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LOCAL SAMIAN WARE SUPPLY IN ROMAN DACIA

Introduction

The production of terra sigillata in Dacia certainly started only after the Roman conquest and gained momentum during the second half of the 2nd century AD, reaching a peak during the Severan era (alongside other pottery categories produced locally). The period under discussion marked, both for Dacia and for other Danubian provinces, a time of maximum economic development, but also with regard to urbanization, the social ascension of local elites (also as a consequence of Caracalla granting the *Constitutio Antoniniana*), the peak of building activity etc. Despite all these, one notes a decrease in sigillata imports both in Dacia and in the neighboring provinces. This phenomenon is susceptible of several explanations, one being that the activity of the western terra sigillata workshops decreased or even ceased. In the same time the local workshops intensified their activity and started to produce most of the ceramic wares known in the Roman world, including terra sigillata.

Local production of terra sigillata in Roman Dacia

Based on the discoveries of terra sigillata moulds and of individual stamps (*poinçons*) used to decorate them, of local sigillata products and, in most of the cases, of building structures belonging to pottery workshops (kilns, pits for extracting the clay, wells, waste pits etc.) it has been possible to identify in Roman Dacia twelve terra sigillata production centers: *Porolissum*, *Potaissa*, *Apulum*, *Ampelum*, *Alburnus Maior*, *Războieni-Cetate*, *Micăsasa*, *Cristești*, *Tibiscum*, *Romula*, *Sucidava*, *Acidava-Enoșești* (fig. 1)¹.

Of the above-mentioned production centers, the most representative is the one at Micăsasa (figs. 2; 3,1–2). Here, the workshops produced a large variety of pottery wares (pottery made in late La Tène tradition, terra sigillata, stamped pottery,

with relief decoration, pottery decorated in barbotine technique, glazed pottery, vessels with applied medallions, terracotta figurines, oil lamps, common ware, building materials etc.)².

Among the large variety of pottery types produced here, the most impressive is terra sigillata. Over 400 moulds and mould fragments have been discovered. There are also 350 local terra sigillata vessels produced in the moulds, complete or fragmentarily preserved³.

The potters from Micăsasa used as models moulds or terra sigillata vessels produced in the western or closer-by centers. They created at the beginning copies from imported wares, in order to create the moulds⁴. Later on, they developed a unique, original style, insofar as the decorative repertoire and the positioning of motifs are concerned (figs. 3,3–4; 4)⁵. Moulds created in the local style share traits with the usual decoration on the stamped pottery, with animal, vegetal and geometric motifs prevailing over human figures (fig. 5). Among the latter, one of the most frequent and most particular representations created by the potters from Micăsasa is the bust of Minerva framed by an *aedicula* (fig. 4). The moulds have many variants of this representation, according to different decorative styles or using various combinations of the same motifs⁶.

The influence in the decorative style came from the workshops in Central Gaul (Lezoux) and Eastern Gaul (Rheinzabern), but also from the closer-by workshops, such as those in *Viminacium-Margum* from Upper Moesia. Such influences are normal as the workshops in Micăsasa were contemporary with the peak flourishing period of these centers, from the second half of the 2nd century until the first half of the 3rd century AD⁷.

¹ The analysis undertaken in order to identify the pottery workshops from Roman Dacia which produced terra sigillata was based, due to the present state of the research, only on the moulds and vessels which were decorated in relief. Local plain sigillata has been identified as such only in the most recent studies and monographs, for which reason it was not included in this study (see e. g. RUSU-BOLINDEȚ 2007, 195–214 cat. nos. 157–229; 219–229 pl. 36–48; MAN 2011, 76–77 cat. nos. 52–67; 87–89 pl. 19–22). The correct estimation of the local production of terra sigillata from Dacia should include in the future this category, very rich in archaeological discoveries, as well, in order to offer a real image of the production scale of such items in the province.

² MITROFAN 1990, 134; 136–138 fig. 17–18; 23–27; 32; 36–37; id. 1991, 174 fig. 6; 10–13; 16,1–2; 20; id. 1993, 95–158; 171–172 pl. 42–54; 57–68; id. 1995a, 6 pl. 7,2–4; 11; 16; 18–23; id. 1999, 170–172; RUSU-BOLINDEȚ 2007, 27–28; EAD. 2011, 92–99.

³ ISAC 1985, 71–73; 178 cat. nos. 593–597 pl. 67; 180 cat. no. 608 (moulds); 181–183 cat. nos. 621–633 pl. 71–73; MITROFAN 1990, 136–137 fig. 28–30; 31,1–3 (moulds for terra sigillata); fig. 22 (local sigillata ware); id. 1991, 176 fig. 9; 14–15; 16,1; id. 1993, 83–95; 177–178 pl. 37–41; 55–56; id. 1995a, 7 pl. 9–10; 17; 19/2; id. 1999, 170–172; ISAC 2001, 156 Abb. 2,1–2 (moulds for terra sigillata); Abb. 3,1–3 (local Samian ware); RUSU-BOLINDEȚ 2007, 20; EAD. 2011, 99.

⁴ MITROFAN 1990, 137 fig. 30; id. 1991, 176 fig. 15,3–4; id. 1993, 178 pl. 41,3–4; id. 1995a, 8 pl. 9,3; id. 1999, 172; RUSU-BOLINDEȚ 2011, 99 fig. 5,3.

⁵ MITROFAN 1990, 137; id. 1991, 176; id. 1993, 178; id. 1995a, 8; id. 1999, 172; for the partial repertory of motifs on terra sigillata produced at Micăsasa see RUSU-BOLINDEȚ 2011, 99 fig. 6,1–4.

⁶ Ibid. 99 fig. 5,4–5; 6,4.

⁷ RUSU-BOLINDEȚ 2011, 99.

