ARRC – Acculturation, Romanisation, Roman Culture: Processes of Integration Across the Roman Empire

Edited by László Borhy, Kata Dévai, Linda Dobosi, and Csilla Sáró

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Edited by
László Borhy – Kata Dévai – Linda Dobosi – Csilla Sáró

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Development and changes in Roman glassmaking during the 1st century AD as reflected in the Roman road station Romula (Ribnica near Brežice, Slovenia)

Irena Lazar ✉
Faculty of Humanities, University of Primorska, Koper, Slovenia
Irena.Lazar@fhs.upr.si

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Abstract: Roman glass production underwent several important changes and developments between the 1st century BC and the 1st century AD. These changes took place in production techniques, vessel forms, and use. These changes are most visible at the end of the 1st century BC and in the early decades of the 1st century AD. At the newly investigated site of the Roman road station of Romula in Slovenia, the glass assemblage, in terms of quantity, diversity, quality, and chronological range, reflects this period as well as the period of the settlement's establishment and life. Settlement and grave finds show that Romula experienced its greatest prosperity from the mid-1st to the 2nd century AD. Life at the settlement declined quite rapidly during the 3rd century AD. Compared with other early Roman sites with autonomous status in the region *(Colonia Iulia Emona, Municipium Claudium Celeia)*, the number of glass finds, strongly coloured mould-made and blown vessels, and decolourised glass (mould-made and blown), is surprisingly high. Taken together, this assemblage represents fine, high-quality glass produced at the peak of Roman glass production in terms of technological sophistication and variety, and demonstrates the wide range of glass artefacts available to consumers.

Keywords: Roman glass, mould-made glass, mould-blown glass, Romula, Pannonia, settlement, necropolis

Roman glass industry in the 1st century BC and 1st century AD

Incorporation of the Hellenistic states into the Roman world brought cultural and social influences and changes to Roman life and culture. Arts and crafts underwent substantial development and innovation. This was also true of glassmaking, which developed rapidly in the Roman world and soon reached a scale beyond that of ordinary crafts. Hellenistic influences provided the impetus for the creation and development of an independent Roman glass industry, which flourished from the Augustan period onwards and spread throughout the provinces. It became a strong and independent branch of the economy. This was made possible by the expansion of trade in the early Imperial period, the growth of glass workshops, knowledge of the preparation and production of raw glass and glassware, and a new way of organisation of glass production.

Over roughly a century of development and growth, Roman glass production underwent several important changes between the 1st century BC and the 1st century AD. These changes affected production techniques, vessel forms, and use, and became most conspicuous at the end of the 1st century BC and in the first half of the 1st century AD. No period in Roman history better illustrates

✉ Corresponding author

the remarkable diversity of technological practices. Glass finds from this period show a wide range of forms, colours, decorations, and production techniques. Strabo, writing in the age of Augustus, noted that glassmakers in Rome had discovered new colours and simplified the production of glass vessels to such an extent that a glass cup or a *balsamarium* could be bought for a single copper coin.

Romula in the context of Roman history

The Roman road and customs station of Romula was located on the *via publica* Aquileia–Emona–Siscia. The road, which in Roman times ran through present-day Dolenjska, was originally a *via militaris*, meaning that during the conquest of the southeastern Alpine region and the western Balkans, it was founded, laid out, and, to a large extent, probably also built by the Roman army for military campaigns and other needs.[1] Owing to the lack of epigraphic evidence, it is not known exactly when the road was built. During the reign of Emperor Augustus, this part of present-day Dolenjska was included in Illyricum, a region established before the creation of the independent provinces of Pannonia and Dalmatia. In view of political events in the Empire and its strategic needs, that the road was likely built in the Augustan period. At that time, there is no doubt that sufficient military units or legions were present in the area, which was a prerequisite for the execution of such a demanding construction project. Initially, these units were involved in Octavian's war in Illyricum (35–33 BC), then in Tiberius' operations in Illyricum between 15 and 9 BC, and finally in the Pannonian-Dalmatian rebellion between AD 6 and 9.[2]

The site and its role

Roman Romula is located in the village of Ribnica near Brežice in Dolenjska (Lower Carniola).[3] The station is mentioned twice in ancient sources, namely in two Roman itineraries, the *Tabula Peutingeriana* and the *Itinerarium Antonini*, both from the end of the 3rd century AD.[4] The settlement was built on the fringes of the Pannonian Plain, at an exceptionally favourable strategic point at the passage from the valleys of the Krka and Sava rivers to the Pannonian Plain at the foot of the Gorjanci Hills, where they slope into the plain of the Sava River (Savus). The *via publica Emona–Siscia* ran along the narrowest part of the terrace between the Sava River and the slopes of the Gorjanci Hills; from the peaks on the fringes of the Gorjanci Hills, the view extends to the west, east, and north, while the slopes of Gorjanci protect the southern side (Fig. 1). The settlement was erected at the narrowest section between Gorjanci and the Sava River, allowing its inhabitants to supervise traffic along the Sava River. In this way, the road station of Romula linked the entrance to Italy with the Balkan Peninsula. Because of natural constraints to the north and south, the settlement could expand only to the east and west, along the Roman road, reaching a length (measured during research between 2001 and 2004) of approximately 600 m, while its width remained between 60 and 130 m.

It is important to single out the find of a votive inscription to *Silvanus Augustus*, dedicated by a slave of the customs officers' society, and an inscription reading *ROMVLA* on a lead tablet.[5] These finds are essential for defining the administrative status of the settlement as a road and customs(?) station and for confirming its location.

1 Šašel 1977, 459, 466.
2 Lovenjak 1997, 90.
3 Petru 1975, 259.
4 Šašel 1975, 76–77.
5 Lazar 2020a; Tomaž *et al.* 2025b.



Fig. 1. Researched area of the Roman settlement of Romula (after Tomaž *et al.* 2024).

Settlement finds and, to a large extent, finds from the burial grounds show that Romula experienced its greatest prosperity in the second half of the 1st and the 2nd centuries AD, while life in this area declined quite rapidly during the 3rd century AD.[6] In this respect, the results of the analysis of material from Petričev grič are particularly noteworthy, as the finds include an exceptional selection of high-quality imported ceramic and glass products.

Some of the finds from Petričev grič are certainly older than those from the settlement; one may conclude that they are the remains of a building or complex (a Roman villa) that was inhabited from the end of the Augustan or the beginning of the Tiberian period onwards, that is, already before the foundation of the settlement of Romula. Most of the small finds from Petričev grič can be dated to the 1st and the first half of the 2nd century AD, while finds of the 3rd century AD are rare. Among the coin finds, the number of coins from the Julio-Claudian dynasty stands out, confirming the dating established from the analysis of other small finds.

The graves of the western and eastern necropolises in which glass products appear as grave goods cover the period from the mid-1st to the 2nd century AD. They mainly contain free-blown products, with only a few mould-blown products.

Presented glass finds

Given the selected scope of the discussion and the large quantity of material, the presentation focuses mainly on forms and products dating from the 1st to the first half of the 2nd century AD. The remaining glass material from the site of Romula is presented and published in open-access monographs on the necropolis, the settlement, and Petričev grič Hill.[7]

6 Tomaž *et al.* 2024; Tomaž *et al.* 2025a; Tomaž *et al.* 2025b.

7 Tomaž *et al.* 2024; Tomaž *et al.* 2025a; Tomaž *et al.* 2025b.

Petričev grič (Petrič Hill) – Roman *villa* (?)

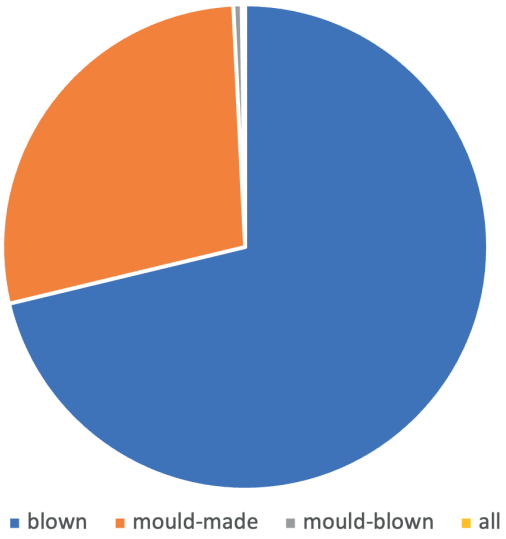
In the area of Petričev grič, or in the sector of the same name within the Roman settlement of Romula (Ribnica pri Brežicah = Ribnica near Brežice),[8] the wide variety of glass finds recovered during the excavations stood out not only for their quantity but also for their quality. Further study of the material has shown that the area yielding this concentration of glass finds, which includes both mould-made and free-blown products of virtually all colours and shapes, stands out clearly within the overall context of the settlement of Romula.

We may assume this was part of a destroyed Roman villa that had been built here, or existed here, before the road station of Romula was established. Although most of the finds from the Petričev grič area originate from disturbed layers, the coin finds show that most activity in this part of the settlement took place in the 1st century and the first half of the 2nd century AD. Two-thirds of the coin finds date from the period between the reigns of Emperor Augustus (27 BC to AD 14) and Emperor Marcus Aurelius (AD 161–180). The associated, and more precisely datable, glass material consists largely of mould-made vessels of intensely coloured glass, dating the assemblage from the second quarter of the 1st century to around AD 60,[9] and a group of vessels of decolourised glass, with or without faceted decoration,[10] which mainly covers the second half of the 1st and the beginning of the 2nd century AD.

From the Petričev grič area, a total of 535 glass vessel fragments (rims, bases, decorated fragments, fragments with inscriptions or imprints, etc.) were selected and separated for analysis, and it was possible to identify them at the level of basic forms. Of these fragments, 382 belong to free-blown glass vessels, while 150 belong to mould-made vessels (Tab. 1). Only three fragments are parts of vessels made by mould-blowing.

Tab. 1. Graph showing the numerical representation of glass vessels according to manufacturing technique.

Blown	382
Mould-Made	150
Mould- Blown	3
All	535



Within the group of mould-made vessels, a good third (50 pieces) belong to products made of decolourised glass, 46 vessels are made of naturally coloured glass (predominantly ribbed bowls), and 54 fragments belong to vessels made of intensely coloured and mosaic glass (Tab. 2). Among the latter, dark green strongly predominates (35 pieces), and is thought to represent a novelty and

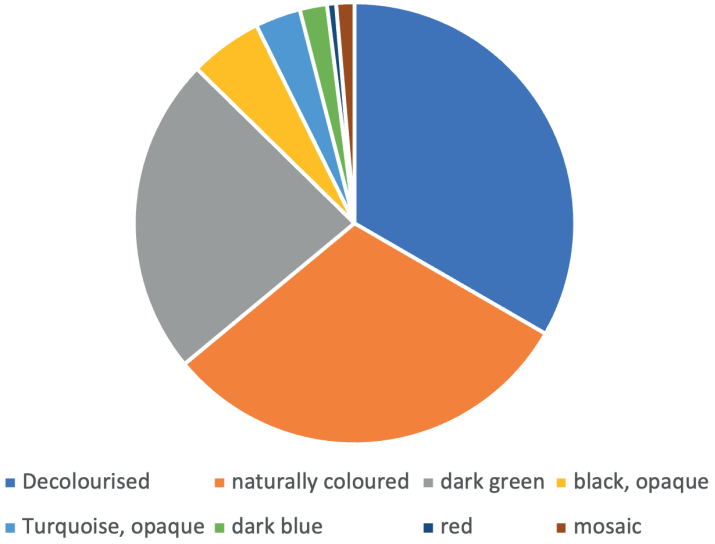
8 Tomaž *et al.* 2025a.

9 Grose 1989; Grose 1991.

10 Lazar 2020b; Lazar 2021.

Tab. 2. Graph showing the numerical representation of naturally coloured, intensely coloured and decolourised mould-made glass.

Mould-made glasses	Število-number
Decolourised	50
Naturally coloured	46
Dark green	35
Black, opaque	8
Turquoise, opaque	5
Dark blue	3
Red	1
Mosaic	2



achievement of the most prosperous period of the Roman glass industry. This is followed by vessels made of black glass (8 pieces), opaque turquoise glass (5 pieces), dark blue glass (3 pieces), red glass (1 piece), and two vessels made of mosaic glass.

The selected glass assemblage is currently unmatched in terms of quality and diversity among Roman sites in Slovenia. Particularly noteworthy are the rich selection of early Imperial imported mould-made vessels of intense colours and the group of decolourised glass, which includes both mould-made vessels with cut decoration and numerous free-blown products. The products of both groups belong to tableware. The majority of the mould-made material was imported from newly established glass workshops in central Italy, while some pieces also came from Mediterranean workshops in the eastern part of the Empire.

As will be shown below, this extensive and diverse assemblage of glass from Romula is important not only for understanding the use of Roman glass products in this area, but also, more broadly, in the context of the Empire as a whole, as it reflects particularly well the period of growth, development, and change in Roman glass production from the end of the 1st century BC to the second half, or end, of the 1st century AD. The assemblage includes vessels made using all glassmaking techniques known at the time, namely mould-made mosaic glass, coloured glass, decolourised glass, mould-blown products, and blown glass. It may be compared with material from the settlement layers and 131 graves, dated from the middle of the 1st to the end of the 2nd century AD.[11]

The numerous new vessel forms also permit a new interpretation of Roman glass material in Slovenia and directly indicate the integration of the road station of Romula into the period of the most intensive development and change in the organisation of the Roman glass industry and the extensive trade network for glass products in the Empire.

The material comes from disturbed layers, so it has been examined in groups and in chronological order according to the manufacturing technique used (mould-made glass, blown glass, mould-blown glass), as well as typologically. The sequence of forms discussed follows the established schemes in publications on Roman glass.

