Nikoletta Varga

RAETIAN WARE IN AQUINCUM

The aim of this study is to present the so-called Raetian ware in the territory of the civil and military towns of *Aquincum* in *Pannonia Inferior*. This special ceramic ware – named after the province *Raetia* by F. Drexel, who first classified it – was produced from the early 2nd century AD to the middle of the 3rd century AD. The main workshops of this pottery type were in the ancient settlements of Faimingen-*Phoebiana*, Günzburg, Aislingen, Nördlingen, Regensburg-Kumpfmühl, Schwabmünchen, Straubing-*Sorviodurum* and Westerndorf-St. Peter.

In order to supply the regional market and demands, and to avoid the high customs charges, local workshops produced imitations of the imported vessels. In *Pannonia* from the second half of the 2nd century AD the Roman settlements *Vindobona*, 7 *Poetovio*, 8 *Aquincum*, 9 *Savaria*¹⁰ and probably *Carnuntum* and *Gorsium*¹¹ can be linked to Raetian ware manufacture.

In the territory of *Noricum* imitations of Raetian ware have so far been published from Passau-Beiderwies, ¹² Mautern-*Favianis*, Zeiselmauer, Moosham, Teurnia, Gleisdorf and Šempeter. ¹³

DREXEL 1911, 72–87; WEBER 1982, 103–186; P. FASOLD/C.-M. HÜSSEN, Römische Grabfunde aus dem östlichen Graberfeld von Faimingen-Phoebiana, Ldkr. Dillingen/Donau. Bayer. Vorgeschbl. 50, 1985, 287–336.

² Weber 1981, 103-186; Czysz/Sommer 1983, 22.

- ⁴ Czysz/Sommer 1983, 22–23.
- ⁵ Walke 1965, 43.
- ⁶ H.-J. Kellner, Beobachtungen in Westerndorf-St. Peter 1976. Jahresber. Bayer. Bodendenkmalpfl. 31, 1980, 175–181.
- P. Donat, Feinkeramik aus Vindobona. Hinweise auf eine lokale Produktion? Fundort Wien 2, 1999, 32–46.
- 8 I. CURK/M. GULIC/I. TUSEK, Zur Sigillataproduction von Poetovio. Studien zur römischen Keramik. RCRF Acta 24, 1984, 61–68.
- ⁹ K. Póczy, Die Töpferwerkstätten von Aquincum. Acta Arch. Acad. Scien. Hungaricae 7, 1956, 73–138; Bónis 1960, 91–110.
- T. Buocz, Colonia Claudia Savaria. Ein römisches Siedlungszentrum in Pannonien. Das Altertum 25, 1979, 119–125; Szönyi 1973, 87–108; VARGA 2010, 209–260
- ¹¹ Fényes 2003, 18; Szőnyi 1973, 102.
- H. Schönberger, Das Römerkastell Boiodurum-Beiderweis zu Passau-Innstadt. Saalburg-Jahrb. 15, 1956, 42–78 Abb. 17,24.
- S. GROH/H. SEDLMAYER, Forschungen im Kastell Mautern-Favianis. Die Grabungen der Jahre 1996 und 1997. RLÖ 42 (Wien 2002) 194–195; ID., Forschungen im Vicus Ost von Mauter-Favianis. Die Grabungen der Jahre 1997–1999. RLÖ 44 (Wien 2006) 266–268.

The spread of the Raetian ware in Pannonia has mainly been observed along the *limes*, between Klosterneuburg¹⁴ and *Sopianae*.¹⁵ From south of this area it has only been noticeabled at the following sites: Pristava pri Trebnje,¹⁶ *Altium* and Mursa.¹⁷ In the territory of Barbaricum, this vessel type usually appears rarely, in relatively small numbers and often fragmented.¹⁸

According to the three main groups typologized by Drexel, the following decorative motifs can be distinguished:

Drexel I: barbotine clay ornaments articulated with small clay dots in the form of rosettes, stars, diagonal crossed lines, lozenges, bars, zigzag and parallel vertical ribs. Between these elements single or stacked columns of horseshoes can be seen. Based on the varied use of these motifs five subcategories (Ia–e) may be distinguished. Sometimes roller-stamping bands frame the barbotine decoration elements under the rim and above the base, but in other cases they are absent.

Drexel II: clay horseshoes articulated with added clay dots at the tips (IIa) or between horizontal bands of chattering (IIb).

Drexel III: wider (IIIa) or narrower (IIIb) chattered bands divide the surface of the vessels.

In the case of small fragments decorated with chattered stripes or bands, sometimes it is hard to determine whether they were part of a vessel Drexel type II or III.

Beside the above-mentioned barbotine decorations, figured representation appears rarely. On the surface of a Drexel I vessel from a grave in the Roman cemetery of Faimingen beside the small twelve-petal rosettes, double diagonal crossed lines and horseshoes the figure of Mercury can be

TH. FISCHER, Ein Keller mit Brandschutt aus der Zeit der Markomannenkriege (170–175 n. Chr.) aus dem Lagerdorf des Kastell Regensburg-Kumpfmühl. Jahresber. Bayer. Bodendenkmalpfl. 24/25, 1983/1984 (1987), 24–64.

