

# REI CRETARIÆ ROMANÆ FAVORVM

## ACTA 42



CONGRESSVS VICESIMVS SEPTIMVS  
REI CRETARIÆ ROMANÆ FAVORVM  
SINGIDVNI HABITVS  
MMX

BONN  
2012

ISSN 0484-3401

Published by the REI CRETARIE ROMANÆ FAVTORES, an international learned society

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

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ISBN 978-3-7749-3797-0

*Distributor:* Dr. Rudolf Habelt GmbH, Am Buchenhang 1, D-53115 Bonn, [verlag@habelt.de](mailto:verlag@habelt.de)

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## 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 <i>Novae (Moesia Secunda)</i> : 4 <sup>th</sup> –5 <sup>th</sup> local production and imports
M. CASALINI	Circolazione ceramica a Roma tra I <sup>a</sup> eta delle invasioni 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 <i>Romuliana</i>
T. CVJETIČANIN	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	Late Roman amphorae on the Lower Danube: trade and continuity of the Roman production
D. DOBREVA & G. FURLAN	Progetto Aquileia: <i>Fondi ex Cossar</i> . Commercio e consumo 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 <i>Mirobrigensis celticus</i>
G. KABAKCHIEVA	Spätromische Keramik in den Provinzen <i>Dacia Ripensis</i> und <i>Moesia Secunda</i>
T. KOWAL & J. RECLAW	Scientific Investigations – Program EU – Central Europe: The Danube Limes project
J. KRAJSEK	Late Roman pottery from <i>Municipium Claudium Celeia</i>
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 <i>Mursa</i> (1 <sup>st</sup> –4 <sup>th</sup> centuries)
B. LIESEN	First century fine ware production at Xanten (Germany)
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D. PARASCHIV, G. NUTU & M. IACOB	La ceramique romaine d’ <i>Argamum (Moesia Inferior)</i>
S. PETKOVIĆ	Late Roman pottery from tower 19 of the later fortification of <i>Romuliana</i>
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 Čava, 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 4<sup>th</sup> 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



Gordana Jeremić

## LATE ROMAN AND EARLY BYZANTINE POTTERY FROM SALDUM

## Reflection of change in social and historical circumstances

Gradac-Saldum archaeological site is located in the village of Dobra, in eastern Serbia, at the entrance to Gornja Klisura (Upper Gorge) in Djerdap area, about 130 Roman miles downstream from *Singidunum* or about 70 miles from *Viminacium* (fig. 1). The site is about 350 m upstream from the confluence of the Kožica brook and the Danube (fig. 2). The modern settlement of Berzasca lies opposite *Saldum*, at the confluence of the Valea Mare and the Danube, at the spacious river plateau, where a larger settlement was situated in Roman times.

The geographical and hydrographical position of Saldum in the Roman period was conducive to the development of an important military and economic hub at that location. Although there is no written evidence, Saldum could have been a Roman customs station – a *portorium*. The name of the place in antiquity is not preserved, and certain researchers identify it with *Gratiana*,<sup>1</sup> founded at the times of Emperor Gratian, co-ruler of Valens and Valentinian I, or with Cantabaza (Κανταβαζία), mentioned by Procopius in the 6<sup>th</sup> century.<sup>2</sup> The name “Saldum” is a word of Turkish or Persian origin and means “ford” or “crossing”.<sup>3</sup> Administratively, the late antique settlement in Saldum belonged to the province of *Moesia Prima*.

Archaeological excavations in Saldum took place in the period from 1966 to 1970, immediately prior to building of hydroelectric power plant Djerdap I, before the site was flooded by an artificial lake.<sup>4</sup> Systematic excavations were carried out within the perimeter of the Early Byzantine *castellum*; however, the true position and extent of the settlement in the various periods of Roman occupation are not known, since the surrounding area was not explored.

Based on stratigraphy and finds, Saldum was inhabited from the second half of 1<sup>st</sup> century AD until the end of the 6<sup>th</sup> or the beginning of the 7<sup>th</sup> century AD.<sup>5</sup> The settlement was most probably founded during the Flavian period (68–96), but flourished from the time of Trajan until mid 2<sup>nd</sup> century, as well as during the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> centuries. The end of the 3<sup>rd</sup> century saw a lively building activity under the command of *praepositus Hermogenes*, probably in Aurelian or post-

Aurelian times.<sup>6</sup> However, the settlement was abandoned soon after those interventions.<sup>7</sup> Later signs of settling were recorded in the second half of the 4<sup>th</sup> century, and then during the 6<sup>th</sup> century as well.

