

# ORIENTAL AMPHORAE DISCOVERED AT HISTRIA IN THE CENTRAL-NORTH SECTOR (CAMPAIGN 2012)

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

**Abstract:** The 41 fragments of oriental amphorae presented in this study belong to a series including 143 fragments discovered at Histria, in the Central-North Sector, in a 26/2 m trench opened in 2012. The ceramic material is divided in nine types of amphorae and one type of amphora lids. The studied material can be divided as follows: 52.45 % amphorae, 43.36 % kitchen pottery, 2.80 % lamps and 1.40 % other items. The statistics based on the entire pottery assemblage show that the amphorae are still the most important ceramic category (77.60 %), followed by the kitchen pottery (20.40 %) and other items (2 %).

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

**Rezumat:** Cele 41 de fragmente de amfore orientale prezentate în acest studiu aparțin unui grup care cuprinde 143 fragmente descoperite la Histria, în Sectorul Centru-Nord, într-o secțiune cu dimensiunile 26/2 m deschisă în 2012. Materialul ceramic este clasificat în nouă tipuri de amfore și un tip de capac de amforă. Tipologia ceramicii analizate este următoarea: 52,45% amfore, 43,36% ceramică de bucătărie, 2,80% opaițe și 1,40% alte obiecte. Statisticile bazate pe întreaga serie a complexului ceramic descoperit arată că cea mai importantă categorie ceramică este reprezentată de amfore (77,60%), urmată de ceramica de bucătărie (20,40%) și diverse obiecte (2%).

In the summer of 2011, two new members<sup>1</sup> were added to the research team at Histria, both archaeologists from the Museum of National History and Archaeology in Constanța. The place where we began the archaeological excavation is named conventionally the Centre-North Sector (CN) and is located in the area north of the Bishopric Basilica (Fig. 1). The archaeological research aims to obtain as much information as possible about the living conditions in the area

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north of the basilica in the 6<sup>th</sup> c. AD. One of our priorities was to open a stratigraphic control trench, oriented on SW–NE, in the *insula* located north of the of the Bishopric Basilica's atrium. The trench, called S2, is 26 m long and was divided into 2 m squares, numbered starting from the western part of the trench. It must be mentioned here that another stratigraphic control trench, S1, was opened in 2011 in the island located north of the basilica (Fig. 2). At present, the material recovered after the archaeological research is still under study.

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The amphorae produced in the oriental basin of the Mediterranean Sea reached the provinces in the Lower Danube area through the port towns on the western coast of the Black Sea. Their numbers increased continuously during the Roman period, especially in the 4<sup>th</sup> c. AD, when the Empire's capital was moved to Constantinople and, as a consequence, *Scythia* established a direct economic link with the oriental region.

## I. AMPHORAE – *Amphorae*

**I.1. Berenice LRA 1; Carthage LRA 1; British B II; Rădulescu 1976, type 10; Scorpan 1976, type VIII B; Egloff 1977, no. 169, 164, 166; Böttger 1982, type II/1; Peacock 1984 shape 2; Keay 1984, type LIII; Kuzmanov 1985, type XIII–XIV; Peacock, Williams 1986, type 44; Hayes 1992, type 5; Kuzmanov, Salkin 1992, type 26; Sazanov 1997, type 1; Opaïț 1991, D I; Papadopoulou 1989, type 2.**