products, then regional, and finally, identify the imports, with all the changes noticeable.

THE CERAMIC INVENTORY⁸

I. Transport vessels (nos. 1-40)

From the total amphora fragments discovered (40), 29 are from the early Roman period, and 11 rim fragments belong with certainty to vessels from the 5th–6th centuries AD. From the early Roman period, the most frequent finds come from south Pontic amphorae, more precisely from Heraclea (**nos. 1–7a/b**) and other undetermined centers. The rest of the transport vessels have a variety of shapes as well as fabrics and also originate from Pontic centers but much more difficult to determine which. For example, the late Roman amphorae identified as type Kuzmanov XVI are considered west Pontic products, from a workshop in Scythia, still undetermined. During the 2nd and 3rd centuries imports from Heraclea and Sinope are numerous⁹, but in the case of this lot there are no imports from Sinope.

Aegean imports consist only of two fragments from Dressel 24 amphorae (**nos. 30–31**). In the case of the Troesmis X amphorae (**nos. 25–27**), their area of production is still under debated, although an Aegean workshop is among the best options¹⁰.

⁸ The catalog is organized as such: site, campaign, context, R = rim diameter, B = base diameter, Hp = height preserved, color code Munsell Soil Color Book 2015.

⁹ OPAIȚ/PARASCHIV 2013, 322.

¹⁰ OPAIȚ 2015.

From the Late Antique period there are several LRA 1 and LRA 2 fragments (**Fig. 9, nos. 32–33, a–d**), both rims and body sherds (**a–d**). A single find is from a LRA 4, produced in Gaza and transporting vintage¹¹ wine (**no. 37**). There are accretions of clay attached below the rim and to the shoulder, and the wall of these amphora is thickened. Amphorae of this type are recorded at sites throughout the Mediterranean region and dated to late 4th until the mid 7th centuries¹². Interestingly enough, a LRA 1 amphora discovered at Histria with marking from Pamphylia¹³, attests the continuity of trading wine, replacing the earlier Aegean container type Troesmis X.

There are already various Pontic amphorae identifies at Histria¹⁴ and this paper adds a few more, emphasizing the predominance and variety of the Pontic wine market, while oil continues to arrive from Aegean centers.

I.1. Pontic wine amphorae

I.1.1. Early South Pontic amphorae – Heraclea Shelov B (Fig. 3/1–4)

There are nine fragments from Heracleian amphorae, transporting wine. Other fragments were previously discovered at Histria¹⁵, but also at other provincial centers, such as discoveries from Noviodunum¹⁶. The two low ring bases and the fragmentary one (**nos. 6–7**) belong to late Heraclea amphorae, produced since the second quarter of the 1st century AD throughout the early Roman period, becoming the most popular container in the Black Sea area in the 2nd and 3rd centuries AD¹⁷. Heracleian amphorae are found in every site in the Pontic and Lower Danube area and rarely

¹¹ MAYERSON 1985, 1992; PIERI 2005.

¹² OREN–PASKAL 2008, 32–53, referencing Egloff who suggests the end of the Omayyad period for its latest production date (Egloff 1977, 116–117).

¹³ OPAIȚ 2004, 8–9.

¹⁴ BĂJENARU 2014, 125, 129–130, Fig. 4/45–55, Fig. 8/123–130, Fig. 9/131–142.

¹⁵ BĂJENARU 2014, 110, nos. 43–44, p. 111, nos. 111–120.

¹⁶ SIMION 1984, Pl. XII/2, 4, maybe even no. 5; HONCU/STĂNICĂ 2019, 228, fig. 7–8 at Noviodunum.

¹⁷ VNUKOV 2004, 415, type IV with variants; KASSAB TEZGÖR 2020, 47, 1st–3rd centuries AD.

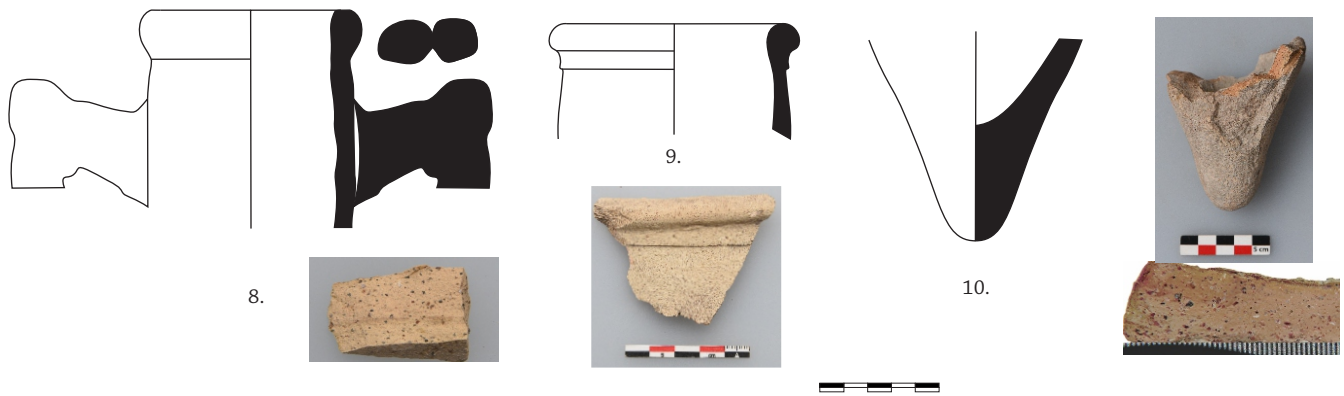


Fig. 4. South Pontic amphorae

outside, despite their small capacities ranging between 6–7 liters¹⁸.

1. Histria 2018, Sector N, square trench B3, square A1, 1.03–1.15, Inv. 773. R. 9–10 cm; Hp. 3.8 cm. Coarse fabric 10YR7/4 very pale brown. (Kassab Tezgör 2020: 47, type S IV B1, no. 96, Pl. XXXIX/4, 1st–3rd centuries AD).
2. Histria 2018, Sector N, square trench C3, squares A1/A2–B1/B2, 0.73–0.93. Inv. 775, R. 7 cm; Hp. 1.1 cm. Fine fabric 5YR6/6 reddish yellow. Kassab Tezgör 2020, 47, type S IV C1, no.101.
3. Histria 2018, Sector N, square trench B3, squares A1/A2–B1/B2, 0.69–0.86, Inv. 759. R. 6 cm; Hp. 3.9 cm. Coarse fabric 10YR7/6 yellow. (Kassab Tezgör 2020: 47, type S IV C1, nos. 98–100).
4. Histria 2018, Sector N, square trench B3, squares A1/A2–B1/B2, 0.69–0.86, Inv. 759. R. 6 cm; Hp. 3.6 cm. Coarse fabric 10YR7/6 yellow.

I.1.2. Unclassified (Fig. 3/5–7)

5. Histria 2018, Sector N, square trench B3, square A1, 0.86/89–1.03, Inv. 768. B. 2 cm; Hp. 19 cm. Conical base, coarse fabric 7.5YR7/6 reddish yellow; self slip.
6. Histria 2018, Sector N, square trench B3, square A2, 0.86–0.97, Inv. 765. B. 5 cm; Hp. 4.5 cm. Ring base, coarse fabric 10YR7/6 yellow.
- 7a. Histria 2018, Sector N, trench S3, squares 1–2, profile S, Inv. 764. B. 3 cm; Hp. 4.6 cm. Ring base, coarse fabric 7.5YR7/6 reddish yellow. (Variant S IVB–C Vnukov 2004, fig. 7)
- 7b. Histria 2007, Sector N, trench S3, squares 1–2, int. CRG, 0.65, Inv. 411. Hp. 4.7 cm. Fragmentary ring base, coarse fabric, 10YR7/4 very pale brown. (Variant S IVB–C Vnukov 2004, fig. 7).

I.1.3. South Pontic amphorae (wine?) (Fig. 4/8–10)

This subcategory includes amphorae from uncertain centers that imitate Coan products, with different fabrics indicating various production site in the southern Pontic region vine the black inclusions in their fabric. The first fragment belongs to a Pseudo-Coan (**Fig. 4/no. 8**), a container following on the footsteps of the Coan amphora and wine production, with the shape used as an indicator of the certain characteristics of the goods¹⁹.

¹⁸ OPAIȚ/IONESCU 2016, 59.

¹⁹ VNUKOV 2004, 407–409, fig. 1: also states that the amphora shape

The second rim with similar fabric could belong to another Pseudo-Coan type of amphora (**Fig. 4/9**), previously discovered at Aegyssus, with a capacity of 23 liters²⁰. The fabric is light colored, with black and reddish inclusions, which could also point to a variant of a Heracleian or Sinopean amphora²¹.

The last item is a conical foot from an unknown amphora type (**Fig. 4/10**), possibly made in the proximity of Heraclea²².

8. Histria 2018, Sector N, square trench B3, square A2, 1.04–1.08, Inv. 772. R. 9 cm; Hp. 9.2 cm. Coarse fabric 10YR7/4 very pale brown; self slip.
9. Histria 2007, Sector N, trench S3, square 5, 0.39–0.45, Inv. 402. R. 8 cm. Rolled rim, exterior groove. Hp. 4.9 cm. Fine fabric 10YR7/4 very pale brown; self slip.
10. Histria 2018, Sector N, square trench B3, square A2, 0.86–0.97, Inv. 765. Conical foot. B. 2.7; Hp. 8.7 cm. Coarse fabric 7.5YR5/8 strong brown and 7/6 reddish yellow.

I.1.4. Late Roman West Pontic wine amphorae – Kuzmanov XV/XVI – Opaïț B-Id–Antonova V (Fig. 5/11–15)

These coarse small sized vessels are thought to have been made in a west Pontic center²³ starting from the half of the 5th century to the end of the 6th century AD²⁴, where they are frequently found²⁵, although a southern origin was also proposed²⁶. Based on the finds from Halmyris, A. Opaïț calculated the average capacities to 2–3 liters²⁷ and

remains an indicator for the goods, but no longer a guarantee of authenticity, produced and distributed starting with the second half of the first century BCE to the early 2nd century AD.

²⁰ OPAIȚ 2012, 459, Fig. 22, type Aegyssus III C.

²¹ OPAIȚ/PARASCHIV 2012, 117, Fig. 7 for the fabric of a Sinopean amphora with black-sand, type Vnukov Sin IV from Ibida.

²² We would like to express our gratitude to Andrei Opaïț for the fabric photo and insight on a potential new center for the production of this finds, suggesting a production site in the *chora* of Heraclea (OPAIȚ forthcoming).

²³ SCORPAN 1977, 278; PARASCHIV 2014, 426, from multiple workshops.

²⁴ KUZMANOV 1985; OPAIȚ 2004, 28–29, towards the end of the 6th century the number of finds decreases.

²⁵ Halmyris: TOPOLEANU 2000, 152, Pl. XLIX/395–400; Capidava: OPRIȘ 2003, 74, Pl. XXVI and OPRIȘ/RAȚIU 2017, nos. 60–65; Ibida: PARASCHIV 2014, 427, Fig. 4/3; Tropaeum Traiani: GRIGORAȘ/PANAITE 2021, 90, Pl. VI/29–30.

²⁶ KASSAB TEZGÖR 2020/72; PARASCHIV 2014, 426.

²⁷ OPAIȚ 2004, 28.

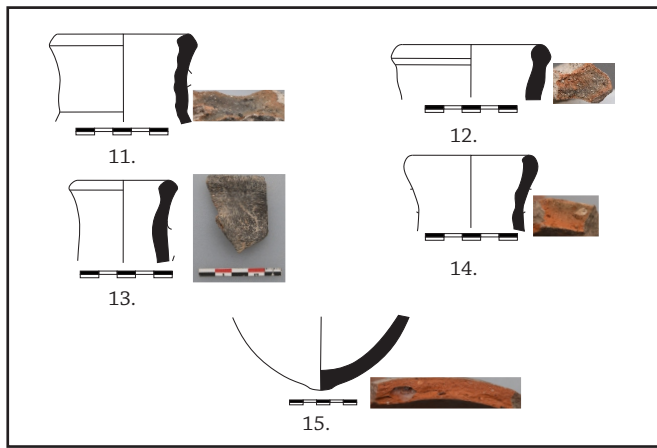


Fig. 5. Kuvmanov XVI amphorae

the traces of interior pitch suggest they carried wine²⁸. Four rims and one base fragment were discovered, all with traces of exposure to fire, in the same layer, indicating that they reached the street at the same moment.

11. Histria 2018, Sector N, square trench B3, squares A1/A2–B1/B2, 0.69–0.86, Inv. 759. R. 7 cm; Hp. 4.9 cm. Coarse fabric 10YR4/3 brown; exposed to fire.

12. Histria 2018, Sector N, square trench B3, square A1, 0.81–0.86, Inv. 760. R. 5 cm; Hp. 4.5 cm. Coarse fabric 5Y5/6 yellowish red and 10YR4/1 dark gray; exposed to fire.

13. Histria 2018, Sector N, square trench B3, squares A1/A2–B1/B2, 0.69–0.86, Inv. 759. R. 7 cm; Hp. 4.5 cm. Coarse fabric 3/10Y very dark greenish red; exposed to fire.

14. Histria 2018, Sector N, square trench C3, square B1, 0.85–0.99, Inv. 778. R. 6 cm; Hp. 4.2 cm. Coarse fabric 5YR6/8 reddish yellow; exposed to fire.

15. Histria 2018, Sector N, square trench B3, squares A1/A2–B1/B2, 0.69–0.86, Inv. 759. Hp. 5.7 cm. Coarse fabric 5YR5/8 yellowish red and 4/3 reddish brown; exposed to heavy fire.

I.2. Uncertain Pontic centers and content (wine?)

The following amphora types originate most likely from a Pontic center of production. Their reddish fabric shows fine white, brown and black inclusions. Similar types have been discovered at Callatis²⁹. The rounded base, although heavily burnt, can also be attributed to a Pontic center for all of these fragments which could all be attributed to the inclusive *Straja* type, but the rim differentiation between **no. 16** and nos. **17–19** is why they are featured as different sub-types.

I.2.1a. Amphorae with a flaring, rolled rim, slightly sloping neck – Rădulescu4c/Opaïț1987b type III³⁰ (Fig. 6/16)

This type with a capacity of c. 50 litres³¹ has analogies at Histria³² and other sites such as *Straja*, Barboși, Chersonese³³. There are at least two types of fabrics known

²⁸ OPAIȚ 2004, 28–29, pitch was found in type XV amphorae.

²⁹ OPAIȚ/IONESCU 2016, 69, Pl. XVI/95 and considered to have carried fish products.

³⁰ OPAIȚ/PARASCHIV 2012, Fig. 2; OPAIȚ 2012, 465; OPAIȚ/PARASCHIV 2013, Fig. 13.

³¹ OPAIȚ/PARASCHIV 2013, 322.

³² BĂJENARU 2014, 110, no. 50, 115, nos. 125–126.

³³ OPAIȚ 2012, 465.

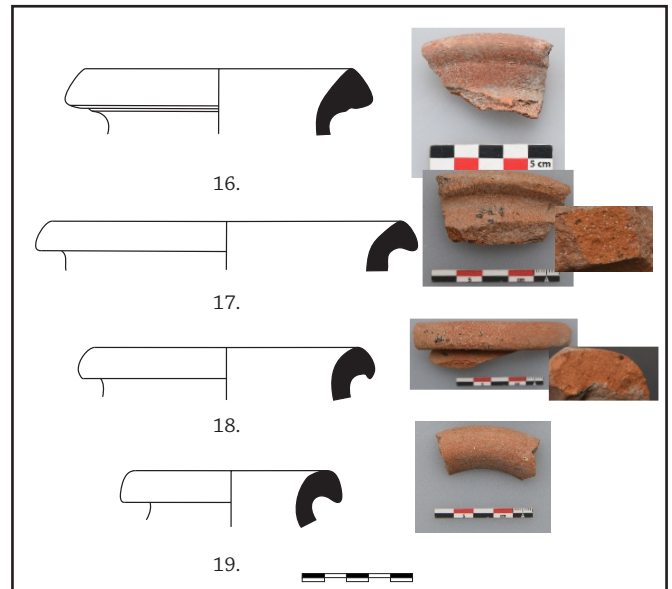


Fig. 6. Pontic amphorae - 16. Rădulescu4c/Opaïț1987b type III; 17-19 *Straja* type

for this type, indicating southern and eastern workshops³⁴.

16. Histria 2018, Sector N, square trench B3, square B2, 0.69–0.83, Inv. 762. R. 12 cm; Hp. 3.1 cm. Coarse fabric 2.5YR5/8 red.

I.2.1b. Rolled, flaring rim – South Pontic *Straja* type (wine?) (Fig. 6/17–19)

Related to the previous type and the Pontic *Zeest* 73, this wine was used during the first century AD³⁵. An analogy was found at *Tropaeum Traiani*³⁶, while another similar fragment was discovered at Histria, in a rubbish dump³⁷.

17. Histria 2018, Sector N, square trench B3, square A2, 1.04–1.08, Inv. 772. R. 16 cm; Hp. 2.4 cm. Coarse fabric 5YR5/8 yellowish red; self slip.

18. Histria 2018, Sector N, square trench B3, square A2, 1.04–1.08, Inv. 772, R. 12 cm; Hp. 2.4 cm. Coarse fabric 2.5YR6/8 light red.

19. Histria 2018, Sector N square trench B3, square A2, 1.04–1.08, Inv. 772. R. 9 cm; Hp. 2.6 cm. Fine fabric 5YR6/8 reddish yellow; self slip.

I.2.2. Skewed, rolled, rim, slightly convex neck (fish?) (Fig. 7/20)

This single find resembles the *Zeest* 85³⁸ and another similar fragment was found at Histria³⁹.

20. Histria 2018, Sector N, square trench B3, squares A1/A2–B1/B2, 0.69–0.86, Inv. 759. R.int. 14 cm; Hp. 4.9 cm. Coarse fabric 2.5YR5/8 red; covered with red self slip.

I.2.3. Rolled rim, straight or slightly sloping neck (Fig. 7/21–22)

This unclassified type has fabric that suggests a

³⁴ OPAIȚ/PARASCHIV 2012, 114, Fig. 2–3.

³⁵ OPAIȚ 2012, 466; OPAIȚ/PARASCHIV 2013, 322, Fig. 13 at *Straja*.

³⁶ BOGDAN CĂTĂNICIU/BARNEA 1979, Fig. 144/3.2, 2nd–3rd centuries AD.

³⁷ BĂJENARU 2014, 115, no. 123; similar to a *Zeest* 84–85 at Măcin, 2nd–4th c. AD: PARASCHIV, 2004, 144, no. 6, Pl. II/6, and footnote 6 for further references.

³⁸ OPAIȚ 2007, 113, fig. 21.

³⁹ SUCEVEANU 2000, type LVIII (Pontic, 2nd–3rd centuries AD, fish?)