Archaeological excavations in Saldum examined the ramparts and towers of this Justinian fortification, as well as the inner area of 850 m<sup>2</sup>, which stands for 63% of the total castellum area.<sup>8</sup> The ramparts of an older fortification were partly studied as well, whereas no field data are available about buildings within the castellum.<sup>9</sup> During the excavations 1,217 portable finds were registered, dominated by coins (564 items, or roughly 46% of all finds).<sup>10</sup> During excavations fragments of pottery were collected selectively, for the most part rims were taken, less frequently handles and bottoms of the vessels, so that the number of 310 pottery vessels morphologically and typologically studied (or 25.47% of the total number of portable finds) is just an approximate number of the vessels found in Saldum.<sup>11</sup>

4<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> century pottery vessels in Saldum: a brief summary<sup>12</sup>

66 vessels – bowls, pots, plates, amphorae, pithoi, flagons, and lids – originate from the period of the Valentinianic settlement in Saldum. Bowls, pots, amphorae, pithoi, and lids were identified in 6<sup>th</sup> century pottery material (36 vessels), whereas the absence of tableware – plates and flagons – is quite noticeable (table 1). The number of 6<sup>th</sup> century vessels (36) is significantly smaller when compared to the number of 4<sup>th</sup> century vessels, although the number of vessels registered at the time of excavations was significantly larger.

**Bowls:** More than a half of all typologically studied vessels from the Valentinianic 4<sup>th</sup> century layer belong to bowl

<sup>1</sup> PETROVIĆ 1984, 133.

<sup>2</sup> V. KONDIĆ, Cantabaza, Smorna, Campsa. *Starinar* 22, 1974, 53–58.

<sup>3</sup> PETROVIĆ 1984, 129.

<sup>4</sup> Reports of P. PETROVIĆ in *Arh. Pregled* 9, 1967, 75–77; 10, 1968, 106–108; 11, 1969, 146–148; 12, 1970, 84–86.

<sup>5</sup> PETROVIĆ 1984, 129–133; JEREMIĆ 2009, 17–18; 224–226.

<sup>6</sup> M. MIRKOVIĆ, The legionary camps at Singidunum and Viminacium in the defensive system in the fourth, fifth and sixth centuries: Romans and barbarians. In: M. Zahariade (ed.), *Studia Danubiana. Pars Romaniae, Series Symposia I. The Roman Frontier at the Lower Danube 4<sup>th</sup>–6<sup>th</sup> centuries. The second International Symposium at Murighiol/Halmyris 18–24 August 1996* (Bucharest 1998) 118.

<sup>7</sup> JEREMIĆ 2009, 225.

<sup>8</sup> *Ibid.* 14–15 fig. 6.

<sup>9</sup> PETROVIĆ 1984, 134.

<sup>10</sup> JEREMIĆ 2009, 16.

<sup>11</sup> *Ibid.* 55–127.

<sup>12</sup> Catalogue numbers of pottery vessels on the figs. 3–5 are according: JEREMIĆ 2009. Scale 1:4 (except cat. no. 276 scale 1:2).

