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ROMAN AMPHORAE FROM CIOROIU NOU (ROMANIA)

The archaeological site of Cioroiu Nou, Dolj County, Romania is located in the east-European part of the Roman Empire (fig. 1), in the province of *Dacia Inferior* (fig. 2). It is probably one of the most important Roman monuments in the south of Dacia.¹ Over the years, there have been a lot of archaeological excavation campaigns: 1938 – led by C. S. Nicolaescu-Plopşor and D. Tudor,² 1959 – led by Gh. Popilian,³ 1960–1961 – by D. Tudor, I. Diaconescu⁴ and from 2000 they have been led by the author.⁵ It is worth mentioning here some of the most important Roman edifices revealed in the area of the locality: a fortification⁶ (fig. 3), a temple,⁷ a bath⁸ (fig. 4) and some other buildings,⁹ all these together with a rich archaeological,¹⁰ epigraphic¹¹ and sculptural material.¹²

The inscription of Germanus, *speculator* of legio VII Claudia¹³ (fig. 5) and in addition, a significant number of stamped bricks with the name of this military unit¹⁴ (fig. 6), certify the presence of one of its detachments inside a *statio*, at least in the first half of the 3rd century.¹⁵

The area of Cioroiu Nou is located in the middle of the Oltenian plain, 20 km north of the Danube, with excellent geo-climatic conditions (fertile soil, springs with potable water and a moderate climate). The geographical coordinates are: 44° 3' 48" North; 23° 26' 0" East. These are only some characteristics which certify a very interesting archaeological monument at Cioroiu Nou, located in the south-western part of the Roman province of Dacia.

There have been raised two hypotheses concerning the ancient name of the locality, as follows.

In 1965, C. S. Nicolaescu-Plopşor published a fragmentary inscription and after completing it, the author concluded

that Cioroiu Nou could be identified with the enigmatical *Colonia Malva*.¹⁶ Recent discoveries¹⁷ could support this theory.

In 1966, D. Tudor revisited the discussion, bringing new arguments. Combining the above inscription with another one, D. Tudor suggested that the ancient name of Cioroiu Nou could be *Aquae*.¹⁸ It has to be noted that the toponym *Aquae* was found throughout the Roman Empire, but it was meant for places with hot springs, and this is not the situation of Cioroiu Nou.

It is clear that till the discovery of an eloquent inscription concerning the ancient name of the locality, we are still in the land of suppositions. If we try to compare the two hypotheses presented above, the latter has smaller chances.

The archaeological excavations in Cioroiu Nou have revealed a great quantity of Roman pottery. It consists of: amphorae, pots, mugs, tureens, bowls, plates, lids, etc.

This presentation is the first attempt to order these vast ceramic findings (some thousand pottery fragments). My paper is focussed on the amphorae because they represent the vessels with the largest circulation. The typology of these amphorae from Cioroiu Nou is the main goal of this paper.¹⁹ Since the amount of fragments of amphorae discovered in New Cioroiu is very large (more than one hundred fragments!), I had to make a selection as it follows.

Catalogue

1. Amphora of Dressel 43 type²⁰ (fig. 7); fragmentary: only the neck of the piece, along with the two handles is preserved; brick-red coloured clay with small fragments of mica and black pigments in the composition; the mouth is broken; the handles are curved, round in section, they are attached to the neck and shoulders of the amphora; the handles are steeply arched with peaks; the neck is of cylindrical shape. Dimensions: preserved height 14.2cm; diameter of neck 5cm; diameter of handles 2.3cm.

The beginning of the 2nd century AD.²¹

¹ BONDOR 2010.

² TUDOR 1942, 94–96.

³ ID. 1962, 547–553.

⁴ TUDOR/DIACONESCU/POPILIAN 1967, 593–605.

⁵ BONDOR 2010, 7.

⁶ TUDOR 1962, 547–548; BONDOR 2010, 12–13.

⁷ TUDOR 1965, 109–115; TUDOR/DIACONESCU/POPILIAN 1967, 601–604; RUSU-PESCARU/ALICU 2000, 100–102; BONDOR 2010, 17–18.

⁸ Ibid. 13–16.

⁹ TUDOR 1968, 316; BONDOR 2010, 18–19.

¹⁰ Ibid. 27–57.

¹¹ IDR II, 81–86.