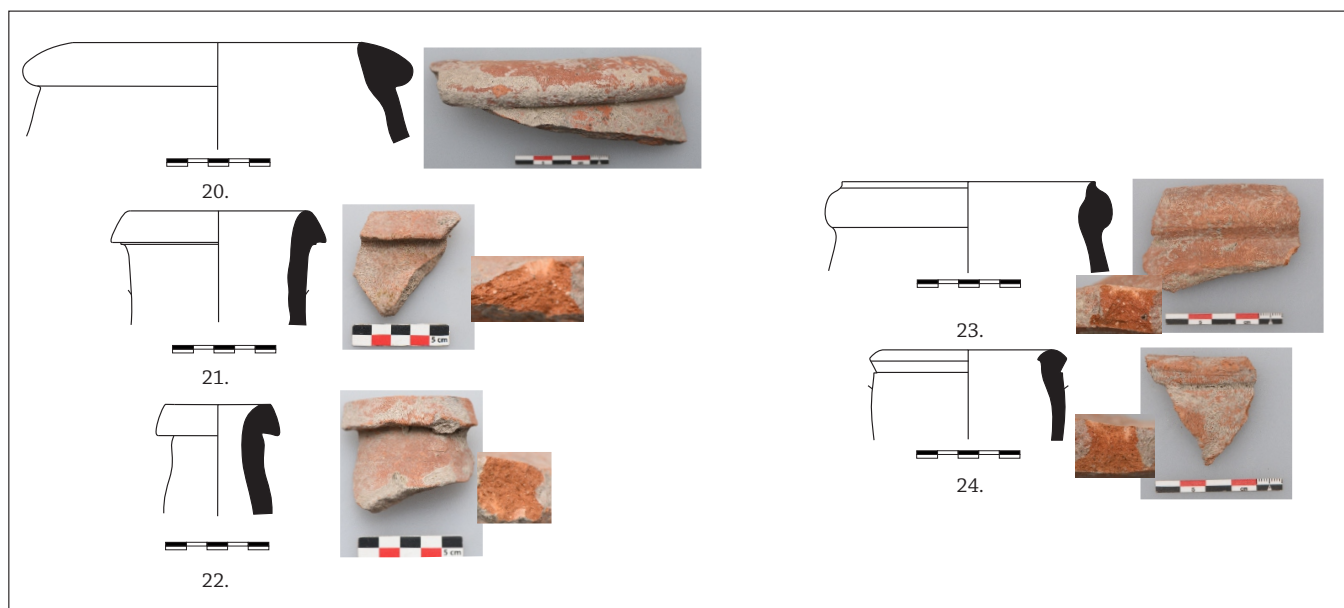


Fig. 7. Pontic amphorae - uncertain centers

Pontic workshop, while vessels with similar features were previously discovered at Histria in contexts from the 2nd and 3rd centuries AD⁴⁰. An unclassified similar fragment was discovered at Callatis⁴¹. A similar fragment was attributed to a variant of Zeest 84–85, with a north Pontic origin⁴². The content is unknown.

21. Histria 2018, Sector N, square trench B3, square B2, 0.69–0.83, Inv. 762. R. 9/10 cm; Hp. 5.2 cm. Coarse fabric 2.5YR5/8 red; self slip.

22. Histria 2018, Sector N, square trench B3, square A2, 0.86–0.96, Inv. 761. R. 7 cm; Hp. 5.4 cm. Coarse fabric 2.5YR5/8 red.

1.2.4. Rolled rim with a pointed tip (fish?) (Fig. 7/23)

This amphora fragment has a reddish fabric with white, red and black inclusions, from an unknown center of production, likely southern or eastern Pontic. Similar finds come from Tropaeum Traiani⁴³, Sarichioi-Sărătura⁴⁴.

23. Histria 2018, Sector N, square trench B3, square A2, 1.08–1.15, Inv. 774. R. 12; Hp. 4.5 cm. Coarse fabric 2.5YR4/2 red; traces of dull red slip.

1.2.5. Small, rolled rim, with interior groove, slightly convex neck (Opaït C-I/II?) (Fig. 7/24)

Like the previous fragment, the fabric contains white and rare black inclusions, but a center of production is uncertain. Similar amphorae were found at found at Dinogetia, for wine, containing 52 liters⁴⁵ and others at Tomis, Halmyris, Topraichioi, Telița, Noviodunum, Novae, Torone, Tyras, Iatrus, Odessos, Chios⁴⁶.

⁴⁰ SUCEVEANU 2000, 168, type LVII, Pl.82; the author also believes are Pontic and associates them with various type from Zeest's typology.

⁴¹ OPAIȚ/IONESCU 2016, 64, no. 40, Pl. VI.

⁴² PARASCHIV 2002, 173, Pl. 4/23, large capacity, also associated with type Opaït X.

⁴³ BOGDAN CĂTĂNICIU/BARNEA 1979, Fig. 144/3.1, 1st–2nd centuries AD.

⁴⁴ BAUMANN 2003, 193, no. 52; BAUMANN 1995, 208, no. 110, Pl. 20/1A (L3), first half of the 3rd century AD.

⁴⁵ OPAIȚ 2004, 17, Pl. 9/4, whit analogy at at Torone, 17l. 4th – 5th centuries AD, considered Aegean.

⁴⁶ OPAIȚ 2004, 17, Pl. 10/2A: Aegean, wine or fish content, found at 22–32

24. Histria 2007, Sector N, square trench B3, square A1, 0.81–0.86, Inv. 760. R. 8 cm; Hp. 4.5 cm. Coarse fabric 2.5YR5/8 red.

1.3. Undetermined centers.

1.3.1. Early Roman wine amphorae with a flaring rim, slightly sloping neck – Troesmis X (Fig. 8/25–27)

With an average capacity of c. 55–70 liters and likely transporting wine from Pamphylia⁴⁷, this amphora is present at Ibida and its territory⁴⁸. A Pontic workshop was also suggested for this type⁴⁹, thus we have included it in the category of uncertain centers. Other known finds come from Tomis, Troesmis, Ibida, Argamum as well as rural settlements⁵⁰.

25. Histria 2018, Sector N, square trench B3, square B2, 0.69–0.83, Inv. 762. R. 9 cm; Hp. 5.6 cm. Coarse fabric 2.5YR5/8 red. Suceveanu tip LVIII, p. 168.

26. Histria 2018, Sector N, square trench B3, squares A1/A2–B1/B2, 0.69–0.86, Inv. 759. R. 14 cm; Hp. 2.8 cm. Coarse fabric 5YR5/6 yellowish red; traces of red dull slip on the rim.

27. Histria 2018, Sector N, square trench C3, squares A1/A2–B1/B2, 0.73–0.93, Inv. 775. R. 14; Hp. 4.2 cm. Coarse fabric 2.5YR6/8 light red.

1.3.2. Conical feet, concave interior (Fig. 8/28–29)

Both these bases have a red fabric, with inclusions, possibly from Troesmis X type of amphorae.

28. Histria 2018, Sector N, square trench C3, squares A1/A2–B1/B2, 0.73–0.93, Inv. 775. Conical base, Hp. 9.9 cm. Coarse fabric 2.5YR6/8 light red.

29. Histria 2018, Sector N, square trench B3, square A2, 0.86–0.97, Inv. 765. B. 3 cm; Hp. 13.1. Coarse fabric 2.5YR5/8 red.

liters, 4th–6th centuries AD; TOPOLEANU 2000, 144, no. 371, Pl. XLVI – type Bjelac XVII: 6% of all amphorae from Halmyris in the 4th century AD.

⁴⁷ OPAIȚ 2015, 328–329.

⁴⁸ OPAIȚ/PARASCHIV 2013, 320.

⁴⁹ OPAIȚ/PARASCHIV 2013, 322.

⁵⁰ HONCU/STĂNICĂ 2017, 313–314, with bibliography for each.

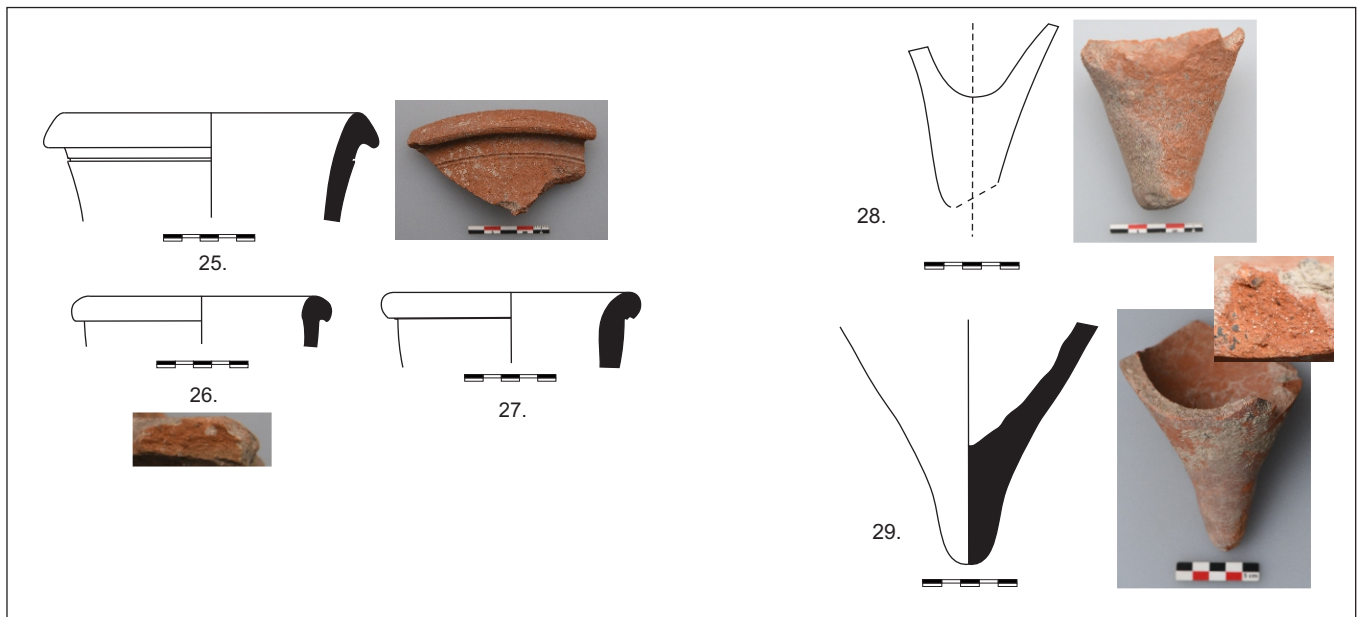


Fig. 8. Troesmis X

I.4. Aegean amphorae

The certain Aegean imports consist of three types of containers, both likely Chian, two rims from an Dressel 24 type of oil amphora. Dressel 24 imports of oil dominate during the 1st–3rd centuries AD⁵¹ and it seems that they travelled together with the Aegean wine transported by the Kapitän II amphorae⁵². The Late Roman period is dominated by the presence of LRA 1 and LRA 2 at Histria and most sites⁵³.

I.4.1. Early Roman oil amphorae – Dressel 24 (similis) (Fig. 9/30–31)

Both rims have similar fabric that suggests an Aegean origin, possibly Chian⁵⁴.

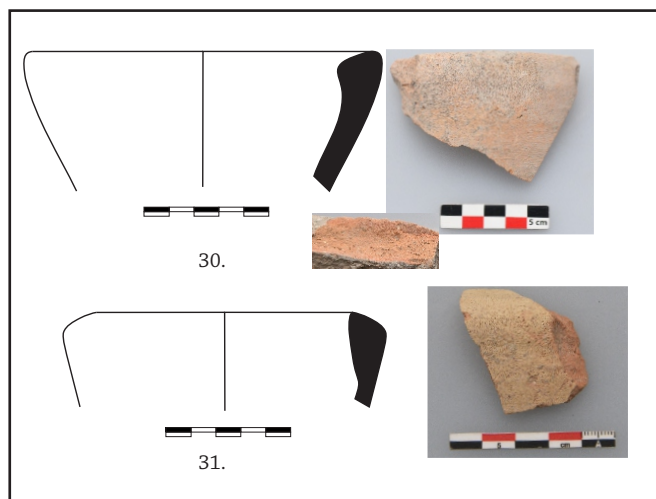


Fig. 9. Aegean amphorae Dressel 24 (similis)

⁵¹ OPAIȚ/PARASCHIV 2013, 323. For a broad discussion on the type, see also OPAIȚ 2007.

⁵² OPAIȚ forthcoming.

⁵³ Numerous other finds at Histria, see BĂDESCU 2012, with extensive references, BĂDESCU/CLIANTE 2014 and BĂDESCU/BIVOLARU 2015.

⁵⁴ OPAIȚ/Tsaravopoulos 2011; see also OPAIȚ 2011 form type Dressel 24 *similis*.

30. Histria 2018, Sector N, square trench B3, squares A1/A2–B1/B2, 0.69–0.86, Inv. 759. R. 14 cm; Hp. 5.5 cm. Fine fabric 5YR6/6 reddish yellow.

31. Histria 2018, Sector N, trench S3, squares 1–2, profile S, Inv. 764. R. 10 cm; Hp. Coarse fabric 5YR6/6 reddish yellow; covered with pale dull slip.

I.4.2. Late Roman wine amphora – LRA 1 (Fig. 10/32–34, a–d)

LRA 1 is among the most common amphora type for carrying wine during the 4th and 6th centuries AD, with many variants and productions sites⁵⁵, starting with the third quarter of the 4th century AD⁵⁶. The capacity of the container varies between 10 and 20 liters. The type appeared in Scythia c. 400 AD⁵⁷ and has been previously attested at Histria⁵⁸ and we consider the finds from the street to have a possible Cypriot or Cilician origin⁵⁹. A production site for LRA 1 was identified at Elaiussa Sebaste, in Asia Minor, and it is considered that this is the source of these amphorae in the Black Sea area⁶⁰. At Histria, a LR1 Amphora was discovered marked with a stamp of the name, Korikos, the name of a city in Cilicia and in Pamphylia⁶¹.

32. Histria 2018, Sector N, trench S3, squares 1–2, profile S, Inv. 764. R. 9 cm; Hp. Coarse fabric 2.5Y7/4 pale brown.

33. Histria 2018, Sector N, trench S3, squares 1–2, profile S, Inv. 764. R. 9 cm; Hp. 7.3 cm. Coarse fabric 2.5YR7/4 pale brown⁶².

⁵⁵ PIERI 2005, 69–81; BIERNACKI, KLENINA 2015, 109.

⁵⁶ OPAIȚ 2010, 1017.

⁵⁷ OPAIȚ 2004, 8.

⁵⁸ BĂDESCU/BIVOLARU 2015, 313–315 and footnotes 17–19 offers an overview of the bibliography regarding the potential production sites as well as the known finds from Scythia.

⁵⁹ OPAIȚ/IONESCU 2016, Pl. XIX/111 fragment from Callatis with fabric photo.

⁶⁰ BIERNACKI/KLENINA 2015, 108, the authors also offer an overview of the recent research on this type and the variety of possible workshops.

⁶¹ OPAIȚ 2004, 9.

⁶² BIERNACKI/KLENINA 2015, Fig. 10.16 from contexts dated to 518–610 at Novae.



Fig.10. LRA 1 amphorae

34. Histria 2018, Sector N, square trench B3, squares A1/A2–B1/B2, 0.69–0.86, Inv. 759. R. 9 cm; Hp. 5.8 cm. Coarse fabric 5YR5/8 yellowish red.

I.4.3. Late Roman oil amphora – LRA 2 (Fig. 11/35–36)

The LRA 2 amphora is the most common container for olive oil, but not exclusively, during Late Antique, present in all sites, with a marked capacity of 53 *sextarii* in one case⁶³. With a variety of fabric, it most manufactured in the Aegean Area, with centers located at Chios and Cnidos⁶⁴.

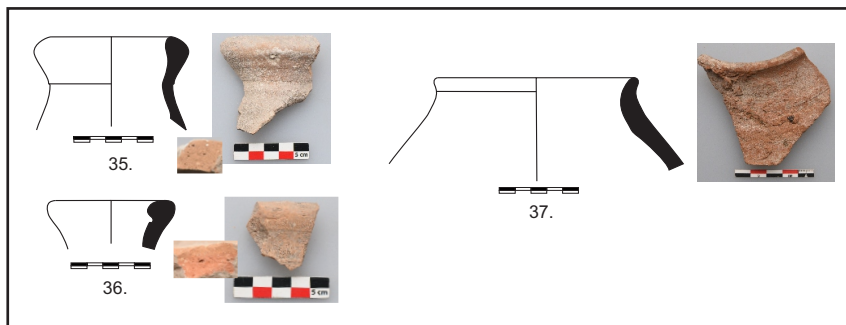


Fig.11. 35-36 LRA 2; 37. LRA 4

Other fragments belonging to this type were discovered at Histria in the *Basilica extra muros sector*, dated to the second half of the 6th century and the beginning of the 7th century⁶⁵. Towards the end of the 6th – beginning of the 7th century AD, the diameter of the rim decreases⁶⁶, such as our item **no. 37**, indicating such a date for this fragment at Histria and its discarding on the street. The provenance of LRA 2 amphorae is not known with certainty: a kiln site was excavated in the Argolid (Peloponnese, Greece) but other production centers have also been suggested, like Cos, Chios, and Rhodes⁶⁷.

35. Histria 2018, Sector N, Sector N, square trench B3, squares A1/A2–B1/B2, 0.69–0.86, Inv. 759. R. 14 cm; Hp. 6 cm. Coarse

⁶³ OPAIȚ 2004, 11–12; OPAIȚ/IONESCU 2016, 73.

⁶⁴ BĂDESCU/BIVOLARU 2015, 318–321 from the *Basilica extra muros Sector* and footnotes 70–101 for analogies in sites from Scythia and Moesia secunda.

⁶⁵ BĂDESCU/BIVOLARU 2015, 321.

⁶⁶ GRIGORAȘ/PANAITE 2021, 93.

⁶⁷ OPAIȚ 2004, 11; OPAIȚ/T SARAVOPOULOS 2011, 318; BIERNACKI/KLENINA 2015, 105.

fabric 7.5YR5/4 brown.

36. Histria 2018, Sector N, square trench B3, square B2, 0.69–0.83, Inv. 762. R. 9/10 cm; Hp. 2.9 cm. Coarse fabric 2.5YR6/8 light red.

I.5. Oriental/Mediterranean wine amphora – Palestinian/Gaza Late Roman 4 amphora (Fig. 11/37)

LRA 4 amphora was used to transport wine in the Mediterranean and the Black Sea areas, but also reused for cereals or other foodstuff.⁶⁸ Interestingly enough, it seems that thus far these containers were discovered only in urban contexts⁶⁹. Their capacity spans between 20 to 30 liters⁷⁰. At Capidava, this type has been found in the *horreum*, storage rooms of the portico and in the commercial building C1⁷¹ LRA 4 amphorae were found at Novae occur in a small quantity and all featured fragments show the same accretions on the neck⁷². The analysis of the Roman pottery at Histria revealed that 53.79% of transport containers are oriental amphorae, seconded by Pontic containers (24.89%), while the oriental ones consist mainly of LRA 1 and 2, as part of the *annona*⁷³. At Tomis, three fragments were discovered in a tomb dated as early as 355–360 AD⁷⁴. Along

⁶⁸ OPRISȚ/RAȚIU 2017, 69; RĂDULESCU 1973, 194, 197– amphora reused for holding iron spikes at Tomis.

