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URBAN IDENTITY OF PULA AND ROMAN POTTERY FROM ST. THEODORE'S QUARTER 2005

Introduction

Rescue archaeological research has been carried out from 2005 to 2009 in St. Theodore's quarter, an area of 4000 square metres situated in the northeast corner of the urban nucleus of Pula¹ (**fig. 1**). The locality has been settled continuously for 3000 years and seven principal building phases were detected. The oldest remains of habitations are dated to the 10th century BC, to the beginning of the Histrian Iron Age. Roman architectural remains are dated to the second half of the 1st century BC and cover almost the whole excavated area. They include a sanctuary of Hercules, public *thermae*, a luxuriously equipped *domus*, an aqueduct and carefully planned canalisation and drainage systems. Following the destruction of the Roman sanctuary, *thermae* and *domus* in a fire towards the end of the 5th century AD, an early Christian church probably dedicated to St. Lucy was built on the ruins of the baths, in the same time as attached facilities for the production of olive oil.

This paper deals with the interpretation of the Roman pottery excavated in the campaign of 2005. Number, types, provenance and stratigraphical distribution of the pottery were analyzed. As a result, the pottery was displayed as an important element of urban identity. Several different, long-lasting Roman urban structures could be rather completely interpreted through their repertory of mobile finds. The majority of the ceramic finds from the Roman period was found in the *domus*, constructed in the third quarter of the 1st century BC and inhabited till a fire in the end of the 5th century AD. After that, the *domus* remained buried under a garden in church property and intact until the archaeological excavation of 2005. The *domus* was lavishly adorned in marbles imported from various provinces. It undoubtedly belonged to the highest social class of the Roman colony of Pola; the 19th century historian Pietro Kandler even supposed that in this quarter existed the palace of Antonia Maior, mother of the emperor Claudius.² The excavated part of the *domus* extends over 750 square metres and comprises twenty

one rooms. Pottery finds there were an important factor in understanding the purpose and social function of particular rooms in domestic life. They also illustrate different phases of the *domus*, that could be divided into two main periods. The first period lasted from 46/45 BC to a fire in about 120 AD, and the second period lasted from the overall reconstruction following the fire of 120 AD until a final fire at the end of the 5th century AD.

A relatively smaller quantity of ceramic finds comes from the area of the adjacent public *thermae*, built at the same time as the *domus* and abandoned at the same time as well. The *thermae* suffered total devastation after the fire which devastated the quarter at the end of the 5th century AD. Their remains were immediately transformed into an early Christian church with oil production facilities, probably belonging to the church estate. Pottery found in the Late Antique layers of the church and adjacent structures, dated from the 5th to the 8th century, was taken into consideration as representing continuity of occupation. Finds from the Roman sanctuary, excavated for the most part in the campaign of 2007–2009, make a separate large whole and are excluded from this study. For the same reasons, a deposit of more than 2,000 amphorae, buried during construction in the *temenos* of the sanctuary and in the foundations of the public *thermae*, has been published in separate papers.³

A methodology involving the documentation and inventory of each fragment respectively to stratigraphic layers was used. Groups of fragments belonging to the same vessel were recorded as a single item. After complete or partial reconstruction of the vessels, the next step was identifying particular types of pottery. Their dating was reviewed comparing local stratigraphical data with information known from literature. The provenance and functional purpose of the pottery were studied as well and used for statistical analysis. Due to the big quantity of finds, statistical analysis of the contents of stratigraphic layers was a very suitable and fruitful method. In the statistical analysis, all the recovered pottery fragments were included. The basic unit for counting was an identified vessel, whether preserved in only one small fragment, several fragments or almost in its entirety (= Minimum Number of Individuals). Vessels of undetermined type and origin, mostly preserved in isolated small fragments, were taken into account also. The study comprises a total number of 2,080 ceramic products.

¹ See A. STARAC, *Salus, Herkul i izvor vode. Primjer Pule*. Arch. Adriatica 2 (2008), 301–313; EAD., *Quarter of St. Theodor in Pula*. Annales, Ser. Historia et Sociologia 19, 2009, 271–290; EAD., *Nalaz rimskog svetišta u četvrti sv. Teodora u Puli*. Arheološka Istraživanja 2008. Histria Arch. 38/39, 2009, 123–168; EAD. 2008; EAD. 2009.

² P. KANDLER, *Palazzo di Antonia in Pola*. In: P. Kandler, *Notizie storiche di Pola* (Parenzo 1876) 120–121.

³ STARAC 2008, 121–129; EAD. 2009, 379–389.

