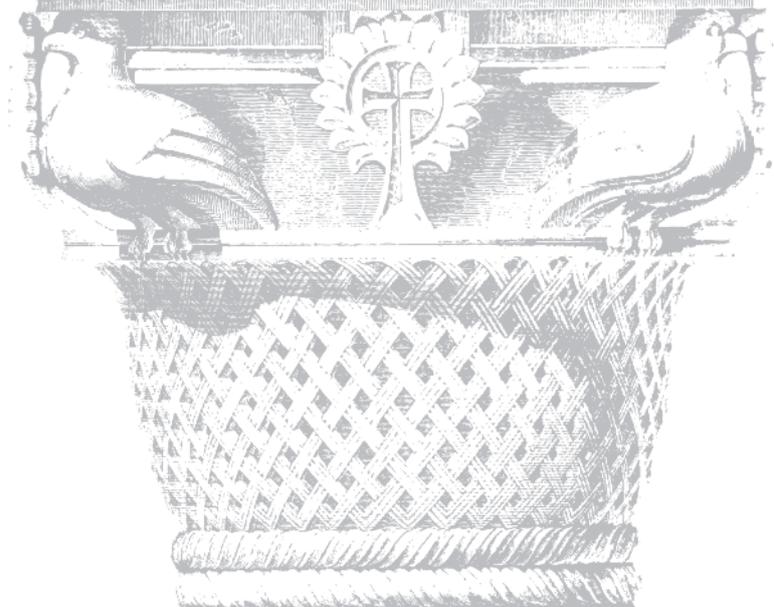


MOESICA ET CHRISTIANA

STUDIES IN HONOUR OF
PROFESSOR ALEXANDRU BARNEA

Edited by
Adriana Panaite,
Romeo Cîrjan
and Carol Căpiță



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Professor Alexandru Barnea

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AN EARLY BYZANTINE BUILDING NEXT TO THE MAIN GATE AT CAPIDAVA

Ioan C. OPRIȘ
Alexandru RAȚIU

INTRODUCTION

In the proximity of the main gate and near the Gate Tower no. 7, from Capidava, a building was investigated during several archaeological campaigns (1993-1996; 2007-2011) referred to in this article as Building C1¹. The building is one of medium size neighbouring a large basilica-plan edifice, with three naves preceded by a portico, namely the *Horreum* (granary)².

Although during early excavations the building did not seem to raise any extraordinary scientific interest, once the research was completed, along with several archaeological and topographical surveys, this edifice assumed a clear paradigmatic value. First of all, because, despite the modest dimensions of the edifice, it allows a monographic³ publication through the substantial volume of architectural and planimetric aspects of the building itself⁴ along with the extremely interesting archaeological contexts. Of great significance are also the artefacts found here⁵, among which we can distinguish a numismatic hoard consisting of 46.5 *folles*, published in the same year when the last pieces were discovered (2009)⁶. Secondly, because the building sheds light on the archaeological documentation of the last two occupational levels of the Roman fort itself (N2-3, phase IV), which cover a dating sequence starting from the 6th century and through the beginning of the 7th century AD⁷. Last but not least, the archaeological research of this edifice reveals, through the analysis of all of the above, an integrating radiography of an urban settlement from the Danubian frontier of Scythia, bearing a two folded significance, both civil and military, and thus exemplary illustrating the concept of *limitanei*.

DESCRIPTION AND CHRONOLOGY

The dimensions of Building C1 are approximately 10 by 11m; precise outer measurements indicate 9.93m on the side parallel with the *Horreum* (Z3) while the side parallel with Tower no. 7 (Z2) measures 11.06m. Quadrangular in shape, the edifice seems aligned with the large building (*Horreum*) raised sometime during the 4th century AD, with the Tower no. 7, and with the axis of the main gate and the main street of the fort – *via principalis* – to which it is directly adjoined. Hence, one can make the logical deduction that the moment of its construction was subsequent to the

¹ CCA 1994; CCA 2007; CCA 2008; CCA 2009; CCA 2010; CCA 2011; CCA 2012; CCA 2014.

² The *Horreum* from Capidava is also referred in other publications as "The Guardhouse", due to the uncertainty/plurality of the building's destinations. For a more complete reading see Opriș 2003, 26-33.

³ The publishing of the edifice C1/1994, in a monographic form, is scheduled for the second half of 2015, by the authors of the present article, Ioan C. Opriș and Alexandru Rațiu.

⁴ The architectural surveying and the successive plans

throughout the archaeological research were provided by arch. Anișoara Sion, whom we would like thank on this occasion also.

⁵ The artefacts discovered during the excavations from 1993-1996 have been already published in Opriș 2003 and earlier in: Opriș 1997, 207-218; Opriș 1999-2000, 427-469. For this particular epigraphic piece, see Opriș, Popescu 1997, 177-181.

⁶ Gândilă 2009, 87-105.

⁷ Opriș 2003, 22-26.

building of the largest edifice from Capidava, the *Horreum*. The latter, along with its *portico* covers an area of 750m². By comparison, Building C1 has a total area of only 109.5m².

Since its construction, Building C1 has been divided by a wall (Z6), raised parallel to the main street, which divides the edifice in two, almost equal sections. Furthermore, for practical reasons which nowadays elude us, the front half, next to *via principalis*, was yet again divided by the construction of another wall (Z5). Starting from the entrance, the chambers were conventionally named: Room I (22.55m²), Room II (14.60m²) and Room III (33.50m²) (Pl. 3). The perimeter walls (Z1-Z4), along with the inner walls (Z5-Z6), as far as they could be archeologically documented, are made of good quality stone and mortar masonry, their width varying between 0.60 and 0.64m. Due to the massive constructive intervention at the end of the 6th century, the perimeter walls showed a dramatic change in elevation, i.e. from 0.5m (Z1) raising up to 1.85m (Z3) (Pl. 4). In this last part of the building the walls appeared during the excavation immediately under the modern vegetation level. On the front side of the building, the walls (Z2, Z4 and Z5) are interrupted by the *fossa* of the late Roman fortlet, going from a width of approx. 1.2-1.3m at the level of the 6th century floor to double that size at the upper part of the walls⁸.

The main entrance of the building is situated in Room I, offering direct access towards the street, and the width of its doorstep, identified during the excavations from the 1990s, measures 1.6m. Near the respective entrance, in the northern corner of the building there could be identified the remains of a stone pavement covering an area of approximately 1m². It is difficult to determine whether the pavement was built only near the entrance, on a certain area of the precinct, or if it had covered the entire floor at some point; however, it is obvious that, aside from the pavement, the rest of the occupational levels have an unitary aspect, i.e. approx. 25-30cm lower than the pavement in all three chambers.

Between Room I and Room II, there was a 4.8m long separating wall (Z5), from which we could identify only the endings, its median part being destroyed by the *fossa*.

What draws ones attention in Room II are the large half-sunken *dolia* situated on its south-eastern side, parallel to Z2 and to Gate Tower no. 7. The positioning of the three storage vessels is very practical. They cover the entire side of the respective wall. In the same room another smaller vessel was found, with a similar function which by comparison with the larger *dolia* was not sunk but moveable according to ones needs and used for short-term storage.

Between Room I and II and the largest room of the edifice, Room III, there were two independent access points, each of the two initial chambers having direct connections with the latter one. The width of the doorstep between Room I and III is of approx. 1.25m and respectively of 1.3m between Rooms II and III which is also worse preserved.

As previously established, Room III is the largest of the edifice, measuring an area of 33.5m² from a total of 87.5m², representing the entire inner area of the building. In this room another *dolium* was found, in the corner adjacent to Room II. Dismantled at some point, its existence can be deduced from the filled pit visible at the floor level.

Preponderant inside the room, but also in contexts nos. 4 and 5 (see *infra*) from Rooms I and II, throughout the length of the *fossa*, one can observe a relatively important quantity of scattered and brick-like adobe, which raises the question of the material used in the building of the internal walls. At least for the wall (Z6) measuring 8.6m, which separates Room III from the other two rooms, one could consider that above the four courses of stone preserved in elevation near the doorstep there could have been an adobe masonry.

CHRONOLOGY

It is difficult to determine the exact moment when the building was raised based only on the existing findings. Under the 6th century floor, we found a few coins dating to the period of Constantine⁹

⁸ CCA 2014, 35, no. 21; 272, figs. 6-7; 273, fig. 8, for the latest comparable recording of the *fossa* in trench S1/2004.

⁹ For the preliminary analysis of the numismatic material we give special thanks to our colleague A. Gândilă.

which could only represent a vague *terminus post quem*. The active function of the edifice carried on until the last decades of the 6th century AD, when the edifice seems to have been destroyed during one of the Slavic raids which affected the whole Balkan Peninsula¹⁰ (AD 581-585). This interpretation is supported by the discovery of a bronze-coins hoard (see *infra*) on the doorsteps of Rooms I and III. The destruction of the building could have taken place at the beginning of Mauricius Tiberius' reign (AD 582-602) after which followed the fast construction of the last fortification in the southern quarter of the fort (N 3 of the IVth phase¹¹).

As an evidence for this last and desperate constructive effort of the Roman garrison from Capidava, we could identify the *fossa* (defence ditch), in front of the precinct of the late fortlet, perpendicular to the Curtain H of the fort (Pl. 2/2) and overlapping partially the short side of the *Horreum*. The defence wall is characterized by a poor quality masonry and was hastily built superposing the remnants of the *Horreum*'s short side next to the gate tower no. 7; no facing of the wall could be observed so far, besides the mortar and rubble core, thrown directly on previous walls and leveled debris and without any known substructure. As to the defence ditch, it was recorded not only on the whole inner length of the present edifice, but even beyond, disturbing architectural structures in the continuation of the large portico belonging to the *Horreum* (towards the main gate). The *fossa* affected another edifice of notable proportions, aligned to the street and overlapping the later fortlet (trench S1/2004) resulting, to the present date, in a total excavated length of approx. 35m, within the sectors III and VI of the archaeological site (for the sectors at Capidava see Pl. 2/1)¹².

The defence ditch, corresponding stratigraphically to context no. 6, crosses Building C1 on the south-eastern to north-western axes, parallel to *via principalis*, and affects the two north-eastern chambers (Rooms I and II). During the excavation process, the ditch was well delimited and then emptied, which allowed us to observe its concave scarp and the scarce content of finds in the filling, made of a few ceramic fragments, specific to the 6th century AD, mainly belonging to amphorae. Its construction sectioned a *dolium*, discovered *in situ*, a very suggestive finding attesting the way the ditch was dug, and illustrating the inclination of the slope (Pl. 8/5-6).

