

LATE ROMAN AFRICAN RED SLIP WARE FROM THE ACROPOLIS CENTRE-SOUTH SECTOR (HISTRIA)

Iulia ILIESCU, Valentin BOTTEZ

University of Bucharest, Faculty of History; e-mail: iliescu_iulia94@yahoo.com, valentin.bottez@istorie.unibuc.com

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Abstract: In this paper we present the North-African tableware discovered in the first four years (2013 to 2016) of archaeological excavations in the Acropolis Centre-South Sector in Histria. In smaller numbers than the Late Roman C Ware, the African Red Slip Ware is attested in this sector by 38 shards, pertaining to 7 forms with 11 types of pottery. Chronologically, the material belongs to the Late Roman period and can be dated to the 4th–7th centuries AD.

Cuvinte-cheie: Histria, Scythia, veselă de masă africană, importuri, ceramică romană târzie

Rezumat: În acest studiu este prezentată vesela de masă nord-africană descoperită în primii patru ani (între 2013 și 2016) de cercetări arheologice în Sectorul Acropolă Centru-Sud, la Histria. Nu la fel de numeroasă ca ceramica orientală, vesela de masă nord-africană este atestată în acest sector prin 38 fragmente încadrate în 7 forme și 11 tipuri ceramice. Din punct de vedere cronologic, materialul aparține perioadei romane-târzii, fiind datat între secolele IV–VII p.Chr.

INTRODUCTION

The pottery presented in this paper was discovered in the *Acropolis Centre-South Sector (ACS Sector)* in Histria during the archaeological excavations undertaken between 2013 and 2016 by the University of Bucharest's team¹. One of the main objectives of the excavation was the identification and research of a Late Roman *insula*, generally dated to the 6th century AD, with two functioning phases: the first phase generally corresponds to the first half of the 6th c., a period when many new buildings were raised in Histria, among which the most prominent is the Episcopal Basilica; the second phase, maybe following the destruction caused by the Kutrigur raid led by Zabergan in 559, is attested by many repairs and is dated by a *foliis* issued during the reign of Emperor Justin II². Most of the *insula* was uncovered in the first four years of excavation, as we identified its northern, western and eastern limits, represented by three streets – *street C* (to the North), *ST01* (to the East) and *ST02* (to the West). Also, we noticed that this building complex can be divided into two living nuclei – conventionally named the *Northern* and the *Southern nucleus* – and several rooms whose functionality is uncertain for now (Fig. 1).

Generally, the ceramic finds are numerous and varied, as in this area we discovered many vessels and shards of different periods (Greek pottery, Early and Late

Roman pottery, Byzantine pottery) and categories (storage vessels – *dolia*; *amphorae*³; cooking vessels – *vasa coquinatoria*; drinking vessels – *vasa po(ta)torica*; vessels for eating – *vasa escaria*; lamps – *lucernae*⁴).

Between 2013 and 2016 we discovered more than 500 shards which can be included in the tableware category. Concerning the areas of origin, the Phocaeen Red Slip Ware⁵ is the most widespread category (c. 75% of the entire lot), followed by the African Red Slip Ware (c. 10%), the Pontic Red Slip Ware (c. 5%) and other unidentified fragments (c. 10%) (Fig. 3). The African Red Slip Ware – produced in northern and central Tunisia, in Oudhna, El Mahrine and Sidi Khalifa⁶ – is characterized by a fine or very fine reddish fabric, with fine inclusions of mica, calcite and iron oxide, by a slip of very good quality and of similar colour as the fabric, and by fine stamped or incised decoration. In the *Acropolis Centre-South Sector*, this category is attested by 38 fragments, pertaining to the following forms and types: Hayes 61 – Type A, Hayes 67 (and a variant), Hayes 99 – Types A, B, C and variants, Hayes 103 – Type A, Hayes 104 – Type B, Hayes 105 and Hayes 109.

I. Hayes 61 Form, Type A

General description of the type: shallow plate, with incurved or vertical rim and an external sharp angle

¹ For the preliminary results of this excavation, see Bottez *et alii* 2015. For the coins discovered in this sector, see Vilcu, Țârlea 2016.

² Vilcu, Țârlea 2016, no. 20, p. 163–164.

³ Bădescu, Bivolaru 2015.

⁴ Bădescu, Bottez 2014; Bivolaru, Bottez 2016.

⁵ Bădescu, Iliescu 2016; Iliescu *et alii* 2017.

⁶ Bonifay 2004, p. 47–49, Fig. 22.

between the rim and the body; the base is flat and the walls of the body are curved or concave on the inside.

Dating: generally, this type is dated between the 4th c. and the beginning of the 5th c. AD⁷.

CATALOGUE

1. **Plate.** Fragmentary, upper part of the profile. Uneven oxidant primary burn; very fine fabric, red (2.5YR5/8), reddish brown (2.5YR5/4) interior; red (2.5YR5/8) slip; very fine mica inclusions, very fine, fine and medium calcite inclusions. Dimensions⁸: MD = 300 mm, MPD = 316 mm, BD = 286 mm, PH = 30 mm, Th = 10 mm. Histria 2016, the ACS Sector, context 7002/15002, package no. 817, inv. no. 496. Pl. I/1.
2. **Plate.** Fragmentary, upper part of the profile. Uniform oxidant primary burn; very fine fabric, red (2.5YR5/8); slip of the same colour; very fine mica and calcite inclusions, fine iron oxide inclusions. Dimensions: MD = 300 mm, MPD = 316 mm, BD = 242 mm, PH = 43 mm, Th = 12 mm. Histria 2014, the ACS Sector, context 8001, package no. 8, inv. no. 386. Pl. I/2.
3. **Plate.** Fragmentary, upper part of the profile. Uneven oxidant primary burn; very fine fabric, light yellowish brown (2.5Y6/3), grey (2.5Y6/1) interior; pale yellow (2.5Y7/3) slip; very fine mica inclusions, fine and medium calcite inclusions. Dimensions: MD = 260 mm, MPD = 274 mm, BD = 235 mm, PH = 27.5 mm, Th = 11 mm. Histria 2016, the ACS Sector, context 30001, package no. 258, inv. no. 561. Pl. I/3.

II.a. Hayes 67 Form

General description of the type: large bowl with two-part flaring rim; the rim is rounded in the upper part and, on the inside, is marked by a groove; the junction of the two parts is marked by a very sharp angle; the base is flat and usually it has a groove at the edge, producing a small false foot.

Dating: the form is dated between the second half of the 4th c. and the first three quarters of the 5th c. AD⁹.

CATALOGUE

4. **Bowl.** Fragmentary, rim. Uniform oxidant primary burn; very fine fabric, red (2.5YR5/8); slip of the same colour; very fine mica inclusions, fine and medium calcite and iron oxide inclusions. Dimensions: MD = 290 mm, MPD = 298 mm, BD = 238 mm, PH = 18 mm, Th = 11 mm. Histria 2014, the ACS Sector, context 10000, package no. 27, inv. no. 323. Pl. I/4.
5. **Bowl.** Fragmentary, rim. Uniform oxidant primary burn; very fine fabric, light red (2.5YR6/8); slip of the same colour; very fine mica inclusions, fine and medium calcite inclusions.

Dimensions: MD = 280 mm, MPD = 282 mm, BD = 230 mm, PH = 23 mm, Th = 11 mm. Histria 2014, the ACS Sector, context 10001, package no. 51, inv. no. 279. Pl. I/5.

6. **Bowl.** Fragmentary, rim. Uneven oxidant primary burn; fine fabric, reddish yellow (5YR6/6), red (2.5YR5/6) interior; light brown (7.5YR6/4) slip; very fine mica inclusions, fine, medium and big calcite and iron oxide inclusions. Dimensions: MD = 240 mm, MPD = 242 mm, BD = 198 mm, PH = 12 mm, Th = 7 mm. Histria 2016, the ACS Sector, context 30000, package no. 91, inv. no. 686. Pl. I/6.

II.b. Hayes 67 Form – variant (?)

Description of the variant: the shard discovered in 2014 may be a variant of this form, having the same main characteristics, except the rim, which does not have two parts, but only one.

CATALOGUE

7. **Bowl.** Fragmentary, upper part of the profile. Uniform oxidant primary burn; very fine fabric, pink (7.5YR7/4); yellowish red (5YR5/8) slip; fine and medium calcite and iron oxide inclusions. Dimensions: MD = 220 mm, MPD = 229 mm, BD = 88 mm, PH = 38 mm, Th = 9 mm. Histria 2014, the ACS Sector, Passim, package no. 272, inv. no. 353. Pl. I/7.

