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TERRA SIGILLATA TARDO-PADANA FROM MURSA (OSIJEK, CROATIA)**Introduction**

From the year 2001 rescue archaeological excavations were carried out in the area of the former Drava Barracks („Vojarna“), the present day University Campus. This area belongs to a part of an extensive archaeological zone in the Lower town in Osijek in north-east Croatia. This was once the position of Roman colony of *Mursa*, situated in the province of *Pannonia Inferior* on a slight rise alongside the right bank of the Drava River.¹ Rescue archaeological excavations of the former Drava Barracks area, took place at six locations named after the university buildings that will come in their place. The total of excavated area is around 22 000 m² (fig. 1). All of the locations gave great results in terms of topography of the colony, discoveries of roads, public buildings, a part of the main sewage system etc. The number of various finds, especially those of pottery, are numerous and are still being processed. The excavations in this area are ongoing.

In the period from 2008 to 2009 rescue archaeological excavations took place at the site of the Faculty of Education („Učiteljski fakultet“) located in the north-east part of the former Drava Barracks (fig. 1,4). What makes this site stand out from the other five, are the very well preserved archaeological strata from the 1st and 2nd centuries AD which in the case of *Mursa* are very rare. The more recent strata on this site, from the 3rd and 4th centuries AD, were destroyed during the construction of the barracks. In the fills of closed stratigraphic units, such as pits and wells, numerous ceramic, glass and metal finds were collected that date from the Julio-Claudian period to the first half of the 2nd century AD. With discoveries of these finds it is possible to indicate the trade connections with other parts of the Empire, particularly northern Italy. Along with imported goods, there are many finds that can be attributed to the indigenous pre-Roman population, which was also a part of the population of early Roman *Mursa*.²

In the year 2012 statistical analysis and expert processing were carried out on ceramic material from the site of the Faculty of Education. From 15 593 pottery shards 692 of them belong to the group of fine table wares (fig. 2). Finds of terra sigillata are represented by 300 shards that mostly belong to terra sigillata Tardo-Padana. South Gaulish terra sigillata

is represented by 12 shards of relief ware, while 75 shards remain undetermined. Because of the large number of shards of terra sigillata Tardo-Padana found in closed stratigraphic units and because it is relatively well dated, it was necessary to analyze this group so that it could give more informations on the early phases of *Mursa*, before the establishment of the colony, and also to contribute to the dating of other, primarily local, pottery forms.

Terra sigillata Tardo-Padana in *Mursa* is represented by typical forms of plain terra sigillata which were produced in the Padana region in the later period, from the second half of the 1st century till the first half of the 2nd century AD. In *Mursa* there are two groups of terra sigillata Tardo-Padana based on the division by S. Zabehlicky-Scheffenecker: Padana A (fig. 3) and Padana B (fig. 4). The Padana A group is composed of forms Cons. 20 and Cons. 34 with applied motifs (fig. 5), while the Padana B group is composed of forms Cons. 39 and 43 with motifs made in barbotine technique (fig. 6).³ The most numerous on this site, are the finds of forms Cons. 39 and 43. Form Cons. 20 is represented only by two finds, while form Cons. 34 is represented by four finds.

Fabric

During the examination of fabrics only macroscopic analyses were possible at this moment. Macroscopically, two types of fabrics are visible, named Terra sigillata Tardo-Padana 1 (TSTP 1) and Terra sigillata Tardo-Padana 2 (TSTP 2). They are usually of beige-yellowish fabric with rare but visible beige particles and red-brown matt smooth coating. TSTP 1 is more reddish and TSTP 2 more beige in colour.⁴ TSTP 1 is a fabric characteristic for the Padana A group, finds of forms Cons. 20⁵ and 34. TSTP 2 is characteristic for finds of the Padana B group, forms Cons. 39 and 43. The slip or the coating in both groups seems macroscopically the same. The variation in colouring was probably caused by firing at different temperatures.

¹ FILIPOVIĆ 2004, 157–158.

² Id. 2010, 37–40.

³ ZABEHLICKY-SCHEFFENEGGER 1992, 415–416; 427 Abb. 1.

⁴ EAD./SAUER 2000, 69; GASPARI 2010, 108.

⁵ Reddish fabric is common for the form Cons. 20 with very homogeneous and smooth coating, see in: MAZZEO SARACINO 1985, 201; SENA CHIESA/LAVIZZARI PEDRAZZINI 1995, 307.