11 See Lazar 2020a; Tomaž *et al.* 2024.

Mould-made glass vessels

Ribbed bowls

In the Petričev grič area, ribbed bowls are quite numerous. Almost all fragments discovered at the site belong to products made of naturally coloured glass, with only two fragments as exceptions. One fragment (G356)[12] belonged to a dark blue or cobalt-blue bowl, while the other (G338) was part of a ribbed bowl made of mosaic glass with a spiral pattern of white and purple glass on a turquoise-blue background. The ribbed bowls from Petričev grič (Form 2.1.4 or Isings 3 or AR 3)[13] are small (G344) to medium-sized (G347). They may be shallow (e.g., G339–G342) or deep (G343, G349, G362), and the shape and placement of the ribs vary considerably, with either a small or a large space between them. Their quality of manufacture also varies, so we can say with some confidence that they were made in several workshops producing items of differing quality, or by glassworkers with different levels of skill and experience. Judging by the shape of the ribs, these items were imported from Roman workshops in Italy.[14]

Several bowls feature bands of shallow grooves (G339, G343–G344, G368–G369) on the inside, characteristic of the early series of these products.[15] Such parallel grooves may appear on the lower part of the rim or on the base, mostly in bands of two to four. Judging from the well-preserved finds, the bowl fragments from the site in question belonged mostly to deep bowls (e.g,. G343–G344, G347, G349–G350, G353, G355), with only a few shallow examples (G339–G342, G351), and can be compared with Form 2.1.4[16] or Isings 3[17] and the AR 2.1 and AR 2.2 types.[18]

The production of ribbed bowls undoubtedly ceased in the 1st century AD, although their use continued into the first half of the 2nd century AD owing to their exceptional popularity in this region as well. At Roman sites in Slovenia, for example, they can still be found as heirlooms in graves from the early 2nd century AD, and they were also used as urns or containers for the cremated bones of the deceased.[19]

Monochrome translucent coloured fine ware

This group of products is typically characterised by angular forms and by dark green glass in various shades, as well as dark blue, cobalt blue, and peacock blue, all of which result from different minerals used to colour the glass. Emerald green and peacock blue are colours developed by the Roman glass industry and were used almost exclusively for this group of vessels. Among the finds from Romula, emerald green is the predominant colour for all forms of this fine tableware. Dark green glass products were specially sampled and analysed, and the results of the archaeometric analysis are presented in the book *Ribnica pri Brežicah – Analize*.[20] The initial findings have already been presented briefly by Caroline M. Jackson.[21]

12 G356 refers to the ID in the catalogue in the Petričev grič monographic volume (Tomaž *et al.* 2025a). These Ids are referred to throughout this study for clarity and to facilitate identification in the primary publication.

13 Type IDs are referring to Isings 1957; Lazar 2003; Fünfschilling 2015.

14 Grose 2017, 55, Pl. 3.4.

15 Fünfschilling 2015, 105, Abb. 137.

16 Lazar 2003, 37.

17 Isings 1957.

18 Fünfschilling 2015, 263.

19 Lazar 2000, 66.

20 Jackson – Lazar 2025.

21 Jackson *et al.* 2015; Cottam – Jackson 2018, 93.

Plates

Twenty fragments of plates (G314–G333) were found, with straight, semicircular, outturned, or carinated walls. The rim is mostly everted, in some cases also profiled, and the base is flat or has a low ring foot. On some base fragments, shallow grooves are visible on the inside or outside and, in some cases, a small circle is preserved at the centre of the exterior of the base, marking the point at which the vessel was attached to a lathe during finishing. Most of the plates are made of translucent dark green glass (against the light, it is clear that they are of different shades of dark green), while two fragments belong to a plate made of dark blue or cobalt-blue glass (G329, G331). Only the plates with a flat base and outturned rim (G314–G315) belong to the already defined Forms 1.1.1[22] or Isings 19, while the others may be defined as new forms in the glass record of the period in Slovenia (Fig. 2):[23]

- Form 1.1.2 – Plate with a straight wall and an outturned rim (G316).
- Form 1.1.3 – Plate with a rounded wall and profiled, outturned rim (G318–G319).
- Form 1.1.4 – Plate with a carinated wall and a ring foot (G321).
- Form 1.1.5 – Plate with an outturned wall, a straight rim, and a flat base (settlement S298, PN 2377).
- Form 1.1.6 – Plate with a vertical wall and an outturned rim; the wall slightly projects at its junction with the base; decorated with grooves.[24]

Bowls

Among the fragments, seventeen were identified as parts of bowls (G382–G398), which are relatively diverse in size and shape. The wall may be hemispherical, convex, or profiled, that is, carinated, with a groove in the middle. The rims are formed according to the shape of the bowl and may be either slightly everted or straight. Only in exceptional cases is the rim slightly profiled (G383, G385). Several fragments show that some bowls had low ring-shaped foot. They were made most often of translucent dark green glass in various shades; only two fragments were parts of bowls made of dark blue glass.

Five fragments of vessels made of dark green glass (G400, G403–G405, G407) were identified as parts of bowls with cylindrical walls and flat bases, very similar to *pyxides*, although these have no lids. Their shape is entirely similar to that of the sigillata form Conspectus 29.[25]

Their sizes vary considerably, with diameters ranging from 5.6 cm to 11 cm and heights from 4 cm to 4.5 cm. Several vessels have a clearly visible circle on the base, indicating that the bowl was attached to a lathe for finishing. The shapes of the bowls presented here are new in the glass record of the period in Slovenia, so we have defined them as new forms within the group of mould-made bowls (Fig. 3):

- Form 2.1.10 – Globular bowl with an outturned rim and a ring foot (G382–G383, G385, G390).
- Form 2.1.11 – Bowl with a carinated wall and a ring foot (G386–G389, G391).
- Form 2.1.12 – Bowl with a vertical (cylindrical) wall and a flat base (G400–G407).
- Form 2.1.13 – Bowl with a slightly conical wall and an outturned rim (G392–G394).
- Form 2.1.14 – Bowl with a slightly conical wall that transitions into the rim (G399).

The described group of vessels has a few individual parallels at Slovenian archaeological sites, such as Emona (Insula 32),[26] Celeia, and Poetovio,[27] but at none of these sites does the material occur in such

22 Lazar 2003, 33, sl. 10.

23 For a complete overview of types, settlement finds are also added to the figure.

24 Isings 1957, Form 22.

25 Ettlinger *et al.* 1990, 104, Taf. 27.

26 Plesničar Gec 1983, t. 23.12,16,19,22,25.

27 Lazar 2023; Lazar – Tomaž in print.

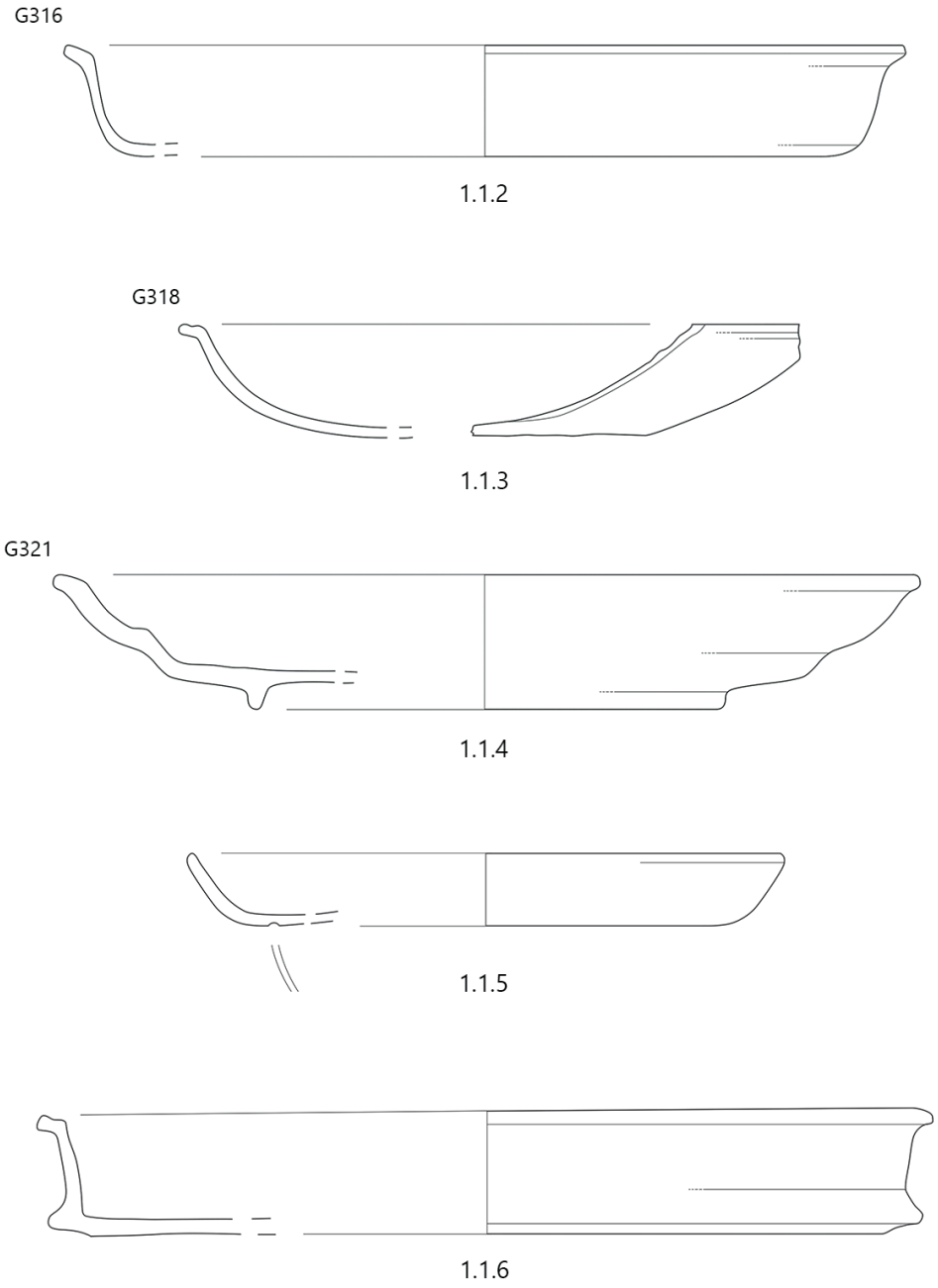


Fig. 2. Romula. Forms of mould-made plates made of intensely coloured glass. M = 1:2.

quantities as at Ribnica near Brežice. It is also important to emphasise that, in this context, we are dealing exclusively with settlement finds. None of the graves at Romula contains such vessels as grave goods, although there are graves dated to the middle of the 1st century AD in the western necropolis, some of which contain valuable imported grave goods, such as amber objects or mould-blown glass.

Other parallels for the described material are known from well-dated contexts at Magdalensberg, where identical fragments are believed to derive mainly from the period before AD 45,[28] when the town was abandoned; some fragments are dated to the Augustan period.[29] At Vindonissa, finds from dated layers are mainly linked to Tiberian and early Claudian contexts, with a few exceptions

28 Czurda-Ruth 1979, 65–91.

29 Czurda-Ruth 1979, 70–71.

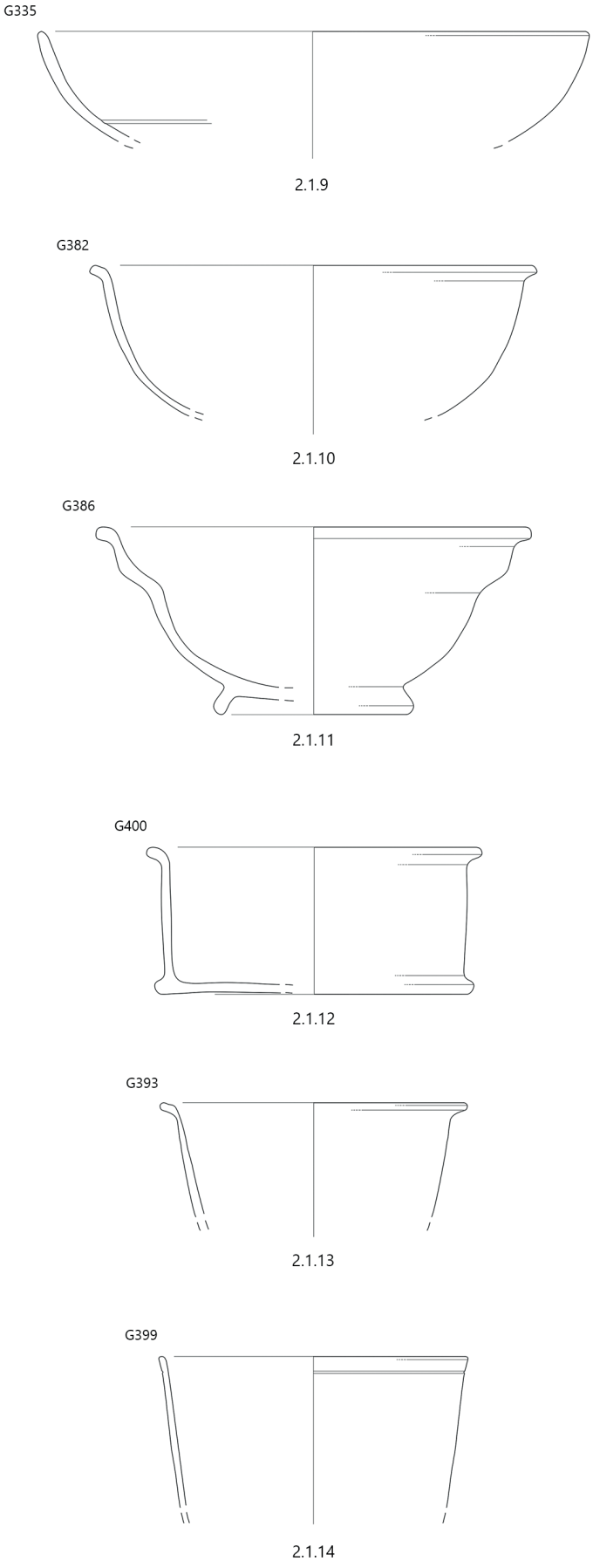


Fig. 3. Romula. Forms of mould-made bowls made of intensely coloured glass. M = 1:2.

dating to the time of Emperor Nero.[30] Similar material is also known from Salona (dark green and dark blue artefacts).[31]

The bowl with carinated walls, representing the Isings 2 or AR 6.2 type,[32] is characteristic of the period between AD 20 and 50. It is present at the sites of Augst (Augusta Raurica) and Avenches throughout the 1st century AD,[33] while at Arles it occurs mainly in the first half of the 1st century.[34]

At Cosa, an Etruscan city and early Roman colony (273 BC), rebuilt after several upheavals during the reign of Emperor Augustus, comparable finds occur in several well-dated contexts.[35] The earliest layers (Phase IV, before 25–15 BC) are linked to the repopulation and reconstruction of the city in the Augustan period, and there products made of opaque turquoise and white glass are found. Grose believes that these are the earliest products of the Roman glass industry or products imported from workshops in the eastern Mediterranean.[36]

In Phases V and VI, dated from 25–15 BC to AD 40–45, bowls with carinated and cylindrical walls and an outturned rim are found; besides, some finds come from a shop storeroom that was destroyed probably between AD 40 and 45.[37]

The products in this group, discovered in Phases VII and VIII (dated to before AD 50–55), show that the production of these vessel types continued until the mid-1st century AD, perhaps even a little longer, but certainly not beyond the last quarter of the 1st century AD.[38]

Monochrome opaque coloured fine ware

This group of vessels includes products made of opaque glass, more precisely light blue or turquoise glass in almost all cases. A base fragment with a ring foot, which could belong to a plate or a larger red glass bowl, was omitted from the analysis for several reasons. In addition, the fragment is too poorly preserved to determine its form.[39]

Within this group of vessels, we identified only one form—bowls—which appears in two main variants: globular bowls (G390) and bowls with carinated walls (G388, G391). They feature either a ring foot or a cast foot (G398). A small fragment of an outturned rim made of turquoise glass (G395) indicates that the range of opaque glass vessels used at the site was broader than can be determined from the preserved finds.

