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NOTES ON THE HISTORIOGRAPHY OF *TERRA SIGILLATA* RESEARCH IN ROMAN DACIA

Bernadett KOVÁCS*

The study of terra sigillata pottery in our region is still in its infancy since so little information from the province of Dacia has been published so far, much of it being incorporated into bigger syntheses along with the analysis of other kinds of Roman pottery. We can observe how the quality of research has improved over the decades (beginning in the first half of the 20th century) and how the quantity of the finds has increased since then. The concept of terra sigillata as a dating tool in archaeology should no longer be the only aspect discussed in the literature. However, in order to achieve a relevant result, the publication's methodology can be just as significant as its content. This paper employs a methodological perspective to identify distinguishing characteristics, errors and approaches in the historiography of terra sigillata research in Roman Dacia.

Keywords: *terra sigillata*, historiography, Dacia, material culture, overview.

Cuvinte-cheie: *terra sigillata*, istoriografie, Dacia, cultură materială, sumar.

As a defining characteristic of Roman archaeology, *terra sigillata* is frequently encountered by specialists, with an increasing number of fragments being excavated. Simultaneously, its scientific significance has been firmly established. There are some issues raised by its research that have not yet been addressed in our region, and for the answers to these concerns, we must overview the historiography, since the importance of the approaches taken to these vessels and the methods in which they were subsequently communicated with the scientific community is just as significant as the information gained from the vessels themselves.

The study of *terra sigillata* differs somewhat from the study of regular Roman pottery sherds, for which a variety of descriptions, manuals, and instructions are available. On the one hand, it is critical to examine them with distinct methods, since we can rightly regard these vessels as being to some extent homogeneous¹ and they may have

played a different role in Roman everyday life in terms of their essence, material, and possibly even function. Despite this, it has been studied and published with other pottery types, and only recently have we seen more publications devoted to it exclusively.

The goal of this paper is to review the historiography of *terra sigillata* research regarding Dacia in chronological order, supplementing it with observations as needed and thus contributing to the advancement of research on this type of pottery. We will then be able to examine the progress and current state of research on the subject. To that end, we'd like to briefly describe the methodology that has been adopted and implemented in other regions to extract the most useful information.

Terra sigillata can place various contexts or even sites in a more limited historical time frame.² By specifying the origin of these ves-

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¹ VAN OYEN 2016, 5.

² For the possibilities and problems of dating *terra sigillata* and some of the patterns already identified and accessible, see: HAVERFIELD 1911; RITTERLING 1913, 67–76;

sels, one can date them in a broader sense, i.e. the operation period of a production centre.³ As we know, these types of pottery differ from ordinary ones due to the material and slip used. As with other types of material, the texture of the clay in many cases reveals the location of the workshop.⁴ Archaeological investigations at these sites, as well as research into Roman trade routes, have helped us learn about these centres.⁵

By analysing the slip (colour, brightness, feel, etc.) and the texture of the clay (whether it's grittier or smoother, etc.), we can, in most cases, determine its place of origin. We can also examine the decorative motifs on the relief to establish the workshops.⁶ Here, the process is a bit more intricate as we have a wide variety of decorations,⁷ which were typically used on common Roman pottery, stamped pottery,⁸ lamps⁹ and other categories as well. The most frequently used motifs are listed in the literature, indicating the craftsmen who used them. The difficulty is that some ornaments are present in more than one workshop and over longer periods. Moulds and stamps are also often borrowed, sold, or copied.¹⁰ This is where the importance of stamps with the names of craftsmen comes into play, which often helps us in the identification. Today, numerous books, catalogues, and online databases assist us in recognising the distinctive "typeface" of a particular potter, allowing us to determine who, when and where made the pot.¹¹

The illustration is of particular importance in

the publication of archaeological material. Given the definition of the type and, more importantly, the recognisable nature of the various decorative elements, it could be argued that in the case of *terra sigillata*, it is probably even more essential than usual. The interpretive options provide a clear explanation of why we need to see these particular decorative elements or the type itself. The drawing, photo or 3D scanning options using the most recent technology all strive (or should have striven) for the most accurate representations as a key component of the research method. Its importance, historical background and precisely designed practical method has been published recently.¹² Perhaps the most important is the discussion of what we are looking for in the published illustration and why. Primarily, the alternation or stagnation of style from period to period provides useful information about different consumption patterns, market demands, and historical-territorial connections.¹³ To get this information, we need to create accurate and understandable illustrations, for even a small detail can be meaningful.¹⁴