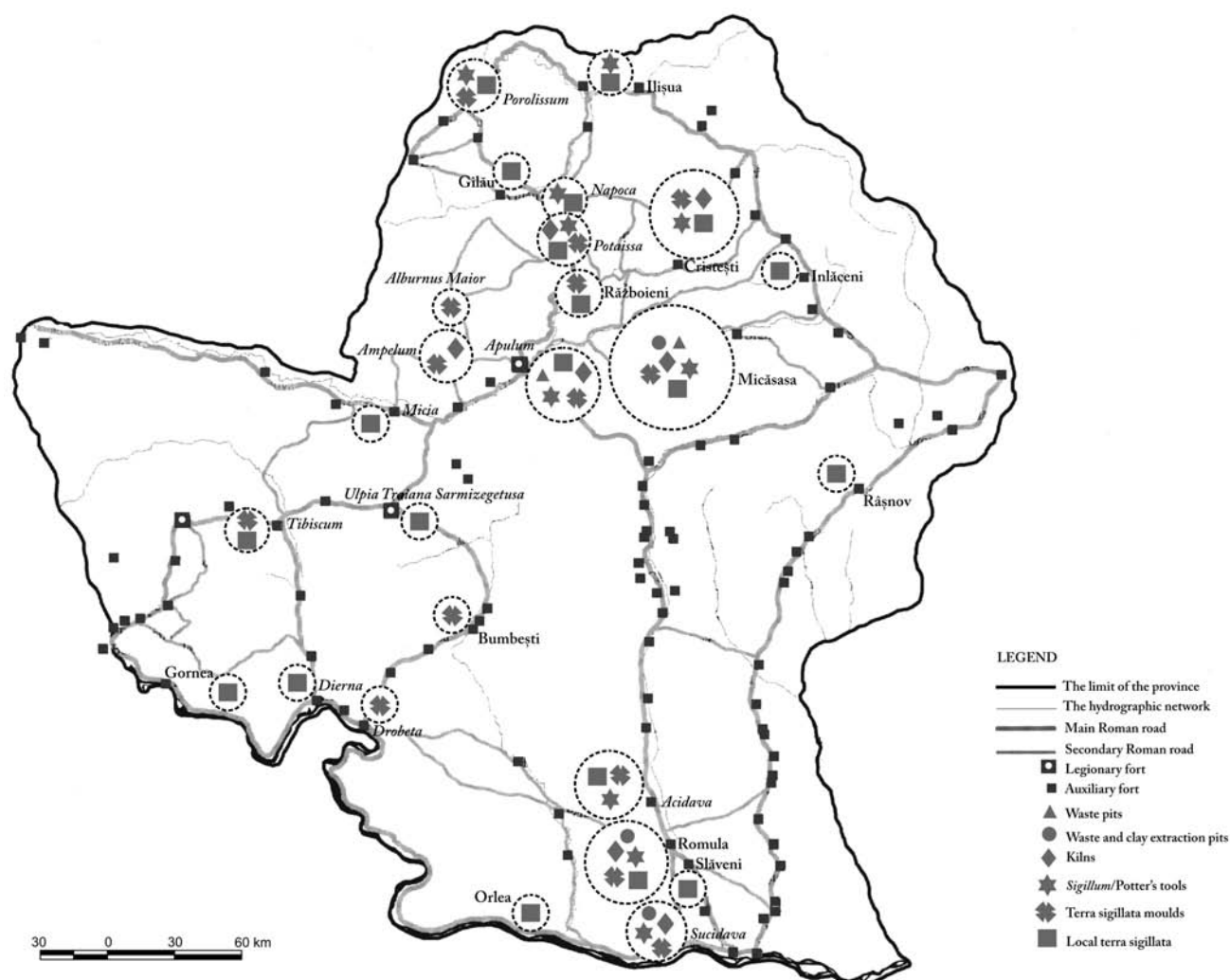


Fig. 1. Pottery workshops in Roman Dacia (after RUSU-BOLINDEȚ 2011 fig. 1).

Based on moulds or positives discovered so far, no potters' names – stamped or written in graffiti – have been identified⁸. The research of the decorative styles will certainly allow their identification, and scholars will be able to establish the manner in which the production of terra sigillata developed in these pottery workshops.

The large-scale production of terra sigillata at Micăsasa makes this settlement the most important workshop that produced this type of pottery in Dacia. At a provincial level, a comparative approach to the activity of the workshops under discussion suggests that Micăsasa outperformed other centers in Dacia. Through its intense production it could compete with centers from other provinces, at least those in *Viminacium-Margum*, Butovo and *Aquincum*, and maybe even with the large western workshops⁹.

The workshops supplied the urban centers around Micăsasa, especially *Apulum*¹⁰.

Identical moulds or vessels, with representations of the distinctive motif from Micăsasa – the bust of Minerva framed by an *aedicula* – were discovered at *Apulum* and Războieni-Cetate (fig. 6,2–3). This suggests either the circulation of moulds and craftsmen between these centers or the establishment of branches of workshops at Micăsasa in the other two centers.

Another terra sigillata production center was located at *Apulum*. Old archaeological research carried out in the *Colonia Aurelia Apulensis* brought to light three moulds for producing sigillata (fig. 7,5–7) and several fragments belonging to such locally produced vessels. On the other hand, recent excavations have revealed that pottery production developed around the sanctuary of Liber Pater in the same *Colonia Aurelia Apulensis* (fig. 7,1). Beside an impressive quantity of pottery, a large variety of potters' tools was discovered, testifying production activities: roulettes for decoration (fig. 7,2), potters' wheel fragments, tripod-shaped clay objects used to stack and support the vessels in the kiln, poinçons (*sigilla*: fig. 7,3) and moulds for terra sigillata bowls (fig. 7,4)¹¹.

⁸ This is not an exception though for sigillata workshops in the provinces neighboring Dacia, such as, e. g. the center of *Viminacium-Margum*, in *Moesia Superior*; see BIELAJAC 1990, 197–200 esp. 200, where products of local workshops did not bear potters' marks applied within the decoration or on the base. One notes a similar situation in the case of pottery workshops in *Moesia Inferior*; see DIMITROVA-MILCEVA 2000, 19.

⁹ RUSU-BOLINDEȚ 2011, 99 and tables 1–2.

¹⁰ For a detailed presentation of the production center at Micăsasa see

RUSU-BOLINDEȚ 2011, 92–99 figs. 1–6.

¹¹ CIAUȘESCU 2005, 322 fig. 4–10; for a synthesis regarding the activity of the pottery workshops at *Apulum*: RUSU-BOLINDEȚ 2011, 100–104 figs. 7–10.

