

# DACIAN HAND-MADE POTTERY DISCOVERED IN THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITE OF REȘCA-ROMULA

Mircea NEGRU\*

**Abstract:** The native pottery in Roman and Former Roman provinces is still a less studied subject. Even when the fragments of indigenous pottery vessels are sometimes discovered, they are not so spectacular to be published in time as the other archaeological artefacts from Roman and Late Roman Period.

This article highlights the existence and relevance of a small lot of Dacian pottery fort to understanding of late of 3<sup>rd</sup> century AD and 4<sup>th</sup> century AD in Roman and then former Roman Province of Dacia.

**Keywords:** Roman, Romula, Dacian, hand-made pottery, archaeological artefacts.

## INTRODUCTION

Pottery of local pre-Roman tradition is a constant presence found in most European provinces of the Roman Empire. We can mention here the pottery of pre-Roman tradition discovered in *Moesia Inferior*<sup>1</sup>, *Moesia Superior*<sup>2</sup>, *Pannonia*<sup>3</sup>, *Noricum*<sup>4</sup>, *Gallia Belgica*<sup>5</sup>, *Britannia*<sup>6</sup> and in other Roman provinces.

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\* Assoc. Prof., PhD / Senior Archaeologist, Department of Law and Administrative Sciences, Spiru Haret University Bucharest, Romania / Faculty of History – Center for Comparative Studies of Ancient Societies, University of Bucharest, Romania; E-mail: mircea\_negru\_arch@yahoo.com

<sup>1</sup> D. Ohcearov, *Trako-rimski nekropol Tărgoviște*, *Arheologia*, 7, 1965, 1, pp. 34–37; C. Scorpan, *Contribuții arheologice la problemele etnice ale Dobrogei antice. Carpii în Scythia Minor*, *Pontice*, I, 1968, pp. 341–364; C. Scorpan, *Prezența și continuitatea getică în Tomis și Callatis*, *SCIVA*, 21, 1970, 1, pp. 65–95; M. Babeș, *Necropola daco-romană de la Enisala*, *SCIVA*, 22, 1971, 1, pp. 19–45; C. Scorpan, *La continuité de la population et des traditions gètes les conditions de la romanization de la Scythie Minor*, *Pontica*, VI, 1973, pp. 137–151; B. Sultov, *Centres antiques de poteries en Mésie Inférieure*, *Actes du II-e Congrès International de Thracologie*, Bucharest, 1980, 2, pp. 379–388; A. Opaïț, *Considerații preliminare asupra ceramicii romane timpurii de la Troesmis*, *Peuce*, VIII, 1980, pp. 328–366; G. Kabakciewa, *Keramikversorgung in den Militärstützpunkten an der unteren Donau im 1 Jh n. Ch. und die Politik Roms*, *RCRFACTA*, 35, 1997, pp. 33–40.

<sup>2</sup> Gordana Jeremic, *Saldivm, Roman and Early Byzantine Fortification*, Belgrade, 2009, pp. 56–59; S. Nikolic-Dgeorgevic, *Anticka keramika Singidunuma*, *Singidunum* 2, 2000, pp. 79–80, type II/34; N. Jevremovic, *Keramika juznog i zapadnog bedema lokaliteta Diana–Karatas*, *Djerdapske sveske* IV, 1986, p. 50, T. VI, type II/7 and II/9. 14.

<sup>3</sup> E. Bónis, *Die kaiserzeitliche Keramik von Pannonien*, *Diss.Pann.*, Ser. II, 20, Budapest, 1942, pls. 1–15; O. Brukner, *Rimska keremika u Jugoslovenskom delu provincije Dolnje Pannonije*,

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In the province of Dacia, hand-made Dacian pottery was discovered in the fortifications and civil settlements, in rural settlements and necropolises, and less frequently in Roman cities<sup>7</sup>. Among the discoveries of this type in the urban environment of the province of Dacia, we mention those from *Ulpia Traiana Sarmizegetusa, Napoca, Porolissum, Tibiscum and Romula*<sup>8</sup>. Often, however, they were discovered in contexts archeologically widely dated to the 2<sup>nd</sup>–3<sup>rd</sup> centuries AD, which include the period after the abandonment of the province of Dacia.

That is why each discovery is worth mentioning in order to have a more accurate picture of the production and distribution of this local pottery in the province of Dacia, but also in the period after the middle of the third century AD and in the 4<sup>th</sup> century AD.

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In this article we present a batch of fragments of Dacian ceramic vessels, modelled by hand, discovered in the archaeological site of Reșca-Romula, during the archaeological campaigns of 2013, 2017, 2019, in the points Central Fortification and School-Land of Sport (Figure 1).

The Central Fortification is located in the central area of the archaeological site of Reșca-Romula, it being one of the three Roman fortifications identified and designed by the Austrian captain Fernando de Marsigli between 1689–1691<sup>9</sup>. Scientific archaeological research in this area of the archaeological site was initiated by the engineer Pamfil Polonic in 1900, when a Roman building with *thermae*<sup>10</sup> was discovered. They were resumed in 1965 under the coordination of Professor Dumitru Tudor<sup>11</sup>, and from 1978 to 1992 they were led by Dr. Cristian

Beograd, 1981, pls. 2–5; O. Brukner, in O. Brukner, V. Dautova-Rusevljan, P. Milosović, *Poceti romanizacije u Jugoistocinomu delu provincije Pannonije*, Novi Sad, 1987, pp. 40–41, pl. 12.

