ANNALS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF CRAIOVA

ANALELE UNIVERSITĂȚII DIN CRAIOVA

ISTORIE / HISTORY	
Biannual Journal	
Year XXVIII, No. 2(44)/2023	
November	



EDITORIAL BOARD

Editor in chief: Professor Sorin Liviu DAMEAN (University of Craiova, History Department) Deputy editor in chief: Marilena RIZESCU (Universitaria Publishing House, Craiova)

REGULAR MEMBERS

Ioan BOLOVAN (Romanian Academy)

Cătălin TURLIUC ("A. D. Xenopol" History Institute, Iași, Romania)

Sorin RADU ("Lucian Blaga" University of Sibiu, Romania)

Constantin ARDELEANU ("Dunărea de Jos" University of Galați, Romania)

Giordano ALTAROZZI ("George Emil Palade" University of Medicine, Pharmacy, Science and Technology of Târgu Mures, Romania)

INTERNATIONAL ADVISORY BOARD

Francesco Guida - University of Roma Tre (Italy)

Bruce A. Little – University of Wake Forest, North Carolina (USA)

Porfirio Sanz Camanes, University of Castilla-La Mancha (Spain)

Iakovos Michailidis – "Aristotle" University, Thessaloniki (Greece)

Luc de Vos – Royal Military Academy, Brussels (Belgium)

Apostolos Patelakis – Institute of Balkan Studies Thessaloniki (Greece)

Jan Bureš – Metropolitan University, Prague (Czech Republic)

Petr Just – Metropolitan University, Prague (Czech Republic)

Octavian Țîcu – Institute of History, Chişinău (Republic of Moldavia)

CONTACT

Analele Universității din Craiova. Istorie/Annals of the University of Craiova. History University of Craiova, No. 13, A.I. Cuza Street, Craiova, 200585, Dolj, Romania

Phone / Fax: +40351403140

Email: history.annals@yahoo.com

analeleucv.istorie@gmail.com

Website: http://www.istoriecraiova.ro

© 2023 – All rights reserved to Universitaria Publishing House The Journal is published bi-annually

There is no charge for publishing articles.

Nu se percepe taxa pentru publicare articolelor. This issue is archived in the legal depository of the National Library of Romania and University of Craiova. Prezentul număr este arhivat în depozitul legal al Bibliotecii Naționale a României și al Universității din Craiova.

ISSN – L: 1224 – 5704 ISSN Online: 2393 – 3682

ANNALS OF THE UNIVERSITY	OF CRAIOVA

ANALELE UNIVERSITĂȚII DIN CRAIOVA

ISTORIE / HISTORY
Biannual Journal
Year XXVIII, No. 2(44)/2023
November

© 2023 – All rights reserved to Universitaria Publishing House.

The authors assume all responsibility for the ideas expressed in the materials published.

Analele Universității din Craiova. Istorie (Annals of the University of Craiova. History) is indexed in:



COPERNICUS

http://journals.indexcopernicus.com/karta.php?action=masterlist





https://dbh.nsd.uib.no/publiseringskanaler/erihplus/search?enkelt Sok=1224-5704&sok.discipline=-1&treffliste.tidsskriftTreffside=1&treffliste.vis=true



http://www.scopus.com/source/eval.url



https://www.ebscohost.com/titleLists/30h-coverage.htm

SOME CONSIDERATIONS CONCERNING THE BEGINNINGS OF ROMAN LIFE AT ROMULA

Mircea Negru* 10.52846/AUCSI.2023.2.01

Abstract

The beginnings of Roman life in Romula are difficult to identify. The traces of habitation are ephemeral, probably, many of them were destroyed by the refurbishing of the following periods. Since the first war between Dacians and Romans, in 101-102, a marching camp was built in Resca (Dobrosloveni commune, Olt County). In terms of archaeological structures, the elements of the fortification in the central area, the two fossae, the berm and the two enclosure walls stand out. To this is added a building in the central-northern area of the Central Fortification, which had a wooden plank floor. In the Northern Sector, a Roman cultural layer appeared, with building materials (spikes) and other objects that can be dated with coins issued in the early 2nd century AD.

Key words: Roman Period, fortification, wooden construction, unburnt bricks, Romula.