M. GRÜNEWALD ET AL., Die antiken, urgeschichtliche und mittelalterlichen Funde der Grabungen auf dem Stiftplatz zu Klosterneuburg 1953–1954 (Capella Speciosa). Jahrb. Stift Klosterneuburg 12, 1983, 181.

F. FÜLEP, Roman Cemeteries on the territory of Pécs (Sopianae). Fontes Arch. Hungariae 1977, 30 R/211.

T. KNEZ, Novi rimski grobovi na Dolensjkem/Neue römische Gräber in Dolenjsko (Unterkrain). Razprave 6 1969, 128 Taf. 14.3–4; P. PETRU, Poskus cašovne razporeditve lončenine in rimskih grobov na Donejskem in Posavu. Ibid. 6, 1969, 209–210 grave no. 13–14.

¹⁷ Bónis 1960, 104.

P. ROTH, Nálezy tzv. raetskej keramiky na Slovensku/Funde von sog. raetischer Keramik in der Slowakei. Štud. Zbornik 24, 1988, 45–55; M. BENKOVÁ, Rétska keramika z rímskeho kastela v Iži/Die rätische Keramik aus römischem Kastell in Iža. In: K. Kuzmová/J. Rajtár, Rímsky Kastel v Iži. Výskum 1978–2008. Arch. Slovaca Monogr. Commun. 11 (Nitra 2010) 95–108; K. Kuzmová, Römische Keramik aus Gerulata. Slovenská Arch. 48/1, 2000, 168–171.

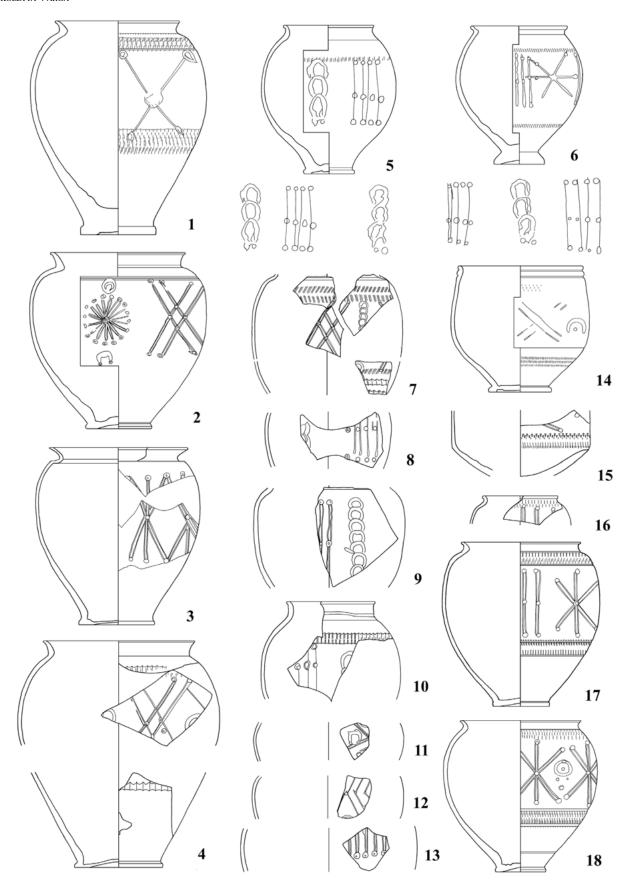


Fig. 1. Beakers and cups Drexel I: **9. 13. 15** civil town; **10–12** military town; **3.16–18** auxiliary fort in Albertfalva; **1–2. 4–8. 14** cemeteries. – Scale 1:3.