<sup>4</sup> E. Schindler-Kaudelka, *Tonnenförmige Kochtöpfe vom Magdalensberg*, RCRFActa, 35, 1997, pp. 116–125; S. Zabežlicky-Scheffenecker, *Dreifußschüsseln mit Töpfermarken vom Magdalensberg*, RCRFActa, 1997, pp. 127–132; V. V. Perko, *The Roman tiles factory at Vransko near Celeia (Noricum). Part two: Ceramic finds*, RCRFActa, 35, 1997, pp. 165–172.

<sup>5</sup> X. Deru, L. Grasset, *The Roman pottery workshop in the Saint-Remi district (Reims, Marne). Preliminary report*, RCRFActa, 35, 1997, pp. 151–156.

<sup>6</sup> I. A. Richmond, *Roman Britain*, London, 1966, pp. 129–131; Salway, *Roman Britain*, London, 1981, pp. 642–643; G. Jobey, *The settlement at Doubstead and Romano – British settlement on the coastal plain between Tyne and Forth*, ArchAeliana, Fifth series, 10, 1982, pp. 1–23; V. Swan, *Pottery in Roman Britain*, Fourth edition, Aylesbury, 198, p. 7; V. Swan, *The Roman pottery of Yorkshire and the North-East: A selective historical guide*, RCRF, XXth International Congress 1996, York and Newcastle, 1996, pp. 81–85; P. Tyers, *Roman pottery in Britain*, First edition, London, 1996, pp. 63–64.

<sup>7</sup> M. Negru, *The Native Pottery of Roman Dacia*, British Archaeological Reports, International Series, 1097, 2003, Oxford, UK.

<sup>8</sup> *Ibidem*, pp. 106–113.

<sup>9</sup> C. Mărgărit Tăulea, *Romula-Malva*, Bucharest, 1994, p. 8.

<sup>10</sup> D. Tudor, *Oltenia romană*, Ed. IV, Bucharest, 1978, p. 180.

<sup>11</sup> *Ibidem*, pp. 176–187.

Vlădescu<sup>12</sup>. In 2009 a cross-section was initiated within this sector of the archaeological site. This was continued in 2011, and since 2013, research has gained momentum, which has led to the collection of new information on this important area of the archaeological site.<sup>13</sup>

In the years 2018–2019, in the School point, in the southwestern part of the archaeological site, preventive archaeological researches were carried out, on a site where a Sports Field was to be built.

## CATALOGUE OF DISCOVERIES (FIGS. 2–3)

### 1. Pot

**Typology.** Negru 2003, type II.1, Pl. no. 9, 10 / Popilian 1976, type 1, Pl. LXXV: 956 (modelled on the wheel)

**Description.** Ovoid body. Fragment from the top. The lip is slightly arched on the outside. There is an alveolar embossed belt above the shoulder. Dimensions: DVM = 102 mm, RH = 80 mm, Gr. P. = 7–8 mm.

Coarse paste with frequent sand and rare mica. Uneven burning. Blackish colour. Outside blackish colour slip. Blackish secondary burning inside and out.

**The archaeological context.** Romula, 2013, Central Fortification. Section S 2, sq. 7, 2.00–2.40 m. SI 798.

**Remarks.** In the pit of the brick wall of the fortification.

**Chronology.** The second half of the third century AD and the first half of the 4<sup>th</sup> century AD.

**Analogies.** Similar vessels were discovered in the Roman camp at Ilișua<sup>14</sup>, and in the civil settlement of the Roman camp at Stolniceni-Buridava<sup>15</sup>. They were dated to Stolniceni-Buridava at the beginning of the 3<sup>rd</sup> century AD, and to Ilișua, in the 2<sup>nd</sup>–3<sup>rd</sup> centuries AD. A similar vessel, modelled on the wheel, was discovered in the necropolis of Locusteni, where it was dated in the second century and in the first half of the third century AD<sup>16</sup>. It was modelled from coarse grey paste.

<sup>12</sup> C. Vlădescu 1986, *Fortificațiile din Dacia Inferior*, 34–40.

<sup>13</sup> M. Negru, C. Schuster, *Istoricul cercetărilor arheologice*, in M. Negru, C. Schuster (eds.), *Romula. Seria Rapoarte arheologice. I, Raport privind cercetările arheologice sistematice din anul 2015*, Târgoviște, 2016, p. 11.

<sup>14</sup> D. Protase, C. Gaiu, G. Marinescu, *Castrul roman de la Ilișua*, Bistrița, 1997, p. 55, pl. 61:2.

<sup>15</sup> D. Tudor, *Depozitul de vase dacice și romane de la Stolniceni*, SCIVA, 18, 1967, 4, p. 656, fig. 2:4.

<sup>16</sup> Gh. Popilian, *Ceramica romană din Oltenia*, Craiova, 1976, p. 137, 221, pl. LXXIV:956; Gh. Popilian, *Traditions autochtones dans la céramique provinciale romaine de la Dacie Méridionale*, Thraco-Dacica, I, 1976, p. 285, fig. 2:10; Gh. Popilian, *Necropola daco-romană de la Locusteni*, Craiova, 1980, p. 14, pl. 2 M, 11, 1

Similar vessels in shape were discovered in archaeological sites from the late Geto-Dacian La Tene to Răcătău<sup>17</sup>, Sfântu Gheorghe<sup>18</sup>, Hărman<sup>19</sup>, Brad-Zargidava<sup>20</sup>, Upper Tisza Region<sup>21</sup>.

In the Upper Tisza area, similar vessels continued to be produced in the 2<sup>nd</sup>–4<sup>th</sup> centuries AD<sup>22</sup>.

## 2. Pot

**Typology.** Negru 2003, type VII 3.2. no. 72–73 / Popilian 1976, type 1a, Pl. LXXIV: 945

**Description.** Ovoid body. Fragment from the top. The lip is arched outwards. Dimensions: DVM = 140 mm, RH = 75 mm, VWT = 7–9 mm.

