

LATE ROMAN C WARES DISCOVERED AT HISTRIA IN THE ACROPOLIS CENTRE-SOUTH SECTOR (2013 AND 2014)

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Abstract: 132 pottery fragments, discovered in the first two years of archaeological research in the Acropolis Centre-South Sector (excavation coordinated by a team from the University of Bucharest), at Histria are published in this paper. This pottery lot contains ten forms with 18 types of kitchen ware. This category of artefacts offers important information concerning the ACS Sector's chronology and the economic relations of Histria (and of Scythia Minor) during the Late Roman period.

Cuvinte-cheie: Antichitatea târzie, Histria, Scythia, ceramică romană târzie, veselă de bucătărie orientală, vasa escaria

Rezumat: În acest studiu sunt publicate 132 fragmente ceramice care au fost descoperite în primii doi ani de cercetări arheologice în Sectorul Acropolă Centru-Sud (săpătură coordonată de o echipă de la Universitatea din București), la Histria. Acest lot ceramic cuprinde zece forme cu 18 tipuri de veselă de bucătărie. Această categorie de piese oferă informații importante referitoare la cronologia Sectorului Acropolă Centru-Sud și la relațiile economice ale Histriei (și ale Scythiei Minor) în perioada romană târzie.

INTRODUCTION

The Acropolis Centre-South Sector¹ is located inside the Late Roman citadel, on the city's acropolis, between the Episcopal basilica (in the central part of the acropolis), the *Basilica Pârvan* Sector (in the southern part) and the *Domus* Sector (to the east). After four years of archaeological research, most of a Late Roman *insula* was uncovered, flanked to the north by the *street C*, to the east and to the west by two streets conventionally named *ST01* and *ST02*.

Regarding the sector's stratigraphy, beneath a vegetal layer (registered as context 000 in all the excavation units), were identified two layers of debris: a greyish layer (registered as context 001), representing the *insula's* moment of abandon, and a yellow-reddish layer (registered as context 002), representing the moment of destruction of the last Late Roman dwelling level. Underneath were identified the latest living surfaces (dated to the 6th c. AD) of the structures comprised by the Late Roman *insula*, generally represented by pavements and clay floors.

After processing the entire ceramic material discovered between 2013 and 2015 in the Acropolis Centre-South Sector, a batch of 457 ceramic fragments resulted, which can be included in the tableware category. More than 70% of these vessels belong to the *Late Roman C Ware* group – most of them pertaining to the *Hayes 1*, *Hayes 3* and *Hayes 10* types –, followed by the African Red Slip Ware and the Pontic Red Slip Ware. The Oriental tableware discovered in 2015 was published in a recent article², so below we will describe the material from 2013 and 2014.

I.1. HAYES 1 FORM, TYPE A

General description of the type: the walls of the body are vertical and curved; the rim is simple, sometimes thickened.

Analogies: in *Scythia*, it is attested at *Halmyris*³, *Histria*⁴, *Telița – Valea Morilor*⁵, *Telița – Amza*⁶ and *Tuzla – Far*⁷. For the eastern part of the Empire there are many analogies,

¹ For the preliminary results of this excavation, see Bottez *et alii* 2015.

² Bădescu, Iliescu 2016.

³ Opaïț 1991a, p. 163, cat. no. 255, Pl. 41; Opaïț 1996, p. 136, Pl. 56/1; Topoleanu 2000, p. 44–45, cat. nos. 8–18, Pl. 1/8–9, II/10–13 (dated to the second half of the 4th c. and first half of the 5th c. AD).

⁴ Bădescu, Iliescu 2016, p. 142–143, cat. nos. 1–34, Fig. 1/1–11, Fig. 2/1–11, Fig. 3/1–12; Suceveanu 1982b, p. 84–87, Fig. 7/2, Fig. 8/1 (dated to

the second half of the 4th c. and the first half of the 5th c. AD); Suceveanu 2007, p. 204, Pl. LXXIV/1.

⁵ Baumann 1995, Pl. V/2–3; Opaïț 1996, p. 133, Pl. 54/1, 3.

⁶ Baumann 1995, Pl. LXX/3; Opaïț 1996, p. 133, Pl. 54/2.

⁷ Chiriac, Honcu 2014, p. 236, Pl. 3/4 (dated between the 4th and the 5th c. AD)