¹² TUDOR 1965, 112.

¹³ ID. 1942, SE 186; IDR II, 81–82 no. 141 with the bibliography.

¹⁴ BONDOR 2010, 46 no. 67; 74 fig. 19.

¹⁵ Ibid. 16.

¹⁶ PLOPŞOR 1965, 203–205.

¹⁷ BONDOR 2007, 157–159.

¹⁸ TUDOR 1966, 847–854; ID. 1968, 318–319.

¹⁹ I would like to thank A. Opaît, who read this paper before the publication.

²⁰ PANELLA 1986, 615 fig. 7–8; DYCZEK 2001, 144–149; ARDET 2006, 124–126.

²¹ ARDET 2006, 124–125.

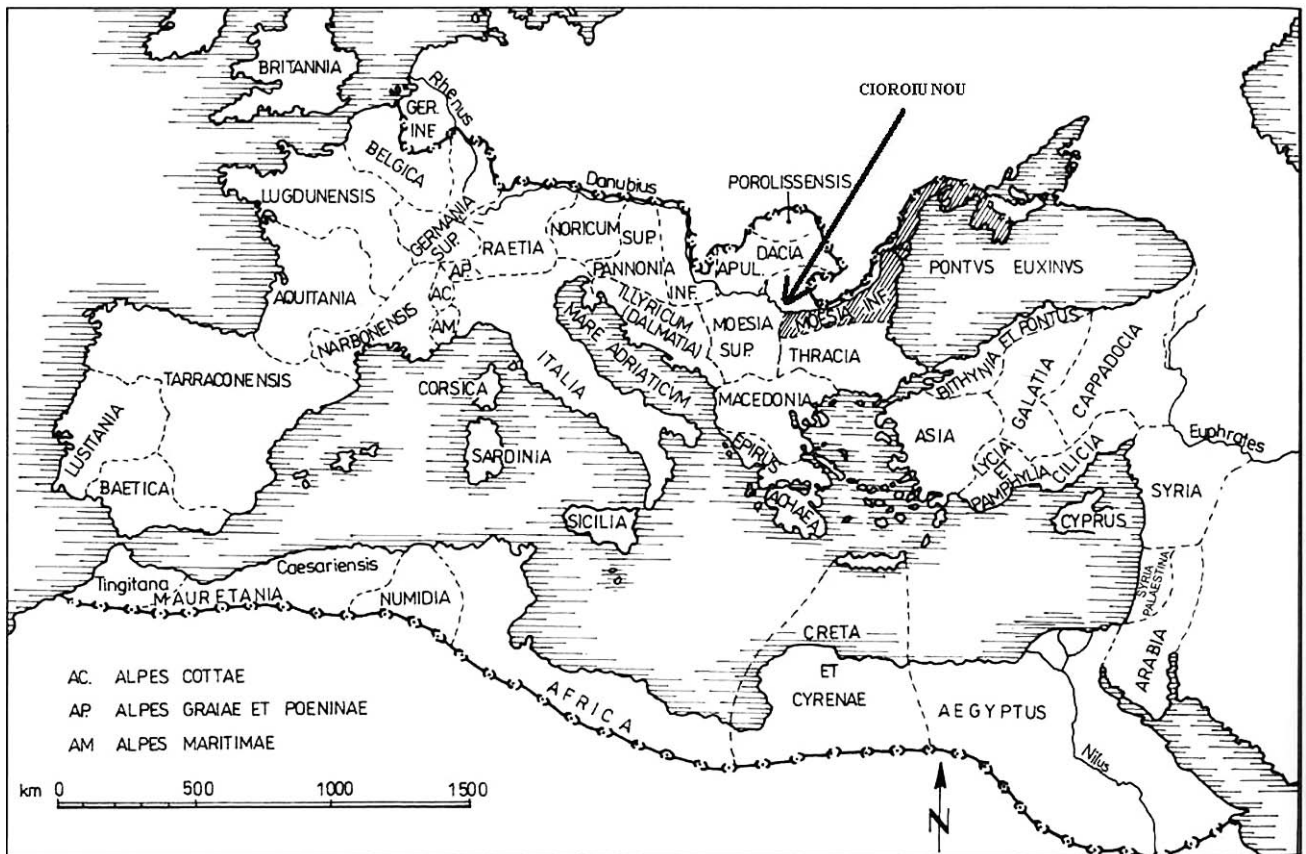


Fig. 1.