Anyone who looks at the map of the Lower Danube and Lower Olt River will wonder about the reason the Romans settled in Resca-Romula. They first made a marching camp there, then a city, which was the residence of the governor of Dacia Inferior Province (Malvensis), which later reached the rank of colony, the highest in the Roman world.

The archaeological site of Resca-Romula is located on the western high terrace of the Olt River, at approx. 40 km north of the Danube. The stream of Teslui flows through, which meets its tributary Potopin, which runs east of the site. From the banks of Teslui, it flows the drinking water from 10 springs. The north of the site soil is rich in clay, and the timber was probably found in the nearby forest, which still guards the east of the site, in the wide meadow of the Olt River.

Since the first war between Dacians and Romans, in 101-102, a marching camp was built in Resca (Dobrolosveni commune, Olt County). Around it, as usual, a civilian settlement of military families was established. Then, the number of inhabitants increased, and the founding of Romula municipality by Hadrian (Tudor 1978: 188-189; Tătulea 1994: 72) paved the way for a spectacular evolution of the settlement, which reached the rank of colony (Tudor 1978: 189; CIL III, 7282; ILS 315).

Romula is the most relevant Roman city in the Roman province of Dacia Inferior (Malvensis), by number of inhabitants, economy and trade, but also from an administrative and cultural point of view.

The first half of the second century was difficult to identify until recently, with research over the past decade. Although they are few, stratigraphic evidence begins to appear, but also archaeological structures that can be attributed to the first half of the

^{*} Assoc. Lecturer, University of Craiova; Assoc. Prof. "Spiru Haret" University Bucharest; Assoc. Researcher, University of Bucharest.

2nd century AD, archaeological materials in these contexts from the Central Fort (Fig. 1: 1) and Northern Sector (Fig. 1: 2).

The central area of the archaeological site presents a complicated stratigraphy, starting from the post-Roman period and reaching the first decades of the 2nd century AD, respectively the Neolithic period (Negru, Gherghe, Amon 2020).

Trench S. 9/2015 (Fig. 2)

From a stratigraphic point of view, habitation structures were captured in the trenches S. 9/2015, respectively S. 9/2013-2017.

The first quarter of the 2nd century AD was captured from depths of 1.20/1.25 m to 1.50/1.60 m, a layer of greenish-blackish dirt (S.U. 9029).

Below it, in grids 3-4 was identified a wooden plank floor (S.U. 9031), which crosses the trench perpendicularly, to the NE-SW direction, and has a preserved width of approx. 1.20 m (Fig. 3: 1-2). A preserved gravel agglomeration could indicate the presence of an exterior setting-up of the building, called B. 8/2015 (Negru et al. 2016: 29).

Chronologically, the structure can be dated to the first quarter of the 2nd century AD, if we take into account that it is under the layer in which a Roman coin from Hadrian was discovered.

Regarding the usefulness of this building, we can think of a possible military barracks, but it is only a working hypothesis, its destination requires the expansion of research in the future.

Second quarter of the 2nd century AD

In trench S. 9/2015 (Negru et al. 2016: 26), at depths of 0.90-1.20 m, a dark grey layer of dirt was identified in grids 0-5, with frequent fragments of burnt wood (S.U. 9028). Under it, grid 0-3, from 1.20 to 1.40 m deep is a layer of dirt of grey colour (9028a). In grid 7-8, at a depth of 0.90 m, a sediment of yellow colours was discovered (S.U. 9032).

Under S.U. 9028a in grid 6, there were found traces of an accidentally burned clay wall, demolished on the spot (S.U. 9033) under which there was a layer of blackish burnt pigments containing pieces of burnt wood, and, at a depth of 1.30 m, traces of wooden beams (S.U. 9033), superimposed by a mass of unfired adobe (S.U. 9029).

Based on the plan captured in the trench and the stratigraphy, we can find that there was a building (B. 7/2015), which was built of clay walls. Regarding the functionality of these buildings, for information, it would be necessary to expand the research (Negru et al. 2016: 28).

The stratigraphic units and structures shown can be dated with a coin from Hadrian in the second quarter of the 2nd century AD.

