



COMMUNICATIONES
ARCHÆOLOGICÆ
HUNGARIÆ

2025

COMMUNICATIONES
ARCHÆOLOGICÆ
HUNGARICÆ

2025

Magyar Nemzeti Múzeum
Budapest, 2025

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MNMKK Magyar Nemzeti Múzeum Régészeti Tár
H-1088, Budapest, Múzeum körút 14–16.

A folyóirat cikkei elérhetők / journal access: <http://ojs.elte.hu/comarchhung>
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ISSN 0231-133X (Print)
ISSN 2786-295X (Online)

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A LATE ROMAN PIT (SU 19/20) FROM THE GLAGOLJAŠKA 16 SITE IN VINKOVCI (EASTERN CROATIA)

Danijela ROKSANDIĆ VUKADIN¹ 

The town of Vinkovci is situated in Slavonia, eastern Croatia, upon the site of the former Roman town of Cibalae. In 2009 on the Glagoljaška Street 16 site, archaeological excavations were carried out, which resulted in the discovery of architectural remains and small finds, ranging from prehistoric to modern age. The pit isolated and analyzed in this paper (SU 19/20), in the Late Roman layer, is one of the rare enclosed units in a usually devastated layer. Special emphasis is put on the pottery fragments that belong to the 5th and 6th century AD and can be linked to Germanic peoples in this area. The pit could have been used for waste disposal and most likely belongs to the Late Roman building nearby.

Az ókori Cibalae (Szlavónia, Kelet-Horvátország) a mai Vinkovci város területén helyezkedett el. 2009-ben a Glagoljaška Ulica 16. lelőhelyen végzett régészeti feltárás során az őskortól a modern korig keltezhető épített maradványok és kisleletek kerültek elő. Jelen tanulmány a késő római réteg SU 19/20. sz. gödrét emeli ki és elemzi, amely egy pusztulási horizont kevés elkülöníthető jelenségének egyike. Különös hangsúly esik az 5–6. századi kerámialeletekre, amelyek a területen élő germán csoportokhoz köthetők. A gödröt valószínűleg szemétkiürítésre használták, és a közeli késő római kori fa épülethez tartozhatott.

Keywords: Cibalae, Late Roman pottery, Gepids, disposal pit, wooden building, animal bones

Kulcsszavak: Cibalae, késő római kerámia, gepidák, hulladékátroló gödör, fa épület, állatcsontok

Introduction

Cibalae is located on the left bank of the Bosut river in present-day Vinkovci, which has been inhabited for 8000 years (Fig. 1). The entire city is an archaeological site, boasting an 800,000 m² protected archaeological zone. Its cultural layer, at places as much as eight meters deep, offers evidence of the continuity of the settlement, from prehistory to the modern age. Its position in the hinterland of the limes, at the intersection of land and water communication routes, enabled the rapid growth of the Roman town of Cibalae. This is attested by numerous archaeological artefacts, predominantly pottery, as well as evidence of intensive pottery production given that over one hundred pottery kilns have been found in the town area.

Most of the excavations of the Roman Cibalae are rescue excavations, which hinders the construction

of a complete stratigraphic picture. The Baroque-era and later construction works have destroyed the archaeological cultural layers at certain locations. Another, not insignificant, problem is the fact that the Roman finds uncovered through rescue excavations and supervision of utility infrastructure digging mostly remain unpublished. Finds from the Late Roman Cibalae include architectural remains and inscriptions dating from the second half of the 4th century AD. At most locations, it is notable that during the 4th century AD older buildings were adapted for new purposes and new construction occurred during which the available materials from older buildings were often reused.

Recent excavations in Vinkovci showed that Late Roman construction was both prolific and of high quality, as attested by excavations of private residential structures and public buildings. Numerous artefacts from the residential layer, the archi-

► Received 3.11.2025 | Accepted 9.11.2025 | Published online 29.12.2025

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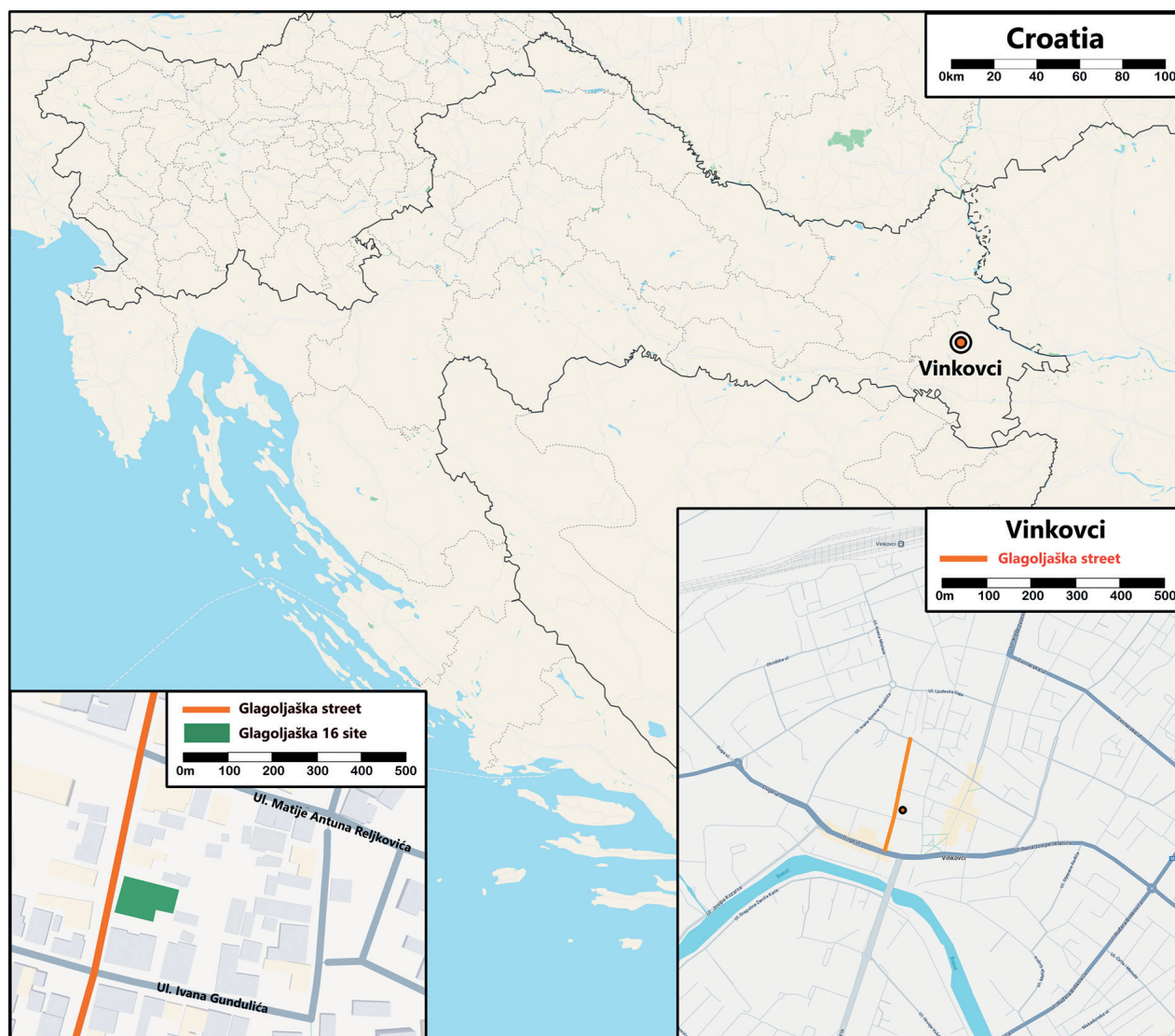


Fig. 1. Map of Croatia with the positions of Vinkovci and detailed position of the Glagoljaška 16 site in (basemaps: Atlist, <https://www.atlist.com/>, made by: D. Roksandić Vukadin)

1. kép. Horvátország térképe Vinkovci elhelyezkedésével és a Glagoljaška 16. lelőhely részletes helyzetével (alaptérképek: Atlist, <https://www.atlist.com/>, készítette: D. Roksandić Vukadin)

itecture and the graves testify to a very dynamic life and dense population at the end of the 4th century AD in Cibalae (Gračanin, Rapan Papeša 2011; Rapan Papeša 2011a; Roksandić 2018). What remains fairly unclear in the history of Late Roman Cibalae is the 5th and 6th centuries AD due to the lack of any concrete stratigraphic relations between individual finds. The finds of graves dug in the narrower urban zone constitute the only stratigraphic marker. The analysis of the location and method of burial and goods found in several graves confirmed the Germanic presence in the immediate area of the Roman Cibalae. Based on the current level of research, it can be concluded that life continued in Cibalae even in the 6th century AD. This is attested by numerous ar-

chitectural elements that uniformly extended inside the trenches in the given period. There has been no change in the size of the town and the question of the fortification system also remains open. The city of Vinkovci is stratigraphically very complex, mostly disrupted by modern construction, which is primarily evident in the Late Roman layer that is not buried very deep, making it difficult to isolate it. However, more recent excavations provided more favourable and concrete results.

Based on the amount of information that can be derived from pottery, and by conducting an interdisciplinary analysis of the finds, we can get a very good picture of the life in a certain historical period, including the Late Roman period in Cibalae (Rok-

sandić 2018; Rapan Papeša, Roksandić 2019). When researching the Late Roman period, one inevitably has to consider the ethnicity of the population settled in the researched area. This has been a great problem since we had individual finds with no context at our disposal. More recent excavations in the former province of Pannonia indicate that the indigenous Roman population continued to live in their home areas up to the middle of the 5th century AD. During this turbulent period, the population certainly appropriated some “barbaric” elements, primarily from the Germanic peoples that settled in the area during a certain stretch of time. This is mainly attested by individual finds from graves, dress accessories and finds in everyday use. The pottery finds may best speak of the “barbarisation” in the area of the Late Roman Cibalae. Taking into account the identified pottery types, a change in the repertoire of pottery is evident compared to the earlier period.

Some new forms and decoration techniques emerge which can be attributed solely to the Germanic population. However, the production technology is not typical of the barbaric population since it is very advanced and has elements of the traditional Roman pottery production. The Cibalae workshop with a centuries-old tradition of pottery production has its characteristic signature both in a typological and a technological sense, especially regarding the composition and quality of the clay. Through systematic analysis of pottery from dozens of sites, types of Late Roman pottery have been identified, with particular focus on those associated with Germanic affiliation.

A reference sample database for Cibalae pottery has also been created (Roksandić 2015; Roksandić 2018). The main criterion for creating the typology of Late Roman pottery from Cibalae is the clay texture, which is divided into nineteen macroscopic groups: VK 1–VK 19. Based on this texture, a typological classification into seven main pottery groups was made: coarse pottery, grey-grained coarse pottery, handmade pottery, glazed pottery, polished pottery with burnished decoration, polished pottery with stamped decoration, and fine red and black slipped pottery (Pannonian slipware). Each group is divided into types and subtypes (Roksandić 2018). Particular attention is drawn to two ceramic groups that, by their shape and decoration, are undoubtedly linked to Germanic affiliation: pottery with burnished decoration and pottery with stamped decoration. Based on the archaeological data currently at

our disposal, these finds point to a Gepid cultural circle, i.e., a Gepid community settled in the area for a certain period of time. However, the question of whether the Ostrogoths and Lombards were present here remains open, although future finds related to those peoples are expected in the Vinkovci area. The closest analogies can be found in the Tisza River basin, where this type of pottery was found in Gepid settlements, but also along the Danubian Limes where these finds from Late Roman settlements date back to the 3rd century AD.