The focus on *terra sigillata* research and perception of this archaeological find has evolved.¹⁵ Although the series of publications using the additive model are still being written (which is necessary), it is now possible to come up with broader interpretations and switch from a quantitative to a more qualitative one.¹⁶

THE RESEARCH CONCERNING DACIA

The publication of *terra sigillata* as a distinct vessel type starts rather late regarding Dacia, taking up already existing patterns. We can't find specialised research before the 1970s; in fact, it is mostly mentioned in archaeological reports. The concept can be said to be consistent: data reporting. The earliest archaeological

ATKINSON 1914, 29–32; OSWALD–PRYCE 1920, 144–169; OSWALD 1931; OXÉ 1933, 1–2; KNORR 1952; RICKENFISCHER 1963; GABLER 2006, 121–151; WEBER 2013, 26–37; VAN OYEN 2016, 26–28.

³ WEBER 2013, 6–24.

⁴ See: TOMBER–DORE 1998.

⁵ WAAGÉ 1937, 46–55; KRIZEK 1961, 35–43; VERTET 1967, 255–286.

⁶ BÉMONT–JACOB 1986; OSWALD–PRYCE 1920, 3–39; WEBER 2013, 6–18.

⁷ DÉCHELETTE 1904; OSWALD 1936.

⁸ DÉCHELETTE 1904, 133–134.

⁹ RUSU-BOLINDEȚ–BOTIȘ 2018, 147, 241, 243.

¹⁰ GABLER 2006, 34–43.

¹¹ See mainly: OXÉ ET AL. 2000; DANNELL ET AL. 2003; HARTLEY ET AL. 2008–2012; ALLEN 2013, 49–65; FULFORD–DURHAM 2013.

¹² BIDDULPH 2014.

¹³ WILD 2014, 5–11.

¹⁴ WILD 2014, 9.

¹⁵ VAN OYEN 2016, 20–31.

¹⁶ VAN OYEN 2016, 4–6.

record we are noting is that of Béla¹⁷ Cserni,¹⁸ who published *sigillata* vessels among the finds of his excavations at Apulum.¹⁹ He remarked a building that later turned out to be a workshop and the presence of various kilns, ceramic waste and moulds.²⁰ With the help of W. Barthel, who also suggested to Cserni the literature available on the topic, it was later established that there was indeed an *officina* in Apulum.²¹ Although Cserni's work was published much earlier than the actual research on *terra sigillata* in our region, he was perhaps the first to publish decorated pieces noting that he did not provide details only because of space limitations.²² He lists the series of Dragendorff, Hölder and Koenen and briefly presents the general development and characteristics of Roman pottery.²³ He explains that he has only included the decorated ones, but there are 50 times as many undecorated fragments from Apulum.²⁴ No interpretation or conclusion is expressed on the *sigillata*, sticking to the general nature of archaeological reports.

Vasile Christescu's gate-opening paper from 1929²⁵ will later be referred to as the first publication on the economic life of Dacia. It presents a diverse assortment of archaeological materials.²⁶ We are referring to the stamped pottery in this case.²⁷ Even though it's quite unlike *terra sigillata*, its appearance suggests that the different types of pottery were already separated in publications according to the preparation method. However, it makes a passing reference to the

terra sigillata, indicating a regional manufacture and the presence of a workshop in Apulum where imitations might have been produced.²⁸ Although the publication contained a technical analysis and began to identify production centres, the question of local manufacturing was still speculative at the time. Although it seems that information on the *terra sigillata* is still scarce, we can mark an awakening interest in the topic.