⁶⁹ OPAIȚ 2004, 20–22. However, there are very few excavations of Late antique rural settlements.

⁷⁰ OPAIȚ 2004, 23–24.

⁷¹ OPRISȚ/RAȚIU 2017, 71, Pl. 6/46–49, no. 46 appears to have the same smudges around the rim; all finds in C1 are from the same 6th century AD context.

⁷² BIERNACKI/KLENINA 2015, 111–112, Fig. 12.

⁷³ BĂDESCU 2010, Ph.D thesis (manuscript) *apud* OPRISȚ/RAȚIU 2017, 47–48. In the same volume there is an overview of finds in Scythia: Capidava – 4% African amphorae, 68% oriental amphorae (mainly LRA 1 and 2), 28% Pontic amphorae; Halmyris – 71.6% oriental amphorae in the 6th century and 77.8% in the early 7th century CE, 26% Pontic amphorae in the 6th century and 16% in the first decades of the 7th century CE; (L)Ibida *extra muros*: 64.69% oriental amphorae and 24.12% Pontic amphorae (one type Kuzmanov XV); Tropaeum Traiani: 78% LRA 1 and 2 and 10% other oriental amphorae.

⁷⁴ BUCOVALĂ/PAȘCA 1988–1989, 141–142, Pl.9/a–b–c (M105), together with what seem to be a LR3 amphora.

with Histria⁷⁵, other sites in Scythia where this quality wine arrived are Capidava⁷⁶, Tropaeum Traiani⁷⁷ and Ibida⁷⁸.

37. Histria 2018, Sector N, square trench C3, square A1, 0.89–0.92, Inv. 779. Coarse fabric, 7YR/5/6 strong brown.

I.7. Unclassified fragments

I.7.1. Beaded rim, slightly concave neck (Fig. 12/38)

Although light colored on the surface, the fabric is brick red, resembling that of Pontic amphorae. Although we have not identified a proper typology for this fragment, it is similar to other finds from Histria⁷⁹, but the lack of comparisons between fabrics impedes any further attributions.

38. Histria 2018, Sector N, square trench B3, square A1, 0.86/0.89–1.03, Inv. 768. R. 11 cm; Hp. 7 cm. Coarse fabric 2.5YR6/8 red.

I.7.2. Flat, incurved rim, straight neck (Fig. 12/39–40)

39. Histria 2018, Sector N, square trench B3, squares A1/A2–B1/B2, 0.69–0.86, Inv. 759. R. 13 cm; Hp. 4.3 cm. Coarse fabric 2.5YR5/8 red. (Similar to Opaïț 1991, Pl.22/3, type III at Topraichioi).

40. Histria 2018, Sector N, square trench B3, square A2, 0.86–0.96, Inv. 761. R. 10 cm; Hp. 3.7 cm. Coarse fabric 5YR6/6 reddish yellow; covered with dull yellowish coating. (Opaïț 1991, Pl.30/3, type III at Topraichioi).

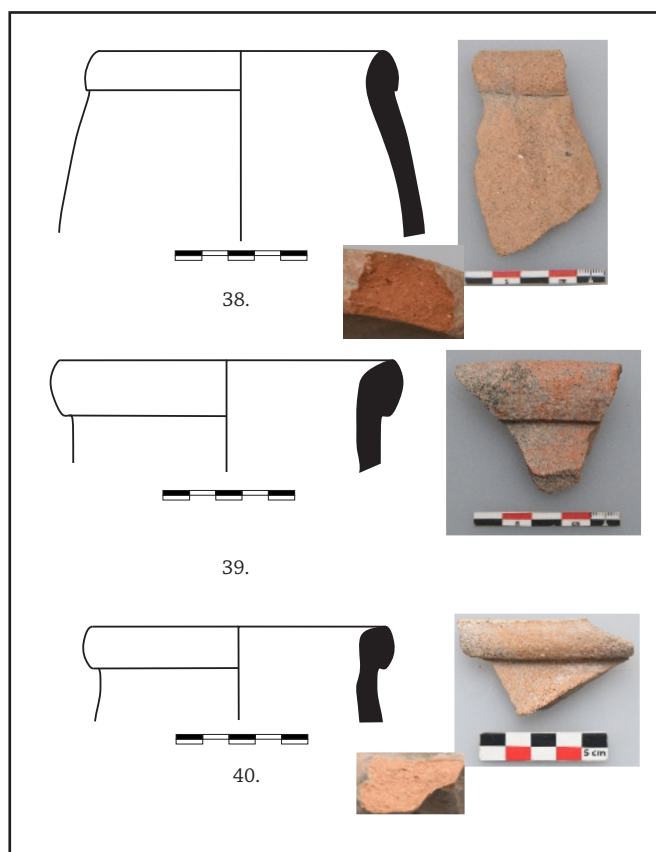


Fig.12. Undetermined amphorae

⁷⁵ BĂDESCU/CLIANTE 2014a, 181–182, Fig.5/7.

⁷⁶ OPRÎȘ/RAȚIU 2016, Fig. 10–12.

⁷⁷ GRIGORAȘ/PANAITE 2021, 91, Pl. VI, nos. 34–36.

⁷⁸ OPAIȚ 1991, 30, Fig.6/33.

⁷⁹ SUCEVEANU 2000, Pl. 81–82, type LVI/10, 19.

II. Vasa potatoria (Fig. 13/nos. 41–53)

The twelve fragments from containers can be divided into large table amphorae and pitchers (**nos. 41–46**), thin-walled pitchers (**nos. 48–50**), flanged pitcher (**no. 51**), trefoiled pitcher (**no. 52**), container with a straight, sloping rim (**no. 52**) and container with a roller, everted rim (**no. 53**). Considering the wide variety of shapes already discovered at Histria, the finds from the street are scarce. With two exception, **nos. 51** and **52**, all the rest are large containers, which could be indicative of the distribution of liquids (e.g. wine), imported (from amphorae) or local. All of the finds came from Pontic workshops, some even from the same, as **nos. 49** and **50** share not only a similar shape, but also fabric. Fragment **no. 7** stand out with its black inclusions in the paste, indicative of a south Pontic workshop, while fragment **no. 45** has iron oxide in its consistency, likely from a west Pontic workshop. The fabric of the rest of the fragments is much more difficult to differentiate in order to point towards potential centers. As a last note, the container **no. 46** shares similar features with a base, **no. 132 (Fig. 31)**, making it likely that they came from the same workshop, if not the same vessel.

II. 1. Table amphorae

II.1.1. Flat, slightly incurved neck and sloping neck, with an exterior groove (Fig. 13/41–42)

This type of container, with a likely conical body, had been previously discovered at Histria in contexts dated during the 2nd–3rd centuries AD⁸⁰ and common during the 1st–3rd centuries AD in numerous other sites in the area⁸¹.

41. Histria 2018, Sector N, square trench B3, square B1, 0.82–0.88, Inv. 766. R. 11; Hp. 5.3 cm. Coarse fabric 7.5YR6/8 reddish yellow; covered with self slip.

42. Histria 2018, Sector N, square trench B3, square A2, 0.86–0.97, Inv. 765. R. 7 cm; Hp. 3.5 cm. Coarse fabric 2.5YR4/8 red. Analogies for this particular variant at Tomis⁸², Callatis⁸³, Tropaeum Traiani⁸⁴, and the rural settlements at Sarichioi⁸⁵ and Telița-Amza⁸⁶.

II.1.2. Straight, rounded rim (Fig. 13/43)

This container is inspired by the Dressel 24 amphora and has analogies in the Black Sea basin, both at Tomis and the north⁸⁷.

43. Histria 2018, Sector N, square trench C3, squares A1/A2–B1/B2, 0.73–0.93, Inv. 775. R. 8 cm; Hp. 3 cm. Fine fabric 5YR5/8 yellowish red; traces of red slip on the exterior.

⁸⁰ SUCEVEANU 2000, type L–LII/no. 9; Băjenaru 2014, Fig. 3/33, Central-North sector.

⁸¹ OPAIȚ 2003, 215; OPAIȚ/IONESCU 2016, 65–66, Pl. IX.50–51, Pl. X.53, 56: the authors feature conical-type finds from Callatis with analogies at Histria, Tomis, Olbia and territory, Chersonese, Balbek, Mirmekion, Troesmis, Ibida, Tropaeum Traiani, Enisala, Sarichioi, Niculițel. The variety of fabrics points towards the existence of several production centers. An entire vessel was discovered at Noviodunum – SIMION 1984, Pl. XII/7; Babadag – VASILIU/PARASCHIV 1999, 260, Pl. 4/9.

⁸² BĂJENARU 2013, 71, Pl. 13/107.

⁸³ OPAIȚ/IONESCU 2016, nos. 51, 53.

⁸⁴ BOGDAN CĂTĂNICIU/BARNEA 1979, Fig. 146/3.7.

⁸⁵ BAUMANN 1995, Pl. XXIV/6.

⁸⁶ BAUMANN 1995, 415, Pl. VI/A, locally produced.

⁸⁷ SUCEVEANU 2000, type XLIX, nos. 1, 4 – Dressel 24 table pitchers; BUCOVALĂ/PAȘCA 1988–1989: 133, Fig.4/b, 330–335 AD at Tomis – pitcher with one handle and flat base; ZHURAVLEV 2010, type 6/291 two handles – Pontic table amphorae.

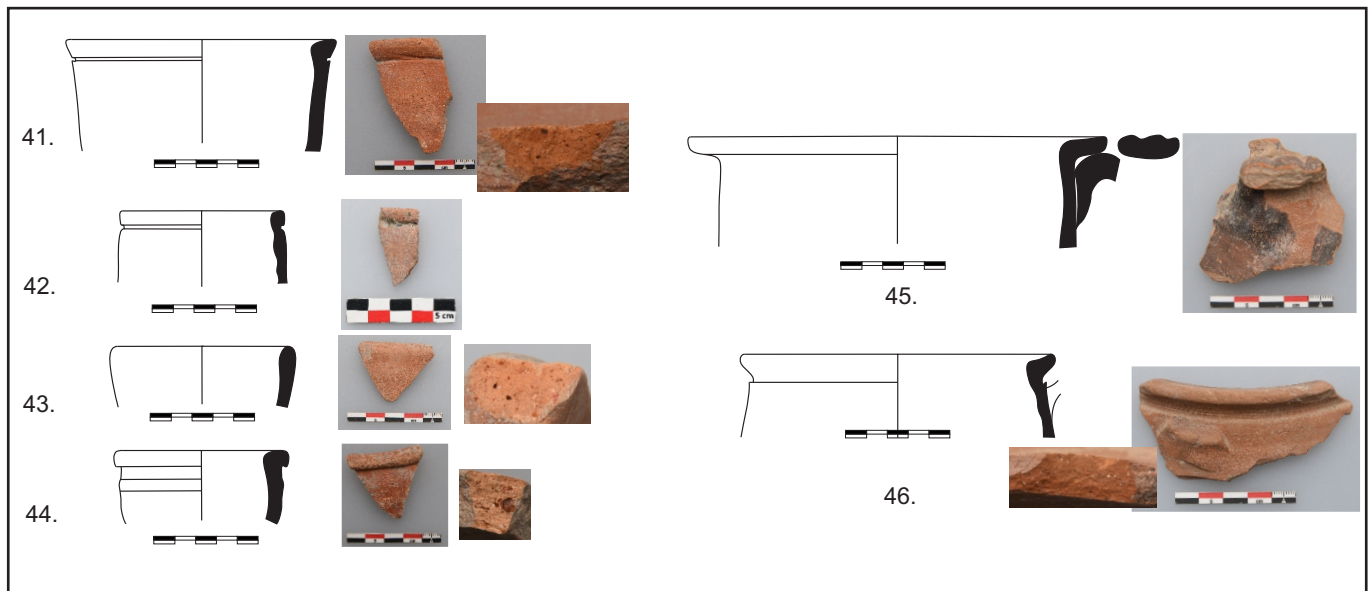


Fig.13. Table amphorae

II.1.3. Broad, flat and rolled, rim, slightly convex neck (Fig. 13/44)

This container finds analogies at Histria⁸⁸, Tomis⁸⁹ and Tropaeum Traiani⁹⁰.

44. Histria 2018, Sector N, square trench C3, square B1, 0.85–0.99, Inv. 778. R. 6 cm; Hp. 3.6 cm. Fine fabric 7.5YR7/6 reddish yellow with reddish inclusions; covered with dull red slip.

II.1.4. Large containers with inwards, flat rim – Suceveanu 2000, type XLII (Fig. 13/45–46)

45. Histria 2018, Sector N, trench S3, squares 1–2, profile S, Inv. 764. R. 20 cm; Hp. 5.4 cm. Fine fabric 5YR6/8 reddish yellow; covered with reddish brown dull slip.

46. Histria 2018, Sector N, trench S3, squares 1–2, profile S, Inv. 764. R. 13 cm; Hp. 4.1 cm. Fine fabric 5YR5/6 yellowish red; red slip on the neck and rim. Băjenaru 2014, Fig. 6/80 Central North sector; Zhuravlev 2010, type 2.1/300 Jug.

II.1.6. Pitchers/ table amphorae with flaring rim, straight neck, slightly convex (Fig. 14/47–49)

47. Histria 2007, Sector N, trench S3, square 5, 0.39–0.45, Inv. 402. R. 9 cm; Hp. 5.3 cm. Fine fabric 2.5YR5/8 red; covered with red slip. At Histria, Suceveanu 2000, type LIII; Opaïț 2003, 217, Fig. 8 at Troesmis, 2nd century AD.

48. Histria 2018, Sector N, square trench B3, square A2, 1.04–1.08, Inv. 772/1. R. 8 cm; Hp. 4.6 cm. Fine fabric 2.5YR6/8 light red; covered with dull reddish brown slip. At Histria, Suceveanu 2000, type XLVI, no. 16; Opaïț 2003, 217, Fig. 8 at Troesmis, 2nd century AD.

49. Histria 2018, Sector N, square trench B3, square A2, 1.04–1.08, Inv. 772. R. 8 cm; Hp. 3.5 cm. Fine fabric 5YR6/8 reddish yellow; covered with dull red slip. At Histria, Suceveanu 2000, type XLVI, no. 16; Opaïț 2003, 217, Fig. 8 at Troesmis, 2nd century AD. A similar find comes from Tropaeum Traiani⁹¹.

⁸⁸ SUCEVEANU 2000, type L.

⁸⁹ RĂDULESCU 1975, pl. XI/2.

⁹⁰ BOGDAN CĂTĂNICIU/BARNEA 1979, 181, Fig. 146/4.3, 1st–2nd century AD.

⁹¹ BOGDAN CĂTĂNICIU/BARNEA 1979, Fig.152/4.2–4.3.

II.1.7. Pitcher with slightly flaring rim and an exterior flange (Fig. 14/50)

Very similar to a Kapitän II amphora, considering its morphological characteristics – curved interior, atypical curvature of the rim, secondary smaller flange and very coarse fabric with many white inclusions, this fragment is probably from a pitcher.

50. Histria 2018, Sector N, trench S3, squares 1–2, profile S, Inv. 764. R.7 cm; Hp. 5.3 cm. Coarse fabric 2.5YR4/6 red.

II.2. Oenochoe type with trifloiled rim, sloping neck – Suceveanu 2000, type XLVII (Fig. 14/51)

51. Histria 2007, Sector N, trench S3, squares 1–2, int. CRG, 0.65, Inv. 411. R. 6 cm; Hp. 3.7 cm. Coarse fabric 10R5/8 red; exposed to fire.

II.3. Straight rim with interior concavity – lekythos type (Fig. 14/52)

This type of container seems to be inspired by the previous Greek vessel with a narrow mouth, long necks and globular bodies. The shape of the rim, with the interior groove could suggest that this type of container could have been used mainly for oil to prevent spilling. An analogy is found at Histria – Suceveanu 2000, type XLVI, no. 13 with a more rounded rim; also similar to a find at Tomis, from the 2nd century AD⁹². A variety of shapes with this kind of rim is included in the Pontic Red slip category⁹³.

52. Histria 2018, Sector N, square trench B3, square A2, 0.97–1.04, Inv. 769. R. 7 cm; Hp. 2.2 cm. Fine fabric 5YR6/8 reddish yellow; covered with red slip.

II.2.5. Beaded, flaring rim, sloping neck with a protuberance (Fig. 14/53)

53. Histria 2018, Sector N, square trench B3, squares A1/A2–B1/B2, 0.69–0.86, Inv. 759. R. 12, Hp. 2.4 cm. Fine fabric

⁹² RĂDULESCU 1975, pl.XI/1.

⁹³ ZHURAVLEV 2010, types 2.1. and 3.2/347, 355; ZHURAVLEV 2002, Fig. 22/A (Chersonese, Panticapaeum, Bosphorus); ZHURAVLEV 2010, type 3.2/347, 355 and type 20.1/431–432.

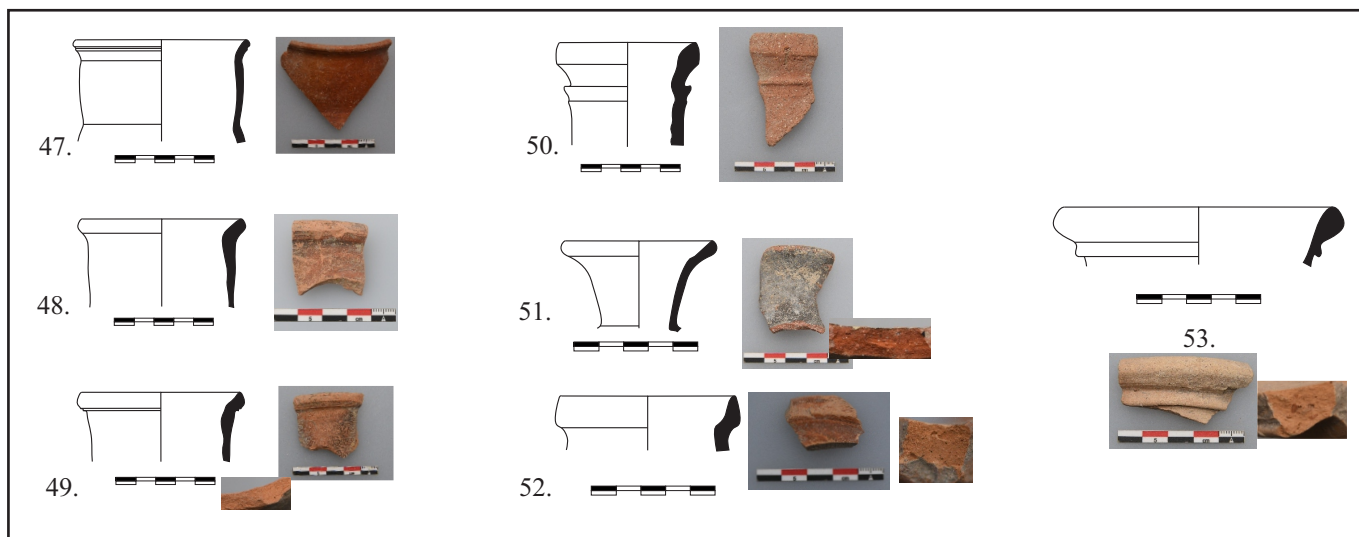


Fig.14. Pitchers

7.5YR6/8 reddish yellow; covered with yellowish coating. Similar shape to Pontic red slip jug Zhuravlev 2010, form 4, Pl. 45/360.