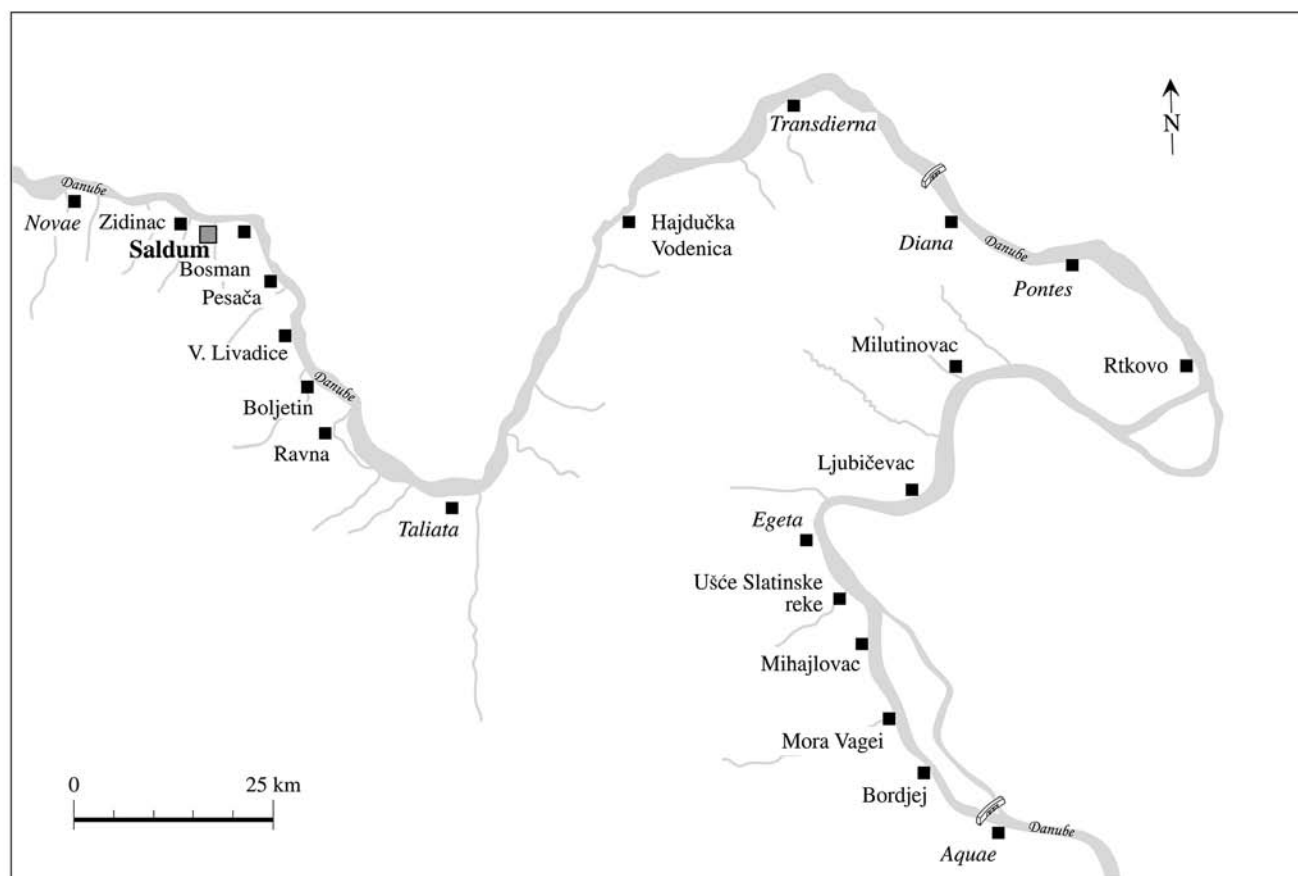


Fig. 1. Saldum and Iron Gates area.