In 1953, the excavations from Sucidava were published,²⁹ and a *terra sigillata* imitation was mentioned³⁰ with no particular description and a rudimentary illustration, the scale of which is confusing to contemporary eyes (Fig. 1).³¹ The same publication reports about the excavation of a *villa rustica*,³² mentioning *sigillata* fragments without any description or illustration. The term is used once more among epigraphic and sculptural finds,³³ merely referring to the fabric, not to certain vessels in particular. The composition of this specific type of clay referred to as *terra*

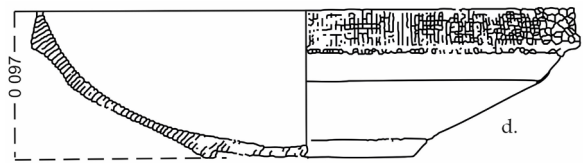


Fig. 1. *Terra sigillata* imitation from Sucidava, unknown type (TUDOR 1953, 711, Fig. 13/d).

sigillata is not reported and only the suggestion of a local manufacture is made by the author. Another report from the same year mentioned a *terra sigillata* fragment,³⁴ simply describ-

¹⁷ Known also as Albert or Adalbert.

¹⁸ CSERNI 1912.

¹⁹ CSERNI 1912, 274–276, fig. 15–18.

²⁰ He wrote to F. Drexel and requested assistance, therefore he was the first to suggest that there might have been a pottery workshop in Partoş which should be identified and that it was important to treat this type of artefact separately from the others (EGRI 2018, 115).

²¹ ISAC 1985, 5.

²² CSERNI 1912, 266.

²³ CSERNI 1912, 279, DRAGENDORFF 1895.

²⁴ CSERNI 1912, 279.

²⁵ CHRISTESCU 1929.

²⁶ CHRISTESCU 1929, 64–72.

²⁷ CHRISTESCU 1929, pl. I/3, III/2–6, IV/1, 3–4. The author attributes this type of pottery to the Celts, who possibly adopted it from the populations of the Balkan Peninsula and Asia Minor in the Hellenistic period (CHRISTESCU 1929, 64–72).

²⁸ CHRISTESCU 1929, 65–66, pl. I/3.

²⁹ TUDOR 1953, 693–743.

³⁰ TUDOR 1953, 712.

³¹ We are not sure that the height of the vessel is actually relevant in this case, as its diameter remains unknown, its true size is also undetermined, and so is the type. Since it is an imitation, we can hardly get more data about how it actually mimics the original *terra sigillata*, since the quality of its fabric has not been investigated or discussed. Moreover, from a formal viewpoint, a defined type would convey more information than the drawing.

³² FLOCA 1953A, 750.

³³ FLOCA 1953B, 771.

³⁴ HOREDT 1953, 785–815.

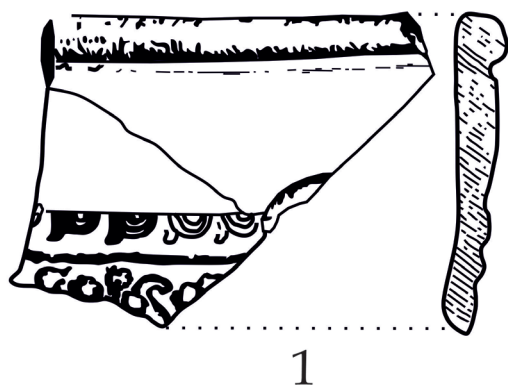


Fig. 2. Drag. 37 bowl fragment from the Hoghiz-Ugra and Teiuș regions (HOREDT 1953, 795, Fig. 7/1).

ing its appearance,³⁵ illustrating it plainly, and referring to the size of the fragment as “natural size” instead of a scale (Fig. 2).³⁶ Given the fact that we are speaking about a general phenomenon of these years, we will simply note the other references.³⁷ In each case, they only indicate the presence of *terra sigillata* fragments, following the additive model mentioned above.

THE 1960–1970S: RISE OF INTEREST

During the 1960s we primarily observe archaeological reports, with no detailed descriptions and just a few illustrations of the *sigillata* fragments.³⁸ An excavation report from 1962 serves as an example.³⁹ The drawings provide most of the information on the pieces, whereas the text only indicates their existence.⁴⁰ The description doesn't specify whether the vessels were manufactured locally or imported. For a long time, this remained the usual scenario for archaeological reports. However, the rudimentary character of the drawings should be underlined (Fig. 3), as the

fact that the *terra sigillata* pot fragments are referenced only as a record.

