

POTTER'S MARKS APPEARING ON VESSELS DISCOVERED IN THE SETTLEMENT OF OSTROV – TULCEA COUNTY

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“Included” into the Dobrudjan archaeological repertory as early as the end of the 19th century, the settlement placed on the promontory of “Piatra Frecăței” (located at about 2,5 kilometres from the village of Ostrov) would have, in the course of time, several stages of research, in which the attention of the specialists has been directed to the evolution of the entire site, or towards auxiliary procedures (the study of the archaeological material¹, geophysical, magnetic and experimental electrical² prospects), with a remarkable contribution to the completion of the archaeological – historical data. By cumulating the results of these campaigns, we could discern the preference of the people for the building of habitats in this area, habitats whose existence was longer or shorter, which is not surprising, if we take into consideration the fact that the strip of land, 30 metres high and rocky, was a fairly protected place, and the vicinity to the Danube river conferred a source of water and food. All these natural factors – natural protection, water and food – are among the conditions that a territory must meet, when people want to establish a settlement, and history has shown us that they were much respected by the ancient communities.

In “Piatra Frecăței”, we have found traces of the prehistoric era (belonging to the Hamangia culture and to the Bronze Age)³, of the Geto-Dacian civilization⁴, of the Roman period⁵, of the Roman-Byzantine period⁶, and of the early medieval period⁷. Without having the intention of presenting a detailed evolution of the settlement from Piatra Frecăței, we will now point out a few aspects that regard chiefly the last three periods that we have mentioned. On the said promontory, a Roman settlement has been identified, one that had functioned during the 1st–6th centuries AD, both as fleet station and stop point on the terrestrial route that

¹ M. Șt. Udrescu, *Vânătoarea și creșterea animalelor în secolele VIII–XII în sud-estul României. Unele corelații între ocupații și condițiile ecologice*, in *Revista Muzeelor și Monumentelor, seria muzee*, 9, 1980, p. 56–60; S. Haimovici, *Studiul resturilor mamiferelor domestice descoperite în așezări din secolele VIII–XII situate în sud-estul României*, in *SCIVA*, XXXV, 1984, 4, p. 311–319.

² A. Petre, A. Apostol, *Prospecțiuni geofizice-magnetice și electrice-experimentale, aplicate în perimetrul arheologic al castrului antic de la Beroe (Piatra Frecăței)*, in *SCIV*, XXI, 1970, 1, p. 165–182.

³ S. Morintz, *Contribuții arheologice la istoria tracilor timpurii. I. Epoca bronzului în spațiul carpato-balcanic*, București, 1978, p. 89; A. Rădulescu, I. Bitoleanu, *Istoria românilor dintre Dunăre și Mare. Dobrogea*, București, 1979, p. 32; *Enciclopedia arheologiei și istoriei vechi a României*, vol. III, M–Q, București, 2000, p. 312 (and further on *EAIVR* III).

⁴ A. Rădulescu, I. Bitoleanu, *op. cit.*, p. 47; *EAIVR* III, p. 312.

⁵ Al Suceveanu, *Viața economică în Dobrogea romană. Secolele I–III e. n.*, București, 1977, p. 65, 101–102, 138–139.

⁶ P. Aurelian, *Săpăturile de la Piatra Frecăței*, in *MCA*, VIII, 1962, p. 565–589; D. Vâlceanu, Al. Barnea, *Ceramica lucrată cu mâna din așezarea romano-bizantină de la Piatra Frecăței (secolul al VI-lea e. n.)*, in *SCIVA*, XXVI, 1975, 2, p. 209–218; *EAIVR* III, p. 312–313.

⁷ A. Stănică, *Câteva aspecte privind așezarea medio-bizantină de la Ostrov – Piatra Frecăței (Beroe), jud. Tulcea*, in *Prinos lui Petre Diaconu la 80 de ani*, Brăila, 2004, p. 357–373.

accompanied, from north to south, the river's banks, and as a garrison for the small Roman military units positioned on the limes (*Cuneus equitum stablesianorum*)⁸. With the same location, we have, in conformity with the information from various Roman age itineraries⁹, the army camp of Beroe.

In 1898, Pamfil Polonic mentioned in "Piatra Frecăței" a Roman stronghold with stone walls, protected by natural elements from the north, south and west, and completed, on the eastern side, by two 5-meter deep ditches, situated 100 metres away from one another¹⁰. At the beginning of the 20th century, Constantin Moisil noticed here a stronghold with the foundations in the shape of a regular octagon, with a perimeter of approximately 150 m², with a square tower towards the Danube¹¹; following the surface investigations made during the '50s of the same century, Eugen Comșa cites, on the same promontory, walls with a thickness of over 3 metres, which he assumed had been built during the 4th century AD¹².

The archaeological excavations, initially with a salvaging character¹³, undertaken during the interval 1958–1976¹⁴, on a plateau that was located towards the north-east, in the immediate vicinity of the fortified area¹⁵, have led to the identification of 1139 graves (dated to the 2nd–7th and 10th–12th centuries)¹⁶.