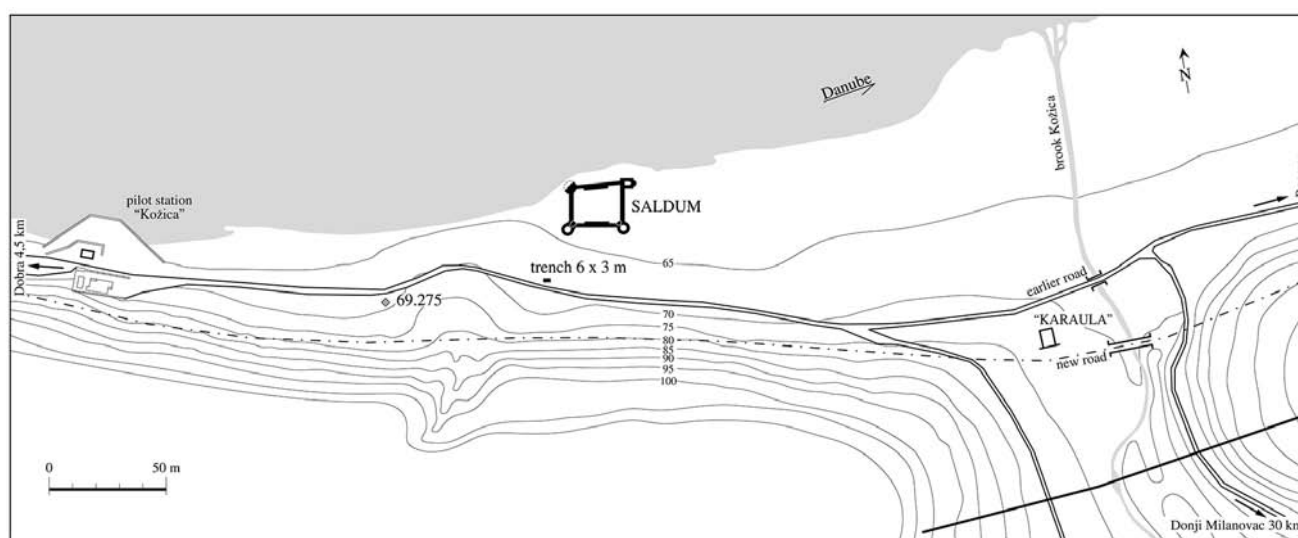


Fig. 2. Saldum, site map.

form	4 <sup>th</sup> c.	6 <sup>th</sup> c.	total
bowls	36	5	41
pots	18	6	24
plates	2	-	2
amphorae	3	11	14
pithoi	2	1	3
flagons	4	-	4
lids	2	12	14
<b>total vessels</b>	<b>67</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>= 102</b>

Table 1. Vessels, 4<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> centuries.

4 <sup>th</sup> c./ firing colour	olive glazed	brown glazed	yellowish- green glazed	glaze destroyed	without ornament	other ornaments	total
red	3	2			1		6
brown	10	2		4	3	2	21
gray					5	1	6
ochre			3				3
<b>total</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>= 36</b>

Table 2. Bowls 4<sup>th</sup> century.

6 <sup>th</sup> c./ firing colour	olive glazed	brown glazed	yellowish- green glazed	glaze destroyed	without ornament	other ornaments	total
red	1						1
brown	1			1			2
gray						2	2
ochre							
<b>total</b>	<b>2</b>			<b>1</b>		<b>2</b>	<b>= 5</b>

Table 3. Bowls 6<sup>th</sup> century.

forms (36 specimens in all) (**fig. 3**). Bowls are present in a relatively limited range of types, as conical, biconical or calotte-shaped, with horizontally everted rims or with everted slanting rims.<sup>13</sup> They were made of clay, most often of sandy fabric, and firing colour was brown, less frequently red, grey or ochre (**table 2**). In most cases (24 items, or 2/3 of the total number of bowls), the inner surface was glazed in tones of olive, brown or yellowish-green colour.

Only 5 bowls originate from 6<sup>th</sup> century layer (**fig. 5**), and they have similar technological characteristics as in the previous period (**table 3**).

**Pots:** In the Valentinianic layer 18 pots were identified, made of poorly or medium refined fired clay, brown or grey (**fig. 4**). In the largest number of cases (11, i.e. 61%), the specimens are with no ornaments, while some have glazed outer surfaces decorated by engravings or ribs (**table 4**). The vessels often featured two or three handles.

Pots with handles as well as glazed pots seem to have been gradually phased out in 6<sup>th</sup> century (**fig. 5**). Brown fired

pots, made of less well refined fired clay, seem to have been predominant at the time (**table 5**). Judging by the Saldum finds there seems to have been a discontinuity of tradition in production of this form of vessels between 4<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> centuries.

**Plates:** Only two specimen of this form were recorded and only in Valentinianic 4<sup>th</sup> century layers. Both were made of red fired clay, painted in red, along the lines of the tradition of pottery production in the period of the Principate.<sup>14</sup>

**Amphorae:** A relatively small number of amphorae were recorded in the 4<sup>th</sup> century pottery material (**fig. 4**).<sup>15</sup> Syrian-Palestinian and North African types are present. However, in the 6<sup>th</sup> century layer these vessels make up the most numerous group of pottery finds (**fig. 5**), featuring eleven typologically determined specimens and six lids, arriving in Saldum from North African, particularly from Egyptian centres, as well as Syrian and the Black Sea ones, and others.<sup>16</sup>

<sup>14</sup> Ibid. 103 types III/4 (cat. 282); III/5 (cat. 301).