Coarse paste, with frequent sand and rare mica. Uneven burning. Blackish colour on the inside, reddish-yellow on the outside. Careless, uneven modelling. Fingerprints inside. Reddish-yellow slip on the inside and outside. Secondary burning on the top and mouth of the vessel.

**The archaeological context.** Romula, 2013, Central Fortification. Section S 4, sq. 21, 0.70–0.75 m. SI 604.

**Remarks.** The pit is subsequent to the glass processing workshop, respectively to the building no. 1/2015, which belonged to a level in which a coin was found from Philip the Arab (248 AD)<sup>23</sup>.

**Chronology.** The second half of the third century AD and the first half of the 4<sup>th</sup> century AD.

**Analogies.** Similar vessels were discovered in the Roman camp at Enoșești-Acidava<sup>24</sup> and the civil settlement of the Roman camp from Stolniceni-Buridava<sup>25</sup>, respectively within the rural necropolis of Locusteni<sup>26</sup>. They were dated to

<sup>17</sup> V. Căpitanu, *Așezarea geto-dacă de la Răcătău*, Carpica, VIII, 1976, p. 63, figs. 14:8; 21:6.

<sup>18</sup> I. H. Crișan, *Ceramica daco-getică. Cu privire specială la Transilvania*, Bucharest, p. 163, pl. 77:8.

<sup>19</sup> *Ibidem*, p. 111, pl. 32:2.

<sup>20</sup> V. Căpitanu, *Așezarea geto-dacă de la Răcătău*, Carpica, VIII, 1976, pl. 51:6.

<sup>21</sup> V. Kotigorosko, *Ținuturile Tisei superioare în veacurile III î.e.n. – IV e.n. (perioada La Tene și romană)*, Bucharest, 1995, p. 235, fig. 116:30–31.

<sup>22</sup> I. Stanciu, *Contribuții la cunoașterea epocii romane în bazinul mijlociu și inferior al râului Someș*, *Ephemeris Napocensis*, 5, 1995, fig. 37:27; V. Kotigorosko, *Ținuturile Tisei superioare în veacurile III î.e.n. – IV e.n. (perioada La Tene și romană)*, Bucharest, 1995, p. 136, fig. 113:6.

<sup>23</sup> M. Negru, L. Amon, P. Gherghe, A. Streinu, M. Streinu, T. Hila, G. Mihai, A. Diaconu, *Raport tehnic privind cercetările arheologice din anul 2015*, in Mircea Negru, Cristian Schuster (eds.), *Romula. Seria Rapoarte arheologice. I., Raport privind cercetările arheologice sistematice din anul 2015*, Târgoviște, 2016, p. 17.

<sup>24</sup> M. Negru, I. Ciucă, *Ceramica dacică lucrată cu mâna descoperită în așezarea civilă a castrului roman de la Enoșești-Acidava*, AO, SN, 12, 1997, p. 24, pl. 1:3.

<sup>25</sup> D. Tudor, *op. cit.*, p. 656, fig. 2:1.

<sup>26</sup> Gh. Popilian, *Ceramica romană din Oltenia*, Craiova, 1976, pp. 135–136, 220, tip 1, Pl. LXXIV:945, 947.

the beginning of the 3<sup>rd</sup> century AD at Stolniceni-Buridava, in the 2<sup>nd</sup> century and the first half of the 3<sup>rd</sup> century at Locusteni, respectively in the 2<sup>nd</sup>-3<sup>rd</sup> centuries AD. within the Roman camp from Enoșești-Acidava.

A similar vessel was discovered at Moigrad-*Porolissum*, where it was dated to the 1<sup>st</sup> century BC. – 1<sup>st</sup> century AD.<sup>27</sup>.

### 3. Pot

**Typology.** Negru 2003, type VIII.1., No. 78 / Popilian 1976, type 1a, Pl. LXIV, 944

**Description.** Ovoid body. Fragment from the top. The long lip is obliquely turned outwards. Dimensions: DVM = 152 mm, RH = 60 mm, VWT = 5–7 mm.

Semi-coarse paste with frequently sifted sand and rare mica. Uneven burning. Blackish colour. Black slip on the outside. Blackish secondary burning on the outside and inside on the lip.

**The archaeological context.** Romula, 2013, Central Fortification. Section S 12, sq. 1, 1.30–1.70 m. SI 6601.

**Remarks.** The fragment of the vessel was discovered in the dismantling pit of a Roman wall.

**Chronology.** The second half of the third century and the first half of the fourth century AD.

**Analogies.** A similar vessel was discovered in the Roman camp at Boroșneul Mare, where it was dated in the 2<sup>nd</sup>-3<sup>rd</sup> centuries AD<sup>28</sup>.

Similar vessels were discovered in late Geto-Dacian La Tene at the sites of Pecica-Ziridava<sup>29</sup>, Martfű<sup>30</sup> and Răcățău<sup>31</sup>, and in the 2<sup>nd</sup>-3<sup>rd</sup> centuries AD, in the area of the Free Dacians from the east of the Carpathians to Ruptura<sup>32</sup>.

### 4. Pot

**Typology.** Negru 2003, type VI.3.3., No. 56, 60 / Popilian 1976, type 1d, Pl. LXIV: 947

**Description.** Ovoid body. Marked neck, long lip is slightly arched on the outside. Dimensions: DVM = 140 mm, RH = 53 mm, VWT = 7–8 mm.

Semi-coarse paste with frequently sifted sand and rare mica. Uneven burning. Blackish colour. Black slip on the outside. Blackish secondary burning on the outside and inside on the lip.