Architectural remains from the Roman building phases

Archaeological excavations at the location in Glagoljaška Street No. 16, in Vinkovci, was carried out in July 2009 on cadastral plot No. 2596, which is a part of the protected and registered archaeological zone (Fig. 2).¹ It was conditioned by the conceptual plan of the future building and by the devastated situation that was uncovered there. The research was carried out after the removal of the existing Geodetic Administration building and the excavation of the foundations for the future residential-commercial space.

On the investigated area of approximately 369 m², architectural remains, disposal pits and wells with a large number of small finds were documented. Chronological phases were distinguished: the Early Roman (2nd to 3rd century AD), the Late Roman and Modern age construction phases. Out of context, prehistoric finds indicate one of the prehistoric phases in the immediate vicinity. One hundred sixty stratigraphic units (walls, foundation trenches, floors, wells, disposal pits, holes for wooden structures, fireplaces) were recorded.

Masonry remains of architecture from the Roman period were found between more recent foundations. They were preserved in foundations made of broken bricks bound with clay. The walls were built of bricks bound with lime mortar, and they were preserved up to four rows high. The remains of masonry architecture indicate the existence of at least two buildings with several rooms that were built in the period between the 2nd and 3rd centuries AD (according to the analysis of small finds), but experienced conversions and alterations during the Late Roman phase. The orientation of the buildings is northwest-southeast and does not differ from other investigated buildings within the Cibalae grid (Rapan Papeša 2011a, 201–208). Additions, different

floor levels and different construction techniques were observed within and around the buildings.

A later phase of additional building used remains and building materials from the earlier building, and leveling of the terrain was also observed. Within the investigated area, several archaeological layers have been defined that chronologically belong to the Late Roman phase: SU 10, SU 14, SU 43, SU 51, SU 56. These layers indicate the burying of architecture in one of the later phases of the degradation of the city (4th and 5th centuries AD).

The architecture is buried in a yellow compact layer that also represents a terrain leveling layer (SU 30). These are two Roman masonry structures (Building 1 and Building 2) and one wooden structure (Building 3) at the very eastern edge of the trench. The foundations of the walls of Buildings 1 and 2 are filled with broken bricks laid diagonally, and the walls were built of rectangular bricks measuring 30×45 cm, 6–7 cm thick (Fig. 2).

Building 1 is located in the central part of the excavated area. It is preserved in the foundation trenches of a longitudinal (SU 37) and two transverse (SU 35 and 36) walls and a possible paving or a subsequently founded masonry structure (SU 34). No remains of floors or other structures were found.

Building 2 is located in the western part of the investigated area. The surface area of the building is approximately 135 m^2 . The building is not fully defined, but according to the investigated situation, we can conclude that it underwent several renovations, reconstructions and expansions during the 4th century AD. From a preliminary examination of the pottery material from the layers of renovation and adaptation of this building, we can conclude that it was functional in the late 4th and 5th centuries AD.

Building 3 is located in the eastern part of the trench. It has a large, burnt earthen floor, about 15 cm thick (SU 33), which covers an area of about 40 m^2 . The floor is made of compacted clay, subsequently burned, with traces of a collapsed structure made of wicker and wood. Around the floor are various pits and holes from posts for wooden structures (SU 62/63, SU 64/65, SU 68/69, SU 70/71, SU 72/73, SU 74/75, SU 76/77, SU 78/79). Building 3 is partially buried in SU 43 and SU 30, which belong to the Late Roman period (4th and 5th centuries AD). This phase would also include the Late Roman wells (SU 155/156, SU 157/158). A preliminary analysis of the pottery finds indicates the Late Roman period, which is confirmed by other small finds.

The preserved architectural remains indicate the existence of two buildings with several presumed rooms, which have a northwest-southeast orientation. These fit in the existing orientations of the other found buildings and align with the urban grid of Cibalae. Archaeological small finds allow for more precise chronological determinations, i.e. they indicate the construction of these buildings in the 3rd and 4th centuries AD, which could be linked to the assumed third phase of Cibalae's urban development. Considering the different floor levels and subsequent additions made using different construction techniques, it is obvious that the buildings functioned until the time of the late 4th and 5th centuries AD, undergoing certain construction modifications and possible functional changes. The foundations of the walls were dug into earlier Roman layers, within which no construction activity was registered. In a later Roman construction phase, existing remains were re-purposed, specifically structures built from brick masonry, while the unused foundations of broken bricks were covered with a leveling layer. The actual purpose of the buildings is not known, although the found remains of colourful wall frescoes give a hint of more luxurious rooms, while more luxurious small objects, especially pottery, are absent.

The third building (Building 3), built of timber framing with a compressed earth floor, is dated to the latest construction phase of the 5th and 6th century AD. There were no preserved finds on the burnt floor or in the postholes of the structure; however, the analyzed pit SU 19/20 belongs to the context of this building and is the only preserved closed assemblage that can more precisely date this building.

Generally, it should be emphasized that buildings with the mentioned wooden construction are very rare in the younger layers of Cibalae and so far we have recorded them at only three locations in the city (Glagoljaška bb, Glagoljaška 16 and the Korzo site). Until recently, wooden construction buildings were associated with the oldest so-called wooden phase of Cibalae in the 2nd century AD, but recent research indicates much younger buildings from the 5th and 6th centuries AD that are linked to the Gepid population in Cibalae (Rapan Papeša, Roksandić 2019).

A building structure most similar to the one from Glagoljaška 16 was found in 2008 at the Korzo site and belongs to the above-ground type of dwellings. Remains of a solid, above-ground floor were found, made of compact clay with an admixture of Roman mortar. The whole structure was made on Roman re-

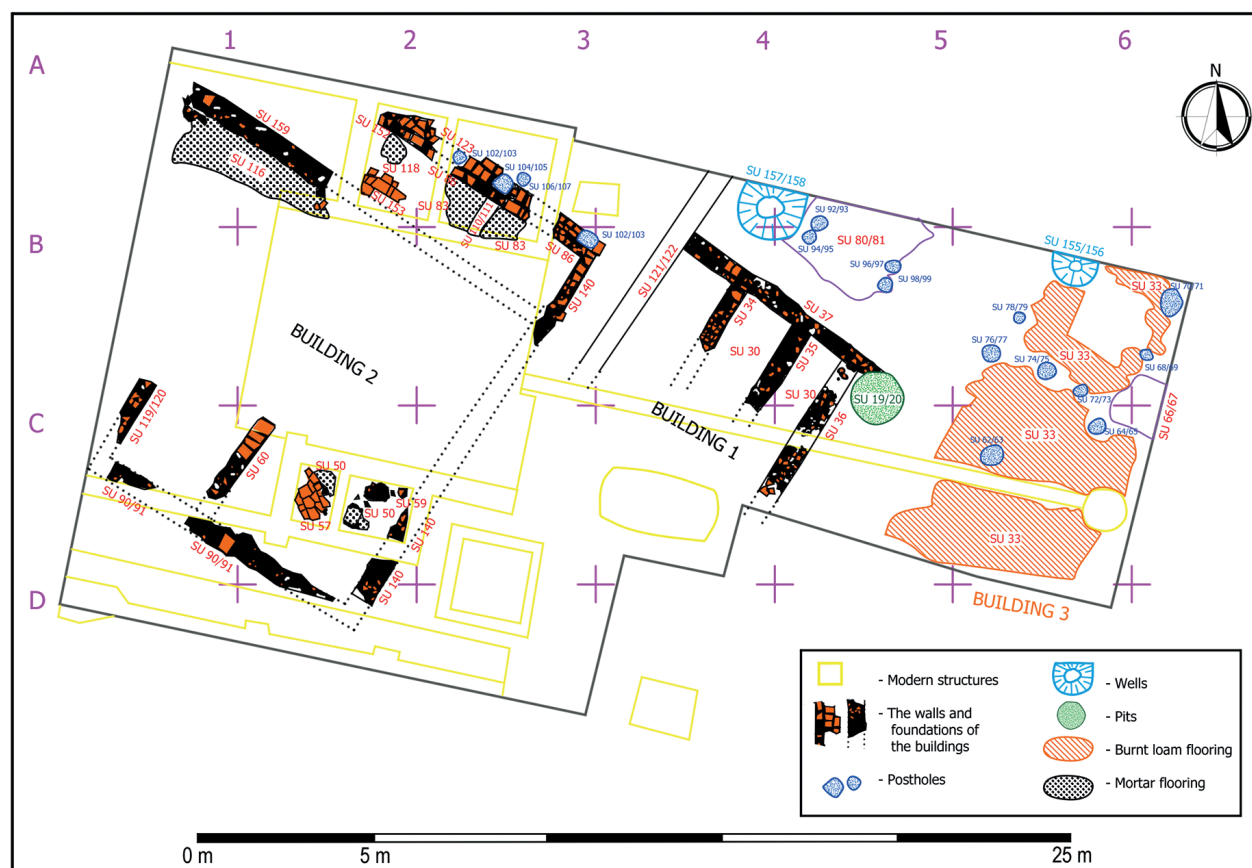


Fig. 2. Ground plan of the final situation; Ground plan of Roman structures and of the Modern age devastation
(Photo and ground plan made by: Kaukal d.o.o.)

2. kép. Az ásatás végső állapotának alaprajza; római kori építmények és az újkori pusztulási réteg alaprajza
(fotó és alaprajz: Kaukal d.o.o.)

mains. Walls, lying on a Roman basis, were made of mud, mixed with Roman building rubble (pieces of bricks). No traces of a roof have been observed, but most likely it was a gabled roof, covered with bulrush. The orientation of the building is northeast-southwest, just like other Roman buildings in Cibale; considering that it was built on the remains of an older Roman building, this is not surprising. According to the calibrated absolute radiocarbon dates (540–640 cal AD; 1410–1300 cal BP), the structure is dated to the 6th century AD.

The other type of structures belongs to dug-in dwellings, and an example is from the Zvonimirova 12 site. Three such buildings were excavated. These are square-shaped structures, approximately 5 to 7 m² in size, dug into a Roman layer. They are filled with charcoal and pottery, and have baked walls with corresponding post holes.

For decades, the continuity of life in the 5th and 6th centuries AD in Cibale was debated. It was assumed that the Gepids settled in the partly neglected,

once representative Cibale buildings. The largest number of Gepid finds was discovered in the western and northwestern part of the former Cibale, mostly mixed with other Late Antique finds in devastated layers, while the only enclosed units with concrete evidence were individual graves scattered in and around the devastated Late Roman architecture.

An analysis of pottery was carried out in recent years at twelve sites in the western part of the city, where Gepid affiliation is assumed based on the discovery of these graves and the “unusual” architecture. The results have yielded the most evidence to date about life in Cibale in the 5th and 6th centuries AD, primarily continuity of pottery workshops, which defined the so-called Cibale pottery centres. The most representative and most precisely dated 5th and 6th century AD finds are located in the area around today’s Glagoljaška Street in so-called Glagoljaška-Gundulićeva Street pottery centre. The analyzed architecture and other finds from the site at Glagoljaška 16 fit within the mentioned area.