Vessels made of opaque coloured glass are dated predominantly to the first half of the 1st century AD. Judging from the finds from the aforementioned site of Cosa in Italy, where they were found in layers dating from 25–15 BC,[40] it may be concluded that their production began in the last decades of the 1st century BC. It is possible that the prototypes or models for Roman opaque-glass products were Hellenistic products of the 1st century BC, which were also made of light blue and white opaque glass.[41]

30 Berger 1960, 24–30.

31 Buljević 2016, 64.

32 Isings 1957, 17; Fünfschilling 2015, 272.

33 Fünfschilling 2015, 272; Bonnet Borel 1997, 21.

34 Foy 2010, 90.

35 Grose 2017.

36 Grose 2017, 81–82.

37 Grose 2017, 81, Pl. 8.134,136,137,139, Pl. 9.154.

38 Grose 2017, 82.

39 See also Jackson – Lazar 2025; the fragment was included in an archaeometric analysis.

40 Grose 2017, 81.

41 Grose 2017, 82.

Black glass

Glass researchers usually present black glass (a technical term accepted in the field) as a separate group. In our case, there are quite a few finds of opaque black glass made using moulds, so it seems sensible to consider them in the broader context of other mould-made vessels. Research into black glass in the western provinces of the Roman Empire has shown that these products were popular and fashionable in two periods, and were manufactured using various glassmaking techniques. The first peak in popularity occurred in the 1st century AD, during the reign of Emperor Tiberius and the Flavian dynasty (AD 30–80).[42] At that time, these vessels were made both in moulds and by blowing. The distribution of black-glass vessels during this period covers the entire Roman Empire.[43]

The United Kingdom deserves special mention here, where such products are known from numerous sites, such as Colchester, Fishbourne, and Carlisle, and have been found predominantly in civilian contexts; the range of forms is not particularly wide.[44] At other European sites, the contexts containing black-glass products and the range of forms are more varied.[45] Among the material from Roman sites in Slovenia, the earliest forms of black-glass vessels were published from Romula (Ribnica pri Brežicah), specifically from a settlement context. These are mould-made vessels, many of which, with their distinctive profiles, resemble metal or sigillata vessels of the Early Imperial period. The production of black-glass vessels during the 1st century AD fully reflected the popularity and prevalence of monochrome coloured glassware produced during the Julio-Claudian dynasty.[46]

The glass assemblage from Ribnica[47] includes plates of various forms with straight or slightly conical walls (Form 1.1.4, see Fig. 2), slightly profiled rims (G320), and bases decorated on the inside with shallow grooves in the form of concentric circles (Fig. 4.1,3), as well as bowls with a slightly conical body and a slightly profiled or everted rim (G394; Forms 2.1.13 and 2.1.14, see Fig. 3) and vessels with cylindrical or vertical walls (G405, G406; Form 2.1.12). The latter are represented by several products that vary in size, with diameters between 5 and 10 cm (Fig. 4.6). Like the plates, the exteriors of their bases are often decorated with shallow grooves in concentric circles.

Mould-made vessels from the 1st century AD were first classified into several groups and forms by Cosyns and Fontaine.[48] Cosyns then proposed 14 basic forms, with subgroups, for mould-made glass[49] and 19 forms for free-blown vessels from this period.[50] However, this corpus will probably be expanded by new finds.

Mould-made decolourised glass

Demand for, and taste in, fine tableware changed dramatically in the second half of the 1st century AD, with intense colours quickly losing popularity and demand arising for something new and different. A range of elegant tableware made of colourless glass, often decorated with faceted cut decoration that emphasised the quality of the glass and the precision of its manufacture through

42 Cosyns – Fontaine 2009.

43 Cosyns 2015, 191.

44 Cosyns – Fontaine 2009; Cool – Price 1995.

45 Cosyns – Hanut 2005, 117, Pl. 1.

46 Cosyns – Fontaine 2009, 83.

47 The form and typology of black-glass are not treated separately; instead, the forms are considered together with other mould-made vessels of intensely coloured glass. Therefore, only a brief mention and overview of the forms are provided here. See Lazar 2019, 29, for details.

48 Cosyns – Fontaine 2009, 80, Pl. 1.2.

49 Cosyns 2011, 52, Fig. 34.

50 Cosyns 2011, 48, Fig. 33.

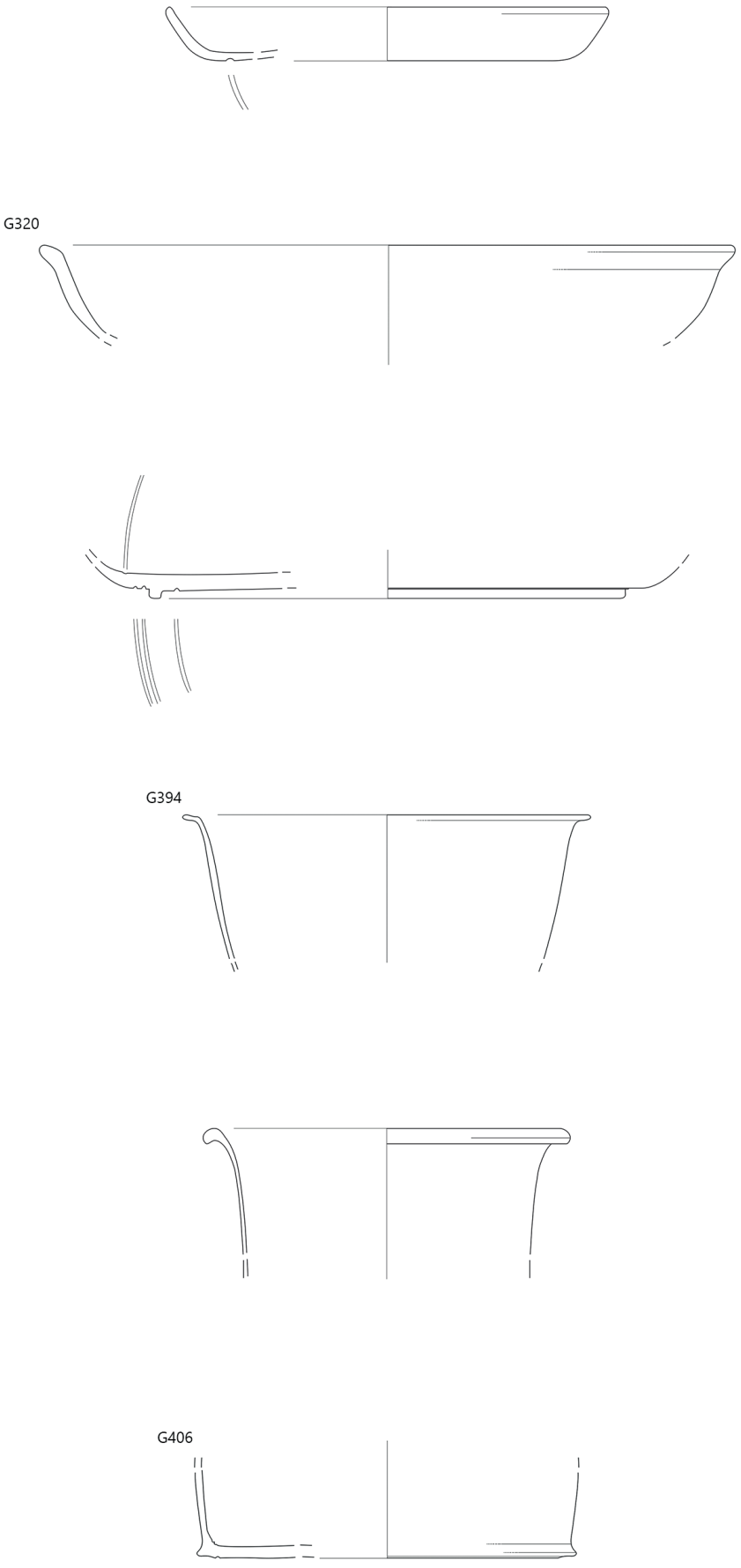


Fig. 4. Romula. Forms of vessels made of black glass. M = 1:2.

the refraction of light, appeared on the market. The material found at Romula likewise shows that the demand for prestigious tableware remained and is reflected in a group of decolourised products. From the second half of the 1st century AD onwards, and throughout the 2nd century AD, the demand for fine colourless tableware dominated the market for high-quality imported products.[51]

This innovation confirms the numerous changes that Roman glassmaking underwent in the course of the 1st century AD, changes that were linked to technology and, consequently, to market supply. They also brought about a new type of glass and a new range of forms and decorations for tableware. Cheaper, widely available blown-glass vessels intended for everyday use hardly competed with this group of fine mould-made tableware.

Mould-made vessels of decolourised glass, decorated with facet-cut patterns, stand in contrast to vessels made of intensely coloured glass, which were widespread at the beginning and during the first half of the 1st century AD.[52] The new group includes beakers, shallow and deep bowls, plates and, more rarely, trays, decorated with facet-cut patterns.

While everyday glass products of this period were all blown and made of naturally coloured or greenish glass, the finest glass objects of the second half of the 1st century AD were generally colourless or decolourised.[53]

Bowls

On the bowls from Romula, faceted decoration appears almost everywhere except on the inside of the vessels. Cut decoration in the form of grains, circles, facets of various shapes, and rosettes appears individually or in combination on the upper and lower sides of the wide rim, on the wall, and on the base; the edge of the downward-curved rim or the edge of the ring-shaped foot is often decorated with serrated incisions. Owing to the above-mentioned characteristics, fragments of these vessels can be identified relatively quickly within the assemblage.

The bowl fragments can be identified as the already mentioned Form 2.1.8.[54] Such vessels are characterised by sharp, carinated edges and high-quality cut decoration. They have wide, highly outturned rims with overhanging edges; they are decorated with facet-cut patterns on both sides and on the edge. The circular or oval facets are sometimes combined with rice grain cuts. The finds from Romula are decorated on the rim and base (G421).

The same bowl form can be found in Slovenia at Ptuj and Logatec,[55] as well as in contexts dated to between AD 80 and 150/160 AD at Augusta Raurica in Switzerland.[56] Comparable finds from Trier (Form Trier 23) and Avenches (Form Aventicum 25/26) have been dated similarly. The main period of their use is believed to span the late 1st century to the mid-2nd century AD.[57] However, some finds from Milan and the area of Rome and Ostia attest to their use even in later contexts, dated to the end of the 2nd century AD.[58]

51 Lazar 2020b.

52 Grose 1991, 1.

53 More about Roman decolourised glass in Jackson 2005 and Lazar 2025, 66, with footnotes.

54 Lazar 2003, 43, Fig. 12.

55 Ptuj, Grave 615: Istenič 2000, Pl. 134.4; Logatec: Lazar 2004b, 59, Fig. 2.1.

56 Type AR 16.2; Fünfschilling 2015, 281.

57 Goethert-Polaschek 1977, 36; Bonnet Borel 1997, 24; Fünfschilling 2015, 282.

58 Uboldi 2017, 185, Fig. 1.1,2; Lepri 2021, 47, Fig. 13.

The body of another bowl fragment (G417) is decorated with elongated facets comparable to Form IN142,[59] or, more precisely, to a find from Spain,[60] since the rim in this case is only partially preserved. It may be assumed to be similar to Form AR 13.2 from Augst.[61]

To this group of bowls, one may add several fragments of similarly shaped but undecorated vessels (G425–G429). These are smaller and larger bowls with a distinctly wide rim and a downward-curved or hanging edge (German *Kragenrand*), usually with a wide, low ring foot. The form is known from material from Augst, where it was defined as Types AR 16.1 and AR 16.2.[62] The rim design is identical to that of 2.1.8 or IN142 forms decorated with facet-cut patterns,[63] but this group of vessels from Romula is entirely undecorated. In Augst, this form was originally dated from the Flavian to the Severan period,[64] but new finds place it between AD 80/90 and 170/180.[65]

The fragment, defined as a new bowl form, 2.1.15 (Fig. 5), has a markedly different rim that widens into a kind of handle. Its dimensions are small, and therefore it cannot be defined as a large plate, such as AR 16.1,[66] or even as an oval plate, such as AR 26 and Aventicum 35.[67] Based on the visible extension at the rim, it may be assumed that this bowl was a smaller vessel or a bowl with a horizontal handle or grip at the rim. Known parallels from Nin (Asseria)[68] and the Zadar area in Croatia[69] are dated to the end of the 1st century AD.

