# REI CRETARIÆ ROMANÆ FAVTORVM ACTA 42



# CONGRESSVS VICESIMVS SEPTIMVS REI CRETARIÆ ROMANÆ FAVTORVM SINGIDVNI HABITVS MMX

BONN 2012

## ISSN 0484-3401

Published by the Rei Cretariæ Romanæ Favtores, an international learned society

Editorial committee:
Dario Bernal Casasola
Tatjana Cvjetićanin
Philip M. Kenrick
Simonetta Menchelli

General Editor: Susanne Biegert

Typesetting and layout: ars archäologie redaktion satz, Waldstraße 8 D-65719 Hofheim am Taunus

Printed and bound by: BELTZ Bad Langensalza GmbH, D-99947 Bad Langensalza

Enquiries concerning membership should be addressed to The Treasurer, Dr. Archer Martin, Via di Porta Labicana 19/B2, I–00185 Roma treasurer@fautores.org

ISBN 978-3-7749-3797-0

Distributor: Dr. Rudolf Habelt GmbH, Am Buchenhang 1, D-53115 Bonn, verlag@habelt.de

# INHALTSVERZEICHNIS

Vorwort der Redaktion	VII
The Aegean and the Pontic region	
Charikleia DIAMANTI Byzantine Emperors on stamped Late Roman/Early Byzantine Amphoras	1
Cristina Mondin  La ceramica tardoantica di <i>Tyana</i> (Cappadocia meridionale): tra continuità e discontinuità nell'entroterra anatolico.	7
Platon Petridis  Pottery and society in the ceramic production centre of late Roman Delphi	15
Denis Zhuravlev Syro-Palestinian lamps from Chersonesos and their derivatives of the Roman and Byzantine period	23
The Balkans and the Danube region	
Maja Bausovac & Darja Pirkmajer  Late Roman glazed pottery from Rifnik near Celje	33
Vesna Вікіć & Vujadin Ivanišević Imported pottery in Central Illyricum – a case study: Caričin grad ( <i>Iustiniana Prima</i> )	41
Snežana Černač-Ratković Burnished pottery from <i>Horreum Margi</i>	51
Dénes Gabler Terra sigillata from <i>Aquincum</i> -Viziváros (water town)	57
Kristina Jelinčić Ceramica romana tardo antica dal villaggio romano Virovitica Kiškorija Jug ( <i>Pannonia Superior</i> ) dalle unità stratigrafiche datate mediante <sup>14</sup> C	69
Gordana Jeremić  Late Roman and Early Byzantine pottery from Saldum. Reflection of change in social and historical circumstances.	81
Eduard Kreković Roman Pottery in the Migration Period	89
Słavica Krunić  Late Roman and Early Byzantine lamps from Singidunum	97
Marian Mocanu  Late Roman fine pottery with stamped decoration discovered at (L?)ibida (Province of Scythia)	107
Andrei Opaiț & Dorel Paraschiv Rare amphora finds in the city and territory of (L)Ibida (1st-6th centuries AD)	113
Ivana Ožanić Roguljić Pottery from the workshop of Sextus Metilius Maximus (Crikvenica-Igralište/Ad Turres, Northern Dalmatia)	125

Roberto Perna, Chiara Capponi, Sofia Cingolani & Valeria Tubaldi <i>Hadrianopolis</i> e la valle del Drino (Albania) tra l'età tardoantica e quella protobizantina.  Le evidenze ceramiche dagli scavi 2007–2009.	133
Angelina Raičković	
Late Roman Pottery from <i>Viminacium</i> -Thermae. The excavation of 2004	147
Milica Tapavički-Ilić Some observations concerning painted pottery in <i>Moesia superior</i>	155
Italy and Cisalpine Gaul	
Michele Bueno, Marta Novello & Valentina Mantovani Progetto Aquileia: Casa delle Bestie Ferite. Commercio e consumo ad Aquileia. Analisi delle anfore tardoantiche alla luce di alcuni contesti.	159
Marco Cavalieri, Enrica Boldrini, Charles Bossu, Paola De Idonè & Antonia Fumo Aspetti della cultura materiale nelle fasi di riutilizzo (V–inizi VII sec. d.C.) della villa romana di Aiano- Torraccia di Chiusi (San Gimignano, Siena/Italy). Note preliminari	169
Fulvio Coletti	
La ceramica invetriata di età tardoantica a Roma: nuovi dati da recenti scavi stratigrafici	181
Daniela Cottica & Luana Toniolo  La circolazione del vasellame ceramico nella laguna nord di Venezia tra I sec. d.C. e VI sec. d.C.  Osservazioni preliminari	195
Christiane De Micheli Schulthess & Fabiana Fabbri I bicchieri a bulbo dal territorio italiano: contributo per la definizione di una <i>koiné</i> produttiva	205
Fabiana Fabbri  Ceramica di epoca tardo-imperiale dalla Valdinievole e dalla cittá di Pistoia (Toscana, Italia).  Contributo per la storia economica e commerciale dell'Etruria romana	217
Archer Martin  Composition by functional groups of contexts at Pompeii	225
Simonetta Menchelli & Marinella Pasquinucci Ceramiche con rivestimento rosso nella Tuscia settentrionale	229
Luana Toniolo Napoli tardo-antica. Nuovi dati dal centro urbano: il contesto dei Girolomini	239
Paola Ventura  Materiale ceramico da recenti scavi presso la villa di Torre di Pordenone (Provincia di Pordenone, Friuli Venezia Giulia, Italia)	249
Sicily and Lampedusa	
Valentina Caminneci  «Animam in sepulchro condimus»: sepolcreto tardoantico in anfore presso l'Emporion di Agrigento  (Sicilia,Italia)	259
Armida DE MIRO & Antonella Polito  Lucerne in sigillata africana, ceramica fine e da fuoco dalla necropoli paleocristiana di Lampedusa (Sicilia)	267
Marek PALACZYK Spätantike und mittelalterliche Transportamphoren von <i>Ietas</i> (Sizilien)	273
Maria Concetta Parello & Annalisa Amico Ceramica fine e ceramica comune di provenienza africana dal sito in contrada Verdura di Sciacca (Agrigento, Sicilia/Italia)	281
Maria Serena Rizzo & Luca Zambito  Ceramiche da fuoco di età tardo-antica e della prima età bizantina dal territorio agrigentino: nuovi dati da  Cignana e Vito Soldano	289