III.a. Hayes 99 Form, Type A

General description of the type: bowl of almost hemispherical shape, with rolled rim on the outside and steep curved walls; the foot, of medium height, has the diameter over half that of rim; usually, the base is decorated with a central stamp surrounded by grooves.

Dating: generally dated to the first half of the 6th c. AD¹⁰; however, at *Histria*, other pieces were discovered in contexts dated between the second half of the 4th c. and the 5th c. AD¹¹.

CATALOGUE

8. **Bowl.** Fragmentary, upper part of the profile. Uniform oxidant primary burn; very fine fabric, red (2.5YR5/8); slip of the same colour; very fine mica and calcite inclusions. Dimensions: MD = 220 mm, MPD = 230 mm, BD = 216 mm, PH = 22 mm, Th = 10 mm. Histria 2016, the ACS Sector, context 32001, package no. 382, inv. no. 677. Pl. I/8.
9. **Bowl.** Fragmentary, rim. Uniform oxidant primary burn; very fine fabric, light red (2.5YR6/8); red (2.5YR5/8) slip; very fine

preserved diameter; Th = maximum thickness; PH = preserved height of the ceramic fragment.

⁷ Atlante I, p. 83, tav. XXXIV/2; Hayes 1972, p. 100–104, cat. nos. 1–22, Fig. 16/13, Fig. 17/7 (dated between 325 and 420); Robinson 1959, p. 80, cat. no. L. 59, Pl. 70 (dated at the beginning of the 5th c. AD).

⁸ Abbreviations used in the text: BD = basis diameter; FD = diameter of the foot; MD = maximum mouth diameter; MPD = maximum

⁹ Atlante I, p. 88, tav. XXXVIII/1; Hayes 1972, p. 112–115, cat. nos. 1–29, Fig. 19 (dated between 360 and 470).

¹⁰ Hayes 1972, p. 152–154, cat. nos. 1–12, Fig. 28/1, 7–8, 12.

¹¹ Suceveanu 1982a, p. 98, Pl. 4/1.

mica inclusions, very fine and fine calcite and iron oxide inclusions. Dimensions: MD = 220 mm, MPD = 228 mm, BD = 196 mm, PH = 17 mm, Th = 10 mm. Histria 2016, the ACS Sector, context 29005, package no. 281, inv. no. 669. Pl. I/9.

III.b. Hayes 99 Form, Type B

General description of the type: bowl similar to the previous, with the diameter of the foot (of a more or less triangular shape) not more than half that of the rim.

Dating: this type is dated to the 6th c. AD¹².

CATALOGUE

10. **Bowl.** Fragmentary, entire profile. Uniform oxidant primary burn; very fine fabric, red (2.5YR5/8); slip of the same colour; very fine mica inclusions, fine calcite and iron oxide inclusions. Dimensions: MD = 230 mm, MPD = 235 mm, FD = 90 mm, PH = 59 mm, Th = 9 mm. Nine shards pertaining to the same vessel were found between 2013 and 2016: 4 – in 2013, context 7001, package no. 399; 4 – in 2014, context 7004, package no. 6, inv. nos. 358–360 and 362; 1 – in 2016, context 7000/15000, package no. 570, inv. no. 479. Pl. I/10.
11. **Bowl.** Fragmentary, upper part of the profile. Uniform oxidant primary burn; very fine fabric, red (2.5YR5/8); slip of the same colour; very fine mica inclusions, fine and medium calcite and iron oxide inclusions. Dimensions: MD = 190 mm, MPD = 194 mm, BD = 153 mm, PH = 32 mm, Th = 9 mm. Histria 2014, the ACS Sector, context 7004, package no. 6, inv. no. 361. Pl. II/11.
12. **Bowl.** Fragmentary, upper part of the profile. Uniform oxidant primary burn; very fine fabric, red (2.5YR5/6); slip of the same colour; very fine and fine calcite and iron oxide inclusions. Dimensions: MD = 190 mm, MPD = 194 mm, BD = 158 mm, PH = 35 mm, Th = 9 mm. Histria 2016, the ACS Sector, context 28002, package no. 324, inv. no. 478. Pl. II/12.
13. **Bowl.** Fragmentary, upper part of the profile. Uniform oxidant primary burn; very fine fabric, yellowish red (5YR5/6); red (2.4YR4/6) slip; very fine mica inclusions. Dimensions: MD = 120 mm, MPD = 128 mm, BD = 83 mm, PH = 27 mm, Th = 6 mm. Histria 2016, the ACS Sector, context 29005, package 234, inv. no. 551. Pl. II/13.
14. **Bowl.** Fragmentary, base. Uniform oxidant primary burn; very fine fabric, reddish yellow (5YR7/6); light red (2.5YR6/8) slip; very fine calcite inclusions, medium iron oxide inclusions. The base is decorated with a stamp, most probably a palmette, surrounded by two grooves. Dimensions: FD = 110 mm, MPD = 128 mm, PH = 20 mm, Th = 18 mm. Histria 2016, the ACS Sector, context 31002, package no. 620, inv. no. 483. Pl. II/14.
15. **Bowl.** Fragmentary, lower part of the profile. Uneven oxidant primary burn; fine fabric, reddish yellow (5YR6/6), reddish yellow (7.5YR6/6) interior; red (2.5YR4/6) slip. Dimensions: FD = 80 mm, MPD = 112 mm, PH = 25 mm, Th = 16 mm. Histria 2015, the ACS Sector, context 24002, package no. 694, inv. no. 24. Pl. II/15.

III.c. Hayes 99 Form, Type C

General description of the type: similar bowls, but with smaller rim and lower foot; the floor is unstamped and can be decorated with two grooves.

Dating: generally, this type is dated between the second half of the 6th c. and the first half of the 7th c. AD¹³; other vessels discovered at *Histria* are dated to the same interval¹⁴.

CATALOGUE

16. **Bowl.** Fragmentary, lower part of the profile. Uniform oxidant primary burn; very fine fabric, light red (2.5YR6/8); very fine and fine mica and calcite inclusions. Dimensions: FD = 70 mm, MPD = 108 mm, PH = 17 mm, Th = 8 mm. Histria 2015, the ACS Sector, context 19000, package no. 137, inv. no. 144. Pl. II/16.
17. **Bowl.** Fragmentary, lower part of the profile. Uniform oxidant primary burn; fine fabric, brown (7.5YR5/4); red (2.5YR4/6) slip; very fine and fine mica inclusions, medium calcite inclusions. Dimensions: FD = 50 mm, MPD = 102 mm, PH = 19 mm, Th = 9 mm. Histria 2015, the ACS Sector, context C014, package no. 29, inv. no. 2. Pl. II/17.
18. **Bowl.** Fragmentary, base. Uneven oxidant primary burn; fine fabric, yellowish red (5YR5/8), light red (2.5YR6/6) interior; red (2.5YR5/8) slip; very fine mica inclusions. Dimensions: FD = 80 mm, MPD = 114 mm, PH = 20 mm, Th = 14 mm. Histria 2016, the ACS Sector, context 28001, package no. 555, inv. no. 534. Pl. II/18.
19. **Bowl.** Fragmentary, upper part of the profile. Uneven oxidant primary burn; fine fabric, red (2.5YR5/8), red (2.5YR5/6) interior; yellowish red (5YR5/6) slip; very fine and fine mica, calcite and iron oxide inclusions. Dimensions: MD = 220 mm, MPD = 224 mm, BD = 190 mm, PH = 24 mm, Th = 7 mm. Histria 2014, the ACS Sector, context 1000, package no. 165, inv. no. 431. Pl. II/19.
20. **Bowl.** Fragmentary, upper part of the profile. Uniform oxidant primary burn; very fine fabric, red (10R4/8); red (2.5YR4/8) slip; very fine and fine mica, calcite and iron oxide inclusions. Dimensions: MD = 210 mm, MPD = 216 mm, BD = 170 mm, PH = 36.5 mm, Th = 8 mm. Histria 2013, the ACS Sector, context 1000, inv. no. 239. Pl. II/20.
21. **Bowl.** Fragmentary, upper part of the profile. Uniform oxidant primary burn; very fine fabric, red (2.5YR5/8); slip of the same colour; very fine mica inclusions, very fine, fine, medium and big calcite and iron oxide inclusions. Dimensions: MD = 200 mm, MPD = 204 mm, BD = 168 mm, PH = 25 mm, Th = 8 mm. Histria 2014, the ACS Sector, context 9001, package no. 77, inv. no. 413. Pl. II/21.
22. **Bowl.** Fragmentary, upper part of the profile. Uniform oxidant primary burn; very fine fabric, red (2.5YR5/8); slip of the same colour; very fine mica inclusions, fine and medium calcite and iron oxide inclusions. Dimensions: MD = 200 mm, MPD = 204 mm, BD = 158 mm, PH = 41 mm, Th = 7 mm. Histria

¹² Hayes 1972, p. 152–154, cat. nos. 13–21, Fig. 28/13, 18.