The investigations that were undertaken in the civil settlement have unearthed three levels of habitation: one that lasted until the end of the 6th century AD¹⁷ and two successive ones, dated to the 10th–12th centuries¹⁸.

The archaeological excavations, with a systematic character, from the point of "Piatra Frecăței" have been resumed in 1998, and have lasted until 2002. During the first year, one single section has been traced (54 x 2 metres), oriented on the north-south direction¹⁹, of which two areas that totalize 40 m of the entire length have been examined. In S I a (squares 1–12), four semi-deepened dwellings have been uncovered, each possessing a stone firing installation, and in S I b (squares 20–27), two dwellings have appeared, a surface dwelling and a semi-buried one²⁰.

In 1999, the excavations were continued in the squares 20–27 (S I b), on which occasion four habitation complexes have been examined, totally or partially (one begun during the previous campaign), two semi-deepened and two surface dwellings, included, in accordance with the discovered archaeological and numismatic material, into the 11th–12th centuries²¹. In the same period, another four sections have been opened (S II–V), in the southern part of the promontory, where a Roman age basin, a medieval oven and five holes in the ground have appeared, one of the holes having materials from the 11th century, and four with materials from the end of the Bronze Age or the beginning of the first Iron Age²².

The intended purpose for the campaign of the autumn of 2000 "was the establishing of the stratigraphy of the settlement through the conducting of surveys in the major section"²³. Four surveys have been carried out, on which occasion another four dwellings from the 11th century have appeared. A new section (S V) has been traced in the eastern part of the promontory, and its examination revealed archaeological materials from the Bronze Age, the first Iron Age, from the Roman and the medieval period (the 11th–12th centuries)²⁴.

⁸ A. Rădulescu, I. Bitoleanu, *op. cit.*, p. 126.

⁹ *Tabula Peutingeriana* VII, 3, *apud Izvoare privind istoria României*, vol. I, București, 1964, p. 746; *Notitia Dignitatum* XXXIX, 15, *apud Fontes Historiae Daco-Romanae*, vol. II, București, 1970, p. 208.

¹⁰ P. Polonic, *Cetățile antice de pe malul drept al Dunării (Dobrogea) până la gurile ei*, in *Natura*, XXIV, 1935, 7, p. 22.

¹¹ C. Moisil, *Cetatea Beroe*, in *BCMI*, 4, 1911, p. 45–46.

¹² E. Comșa, *Limesul dobrogean. Cercetări de suprafață de-a lungul Dunării între Ostrov (reg. Galați) și Hârșova (reg. Constanța)*, in *MCA*, V, 1959, p. 761.

¹³ P. Aurelian, *loc. cit.*, p. 565.

¹⁴ Gh. Mănușu-Adameșteanu, D. Paraschiv, *Ostrov – Cetatea Beroe, jud. Tulcea*, in *Cronica Cercetărilor Arheologice. Campania 1998. A XXXIII-a Sesiune Națională de Rapoarte Arheologice*, Vaslui, 1999, p. 79.

¹⁵ *EAIVR* III, p. 314.

¹⁶ P. Aurelian, *loc. cit.*, p. 565–589; Gh. Mănușu-Adameșteanu, D. Paraschiv, *loc. cit.*, p. 79.

¹⁷ D. Vâlceanu, Al Barnea, *loc. cit.*, p. 215; Gh. Mănușu-Adameșteanu, D. Paraschiv, *loc. cit.*, p. 78–79.

¹⁸ *EAIVR* III, p. 314.

¹⁹ Al. Barnea, I. Vasiliu, M. Iacob, D. Paraschiv, S. Ailincăi, *Ostrov, com. Ostrov, jud. Tulcea [Beroe]. Punct: Piatra Frecăței*, in *Cronica Cercetărilor Arheologice din România. Campania 1999. A XXXIV-a Sesiune Națională de Rapoarte Arheologice*, Deva, 2000, nr. 101.

²⁰ *Ibidem*.

²¹ Al. Barnea, I. Vasiliu, M. Iacob, D. Paraschiv, S. Ailincăi, *loc. cit.*, nr. 101.

²² *Ibidem*.

²³ Al. Barnea, D. Paraschiv, M. Iacob, I. Vasiliu, *Ostrov, com. Ostrov, jud. Tulcea [Beroe]. Punct: Piatra Frecăței*, in *Cronica Cercetărilor Arheologice din România. Campania 2000. A XXXV-a Sesiune Națională de Rapoarte Arheologice*, Suceava, 2001, p. 173.

²⁴ *Ibidem*.