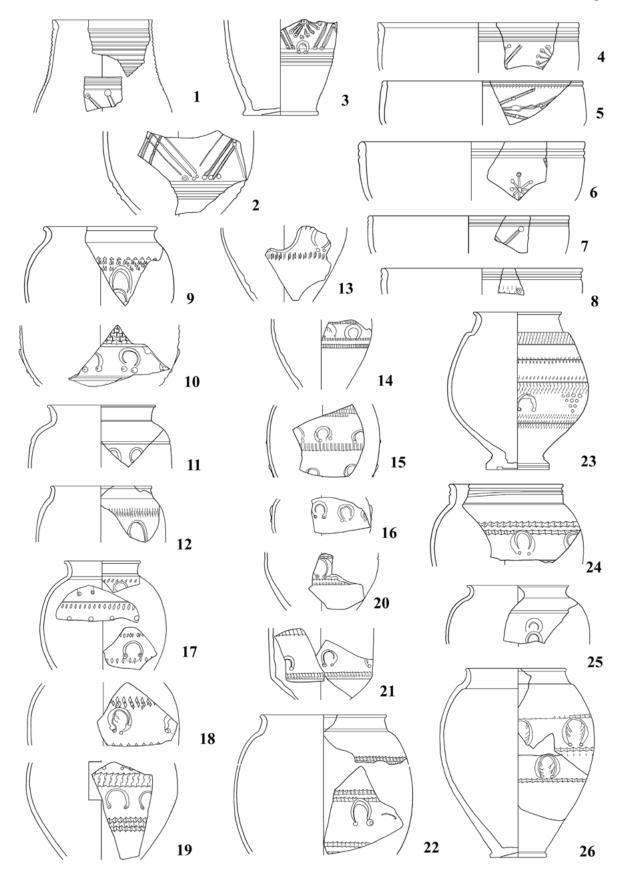


Fig. 2. 1–3 Beakers; 4–8 bowls Drexel I; 9–26 beakers Drexel II. – 2. 4–5. 9–10. 12–16 civil town; 3. 6. 11. 17–19 military town; 7–8 auxiliary fort in Albertfalva; 20–23 cemeteries; 1 governor's palace; 24–26 unknown site. – Scale 1:3.

seen, wearing a hooded cloak, holding a *caduceus* and a leather pouch, beside him stands a houdan.¹⁹

The chronology of Raetian ware is still based on the analysis of Drexel. The production of the first group (Drexel I) began around 100 AD, the second group (Drexel II) existed in parallel with the first some time until the second half of the $2^{\rm nd}$ century AD. The third group (Drexel III) was produced until the first half of the $3^{\rm rd}$ century AD.

It was further refined by Fischer, who elaborated the grave materials of Regensburg. ²⁰He revealed/established that the production of Drexel types I, IIa and IIIa can be dated between 120–170 AD, and the Drexel types IIb and IIIb to 180–260 AD.

The coexistence of Drexel I–III vessel types can be demonstrated from the cemetery of Schwabmünchen,²¹ and from vessels Drexel I and III found together in the territory of the sanctuary of Apollo Grannus in Faimingen.²²

There is a rich literature on the various Raetian vessel shapes jug, beaker, cup, hemispherical bowl and their main rim forms. ²³ Raetian ware belongs to the Roman tablewares, of course it was not as fine and expensive as terra sigillata but the presence of both imported vessels and later of local imitations as well showed the demand and significance for their users. To distinguish the imported Raetian ware from its local imitations we usually consider the colour of the clay and the slip, the depth of the vessels and of course the design and technique of the barbotine decoration. The surfaces of the imported Raetian vessels are covered with bright, often metallic gloss. The slip of the local products manages to achieve this gloss more or less successfully, but frequently the coating is matt and red, reddish brown and in some cases black painting replaces the glitter.

The colour of the clay of the imported Raetian vessels is usually yellow, while that of the locally produced imitations is light red, sometimes reddish brown.

The presented material so far collected includes 325 fragments from the civil and military towns of *Aquincum* in *Pannonia Inferior*, from the surrounding cemeteries of the settlements, from the territory of the auxiliary fort in Albertfalva, and from the ceramic material of the Governor's palace (on Hajógyári Island) as well. Some fragments from the villa zones in the Buda Hills, and several pieces from old excavations from uncertain provenance are also included in this study, because of their uniqueness.

M. Müller, Faimingen-Phoebiana II. Die römischen Grabfunde. Limesforschungen 26 (Berlin 1999) 53 Taf. 3 grave no. 13,3. Up to this day, quite a few Raetian vessels have been published from *Aquincum*.²⁴ Thanks to the further excavations and to the revisions of the old finds their number is significantly growing.

It is an interesting observation that among the finds so far discovered from *Aquincum*, the beakers are far more common than the bowls. Of course this could change depending on the new pieces that may come from the storerooms of the *Aquincum* Museum.

However, the small amount of bowls may signify that in the case of the Raetian ware in *Aquincum* (and maybe in other Roman settlements in *Pannonia*) the beakers and jugs as vessel forms were more commonly used than bowls. Whether this was due to a fashion cannot be determined with certainty.

The civil town of Aquincum

The civil town of *Aquincum* developed to the north of the legionary fortress, attaining the rank of town (*municipium*) around 120 AD and later in 194 AD being raised to the rank of *colonia*.

In the territory of the civil town of *Aquincum*, from 30 sites 92 Raetian vessel fragments have been identified so far (Drexel I: 28; Drexel II: 19; Drexel III: 4; unidentifiable sherds with detail of roller-stamping and undecorated fragments: 40; green glazed fragment: 1). Among them 85 pieces belong to beaker forms and 7 pieces to hemispherical bowls.

From the excavation of a Roman pottery shop in the civil town of *Aquincum* in 1931 a fragment of a Raetian vessel was unearthed from the first third of the 2nd century AD.²⁵ The stock (mostly *terra sigillata* from Lezoux and lamps) was consumed in a fire and buried under the floor.