It is also worth mentioning an almost completely preserved miniature hemispherical bowl without decoration (G424). A similar one was also identified in the find material of Augst and defined as Type AR24.2,[70] corresponding to IN137 in France.[71] In Slovenia, we have classified it as a new form, 2.1.16 (Fig. 5). This miniature form does not occur frequently; such vessels are known from French and German sites dated from the first half of the 1st to the 3rd century AD.[72]

Medium and large bowls made of colourless glass without decoration occur in considerable numbers at the site in different variants, differing in the design of the rim or the base. Several comparable finds and close parallels for the variety of these colourless glass products can be found at Augst, as well as in the areas of Rome and Ostia.[73] This group of vessels has a ring foot and, only rarely, a high foot; the wall is plain or features only shallow individual grooves. Rims occur in different forms and are often wide, horizontal, and profiled on the inside, with an overhanging edge. A wide range of rim forms of these products is presented in a monograph on glass from Augst.[74] Owing to their fragmentary state (mostly only the rim or the base of the vesselssurvive), they could not be assigned to new, precise formal categories, but could only be identified at a more general level.

59 Foy *et al.* 2018, 148.
60 Price 1987, Fig. 3.1.
61 Fünfschilling 2015, 279.
62 Fünfschilling 2015, 280.
63 Foy *et al.* 2018, 148.
64 Rütti 1991.
65 Fünfschilling 2015, 280.
66 Fünfschilling 2015, 281.
67 Fünfschilling 2015, 281, 289; Bonnet Borel 1997, 26.
68 Fadić 1997, 174, nos 152–153; Trasparenze 1998, 175.
69 Fadić – Štefanac 2020, 42, Cat. 10; Eterović Borzić – Štefanac 2021, 102, Cat. 288.
70 Fünfschilling 2015, 287.
71 Foy *et al.* 2018, 143.
72 Foy *et al.* 2018, 143.
73 Fünfschilling 2015, 108; Lepri 2021, 52–53, Fig. 16.
74 Fünfschilling 2015, 108, Abb. 141.

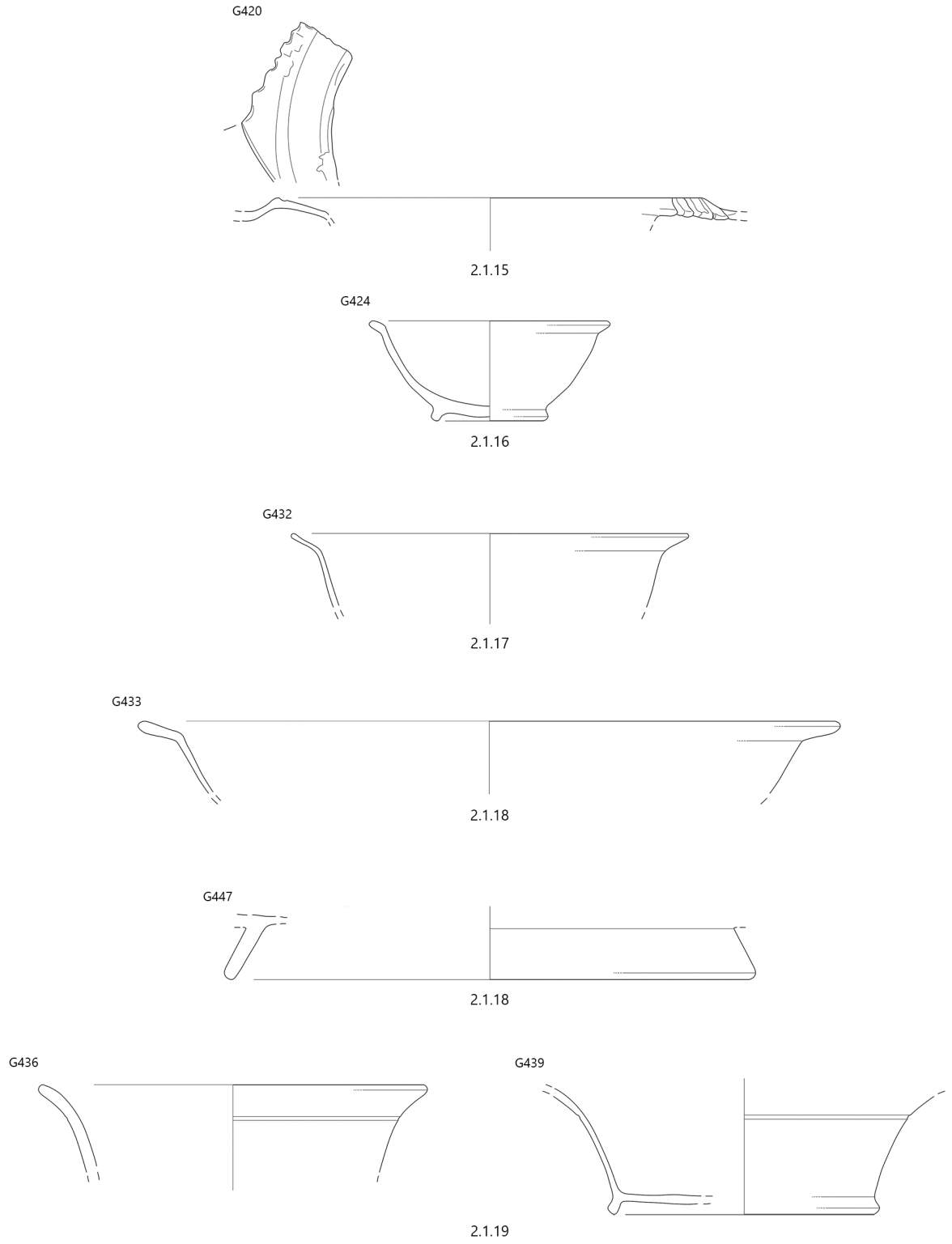


Fig. 5. Romula. New forms of bowls made of decolourised glass. M = 1:2.

Bowls with a funnel-shaped rim and a low ring foot among the finds from Augst have been classified as AR 13.1 and AR 13.2 according to size, and have been dated to the late 1st and 2nd centuries AD.[75] Within the group of decolourised vessels, they are defined as Type IN134, dated to the end of

75 Fünfschilling 2015, 278–79.

the 1st to the 3rd centuries AD; they were most common in the 2nd century AD.[76] We define them as a new form, 2.1.17 (Fig. 5).

Fragments of small and large bowls with relatively wide rims, an occasional slight bulge or grooves on the inside (G433, G466–G467), and a high foot, belong to the AR 14 group,[77] characteristic of the period between AD 70 and 180. In Slovenia, such fragments were defined as a new form, 2.1.18 (Fig. 5).

Several fragments of bowls with an everted rim and a ring foot could be identified as Isings 80 or AR 20.2. Simple horizontal grooves may appear on the outside or just below the rim on the inside of the vessel. The form was widespread throughout the Roman Empire; in Augst, they appear from the Flavian period onwards and can be traced up to the beginning of the 3rd century AD, while at Avenches, they were most common in the 2nd century AD. In Romula, we have defined them as a new form, 2.1.19 (Fig. 5).

Parallels for such bowls at Slovenian sites are known from the settlement of Celje, the Roman Celeia.[78] Three fragments belong to bowls representing types that were classified at Augst as AR 16.1 and 16.2, and in France as IN142 or smaller variants of IN143.[79] Their period of use extends from the Flavian period to the middle of the 3rd century AD, although individual forms disappear as early as the 2nd century AD.[80]

Beakers

Finds of beakers with faceted and other cut decoration from the Petričev grič area are considerably more numerous than bowl finds. They occur in various shapes—low or tall, rounded—and their walls are covered with faceted decoration, sometimes emphasised by a horizontal rib below and/or above the decorated part. The facets of the decoration may be diamond-shaped or more rounded, while on some beakers they are more elongated. Among the finds there are also examples of conical beakers without faceted decoration, with only thin horizontal ribs emphasising the smooth walls.

This type of decolourised product, namely beakers with cut decoration, was first defined by Oliver, who divided them into Groups I and II on the basis of wall shape.[81] Group I includes beakers with cut decoration but without horizontal ribs on the wall, while Group II includes conical beakers in which the decoration is bounded by pronounced horizontal ribs.[82]

We have identified low conical beakers with cut decoration (G452) as Form 3.1.2 or AR 45.1 (Fig. 6).[83] Parallels are known from the Celje-Mariborska cesta site, where various examples of these beakers were found. Two fragments[84] may be compared with finds from Augst (AR 45.1; Isings 21 type) and with known finds from Romula. A single fragment[85] was identified as form AR 45.1B, a variant with a rib at the transition between the decorated wall and the foot, or Group II according to Oliver's

76 Foy *et al.* 2018, 140, Fig. 32.1,2.
77 Fünfschilling 2015, 279.
78 Lazar 2023, 421.
79 Foy *et al.* 2018, 148, 150.
80 Fünfschilling 2015, 108–109; Foy *et al.* 2018, 149–150.
81 Oliver 1984, 39.
82 Oliver 1984, 49.
83 Fünfschilling 2015, 313, variant Isings 21.
84 Lazar 2023, 420.
85 Lazar 2023, 420, Fig. 602.

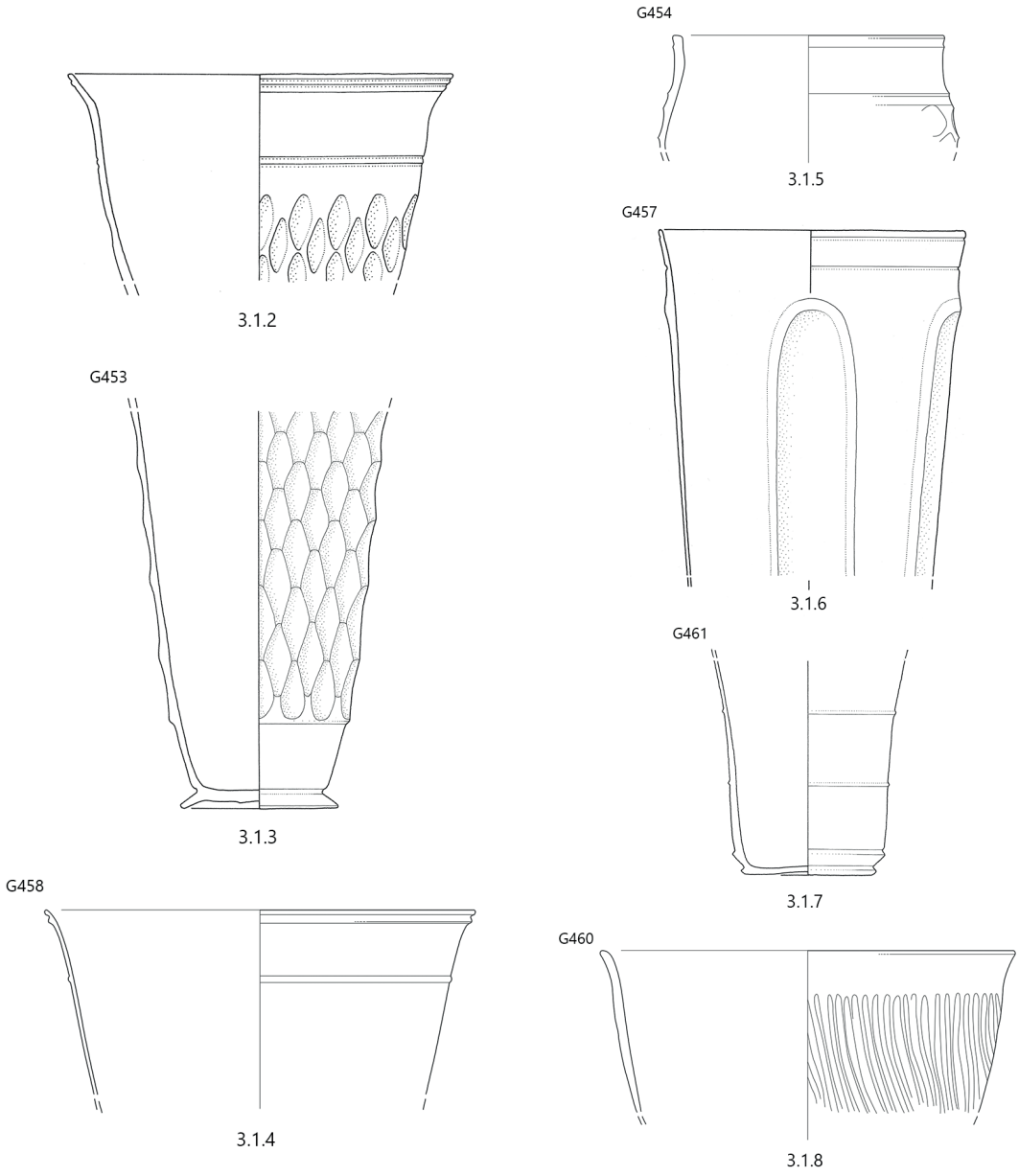


Fig. 6. Romula. New beaker forms made of decolourised glass. M = 1:2.

classification.[86] A beaker of this type is also known from Grave 298 at Poetovio, which dates to the Flavian-Hadrianic period.[87] Numerous smaller fragments of identical beakers were also discovered at the Roman customs station of Atrans (Trojane) and in the Roman *villa rustica* at Mošnje (PN 2959, 5408).[88]

A group of low beakers made of colourless glass was identified in France as type IN10, dated to the last decades of the 1st century, with some finds also originating from the first third of the 2nd century.[89] At Augst, this type of beaker has been dated to between AD 70 and 120, while at Avenches (Aventicum) it has been dated to between AD 100 and 150.[90]

86 Fünfschilling 2015, 313; Oliver 1984, 49.

87 Istenič 2000, 99.

88 The findings were prepared for publication by the author.

89 Foy *et al.* 2018, 18.

90 Fünfschilling 2015, 313; Bonnet Borel 1997, 30.

A possible reconstruction of the beakers described above shows that, based on the inclination of the wall, fragment G453 could also be classified as a conical form. This type of beaker is taller and narrower and may be defined as Type AR 45.2 or Group IN11 according to the typology of decolourised glass.[91] The facets of the decoration are more elongated, and there is no rib beneath the pattern band. It is important to note that both beakers have a visible circle on the outside of the base, resulting from the attachment of the vessel to a lathe. The beaker was defined as a new form, 3.1.3 (Fig. 6).