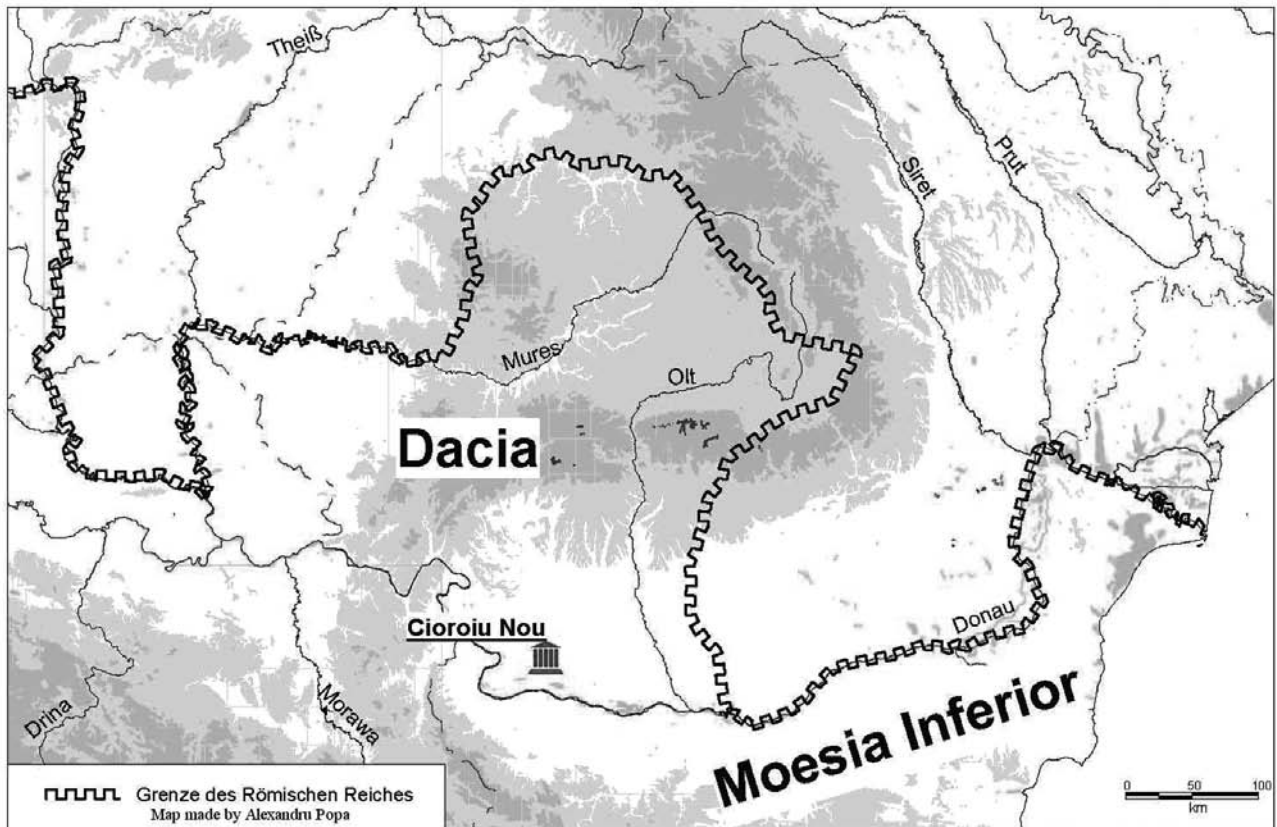


Fig. 2.



Fig. 3.



Fig. 4.



Fig. 5.



Fig. 6.



Fig. 7.

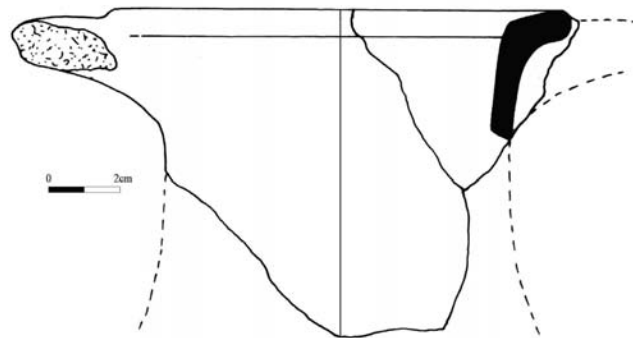


Fig. 8.

