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ROMAN AMPHORAE FROM THE CIVIL TOWN OF BRIGETIO /
SZÖNY-VÁSÁRTÉR 1992–2001

At the Roman site of Szöny-Vásártér in Komárom in Hungary on the Danubian *limes* numerous fragments of *amphorae* of different types have been found and partly published in a preliminary report with detailed bibliography (BEZECZKY 1999). In the first period, between 1992 and 1996, excavations at the civil settlement of *Brigetio* revealed a dwelling-house dating to the 2nd–3rd century A.D., with a large proportion of *amphorae* coming to light. In a latter period, between 1998 and 2001, the majority of the finds came from the unearthed remains of wall structures and destruction layers.

The *amphorae* fragments found in *Brigetio* are of great value, as they help draw the commercial map of this Roman settlement and, more importantly, that of the *Pannonian limes*.

According to the finds and their contexts two main periods can be demonstrated in the commercial life of *Brigetio*: 1.) datable from the end of the 1st century A.D. to the first half of the 2nd century A.D. and 2.) datable from the third quarter of the 2nd century A.D. to the middle of the 3rd century A.D. or a little later on. Amongst the finds the latter is better presented both in number and in variety. As it seems the peak of their imports can be said to have existed around the very beginning of the 3rd century A.D., which is due to the increasing demand from the army and the civil sphere as well as to the Empire's favourable policy along the *Pannonian limes*. About 205 A.D. or a little later the civil settlement of *Brigetio* got the *municipium* rank and soon – under the reign of *Severus Alexander* – became a *colonia*.

Catalogue

(All finds are now in the Klapka György Museum, Komárom. The inventory number contains the year of the excavation, the number of the quadrant, the number of the stratigraphic unit and the list number. The Munsell Soil Colour Charts were used for the identification of the colours. The *terrae sigillatae* were identified by dr. Gabriella Fényes. I am grate-

ful to Ass.Prof. László Borhy, head of the excavations at *Brigetio* (Department of Classics of the University Eötvös Loránd, Budapest), to Emese Számadó, MA, director of the Klapka György Museum, and to Mihály Szőke Miklósi archaeologist for their help during the work.)

Abbreviations:

c.	- context
d.	- maximum diameter
fr.	- fragment
h.	- height
inv.no.	- inventory number
s.h.	- section of the handle
s.w.	- section of the body

*The first half of the 2nd century A.D.**Type DRESSEL 2–4: (Fig.1.1)*

(Peacock–Williams 10, Ostia LI, ER 4, Kelemen I)

The characteristics of this form are the double rod handles oval in section, simple broad rounded rim, long cylindrical neck, plain body narrowing toward the short conical spike.

The DRESSEL 2–4 type was used for transporting wine according to the *tituli picti* (ZEVI 1966, 214–217). In time and space it was made and imitated widely in the Roman Empire (PEACOCK–WILLIAMS 1991, 105–106; PANELLA–FANO 1977). Also well documented in the case of *Pannonia* from the *Flavian* to the early *Antoninian*-period (KELEMEN 1988, 116). The fragments of this type from *Brigetio* were recovered from a 2nd c. A.D. context.

inv.no.: 992.12.124.68. (Fig.1.1)

Rim fr., d.: 15 cm, reddish yellow (7.5 YR 7/6), hard

c.: roof with *tegulae* and *terrae sigillatae*, dated from the first half of the 2nd c. A.D.

Type CAMULODUNUM 189: (Fig. 1.2)

(Carrot amphora, Peacock–Williams 12, Knossos 48, Augst 44, Kelemen 14, Opař IX, Bjelajac V)

Small, spiked *amphora* type with conical ribbed body, rounded rim, short handles round in section. The