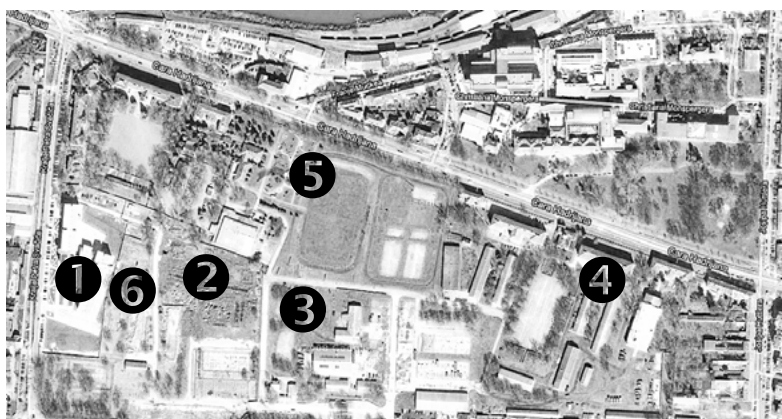


Fig. 1. Area of former Drava Barracks with 6 excavation sites: **1** Student dorm; **2** Faculty of Agriculture; **3** Faculty of Civil Engineering; **4** Faculty of Education ; **5** University Library; **6** Student Pavilion.

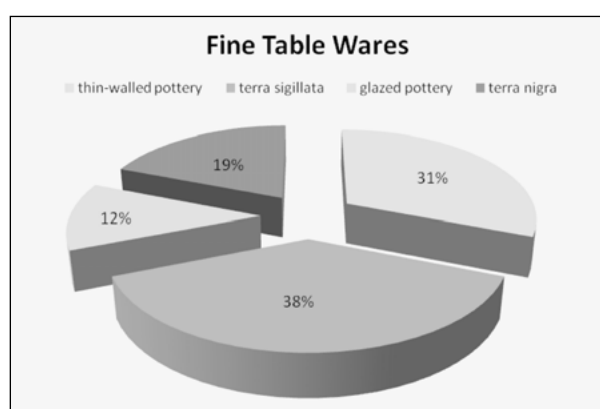


Fig. 2. The overview in percentage of fine table wares from Faculty of Education .

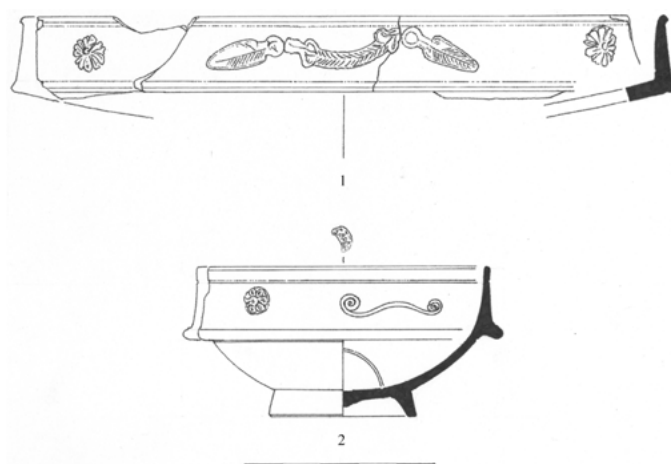


Fig. 3. Padana A. Consp. 20.4 and 34. – Scale 1:2.