In 2001, the investigations have been undertaken in the sections I b, VI, VII, X, XI, and on the middle of the southern promontory, located near the highway, in the sections VIII and IX. In S I b, archaeological materials from the Roman-Byzantine, the early Roman period and from the first Iron Age have appeared; in S VI and S VII, mainly from the 11th century; in S X and S XI, the enclosing wall of the Roman-Byzantine era and a dwelling (in S XI) of the 11th century have been found; in S VIII, researchers have discovered graves (one of them, M2, with an inventory which is specific to the 11th century – jar vessel and bronze earring), materials of the early Roman era, and a semi-deepened dwelling with an inventory which is specific to the first half of the 11th century; and in S IX, two graves (one of them, M4, with an inventory that is specific to the 11th century – a mug with a handle, bronze earring, a ring and a coin)²⁵.

During the last year, 2002, S VI and S VII have been widened, and in the new examined surfaces, some archaeological material from the Roman, the Roman-Byzantine and the early medieval era has appeared (the 11th–12th centuries)²⁶.

In the present study, our attention is drawn to a batch of 23 vessel bottoms, dated to the 11th–12th centuries, which display potter's marks, rendered in relief, or signs whose position or shape seem to suggest that they represent vestigial parts of a mark, depending on the extant surface of the container's flat area.

The number of pieces that we know, until the present moment, for the site of Ostrov – “Piatra Frecăței”, places it into the second group of localities, composed of the ones with an average number (between 20 and 32) of suchlike discoveries. Their dating, validated, for the most part, by the presence of the coins in the layer²⁷, indicates a late phase of the phenomenon of marking for the Dobrudjan territory, identified also in the settlements from Garvăn (Dinogetia, Tulcea County)²⁸, Hârșova (Carsium, Constanța County)²⁹ and Nufăru (Tulcea County)³⁰. In the last three mentioned sites, kilns have also appeared. The installation from Garvăn have been dated, through the presence of the coins in the layer³¹, to the 10th–12th centuries; the ones from Hârșova to the second half of the 11th century and the beginning of the next century³², and one of the three specific installations discovered in Nufăru has the same chronological pinpointing as the kilns from Hârșova³³.

The 23 vessel bottoms with a mark on have appeared during the archaeological campaigns conducted during the years 1998, 1999 and 2001, and 20 of them have been discovered in section I, an area where several dwellings have been identified³⁴.

By analyzing the constitutive paste of the containers with marked bottoms, we have noticed that five of these (nr. 2, 6, 7, 9 and 16 – numbers that are in conformity with the position of the description of the respective fragments in the catalogue) display the same type of paste (in terms of degreaser, consistency and baking-induced colour), denoting even a similar working style, which determines us to consider that they are the product of only one potter. The craftsman that created the vessels whose marks are described at the positions 17 and 20 is a completely different person. Both have a consistent, clean paste, in which there was only fine mica, and have acquired the same colour, through baking. The fragment that is described at the position 1 is the product of a third potter, whose working style and ornamentation procedure seems to

²⁵ Al. Barnea, D. Paraschiv, A. Stănică, *Ostrov, com. Ostrov, jud. Tulcea [Beroe]. Punct: Piatra Frecăței*, in *Cronica Cercetărilor Arheologice din România. Campania 2001. A XXXVI-a Sesiune Națională de Rapoarte Arheologice*, Buzias, 2002, p. 225–226.

²⁶ Al. Barnea, D. Paraschiv, A. Stănică, S. Ailincăi, M. Iacob, L. Bacumenco, *Ostrov, com. Ostrov, jud. Tulcea [Beroe]. Punct: Piatra Frecăței*, in *Cronica Cercetărilor Arheologice din România. Campania 2002. A XXXVII-a Sesiune Națională de Rapoarte Arheologice*, Covasna, 2003, nr. 138.

²⁷ Gh. Mănușu-Adameșteanu, D. Paraschiv, *loc. cit.*, p. 79; Al. Barnea, I. Vasiliu, M. Iacob, D. Paraschiv, S. Ailincăi, *loc. cit.*, nr. 101.

²⁸ Gh. Ștefan, I. Barnea, M. Comșa, E. Comșa, *Dinogetia. I. Așezarea feudală timpurie de la Bisericiuța-Garvăn*, București, 1967, p. 204.

²⁹ A. Aricescu, *Noi date despre cetatea de la Hârșova*, in *Pontica*, IV, p. 355.

³⁰ Gh. Mănușu-Adameșteanu, *Un cuptor medieval de ars ceramică descoperit la Nufăru, jud. Tulcea*, in *SCIVA*, XXXII, 1991, 1–2, p. 67.

³¹ Gh. Ștefan, I. Barnea, M. Comșa, E. Comșa, *op. cit.*, p. 29.

³² Panait I. Panait, A. Rădulescu, A. Ștefănescu, D. Flaut, *Cercetările arheologice de la cetatea Hârșova. Campania 1995*, in *Pontica*, XXVIII–XXIX, 1995–1996, p. 133.

³³ Gh. Mănușu-Adameșteanu, *loc. cit.*, p. 73; idem, *Nufăru (jud. Tulcea) – oraș bizantin fortificat, la Dunărea de Jos (sec. X–XIII)*, in *Arheologia Medievală*, II, 1998, p. 81; O. Damian, C. Andonie, M. Vasile, *Cetatea bizantină de la Nufăru. Despre problemele unui sit suprapus de o așezare contemporană*, in *Peuce*, I (XIV), 2003, p. 242.