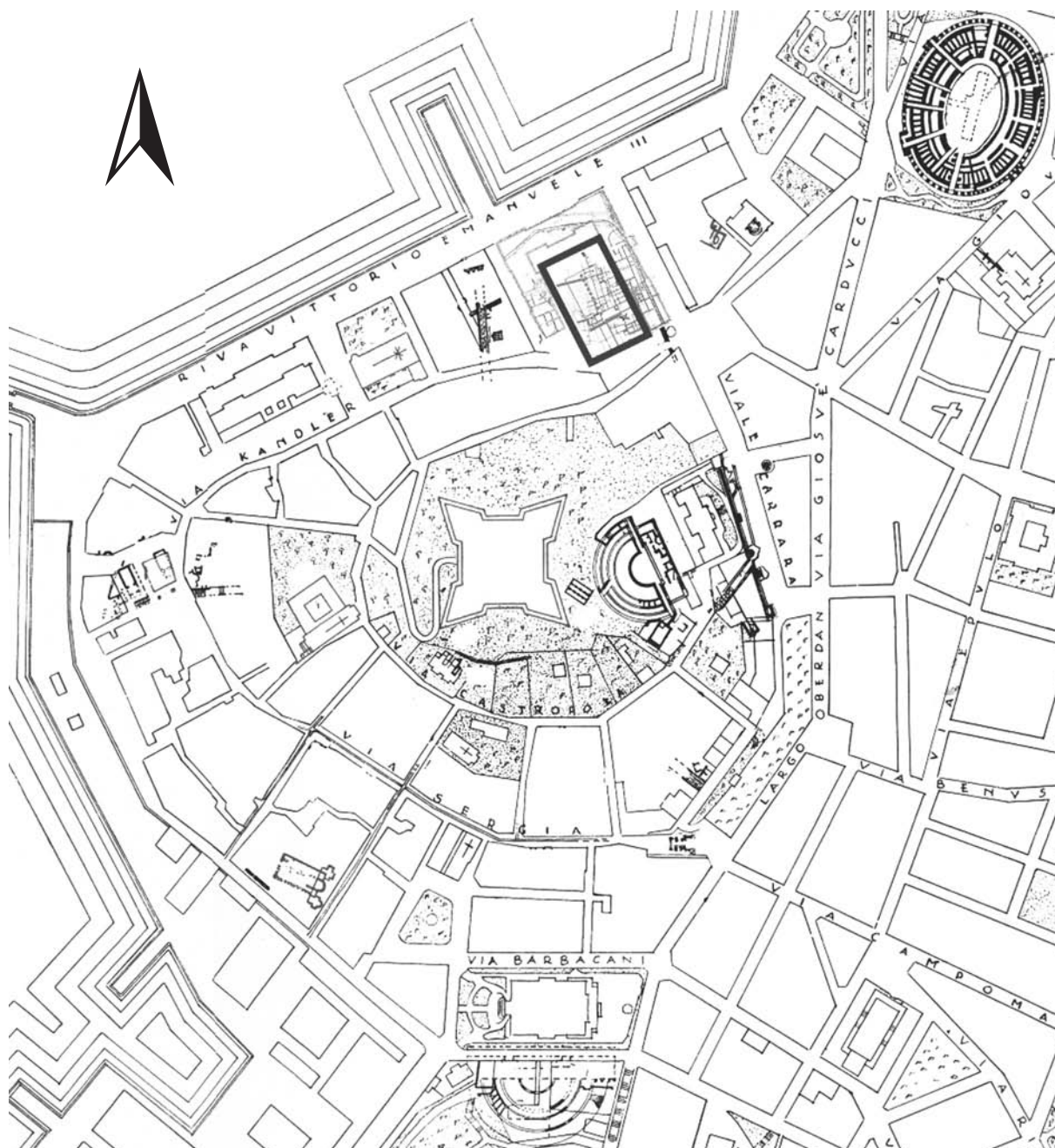


Fig. 1. St. Theodore's quarter at Pula, showing the site mentioned in the text.

Amphorae

Amphorae make up undoubtedly the biggest part of the pottery and the biggest part of the imports. The total number of 960 includes 804 amphorae and 156 amphora lids. Amphorae served as containers of olive oil, wine, fish products and fruits, created essentially for purposes of storage and transport. The importation of amphorae corresponded to the importation of wine and food ingredients and there lies the reason for their so dominant quantity.

The biggest number of amphora lids belongs to the amphora type Lamboglia 2 and counts 119 examples. These lids are for the most part flat with a small central handle, frequently decorated in relief. Sometimes, they are of conical

shape with a prolonged central handle. The place of their production is probably identical to the place of production of the corresponding amphorae, and has to be sought along the Italian coast of the Adriatic.⁴ To the local production, connected to the production centres of Istrian amphorae Dressel 6B at nearby Fažana⁵ and Liron⁶, could be ascribed

⁴ M. T. CIPRIANO/M.-B. CARRE, Production et typologie des amphores sur la côte adriatique de l'Italie. Amphores romaines et histoire économique. Dix ans de recherche. Collect. École Française Rome 114, 1989, 67–104, esp. 82.

⁵ BEZECZKY 1998; D. BULIĆ/I. KONČANI UHAČ, Figlina u Fažani i njezina preobrazba u kasnoj antici/The Pottery Workshop at Fažana and its Transformation in the Late Roman Period. *Histria Arch.* 41, 2010, 109–146.

