

# LATE ROMAN KITCHEN POTTERY DISCOVERED AT HISTRIA IN THE CENTRE-NORTH SECTOR (2012)

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

**Abstract:** The 50 pottery fragments presented in the following pages belong to a lot including 143 fragments discovered at Histria, in the Centre-North Sector, in a trench of 26×2 m excavated in 2012. In the previous issue of the present publication we presented 41 fragments of Oriental amphorae. The complete pottery lot is divided as follows: *Vasa escaria* – 25 fragments; *Vasa pota(to)ria* – 15 fragments; *Vasa conquina(to)ria* – 10 fragments. The processed lot is divided accordingly: 52.45% amphorae, 43.36% kitchen pottery, 2.80% oil lamps, and 1.40% *varia*. The statistics upon the entire discovered pottery lot indicate the following distribution: amphorae (77.60%), kitchen pottery (20.40%) and *varia* (2%).

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

**Rezumat:** Cele 50 de fragmente ceramice prezentate în prezentul articol fac parte dintr-un lot format din 143 de fragmente descoperite la Histria, în sectorul Centru Nord, într-o secțiune de 26×2 m deschisă în anul 2012. În numărul trecut al aceleiași publicații am prezentat 41 de fragmente de amfore orientale descoperite în aceeași campanie. Lotul ceramic este împărțit după criteriul funcțional, astfel: *Vasa escaria* – 25 fragmente; *Vasa pota(to)ria* – 15 fragmente; *Vasa conquina(to)ria* – 10 fragmente. Lotul prelucrat se împarte astfel: 52,45% amfore, 43,36% ceramică de bucatărie, 2,80% oiațe și 1,40% diverse. Statistica realizată pe întreg lotul ceramic descoperit indică următoarea repartizare: amfore (77,60%), ceramică de bucatărie (20,40%) și diverse (2%).

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The present paper resumes our research published in the previous issue of the same publication where 41 Oriental amphorae fragments uncovered during the 2012 excavations were presented. The archaeological material comes from S2 (52 m<sup>2</sup>) located within the sector conventionally called *Centre North* (CN), situated north of the Episcopal Basilica.

The 50 ceramic fragments presented in the following pages belong to a lot of 143 fragments

discovered also at Histria, in the Centre North Sector, in a 26×2 m trench opened in 2012. The excavated pottery lot comprises: *Vasa escaria* – 25 fragments; *Vasa pota(to)ria* – 15 fragments; *Vasa conquina(to)ria* – 10 fragments. The processed lot is divided accordingly: 52.45% amphorae, 43.36% kitchen ware, 2.80% oil lamps and 1.40% *varia*. Statistics of the entire ceramic lot indicate the following distribution: amphorae (77.60%), kitchen ceramics (20.40%) and *varia* (2%).

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## I. TABLE WARE – *Vasa escaria*

The importance of this category resides in the fact that together with the amphorae, oil lamps and stamped ware, it provides valuable chronological and economic information – the items are mainly imports and thus may suggest certain commercial trends during specific periods – and also information of religious or artistic nature relevant to a specific age<sup>1</sup>.

The tableware provides a more detailed chronology than the amphorae, for the simple reason that the latter might have been used by two or three generations, while food related pottery was only used a few years. Vessels were used for a short time because of their fragility and lack of a really impermeable stratum; after a time, organic matters and mould made them useless.

Despite the fact that no physical, chemical or petrographic analyses are available at the present

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<sup>1</sup> Opaț 1996, p. 127.

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