In the excavated ceramic material south from the macellum in the civil town a bowl with grooved rim, decorated with a barbotine rosette and a detail of diagonal double crossed lines (fig. 2,4) was unearthed. Another fragment of a beaker Drexel I with cylindrical form (fig. 1,15) was discovered in 1962 also in the vicinity of the macellum. From the latest excavations in 2011 further Raetian potsherds of Drexel I type were unearthed from the zone of the so-called "Painter's House".26 Two of them decorated with parallel vertical ribs and stacked columns of horseshoes (fig. 1,9.13) are from levels dated in the end of the 2nd century AD. On another fragment above multiple horizontal grooves the tips of triple diagonal crossed lines can be seen (fig. 2,2). In 2000, a deversorium was found during excavations around the Conservation Department of the Aquincum Museum. From here a fragment of a bowl Drexel I type was found, which is decorated with converging trails of clay (**fig. 2,5**).

FISCHER 1990, 56.

E. EBNER, Das römische Gräberfeld von Schwabmünchen, Landkreis Augsburg. Materialh. Bayer. Vorgesch. 73 (Kallmünz 1997) grave no. 34.

²² EDEL 1981, 178–187.

WALKE 1965, 43; FISCHER 1990, 56; EDEL 1981, 181; S. V. SCHNURBEIN, Das römische Gräberfeld von Regensburg. Materialh. Bayer. Vorgesch. A31 (Kallmünz 1977) 37; W. HÜBENER, Ein römische Gräberfeld in Neuburg an der Donau. Bayer. Vorgeschbl. 22, 1957, 91; ID., Ein römisches Brandgräberfeld bei Roggden, Ldkr. Wertingen. Ibid. 24, 1959, 54; S. RIECKHOFF-PAULI, Römische Siedlungs- und Grabfunde aus Künzing. Ldkr. Deggendorf (Niederbayern). Ibid. 44, 1979, 79–87; B. A. GREINER, Rainau-Buch II. Der römische Kastellvicus von Rainau-Buch (Ostalbkreis). Die archäologischen Ausgrabungen von 1976 bis 1979. Forsch. u. Ber. Voru. Frühgesch. Baden-Württemberg 106 (Stuttgart 2008) 136–137. – In case of *Pannonia*: V. GASSNER, Feinware aus Carnuntum. Funde von den Grabungen auf den "Mühläckern" 1978–1988. Carnuntum-Jahrb. 1990, 1991, 253–292; Szőnyi 1973, 96; VARGA 2010, 220 Fig. 5.

²⁴ Bónis 1960, 101–104; Varga, 2010, 210–213.

GY. JUHÁSZ, A lezouxi terra sigillata gyárak aquincumi lerakata/Die Aquincumer Niederlage der Terra Sigillata Fabrikaten von Lezoux. Arch. Értesítő 49, 1936, 33–48; 113–116. Unfortunately the above mentioned potsherd was not found yet in the store room, probably it could belong to type Drexel I.

O. Láng, Új eredmények az aquincumi polgárváros délkelelti régiójának kutatásában – az úgynevezett Festőház és közvetlen környezete/New results in research on the southeastern part of the Civil Town in Aquincum – the so-called "Painter's House" and its surroundings. Aquincumi Füzetek 18, 2012, 17–36.

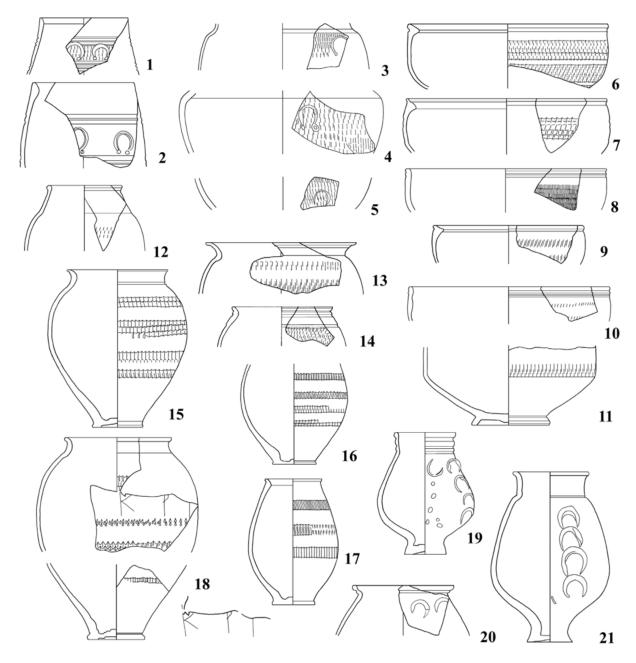


Fig. 3. 1–3 beakers; 4–5 bowls Drexel II; 6–11 bowls Drexel III; 12–17 beakers Drexel III; 19–21 glazed vessels. – 5–8. 12. 20 civil town; 3–4. 9. 11. 18 military town; 10 auxiliary fort in Albertfalva; 1, 15–17, 19, 21 cemeteries; 2, 13–14 unknown site. – Scale 1:3.