The beginning of systematic research on the topic can be dated to the early 1970s. The first publication to be mentioned is Gheorghe Matei Popilian's work on locally made *terra sigillata* imitations found in Romula.⁴¹ From a structural aspect, the study complements a series of publications that take a more technical and analytical approach. It provides a lot of information that will be used as reference later on. He mentions the inferior quality of the locally made imitations compared to those of the western provinces⁴² and republishes the piece published by D. Tudor with more precise information. The article is comparative in nature, using the finds from Butovo as reference. Although further investigation of the evidence from both sites is advised, he offers some initial conclusions and suggests dating possibilities.⁴³ It begins to distinguish clay types for locally made *sigillata*⁴⁴ and highlights the necessity of international cooperation in this field.⁴⁵

The same author published a particularly significant work four years later,⁴⁶ not only on *terra sigillata*,⁴⁷ but on all kinds of Roman pottery found in Oltenia. He highlights the importance of the imported ware, even if relatively few were available at that time.⁴⁸ By integrating a preliminary contextual analysis, he points to its importance, also discussing the dating possibilities of *terra sigillata*.⁴⁹ By listing the potters identified thus far and the probable period of their activity, he underscores the idea that in many situations we are dealing with groups of craftsmen, rather than individuals.⁵⁰ The statistical aspect of the study is also momentous, for it aims to determine the proportion of each

³⁵ HOREDT 1953, 796.

³⁶ HOREDT 1953, 795, fig. 7/1.

³⁷ POPESCU 1956, 162, fig. 116/1, 3, 5–6, 8; FLORESCU ET AL. 1957, 111; MACREA 1957, 130; DAICOVICIU ET AL. 1959, 352.

³⁸ TUDOR 1962, 550; TUDOR-BUJOR 1962, 558; TUDOR 1970, 282, 290–292.

³⁹ SZÉKELY 1962, 330–335.

⁴⁰ SZÉKELY 1962, 330, fig. 5.

⁴¹ POPILIAN 1972. He also cites the previously mentioned V. Christescu and D. Tudor in his study: POPILIAN 1972, 145.

⁴² POPILIAN 1972, 146.

⁴³ POPILIAN 1972, 155–160.

⁴⁴ POPILIAN 1972, 160.

⁴⁵ POPILIAN 1972, 161.

⁴⁶ POPILIAN 1976.

⁴⁷ Imported wares: POPILIAN 1976, 23–37; local production: POPILIAN 1976, 57–66.

⁴⁸ POPILIAN 1976, 23–24.

⁴⁹ POPILIAN 1976, 24.

⁵⁰ POPILIAN 1976, 27, Footnote 54.

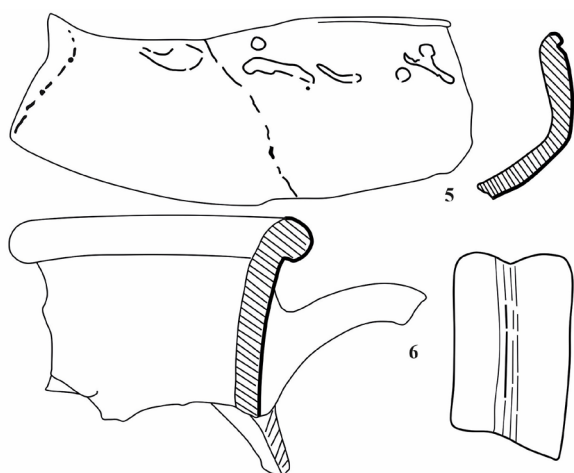


Fig. 3. *Terra sigillata* fragments among common pottery from Sărățeni and Baraolt (SZÉKELY 1962, 330, Fig. 5).

officina's products.⁵¹ In reaching his conclusions, he makes observations that are still common among researchers in our region, such as the logical assumption that imported goods are not always actually imported but are frequently fetched into the province by soldiers and colonists.⁵² As for the imitations, he not only mentions them, but also suggests a possible reason for the beginning of their production, using a mould as evidence.⁵³ The comparison with the Butovo material comes up again, but he also looks for other analogies and several sources of inspiration for the decorative elements. The work is of the analytical-comparative type, particularly detailed, while the illustrations seem to be clearer, since the decorative elements are more precisely visible, making it easier to identify and recognise stylistic features (Fig. 4).⁵⁴