⁶ Y. MARION AND A. STARAC, Les amphores. In: F. Tassaux/R. Matijašić/V.

six lids made of characteristic red or pinkish clay with numerous white and black inclusions. Thirty-one lids, mostly flat without handle or decoration and of smaller dimensions, remain of undetermined origin: their provenance is very varied and possibly can involve Hispanic, Gallic, African and Eastern provinces, comparing the fabrics with those of the imported amphorae.

248 amphorae (30.8%) remain of undetermined origin, but according to differences of clay and fabric shown in comparison to Istrian amphorae, they must be described as imports. Italian amphorae amount to 61 specimens (7.6%), locally produced Istrian type Dressel 6B 91 amphorae (11.3%), and to these must be added 83 examples of various types produced somewhere in the Adriatic region, in Italy or Istria (10.3 %). Lamboglia 2 amphorae are marked with stamps ANTIO, DASI, E[---], [---]NT. Stamps on Dressel 6B amphorae from Laecanius' Istrian workshop are: C.LAEK with [A]MYCVS dated to 45/50–78/80 AD⁷, [C L]AE B with IA[LIS] dated to 15–45/50 AD⁸, LAEK with L dated to 15–45/50 AD⁹ and CO[M] dated to 15–45/50 AD¹⁰. Stamps on Dressel 6B amphorae from Italy or of undetermined place of production are: [F]ELIC¹¹, VITALIS (retro), APPVL[C]¹² and VARI PACC from the Verona region dated to the end of the 1st century BC and to the beginning of the 1st century AD¹³. From the Iberian peninsula come 10 amphorae (1.2%), from Gaul 2 amphorae (0.5%), while 128 specimens come from Africa (15.7%). Two amphorae of originally Gallic forms, Gauloise 4 and Gauloise 9, are probably African imitations because of their intensely red fabric.¹⁴ The most significant imports come from the Eastern Mediterranean, amounting to 181 amphorae (22.3%).

Regarding amphora types, in the Late Republican period the most dominant type was the Italic Lamboglia 2 with 37 examples. In the Early Empire, the dominant types were Dressel 6B produced in Istria and the wider North Adriatic region (133 specimens), Adriatic flat-based amphorae (62 specimens) and Dressel 2–4 (21 specimens). In the 5th and 6th centuries the dominant recognizable amphora types were: Late Roman 1 (38 specimens), Palestinian Late Roman 4 (18 specimens) and Late Roman 3 (13 specimens), while in the 7th century there were only Spatheion amphorae (24 specimens) (fig. 2).

Particularly interesting is the case of a storage room at the *domus* (room P10 A-O4) where a group of amphorae was found abandoned at the end of the 5th century. There were beside one another amphorae produced at opposite sides of the Roman Empire: a Lusitanian amphora Almagro 50, an amphora from the Black Sea Roman colony Sinope and Adriatic flat-based amphorae whose production goes back to the 3rd century AD. It could be supposed that the old flat-based amphorae were preserved in domestic use for storage long after the end of their production and commercialisation. The amphora from Sinope has a *titulus pictus* in black paint indicating origin: TPVIIS / SINOP / [---].

Terra sigillata

Terra sigillata represents a large group of pottery with 253 vessels. Small fragments of 28 terra sigillata vessels (11%) remain of undetermined type and origin. Beside terra sigillata medio-adriatica, attested by one fragment with black lines, terra sigillata of North Italian production is the smallest group and amounts to 20 vessels only (9% of terra sigillata). The most numerous form is plate Conspectus 4 with five vessels, followed by cup Conspectus 22 with four exemplars. The cup Conspectus 34 is represented by two examples. Numerous forms are represented only by one specimen: Conspectus 27.1.1, Conspectus 3.2, Atlante II 15 D, Conspectus 1, Conspectus 2.12, Conspectus 12, Conspectus 12.1.2, Conspectus 12.4.2 and Conspectus 20.5.2. A cup Conspectus 27.1.1 bears the stamp [.]TVRI, and Conspectus 22 bears the rectangular stamp BITI. A fragment with stamp [P.]AT[TI] C[I] belongs to the unidentified North Italian sigillata. Fragments of two Pompeian dishes are attested. The mentioned vessels were utilised in the first period of the *domus*, in the second half of the 1st century BC and in the 1st century AD. After the fire and renovation of the *domus* about 120 AD, all the old inventory of the house finished in rubbish tips or as recycled waste material. There lies the reason for the relatively small number of pottery finds dating to the otherwise architecturally very sumptuous and well documented early Imperial period.