Disposal pit SU 19/20

To the west of Building 3, and directly next to Building 1 (east of wall SU 36), a circular pit SU 19/20 was excavated (Fig. 3). The filling of the pit consists of black loose earth, pottery and animal bones. The digging is circular, measuring 145×142 cm; it was partially buried in SU 43 and SU 30 (the Late Roman layers), at a depth of 87.00–86.36 m AMSL. The pit partially penetrated the eastern wall of Building 1 (SU 36), which is proof that it was created after the last phase of the functioning of Building 1. In preliminary reports, the pit was not connected to the described building, but is marked as a unique, more significant Late Roman phenomenon at this site (Jerončić, Katavić 2009, 8–9). Pit SU 19/20 deserves special attention because it is a closed stratigraphic unit that subsequently intersected the wall from the last phase of Building 1's functioning, and is covered by stratigraphic units/layers, which, according to the finds of bronze coins (eleven pieces), can be preliminarily dated to the 4th and 5th century AD. It is a layer of hard yellow soil (SU 30) in which the foundations of the walls of Building 1 and pit SU 19/20 were buried, which represents a layer of terrain leveling. According to the analyzed stratigraphic situation, pit SU 19/20 belongs to a building dug into the youngest construction layer and definitely belongs to the same context as Building 3. It should be emphasized that during the excavation, a large part, especially the western part, of the site was irreversibly destroyed,

as was part of the compact layer, the so-called SU 30, which belongs to the leveling layer of buildings from the late 4th and early 5th centuries AD. This layer has been preserved on the eastern side with Building 3, wells, and pits, including pit SU 19/20.

Similar stratigraphic situations exist throughout the entire area of present-day Vinkovci, where the layers from the 5th and 6th centuries AD have been completely destroyed either during the Middle Ages or by modern construction. Sometimes they are barely recognizable in small, protective-character trenches, which are also intersected by utility works. The finds are usually mixed into the Late Roman layers, outside of a specific context. Any indication of even slightly preserved buildings, especially closed units, even if it is just a simple pit, provides us with valuable data for the reconstruction of the youngest layers of Cibalae.

Analysis of pottery finds

Fifty-eight fragments of pottery (twelve rims, forty-one bodies and five bases) belonging to coarse kitchenware (fifty-four fragments) and fine tableware (four fragments) were found in pit SU 19/20. The kitchenware consists of four smaller pots (Fig. 4. 1–4) and bowls each (Fig. 4. 5–7, Fig. 5. 1), with almost the same texture and colour.

We recognize this group of pottery as coarse, grey-grained pottery. They are made of well-purified clay with a small admixture of smaller stones and

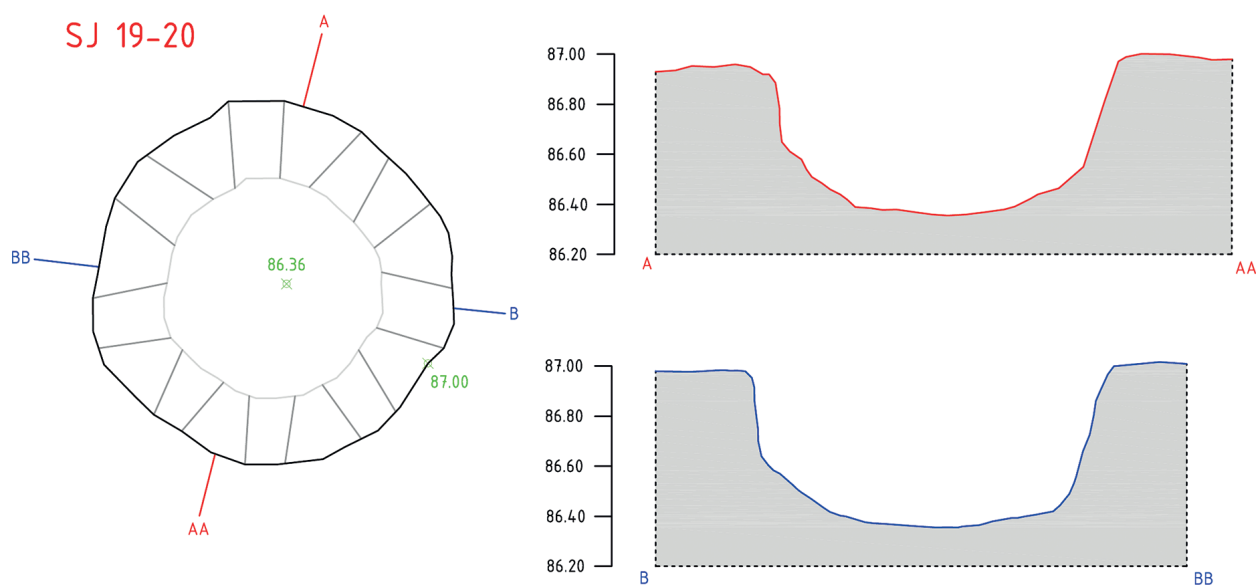


Fig. 3. Ground plan and cross-sections of pit SU 19/20 (drawing by: Kaukal d.o.o.)
3. kép. A SU 19/20 gödör alaprajza és metszetei (rajz: Kaukal d.o.o.)

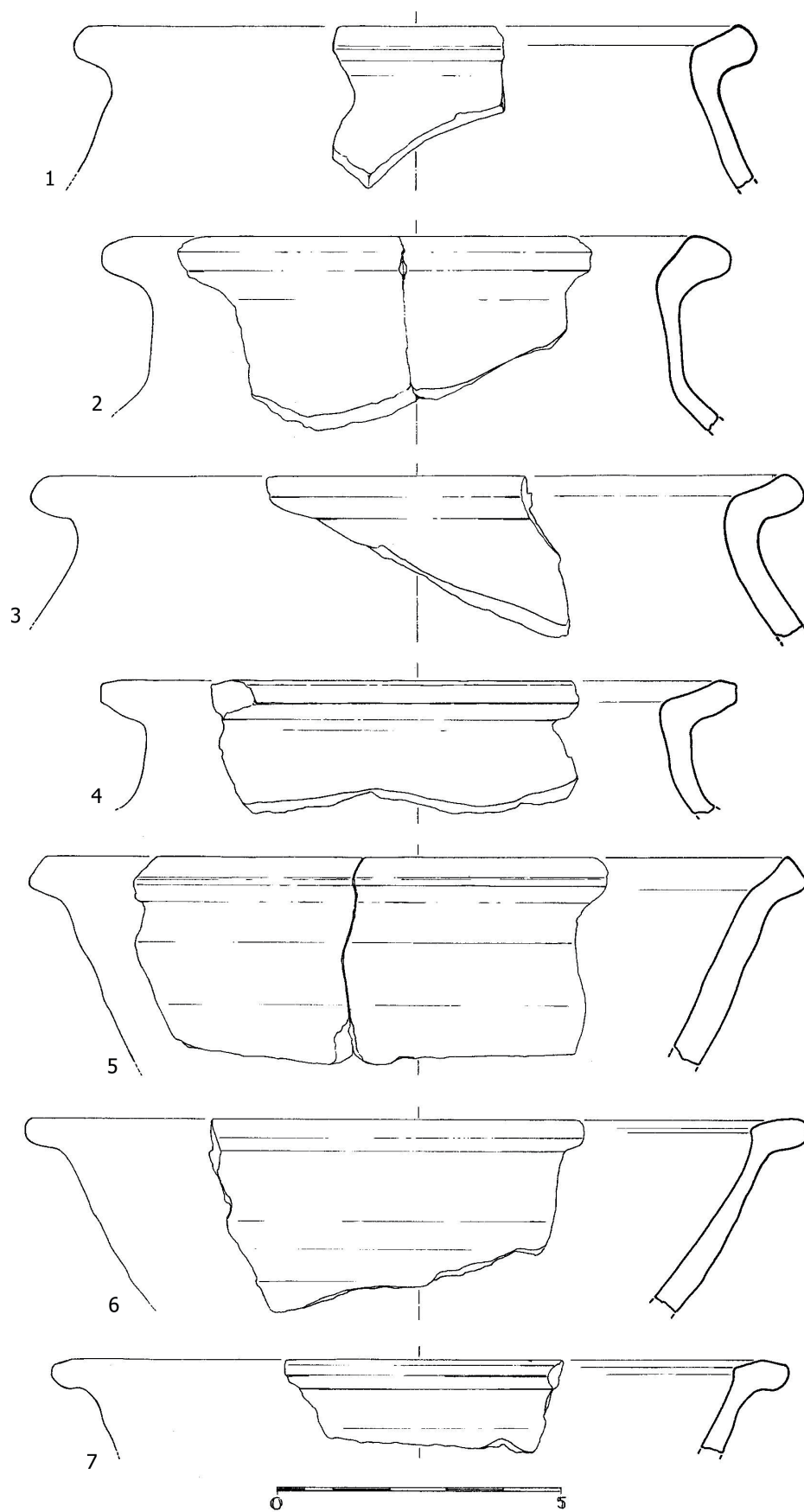


Fig. 4. Fragments of pot rims and bowls from the Vinkovci-Glagoljaška 16 site (drawing: M. Rončević)

4. kép. Fazék és tál peremtöredékek a Vinkovci-Glagoljaška 16. lelőhelyről (rajz: M. Rončević)

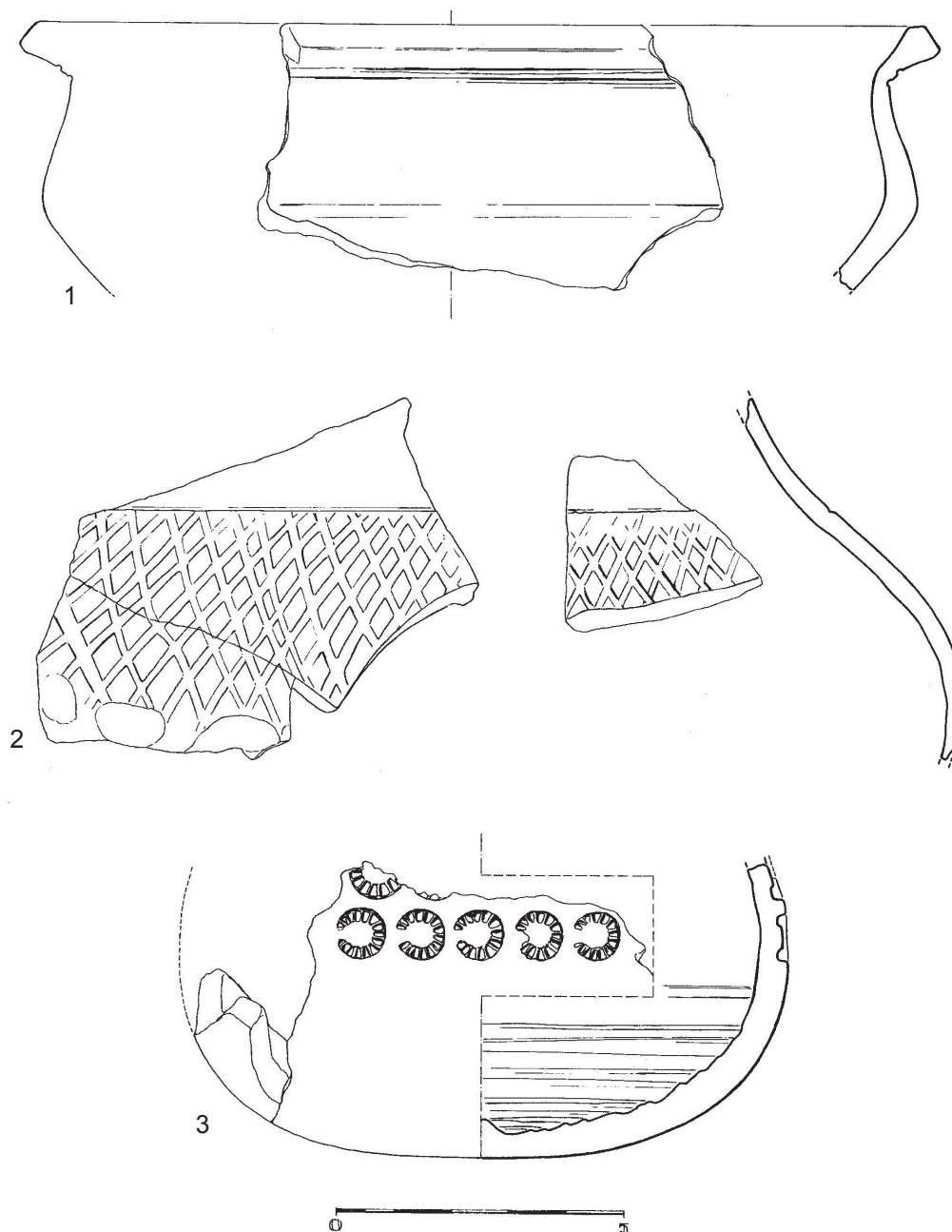


Fig. 5. Fragments of bowls from the Vinkovci-Glagoljaška 16 site (drawing: M. Rončević)

5. kép. Tál-töredékek a Vinkovci-Glagoljaška 16. lelőhelyről (rajz: M. Rončević)

chaff crumbs, and their surface is rough. Macroscopic analysis and a digital magnifying glass identified the fabrics of the analyzed ceramics (Fig. 6). All fragments were made with high quality on a potter's wheel. Their structure is compact, extremely hard, and they produce a ringing sound when struck. The colour of the vessels varies from light to dark grey, which is due to reduction burning. None of the fragments are decorated and they have no special coatings. The edges of the pots are obliquely drawn outwards and rounded and slightly profiled, while the

edges of the bowls are obliquely and horizontally drawn outwards.