The southeastern part of the Central Fortification (Fig. 4: 1-2)

Archaeological structures and stratigraphic information regarding the first half of the 2nd century AD at Romula, have appeared, in recent years, in the southeastern area of the Central Fortification.

The first quarter of the 2nd century AD was captured stratigraphically in connection with the first defensive system in this area of the site, namely the fortification elements of the first Roman camp.

Thus, in trench S. 1, grids 4-5 at a depth of -2.01 m, at a depth of -2.55 m a layer of brown, compact, clay earth containing brick fragments (6) was observed, respectively from a depth of -2.55 m, at a depth of -3.34 m a grey, medium solidified layer with building materials was identified (7). It continues in S. 14, grids A5-E5, from a depth of -1.63 m to a depth of -1.96 m.

In trench S. 14/2017, grids A 1-3, from a depth of -1,14 m to a depth of -1,17 m, a light-brown, compact, medium-solidified layer with ceramic fragments and coal pigments was observed (14). Next, in the same grid, from a depth of -1.50 m to a depth of -1.75 m, a blackish layer with ash, coal pigments and small fragments of brick continues (8).

The chronology is supported by a sestertius from Hadrian (125-128), discovered in S. 14, g. B4, -1,10 m.

The archaeological contexts identified in trench T1 are related to the defensive structures of the Roman camp. From east to west, these are the two fossae, the berm, and the two enclosure walls of unfired brick.

Fossa No. 2 (Fig. 4: 26) is the one at the eastern extremity of the Roman defensive system at this point, in S. 1, g. 1.

Within trench T1, from a depth of 2.30 m, the second ditch of the Roman fortification was only partially captured. In profile, the ditch had a triangular shape, oriented upside-down. It was partially identified, because part of it is under the current communal gully and road, protruding outside the area that can be investigated.

In this ditch, at a depth of 2.90 m, there was discovered a Roman coin from the beginning of the 2nd century AD, a denarius from Trajan (103-114), which is a clear indication of its arrangement in the first decades of the 2nd century AD.

Fossa no. 1 (Ctx. 12/2017) was identified in grids 3-5 of trench S. 1. It has a triangular shape in profile, with the tip down. Its maximum opening in this trench is 3.40 m, and its maximum depth cannot be specified because it was affected by the subsequent implantation, at the end of the 2nd century AD, of a fired-brick wall. Over time, the fossa was filled with archaeological materials, being finally flattened after the decommissioning of the Roman fortification.

The berm of the fortification (Ctx. 11/2017) was identified in grids 4-5, from a depth of 0.36 m to a depth of 2.16 m. Within it, the blackish and brownish earth dirt layers alternate with fragments of unfired Roman bricks collapsed from the first enclosure wall.

The first enclosure wall (Ctx. 9/2017) was identified in grids 5-6 on the northwestern profile of trench S. 1. From a depth of 0.36 m, unburned clay bricks of yellowish colour were discovered. It had a width, identified, on the profile of about 2 m.

Traces of an archaeological structure were also identified in trench S. 14, grids A, 4-5, from a depth of -1.75 m to a depth of -1.91 m. This was a medium solidified blackish-brown layer with yellow dirt lenses. Concerning its functionality, it would be necessary to expand the investigated area.

Second quarter of the 2nd century AD

The second enclosure wall (Ctx. 10/2017), discovered in grids 7-8, from a depth of -0.36 m, was made of unfired bricks of *sesquipedales* type. They were 46 cm long, 28 cm wide, and 7 cm thick. It is later than the first mentioned one and can be dated stratigraphically to the second quarter of the 2nd century AD.

Stratigraphically, they were observed in trenches S. 1/2013/2017 and S. 14/2017, respectively, in the layer conventionally called Roman V.

Northern Sector (Fig. 1: 2)

Within the Northern Sector, there are three objectives of archaeological interest: the North Necropolis, the ceramic production district and the Wall of Philip the Arab (Popilian 1997; Negru 2023).

The archaeological structures within the Pottery Production District in the Northern Sector were generally dated to the second half of the 2nd century AD, and the first half of the 3rd century AD (Popilian 1997).

Nonetheless, the archaeological research in 2003 brought new elements indicating the presence of earlier structures in this sector. During research, in the western part of the investigated area, it was practised trenches S. 6 and S. 8 /2003 (Negru et al. 2004: 257).