Dan Isac's study from the same year should also be mentioned, as it takes a similar approach to the *terra sigillata* from Orșova.⁵⁵ It reports the artefacts from a rescue excavation, indicating cause-and-effect relationships concerning

the imports from Westendorf.⁵⁶ Accompanied by detailed illustrations (Fig. 5), the analysis examines the products of two craftsmen and identifies the potter while describing the production centre.⁵⁷ From an economic and historical standpoint, the mention and analysis of export and import routes are particularly noteworthy, as they open up new opportunities for further research.⁵⁸ Although it is about a single fragment and, by his admission, it is too early to draw any conclusions⁵⁹, he has extracted every available information on the material. In doing so, he emphasises the scientific significance of even a single fragment. The interpretation on context, function and patterns is minimal, yet Isac regards the topic as an open question requiring further investigation.⁶⁰

The following year Popilian published an article on the imported *terra sigillata* in Dacia.⁶¹ He states that he still cannot draw any definitive conclusions, emphasising the importance of the publication of this type of pottery in general.⁶² It is an informative paper that does not claim to be exhaustive but addresses key matters, as the

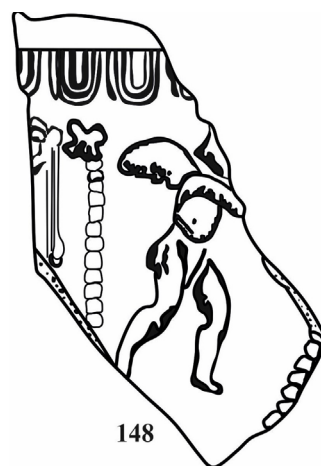


Fig. 4. Imported Drag. 37 bowl fragment from Oltenia (POPILIAN 1976, Pl. X/148).

description of the production centres, the historical background, the decorative elements and the mention of the potters.⁶³ The article's structure is difficult to comprehend, since the data is presented in a condensed form, in sequential order, interspersed with illustrations, which seem to be more numerous than

⁵¹ POPILIAN 1976, 28.

⁵² Although it was later suggested that the military were not the first to bring these products to the province, they may have been the first consumers (ISAC 1985, 50).

⁵³ POPILIAN 1976, 57–58.

⁵⁴ There are no significant traces of beautification or distortion, shading or artistic intervention, thus the stylistic features of a potter are easier to recognise and we see a historically more authentic representation.

⁵⁵ ISAC 1976.

⁵⁶ ISAC 1976, 169.

⁵⁷ ISAC 1976, 170–172.

⁵⁸ ISAC 1976, 173–174.

⁵⁹ ISAC 1976, 173.

⁶⁰ ISAC 1976, 173–175.

⁶¹ POPILIAN 1977.

⁶² POPILIAN 1977, 343.

⁶³ POPILIAN 1977, 343–344.

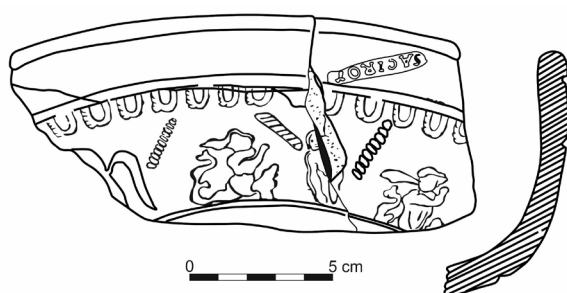


Fig. 5. Drag. 37 bowl from Orșova (ISAC 1976, 170, Fig. 1).

before.⁶⁴ However, the fragmented character of the information does not diminish its scientific worth and there appears to be a growing interest in the developing illustrations as well.⁶⁵

The next survey is Nicolae Gudea's work, which is not expressly specialised on the *terra sigillata* type, but mentions it in a general study on pottery manufacture in Dacia.⁶⁶ He emphasises the importance of publishing these⁶⁷ and describes the types known so far.⁶⁸ He states that little material has been published, despite the fact that manufacturing centres are proven by the kilns discovered. Information on where workshops are known to exist at the moment, as well as on the influence of military environments on their development are also included. He refers to important sources of earlier knowledge and provides a database-like record of them.⁶⁹ Although he only refers to *terra sigillata* types and mentions a few *sigilla*, the general analysis of pottery production may be equally relevant to us, given that it presents broad issues and gaps that we need to address.