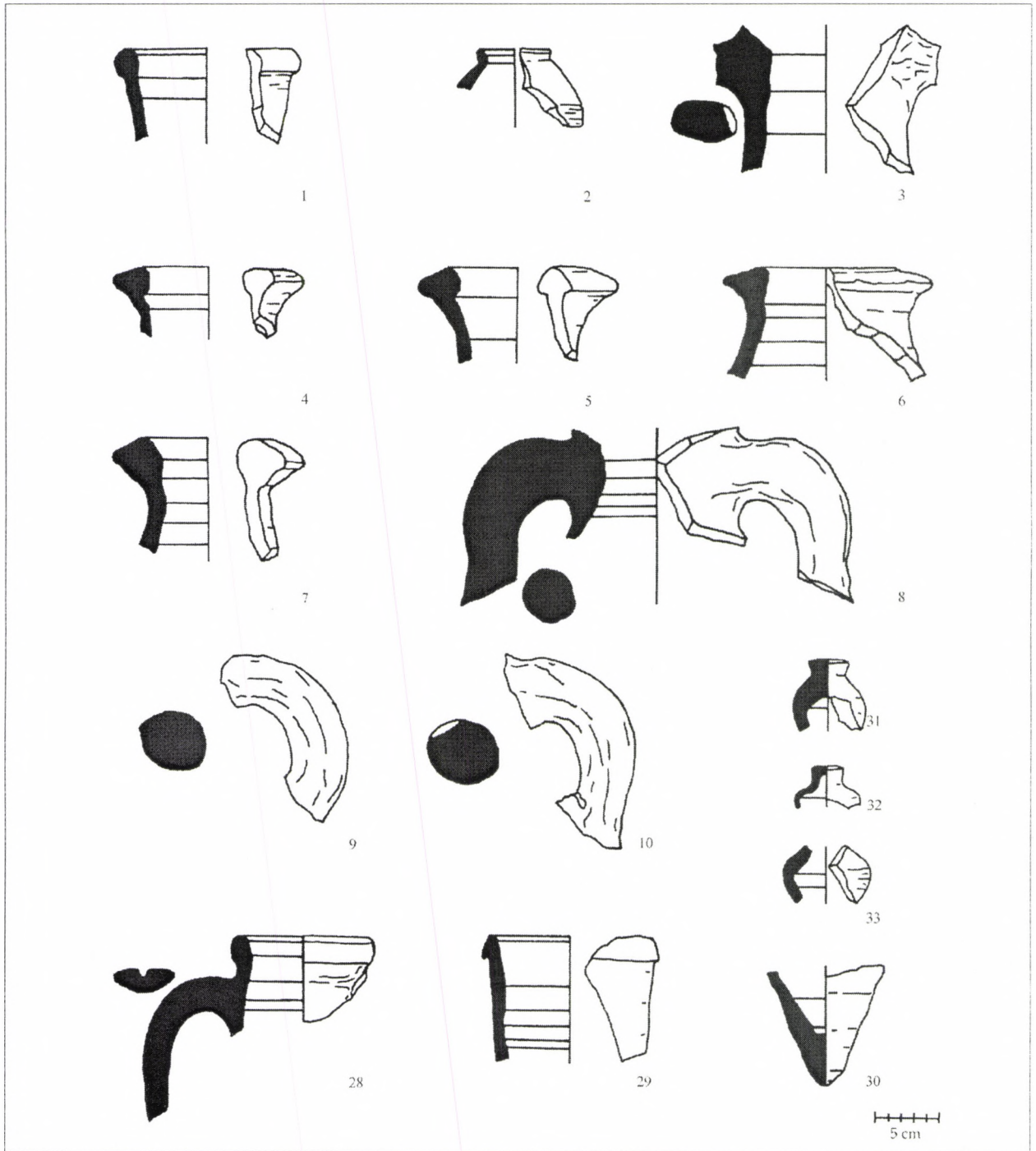


Fig. 1.1: Dressel 2–4 type; 2: Camulodunum 189 type; 3: Dressel 6B type; 4–10: Dressel 20 type; 28–30: Miscellaneous types; 31–33: Stoppers?

matrix is brick-red – dark brown in colour (CARRERAS-MONFORT-WILLIAMS 2002, 137).

CAMULODUNUM 189 (“carrot”) *amphora* is rare in *Pannonia* (KELEMEN 1990, 147–149, from *Car-nuntum*: BEZECZKY 1997b, 174). The type is datable from the beginning of the 1st c. A.D. to the third

quarter of the 2nd c. A.D. (KELEMEN 1990, 147), but it seems to be remained in use to the 3rd c. according to the finds from the area of the Lower and Middle Danube (DYCZEK 2001, 93).