Within this trench, in layer II A, from depths of 0.63/0.71 m to depths of 0.82/0.85 m, numerous fragments of burnt clay and iron spikes were found, indicating the presence of an archaeological wooden structure (Negru et al. 2004: 257). At this level, it was discovered a denarius of Nero (years 63-68 AD) and a fired bronze coin, issued in the time of emperors Nerva or Trajan emitted between 98-102 AD (identified by Dr. Viorel Petac).

In layer II B, from depths of 0.51/0.57 m to depths of 0.62/0.70 m, fragments of adobe and iron spikes were discovered, indicating the existence of a wooden construction. In this layer of culture (Negru et al. 2004: 257-258), at a depth of 0.65 m, it was found a bronze coin from the time of Emperor Hadrian emitted between 125 and 128 AD (identified by Dr. Viorel Petac).

These findings indicate the presence of archaeological structures in the area, since the beginning of the 2nd century AD. To what extent they are related or not to ceramic workshops, remains a problem to be solved by future research.

The discovered archaeological materials

In addition to coins, several ceramic materials (ceramic vessels, lamps) and building materials appeared in the course of research. They were discovered in the contexts of the Roman IV layer dated to the second quarter of the 2nd century AD.

Transport ware is represented by Roman amphorae of Zeest 90 type (Fig. 5: 1-2). They were produced during the 1st-4th centuries AD (Dyczek 2001: 193), and were used to transport olive oil (Ardeţ 2006: 108).

Production centres for this type of amphorae could have been at Herakleia Pontike, in the Roman province of *Pontus et Bithynia* (Ardeţ 2006: 112), respectively in the Aegean region (Dyczek 2001: 183; Jevremović 1987: 56, type IV: 10; Suceveanu 2000: 174, type LXI).

One fragment belongs to an amphora of type Dressel 6B (Fig. 5: 3). In the province of Dacia, these amphorae have a northern Italian origin. In the province of Dacia, they were dated especially to the beginning of the 2nd century AD, being used to transport olive oil, but also wine (Ardeţ 2006: 68-69).

Fine ware

During the research, a fragment of a Conspectus 10 plate (Fig. 5: 4) was discovered, which has analogues to Romula in the first third of the 3rd century AD (Negru, Streinu 2016: 39, Pl. 31: 3689), respectively in archaeological sites in Moesia Superior and Moesia Inferior, where they were dated to the 2nd-4th centuries AD. (Jevremovic 1987: type I:55; Sultov 1985: type 6, Pl. XXVIII:1).

Furthermore, to this ceramic category belongs a porringer with a conical body and long vertical rim (Fig. 8: 5), with analogues in the 2nd-3rd centuries at Romula (Popilian 1976: 120, 210, Pl. XVIV:777; Negru, Streinu 2016: 42, Pl. 36: 3706, 2349, 2641).

Coarse ware

Common coarse ware accounts for the overwhelming majority of pottery discovered in archaeological contexts from the second quarter of the 2nd century AD.

Amongst the many forms, we mention the fragment of a plateau with a short body, rim in continuation of the walls and flat base of Popilian type 4, No. 849 (Pl. 5: 6-8) which was dated to Drobeta, in the 2nd century and the first half of the 3rd century AD (Popilian 1976: 124-135, 214, type 4, Pl. LXIX:849).

Platter with the short conical body, arched walls and slightly everted rim of Popilian type 1976, type 2, No. 894 (Pl. 6: 1). Similar vessels were dated at Romula from the 2nd century AD, to the middle of the 3rd century AD (Popilian 1976: 127; Negru, Streinu 2016: 40, Pl. 32: 3153; p. 41, Pl. 32: 2842), at Slăveni in the 2nd century AD (Popilian 1976: 126-127, Pl. LXXI: 894). Similar vessels were discovered in Dacia Superior (Apulensis) at Napoca, dating back to the Hadrian-Antoninus Pius period (Rusu-Bolindeţ 2007: 345-346, type IR 1, B3, Pl. LXXXVIII, 412). A similar vessel discovered at Histora in Moesia was dated to the 1st century AD (Suceveanu 2000: 39-40, type IX, Pl. 11: 1, 3), and at Knejne, Ljubica, in Moesia Superior, in the first half of the 2nd century AD. (Nikolic 1987: 237, Pl. 5: 7).