The large number of 173 vessels is related to the dominant terra sigillata of African origin that makes 69%. By one specimen only are represented types Lamboglia 6 bis, Hayes 1, Hayes 3, Hayes 8 A, Hayes 10 A, Hayes 11, Hayes 14 B, Hayes 18, Hayes 23 B, Hayes 27, Hayes 27/31, Hayes 29, Hayes 31, Hayes 50 B, Hayes 61 B, Hayes 67, Hayes 70, Hayes 87 A, Hayes 91 A, Hayes 91 B, Hayes 91 C, Hayes 99 A, Hayes 103, Hayes 182, Hayes 183, Atlante I, p. 214 and Ostia III, 267. By two vessels are represented types: Hayes 9 A, Hayes 39 i, Hayes 59 B, Hayes 85 A, Hayes 99, Hayes 107 and Setif 1970. Types Hayes 14 A and Hayes 33 are represented by four specimens each, while forms Hayes 23, Hayes 32/58 and Hayes 50 A are represented by five vessels each. Forms Hayes 32 and Hayes 181 are represented by six vessels each. Form Hayes 49 has even ten specimens, while convincingly the most popular form was the large dish Hayes 50 with 15 documented examples. Type Hayes 76, although inspired by African forms, is of undetermined

Kovačić, Loran (Croatie). Un grand centre de production d'amphores à huile istriennes (Ier–IVe s.p.C.) (Bordeaux 2001) 97–125.

⁷ BEZECZKY 1998, 25; 29 no. 4.

⁸ Ibid. 25, 37 no. 28b.

⁹ Ibid. 25, 37 no. 30.

¹⁰ Ibid. 25, 31 no. 12–13; 41.

¹¹ V. MAIER-MAIDL, Stempel und Inschriften auf Amphoren vom Magdalenberg. Kärntner Museumsschr. 73 = Arch. Forsch. Grabungen Magdalenberg 11 (Klagenfurt 1992) no. 8; PESAVENTO MATTIOLI 1992, 169; BEZECZKY 1998, 25.

¹² The stamp AP(pi) PVL[C(hri)] belongs to the workshop owner, senator and consul of 38 BC, Ap(pius) Claudius Pulcher. TONIOLO 1991, 175 no. 18.

¹³ M. BUORA, Nota sui bolli delle anfore rinvenute a Codroipo. In: M. Buora (a cura di), Quadrievim. Sulla strada di Augusto dalla preistoria all'età moderna. Arch. Frontiera 3 (Trieste 1999) 127–131 esp. 128 tav. 43; TONIOLO 1991, 172 no. 16.

¹⁴ A. NACIRI/F. WIDEMANN/A. SABIR, Distinction par analyse par activation neutronique des amphores Gauloise 4 et de leurs imitations tardives en Mauritanie césarienne: les Dressel 30. Ant. Africaines 22, 1986, 129–140.

Amphorae: undetermined	220	East Mediter.: Agora F65-66	2
Amphora lids: undetermined	31	East Mediter.: Agora K109	1
Amphora lids: local	6	East Mediter.: Agora M54	1
Lamboglia 2 amphora lids: Italy	119	East Mediter.: LR 1	38
Italy: Lamboglia 2	37	Greece: LR 2	11
Italy: brindisi amphorae	2	East Mediter.: LR 3	13
Italy: ovoid amphorae	2	Palestine: LR 4	18
Italy: Dressel 6A	6	East Mediter.: LR 5	8
Istria: Dressel 6B	91	Lusitania: Almagro 50	4
Italy: Dressel 6B	10	Italy: Pompeian dish	2
Adriatic: Dressel 6B	22	Italy: black slip tableware	10
Adriatic: amphorae "collo ad imbuto"	9	Tableware, undetermined	4
Adriatic: flat base amphorae	52	North Italy: Conspectus 3.2	1
Flat base amphorae, undetermined	10	North Italy: Conspectus 4	5
Italy: Keay 52	1	North Italy: Conspectus 22	4
Italy: Dressel 2-4	3	North Italy: Conspectus 27.1.1	1
Dressel 2-4, undetermined	18	North Italy: Atlante II, 15 D	1
Gallia: Gauloise 3	1	North Italy: Conspectus 1	1
Africa (Gallia): Gauloise 4	1	North Italy: Conspectus 2.12	1
Africa (Gallia): Gauloise 9	1	North Italy: Conspectus 12	1
Gaulish amphora, undetermined	1	North Italy: Conspectus 12.1.2	1
Hispania: Dressel 7/11	1	North Italy: Conspectus 12.4.2	1
Hispania: Beltran 2	3	North Italy: Conspectus 20.5.2	1
Hispania: Beltran 72	1	Italy: Conspectus 34	2
Hispanic amphora, undetermined	1	Italy: Medio Adriatica	1
Black Sea: Sinope	2	Africa: Lamboglia 6 bis	1
Creta: Cretoise 2	1	Africa: Hayes 1	1
Greece: Knidian amphora	1	Africa: Hayes 3	1
East Mediter.: Rhodian amphorae	4	Africa: Hayes 8 A	1
East Mediter.: Pseudo rhodian amphorae	4	Africa: Hayes 9 A	2
East Mediter.: Kapitan 1	2	Africa: Hayes 10 A	1
East Mediter.: Kapitan 2	4	Africa: Hayes 11	1
East Mediter.: amphorae	70	Africa: Hayes 14	1
African amphorae	82	Africa: Hayes 14 A	4
Africa: Dressel 30	4	Africa: Hayes 18	1
Africa: Keay 8B	1	Africa: Hayes 23	5
Africa: Keay 34	1	Africa: Hayes 23 B	1
Africa: Keay 36	1	Africa: Hayes 27	1
Africa: Keay 40	1	Africa: Hayes 27/31	1
Africa: MR 8	1	Africa: Hayes 29	1
Africa: Africana 2	6	Africa: Hayes 31	1
Africa: Africana 3	3	Africa: Hayes 32	6
Egypt: Egloff 172	1	Africa: Hayes 32/58	5
Sidi Jdidi	1	Africa: Hayes 33	4
Africa: Spathaion	24	Africa: Hayes 39 i	2
East Mediter.: Agora F65	1		

Fig. 2a. Roman pottery, finds at St. Theodore's quarter 2005.