<sup>15</sup> Ibid. 107–108 types V/3 (cat. 309); V/5 (cat. 311–312).

<sup>16</sup> Ibid. 108–111 types V/5–V/8 (cat. 313–323).

<sup>13</sup> JEREMIĆ 2009, 81 types I/18–I/25.

4 <sup>th</sup> c./ firing colour	without ornament	olive glazed	brown glazed	yellowish- green glazed	groove, channel	ribbed ornam.	handmade	total
red								-
brown	4	2			2		1	9
grey	7	1						8
ochre				1				1
total	11	3		1	2		1	= 18

Table 4. Pots, 4<sup>th</sup> century.

6 <sup>th</sup> c./ firing colour	without ornament	olive glazed	brown glazed	yellowish- green glazed	groove, channel	ribbed ornam.	handmade	total
red								
brown	4							4
grey	1				1			2
ochre								
total	5				1			= 6

Table 5. Pots, 6<sup>th</sup> century.

**Flagons:** This form of vessels is present in 4<sup>th</sup> century material in Saldum (fig. 3),<sup>17</sup> while it was not recorded for the 6<sup>th</sup> century. A relatively small number of identified 4<sup>th</sup> century flagons were made of clay, firing colours were red, brown or grey, and most often they were glazed in olive or brown colours.

#### Saldum in the period from 364 to 378/380 AD

Following the rebuilding of the fortification in the time of Aurelian or Probus in the second half of 3<sup>rd</sup> century, as evidenced by bricks bearing the stamp of *praepositus Hermogenes*, life in Saldum was brought to a standstill for the period of about 80 years, until the time of Valens' and Valentinian's reconstruction of the limes in 364 A.D. That was the time when new and more numerous population came to Saldum. The newly arrived inhabitants used timber, abundant in Saldum and the vicinity, to build residential, commercial and defensive structures. Although not long-lasting, life in the time of Valentinian I was highly intensive and varied. The policy of Valens and Valentinian was to relocate large population groups from central and not so vulnerable parts of the Empire into the border zones, such as the Djerdap area. Entire families were settled there, and they had to make their living in the settlement. Able-bodied men were required to take part in military operations of the Roman army. For such participation in the Roman army the inhabitants were regularly paid, which is indicated by numerous hoards and groups of bronze

coins of this period, found in the housing structures within the settlement.<sup>18</sup>

Numerous portable finds point to intensive agriculture, cattle raising, as well as to various crafts, like metal-, wood- and leatherwork.<sup>19</sup> Textile industry left numerous preserved calotte-shaped, conical and biconical pottery whorls.<sup>20</sup> That there were fishermen as well is shown by finds of cone-shaped weights for fishing nets, made of less well refined clay, of yellowish to brown firing colour.<sup>21</sup> Pottery vessels of this period have the characteristics of typical Late Roman production. Pottery for everyday use includes predominantly vessels of brown, grey or red firing colour, often with glazed surfaces, representing the work of local workshops. Luxury pottery was not identified. Imported pottery was limited to the types of amphorae that arrived in Saldum by waterways from Syrian-Palestinian and North African centres. Portable finds show close ties with Pannonia, wherefrom population could have been relocated to Saldum in larger groups during the time of Valentinian was reinforcing the defences of Middle Danube limes.

#### Saldum in the 6<sup>th</sup> century

Following the Goths devastating Saldum in the eighth decade of 4<sup>th</sup> century, the settlement in Saldum was not reconstructed until the period of Justinian I, when a smaller castellum was built, with the area of 0.17 ha, to provide lodgings for a

<sup>17</sup> Ibid. 115–117 types VII/2–VII/4 (cat. 331, 332, 334); cat. 337 (flagon base with Christogram).

<sup>18</sup> Ibid. 205–221.

<sup>19</sup> Ibid. 190–191.

<sup>20</sup> Ibid. 182–185.

<sup>21</sup> Ibid. 179–180.

