

REI CRETARIÆ ROMANÆ FAVORVM

ACTA 42



CONGRESSVS VICESIMVS SEPTIMVS
REI CRETARIÆ ROMANÆ FAVORVM
SINGIDVNI HABITVS
MMX

BONN
2012

ISSN 0484-3401

Published by the REI CRETARIE ROMANÆ FAVTORES, an international learned society

Editorial committee:
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Typesetting and layout: ars archäologie redaktion satz, Waldstraße 8 D-65719 Hofheim am Taunus

Printed and bound by: BELTZ Bad Langensalza GmbH, D-99947 Bad Langensalza

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ISBN 978-3-7749-3797-0

Distributor: Dr. Rudolf Habelt GmbH, Am Buchenhang 1, D-53115 Bonn, verlag@habelt.de

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VORWORT DER REDAKTION

Der 27. RCRF-Kongress fand vom 19. bis zum 26. September 2010 im Nationalmuseum in Belgrad statt.
Thema des Kongresses war: „LATE ROMAN AND EARLY BYZANTINE POTTERY: the end or continuity of Roman production?“.

Von den anlässlich des Kongresses präsentierten Postern und Vorträgen wurden folgende nicht publiziert:

M. BERGAMINI, P. COMODI & I. FAGA	Scoppieto: La produzione di vasi a pareti sottili
D. BERNAL CASASOLA, M. LARA MEDINA & J. VARGAS GIRÓN	Roman clay fishing weights in Hispania. Recent research on typology and chronology
A. BIERNACKI & E. KLENINA	Red slip ware from <i>Novae (Moesia Secunda)</i> : 4 th –5 th local production and imports
M. CASALINI	Circolazione ceramica a Roma tra I ^a eta delle invasioni e la riconquista bizantina. Nuovi dati dai contesti delle pendici nord orientali del Palatino
Sv. CONRAD	Pottery of the second half of the 3 rd century from <i>Romuliana</i>
T. CVJETIČANIN	Late Roman pottery in Diocese Dacia: overview, problems and phenomena
M. DASZKIEWICZ & H. HAMEL	Roman pottery from Baalbek (Lebanon): provenance studies by laboratory analysis
J. DAVIDOVIĆ	Late Roman burnished pottery from Srem
E. DOKSANALTI	The late Roman pottery from “the Late Roman House” in Knidos and the Knidian late Roman pottery
D. DOBREVA	Late Roman amphorae on the Lower Danube: trade and continuity of the Roman production
D. DOBREVA & G. FURLAN	Progetto Aquileia: <i>Fondi ex Cossar</i> . Commercio e consumo ad Aquileia. Analisi delle anfore tardoantiche alla luce di alcuni contesti
KR. DOMZALSKI	Late Roman light-coloured ware: tradition and innovation
P. DYCZEK	Remarks on the so called legionary pottery
A. JANKOWIAK & F. TEICHNER	A household inventory of a <i>Mirobrigensis celticus</i>
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J. LEIDWANGER	Economic crisis and non market exchange: fabric diversity in the Late Roman 1 cargo amphoras from the 7 th century shipwreck at Yassiada (Turkey)
T. LELEKOVIĆ	Pottery from the necropoleis of <i>Mursa</i> (1 st –4 th centuries)
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CHR. SCHAUER	Pottery of the late Roman and early Byzantine periods in Olympia

- G. SCHNEIDER & M. DASZKIEWICZ In-situ chemical analysis of pottery using a portable X-ray spectrometer
- A. STAROVIĆ & R. ARSIĆ Cherniakhovo-type ceramic vessels from NW Serbia and the question of inhabitants of the central Balkans in the late 4th century AD
- M. TEKOCAK Roman pottery in the Aksehir Museum
- P. VAMOS Some remarks about military pottery in *Aquincum*
- M. VUJOVIĆ & E. CVIJETIĆ *Mortaria* from Komini-*Municipium S.* (Montenegro)
- Y. WAKSMAN “Byzantine White Ware I”: from Late Roman to Early Byzantine Pottery in Istanbul/Constantinople
- I. ŽIŽEK Late Roman pottery in Roman graves in *Poetovio*

Bei der Korrektur und Durchsicht der Artikel stand mir das *editorial committee* zur Seite. Ganz besonders danke ich Philip Kenrick für die zuverlässige Unterstützung und Dieter Imhäuser (ars) für die gute und freundschaftliche Zusammenarbeit bei Satz und Layout.

Die Zitierweise wurde den Richtlinien der Römisch-Germanischen Kommission des Deutschen Archäologischen Instituts angeglichen (Ber. RGK 71, 1990, 973–998 und Ber. RGK 73, 1992, 478–540).

Susanne Biegert

Vesna Bikić & Vujadin Ivanišević

IMPORTED POTTERY IN CENTRAL ILLYRICUM – A CASE STUDY: CARIČIN GRAD (*IUSTINIANA PRIMA*)

The region of Central Illyricum regained importance when the limes on the Danube was renewed in the time of Anastasius I after the treaty signed in 510 AD between Byzantium and the Ostrogoths. Beside the reconstruction of the fortifications, the arrival of the army certainly contributed to reviving the stagnant economy and to increasing trade and traffic along the main Balkan communication routes after the destruction by the Huns in 441 and 443. Despite all efforts, the renewal of the cities was limited only to a part of the former urban cores, testifying to the significant reduction of the city population in the 6th century – in comparison to the 4th century and the period of the Illyrian provinces' expansion. The large private estates and *villae publicae* erected in the plains and large valleys, which had been damaged in the barbarian raids at the end of the 4th and 5th centuries, did not retrieve their former role. For example, the warehouses for agricultural products, and the wine-pools of the 4th century in the important *villa publica* in Mediana, were not renewed in the 6th century.¹ An important role in the economic recovery was apparently played by the rural population that inhabited the broader region of this, one should stress, poorly urbanised region of the Empire. The northern part of the territory was the only urbanised region, with its cities on the Danube and the Sava rivers. In the interior of this vast region, we encounter the rare urban centres as Naissus and Ulpiana, erected on important Balkan crossroads, and Municipium Dardanorum on the River Ibar, near the Dardanian mines and Municipium S() in the Lim river valley. On the other hand, the whole of this region, particularly its central area, was intersected by a network of large and small fortifications,² the majority of which were *refugia*.