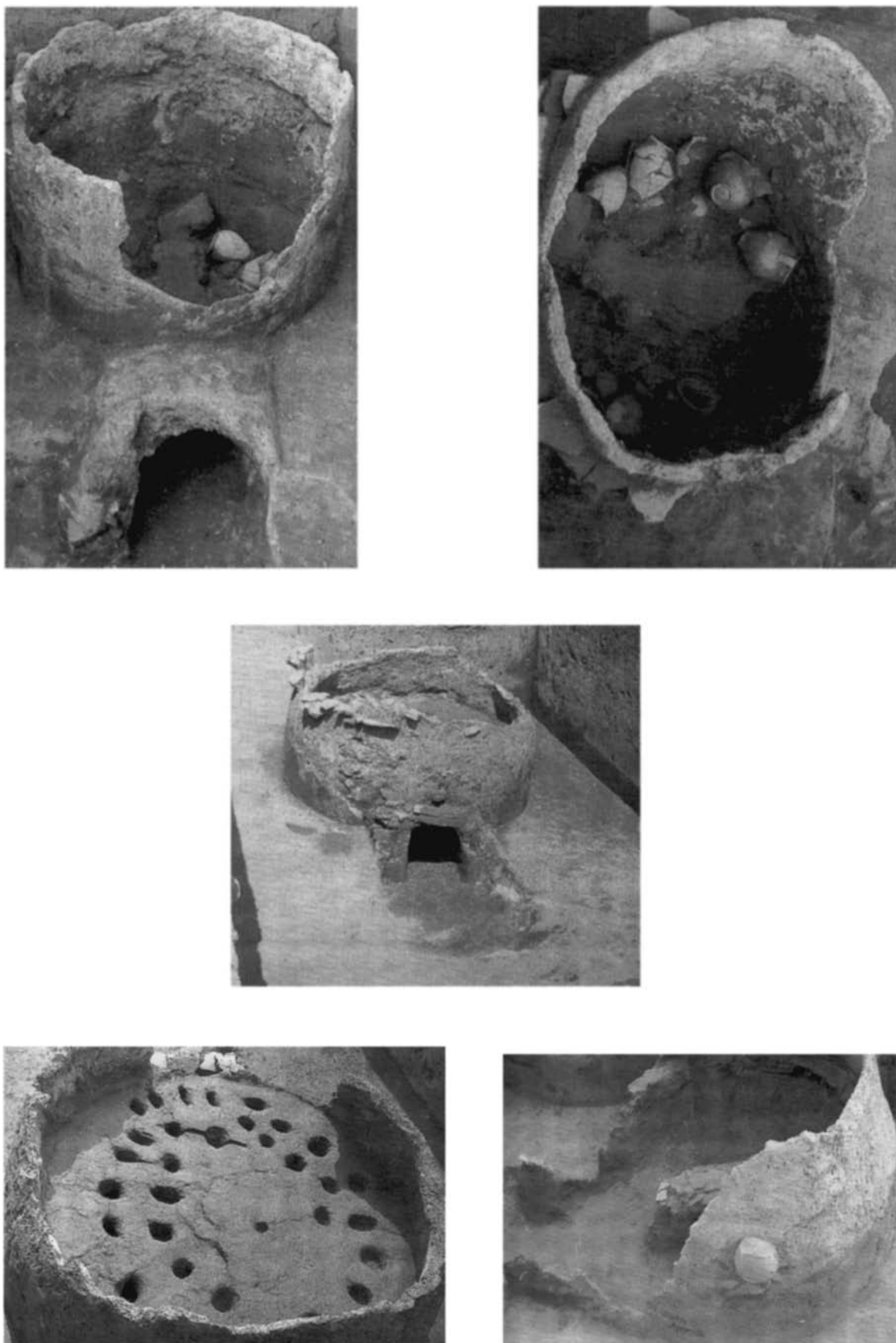


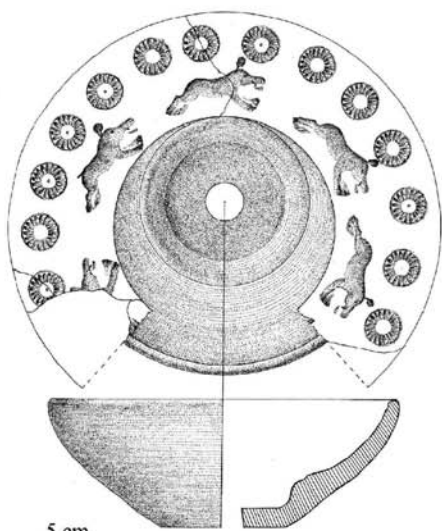
Fig. 2. Local pottery workshop at Micăsasa: pottery kilns (after MITROFAN 1991 fig. 5).



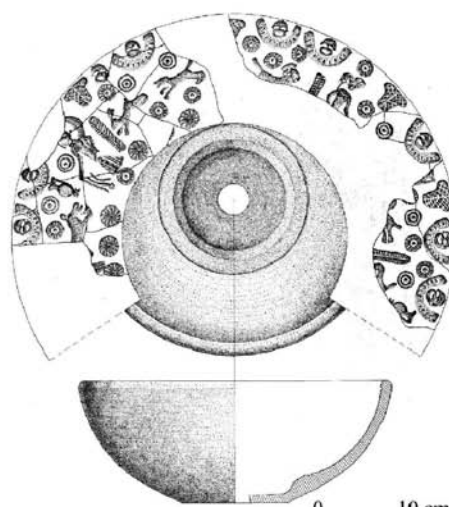
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Fig. 3. Local pottery workshop at Micăsasa: 1–2 waster pit (after MITROFAN 1991 fig. 7); 3–4 original moulds of terra sigillata with hunting scenes (photos and drawings of the author).



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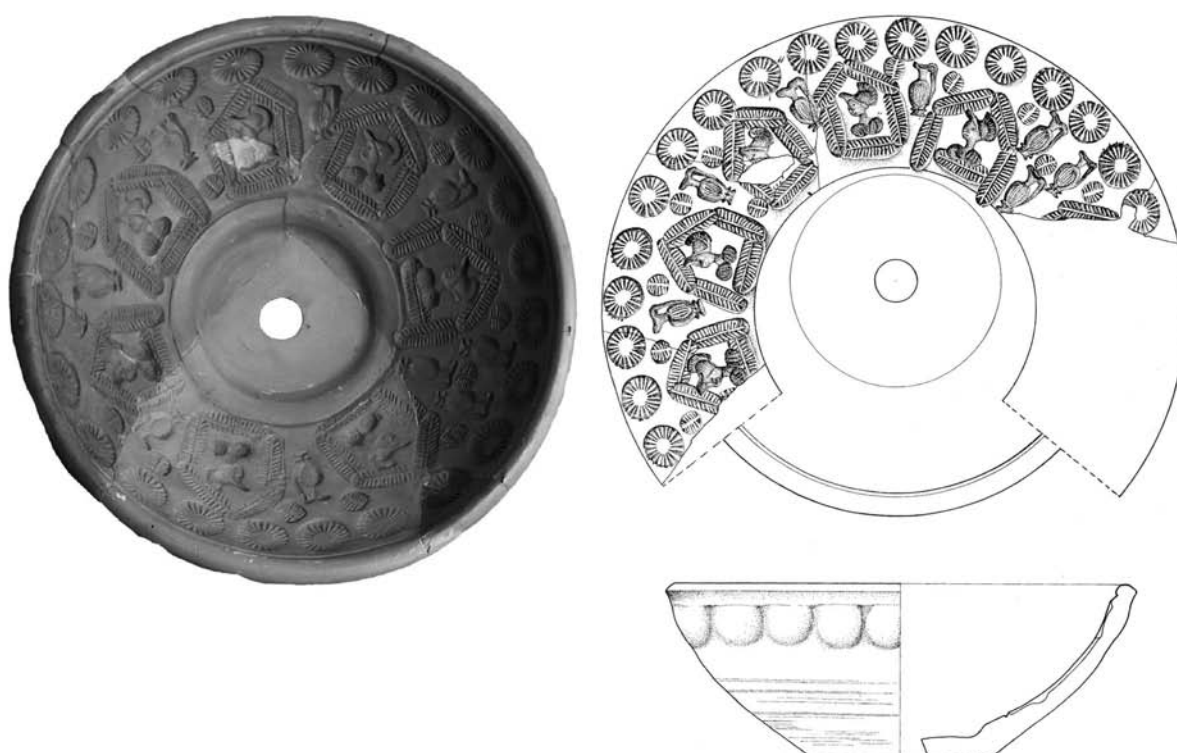


Fig. 4. Pottery workshop at Micăsasa: original mould of terra sigillata with bust of Minerva framed by an *aedicula* (photos and drawings of the author).