III. Table ware (nos. (54–106, 128a, 136)

The table ware category is the most diverse, spanning chronologically from the 1st century AD to the 6th century. It consists of dishes (nos. 54–65), thin-walled bowls (nos. 66–70), conical bowls with inwards rim (nos. 71–82), carinated bowls (nos. 83–98) – with five varieties, bowls with broad and rolled rim (nos. 99–1020), a single piece from a Micro-Asian flanged bowl (no. 103) and bowls with moulded rims (nos. 104–105). Apart from the unique fragmentary base with incised inscription – *grafitto* (Fig. 23/no. 106), a considerable amount of ring bases ware also recovered, 26, all from fine fabrics, but difficult to determine to which type of vessel they belonged to (Fig. 128a). All of the fragments are fine, some covered with a dull red slip and show an equal variety of fabrics. Among other finds, there is a fragmentary body sherd with a handle from a cup (no. 132), a type which lacks representation here, as no rim was recovered. Among the body sherds recovered there is one fragment with faceted ornament (Fig. 31/ 135), dated between 150–250 AD⁹⁴, already attested at Histria⁹⁵. There are some, very few, inclusions from the Hellenistic period (Fig. 31/134–137) together with Roman materials, which could be explained by the leveling of the street with mixed soil. Among other ceramic finds, there is a single fragment from a Loeschke VIII type of lamp (Fig. 31/no. 138), two circular tokens likely made from Heracleian containers (Fig. 31/no. 136) and half of another circular object, made from a fine fabric, which could have also served as a sealed lid (Fig. 31/no. 139).

III.1. Dishes (Fig. 15)

In this category of open vessels with wide, flaring rims, there is a single example from the early Roman period,

⁹⁴ ZHURAVLEV 2011, 151, Pl. 6/4–6; another analogy at Histria – STREINU 2018, no. 21.

⁹⁵ SUCEVEANU 2000, type XXII, decoration similar to bowl type IX, no.5 (Pontic product 1st century AD) and cup type XXIII, no. 8 (2nd century AD).

a Micro-Asian import (no. 54). The overwhelming majority of finds consist of further Micro-Asian imports, but from the Late Antique period, types LRC Hayes 3 (nos. 55–57) and 10 (nos. 58–63).

III.1.1. Dish with a skewed, everted rim, with exterior groove – Type Hayes 2000, ESA Fig.20/7 (Fig. 15/54)

54. Histria 2018, Sector N, square trench B3, square A2, 0.97–1.04, Inv. 769. R. 14 cm; Hp. 1.5 cm. Fine fabric 5YR6/8 light red; covered with red slip.

III.1.2. Dish with a flange – LRC Hayes 3C (Fig. 15/55–57)

One of the most frequent types, numerous other discoveries are known from Histria⁹⁶ and almost all sites, during the 5th century AD⁹⁷.

55. Histria 2018, Sector N, square trench B3, squares A1/A2–B1/B2, 0.69–0.86, Inv. 759. R. 26 cm; Hp. Fine fabric 2.5YR5/8 red; covered with red slip.

56. Histria 2007, Sector N, trench B3, square 5, 0.68–0.88, Inv. 450. R. 22 cm; Hp. 2.3 cm. Fine fabric 2.5YR4/8 red; covered with red slip, darker on the rim.

57. Histria 2018, Sector N, square trench C3, squares A1/A2–B1/B2, 0.73–0.93, Inv. 775. R. 24 cm; Hp. 2.3 cm. Fine fabric 2.5YR5/6 red; covered with red slip.

III.1.3. Dish with a thick, everted rim – LRC Hayes 10B–C (Fig. 15/58–63)

Dated during the 6th century – beginning of the 7th century AD, the type has been previously discovered at Histria from the excavations at the Centre-North Sector⁹⁸ and Acropolis⁹⁹, also known discoveries came from sites such as Halmyris and Tropaeum Traiani¹⁰⁰.

⁹⁶ BĂDESCU/CLIANTE 2014, Fig. 1/7–12; ILIESCU *et alii* 2017, Pl. VII/6–7, Pl. VIII/3–4,7–8

⁹⁷ MOCANU 2021, 186–187– Halmyris, *Ibida*, Aegyssus, Argamum, Topraichioi.

⁹⁸ BĂDESCU/CLIANTE 2014, Fig. 2/10–11.

⁹⁹ For a large variety see ILIESCU *et alii* 2017, Pl. XII/9–10, Pl. XIII/1–10.

¹⁰⁰ MOCANU 2021, 203, featuring also examples from Histria.

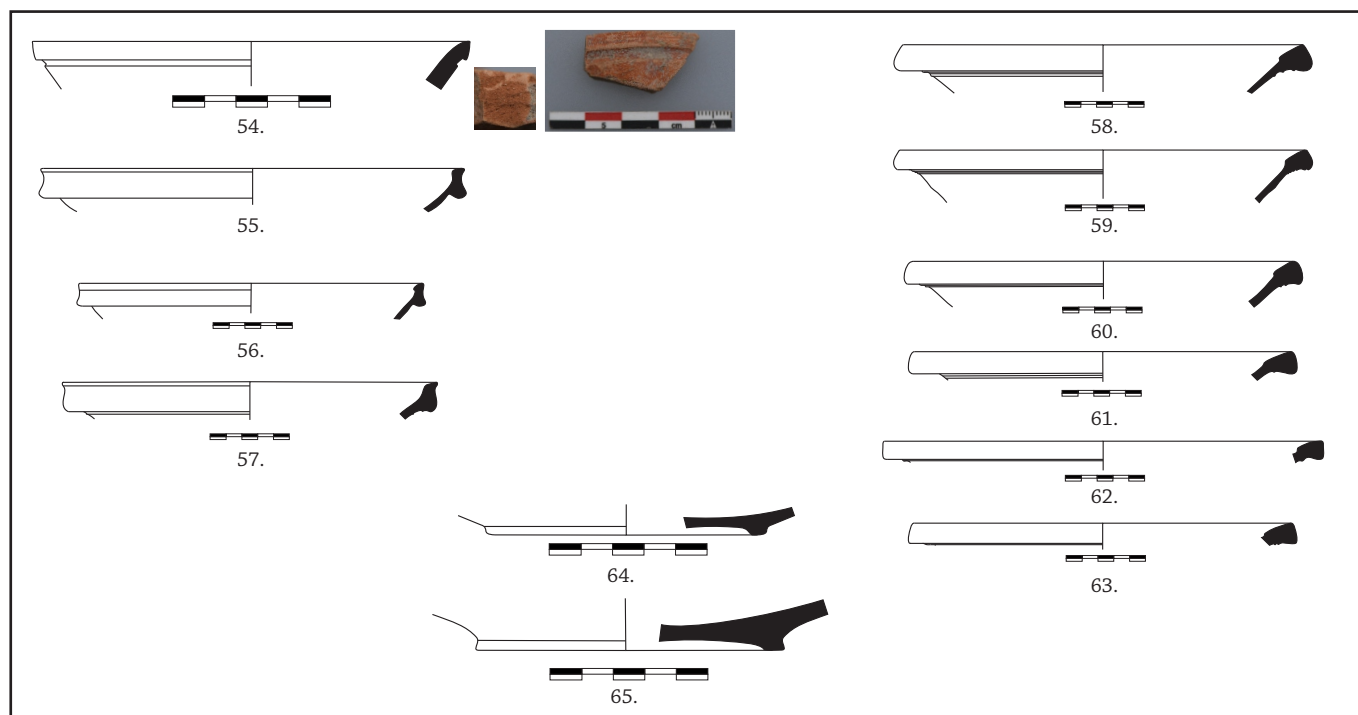


Fig.15. Dishes: 54. ESA; 55-57. Hayes 3; 58-63 Hayes 10; 64-65. undetermined LRC ware

58. Histria 2018, Sector N, square trench B3, squares A1/A2-B1/B2, 0.69–0.86, Inv. 759. R. 26 cm; Hp. 3.2. Fine fabric 2.5YR5/8 red; covered with red slip.

59. Histria 2018, Sector N, square trench B3, square A1, 0.81–0.86, Inv. 760. R. 26; Hp. 3.3 cm. Fine fabric 10R5/8 red; covered with red slip with traces of exposure to fire.

60. Histria 2018, Sector N, square trench B3, squares A1/A2-B1/B2, 0.69–0.86, Inv. 759. R. 24 cm; Hp. 3 cm. Fine fabric 2.5YR5/8 red; covered with dull red slip.

61. Histria 2018, Sector N, square trench B3, squares A1/A2-B1/B2, 0.69–0.86, Inv. 759. R. 24 cm; Hp. 1.9 cm. Fine fabric 2.5YR5/8 red; covered with red slip.

62. Histria 2018, Sector N, square trench B3, square A2, 0.86–0.97, Inv. 765. R. 28; Hp. 1.4 cm. Fine fabric 2.5YR6/8 red; covered with red slip.

63. Histria 2018, Sector N, trench S3, squares 1–2, profile S, Inv. 764. R. 24 cm; Hp. 1.4 cm. Fine fabric 5YR5/8 red; covered with red slip and exposed to fire.

III.1.4. Unclassified micro-Asian dishes (Fig. 15/64–65)

Two low ring bases with a morphology that can attribute them to any of the previously listed Micro-Asian type.

64. Histria 2018, Sector N, square trench B3, square B2, 0.69–0.83, Inv. 762 (ceramic)/MSP 325. B. 9 cm; Hp. 1.9 cm. Fine fabric 5YR5/8 yellowish red; covered with red slip.

65. Histria 2018, Sector N, square trench B3, square A1, int. CRG, 0.95–1.23, Inv. 781. B. 10 cm; Hp. 11.7 cm. Fine fabric 5YR4/1 dark gray; traces of exposure to fire.

III.2. Bowls (Fig. 16–17)

III.2.1. Bowl with beaded, slightly incurved rim – ARS 27, 160–200 AD (Fig. 16/66)

This type of African bowl has been discovered at Histria¹⁰¹ with several variants and centers of production, Pergamenian (ESA, ESC) and Pontic, dated in the 1st–2nd

centuries¹⁰², as well as at Tomis¹⁰³.

66. Histria 2018, Sector N, square trench C3, squares A1/A2-B1/B2, 0.73–0.93, Inv. 775. R. 14 cm; Hp. 4.7 cm. Fine fabric 2.5YR5/6 red; covered with red slip.

III.2.2. Bowl with beaded, slightly outturned rim – Hayes 4; Suceveanu 2000, type II (Fig. 16/67)

Similar bowls were discovered at Histria, made in both Pontic and eastern centers (Pergamon, Çandarlı – Hayes 4), during the 1st and 4th centuries AD. The fragment from our lot has similar fabric as the ESC pottery and resemble type *Atlante* 51, but the red inclusions in the fabric and the overall finish makes it rather a Pontic product from the 1st century – beginning of the 2nd century AD.

67. Histria 2018, Sector N, square trench C3, squares A1/A2-B1/B2, 0.73–0.93, Inv. 775. R. 14 cm; Hp. 3 cm. Fine fabric 5YR5/6 yellowish red; covered with dull, red slip.

III. 2.3. Thin-walled bowl, with spherical body, slightly skewed rim (Fig. 16/68–69)

Although the same type, the three fragments are made from different fabrics – the first is red with white and red inclusion, the last two share a light colored fabric with very few inclusions, which could also indicate an Asia Minor workshop, although there are Pontic variants¹⁰⁴. A similar thin bowl was discovered at Durostorum.¹⁰⁵

68. Histria 2018, Sector N, square trench B3, square B2, 0.69–0.83, Inv. 762 (ceramic)/MSP 325. R. 7; Hp. 4.9 cm. Fine fabric

¹⁰¹ SUCEVEANU 2000, type IV/3, 9.

¹⁰² SUCEVEANU 2000, 15–16, type VI, Pl. II, no. 3 is most similar, for which the author suggests an analogy at Romula and Butovo, thus a Pontic workshop; However, the fabric of our find point more towards an eastern – Asian workshop, perhaps Çandarlı.

¹⁰³ BĂJENARU 2013, Pl. 3/22, with a dull slip, probably local;

¹⁰⁴ Cup – ZHURAVLEV 2011, type 25, Pl. 4/1–2, early 2nd century AD.

¹⁰⁵ MUȘEȚEANU/ELEFTERESCU 1985, Pl. 4/24.

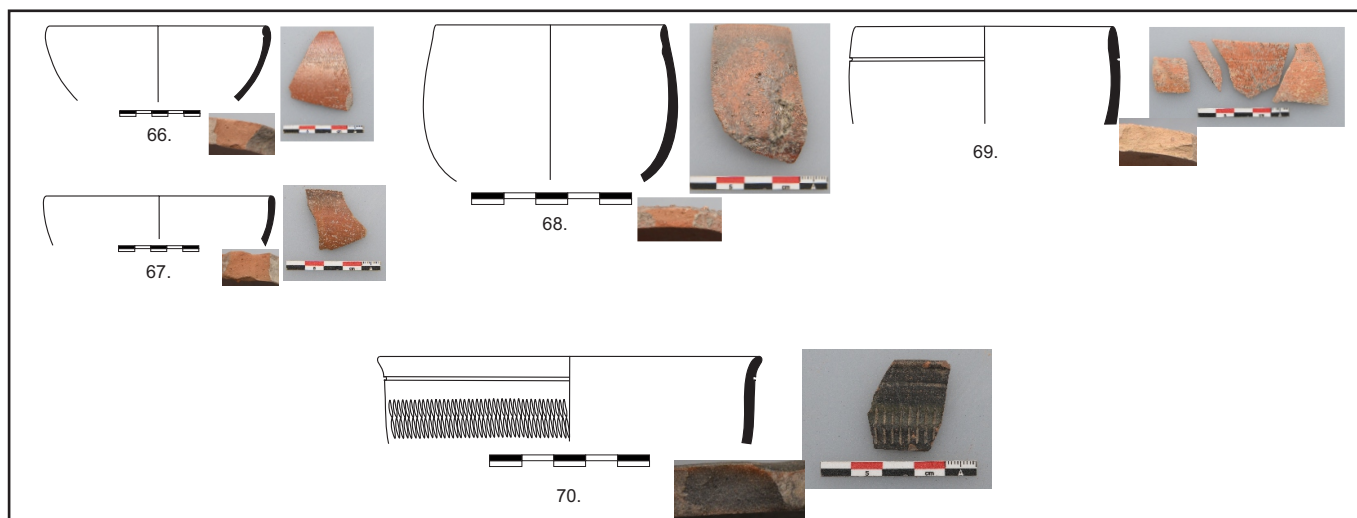


Fig.16. Bowls: 66. ARS 27; 67-70 Pontic.

5YR6/6 reddish yellow; covered with dull red slip.

69. Histria 2018, Sector N, square trench B3, square A2, 0.86–0.97, Inv. 765. R. 8; Hp. 3.1 cm. Fine fabric 10YR7/4 very pale brown; covered with dull red slip.

70. Histria 2018, Sector N, square trench B3, square A2, 0.86–0.96, Inv. 761. R. 9 cm; Hp. 3.3 cm. Fine fabric 10YR8/4 very pale brown; covered with light red slip.

III.2.4. Thin walled bowl with a slightly flaring rim and convex wall (Fig. 16/70)

Resembling type Agora V, M144 and a Pontic cup from Histria¹⁰⁶, where another fine gray bowl was discovered¹⁰⁷.

70. Histria 2018, Sector N, square trench B3, squares A1/A2–B1/B2, 0.69–0.86, Inv. 759. R. 12 cm; Hp. 2.8 cm. Fine fabric Gley 1 5/N gray. Decorated with rouletting; exposed to fire.

III.2.5. Conical bowls with incurved rim (Fig. 17/71–77)

III.2.5.1. Either slightly rounded or skewed, these are rather common types during the 1st–3rd centuries, as Pergamenian (ESA) and Pontic products. At Histria, similar bowls arrived from Pergamon (ESA) and there are even local imitations discovered.¹⁰⁸ Two of the fragments from the 2018 campaign are Asian products – (Pergamon, ESC) (nos. **71–72**), while the rest are likely made in Pontic workshops. Analogies have been discovered during the excavation at Histria¹⁰⁹, in area such as the Episcopal basilica¹¹⁰ and the Central Sector¹¹¹. Similar bowls were produced at Durostorum¹¹². Bowls with inwards rim, with both conical and spherical bodies are among the most common in the Pontic *sigillata* ware, with variations¹¹³. The Early Pontic Red Slip bowls were predominantly made and used during the 2nd

and 3rd centuries AD, reaching even the rural settlement at Niculițel¹¹⁴.

The last two fragments (nos. **76–77**) belong to the Pontic Gray sub-category and are the among the only three discovered during the excavation of the street. Analogies for these conical, incurved bowls are rather scarce, as they are likely mimicking their red fabric and slip counterparts. Similar gray vessels were discovered at Troesmis and the rural settlement at Sarichoi-Sărătura, from the 2nd–3rd centuries AD¹¹⁵. Fragments no. **76** is a probable Pontic product from the 2nd–3rd centuries, with analogies at Histria.¹¹⁶

71. Histria 2018, Sector N, square trench B3, square A2, 0.86–0.97, Inv. 765. R. 22 cm; Hp. 2.7 cm. Fine fabric 10R5/8 red; covered with red slip.

72. Histria 2018, Sector N, square trench B3, square A1, 1.03–1.14, Inv. 771. R.22, Hp. 2.5 cm. Fine fabric 5YR6/6 reddish yellow; covered with red slip on the exterior, brown on the interior.

73. Histria 2018, Sector N, square trench B3, square A1, 0.81–0.86, Inv. 763. R. 20 cm; Hp. 2.9 cm. Fine fabric 2.5YR5/8 red and 5/1 gray; covered with red slip.

74. Histria 2018, Sector N, square trench C3, squares A1/A2–B1/B2, 0.73–0.93, Inv. 775. R. 18 cm; Hp. 3.2 cm. Fine fabric 2.5YR5/8 red; covered with reddish brown slip on the exterior and red on the interior.

75. Histria 2018, Sector N, square trench B3, square A2, 0.86–0.97, Inv. 765. R. 18 cm; Hp. 2.3 cm. Fine fabric 2.5YR5/8 red; covered with red slip. (Suceveanu 2000, type VI)

76. Histria 2018, Sector N, square trench B3, square A2, 0.97–1.04, Inv. 769. R. 12 cm; Hp. 3.1 cm. Fine fabric Gley 1 3/N very dark gray; covered with dull, black slip, with traces of exposure to fire.