³⁴ Al. Barnea, I. Vasiliu, M. Iacob, D. Paraschiv, S. Ailincăi, *loc. cit.*, nr. 101; Al. Barnea, D. Paraschiv, M. Iacob, I. Vasiliu, *loc. cit.*, p. 173.

announce the kind of vessels of the following centuries. The workshops of these potters could appear, on the occasion of other archaeological campaigns, even in the site of Ostrov, or they could have been settlements that were contemporary with the habitat from here, like the ones for which we already know of the existence of kilns, more so that a part of the degreasers from the paste of the Ostrov vessels is found also in the paste of the ones discovered in Dinogetia (limestone)³⁵, or Isaccea (limestone, minced snail shells)³⁶.

In what concerns the types of signs that have been rendered as marks, we observe that, as a rule, they are geometrical representations (circle, line). But we also have runes (nr. 12, 13, probably nr. 11 and 19), a spiral (nr. 20), probably a sign of the cross (nr. 18), and plant-shaped elements (nr. 23). The marks that depict geometrical signs are frequent during the entire period of the vessel marking phenomenon's functioning, both in Dobruđa and in other areas. We encounter the sign of the spiral on the bottom of some vessels discovered in Garvăn³⁷ and Isaccea³⁸, the rune EOLH on a vessel from Isaccea³⁹, and a leaf-like sign on a pot from Garvăn⁴⁰.

To conclude, we present, in what follows, the catalogue of the potter's marks found in Ostrov – "Piatra Frecăței"; the description of the pieces contains data about the year of discovery, the position within the site, the type of baking of the vessel, the paste, the portrayal of the sign and further technical information.

THE CATALOGUE OF THE POTTER'S MARKS DISCOVERED IN OSTROV, TULCEA COUNTY

OSTROV (commune of Ostrov, Tulcea County), the point of "Piatra Frecăței". Settlement.

1. Discovered in 1998 (SI, square 11).

The lower part of a vessel, baked in an unoxidizing manner (here and there, on the outside, it displays small crimson spots, but the inside of the wall is black, as is a large part of the outer surface), wrought on a wheel that is superior to the slow wheel, out of paste with sparse traces of limestone, which displays an incised ornamentation, composed of compound bands of four wider horizontal lines. On the bottom (whose diameter is of 9.7 cm., and whose thickness is of 0.5 cm.), it bears a mark that is made in relief: a circle with a dot in the middle, intersected by a diameter that is common to the one of the vessel's bottom (plate I, III/1). Its outer aspect is not coarse, and on the inside, it displays fine, circular traces of the fabric that was used to finish the work.

The 11th–12th centuries.

2. Discovered in 1998 (SI, square 6).

Fragmentary bottom (with an extant diameter of 8.5 cm. and a thickness of 0.7–1 cm.) of a vessel, baked in an oxidizing manner, without depth, wrought on semi-fast wheel, out of paste with pieces of mica of average size and sparse traces of limestone, which displays a mark in relief: a circle with a diameter that intersects two inscribed semicircles (plate I, III/2)

The 11th–12th centuries.

3. Discovered in 1998 (SI, square 21).

Fragmentary bottom (with an extant diameter of 7.2 cm. and a thickness of 1–1.2 cm.) of a vessel, baked in an oxidizing manner, wrought on a semi-fast wheel, out of paste with white limestone of average granulation, which displays a mark in relief: probably a semicircle with rays. The line that closes it has lateral ramifications (plate I, III/3). On its inner surface, owing to the impurities from the paste, it displays a coarse aspect.

The 11th–12th centuries.

4. Discovered in 1998 (SI, square 10).

Portion of the lower part of a vessel that was baked in an oxidizing manner, out of paste with mica and sparse traces of limestone. In the upper area of the fragment (0.6 cm. thick), we can notice a row of triangular impressions, made with an indented object. On the fragmented bottom (with an extant diameter of 3.6 cm. and a thickness of 0.6 cm.), there is the trace of a mark, set in relief: two segments of a circle, suggesting an initial sign that probably showed two concentric circles (plate I, III/4).

³⁵ Gh. Ștefan, I. Barnea, M. Comșa, E. Comșa, *op. cit.*, p. 134.

³⁶ Unpublished material. It is in the collection of the Institute for Ecosystem-Museum Research of Tulcea.

³⁷ Gh. Ștefan, I. Barnea, M. Comșa, E. Comșa, *op. cit.*, picture 132/8 on p. 207.

³⁸ Unpublished. It is in the collection of the Institute for Ecosystem-Museum Research of Tulcea.

³⁹ Unpublished. It is in the collection of the Institute for Ecosystem-Museum Research of Tulcea.