# Africa

Marzia Giuliodori (con collaborazione di Moufida Jenen, Sofia Cingolani & Chokri Touihri)  Ceramica tardoantica e bizantina dal teatro romano di <i>Althiburos</i> (Tunisia)	299
Mohamed Kenawi	
Beheira Survey: Roman pottery from the Western Delta of Egypt. Surface pottery analysis – Kilns	309
Florian Schimmer Amphorae from the Roman fort at Gheriat el-Garbia (Libya)	319
Meike Weber & Sebastian Schmid Supplying a desert garrison. Pottery from the Roman fort at Gheriat el-Garbia (Libya)	327
Iberian Peninsula	
Macarena Bustamante Álvarez	
La terre sigillée hispanique tardive: un état de question à la lumière de nouvelles découvertes	337
Macarena Bustamante Álvarez & Francisco Javier Heras	
Nouvelles données stratigraphiques pour la connaissance de la forme Hayes 56 en ARSW-D à Augusta Emerita (Mérida, Badajoz/Espagne)	349
Adolfo Fernández Fernández	
Datos preliminares sobre las ánforas orientales tardías de dos yacimientos de Vigo (Galicia, Espana), con el ejemplo de un contexto de la primera mitad del s. VII	355
Ana Patricia Magalhães	
Late sigillata from fish-salting workshop 1 in Tróia (Portugal)	363
José Carlos Quaresma & Rui Morais	
Eastern Late Roman fine ware imports in <i>Bracara Augusta</i> (Braga, Portugal)	373
Albert V. Ribera i Lacomba & Miquel Rosselló Mesquida  Las ánforas tardoantiguas de Valentia	385
Inês Vaz Pinto, Ana Patrícia Magalhães & Patrícia Brum	
Un depotoir du Ve siecle dans l'officine de salaisons 1 de Tróia (Portugal)	397
Catarina Viegas	
Imports and local production: common ware from urban sites in southern <i>Lusitania</i> (Algarve)	407
Transalpine Gaul, Germany and Austria	
Martin Auer	
Late Roman local production in southwestern <i>Noricum</i> . <i>Municipium Claudium Aguntum</i> – a case study	419
Loes Lecluse	
Typological characterisation of kilns in north western Gaul in the Roman period.	423

## VORWORT DER REDAKTION

Der 27. RCRF-Kongress fand vom 19. bis zum 26. September 2010 im Nationalmuseum in Belgrad statt.

Thema des Kongresses war: "Late Roman and Early Byzantine Pottery: the end or continuity of Roman production?".

Von den anlässlich des Kongresses präsentierten Postern und Vorträgen wurden folgende nicht publiziert:

M. BERGAMINI,

P. COMODI & I. FAGA Scoppieto: La produzione di vasi a pareti sottili

D. BERNAL CASASOLA, M. LARA

MEDINA & J. VARGAS GIRÓN Roman clay fishing weights in Hispania. Recent research on typology and chronology A. BIERNACKI & E. KLENINA Red slip ware from *Novae (Moesia Secunda):* 4<sup>th</sup>–5<sup>th</sup> local production and imports

M. Casalini Circolazione ceramica a Roma tra l eta delle invasione e la riconquista bizantina. Nuovi

dati dai contesti delle pendici nord orientali del Palatino

Sv. Conrad Pottery of the second half of the 3<sup>rd</sup> century from *Romuliana* 

