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ROMAN COARSE POTTERY FROM *CIBALAE*: A TYPOLOGY

This paper presents the finds of Roman coarse pottery found on four different sites in the town of Vinkovci (Croatia), the Roman *Cibalae* (Vinkovci-Šokadija, Vinkovci-Varteks, Vinkovci-Muzej and Vinkovci-Komercijalna banka; see **fig. 1**). All of them are situated on the Eastern side of the forum of *Cibalae*, and can be considered as parts of the same complex. The stratigraphy of sites has been ruined during the extensive urban development of Vinkovci in the 20<sup>th</sup> century.<sup>1</sup> During the excavations of those sites 3,883 sherds of pottery were found. The analysis provided an overview of the different pottery classes used during four centuries, i.e. from the 1<sup>st</sup> to the 4<sup>th</sup> century AD, when the city of *Cibalae* flourished as an important urban centre. In this work we concentrate on the coarse pottery. The coarse pottery is the most widespread class of pottery (36%; see **figs. 2–3**). The coarse pottery from *Cibalae* is rough in texture; the prevailing colours are dark grey and dark brown, sometimes almost black with darker margins and surfaces. In fabric there are some evidences of multicoloured quartz, fine mica and flint inclusions. This type of pottery is locally made and it is used for food preparation, cooking and storage. The forms found in *Cibalae* come in different kinds of bowls, tripod bowls, pots, lids and a strainer. Most of the finds range in date from the mid 1<sup>st</sup> to the end of the 2<sup>nd</sup> century. Some types date from the 2<sup>nd</sup> to the 4<sup>th</sup> centuries. Bowls (CPB coarse pottery bowl) are present in eight different types. There are six types of pots (CPP coarse pottery pot) and just one type of lid (CPL coarse pottery lid) and strainer (CPS coarse pottery strainer).

**Bowls (fig. 4)**

Coarse pottery bowls are mostly used for cooking. They could stand on a special iron base or they could hang above the hearth.<sup>2</sup>

**CPB 1.** The bowls with grooved horizontal rim with flat base were found on all four sites mentioned above. According to the finds from *Sirmium* (Srijemska Mitrovica) and *Singidunum* (Beograd) these bowls date from the 2<sup>nd</sup> century.<sup>3</sup>

**CPB 2.** The most common type is a biconical bowl with extended, profiled rim and flat base. This type is found at all four sites. It dates from end of the 1<sup>st</sup> to the 2<sup>nd</sup> century.<sup>4</sup>



**Fig. 1.** Distribution of the four sites in Vinkovci. 1 Muzej; 2. Varteks; 3 Šokadija; 4 Komercijalna banka.

**CPB 3.** Biconical bowls with one groove on the rim have the same range in date as the previous type – from end of the 1<sup>st</sup> to the 2<sup>nd</sup> century.<sup>5</sup> This type was found in Varteks.

**CPB 4.** This conical bowl with flat rim was found in Varteks. Similar bowls were found in red and black slipped ware that date from the 2<sup>nd</sup> century.<sup>6</sup>

<sup>1</sup> VIKIĆ-BELANČIĆ 1970, 162; ISKRA-JANOŠIĆ 1994, 58–60; EAD. 1995, 59; EAD. 2001, 67; EAD. 2004, 174; OŽANIĆ 2004, 12–16; EAD. 2005, 135–136.

<sup>2</sup> BRUKNER 1981, 39; NIKOLIĆ-ĐORĐEVIĆ 2000, 23, 47; OŽANIĆ 2004, 80.

<sup>3</sup> BOJOVIĆ 1977 T XL, 362; BRUKNER 1981: 87; NIKOLIĆ-ĐORĐEVIĆ 2000: 115; OŽANIĆ 2004: 80.

<sup>4</sup> BRUKNER 1981 T 81, 42 (AMZ), Tip 57; OŽANIĆ 2004, 80.

<sup>5</sup> BRUKNER 1981 T 81, 42 (AMZ), Tip 57; OŽANIĆ 2004, 81.

<sup>6</sup> Ibid. 81.