From the 1970s we remark a paper that presents a somewhat newer perspective on *terra sigillata* research from Apulum.⁷⁰ It highlights the value of contextual analysis (while it attempts to describe excavations and specific archaeological contexts), howbeit it is less

successful in discovering correlations.⁷¹ The publication's division by production centres makes it much clearer and more consistent structurally. Several undecorated vessels are presented and a comment is made on the fact that there are many more locally produced imitations than previously thought – with comments on the history of research to support this,⁷² also taking a kind of critical view of previous publications⁷³ and setting a chronology of production centres.⁷⁴ The series of annotations, analogies and illustrations are also more systematic (Fig. 6), taken from a typological perspective that allows for various further conclusions.⁷⁵ The use of the catalogue and its improvement is also notable, albeit merged with the illustration tables.⁷⁶

The tendency to publish data in an informative, additive manner, as well as the approach to develop and put into practice the demand for interpretation and the processing of more and more finds are common in these decades, intending to produce a major, comprehensive and definitive research result applicable to the entire province.

THE 1980S: STRENGTHENING THE EXISTING, HIGHLIGHTING THE GAPS

An article from 1980 classifies finds according to archaeological sites,⁷⁷ data reporting and basic interpretation are supplemented by contextual analysis. It examines the operation of the production sites of the imported wares from a historical-interpretive perspective.⁷⁸ As types become more easily identified and recognised, the practice of quantitative analysis emerges. The illustrations and the arrangement of the catalogue also appear to be more

⁶⁴ POPILIAN 1977, 345–349.

⁶⁵ POPILIAN 1977, 343.

⁶⁶ GUDEA 1978.

⁶⁷ GUDEA 1978, 135.

⁶⁸ GUDEA 1978, 135–136.

⁶⁹ GUDEA 1978, 136–140.

⁷⁰ ISAC ET AL. 1979.

⁷¹ ISAC ET AL. 1979, 227.

⁷² ISAC ET AL. 1979, 233–237.

⁷³ ISAC ET AL. 1979, 228.

⁷⁴ ISAC ET AL. 1979, 229–230.

⁷⁵ We note that the illustration is not always consistent, the decoration is drawn only when depicting the rim, which can be confusing in interpreting whether it was actually present or not.

⁷⁶ ISAC ET AL. 1979, 230–263.

⁷⁷ ISAC 1980.

⁷⁸ ISAC 1980, 468–469.

streamlined (Fig. 7).⁷⁹ A study on *terra sigillata* from Porolissum, published in the same year, raises the question of whether field records can later affect pottery sherd identification.⁸⁰ The article separates decorated and undecorated vessels and catalogues are used to identify decorative elements.⁸¹

Dan Isac published a new study in 1981,⁸² discussing the *terra sigillata* finds from Tibiscum, emphasising again the importance of research on the subject.⁸³ Structurally, the article is similar to those previously reviewed, dividing imported and locally produced vessels.⁸⁴ More mentions refer to locally produced imitations, for instance, he publishes a mould that, depending on the archaeological context, might indicate the existence of a workshop, on which all data is missing. The paper is enriched with analogies and historical explanations, already fitting well into the analytical-comparative studies of the period.