Fig. 5. Pottery workshop at Micăsasa: figurative and non-figurative motives on terra sigillata (after RUSU-BOLINDEȚ 2011 fig. 6,1–2; 4).

In the same group of production centers it is worth mentioning that at Cristești. The recent publication of the site reports the sigillata moulds (**fig. 8,2–3**), the vessels produced locally and the decorative motifs characteristic of the workshops which were active here (**fig. 8,1**)¹².

Other local centers which produced of terra sigillata are: *Alburnus Maior*¹³ (**fig. 9,1**); *Porolissum*¹⁴ (**fig. 9,2**); *Potaissa*¹⁵

(**fig. 9,3**); Războieni-Cetate¹⁶ (moulds brought from Micăsasa or copied from the ones used there were discovered [**fig. 6,3**], but also others which present particular decorative motifs; see **fig. 9,4–5**); *Tibiscum*¹⁷, *Romula*¹⁸, *Acidava-Enoșești*.

¹² MAN 2000; ID. 2011, 51; 73–89 cat. nos. 1–67 pl. 15–23 (local terra sigillata decorated in relief, plain sigillata and the repertory of decorative motifs); 146–149 pl. 87–90 (Samian ware moulds); RUSU-BOLINDEȚ 2011, 110, with references.

¹³ PESCARU ET AL. 2001, 125; 132 fig. 8,3. – The terra sigillata mould was discovered in the settlement, not in the pottery workshop (which has not been identified yet). – I would like to express my gratitude to Ph. Kenrick for his suggestions and comments.

¹⁴ ISAC/GUDEA 1980, 196 cat. nos. 44–45 fig. 3; ISAC 1985, 77; 179 cat. nr. 600 pl. 68; 77; 180 cat. nr. 612 pl. 70; GUDEA 1989, 195; 446 pl. 8,4;

ISAC 2001, 156 Abb. 2,3. – The terra sigillata mould was found at the sanctuary terraces, not in a pottery workshop.

¹⁵ CĂȚINAȘ 1980, 87 fig. 5,1–2; ISAC 1985, 76–77; 179 cat. no. 599 pl. 68; 181 cat. no. 619 pl. 71; ISAC 2001, 156 Abb. 2,4; CĂȚINAȘ 2010, 219–220 pl. 2 a–c; RUSU-BOLINDEȚ 2011, 109–110.

¹⁶ POPOVICI/VARGA 2010, 69–70; 73–78 pl. 5,3–4; 6; 7,8–9.

¹⁷ ISAC 1979, 116; 121 cat. no. 19 pl. 4,19 (TS mould); 116; 121 cat. no. 20 pl. 4,20 (fragment of local terra sigillata); BENEĂ 1982 passim; ISAC 1985, 77; 180 cat. no. 604 pl. 69; 186 cat. no. 656–659 pl. 76–77; ID. 2001, 156 Abb. 2,5; 4,7–9.

¹⁸ ISAC 1985, 77 cat. no. 604 pl. 69; POPILIAN 1997, 12 fig. 9,1–4; 10,1–2; 11; ID. 2001, 156–157 Abb. 2,8; 5,3–4; 6,1.5–7; RUSU-BOLINDEȚ 2011, 111–114 with references.

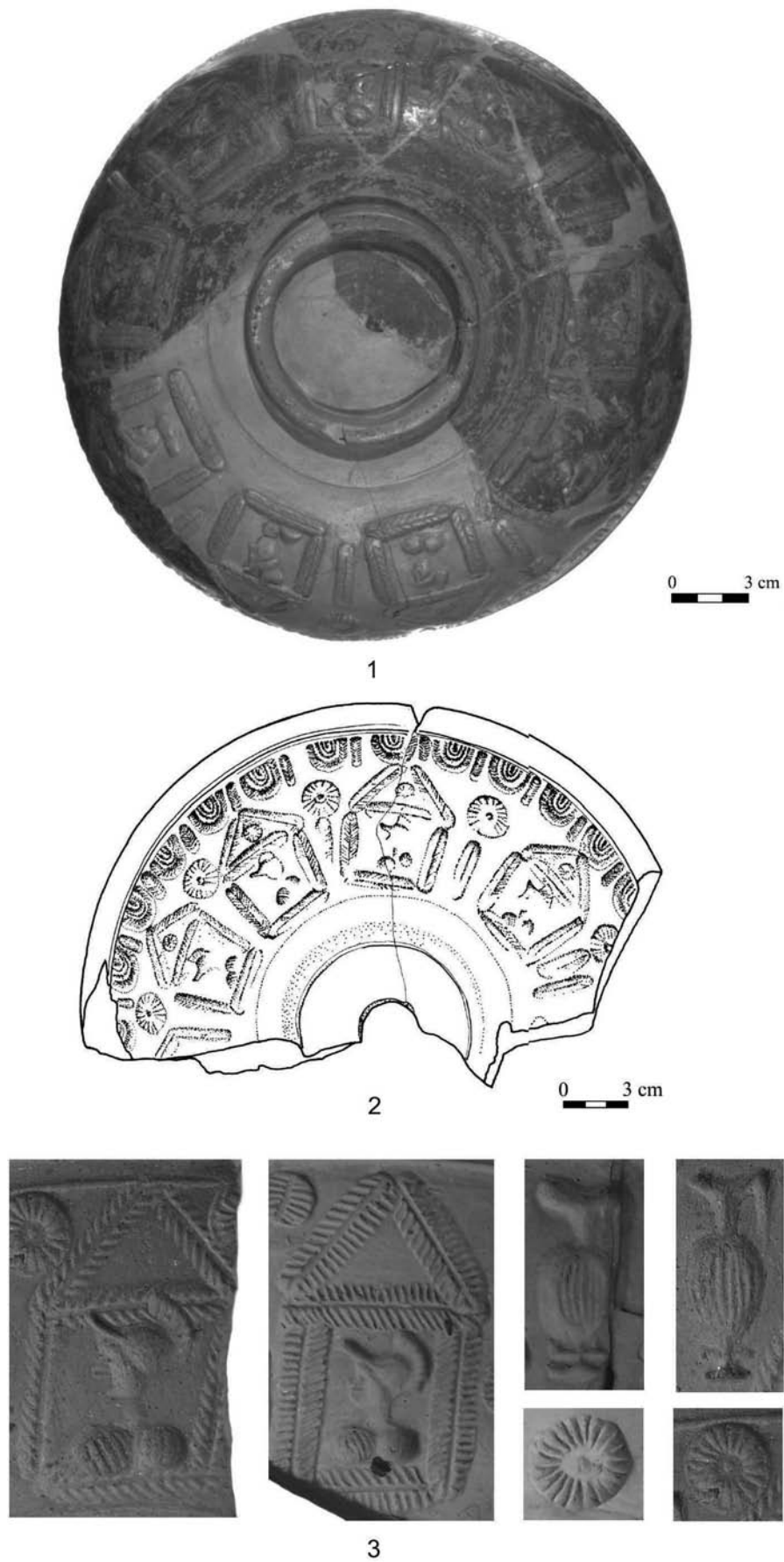


Fig. 6. 1 Terra sigillata bowl Drag. 37, made from a mould from Micăsasa with bust of Minerva framed by an *aedicula* (after RUSU-BOLINDEȚ 2011, fig. 5/5); **2** mould from *Apulum*, with the same motif (redrawn after MOGA 1978 fig. 2); **3** comparison between the figurative and non-figurative motives on terra sigillata moulds from pottery workshops at Micăsasa and Războieni-Cetate (photos of the autor).