An identical type of tall beaker with faceted decoration is known from the cemetery at Nova Tabla near Murska Sobota; it was found in Grave 166, dated by grave goods to the beginning of the 2nd century AD.[92]

The find material includes not only decorated beakers of this form but also low conical beakers made of decolourised glass with smooth walls and two thin horizontal ribs below the rim (G458). In terms of form and manufacture, these undecorated beakers are entirely similar to the forms with faceted decoration described above, except that their walls are plain and divided only by horizontal ribs. Parallels are known from Oliver's publication, but further examples may be found among decolourised glass from France, where the form is defined as IN14 and dated to the end of the 1st or the beginning of the 2nd century AD.[93] Other sites with similar finds are in Great Britain, the Netherlands, Egypt, and Algeria. We have defined it as a new form, 3.1.4 (Fig. 6).

Two beaker fragments from Romula (G454 and G456) differ from others and indicate that their walls were more spherical or barrel-shaped. Fragment G456 also has a pronounced rib below the rim or neck. The spherical beaker with faceted decoration may be compared with a find from Nijmegen in the Netherlands[94] and, according to the typology of decolourised products from France, belongs to Type IN18 and dates to the end of the 1st or the beginning of the 2nd century AD.[95] At Augst (Augusta Raurica), this type of beaker is defined as type AR 45.4 and dated to between AD 30 and 130.[96] The same form of beaker can also be found in the Begram treasure.[97] In our material, it is defined as a new form, 3.1.5 (Fig. 6).

Examples of the beakers described above in a blown variant, made of naturally coloured glass and decorated with simple oval engraved facets, are known from the settlement area of our site,[98] as well as from Ticino in Italy.[99]

It should also be noted that the archaeological material includes examples of these types of beakers in metal and ceramic variants. Among the metal finds, two treasure finds should be mentioned, namely Berthouville and Chaourse, which date to the end of the 2nd and early 3rd centuries AD.[100] Ceramic copies of beakers with faceted decoration are known among the settlement finds from Romula and Celje,[101] among graves at Emona and Verdun,[102] and from Andautonia (Ščitarjevo) in Croatia.[103]

91 Fünfschilling 2015, 314; Foy *et al.* 2018, 19.

92 Guštin 2004, 75, Fig. 10; Lazar 2020b, 343, Fig. 3.a,b.

93 Foy *et al.* 2018, 23.

94 Oliver 1984, 42, Fig. 15.

95 Foy *et al.* 2018, 26.

96 Fünfschilling 2015, 315.

97 Whitehouse 1989, 153; Meininger 1996; http://www.michaelmenninger.de/begram/html/frame4.htm

98 Lazar 2020b, 340.

99 Biaggio Simona 1991, 108, Fig. 49.176.2.

100 Baratte – Painter 1989, Fig. 26 (Berthouvile), Figs 58–61 (Chaourse).

101 Lazar 2023, 421, G6694–SE3184.

102 Ljubljana; Petru 1972, Pl. 44.12; Breščak 2002, 138, Cat. 72.3.

103 Nemeth Ehrlich 1994, 121, Fig. a.

Beakers with faceted decoration are not the only high-quality products of this type found at Petričev grič. At least three other fragments made of decolourised glass deserve mention. One of the beakers (G457; Fig. 6, 3.1.6) is decorated with two horizontal grooves below the rim and relief vertical ovals or arcades along the wall. It resembles arcaded beakers, but the decoration is cut so as to stand out in relief rather than being applied. Among the published material, there are no direct parallels, but as a variant, it could be placed in the group of decorated conical beakers IN7 or perhaps IN8; both groups are believed to have been known before AD 79, as indicated by finds from Pompeii.[104] The form and type of decoration are uncommon and do not occur after the beginning of the 2nd century AD. Based on the finds and their distribution, workshops in Campania or Rome are assumed. A similar form is defined at Augst as AR 48 and dated to between AD 70 and 120.[105] We have defined it as a new form, 3.1.6.

The second beaker stands on a ring foot, has thin horizontal ribs on the lower part of the wall (G461; Fig. 6, 3.1.7), and widens slightly towards the rim. In terms of form and decoration, it is most similar to a find from the La Bourse site in Marseille, which belongs to Type IN13 and dates to the first half of the 2nd century.[106] Similar finds are known from sites of Augst, Settefinestre, and Nijmegen, where they occur in the period from AD 80 to the first half of the 2nd century AD.[107] This beaker is defined as a new form, 3.1.7.

In connection with the finds described above, the glass from Celeia–Mariborska cesta III should also be mentioned. The broader group of mould-made decolourised glass from the second half of the 1st century AD also includes two fragments of biconical beakers with a flat base, decorated only with thin horizontal ribs along the walls (G1129: SE 2741, G1130: SE 271).[108] The thin body and simple decoration emphasise the elegant form and high quality of the product, which we have defined as a variant of the IN13[109] form or as Group AR 39/40, namely tall conical beakers with a curved transition to the lower part or flat base. In grave complexes in France, these beakers date to between AD 80 and 100,[110] while at other sites they occur in the second half of the 1st century and at the beginning of the 2nd century AD.[111]

Fragment G460 (Fig. 6, 3.1.8) belonged to an oval beaker decorated with dense, slightly oblique or twisted flutes on the wall. Parallels can be found at French sites in Lyon, Marseille, and Fréjus, where the form is defined as IN12.[112] Whitehouse dates beakers with similar decoration, based on finds from Begram in Afghanistan, to the end of the 1st and the beginning of the 2nd century AD.[113] Comparable finds also appear in the material from Cologne, where an identical beaker was found in the rich Grave 48 on Luxemburger Strasse, which, based on the grave goods, was dated to the end of the 2nd or the beginning of the 3rd century AD.[114]

104 Foy *et al.* 2018, 15–16.
105 Fünfschilling 2015, 316.
106 Foy 1998, 66, no. 99; Foy *et al.* 2018, 22.
107 Foy *et al.* 2018, 22.
108 Lazar 2023, 423.
109 Foy *et al.* 2018, 22.
110 Foy *et al.* 2018, 111, Ass. 54.
111 Fünfschilling 2015, 120, Abb. 157.
112 Foy *et al.* 2018, 21.
113 Whitehouse 1997, no. 396.
114 Boeselager 2012, 102–105, Form 12d.

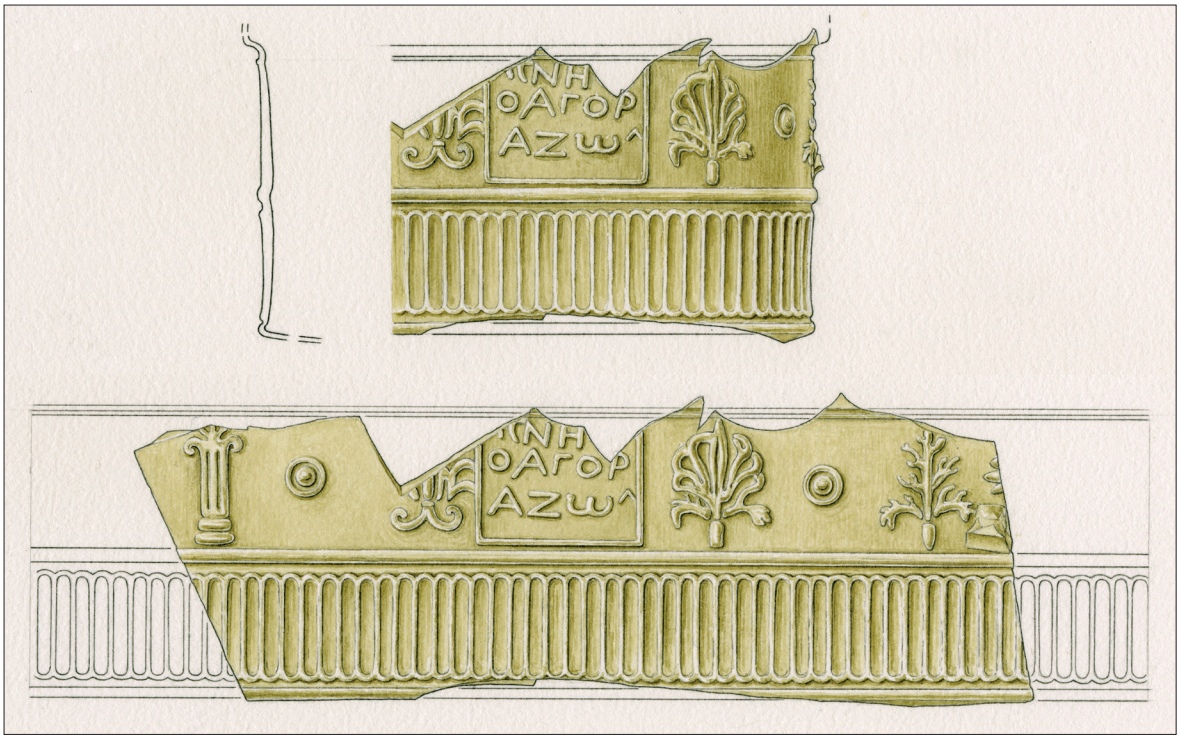


Fig. 7. Romula. 'Ennion beaker', a coloured reconstruction of the find (by Anđelka Fortuna Saje).

Mould-blown glass

During excavations of the Roman settlement of Romula, a mould-blown beaker was found among a group of high-quality imported glass. The partially preserved vessel with vegetal decoration (Fig. 7) bears an inscription in Greek on the wall, on the basis of which it could be identified as a product of the Roman glassmaker Ennion.[115] This is the first find of this group of products in Slovenia and in the wider area of the south-eastern Alps (defined as Form 3.1.9; Fig. 8), which is also important in the broader context of the distribution of these products throughout the Roman Empire and therefore undoubtedly deserves some attention.

Among the known names preserved on products of this type, his name stands out because he inscribed in Greek on his products who had made them. Within the group of mould-blown products, his work is distinguished by its precision, clear design, and high-quality decoration, which drew inspiration from contemporary Roman toreutics. His work was innovative and technically accomplished.[116]

The fragment from Ribnica[117] belonged to a one-handled beaker and was made of transparent, pale yellow-coloured glass.[118] The remains of the handle attachment are preserved on the wall. The vegetal decoration on the vessel consists of columns, palmettes, concentric circles, and part of a star. Based on analogies, it may be defined as a Near Eastern style of decoration, as identified by Lehrer and Lightfoot.[119] In the central part, an inscription in Greek, ΜΝΗΘΗ ΟΑΓ ΟΡ ΑΖΩΝ (*mnethe ho agorazon* – May the name of the buyer be remembered), is preserved in a square frame.

115 See Lazar 2005b; Lazar 2021, 150; Lazar 2022b.

116 Stern 1995, 69; Lehrer 1979; Israeli 2011; Lightfoot 2015.

117 Diameter: 125 mm, PN 4596, S 889.

118 Lazar 2004a, 53, Abb. 17; Lazar 2005b, 40.

119 Lightfoot 2015, 36, Fig. 26; Lehrer 1979, Pl. 6.2.

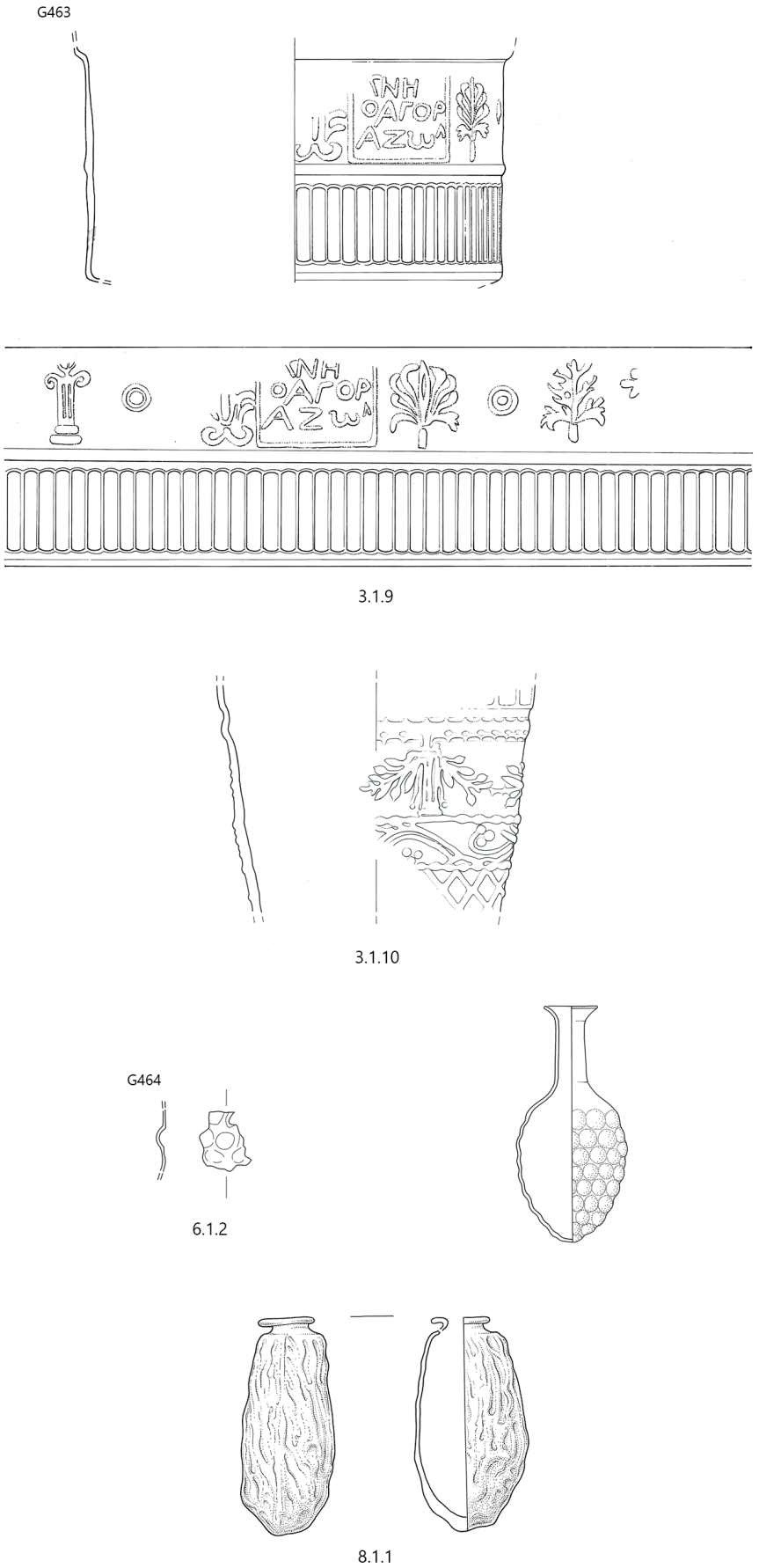


Fig. 8. Romula. Table of forms of mould-blown glassware from the settlement and necropolis. M = 1:2.