In terms of shape, these vessels do not differ much from the provincial Roman vessel shapes found in older layers at this and other sites in Vinkovci (Ožanić-Roguljić 2008, 185–188), but their structure and colour differ. It was found at the majority of Late Roman sites in Pannonia and at all sites in Vinkovci. The issue with this group is that the finds from several larger residential sites in Pannonia and some cemeteries have been published only partially

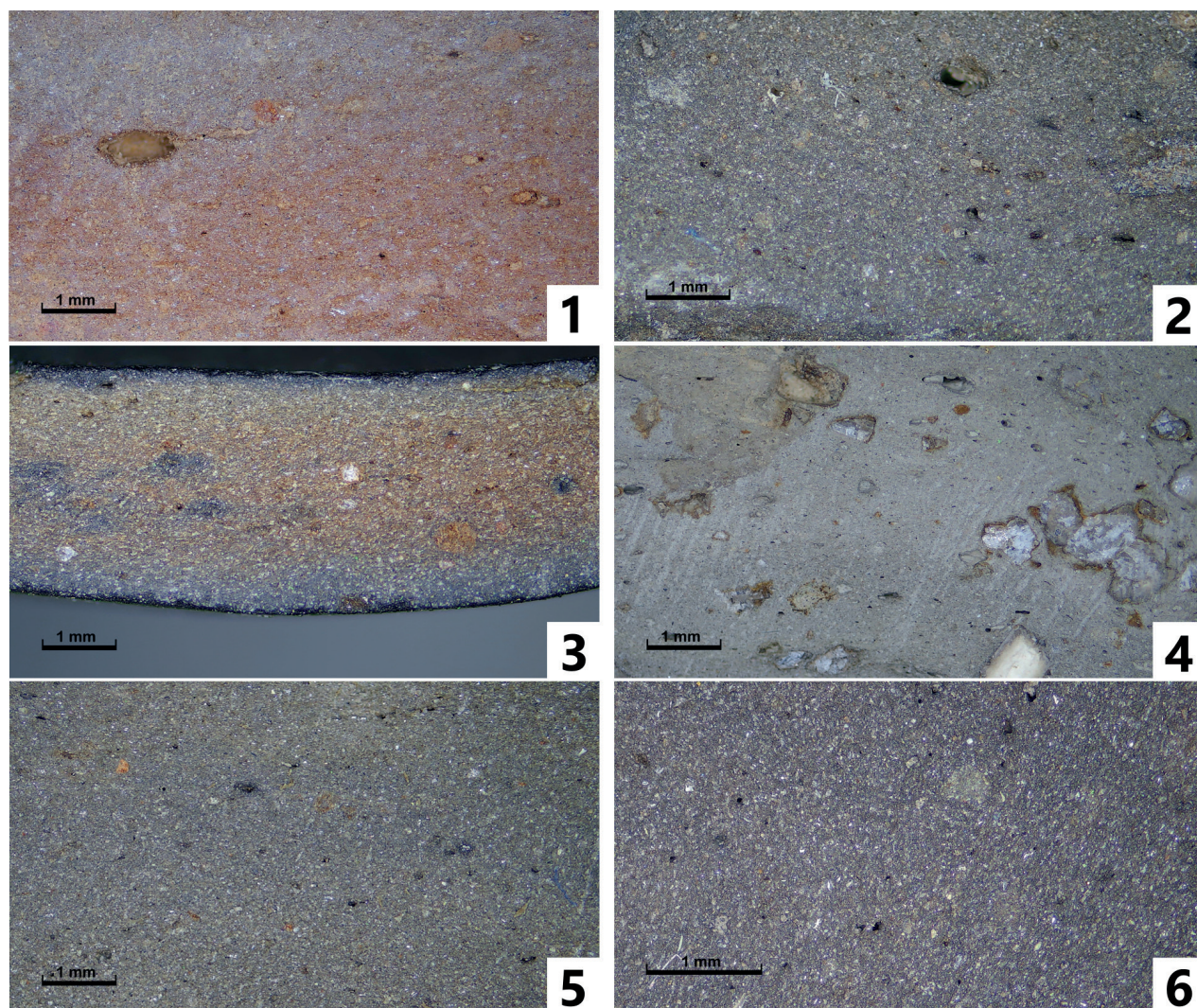


Fig. 6. Analysis of pottery fragments from Glagoljaška 16 with a digital magnifier. 1–3: pottery with burnished decoration; 4: grey-grained pottery; 5–6: pottery with stamped decoration (magnification: up to 180×)
(photographed by: D. Roksandić Vukadin)

6. kép. A Glagoljaška 16. lelőhelyről származó kerámiatöredékek elemzése digitális nagyítóval. 1–3: Fényezett díszítésű kerámia; 4: szürke szemcsés kerámia; 5–6: pecsételt díszítésű kerámia (nagyítás: akár 180×)
(fotó: D. Roksandić Vukadin)

or selectively, with no typology presented so far (Póczy 1959, 80–87; Grünewald 1983; Ottományi 1989, 497–523). The shape of the vessels is similar to glazed pottery and pottery with burnished decorations. These types are slightly less dissimilar than those from the older period.

The main types of Roman pottery from Cibale are as follows: pots with everted rims (sharp cut-off rims started appearing towards the end of the 4th century AD), bowls with a conical base, one-handed jugs with a sloped neck and different rim variants, jugs with a trefoil spout, strap-rimmed jugs with or without a handle, and small cups-mugs with an everted rim and a thin, pinched base. Other types

include: pots with everted rims, food storage vessels, lids with straight or cut-off rims.

Several new forms appeared along with traditional Roman types at the end of the 4th century AD. These include S-profiled bowls, bowls with a biconical body, strap-rimmed jugs with a grooved handle, and the so-called Tokod/Leányfalu types of mugs and pots (Horváth 2011, 614–625). This pottery group was usually subjected to reduction firing. It was grey and completely replaced oxidation fired pottery (light yellowish – brick red) characteristic of the older period. At the end of the 4th century AD, the quality of the clay “worsened” due to substantial sand additives. A group from an earlier period, dated

to the late 4th century AD and the beginning of the 5th century AD, is made up of high-quality fired pottery with thin walls made of granulated clay (Ottományi 1996, 78–94; Roksandić 2018). This phenomenon is typical of the production of pottery in the provinces of the Danube area in the Late Roman period. These pottery types of high quality can also be found in Barbaricum, where they were produced in local workshops.

Most of the Pannonian grey-grained coarse pottery has no decorations. Decorations can be found on the shoulder (lines) or body, accentuating the surface of the vessel. Combed decorations can be found on the shoulders of pots and vessels for food storage. Roulette decorations can be found on the bodies of mugs and pots and S-profiled pottery at the end of the 4th century AD. Incised wavy lines can also be found on coarse pottery in the earlier period. Combed decorations can mostly be found on the shoulders of vessels for food storage – pithoi, and they are combined with horizontal lines on the shoulder and body. Single and double wavy lines can be found on coarse pots, jugs and mugs. The potters were probably trying to use local materials to imitate fine pottery.

The workshops that produced glazed and burnished pottery also produced coarse pottery. Smaller workshops produced only coarse kitchenware. Workshops related to military production (Tokod, Pilismarót-Malompatlak, Leányfalu and Visegrád-Gizellamajor along the Danubian Limes) produced different types of coarse pottery in the late 4th and early 5th centuries AD (Friesinger, Kerchler 1981, Abb. 8. 13). Smaller workshops located in the hinterland of the limes (kilns in rural settlements) produced only several main types of pottery. These pottery types can rarely be found in larger towns, forts or settlements. Evidence of the production of coarse pottery in the middle of the 5th century AD exists only at a few sites (Vikić-Belančić 1970, 30–38; Bónis 1990, 33). Pottery was produced at the Jiříkovice site in the 5th century AD, and the same can be said for the first time for Vinkovci (Tejral 1985, 116; Roksandić 2018). Parallels can be found in the 4th and 5th century settlement of Suceag (Opreanu, Cociș 2002, Fig. 5–6, 13).

Considering the thin-section analysis of individual ceramic samples from this and four other sites in the Vinkovci area, and the determination of their mineralogical-petrographic composition, it can be preliminarily concluded that they are all local prod-

ucts with a difference being the added admixtures – temper (the exact origin will be determined by chemical analysis).² The temper was changed and selected in certain types of vessels, with cheaper and more expensive variants, i.e. coarse and fine. The technique and method of production on all analyzed fragments are very similar and probably originate from the same workshops in the area of Roman Cibale (Roksandić 2018). On some fragments of coarse ceramics, especially on pots (Fig. 7. 2–3), the outer surface was treated with the burnishing technique before the burning process itself in order to make the structure more compact. Not a single fragment is decorated.

According to their shape, three types of pots have been defined: 1. pots with a beveled, rounded edge and a short neck (Fig. 4. 1, 3), 2. a pot with a thickened edge and a cylindrical neck (Fig. 4. 1–2), and 3. a pot with a convex edge and a groove on the inside (Fig. 4. 4). Since only the upper parts of the vessels are preserved, it is impossible to determine their complete shape. Pots with a beveled, rounded edge and a short neck appear at several locations in Vinkovci (Museum, Šokadija, Varteks), and are dated from the 2nd to the 4th century AD (Nikolić-Đorđević 2000, 74; Ožanić 2004, 103). The closest analogies to this type (in terms of texture and shape) are found in the Gepid settlements of Szarvas and Eperjes in Hungary (Tóth 2006, Pl. 8. 7, Pl. 9), and the Late Roman 5th century AD settlement of Suceag in Romania (Opreanu, Cociș 2002, Fig. 17. 4). The forms of pots with a thickened rim and a cylindrical neck (Fig. 4. 2) are found in Germanic settlements in Hungary. The shape is characteristic of ceramic pots of the 4th and 5th centuries AD with a cylindrical neck and a rounded or flat body (Tóth 2006, 97–98). The type of pot with a convex rim and a groove on the inside (Fig. 4. 4) is found in Germanic settlements in Hungary (Tóth 2006, Pl. 8. 4, Pl. 8. 7).