The degree of exploration of the region of Central Illyricum, one should immediately say, is unsatisfactory. In spite of extensive excavations, especially of the limes and the numerous fortifications within the Djerdap I and II projects,³ or the cities of *Sirmium*, *Singidunum*, *Viminaci-*

um, *Horreum Margi*, *Naissus* and *Ulpiana*, the knowledge we have of paleo-Byzantine Illyricum is more than scarce.⁴ As an illustration, it must be admitted that we do not know what the areal was of any of the said cities in the 6th century, or anything about their internal structure, which makes the research difficult. The situation is no better where the analysis of the material culture is concerned, given that most of the material has not been studied and remains unpublished. The same can be said regarding the investigation of the numerous forts located in the many highland and hilly regions, few of which have been explored.

The fortifications in the region of Raška (medieval Ras) offer the best insight into the situation in the region of Central Illyricum during the 6th century.⁵ Test soundings have been excavated in all the fortresses in that region and three were the object of systematic archaeological excavations – the fortress of Ras, Postenje and Vrsenice. The results of these explorations were published in the form of two monographs dealing with the fortress of Ras and Vrsenice,⁶ while the site of Postenje remains largely unknown.⁷ The other notable programme is the survey of the fortifications and finds in the region between Kopaonik and the Southern Morava, where smaller test soundings were excavated in a number of fortresses.⁸

Here, one should definitely mention the exploration of the forts in the vicinity of Čačak, with special emphasis on the fortress at Jelica, which has been the subject of syste-

Results. In: P. Petrović (ed.), *Roman Limes on the Middle and Lower Danube* (Belgrade 1996) 15–26.

⁴ B. BAVANT, La ville dans le nord de l'Illyricum (Pannonie, Mésie I, Dacie et Dardanie). In: G. Dragon (ed.), *Villes et peuplement dans l'Illyricum protobyzantin*. Collect. École Française Rome 77 (Rome 1984) 245–288.

⁵ V. IVANIŠEVIĆ, Kasnoantičko utvrđenje u Ramoševu. *Novopazarski Zbornik* 11, 1987, 5–12; id. 1988, 5–12; id. 1989, 7–15; id. 1990, 7–17; J. KALIĆ/D. MRKOBRAD, Gradina u Radalici. *Novopazarski Zbornik* 9, 1985, 39–46; MILINKOVIĆ 1982, 131–140; id. 1983, 29–37; MRKOBRAD 1997, 203–217; M. POPOVIĆ, Utvrđenje na Kuli u Kaludri. *Novopazarski Zbornik* 8, 1984, 11–18; M. POPOVIĆ, Antičko utvrđenje na Šarskom kršu kod Duge Poljane, *Novopazarski Zbornik* 7, 1983, 8–14; id., Južac kod Sopoćana, *Arh. Pregled* 1986 (Ljubljana 1987) 115–118; Z. SIMIĆ, Utvrđenje na Kuli u Rogatcu, *Novopazarski Zbornik* 11, 1987, 13–20; PREMOVIĆ-ALEKSIĆ 1989, 17–29.

⁶ POPOVIĆ 1999; POPOVIĆ/BIKIĆ 2009.

⁷ There are several more or less detailed reports from the archaeological excavations, including the most informative: MRKOBRAD 1997, 203–219.

⁸ RAŠKOVIĆ/BERIĆ 2002, 137–156; RAŠKOVIĆ 2002, 29–73; TOŠIĆ/RAŠKOVIĆ 2007, 27–45.

¹ P. PETROVIĆ, *Medijana – rezidencija rimskih careva* (Beograd 1994).

² M. MILINKOVIĆ, Stadt oder „Stadt“: Frühbyzantinische Siedlungsstrukturen im nördlichen Illyricum. In: J. Henning (ed.), *Post-Roman Towns, Trade and Settlement in Europe and Byzantium 2*. Byzantium, Pliska, and the Balkans (Berlin 2007) 159–191.

³ V. KONDIĆ, Les formes des fortifications protobyzantines dans la région des Portes de Fer, In: G. Dragon (ed.), *Villes et peuplement dans l'Illyricum protobyzantin*. Collect. École Française Rome 77 (Rome 1984) 131–161; P. PETROVIĆ/M. VASIĆ, The Roman Frontier in Upper Moesia. *Archaeological Investigations in the Iron Gate Area*. Main

matic investigation for several decades. A good deal of the material from these explorations has been published, but the Early Byzantine ceramic material remains unpublished.⁹ The same applies to the material from *Romuliana*-Gamzigrad, one more site that has been under investigation for a long time and, among other things, has an excellent sample of Early Byzantine pottery.¹⁰

In contrast to all the said sites in the regions of Central and Northern Illyricum, Caričin Grad, which has been explored (with long or brief intermissions) since 1912, occupies a prominent place. Here lie the remains of the sole urban centre – city in this region, erected around 530 AD, in the middle of an unurbanized area, far from major communication routes. The imposing ruins of the Early Byzantine city, with its numerous buildings that served different purposes, encircled by four rings of defence walls, were identified, with good reason, as Justiniana Prima, the endowment of the emperor Justinian I.¹¹

As we mentioned earlier, only preliminary test probes have been excavated in the majority of sites from the Early Byzantine period and, for that reason, our information is rather scanty and incomplete. Apart from all the other material, this principally applies to pottery.¹²

Jelica near Čačak, Romuliana-Gamzigrad near Zaječar, the fortresses of Ras and Postenje near Novi Pazar, and Caričin grad near Leskovac, are exceptions given the larger scale of excavation works, and that includes their sample of pottery.¹³ Compared to the total number of registered localities – few hundreds, and their positions in the region, these five can be regarded as illustrative, particularly for our topic.