The decoration Drexel IIa (barbotine horseshoes on chattered bands) is very rare in *Aquincum*, only one piece has been observed from south of the civil town (**fig. 3,5**). The decoration Drexel IIb (barbotine clay horseshoes between chattered bands) is more common on beakers. One of a bright silvery slip beaker fragment has come to light in the so-called "Schütz vendéglő" (**fig. 2,10**), another cup sherd Drexel IIb was found on the north side of the Roman aqueduct pillar Nr. 55. (**fig. 2,13**). Amongst the excavated material of the *Mithraeum* in 1941²⁷ is a rim fragment of a

beaker (**fig.2,9**) decorated with part of a stacked column of barbotine horseshoes and a chattered band.

Two fragments were found in the so called "strip house with an atrium-residence wing" in the northeastern part of the civil town (**fig. 2,12.15**). Two other wall fragments of small sized cups were found in the control excavation at the site of the so-called "Painter's House" in 2011 (**fig. 2,14.16**).

In 1934 at the site of the Roman pottery workshop (Gas factory) east from the civil town of *Aquincum* a densely chattered fragment of a bowl with strongly bevelled rim (**fig. 3,6**) was

²⁷ T. Nagy, A Fővárosi Régészeti és Ásatási Intézet jelentése a z 1938– 1942. évek között végzett kutatásairól/Bericht des Archaeologischen

Institutes von Budapest über die Forschungen der Jahre 1938–1942. Budapest Rég. 13, 1943, 384–389.

unearthed.²⁸ This rim form is not very typical of the Raetian vessel forms, but based on the strength of its surface (glossy black slip, yellow clay) and the broad chattered bands it can be classified as a Drexel III type.

In 1941²⁹ at the excavation of the so-called "Painter's House" two fragments of Raetian vessels were found: one of them has a bevelled rim, it has black slip and its clay is also yellow (**fig. 3,7**).

Based on its surface and the chattered band decoration on the middle zone of the bowl it belongs to Drexel III type. This rim form was used probably in a local workshop where imitations of the Raetian vessels were produced. South from the *macellum* of the civil town a hemispherical bowl with grooved rim and very dense chattered bands (**fig. 3,8**) was noted.

During excavations along the Roman aqueduct in 2003 a rim fragment of a fine quality Drexel III type beaker with arched shoulder (**fig. 3,12**) was found.

The military town of Aquincum

The permanent legionary camp of *Aquincum* was established in 89 AD in the territory of modern Óbuda. The garrison of the *legio II Adiutrix* was stationed here until the middle of the 4th century AD.

In the territory of the legionary fort and the surrounding military town of *Aquincum*, from 43 sites altogether 115 fragments of Raetian ware have been collected (Drexel I: 11; Drexel II: 28; Drexel III: 6; unidentifiable sherds with traces of chattering and undecorated fragments: 70). Among these sherds 108 pieces belong to beaker forms and 7 pieces to hemispherical bowls.

On the surface of a Drexel I type beaker unearthed at 103–105 Vörösvári street the design of the vertical stripes is not common, not being embossed, but only their line engraved (**fig. 1,10**). On another small sherd between the diagonal double crossed clay ribs is a horseshoe in relief (**fig. 1,11**). Chevrons of clay strips can be seen on a beaker's wall fragment from Miklós square 5 (**fig. 1,12**). On the lower half of a barrel shaped beaker, discovered at 10-12. Folyamőr street, above a band of deep horizontal grooves can be seen diagonal double crossed ribs with a fragment of a rosette and a plastic horseshoe (**fig. 2,3**). A relatively thick-walled hemispherical bowl from Majláth street is decorated with a small eight-petal rosette (**fig. 2,6**).

The decoration Drexel IIa in the ceramic material of the military town of *Aquincum* is also very rare, only two fragments have been found so far. One of the two is a wall-fragment of a beaker from the Szél-Szőlő street (**fig. 3,3**) its surface is partly worn, and the other sherd is from the Folyamőr street (**fig. 3,4**). The rate of the decoration Drexel IIb is significantly higher than that of the Drexel IIa. Barbotine horseshoes between chattered bands can be seen on a wall-fragment of a fine quality beaker from 44–46 Harrer Pál street (**fig. 2,19**) and on another sherd from 103-105 Vörös-

vári street (**fig. 2,22**). A bright silver-slipped wall-fragment of a beaker was found in Szél street (**fig. 2,18**) decorated in the same way. There is a peculiar vessel from Kiskorona street 64. with a unique design (**fig. 2,17**), between the bands of horseshoes framed by chattered [or incised?] lines a band of raised clay dots was introduced.

A sherd of a beaker (fig. 2,11) without chattered bands above the barbotine horseshoes was found at Miklós square 5.