T. CVJETIĆANIN Late Roman pottery in Diocese Dacia: overview, problems and phenomena

M. Daszkiewicz & H. Hamel Roman pottery from Baalbek (Lebanon): provenance studies by laboratory analysis

J. Davidović Late Roman burnished pottery from Srem

E. Doksanalti The late Roman pottery from "the Late Roman House" in Knidos and the Knidian late

Roman pottery

D. Dobreva & G. Furlan Late Roman amphorae on the Lower Danube: trade and continuity of the Roman production Progetto Aquileia: *Fondi ex Cossar*. Commercio e consume ad Aquileia. Analisi delle

anfore tardoantiche alla luce di alcuni contesti

Kr. Domzalski Late Roman light-coloured ware: tradition and innovation

P. Dyczek Remarks on the so called legionary pottery

A. Jankowiak & F. Teichner A household inventory of a *Mirobrigensis celticus* 

G. Kabakchieva Spätrömische Keramik in den Provinzen Dacia Ripensis und Moesia Secunda

T. Kowal & J. Reclaw Scientific Investigations – Program EU – Central Europe: The Danube Limes project

J. Krajsek Late Roman pottery from Municipium Claudium Celeia

J. Leidwanger Economic crisis and non market exchange: fabric diversity in the Late Roman 1 cargo

amphoras from the 7<sup>th</sup> century shipwreck at Yassiada (Turkey)

T. Leleković Pottery from the necropoleis of *Mursa* (1<sup>st</sup>—4<sup>th</sup> centuries)

B. Liesen First century fine ware production at Xanten (Germany)

R. Palma La ceramica dipinta di Schedia (Egitto)

D. PARASCHIV,

G. Nutu & M. Iacob La ceramique romaine d'Argamum (Moesia Inferior)

S. Petković Late Roman pottery from tower 19 of the the later fortification of *Romuliana* 

P. Puppo Ceramiche comuni di VI–VII sec. d.C. nella Sicilia occidentale: produzioni regionali ed

importazioni dall Africa settentrionale

D. Radicević Early Byzantine pottery from Liška Ćava, near Guča (Western Serbia)

D. RATKOVIĆ The territory of Serbia in Roman times

CHR. SCHAUER Pottery of the late Roman and early Byzantine periods in Olympia

G. Schneider & M. Daszkiewicz In-situ chemical analysis of pottery using a portable X-ray spectrometer

A. Starović & R. Arsić Cherniakhovo-type ceramic vessels from NW Serbia and the question of inhabitants of the

central Balkans in the late 4th century AD

M. TEKOCAK Roman pottery in the Aksehir Museum

P. Vamos Some remarks about military pottery in *Aquincum* M. Vujović & E. Cvijetić *Mortaria* from Komini-*Municipium S*. (Montenegro)

Y. WAKSMAN "Byzantine White Ware I": from Late Roman to Early Byzantine Pottery in Istanbul/

Constantinople

I. ŽIŽEK Late Roman pottery in Roman graves in *Poetovio* 

Bei der Korrektur und Durchsicht der Artikel stand mir das *editorial committee* zur Seite. Ganz besonders danke ich Philip Kenrick für die zuverlässige Unterstützung und Dieter Imhäuser (ars) für die gute und freundschaftliche Zusammenarbeit bei Satz und Layout.

Die Zitierweise wurde den Richtlinien der Römisch-Germanischen Kommission des Deutschen Archäologischen Instituts angeglichen (Ber. RGK 71, 1990, 973–998 und Ber. RGK 73, 1992, 478–540).

Susanne Biegert

# Maja Bausovac & Darja Pirkmajer

## LATE ROMAN GLAZED POTTERY FROM RIFNIK NEAR CELJE

Rifnik near Šentjur lies to the east of Celje (*Celeia*; **fig. 1**) and is one of the better known late Roman settlements in Slovenia since archaeological excavations have been carried out here for several decades. On account of its height and steep slopes, Rifnik offered a safe refuge to its inhabitants, and with its dominant position on the margin of the Kozjansko hills, it commands the broad valley of the Voglajna River, where in Roman times one of the ancillary roads from *Celeia* ran towards the north-east.

Today the upper plateau is no longer inhabited, so the remains from the prehistoric, Roman and late Roman periods have been quite well preserved. The final - late Roman - phase, roughly dated between the end of the 4th century and the end of the 6<sup>th</sup> century, is now visible with the partial building up of the surrounding walls with five towers, which defended the settlement on the southern, less steep side, of one large and one small early Christian church, a water cistern and seven dwellings (fig. 2). Since the excavations are still continuing, and part of the upper plateau has not yet been completely investigated, we anticipate that not all the buildings have been discovered. Among the abundant ceramic material from this period, remains of locally made kitchen ware predominate, but there are also amphorae of African and east Mediterranean origin, fragments of African sigillata, burnished ware, pots with a stamped decoration, and glazed ware.

Glaze appears on Rifnik on tableware, such as plates, bowls, beakers and jugs and on kitchenware, such as mortaria.

The tableware is dominated by calotte-shaped plates (**figs. 3,1–6**) with fairly massive, horizontally stretched rims. They are classified as type 3 according to Arthur and Williams. The glaze, which is applied only on the inner side of the vessels, is mostly greenish in colour, but can also be reddish-to yellowish-brown. The incised or impressed decoration, which is always found on the upper side of the horizontal rim, can be wavy lines, shallow concentric grooves, grooves between two rows of roller-stamped tiny squares, ray-like lines between two concentric grooves or in the form of roller-stamped decoration in three rows.