Another inscription, placed on the other side of these cups, ENNI / ΩNEΠ / OIHCE N *(Ennion made me)*, may be assumed based on comparisons, but unfortunately, it has not been preserved.

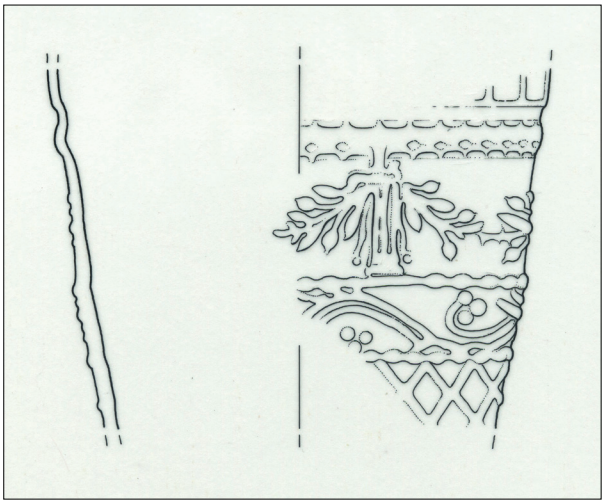


Fig. 9. Romula. Fragment of a mould-blown conical beaker with vegetal decoration.

The inscription preserved on the beaker from Romula, together with its decoration, may be classified as type J according to the typology of known inscriptions.[120] Parallels with the find from Ribnica, in terms of inscription and decoration, can be found on a fragment of a greenish glass bowl discovered at Soluntum (Solanto) in Italy (kept in the A. Salinas Regional Archaeological Museum in Palermo, Sicily),[121] and in a two-handled beaker from the Shlomo Moussaieff Collection.[122] Both beakers were blown in a mould with the same pattern or decoration as the find from Romula; the decoration, the framed inscription, and other details are entirely identical.

This may be confirmed by comparing the position of the letters and the inscription in the frame MNH… / OAΓOP / AZΩN; it can be seen that the letter 'N' is placed above the letter 'Ω' (ω) in the third line and not in the fourth, as is the case on other beakers of this group, for example the one from Narona in Croatia.[123] From this, it may be concluded that there were differences between the moulds used for the same type of beaker and that, of course, several moulds existed. These small differences may have arisen during the repair or manufacture of new moulds.

Ennion's one-handled beakers date to the second quarter of the 1st century AD. Rare finds from dated contexts occur in late Tiberian and Claudian layers.[124] The find from Romula belongs to a rich collection of glass finds dating from the second quarter to the end of the 1st century AD. More recent finds show that Ennion's products were widely represented throughout the western part of the Empire; apart from Italy, they are also found in Spain, Greece, and France.[125] The broad distribution of his products throughout the European provinces of the Empire is now complemented by the aforementioned finds from Croatia[126] and Slovenia.

It is also worth mentioning a wall fragment from a mould-blown beaker from the settlement, which features vegetal decoration similar to that on Ennion's products.[127] The conical beaker was made of slightly bluish, naturally coloured high-quality glass (Fig. 8, 3.1.10, Fig. 9). It bears no traces of an inscription, but its decoration shows numerous similarities to products signed by *Ennion* and other Roman masters known by name. The four visible decorative bands are separated by horizontal lines of pearls or small dots. Two bands with vegetal patterns show elements of Dionysian-style decoration in the lower part, akin to those seen on Ennion's two-handled beakers.[128] The upper band

120 Lightfoot 2015, 28.

121 De Bellis 2004, 129–133, Figs 6, 8; De Bellis 2010, 39.

122 Lightfoot 2015, 92.

123 Buljević 2015, 61, Fig. 50.1.

124 Lightfoot 2015, 26; Price 1991, 65.

125 McClellan 1983, 76; Lightfoot 2015, 12–13.

126 Buljević 2004, 188; Buljević 2012; Buljević 2015, 61, Figs 50–51.

127 Lazar 2022b, sl. 3.

128 Lightfoot 2015, 36, Fig. 27.

consists of columns with garlands. The decoration on the fragment ends with vertical flutes at the top and a net pattern at the bottom of the cup, an arrangement recognised on products that could have been signed by both Ennion and Aristeas. We have classified the vessel as a conical cup in Form 3.1.10.

Free-blown glass

Even within the group of free-blown vessels from the Petričev grič area, both the quality range and the colour palette are surprisingly diverse. Of the 383 blown-glass fragments selected for analysis, 278 are made of naturally coloured blue-green or greenish-blue glass, 59 fragments belong to vessels made of decolourised glass, and 51 fragments belong to vessels made of coloured glass (Fig. 10). The latter are particularly important in our context, as they indicate 1st-century AD production, when blown vessels, especially tableware such as plates, bowls, and beakers, were often still made of coloured glass.

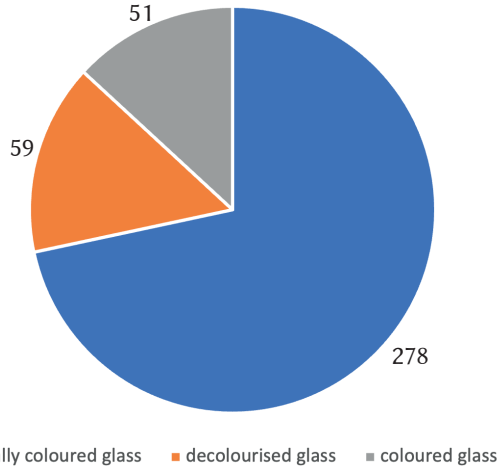


Fig. 10. Free-blown glass. A graph showing the ratio of products made of naturally coloured, decolourised, and coloured glass.

Dark blue and dark green are equally represented among the colours (18 each), followed by purple (6), honey-brown (5), light blue (2), and yellow (2) (Fig. 11). Four vessels decorated with splashed decoration or applied threads were classified according to their basic colour (two purple and two blue).

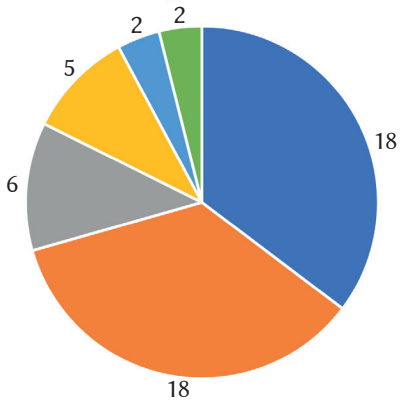


Fig. 11. Free-blown vessels made of coloured glass. The graph shows the percentage of individual colours.

Based on the use of glass in everyday Roman life, a predominance of tableware, such as plates, bowls, and cups, may be observed among the blown-glass assemblage from this area. Transport containers (bottles, jars) are only modestly represented, as are *balsamaria*. The range of tableware extends from forms derived from mould-made vessels to those made by free blowing. The abundance of tableware has also led us to consider the significance of this area within the wider context of the settlement of Romula.

Represented vessel forms[129]

Plates made of coloured or naturally coloured glass are surprisingly numerous, and several forms could be identified, such as Form 1.2.1 and 1.2.2 or Isings 47,[130] Form 1.2.4 or Isings 46a, Forms 1.2.5 and 1.2.6 or AR 86 and AR 108,[131] and Form 1.3.1 or a variant of Isings 45.[132]

129 We present only forms represented by more than one specimen, even if fragmentary.

130 Isings 1957, 62; Lazar 2003, 64.

131 Fünfschilling 2015, 366, 385; Lazar 2025, 81, Fig. 54a.

132 Isings 1957, 60; Lazar 2003, 66.

Bowls are represented by *zarte Rippenschalen* (Form 2.3.1 or Isings 17),[133] Forms 2.3.2 and 2.4.1 or Isings 44 and 41b,[134] shallow bowls with appliqué decoration on the rim (Form 2.4.3 or Isings 43),[135] and a variety of bowls with a tubular rim and a ring foot (Form 2.4.4 and 2.5.1 corresponding to Isings 44a and AR 109).[136]

Beaker variants include Hofheim cups (Form 3.2.1 or Isings 12), form Isings 29, arkaded beakers (Form 3.3.3 or Isings 33),[137] indented beakers (Form 3.5.1 or Isings 32) and cylindrical beakers with an applied ring foot (Forms 3.6.1 and 3.6.2 or Isings 85a, b).[138]

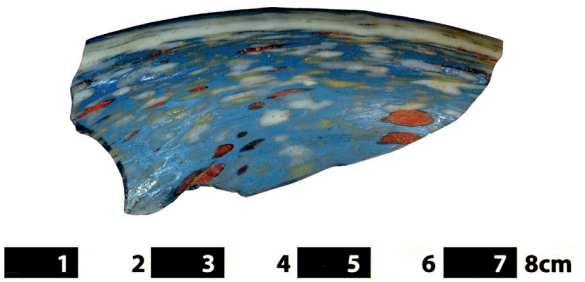


Fig. 12. Romula. Rim fragment of a footed beaker made of deep blue glass with splashed decoration in yellow, red, light blue and white opaque glass (G563; photo by Aleš Ogorelec).

Among the more notable finds is a fragment of a footed beaker with a stepped rim (G563), or chalice, which is also known from grave and settlement contexts at Emona (from excavations at Dunajska cesta in 2021, Grave 38, unpublished)[139] and Celeia and may be defined as Form 3.8.1 or Isings 36a.[140] The vessel usually stands on a tall, separately blown foot, which may also be separated from the bowl by a disc. This form appears, for example, at Augst between the mid-1st and mid-2nd centuries AD, while in Cologne and Trier it can also be found in 3rd-century AD contexts.[141] In Slovenia, products made of naturally coloured glass are known from the cemetery at Celeia, which dates to the Flavian period,[142] and one fragment was also discovered in a Phase 3c context in the settlement of Romula.

The fragment from Romula (Fig. 12) belongs to a beaker made of dark blue glass; the edge of the stepped rim is finished with a thread of white opaque glass, and the body features splashed decoration in white, yellow, light blue, and red opaque glass, applied to the wall as blobs and stretched into a multicoloured splashed pattern by blowing. The applied glass pieces could form a decoration of grains protruding from the wall, or they could be rolled into the wall and blown to stretch the pattern.[143] Splashed decoration, reminiscent of colourful mosaic glass, appeared in blown glass around the AD 20s–30s and remained widespread until the Flavian period.[144]

Parallels for our fragment can be found in Grave 58, or the tomb, at Celeia. The completely preserved beaker is made of dark blue glass and decorated with splashed decoration in different coloured glass (white, yellow, red, light blue); the stepped rim is likewise emphasised by a thread of white opaque glass.[145] Taken as a whole, the glass objects found in the tomb date to the second quarter of the 1st century AD.[146]

133 Lazar 2003, 68; Isings 1957, 35.

134 Isings 1957, 59, 57; Lazar 2003, 71–72.

135 Lazar 2003, 75; Isings 1957, 59.

136 Isings 1957, 59; Fünfschilling 2015; Lazar 2003, 75, 80.

137 Isings 1957, 27, 44, 47.

138 Isings 1957, 46, 102; Lazar 2003, 102.

139 I would like to thank Bernarda Županek (Mestni Muzej Ljubljana, MGML) and Marko Sraka for this information.

140 Isings 1957, 50; Lazar 2003, 110.

141 Fünfschilling 2015, 372; Goethert-Polaschek 1977, 349.

142 Lazar 2003, 111.

143 Fünfschilling 2015, 80, Abb. 80–81.

144 Lazar 2003, 58, Fig. 19.

145 Lazar 2023, 425, Fig. 604.

146 Plestenjak *et al.* 2023; Lazar 2023, 426, Figs 605–607.

Further parallels are known from graves at Emona.[147] The latest excavations of the northern necropolis of Emona on Dunajska cesta (Vienna Road) yielded, to our surprise, a new find of the same form and decoration in Grave 1038.[148] Based on details of the rim, the small handles at the bottom of the wall, the coloured spots, and the profile of the wall, the vessels show minor differences that can undoubtedly be linked to different workshops. The new grave assemblage from Emona still awaits full publication, but the associated ceramic material is similar to that found in the Celje tomb.

Within the group of bottles, cylindrical and square examples are only modestly represented by typically highly fragmentary specimens. There is a small dark blue flask with splashed opaque-white decoration[149] and some fragments of decolourised bottles with simple horizontal engraved decoration. One of these finds deserves special mention.



Fig. 13. Romula. Base fragment of a rectangular bottle with '*Sentia Secunda*' inscription from Aquileia (G705), photo and drawing (photo by Tomaž Lauko).

Fragment of a rectangular bottle with the inscription of *Sentia Secunda*

Among the transport and storage vessels, a fragment of the base of a large rectangular bottle (G705) made of naturally coloured glass stands out (Fig. 13). Although only partially preserved, the remains of an impressed inscription can be recognised on the base. Part of the inscription can be read in two rows: in one, *CIT A Q A*, and in the other, *CVND*, while the third row of the stamp is completely missing. Given the very good preservation, size, and legibility of the letters, the inscription may be reconstructed as part of the stamp on the base of the vessel, reading in full *SENTIA SECVNDA FACIT AQ(vileia) VITR(earia)* – made by the glassmaker *Sentia Secunda* from Aquileia. Reconstruction of the stamp was possible on the basis of comparison of the fragment with two completely preserved bottles discovered in a Roman tomb at Linz.[150] One of them bears a stamp in three lines, which helped us reconstruct the fragment from Romula as part of a larger rectangular two-handled bottle, which we have defined in Slovenia as a new form, 6.3.8, comprising rectangular two-handled bottles.[151]

The fragment is also important and special because it is only the third known find of a bottle bearing an inscription of this glassmaker from Aquileia. Previously, only two bottles from a grave at Linz were known, both larger rectangular two-handled bottles of the Isings 90 type, discovered in 1927 in Grave 99a at Linz (Roman Lentia).[152] The bottles are all the more interesting because both

147 Grave 141: Lazar 2004a, 57, Kat. 28; Grave 798: Plesničar Gec 1972, Pl. 211.6, Pl. 216.

148 The goblet has applied blobs of yellow, white, and light blue glass, further inflated into splashed decoration, and two miniature handles on the lower part of its wall. I thank my colleague Bernarda Županek, who enabled me to examine both the old and newly discovered finds at the Mestni Muzej in Ljubljana, as well as the material from Grave 1038 in the museum's collection.