Regarding Building C1, the edifice was disturbed not only when the wall of the late fortlet has been expeditiously set up (with its respective earthen-wall and ditch, a period in which our building was already inactive), but even later, during the Middle-Byzantine period. At that point, a medieval sunken-dwelling (B 342/1994)¹³ was constructed on top of the debris of Room III. The dwelling had stone walls, with one of the sides positioned towards the old *fossa*, already silted at that moment (see Pl. 4 for the plan and Pl. 7/1 for the photograph). This side of the dwelling¹⁴ was consolidated through a stone pile, a context in which a large stone was discovered (0.93m by 0.32m), carved on one of the sides. Another fragment coming from a 2nd century AD funerary inscription of the local *praefectus cohortis (I Germanorum?)* was also used as construction material to the same wall of the cited dwelling¹⁵.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL CONTEXTS AND STRATIGRAPHY

The stratigraphy of the Building C1 is relatively simple and in the same time representative for Capidava. In the course of the archaeological research the recording of the vertical stratigraphy of the site, and implicitly of the finds and complexes, was made by defining several archaeological contexts (Pl. 4). Thus, we have established eight different contexts, as follows:

¹⁰ Gândilă 2009, 87-105. For the discussion concerning the dating of the coins and the historical context of the collapse of the building and the raising of the late fortlet see Gândilă 2009, 92-93.

¹¹ Opreș 2003, 22-26.

¹² CCA 2014, 35, no. 21; 272, fig. 7.

¹³ Opreș 2003, 28, 248, pl. VI.

¹⁴ Excavated in 1993, it had dimensions of 3.40 by 3.30 m and was built above the debris of Room 3, in the stone layer of different dimensions mingled with mortar (rubble) found directly under the modern occupational level, at a depth of approx. 0.60-0.65 m.

¹⁵ Opreș, Popescu 1997, 177-181, see especially p. 177 for the discovery context of the above mentioned epigraphical finding.

Context no. 1 – modern vegetation level, blackish-brown in colour, sandy textured, low degree of compaction, multiple traces of roots and animal interventions, accidental finds of archaeological material; has a width of approx. 0.10m.

Context no. 2 – anthropic level, medium-grey coloured sediment, dusty texture, granular structure, low compaction degree, contains large quantities of ceramic material, animal bones, coal pigmentation, adobe fragments and has a width of approx. 0.20 - 0.40m. This level corresponds, from the historical point of view, with the construction level of the Middle-Byzantine dwellings. The archaeological material recovered from this context is numerous and is composed of medieval pottery, along with a few Roman pottery fragments displaced from the layer below, animal bones, reused Roman construction material etc.

Context no. 3 – intermediary level, yellow-ash coloured sediment, without any anthropic elements, homogenous and highly permeable, has a width variable between 0.30m and 0.70m. This context is the result of the multiple depositions of layers in the interval between the 7th and 9th centuries AD. No dwelling structures were found in this level.

Context no. 4 – anthropic level, yellow coloured sediment, homogenous, dusty texture, low compaction degree, contains large quantities of ceramic construction material, burnt structural wood, coal pigmentation, adobe fragments and is approx. 0.40m wide. The ceramic construction material (tiles and bricks) is compact, distributed evenly throughout the context and can be found in great quantities. The burnt structural wood is discovered in large fragments, and in certain areas the whole layer is darkened by the abundance of coal pigmentation. This context corresponds to the roof debris layer.

Context no. 5 – anthropic level, yellow-reddish coloured sediment, dusty texture, relatively heterogeneous, low compaction degree, contains large quantities of pottery, burnt wood, coal pigmentation, adobe fragments and has a width of approx. 0.30-0.60m. This context represents the Romano-Byzantine occupational level from the 6th century AD. This is an *incendium* level, proved by heavy burning evidence and secondary burning of the ceramic material. This context is the most prolific in terms of discoveries: ceramic material of various types and in a good state of preservation, rotary querns - typical discoveries in a civil building of this age, a hoard of 51 cooper-alloy coins (*folles* and *demi-folles*) etc. The archaeological material from this context as a whole (consisting mostly of pottery) is severely affected by a powerful burning.

Context no. 6 – raw clay layer, yellowish coloured and highly compacted. It represents the 6th century floor of Building C1. In some parts the thin floor contains flat stones which constitute a sort of pavement, mainly near the entrances. The width of this layer varies between 0.05 and 0.10m.

Context no. 7 – layer with a dark-grey coloured sediment, sandy texture, inhomogeneous, low compaction degree, contains small pottery fragments, animal bones, coal pigments; the layer is approx. 1.10m wide. This context represents the infilling of the defence ditch of the 7th century fortlet.

Context no. 8 – layer with a light-grey coloured sediment, sandy texture, inhomogeneous, low compaction degree, contains massive quantities of stones of different sizes, predominantly small ones with a lot of mortar; the layer has a preserved width of approx. 0.80m. The context represents (for the portion where the master-profile was made, near the southern gate) a modern intervention – substruction for the main gate access ramp.

INVENTORY OF FINDS

The two archaeological contexts that contain almost exclusively the inventory displayed in the present study, are contexts no. 4 and 5, among which the latter is the most prolific in terms of findings. Context no. 4 corresponds to the roof debris layer therefore it contains numerous *tegulae* and *imbrices* (Pl. 8/4). The collapsed roof, discovered *in situ*, constituted a preserving agent for context no. 5, which made possible the discovery of many artefacts in good preservation state. In many ways, context no. 5, sheltered by the collapsed roof and the 7th century *vallum*, had the condition and characteristics of an enclosed complex. This situation is entirely true for Room III, unaltered until the excavations from 2007, and only partially for the other two rooms where the 7th century ditch cut through the contexts.

After removing the structural wood and tiles debris of the collapsed roof (context no. 4), the excavation reached the burning level between the roof and the floor (Pl. 5). This level is characterised by an important quantity of carbonized wood¹⁶, partially from the beams and rafters from the roof, but also from shelves and other interior furniture as we shall see onwards. In this context there have been discovered numerous amphorae, some of them displayed in a carbonized and collapsed shelf (clearly recorded in Room III), lamps, several dispersed coins, a hoard containing 51 copper coins, a felting mill and a few rotary querns.

The pottery collected from this level is diverse and is comprised of several lamps, some *dolia* and *dolium* lids, a unique exceptional fragment of African Red Slip Ware from the *vasa escaria* category, relatively rare finds of drinking vessels, equally rare finds of kitchen ware; however, what predominates in quantity and in typological variety are the transport amphorae and their corresponding stoppers (*opercula*). One of the most interesting discoveries is represented by a group of five amphorae found *in situ* on a charred plank, adjacent to Z4 wall in Room III, three of them fragmentary and other two, smaller in size were found intact (Pl. 8/1). The vessels were leaning against each other while the fire followed by the collapsing of the roof ultimately sealed the entire room. A similar situation appeared on the opposite wall of Room III, namely Z2 wall, where another two amphorae were found leaning against the inner wall (Pl. 8/3).

The floor of the building, recorded as context no. 6, consists of compact raw clay, with small areas of limestone pavement near the entrances. The slabs from the pavement present a certain wearing on the upper side characteristic to pavement slabs. In the eastern corner of Room III there were discovered a *dolium* pit and some fragments from such a vessel along with a storage jar lid with a central knob (Pl. 12/2). In addition, near the same wall (Z2) but in Room II, three arrayed *dolia* were found, perforating context no. 6.

The coin hoard. Context no. 5, which corresponds to the fire and the dismantling of the building, was dated through the analysis of the archaeological material found inside Building C1. The ceramic material – “Danubian” type lamps, Romano-Byzantine amphorae, ARS Ware or Late Roman C / Phocean Ware – provided only a wide dating range belonging to the 6th century. The discovery of the coin hoard and its context represented the decisive piece in the dating puzzle of Building C1. The hoard was recovered in two consecutive campaigns (2008 and 2009), in front of the doorstep between Rooms I and III¹⁷. The coins were discovered grouped together, many of them arranged into rows (Pl. 7/2). Some of the coins were placed on a charred wooden board. This particular aspect along with the fact that all the coins were heavily burnt led us to the conclusion that the whole hoard was deposited in a box or a type of cassette made of wood which burned during the fire but still contributed to the protection of the coins.

Following the numismatic analysis it has been established that the hoard was comprised of 51 copper coins – *folles* and *hemi-folles* and an „accidental” 4th century coin – amounting to the sum of 46.5 *folles*, issued between Anastasius and Tiberius II¹⁸. From the chronological point of view, the last two *hemi-folles* from Tiberius II, which appear to belong to the large module series, were issued between December 578 and December 580¹⁹. Based on this new data, it was suggested that the four years of violence that followed (with the great Slavic raids into the Balkan provinces of the Empire²⁰) led, subsequently, to the destruction of Building C1 and most likely the fall of the fort itself. Thus, the discovery of the hoard allowed us to recalibrate the dating of the final state of the N2 level at Capidava, which was initially believed to have taken place after AD 576²¹.

¹⁶ In the excavation process were collected samples of large fragments of charred wood beams, which after the analysis and uploading in the comparative data base have generated the following result: the beams were made of oak that was brought from the northern Black Sea area. The analyses were made by Dr. Tomasz Waszny, at that time senior researcher at Cornell Tree-Ring Laboratory (Cornell

University – New York). For further reading on this subject see Pearson et al. 2012, 3411.

¹⁷ CCA 2009, no. 13, 86-87; CCA 2010, no. 11, 44-45.

¹⁸ Gândilă 2009.

¹⁹ Gândilă 2009, 91.

²⁰ Gândilă 2009, 92.

²¹ Gândilă 2006-2007, 113-115.

Metal ware. Also in Room III, near the above mentioned coin hoard and next to Z3 wall, another uncommon discovery was made consisting of a piece of offensive military equipment, namely an iron shield boss²². The boss (*umbo*) is an incontestable military artefact in this eminently civilian building, and it probably belonged to a member of the local community of *limitanei*. Then again, we cannot exclude the commercial reasons for the presence of the shield boss inside Building C1.