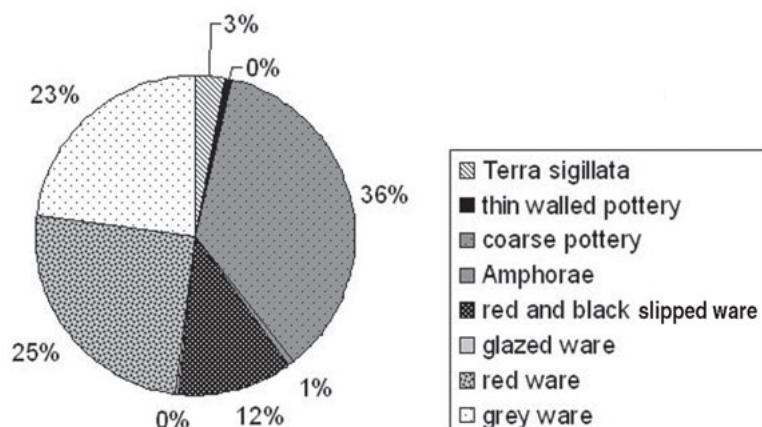


Fig. 2. Total percentage of pottery classes on all four sites.

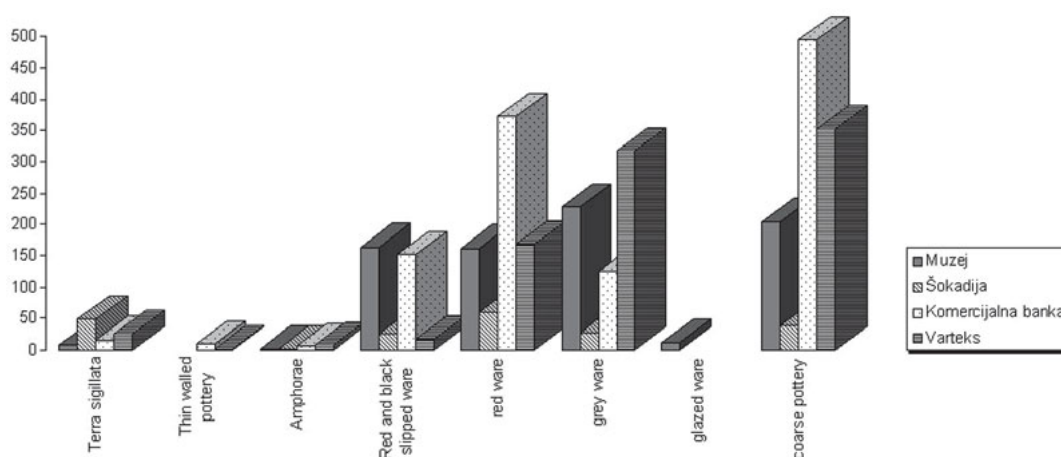


Fig. 3. Frequency of pottery classes on individual sites.

**CPB 5.** A biconical bowl with a flaring rim was found on the site of Varteks. A similar bowl was found in *Singidunum* (Beograd) in a pit dating from the 2<sup>nd</sup> century.<sup>7</sup>

**CPB 6.** Conical bowl with horizontal rim, with grooves on the rim and the body. The shape of this bowl is similar to the body of a tripod bowl (CPB 8). They date from the 1<sup>st</sup> to the 2<sup>nd</sup> century.<sup>8</sup> They were found in Komercijalna banka.

**CPB 7.** Spherical bowl decorated with broad bands of combed grooves; restricted neck and everted rim. Such bowls were found in Komercijalna banka and Muzej dating from the 2<sup>nd</sup> century.<sup>9</sup>

**CPB 8.** Tripod bowl. Spherical body with horizontal rim, the belly and three trapezoid legs. This type is of Italian origin but they are locally made in *Pannonia* and *Noricum*. They were used to cook and serve food. They were found in settlements and cemeteries. In the graves they contained food and had lids or they would be broken during the ritual of incineration. In *Pannonia Inferior* they are not so common as in *Pannonia Superior* and *Noricum*. They date from the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> centuries.<sup>10</sup> Hitherto, only one specimen of this type found at Komercijalna banka (fig. 5).<sup>11</sup>

## Pots (fig. 6)

**CPP 1.** The most common type of pot has a moulded rim and spherical body. It was found at Muzej, Varteks and Šokadija. Sometimes the pots of this type have a profiled belly. This type of pot dates from the second half of the 1<sup>st</sup> century to the middle of the 2<sup>nd</sup> century.<sup>12</sup>

**CPP 2.** Pots with a short neck and oval body date from the 2<sup>nd</sup> to the 4<sup>th</sup> century.<sup>13</sup> They were found at Muzej, Šokadija and Varteks.

**CPP 3.** A pot with a profiled rim and spherical body decorated with horizontal grooves was found at Šokadija and there is no analogy that would help us date this find.<sup>14</sup>

<sup>7</sup> NIKOLIĆ-ĐORĐEVIĆ 2000, 47; OŽANIĆ 2004, 81.