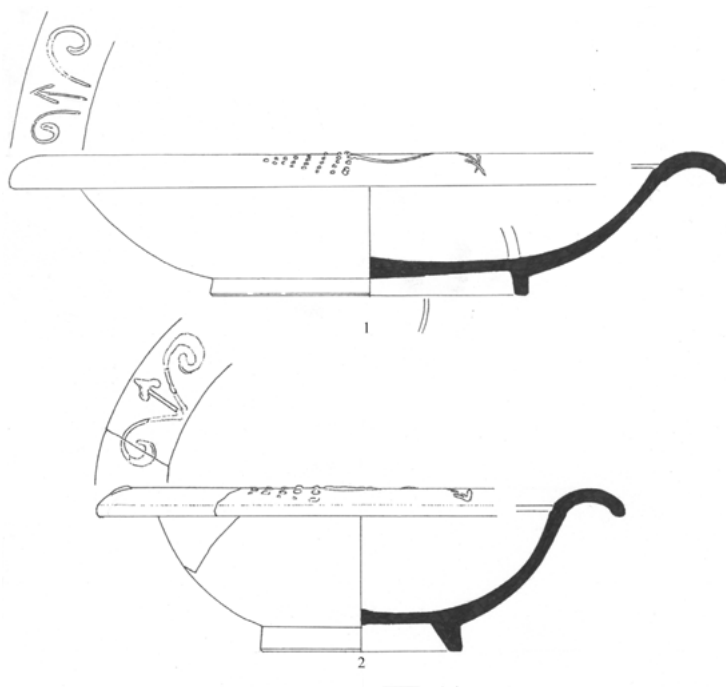
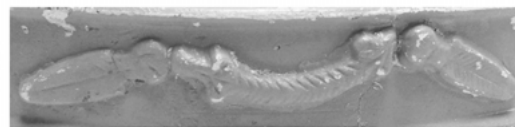


Fig. 4. Padana B. Consp. 39 and 43. – Scale 1.2.

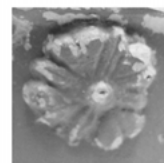
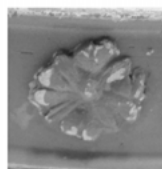
Forms

Form Consp. 20.4 (**fig. 3,1**) is a platter or a plate with smooth or finely moulded vertical rim, with simple convex moulding on top and bottom of rim on the outside, decorated with applied garland and rosette motifs (**fig. 5,1–3**).⁶ It was found in the stratigraphic unit (SU) 106 along with the finds of thin-walled pottery. The finds are dated to the Flavian period, in the second half of the 1st century AD. Possibly, belonging to this form is a fragment with a stamp *in planta pedis* from SU 348, which starts with the letter „Q“ (**fig. 7,1**). This is probably a part of the stamp „Q. S. P.“ or „Q. S. S.“. Form Consp. 20.4 is very common in *Pannonia*⁷ at the sites with 1st and 2nd century AD strata, such as: *Emona*,⁸ *Siscia*,⁹ *Poetovio*,¹⁰ *Salla*,¹¹ *Scarabantia*, *Savaria*,¹² *Vindobona*,¹³ *Carnuntum*,¹⁴ *Weiden am See*,¹⁵ *Brigetio*, *Aquincum*,¹⁶ *Nagyharsány*, *Kölesd-Lencsepuszta*, *Keszthely*, *Unbek*, *Dunaúváros-Papsziget*, *Unbek*, *Adony*, *Gorsium*,¹⁷ *Cornacum*,¹⁸ *Sirmium* and *Gomolava*.¹⁹ Its production lasted long into the 2nd century AD.²⁰

Form Consp. 34 (**fig. 3,2**) is a hemispherical cup with short vertical rim and pronounced flange on wall.²¹ One well preserved vessel was found in SU 478. It was decorated with four applied motifs of which two were preserved, a rosette and double spiral motif (**fig. 5,4–5**). The cup is 8 cm in diameter. In the bottom of the cup is a stamp in form of lunula which is not very well executed. The stamp is very small and the letters are not visible. This type of stamp dates from the year 40 AD to the beginning of the 2nd century AD.²² One fragment with applied spiral motif was found in SU 162 (**fig. 5,6**) and two bases of cups B3.19²³ of this vessel were found in SU 179 and SU 465 with the stamps „Q. S. P.“ *in planta pedis* (**fig. 7,2–3**).²⁴ Form Consp. 34 on the site of the Faculty of Education is dated in the Flavian period. This dating was also confirmed by other finds such as thin-walled pottery and numismatic finds that were found in the same strata. The finds of bases B3.19 which belong to the form Consp. 34, were also found in wells together with finds of thin-walled pottery of Pannonian production, probably production from *Sirmium* which is suggested by its forms, fabric and decorations of vessels.²⁵ This form was distributed to *Noricum*, and also in *Pannonia* where



1



2

3

4



5

6



Fig. 5. Applied motifs on forms Conspectus 20.4 and 34. – Scale 1:1

⁶ ETTLINGER ET AL. 1990, 86–87.

⁷ MAZZEO SARACINO 1985, 201.

⁸ PLESNIČAR-GEČ 1977 T. 7.

⁹ OBRADOVIĆ 2011, 106.

¹⁰ ISTENIĆ 1999, 90–91.