Another metal artefact found in this building, with a more civilian functionality, is an iron 30cm bill-hook (*sarpa*), used mainly in agriculture and forestry for cutting hedges and small branches²³ (Pl. 15/3).

The array of metal ware, discovered in Building C1, ends with the recovery of two bronze fishing hooks, carefully forged, almost identical in size and shape (Pl. 15/1-2). The hooks are made by moulding, have a spiked tip, a square section shank with tapered eyes. The artefacts appear to have never been used and are in mint condition.

The Pottery. Of great significance in the archaeological inventory corpus, recovered from Building C1, are the transport and storage vessels – namely amphorae. The most common types are the ones manufactured in the Aegean and Eastern Mediterranean basins, along with the group known generically as “Provincial (West- or South-) Pontic Amphorae”.

Carthage LR 1 Type was already attested in this building during the 1995 campaign, when three such amphorae were discovered in Room I²⁴. Another two amphorae from this type were recovered during 2010 campaign, both from Room III. They were restored and have the following measurements²⁵: H = 51cm / D_{max} = 28.5cm (Pl. 10/2), respectively 54cm / 32cm (Pl. 10/1). The largest one seems to subscribe to the subtype Carthage LR Amphora I E²⁶; close parallels for this type are from Halmyris, in the same province. The two amphorae have been discovered in a compact group (depot) with other three vessels, one Carthage LR 2 Type amphora and two provincial amphorae Type Antonova V/ Kuzmanov XVI/ Opaïț B Id (see *infra*).

The large Carthage LR 2 Type amphorae were discovered in Building C1 during the archaeological campaigns from the 1990s²⁷. In addition to the ones already published, a new amphora was found - destroyed by the collapsed roof - in a cluster of amphorae next to Z4 wall, in Room III (unrestored).

A typological novelty for Building C1 consists in the discovery of a nearly intact Carthage LR 3 Type amphora²⁸ in the middle of Room III, during the 2008 campaign. It lacks about 4 cm from the base (D_{max} = 15.2cm; Hp = 36.6cm) and its entire surface was strongly exfoliated during the fire in which the building was destroyed (Pl. 10/6). In the same context, there were recovered three Levantine amphorae from the Carthage LR 4 Type, a type which, in the province of Scythia, was discovered almost exclusively in urban contexts²⁹. One of the Carthage LR 4 amphora, was found during the 1993 campaign³⁰, in a generally good state of preservation except for its upper side while another amphora from the same type was uncovered during the 2010 campaign (in Room III) in a condition which allowed its entire restoration (Pl. 10/7-8). The third LR 4 amphora could be identified after its 10 cm conical shaped base, broken *in situ* on the doorstep between Rooms I and III (Pl. 7/2).

Another series of amphorae found in Building C1 point to the same Levantine geographical area (Pl. 11/1), more precisely the Zeest 99/ Sazanov 11/ Opaïț E IX Type³¹, already thoroughly documented

²² Rațiu, Opriș 2015.

²³ Adam 1999, 164, fig. 197-199.

²⁴ Opriș 2003, 58, no. cat. 55-57 (Carthage LR 1 Type), pl. VII.

²⁵ In the description of the finds we use the following measurements: H – height; D_{max} – maximal diameter; Hp – preserved height; D – diameter; L – length; W – width.

²⁶ Opaïț 2004, 10.

²⁷ Opriș 2003, 61, 64, no. cat. 69-70, 100 (Carthage LR 2 Type), pl. VIII, XXI-XXII. First two – found in Room I, near to the doorstep to Room III – had dipinti painted red on the neck.

²⁸ Opaïț 2004, 13-14, closest parallels in the province of Scythia are the early dated amphorae from Topraichioi at pl. VII/5-6. Lately this type is believed to have an Aegean origin, see discussion Opaïț 2004, 14. For the few examples from Capidava, see Opaïț 2003, 64-65, pl. VIII, XXII.

²⁹ Opaïț 2004, 20-22.

³⁰ Opriș 2003, 67, no. cat. 103, pl. VIII, XXII.

³¹ Opriș 2003, 70-71, type VIII, no. cat. 113, 117-119, pl. IX, XXIV.

at Capidava. One of these amphorae, attributed initially to Zeest 99 Type³² may in fact belong to a kindred Pontic type, either to Antonova V/ Kuzmanov XVI/ Opaït B Id Type or to Opaït B V Type³³. The confusion is sustained by certain details regarding the morphological characteristics, the fine grooving on base and body, the size of the vessel but mostly by the colour and texture of the fabric. For the above reasons, this amphora (Pl. 11/2) is better to be left unassigned to any of the known west-Pontic types, leaving its classification to future research. To the Opaït B V Type³⁴ we assigned another amphora, found in an upright position leaning against Z2 wall in Room III, during the 2009 campaign (Pl. 8/3; 11/3).

The popular Antonova V/ Kuzmanov XVI/ Opaït B Id Type is well documented at Capidava³⁵ and several such examples of amphorae were also found in Building C1³⁶. Three new examples adjoin the already published collection, all three discovered in Room III of the building (Pl. 11/4-6). However, a particular amphora discovered in Room III (Pl. 11/7) appears to belong to another type of provincial Pontic amphorae, namely the *à pâte claire*/ Kuzmanov XIII Type, or to a similar version with a shorter neck but with the same conical body.

Regarding the functional form of the so called “table amphorae”, it was only one such example discovered in Building C1 which has been already published (Pl. 11/8)³⁸. In addition, three amphora stoppers (*opercula*) were found in Room III, during the campaigns from 2007-2011 (Pl. 11/9-11). If the first two are quite common in shape and size (D = 5.8, respectively 6.5cm), the third one is noticeably larger, with a diameter of 9cm, and with a different shape. The above mentioned amphora stoppers add to similar finds already published from Building C1³⁹. Another type of amphora stoppers, used on a large scale during the Dominate, was comprised of various impromptu stoppers, obtained from reused broken amphorae⁴⁰, or even bricks. Several such stoppers were found in Building C1, but they are not illustrated in the present article.

A few large storage vessels (*dolia*) were found in Building C1, either directly or through the identification of the hole left in the ground (as was the case of a storage jar that stood in Room III next to the junction of walls Z2 and Z6). In addition to the four immobile vessels, a moveable *dolium* was found which must have been approx. 60cm high (Pl. 12/1). Only its upper side was preserved presenting a decoration of grooves on its rim and alternating grooves with wavy lines on the body, above its maximum diameter⁴¹. Other two *dolia* lids were found in Building C1⁴². The two large ceramic discs were decorated involving patterns of grooves or stamped radial rows of dots, respectively. The general absence of kitchen ware (*vasa coquina(to)ria*) is somewhat supplemented by the discovery of two lids (Pl. 12/2, 13/1). The first one presents a maximum diameter of 18.8cm with a thickness of 1.9m and could have been used for vessels with a very wide opening such as *dolia*, pans or other storage containers⁴³, while the second lid is a typical example used for kitchen pots⁴⁴.

No items from the *vasa po(ta)toria* category had been found in Building C1 until the campaign from 2007⁴⁵, when three vessels of small dimensions, a cup and two jugs with a single handle (*ansa*) were uncovered here (Pl. 13/2-4). Although *vasa escaria* is another scarcely represented category in

³² Opriş 2003, no. cat. 118, illustrated in our article in pl. XI.2.

³³ Opaït 2004, 29, pl. XVIII; Topoleanu 2000, 153-154, no. cat. 403-405, pl. LI.

³⁴ Opaït B V type is well known at Capidava and mentioned in Opriş 2003, 79-81, no. cat. 159-167, pl. XXVII-XXVIII.

³⁵ Opriş 2003, Type X, 74-79, no. cat. 127-158, pl. X, XXV-XXVII.

³⁶ Opriş 2003, no. cat. 150, from Room III, unillustrated.

³⁷ Opriş 2003, 83-84, no. cat. 171-172, pl. XXVIII-XXIX.

³⁸ Opriş 2003, 87, Type II, no. cat. 184, pl. XI, XXX.

³⁹ Opriş 2003, 88-91, in special 90, no. cat. 195-197, pl. XI.

⁴⁰ Topoleanu 2000, type III, 164, no. cat. 451-452, pl. LV.

⁴¹ Opriş 2003, 92-93, no. cat. 213, pl. XXXII; see also Opaït 2004, 3, type II. The vessel is similar in terms of shape and

decorations with the clay cauldrons (*Kessel*) from Iatrus, although having different dimensions and functionality, for which the author did not have parallels in the catalogue, see: Conrad 2007, 221-222, no. cat. 1205-1209, Abb. 14.

⁴² Opriş 2003, 91-93, no. cat. 214, a small fragment – a piece of a *dolium* circular lid no. cat. 214, with a diameter of approx. 60 cm and a large *dolium* lid resembling in shape and the central position of the handle to the vessels found in Villa Regina from Boscoreale (not illustrated in this study).

⁴³ Opaït 2004, 68, Pl. 61.10, an artefact from Tomis, similar in dimensions.

⁴⁴ Opriş 2003, 118, no. cat. 242, pl. XXXVII.

⁴⁵ Parallels and artefacts from this category from Capidava in Opriş 2003, 122-137, pl. XIV, XLI-XLVIII.

terms of numbers, a particular African Red Slip Hayes 104 (Pl. 13/5) vessel with a remarkable stamped decoration has been found in Room II of Building C1⁴⁶. Several other artefacts belonging to the African Red Slip Hayes 105 and respectively to Late Roman C Ware Form 3 were recovered here from Room I and II near *via principalis*⁴⁷.

The list of ceramic discoveries from Building C1 ends with several ceramic lamps, out of which three⁴⁸ have been discovered during the 1995-1996 campaigns (Pl. 14/6-8); four locally produced artefacts were added during the recent excavations (Pl. 14/1-4). A fifth lamp of better quality bears traces of red slip on its surface along with some artistic details such as stylized petals delimiting its body from the *rostrum* (Pl. 14/5).

Miscellanea. In a central position inside Room III a felting mill was discovered *in situ* (Pl. 4; 5/2; 8/2). The mill is made of limestone and has the shape of a flattened truncated cone, hollow with a flat bottom (Pl. 15/4). In its upper side it has a ridge from which two opposite 11 cm wide niches run down vertically towards the bottom. Along with this artefact several rotary quern fragments were recovered in the building (Pl. 9).