The bowls can be divided typologically into three types: 1. a bowl with a cut edge of its sloping sides (Fig. 4. 5), 2. a bowl with a horizontally drawn edge of rounded sides (Fig. 4. 6–7), and 3. a bowl with a beveled edge of a biconical body (Fig. 5. 1). Such bowls are characteristic forms of Roman provincial pottery. In Vinkovci, they are present from the 1st to the 3rd century AD as bowls of fine texture and grey or brown colour (Ožanić 2004, 78). In the analyzed fragments, the difference can be noticed only in the coarse texture, while the shapes are classical Roman forms. Identical types of bowls are found in the

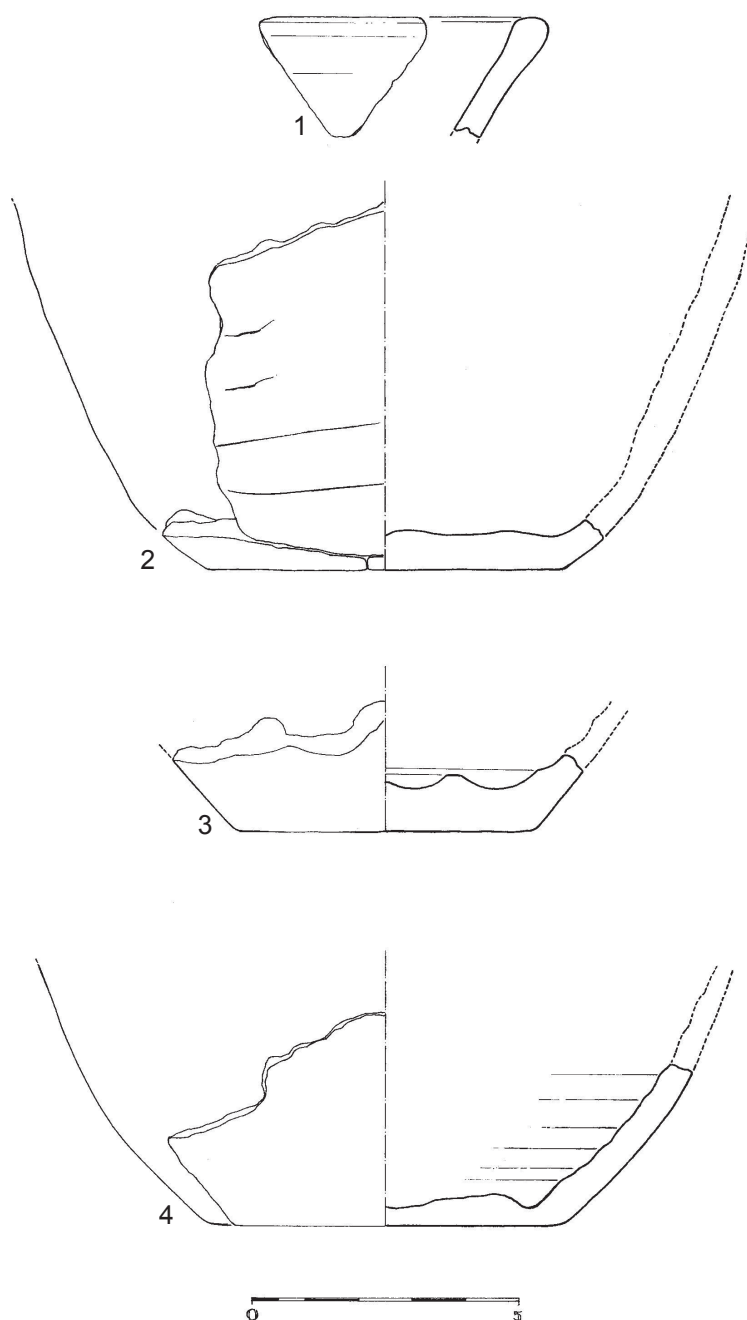


Fig. 7. Fragments of vessels from the Vinkovci-Glagoljaška 16 site (drawing: M. Rončević)

7. kép. Edénytöredékek a Vinkovci-Glagoljaška 16. lelőhelyről (rajz: M. Rončević)

Gepid settlements of Ártánd, Szarvas and Tiszafüred (Tóth 2006, Pl. 19).

In addition to the coarse-textured vessels, fragments of two vessels of extremely fine texture made of highly purified clay with different types of decoration, i.e. decoration techniques (Fig. 5. 2–3), were isolated. The three fragments, which are most likely part of a single vessel, a jug or a pot (Fig. 5. 2), differ from all other processed fragments (Fig. 8). It is a pear-shaped vessel whose outer surface was treated

with the technique of burnishing and polishing. The decoration in the form of oblique lines that form a rhomboid network was made with the burnishing technique. It is located on the shoulder and body of the vessel, and is separated from the neck of the vessel by a narrow groove. The neck of the vessel is undecorated. Decoration on such vessels was applied before the first stage of drying the clay, and after that the entire vessel would be burnished together with the decoration that would merge with the surface.

After the reduction burning process, the outer surface of the vessel would be burnished once more. The vessel treated in this way had extremely compact and resistant sides and was probably used for special-purpose contents (Rice 1987, 283). In addition to the vessels of coarse texture, fragments of two vessels of fine texture made of extremely purified clay with different types of decoration, i.e. decoration techniques, were studied (Fig. 5. 2–3, Fig. 8, Fig. 9).

The origin of the burnished decoration is found in late La Tène fine ceramics. This tradition was maintained in the 1st and 2nd centuries AD in the production of Roman pottery, and then it disappeared (Vagalinski 2002, 71; Salač 2011, Fig. 4). It reappears on Late Roman pottery in settlements along the Danube Limes in the 4th and 5th centuries AD and is associated with the penetration of Germanic groups (Vagalinski 2002, 79; Vagalinski 2011, Fig. 4; Kreković 2012, 89). As for the genesis of this type of pottery, especially its ornamentation, it is possible to draw parallels with Sarmatian material. However, it should be emphasized that there are obvious differences (Párducz 1950, 121; Istvánovits 1998, 35–89). Similar ceramic material can be found in Sarmatian settlements in Serbia (Crvenka-Vršac, Alibunar), but the shapes of the vessels are different (Rašajski 1957, Tab. I–V; Trifunović 1990, Tab. V. 9).

Pottery similar to the Cibalae vessels can be found in most Late Roman settlements in Pannonia. Such vessel shapes are known as early as the 3rd and 4th centuries AD in eastern Slovakia, northern Hungary, Romania and Bulgaria (Horedt 1979, 122–147; Tejral 1985, 387–389; Tejral 1988, 291–295; Ottományi 1996, 97–98, Fig. 5. 29; Vagalinski 2002, 5–83;

Tóth 2006, 83) and most likely originated under the influence of the Černjachov-Sîntana de Mureş culture (Horedt 1979, 135; Tóth 2006, 83–84). In the southern part of the Danubian limes they appear with the emergence of the barbarian federates (Friesinger, Kerchler 1981, 193–196). Recent research by Austrian and Hungarian archaeologists has revealed new elements among the ceramic material from the end of the 4th century that retain the characteristics of the Černjachov-Sîntana de Mureş culture (Cseh 1993, 13–14; Tóth 2006, 83). We refer to biconical bowls with finely burnished decoration, made on a fast-rotating wheel, which also appear among the Gepids, Lombards and Sarmatians (Párducz 1950, 121; Tóth 2006, 86).

A similar type of pottery is found under the name “Murga” pottery or “Murga” style, which is typical of pottery in the Carpathian Basin in the first half of the 5th century AD (Tejral 1988, 267; Vagalinski 2002, 17). Lyudmil F. Vagalinski, studying ceramics with burnished decoration in Bulgaria, referred to material from the Pannonian Danube region. According to shape and decoration, he divided the Pannonian material typologically into three groups: mid-3rd century to mid-4th century AD, mid-4th century to mid-5th century AD and mid-5th century to mid-6th century AD. The difference is visible in the ornamentation. In the first phase, horizontal lines are used more; in the second phase the burnished decoration is constant and developed, and consists of horizontal and vertical lines and zigzag lines. In the third phase, a grid motif appears (Vagalinski 2002, 79). In Pannonia, the most common material is from the second phase and is associated with Germanic



Fig. 8. Fragment of a vessel with a burnished decoration (photographed by: Kaukal d.o.o.)

8. kép. Fényezett díszítésű edénytöredék (fotó: Kaukal d.o.o.)



Fig. 9. Vessel with a stamped decoration (photographed by: Kaukal d.o.o.)

9. kép. Bepecsételt díszítésű edény (fotó: Kaukal d.o.o.)

groups after the year 378 (Vagalinski 2002, 79–80). According to his classification, the Vinkovci vessel with a burnished motif would belong to the second or third group and could certainly be associated with one of the Germanic groups that lived in that area.

The second vessel is of fine texture and dark-grey colour, it is an almost black bowl (cup) with stamped decoration (*Fig. 5. 3, Fig. 9*). The semicircular base and part of the calotte-shaped body have been preserved. It is made of very fine purified clay, and the outer surface is completely burnished. It is decorated with the stamping technique with a motif of a circle of a ring filled with smaller motifs of irregular, rounded squares and triangles. The decoration is located on the widest part of the body, extending in two rows in horizontal and parallel directions. Microscopic and macroscopic analysis established that it was made of the same or very similar clay as the vessel with the burnished decoration (*Fig. 6*). The technique appears on pottery throughout the Roman period. It is characteristic of fine tableware, mainly bowls, plates, cups and jugs.

In the Pannonian region, a characteristic group of coloured and grey stamped ceramics is specific in texture and decoration (leaves, garlands, concentric circles, rosettes, decorative rhombuses, etc.). The beginning of their production is associated with the Pannonian workshops in Pogánytelek (Veszprém), and later in Aquincum (Póczy 1959, 151; Brukner 1981, 30; Gregl 1997, 62). In the Croatian part of the Pannonian Province, pottery with stamped decoration is found at sites in Sisak, Stenjevec, Vinkovci, Osijek, so production in at least three Pannonian workshops is assumed (Brukner 1981, 30; Gregl 1997, 62; Ožanić 1998, 34). However, the stamped vessel from Glagoljaška 16 has no concrete analogy with the aforementioned grey stamped ceramics from Pannonian workshops. In terms of colour, texture and decoration technique, it most closely resembles the stamped pottery from other sites in Vinkovci, which is attributed to the Gepid period (Vinski 1971, 55; Simoni 1978, 220–221; Dimitrijević 1979, 133–276; Dizdar 1999, 65–68; Roksandić 2018).

The types of Gepid stamped pottery (pots, bowls, and jugs) are distinctly biconical in shape, with a high cylindrical neck more or less curved outwards, usually with a profile on the edge. They are characterised by a stamped motif in the form of a regular rhomboid or a regular or irregular circular shape. Stamped grid-shaped rhombuses, precisely executed, of equal size and arranged at equal inter-

vals, predominate on most of the fragments, and the stamp ornament was probably constructed in the form of hanging triangles. Analogies are found at numerous sites, e.g. on a vessel from the grave in Batajnica and Veliki Grac in Serbia, Eperjes-Csikós, Békésszentandrás, Gyula-Kálvária in Hungary, and the Lombard sites of Rifnik, Kranj-Lajh in Slovenia (Csallány 1961, Taf. CXIV. 4; Simoni 1978, Tab. III. 2, Tab. IV. 4; Knific 1994, T. 1. 2, T. 2. 1–8; Tóth 2006, Taf. 3. 4, Taf. 4. 2; Bausovac 2011, 50–54; Roksandić 2018).