77. Histria 2018, Sector N, square trench B3, square A1, 1.03–1.15, Inv. 773. R. 16 cm; Hp. 2.5 cm. Fine fabric 2.5YR 4/1 dark gray; covered with dark gray slip.

III.2.5.2. The following four fragments come from thin bowls with analogies at Histria in the 2nd–3rd centuries

¹⁰⁶ SUCEVEANU 2000, type XXII, nos. 6–7; BĂJENARU 2014, no. 3.

¹⁰⁷ STREINU 2018, 93, no. 28 of a different type and decorated with *ovae*, see also no. 19 – red fabric.

¹⁰⁸ SUCEVEANU 2000, type III.

¹⁰⁹ SUCEVEANU 2000, type VI, Pl. 6.

¹¹⁰ ANGELESCU/BĂLTĂC 2002–2003, Fig. 8/28, Fig.3/28

¹¹¹ BĂJENARU 2014, Fig.2/5 1st–3rd centuries AD.

¹¹² MUȘTEANU/ELEFTERESCU 2004, Pl.VIII/7.

¹¹³ ZHRURAVLEV 2010, Pl.23/Forms 13–14, Form 17.1.1 for the one with a more curved wall.

¹¹⁴ MOCANU 2021, 133, Form 8, Fig. 40/32–33.

¹¹⁵ SUPPLY OF CERAMIC GOODS, 254, no. 704 at Sărătura, 2nd–4th centuries AD (Marian Mocanu); MOCANU 2021, 140, Form 4, Fig. 11/6.

¹¹⁶ SUCEVEANU 2000, 35, type VII, Pl. 10; BĂJENARU 2014, Fig.6/79–79.

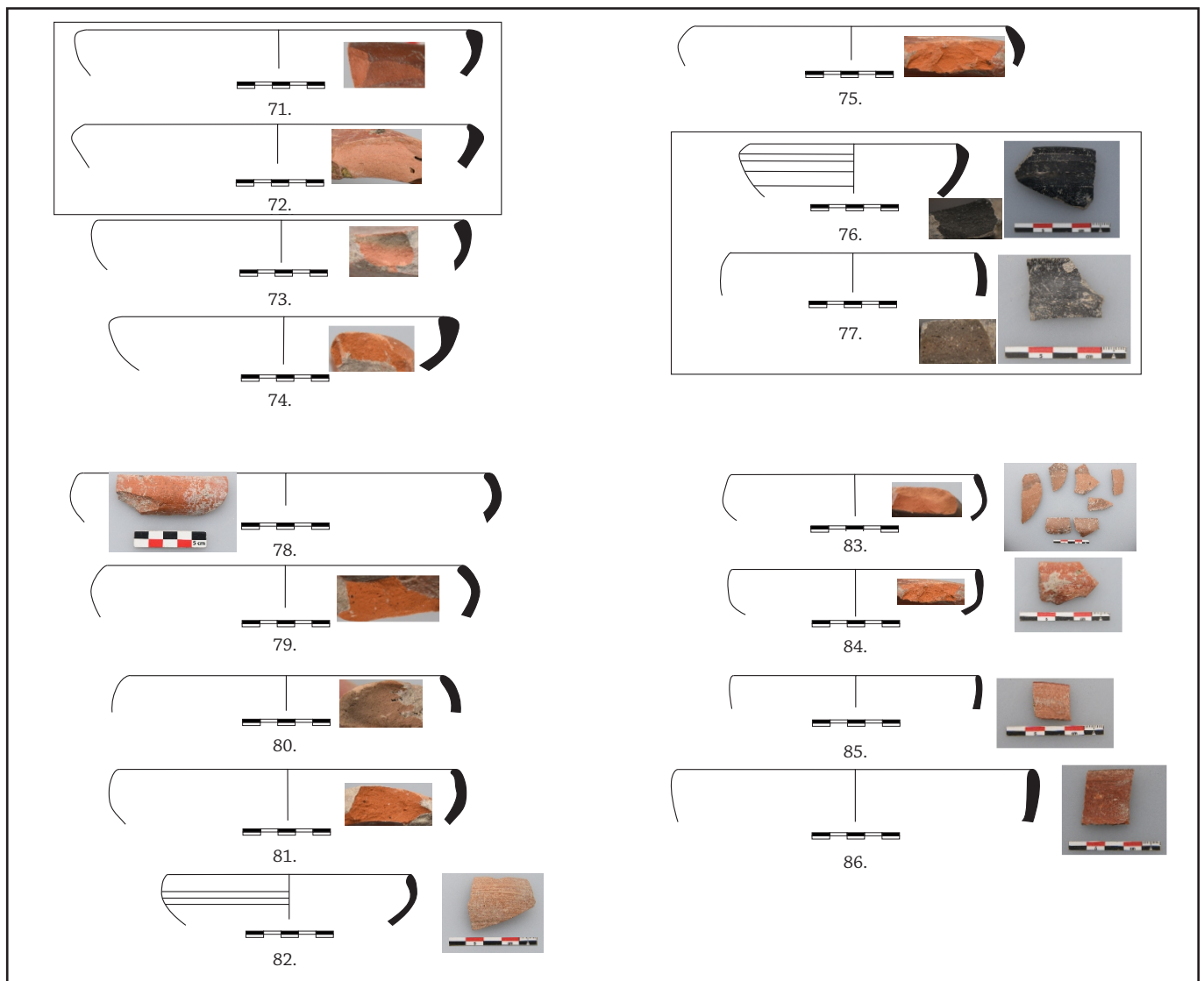


Fig.17. 71-72 Asia Minor imports; 73-82 Pontic bowls with inwards rim.

AD¹¹⁷, most considered Pontic products. Only no. 82 has analogies at Histria from the 1st–2nd centuries AD¹¹⁸. Similar bowls were also discovered in the Central Sector at Histria¹¹⁹ and Tower K¹²⁰. This type could be an imitation of type Atlante H4, with the same convex wall and inwards rim, dated during the 3rd century AD (**Fig. 17/78–82**)

78. Histria 2018, Sector N, square trench B3, square A1, 0.89–1.03, Inv. 770. R. 23; Hp. 2.8 cm. Fine fabric 2.5YR5/8 red; covered with red slip.

79. Histria 2018, Sector N, square trench B3, square A1, 0.86/89–1.03, Inv. 768. R. 20 cm; Hp. 3 cm. Fine fabric 2.5YR5/8 red; covered with dull red slip.

80. Histria 2018, Sector N, square trench B3, square A1, 0.86/89–1.03, Inv. 768. R. 18 cm; Hp. 2.1 cm. Fine fabric 2.5YR5/4 reddish brown; covered with red slip.

81. Histria 2018, Sector N, square trench B3, square A1, int.

¹¹⁷ SUCEVEANU 2000, 27–36, type VI, Pl. 6–8; ANGELESCU/BĂLTĂC 2002–2003, Fig. 8/26 at the Bishopric Basilica.

¹¹⁸ SUCEVEANU 2000, types V and VI, Pl. 5–6.

¹¹⁹ SUCEVEANU 2000, type VI; BĂJENARU 2014, Fig.2/4 end of 1st century – beginning of the 2nd century AD.

¹²⁰ STREINU 2018, 94, Pl. VI/31.

CRG, 0.95–1.23, Inv. 781. R. 19 cm; Hp. 3.2 cm. Fine fabric 2.5YR6/8 light red, covered with dull red slip.

82. Histria 2018, Sector N, trench S3, squares 1–2, int. CRG, 1.12–1.41, Inv. 452. R. 14; Hp. 2.9 cm. Fine fabric 7.5YR5/4 brown; covered with dull red slip.

III.2.5.3. Thin-walled bowls type Suceveanu 2000, Type XVII–XVIII. In this category we identified four variants, depending on the shape of the rim and wall, but all linked by the carination of the body. All fragments are made from fine fabrics and are covered with reddish slip, likely made in Pontic workshops. **Nos. 87–89, 91 and 92** have a similar fabric – light red, with more (89), or less white inclusions, whereas no. 90 stands out with a more granular consistency of its fabric (**Fig. 17/83–86**)

III.2.5.4. These thin walled bowls with a more rounded rim, slightly carinated, have many analogies at Histria, from the 2nd and 3rd centuries AD, originating from Pontic centers¹²¹, which we have divided into three variants.

¹²¹ SUCEVEANU 2000, types V–VI.

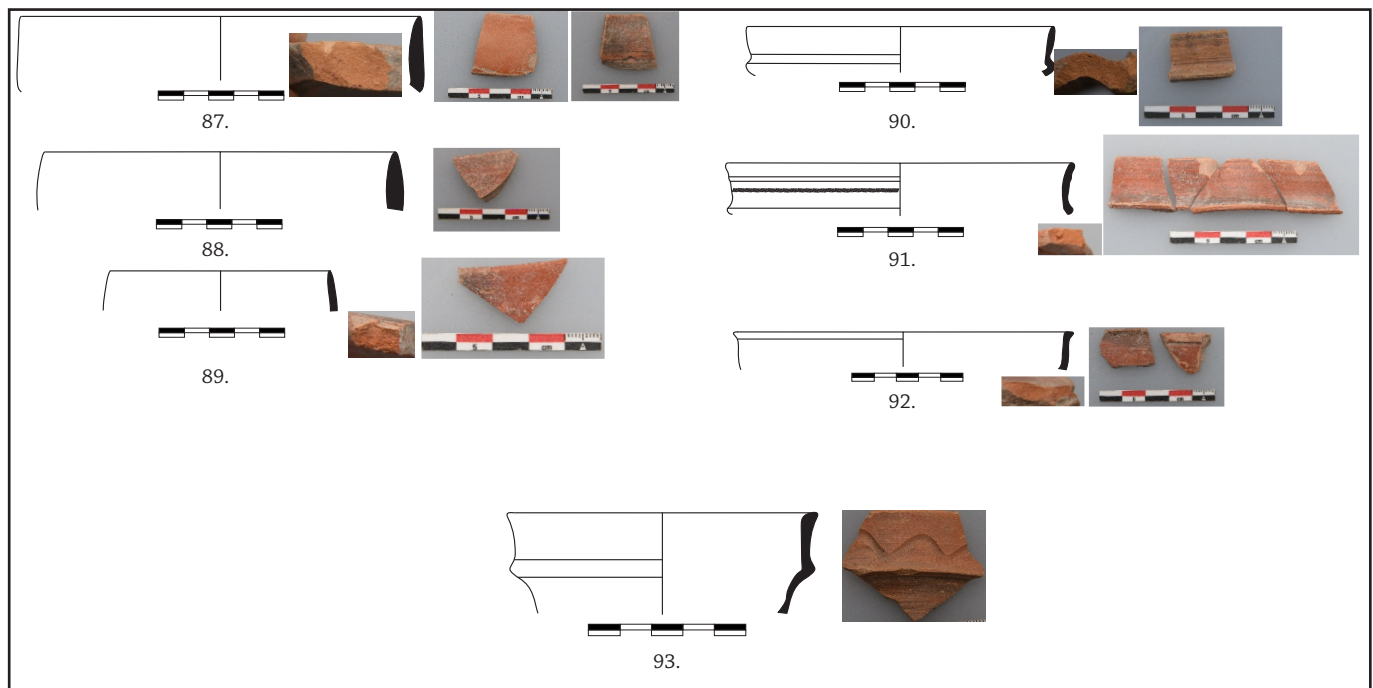


Fig.18. Carinated bowls

Bowls like **nos. 83–84**, with a more curved upper walls, common during the 1st–2nd centuries AD was associated to type Zhuravlev 12 from the region of Crimea and apart from Histria, was also discovered at Fântânele ans Sarichioi- Sărătura¹²².

This type of bowl with slightly incurved and skewed rim (**nos. 85–86**) has analogies at Histria, dated in the 2nd–3rd centuries, where numerous finds came from Pontic centers¹²³, as we consider these fragments to be.

83. Histria 2018, Sector N, square trench B3, square A2, 0.86–0.97, Inv. 765. R. 14 cm; Hp. 2.5. Fine fabric 2.5YR6/8 light red; covered with dull red slip. 2 fragments

84. Histria 2018, Sector N, square trench B3, square A2, 0.97–1.04, Inv. 769. R. 14 cm; Hp. 2.6 cm. Fine fabric 2.5YR6/8 light red; covered with dull, red slip. Suceveanu 2000, type VI/5,7–8.

85. Histria 2018, Sector N, square trench B3, square A1, int. CRG, 0.95–1.23, Inv. 781. R. 14 cm; Hp. 1.9 cm. Fine fabric 2.5YR5/8 red, covered with dull, red slip on the interior and upper rim. Similar fragments was discovered in the Central Sector at Histria.¹²⁴

86. Histria 2018, Sector N, trench S3, squares 1–2, profile S, Inv. 764. R. 20 cm; Hp.3 Fine fabric 2.5YR5/8 red; covered with red slip.

III.2.6. Carinated bowls (Fig. 18)

III.2.6.1. Bowls with straight, skewed rim, carinated body – Suceveanu 2000, Type XIX/1–3 (Fig. 18/86–89)

The carinated bowls like **nos. 87–89** are among the most frequent finds at Histria, dated mainly in the 1st – 2nd centuries AD.¹²⁵ These last two carinated bowls preserve more of the lower body and the type is among the most

frequent among the finds at Histria during the same time period¹²⁶. This type was largely produced at the workshop from Butovo during the 2nd and 3rd centuries AD, while other regional analogies are found at Troesmis¹²⁷.

87. Histria 2018, Sector N, square trench B3, squares A1/A2–B1/B2, 0.69–0.86, Inv. 759. R. 16 cm; Hp. 3 cm. Fine fabric 5YR6/8 reddish yellow; covered with red slip on the exterior, reddish brown on the interior.

88. Histria 2018, Sector N, square trench C3, square A1, 0.89–0.92, Inv. 779. R. 14 cm; Hp. 2.3. Fine fabric 5YR6/6 reddish yellow; covered with red slip.

89. Histria 2018, Sector N, square trench B3, square A2, 0.86–0.97, Inv. 765. R. 9 cm; Hp. 1.6 cm. Fine fabric 5YR5/8 yellowish red; covered with red slip.

II.2.6.2. Bowl with slightly flaring, rounded rim, profiled carination – Suceveanu 2000, Type XVII (Fig. 18/90–91)

Although share similar features, the two fragments are made from different fabrics, indicating different workshops. The first is more granular, darker, resembling that of dish **no. 54** and pitcher **no. 52**, The second is resembling that of most of the other finds in this category, with a light red fabric, compact, with fine white inclusions. Both vessels are likely Pontic products¹²⁸.

90. Histria 2018, Sector N, square trench B3, square A2, 0.97–1.04, Inv. 769. R. 12 cm; Hp. 1.9 cm. Fine fabric 7.5YR6/6; covered with dull, reddish-brown slip.

91. Histria 2018, Sector N, square trench B3, square A1, 1.03–1.14, Inv. 771. R. 14 cm; Hp. 2.2 cm. Fine fabric 5YR6/8 reddish yellow; decorated with a fine roulette line on the upper body and covered with red slip.

¹²² MOCANU 2021, 96, Form 6, see especially Fig. 26/16–17.

¹²³ SUCEVEANU 2000, type V, Pl. 3, nos. 12–20.

¹²⁴ BĂJENARU 2014, Fig. 5/67 second half of the 1st century AD.

¹²⁵ SUCEVEANU 2000, 77–80, type XIX, Pl. 29.

¹²⁶ SUCEVEANU 2000, 63–77, types XVII–XVII, Pl. 23–29.

¹²⁷ MOCANU 2021, 94, Fig. 25/11, Form 3.

¹²⁸ ZHURAVLEV 2010, type 30.3/28.

II.2.6.3. Bowl with rolled rim – Suceveanu 2000, Type XVII; Zhuravlev 2010, type 4.1; Mocanu 2021, Fig.25/1 (Fig. 18/92)

This type of carinated bowl is also considered a plate/dish made by workshops at Hotnica, Pavlikeni and Butovo starting with second half of the 3rd century AD, with regional analogies at Histria¹²⁹, Tomis and Troesmis¹³⁰.

92. Histria 2018, Sector N, square trench B3, square A2, 1.04–1.08, Inv. 772. R. 15 cm; Hp. 1.8 cm. Fine fabric 2.5YR5/6 red; covered with red slip.

II.2.6.4. Tall, conical, carinated bowl – Suceveanu 2000, Type XVIII/30–34 (Fig. 18/93)

Numerous similar vessels, including with the wave decoration, have been discovered at Histria, with various sizes, including larger types with rim diameter reaching 20 cm, from the end of the 1st century AD and during the 2nd century¹³¹. Our item, as well as several previous discoveries, is considered a Pontic product, perhaps even local¹³². Similar vessels were discovered at Troesmis, Aegyssus, Tomis, Sarichoi-Sărătura, Ibida, some considered products of the workshop at Pavlikeni¹³³.

93. Histria 2007, Sector N, trench B3, square 5, 0.68–0.88, Inv. 450. R. 10 cm; Hp. 3.3 cm. Fine fabric 10YR6/6 brownish yellow, with red, dull slip and a waved, incised line on the upper body.

III.2.7. Large bowl with incurved rim, carinated body, ribbed wall – Suceveanu 2000, Type X (Fig. 19/94)

Such large bowls with grooved body have been found at Histria and dated in the 2nd–3rd centuries AD¹³⁴, but also local variants at Troesmis¹³⁵ and Tomis¹³⁶.

94. Histria 2018, Sector N, trench S3, squares 1–2, profile S, Inv. 764. R.18; Hp. 7.3 cm. Fine fabric 5YR4/6 yellowish red, with rare black and red inclusions; covered with dull red slip.

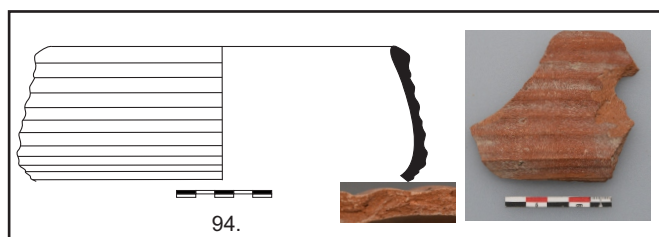


Fig.19. Ribbed bowl

III.2.8. Bowls with flat, thick rim – Suceveanu 2000, Type XI (Fig. 20/95–96) (Fig. 20)

Similar bowls have been discovered at Histria, mostly

in contexts from the 2nd and 3rd centuries AD, from Pontic pottery centers¹³⁷. The type is similar to ESA bowls from the 2nd–3rd centuries AD¹³⁸, which could have inspired further regional productions, including in the Pontic basin¹³⁹. A similar fragment was discovered in the Central Sector at Histria¹⁴⁰, at Durostorum a local production developed¹⁴¹ and another close analogy is at Tropaeum Traiani¹⁴². The first fragment is made from a rather coarse fabric, with red (mashed pottery) and numerous inclusions, an unusual feature for this category. The second one has the same fabric as previous fragments, **nos. 97–98**.