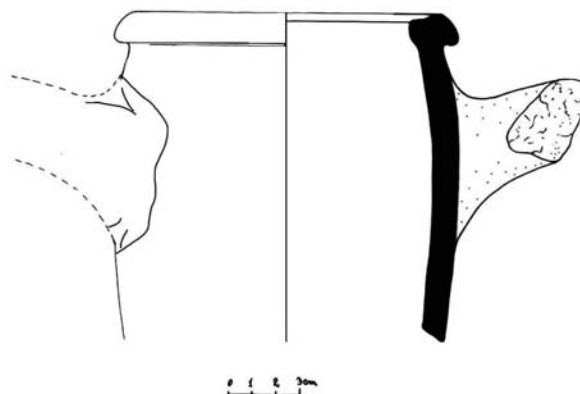


Fig. 9.

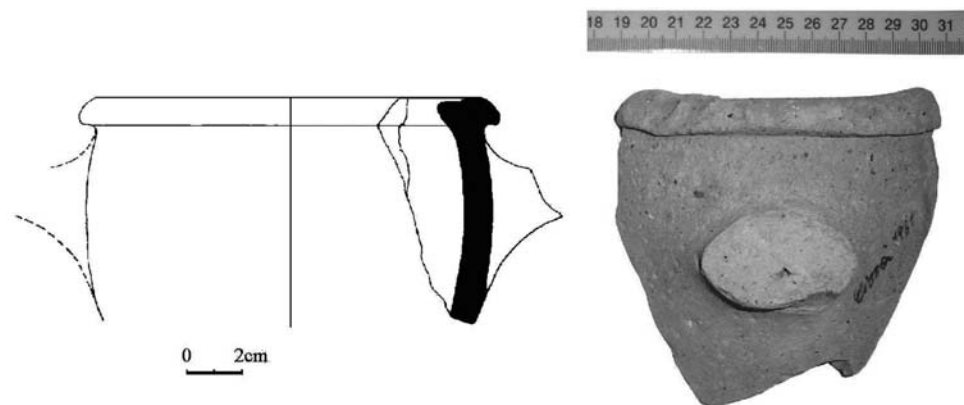


Fig. 10.

2. Amphora of Beltrán 72²² type (fig. 8); fragmentary: parts of the mouth, neck and handles are preserved; fine clay of brick-coloured pink, with small fragments of mica and little stones in the composition; the rim is turned outwards, high neck, the handles start directly from the rim; red paint on the surface.

Dimensions: diameter of mouth 13cm. This type of amphora was used for storing and transporting Spanish *garum*.

3. Two amphorae²³ of Tezgör type B Sinope I (fig. 9–10); fragments from the mouth, rim, neck and handles; rough brick-coloured clay, with sand and small fragments of mica in the composition; technical features: thickened and profiled rim with inner groove for a lid; the handles start from the neck of the vessel.

Dimensions: diameter of mouth 15 cm; width of handles 5cm. Most likely this amphora type carried wine.

4. Amphora of Knossos 36 / Tezgör type B Sinope III²⁴ (fig. 11); a fragment from the rim, neck and a handle; semi-fine, light brown clay, with sand and black pigments in composition. Morphological characteristics (very similar to those of type B Sinope I): narrowed and outlined rim, strong neck, the solid handles start from under the rim and stop on the shoulders of the vessel. Most probably, it contained fish products. On its surface there are deposits of lime and traces of secondary burning, suggesting that the piece comes from a complex which was burnt. Taking into account the context of discovery, it can be asserted that the piece belongs to the destruction level dated by Prof. D. Tudor during the invasion of the Carpi in AD 247.

Dimensions: probable diameter of mouth 12.3cm; preserved height 27.5cm; height of handles 16cm; maximum thickness of handles 4.5cm; maximum thickness of wall 1.3cm.