Subsequent years saw the emergence of similar studies, suggesting that scholars began to devote increasing attention to the topic. The one that we will discuss next⁸⁵ analyses the imported wares in Dacia from a slightly different perspective. It does not examine all the imports present in Dacia, but only those from Rheinzabern and Westerndorf. It underlines the need to research and recognise the *terra sigillata* type separately from other kinds of Roman pottery.⁸⁶ It mentions previously discovered *terra sigillata* fragments from before the Roman conquest, indicating a pre-existing trade.⁸⁷ The study not only investigates the destinations of the two production centres' exports to Dacia, but also offers a

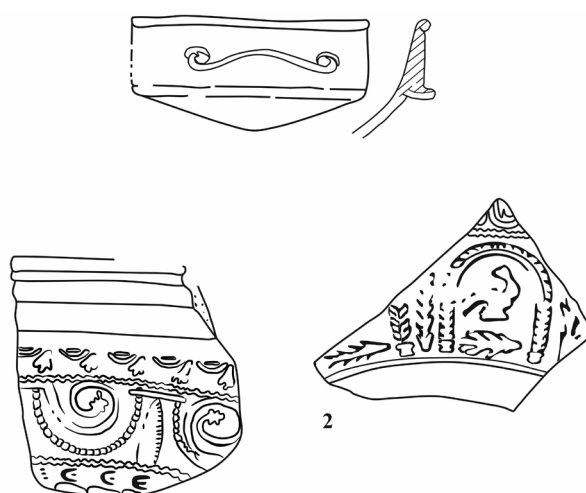


Fig. 6. *Terra sigillata* fragments from Apulum (ISAC ET AL. 1979, 240, Pl. I/1 – top 2 – left, 3 – right).

map showing trade routes across the many sites where the finds were discovered.⁸⁸ The publication proposed an adaptive interpretation of the vessels, using the artefact as a tool to extract new economic-historical data. Its conclusions are also innovative. On the one hand, it states that Dacia has fundamentally less *terra sigillata* than other provinces.⁸⁹ While it is now generally accepted that this assumption is incorrect, the distribution of findings may still be balanced, considering the late start of research and excavations in our region. It does, however, point to the fact that the distribution of imported *terra sigillata* vessels from Rheinzabern and Westerndorf varied across the region.⁹⁰ Further research, statistical analysis and the question whether there is a reciprocal trade or whether the vessels are simply present for other reasons could all help to complement this information.⁹¹ There is an improvement in the quality and precision of the drawings (Fig. 8),⁹² as well as in the precise

⁷⁹ ISAC 1980, 472–481. It seems that drawings of undecorated vessels are becoming more common and strive for uniformity, although the scale is missing. The straightness of the central auxiliary lines is questionable, but it could also be a printing error.

⁸⁰ ISAC–GUDEA 1980, 191–192.

⁸¹ The question of production centres is also addressed. ISAC–GUDEA 1980, 193–195.

⁸² ISAC 1981.

⁸³ ISAC 1981, 109.

⁸⁴ ISAC 1981, 110–113.

⁸⁵ BĂLUȚĂ 1982–1983.

⁸⁶ BĂLUȚĂ 1982–1983, 209.

⁸⁷ BĂLUȚĂ 1982–1983, 209–210.

⁸⁸ BĂLUȚĂ 1982–1983, 210–211.

⁸⁹ BĂLUȚĂ 1982–1983, 209.

⁹⁰ BĂLUȚĂ 1982–1983, 213.

⁹¹ BĂLUȚĂ 1982–1983, 213–215.

⁹² The representation of the types of undecorated vessels has improved in terms of uniformity, although they are not necessarily indicated in the description and we also note that the colouring or shading of certain decorative motifs can be confusing in the identification of stylistic features.