Certain researchers have suggested its place of origin may have been the region of Sudan (TOMLIN

1992) or Palestine (TOMBER–WILLIAMS 2000, 45–46). According to petrological data the place of origin should be in the Jordan valley (CARRERAS-MONFORT–WILLIAMS 2002, 141). Problems also arise when trying to determine what it was used for: maybe for transporting fruit (possibly dates or figs) or some kind of syrup of these fruits. Maybe it contained the so called “Nicholaus date”, which is known to be produced on the fields around Jericho (CARRERAS-MONFORT–WILLIAMS 2002, 141).

The fragments from *Brigetio* are likely to belong to one amphora, although, unfortunately, total reconstruction was not possible. In *Brigetio* the body fragments were recovered with *terrae sigillatae* dating to the *Vespasian-Traianic* period. The rim fragment can be determined typologically to the Vi-pard 3a1-variant (CARRERAS-MONFORT–WILLIAMS 2002, 134).

inv.no.: 2001.-D18.017.14. (Fig.1.2)

Rim fr., d.: 6 cm, reddish yellow (7.5 YR 6/6), hard
c.: debris

Type DRESSEL 6B: (Fig.1.3)

(Peacock-Williams 8, Bjelajac I)

Thick-walled form with pointed base, chalice-like rim, handles oval in section. Generally it has a creamy, pink-yellowish, cream-brown clay with fine quartz grains, mica, lime and iron ore particles.

The DRESSEL 6B amphorae were produced on the Istrian peninsula and contained istrian olive oil (PEACOCK–WILLIAMS 1991, 99). It's been transported into *Pannonia* from the middle of the 1st c. A.D. (BEZECZKY 1990, 102) to the middle of the 2nd c. A.D., after this time the province got the olive oil from *Hispania* (KELEMEN 1987, 12; BEZECZKY 1994b, 159).

inv.no.: 999.-B17.032.3. (Fig.1.3)

Neck and handle fr., d.: 13 cm, s.h.: 5 cm x 3.2 cm, reddish yellow (5 YR 6/6), hard
c.: gravelly filling layer

The third quarter of the 2nd century A.D. to the middle of the 3rd century A.D.

Type DRESSEL 20: (Fig.1.4–Fig. 1.10)

(Peacock-Williams 25, Ostia I, Augst I, Kelemen 18)

This type has a very distinctive thick-walled rounded body with a short spike. The handles are round-oval in section. The rim is internally overhanging. The very hard clay has the brownish-grey matrix and big quartz, lime and sandstone particles.

Amphorae of the DRESSEL 20 type were containers of olive oil. The region of their production is southern *Baetica* from where they spread over the entire Roman Empire from the time of *Augustus* to the

beginning of the 4th c. A.D. Over the relatively long period the shape of the body and the section of the rim, as well as the length of the handle have changed. These typological changes compare with the finds that bore stamps or *tituli picti*, help dating the production more precise (MARTIN–KILCHER 1987).

They first appear in our province in the 2nd c. A.D., possibly due to the decrease in oil production in Istria. The majority of the finds from *Pannonia* has been recovered along the *limes*, but there have been examples excavated in settlements along the Amber Route or from the inland of the province (BEZECZKY 2000; GABLER–KELEMEN 1985).

The ones that have come to light in *Brigetio* are likely to date from the middle of the 2nd c. A. D. to the 3rd c. A.D.