Also, plates with carinated bodies imitating the Curle 23 type (Pl. 6: 2) were discovered, which were dated to the 2nd-3rd centuries AD, at Romula (Negru, Streinu 2016: 41, Pl. 33: 2126; Negru 2022: 84-85, Pl. 53:191) and Napoca in Dacia, respectively at the end of the 2nd century AD at Durostorum, in Moesia Inferior (Muşeţeanu 2003: 60, type 6, Pl. 23: 176).

Another fragment comes from a short conical plate of Nikolic III:5 type (Pl. 6: 3), dated to the 2nd-3rd centuries AD at Romula and the first half of the 2nd century AD at Kneginje Ljubice, in Moesia Superior (Nikolic 1987: 237, type III/5, Pl. 5: 3).

A fragment comes from a plate with a hemispheric body and an outside everted rim (Pl. 6: 4). It imitates Dragendorff 42 type vessels has analogues in the 1st-2nd centuries in Pannonia (Brukner 1981: 182, type 6, Pl. 72: 34), respectively in the 2nd-3rd centuries AD. In Dacia Inferior (Popilian 1976: 125, 215, Pl. LXX: 868-871; Negru

2022: 81, Pl. 53: 192-193), Moesia Inferior (Muşeţeanu 2003: 60, type 6, 2003, Pl. 23: 174) and Moesia Superior (Jevremovic 1987: 55, type I: 61, Pl. III).

Among the discovered porringers, the most common are those with an arched body and outsplayed rim, which belong to the Popilian type 3, Nos. 821-829 (Fig. 6: 5-7), being dated to Romula in the 2nd-3rd centuries AD. (Popilian 1976: 123, 212-213, type 3, Pl. LXVII:821, 824, 826-829; Negru, Streinu 2016: Pl. 35: 2698, 3357, 2281), respectively at the end of the 1st century AD, and in the 2nd century AD, in Lower Pannonia (Brukner 1981: 181, type 50, Pl. 79: 26).

The fragments of conical porringers imitating the Dragendorff 44 type (Fig. 6: 8; 7: 1-2) are also numerous. They have analogues dated to Romula in the second half of the 2nd century and the first third of the 3rd century AD (Popilian 1976: 118-119. 209, type 1, Pl. LXIII: 766, 769; Negru 2022: 101, 107-108, Pl. 62:280-282; 65:315), respectively in the 2nd century at Sirmium, in Pannonia Inferior (Brukner 1981: 181-182, type 14, 73: 52, 54), in 2nd-3rd centuries AD, in Moesia Inferior (Muşeţeanu 2003: 52, Pl. 15: 12, 16, 20).

From the bowls, we mention the one with a deep hemispheric body and an everted rim that imitates the Dragendorff 35 type (Fig. 7: 3). It has analogies to Romula from the second half of the 2nd century to the middle of the 3rd century AD (Popilian 1976: 125, 215, Pl. LXX: 868, 870, 871; Negru, Streinu 2016: 41, Pl. 33: 2532; Negru 2022: 85, Pl. 53:192), in 2nd-3rd centuries AD in Moesia Superior (Jevremović 1987: 55, type I: 61, Pl. III), respectively in the second half of the 1st century AD, and the 2nd century AD (Brukner 1981: 182, type 6, Pl. 72: 34).

The pots are also well-represented in the coarse tableware.

Two-handed pot with bulging body and tall, almost vertical rim, slightly everted (Fig. 7: 4), of Popilian type 1, Nos. 382-393 has analogues to Romula in the 2nd century (Popilian 1976: 91, 183, Pl. XXXXVIII: 3), respectively the second half of the 2nd century – the first third of the 3rd century AD (Negru 2022: 88-89, Pl. 14: 236-237, 15: 238).