Similar shapes and decoration can be found on plates from Tinje above Loka near Žusem, <sup>2</sup> Ajdovski gradec above Vranje

near Sevnica,<sup>3</sup> Gradec near Prapretno,<sup>4</sup> Celje<sup>5</sup> and Ljubljana.<sup>6</sup> They are not unusual either in late Roman archaeological sites abroad – in the settlement Tokod in northern Hungary, where they are considered to be a local product,<sup>7</sup> in Hemmaberg<sup>8</sup> and in Serbia, where similar examples are mostly dated to the period from the second third of the 4<sup>th</sup> century to the mid 5<sup>th</sup> century.<sup>9</sup>

A shard of a vertical rim with a body (**fig. 3,8**) which has a yellowish-green glaze on the outer side and rouletting in the form of small parallel lines is part of a biconical two-handled bowl. This shape is common among the glazed pottery in the Pannonian region, and also occurs in both Noricums. Analogous forms were discovered at Ančnikovo gradišče, <sup>10</sup> in Ptuj<sup>11</sup> and on Martinj hrib, <sup>12</sup> out of Slovenia at Mautern<sup>13</sup> and Hemmaberg, <sup>14</sup> while a large number of potsherds have been found in the annual excavations at the Hungarian site of *Gorsium*. <sup>15</sup> As for the grave finds, two-handled bowls are dated at the latest to the second quarter of the 4<sup>th</sup> century. <sup>16</sup>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Arthur/Williams 1981, 485 fig. 30,2.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Ciglenečki 2000, 176 pl. 10,4–9.

P. Petru/T. Ulbert, Vranje pri Sevnici. Starokrščanske cerkve na Ajdovskem gradcu. Kat. Monogr. 12 (Ljubljana 1975) 82 sl. 30,69. – T. Knific, Vranje pri Sevnici. Drobne najdbe z Ajdovskega gradca (leto 1974). Arh. Vestnik 30, 1979, 755 sl. 203–204, 206–207.

<sup>4</sup> CIGLENEČKI 1981, 420 pl. 4,44.

Unpublished material Regional Museum Celje.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup> Mikl Curk 1969, 188 pl. 1,7.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>7</sup> Bónis 1991, 88 Abb. 1.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>8</sup> Ladstätter 2000 Taf. 9,11–19.

<sup>9</sup> CVJETIĆANIN 2006, 55; 152.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>10</sup> Ravnik 2006, 95 pl. 3,15–16.

I. Mikl Curk, Poetovio I. Katalogi in monografije 13 (Ljubljana 1976) 47 pl. 6,17.

F. LEBENZ/Z. ŠUBIC, Poznoantični kastel Vrh Brsta pri Martinj hribu na Logaški planoti. Arh. Vestnik 41, 1990, 324 pl. 13,233.

H. FRIESINGER/H. KERCHLER, Töpferöfen der Völkerwanderungszeit in Niederösterreich. Ein Betrag zur völkerwanderungszeitlichen Keramik (2. Hälfte 4.–6. Jahrhundert n. Chr.) in Niederösterreich, Oberösterreich und dem Burgenland. Arch. Austriaca 65, 1981, 199 Abb. 7,1.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>14</sup> Ladstätter 2000, 122 Taf. 7,6–7.

J. Fitz/Zs. Bánki, Kutatások Gorsiumban 1972-ben. Forschungen in Gorsium im Jahre 1972. Alba Regia 13, 1974, 243, Taf. 13,10. – J. Fitz/V. Lányi/Zs. Bánki, Kutatások Gorsiumban 1973-ban. Forschungen in Gorsium im Jahre 1973. Alba Regia 14, 1975, 332–333 Taf. 8,5–7, 9,1–3. – J. Fitz/V. Lányi/Zs. Bánki, Kutatások Gorsiumban 1974-ben/Forschungen in Gorsium im Jahre 1974. Alba Regia 15, 1976, 173 Taf. 16,6–7. – J. Fitz/V. Lányi/Zs. Bánki, Forschungen in Gorsium in 1977/78. Alba Regia 18, 1980, 189 Taf. 20,388–389. – J. Fitz/Zs. Bánki, Forschungen in Gorsium in den Jahren 1983/84. Alba Regia 23, 1987, 215; 238 Taf. 33,605; 57,523–527. – J. Fitz/J. Fedák/Zs. Bánki, Forschungen in Gorsium in den Jahren 1987–1989. Alba Regia 25, 1994, 366; 398 Taf. 51,460–461; 80,212.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>16</sup> Ladstätter 2000, 128.

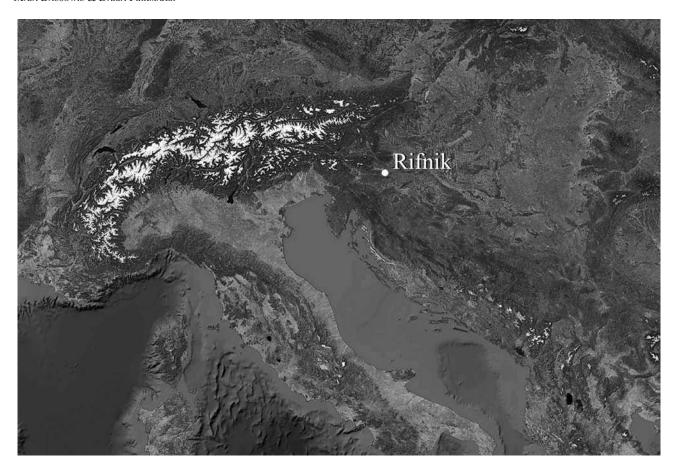


Fig. 1. The position of Rifnik.