⁴⁰ Gh. Ștefan, I. Barnea, M. Comșa, E. Comșa, *op. cit.*, picture 137/32 on p. 214.

The 11th–12th centuries.

5. Discovered in 1998 (SI, square 9).

Fragmentary bottom (with an extant diameter of 7,3 cm. and a thickness of 0.8 cm. – inhomogeneous) of a vessel that has been baked without depth (in the breach, it is blackish-grey), wrought on the slow wheel, out of paste with mica and white limestone, which displays a mark that is rendered in relief: three concentric circles (plate I, III/5). On the inner surface, we can notice the traces of the final finishing, remaining from the fabric that was utilized, but especially from the fingers.

The 11th–12th centuries.

6. Discovered in 1998 (SI, the complex 6).

Fragmentary bottom (with a diameter of about 8.2 cm. and a thickness of 0.6 cm. in the central area, reaching approximately one centimeter near the walls of the container) of a vessel that has been baked in an oxidizing manner without depth (on the inside, it is blackish-brown), wrought on the slow wheel, out of paste with mica and white limestone, which displays a mark rendered in relief: three concentric circles, with diameters of 2.4 cm., 3.7 cm. and 5.5 cm. respectively (plate I, III/6). On the inside, the fragment displays some strong traces of smoke.

The 11th–12th centuries.

7. Discovered in 1998 (SI, square 20).

Fragment of the lower part of a vessel that has been baked in an oxidizing manner, without depth, wrought on the slow wheel, out of paste with big pieces of mica and limestone (?), which displays a mark in relief: a line, like a diameter of the flat area (plate I, IV/7).

The 11th–12th centuries.

8. Discovered in 1998 (SI, square 5).

Fragment of the lower part of a vessel that has been baked in an oxidizing manner, without depth (grey-brown in the breach), wrought on the slow wheel, out of paste with big pieces of mica. On the bottom (whose diameter is of 7 cm., and its thickness of 0.7 cm.), a line placed laterally (plate I, IV/8).

The 11th–12th centuries.

9. Discovered in 1998 (SI, square 11; in the debris).

Fragment of the lower part of a vessel, baked in an oxidizing manner without depth (grey-brown in the breach), wrought on the slow wheel, out of paste with mica and limestone. On the bottom (whose extant diameter is of 6.6 cm., and its thickness, inhomogeneous, oscillates between 0.5 and 0.9 cm.), it displays a faintly visible mark in relief: a line on whose centre there is a triangle joined through another short line to a second, smaller triangle (plate I, IV/9). It is possible that the sign has not been made intentionally.

The 11th–12th centuries.

10. Discovered in 1998 (SI, square 10).

Fragmentary bottom (with an extant diameter of 8 cm. and a thickness of about 0.8 cm.) of a vessel that has been baked in an oxidizing manner (brown in its depth), wrought on the slow wheel, out of a slightly porous paste, with small sparse traces of limestone, which displays a mark in relief: two parallel lines, intersected by a third, placed horizontally (plate I, IV/10).

The 11th–12th centuries.

11. Discovered in 1998 (SI, square 10).

Fragmentary bottom of a vessel of small dimensions (with an extant diameter of 5.7 cm. and a thickness of 0.6 cm.), baked in an oxidizing manner, wrought on the slow wheel, out of paste with dense micro-gravel, which displays a mark in relief: bident or joint letters (plate I, IV/11). The vessel seems to have been wrought with difficulty.

The 11th–12th centuries.

12. Discovered in 1998 (SI, square 11).

Fragmentary bottom (with an extant diameter of 8 cm. and a thickness of about 0.9 cm. – inhomogeneous) of a vessel that has been baked in an unoxidizing manner, without depth (brown on the inside), wrought on the slow wheel, out of paste with sand, mica and sparse traces of limestone, which displays a mark in relief: a line (3.6 cm. long) from whose middle two ramifications start, directed laterally, towards one of the heads (plate I, IV/12). The outer side of the bottom displays a coarse aspect, while on the inner side we can notice, here and there, the traces of the fabric that was used for the finishing touch.

The 11th–12th centuries.

13. Discovered in 1998 ?

The lower part of a vessel of small dimensions, baked in an oxidizing manner (in its depth the ceramics is crimson-brown), wrought on the slow wheel, out of paste with sparse micro-gravel, ornamented with finely incised horizontal lines. On the bottom (whose extant diameter is of 5.5 cm., and the thickness of about 0.8 cm.) bears a mark in relief: a line with two ramifications, oriented laterally, towards the preserved head (plate II, V/13). The outer side of the vessel's bottom displays a slight coarse aspect, while on the inside, we can clearly notice the traces of the eventual fabric with which the finishing touch was given.

The 11th–12th centuries.

14. Discovered in 1998 (SI, square 11).

Fragmentary bottom of a vessel that was baked in an unoxidizing manner (with sparse brown spots on the outside), wrought on the slow wheel, out of paste with mica. It displays a mark in relief: probably a triangle united at one of its angles by another triangle, or with just two sides, extended towards the exterior. On one of its sides, it has another triangle, but of small dimensions, attached to the exterior (plate II, V/14).