¹³ Hayes 1972, p. 152–155, cat. nos. 22–27, Fig. 28/22–23.

¹⁴ Suceveanu 2007, p. 187, cat. nos. 32–35, Pl. LXXV/32–35.

- 2014, the *ACS Sector*, context 18001, package no. 388, inv. no. 372. Pl. II/22.
23. **Bowl.** Fragmentary, rim. Uniform oxidant primary burn; very fine fabric, red (2.5YR5/8); slip of the same colour; very fine mica inclusions, fine and big calcite and iron oxide inclusions. Dimensions: MD = 190 mm, MPD = 194 mm, BD = 176 mm, PH = 16 mm, Th = 7 mm. Histria 2014, the *ACS Sector*, context 9000, package no. 9, inv. no. 420. Pl. II/23.
24. **Bowl.** Fragmentary, upper part of the profile. Uniform oxidant primary burn; fine fabric, red (2.5YR5/8); red (2.5YR5/6) slip; very fine mica inclusions. Dimensions: MD = 190 mm, MPD = 194 mm, BD = 165 mm, PH = 19 mm, Th = 8 mm. Histria 2015, the *ACS Sector*, context 21004, package no. 419, inv. no. 102. Pl. III/24.
25. **Bowl.** Fragmentary, upper part of the profile. Uniform oxidant primary burn; very fine fabric, red (2.5YR5/6); red (2.5YR5/8) slip; very fine mica inclusions, fine and medium calcite and iron oxide inclusions. Dimensions: MD = 180 mm, MPD = 185 mm, BD = 145 mm, PH = 30 mm, Th = 8 mm. Histria 2014, the *ACS Sector*, context 16000, package no. 288, inv. no. 428. Pl. III/25.
26. **Bowl.** Fragmentary, upper part of the profile. Uniform oxidant primary burn; fine fabric, brown (7.5YR4/4); reddish brown (5YR5/4) slip; very fine and fine mica, calcite and iron oxide inclusions. Dimensions: MD = 170 mm, MPD = 174 mm, BD = 141 mm, PH = 41.5 mm, Th = 9 mm. Histria 2014, the *ACS Sector*, context 10001, package no. 78, inv. no. 291. Pl. III/26.

III.d. Hayes 99 Form – variant/type D¹⁵

Description of the variant: variants of this form are the bowls similar to type C, but with steeper walls.

Dating: usually, this type belongs to second half of the 7th c. AD¹⁶.

CATALOGUE

27. **Bowl.** Fragmentary, rim. Uniform oxidant primary burn; very fine fabric, red (2.5YR5/8); light red (2.5YR6/8) slip; very fine mica inclusions, very fine, fine and medium calcite and iron oxide inclusions. Dimensions: MD = 250 mm, MPD = 256 mm, BD = 244 mm, PH = 16 mm, Th = 8 mm. Histria 2016, the *ACS Sector*, context 28002/30002, package no. 514, inv. no. 679. Pl. III/27.
28. **Bowl.** Fragmentary, upper part of the profile. Uniform oxidant primary burn; very fine fabric, red (2.5YR5/8); slip of the same colour; very fine mica and iron oxide inclusions. Dimensions: MD = 220 mm, MPD = 224 mm, BD = 200 mm, PH = 24 mm, Th = 8 mm. Histria 2015, the *ACS Sector*, context C011, package no. 33, no. 5. Pl. III/28.

29. **Bowl.** Fragmentary, upper part of the profile. Uniform oxidant primary burn; fine fabric, light brown (7.5YR6/4); brown (7.5YR4/3) slip; very fine and fine mica and calcite inclusions. Dimensions: MD = 210 mm, MPD = 214 mm, BD = 192 mm, PH = 13 mm, Th = 6 mm. Histria 2016, the *ACS Sector*, context 7001/15001, package no. 598, inv. no. 666. Pl. III/29.
30. **Bowl.** Fragmentary, rim. Uniform oxidant primary burn; fine fabric, yellowish red (5YR5/6); slip of the same colour; very fine and fine mica and calcite inclusions. Dimensions: MD = 200 mm, MPD = 202 mm, BD = 189 mm, PH = 12 mm, Th = 6 mm. Histria 2016, the *ACS Sector*, context 28001, package 173, inv. no. 717. Pl. III/30.
31. **Bowl.** Fragmentary, upper part of the profile. Uniform oxidant primary burn; very fine fabric, red (2.5YR5/8); slip of the same colour; very fine mica, calcite and iron oxide inclusions. Dimensions: MD = 210 mm, MPD = 212 mm, BD = 190 mm, PH = 17 mm, Th = 7 mm. Histria 2014, the *ACS Sector*, context 9000/10000, package no. 215, inv. no. 632. Pl. III/31.

IV. Hayes 103 Form, Type A

General description of the type: large plate with hooked rim, steep walls and high foot of large diameter.

Dating: generally, it is dated to the end of the 5th c. AD¹⁷.

CATALOGUE

32. **Plate.** Fragmentary, upper part of the profile. Uniform oxidant primary burn; fine fabric, red (2.5YR5/6); slip of the same colour; very fine mica inclusions, fine and medium calcite and iron oxide inclusions. Dimensions: MD = 300 mm, MPD = 313 mm, BD = 239 mm, PH = 55 mm, Th = 11 mm. Histria 2016, the *ACS Sector*, context 31002, package no. 648, inv. no. 451. Pl. III/32.

V. Hayes 104 Form, Type B

General description of the type: large plate with rounded rim which is separated from the body, on the inside, by a prominent groove; low foot and steep curved walls; stamped decoration on floor, surrounded by grooves; this type is deeper than type A.

Dating: dated to the second half of the 6th c. AD, with late variants belonging to the first quarter of the 7th c. AD¹⁸; at *Histria*, other pieces were discovered in contexts dated to the 6th c. AD¹⁹.

CATALOGUE

33. **Plate.** Fragmentary, upper part of the profile. Uniform oxidant primary burn; fine fabric, red (2.5YR5/6); slip of the same colour; very fine and fine mica, calcite and iron oxide

¹⁵ According to the typology proposed by Michel Bonifay (Bonifay 2004, p. 181).

¹⁶ Bonifay 2004, p. 181, Fig. 10/96 (dated to the second half of the 7th c. AD).

¹⁷ Atlante I, p. 98, tav. XLV/3; Hayes 1972, p. 157–159, cat. nos. 1–4, Fig. 29/1–3.

¹⁸ Atlante I, p. 95, tav. XLII/5; Hayes 1972, p. 160–164, cat. nos. 15–20, Fig. 30/15–16 (dated between 570 and 600, with late variants to 625+); Robinson 1959, p. 117, cat. no. M 350, Pl. 71 (dated to the end of the 6th c. AD).

¹⁹ Bădescu, Cliante 2015, p. 214–215, cat. no. 25, Fig. 2/13 (dated to the end of the 6th c. AD); Suceveanu 1982b, p. 92, cat. no. 6, Fig. 10/6 (dated to the 6th c. AD).

inclusions. Dimensions: MD = 300 mm, MPD = 306 mm, BD = 244 mm, PH = 31.5 mm, Th = 10 mm. Histria 2016, the ACS Sector, context 30002/31002, package no. 370, inv. no. 450. Pl. III/33.

34. **Plate.** Fragmentary, lower part of the profile. Uniform oxidant primary burn; fine fabric, red (2.5YR5/6); slip of the same colour; very fine, fine and medium calcite inclusions. The plate is decorated with two grooves on edge of floor. Dimensions: FD = 130 mm, MPD = 171 mm, PH = 16 mm, Th = 12 mm. Histria 2016, the ACS Sector, context 28002, package no. 253, inv. no. 518. Pl. IV/34.

VI. Hayes 105 Form

General description of the type: large plate with foot of medium height which can be decorated *à la roulette*; steep curved or straight walls; flattened rim in the upper part and rounded on the outside; the rim is separated from the body, on the inside and outside, by prominent grooves.