Unfortunately not occurred any kind of stamps or *tituli picti* among these finds. But from other sites in *Brigetio* three stamped handles are known: (F)SCIM//NIANO, FCCVFPAC from the legionary camp, and FCVCVM. All of them can be dated from the second half of the 2nd c. to the first third of the 3rd c. A.D. (KELEMEN 1990, 169).

inv.no.: 994.-B13.210.130. (Fig. 1.4)

Rim fr., d.: 14 cm, reddish yellow (7.5 YR 7/6) with buff slip (10 YR 8/4), hard

c.: brownish clay layer dated with *terrae sigillatae* from the first half of the 3rd c. A.D.

reference: MARTIN–KILCHER 1994, Taf. 67. 969. dateable: 1st–3rd c. A.D.

inv.no.: 995.F14.089.341. (Fig. 1.5)

Rim fr., d.: 16 cm, reddish yellow (7.5 YR 6/6) with buff slip (10 YR 8/4), hard

c.: brownish soil mixed with clay under a layer with bricks dated with *terrae sigillatae* from the last quarter of the 2nd c. A.D. to the first half of the 3rd c. A.D.

reference: MARTIN–KILCHER 1994, Taf. 30.565. dateable: 150–230 A.D.

inv.no.: 2000.-D18.025.374. (Fig. 1.6)

Rim fr., d.: 16 cm, brownish yellow (10 YR 6/6), hard
c.: yellowish brown filling layer with ash (rubbish pit?), dated with *terrae sigillatae* from the 2nd c. A.D. to the first half of the 3rd c. A.D.

reference: MARTIN–KILCHER 1994, Taf. 53. 855. dateable: 150–250 A.D.

inv.no.: 999.-C18.096.316. (Fig. 1.7)

Rim fr., d.: 15.2 cm, reddish yellow (7.5 YR 6/6) with white slip (2.5 Y 8/2), hard

c.: destruction layer dated with *terrae sigillatae* from the second half of the 2nd c. A.D. to the first half of the 3rd c. A.D.

reference: MARTIN–KILCHER 1994,

Taf. 44. 781. dateable: 130–170 A.D.

Taf. 57. 892. dateable: 170–230 A.D.

inv.no.: 994.D16.163.8. (Fig. 1.8)

Neck and handle fr., s.h.: 4.2 cm x 4.5 cm, buff (10 YR 7/4) with buff slip (10 YR 8/3), hard

c.: destruction layer with *imbricis* and *tegulae* in brown soil dated with *terrae sigillatae* from the Antoninian period

inv.no.: 2000.-D18.025.375. (Fig. 1.9)

Handle, s.h.: 5.2 cm x 4.3 cm, buff (10 YR 7/4), hard

c.: yellowish brown filling layer with ash (rubbish pit?) dated with *terrae sigillatae* from the 2nd c. A.D. to the first half of the 3rd c. A.D.

inv.no.: 2000.-D17.022.47. (Fig. 1.10)

Handle, s.h.: 5.5 cm x 4.8 cm, buff (10 YR 7/4), hard

c.: layer of gravelly soil, dated with *terrae sigillatae* from the second half of the 2nd c. to the first half of the 3rd c. A.D.

Type KAPITÄN I: (Fig. 2.11–19)

(Ostia VI, MR 7, Knossos 37, Agora K113, Agora M237, August 54, Kelemen 21, Zeest 79, Bjelajac XII, Popilian IV, Opaït IV)

This type has profiled rim, ribbed neck, and ribbed hollow foot. The handles are oval in section, have shallow grooves on the outer face, rise above the level of the rim. In the orange- or brick-red matrix whitish quartz and reddish-gray sandstone inclusions are visible (PEACOCK–WILLIAMS 1991, 195).

Highly likely the KAPITÄN II *amphorae* were containers of wine (PEACOCK–WILLIAMS 1991, 194). Their place of origin is uncertain, but it was possibly the Aegean, and the western coasts of *Asia Minor* (RILEY 1979, 192, and certainly not Rhodos was the place of origin: EMPEREUR–PICON 1989, 233. Ephesos as a possible production center: OUTSCHAR 1993, 49). They appear in contexts dating from the end of the 2nd c., and were in use until the end of the 5th c. A.D.