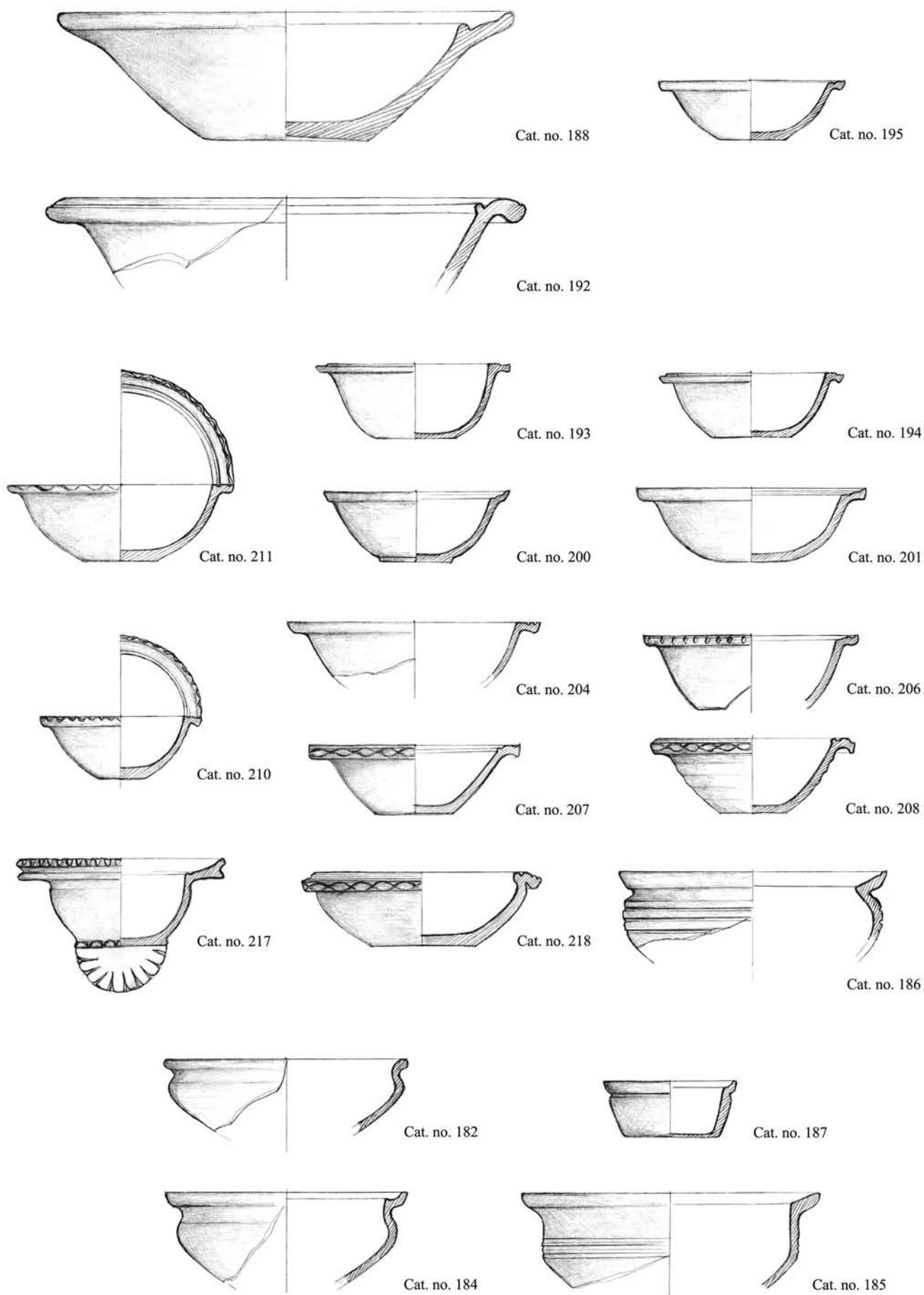