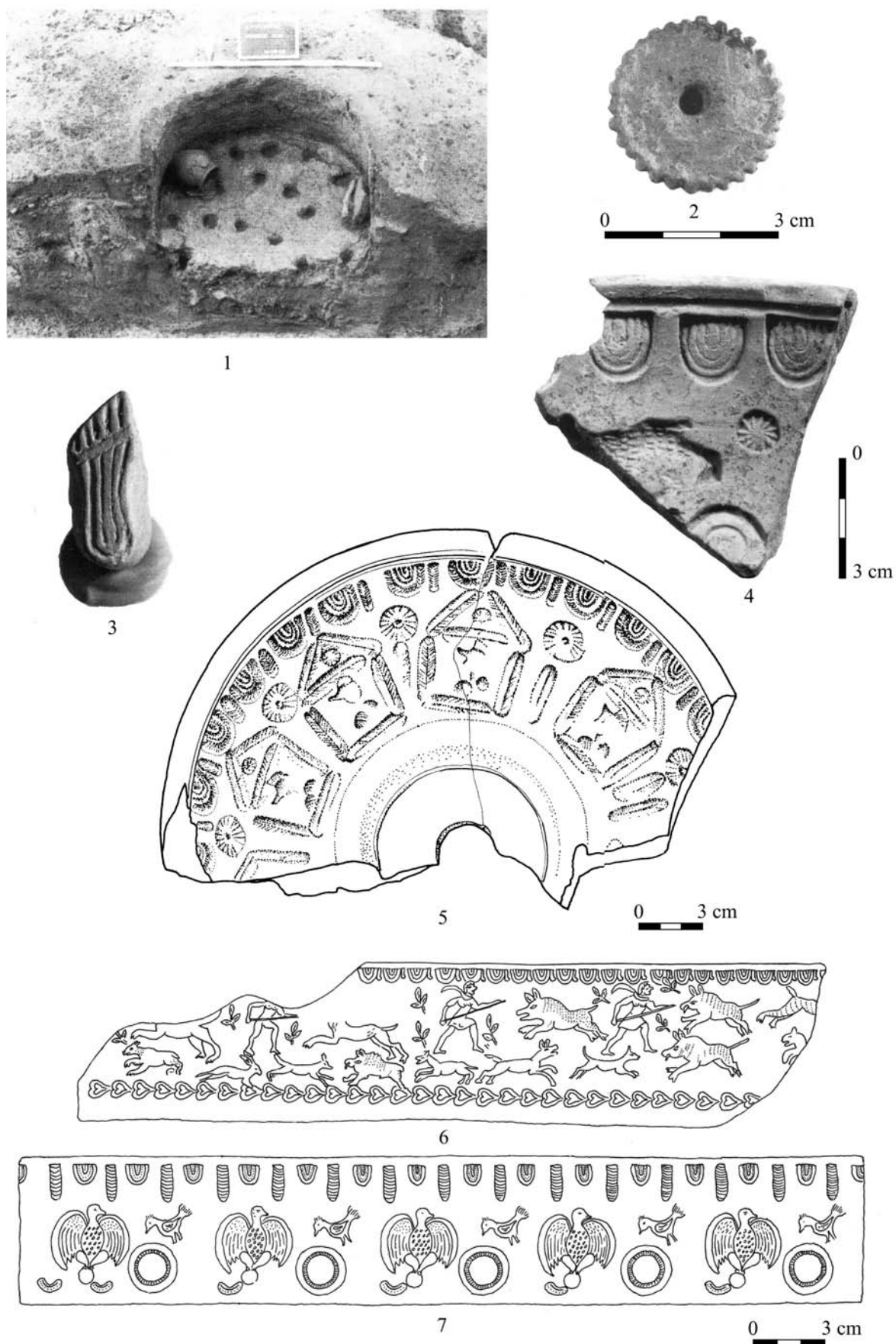


Fig. 7. Pottery workshop at *Apulum*. 1 pottery kiln. – Potter's tools: 2 roulette for decoration; 3 *sigillum* (after CIAUȘESCU 2005 figs. 2; 4; 9). – Original moulds of terra sigillata: 4 fragmentary mould (after CIAUȘESCU 2005, fig. 10); 5 mould with bust of Minerva framed by an *aedicula* (after MOGA 1978 fig. 2); 6 mould with hunting scene (after BĂLUȚĂ 1991 fig. 1,1); 7 mould with zoomorphic scene (after BĂLUȚĂ 1991 fig. 1,3).

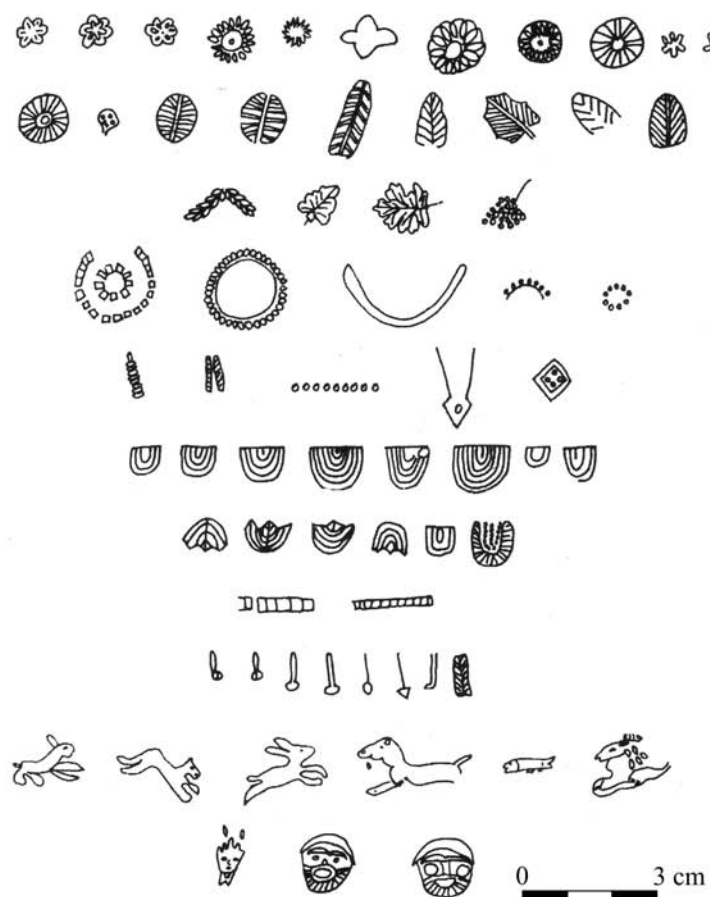


Fig. 8. Pottery workshop at Cristești: **1** figurative and non-figurative motifs on terra sigillata (after MAN 2011 pl. 23); **2–3** original moulds of terra sigillata (after MAN 2011 pl. 87,1–2).