The 11th–12th centuries.

15. Discovered in 1999 (SI, square 22).

The lower part of a vessel that has been baked in an oxidizing manner (in its depth, the wall is crimson-brown), wrought on the slow wheel, out of paste with traces of mica. On the fragmentary bottom (with an extant diameter of 9.8 cm., and a thickness of 0.3 cm. In the central area and 0.5 cm. outside the sign), it displays a mark in relief: probably a circle (plate II, V/15).

The 11th–12th centuries.

16. Discovered in 1999 (SI, square 22).

Fragmentary bottom (with an extant diameter of 5.5 cm. and a thickness of about 0.7 cm. – inhomogeneous) of a vessel that has been baked in an oxidizing manner, crimson-brown (in its depth, blackish-brown), wrought on a semi-fast wheel, out of paste with sand and mica. It displays a mark in relief: a wheel with four spokes (plate II, V/16). On the inside, there still persist circular traces from the object which gave the vessel the finishing touch, but also signs resulting from the slight pushing with the finger.

The 11th–12th centuries.

17. Discovered in 1999 (SI, squares 9–10).

Fragmentary bottom (with an extant diameter of 7.4 cm., and a thickness of 0.4–0.5 cm.) of a vessel that has been baked in an oxidizing manner, wrought on the slow wheel, out of paste with sand and fine mica, which displays a mark in relief: probably two concentric circles (plate II, V/17).

The 11th–12th centuries.

18. Discovered in 1999 (SI, square 23).

A bottom (with a diameter of 7 cm. and with a thickness of 0.9 cm.) of a vessel that has been baked in an oxidizing manner, without depth, wrought on the slow wheel, out of paste with limestone, sand and mussels or minced snail shells, which displays a mark that is faintly set into relief: cross (plate II, V/18).

The 11th–12th centuries.

19. Discovered in 1999 (SI, square 20).

The lower part of a vessel that has been baked in an oxidizing manner, without depth (grey in the breach), wrought on the semi-fast wheel, out of paste with fine mica and sparse micro-gravel, ornamented with finely incised horizontal lines. On the bottom (whose extant diameter is of 8.6 cm., and its thickness is of 1 cm.), it displays a mark that is faintly set into relief: a line which is barred by two others, placed at the end of it and a little lower respectively (plate II, VI/19). On the inner surface, we can notice the traces of the finishing touch, applied, probably, with a piece of fabric.

The 11th–12th centuries.

20. Dwelling. Discovered in 1999 (SI, squares 20–22).

Fragmentary bottom (with an extant diameter of 6.7 cm. and with a thickness of about 0.5 cm. – inhomogeneous) of a vessel that has been baked in an oxidizing manner without depth (inside, it is blackish-grey), wrought on the slow wheel, out of paste with sand and mica. It displays a mark in relief: a spiral (plate II, VI/20). The outer side of the vessel's bottom is neat, fine, whereas, on the inside, we can notice the traces of the piece of fabric with which the finishing touch was given.

The 11th–12th centuries.

21. Discovered in 1999 (SI, squares 9–10).

Fragment of the lower part of a vessel that has been baked in an oxidizing manner without depth (grey-brown in the breach), wrought on the semi-fast wheel, out of paste with fine mica. On the bottom (whose extant diameter is of 8.5 cm., and its thickness of 0.5–0.7 cm.), it displays a mark in relief: two other lines placed in an angle are still preserved (plate II, VI/21).

The 11th–12th centuries.

22. Dwelling (SVII, square 3). Discovered in 2001.

Fragmentary bottom (with an extant diameter of 7.6 cm. and with a thickness of about 0.8 cm. – unhomogenous) of a jar vessel, baked in an oxidizing manner, without depth (brown-grey on the inside), wrought on the slow wheel, out of paste with sand and sparse micro-gravel, which displays a mark in relief: similar to a square, but with slightly arched sides. Short lines spring from the figure's corners (plate II, VI/22).

The 11th–12th centuries.

23. Dwelling. Discovered in 2001.

The bottom of a vessel (with a diameter of 10.3 cm. and a thickness of about 1,2 cm. – inhomogeneous) that has been baked in an oxidizing manner without depth (inside, it is blackish-grey), wrought on a slow wheel, out of paste with fine sand, which displays a mark that is faintly set in relief: probably two leaves (plate II, VI/23). On the inside, we can notice the traces of the piece of fabric with which the final finishing touch of the container was given, and on the edges of the outer area, there are irregularities that indicate the relatively hard detachment of the vessel from the wheel.

The 11th–12th centuries.