Africa: Hayes 49	10	Cups, unknown production	38
Africa: Hayes 50	15	Ampula	1
Africa: Hayes 50 A	5	Cnidian enophora Hausmann III	1
Africa: Hayes 50 B	1	Glased tableware	7
Africa: Hayes 59 B	2	Pantelleria: kitchenware	20
Africa: Hayes 61 B	1	Mortars	10
Africa: Hayes 67	1	Africa: pots	24
Africa: Hayes 70	1	Africa: pot lids	10
Hayes 76	4	East Mediter.: pots	43
Africa: Hayes 85 A	2	East Mediter.: kitchen dishes	32
Africa: Hayes 87 A	1	East Mediter.: pot lids	4
Africa: Hayes 91 A	1	Undetermined: pots	62
Africa: Hayes 91 B	1	Undetermined: pot lids	32
Africa: Hayes 91 C	1	Undetermined: dishes	26
Africa: Hayes 99	2	Local: pots	123
Africa: Hayes 99 A	1	Local: pot lids	22
Africa: Hayes 103	1	Local: kettle	9
Africa: Hayes 107	2	Local: roaster dish	6
Africa: Hayes 181	6	Howland 43 lamp	1
Africa: Hayes 182	1	Italy: Agora 33 / Broneer XVII	1
Africa: Hayes 183	1	Italy: Lombard lamps	2
Africa: Setif 1970	2	Italy: lamps Loeschcke I c	3
Africa: Atlante I, 214	1	Italy: lamps Loeschcke I	13
Africa: dish/lid Ostia I, 262	40	Italy: lamps Loeschcke I b	4
Africa: Ostia III, 267	1	Italy: lamps Loeschcke X	70
Africa: terra sigillata, undetermined	28	Italy: lamps	4
Hayes LR C 10 A	1	lamps Loeschcke VIII	5
East Mediter.: dish/lid Ostia I, 262	5	Corinth: lamp Deneauve VIII c	1
East Mediter.: ES A, Hayes 48	1	Corinth: lamps Deneauve VII	5
East Mediter.: ES B 60	9	East Mediter.: lamps Deneauve VII a	3
East Mediter.: ES B, Hayes 80	2	Lamps, undetermined	5
East Mediter.: CS P 40	1	Africa: lamp Atlante VIII	1
East Mediter.: Hayes LR C 9B	1	Africa: lamp Atlante VIII D6	1
East Mediter.: Candarli L 19	1	Africa: lamps Atlante X A 2	2
East Mediter., terra sigillata, undetermined	3	Africa: lamp Atlante X A Ib	1
Asia Minor: Hayes LR C 2A	1	Africa: lamps Atlante X	8
Asia Minor: Hayes LR C3	2	Africa: lamps Atlante X A Ia	8
Asia Minor: Hayes LR C 3C	1	Thymiaterion	1
Asia Minor: Hayes LR C8	1	Incensory	4
Terra sigillata: undetermined	31	Weights	3
Italy: jugs	10	Whorls	9
Jugs, unknown production	179	Tegulae	7
North Italy: cups	13	Tubuli	7
Greece: corinthian cups	4	Pavement plates	5
East Mediter.: cups	2	Antefix	1

Fig. 2b. Roman pottery, finds at St. Theodore's quarter 2005.

production. There are four dishes of this type. 28 vessels of African production are preserved only in small fragments and remain without type definition.

An eastern Mediterranean origin has been determined for 29 vessels (11%), between them 3 of undetermined type. By only one specimen is attested ESA form Hayes 48 (Atlante II tav. 6,16), as well as form Hayes LRC 9B, CS P 40 (Atlante II tav. 21, 4) and Çandarlı L 19 (Atlante II tav. 17,7). Type ESB Hayes 80 (Atlante II tav. 15,15) is represented by two vessels. Five pan/lids Ostia I fig. 262 (Atlante I tav. 105,3) can be determined as eastern Mediterranean products because of their fabric, filled with tiny sparkling particles. The most numerous eastern Mediterranean dish is ESB Hayes 60 (Atlante II tav. 14,7), with nine specimens. From Asia Minor came scarcely attested types: two Hayes LRC 3, one Hayes LRC 3C, one Hayes LRC 8 and one vessel of the Hayes LRC 2A type. To Asia minor can be attributed also type Hayes LRC 10A, represented by one vessel. These dishes were imported in Late Antiquity, in the last years of the Western Roman Empire or after its decline, in the period of Ostrogothic and Byzantine rule in Istria.