Similar decoration occurs on the body of a small vessel (**fig. 3,7**), very likely a biconical beaker with two handles – type 18.1 according to Arthur and Williams, <sup>17</sup> such as were found at Ančnikovo gradišče<sup>18</sup>, in Nova Gorica, <sup>19</sup> in *Emona*<sup>20</sup> and probably at Gradec near Prapretno. <sup>21</sup> Numerous derive from Pannonian sites; <sup>22</sup> the example from *Gerulata* is dated to the second half of the 4<sup>th</sup> century or even earlier<sup>23</sup> on the basis of coin finds from graves, and similarly from the site at Somogyszil, <sup>24</sup> while the example from *Intercisa* is dated to the mid 4<sup>th</sup> century. <sup>25</sup> Analogies are also found at *Gorsium* <sup>26</sup> and *Carnuntum*. <sup>27</sup>

Since the two-handled bowl and beaker differ only in size, while they share the same shape, decoration, colour of

<sup>17</sup> Arthur/Williams 1981, 492 Fig. 30,5.

the glaze and even the type of fabric, we may consider them to have not only a common origin but even to belong to the same service.

Although without glaze (it is not visible even under a microscope), a shard of a small vessel with everted rim (**fig. 3,9**) was included with the glazed pottery. On the top it has a rouletting in the form of small parallel lines. In its decoration and type of fabric it completely corresponds to the two previously mentioned vessels, which shows that it was produced in the same workshop. The shard is also interesting due to its vertical indentation on the inner edge of the rim, which indicates that it was probably hung somewhere during the time of its use.

Some of the less decorated glazed pottery consists of jugs, of which only one example has two shallow horizontal grooves on the neck, while the yellowish-green glaze is found only on the outside of the body. The jugs have variants with a narrow neck (**figs. 3,11–12**) and a wide neck with a spout (**fig. 3,10**), which in its shape as well as its fabric have good analogies in Tokod, where it is dated to the late 4<sup>th</sup> century.<sup>28</sup>

The item on **fig. 3,11** can be compared in its shape, glaze colour and dimensions with jugs from Ančnikovo gradišče, <sup>29</sup>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>18</sup> Strmčnik 1997, 280 pl. 4,12. – Ravnik 2006, 94–95 pl. 3,14.

N. OSMUK 1987, Rimskodobna arhitektura na Ledinah v Novi Gorici. Goriški Letnik 12/14, 1987, 89; 95 pl. 6,37.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>20</sup> Mikl Curk 1969, 188 pl. 1,3.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>21</sup> CIGLENEČKI 1981, 419 pl. 1,7.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>22</sup> Grünewald 1979, 68.

E. Krekovič, Glasierte Keramik aus Gerulata. Alba Regia 25, 1995, 97 Abb. 2,12.

A. Sz. Burger, Das spätrömische Gräberfeld von Somogyszil. Fontes Arch. Hungariae (Budapest 1979) pl. 20,110.3; 23,132.1.

K. Szabó, Die 1977 freigelegten Gräber des westlichen Gräberfeldes von Intercisa. Alba Regia 18, 1980, 292; 294; 297 Taf. 11,1; 18,1.

J. Fitz/V. Lányi/Zs. Bánki, Kutatások Gorsiumban 1973-ban/Forschungen in Gorsium im Jahre 1973. Alba Regia 14, 1975, 332 Taf. 8,8–9.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>27</sup> Grünewald 1979 Taf. 64,2–3.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>28</sup> Bónis 1991, 98; 135 Abb. 5,7.

STRMČNIK 1997, 281 pl. 5,3. – RAVNIK 2006, 54–55; 94; 95 pl. 2,10; 3,17–19.

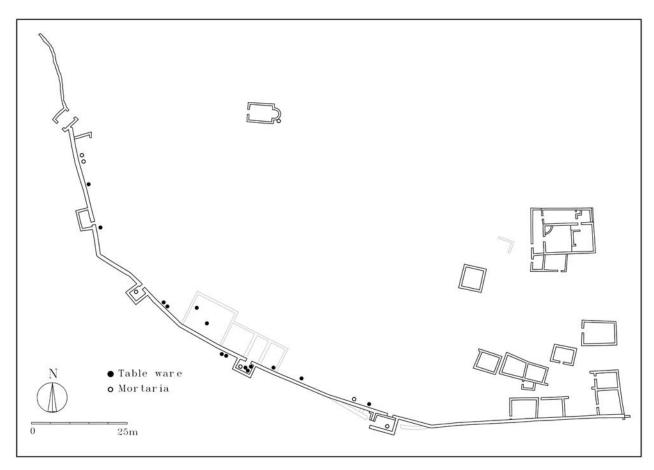


Fig. 2. Rifnik. Plan of the site showing the location of finds of glazed pottery.

which is assumed to have been settled in the late Roman period from the 4<sup>th</sup> century to the first half of the 5<sup>th</sup> century,<sup>30</sup> and possibly with the example from Koriniski hrib.<sup>31</sup>

The shard on **fig. 3,12** can be the rim of a jug or bottle for which no appropriate analogy has been found so far.