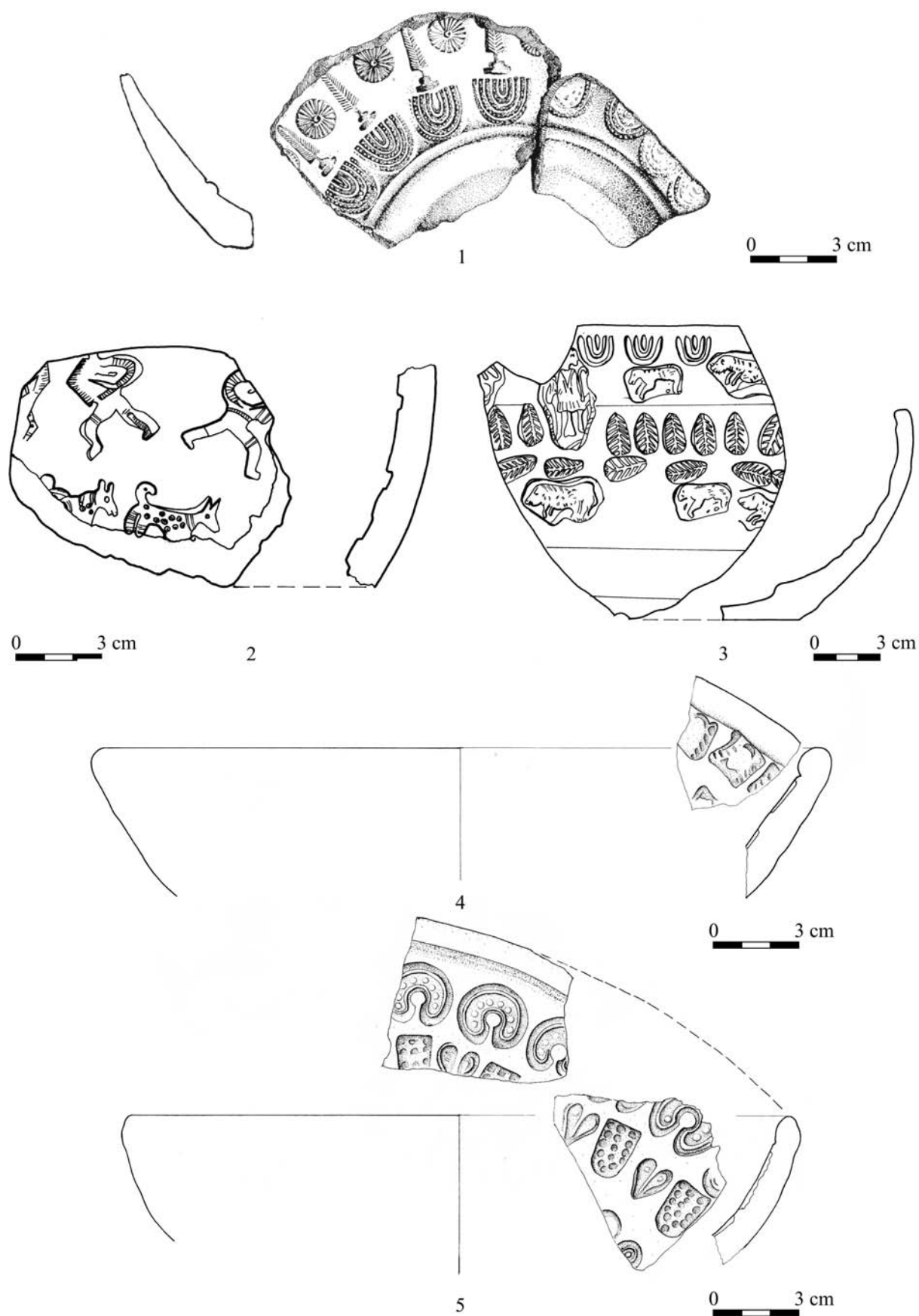


Fig. 9. Terra sigillata moulds produced by local pottery workshops at: **1** *Alburnus Maior* (after PESCARU ET AL. 2000, fig. 8/3); **2** *Porolissum* (after ISAC/GUDEA 1980 fig. 44); **3** *Potaissa* (after CĂȚINAȘ 2010, pl. II a); **4-5** *Războieni-Cetate* (after POPOVICI/VARGA 2010 pl. 5,3; 6,5).