**Archaeological context.** Romula, 2013, Central Fortification. Section S 3, sq. 18, 0.80-1.00 m, SI 541.

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<sup>27</sup> I. H. Crișan, *Ceramica daco-getică. Cu privire specială la Transilvania*, Bucharest, 1969, p. 163, pl. 74:4.

<sup>28</sup> Z. Székely, *Les Daces et les Romains aux IIe-IVe siècles dans le Sud-Est de la Transylvanie*, Actes du II-e Congrès International de Thracologie, Bucharest, 1980, 2, p. 360, fig. 1.

<sup>29</sup> I. H. Crișan, *Ceramica daco-getică. Cu privire specială la Transilvania*, Bucharest, 1969, p. 163, pl. 78:1.

<sup>30</sup> Z. Visy, *Die Daker am Gebiet von Ungarn*, A Móra Ferenc Múzeum Évkönyve, Szeged, 1970, p. 8, pl. 2:6.

<sup>31</sup> V. Căpitanu, *Așezarea geto-dacă de la Răcățău*, Carpica, VIII, 1976, p. 62, fig. 19:3.

<sup>32</sup> Gh. Bichir, *Cultura carpică*, Bucharest, 1973, p. 67, pl. 47:1.

**Remarks.** Material discovered in relation to the adobe dwelling in section S4 / 2013, sq. 1–3, researched in the 2018 campaign (CFC 5/2018).

**Chronology.** The second half of the third century – the first half of the fourth century AD.

**Analogies.** Similar vessels were discovered in the civilian settlement of the Enoșești-Acidava camp<sup>33</sup>, the cemetery from Locusteni<sup>34</sup>. These vessels have been dated in 2<sup>nd</sup>–3<sup>rd</sup> centuries AD at Enoșești-Acidava, respectively in the second century and the beginning of the third century AD at Locusteni.

## 5. Pot

**Typology.** Negru 2003, type IV.1.1., No. 23–27 / Popilian 1976, type 1c, Pl. LXIV: 946

**Description.** Bulging body. Fragment from the top. The lip is turned obliquely to the outside. Under the lip the vessel is decorated with a band of horizontal lines and one of wavy lines, below it.

Dimensions: DVM = 160 mm, RH = 53 mm, VWT = 6–7 mm.

Coarse paste, with frequent sand and rare mica. Uneven burning. Blackish on the inside, reddish-yellow on the outside. Careless, uneven modelling. Fingerprints inside. Reddish-yellow slip on the inside and outside. Secondary burning on the outside on the top.

**The archaeological context.** Romula, 2013, Central Fortification. Section S 3, sq. 18, 0.80–1.00 m, SI 5328, Material discovered in relation to the adobe dwelling in the section in 2018, sq. 1–3, researched in the 2018 campaign (CFC 5/2018).

**Chronology.** The second half of the third century – the first half of the fourth century AD.

Analogies in the Roman camps from Buciumi<sup>35</sup>, Ilișua<sup>36</sup>, Olteni<sup>37</sup>, the rural cemetery from Sopor de Câmpie<sup>38</sup>. These vessels were dated to the 2<sup>nd</sup>–3<sup>rd</sup> centuries AD at Buciumi, Ilișua and the rural cemetery from Sopor de

<sup>33</sup> C. Preda, A. Grosu, *Cercetările arheologice din așezarea civilă a castrului roman de la Enoșești-Acidava*, AO, SN, 8, 1993, p. 50, pl. 8:1.

<sup>34</sup> Gh. Popilian, *Ceramica romană din Oltenia*, Craiova, 1976, p. 221, pl. 74, nr. 952; Gh. Popilian, *Traditions autochtones dans la céramique provinciale romaine de la Dacie Méridionale*, Thraco-Dacia, I, 1976, p. 285, fig. 3:2; Gh. Popilian, *Necropola daco-romană de la Locusteni*, Craiova, 1980, pp. 19, 20, pl. 8, M 47, 1; p. 42, pl. 28, M 196, 1.

<sup>35</sup> N. Gudea, *Ceramica dacică din castrul roman de la Buciumi*, SCIVA, 21, 1970, 2, p. 305, fig. 1:2; 5:6; E. Chirilă, N. Gudea, V. Lucăcel, C. Pop, *Das Römerlager von Buciumi*, Cluj, 1972, p. 54, figs. 47:4 and 48:5.

<sup>36</sup> D. Protase, C. Gaiu, G. Marinescu, *Castrul roman de la Ilișua*, Bistrița, 1997, p. 55, pl. 60:3; pl. 59:3; D. Protase, G. Marinescu, C. Gaiu, *Cercetările arheologice din castrul roman de la Ilișua (Județul Bistrița-Năsăud)*, Materiale 15, 1981, pp. 290–291, fig. 4; D. Protase, C. Gaiu, G. Marinescu, *Castrul roman de la Ilișua*, Bistrița, 1997, p. 55, pl. 60:4.

<sup>37</sup> Z. K. Székely, *Ceramica dacică din castrul roman de la Olteni*, Cumidava, 15–19, 1990–1994, p. 19, pl. 1:2.

<sup>38</sup> D. Protase, *Sopor de Câmpie. Un cimitir dacic din epoca romană*, Bucharest, 1976, p. 35, pls. 20:8; 43:2; 43:3.

Câmpie, respectively in the middle of the 3<sup>rd</sup> century AD in another archaeological context from Ilișua<sup>39</sup> and Olteni<sup>40</sup>.

Similar vessels were discovered at the site of Slimnic in Late La Tène<sup>41</sup>, respectively in the II–III centuries AD to the Free Dacians from the east of the Carpathians to Poiana-Dulcești<sup>42</sup>, and in the area of the Upper Tisza in the 2<sup>nd</sup>–4<sup>th</sup> centuries AD<sup>43</sup>.