The ones recovered in *Pannonia* had come from settlements and camps along the *limes* (BEZECZKY 1994, 119). Fragments belong to this type were already published from the area of *Brigetio*, from the Gerhát pottery workshop (KELEMEN 1990, 182–183). The newer finds coming from the *municipium* can be dated to the end of the 2nd c. – beginning of the 3rd c. A.D.

inv.no.: 992.15.212.14. (Fig. 2.11)

Handle fr., s.h.: 5 cm x 2.7 cm, reddish yellow (7.5 YR 6/8), hard

c.: layer of terrazzo

inv.no.: 994.-B13.176.329. (Fig. 2.12)

Handle fr., s.h.: 4.4 cm x 2.4 cm, reddish yellow (7.5 YR 6/8), hard

c.: layer of gravelly soil with brownish clay dated with *terrae sigillatae* from the Antoninian period to the first third of the 3rd c. A.D.

inv.no.: 992.15.212.20. (Fig. 2.13)

Handle fr., s.h.: 5.2 cm x 2.8 cm, yellowish red (5 YR 5/8), hard

c.: layer of terrazzo

inv.no.: 996.D12.005.33.-996. D12. 005. 34. (Fig. 2.14)

Handle fr., s.h.: 4.5 cm x 2.7 cm, reddish yellow (7.5 YR 6/8), hard

c.: debris

inv. no.: 992.15.212.19.-992.15.212.17. (Fig. 2.15)

Handle fr., s.h.: 4.7 cm x 2.7 cm, yellowish red (5 YR 5/6), hard

c.: layer of terrazzo

inv.no.: 992.15.212.13.-992.15.212.18. (Fig. 2.16)

Handle fr., s.h.: 5 cm x 2.6 cm, yellowish red (5 YR 5/8), hard

c.: layer of terrazzo

inv.no.: 992.003.6.1.-996.E12.003.35. (Fig. 2.17)

Neck fr., d.: 11.5 cm, s.w.: 1 cm, reddish yellow (7.5 YR 6/6), hard

c.: a.) filling
b.) debris

inv. no.: 995.-A15.103.2. (Fig. 2.18)

Handle and body fr., s.h.: 4.5 cm x 2.5 cm, s.w.: 0.7 cm, reddish yellow (7.5 YR 7/8), hard

c.: debris

inv.no.: 998.-H18.041.241. (Fig. 2.19)

Handle fr., s.h.: 4.8 cm x 2.8 cm, reddish yellow (7.5 YR 6/6), hard

c.: layer of greyish soil dated with *terrae sigillatae* from the end of the 2nd c. to the first half of the 3rd c. A.D.

Type ZEEST 90: (Fig. 2.20–27)

(Dressel 24, MR 18, Knossos 15, Kelemen 23–24, Popilian II–III, Opaït III, Bjelajac XVI)

Bell-shaped rim, conical neck, oval-sectioned handles, ribbed oval body and short spike are the characteristic elements of this type of *amphora*.

A. Opaït could distinguish two variants according to the paste characteristics of the finds came from Dobrudja (OPAIȚ 1980, 296). Both of them could be found among the finds from *Brigetio*:

The *variant A* has a reddish-yellow matrix with mica, whitish-reddish particles, with buff colour slip on the outer surface. Fig. 2.20–22. belong to this variant.

The *variant B* has light brown-caramell matrix in colour with darker brown inclusions, without slip on the outer surface. Fig. 2.23. belongs here.

A lot of fragments of the ZEEST 90 *amphora* type have come to light in *Brigetio*. It is well known from the Pont to the middle Danube region. The centers of the production are not known yet, but could be some-