Another remarkable discovery is constituted by the set of 23 pieces of weights from a vertical-loom. The weights were all discovered in the same place, near Z6 wall and the doorstep between Rooms II and III. They were manufactured from reused polished Roman bricks, have a prolonged triangular shape with rounded corners, and in the upper part present an orifice for the warp. Their size is variable (L = 7.0 – 10.9cm; W = 5.9 – 8.1cm) but their weight is somewhat similar. There is no information about the wooden structure of the loom; most probably it was burned during the fire along with other structural timber from the building.

THE SURVEY DITCHES IN ROOM III – THE 2011 AND 2014 CAMPAIGNS

During the 2011 campaign, has started the excavation of a survey-ditch in the southern corner of Room III of Building C1. Here, even during the previous year excavations, could have been distinguished the wall of a large building. The survey ditch had a surface of 12m², namely a cassette of 3m by 4m. The wall seemed to represent the corner of a large building, with one side parallel to Z3 wall and another parallel to Z2. The latter intersects both Z3 and the north-eastern wall of the *Horreum* and runs parallel to the nearby precinct wall (Curtain H of the fort).

The wall is made of limestone masonry, with an evenly carved exterior and with 2cm thick mortar, of very good quality (Pl. 8/8). Until the present moment only three or four courses were uncovered from the wall, however, the foundation and its base couldn't have been reached yet.

Based on the dimensions of the wall, which is currently 1.15m thick, one can argue that we are dealing with an important building that from a stratigraphic point of view is overlapped by both Building C1 and the large building of the *Horreum*. Given the fact that Building C1 was contemporary with the *Horreum* and with the nearby buildings, which was proved through stratigraphic, architectural and urban evidence, we can infer that the new discovered wall belongs to an anterior construction phase of Capidava, a phase almost unexplored until the present moment.

At least hypothetically, given the placement, the dimensions and the constructive technique of this new archaeological ensemble (with a close analogy in Sector 1 of the site, west of the 6th century church, where a similar wall was found, parallel with the B curtain wall), the wall seems to belong to a monumental phase which is likely to be the reconstruction *a fundamentis* of Capidava fort, in the last decades of the 3rd century towards the first decades of the 4th century.

The archaeological material found in the context of this wall is made of small pottery fragments, which, after preliminary research, do not constitute chronological evidence. Naturally, the material will undergo a more detailed analysis at a later date.

⁴⁶ Opriș 2003, 147-148, no.cat. 342, pl. LI.

pl. LIV; no.cat. 359 (Late Roman C Ware 3), pl. LIV.

⁴⁷ Opriș 2003, 150, no.cat. 350-351 (ARS Ware Hayes 105),

⁴⁸ Opriș 2003, 173-174, no.cat. 430, 433-434, pl. LXIII, LXIV.

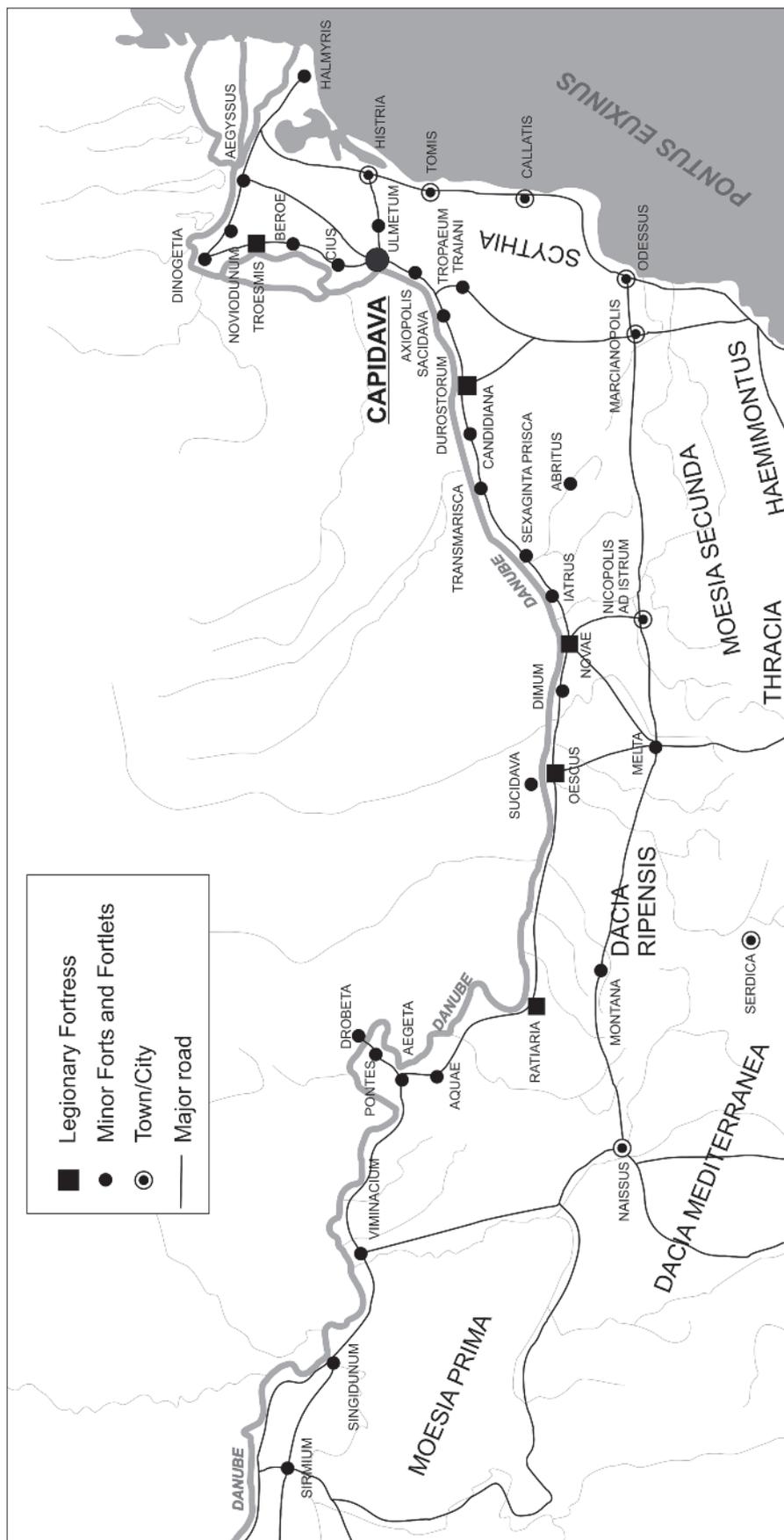
The course of the wall was observed at the other end of Building C1, during a second survey excavated in 2014, which allowed further research of Room III. The excavation was concentrated on the north-western corner of Room III, on an area of 8m² and reached a depth of approx. 0.80-1m. Among the finds it can be included the thick stone and mortar wall mentioned earlier on, which continues in parallel with Z3 wall of the building, but with a totally different aspect and manner of building (mortar of a much better quality and larger dimensions, 1.1m thick!).

An interesting fact to be pointed out is that the early wall was not used as base for the foundation when constructing the new Building C1. However, we believe that the large early wall was used in the late Roman period as a substruction for clay-floor of the room. In support of this hypothesis we also mention the discovery of a mortar floor-screed near the respective wall that levels the debris of the early building which was connected to it.

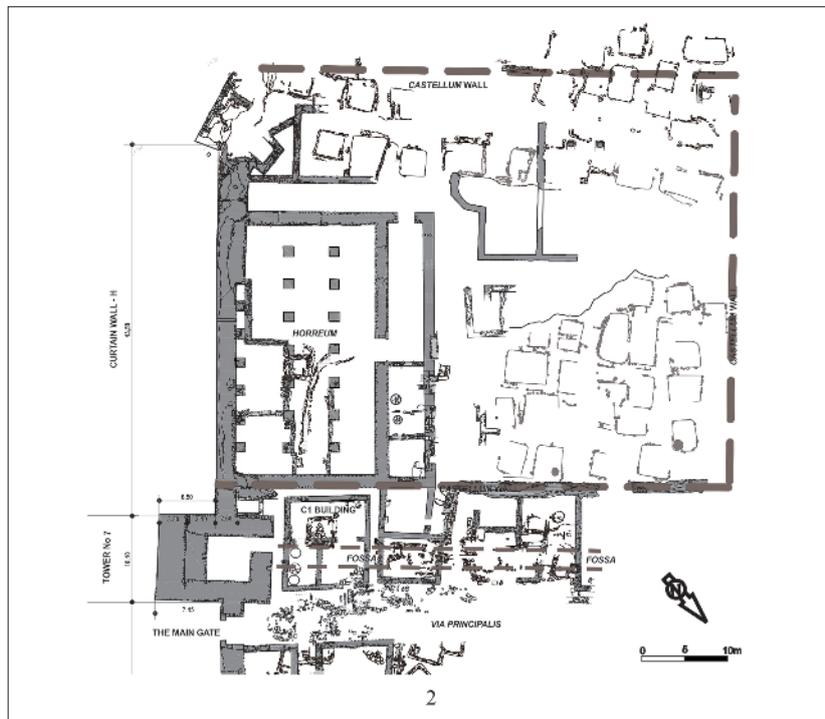
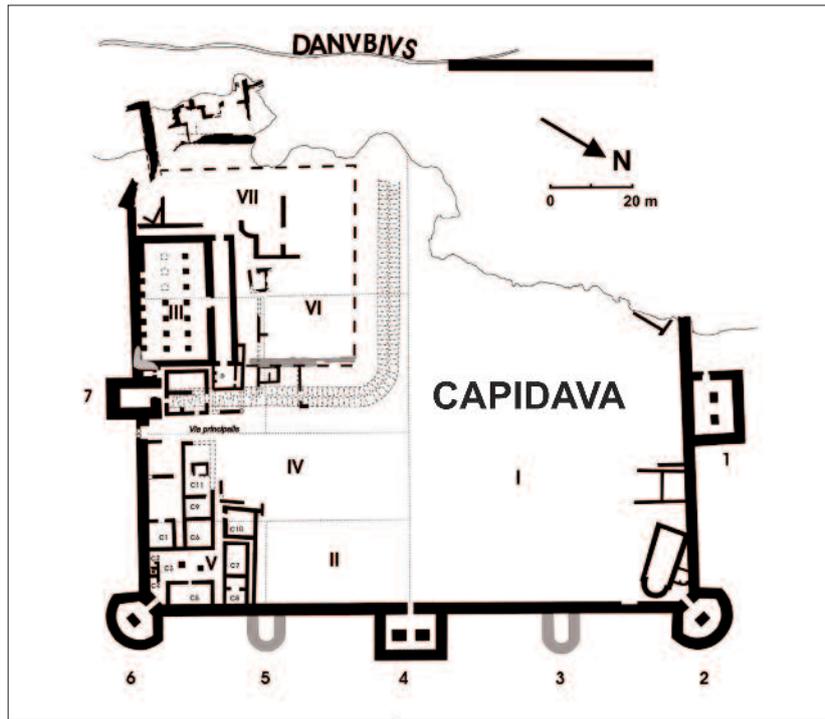
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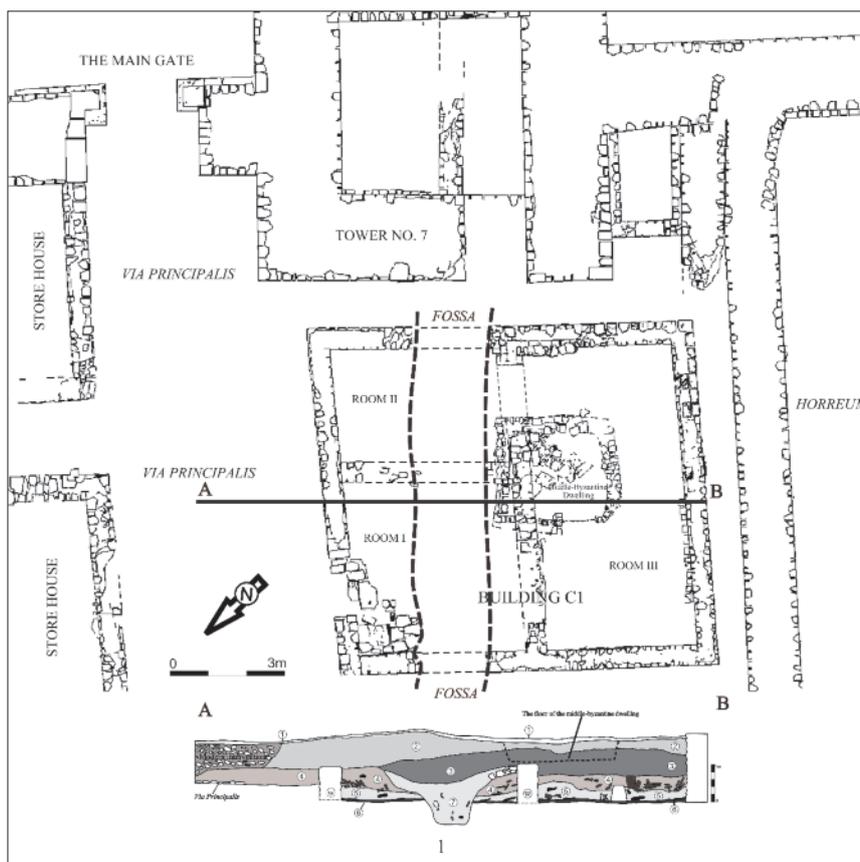