Dating: dated between the end of the 6th c. and the first half of the 7th c. AD, with late variants²⁰; similar pieces, from *Histria*, were discovered in contexts generally dated between the 6th and the 7th c. AD²¹.

CATALOGUE

35. **Plate.** Fragmentary, lower part of the profile. Uniform oxidant primary burn; very fine fabric, red (2.5YR5/6); red (2.5YR4/6) slip; very fine mica and calcite inclusions. Decorated with two lines of rouletting on edge of floor. Dimensions: FD = 110 mm, MPD = 160 mm, PH = 33.5 mm, Th = 19 mm. Histria 2013, the ACS Sector, context 6001, inv. no. 442. Pl. IV/35.
36. **Plate.** Fragmentary, lower part of profile. Uniform oxidant primary burn; very fine fabric, red (2.5YR5/6); red (2.5YR5/8) slip; very fine mica inclusions, fine and medium calcite inclusions. Dimensions: FD = 100 mm, MPD = 162 mm, PH = 20 mm, Th = 13 mm. Histria 2015, the ACS Sector, context 19000, package no. 179, inv. no. 153. Pl. IV/36.

VII. Hayes 109 Form, type B²²

General description of the type: shallow plate with flat base, curved walls and plain rim; the rim is separated from the body, on the inside, by a groove; the inner surface of the plate is decorated with thin burnished bands.

Dating: this type is dated to the first half of the 7th c. AD²³; also, other discoveries from *Histria* are dated between the 6th and the 7th c. AD²⁴.

CATALOGUE

37. **Plate.** Fragmentary, entire profile. Uniform oxidant primary burn; very fine fabric, red (2.5YR5/8); slip of the same colour; very fine mica, calcite and iron oxide inclusions. The inner surface of the plate is decorated with 19 thin burnished bands. Dimensions: MD = 220 mm, MPD = 221 mm, BD = 90 mm, PH = 32 mm, Th = 5 mm. Five shards pertaining to the same vessel were found between 2014 and 2016: 3 – in 2014, contexts 10000, 11001 and 12001, packages nos. 10, 234 and 183, inv. no. 440; 1 – in 2015, 25000 context, 591 package, no. 198; 1 – in 2016, 27001 context, 231 package, no. 462. Pl. IV/37.
38. **Plate.** Fragmentary, upper part of the profile. Uniform oxidant primary burn; very fine fabric, red (2.5YR5/8); slip of the same colour; very fine mica, calcite and iron oxide inclusions. The inner surface of the plate is decorated with 8 thin burnished bands. Dimensions: MD = 170 mm, MPD = 172 mm, BD = 132 mm, PH = 17 mm, Th = 5 mm. Histria 2015, the ACS Sector, context 22001, package no. 924, inv. no. 96. Pl. IV/38.

CONCLUSIONS

The North-African pottery is well represented at *Histria*²⁵, in the *Acropolis Centre-South Sector*, with many vessels of this category discovered, not only tableware, but also *amphorae* (unpublished yet) and lamps²⁶. The 38 plates and bowls presented in this paper are preserved in a very fragmentary state, with few whole-profile and without entirely-preserved vessels discovered until now. However, in 2016 were found many shards pertaining to these vessels, some of them being now almost complete (see cat. nos. 10 and 37), and hopefully other missing pieces will be discovered in future archaeological campaigns.

Concerning the contexts of discovery, 12 fragments of this lot were found in the vegetal layer (registered as context 000 in all the excavation units), 15 in the greyish layer of debris (registered as context 001) – which represent the *insula's* final moment of abandon –, 10 in the yellow-reddish layer (all the 002, but also 29005 contexts) – the moment of destruction of the last Late Roman dwelling level – and 3 were *passim*. Finally, 5 fragments were discovered in the context 7004, representing a yellow, highly-solidified clay floor, with intense burn traces, which pertains to the *insula's* first phase of functioning in the 6th c. up to the reign of Justin II²⁷. Typologically, 4 of these shards are from the same vessel and pertain to the second type (B) of *Hayes 99* Form (cat. no. 10).

²⁰ Atlante I, p. 96, tav. XLIII/6–7, tav. XLIV/1–2; Hayes 1972, p. 164–169, cat. nos. 1–19, Fig. 31/2–3, 6–7, 10, 13, 17; Fig. 32/8–9, 15–16, 19.

²¹ Suceveanu 1982b, p. 99, cat. no. 9, Fig. 14/9 (dated between the 6th and the 7th c. AD); Suceveanu 2007, p. 188, cat. nos. 36–37, Pl. LXXV/36–37 (dated between the end of the 6th c. and the beginning of the 7th c. AD).

²² Bonifay 2004, p. 187–189.

²³ Bonifay 2004, p. 189.

²⁴ Suceveanu 1982b, p. 99, cat. no. 9, Fig. 14/9 (dated between the 6th and the 7th c. AD); Suceveanu 2007, p. 188, cat. nos. 36–37, Pl. LXXV/36–37 (dated between the end of the 6th c. and the beginning of the 7th c. AD).

²⁵ For the North-African pottery discovered at *Histria*, in other areas, see Bădescu, Clianțe 2015, Suceveanu 1982a; 1982b; 2007.

²⁶ Bivolaru, Bottez 2016, p. 138, cat. no. 12.

²⁷ Bottez *et alii* 2015, p. 162, and n. 2 above.

Moreover, from a topographic point of view, we can see that almost all these pieces are dispersed throughout the building complex, excepting the shards pertaining to the *Hayes 99* bowl of cat. no. 10, which were found in the north-western part of the *Northern nucleus*, in different contexts (4 – 7001, 4 – 7004, 1 – 7000/15000), and for the *Hayes 109* plate of cat. no. 37, found in a north-eastern room of the *Southern nucleus* and also in different contexts (1 – 10000, 1 – 11001, 1 – 12001, 1 – 25000, 1 – 27001) (Fig. 2).

Like the Phocaean Red Slip Ware²⁸ and the Pontic Red Slip Ware, the North-African vessels are generally dated to the 4th – 7th centuries AD (Fig. 5), the first form attested being *Hayes 61*, dated to the 4th – 5th c., and the latest – *Hayes 109*, which continues until the first half of the 7th century AD. However, the predominant form, with more than 25 fragments, is *Hayes 99* (Fig. 4) with all its types and variants, which, as we have seen, are dated between the 6th c. and the first half of the 7th c. AD, confirming the Sector's general chronology.

Finally, the presence of these forms suggests the continuous economic contacts between *Scythia* and the western Mediterranean centres during the Late Roman period, the African Red Slip Ware representing the second tableware category attested in many other archaeological sites, such as Babadag-Topraichioi²⁹, *Capidava*³⁰, *Dinogetia*³¹, *Halmyris*³², *(L)Ibida*³³ or *Tropaeum Traiani*³⁴.

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²⁸ Iliescu et alii 2017, p. 58.

²⁹ For the ARSW discovered on this site, see Opaïț 1991a, p. 162–163, Pls. 40/236–245, 41/248–251.

³⁰ Covacef 1999, 154–158, 164, Pls. XI/1.4, XII/5, XIV/1.a-b; Oprîș 2003, p. 145–150, Pls. LIII/339, 345, LIV/340, 350–352.

³¹ Barnea 1969, p. 259, Fig. 9/14–15.

³² Opaïț 1991b, p. 263, Fig. 45/1–2, 8; Topoleanu 2000, p. 71–78, Pls. XIII/160, XVII/141, XVIII/153–154, 157–159, XIX/161–162, 167–168.

³³ Mocanu 2012, p. 330–331; 2014, p. 163, Fig. 3/12–14.

³⁴ Bogdan-Cătănciu, Barnea 1979, p. 189, Fig. 167/22; Gămureac 2009, p. 266–267, Pls. XII/110, XIII/111–113.