Judging by the research results so far, in other words, the published contents of the material of which we have an insight, imported pottery in the region of Central Illyricum represent an important phenomenon. Compared to the total amount of pottery from the period between the 4th and the beginning of the 7th centuries, items of imported pottery account for a very small percentage – it does not exceed 1% in most of the sites and, there are few, exceptional cases where there is more – up to 3%. They consist of luxurious vessels, mostly red slip ware and amphorae, the latter being far more numerous. Among them are only four types: two types of amphorae – so-called LR1 and globular LR2, and then the North African spatheion and Syrian-Palestinian amphorae.¹⁴

The depicted distribution of amphorae, eloquently illustrates that the finds of the so-called LR2 amfora are far more numerous than the remaining types. In contrast to amphorae, the finds of red slip ware are relatively few. Besides, they were registered only in five sites, Romuliana-Gamzigrad, the fortresses of Ras,¹⁵ Postenje, Vrsenice¹⁶ and Caričin grad¹⁷ (fig. 1). They were mainly dishes and plates from the North African workshops, while eastern Mediterranean fine pottery appears only sporadically – one fragment in Gamzigrad and several in Caričin grad.¹⁸

Caričin grad occupies a special place in the context of studying Early Byzantine pottery. Excavations of this large site in the first decades focused primarily on uncovering the architectural complexes and the selective collection of archaeological material, particularly with respect to pottery. Considerable progress was made in exploring the city in 1975, when collection began of all the finds, including all the fragments of ceramics. Based on this work and on the exploration of part of the Principia, in the period from 1978 to 1984, Lj. Bjelajac made the first survey of forms of ceramic vessels, which was published in 1990. Her research was based on studying the preserved material from the old excavations and the new material discovered in the excavation of a smaller part of this large complex of the city. There were very few imported vessels among the pottery examined at that time. Of six terra sigillata vessels (fig. 2), three were identical dishes that came from Asia Minor (Hayes, Late Roman C, form 10, type C), and three were different forms of the North African African Red Slip Ware (Hayes, African Red Slip Ware, forms 93/B19, 99/B13 and 93/B2).¹⁹ There were a few more amphorae, around 10. Of that number, the majority, three of each type, were LR2 and North African spatheia, while the remainder, mainly local amphorae, featured as individual finds (fig. 3).²⁰

The material discovered in the area of the Lower Town, the exploration of which lasted from 1981 to 2006, with some breaks, brought a new impetus to the research of the pottery. It involved the systematic exploration of the entire settlement erected in the south-eastern corner of the Lower Town, surrounded by the western and southern defence walls and the southern street of the Lower Town. This was a clearly defined section of the settlement with two rows of buildings, one orientated to the western portico of the southern street of the Lower Town and the other, parallel to the western defence wall, between which there were spacious courtyards and the remains of economic structures.²¹

Within this large, 80 m long and 70 m wide area, 85,223 pottery fragments were found. We should mention that this number is not large, given that the area in question is slightly

⁹ M. MILINKOVIĆ, *Gradina na Jelici – ranovizantijski grad i srednjovekovno naselje* (Beograd 2010).

¹⁰ JANKOVIĆ 1983, 98–113; M. ŽIVIĆ, *Gamzigrad – 50 godina odgonetanja* (Zaječar 2003) Cat. Nos. 31–75; S. PETKOVIĆ, *Romulijana u vreme posle carske palate*. In: I. Popović (ed.), *Felix Romuliana-Gamzigrad* (Beograd 2010) 167–199.

¹¹ V. KONDIĆ/V. POPOVIĆ, *Caričin Grad, utvrđeni grad u vizantijskom Iliriku* (Beograd 1977); B. BAWANT/V. IVANIŠEVIĆ, *Iustiniana Prima-Caričin Grad* (Leskovac 2003).

¹² M. BRMBOLIĆ, *Ranovizantijska nalazišta u Srednjem Pomoravlju*. In: R. Bunardžić/Ž. Mikić (eds.), *Memorial de Jovan Kovačević* (Beograd 2003) 281–291; D. BULIĆ, *Ranovizantijsko utvrđenje Gradina-Lisina na zapadnom Kopaoniku*. *Istor. Časopis* 54, 2007, 43–62; CVJETIČANIN 1988, 121–130; IVANIŠEVIĆ 1990, 7–17; id. 1988, 5–11; id. 1989, 7–15; KUZMANOVIĆ-CVETKOVIĆ 1986, 213–218; MILINKOVIĆ 1982, 131–140; id. 1983, 29–37; PREMOVIĆ-ALEKSIĆ 1989, 17–29; RAŠKOVIĆ 2002, 62–63; RAŠKOVIĆ/BERIĆ 2002, 150–152.

¹³ POPOVIĆ 1999, 103–107; 309–314; BJELAJAC 1990, 161–190; JANKOVIĆ 1983, 99–106; 109–113; CVJETIČANIN 1988, 122–123.

¹⁴ RILEY 1979: LR 1, LR 2, LR 8, LR 4, LR 5/6; PEACOCK/WILLIAMS, 1986:

classes 43, 44 A–b, 46, 49, 51.

¹⁵ POPOVIĆ 1999, 103–107, 309–314.

¹⁶ POPOVIĆ/BIKIĆ 2009.

¹⁷ BJELAJAC 1990, 161–190.

¹⁸ J. W. HAYES, *Late Roman Pottery* (London 1972) forms 59, 61B, 91C, 93C, 104B, 104C, 105.

¹⁹ BJELAJAC 1990, 171–174 pl. 16, 12–14.21; 17, 14.

²⁰ Ibid. 174–176 pl. 21, 1–7.

²¹ V. IVANIŠEVIĆ, *Caričin Grad. The fortifications and the intramural housing in the Lower town*. In: F. Daim/J. Drauschke (eds.), *Byzanz – das Römerreich im Mittelalter* 2,2 (Mainz 2010) 747–775.