Pl. I.
 Map of the Lower Danube region in the 4th–6th c. AD, with the position of Capidava
 (© I. C. Opreș and Al. Rațiu)

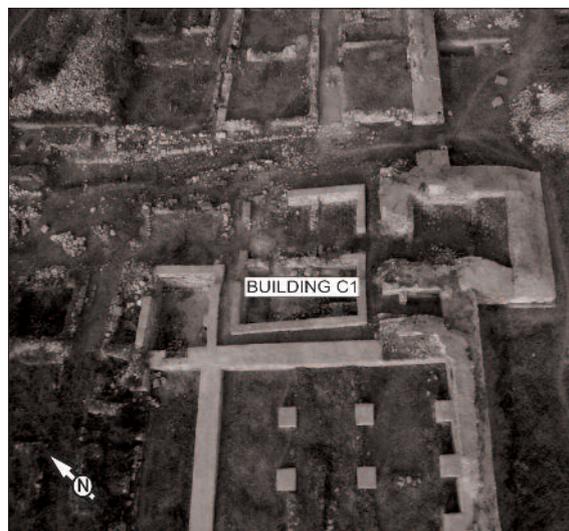


Pl. 2.

1. Plan of Capidava fort in the 6th c. AD; 2. Plan of the early 7th c. fortlet from Capidava
 (© Anișoara Sion, I. C. Oprîș and Al. Rațiu)

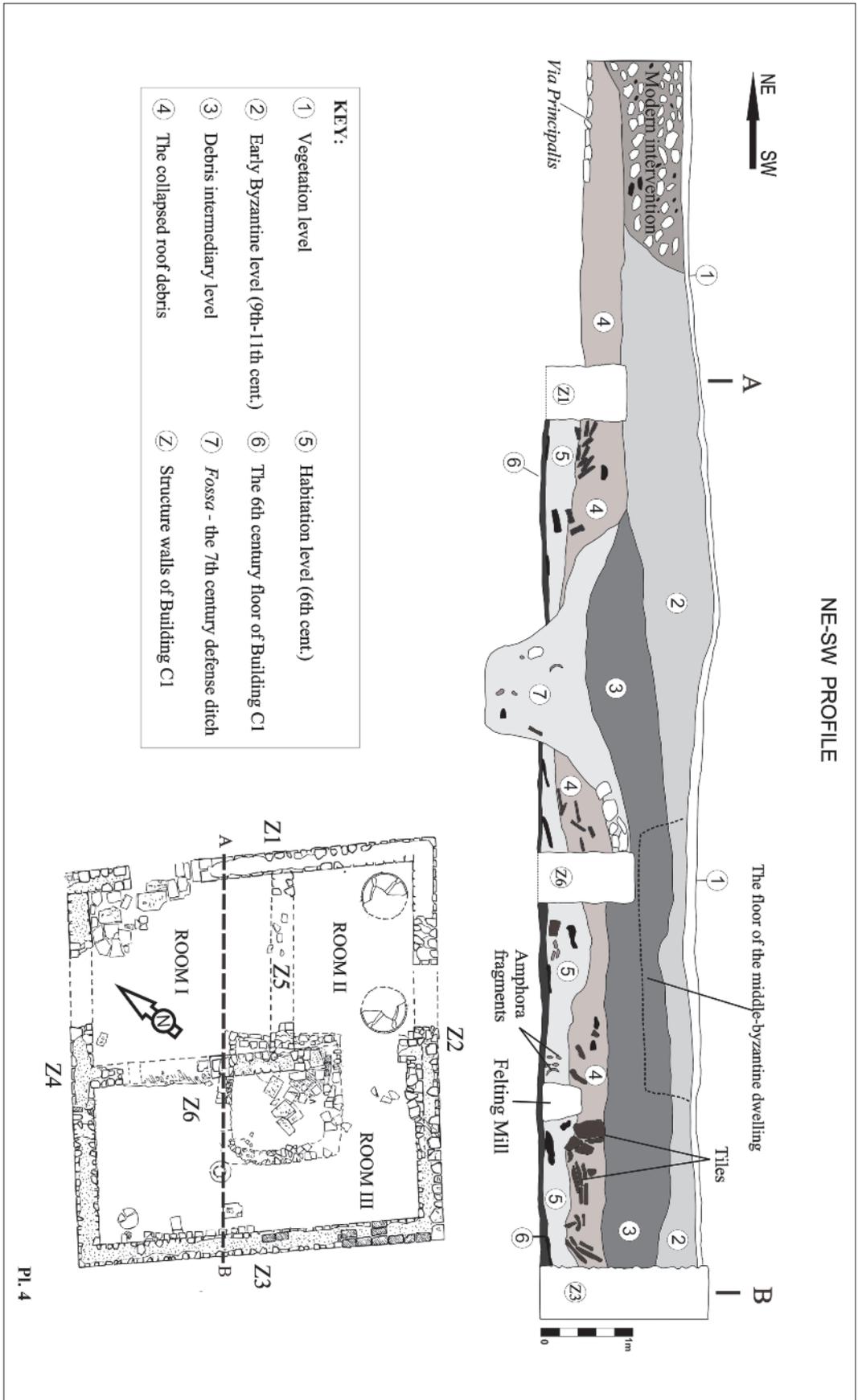


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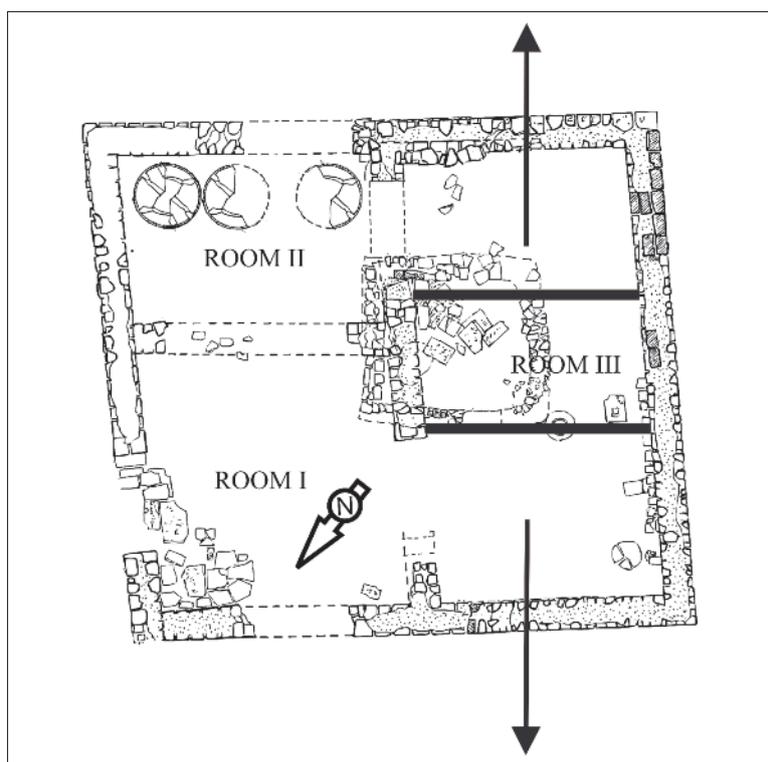
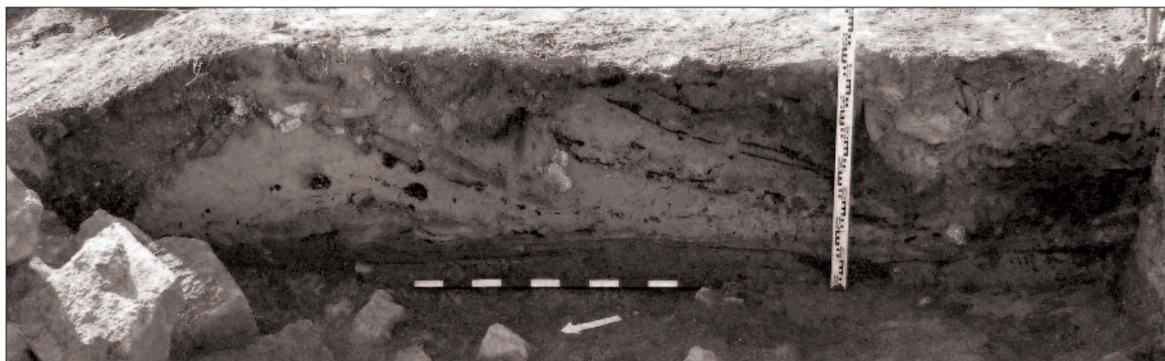