The reasons for so small a quantity of north Italian sigillata as well as a complete lack of central Italian sigillata can be found in the history of the town quarter documented by stratigraphic layers and their contents. The *domus* survived a big fire about the year 120 AD, and it was almost completely restored. So all domestic objects utilised before 120 AD were found below restored pavements or in waste heaps. The majority of products during the 1st century BC and the 1st century AD was imported from North Italy and the Italian coast of the Adriatic in general. After the fire in the time of Hadrian, the complete inventory of the *domus* was changed and in the new material the predominant position was taken by African products. After the fall of the Western Roman Empire, African imports declined in favour of Byzantine pottery from Asia Minor.

Tableware: jugs and cups

After terra sigillata, the tableware is dominated by 189 specimens of common ware jugs, 10 of them of Italian origin, the rest undetermined. Cups are represented by 57 specimens of varying origin: 13 cups from North Italy, 4 Corinthian cups¹⁵, 2 Eastern Mediterranean cups and 38 cups of unknown production. One small fragment of an Eastern Mediterranean cup bears a letter π written in white color on the black surface. The group of glazed tableware, probably of North Adriatic production¹⁶, counts 7 different vessels preserved only in small fragments.

Four tableware vessels of undetermined origin, a Knidian oinophoros of Hausmann III type¹⁷ and an Eastern Mediter-

anean ampulla complete the picture. The ampulla is dated to the 7th century AD¹⁸ and was found in the area immediately in the front of the early Christian church, together with several small Spatheion 3 amphorae from the same period.¹⁹ This circumstance leads to presumption that it was part of the church furnishings for the cult service, with the Spatheion amphorae containing wine and the ampulla possibly containing the oil.

Kitchenware

Cooking and other kitchen pottery accounts for 423 vessels. By means of the visually distinctive characteristics of the ceramic, its fabric and quality, 160 vessels were determined as local (i.e. Istrian) products (37%), among them 123 pots, 22 lids, 9 kettles and 6 baking pans. 130 vessels (31%) are of undetermined origin: 62 pots, 26 bowls, 32 lids and 10 mortars of yellow fabric. Pottery of Eastern Mediterranean origin²⁰ amounts to 79 specimens (19%): 43 pots, 32 bowls and 4 lids, while 24 pots and 10 lids are of African origin (8%). Pantelleria or similar ware is represented by 20 bowls (5%).

Lamps

Lamps are documented by a total of 138 items. Four lamps date to the Republican period. To the Italian production of the second half of the 1st century BC, the 1st and 2nd century AD, can be ascribed the majority, some 97 lamps. Twenty lamps belong to the type Loeschcke I, four of them to the variant Ib and three specimens to the variant Ic. North Italian Firmalampen (type Loeschcke X) are as usual the most numerous, represented by 70 lamps. The prevalent stamp is CRESCES with five examples, stamp QGC is represented by two lamps, FORTIS and VIBIANI by one lamp each.²¹ The total number of lamps of Italian origin is 105 (72%). Fourteen lamps dated to the 2nd and 3rd centuries AD come from the Eastern Mediterranean: five lamps of Loeschcke VIII type, five Corinthian lamps of Deneauve type VII and one Corinthian Deneauve VIIIc lamp, while three lamps belong to the type Deneauve VII a.²² An African origin is documented in the case of 21 lamps (14%) from the late 4th and 5th centuries AD, two variants of Atlante VIII type and 19

¹⁵ D. MALFITANA, La ceramica «corinzia» decorata a matrice. Tipologia, cronologia ed iconografia di una produzione ceramica greca di età imperiale. RCRF Acta Suppl. 10 (Bonn 2007).

¹⁶ R. CHINELLI/C. MAGRINI/F. SBARRA, Progetto di studio sulle produzioni di ceramica invetriata tardoromana nell'area alpina orientale e nelle province d'ubiane. Il caso di Vindobona: relazione preliminare. RCRF Acta 40, 2008, 141–157 esp. 154.

¹⁷ Atlante I, 234 tav. 120,1.

¹⁸ S. LOCHNER/R. SAUER/R. LINKE, Late Roman Unguentaria? A Contribution to Early Byzantine Wares from the View of Ephesus. In: J. M. Gurt I Esparraguera/J. Buxeda i Garrigos/M. A. Cau Ontiveros (eds.), LRCW 1. Late Roman Coarse Wares, Cooking Wares and Amphorae in the Mediterranean: Archaeology and Archaeometry 1. BAR Internat. Ser. 1340 (Oxford 2005) 647–654.

¹⁹ M. BONIFAY, Observations sur la typologie des amphores africaines de l'antiquité tardive. In: J. M. Gurt I Esparraguera/J. Buxeda i Garrigos/M. A. Cau Ontiveros (eds.), LRCW 1. Late Roman Coarse Wares, Cooking Wares and Amphorae in the Mediterranean: Archaeology and Archaeometry 1. BAR Internat. Ser. 1340 (Oxford 2005) 451–472 esp. 453 fig. 5,1.