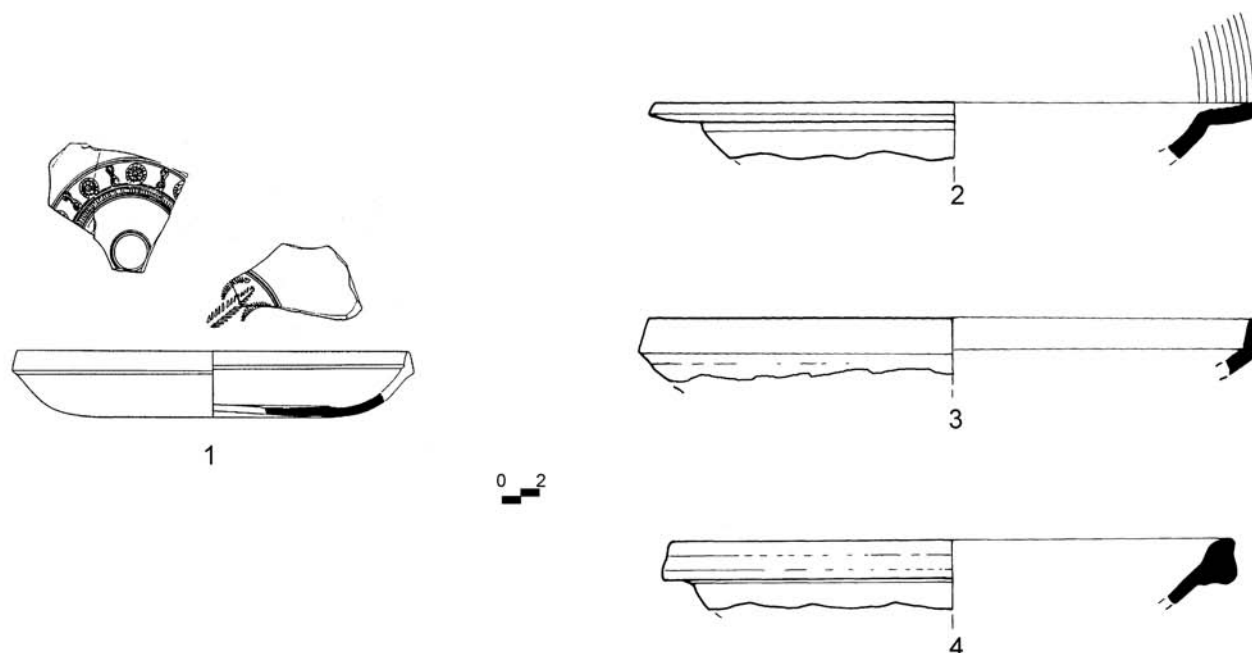


Fig. 1. Red slip ware: **1** Ras (after POPOVIĆ 1999 fig. 55); **2–4** Vrsenice (after POPOVIĆ/BIKIĆ 2009 figs. 49–50).

bigger than 0,5 hectares and that over 15,000 items were discovered in it, including finds of glass that also number thousands of fragments. These finds reflect the intensity and nature of life in the settlement.

The context of the finds and their concentration is very important for the interpretation of the pottery finds but this also applies to the other items discovered in the course of excavations. Namely, the majority of pottery fragments and items were found in the courtyards between the buildings, indicating that those spaces were used as deposits. The buildings themselves did not contain accumulations of material. These spaces contained a very thin cultural layer, which in some rooms merely amounted to a few centimeters – the rest consisted of layers of debris. Despite that, it is possible, with a measure of caution, by linking the courtyards, to connect the discovered material with certain facilities, thanks to an analysis of the communications within the settlement. This caution is required because the largest concentration of ceramic finds was recorded in the space beside the western defence wall - in the place where the ground gently sloped downwards to the West, which was suitable for piling on more material and levelling it out.

The finds of red slip ware in the area of the settlement are considerable, and consist of 70 fragments, in other words 26–30 vessels. They provide a significant picture of the distribution within this part of the settlement. Namely, we noted their concentration in the frame of three clearly defined ensembles – within the largest structure (sectors X–Z), orientated towards the western portico, in the courtyard area

that forms a unit with two structures and a series of auxiliary facilities (sectors H, Q and R) beside the western defence wall and within the structure in the north-western corner of the settlement (sector O). The concentration inside the said complexes, we believe, indicates the higher social status of their owners. The picture of the luxurious pottery is illustrative, in which specimens of African Red Slip are predominant. One can identify 15 vessels fairly reliably (Hayes forms 104B, 105 and 104C), and the remaining fragments suggest the existence of another six to seven similar vessels, in other words, at least 21 specimens of vessels, similar to each other. Besides them, between four and six other vessels were recorded, four of which could be identified (three vessels of the Hayes form 93, one was Hayes type B/19) (**fig. 4**). Likewise, there was a jug with features similar to these vessels, of which only a small part was preserved. In addition to that, among the vessels that were designated as imports, there specimens of fine, unglazed pottery – a dish and a cup – which could be of eastern Mediterranean origin.

The largest concentration of finds of amphorae was recorded in the northern part of the settlement, within the already mentioned facilities in the north-western corner (sector O) and the complex of structures with a central courtyard (sectors H, Q and R), as well as in the north-eastern corner of the settlement in the large courtyard. We noted a further concentration of finds of amphorae in the central part of the settlement, in a courtyard, as well as in the atrium of a large double structure facing towards the western portico. In the southern section of the settlement, amphora finds were signi-

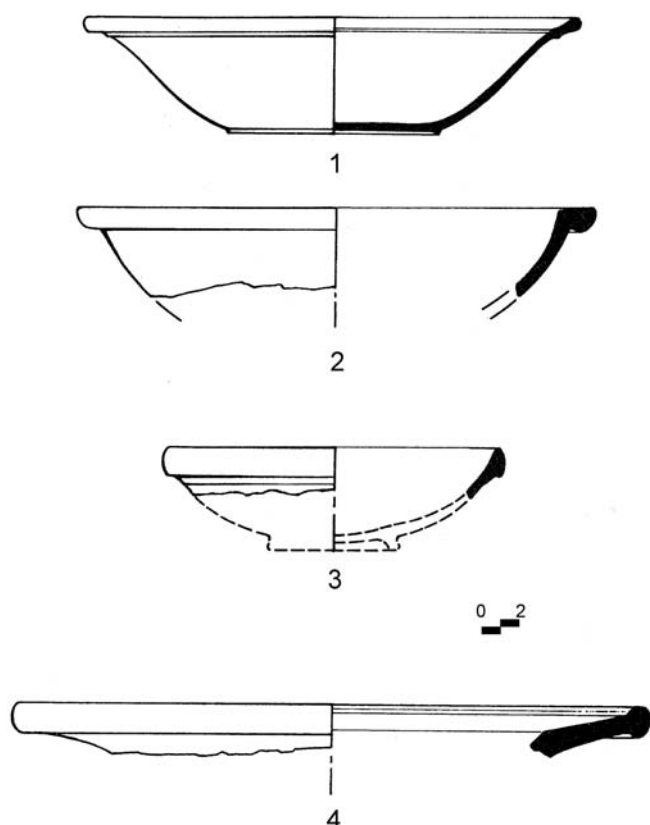


Fig. 2. Red slip ware: 1–4 Caričin Grad (after BJELAJAC 1990 pl. 16).

ificantly rarer. We also noted that they were scarce in the inside of the structure, where only a few fragments were discovered. The exception was the northern facility in the complex of buildings next to the western defence wall, in which a large number of fragments were found. We singled out eight different types of amphora among the fragments, which, according to the characteristic profiles or workmanship of the surfaces could be typologically identified. Among them, three were reliably imported: LR 1 (Riley LR 1; Peacock/Williams 44 A-B²²), LR 2 (Riley LR 2, Peacock/Williams 43²³) and the spatheion (Riley LR 8, Peacock/Williams 51²⁴) (fig. 5).