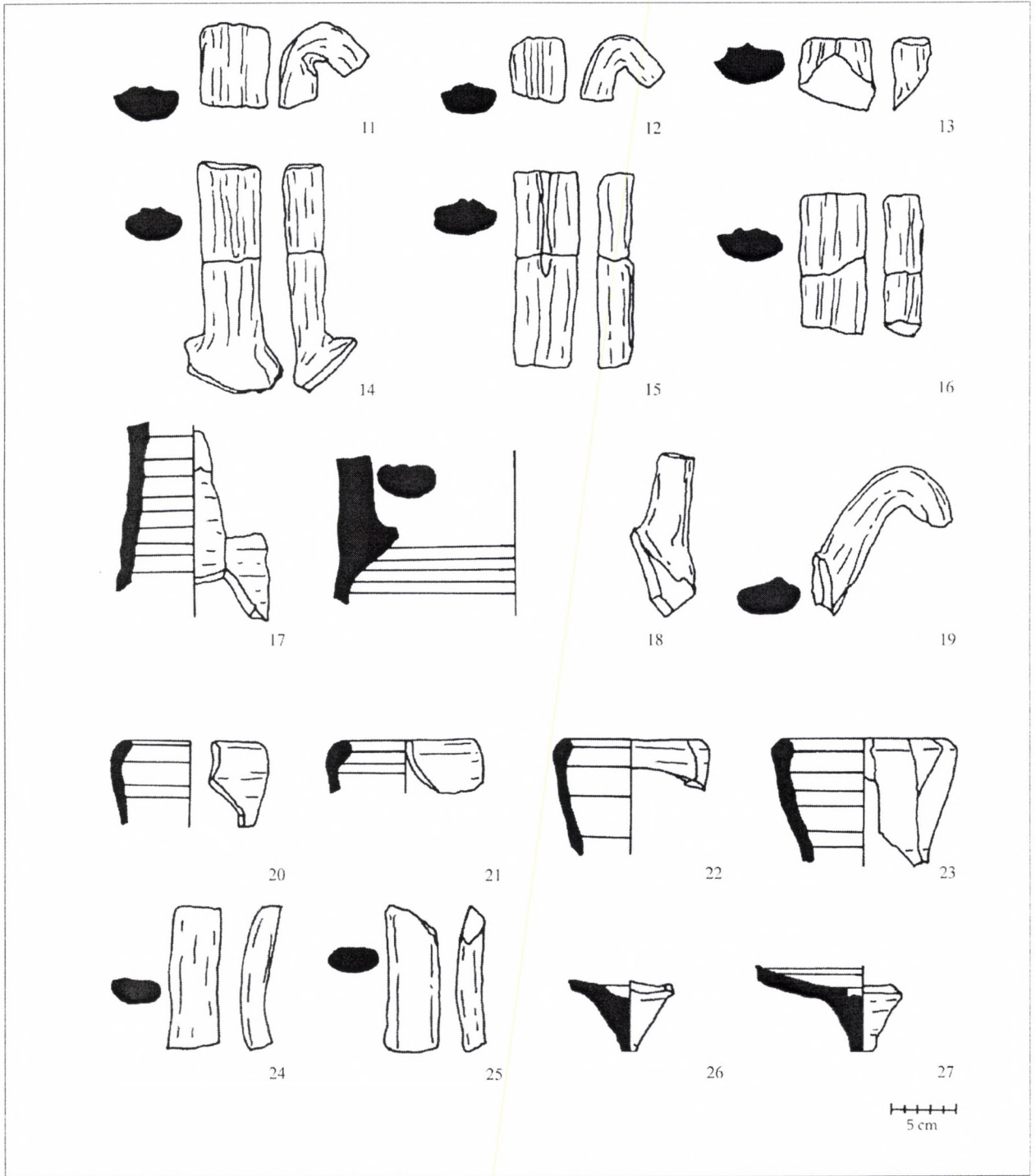


Fig.2. 11–19: Kapitän II type; 20–27: Zeest 90 type

where at the Pont region, or on the island of Cos (RILEY 1979, 205–206; OPAIȚ 1980, 298; DYCZEK 2001, 182–183). This type is very common on the sites near to the Danube, they can be dated mainly to the 2nd c.-3rd c. A.D. Some pieces are also known from Italy (PANELLA 1986, 624–625). In *Pannonia*

this type is known from three sites along the *limes*: *Brigetio*, *Aquincum*, and *Intercisa*, all of them could be dated probably to the end of the 3rd century (KELEMEN 1993, 50).

It is remarkable that from the sarmatian *barbaricum* also came to light this type of *amphora*: from

a sarmatian settlement at Kiskundorozsma. M. Kelemen thought that a fragment from a sarmatian grave at Szeged-Baks, dated from the end of the 2nd century A.D. (PÁRDUCZ 1950, 42, taf. CXXIII. 14) also belongs to this type, but that one is grey in colour and its surface is polished. Maybe that one is a sarmatian imitation of the Zeest 90 form. There are more pieces similar to the Szeged-Baks *amphora*: a piece from Orosháza-Gyopáros, dated to the 3rd century A.D. (JAZIGOK 1998, 165, cat. no. 129). At Kiskundorozsma (unpublished) were found more rims belong to this "grey imitation", but also fragments of the "real" roman Zeest 90 type came to light from the same place (HÁRSHEGYI-SÓSKÚTI-WILHELM forthcoming).