<sup>8</sup> BRUKNER 1981, 93 OŽANIĆ 2004, 81.

<sup>9</sup> Ibid.

<sup>10</sup> VIKIĆ-BELANČIĆ 1962/ 63, 107–108; PLESNIČAR-GEC 1977, 54; BRUKNER 1981, 40; ID. 1987 T 24, 1–4; PLESNIČAR-GEC/KUHAR 1996, 26; GREGL 1997, 62; ŽIŽEK 2004, 131 fig. 45.

<sup>11</sup> OŽANIĆ 2004, 83.

<sup>12</sup> BRUKNER 1981 T 116, 75.82.84 (GMV) Tip 16 po O. Brukner; OŽANIĆ 2004, 103.

<sup>13</sup> PAHIĆ 1979, 389; 104, Prilog 1; Nikolić-Đorđević 2000, 74; OŽANIĆ 2004, 103.

<sup>14</sup> Ibid.


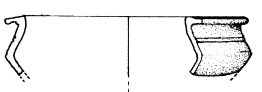


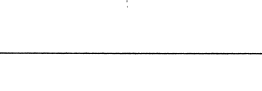
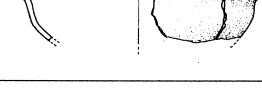


Bowls	Type/ date
	CPB. 1/ 2 <sup>nd</sup> century
	CPB. 2 /end of 1 <sup>st</sup> – 2 <sup>nd</sup> century
	CPB. 3/ end of 1 <sup>st</sup> – 2 <sup>nd</sup> century
	CPB. 4/ 2 <sup>nd</sup> century
	CPB. 5/ 2 <sup>nd</sup> century
	CPB. 6/ 1 <sup>st</sup> – 2 <sup>nd</sup> century
	CPB. 7/ 2 <sup>nd</sup> century
	CPB. 8/ 1 <sup>st</sup> – 2 <sup>nd</sup> century Tripod bowl

Fig. 4. Typology of bowls.



Fig. 5. Tripod bowl (Komerčijalna banka), height 11 cm, rim diameter: 17 cm, width of sides: 0,5 cm, inv. No. GMV A-1849.

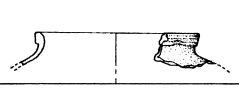
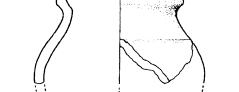
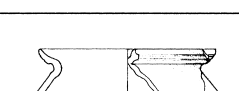
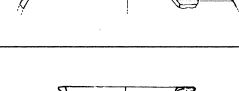
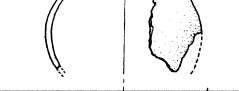



Pots	Type/ date
	CPP. 1/ second half of the 1 <sup>st</sup> – 2 <sup>nd</sup> century
	CPP. 2/ 2 <sup>nd</sup> – 4 <sup>th</sup> century
	CPP. 3/
	CPP. 4/ second half of the 1 <sup>st</sup> – 2 <sup>nd</sup> century
	CPP. 5/ 2 <sup>nd</sup> century
	CPP. 6/ 2 <sup>nd</sup> century
	CPL. 1/ 2 <sup>nd</sup> – 4 <sup>th</sup> century
	CPS 1/ 1 <sup>st</sup> century - beginning of the 2 <sup>nd</sup> century

Fig. 6. Typology of pots, lid and strainer.

**CPP 4.** Pots with a steep rim and spherical body are made without the potter's wheel or they are partially made on a wheel and then finished by hand. One can notice that they follow a certain type but there are no two pots that are the same. Such pots were found in Varteks. In *Singidunum* they were found in closed layers dating to the 2<sup>nd</sup> century.<sup>15</sup>

**CPP 5.** Pot with flaring rim, cylindrical neck and spherical body with interlaced combed arcs on the upper part and horizontal combed bands below. The ornament covers two thirds of the vessel. This kind of ornament is a legacy from the La Tène period.<sup>16</sup> These pots were found at Varteks dating from the 2<sup>nd</sup> century.

<sup>15</sup> OŽANIĆ 1998 T 19, 3; NIKOLIĆ-ĐORĐEVIĆ 2000, 73; OŽANIĆ 2004, 103; MILOŠEVIĆ 2005 T XIII, 12.

<sup>16</sup> VIKIĆ-BELANČIĆ 1976, 31; WIEWEGH 2001 T I, 4; OŽANIĆ 2004, 103.