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Pl. 3.
1. Plan of Building C1 and a scaled profile of the edifice;
2-3. Aerial photographs of Building C1 (taken in 2014 by D. Ștefan)
(© I. C. Opreș and Al. Rațiu)



Pl. 4.
The main profile (NE-SW) of Building C1 (© I. C. Oprîș and A. Rațiu)



Pl. 5.

1-2. Intermediary profiles relevant for the end of the 6th century fire in Room III of the building (© I. C. Opreș and Al. Rațiu)



Pl. 6.

1. Building C I at the beginning of the research in 1993; 2. Photo from the excavation of the 7th c. *fossa* (1993); 3. The same *fossa* with the profile of the earthen works (1993)

(© I. C. Opriș and Al. Rațiu)



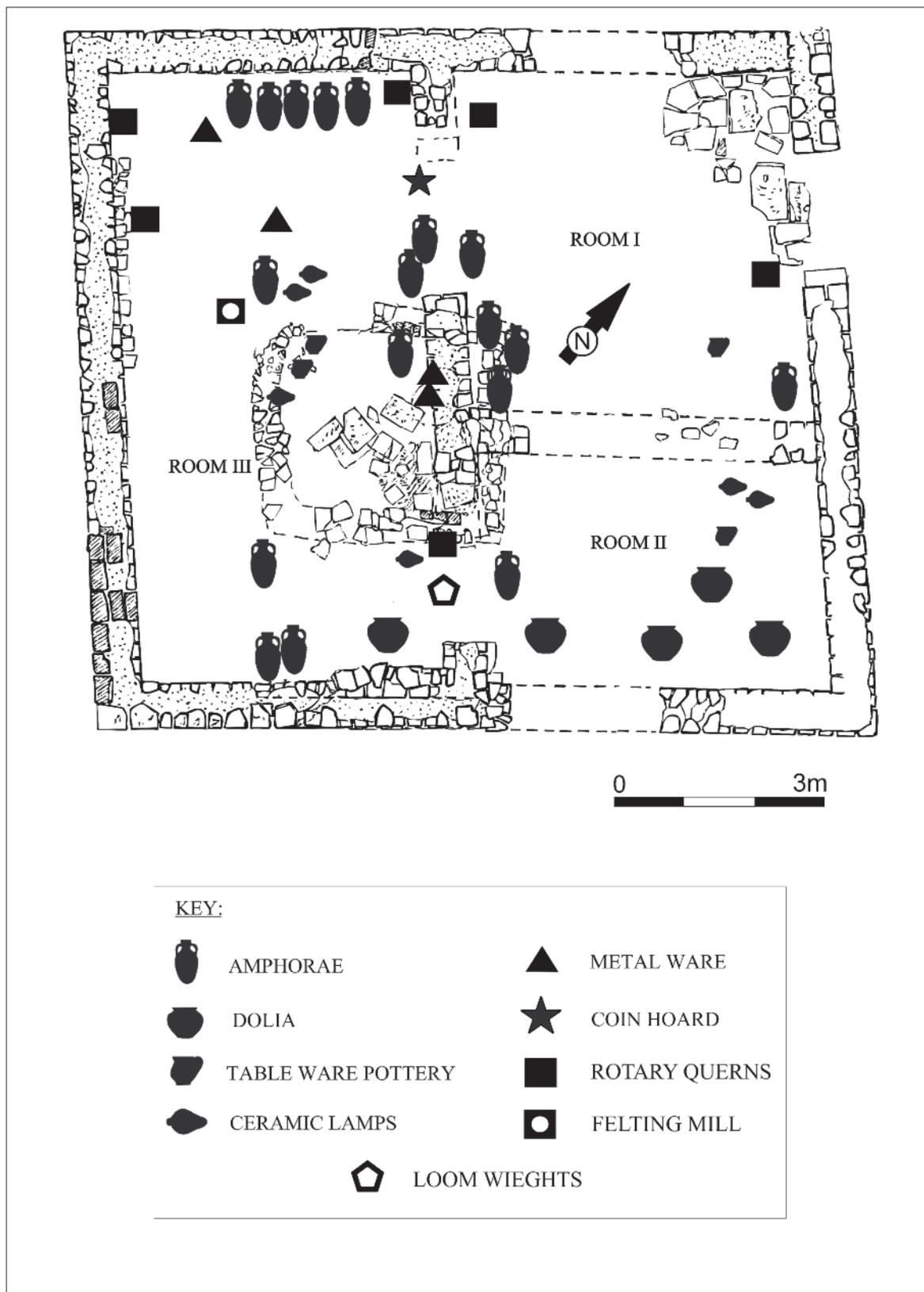
Pl. 7.

1. The middle-byzantine sunken dwelling (1993); 2. Hoard of coins (46.5 folles) found on the door step between Rooms I and III (© I. C. Opreș and Al. Rațiu)



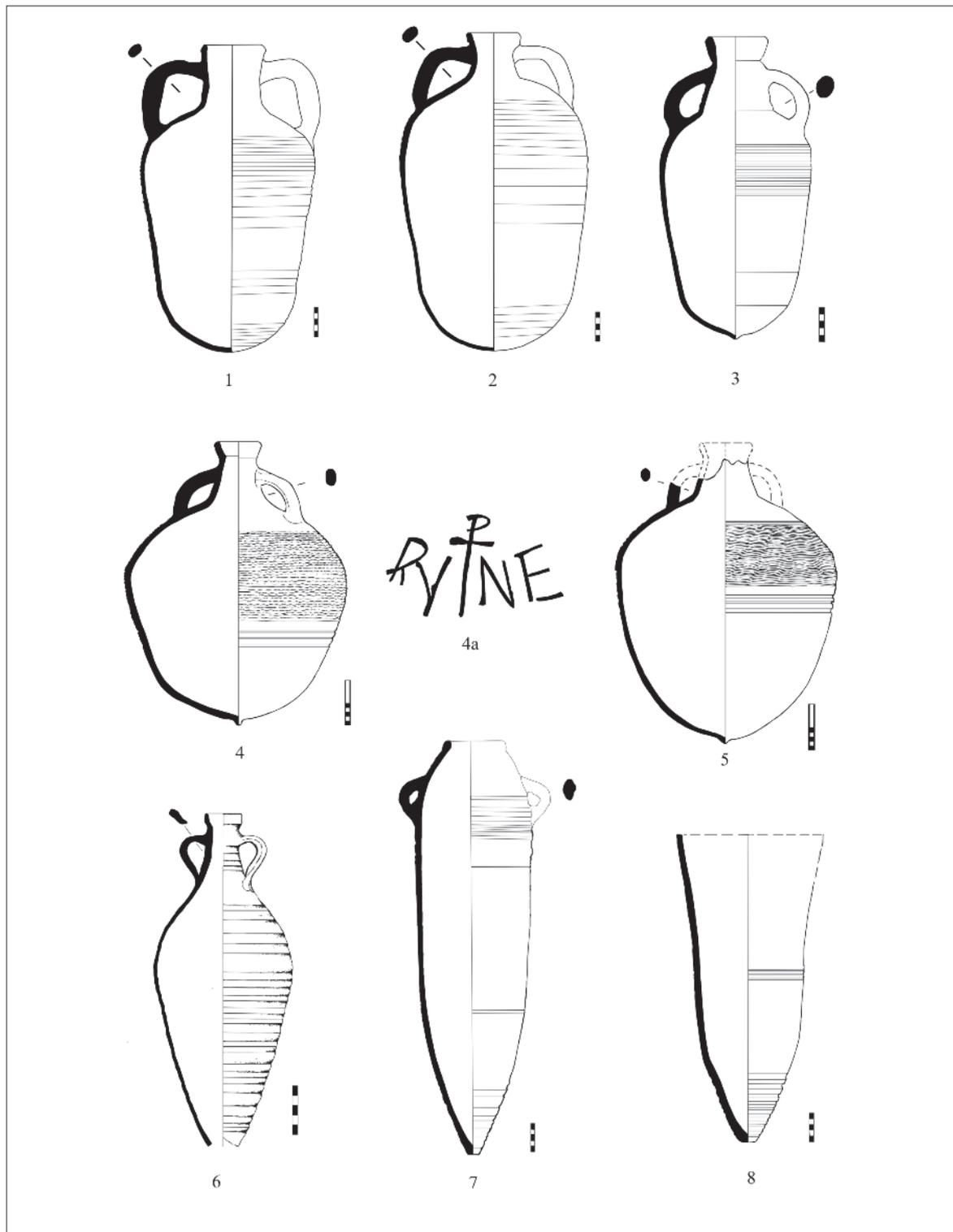
Pl. 8.

1. Amphorae deposit discovered in 2007 in Room III near to the north-western wall;
 2. Felting mill discovered in situ during the 2008 campaign in the middle of Room III; 3. Two small amphorae found next to the Z3 wall of the building (2008); 4. The first layer of collapsed tiles from the roof (2007); 5-6. The destruction caused by the 7th c. *fossa* in Rooms I and II (2010); 7. Room III at the end of the research in 2010; 8. Earlier wall discovered in a trench excavated in room III, underneath the CI foundation (2011) (© I. C. Opreș and Al. Rațiu)



Pl. 9.