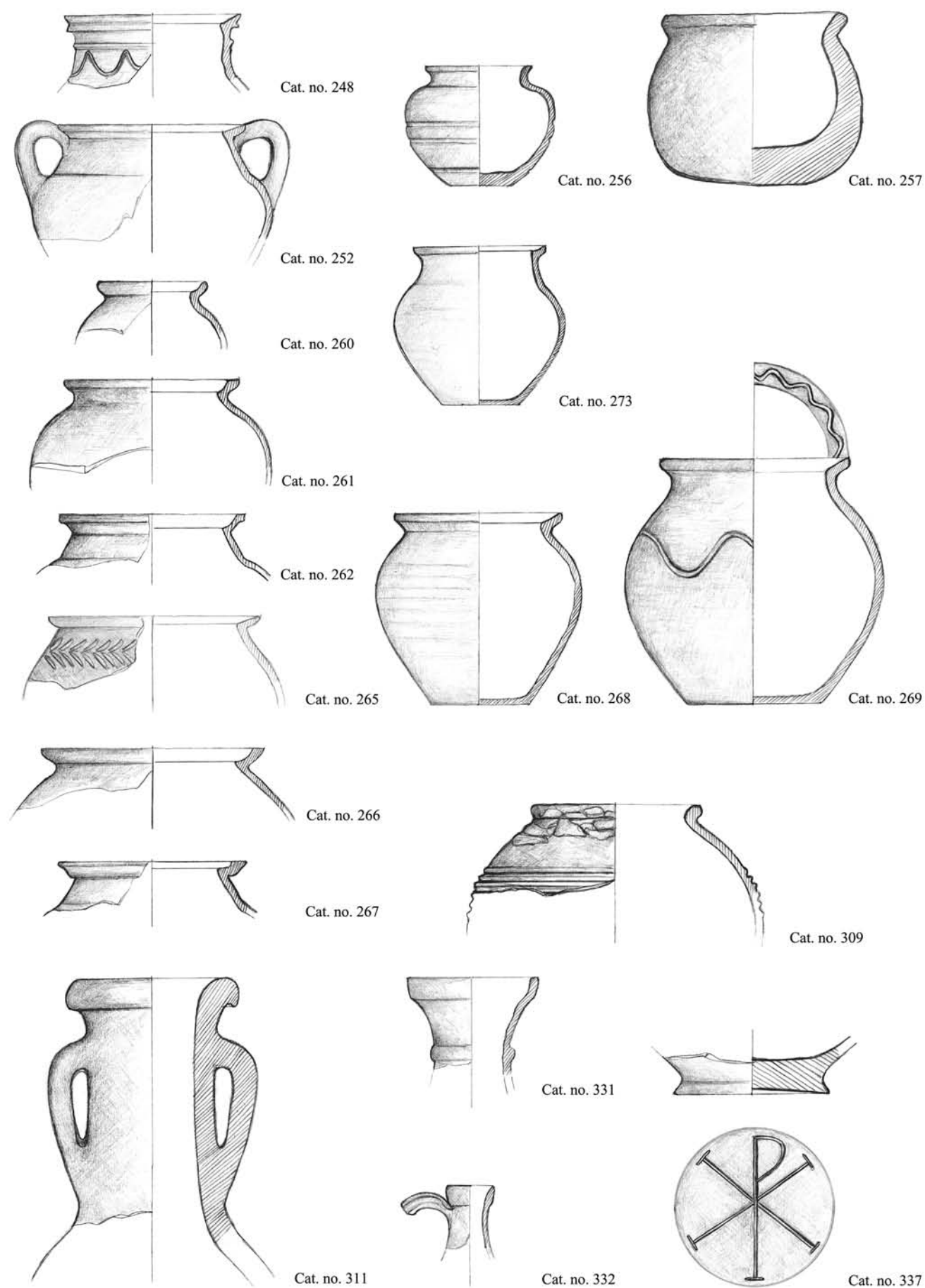