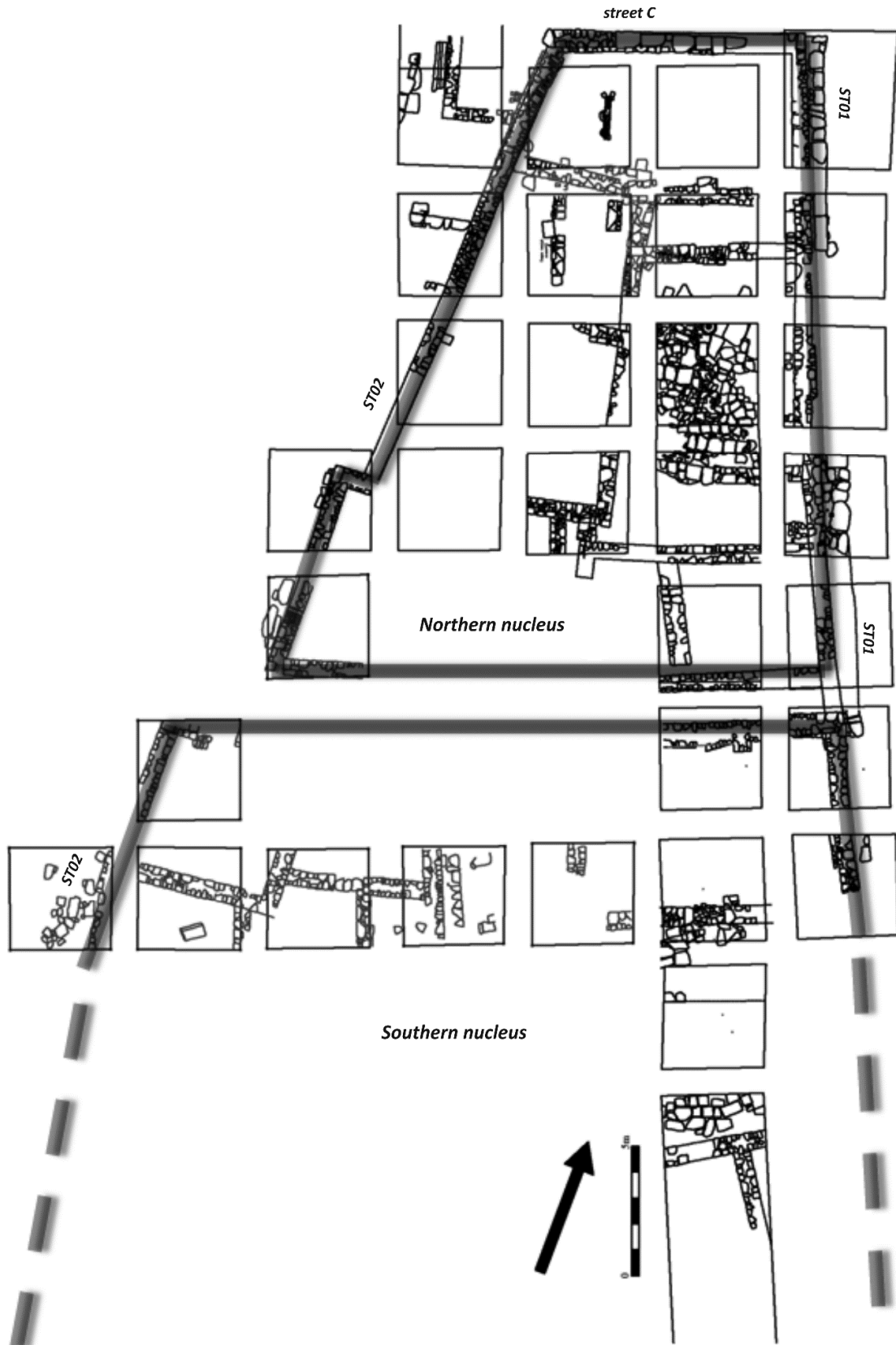


Figure 1. Plan of the ACS Sector in 2016.

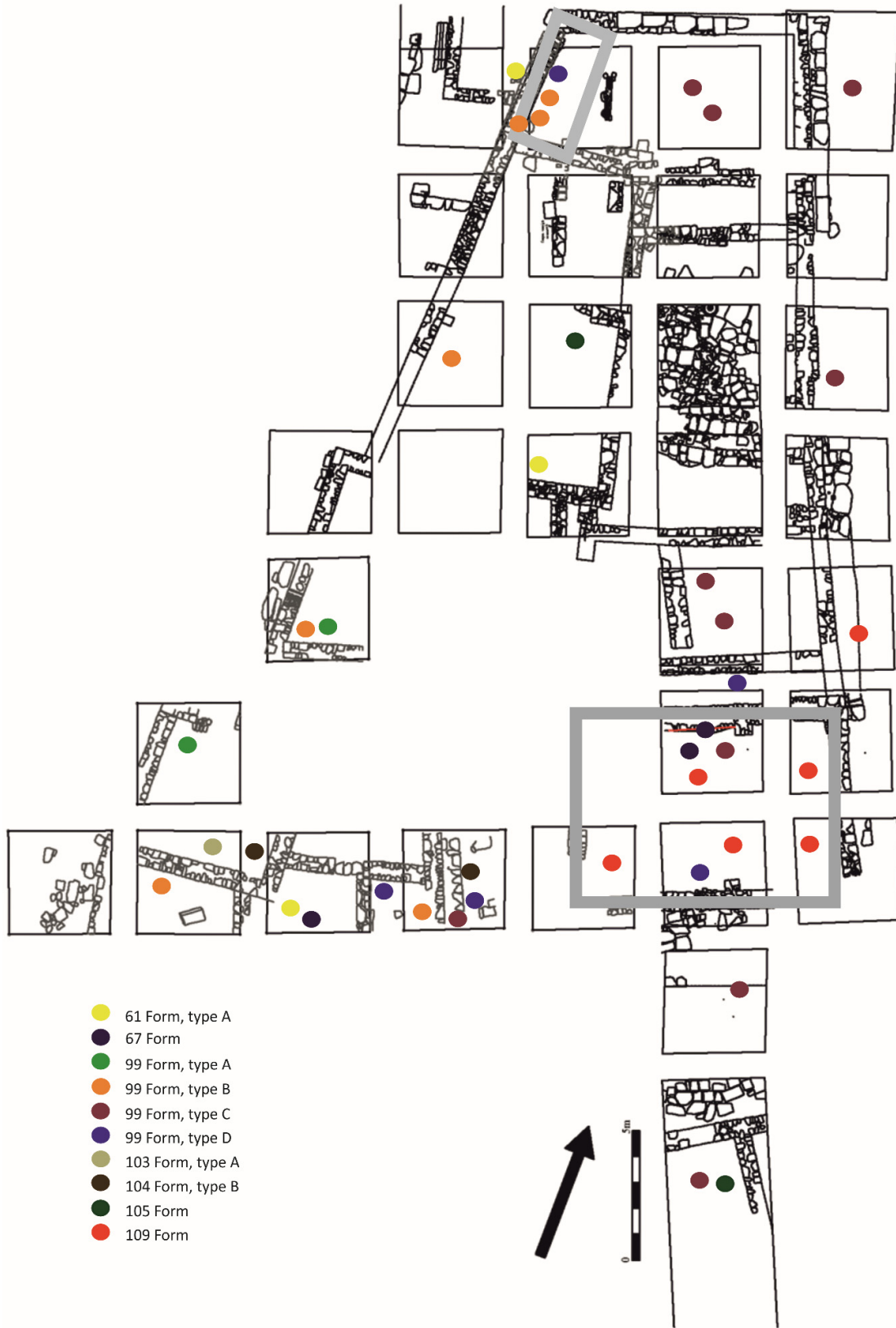


Figure 2. Distribution of the ARSW in the ACS Sector.

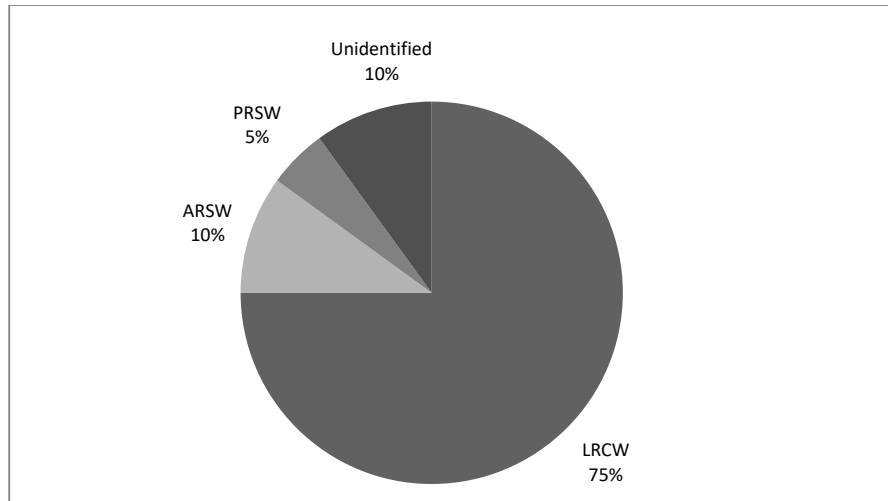


Figure 3. Late Roman tableware categories attested in the ACS Sector.