95. Histria 2018, Sector N, square trench B3, square A2, 1.08–1.15, Inv. 774. R. 28/30 cm; Hp. 4.4 cm. Coarse fabric 5YR4/3 reddish brown; covered with red slip on the interior and exposed to fire.

96. Histria 2018, Sector N, square trench B3, square B2, 0.69–0.83, Inv. 762 (ceramic)/MSP 325. R. 14 cm; Hp. 2.1 cm. Fine fabric 2.5YR6/6 light red; covered with red slip.

III.2.9. Bowls with rolled rim, convex wall – Suceveanu 2000, type VIII (Fig. 20/97–98)

The two fragments come from bowls similar to previous discoveries at Histria dated to the 2nd–3rd centuries AD¹⁴³.

97. Histria 2018, Sector N, square trench B3, square A1, 0.86/0.89–1.03, Inv. 768. R. 16 cm; Hp. 1.8 cm. Fine fabric 2.5YR6/8 light red; covered with dull red slip.

98. Histria 2018, Sector N, square trench B3, square A1, 1.03–1.15, Inv. 773. R. 11 cm; Hp. 2.1 cm. Fine fabric 5YR6/6 reddish yellow; covered with dark brown slip.

III.2.10. Bowls/cups with a flaring rim, carinated body, following the tradition of the *kantharoi* – Suceveanu 2000, Type XXXIII (Fig. 20/99–101)

Similar red slip cups, with two opposed handles, following the tradition of the *kantharos*, were discovered at Histria mainly from the 1st and 2nd centuries AD¹⁴⁴. The two items discovered in 2018 have different fabric and slip, the first also show red and more consistent inclusions, whereas the latter has a more compact fabric, although filled with well mixed white inclusions.

99. Histria 2018, Sector N, square trench B3, square A2, 1.04–1.08, Inv. 772. R. 9 cm; Hp. 3.3 cm. Fine fabric 5YR6/8 reddish yellow; covered with dull red slip.

100. Histria 2018, Sector N, square trench B3, square A2, 0.97–1.04, Inv. 769. R. 10 cm; Hp. 2.1 cm. Fine fabric 2.5YR 5/8 red; covered with dull, dark red slip.

101. Histria 2018, Sector N, square trench B3, square A2, 1.08–1.15, Inv. 774. R. 8 cm; Hp. 2.2 cm. Fine fabric 2.5YR6/8 light red; covered with red slip on the exterior.

¹²⁹ BĂJENARU 2014, 108, no.17.

¹³⁰ MOCANU 2021, 92, Form 1.

¹³¹ SUCEVEANU 2000, type XVIII/31–34.

¹³² SUCEVEANU 2000, 74, type XVIII, Pl. 27/31–32.

¹³³ MOCANU 2021, 105, Form 12, Fig. 29/37, see also the references provided by the author for each site.

¹³⁴ SUCEVEANU 2000, type X, Pl. 12, nos. 11–12.

¹³⁵ OPAIȚ/IONESCU 2016, 79, Pl. XXVIII, nos. 167–168.

¹³⁶ BĂJENARU 2013, Pl. 12/9.

¹³⁷ SUCEVEANU 2000, 43–46, type XI, Pl. 13.

¹³⁸ ATL-II, form *tarda b*, Tav. VIII/5.

¹³⁹ Pontic Red slip – ZHURAVLEV 2002, Fig. 22/5.

¹⁴⁰ BĂJENARU 2014, Fig. 2/11. The fragment is gray ware, polished, dated in the 1st century AD.

¹⁴¹ MUȘEȚEANU/ELEFTERESCU 2004, Pl. VIII/5.

¹⁴² BOGDAN CĂTĂNICIU/BARNEA 1979, 185, Fig. 156/2.4, decorated.

¹⁴³ SUCEVEANU 2000, 36, type VIII, Pl. 10.

¹⁴⁴ SUCEVEANU 2000, 86–88, type XXXIII, Pl. 34.

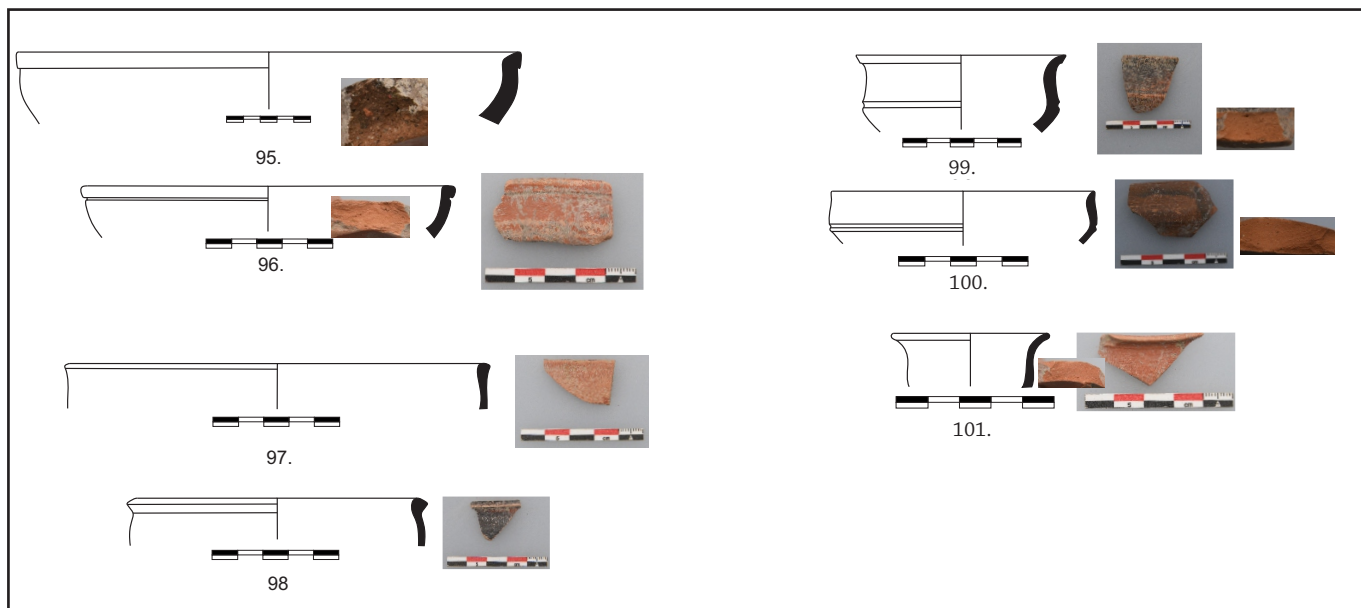


Fig. 20. 95-96 Bowls with broad rim; 97-98 bowls with rolled rim; 99-101 bowls with flaring rim.

III.2.11. Skewed, flanged bowl – type (Çandarlı) Hayes 3 (Fig. 21/102)

During the archaeological research of the street, only one flanged Micro-Asian bowl was discovered, although there are several other body sherds that seem to belong to ceramic vessels made in Asia Minor – Pergamon and Çandarlı. The bowl features belong to Hayes type 3 (Çandarlı). *Atlante* L19, product made during the 2nd and 3rd centuries. This type of bowl, referred to as a *cup* (*coupes*) have been previously discovered at Histria along with Pontic imitations of the type.¹⁴⁵ The fabric of this piece from Histria is indicative of a Pontic workshop, or at least not an Asia Minor one. The same type of bowl has been discovered at Tomis¹⁴⁶, Aegyssus¹⁴⁷, Troesmis¹⁴⁸, Ibida, Niculițel-Teicom, Sarichioi Sărătura¹⁴⁹.

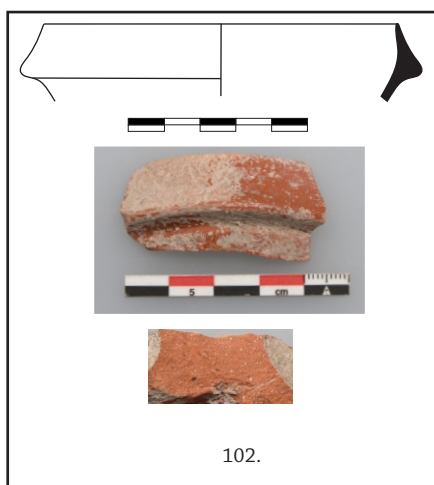


Fig. 21. Pontic flanged bowl

¹⁴⁵ SUCEVEANU 2000, 60–63, Type XVI, Pl. 22.

¹⁴⁶ BĂJENARU 2013, Pl. 2/5–6.

¹⁴⁷ NUȚU/COSTEA 2010, Pl. 3/16; Pl. 4/17.

¹⁴⁸ OPAIȚ 1980, 343, Pl. X/4.

¹⁴⁹ MOCANU 2021, 49, nos. 8–9, mentions the Pontic products and dating from the second half of the 1st century AD.

102. Histria 2018, Sector N, square trench B3, square A1, int. CRG, 0.95–1.23, Inv. 781. R. 10 cm; Hp. 2.2cm. Fine fabric 2.5YR6/8 light red, with numerous white inclusions, scarcer red inclusions; covered with red slip.

III.3. Cups

III.3.1. Cups with moulded rim, convex wall – Suceveanu 2000, Type XXIII/9–16 (Fig. 22/103–104) (Fig. 22)

The two fragments seem more appropriately attributed to cups (Agora M2), probably two-handled cups, with numerous analogies at Histria in the 1st–2nd centuries AD, with many other variants¹⁵⁰. Similar cups are recorded in the Pontic *sigillata* ware¹⁵¹, reaching even rural settlements¹⁵²,

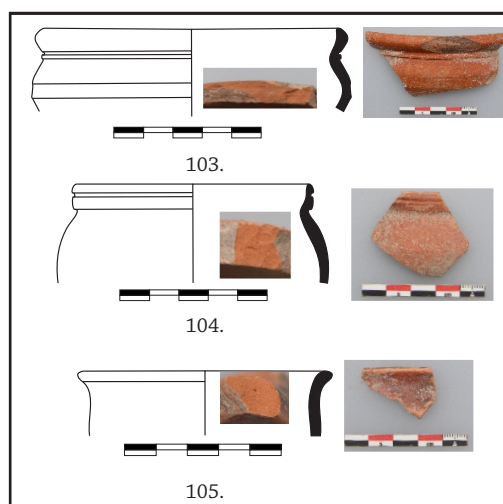


Fig. 22. 103-104 cups with moulded rim; 104 cup with flaring rim

¹⁵⁰ SUCEVEANU 2000, 86–88, type XXXIII, Pl. 33–34.

¹⁵¹ ZHURAVLEV 2010, Form 33/246–247.

¹⁵² MUȘAT-STREINU 2017, 288, nos. 8–9, Fig. 5, at the settlement at Acic Suat, in the proximity of Histria; *SUPPLY OF CERAMIC GOODS*, 257, no. 715 at Enisala/Sarichioi, Moesian workshop, 2nd century AD (Marian Mocanu).

while some variants were made at Durostorum, without the decoration¹⁵³. Some of the vessels of this type from Histria were decorated using barbotine¹⁵⁴. The last item, **no. 104**, has a slightly coarser fabric, very similar to the previous bowl imitating the well-known Asia Minor type, **no. 102**.

103. Histria 2007, Sector N, trench S3, squares 1–2, int. CRG, 0.65, Inv. 411. R. 9 cm; Hp. 4.1 cm. Fine fabric 2.5YR5/8 red, covered with red slip.

104. Histria 2018, Sector N, square trench B3, square B2, 0.69–0.83, Inv. 762 (ceramic)/M_{Sp} 325. R. 8 cm; Hp. 3.4 cm. Fine fabric 2.5YR5/8 red; covered with dull red slip.

III.3.2. Cup with flaring rim and convex wall – Suceveanu 2000, Type XXXIII (Fig. 22/105)

These fragment share the same fabric with the previous two, indicating the same workshop, possibly local.

105. Histria 2018, Sector N, square trench B3, square A2, 0.86–0.97, Inv. 765. R. 5 cm; Hp. 1.8 cm. Fine fabric 2.5YR5/8 red; covered with red slip.

III.4. Unclassified flat base, slightly elevates, with a graffito: EYA (Fig. 23/106)

The base could originate from a small mug, a very common type during the 2nd and 3rd centuries AD, derived from the type named by Hayes *a collarino*. The fabric is similar to that of fragments nos. 97–98, 100, 101, 105. The letters could belong to a longer word, a formula employed as a wish for good luck. These mugs were frequently discovered in Dobruja, including a great variety at Histria¹⁵⁵, some were painted with similar formulas for good fortune – *τύχη* or gifts – *τῆ καλῆ τὸ δῶρον*¹⁵⁶.

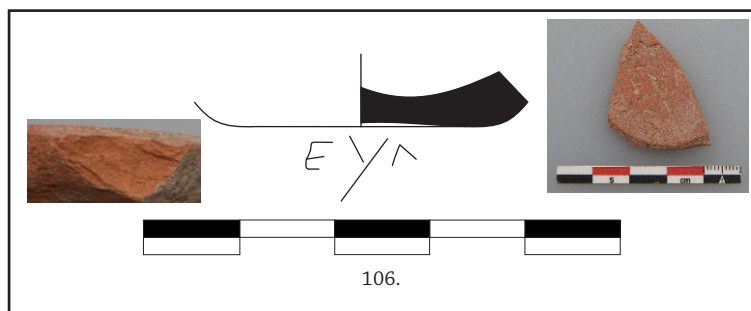


Fig.23. cup base with graffito

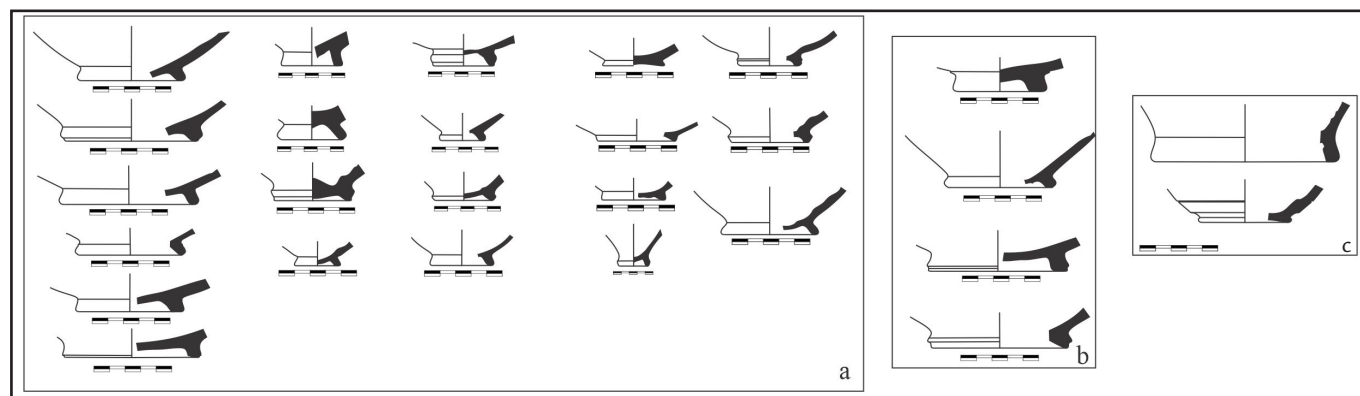


Fig.24. Table ware - various ring bases.

¹⁵³ MUȘEȚEANU/ELEFTERESCU 2004, 104, Pl. VI/9–10, associates this shape to Popilian *coupe* 4 found in many sites in Oltenia and referencing analogies at Noviodunum, Sarichioi.

¹⁵⁴ BOUNEGRU 1988–1989, 102, Fig. 2/3–8.

¹⁵⁵ Histria – SUCEVEANU 2000, 99–100, type XXXII, no. 32–59, Pl. 43–44; ALEXANDRESCU 1966: 208, tomb XXIV, no. 7, Pl. 99; BĂJENARU 2014: 109, nos. 34–35, fig. 3; Tomis – RĂDULESCU 1975, Pl. III; BUCOVALĂ/PAȘCA 1992, Pl. 7/M44 and M 30, Pl. 8/M1; BĂJENARU/DOBRINESCU 2008, 191, tomb 5, no.1, Pl. 4, and p. 192, tomb 14, no. 1, Pl. 5b; BĂJENARU 2013, 60, nos. 51–53, Pl. 20; Piatra Frecăței – PETRE 1962b, 568, fig. 5b; Acic Suat – MUȘAT STREINU 2017, no. 15; Babadag – VASILIU/PARASCHIV 1999, 260, Pl. 4/2.

¹⁵⁶ AVRAM/HĂLMAGI/STREINU, forthcoming, features two such mugs from the Maria and dr. Severeanu collection; *THE SUPPLY OF CERAMIC GOODS*, 205, no. 558 from Tomis, almost identical to the one from the Severeanu collection.

106. Histria 2018, Sector N, square trench B3, square B2, 0.69–0.83, Inv. 762 (ceramic)/M_{Sp} 325. B. 3 cm; Hp. 0.7 cm. Fine fabric 2.5YR6/8 light red; covered with dull, red slip.

IV. Storage (Fig. 25)

IV.1.1. *Small sized container, with rolled, inwards rim, sloping body with a fine exterior flange (Fig. 25/107)*

An unlikely storage vessel, made out of fine fabric with iron oxide inclusion, indicating a west-Pontic workshop, this container is covered with a dull, red slip. Its shape and size indicated it was used for storage, likely for short periods, but unclear as to goods it stored.

107. Histria 2018, Sector N, square trench B3, square A2, 0.97–1.04, Inv. 769. R. 15 cm; Hp. 2.8 cm. Fine fabric 2.5YR6/8 light red, with rare white and red inclusion; covered with red slip.

IV.1.2. *Medium sized container with elongated inwards rim, sloping body (Fig. 25/108)*

Both fragments discovered come from the same

vessels, made out of a coarse fabric, very similar to that of the pots in the cook ware category, possibly indicating a local workshop. Furthermore, both fragments show traces of repairs, one is perforated, while the other still preserves the lead patch. A smaller variant was discovered at Tropaeum Traiani¹⁵⁷.

108. Histria 2018, Sector N, square trench B3, square A2, 0.97–1.04, Inv. 769. R. 30; Hp. 4.1 cm. Fine/coarse fabric 2.5YR5/6 red.

¹⁵⁷ BOGDAN CĂTĂNICIU/BARNEA 1979, 184, Fig. 153/5.7 considered a large pot.