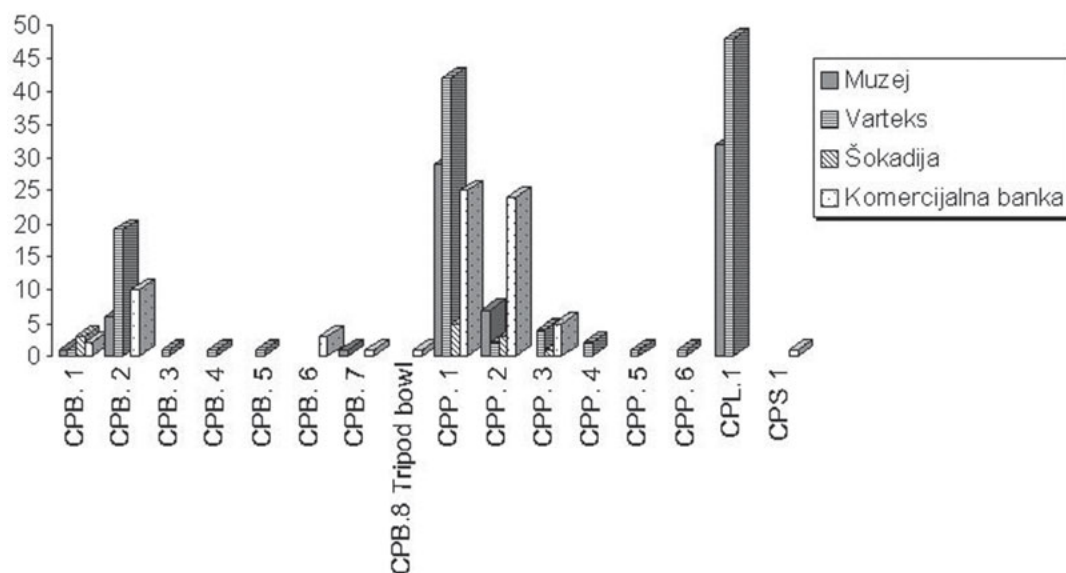


Fig. 7. Frequency of coarse pottery types on all four sites.

**CPP 6.** A pot with tapering neck and flat rim was found in Varteks. This kind of pot dates to the 2<sup>nd</sup> century.<sup>17</sup>

#### Lid (fig. 6)

CPL 1 Lids were found in Muzej and Varteks. They are mostly the same shape but they differ in size. They are conical and they have a button-like handle. According to the finds from *Singidunum* they range in date from the 2<sup>nd</sup> to 4<sup>th</sup> century.<sup>18</sup>

#### Strainer (fig. 6)

Strainers were very often used in Roman cooking. They had many purposes, for example to make cheese or to strain wine. Ceramic strainers are made as substitute for metal objects that are much more expensive. The strainer found at Komercijalna banka reminds us by its shape of bowls with S-profile used in the La Tène period. In the Early Empire such strainers were found throughout the territory of Srijem. They are usually made of fine grey clay, so the strainer from Komercijalna banka is an exception. This strainer dates from the 1<sup>st</sup> century to the beginning of the 2<sup>nd</sup> century.<sup>19</sup>

#### Conclusion

The aim of this paper was to present statistics for the general types of coarse pottery that are found on four sites in Vinkovci. The frequencies of the different types are shown

together in **fig. 7**. As we already stated, the coarse pottery is the most widespread class of pottery, but until now it has been seldom or briefly investigated. The significance of coarse pottery is that it is mostly made in local workshops and as such it shows the influence of Roman invaders but still preserves the taste of local inhabitants.

We must emphasize that the problem with statistical analysis of pottery from settlements is that only a small proportion of the vessels can be considered as whole and attributed to a specific type. About 69% of the body- and base-sherds of coarse pottery from the sites discussed in this paper cannot be attributed to any type. The disturbed stratigraphy that is usual at most of the sites in Vinkovci makes the dating of finds difficult. The results of this analysis can be considered an introduction for further research into this special group of pottery in Vinkovci.

<sup>17</sup> MIKL-CURK 1987, T 22: 1-4; OŽANIĆ 2004, 103.

<sup>18</sup> NIKOLIĆ-ĐORĐEVIĆ 2000, 155; OŽANIĆ 2004, 113.

<sup>19</sup> BRUKNER 1981, 41; 99; ID. 1987 T 24,12; OŽANIĆ 2004, 114; BRUKNER 2005 T 9,85.

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