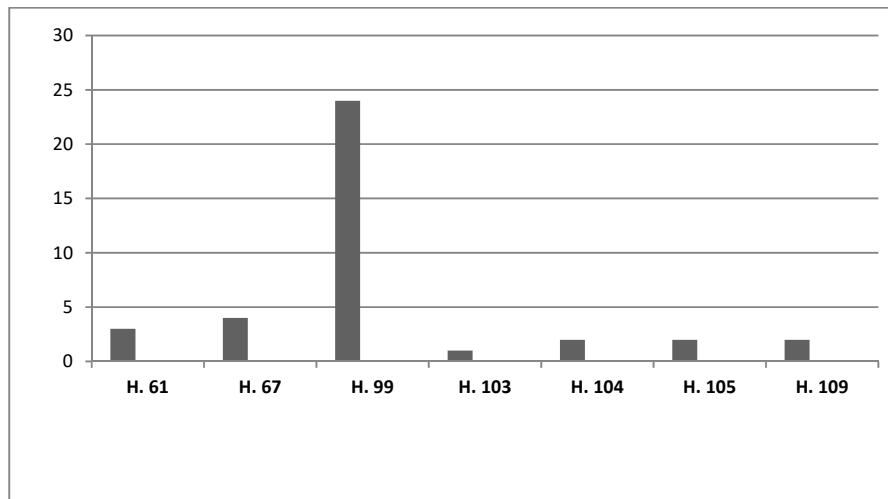


Figure 4. Typological distribution of the ARSW.

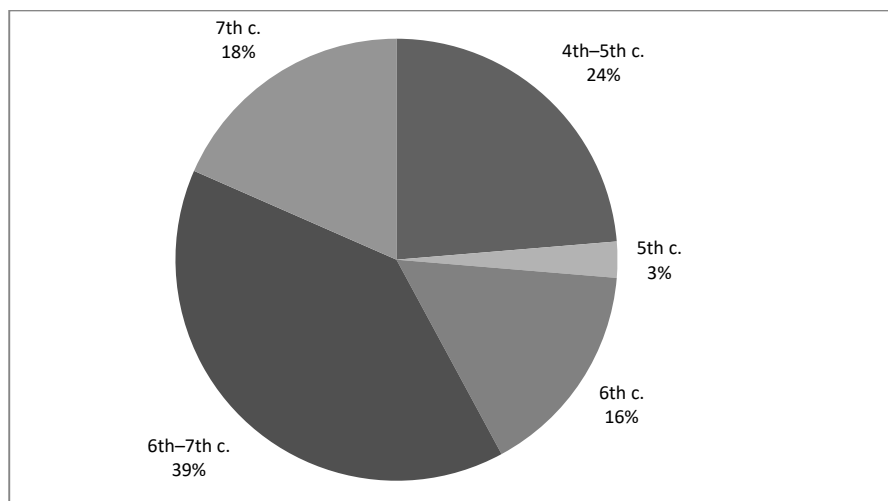


Figure 5. Chronological distribution of the ARSW.

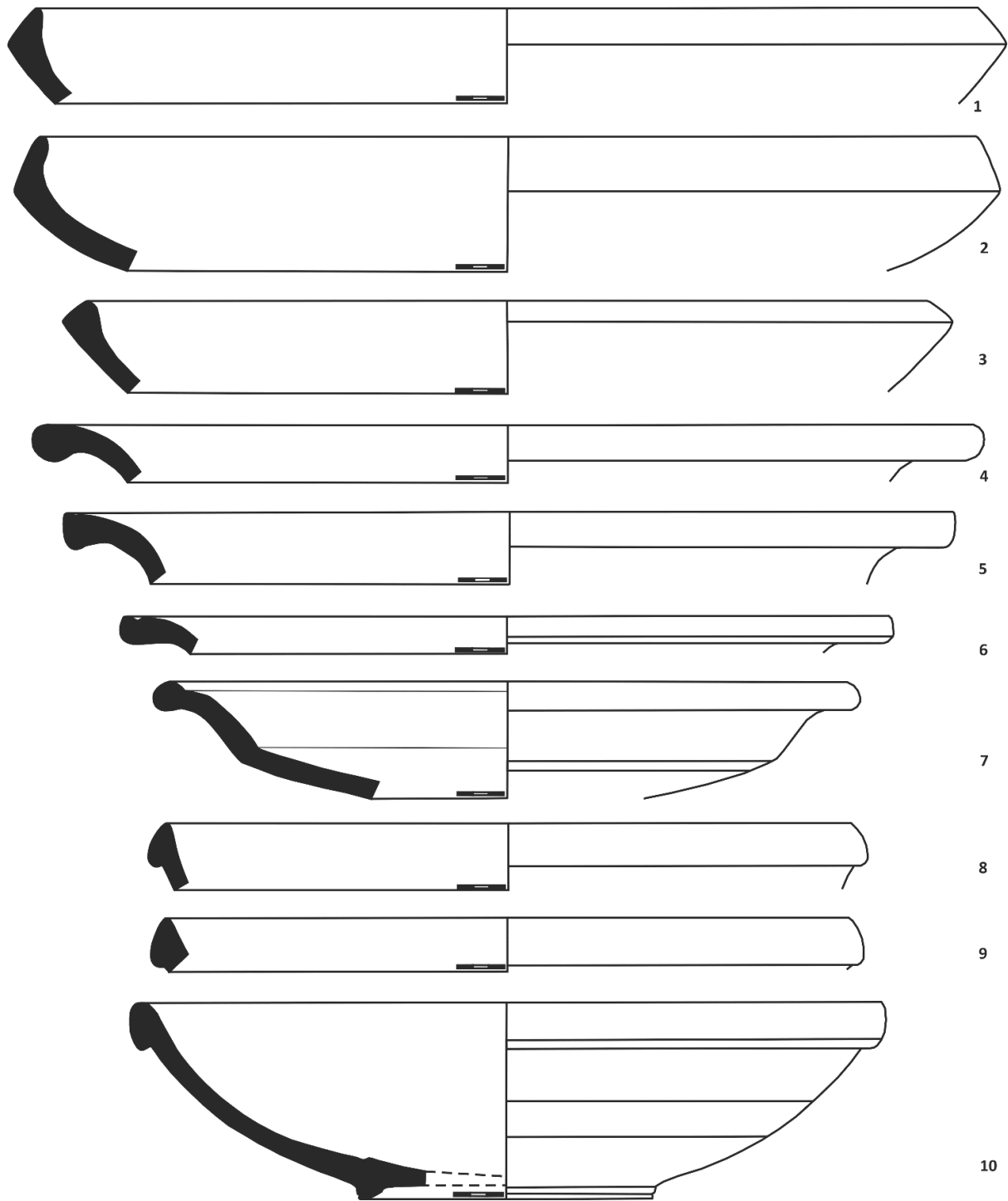


Plate I. 1–3. Hayes 61 Form, type A; 4–6. Hayes 67 Form; 7. Hayes 67 Form - variant?; Hayes 99 Form: 8–9. type A; 10. type B.