## 6. Pot.

**Typology.** Negru 2003, tip VI.3.4. nr. 65

**Description.** Dimensions: DVM = 132 mm, RH = 102 mm, VWT = 5–6 mm. Semi-coarse paste with frequently sifted sand and rare mica. Uneven burning. Blackish colour. Black slip on the outside.

Coarse paste, with frequent sand and rare mica. Uneven burning. Blackish on the inside, reddish-yellow on the outside.

**Archaeological context.** Romula, 2019, School Point – the Field of Sports, S 8, Cx 26, 1.30 m. SI 15691-15694.

**Remarks.** In combination with a Roman-style bowl of fine grey paste with blackish paint on the outside and inside and a handle from a Roman-style mug holder of common reddish-coloured paste.

**Chronology.** The second half of the third century AD.

### Analogies.

A similar vessel was discovered in the Roman necropolis at Locusteni in the 2<sup>nd</sup> century AD<sup>44</sup>. A similar vessel was discovered at Telița-Amza, in Lower Moesia, where it was dated to the 1st-2nd centuries AD<sup>45</sup>.

The vessel also has analogies in the late Geto-Dacian La Tene at Ocnita-Buridava<sup>46</sup> and Széttendre<sup>47</sup>.

<sup>39</sup> D. Protase, G. Marinescu, C. Gaiu, *Cercetările arheologice din castrul roman de la Ilișua (Județul Bistrița-Năsăud)*, Materiale 15, 1981, pp. 290–291, fig. 4; D. Protase, C. Gaiu, G. Marinescu, *Castrul roman de la Ilișua*, Bistrița, 1997, p. 55, pl. 60:4.

<sup>40</sup> Z. K. Székely, *Ceramica dacică din castrul roman de la Olteni*, Cumidava, 15–19, 1990–1994, p. 19, pl. 1:2.

<sup>41</sup> I. H. Crișan, *Ceramica daco-getică. Cu privire specială la Transilvania*, Bucharest, 1969, p. 163, pl. 72:1.

<sup>42</sup> Gh. Bichir, *Cultura carpică*, Bucharest, 1973, p. 67, pl. 43:3.

<sup>43</sup> V. Kotigorosko, *Ținuturile Tisei superioare în veacurile III î.e.n.– IV e.n. (perioada La Tene și romană)*, Bucharest, 1995, p. 135, fig. 114:10.

<sup>44</sup> Gh. Popilian, *Necropola daco-romană de la Locusteni*, Craiova, 1980, p. 17, pl. 5, M 26, 1.

<sup>45</sup> V. Baumann, *Așezări rurale antice în zona gurilor Dunării. Contribuții arheologice la cunoașterea habitatului rural (sec. I–IV p. Chr.)*, Tulcea, 1995, p. 95, pl. 54:7.

<sup>46</sup> D. Berciu, *Buridava dacică*, Bucharest, 1981, fig. 7:3.

<sup>47</sup> Z. Visy, *Die Daker am Gebiet von Ungarn*, A Móra Ferenc Múzeum Évkönyve, Szeged, 1970, pl. 5:9.

## 7. Pot.

**Typology.** Negru 2003, type IV.1.1., No. 25–27

**Description.** Dimensions: DVM = 150 mm, RH = 52 mm, VWT = 8–11 mm.  
Coarse paste, with frequent sand and rare mica. Uneven burning. Blackish on the inside, reddish-yellow on the outside.

**Archaeological context.** Romula, 2019, School Point – the Field of Sports, S 8, Cx 26, 1.30 m. SI 15695.

**Remarks.** In combination with a Roman-style bowl of fine grey paste with blackish paint on the outside and inside and a handle from a Roman-style mug holder of common reddish-coloured paste.

**Chronology.** The second half of the third century AD.

### Analogies.

Similar vessels were discovered in the rural necropolis of Sopor de Câmpie<sup>48</sup>, respectively in the Roman camps at Ilișua<sup>49</sup> and Olteni<sup>50</sup>. With the exception of the vessel from Olteni, dated to the middle of the 3<sup>rd</sup> century AD, all the others were widely dated to the 2<sup>nd</sup>-3<sup>rd</sup> centuries AD.

Similar vessels were discovered in the middle of the Free Dacians at Poiana-Dulcești<sup>51</sup>, where they were dated in the 2<sup>nd</sup>-3<sup>rd</sup> centuries AD, respectively in the Upper Tisza region, where they were dated in the 2<sup>nd</sup>-4<sup>th</sup> centuries AD<sup>52</sup>.

In the late Geto-Dacian La tène a similar vessel was discovered in the rural settlement of Slimnic, where it was given in the 1<sup>st</sup> century BC – 1<sup>st</sup> century AD<sup>53</sup>.

## 8. The taper cup (Dacian)

**Typology.** Negru 2003, type XII.1.2.2., No. 129–137 / Popilian 1976, type 1, Pl. LXIV: 937

**Description.** Taper conical body with flared upper part. Decorated with notched belts arranged obliquely on the body of the vessel. Dimensions: DVM = 140 mm, RH = 75 mm, VWT = 10–12 mm.

Coarse paste with frequent sand and rare mica. Uniform burning. Blackish colour. Black exterior slip. Blackish secondary burning inside and outside.

**Archaeological context.** Romula, 2013, Central Fortification. Section S 1, sq. 6, 1.30–1.55 m. SI 292

<sup>48</sup> D. Protase, *Sopor de Cîmpie. Un cimitir dacic din epoca romană*, Bucharest, 1976, p. 32, pls. 19:6 and 43:3.