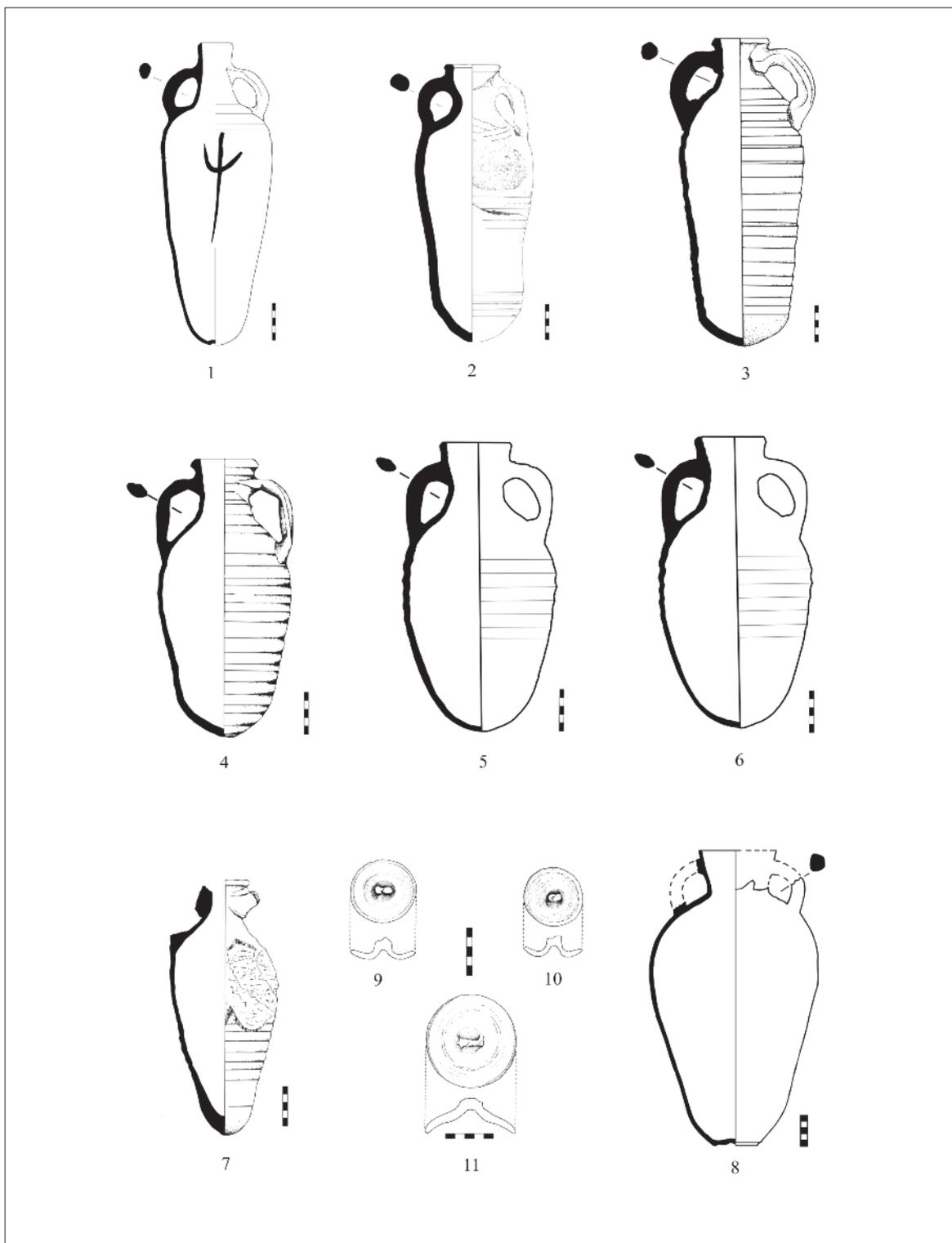
The distribution of finds inside Building CI (© I. C. Opreș and Al. Rațiu)



Pl. 10.

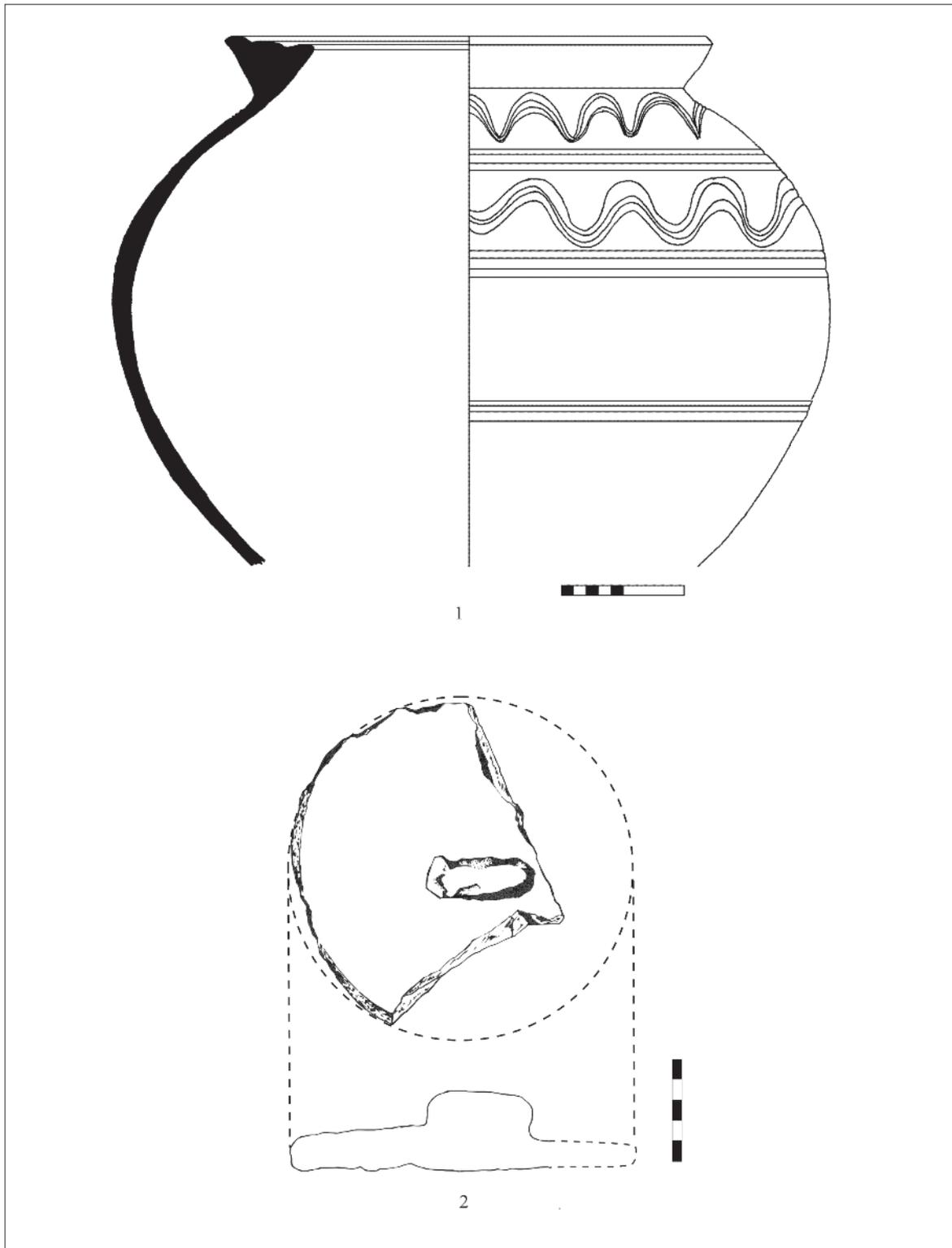
Amphorae discovered in Building CI: 1-2. Carthage LR 1 Type; 3-5. Carthage LR 2 Type
(4a is a graffito found on no. 4); 6. Carthage LR 3 Type; 7-8. Carthage LR 4 Type

(© I. C. Opriș and Al. Rațiu)



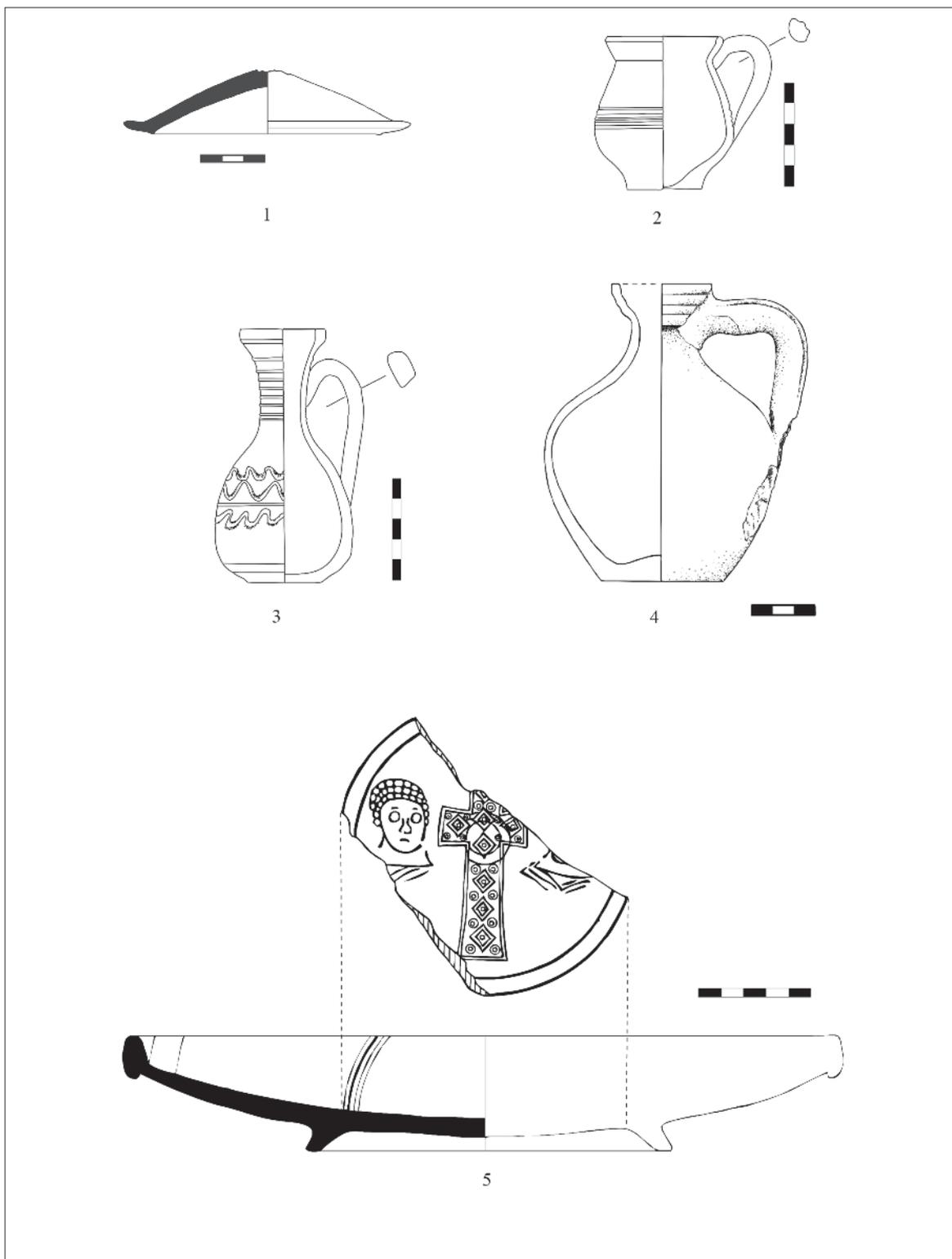
Pl. II.