Although the statistic is only preliminary, performed on the basis of the number of fragments and not the number of vessels, the analysed results so far show that among the identified types, almost half of the fragments belong to the amphora type known as spatheion (48%), while roughly half of that figure – about 20% – are the amphora type LR2, whereas less than 1% are LR1 amphorae. All the other amphorae, which were locally produced, account for between 1% and 2%.

Our research of the imported pottery substantiated several very important facts. First of all, imported pottery appeared practically all over the territory of Central Illyricum (fig. 6). For the time being, luxury table dishware was recorded only in the large city and military-administrative centres, such as Romuliana in Dacia Ripensis, Caričin Grad in Dacia Mediterranea,²⁵ the fortresses of Ras and Postenje in Dardania,²⁶ and Vrsenice in Prevalitana.²⁷ The finds of fine pottery within the settlement in Caričin grad, show that it was used by the privileged class of the population, who lived in the well-defended section of the city, and consisted of soldiers, administration officials, craftsmen, merchants, etc. A significant number of fragments belonging to a larger number of vessels of different types were found inside the settlement. One should not overlook the fact that this collection consisted of dishes of similar appearance, which can be important concerning the scale and nature of production of red slip ware during the 6th century, that is, the supply and demand for these vessels. The richness of the repertoire is proof that luxury pottery was imported to the central regions in much greater quantities than believed so far. In that connection, finds in the more remote fortifications, located on the high mountain plateaus, additionally confirm this, such as in the case of the fort at Vrsenice, erected at an altitude of 1,400 m, or those in Ras and Postenje, located far from the main Balkan communication routes.

The finds of amphorae are a significant addition to the picture of the distribution of imported pottery, which we encounter in the cities and more important military-administrative centres, as well as in the small refugia erected among the Central Balkan highlands and peaks. Finds of Late Roman amphorae were attested across the broader area, and were concentrated especially in the region of Raška and between Kopaonik and the Southern Morava,²⁸ which, as we have already said, was due to state of research. In spite of this limitation, the results of our study unequivocally show that the amphorae were distributed practically all over the entire territory of Central Illyricum, including even the distant refugia. That points to two important economic elements and they are: that the road network was much more developed than we had thought, and that trade played a much more important role than previously believed. The whole system was, it is quite certain, already undermined from the middle of the 6th century, and especially in its second half, due to the numerous incursions by the Kutrigurs, Slavs and the Avars. It failed completely at the end of the 6th and beginning of the 7th century with the collapse of Byzantine rule in the Central Balkans.²⁹

²⁵ BJELAJAC 1990, 171–174 pl. 16, 12–14.21; 17, 14.

²⁶ POPOVIĆ 1999, 107 cat. nos. 49–50 fig. 55.

²⁷ POPOVIĆ/BIKIĆ 2009, 72–74 cat. nos. 62–65 figs. 19, 1; 45, 44; 49, 5; 50, 10.

²⁸ RAŠKOVIĆ/BERIĆ 2002, 150–152 fig. 7 (Aleksandrovac-Župa, Puhovac, Gradište); V. BOGOSAVLJEVIĆ-PETROVIĆ/D. RAŠKOVIĆ, Ranovizantijsko utvrđenje na brdu Gobelja kod Brusa. Saopštenja 32–33, 2001, 102–112 pl. 1, 1; 4, 1 (Gobelja Brus); TOŠIĆ/RAŠKOVIĆ 2007, 41 (Gornji Levići, Brzeće); RAŠKOVIĆ/BERIĆ 2002, 153–154 (Lađisled, Gradište); D. MINIĆ/O. VUKADIN, Srednjovekovni Stalac (Beograd 2007) 178 fig. 106, 1 (Ukosa, Utvrđenje); RAŠKOVIĆ 2002, 67 (Gradac u selu Petina); *ibid.* 62–63 (Porodin Gradište); *ibid.* 62–63 fig. 3; KUZMANOVIĆ-CVETKOVIĆ 1986, 213–218 fig. 3 (Babotince, Veliko kale).

²⁹ V. POPOVIĆ, Les témoins archéologiques des invasions avaro-slaves dans

²² RILEY 1979, 91–427 figs. 91, 337–347; PEACOCK/WILLIAMS 1986, 185–187.

²³ RILEY 1979, 217–219 fig. 91, 348; PEACOCK/WILLIAMS 1986, 182–184.

²⁴ RILEY 1979, 362–364.