In terms of manufacturing technique, shape and decoration, the Vinkovci vessel is most similar to the vessel from grave 93 of the Gepid cemetery of Szolnok-Szanda in Hungary (Bóna, Nagy 2002, Pl. 41, Pl. 93. 1). The vessel from Grave 93 is distinctly grey in colour, has a calotte-shaped body, and is decorated with a motif of rhombuses and rosettes. As the stamped vessel from Glagoljaška 16 has not been preserved in its upper part, there is a possibility that it was also decorated over most of its surface or with a combination of several motifs.

The ceramic material from the pit SU 19/20, especially the fragments decorated with stamping and burnishing techniques, belong to a group of pottery that has so far appeared sporadically in the Late Roman layers of Cibalae. It has been established that the material belongs to the Late Roman period from the 4th to the 6th century AD, and the isolated fragments can be attributed to Gepidic settlement pottery. Given that this material is mixed with typical Roman forms, it is difficult at this point to speak about the ethnicity of those who made and used it. According to the archaeological data we currently have, these finds point to the Gepid cultural circle, i.e., a Gepid community that existed here for some time.

Other finds

In addition to the pottery finds in the pit SU 19/20, there also were: a composite double-sided bone comb, a smooth stone tool, an iron object (strike-a-light) and animal bones. The double-sided bone (antler?) comb (*Fig. 10. 1*) consists of three bone plates joined by iron rivets (four pieces). The teeth of the comb are arranged more densely on one side and less densely on the other. On the upper and lower sides of the central plate there is a narrow semicircular profiled plate. The narrower plate is decorated with short and long lines. The short horizontal lines are horizontally incised and arranged along the longitudinal edges of

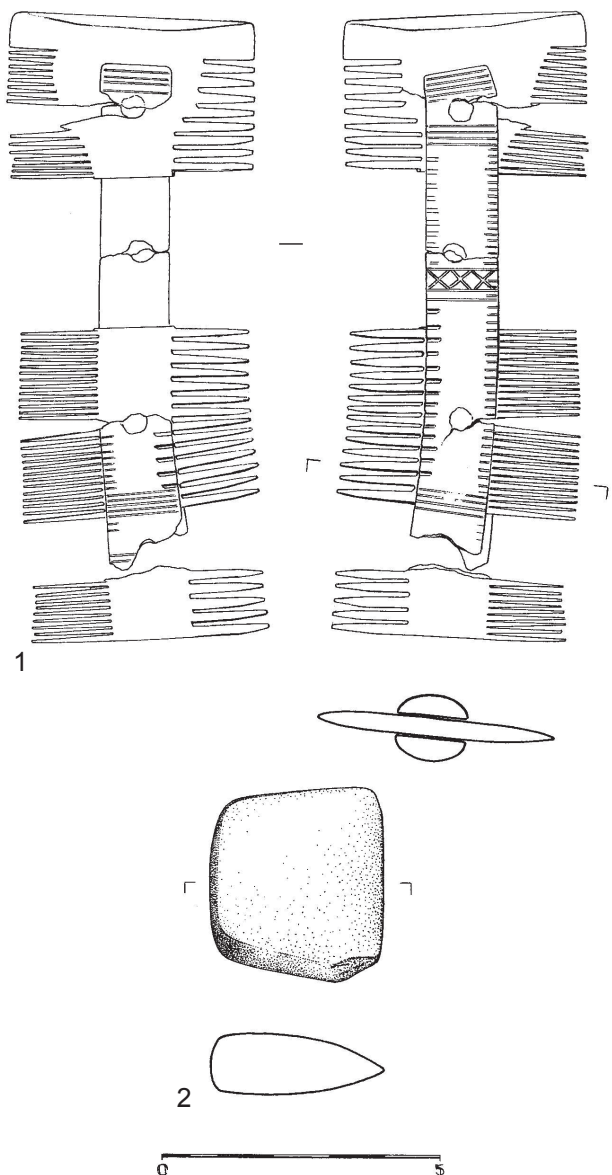


Fig. 10. 15–16: Bone comb and stone tool – wedge (chisel) from the Vinkovci-Glagoljaška 16 site (drawing: M. Rončević)

10. kép. 15–16: Csontfésű és kőeszköz – ék (véső) a Vinkovci-Glagoljaška 16. lelőhelyről (rajz: M. Rončević)

the plate. The long lines occupy the entire width of the plate and are intermittently arranged in groups of 4 along its entire side. In the middle of the plate, between the long horizontal lines, there is an incised decoration in the form of an X-motif. The second narrower plate has been preserved to a much lesser extent, but based on the preserved parts it can be assumed that it was equally decorated. Bone combs are a standard inventory in the Late Roman cemeteries and settlements. Double-row bone combs are a characteristic find for the Danubian provinces in the 4th and 5th centuries AD, while in the 6th century AD



Fig. 11. Iron object – strike-a-light (photographed by: Kaukal d.o.o.)

11. kép. Vas tárgy – tűzcsiholó (fotó: Kaukal d.o.o.)

they are found only among the Gepids (Tóth 2006, 74). They are a standard accessory in female graves, and are found near the head or on the belt of the deceased (Bóna, Nagy 2002, Fig. 12; Istvánovits, Nepper 2005, 47). In research on ancient Cibale so far, eleven bone combs have been found; six from Gepid graves and five from other locations (Dizdar et al. 1999, 139, 151–154; Rapan Papeša 2011b, 12–13, T. 45). The most similar analogies for the comb from pit SU 19/20 can be found in grave 95 at the Kis-zombor site (Csallány 1961, Taf. CXXII. 14) and in Vinkovci (Dizdar et al. 1999, 139).

A smooth stone tool (Fig. 10. 2), probably a wedge or chisel, well preserved. It is polished on all sides, and traces of use (traces of blows and wear) are visible on the two shorter sides. The tool was probably used as a wedge in woodworking.

An iron strike-a-light (Fig. 11) belongs to a group of objects commonly found at every ancient settlement. They are also found as grave goods in Gepid, mainly female graves, along with other household items (Nagy 2005, Fig. 46. 11, 64, 125).

Catalogue

The Munsell Soil Color Chart was used to determine the colours.³

Place of discovery and SU: All finds come from pit SU 19/20 at the Glagoljaška 16 site in Vinkovci.

Dating: Late Antiquity or 5th to 6th century AD as stated in the conclusion.

Abbreviations: D: (description of the object), Cc: colour of the cross-section, hardness (very soft, soft, hard, very hard), quantity, shape and type of admixture.

S: (surface of the object) – description of either the surface or the coating, treatment, decorations,

colour: Co: colour of the outer wall, Ci: colour of the inner wall.

D: edge diameter, Db: diameter of the base, Db: diameter of the body, w: wall thickness, H: height, L: length, W: width, T: thickness.

Cat. 1 (*Fig. 4. 1*)

D: Fragment of the rim of a pot, rounded, obliquely drawn out, with a smaller groove for the lid. Made on a wheel, without decoration. Very fine purified clay with very small admixtures of sand and small stones of different granulation. Cc: GLEY 1 5/N very dark grey. S: Co and Ci: GLEY 1 4/N dark grey. w: 0.6 cm, D: 11 cm.

Cat. 2 (*Fig. 4. 2*)

D: Fragment of the rim of a pot, rounded, thickened, slightly drawn out. Made on a fast wheel. Fine purified clay with small and a few larger stones. Cc: GLEY 1 3/N very dark grey. S: Co and Ci: GLEY 1 3/N very dark grey. w: 0.7 cm. D: 9 cm.

Cat. 3 (*Fig. 4. 3*)

D: Fragment of the rim of a pot, rounded, beveled, pulled outwards. It is made of purified clay, with smaller and larger stones. It was made on a fast wheel, the traces of which are visible on the inner surface. Cc: GLEY 1 5/1 grey. S: Co and Ci: GLEY 1 5/1 grey. w: 0.6 cm. D: 12 cm.

Cat. 4 (*Fig. 4. 4*)

D: Fragment of the rim of a pot, beveled, drawn outwards, convex, with a smaller groove. It is made of purified clay with admixtures of small stones and chaff crumbs. It was made on a fast potter's wheel, traces of which are visible on the inner side of the surface. Cc: GLEY 1 3/N very dark grey, S: Co and Ci: GLEY 1 3/N very dark grey. w: 0.5 cm, D: 10 cm.

Cat. 5 (*Fig. 4. 5*)

D: Fragment of the rim of a bowl, slightly drawn outwards, cut off. It is made of purified clay with traces of small stones and sand. It was made on a fast potter's wheel, traces of burning are visible on the inner and outer sides. Cc: 7.5YR 5/1 grey, S: Co: 7.5YR 5/1 grey, Ci: 5Y 2.5/1 black. w: 0.4 cm. D: 13 cm.

Cat. 6 (*Fig. 4. 6*)

D: Fragment of the rim of a bowl, rounded, beveled, drawn outwards. It is made of fine purified clay with a small admixture of small stones and sand. It was

made on a fast wheel. Traces of burning are visible on the inner surface. Cc: 5Y 2.5/1 black, S: Co: 7.5YR 5/1 grey, Ci: 5Y 2.5/1 black. w: 0.5 cm. D: 12 cm.

Cat. 7 (*Fig. 4. 7*)

D: Fragment of the rim of a bowl, slightly rounded, horizontally drawn outwards. It is made of purified clay with a small admixture of small stones. It was made on a fast wheel. Traces of burning are visible on the inner and outer surfaces. Cc: 7.5YR 5/1 grey, S: Co: 7.5YR 5/1 grey, Ci: 5Y 2.5/1 black. w: 0.4 cm. D: 12 cm.

Cat. 8 (*Fig. 5. 1*)

D: Fragment of the rim and body of a bowl; the rim is slightly beveled outwards and cut off, biconical body. It is made of fine purified clay with small admixtures of pebbles. Made on a fast wheel. The outer and inner surfaces are very dark grey (10YR 3/1 very dark grey), the cross-section is dark grey (10YR 4/1 dark grey). Cc: 10YR 4/1 dark grey, S: Co: 10YR 3/1 very dark grey, Ci: 10YR 3/1 very dark grey. w: 0.2-0.4 cm. D: 16 cm.

Cat. 9 (*Fig. 5. 2*)

D: Fragment of the neck and body of a jug or pot. It is made of extremely fine purified clay without admixtures. It was made on a wheel. The outer surface was burnished before firing and later polished, which gives the vessel a shine. The shoulder and body are decorated with a burnished decoration in the form of a rhomboid grid. The vessel was made on a fast wheel, which is visible on the inner surface. Cc: 10YR 3/1 dark grey, S: Co: 10YR 3/1 very dark grey, Ci: 10YR 3/1 very dark grey. w: 0.4 cm.

Cat. 10 (*Fig. 5. 3*)

D: Fragment of the body and the base of a small bowl or cup; the base is dome-shaped. It is made of extremely fine purified clay without admixtures. The outer surface was burnished before burning and polished after burning. The burnishing was carried out with irregular movements so the colour of the vessel varies from dark grey to black. The decoration was made by stamping with a circle motif - a ring filled with smaller motifs of irregular, rounded squares and triangles. The decoration is located on the widest part of the body, extending in two rows in horizontal and parallel directions. Cc: 10YR 4/1 dark grey, S: Co: 10YR 3/1 very dark grey, Ci: 10YR 4/1 very dark grey. w: 0.3-0.6 cm. D: 8 cm.