<sup>49</sup> D. Protase, G. Marinescu, C. Gaiu, *Cercetările arheologice din castrul roman de la Ilișua (Județul Bistrița-Năsăud)*, Materiale 15, 1981, pp. 290–291, fig. 4; D. Protase, C. Gaiu, G. Marinescu, *Castrul roman de la Ilișua*, Bistrița, 1997, p. 55, pl. 60:4.

<sup>50</sup> Z. K. Székely, *Ceramica dacică din castrul roman de la Olteni*, Cumidava, 15–19, 1990–1994, p. 19, pl. 1:2.

<sup>51</sup> Gh. Bichir, *Cultura carpică*, Bucharest, 1973, p. 67, pl. 43:3.

<sup>52</sup> V. Kotigorosko, *Ținuturile Tisei superioare în veacurile III î.e.n.– IV e.n. (perioada La Tène și romană)*, Bucharest, 1995, p. 135, fig. 114:10.

<sup>53</sup> I. H. Crișan, *Ceramica daco-getică. Cu privire specială la Transilvania*, Bucharest, 1969, p. 163, pl. 72:1.



**Remarks.** In the filling of the pit from which a late novel was dismantled that had affected *murus cespitici* from the first phase of the fortification, continuing in Section S12.

**Chronology.** The second half of the 3<sup>rd</sup> century – 4<sup>th</sup> century AD.

**Analogies.** Similar vessels were discovered in the Roman camp at Micia<sup>54</sup>, Brețcu<sup>55</sup>, Olteni<sup>56</sup>, the civil settlement from Stolniceni-Buridava<sup>57</sup>, the rural settlement of Obreja<sup>58</sup>, rural necropolis from Locusteni<sup>59</sup>, the rural cemetery from Scornicești<sup>60</sup>. These cups were dated to the 2<sup>nd</sup> century and the first half of the 3<sup>rd</sup> century AD at Locusteni, 2<sup>nd</sup>–3<sup>rd</sup> centuries AD at Micia, Olteni, Brețcu, Obreja, the end of the 2<sup>nd</sup> century and the beginning of the 3<sup>rd</sup> century AD at Stolniceni-Buridava, the second half of the 2<sup>nd</sup> century and the first half of the 3<sup>rd</sup> century AD at Scornicești.

These similar shapes cups were discovered in contexts from the 2<sup>nd</sup>–3<sup>rd</sup> centuries AD in Moesia Inferior in the Roman camp from Barboși<sup>61</sup> and in the ceramic center from Hotnița<sup>62</sup>, in the middle of the Free Dacians from Muntenia in the settlement from Bucharest-Militari *Câmpul Boja*<sup>63</sup>, respectively in the Carpathian one in the settlement from Poiana-Dulcești<sup>64</sup> and in the necropolis from Văleni<sup>65</sup>.

The taper cups, also called Dacian type, have their origin in the Geto-Dacian La Tène, being extremely widespread in the late phase of the Geto-Dacian civilization in the Middle and Lower Danube region<sup>66</sup>.

<sup>54</sup> O. Floca, *Pagus Miciensis*, Sargetia, 5, 1968, pp. 52–53, fig. 1.

<sup>55</sup> N. Gudea, *Castrul roman de la Brețcu*, ActaMP, IV, 1980, p. 314, fig. 41:3.

<sup>56</sup> Z. Székely, *Date referitoare la cucerirea sud-estului Transilvaniei de către romani și persistența elementului dacic*, Cumidava, IV, 1970, p. 53 fig. 1:3.

<sup>57</sup> Gh. Petre-Govora, *Cuptor de ars vase la Stolniceni*, SCIVA, 19, 1968, 1, p. 147, fig. 2:4.

<sup>58</sup> D. Protase, *Așezarea și cimitirul daco-roman de la Obreja (Transilvania)*, ActaMN, 8, 1971, p. 137, fig. 6:5.

<sup>59</sup> Gh. Popilian, *Traditions autochtones dans la céramique provinciale romaine de la Dacie Méridionale*, Thraco-Dacica, I, 1976, p. 220, pl. 74, no. 937; p. 285, fig. 2:1; Gh. Popilian, *Necropola daco-romană de la Locusteni*, Craiova, 1980, p. 42, pl. 28, M 196, 2; pp. 15–16, pl. 4, M 17, 2; p. 29, pl. 16, M 108, 2.

<sup>60</sup> Gh. Bichir, *Cercetări arheologice la Scornicești*, Thraco-Dacica, VII, 1–2, 1986, p. 117, pl. 3:2, 4.

<sup>61</sup> S. Sanie, I. T. Dragomir, *Aspects de la cohabitation des Daces et des Romains dans le Midi romain de la Moldavie*, Actes du II-e International Congrès de Thracologie, Bucharest, 1980, 2, p. 343, fig. 6:3.

<sup>62</sup> B. Sultov, *Centres antiques de poteries en Mésie Inférieure*, Actes du II-e Congrès International de Thracologie, Bucharest, 1980, 2, p. 384, fig. 11d, modelată la roată.

<sup>63</sup> M. Negru, *Așezarea din secolul al III-lea p.Chr.*, în M. Negru, C. F. Schuster, D. Moise, *Militari-Câmpul Boja. Un sit arheologic pe teritoriul Bucureștilor*, Bucharest, 2000, p. 72, pl. 92:2.

<sup>64</sup> Gh. Bichir, *Cultura carpică*, Bucharest, 1973, pls. 38:1; 39:4.

<sup>65</sup> Ion Ionita, Vasile Ursachi, *Văleni o mare necropola a dacilor liberi*, 1988, pp. 68–69, fig. 53:47.

<sup>66</sup> M. Negru, *The Native Pottery of Roman Dacia*, pp. 20–22.