Vessel with bulging body and obliquely everted rim, Popilian type 11, No. 366 (Fig. 7: 5). Similar vessels were discovered in Dacia Inferior (Malvensis) at Locusteni, where they were dated to the end of the 2nd century AD (Popilian 1976: 89, 182, Pl. XXXVI: 366), respectively in Moesia Superior, at Diana-Karatas, where they were dated to the 3rd-4th centuries AD (Jevremovici 1987: 57, type II: 34, Pl. VIII).

The pot with the rim everted (Fig. 7: 6) of type Negru 2003, type A.1., is wheel-made. Similar vessels were discovered in Dacia Inferior (Malvensis) at Locusteni, where they were dated to the 2nd century AD, in its hand-made version (Popilian 1980: 15, 103, Pl. 3, M13, 2). In Moesia Inferior, on the territory of Nikopolis ad Istrum, similar vessels were dated to the 2nd-4th centuries AD (Sultov 1985: 89, Pl. XLV: 3, wheel-made), and in Moesia Superior, at Diana-Karatas, where they were dated to the 4th century AD (Jevremovic 1987: 56, type VI: 10).

During the research, a fragment of a pot, with a bulging body, Popilian type 1, Nos. 321-323 (Fig. 7: 7) was also discovered. Similar vessels were discovered at Romula, in earlier archaeological campaigns, where they were dated to the second half of the 2nd century AD - the penultimate decade of the 2nd century AD (Negru 2022: 101, Pl. 64: 302), respectively to the middle of the 3rd century AD (Negru, Streinu 2016: 55, Pl. 56: 3104).

Kitchenware includes pans, saucepans and pots used to prepare the food.

The pans with a short conical body of Popilian type 2, No. 832, (Fig. 7: 8-9; 8: 1-2) are common. They have analogues to Romula in the 3rd century AD (Popilian 1976: 123-124, 213, type 2, Pl. LXVIII:832; Negru, Streinu 2016: 53, Pl.3432, 4000), in the 2nd-3rd centuries in Moesia Inferior, at Argamum (Honcu 2018: 94, type II, Pl. XVIII:170), respectively in Moesia Superior, at Cibalae, where they were dated to the 2nd century AD (Rogulić 2007: Rei Cretariae Romanae Acta 40, 2007, 1, CRB 1, fig. 4).

There also was discovered a pan with conical body, obliquely everted rim and flat base of Popilian type 2, Nos. 833-835 (Fig. 8: 3). Similar vessels were discovered at Romula, where they were dated to the last decade of the 2nd century AD, and the first third of the 3rd century AD (Negru 2022: 94, Pl. 61:266), respectively to the middle of the 3rd century AD (Negru, Streinu 2016: 47, Pl. 43: 2160). In Moesia Inferior, at Argamum, they were dated to the 2nd-3rd centuries AD (Honcu 2018: 94, type. II, Pl. XVII: 191-194).

A platter with oblique wall, inwards turned rim, flat base of Popilian type 2, No. 888 was found (Fig. 8: 4). Similar vessels were discovered at Romula, where they were dated to the 2nd century AD (Popilian 1976: 126-127, 217, Pl. LXXI: 888-884), respectively in the last decade of the 2nd century AD, and the first third of the 3rd century AD (Negru 2022: 79, Pl. 49: 152).

Conical body saucepans, Popilian type 4, Nos. 780-786, and type 5, 787-789 (Fig. 8: 5-7; 9: 1-3) were discovered. Similar vessels were discovered at Romula, where they were dated to the second half of the 2nd century and the first decades of the 3rd century AD (Popilian 1976: 120, 210, type 5, LXIV:780-782, 785-786, LXV:788-789), respectively in the first half of the 2nd century AD (Negru, Streinu 2016: 53, Pl. 53:3781, 2660, 2370). Similar vessels have also been discovered at Sucidava (Popilian 1976: 120, 210, type 5, LXIV:783), Stolniceni (Popilian 1976: 120, 210, type 5, LXIV:784), Slăveni (Popilian 1976: 120, 210, type 5, LXIV:787), where they were dated to the second half of the 2nd century – the first decades of the 3rd century AD. In Dacia Superior (Apulensis), at Napoca, similar vessels were dated to the Trajan period (Rusu-Bolindeţ 2007: 405, type CC 8 B, PL. XCCII/550). In Moesia Inferior: at Durostorum, they were dated to the second half of the 2nd century AD (Muşeteanu 2003: 104-105, type I, Pl. 38:50-52), the same as at Ibida (Honcu 2018: type 2, 86-87, Pl. XV:142). The type of vessels continued in Lower Pannonia at Vojka, from the 3rd century to the first half of the 4th century AD (Brukner 1981: 181, type 77a, Pl. 89:113).