¹¹ EGRI 2013, 285 fig. 19,1; 297 fig. 19,7.

¹² RUSU-BOLINDEȚ 2004, 713.

¹³ CHINELLI/DONAT/PAVIĆ 2003, 192.

¹⁴ KANDLER 1997, 114.

¹⁵ EGRI 2013, 285 fig. 19,1.

¹⁶ GÄBLER 2002, 235.

¹⁷ VAGO 1977, 91; 93–95 T. 1–15.

¹⁸ BRUKNER 1981 T. 6.

¹⁹ DAUTOVA-RUŠEVLJAN/BRUKNER 1992, 154 T.42,218.

²⁰ ŽERJAL 2005, 281.

²¹ ETTLINGER ET AL. 1990, 112–113.

²² OXE/COMFORT/KENRICK 2000, 376 no. 1765.

²³ Ibid. 160–161.

²⁴ OXE/COMFORT/KENRICK 2000, 376 no. 1765.

²⁵ FILIPOVIĆ/CRNKOVIĆ 2014, 141–143.

it is abundant:²⁶ *Emona*,²⁷ *Siscia*,²⁸ *Poetovio*,²⁹ *Scarabantia*, *Savaria*,³⁰ *Vindobona*,³¹ *Carnuntum*, Weiden am See,³² *Brigetio*, *Aquincum*,³³ Keszthely, Adony, Győr, Ószőny, Unbek, Esztergon, Bakony-Gegend, *Gorsium*,³⁴ *Sirmium*,³⁵ Gomolava,³⁶ *Cornacum*, *Cibalae*.

Form Consp. 39 (fig. 4,1) is a dish with curving wall and drooping rim with S-profile.³⁷ This is the most plentifully represented form on the site, along with the form Consp. 43. It was found along with other pottery forms, such as thin-walled pottery of northern Italic production and numismatic finds of coins of Vespasian, Domitian and Trajan.³⁸ The examples from *Mursa* all have the same type of decoration in barbotine technique with motifs of stylized grapes and lilies (fig. 6). Well preserved vessels are 19.5 cm in diameter. On this form stamps are not usual, but examples from *Mursa* often have engraved graffiti, incised *post cocturam*, on the foot of the vessel. Graffiti usually consist of one to three letters, probably the initials for *prenomen*, *nomen* and *cognomen*. One letter usually means only *nomen* or *cognomen*. The direction of letters is linear or following the circular form of the bottom.³⁹ The letters probably mean the initials of the person who possessed the vessel.

Form Consp. 43 (fig. 4,2) is a hemispherical cup with drooping rim with S-profile.⁴⁰ Along with the form Consp. 39 it is the most plentifully represented form of terra sigillata Tardo-Padana at the site. It was found with numismatic finds from the period of Vespasian, Domitian and Trajan and with finds of thin-walled pottery of northern Italic but also, of Pannonian production which helped in dating these finds.⁴¹ Like form Consp. 39, decorations are made in barbotine technique with motifs of stylized grapes and lilies (fig. 6). Also common are engraved graffiti, incised *post cocturam*, on the foot of the vessels. Forms are from 10 to 14 cm in diameter. Because this type of vessel is distributed in *Pannonia* in large quantities it is even assumed that it was produced in the Padana region especially for the purpose of exportation. These vessels could have come to *Mursa* from the Ticino region.⁴² These two forms are common on sites in *Pannonia*: *Emona*,⁴³ *Poetovio*,⁴⁴ *Siscia*,⁴⁵ *Scarabantia*, *Savaria*,⁴⁶ *Vindobona*,⁴⁷ *Carnuntum*,⁴⁸ *Aquincum*,⁴⁹ *Sirmium*.⁵⁰

Stamps

The stamps on terra sigillata Tardo-Padana from *Mursa* are represented on forms Consp. 20 and 34. The stamps are in form of a *lunula* or *in planta pedis*. The stamp *in lunula* on the form Consp. 34 from *Mursa* is not legible (fig. 3,2). The stamp *in planta pedis* is present on one fragment from form Consp. 20 and two base fragments with initials of *tria nomina* „Q.S.P.“ or „Q.S.S.“ (fig. 7).⁵¹ This stamp is frequently found on other sites in *Pannonia*, such as: *Poetovio*, *Andautonia*,⁵² *Siscia*, *Salla*, *Savaria*, *Scarabantia*, *Carnuntum*, *Vindobona*, *Brigetio*, *Gorsium*, *Sirmium*.⁵³