²⁰ J. ISTENIĆ/G. SCHNEIDER, Aegean cooking ware in the eastern Adriatic. RCRF Acta 36, 2000, 341–348.

²¹ See typically E. BUCHI, Lucerne romane con marchio di fabbrica. Lucerne Mus. Aquileia 1 (Aquila 1975).

²² See J. DENEAUVE, Lampes de Carthage (Paris 1969); D. M. BAILEY, A Catalogue of the Lamps in the British Museum III. Roman Provincial Lamps (London 1988)..

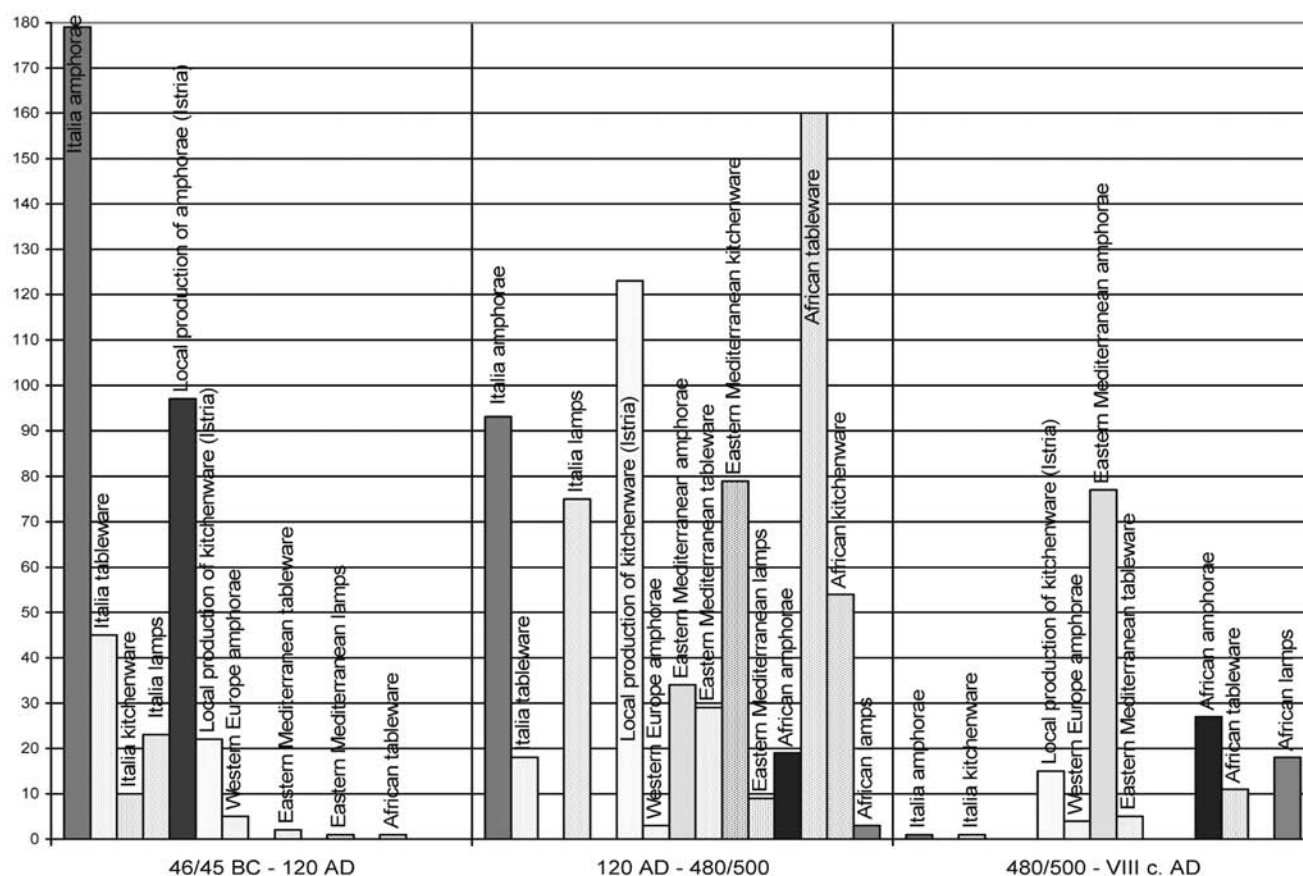


Fig. 3. Chronology and origin of the Roman pottery from St. Theodore's quarter, Pula. Three stratigraphical phases.

variants of Atlante X type. To these may be added 4 incensory bowls and one fragmentary preserved conical thymiaterion of undetermined origin, with perforations in letter forms D and S, made of very coarse clay with plenty of inclusions.

Various

The stratigraphic layers contained 20 distinctive pieces of building material included in the present study; an antefix with depiction of a gorgoneion, 7 tubuli, 5 pavement ceramic cubes in hexagonal or peltoid form and 7 tegulae with stamps of North Adriatic origin: [F]AESON, [A. FAES]ONI.AF, Q.CLODI [AMBROSI], [C. TI]TI HERMEROT, C.L.P[---], T. COELI.²³ Seventeen items could be described as various utilitarian ceramic objects: nine round fishing net whorls and three pyramidal weights.