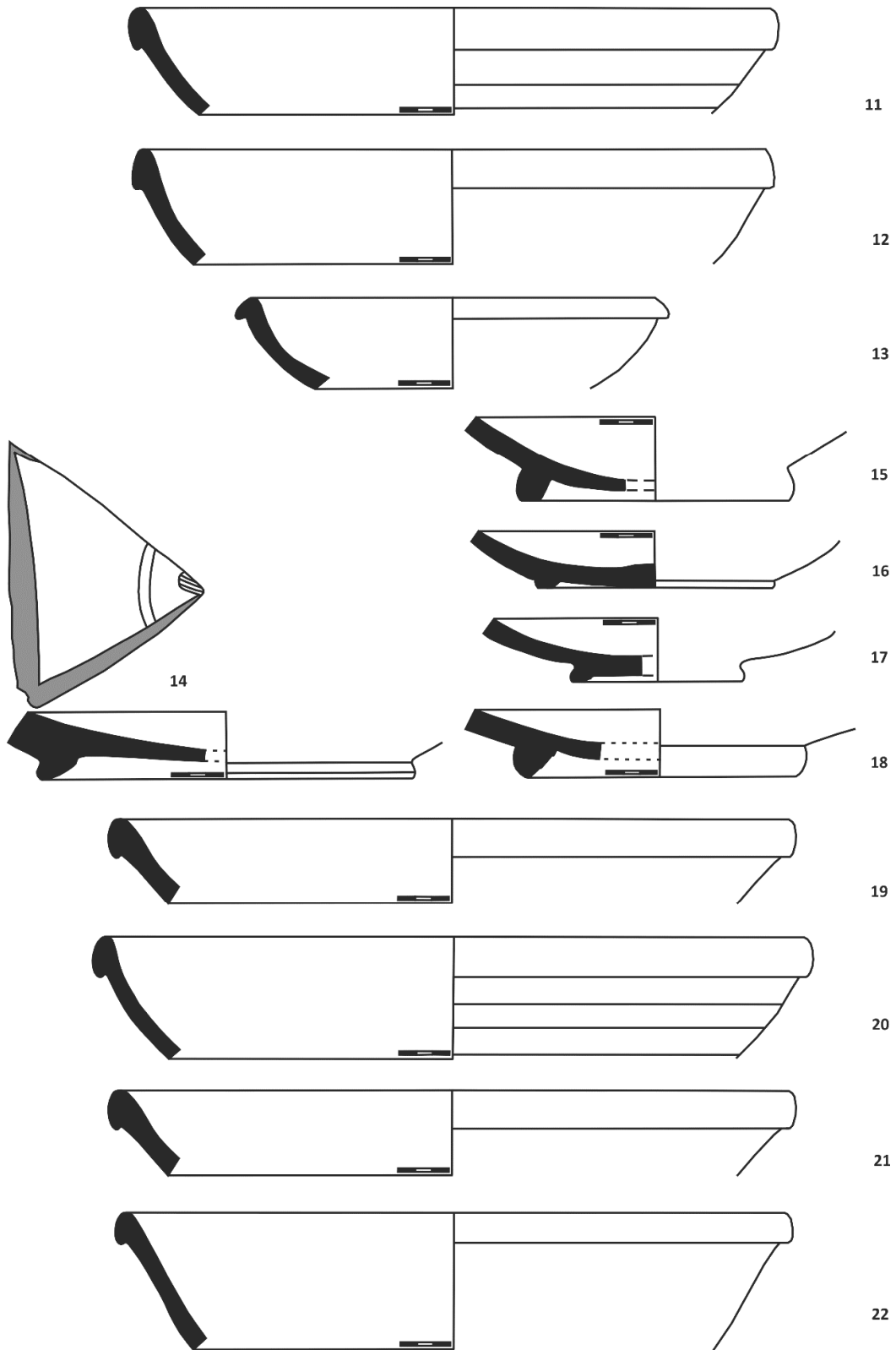


Plate II. Hayes 99 Form: 11–15. type B; 16–22. type C.

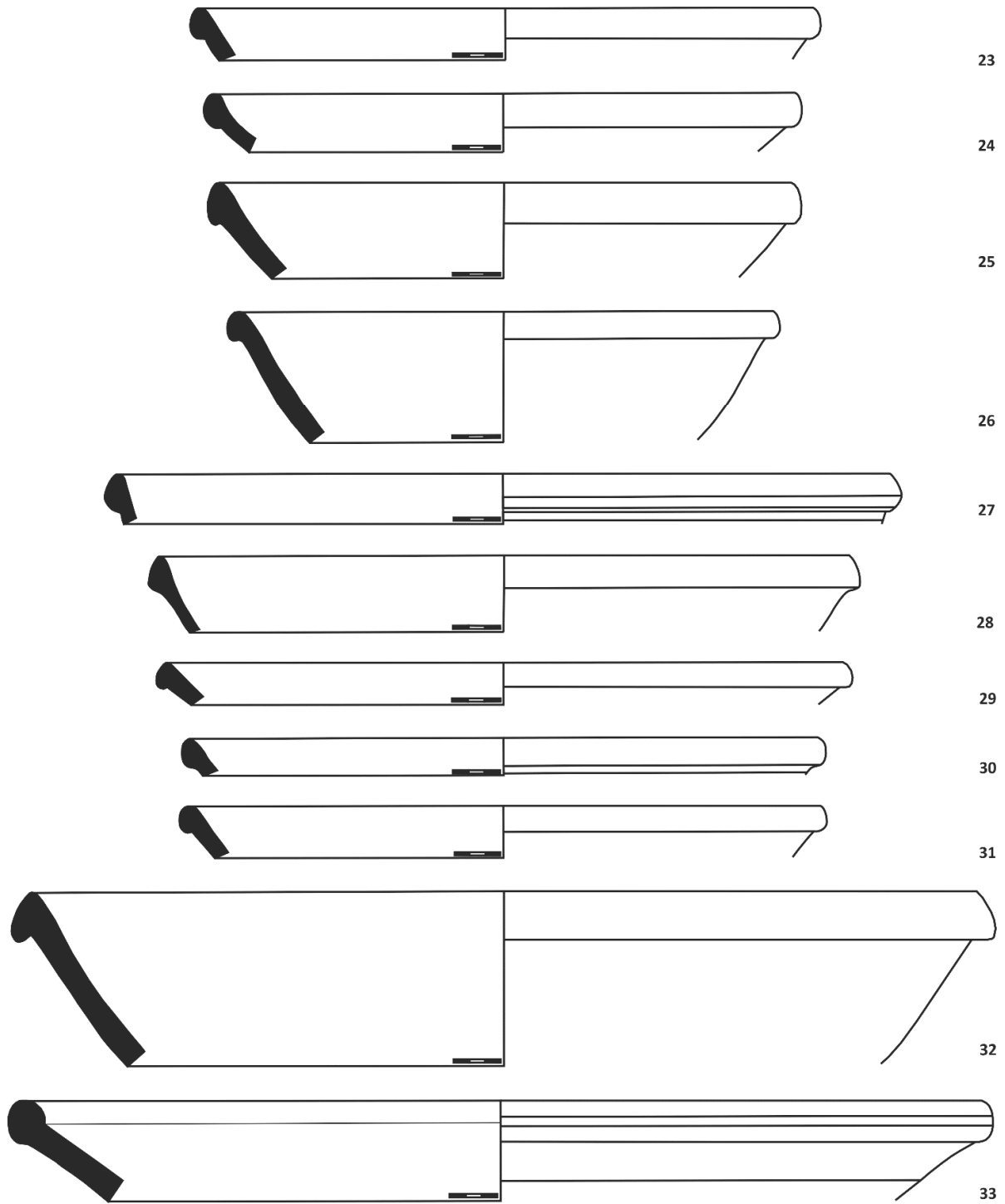


Plate III. Hayes 99 Form: 23–26. type C; 27–31. type C; 32. Hayes 103 Form, type A; 33. Hayes 104 Form, type B.