On the surface of one of the fine Drexel III type beakers (**fig. 3,18**) discovered in 1954 in the Military Town³⁰ three incised letters survived, probably part of the owner's name: [- - -] R P I [- - -]. The clay is yellow, the colours of the coating are dark brown and black with patches of bright silvery purple.

A small bowl from 33 Laktanya street (**fig. 3,9**) with bevelled rim and chattered bands is also included this decoration group.

Cemeteries of Aquincum

In the cemeteries surrounding the civil town of *Aquincum* from 4 sites 21 Raetian vessel pieces have been identified so far (Drexel I: 9; Drexel II: 2; Drexel III: 3; unidentifiable vessel sherds with traces of chattering and undecorated fragments: 6; green glazed fragment: 1). All of the 21 pieces belong to beaker forms, so far no bowl fragment has been found.

From the excavations in 2006 and 2007 in the eastern (Gas Factory) cemetery of the civil town of *Aquincum* some Raetian vessels were found. ³¹ Two of them at first sight appeared to be locally produced Raetian beakers, imitating the Drexel I type (**fig. 1,5–6**).

Their design differs from the decoration on the imported vessels, the clay ribs and the horseshoes are clumsy. Their reddish brown colour replaces the shiny glossy metallic slip. Their archaeometric analysis proved that they were made of local clay in order to to supply the regional market and demands, to avoid the high customs duty.

Unfortunately neither a deformed nor an overfired locally produced Raetian vessel fragment has been found from the ceramic material of *Aquincum*. Although the recent results of the archaeometrical analysis of some Raetian ware samples from *Aquincum*³² proved that they were made of local, so-called "Kiscell clay", neither any waste product nor any particular pottery workshop can be related to them.

B. Kuzsinszky, A gázgyári római fazekastelep Aquincumban/Das grosse römische Töpferviertel in Aquincum. Budapest Rég. 11, 1932, 354–355.

²⁹ T. Nagy, Az aquincumi ún. festőlakás. Budapest Rég. 18, 1958, 150–152.

Miklós street (1954) AM Inv.Nr. 55.10.236. and 55.11.82.

G. LASSÁNYI, Előzetes jelentés az aquincumi polgárváros keleti (gázgyári) temetőjének feltárásáról/Preliminary report of the excavation in the eastern cemetery (Gas Factory) of the Aquincum Civil Town. Aquincumi Füzetek 13, 2006, 102–116; G. LASSÁNYI, Előzetes jelentés az aquincumi polgárváros keleti (gázgyári) temetőjében, 2007-ben végzett feltárásokról/Preliminary report on the excavations conducted in the eastern (Gas Factory) cemetery of the Aquincum Civil Town in 2007. Ibid. 14, 2007, 64–70.

The analysis were carried out by M. Tóth (Institute for Geological and Geochemical Research, HAS Budapest). Cf. the contribution of B. RIKKER in this volume.

There is an another peculiar bowl with grooved rim from this cemetery, its shape is slightly cylindrical, the surface is strongly worn, but the decoration on it easily identified, diagonal double crossed lines with horseshoe (**fig. 1,14**). Probably this vessel is a local product, but in order to verify this, further examination is required.

Fragments of a relatively large beaker (**fig. 1,4**) decorated with diagonal double crossed lines and horseshoes were also found in the eastern cemetery. In the excavations south of the civil town of *Aquincum* in the Roman cemetery at Bogdáni Road, from 1956 till the middle of 1980s, many fragments of Raetian vessels were found.³³ Among them there are some pieces unique in form and decoration.

A relatively thick-walled and high-base beaker with clay trails in the form of an X and a single diagonal trail framed by chattered bands was preserved intact in 1981. The colour of the clay is yellow, the covering on the surface is light red; on the basis of these characteristics and the design with barbotine clay dots it may be identified as a local product.

A beaker decorated with alternate clusters of grapes and horseshoes between chattered bands (**fig. 2,23**) may belongs to Drexel II type. Its rim form has a similar design to the vessel type of Niederbieber 32, with the shoulder strongly profiled. The surface of the beaker was secondarily burnt with orange, brown and [and what?] spots.

Two smaller cups decorated with chattered bands (Drexel III) were discovered in the cemetery at Bogdáni road in 1981 (**fig. 3,15–16**). Their clay is yellow, the surface has metallic glaze, the chattered bands are imperfect and the incised lines are broken.

In the cemeteries surrounding the military town of *Aquincum*, from eight sites 17 Raetian vessel pieces (Drexel I: 6, Drexel II: 3, Drexel III: 1, unidentifiable vessel sherds with traces of chattering and undecorated fragments: 6, green glazed cup fragment: 1) have been found. No bowl fragment could be identified among these pieces.

In the grave materials of the western cemetery of *Aquincum* along the Bécsi Road, some vessel fragments and a few unbroken beakers of the Drexel I and II types survived. Of these only one sherd has been published so far.