Translated by Liviu David

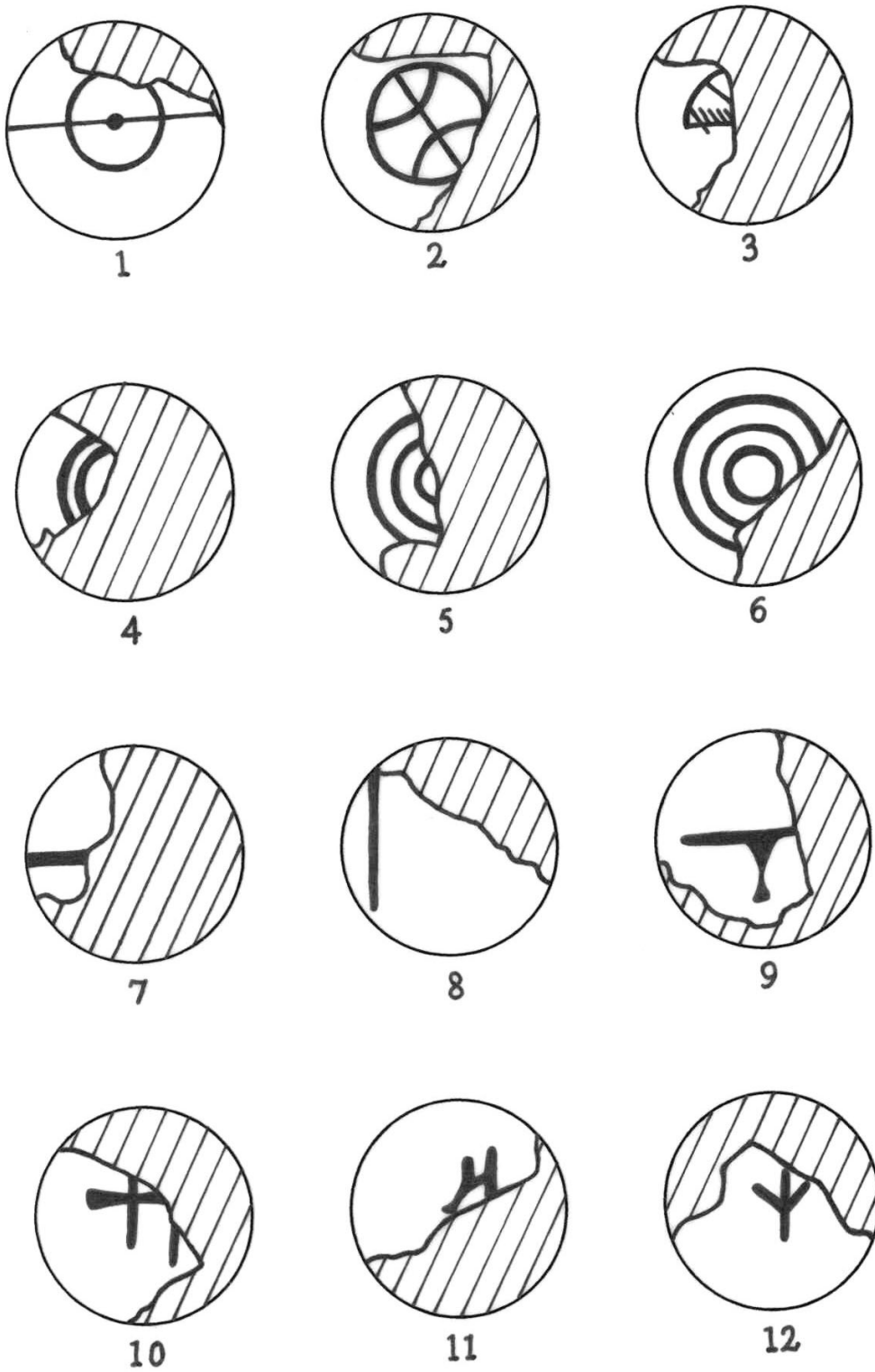


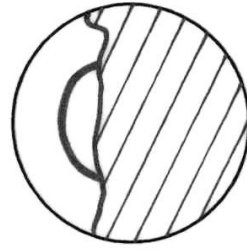
Plate I



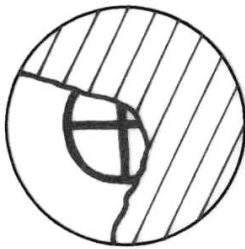
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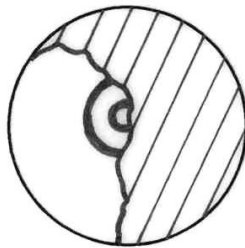
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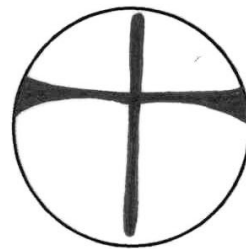
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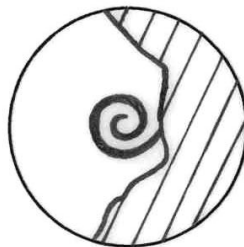
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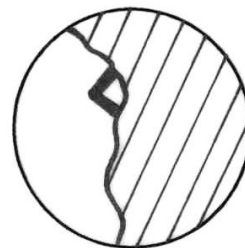
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19



