

DRINKING VESSELS FROM TROPAEUM TRAIANI (2ND–7TH CENTURIES AD)

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Abstract: This article resumes the presentation of the archaeological finds discovered at Tropaeum Traiani, in Sector A (north of Basilica A) between 2005 and 2016. The main purposes of the archaeological investigations are to verify the hypothesis of the existence of some annexes of Basilica A on its northern side and, within a broader perspective, to uncover and research the entire *insula* delimited by the *decumanus*, *cardo*, AV1 and ABV IV streets. The authors have focused on the drinking vessels resulting from the excavation; 77 fragments of drinking vessels, of various types, are analysed and catalogued, their study providing valuable information regarding the daily life of the city's inhabitants.

Cuvinte-cheie: Tropaeum Traiani, Sector A, veselă de băut, perioada romană timpurie, perioada romană târzie, producție locală

Rezumat: În articolul de față se continuă prezentarea materialelor arheologice descoperite la Tropaeum Traiani, în Sectorul A (la nord de Basilica A), în anii 2005–2016. Scopul principal al cercetărilor este verificarea ipotezei existenței unor anexe ale Basilicii A pe latura nordică a edificiului și, într-o perspectivă mai largă, se urmărește dezvelirea și cercetarea întregii *insula*, cuprinsă între străzile *decumanus*, *cardo*, AV1 și ABV IV. Autoarele se concentrează în acest articol asupra vaselor de băut; sunt analizate și catalogate 77 de fragmente de vase de băut, de tipuri variate, studiul lor oferind informații prețioase privind viața de zi cu zi a locuitorilor orașului.

The present study resumes the publication of the various categories of archaeological materials discovered at Tropaeum Traiani, in Sector A (north of Basilica A), between 2005 and 2016¹. The purpose of the research there in what the Late Roman city is concerned is to verify the hypothesis of the existence of some annexes of Basilica A on its northern side; within a wider perspective, the aim is to uncover and research the entire *insula*, delimited by the *decumanus*, *cardo*, AV1, and ABV IV streets².

Ceramic containers were necessary utensils in the ancient world and were fashioned in different forms according to needs and tastes³. Therefore, it is necessary to define their types by highlighting the relationship between function, use, and form⁴.

In our attempt to understand the everyday life of the inhabitants of Tropaeum Traiani, we will focus in this paper only on the pouring and drinking vessels. In this broad

category, we identified multiple types and subtypes: table amphorae, jugs, *lekytos*-types, carafes, *oinochoes*, mugs, and cups. All these recipients were mostly locally made and were used for pouring different liquids. Being locally made products or, rarely, provincial ones, their shapes, decorations, dimensions, and fabric choices offer an insight into the local production and economy.

The table amphorae fall within the pouring vessel type. They are characterized by a medium size mouth, larger than the mouth of jugs, with a diameter between 7 to 15 cm, a narrow neck, two handles, a globular body, and a flat or ring-shaped base.

However, the most common drinking vessel is the jug. This container is characterized by a narrow mouth of 4 to 6 cm in diameter, one handle (or two handles in the 5th century AD), and sometimes it reached 20 cm in height. In addition to the small dimensions of these vessels, their walls are thin, varying from 2 to 5 mm.

The *lekythos*-type is the most often encountered pouring vessel. However, this Greek type of vessel may designate a container found in settlement and funerary environments. It also lost its function in time during the Roman period. It has a narrow, grooved mouth, more often only one handle, while some variants are two-handled. The body is globular and has a flat or ring-shaped base. The grooves at the mouth may have had a utilitarian purpose, to avoid leaks.

The types of drinking vessels is illustrated by the carafes and *oinochoes*. The carafes may be considered a

¹ Panaite, Vîlcu 2019 (Roman and Late Roman coins); Grigoraș, Panaite 2021 (Late Roman amphorae); Domzalski, Panaite 2019 (Late Roman fine wares); see also: Bugoi *et alii* 2021 (for the chemical analyses on Roman and Late Roman glass finds discovered in the same sector). Another paper on *Early Roman amphorae - new data on Early Roman Tropaeum Traiani, Constanța County, Romania* was presented by B. Grigoraș and A. Panaite at the Seventh International Congress on Black Sea Antiquities, organized in Thessaloniki – 26–30 September 2022, and will be published in the forthcoming proceedings.

² Panaite 2006; 2007; 2009; 2010; 2011; 2012; 2013; 2014; 2015; 2016; 2017.

³ Ergürer 2015, p. 137.

⁴ Ionas 2000, p. 39.