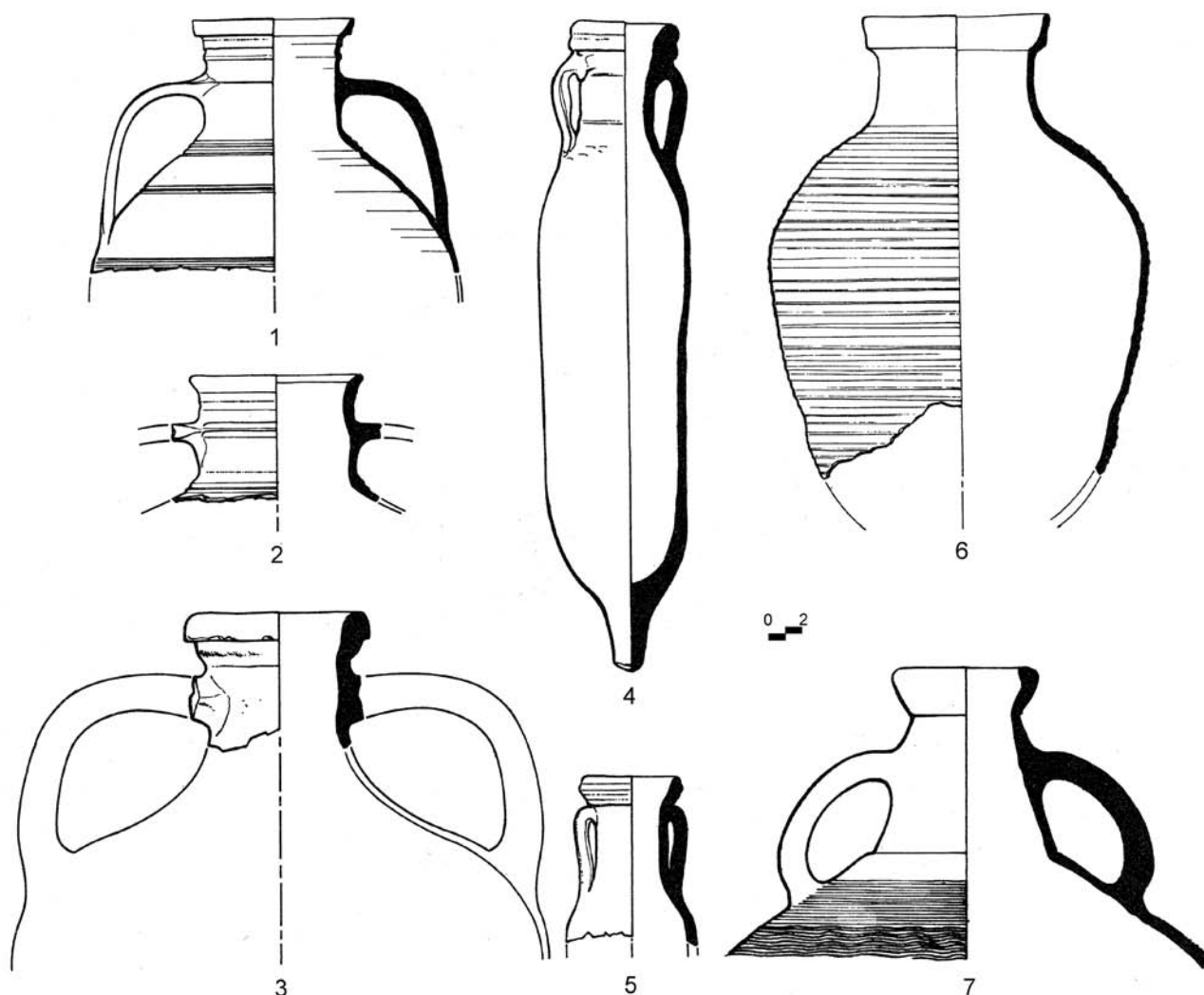


Fig. 3. Amphorae: 1–7 Caričin Grad (after BJELAJAC 1990 pl. 21).

The presence of luxury vessels red slip ware and amphorae in the region of Central Illyricum raises a series of questions which are still impossible to answer fully. An important question raised by the finds of amphorae is the problem of their role. Where the cities, as well as larger fortifications are concerned, one could certainly think that the amphorae were part of the *annona militaris*, as Olga Karagiorgou pointed out.³⁰ Corroborating this are the finds at Svetinja, as well as in other military forts on the limes, as Bosman and Porečka

reka. But, one can hardly accept this idea regarding the finds within the smaller forts – refugia, where amphorae were only sporadic finds. We consider that they reached the refugia by means of trade and that they were purchased at larger trading stations. We recall that finds of the LR2 type of amphora were the most numerous, followed by the spatheion, while the LR1 amphorae were much scarcer and the Syrian-Palestinian ones were few and far between.

A new find, from the excavations conducted by Dušan Rašković from National museum Kruševac, could shed a little more light on the role of amphorae in the supply of Central Illyricum. Namely according to the oral account of the explorer, during excavations in the fortifications at the Ukosa fortress beside the confluence of the Southern and Western Morava rivers, in 2009 and 2010, a warehouse

l'Illyricum byzantin. Mél. École Française Rome 87, 1975, 445–504; id., La descente des Koutrigours, des Slaves et Avars vers la mer Égée: le témoignage de l'archéologie. Acad. Inscr. et Belles-Lettres. Comptes rendus 122, 1978, 596–648.

³⁰ KARAGIORGOU 2001, 129–166.

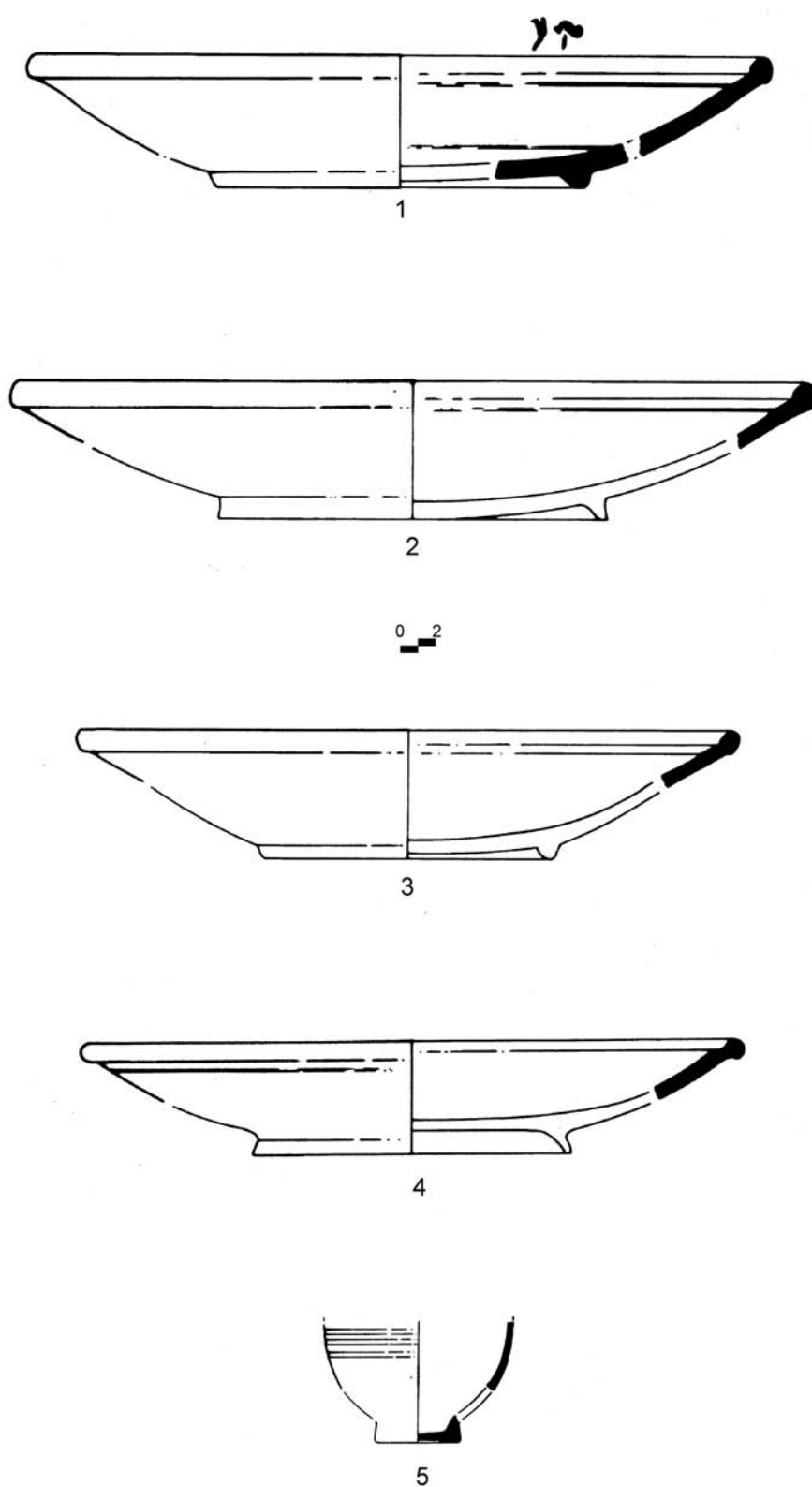


Fig. 4. Red slip ware: 1–5 Caričin Grad, Lower Town, intramural housing.