## VESSEL BASES

**9. Pot.**

**Description.** Fragment at the bottom, Flat base. DVB = 99 mm, RH = 89 mm, VWT = 6–7 mm.

Coarse paste, with frequent sand and rare mica. Uneven burning. Blackish on the inside, reddish-yellow on the outside. Careless, uneven modelling. Fingerprints inside. Reddish-yellow slip on the inside and outside. Secondary burning inside and outside of the base and bottom.

**The archaeological context.** Romula, 2013, Central Fortification. Section S 3, sq. 18, 0.80–1.00 m, SI 538.

**Remarks.** Archaeological material discovered in relation to a dwelling identified in 2018 in section S 4, sq. 1–2<sup>67</sup>.

**Chronology.** The second half of the third century – the first half of the fourth century AD.

**10. Pot**

**Description.** Fragment at the bottom, Flat base. DVB = 120 mm, RH = 64 mm, VWT = 6–8 mm.

Coarse paste, with frequent sand and rare mica. Uneven burning. Blackish colour on the inside, reddish-yellow on the outside. Careless, uneven modelling. Fingerprints inside. Reddish-yellow slip on the inside and outside. Secondary burning on the outside on the base and bottom.

**The archaeological context.** Romula, 2017, S14, C5, 1.39–1.49 m, in relation with the dwelling CFC 6/2018 (?). SI 5454.

**Remarks.** The filling of the pit includes fragments of Roman bricks and burnt adobe, specific to a late Roman settlement.

**Chronology.** The second half of the third century and the first half of the fourth century AD.

**11. Pot**

**Description.** Fragment at the bottom, Flat base. Dimensions. DVB = 112 mm, RH = 21 mm, VWT = 14–16 mm. Coarse paste, with frequent sand and rare mica. Uneven burning. Blackish colour on the inside, reddish-yellow on the outside. Careless, uneven modelling. Fingerprints inside. Reddish-yellow slip on the inside and outside. Secondary burning inside and outside the base and bottom.

**The archaeological context.** Romula, 2017, S 14, c, B 5, 1.23 m / 1.38 m, in relation to the CFC 6/2018 Building (?). SI 7269.

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<sup>67</sup> M. Negru, C. E. Ștefan, C. F. Schuster, F. Munteanu, G. Mihai, S. Popovici, R. Munteanu, T. Isvoranu, 60. *Reșca, Dobrosloveni, Jud. Olt. Punct: Romula*, in “Cronica Cercetărilor Arheologice din România, Campania 2018”, A LIII-a Sesiune Națională de Rapoarte Arheologice, Bucharest-Sibiu, 2019, p. 165.

**Remarks.** The filling of the pit includes fragments of burnt Roman and adobe bricks, specific to a late or post-Roman Roman settlement.

**Chronology.** The second half of the third century and the first half of the fourth century AD.

## 12. The taper cup

**Description.** Fragment of the bottom of a vessel. Flat base. Dimensions: DVB = 66 mm, RH = 42 mm, VWT = 14–16 mm. Uneven burning. Blackish colour on the inside, reddish-yellow on the outside. Reddish-yellow slip on the inside and outside. Secondary combustion inside.

**The archaeological context.** Romula, 2013, S 4, sq. 30, 0,70 m. SI 1095.

**Remarks.** Probably a taper cup, given its small size and strong blackish burning inside.

**Chronology.** The second half of the third century AD and the 4th century AD.

## CONCLUSIONS

### TYPES OF POTS AND PASTE

The repertoire of Dacian pottery forms presented in this article is poor, consisting of fragments from the top or bottom of some pots, respectively fragments from taper cups (Dacian).

The fragments of Dacian ceramic vessels presented can be framed in two types of paste, depending on its composition, the frequency of added sand and pebbles.

Type 1. Coarse paste, with frequent sand and rare mica. Uneven burning. Blackish colour on the inside, reddish-yellow on the outside. Reddish-yellow slip on the inside and outside. Careless, uneven modelling. Fingerprints can sometimes be seen inside (SI 5454, 7269, 538, 604, 5328).

Secondary burning on the outside on the base and the lower part (5454) or the upper part (SI 5328) on the inside and outside the base and the lower part (SI 7269, 538), the upper part and the mouth of the vessel (SI 604).

Type 2.1. Coarse paste with frequent sand and rare mica. Uniform burning. Blackish colour. Black exterior slip (SI 798, 292, 15691–15694). Blackish secondary burning inside and outside.

Type 2.2. Coarse paste with frequently sifted sand and rare mica. Uniform burning. Blackish colour. Black slip on the outside. Blackish secondary burning on the outside and inside on the lip (SI 541, 6601, 15695).

## LOCATION AND CONTEXTS OF DISCOVERIES

Fragments of hand-shaped Dacian ceramic vessels discovered at the Central Fortification point can be related to the remains of some post-Roman dwellings identified in sections S 3/2013 (CFC 5/2018), respectively S 14/2017 (CFC 6/2018). Affectation of the site in the modern era, imposes these reservations. Other ceramic fragments were discovered in a post-Roman level, disturbed in the modern era, identified in sections S 1/2013 and S 2/2013, respectively in section S 4/2013.

The fragments of Dacian vessels from the School-the Field of Sports point, discovered in 2019, in a cylindrical pit (Cx 26/2019) add to these discoveries within the Central Fortification.

## CONSIDERATIONS REGARDING THE HISTORICAL CONTEXT AND THE CHRONOLOGY OF THE DISCOVERIES

In the middle of the 3<sup>rd</sup> century AD, the province of Dacia Malvensis was repeatedly devastated by the attacks of the Goths and their allies. The abandonment of the *limes transalutanus* and the retreat on the *limes alutanus*, brought Romula back to the border of the Roman Empire, so exposed to these attacks.