According to the *tituli picti* it was used for transporting oil and oyster (DYCZEK 2001, 192). Next to other opinion this type was used for transporting wine (NIKOLIĆ-DORĐEVIĆ 2000, 237).

inv.no.: 999.-C18.096.313. (Fig. 2.20)

Rim, d.: 12 cm, reddish yellow (7.5 YR 7/8) with buff slip (10 YR 7/4), hard

c.: destruction layer dated with *terrae sigillatae* from the second half of the 2nd c to the first half of the 3rd c. A.D.

inv.no.: 2000.-C18.049.137. - 999.-C18.096.312. (Fig.2.21)

Rim fr., d.: 12 cm, reddish yellow (7.5 YR 7/8) with buff slip (10 YR 7/4), hard

c.: a) yellowish clay layer

b) destruction layer dated with *terrae sigillatae* from the second half of the 2nd c. to the first half of the 3rd c. A.D.

inv.no.: 999.-C18.096.314. - 999.-C18.096.315. - 999.-

C18.096.317. - 2001.-D18.100.13. (Fig. 2.22)

Rim fr., d.: 12 cm, reddish yellow (7.5 YR 6/6) with buff slip (10 YR 7/4), hard

c.: a)-b)-c) destruction layer dated with *terrae sigillatae* from the second half of the 2nd c. to the first half of the 3rd c. A.D.

d) gravelly filling

inv.no.: 2000 - D18.020.65. - 2000.-D18.020.68. - 2000.-

D17.027.1. - 999.-C18.085.401. (Fig. 2.23)

Rim fr., d.: 14.3 cm, yellowish red (5 YR 5/6) with white slip (5 Y 8/2), hard

c.: c) layer of dark brownish soil with gravel in the middle of the quadrate

d) mixed layer on the surface dated with *terrae sigillatae* from the end of the 2nd c. to the first half of the 3rd c. A.D.

inv.no.: 999.-C18.096.319. (Fig. 2.24)

Handle, s.h.: 3.7 cm x 1.8 cm, reddish yellow (5 YR 6/6) with white slip (2.5 Y 8/2), hard

c.: destruction layer dated with *terrae sigillatae* from the second half of the 2nd c. to the first half of the 3rd c. A.D.

inv.no.: 2000.-C18.031.58. (Fig. 2.25)

Handle, s.h.: 4 cm x 1.8 cm, reddish yellow (5 YR 6/6) with white slip (2.5 Y 8/2), hard

c.: remains of a wall, west from the oven, dated with *terrae sigillatae* from the second half of the 2nd c. to the first half of the 3rd c. A.D.

inv.no.: 999.-C18.098.21. (Fig. 2.26)

Base, h.: 5.4 cm, reddish yellow (7.5 YR 7/6) with buff slip (10 YR 8/4), hard

c.: layer with *terrae sigillatae* dated from end of the 2nd c. to the first half of the 3rd c. A.D.

inv.no.: 999.-C16.121.35. (Fig. 2.27)

Base, h.: 6.6 cm, reddish yellow (7.5 YR 7/6) with buff slip (10 YR 8/4), hard

c.: yellowish clay layer dated with *terrae sigillatae* and coin from the end of the 2nd c. A.D.

Miscellaneous amphorae: (Fig. 1.28–30)

inv.no.: 998.-G17.057.1003. (Fig. 1.28)

Rim, neck and handle fr., d.: 11.2 cm, s.h.: 4.8 cm x 2.2 cm, reddish yellow (7.5 YR 7/6) with reddish yellow slip (5YR 6/6), hard

c.: layer of black soil with clay, dated with *terrae sigillatae* and coin from the 1st c. to the first third of the 3rd c. A.D.

reference: SUCEVEANU 2000, Type LVI/8.-12. datable: 1st - 3rd c. A.D. pontic origin?