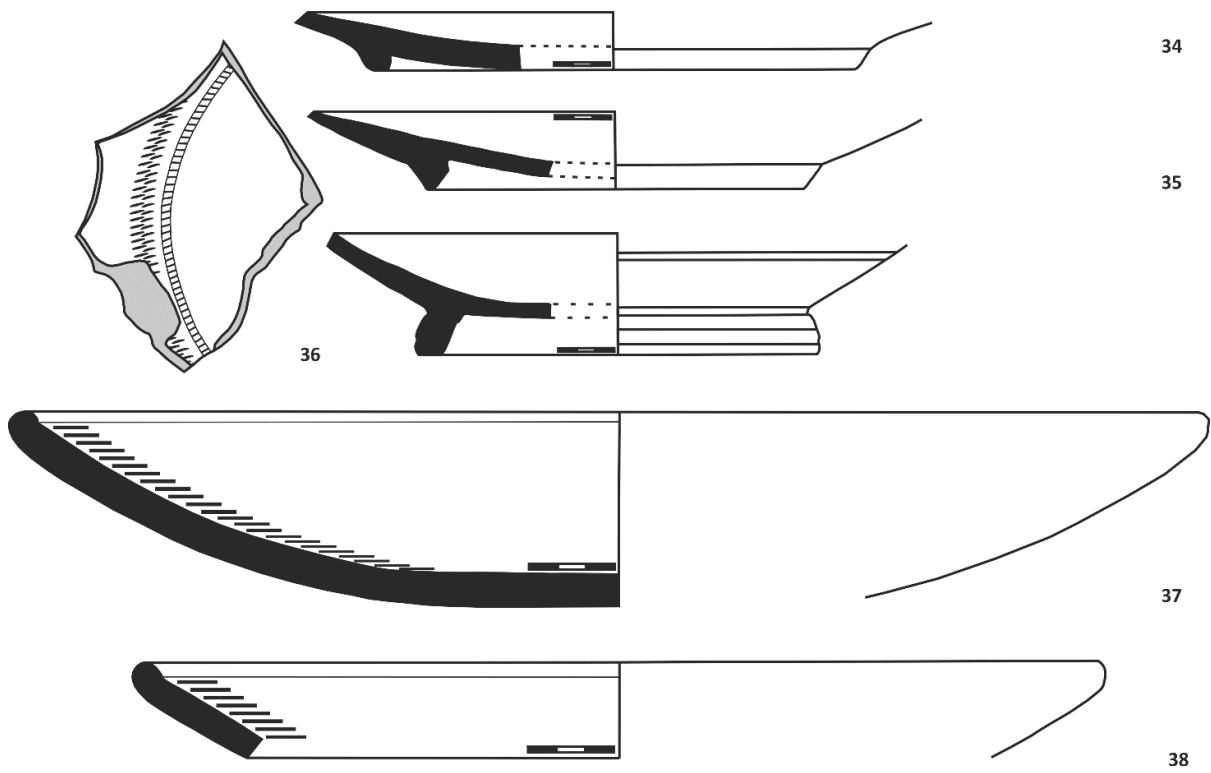


Plate IV. 34. Hayes 104 Form, type B; 35–36. Hayes 105 Form; 37–38. Hayes 109 Form.

ABRÉVIATIONS / ABBREVIATIONS / ABREVIERI

- AA – Archäologischer Anzeiger. Deutsches Archäologisches Institut, Darmstadt, München, Tübingen–Berlin
ACMI – Anuarul Comisiunii Monumentelor Istorice, București
ActaMN – Acta Musei Napocensis, Cluj
ActaMP – Acta Musei Porolissensis, Zalău
ActaTS – Acta Terrae Septemcastrensis, Universitatea Lucian Blaga, Sibiu
Acta Siculica – Acta Siculica. Anuarul Muzeului Național Secuiesc, Sfântu Gheorghe
l'Anthropologie (Paris) – l'Anthropologie, Paris
Antiquity – Antiquity. A Quarterly Review of Archaeology, University of York
Anuarul MJIAP – Anuarul Muzeului Județean de Istorie și Arheologie Prahova, Ploiești
ARA – Annuaire Roumain d'Anthropologie
Archaeometry – Archaeometry, Research Laboratory for Archaeology and the History of Art, Oxford University
ArchBulg – Archaeologia Bulgarica, Sofia
Area – Area, Royal Geographical Society, London
ArheologijaKiiv – Arheologija. Nacional'na akademija nauk Ukraini. Institut archeologii, Kiiv
ArheologijaSSSR – Arheologija SSSR. Svod Archeologičeskikh Istočnikov, Moskva
ArhMold – Arheologia Moldovei, Iași
BA – Biblioteca de Arheologie, București
BARIntSer – British Archaeological Reports. International Series, Oxford
BiblThrac – Bibliotheca Thracologica, București
BMC – *Coins of the Roman Empire in the British Museum*, London. I, *Augustus to Vitellius*, 1923; II, *Vespasian to Domitian*, 1930; III, *Nerva to Hadrian*, 1936; IV, *Antoninus Pius to Commodus*, 1968; V, *Pertinax to Elagabalus*, 1950 (H. Mattingly); VI, *Severus Alexander to Balbinus and Pupienus*, 1962 (R.A.G. Carson)
BMJT – Buletinul Muzeului Județean Teleorman, Alexandria
BMJTAG – Buletinul Muzeului Județean „Teohari Antonescu”, Giurgiu
BSNR – Buletinul Societății Numismatice Române, București
Bull. et Mém. de la Soc. d'Anthrop. de Paris – Bulletins et Mémoires de la Société d'Anthropologie de Paris
CA – Cercetări Arheologice, București
Caiete ARA – Caietele ARA, Revistă de Arhitectură, Restaurare și Arheologie, Asociația ARA, București
CCA – Cronica Cercetărilor Arheologice din România, București
CercNum – Cercetări Numismatice, București
Dacia / Dacia NS – Dacia / Dacia Nouvelle Série. Revue d'archéologie et d'histoire ancienne. Académie Roumaine. Institut d'archéologie « Vasile Pârvan », Bucarest
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EAIVR – C. Preda (ed.), *Enciclopedia Arheologiei și Istoriei Vechi a României*, vol. I-III (1994, 1996, 2000), București
EphemNap - Ephemeris Napocensis. Academia Română, Institutul de Arheologie și Istoria Artei, Cluj-Napoca
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FI – File de Istorie, Bistrița
FolArch – Folia Archaeologica, Budapest
Giard, *Venèra* – J.-B. Giard, *Ripostiglio della Venèra. Nuovo Catalogo Illustrato*, III/1, *Gordiano III-Quintillo*, Roma, 1995
Göbl – R. Göbl, *Die Münzprägung der Kaiser Valerianus I. / Gallienus / Saloninus (253/268), Regalianus (260) und Macrianus / Quietus (260–262)*, Viena, 2000
IJO – International Journal of Osteoarchaeology
IstMitt – Istanbuler Mitteilungen, Istanbul
Istros – Istros, Muzeul Brăilei, Brăila
JAS – Journal of Archaeological Science, London
JEA – Journal of European Archaeology
JFA – Journal of Field Archaeology

- KSIA (Kiiv) – Kratkije Soobščeniija Instituta Arheologij Akademij Nauk SSSR, Kiiv
 KSIA (Moskva) – Kratkije Soobščeniija Instituta Arheologij Akademij Nauk SSSR, Moskva
 Ktèma – Civilisations de l'Orient, de la Grèce et de Rome antiques, Strasbourg
 MCA – Materiale și Cercetări Arheologice, București
 MemAnt – Memoria Antiquitatis, Piatra Neamț
 MIAR – Materialy i issledovanija po arheologii Rossii
 MIBE – W. Hahn, M.A. Metlich, *Money of the Incipient Byzantine Empire (Anastasius I – Justinian I, 491–565)*, Viena, 2000
 Mousaios – Buletinul Științific al Muzeului Județean Buzău
 MuzNaț – Muzeul Național, București
 NZ – Numismatische Zeitschrift, Viena
 Peuce – Peuce, Studii și cercetări de istorie și arheologie, Institutul de Cercetări Eco-Muzeale, Tulcea
 Pick, Regling – B. Pick, K. Regling, *Die antiken Münzen Nord-Griechenlands*, I, *Die antiken Münzen von Dacien und Moesien*, Berlin, 1, 1898 (B. Pick), 2, 1910 (B. Pick, K. Regling)
 Pink, NZ – K. Pink, *Der Aufbau der Römischen Münzprägung in der Kaiserzeit*. VI/1, *Probus*, NZ, 71, 1946, p. 13-74
 Pontica – Pontica. Studii și materiale de istorie, arheologie și muzeografie, Muzeul de Istorie Națională și Arheologie Constanța
 PZ – Prähistorische Zeitschrift, Berlin-Mainz
 RA – Revue Archéologique, Paris
 Radiocarbon – An International Journal of Cosmogenic Isotope Research, Cambridge
 REA – Revue des Études Anciennes, Bordeaux
 RevBistr – Revista Bistriței. Complexul Muzeal Bistrița-Năsăud, Bistrița
 RevMuz – Revista Muzeelor, București
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 SAA – Studia Antiqua et Archaeologica, Iași
 SCA – Studii și Cercetări de Antropologie, București
 SCIV(A) – Studii și Cercetări de Istorie Veche (și Arheologie), București
 SCN – Studii și Cercetări de Numismatică, București
 SNG IX, BM – Silloge Nummorum Graecorum, IX, The British Museum, I, *Black Sea*, London, 1993
 SNG XI, *Stancob* – Silloge Nummorum Graecorum, XI, *The William Stancob Collection of coins of the Black Sea Region*, Oxford, 2000
 SovArh – Sovetskaja Arheologija, Moskva
 SP – Studii de Preistorie, București
 Stratum(Plus) – Stratum (Plus), Școala Superioară de Antropologie, Chișinău, Sankt Petersburg, București
 StudCom Satu Mare – Studii și comunicări Satu Mare
 StudCom Sibiu – Studii și Comunicări, Sibiu
 Th-D – Thraco-Dacica, București
 Tyragetia – Tyragetia. Anuarul Muzeului Național de Istorie a Moldovei, Chișinău
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