In 1997 at 48–50 Bécsi Road fragments of a Drexel I type beaker with black slip were found (**fig. 1,2**). Beside the diagonal double crossed lines a sixteen-petal rosette and two horseshoes can be seen. In this case there is no chattering to frame the barbotine decoration.

In 2003 at the excavation at 96/b Bécsi Road some sherds of a beaker with black slip were found: on the surface between double crossed diagonals a stacked column of horseshoes can be seen (**fig. 1,7**). Another wall-fragment of a cup was found at 166 Bécsi Road decorated with vertical clay ribs articulated with clay dots and a fragment of horseshoes placed one above the other (**fig. 1,8**).

At 85 Bécsi road a smaller cup decorated with chattered bands and a horseshoe (**fig. 2,20**) was found. An overfired

In 2002 in the excavation at 71–89 Lajos street a rimfragment of a barrel-shaped cup Drexel IIa (**fig. 3,1**) was found. It has got a fine quality silvery brown slip, but the design of the chattered bands in the middle zone is ragged.

At the excavation in 2006 at Lajos street 28–32 a small, egg-shaped beaker of Drexel III type (**fig. 3,17**) was discovered. It has got a fine quality silvery brown slip although the design of the chattered bands in the middle zone is irregular

Auxiliary fort in Albertfalva

The ancient name of the military fort in Albertfalva south from the legionary camp of *Aquincum* unfortunately is not currently known. It was established in the 70s AD and was burnt down in the 260s during barbarian incursions.

In the territory of the auxiliary fort and Roman settlement in Albertfalva³⁵ from seven sites 59 pieces connected to Raetian vessel types (Drexel I: 19, Drexel II: 5, Drexel III: 4, unidentifiable vessel sherds with traces of chattering and undecorated fragments: 31) were found. Among them 55 pieces belong to beakers and 4 pieces to hemispherical bowls.

From the ceramic material of Albertfalva (Kamarástanya) a rim-fragment of a small cup (**fig. 1,16**) decorated with vertical clay trails, and a sherd of a hemispherical bowl of Drexel I type (**fig. 2,8**) have been collected.

In 1951 at the excavation on the site of the auxiliary fort late sherds of Drexel I type beakers were found. One of them with a sharp profiled shoulder (**fig. 1,3**) has barbotine decoration in the shape of six-pointed stars, the connected clay ribs end in frequent clay dots. On a globular cup (**fig. 1,18**) between horizontal narrow lines and chattered bands similar barbotine motifs can be seen and an atypical circular ring with small clay dots both on, within and under the circle.

A similar decoration appears on another beaker with vertical clay ribs (**fig. 1,17**) from the same site. A hemispherical bowl with grooved rim decorated with a trace of a diagonal crossed clay rib was found in 1958 in the territory of the fort in Albertfalva (**fig. 2,7**).

A rim-fragment of a hemispherical bowl with two lines of chattering (**fig. 3,10**) belongs to Drexel III type. A lower half of a peculiar, cylindrical vessel with dark brown-reddish brown and dark gray stained slip and chattered bands (**fig. 3,11**) was found at the excavation on the site of the so-called Hilarus workshop in Albertfalva.

fragment of a small, cylindrical cup with a similar decoration was unearthed in a grave, a sort of ossuary (**fig. 2,21**) from the early 2nd century AD. ³⁴

³³ GY. PARRAGI, A Bogdáni úton feltárt későrómai temető/Spätrömischer Friedhof in der Bogdáni-Strasse. Budapest Rég. 20, 1963, 311–326 Fig. 1.

J. Topál, Roman Cemeteries of Aquincum, Pannonia. The Western Cemetery (Bécsi Road) I (Budapest 1993) 63 Pl. 85 grave no. 166.

During the excavations in the 1940s–1950s in the territory of the Albertfalva camp (e.g. Kamarás tanya) and after the 2006 further vessel fragments of Drexel I type were found in the nearby Roman camp (16 Hunyadi J. road, 22 Mezőkövesd street).

Object	Findspot	Decoration	Fabric	Illus.
rim-fragment of a small cup		vertical clay trails		fig. 1,16
sherd of a hemispherical bowl of Drexel I type				fig. 2,8
Beaker with a sharp profiled shoulder	1951, excavation of auxiliary fort	barbotine decoration in the shape of six-pointed stars, the connected clay ribs end in frequent clay dots		fig. 1,3
globular cup	1951, excavation of auxiliary fort	between horizontal narrow lines and chattered bands similar barbotine motifs can be seen and an atypical circular ring with small clay dots both on, within and under the circle.		fig. 1,18
beaker	auxiliary fort	vertical clay ribs		fig. 1,17
hemispherical bowl with grooved rim	1958 on the site of of the fort in Albertfalva	trace of a diagonal crossed clay rib		fig. 2,7
rim-fragment of a hemispherical bowl		two lines of chattering, Drexel III type		fig. 3,10
lower half of a peculiar, cylindrical vessel	excavation on the site of the so-called Hilarus workshop in Albertfalva	chattered bands	dark brown-reddish brown and dark gray stained slip	fig. 3,11

Table 1. Finds from the auxiliary fort at Albertfalva.