Cat. 11 (Fig. 7. 1)

D: Fragment of the edge of the bowl; rounded, slightly beveled outwards. It is made of fine purified clay with small pebbles. Traces of burning are visible on the inner surface. Made on a wheel. Cc: 5Y 2.5/1 black, S: Co: 5YR 5/2 reddish grey, Ci: 5Y 2.5/1 black. w: 0.6 cm.

Cat. 12 (Fig. 7. 2)

D: Fragment of the base and the body of a pot; the base is flat. It is made of purified clay with very few small pebbles. The vessel was made on a fast wheel. The outer surface towards the bottom of the vessel is slightly burnished and is darker in colour. Cc: 5Y 3/1 very dark grey, S: Co: 5YR 4/1 dark reddish grey, 5Y 4/1 dark grey, Ci: 5Y 3/1 very dark grey. w: 0.7 cm. D: 6.5 cm.

Cat. 13 (Fig. 7. 3)

D: Fragment of the base of a pot; flat base. Made of extremely fine purified clay without admixtures. The outer surface of the fragment was slightly burnished before burning. Cc: 5Y 3/1 very dark grey, S: Co: 5Y 3/1 very dark grey, Ci: 5Y 3/1 very dark grey. w: 0.4 cm. D: 5 cm.

Cat. 14 (Fig. 7. 4)

D: Fragment of the body and the base of a pot; flat base. Made of purified clay with a small amount of small stones as an admixture. Cc: 5Y 3/1 very dark grey, S: Co: 5Y 3/1 very dark grey, Ci: 5Y 4/1 dark grey. w: 0.5 cm. D: 7 cm.

Cat. 15 (Fig. 10. 1)

D: Double-sided bone (antler?) comb. It consists of three bone plates connected by iron rivets (4 pieces). There are incised lines on the central plate. The comb teeth are arranged more densely on one side, and less frequently on the other. On the upper and lower sides of the central plate there is a narrower semicircular profiled plate. The narrower plate is decorated with short and long lines. The short horizontal lines are incised horizontally and arranged along the longitudinal edges of the plate. The long lines occupy the entire width of the plate and are intermittently arranged in groups of 4 along its entire side. In the middle of the tile, between the long horizontal lines, there is an incised decoration in the form of an X-motif. The second narrower tile has been preserved to a much smaller extent, but on the basis of the preserved parts it can be assumed that it was equally decorated. L: 11 cm. W: 4.3 cm. T: 1.2 cm.

Cat. 16 (Fig. 10. 2)

D: Stone tool: wedge or chisel? A small stone tool, polished on all sides, completely preserved. On one side, it is thickened, it has a semicircular cross section, and on the other side, it becomes thinner at the point of the blade. On the thickened side, marks of blows can be seen, and on the side where the blade is, some damage can be observed. L: 3.2 cm, W: 3.1 cm, T: 1.1 cm.

Analysis of animal osteological remains

All analyzed remains come from pit SU 19/20 from the site Glagoljaška 16 in Vinkovci, where field research was conducted in 2009. Samples of animal origin were analyzed at the Department of Archaeometry and Methodology of the Department of Archaeology of the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences in Zagreb. The analysis was carried out using the usual macromorphological methods (Schmid 1972; König, Liebich 2006; Adams et al. 2008; Dyce et al. 2010; France 2010). The comparative material used in this analysis belongs to the Department of Anatomy, Histology and Embryology of the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine of Zagreb. The analyzed samples are labeled kv. B5-C5, SU 19/20, Δ 87.00/86.00, dated 8 July 2009.⁴ Twenty-seven bone and three dental samples belonged to cattle (*Bos taurus*, L.), pigs (*Sus* sp.) and small ruminants – sheep or goats (*Ovis aries*, L., *Capra hircus*, L.). The numerical frequency of individual anatomical elements is shown in Fig. 12. The smallest number of individuals (MNI) that can be determined with certainty from the group of analyzed remains is three, one individual for each specific animal group and species.

Although all the cattle samples certainly do not belong to a single animal, most of the bone samples belong to a young bovine whose age was three to four years. All the pig samples also did not belong to just one animal, but the largest part of the fragments belonged to a young pig whose age did not exceed three years. According to the arrangement and length of the upper jaw fragment, it was most likely a domestic pig (*Sus scrofa domestica*, L.). The most poorly preserved remains are those of an individual from the group of small ruminants. It is not possible to determine with certainty whether these samples belong to a sheep or a goat, and due to the high fragmentation of the samples, it cannot be stated with certainty that the remains belonged to an adult animal.

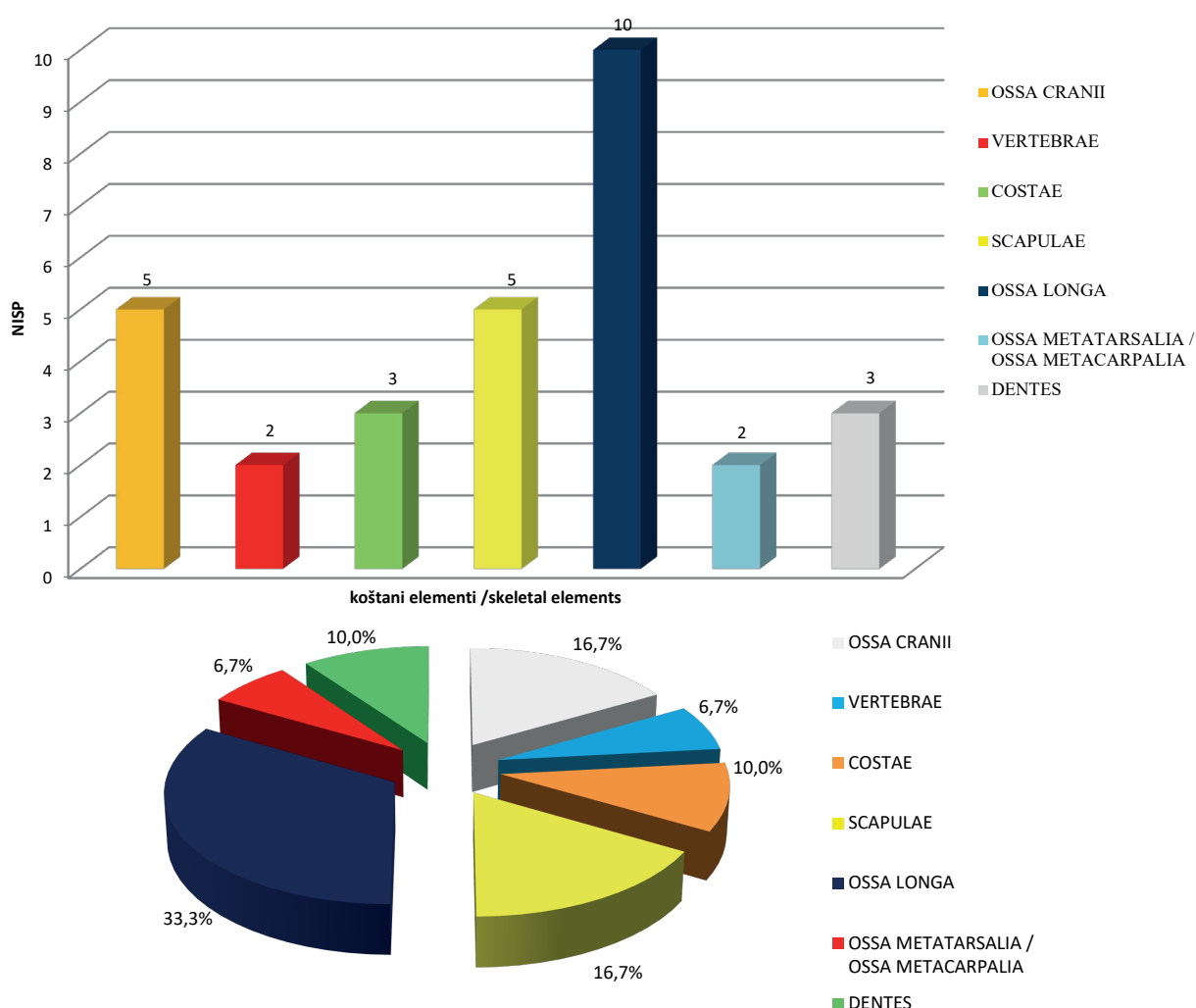


Fig. 12. Representation (graph) of individual anatomical elements, pit SU 19/20, site Glagoljaška 16, Vinkovci (Legend: CRAN – head and jaw bones, VER – vertebrae, SCA – scapula, COS – ribs, OL – long bones, MT/PH – foot and finger bones, DENTES – teeth) (made by: Z. Hincak Daris)

12. kép. Az egyes anatómiai részek megoszlásának ábrázolása (grafikon), SU 19/20 gödör, Glagoljaška 16. lelőhely, Vinkovci (Jelmagyarázat: CRAN – koponya és állkapocs csontjai, VER – csigolyák, SCA – lapocka, COS – bordák, OL – hosszú csontok, MT/PH – láb- és ujjcsontok, DENTES – fogak) (készítette: Z. Hincak Daris)

Specimen description

Cattle (*Bos taurus*, L.), 13 bone specimens

The lower jaw (mandible) is preserved in a fragment of the body of the lower jaw (corpus mandibulae) with a visible opening (foramen mentale) on the left part of the jaw. The left incisor bone (os incisivum) is preserved in a wider fragment. Two fragmented cervical vertebrae specimens belonged to a younger animal whose age ranged from three to four years. The fragment with a partially preserved vertebral arch (arcus vertebrae) and a completely preserved vertebral body (corpus vertebrae) shows an open surface without a caudal extremity (extremitas caudalis) (Fig. 13). Two

fragments of the body of the right and a shorter fragment of the body of the left shoulder blade (scapula) of cattle (*Bos taurus*, L.) are preserved. A fragment of the articular surface of the left scapula (cavitas glenoidalis scapulae) of an adult animal is preserved in a wider fragment with a longitudinal notch. Four narrow and longer fragments of the diaphysis of a long bone (ossa longa) most likely belonged to the upper arm bone (humerus). The first phalanx (phalanx proximalis s. os compendale; phalanx primum) is preserved in its entirety (Fig. 14).

Pig (*Sus sp.*), eight bone and three dental samples
Part of the right upper jaw (maxilla) with teeth is



Fig. 13. Fragment of a cervical vertebra of a bovine (*Bos taurus*, L.) (photographed by: Z. Hincak Daris)
13. kép. Szarvasmarha (*Bos taurus* L.) nyakcsigolya-töredéke (fotó: Z. Hincak Daris)



Fig. 14. First phalanx of a bovine (*Bos taurus*, L.) (photographed by: Z. Hincak Daris)
14. kép. Szarvasmarha (*Bos taurus* L.) első ujjperccsontja (fotó: Z. Hincak Daris)

preserved: PM4, M1, M2 (Fig. 15). The alveolus of the third molar is partially preserved, but due to the raised walls it is evident that the tooth was not completely in the occlusal plane. Attrition of the occlusal surface of the present teeth is not strong; it is greatest on the surface of the fourth premolar (dens premolar IV) (dentes premolares). Thanks to all the mentioned data, it is possible to assume that the age of the individual did not exceed three years. The right diaphysis of the upper arm bone (humerus) is almost completely preserved. The third left foot bone (metatarsus III) is preserved in the dorsal and cranial half of the bone (Fig. 16). Other smaller fragments include: a fragment of the nasal bone (os nasale), a shorter fragment of the body of the scapula (corpus scapulae), two fragments of a long bone (ossa longa) and a fragment of the body of a rib (corpus costae).