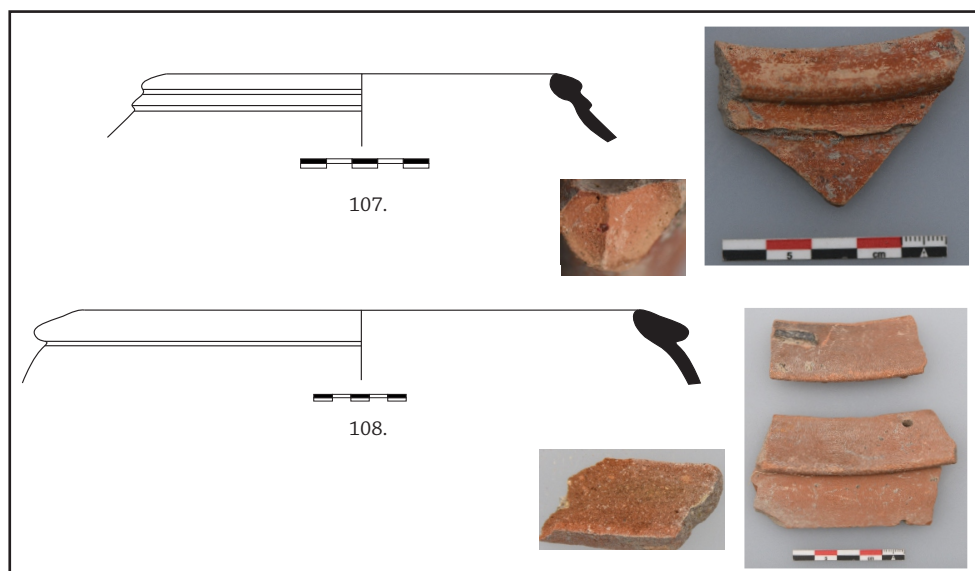


Fig.25. Storage vessels

V. Coarse cook wares

From the total amount of finds, the cook ware comprises 7.88% and the handmade fragments only 0.51%, some decorated (**Fig. 31/133**) From a typological point of view, the finds belong to pots, casseroles, bowls, pans and lids, although there is little variety. There are only three types of pots, one type of casserole, one bowl, two types of pans and four types of lids. Even within each type, few fragments were discovered. Handmade vessels were also discovered discarded on the street, reaching a very small percentage of only 0.51%. Among the identifiable type, only one was preserved, the rim of a large jar-pot with a flaring rim and one flat base, both exposed to fire, as most of the other sherds. The story repeats in the case of the pans, as there are again only two types: pans with beaded rim and pans with grooved rim, made from the same coarse fabric.

Chronologically, the identified cook wares span from the 2nd to the 4th centuries AD, thus mostly from the early Roman period and there are no sherds that could clearly be dated to the late antique period. Considering that late antique finds are well attested, it begs the question as to why there are no cook wares from the 5th–6th or later centuries discovered along with their transport and tableware counterparts.

V.1. Pots/Ollae (Fig. 26)

There are only two identifiable types of pots. The first is characterized by a beaded, flaring rim, with an interior concavity, with analogies in almost all Roman sites in the province and with a wide time span between the 2nd–4th centuries AD¹⁵⁸. The second has a flaring and

¹⁵⁸ Histria – SUCEVEANU 2000, 113–117, type XXXV dated to the 2nd–3rd centuries AD; at the rural settlement at Fântânele – SUCEVEANU 1998, Pl. VII/10, Pl. IX/41, Pl. XII/101 and at the rural settlements at Acic Suat – STREINU 2019, Pl. III, nos. 1–10; HONCU 2017, 43–44, nos. 2 and 4 dated to the 2nd–3rd centuries AD; BĂDESCU/CLIANTE 2015, 219, nos. 43–44/Fig.4/3–4, dated later, to the end of the 6th century–beginning of the 7th century AD; at Argamum – HONCU 2017, no. 2, Pl. 1/2; at Callatis – OPAIȚ/IONESCU 2016, Pl. XXII–XXIII, nos. 129–131; at Tropaeum Traiani – BOGDAN CĂTĂNICIU/BARNEA 1979, Fig. 146, nos. 4.1 and 5.2, together with early Roman materials from the 2nd and 3rd centuries AD; at Măcin, at close proximity to Arrubium – PARASCHIV 2004, Pl. III/13. A similar find

flattened rim, with a very smooth interior curve. Similar pots were discovered in other sites in the province¹⁵⁹ and considered local imitations of the Aegean types¹⁶⁰. The fabric of the pots is consistent, light red, with numerous inclusions, suggesting an origin from the same pottery workshop.

In Dobruja analogies for the handmade so-called pots or jars are to be found at various sites and the patterns are similar in all settlements from the 1st and 2nd centuries AD,¹⁶¹ but also a continuity of production up to the 5th century AD¹⁶². Handmade fragments with both flaring and straight

rims, typical decorations, considered pots or jars, were discovered during the excavations of other early Roman settlements – Fântânele¹⁶³ and Acic Suat¹⁶⁴, both in the hinterland of Histria, as well as at Telița Amza¹⁶⁵. In the case of urban contexts, we mention finds at Tropaeum Traiani¹⁶⁶ and Dinogetia¹⁶⁷ from the early Roman period.

V.1.1. Pot with a rolled rim, interior groove and handle – Suceveanu 2000, Type XXXV (Fig. 26/109–112)

109. Histria 2018, Sector N, trench S3, squares 1–2, profile S, Inv. 764. R. 13 cm; Hp. 3.9 cm. Coarse fabric 2.5YR5/8 red and 5Y6/2 light olive gray.

comes from the rural settlement at Sarichioi-Sărătura – BAUMANN 1995, Pl. XVI/7 with a grooved body.

¹⁵⁹ At Histria there are two close analogies, see SUCEVEANU 2000, type XL, Pl. 61, nos. 12 and 14, both considered local productions by the author. At the rural settlement from Fântânele – SUCEVEANU 1998, Pl. VII/11, Pl. XII/100,106, Pl. XIV/136, 141; HONCU 2016, Type IV; STREINU 2019, Pl. IV/13–14 at Acic Suat; Tomis – BĂJENARU 2013, 65, Pl. 10, nos 73–76, also referencing similar pots at Olbia. Similar shaped vessels were found at Callatis, see OPAIȚ/IONESCU 2016, Pl. XIV/nos. 138–140 and Telița-Amza – BAUMANN 1995, Pl. LXIII/1. For further analogies at Argamum, Ibida, Noviodunum, Halmyris and Durostorum, see HONCU 2017, type IV, all dated to the 2nd–3rd centuries AD.

¹⁶⁰ OPAIȚ/IONESCU 2016, 75, type III; TARAS 2014, Fig. 9.

¹⁶¹ BAUMANN 2009, Pl. II for the settlements near Noviodunum, with pots with flaring rims from Horia, pots with flaring rims from Telița-Valea Amzei, Troesmis, Enisala, Sarichioi Sărătura, Revărsarea-Cotul Tichilești, Pl. V with pots with flaring rims from Telița-Amza; CRIȘAN 1969, 160–63; HONCU 2016, Pl. I/12–14 at Argamum; HONCU 2017, Pl. XXXIII with finds from Enisala; BOGDAN CĂTĂNICIU/BARNEA 1979, fig. 141/1, 149–150 at Tropaeum Traiani; SIMION 1971, 64 again at Enisala with bibliography; OPAIȚ/IONESCU 2016, Pl. XXV/145 at Callatis; CHIRIAC/ICONOMU 2005 at Floriile; IRIMIA 2007 and his bibliography.

¹⁶² SCORPAN 1970 discusses hand made vessels found in both rural and urban settlements, including Histria, even during Late Antique, but the archaeological contexts are unclear. At Capidava see finds discussed by OPRIȘ 2003:102–113 and the references provided, Pl. XXXVIII–XL. Also at Capidava, for Late Antique, see OPRIȘ/DOBRINESCU 2018, 188–189, Fig. 13, featuring hand made *barbarian* pottery in a 6th century context.

¹⁶³ SUCEVEANU 1998, Pl. XV/160–161, Pl. XVII/178.

¹⁶⁴ STREINU 2019, Pl. V–VI/27–31.

¹⁶⁵ BAUMANN 1995, Pl. LIII–LV, see nos. 4,7 (Pl. LIV), 1 (Pl. LV), dated in the 2nd–3rd centuries AD.

¹⁶⁶ BOGDAN CĂTĂNICIU/BARNEA 1979, Fig. 143, no. 1.5; Fig. 149, nos. 1.1, 1.4.

¹⁶⁷ ȘTEFAN *et alii* 1953, 266, fig. 25–26, from 2nd century AD contexts.

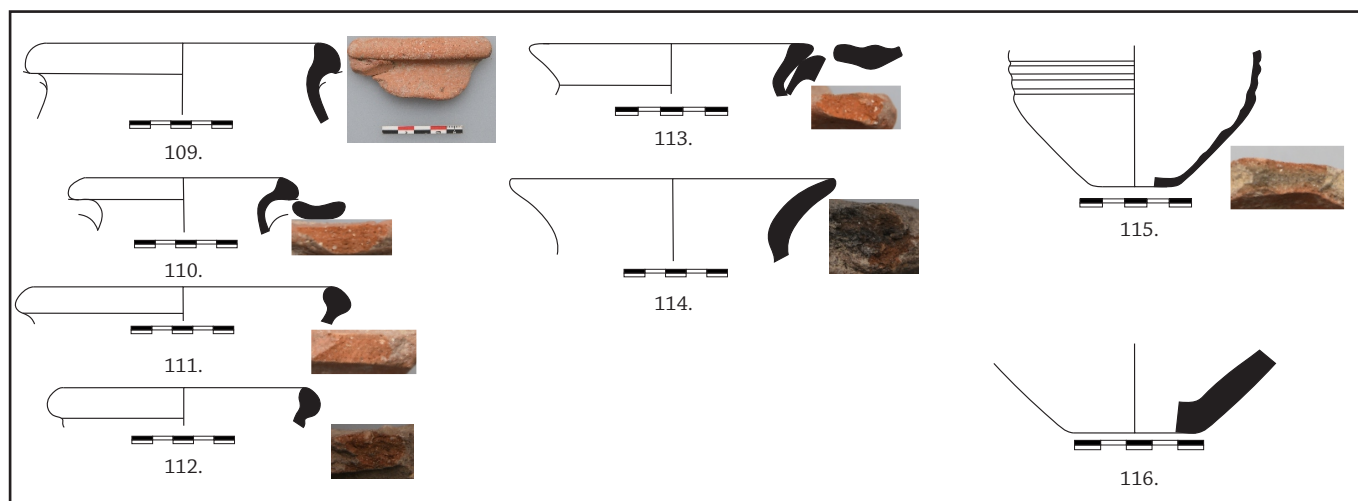


Fig. 26. Cooking ware : 109-113 wheel made pots; 114 hand made pot; 115-116 pot bases.

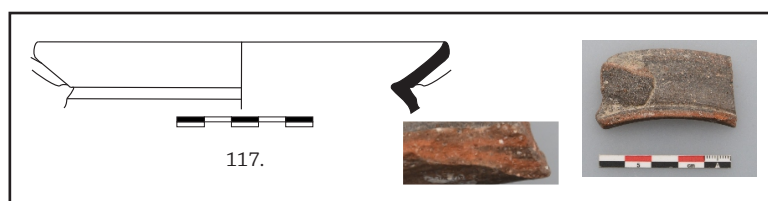


Fig. 27. Casserole

110. Histria 2007, Sector N, trench S3, squares 1–2, int. CRG, 0.65, Inv. 411. R. 10 cm; Hp. 2.7 cm. Coarse fabric 2.5YR4/8 red.

111. Histria 2018, Sector N, trench S3, squares 1–2, profile S, Inv. 764. R. 14 cm; Hp. 1.9 cm. Coarse fabric 5YR5/8 yellowish red.

112. Histria 2018, Sector N, square trench C3, square A1, 0.89–0.92, Inv. 779. R. 12 cm; Hp. 2. Coarse fabric 2.5YR4/6 red; exposed to fire.

V.1.2. Pot with flat, flaring rim – Suceveanu 2000, Type XXXVII–XL (Fig. 26/113)

113. Histria 2007, Sector N, trench S3, squares 1–2, int. CRG, 0.65, Inv. 411. R. 11, Hp. 2.4 cm. Coarse fabric 2.5YR5/8 red; exposed to fire.

V.1.3. Handmade pot with a flaring rim (Fig. 26/114)

114. Histria 2018, Sector N, square trench B3, square A2, 1.04–1.08, Inv. 772. R. 16 cm; Hp. 3.5 cm. Coarse fabric 5YR3/4 reddish brown; exposed to heavy fire.

V.1.3. Flat bases – unclassified types (Fig. 26/115–116)

115. Histria 2007, Sector N, trench S3, squares 1–2, int. CRG, 0.65, Inv. 411. B. 4 cm; Hp. 6.2 cm. Coarse fabric 5YR5/6 yellowish red and 5Y5/1 gray.

116. Histria 2018, Sector N, square trench B3, square A2, 1.04–1.08, Inv. 772/1. B. 5 cm; Hp. 2.8 cm. Coarse fabric 2.5YR4/6 red and 3/1 dark reddish gray.

V.2. Casserole – Suceveanu 2000, type XXIV (Fig. 27/117)

There is only one type of casserole discovered, with a flaring rim and trace of a handle, probably with a carinated

body and an opposing handle. Similar fragments were discovered at Histria with many variants, dated in the 2nd–3rd centuries AD and considered local products¹⁶⁸, at Tomis¹⁶⁹, Callatis¹⁷⁰, Noviodunum¹⁷¹ and Troesmis¹⁷², to name only a few. As a final remark, the burnished coating resembles that of the trefoiled pitcher (**no. 51**), but the fabric is much coarser.

117. Histria 2007, Sector N, trench S3, squares 1–2, int. CRG, 0.65, Inv. 411. R. 15 cm; Hp. 2.7 cm. Coarse fabric 5YR5/8red; exposed to fire.

V.3. Bowl with a flaring rim with interior groove, convex and ribbed wall – Suceveanu 2000, Type XIII (Fig. 28/118)

Common among the vessels at Histria, this coarse bowl finds close analogies at Tomis¹⁷³ dated in the 2nd–3rd centuries AD. A variant of this type was discovered at the rural settle at Telița-Amza¹⁷⁴.

118. Histria 2018, trench S3, squares 1-2, profile S, Inv.no. 764. Coarse fabric 7.5YR3/1 dark gray; exposed to fire.

¹⁶⁸ SUCEVEANU 2000, 90–91, Types XXIV–XXV, Pl 35–36. Another variant was discovered in the rural settlement at Fântânele, see SUCEVEANU 1998, Pl. XV/142.

¹⁶⁹ BĂJENARU 2013, Pl. 8/65–65 and Pl. 9/68.

¹⁷⁰ OPAIȚ/IONESCU 2016, 77, Pl. XXVI/156, a common type in the Aegean and references analogies at Olbia, Chersonese, Tanais, Asia Minor. The authors consider that this type was imported together with Phocian tableware.

¹⁷¹ TOPOLEANU/GĂMUREAC 2021, 109, nos. 63–67.

¹⁷² OPAIȚ 1980, Pl. III/2.

¹⁷³ BĂJENARU 2013, Pl. 11/82–84.

¹⁷⁴ BAUMANN 2003, 183, no. 3 and 199, no. 72.

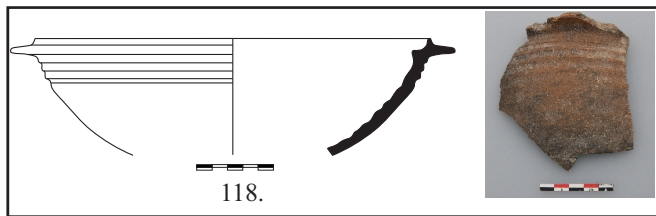


Fig. 28. Ribbed bowl

V.4. Pans (Fig. 29)

Two types of pans stand out, both with analogies at Histria discovered in contexts dated in the 2nd-3rd centuries AD and considered local products¹⁷⁵. Other variants for the first type were discovered at Argamum, Ibida and Niculițel considered to be imports from Heraclea based on their fabric¹⁷⁶. Variants for the second type were in the rural settlement at Telița Amza for a longer time span, the 2nd-4th centuries AD¹⁷⁷.

V.4.1. Pan with a grooved rim and handle – Suceveanu 2000, type XXXI (Fig. 29/119-121)

119. Histria 2018, Sector N, square trench C3, squares A1/A2-

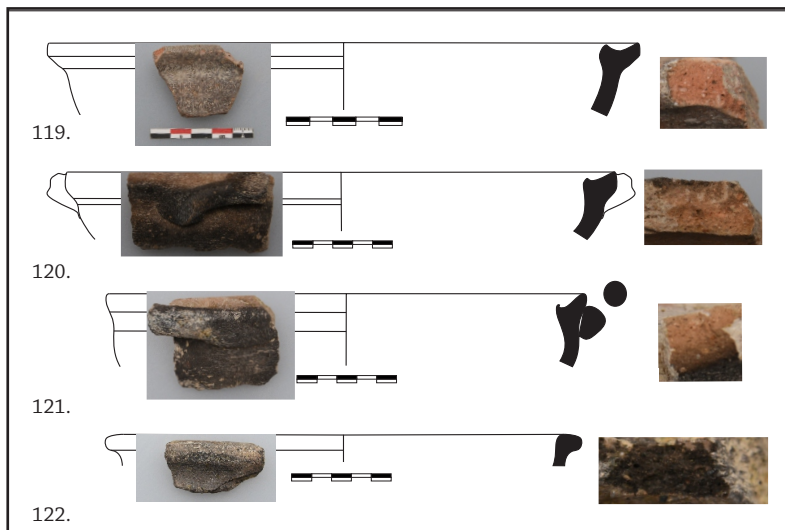


Fig. 29. Pans

B1/B2, 0.73-0.93, Inv. 775. R. 22 cm; Hp. 1.7 cm. Coarse fabric, black due to exposure to heavy fire.

120. Histria 2018, Sector N, square trench B3, square A2, 1.04-1.08, Inv. 772. R. 28 cm; Hp. 3.4 cm. Fine fabric 10YR6/4 light yellowish brown; decorated with an alveolar band; exposed to heavy fire.

121. Histria 2018, Sector N, square trench B3, square A2, 1.08-1.15, Inv. 774. R. 24/26 cm; Hp. 3.7 cm. Coarse fabric 7.5YR5/6 strong brown; exposed to fire.

¹⁷⁵ SUCEVEANU 2000, 98, type XXXI, Pl. 41 for the pan with beaded rim see no. 3, for the pans with grooved rim see nos. 1 and 4; BĂJENARU 2014, 114, Fig. 7/103 (perhaps Aegean and dated in the 1st century AD).

¹⁷⁶ HONCU 2017, 104-105, Pl. XXI/206-208.

¹⁷⁷ BAUMANN 1995, 162, Pl. LXI/11-12.

IV.4.2. Pan with a rolled rim – Suceveanu 2000, type XXVI/XXX (Fig. 29/122)

122. Histria 2018, Sector N, square trench B3, squares A1/A2-B1/B2, 0.69-0.86, Inv. 759. R. 26 cm; Hp. 3.3 cm. Coarse fabric 2.5YR5/6 red; traces of exposure to fire.

Similar to finds from Tomis¹⁷⁸, Ibida and Niculițel¹⁷⁹.