In 248 AD, Emperor Philip the Arab came to this probably devastated city, which he rebuilt, surrounded by a brick enclosure wall, and named it *colonia sua*<sup>68</sup>. But the attacks of the Goths and their allies on the provinces of Dacia Malvensis and Lower Moesia continued even after his departure<sup>69</sup>.

In the conditions of the security crisis, a part of the population of the northern Danube province preferred to retreat to the south of the Danube. If *de jure* it is considered that Dacia was abandoned during the reign of Emperor Aurelian<sup>70</sup>, *de facto*, it was lost earlier, probably during the reign of Emperor Galienus<sup>71</sup>. Discussions on this issue are old and still ongoing, with no common ground<sup>72</sup>.

At Romula, part of the Roman population continued to live after the middle of the third century AD, as evidenced by two Roman tombs, discovered in the *berm*

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<sup>68</sup> IDR II 324 = CIL III 8031 = ILS 510.

<sup>69</sup> D. Tudor, *Oltenia romană*, Ed. IV, Bucharest, 1978, p. 194.

<sup>70</sup> Eutropius, *Breviarium Historiae Romanae*, IX, 15, 1; Rufius Festus, *Breviarum rerum gestarum populi romani*, VIII; Iordanes, *De gestis Romanorum*, 217.

<sup>71</sup> Sextus Aurelius Victor, *De Caesaribus*, 33, 3; Eutropius, *op. cit.*, IX, 7 – IX, 8, 2; Rufius Festus, *op. cit.*, 8, 2; Iordanes, *op. cit.*, p. 217.

<sup>72</sup> D. Tudor, *op. cit.*, pp. 39–40; Doina Benea, *Dacia în timpul lui Aurelianus*, *Banatica*, 13, 1995, p. 149–170; C.C. Petolescu, *Scurtă istorie a Daciei romane*, 1995, pp. 124–126; D. Ruscu, *L'abandon de la Dacie romaine dans les sources littéraires*, I Acta Musei Napocensis, 35, I, 1998, pp. 235–254.

of the Wall of Philip the Arab, which can be dated to the second half of the third century AD<sup>73</sup>.

The prolonged military crisis irreversibly affected the Roman city. The production of Roman pottery in the northern quarter ceased in the middle of the third century AD<sup>74</sup>, and as a new aspect, it seems, the hand-shaped Dacian pottery appeared. Ceramic vessels identical in shape and paste were also discovered in Enoșești-Acidava<sup>75</sup>, an archaeological site located at approx. 30 km north of Reșca-Romula, which already indicates a similar regional evolution, the revitalization of indigenous traditions in pottery.

The fragments of ceramic vessels presented belong to a late Roman or post-Roman horizon, which begins in the middle of the third century AD and continues in the fourth century AD, constituting a last phase of the presence of Dacian pottery in this region.

#### *Abbreviations*

<i>DVM</i>	= diameter of the vessel mouth
<i>DVB</i>	= diameter of the vessel base
<i>RH</i>	= retained height
<i>VWT</i>	= vessel wall thickness
<i>SI</i>	= Site inventory
<i>CFC</i>	= Central Fortification Complex
<i>S</i>	= section
<i>sq.</i>	= square

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<sup>73</sup> M. Negru, G. Mihai, *Raport privind cercetările arheologice de la Romula. Campania din anul 2008*, in "Argesis. Studii și comunicări. Seria Istorie", XVII, 2008, pp. 43–50.

<sup>74</sup> *Ibidem*, p. 50.

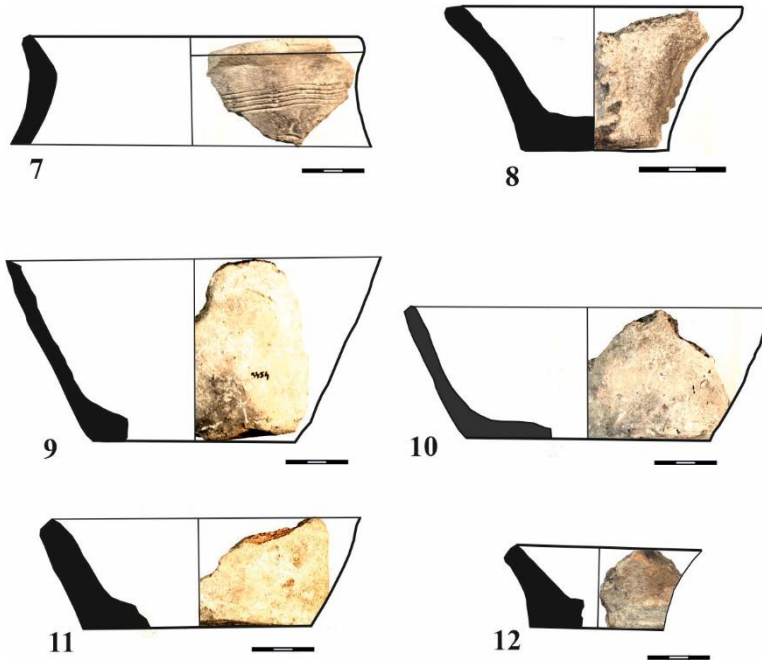
<sup>75</sup> M. Negru, I. Ciucă, *op. cit.*, p. 24, pl. 1:3.



**Fig. 1.** Reșca-Romula. A. Central Fortification Point. B. School Point – The field of Sports.



**Fig. 2.** Fragments of hand-made Dacian ceramic vessels (cat. No. 1–6).



**Fig. 3.** Fragments of hand-made Dacian ceramic vessels (cat. No. 7–12).