Amphorae and amphora stoppers discovered in Building CI:1. Oriental Type Amphora (Zeest 99/ Sazanov II/ Opaït E IX); 2-7. Pontic Type Amphorae (2. unassigned type; 3. Opaït B V, 4-6. Antonova V/ Kuzmanov XVI/ Opaït B I d; 7. Amphora à pâte claire/ Kuzmanov XIII Type); 8. Table Amphora; 9-11. Ceramic amphora stoppers (© I. C. Opriş and Al. Raşiu)



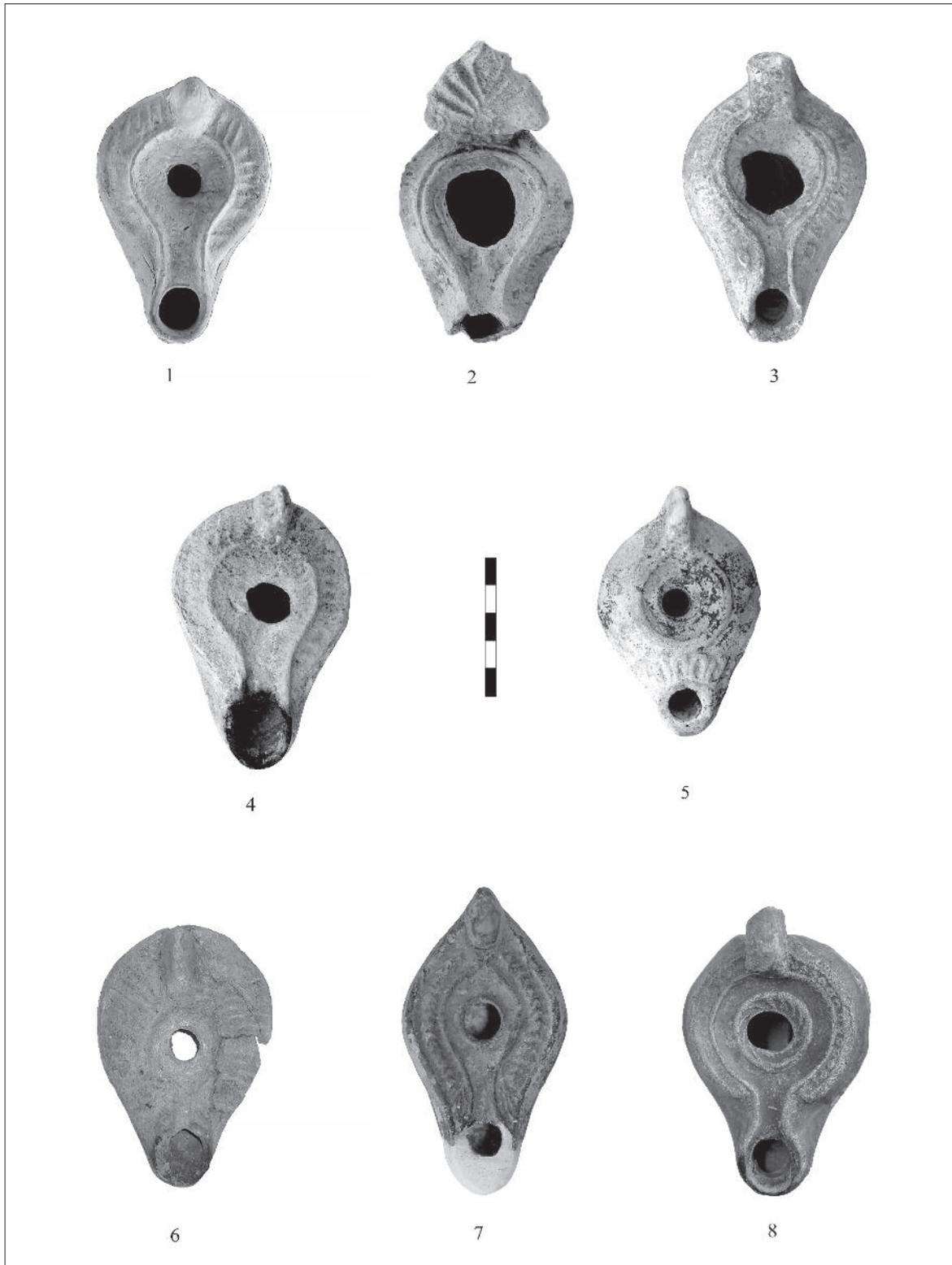
Pl. 12.

1. *Dolium*; 2. *Dolium* lid (© I. C. Opreș and Al. Rațiu)



Pl. 13.

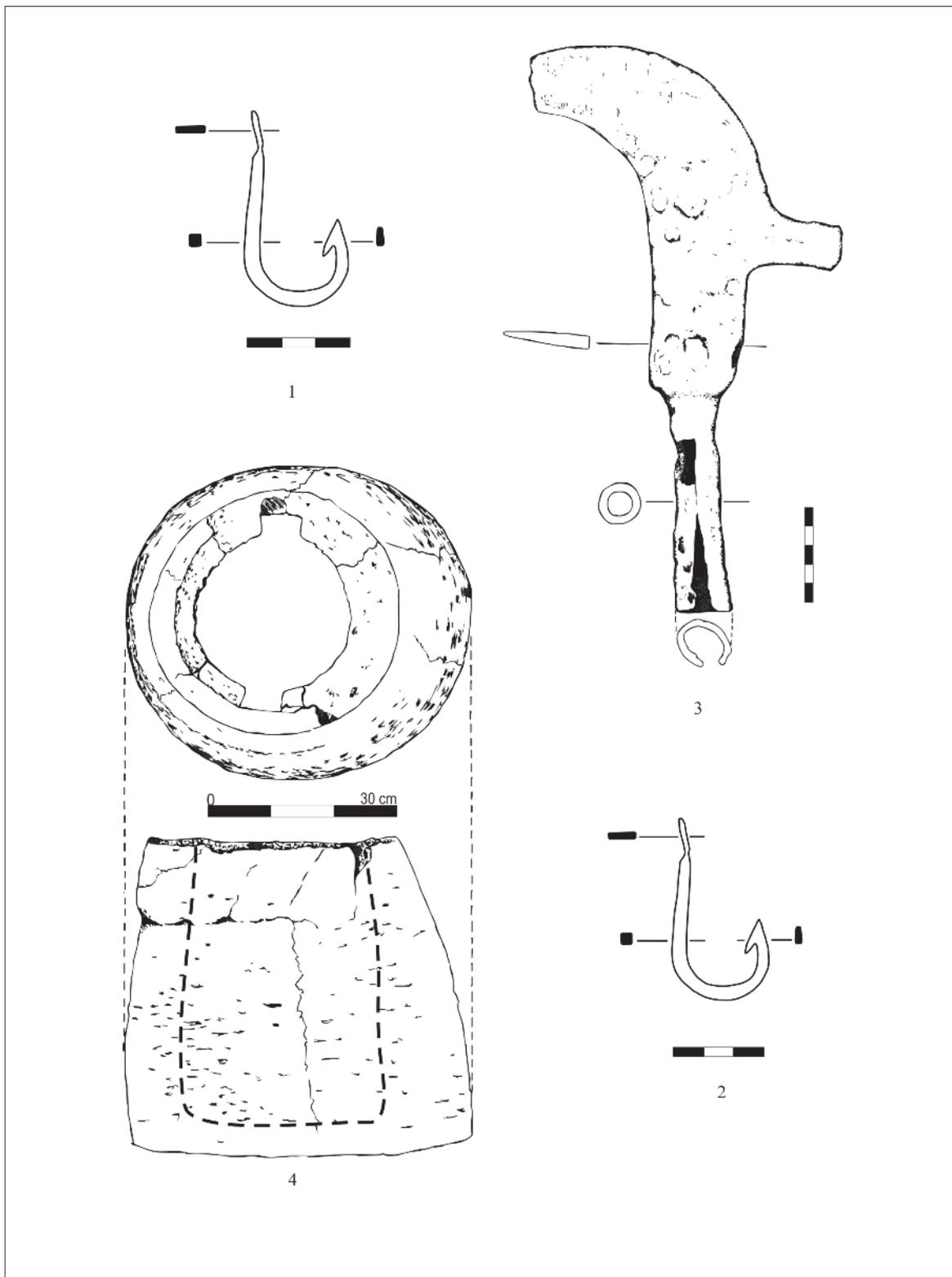
Table and cooking pottery: 1. Pot lid; 2. Cup; 3-4. Small pitchers; 5. Fragment of a African Red Slip Plate (Hayes 104 A Type), decorated with stamped Christian motifs
(© I. C. Opreș and Al. Rațiu)



Pl. 14.

1-8. Early-Byzantine ceramic Lamps of the „Danubian Type”

(© I. C. Opreș and Al. Rațiu)



Pl. 15.

1-2. Iron fishing-hooks; 3. Iron Bill-hook; 4. Limestone felting mill
(© I. C. Opreș and Al. Rațiu)