V.5. Lids (Fig. 30)

The last cook ware category is that of the lids, which consists of three type: one with a beaded rim, one with a grooved rim and one with a skewed rim. Four of the finds show similar fabric, whereas the first is made from a fabric with less inclusions. All of them are similar to the fabric the pots were made of. The first lid, complete profile (**no. 123**), has analogies at Tomis¹⁸⁰, Noviodunum¹⁸¹ and Niculițel¹⁸². The second type, with a rounded rim an interior groove has analogies at Noviodunum and Ibida in the 2nd-3rd centuries AD¹⁸³ and at Callatis¹⁸⁴. The lid with the skewed rim has one analogy at Ibida dated in the first half of the 2nd century¹⁸⁵ and at Noviodunum¹⁸⁶.

V.5.1. Conical lid with flat top and rounded rim (Fig. 30/123)

123. Histria 2018, Sector N, square trench B3, square B1, 0.82-0.88, Inv. 766. R. 10 cm; H 3 cm. Coarse fabric 10YR5/2 grayish brown; traces of exposure to fire.

V.5.2. Conical lid with a round rim with an interior groove (Fig. 30/124-125)

124. Histria 2018, Sector N, square trench B3, square A1, 1.03-1.14, Inv. 771. R. 16 cm; Hp. 2.4 cm. Coarse fabric 2.5YR5/8 red; exterior exposed to fire.

125. Histria 2018, Sector N, square trench B3, square B1, 0.82-0.88, Inv. 766. R. 16 cm; Hp. 2.7 cm. Coarse fabric 5YR3/2 dark reddish brown; exposed to fire.

V.5.3. Conical lid with a flat rim (Fig. 30/126)

126. Histria 2018, Sector N, trench S3, squares 1-2, profile S, Inv. 764. R. 24; Hp. 4.1. Coarse fabric 5YR4/4 reddish brown and Gley 1 4/N dark gray; exposed to fire.

V.5.4 Conical lid with a skewed rim (Fig. 30/127)

127. Histria 2018, Sector N, square trench B3, square A2, 1.08-1.15, Inv. 774. DR. 26; Hp. 2.3 cm. Coarse fabric 2.5YR5/8 red; exposed to fire¹⁸⁷.

¹⁷⁸ BĂJENARU 2013, Pl. 11/89.

¹⁷⁹ HONCU 2017, Pl. XXI/207-208.

¹⁸⁰ BĂJENARU 2013, 62-63, Pl. 8/67, an Aegean lid frequently copied by local workshops.

¹⁸¹ TOPOLEANU/GĂMUREAC 2021, 117-118, no. 111.

¹⁸² HONCU 2017, Pl. XXXI/290.

¹⁸³ HONCU 2017, 132, Pl. XXX/280 from Noviodunum and Pl. XXXIX/267 from Ibida (first half of the 2nd century AD).

¹⁸⁴ OPAIȚ/IONESCU 2016, Pl. XX/147, no dating provided, probably also in the 2nd-3rd centuries AD.

¹⁸⁵ HONCU 2017/133, Pl. XXXI/284.

¹⁸⁶ TOPOLEANU/GĂMUREAC 2021, 117-118, no. 116.

¹⁸⁷ HONCU 2017, Pl. XXX/282 at Noviodunum.

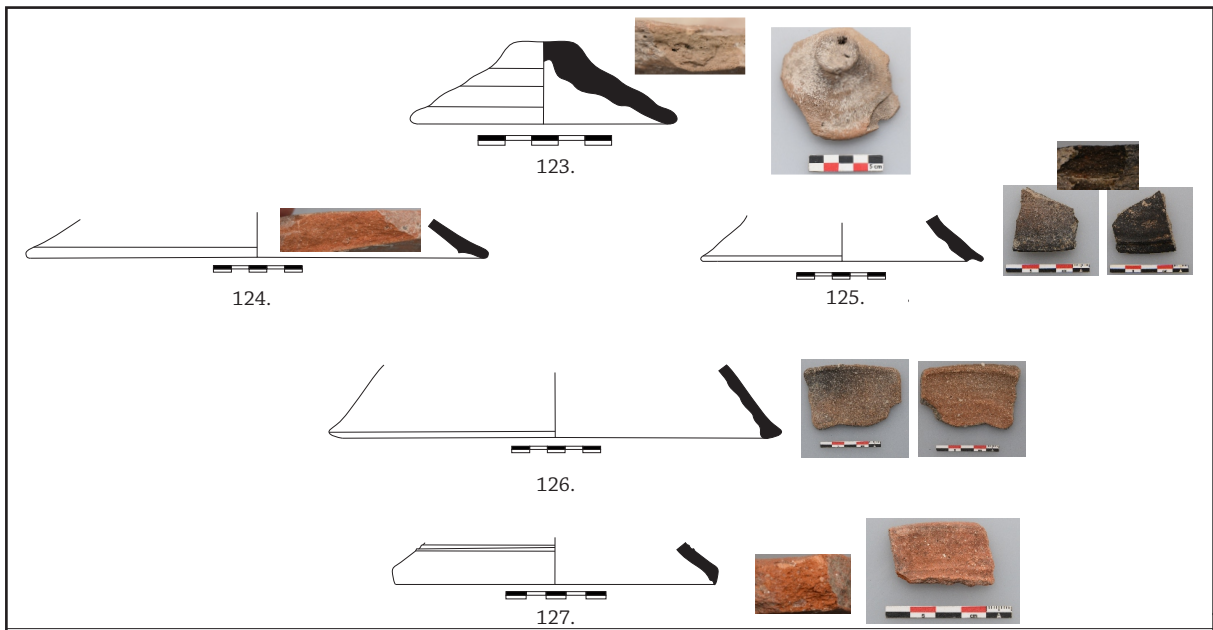


Fig.30. Lids.

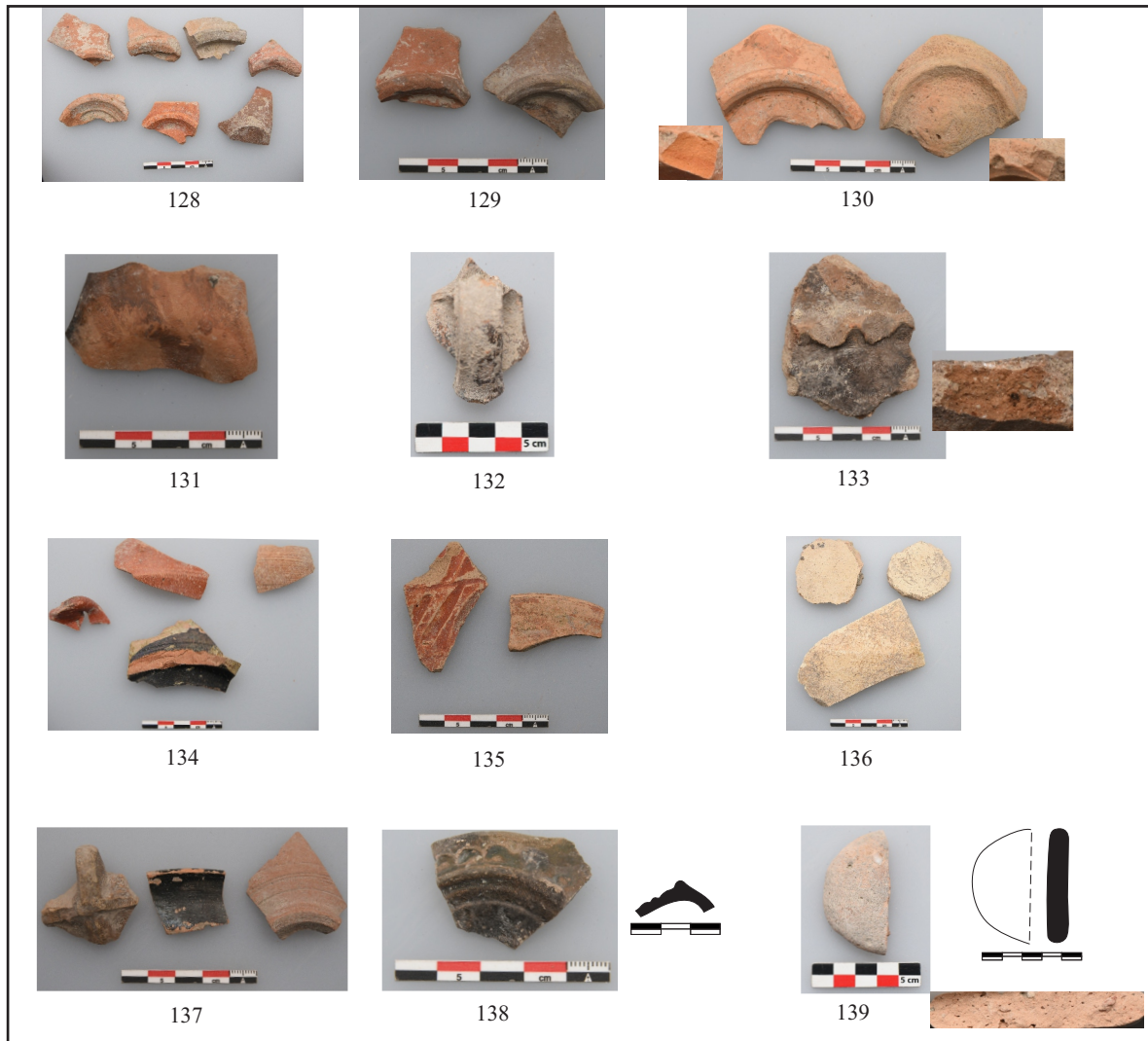


Fig.31. 128-131 Table ware bases; 132 fragmentary cup;133 decorated hand made vessel; 134 black glazed fragement mixed with Roman pontic fine ware fragments; 135 body sherds from decorated Pontic bowls; 136. fragements of Heracleon amphorae, 2 made into tokens; 137. lamp handle, black glaze fragment and pitcher fragment; 138. fragmentary lamp disc and shoulder (Loeschcke VIII); 139. half of a ceramic token/lid.

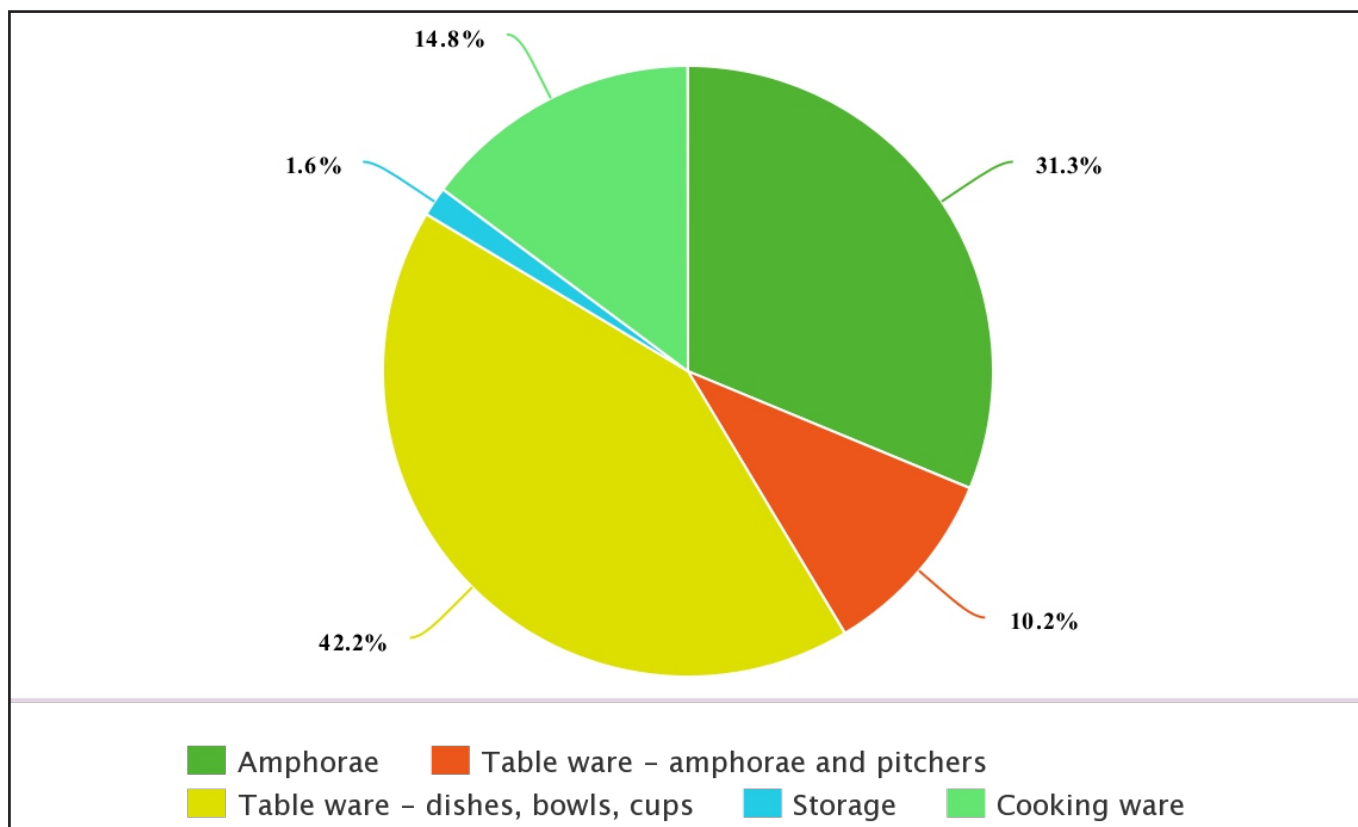


Fig.32. Distribution of finds by categories

CONCLUDING REMARKS ON THE POTTERY (FIG. 32)

The majority of items from this lot date from the beginning of the Roman period, 1st–3rd centuries AD. From the Late Antique the inventory recovered consists mainly of amphorae and dishes, unlike the rich repertoire from earlier centuries.

In the case of amphorae, the large percentage of fragments come from containers considered to have transported wine. Early trade was dominated by south Pontic wine arriving in Heracleian amphorae and carrying Aegean wine. Andrei Opaïț believes that this container was made in Chios, together with the Kapitän II amphorae, even travelling together, while the latter continues to be used well into the 4th and 5th centuries AD¹⁸⁸. Whereas other centers of production were proposed such as Rhodes, Samos, Asia Minor or even Syria¹⁸⁹, what is obvious is that there is a continuity of wine trade with the Aegean well up to the Late Antique when the dominant container becomes LRA 1. Although not part of this assemblage, several Kapitän II amphorae were discovered at Histria¹⁹⁰ with a capacity varying between 9–10 liters to 15 liters¹⁹¹ attesting to the strong commercial liaisons providing Aegean wine to Pontic cities. A broader discussion on trade is made even more difficult when dealing with the Troesmis X type of amphora, a well represented container, but there still debated on whether it is an Aegean

or Pontic transport vessel. If we consider them to be Aegean containers and transporting wine from Pamphylia¹⁹², this centers becomes instantly very important for the local trade, confirming yet again the strong commercial bond between Histria and this region, especially if we remember the LRA 1 amphora from Histria with the mark *Korikos*, emphasizing this trade route and long lasting commercial connection.

Most of the Pontic amphorae came from yet unknown centers, most possibly carrying wine and to a lesser extent, fish stuff. However, the variety of types considered Pontic does show an active regional commerce, with several production sites for a remarkable variety of wines, to a lesser extent, of fish stuff. A flourishing commerce, evident during the 1st–3rd centuries AD, is also a testimony to a healthy market, where a variety of the same product (e.g. wine) brings certain revenues to marchlands making it a worthy commodity to trade. This market collapses sometime during the 4th century, as the variety of Pontic containers, along with their content and subsequent regional market, disappear. The wine and oil commerce is dominated by the state and the predominance of LRA 1 and LRA 2 containers, along with other Aegean, Asia Minor and African transport vessels attested to this shift.

An easier discussion concerns the LRA 4 Gaza amphora and a new approach suggested that the trade of Levantine wine was organized by a network of merchants from major cities¹⁹³, implying that this product arrived at Histria likely from larger receiving urban center, e.g. Tomis. Another likely hypothesis is that church officials

¹⁸⁸ OPAIȚ, forthcoming, see OPAIȚ/PARASCHIV 2013, 319–320 for a discussion the Aegean origin.

¹⁸⁹ OPAIȚ 1980, 301; T. BEZECZKY 2013, 149–150 considers that the amphorae were produced in the vicinity of Ephesus and, probably, on Samos.

¹⁹⁰ SUCEVEANU 2000,173, type LX.

¹⁹¹ OPAIȚ 2004, 13.

¹⁹² OPAIȚ 2015, 328

¹⁹³ OPAIȚ 2021 (Levantine trade diaspora).

were involved in trading these Levantine amphorae¹⁹⁴. These containers are frequent in Scythia, but to a lesser extent at Histria, which begs the question if they arrived here directly or were purchased from other centers. Of course, the same question concerns the LRA 1 and LRA 2 oil and wine amphorae, distributed within the *annona*, but reaching civilian settlements as well, indicating a parallel or secondary type of commerce.

The table ware category is most diverse, consisting of table amphorae, dishes, bowls and oddly, few cups. With few exceptions, most of the fragments come from vessels manufactured in the Pontic region, some possibly local. The local attribution will always be uncertain until the discovery of kilns or other clear traces of ceramic production that can be corroborated with the fabric and morphology of the vessels. However, it is likely that at least the cook wares can be more easily attributed to a local workshop, as they also share many similarities when it comes to their respective fabrics. Based on the fabric, the same correlation can be made between the cookware and the larger storage vessel (**no. 108**). A noticeable absence from the Late Antique repertoire is that of the cookware, as all the finds are dated during earlier centuries. This aspect could suggest the lack of cooking activities in the neighboring buildings, but given the nature of the archaeological context, e.g. a street, it could also mean that the soil used from levelling was brought from another undisclosed location where such vessels were not discarded. Considering that some of the fragments have clear traces of usage (**no. 109**), and the overall fragmentary state of the material, they could be an indicator that they were brought to this area when repairs or levelling were performed.

This leads us to the ultimate question: can we guess the functionality of neighboring buildings based on the ceramic materials? The answer still eludes us. First of all, the materials are extremely fragmentary, some found in mixed contexts, some with usage, all of which could indicate that they were not discarded in the proximity. Second of all, such hypothesis would have to greatly take into consideration the materials discovered within these buildings, which are still novel. However, the finds from the street do contribute to information about the economic life of the city and the phases of the urban developments, corroborated with the archaeological information about the structures revealed during excavation. First of all, in the case of early Roman topography, this material is connected with the building later abandoned and covered by the street, suggesting that this event happened sometime at the end of the 3rd century AD. Secondly, the presence of late variant of the LRA 2, together with the Gaza amphora, indicate that the street was still in use during the late 6th century AD, perhaps even up to the beginning of the next century.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We would like to extend our gratitude to Andrei Opaîţ for his insights and bibliographical references and to Mihai Dima for his expertise in studying the numismatic finds.

¹⁹⁴ GRIGORAŞ/PANAITE 2021, 95, based on finds near a Christian basilica at Tropaeum Traiani, Basilica A.

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