Conclusion

By analyzing terra sigillata Tardo-Padana we have confirmed that in the second half of the 1st century AD, during the Flavian period, *Mursa* had become an important center which was well connected with the northern Italic territory. Trade routes certainly passed through *Aquileia*⁵⁴ to *Emona* and *Poetovio* from where the network of routes continued to spread to other settlements in the area between Sava, Drava and Danube rivers. Distribution was certainly not only limited to the road routes and could easily be done by rivers. Due to the large amounts of terra sigillata Tardo-Padana on the site of the Faculty of Education, we can conclude that this product was imported for the needs of military and first settlers, tradesman and craftsmen. As the army encouraged the demand for certain types of pottery, traders together with the new settlers often followed military movements to provide them with certain products. The favorable location of *Mursa*, near the *Limes*, contributed to the early settlement to become a true center of supply and trade. The presence of a military and Italian population in *Mursa* is also confirmed by earlier findings of epigraphic monuments with their names. Terra sigillata Tardo-Padana stands out as a form of popular product which enables, not only the chronological determination of objects and findings, but also following the progressive directions and intensity of the expansion of Roman influences in this area.

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²⁶ MAZZEO SARACINO 1985, 199.

²⁷ PLESNIČAR-GEC 1977 T. 7.

²⁸ OBRADOVIĆ 2011, 104.

²⁹ ISTENIĆ 1999, 90–91.

³⁰ BÓNIS BARANYAI 1972, 255–256.

³¹ CHINELLI/DONAT/PAVIĆ 2003, 192.

³² EGRI 2013, 285 fig. 19,1; 297 fig. 19,7.

³³ GÁBLER 2002, 235.

³⁴ VAGO 1977, 91 T. 1–15.

³⁵ BRUKNER 1981, T. 10.

³⁶ DAUTOVA-RUŠEVLJAN/BRUKNER 1992, 154.

³⁷ ETTLINGER ET AL. 1990, 120–121.

³⁸ FILIPOVIĆ/CRNKOVIĆ 2014, 140–141 T. 3,21; BÓNIS BARANYAI 1972, 258.

³⁹ CIPRIANO/SANDRINI 2014, 289.

⁴⁰ ETTLINGER ET AL. 1990, 128–129.

⁴¹ FILIPOVIĆ/CRNKOVIĆ 2014, 141–142 T. 1,2,3; 2,8; 4,29.

⁴² MAZZEO SARACINO 1985, 207.

⁴³ PLESNIČAR-GEC 1977 T. 7.

⁴⁴ ISTENIĆ 1999, 90–91.

⁴⁵ OBRADOVIĆ 2011, 105.

⁴⁶ RUSU-BOLINDEȚ 2004, 714.

⁴⁷ CHINELLI/DONAT/PAVIĆ 2003, 192.

⁴⁸ KANDLER 1997, 114.

⁴⁹ GÁBLER/VADAY 1986 Abb. 33 Kat. 113; GÁBLER 2002, 235.

⁵⁰ BRUKNER 1981 T. 12,9,12 – probably of wrong attribution to the Gaulish production.

⁵¹ OXÉ/COMFORT/KENRICK 2000, 376 no. 1765; 1766; ZABEHICKY-SCHEFFENECKER 1992, 417–419.

⁵² NEMETH-EHRLICH/KUŠAN ŠPALJ 2003, 116.

⁵³ VAGO 1977, 91, 96; ZABEHICKY-SCHEFFENECKER 1992, 439 Abb. 13.

⁵⁴ CIPRIANO/SANDRINI 2011 str. 155.