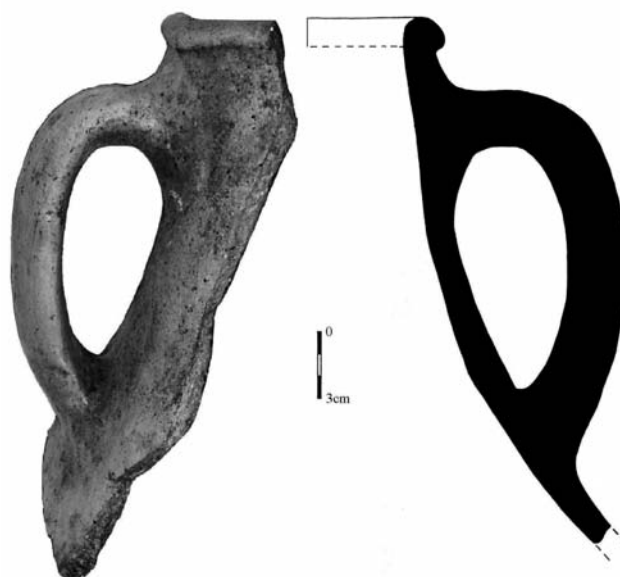


Fig. 11.

5. Amphorae of Kapitan II²⁵ type (fig. 12): mouths, handles and feet; rough or fine brick-coloured clay, with sand and small fragments of mica in the composition; technical characteristics: narrow mouth, superposed handles; the neck of truncated-cone shape, hollow foot. The amphorae of this type were used for transporting and storing wine; fragments of these amphorae have been discovered in all the perimeter of the fortification and its surroundings.

6. Amphorae of Dressel 24²⁶ type (fig. 13a–b); fine brick-coloured clay; morphological features: funnel-shaped mouth, thickened and rounded rim; the foot was made as a sharp prominence. Fragments of this type have been discovered in large quantities at Cioroiu Nou; they were used for transporting and storing olive oil.

²² SCIALLANO/SIBELLA 1991, 71.

²³ TEZGÖR/TATLİCAN 1998, 424 figs. 5–6; TEZGÖR 2010, 125–127 type B Snp I pl. 15.

²⁴ HAYES 1983 type 36; ARDEȚ 2006, 108–110; TEZGÖR 2010, 126 pl. 15/3–4.

²⁵ KAPITAN 1972, 246 fig. 4; DYCZEK 2001, 137–144; ARDEȚ 2006, 128–130.

²⁶ DRESSEL 1899 pl. II; PANELLA 1986, 624–625; DYCZEK 2001, 173–194; ARDEȚ 2006, 111–112.