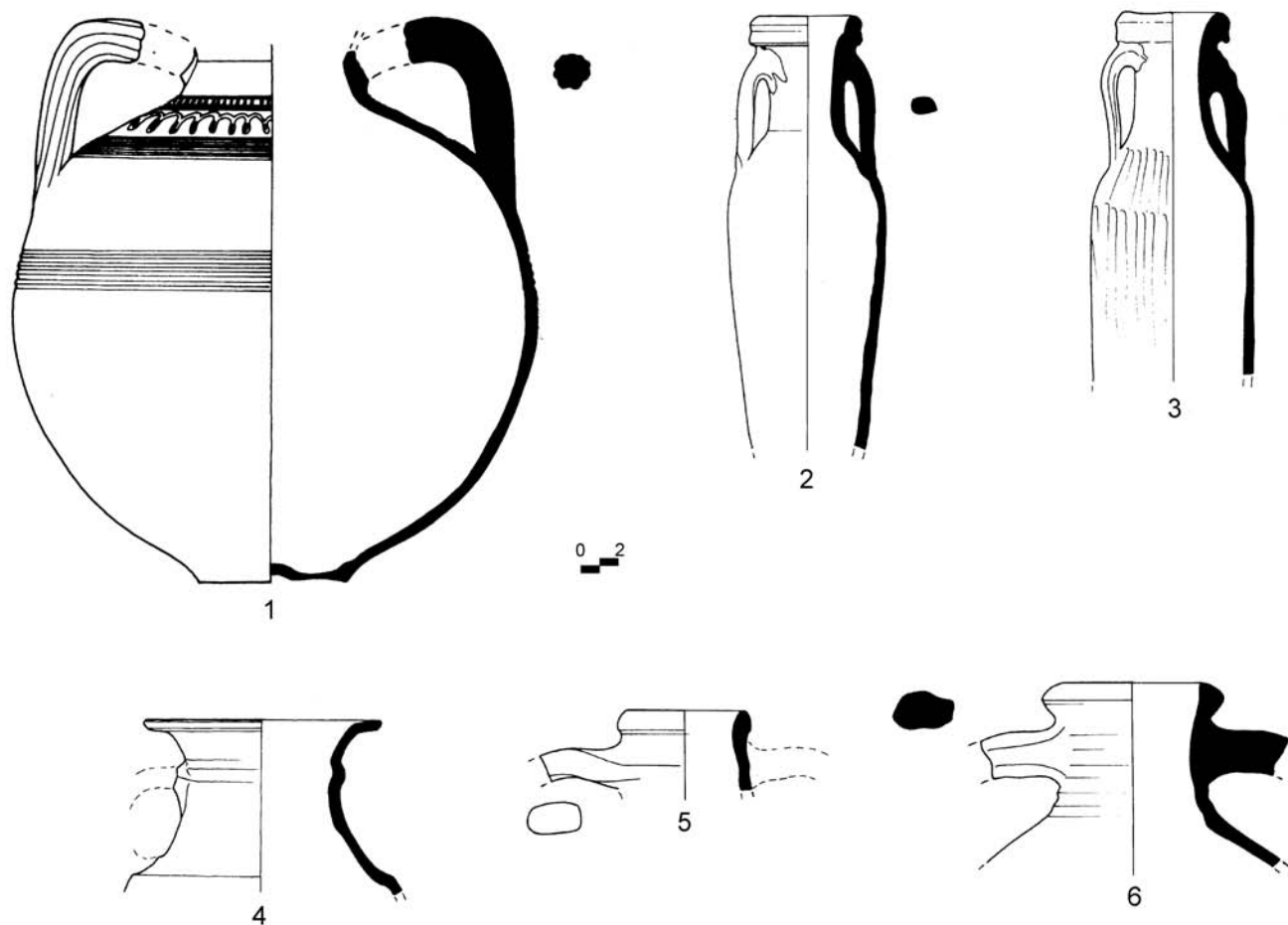


Fig. 5. Amphorae: 1–6 Caričin Grad, Lower Town, intramural housing.

was discovered containing amphorae. This find could be connected with supplies to military troops, considering that that it involved a fortress in an important strategic position, and with a distribution centre, given that in a large number of fortifications in its neighbourhood, numerous fragments of amphorae were discovered.

A particular problem, and this should be underlined, was what kind of product was delivered to the remote areas of Central Illyricum. We consider this to be a very important question because it would contribute to understanding the question of the *annona militaris*, trade and the economy. Unfortunately, we cannot answer it, seeing that so far no clear *dipinti* or *graffiti* have been observed on the amphorae, nor have any analyses been done on the amphorae or the goods they could have contained. Based on the results of earlier research, oil and wine were most often transported in amphorae. Thus, the LR2 type amphora is assumed to have been used for the transport of oil, but the possibility remains that the content could also have been oil because of the traces of resin on some specimens, and we assume that something similar applied in the case of the LR1 amphorae. Wine is most frequently mentioned as the content of the

spatheion type of amphora, but they could also have been used for the transport of garum, honey, oil, etheric oils and, in some, the remains were round of olives and a kind of resin.³¹ Also, Syrian-Palestinian amphorae apparently served for the transport of wine, for which the Gaza region was renowned. In this respect, it would be important to find the answer to the questions connected with the quantities of amphorae that were delivered and used in the cities, larger fortresses and particularly in the refugia.

One of the key problems researchers are confronted with is the question of the chronology of all the mentioned processes. We are aware of the fact that this question is the most difficult one to answer, given the insufficient number of explored sites and the vast quantity of unpublished material, as well as the circumstance that a large number of fragments were discovered in small test-soundings or on the surfaces of the sites. We are certain that amphorae appeared throughout the entire 6th century, but the intensity of this process remains a great unknown.