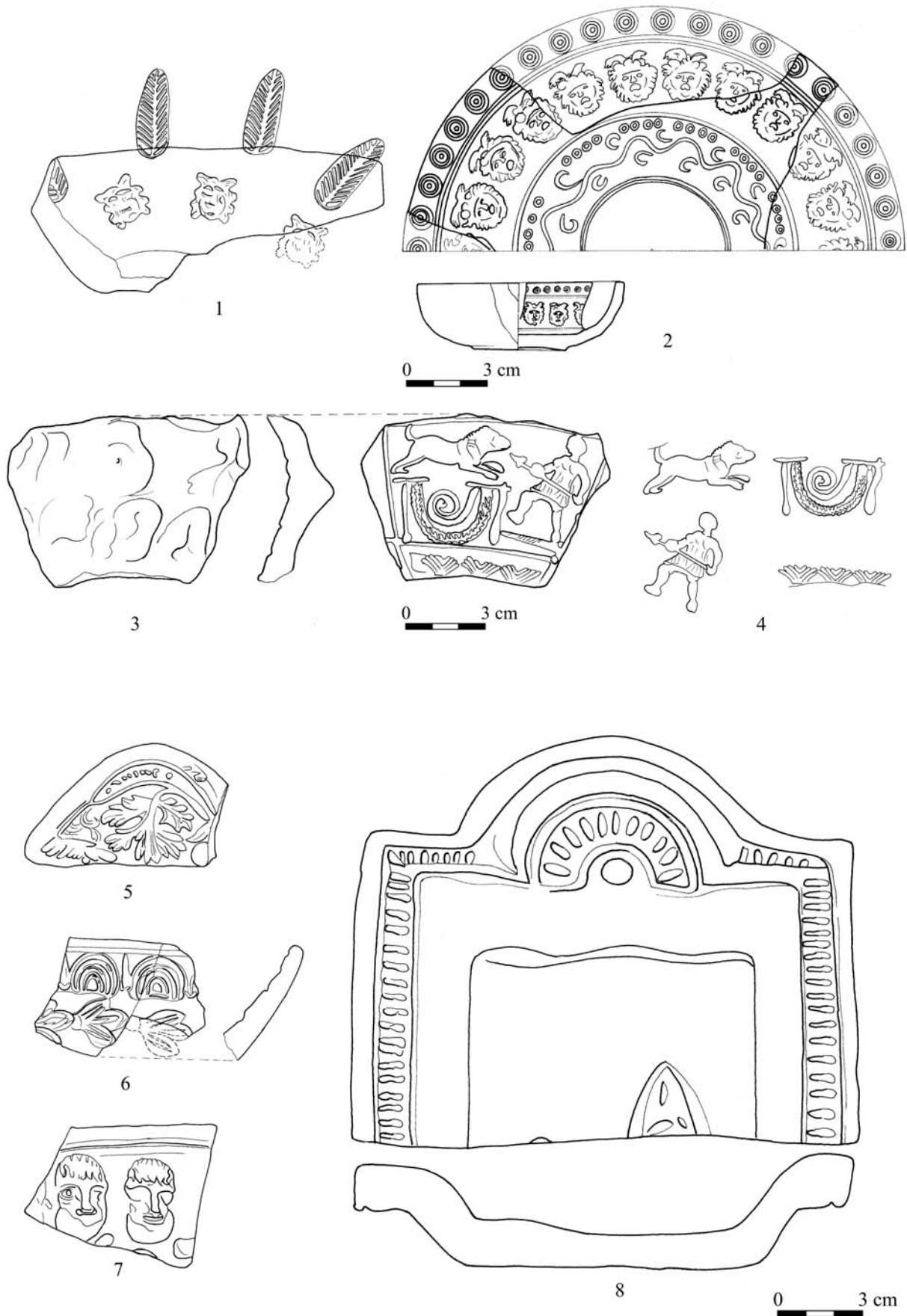


Fig. 10. Terra sigillata moulds produced by local pottery workshops at: **1** Romula (after POPILIAN 1976 pl. 23,258); **2–7** Acidava-Enoșești (after POPILIAN/GROSU 2003 pl. 1,1–b; 2,1–b; 3,2b; 4,1a; 6,1b); **8** Micăsasa (after ISAC 1985 pl. 70,608).

Recent archaeological excavations revealed that the pottery workshops from *Acidava-Enoșești* had also produced terra sigillata. The craftsmen from here made their moulds by copying (similar to the ones from Micăsasa) products from the workshops situated in Southern Gaul (La Graufesenque or Montans)¹⁹ (fig. 10,3). Also, they were influenced in the production of moulds and vessels by the pottery centers at *Viminacium-Margum*, Upper Moesia (the bowls decorated in relief Drag. 37) (fig. 10,6)²⁰ and Butovo, Lower Moesia (the decoration of the handles belonging to serving trays Drag. 39)²¹.

At the same time, in the workshops at *Acidava-Enoșești*, moulds with decorative motifs (fig. 10,2) similar to the ones from *Romula*²² (fig. 10,1) and *Sucidava*²³ (workshops with a more intense activity, situated in the same region) were discovered. Still, the potters from *Acidava* managed also to develop a characteristic decorative style which distinguishes the workshops here from the others situated nearby or at a distance (fig. 10,5,7)²⁴.

In addition to the above, a number of sigillata production centers are attested by the discovery of a rather small number of moulds, like *Porolissum*²⁵, *Alburnus Maior*²⁶, *Ampelum*²⁷ and *Sucidava*²⁸.

In the analysis of the pottery centers which produced terra sigillata, thirteen sites with discoveries of local sigillata were also taken into consideration (without the identification – except some rare cases – of specific structures that could be related to the workshops or of moulds): Gilău²⁹, Cășei³⁰, Ilișua³¹, Inlăceni³², *Napoca*³³, *Micia*³⁴, *Ulpia Traiana Sarmizegetusa*³⁵, *Tibiscum*³⁶, *Gornea*³⁷, *Orlea*³⁸, *Slăveni*³⁹, *Bumbești Jiu*⁴⁰, *Dierna*⁴¹.

Regarding the types of relief decorated terra sigillata produced in Dacia, the bowls Drag. 37 were manufactured

in most of the workshops (this can be explained by the overlapping of the period when the shape was produced in the workshops in the western Roman Empire and the period when it was produced in Dacia), followed by the trays with relief decorated handles Drag. 39 (fig. 10,8), produced only in some of the most important workshops of the province (Micăsasa, *Apulum*, *Potaissa*, *Romula*, *Sucidava*, *Acidava-Enoșești*).

When referring to chronology, it has to be stressed that only a few workshops from Dacia benefit from a well dated production period. In general, it is considered that the peak of their activity was reached in the Severan period, when the workshops managed to supply the market with the requested quantity of luxury pottery (terra sigillata), a demand which was no longer satisfied by the decrease of imports coming from the western production centers.

Returning to the way the request for luxury pottery was satisfied at the scale of the entire province, the analysis of pottery workshops from Roman Dacia, considering the present state of research and publication of materials, offers an interesting image (fig. 1). It is notable that the production centers identified up to the present date cluster in four main areas: in the central and north-western and in the southern and south-western parts of the province.

The most important pottery workshops group themselves in the central and north-western part of the territory, including the centers at Micăsasa, *Potaissa*, *Apulum* and *Cristești*. On these sites have been found the greatest number of pottery kilns, workshop structures (constructed during the Severan period) and local sigillata. The import of such items was replaced in Dacia Porolissensis (the north-western part of the province) with another category of luxury pottery, namely stamped pottery. This type of ware, a result of a simpler technological process in comparison with terra sigillata, would satisfy the demand for luxury pottery from this part of the province. The production of stamped pottery in great quantities is related to its demand as an export ware in *Barbaricum* – a situation clearly attested for *Porolissum* and only presumed for other production centers in the area⁴².

Another area with an important number of workshops can be observed in the southern and south-western part of the province. For the southern part the most important center, with a high influence on the surrounding workshops (*Sucidava*, *Slăveni*, *Acidava-Enoșești*) is *Romula*. The workshops at *Drobeta* and in its territory (especially *Gârla Mare*) and the one at *Dierna* are to be mentioned here.

The third group is composed of the workshops at *Tibiscum* and *Micia*, situated in the south-western part of the province.

Porolissum and *Napoca* represent another relevant region from the point of view of local pottery production, together with the workshops that supplied the auxiliary forts of Dacia Porolissensis (Ilișua, Cășeu, Buciumi, Bologa etc.)⁴³.

The situation is similar to the way in which terra sigillata imported into Dacia is distributed. On the other hand, the local production of sigillata, in the present state of the research, indicates that the most important workshops were situated in the rural environment or in the area of certain *vici militares*.