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Plate II



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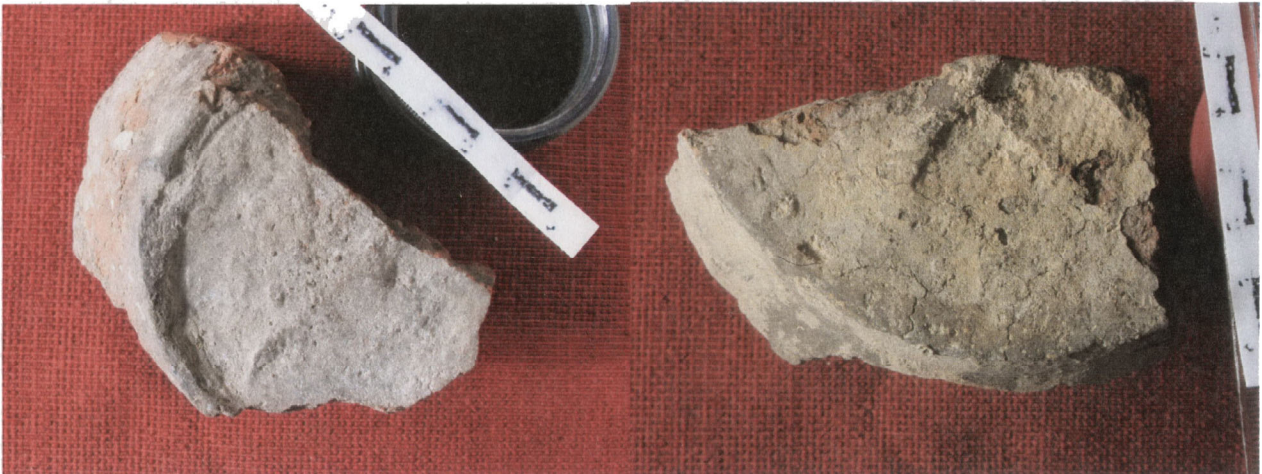
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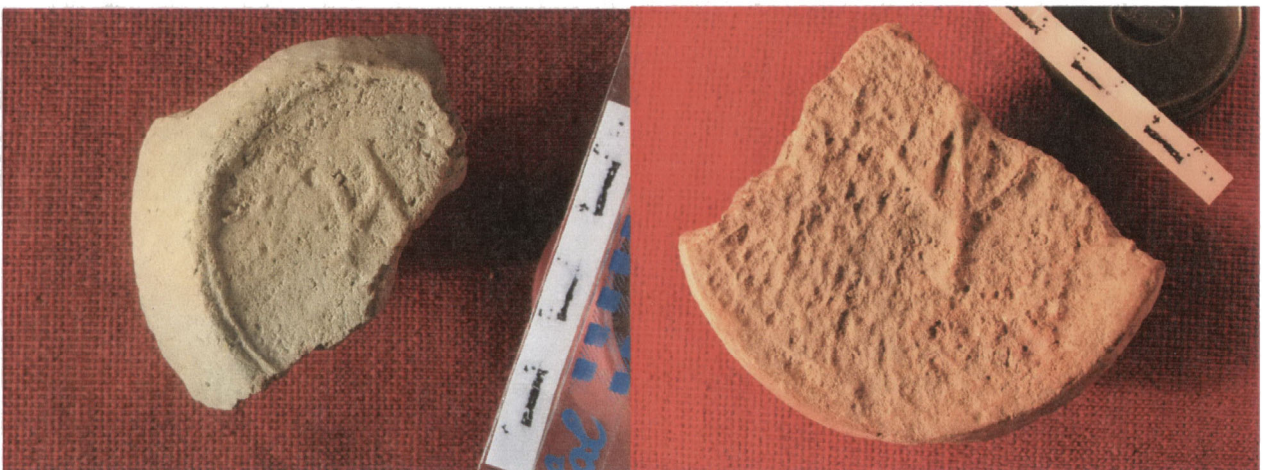
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Plate IV



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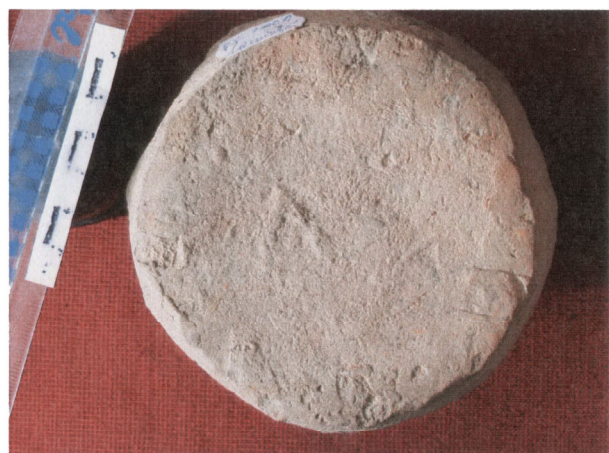
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21



22



23