149 Lazar 2025, 90.

150 Schwanzar 2003, 333, Abb. 2; Glöckner 2006, 199, Pl. 6.AUS 68,69.

151 Lazar 2025, 92, sl. 54b; Lazar 2005a, 41.

152 Glöckner 2006, dimensions: a, height 27.4 cm, base 23.6 × 11.9 cm; b, height 30 cm, base 23 × 11.7 cm; Nenna – Foy 2006.

bear the stamp of the same woman glassmaker, but in two different versions. On the first bottle, the inscription is arranged in three lines and reads *SENTIASE/CVNDA FA/CITAQVITR* – Made by the glassmaker *Sentia Secunda* from Aquileia. On this basis, the inscription on the fragment from Romula could be reconstructed, as it was clearly the same type of stamp.

Judging by the design of the bottle, *Sentia Secunda* was active in Aquileia in the second half of the 1st century. The name was originally interpreted as that of the workshop owner, since glassblowing was considered too demanding a craft for a woman.[153] However, Marianne E. Stern later demonstrated that the abbreviation *VITR* (Latin *vitrearius*) refers to a glassmaker, that is, a manufacturer of glass, and therefore to the glassblower, whether male or female. The word *FACIT* (made) also refers directly to the practitioner of this craft, who made the vessel, rather than to the owner of the workshop.[154] In her opinion, and based on her own experience with glassblowing, we must accept that there were Roman women glassmakers who were masters of their craft.

The settlement

Based on stratigraphy and the material discovered there, we have divided the Roman settlement remains of Romula (Phase 2 of the settlement) into three basic subphases.[155] Phase 2a comprises remains that date from before the construction of masonry architecture in the settlement and that occur concentrated in individual parts of the settlement, dating from the middle to the end of the 1st century AD.

Phase 2b includes remains related to the construction and use of most of the stone buildings in Ribnica, including the remains of a blacksmith's workshop, the remains of fourteen masonry buildings with associated traces of past use, two masonry and three wooden structures, and an exceptionally large number of pits and postholes, as well as remains of hearths and fireplaces and numerous other features. The Roman settlement seems to have had its greatest extent in Phase 2b, as remains were found in all investigated sectors. Phase 2b can be assigned to the 2nd century AD, after which there was a significant decline in settlement activity.

Phase 2c of the settlement includes the remains of structures that were still in use during this phase; however, most of the associated archaeological contexts—mainly rubble layers—were created when the settlement was abandoned. The layer sequence does not allow one to date the end of this phase precisely, but it may be assumed with a high degree of probability that the decline of the settlement began at the turn of the 2nd and 3rd centuries AD and accelerated in the 3rd century AD.

Glass finds

Quantitatively, the glass material from Phase 2a is not very abundant. However, in terms of the manufacturing techniques represented (mould-made glass, blown glass, and the absence of mould-blown products) and the documented forms, the finds are sufficiently informative to confirm the chronological definition of the phase. As at many other sites, a large number of ribbed-bowl fragments have been found at Romula. Compared with the Petričev grič area, mainly products made of naturally coloured glass were identified in the settlement; there are no products made of monochrome coloured glass, and only one piece of decolourised glass.

The group of blown glass includes tableware (plates, bowls, beakers, jugs), storage containers (square and cylindrical bottles, spherical jars), and *balsamaria*. Noteworthy among the plates are

153 Calvi 1968, 12–13.

154 Stern 1997, 130; Stern 2005, 15.

155 Tomaž *et al.* 2025b.

forms Isings 46a; among the bowls, Isings 42a and Isings 41b; among the beakers, Isings 29 and Isings 33 with arcade decoration; and among the jugs, Isings 52.[156]

Bottles are represented in small numbers and occur in cylindrical and square forms, some of them with a collar rim;[157] globular jars are represented by the form Isings 67.

In the second Roman phase of the settlement at Romula, the number of glass finds increased, as did the variety of blown-glass forms. Ribbed bowls (shallow and deep) are still represented, all made of blue-green glass, while other mould-made vessels are rare. There are a few individual fragments of black-glass vessels; decolourised products, with and without faceted decoration, appear for the first time, but in very limited quantities (Form 2.1.17; beakers with faceted decoration: Forms 3.1.2 and 3.1.3), not to the extent known from the Petričev grič area.

Free-blown plates are represented by Forms 1.2.4 (Isings 46a) and 1.2.5.[158] Bowls with a tubular rim and ring foot (Forms 2.4.4 and 2.5.1 or Isings 44a) are well represented. Among the beakers, we may mention form Isings 29, indented beakers (Forms 3.5.3, 3.5.6, and 3.5.8 or Isings 32 and Isings 35), and cylindrical beakers with a ring foot (Forms 3.6.1 and 3.6.2 or Isings 85a and b).

Bottles are more numerous in this phase, represented by cylindrical, square, and rectangular forms, and a few decolourised products. Base marks are not very diverse; the most common are concentric circles, combined with dots and letters. Within the group of jars, the globular form 7.2.4 and the square form 7.1.2 were documented.[159] *Balsamaria* are still modestly represented; new forms include small bath flasks (Forms 8.3.2, 8.3.3) with handles.[160]

The final phase, 2c, is represented by forms similar to those of Phase 2b, with a few exceptions. Mould-made glass is represented only by fragments of ribbed bowls; there is no mould-blown glass, and 1st-century AD free-blown forms are not numerous.

Glass finds from the western necropolis

The eastern necropolis (investigated in 1958–1960) lay east of the settlement and was partially excavated in a narrow strip south of the Emona–Siscia road.[161] The uncovered 41 cremation and inhumation graves date from the early 1st century to the beginning of the 3rd century AD. The western necropolis was excavated in 2002 and 2004 and measured 95 m in length and up to 16 m in width. Stretching along the north side of the Roman road, it was separated from the road by a 1.5 m-wide gravel-paved walkway; the orientation of all the graves respected the course of the road. A total of 131 cremation and inhumation graves were identified at the burial ground, with cremation graves accounting for 80% of all graves and inhumation graves for 20%. Four graves contained no human remains and were interpreted either as cenotaphs or as pre-prepared graves. More than twelve graves contained several burials.[162] Apart from individual graves, four larger grave plots (A, B, C, D) with several individual graves and two built tombs were explored. Based on the dating of the graves and the scattered distribution of the inhumation graves within the necropolis, we

156 Isings 46a: Isings 1957, 61; bowls Isings 42a and Isings 41b: Isings 1957, 58; beakers Isings 29 and Isings 33: Isings 1957, 44, 47; and jug Isings 52: Isings 1957, 69.

157 Stern 2001, 48.

158 Isings 1957, 61; Lazar 2003, 65.

159 Lazar 2003, 165, 159.

160 Lazar 2003, 171.

161 Petru 1969, 21.

162 Data from a partially completed anthropological analysis; therefore, the interpretation is only preliminary.

conclude that there is no clear temporal distinction between the use of cremation and inhumation burial, and that both burial rites were practised simultaneously, that is, a bi-ritual practice was followed.

The forms of cremation and inhumation graves in the Ribnica pri Brežicah necropolises are diverse. Including the forms in the eastern necropolis, we identified three basic forms of grave pit with several variations among the cremation graves, and three among the inhumation graves. Particularly noteworthy are Tomb 1 (Grave 7) and Tomb 2 (Graves 101 and 135), as well as two *bustum* graves, which also preserved traces of postholes indicating the placement of a wooden pyre construction above the grave.

Based on tomb architecture and the grave goods discovered in the western necropolis, it may be concluded that the tombs reflect the distinct social status of the deceased. Among the grave goods, amber objects deserve special mention, including several spindles, rings, and medallions with relief depictions, as well as high-quality imported glassware and bone objects.[163] An alabaster vase and a bronze mirror depicting the Three Graces on the reverse also stand out. Unlike the imported items mentioned above, the ceramic grave goods are distinctly local or regional in character, linked to the provincial workshops of Noricum and Pannonia. There are virtually no imported *sigillata* vessels among the grave goods.

With rare exceptions, the glass grave goods found in the western cemetery of Romula consist mainly of objects widely used in everyday life, with tableware and cosmetic vessels predominating. Unlike the settlement, where early Imperial mould-made glass is very well represented,[164] the grave goods consist predominantly of free-blown vessels.

High-quality imported products made of decolourised glass, typical of the 1st and 2nd centuries AD, are very well represented. Of the 131 graves in the western necropolis, glass is present in 40, that is, in about one-third. In 18 graves, a single glass vessel was deposited, while the remaining graves contained several, mostly imported products, including new forms previously unknown in Slovenia.[165]

Only glass beads or jewellery were preserved in five graves, while ten graves contained glass beads or necklaces together with glass vessels. A glass mirror was included once. The graves containing glass products date from the mid-1st to the 2nd centuries AD.



Fig. 14. Romula. Mould-blown *balsamarium* of amber coloured glass from Grave 1 (photo by Aleš Ogorelec).

Mould-blown date-shaped *balsamarium*

Among the grave goods, the date-shaped *balsamarium* is the only object made by mould-blowing. It was made of amber-brown glass and placed in Grave 1 (Fig. 14).[166]

Mould-blown bottles imitating the wrinkled surface of dates or the outer shell of almonds are among the most common forms of mould-

163 Lazar – Tomaž 2024; Lazar – Tomaž in print.

164 See previous paragraphs and Lazar 2021; Lazar 2022a; Tomaž *et al.* 2024; Tomaž *et al.* 2025a.

165 Lazar 2025, 93, Fig. 54.a–c.

166 Tomaž *et al.* 2024, 198–209.

blown vessels from the 1st century (Isings form 78d).[167] Small date-shaped bottles belong to a very popular group of products from the second half of the 1st century AD.[168] Their surface is wavy and wrinkled, just like that of a date. The colour likewise usually imitates dates, as the bottles are most often made of amber-coloured glass, followed by purple glass, while examples made of naturally coloured glass are very rare. Parallels for coloured vessels can also be found in the Hermitage collection in St Petersburg.[169]

Flasks of this shape were blown in two-part moulds, which is why they have a seam running along their entire length. Their production began shortly before the middle of the 1st century and continued until the beginning of the 2nd century AD.[170] The earliest examples from closed contexts are known from Trier, where they were found in a tomb dated to the Claudian period.[171] Finds from Pompeii and Herculaneum bear witness to the same. Finds from the second half of the 1st century are known from Israel, Crete, and nearby Croatia.[172] Two-thirds of the known finds originate from the Middle East, with the remaining sites scattered across the western and eastern Mediterranean. The exact locations of the workshops cannot be pinpointed, but their distribution suggests production on the Palestinian coast or in the well-known glassmaking centres of Phoenicia. In the 1st century, this region was known not only for its mould-blown glass products, but also for its date palms. In Greek, the terms for Phoenicia (Phoenike) and dates or date palms *(phoinix)* are homonyms.

The *balsamarium* from Grave 1 was blown in a two-part mould, with a visible seam on the side where the two parts of the mould met. For comparison, the Hellenistic and Roman necropolis of Budva may be mentioned, with its large number of imported mould-blown products, among which similar forms of *balsamaria* also occur.[173] In the grave contexts of Budva, they usually appear in pairs, and a free-blown balsamarium is often added to the group.[174] Graves with date-shaped *balsamaria* at Budva are dated to the 1st and 2nd centuries AD.[175]

Grave 1 from Romula contains, in addition to the *balsamarium*, the upper part of a Mercury flask made of decolourised glass (G51), the lower part of the balsamarium (G52; Form 8.6.5), a square bottle (G53; Form 3.6.4) and a spherical one-handled bottle (G54; Form 6.3.8), an amber medallion (G46), three house-urns (G55–G57), oil lamps with stamps (G62–G63), and ceramic vessels (G58–G61). It dates to the second half of the 1st and the first half of the 2nd century AD.[176]

Balsamaria with stamps

Balsamaria are quite numerous in grave assemblages, but unfortunately, some were damaged beyond recognition by fire. Early forms include *balsamaria* with a triangular body, often with a constriction at the transition from the neck to the body (Form 8.6.5), which, on the basis of known grave assemblages, date to the second half of the 1st and the 2nd centuries AD (Graves 1, 54, and 130).[177]

167 Isings 1957.
168 Price 1991, 69.
169 Kunina 1997, 280, Cat. 146, Fig. 91, left.
170 Stern 1995, 93.
171 Goethert-Polaschek 1977, 96, no. 453.
172 Fadić – Štefanac 2010, 279; Buljević 2002, 393, Cat. 1, Pl. 1.
173 Marković 2012; Lazar 2016, 21.
174 Marković 2012, Grave 39: 27/2, A–I/11, Grave 174: A–I/8.
175 Lazar 2016, 25.
176 Tomaž *et al.* 2024, 166, Fig. 141.
177 Lazar 2003, 181.

Particularly noteworthy are *balsamaria* bearing a stamp or inscription on the base. In Grave 9 (G201),[178] a *balsamarium* with a wide neck and a flattened body with a wide horizontal rim (Fig. 15) was found. It is made of decolourised glass and belongs to Form 8.6.12 or the IN 192 type.[179] Its special feature is a stamp on the flat base, which is difficult to read but may be identified as belonging to the *PATRIMONI* group.



Fig. 15. Romula. *Balsamarium* with a flattened body and a '*PATRIMONI*' stamp on the base (photo by Aleš Ogorelec).