¹⁹ POPILIAN 1997, 16 fig. 39,1–3; POPILIAN/GROSU 2003, 62–63 pl.2; 3,1.

²⁰ Ibid. 64–65 pl. 4,1a–b.2 (moulds); pl. 4,4–5 (local terra sigillata).

²¹ Ibid. 65–66 pl. 6–7.

²² Ibid. 61–62, pl. 1,1a–b; 2. The authors of the article explain the presence of similar, sometimes identical, decorative motifs on the moulds and local sigillata discovered in the two production centers either through the activity of common craftsmen in both workshops (the two centers are situated at a distance of 25–30 km from each other), or through a possible exchange of moulds between them (POPILIAN/GROSU 2003, 61–62).

²³ POPILIAN 1997, 17 fig. 42; POPILIAN/GROSU 2003, 65 (the decorative motifs present on the handles of the trays Drag. 39).

²⁴ POPILIAN/GROSU 2003 passim.

²⁵ See above note 14. ISAC 1985, 77 cat. no. 600 (mould); cat. no. 612 (local sigillata).

²⁶ See note 13.

²⁷ ISAC 2001, 156 Abb. 2,6.

²⁸ POPILIAN 1997, 7; 17 fig. 42,1; ISAC 2001, 156–157 Abb. 2,7.

²⁹ ISAC 2001a, 81–83; 87 cat. nos. 36–39 pl. 9,36–39.

³⁰ Id. 2001b, 132.

³¹ Id. 1985, 181 cat. no. 614 pl. 70; Id. 2001 Abb. 3/4; GAIU 2002, 166 fig. 7,1–2.

³² ISAC 2001 Abb. 8.

³³ RUSU-BOLINDEȚ 2007, 190–214 pl. 24–58; EAD. 2011, 104–107 fig. 11,5, 9,12.

³⁴ ISAC 1985, 184–185 cat. nos. 648–653 pl. 75–76;

³⁵ Ibid. 185 cat. nos. 654–655 pl. 76; Id. 2001 Abb. 5,1.

³⁶ See note 17.

³⁷ Id. 1985, 184–185 cat. nos. 661 pl. 77; Id. 2001 Abb. 5,2.

³⁸ Ibid. 157 Abb. 6,8.

³⁹ POPILIAN 1997, 7; ISAC 2001, 157 Abb. 6,9.

⁴⁰ MARINOIU 2004, 110 pl. 59,2; BUNOIU 2009, 114.

⁴¹ ISAC 2001 Abb. 4,10.

⁴² Ibid. 57; Id. 2001b, 132; RUSU-BOLINDEȚ 2011, 109 fig. 12.

⁴³ See ibid. 114–115 with references.



Fig. 11. Local pottery workshop at Romula: figurative and non-figurative motifs on terra sigillata (after POPILIAN 1976 pl. 77–79).

These clusters of imports and pottery workshops can be explained by the massive presence of military units and urban centers, decisive for the demand of pottery products. The state of the archaeological research which has focused more on forts and towns than rural settlements is another element that can explain this situation. This is why the image offered by the types of sites where terra sigillata and pottery workshops have been discovered shows a high concentration in towns, forts and *vici militares*. Still, there are a few workshops located in the rural area, such as those in Micăsasa, Cristești, and Gârla Mare⁴⁴ that supplied with pottery the forts and settlements in the vicinity.

⁴⁴ For rural settlement in the territory of Drobeta, with a diverse pottery production, known due to the recent archaeological excavation, see STINGĂ 1998; ID. 2005.

Conclusions

The analysis of the supply and consumption of terra sigillata in Roman Dacia during the Severan dynasty reveals two interesting aspects: on one hand can be noted a decrease of imports coming from the western production centers and on the other an intensification of the activity of the local workshops. In both cases, the situation in Dacia is similar to that observed in the Danubian provinces, which experienced the same economic development, seeing a decrease of imported sigillata in parallel with a growth of the local production. The explanations for the first phenomenon are complex and are related to the gradual decrease of quality of the terra sigillata produced in the western workshops, determined by the migration of craftsmen, and by the exhaustion

of resources⁴⁵. One should also consider, even if it is just a rare phenomenon, the violent destruction of the workshops and a possible change in culinary habits. In Roman Dacia, the great number of workshops producing good quality terra sigillata satisfied the demand for luxury pottery from the local population. At the same time, a workshop which developed an industrial production, like the one at Micăsasa, supplied with terra sigillata sites in the neighboring provinces as well. On the other hand, as mentioned above, the stamped pottery represented in its turn a specific product of the Dacian workshops which managed to replace successfully the sigillata produced in Eastern Gaul, *Germania Superior*, and *Moesia Superior*. Therefore, the lack of imported sigillata, at a time when Dacia was experiencing economic development, can't be considered alarming, since the local workshops produced enough to cover the demand for such objects.

Such phenomena are more likely to be considered a different form of progress and regional tendencies which in the first third of the 3rd century are visible in all the fields of activity.

It is also worth mentioning that in the Severan period the African sigillata (African Red Slip Ware) reaches Lower Moesia, but is not yet present in Dacia. Moreover, the abundant terra sigillata production from this province (see the production centers situated in the vicinity of *Nicopolis ad Istrum*) is present in an insignificant amount in the Dacian settlements and only in the southern part of the province. Thus, the demand for luxury pottery is different in the two provinces, as well as the supply sources. The problem is more interesting if one takes into consideration the fact that Dacia and Lower Moesia are part of the same *portorium*. Even if such facts can be observed, no clear explanation can be offered for the moment. Still, they are part of a wider approach

to the economic history of the Danubian provinces which still requires a lot of attention from specialists.

The total absence of eastern sigillata (from Asia Minor, Aegean Sea region etc.) from Roman Dacia is not at all surprising. Such products, common on the shores of the Black Sea, never reached the Dacian market before or during the Severan period. This can be explained through the general economical orientation of Roman Dacia, towards west and south-west, situation which did not change during the Severan age.

The analysis of the supply of terra sigillata in Roman Dacia, based on the present state of archaeological research and on the amount of data which has been taken into account so far, situates Dacia in the group of the Danubian provinces which benefited from a last period of economic development, visible in many ways. One of them is represented by the increase of the local pottery production, a fact which also determined the production of good quality luxury pottery. Future publications dealing with Roman pottery from Dacia will aim at synthesizing this information. In this way it will be possible to highlight not only the influence of the western pottery workshops and the specific character of the local production of luxury pottery at the level of the entire province, but also the scale of this local production in terms of its distribution and influence on the production centers in the neighboring provinces and in *Barbaricum*. This will offer an image as close to reality as possible regarding an important aspect of the economic life of the province, namely that of the ratio between imports and locally produced terra sigillata (as well as other types of products) in the different periods of its evolution as part of the Roman Empire.

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45 LAFON 1986, passim.

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