Pots with bulged bodies, maximum diameter at the top, of Popilian type 2, Nos. 330-331 were frequently (Fig. 9: 4-7). They have analogues to Romula, where they were dated to the 3rd century AD (Popilian 1976: type 2: 87, 179, Pl. XXXIII: 330-331).

Some fragments belong to the pots with two handles, a bulged body, everted rim, with a groove on the inside of Popilian type 1, Nos. 382-393 (Fig. 10: 1-3). At Romula, this type of pot was dated to the 2nd century AD (Popilian 1976: 91, 183, type 1, Pl. LV: 386-387), to the last decade of the 2nd century AD, and the first third of the 3rd century AD (Negru 2022: 92, Pl. 59: 253-255). In the 2nd century AD, similar vessels discovered in lower Pannonia were dated at Rittium, Sirmium, and Teutoburgium, dating in the 2nd century AD (Brukner 1981: 182-183, type 7, Pl. 101, 16-20).

Pot with slightly bulging body, long everted rim, of Popilian type 7, Nos. 353-355 were frequently (Fig. 10: 4-7). Similar vessels were discovered at Romula, where they were dated to the middle of the 3rd century AD (Negru, Streinu 2016: 56, Pl. 57: 2202, 2303), at Stolniceni and Râureni in Dacia Inferior (Malvensis), where they were dated to the 2nd-3rd centuries AD. (Popilian 1976: 88, 181, type 7, Pl. XXXV:353-355). They were also discovered in Moesia Inferior at Durostorum, where they were dated to the end of the 2nd century and the first decades of the 3rd century AD (Muşeteanu 2003: 111, type 5, Pl. 37:36; Honcu 2018: 65, type XIII, Pl. IX:83), respectively in Moesia Superior, at Diana-Karatas, where they were dated to the 3rd-4th centuries AD. (Jevremovic 1987: 57. type II:47, Pl. IX).

Furthermore, there were discovered a few ceramic tubes for heating (Fig. 10: 8-10) and a piece of pavement (Fig. 10: 11).

Conclusions

The archaeological structures from the first half of the 2nd century AD, are difficult to identify because they were made, in many cases, of wood and clay, which can sometimes be difficult to distinguish, and there is also the phenomenon of compaction with ancient soil or later layers.

The archaeological research in the sector of the Central Fortification of Romula suggests the existence of two early Roman layers at this site, called layers IV and V (Negru 2020). Layer IV refers to the second quarter of the 2nd century AD, and layer V refers to the first quarter of the 2nd century AD.

In terms of archaeological structures, the elements of the fortification in the central area, the two *fossae*, *the berm* and the two enclosure walls stand out. To this is added a building in the central-northern area of the Central Fortification, which had a wooden plank floor.

In the Northern Sector, during archaeological research in 2003, a Roman cultural layer appeared, with building materials (spikes) and other objects that can be dated to the early 2nd century AD, during the reign of emperors Trajan and Hadrian.

The discovered archaeological materials consist of fragments of ceramic vessels and lamps, respectively pavement pieces and construction materials (bricks and tubes for hot air). The ceramic vessels discovered are mostly of local production, without missing the imported ones, as well (amphorae, vessels from the repertoire of fine ceramics), but they are less numerous, which indicates the existence of a ceramic production centre, since the first decades of the Roman presence in Romula.

The chronological framing is based both on the materials discovered, coins mainly, and on the stratigraphic method.

The beginnings of the Roman life in the cities of Dacia province are difficult to identify. The traces of habitation are ephemeral, probably, many of them were destroyed by the refurbishing of the following periods. In the plain areas, as is the case of Romula, we have the problem of using a perishable material, clay, for constructing most of the buildings. It is difficult to say whether it is the precarious economic situation or the lack of brick craftsmen, who would produce the well-known Roman brick, in sufficient quantities.