Fig. 3. Saldum, 4<sup>th</sup> century pottery. – Scale 1:4





**Fig. 4.** Saldum, 4<sup>th</sup> century pottery. – Scale 1:4.

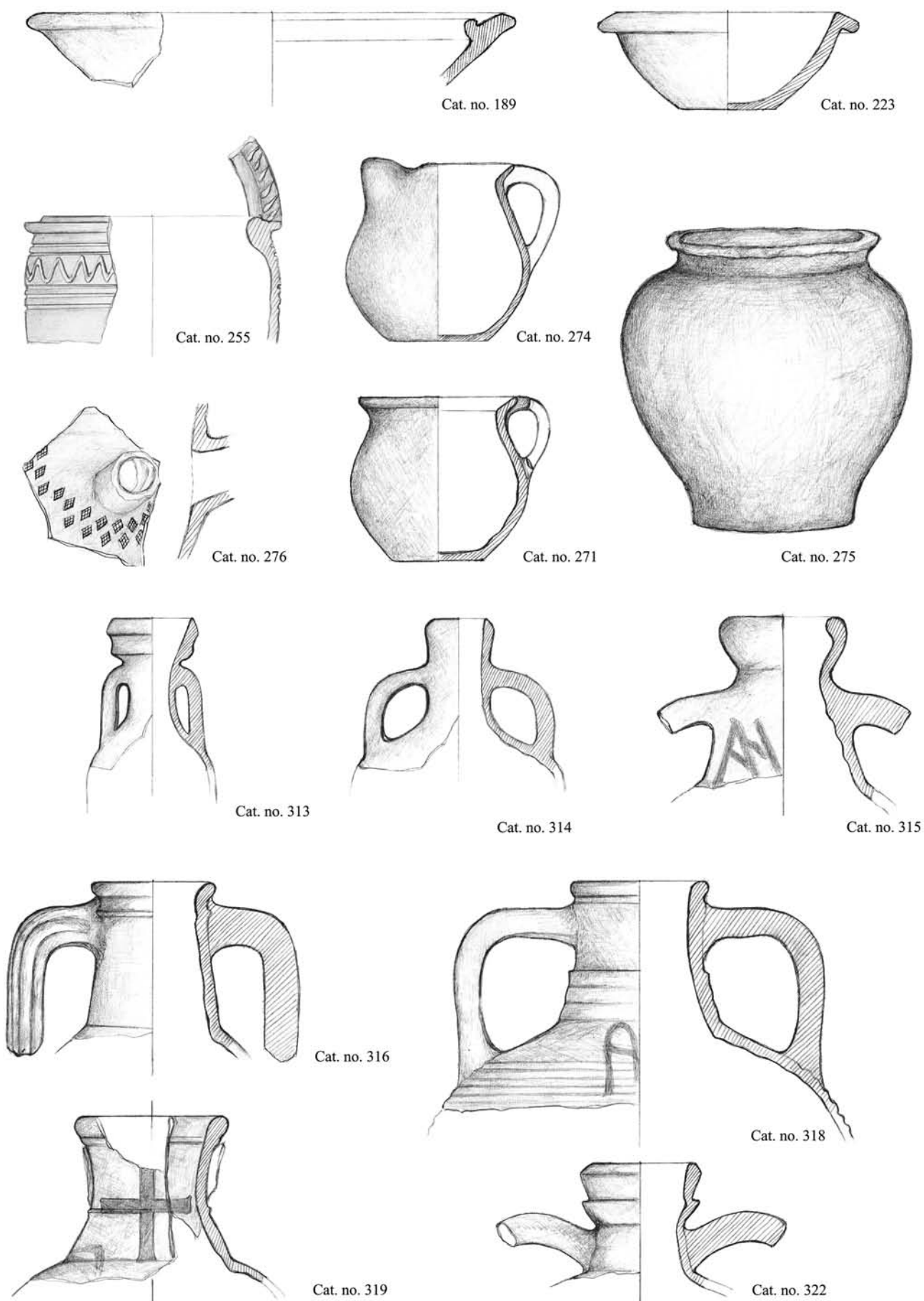


Fig. 5. Sildum, 6<sup>th</sup> century pottery. – Scale 1:4, 276 scale 1:2.

smaller military unit of about a hundred soldiers. The number and type of portable finds from this period (**fig. 5**) indicate the presence of a smaller military garrison that, unlike the inhabitants in the previous period, mostly engaged in military activities and regulating river traffic. Judging by the quantity of packaging pottery, the military were regularly supplied from a large number of Eastern Mediterranean, Black Sea and North African centres. Daily use pottery shows the features of local production of Early Byzantium period, which is less ornate, with fewer forms. Among these pottery vessels, a vessel that could have belonged to representatives of Gepidean population (**fig. 5,276**), or could have been produced along the lines of Gepidean pottery making tradition, was recorded.

As the circumstances grew more insecure at the borders of the Empire in the second half of 6<sup>th</sup> century, it became more difficult, at times even impossible, for the supplies to reach the troops at the Limes, and in Saldum as well, so the military had to take care of food supplies on their own. After the fortification in Saldum was captured in the years following 592 A.D., at the time of attacks by the Avars and Slavs, as can be concluded from the finds of most recent coins in Saldum, life there completely ceased and the settlement was left to oblivion for the centuries to come.

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