Balsamaria with stamps *PATRIMONI/PATRIMONIUM/VECTIGAL PATRIMONIN or VEC(tigal) MONOP(oliu)M P(atrimoni) IMP(eratoris) CAE(saris) M(arci) A(ureli) (ANT)ONINI/PATEVAN* have been found at many European sites in the area of the former Roman provinces. They occur from Great Britain through the Netherlands, Germany, Switzerland, Portugal, and Spain to Italy.[180] Numerous parallels can be found in our vicinity, on the coast of neighbouring Croatia, where nine *balsamaria* with variants of the *PATRIMONI* stamp were found at *Asseria*, *Aenona*, Bakar, and Zadar.[181]

The stamps clearly indicate the involvement of the state administration of the Roman Empire in the production, distribution, and trade of aromatic substances, which were transported and sold in these vessels in the second half of the 2nd century and at the beginning of the 3rd century AD. That this concerned a monopoly on products or contents under the control of the imperial treasury is demonstrated by stamps from neighbouring Italy bearing the inscription *VEC(tigal) MONOP(oliu) M P(atrimoni) IMP(eratoris) CAE(saris) M(arci) A(ureli) (ANT)ONINI.*[182] Unfortunately, the precise type of tax involved is unclear, but the content of the stamp undoubtedly confirms the principle of taxation arising from the imperial monopoly. In addition to the financial aspect, the inscription *PATRIMONI* alludes to the emperor himself and thus indirectly attests to the guarantee and quality of the contents stored or offered in these *balsamaria*.

The partially preserved lower part of the *balsamarium* from Grave 59 (G863), also made of decolourised glass, can be assigned to the same form as the previous example.[183] The hardly legible stamp on the base can be reconstructed as *IANUARI* or, in full, as *VOLUMNI IANUARI*, and is interpreted as the name *ANTONIUS VOLUMNIUS IANUARIUS.*[184] *Balsamaria* with this stamp are found mainly in the western provinces of the Empire; they are known from Great Britain, France, and Italy.[185] The inscription may be interpreted as the name of the manufacturer, but unfortunately, it is unclear whether it refers to the maker of the glass vessel, that is, the glassmaker, the producer of the contents, or a trader or distributor. It may also refer to a person who combined all three functions.

178 Tomaž *et al.* 2024, 244–245.
179 Lazar 2003, 178; Foy *et al.* 2018, 193.
180 Foy 2011; Amrein 2006; Frova 1971.
181 Fadić – Štefanac 2012, 37, 137–140; Fig. 18.
182 Frova 1971, 38–40.
183 Tomaž *et al.* 2024, 446–451.
184 Sternini 1994.
185 Foy – Nenna 2006, 136.

European sites have yielded *balsamaria* of various forms bearing this stamp, as shown by a series of publications on glassware stamps.[186] From this, it may be concluded that the workshop produced flasks or *balsamaria* for storing various substances or products. On the basis of parallels, it is possible that production was located somewhere in northern or central Italy. The southernmost find of a balsamarium with this stamp is known from Starigrad in Croatia.[187] Based on other parallels, *balsamaria* with the *VOLUMNI IANUARI* stamp were mainly in use in the second half of the 2nd and early 3rd centuries AD.

Another type of stamp should also be mentioned, found on *balsamaria* from Graves 25 (G361), 32 (G507), 44 (G651; Fig. 16), and 54 (G755).[188] The balsamaria, with a wide and slightly flattened body and a wide neck ending in a tubular rim, belong to Form 8.6.7.[189] On the concave base they have a stamp that may be read as *AT.F* on the bottom line and *OE*, or simply *O*, above it. An identical stamp is known from Grave 1/1977 at Stari Trg near Slovenj Gradec.[190] The letters *AT* may be interpreted as an abbreviation of a name, e.g., *AT(imetus) f(ecit)*. The letters *OE* in the upper line may refer to the contents that were transported or sold in the *balsamaria*. The grave at Slovenj Gradec dates to the beginning of the 2nd century AD, while at other European sites, these types of balsamaria with similar inscriptions date to the 2nd and 3rd centuries AD.[191]

A group of four *balsamaria* with the same stamp is rare, or rather an exceptional find at our sites. Without doubt, they were used to transport contents that were also employed in funerary ceremonies, most probably fragrant oils. Their number probably indicates a regular supplier who supplied the settlement of Romula with his products. It is interesting to note that all the graves in question are *bustum* burials with a rich assemblage of grave goods, including coins. In Grave 25, a coin of Domitian (AD 81–96) was deposited, while the others date from the second quarter (Hadrian, Graves 32 and 54) and the middle of the 2nd century AD (Antoninus Pius, Grave 44).

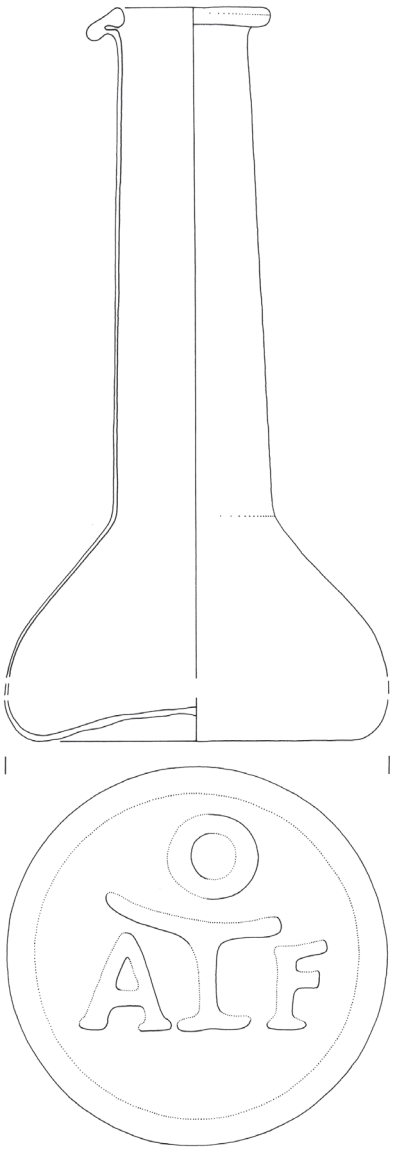


Fig. 16. Romula. Drawing of a *balsamarium* with a stamp from Grave 44 (G651).

Stamps with this abbreviation may be compared with a similar group of stamps found in Dalmatia, at sites such as Starigrad, Zadar, and Senj. The *balsamaria* of this type found there bear the abbreviations *QOP/AL.F* or *QDE/LPF*; they were probably made by workshops in northern Italy at the end of the 1st or in the first decades of the 2nd century AD.[192] Parallels for these stamps come from

186 Foy – Nenna 2006, Pl. 136, nos 072–076.

187 Fadić – Štefanac 2012, 41, cat. 30.

188 Tomaž *et al.* 2024, 100–101.

189 Lazar 2003, 186.

190 Lazar 2006, 245; Strmčnik Gulič 1981, 365.

191 Strmčnik Gulič 1981, 368; Taborelli 1999, 267–77.

192 Mandruzzato – Marcante 2007, 51.

Aquileia, where the first line is interpreted as an abbreviation for the *tria nomina* of the workshop owner. Based on the composition or abbreviations of the stamp and the form of the *balsamaria* from the graves at Romula, it may be assumed that they originated in workshops in northern Italy, which is also confirmed by the chronological position of the associated features, as suggested by grave goods, especially coins.[193]

Miniature glass mirror

Grave 70 (G710) contained an eight-sided concave glass element belonging to a miniature mirror. The mirror was set in a lead frame, which, unfortunately, has not been preserved in this case.[194] Similar mirrors have been found throughout the Roman Empire, most notably at sites such as Milan, Trier, Cologne, Nijmegen, Augst, the Black Sea region, and Olbia.[195] Several similar finds are known in Slovenia from grave contexts, especially at Ptuj, Križišče near Spodnje Škofije (Grave 29), and Grave 246 at *Emona*.[196] It is also worth mentioning the recently published finds from the western necropolis at Salona.[197]

Women's graves often contain various accessories and items for personal and cosmetic care, so the first assumption might be that the miniature mirror was likewise for personal care. In this case, however, that would be misleading, since the surface of the mirror is only 2 to 3 cm across, making such use unlikely. In addition, the lead from which the frames of these mirrors were made is extremely soft and unsuitable for everyday use.

Known finds of these mirrors come mainly from temples, for example, as votive offerings in female cults, and from graves. In the latter context, they may be defined as grave goods rather than as objects of personal use. The mirror frames, whether square, round, with handles, etc., were made of lead, not only because it was cheap and easy to shape, but also because the colour of lead was traditionally associated with the underworld and with magic. From the Black Sea region, frames depicting Bacchus, Silenus, Pan, and satyrs are known; the same depictions have also been identified on a mirror frame from Križišče.[198]

From Aquincum, finds of mirrors are known with inscriptions such as "gift for a beautiful woman", "for a beautiful soul", "*utere felix*", etc. Such gifts and inscriptions are often associated with cults of female deities such as Venus, Selene, Isis, Juno, etc.[199] Parallels may be drawn with concepts such as beauty, youth, health, and premature death. It may therefore be concluded that these miniature mirrors belong to the grey area between religion and magic, especially if the inscriptions and dedications preserved on the frames of these mirrors are taken into account.

Mirrors with square frames are more common at sites in the western part of the Empire, and their use spans a wide time period between the 1st and the 4th century AD, perhaps even into the early Middle Ages. Researchers believe that there was a workshop producing these items in Avenches, active in the 2nd and 3rd centuries AD.[200]

193 Tomaž *et al.* 2024, 101, 165–167, Fig. 41.

194 Tomaž *et al.* 2024, 104–105; 400–405.

195 Uboldi 2016, 98.

196 Ptuj: Lazar 2004a, 78, Abb. 92; Križišče: Lazar 2004a, 78, sl. 93; Novšak *et al.* 2019, 106–107; Emona: Petru 1972, Pl. 25.1.

197 Buljević 2023, 45.

198 Novšak *et al.* 2019, 108.

199 Baratta 2014, 712.

200 Amrein 2001.

This time frame is also the most common for dated contexts currently known at French sites, while at sites in northern Europe, e.g., Cologne, these finds are common in the second half of the 3rd and the first half of the 4th century AD.[201] Comparable finds from Slovenia date from the 1st (Emona) to the 3rd century AD (Školarice, Grave 29; Poetovio), and those from Salona from the 2nd to the 4th century AD.[202]

Archaeometric analysis of glass finds[203]

For the archaeometric study prepared by Caroline Jackson, only early Roman fragments from the settlement were sampled, since glass items from the graves were undergoing restoration and were therefore unavailable. The fragments were chosen to represent the range of forms (bowls, jars, bottles, beakers, plates, *pyxis*) typical of the 1st century AD and to encompass a representative range of colours.[204]

The glasses are all soda-lime-silica glasses and are typical of compositions comparable to those seen in Roman glasses from this period.[205] Every colourless glass sample contained sufficient antimony, and there are no examples of manganese-decolourised glass. All further details and the results of the study are available in the aforementioned publication by Caroline Jackson and Irena Lazar.

Concluding remarks

In terms of quantity, diversity, quality, and chronological range, the glass and other materials discovered and analysed at the site of Romula reflect the period of the settlement's establishment and development and speaks of its inhabitants: the Roman settlers and the indigenous Celtic population. After the Roman state completed its military operations in the region of Illyricum and suppressed the Dalmatian-Pannonian uprising between AD 6 and 9, it was time to establish governance, trade, and normal life along the *via publica* that ran from Aquileia through Emona to Siscia and onwards to the Balkans and the eastern provinces. On the basis of the material, and of its quantity and quality in the Petričev grič area, it may be concluded that a Roman villa was first established here, owned by a representative of the upper class of Roman society. This is indicated by the high-quality imported glass finds from the Tiberian period onwards, the quantity of which exceeds that expected for a modest *villa rustica*. Given its location on the main Roman road, the villa may briefly have served as a road station, after which the road and customs station of Romula was established in the immediate vicinity at a strategic location, probably in the middle of the first half of the 1st century AD.

Owing to its location (on a road and possibly at a port), the settlement flourished throughout the 1st and 2nd centuries AD. The earliest graves in the western necropolis date to the mid-1st century AD, while the youngest date to the end of the 2nd or the beginning of the 3rd century AD. Unfortunately, because of the geographical conditions that had previously been advantageous, Romula was unable to expand and develop. Consequently, during the Flavian dynasty, the *Municipium Flavium Latobicorum Neviodunum* was founded just a few miles west of Romula. This autonomous city became the centre of the region, and *Romula* began to lose its role and importance. Perhaps its fate was also influenced by the Sava River, with its size and tendency to flood. By the end of the 2nd century AD, Romula's importance had begun to wane, and by the 3rd century AD, it was no more than an insignificant, albeit useful, roadside stop.

201 Foy *et al.* 2018, 330, Form IN325.

202 Novšak *et al.* 2019, 109; Buljević 2023, 45–49.

203 For a comprehensive publication, see Jackson – Lazar 2025.

204 Sixty-nine vessels were sampled and eighty-two analyses were performed (some glasses were multi-coloured).

205 Jackson *et al.* 2009; Freestone – Stapleton 2015; Gallo *et al.* 2013; Jackson 2005.

Compared with other early Roman sites with autonomous status in the region *(Colonia Iulia Emona, Municipium Claudium Celeia)*, the number of strongly coloured mould-made and blown glasses, and of decolourised glass (mould-made and blown), is surprisingly high, predominantly in the Petričev grič area. The vessel forms range from open forms produced using sophisticated cane techniques, slumped over formers in mixtures of opaque and translucent glass, to large quantities of monochrome vessels. The quantity of these high-quality vessels suggests consumption by an affluent section of society. Glass was still an expensive and high-status commodity. Some products were still regarded as unique and were therefore available only to a limited part of society.

Taken together, this assemblage represents fine, high-quality glass produced at the peak of Roman glass production in terms of technological sophistication and variety; it demonstrates the wide range of technologies, forms, colours, and supplies of glass available to both glassworkers and consumers. The period reflected in the range of vessels and colours stands at a transitional point in the production and consumption of Roman glass; blown vessels were becoming more common and easier to produce, and new forms were becoming more widely available because they could be formed easily at the end of a blowpipe.

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