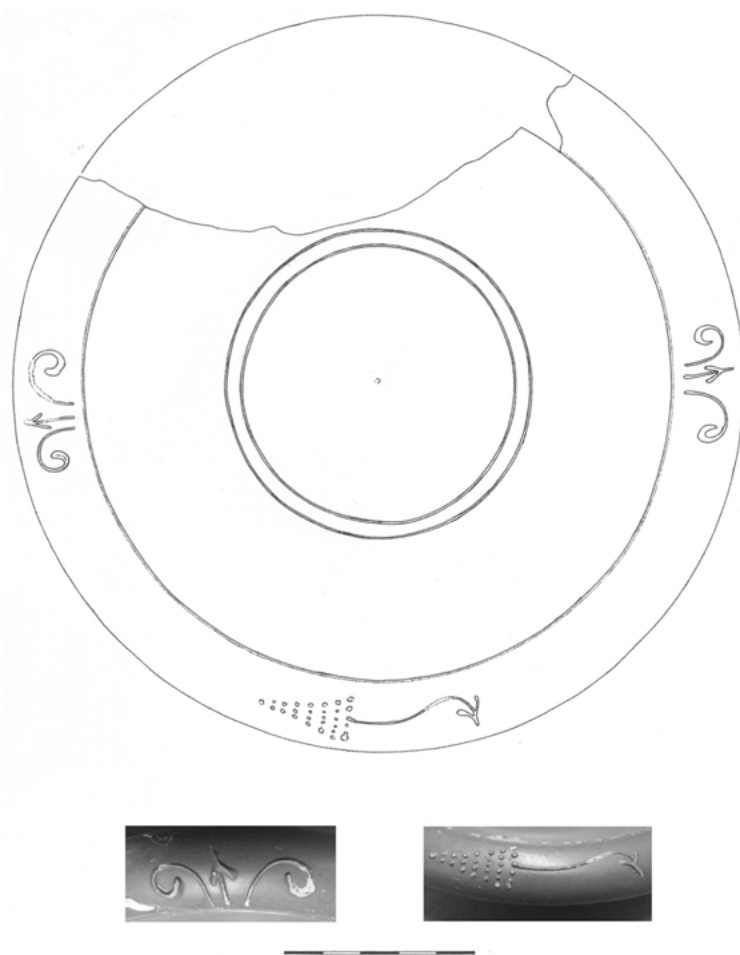


Fig. 6. Barbotine motifs on forms Conspectus 39 and 43. – Scale 1:2.

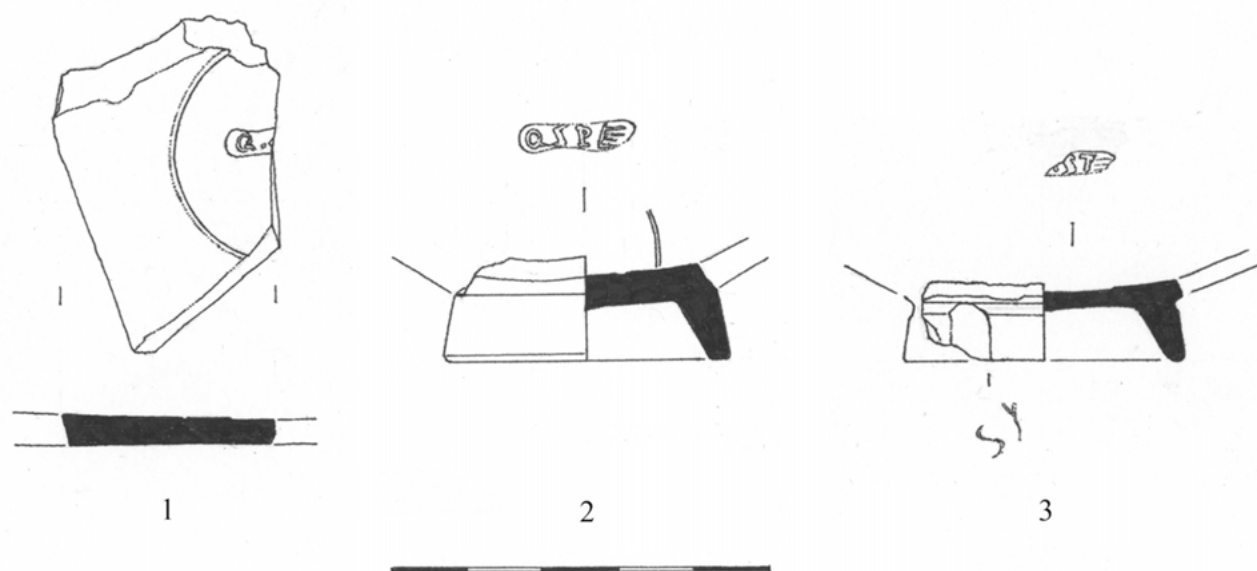


Fig. 7. Stamps *in planta pedis* on terra sigillata Tardo-Padana from *Mursa*. – Scale 1:1.

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