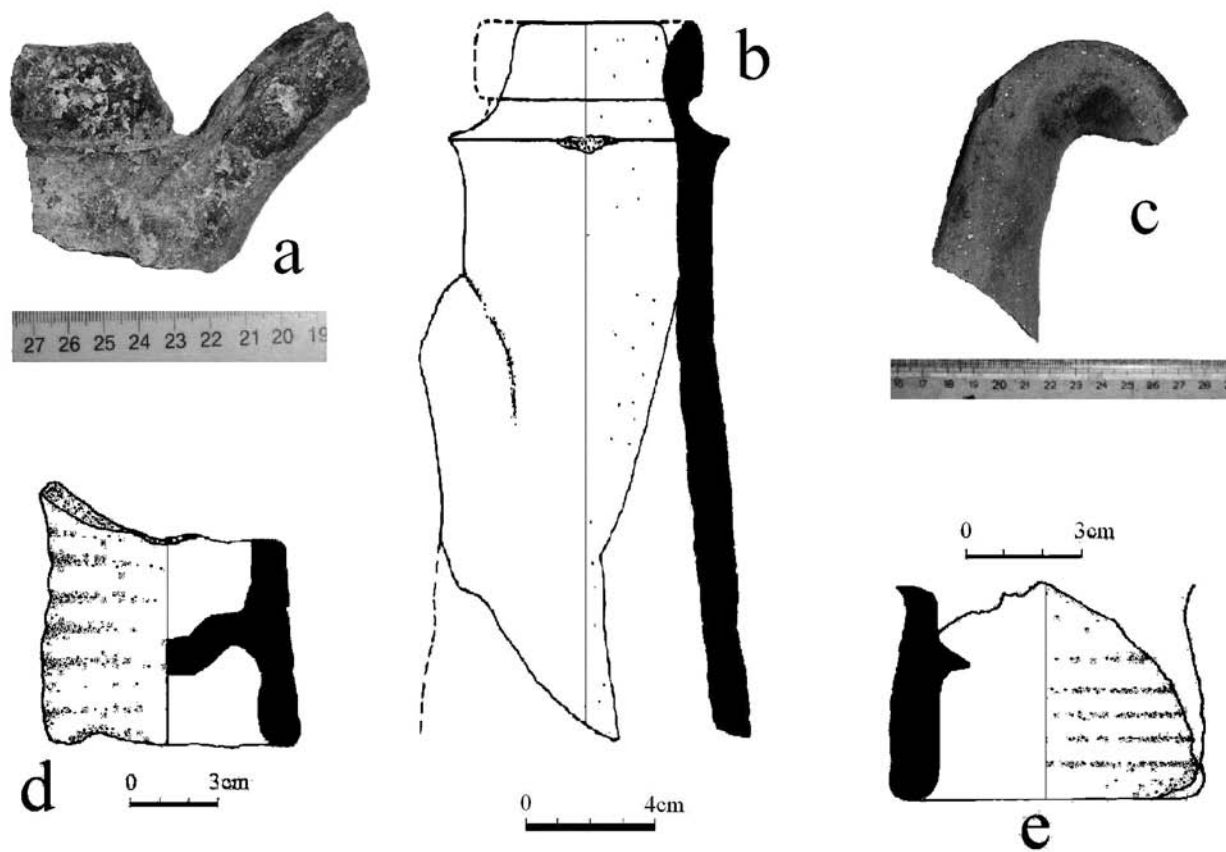


Fig. 12.

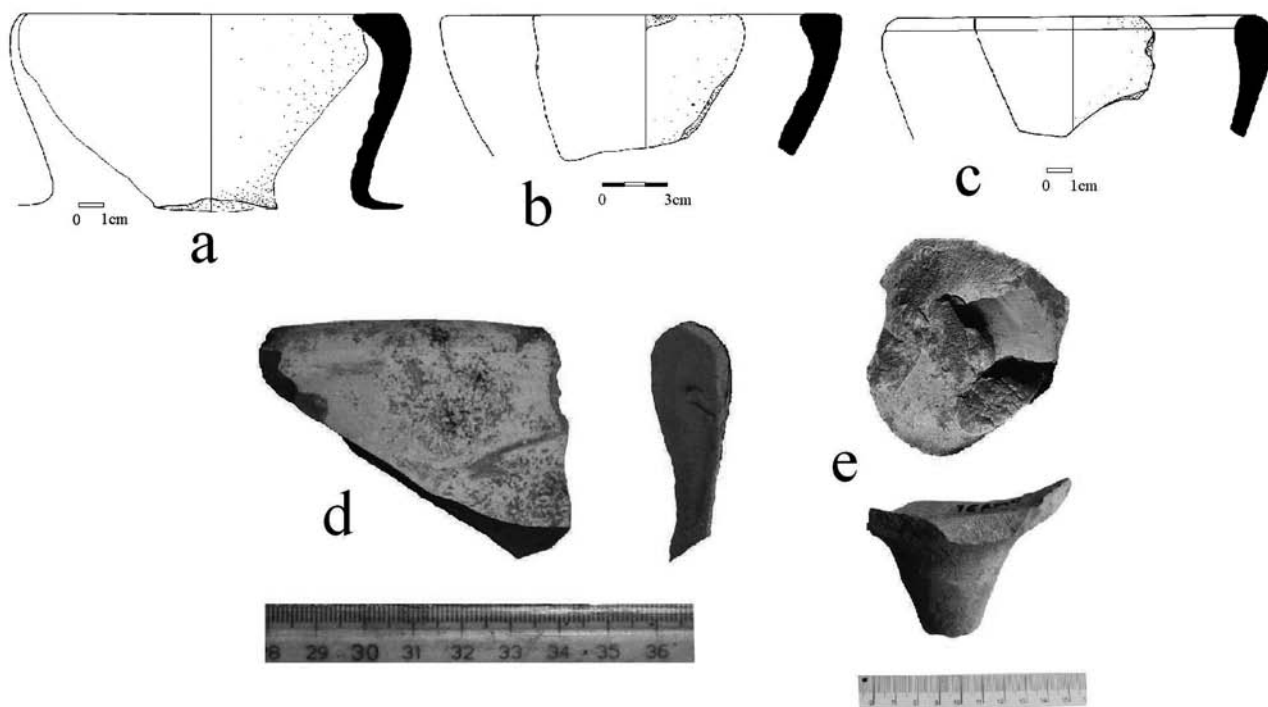


Fig. 13.