*Small ruminants – sheep/goat (*Ovis aries*, L., *Capra hircus*, L.), six bone samples*

All samples are highly fragmented. The left branch of the lower jaw (angulus et ramus mandibulae) encompasses only the bottom of the alveolar wall. Two fragments of ribs (costae) were preserved in the dorsal half of the sample, while only one short fragment of the body of a rib (corpus costae) belonged to the ventral part. The right upper arm bone (humerus) was preserved along the entire diaphysis on the anterior side of the sample. The diaphysis of the left radius was also preserved. A fragment of the longitudinally cut diaphysis belonged to a long bone (os longum).

Conclusion

The analysis of the contents of pit SU 19/20 established that most of the finds belong to the end of the 5th and beginning of the 6th centuries AD, which can be linked to Germanic affiliation. The analysis of the pottery material established a horizon of coarse ware and fine household pottery, which differs from the typical Late Roman pottery in terms of production and decorating techniques. Two fragments of fine dark grey pottery (Fig. 5. 2-3) particularly indicate a Germanic presence, the analogies of which are found in Gepid settlements and cemeteries in the Tisza region, but also in the Late Roman settlements along the Danube Limes (Horedt 1979, 122-147; Tejral 1985, 387-389; Tejral 1988, 291-295; Ottományi 1996, 97-98, Fig. 5. 29). The discovery of a double-row bone comb, strike-a-light and stone tool may also support this (Bóna, Nagy 2002, Fig. 12; Istvánovits, Nepper 2005, 47). According to the analyzed osteological remains, it can be concluded that all samples from the pit are food waste. The pit SU 19/20 is part of the Late Roman structures at the site of Glagoljaška 16. It was buried in the Late Roman layer with several other pits, wells and canals.

The Late Roman layers are defined with certainty by moveable archaeological finds and stratigraphic relationships. In general, the Late Roman layers in the Vinkovci area are difficult to follow and interpret due to the large amount of mixed archaeological material from different phases of demolition, repair and reconstruction of the Roman buildings in the turbulent period of the 4th to 6th centuries AD.



Fig. 15. Fragment of the right upper jaw with teeth (PM4, M1, M2) of a domestic pig (*Sus scrofa domestica*, L.) (photographed by: Z. Hincak Daris)

15. kép. Házi sertés (*Sus scrofa domestica* L.) jobb felső állkapocs-töredéke fogakkal (PM4, M1, M2) (fotó: Z. Hincak Daris)



Fig. 16. Third left foot bone of a pig (*Sus* sp.), height of the specimen is 24.6 mm (photographed by: Z. Hincak Daris)

16. kép. Sertés (*Sus* sp.) bal harmadik lábcsontja, a példány magassága 24,6 mm (fotó: Z. Hincak Daris)

The analysis of finds from fifty-one excavated graves from thirteen locations confirmed the Germanic presence in the narrow area of Cibalae (Rapan Papeša 2011b, 7–56).⁵ At this stage of research, ethnicity cannot be addressed with certainty, even though most of the finds point to the Gepid cultural circle (Iskra-Janošić 1997, 284; Dizdar 1999, 65; Iskra-Janošić 1999, 63; Iskra-Janošić 2001, 150; Iskra-Janošić 2004, 171; Iskra-Janošić 2005, 39; Rapan Papeša 2011b, 7–56). In addition to the investigated graves and residential buildings, the Germanic presence in the area of Vinkovci is also evidenced by

numerous sporadic finds of ceramics with stamped decoration (Vinski 1971, 55; Simoni 1978, 220–221; Dimitrijević 1979, 133–276; Dizdar 1999, 65–68). Considering the previous research, and especially the more recent rescue excavations done from 2007 in Vinkovci, we can speak of finds of Gepid origin, including Gepid settlement pottery (Rapan Papeša, Vulić 2007, 72–73; Vulić et al. 2007, 71).

Most of the 5th and 6th century AD graves and architecture are located in the western, northwestern, and central parts of the Roman city, while finds in the eastern part are missing. The reason for this is most likely the state of research, but also the degree of preservation of the Late Roman layer, which has been completely devastated in some places, while elsewhere it is partial and difficult to recognize. Naturally, these finds and their spatial distribution may also indicate a reduced radius, that is, the diminished extent of what was once a much larger Roman town.

Recent research and analysis of pottery material from the western part of Cibalae have yielded valuable data on the continuity of life in the 5th and 6th centuries AD, which primarily concerns pottery workshops. Based on the quantity and quality of the ceramic material, it is evident that Cibalae lived a relatively prosperous life during that period, even though the city functioned on a reduced scale. Several pottery centers have been defined with very high-quality pottery assemblages which were the work of Roman master potters. The origin of Gepidic pottery with stamped decoration from Cibalae was debated, but after numerous archaeometric analyses, its belonging to local workshops was confirmed (Roksandić, 2018). Glagoljaška 16 site is located within the zone of the so-called pottery centre in Glagoljaška-Gundulićeva Streets, not far from the western fortification of Cibalae. At several excavated sites nearby, the stratigraphic situation is similar, and the material, especially the pottery, belongs to the Late Roman phase with typical Gepid types of decoration (Glagoljaška bb. 2, 13, 16, 27, 33, 39).

In addition to kilns and parts of pottery workshops, the architecture of that period has been completely devastated, and traces of “unusual” architecture, which we attribute to the Gepids, can be found at the Glagoljaška bb, Glagoljaška 16 and Glagoljaška 27 sites (Rapan Papeša, Roksandić 2019). A structure comparable to the one excavated at Glagoljaška 16 was identified in 2008 at the Korzo site and can be classified as an above-ground dwelling. The entire building was erected directly over the remains

of earlier Roman architecture. In contrast, another building type identified in the same area represents dug-in dwellings, exemplified by structures excavated at the Zvonimirova 12 site. Three such features were documented.⁶ This site (Kralja Zvonimira 12) is very important because for the first time we have three residential structures belonging to Gepids. These structures can be dated to the 5th and 6th century AD. For now, these are the only concrete data on the architecture that we can closely link to the Gepids from the Cibale area. Dwelling structures of dug-in types are well known from many Gepidic settlements (Horedt 1979, 88–89; Tóth 2006, 126–127; Masek 2015, 423). In general, such structures cover about 6–13 m², usually are oval or rectangular in shape, with post holes. Thus, the finds from Kralja Zvonimira Street fit into this picture perfectly. Other dwelling structures are unusual for the Gepids but they are clearly specific to Cibale, where the newly arrived population had to adapt to the already existing, relatively degraded Roman architecture.

An analysis and reconstruction of the Late Roman layers from the Vinkovci area is a very complicated

and complex process that requires a systematic spatial analysis and processing of a large amount of archaeological data. The current problem is the determination of the construction phases of the former Cibale, the system of fortifications, and the dimensions of the city by phases. Protective excavations of small trenches with destroyed or partially preserved architecture represent only a small piece of the puzzle.

Recent research has proven the presence and settlement of Germanic groups, probably Gepids, and their coexistence with the remnants of the Roman population in the area of Cibale. A considerable number of finds that coincide with historical data allow us to reconstruct life in the 5th and 6th centuries AD in Cibale, indicating a relatively respectable Gepid community that resided in this area for some time. Preserved grave finds buried within the city, repurposed Roman architecture, new forms and types of dwellings, and a large quantity of ceramic material from proven pottery workshops are the basic elements for reconstructing the appearance of the former Roman city in the 5th and 6th centuries AD.

Notes

- 1 The excavations were conducted by the firm Kaukal d.o.o., which I would like to thank for the provided data and preliminary reports (Jerončić, Katavić 2009). Archaeological material was provided by Dr. Anita Rapan Papeša from the Vinkovci Municipal Museum.
- 2 Roman pottery from dozens of sites in the Vinkovci area were analysed. Samples were taken for various archaeometric analyses, and a database of Cibale pottery workshops was created (Roksandić 2015, 95–111).
- 3 Munsell 1998.
- 4 Samples of animal origin were analyzed by Prof.

Zdravka Hincak Daris from the Department of Archaeology, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences in Zagreb.

- 5 Recent finds suggest that more than sixty burials have been uncovered.
- 6 During protective archaeological excavations in 2021 and 2022 in V. Nazora Street 4-6 and I. Gundulića Street 27-29, three more dug-in buildings were found. The material is unpublished and is currently being processed. The information was provided by colleagues from the Vinkovci Municipal Museum.

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KÉSŐ RÓMAI GÖDÖR (SU 19/20) A VINKOVCI BAN (KELET-HORVÁTORSZÁG) TALÁLHATÓ GLAGOLJAŠKA 16. LELŐHELYRŐL

Összefoglalás

Cibale település Szlavóniában, Kelet-Horvátországban helyezkedett el, a mai Vinkovci város területén, amely már 8000 éve folyamatosan lakott. A kultúrréteg helyenként 6–8 méter vastag, minden kronológiai korszakot magában foglal. Az egyik legérdekesebb régészeti réteg a késő antikvitás (Kr. u. 4–6. század) időszakából származik.

2009-ben a Glagoljaška utca 16. szám alatti lelőhelyen 369 m²-es területen folytattak régészeti feltárásokat. Ennek során építészeti maradványok

és régészeti leletek kerültek elő, a régmúlt időktől egészen a modern korig. A legtöbb lelet Cibale különböző építési fázisaihoz köthető, jelen tanulmány a késő római réteget tartalmazó gödör (SU 19/20) elkülönített anyagát mutatja be.

A gödör zárt egységet alkot, amely durva és finom szerkezetű kerámiatöredékeket, kétsoros csontfésűt, kő- és vaseszközöket, valamint állatsontokat tartalmaz. Különös hangsúlyt kapnak a kerámiatöredékek, amelyek eddig kizárólag Vinkovci területéről

ismertek. A tipikus római provinciális kerámiák mellett 5–6. századra keltezhető edényanyag is előkerült, amely a germán törzsek vándorlásához köthető.

A kerámiaanyag elemzése során egy olyan durva és finom háztartási kerámiahorizont rajzolódott ki, amely gyártási és díszítési technikájában eltér a tipikus késő római kerámiáktól. Két finom, sötétszürke kerámiatöredék (*Fig. 14. 2–3*) különösen a germán jelenlétre utal, amelyekhez hasonló analógiák a gepida településeken találhatók.

Ami kétségtelenül újdonság és eltér a standard római tipológiától, az a formában és stílusban is különböző, egyértelműen germán populációkhoz köthető kerámiacsoportok megjelenése. Ezek közé tartoznak a fényezett és bepecsételt díszítésű edénycsoportok. Ezek mellett durva, kézzel formált és

finom, korongolt edények is előfordulnak. Természetesen a bevonatos (slippel fedett), mázas és importált kerámiák továbbra is forgalomban voltak ebben az időben.

Az osteológiai elemzés megállapította, hogy a vizsgált gödörből származó összes csontminta állati eredetű, és ételmaradéknak tekinthető: huszonhét csont- és három fogminta szarvasmarhától, sertéstől és kiskérődzőktől – juh vagy kecske – származik. A gödör valószínűleg hulladéktárolásra szolgált, és a közelben található késő római faépülethez tartozhatott.

A gödör tartalma – a kiváló minőségű kerámiák, a csontfészű, a fém- és kőeszközök, valamint az állatcsontminták – intenzív életre utal, és mindenekelőtt a kerámiagyártás folyamatosságát bizonyítja Cibalae területén az 5–6. század folyamán.