Perhaps both variants are correct. To which there was added the fact that it was normal for things to be like this in a new province. Wealth increases, grows, and requires a consistent internal market, and then an external one. Yet, they were not at a high level, at the beginning of the 2nd century, in the new Roman city of Romula, on the northeastern border of the Roman Empire.

Explanations of the figures

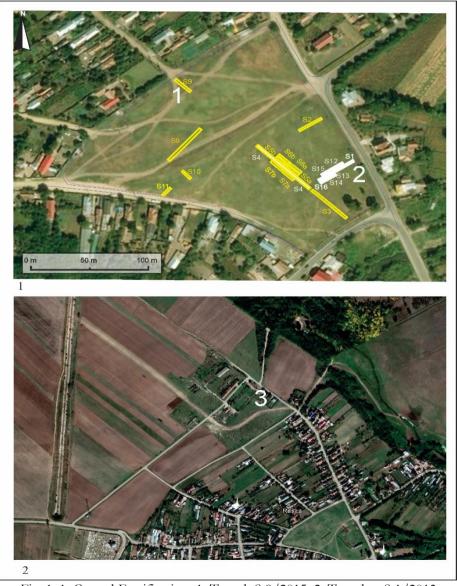


Fig. 1. 1. Central Fortification. 1. Trench S 9/2015. 2. Trenches S 1/2013 and S 14/2017. 2. Location on Northern Sector. 3. Trenches S 6 and S 8/2003

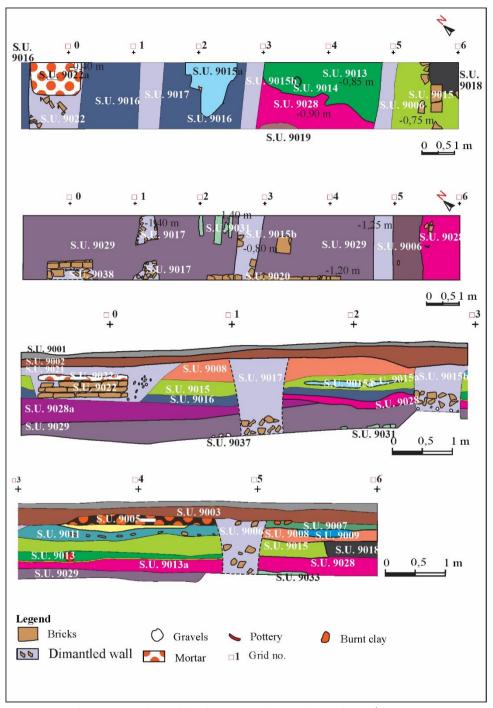


Fig. 2. Central Fortification. 1-2. Planes of trench S 9/2003. 3-4. The profile of the trench S 9/2015



Fig. 3. 1-2. An image of a wooden floor from the trench S 9/2015

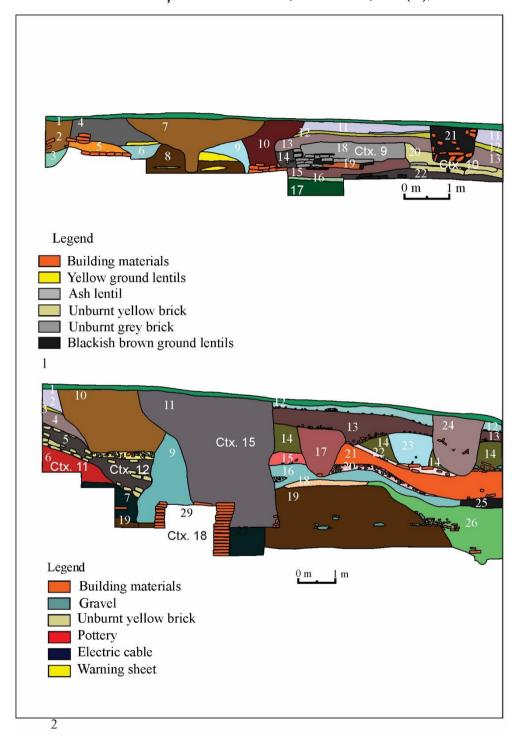


Fig. 4. 1-2. Central Fortification. Northwest profile of the trench $\mathrm{T}1/2013$