The only form of glazed kitchenware discovered on Rifnik were mortaria. They belong to late forms, smaller in size, with a less massive body, shorter collar and more pronounced rib.<sup>32</sup>

Two examples (**figs. 4,1–2**) have a massive base with the body, while the others are shards of rims (**figs. 4,3.6**) and upper parts of the body with a pronounced rib (**figs. 4,4–5**). The rims are simple and mostly everted hemispherically, while the ribs are hemispherical or roundish in the profile, and in two cases the transition to the spout is partly preserved. The bodies are conical, just in one case the shape is slightly curved.

Where the glaze is applied directly onto a dark fired clay base, it has a dark olive green colour, on a pale-coloured base it is a pale yellowish green, whereas in examples with an intensive red colour of clay it is reddish brown. Particularly on the lower parts of the vessels it covers the clearly visible quartz grains of varying sizes.

It is exclusively the inside of the pottery that is glazed, right to the edge of the rim, except in the item on **fig. 4,6**, where the glaze extends to the emphasized rib, while the remains of a reddish-brown slip is noticeable on the rim.

The Rifnik material has similarities with shard from Brinjeva gora,<sup>33</sup> and two from Tinje above Loka near Žusem,<sup>34</sup> while many analogies are also found at Hrušica,<sup>35</sup> where the examples are dated to the 4<sup>th</sup> century and are considered to have been made in Pannonian production centres;<sup>36</sup> probably at the north Hungarian site of Tokod, where very similar products from local workshops were found – these are dated to the second half of the 4<sup>th</sup> century and up to the beginning of the 5<sup>th</sup> century.<sup>37</sup>

Potsherds on **figs. 4,3–5** are most reminiscent of type 1.1 according to Arthur and Williams<sup>38</sup> or variant 1 of the glazed *mortaria* from Mautern, which occur in strata together with pottery with a smooth decoration, while the shard on **fig. 4,6** 

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>30</sup> Ibid. 277. – Ibid. 87.

<sup>31</sup> S. CIGLENEČKI, Die Keramik des 4.–6. Jahrhunderts von Gradec, Tinje und Korinjski hrib, Slowenien. Arch. Austriaca 68, 1984, 326 Abb. 8,83.

J. MOOSDORF OTTINGER, Der Goldberg bei Turkheim. Münchner Beitr. Vor- u. Frühgesch. 24 (München 1981) 95.

 $<sup>^{33}\,</sup>$  S. Раніč, Brinjeva gora 1953. Arh. Vestnik 32, 1981, 109–110 pl. 1,15.

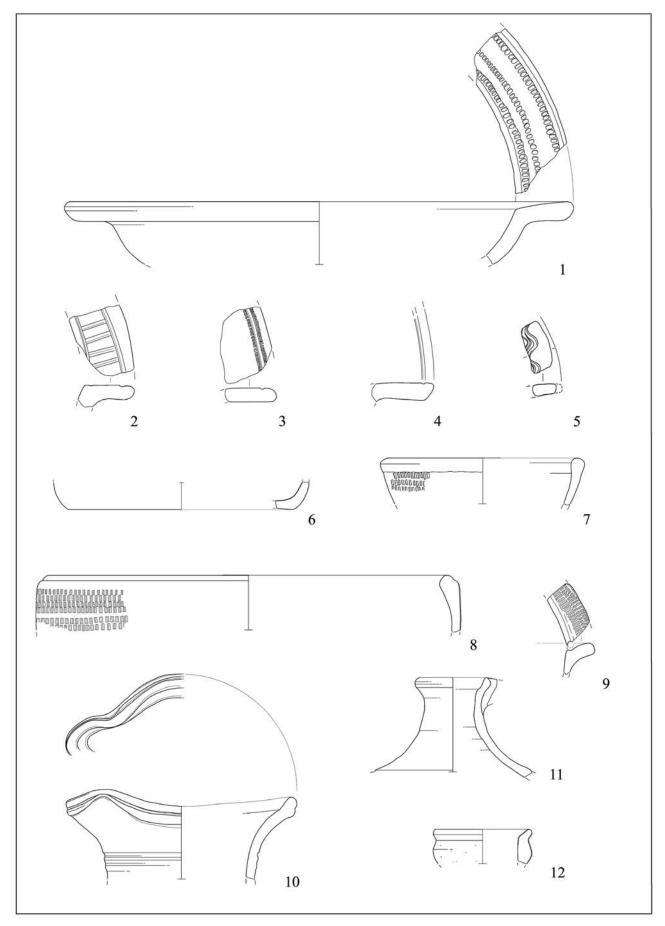
<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>34</sup> Ciglenečki 2000, 176 pl. 11,4.6.

<sup>35</sup> Giesler 1981, 92 pl. 41,6–11.19–20.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>36</sup> Ibid. 92–93.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>57</sup> Bónis 1991, 89.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>38</sup> Arthur/Williams 1981, 481 Fig. 30,1.