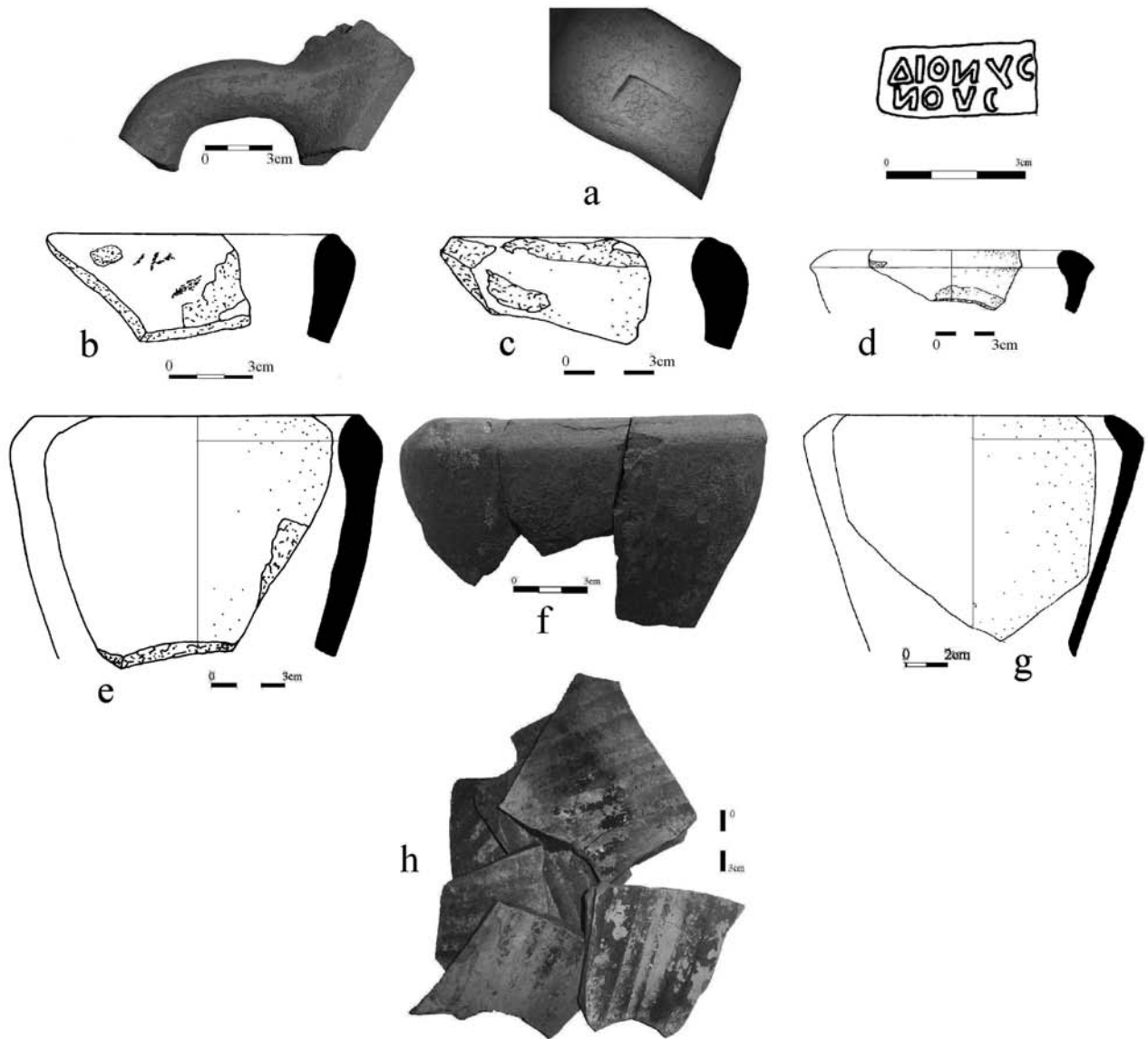


Fig. 14.