Conclusion

Excluding kitchenware, lamps, building material and weights, the total of 1,482 different vessels was divided into two

groups with regard to their function and slip characteristics: the first group, amphorae and amphora lids and the second one, tableware that includes terra sigillata, black slip tableware, jugs, cups, glazed tableware, indeterminate tableware, oinophoros and ampulla. The most numerous group are definitively amphorae with 804 amphorae and 156 lids. The second place is occupied by tableware, slightly less represented with 522 vessels in total. The best represented group of tableware is, as expected, red slip terra sigillata counting 253 vessels. Terra sigillata is followed by 269 other tableware products, mostly jugs and cups. Although the origin of the majority of jugs and cups remains undetermined, it can be noted that Italic products had a distinctive presence, followed by Eastern Mediterranean imports. Kitchenware with 423 vessels took third place, after the amphorae and tableware.

So we can conclude that the most numerous pottery group concerns trade and transport of food and drink containers, amphorae with lids. Elaborate service at the table was highly valued, as is shown by an important number of various table vessels. An important factor in this matter was social representation of the house owner. As dinner with guests had a distinctive role in social life, tableware had to be regularly supplied with new and modern imported pottery. Finally, common kitchen pottery was represented in the smallest number. Reasons for that can be related to slow changes of fashion in kitchen use and prolonged utilisation. Regarding the origin, 32% of the total remains of undetermined provenance. The most numerous group is Italic pottery with 21.6%, followed

²³ FAESONIA group: ZACCARIA/ŽUPANČIČ 1993, 143. – Q.CLODI AMBROSI: M. BUORA, I bolli laterizi dell'agro aquileiese: alcuni problemi. I laterizi di età romana nell'area nordadriatica. Cat. e Monogr. Arch. Mus. Udine 3 (Roma 1993) 179–186 esp. 182. – C. TITI HERMEROTIS: ZACCARIA/ŽUPANČIČ 1993, 149; 68 a. – T. COELI: Ibid. 141.

by African imports (18%) and Eastern Mediterranean imports (14.8%). Local Istrian production takes 13%, and less than 1% belongs to Western European, Gallic and Hispanic pottery.

Analysis of the stratigraphical layers on the site and their content made us divide the Roman pottery into three chronological phases: first period from 46/45 BC to the fire of about 120 AD; second period from 120 to the end of the 5th century, and the third period from the end of the 5th century to the 8th century, represented by the possessions of the Early Christian church. In the first period, two main groups regarding origin were identified: pottery of local, Istrian production making 28% (99 items), and Italic pottery making 70% (247 items). The rest is made up by Western Europe, i.e. amphorae from Gaul and Spain (1.4%, 5 items), the Eastern Mediterranean (0.8%, 3 items) and African imports (0.3%, 1 item). In the second period following the renovation of the *domus*, local products go down to 18% (123 items). Italic import is much more radically diminished to 25.5% (176 items). New tendencies in traffic and trade are documented also by a lesser quantity of pottery produced in Western Europe, making 0.4% (3 items). Other, more significant imports arrived from the Eastern Mediterranean with 22% (151 items) and from Africa with 34% (236 items) of the pottery. The third, Late Antique, period from the end of the 5th to the 8th century AD, is marked by the almost complete disappearance of Italic pottery (1%, 1 item). Western European pottery, on the contrary, grew to 3% (4 items). Local production remains limited to kitchenware and makes up 9% (15 items). African imports remain nearly the same with 35% (56 items), while the lead is taken

by Eastern Mediterranean imports with 52% (82 items) of the pottery trade. These values and their oscillations help to flesh out the picture of trade in pottery and foodstuffs in the Roman colony of Pola. Furthermore, they illustrate domestic identity of a city residence of an unnamed aristocratic family through a period of more than 500 years. If we compare the various groups of pottery regarding their function and origin in each of the three main chronological phases (**fig. 3**), we can observe that in the period between 46/45 BC and 120 AD Italian amphorae dominate absolutely, followed by Istrian amphorae Dressel 6B. Between 120 and 480/500, African tableware becomes the most numerous group, while imports of Italian amphorae go down to third place, after locally produced kitchenware. In the third period, after 480/500, Eastern Mediterranean amphorae took the leading role, followed by African amphorae, lamps and tableware. The study of Roman pottery is very important for local history and urban identity, especially since statistical evaluations of Roman pottery in Pula and its territory are still in their infancy.²⁴

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²⁴ For Pula, a statistical evaluation of Roman finds is given only for a relatively small excavated area in Porta Stovagnaga Street: see A. STARAC (ed.), *Tragovima kamenoklesara. Arheološki nalazi u ulici Stovagnaga/On the Trail of Stonemasons. Archaeological Discoveries in Porta Stovagnaga Street*. Monogr. i Kat. Arh. Muz. Istre 17 (Pula 2006) 9–55; 76–78.

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