**Fig. 3.** Rifnik. Late Roman glazed pottery. – Scale 1:2.

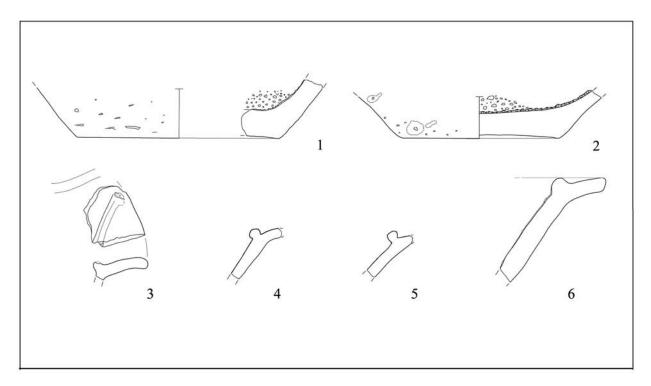


Fig. 4. Rifnik. Late Roman glazed pottery. - Scale 1:2.

resembles more variant  $2^{39}$ . In their shape and the properties described they also correspond to some examples from *Carnuntum*,<sup>40</sup> Hemmaberg,<sup>41</sup> Friedberg-Stätzling<sup>42</sup> and the site Moosberg bei Murnau, where they are generally dated to the 4<sup>th</sup> century<sup>43</sup> and mostly have a ring-shaped foot, unlike the Rifnik examples.

All the Rifnik glazed pottery was made from refined clay. Most of it was well fired, firstly in a reduction and then in an oxidation atmosphere, since the core is generally darker (very dark grey to black in colour), whereas the surface shows reddish or brownish shades.

On the plates and *mortaria* the glaze occurs on the inner side, but on the outer side on the remaining shapes. The unglazed surface is usually rough to the touch and fairly micaceous. Yellowish-green glaze is the predominant colour, but shards of two plates show shades of brown. Where the glaze is well-preserved, it is glossy or semi-glossy. In pottery having a brownish glaze, the unglazed surface shows intensive reddish shades, while the colour difference between the core and the surface is less evident.

Even at first glance, certain differences are noticeable among the glazed pottery from Rifnik – in shape, glaze colour, type of firing, smoothness of the surface, etc. These

differences are also visible in the fabric (under the microscope

The type 1 fabric is characterized by a refined clay base of a uniform pale grey colour with sparse tiny inclusions. White quartz crystals can be seen, yellowish limestone reaction rims and individual flakes of muscovite and biotite mica. This type of fabric occurs only in the jug on **fig. 3,11**.

The type 2 fabric, seen in the plate on **fig. 3, 2**, has a refined clay base of a uniform orange colour with individual transparent quartz crystals; these are visible on the surface as well – along with flakes of muscovite mica, tiny iron oxides and sparse black grit.

Most of the Rifnik pottery had the glaze put onto the dry surface of an unfired pot, only vessels with the type 3 fabric were probably fired twice – at first reduction firing and then oxydation firing after the addition of glaze. In these, a very dark grey to black core, sharply marked off from the pale fired surface of the vessel, is visible in the irregular fracture.

Most of the Rifnik glazed pottery has this type of fabric, which occurs in jugs, plates, bowls, beakers and mortaria (figs. 3,6–10.12; 4,6). It contains an abundance of small transparent and white quartz crystals, which are visible on the surface as well – along with flakes of muscovite mica, individual pieces of black and dark red grit and iron oxides.

Vessels of the type 4 fabric (figs. 3,1.3–5) are characterized by a refined clay base, pale to dark grey in colour with pale surface, which contains primarily transparent, white, or pale grey quartz crystals; on the surface flakes of muscovite mica (in some cases also biotite mica), iron oxides, and

with 20x magnification), on the basis of which five different types were distinguished.

The type 1 fabric is characterized by a refined clay base of

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>39</sup> V. GASSNER ET AL., Das Kastell Mautern-Favianis. RLÖ 39 (Wien 2000) 220 Abb. 186.

<sup>40</sup> Grünewald 1979 Taf. 63.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>41</sup> Ladstätter 2000, 244 Taf. 5,11–13; 6,3.4.6.

<sup>42</sup> ERNER 1997, 132–137.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>43</sup> J. GARBSCH, Der Moosberg bei Murnau. Münchner Beitr. Vor- u. Frühgesch. 12 (München 1966) 68.

individual pieces of black and dark red grit are visible. The fracture is irregular, compared with type 3 it has fewer inclusions, and these are larger; the core is somewhat paler, but the colour boundary between the core and the glazed surface is no longer so clear-cut. Despite certain differences, the vessels of both types very probably derive from the same area.

That different colours of clay and glaze do not necessarily point to different sources but only different firing conditions is seen in vessels (mortaria) of the type 5 fabric (**figs. 4,1–5**), which when observed under the microscope show the same composition of inclusions and thus most probably the same provenance. In these potsherds the fracture is very irregular, darker immediately under the glaze, and it contains abundant inclusions of different sizes, with transparent or white quartz crystals predominating. These are followed by iron oxides, black and red grit, limestone reaction rims, while muscovite mica is visible on the surface.