7. Amphorae of Dressel 24 similis²⁷ type (fig. 13c–e; 14); reddish fine clay, funnel-shaped mouth, thickened and round rim, sometimes tilted inward; the globular body bears traces of the potter's wheel on the exterior in the shape of horizontal grooves. This type of amphora has been discovered in Cioroiu Nou in large quantities; they were used for transporting and storing olive oil; on an amphora handle belonging to this type, a stamp was printed with the manufacturer's name: ΔΙΟΥΣ[ΟΓΕ]ΝΟΥΣ (fig. 14a).²⁸

8. Table amphorae (fig. 15); fine brick-coloured clay; funnel-shaped mouth, straight or arched rim, grooved neck; the handles are joined to the neck and shoulders of the amphora.

As I mentioned at the beginning of the present paper, I selected the pieces that make up this article. There are many other fragments of amphorae, some definable, others are not, but they will be published on another occasion.

In conclusion, we can say after this brief presentation that the amphorae from Cioroiu Nou date throughout the whole Roman rule in Dacia: the 2nd–3rd centuries.²⁹ These amphorae were used for carrying and storing oil, wine and fish products. Most of them come from the eastern part of the Roman Empire, especially from the Greek production centers. The variety of these products is not surprising if we take into account that the beneficiaries were the soldiers of the fortification that had money and good logistics to satisfy their needs.

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²⁷ ΟΠΑΤ 2007, 627–642; ΟΠΑΤ/TSARAVOPOULOS 2011, 275–323.

²⁸ BONDUC 2011, 145–150.

²⁹ TUDOR 1962, 559.

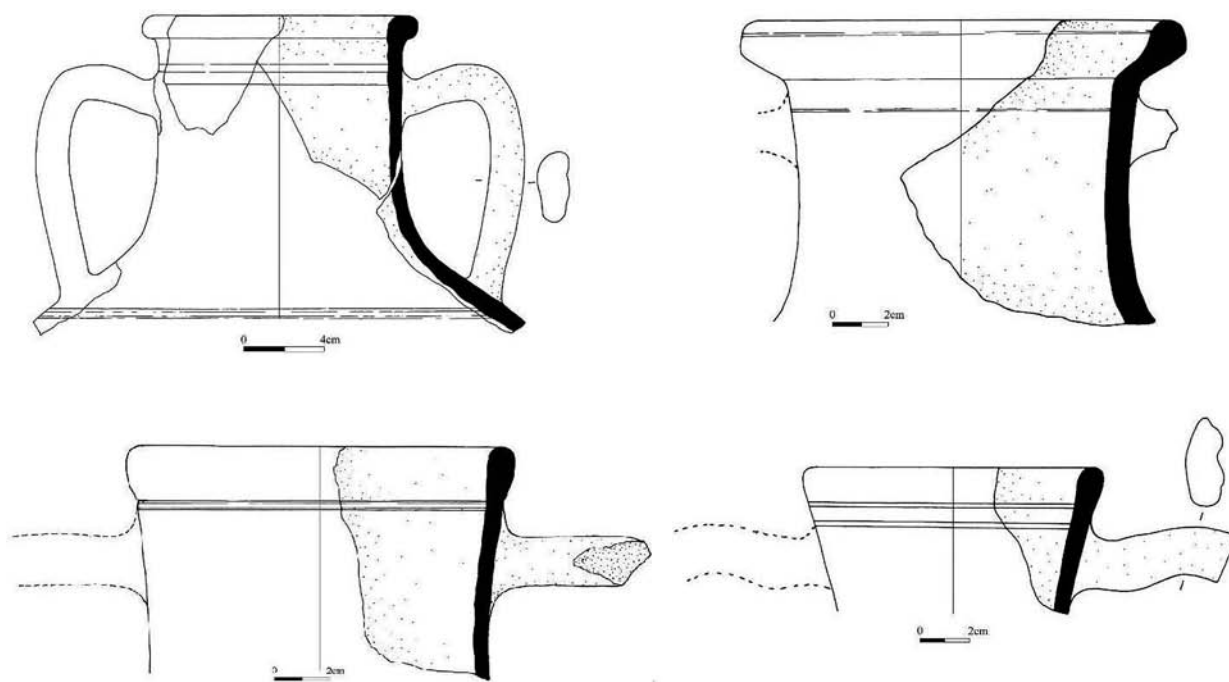


Fig. 15.

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