Raetian ware from the territory of Aquincum

In the ceramic material from the excavation near the Governor's palace on Hajógyári Island in 2007 some fragments of a barrel-shaped cup (**fig. 2,1**) of Drexel I type has been preserved. ³⁶ This vessel form is identical to Sz nyi B which was produced locally in Savaria. ³⁷ Another, almost complete barrel-shaped vessel is also known from the territory of the auxiliary camp in Albertfalva, but it is not decorated on its belly (AM Inv.Nr. 1948 KT32).

From the old excavated materials, lacking precise provenance, some vessel fragments of Drexel II and III were also included in this study. A rim fragment of a beaker with part of a stacked column of barbotine horseshoes (**fig. 2,25**), and another with chattered bands (**fig. 2,24**), a barrel-shaped vessel with horseshoes between horizontal grooves (**fig. 3,2**), and sherds of a beaker (**fig. 2,26**) decorated with typical elements of this group belong to Drexel II.Part of a beaker with a sharply everted rim (**fig. 3,13**), and a multiple articulated/profiled sherd (**fig. 3,14**) of a beaker with chattered bands represent Drexel III.

Green glazed pottery

Beside the imported black and silvery brown slipped Raetian ware, and the locally produced reddish-brown, brown slipped imitations, on other vessels covered with a green glaze precursors of the Drexel II group can be observed in the following Roman settlements: *Sorviodurum*, ³⁸ Königshofen, ³⁹ Seebruck, ⁴⁰ *Vindonissa* ⁴¹ and Pons Aeni. ⁴²

In Pannonia so far the only published green-glazed Raetian vessels are from the Homokgödri cemetery of Arrabona, ⁴³ and from the ceramic material of Páty-Herceghalom. ⁴⁴ And now there are three examples of this technique from *Aquincum*.

³⁶ Z. HAVAS, Szondázó kutatások az óbudai Hajógyári-szigeten/Test excavations on Óbuda (Dockyard) Island. Aquincumi Füzetek 14, 2008, 24–39.

³⁷ Szőnyi 1973, 96.

³⁸ Walke 1965, 43 Taf. 49,11.

³⁹ H. Henning, Denkmäler der Elsässischen Altertums-Sammlung zu Strassburg i. Els. (Strassburg 1912) Pl. 15,9.

⁴⁰ H. COMFORT, An unusual Roman bowl at Strasbourg. Am. Journal Arch. 63, 1959, 277–278 Pl. 72,1–2.

E. ETTLINGER/CHR. SIMONETT, Die römische Keramik aus dem Schutthügel von Vindonissa. Veröff. Ges. Pro Vindonissa 1952, 52 Nr. 239

W. Czysz 1976, 36. In: R. Christlein et al., Die Ausgrabungen 1969–1974 in Pons Aeni. Bayer. Vorgeschbl. 41, 1976, 1–106.

⁴³ Bónis 1960, 101. Abb. 28,10.

K. Ottományi/D. Gabler, Római telepek Herceghalom és Páty határában/Roman Settlements in the Outskirts of Hercehgalom and Páty. Studia Comitatensia 17, 1985, 203–204 Tab. 19,6.6a

From the excavated finds of the Mithraeum in the civil town of *Aquincum* in 1941, a rim fragment of a cup (**fig. 3,20**), decorated with clay horsehoes and slipped with green glaze was unearthed.

A badly preserved green-glazed cup (**fig. 3,19**) decorated with horseshoes and clay dots was found in the territory of the military town of *Aquincum*, at 31-33 Kiss János Altábornagy street among the grave goods of a sarcophagus with double burial/two corpses.

South of the civil town of *Aquincum* at Bogdáni road in 1980, a well-preserved cup (**fig. 3,21**), also slipped with green glaze and decorated with horseshoes placed one above the other has been found.

Conclusions

The previously only supposed local production of Raetian ware in *Aquincum* has been proven by the archaeological finds mentioned above. This has been definitively demonstrated by the design of the barbotine decorations, which

in some cases appear clumsy, and by the fact that instead of metallic glaze, a red or reddish brown slip is used. The result of the latest archaeometrical analysis of some fragments confirmed the use of the so-called "Kiscell clay" for their local fabrication. All three main decoration groups of Raetian ware (Drexel I-II-III) were observed in the ceramic material of *Aquincum*. The number of beaker fragments is much higher than that of the bowls. More vessels belong to the subcategory Drexel IIb than to Drexel IIa. The number of Drexel III vessels is currently lower than of the Drexel I and II types, of course this could change based on finds from further excavations.

Parallel to the import of Raetian vessels, the production of local imitations had begun probably in the late the 2nd century AD in order to avoid the high customs duties. The analyses to be carried out in the near future will hopefully help to distinguish the imported Raetian vessels from their local imitations.

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