Surprisingly, the fabric types of glazed pottery from neighbouring late Roman upland settlements mostly differ from the Rifnik ones. Correspondence was found only in type 3, which also occurs in two green glazed mortaria at Gradec near Prapretno,44 and in type 5, visible in a bowl with a wavy edge, similarly from Gradec. 45 The latter occur primarily along the Danube limes in the province Dacia Ripensis<sup>46</sup>, which is also their original provenance. On the basis of this correspondence in the fabric, we can conclude that the mortaria on figs. 4,1-5 probably came to Rifnik from this region. On the other hand, the type 3 fabric has not been traced anywhere else except in the mortaria already mentioned from nearby Gradec near Prapretno. Since a small vessel with unglazed surface (fig. 3,9), which generally points to local production, has the same type of fabric, one might expect that this kind of pottery was made somewhere in the vicinity. Because Celeia was at that time still the only large settlement in the area and very likely had its own production of glazed pottery, it was at first supposed that the vessels originated from there.

After examining the material from archaeological sites in Celje, we established that its glazed pottery was in general considerably uniform in shape and fabric, but it differed from the Rifnik material in shape, inclusions in the clay mass, and the glaze colour.<sup>47</sup> Since there is such a difference, it is probably not only a matter of different workshops, but even of chronological non-correspondence between the Celje glazed pottery and the Rifnik glazed pottery with the type 3 fabric.

Correspondence between the Celje and Rifnik material was found only in a plate of fabric type 2 (**fig. 3,2**), which has a very similar structure of the ceramic mass and inclusions like the mortarium from Kocenov trg, <sup>48</sup> and in a shard of a jug with fabric type 1 (**fig. 3,11**), which is very similar to the fabric of glazed pottery with impressed decoration from the Evropa site. <sup>49</sup> It follows that this plate and jug from Rifnik probably come from the same original area, like most of the

Celje glazed pottery, or else that the fabric types 1 and 2 are perhaps Celeian in origin. For the time being, this is just a hypothesis, which only precise mineralogical-petrographic analyses can confirm. Viewed generally, the Rifnik glazed pottery in its shapes, fabric and glaze corresponds best to examples from Pannonia. Similar mortaria forms<sup>50</sup> are indeed found in Rhaetian sites, though these mostly have a ringshaped foot, whereas on Rifnik both mortaria have a flat base, which is a feature of Pannonian sites. The similarity is not coincidental, since the impetus for making glazed pottery in Rhaetia is supposed to have come from Pannonia or indirectly via Italy<sup>51</sup> in the 4<sup>th</sup> century. There is also little in common with glazed pottery from sites in western Slovenia, as these were mostly connected with production centres in northern Italy.<sup>52</sup> So, for example, the Rifnik items correspond to the great quantity of glazed pottery from Hrušica only in the mortaria, which again are considered to have been imported from the Pannonian region.

In Slovenia and neighbouring regions glazed pottery is usually dated to the late 4<sup>th</sup> century and the beginning of the 5<sup>th</sup> century,<sup>53</sup> while the Rifnik items can mostly be more accurately dated to the end of the 4<sup>th</sup> century.

Interestingly, most of this pottery on Rifnik was found in the southern part of the settlement plateau or on the inner side of the late Roman fortification walls, where a large building was discovered during the Second World War. Sadly, this is no longer preserved, but during additional excavations in the 1990s part of its southern wall was discovered; it served as a basis for building the defensive wall in the first half of the 6<sup>th</sup> century. Such shards of glazed pottery – despite the fact that they mostly derive from the stratum which contain mixed finds from different periods and is formed as leveling for the walking surface on the inner side of the wall – represent an important source of information due to the very location of the find. Significantly, during intensive investigations lasting several years not a single shard was discovered either in or beside the remaining late Roman buildings.<sup>54</sup> On the basis of this we conclude that the earliest late Roman settlement from the end of the 4th century is found only on this extreme southern part of the settlement plateau, while all the other buildings, including the churches, were built later – at the end of the 5th or in the first half of the 6th century.

> maja.bausovac@guest.arnes.si darja.pirkmajer@pokmuz-ce.si

<sup>44</sup> Regional Museum Celje.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>45</sup> Ciglenečki 1981, 419 pl. 1,1.

<sup>46</sup> CVJETIĆANIN 2006, 34–35.

<sup>47</sup> Reddish-brown glaze predominates the Celje material.

<sup>48</sup> Regional Museum Celje, inv. no. 16606.

<sup>49</sup> Regional Museum Celje, inv. no. 15770.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>50</sup> EBNER 1997 Abb. 6,2.135–136.

<sup>51</sup> ARTHUR/WILLIAMS 1981, 498 – BÓNIS 1991, 144

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>52</sup> Z. Modrijan, Poznoantična groba kuhinjska keramika ter uvoženo posodje z območja Slovenije in Furlanije (unpublished PhD Ljubljana 2008) 54–56.

BÓNIS 1991, 143–147. – CIGLENEČKI 2000, 57. – M. POLLAK, Zur chronologischen Entwicklung der Gräberfelder Ufernoricums im 4. und 5. Jahrhundert. In: Probleme der relativen und absoluten Chronologie ab Latènezeit bis zum Frühmittelalter (Kraków 1992) 258.

Just one shard was found in the late Roman debris beside the smaller church, situated quite some distance from the settlement, and dated to the 6<sup>th</sup> century.

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