inv. no.: 994.R11.249.375. (Fig. 1.29)

Rim fr., d.: 14 cm, yellow (10 YR 7/6), hard

c.: layer of brownish soil with clay and gravel dated with *terrae sigillatae* from the second half of the 2nd c. to the second quarter of the 3rd c. A.D.

reference: BJELAJAC 1996.fig.20.103. datable: 2nd c. A.D.

inv.no.: 995.B15.060.63. (Fig. 1.30)

Base fr., h.: 10 cm, reddish yellow (5 YR 7/6), soft

c.: yellowish grey clay layer dated with *terrae sigillatae* from the second half of the 1st century to the beginning of the 2nd c. A.D.

Stoppers (?) (Fig.1.31-33)

Research faces difficulties when dealing with a group of finds the origin of which is unknown.

The small, thin walled, badly fired objects are called stoppers (DYCZEK 2001, 298–299). However, some believe them to be testers, "*ampullae*" (BERTHAULT 2000, 35–37).

Similar objects from Szöny-Vásártér also came to light. They seem to belong to three different forms or types. According my opinion they were stoppers for jugs, and not for *amphorae*, because of their small diameter, and their fabric, which seems to be similar to the kitchen ware. In this case, they should be made in the pottery workshops of *Brigetio*. Again, it needs to be underlined that further petrological analysis is needed.

inv. no.: 994.D15.219.58. (Fig. 1.31)

stopper fr.? s.w.: 1 cm, yellow (10 YR 7/6), soft

c.: layer of greyish clay dated with *terrae sigillatae* from the end of the 1st c. to the first half of the 2nd c. A.D.

inv.no.: 995.F13.038.33. (Fig. 1.32)
stopper fr., s.w.: 0.4 cm, yellow (10 YR 7/6), soft
c.: layer of yellowish clay, mixed with stones and *tegulae*, dated with *terrae sigillatae* from the end of the 2nd c. to the first half of the 3rd c. A.D.

inv.no.: 994.-B13.242.154. (Fig. 1.33)
stopper fr.? s.w.: 0.7 cm, yellow (10 YR 7/6), soft
c.: layer of yellowish brown clay dated with *terrae sigillatae* from the end of the 1st c. to the end of the 2nd c. A.D.

Amphorae were used for transporting oil, wine and fruit to *Brigetio* from different part of the Roman Empire. They arrived in masses, in all probability on waterways (BEZECZKY 1994, 170). As for the volume of the import, it would be too early to try to determine it and to draw conclusions, and it will most definitely need more research both in the case of *Brigetio* and the province *Pannonia*.

But the evidence available at present suggests that, the common goods necessary for the Mediterranean life were more of the exotic than part of the everyday life. Thus their frequency of occurrence amongst the finds is small. In the case of *Brigetio* from the end of the 1st c. to the middle of the 2nd c. A.D. the volume of the *amphorae* coming from the western parts of the Roman Empire is two times more than that of the eastern import. This picture changes from the middle/end of the 2nd c. A.D. on, in the second period the *amphorae* coming from the Aegean and the Pontic region getting to be much more numerous. But in the same time we have to pay attention to the fact that we have very few archaeological datas from the first period on this site: maybe this is why came to light eight times more *amphorae* fragments datable to the second period.

Type	Number of fagments	Percentage	Datation of the type
1. Wine			
Dressel 2–4	1	3,3%	First half of the 1st c. – middle of the 2nd c. A.D.
Kapitään II	9	29,7%	End of the 2nd c./beginning of the 3rd c. – end of the 4th c. A.D.
	10	33%	
2. Oil			
Dressel 6B	1	3,3%	Middle of trhe 1st c. – middle of the 2nd c. A.D.
Dressel 20	7	23,1%	Second quarter of the 2nd c. – middle of the 3rd c.
	8	26,4%	
3. Uncertain			
Camulodunum 189	1	3,3%	1st c. – end of the 2nd c. A.D.
Zeest 90	8	26,4%	Second half of the 2nd c. – 3rd c. A.D.
	9	29,7%	
4. Miscellaneous			
	3	9,9%	End of the 1st c. – beginning of the 3rd c. A.D.

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