³¹ Ibid.

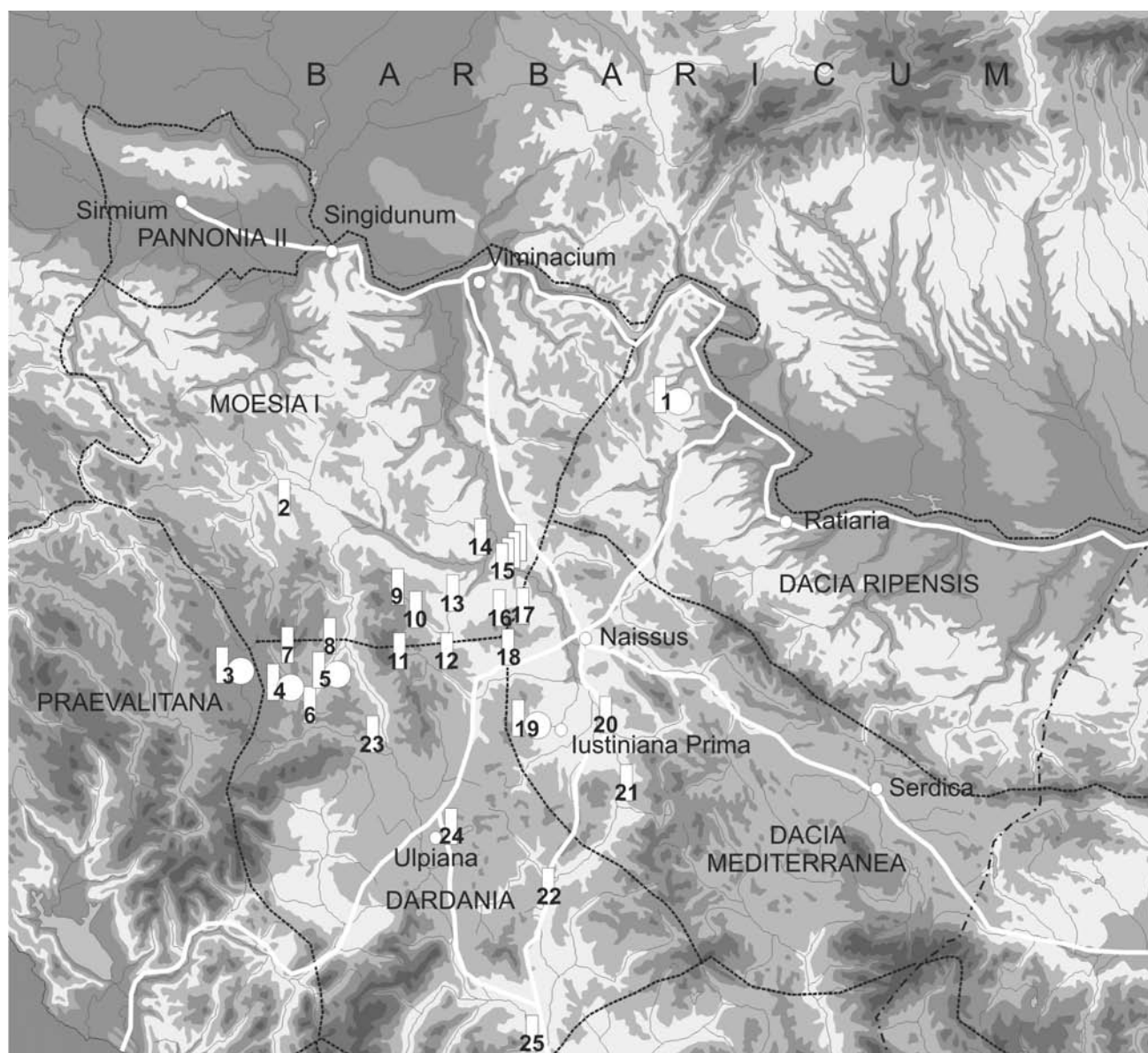


Fig. 6. Distribution of red slip ware ○ and amphora □. 1 Gamzigrad; 2 Jelica; 3 Vrsenice; 4 Ras; 5 Postenje; 6 Babrež; 7 Radaljica; 8 Nosoljin; 9 Puhovac, Gradište; 10 Gobelja Brus; 11 Gornji Levići; 12 Dubac, Gradac; 13 Ladisled, Gradište; 14 Maskare, Bedem; 15 Ukosa, Utvrđenje; 16 Petina, Gradac; 17 Porodin, Gradište; 18 Babotinice, Veliko kale; 19 Caričin grad; 20 Leskovac, Hisar; 21 Grdelica, Kale; 22 Korbevac, Gradište; 23 Zvečan; 24 Ulpiana; 25 Scupi.

Lastly, a crucial problem remains and this regards the routes by which amphorae were imported, that is to say, the provisions that were transported in them. The question is indeed a difficult one, by virtue of the fact that Central Illyricum was situated in the centre of the Balkan Peninsula, far away from main waterways. One of the certain routes of importation ran along the Danube,³² from where they could have been distributed from Margum, along the Morava river valley, but also from Aquae, along the Timok river valley.

The other was the southern route, and it ran from Salonika, along the Vardar river valley towards Ulpiana and Naissus. One should not exclude a third import route, and this was from the Adriatic Sea, from Lissos towards Ulpiana and farther onward, to the North.

The analysis of imported pottery from the region of Central Illyricum has led to very important results. First of all, a widespread distribution of finds was established, which, to a large extent, completes the picture on imported pottery. Lastly, a crucial problem remains and this regards the routes by which amphorae were imported, that is to say, the provisions that were transported in them. The question is indeed a difficult

³² LJ. BJELAJAC, *Amfore gornjomezijskog Podunavlja* (Beograd 1996) 109–114.

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The analysis of imported pottery from the region of Central Illyricum has led to very important results. First of all, a widespread distribution of finds was established, which, to a large extent, completes the picture on imported pottery in the territory of the Balkan provinces. We believe

it is important that amphorae were registered in all the sites examined so far, despite the fact that all the areas have not been equally explored. With these results, the questions again become topical regarding the character of particular sites, the chronology of certain types of red slip ware and amphorae, and especially their meaning in the context of supplying the military troupes, and commercial traffic. We hope that these results will, among other things, encourage the publication of ceramic material and thereby open the path for us all, to a better understanding of the complex and stratified Early Byzantine period.

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