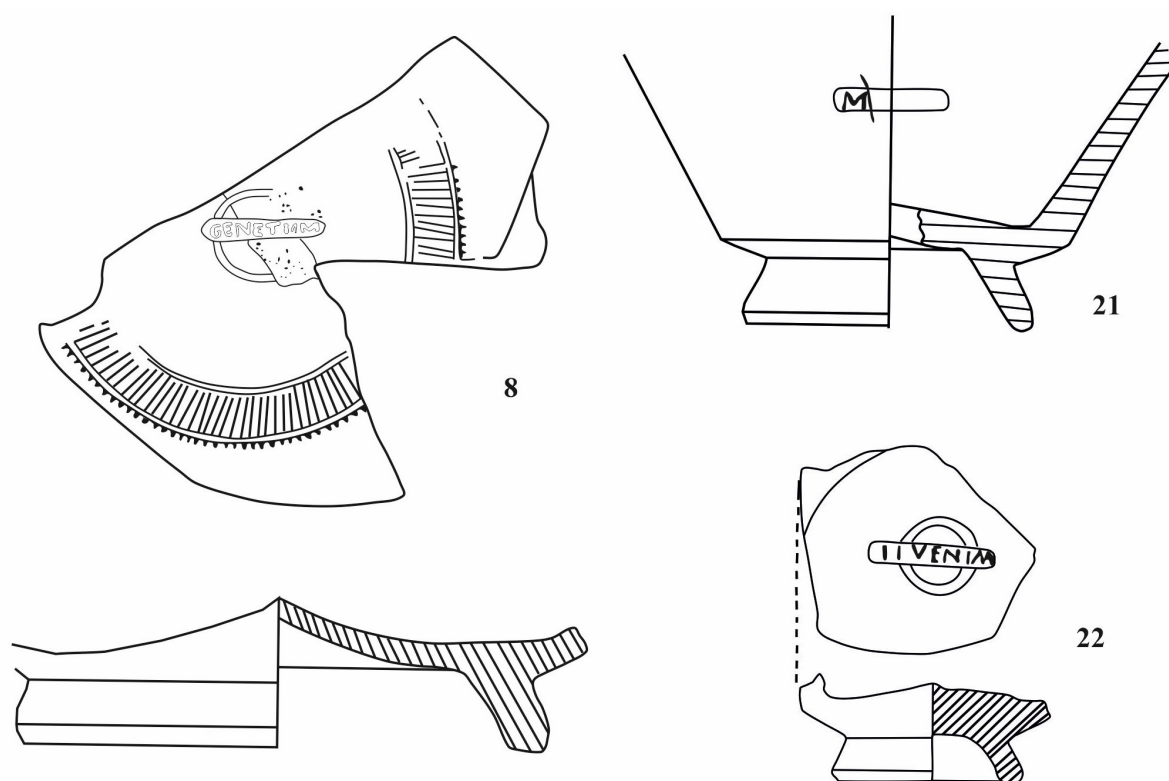


Fig. 7. Plain *terra sigillata* from Napoca (Isac 1980, 477, Pl. II).

analytical perspective and an attempt to construct a general image.⁹³

Dan Isac's unpublished doctoral thesis from 1985, which investigated *terra sigillata* vessels from all of Dacia, is perhaps the most extensive, thorough and generally detailed study on the subject. It is the first comprehensive work to analyse specifically and exclusively *terra sigillata* and the possibilities of its research. The importance of the study is thoroughly discussed by the author,⁹⁴ highlighting some specific aspects that have never been addressed before in our region, pointing out the fact, that while their aesthetic value is clear – (referring to them as artwork), they must be viewed rather as commodities for trade.⁹⁵ He also highlights the necessity of taking a more interpretive approach when examining these artefacts and the fact that Dacia has enough local *terra sigillata* to be included on a map of the major manufacturing provinces.⁹⁶ He also offers critical insight, highlighting that,

when making claims lacking scientific support, researchers labelled the results as 'uncertain' in numerous instances.⁹⁷ Throughout the thesis, he emphasises the foundational nature of the research, focusing specifically on the importance of illustration and the correct method of it.⁹⁸ He presents the research on *terra sigillata* in its complexity, with historical background, including various comments and possible new research options.⁹⁹ He highlights the issue that potters can only be identified through references to prior publications.¹⁰⁰ This situation has not improved considerably since then. He provides important insight by presenting the current knowledge on imported vessels in Dacia¹⁰¹ and locally produced goods.¹⁰² He discusses whether or not this particular pottery can ever

⁹³ BĂLUȚĂ 1982–1983, 215–232.

⁹⁴ Isac 1985, 1–2.

⁹⁵ Isac 1985, 2.

⁹⁶ Isac 1985, 3–4.

⁹⁷ Isac 1985, 6–7, 51.

⁹⁸ Adapting English (STANFIELD–SIMPSON 1958) and Austrian (KARNITSCH 1959) models.

⁹⁹ Isac 1985, 15–29.

¹⁰⁰ Isac 1985, 26.

¹⁰¹ Isac 1985, 39–62.

¹⁰² Isac 1985, 62–84.

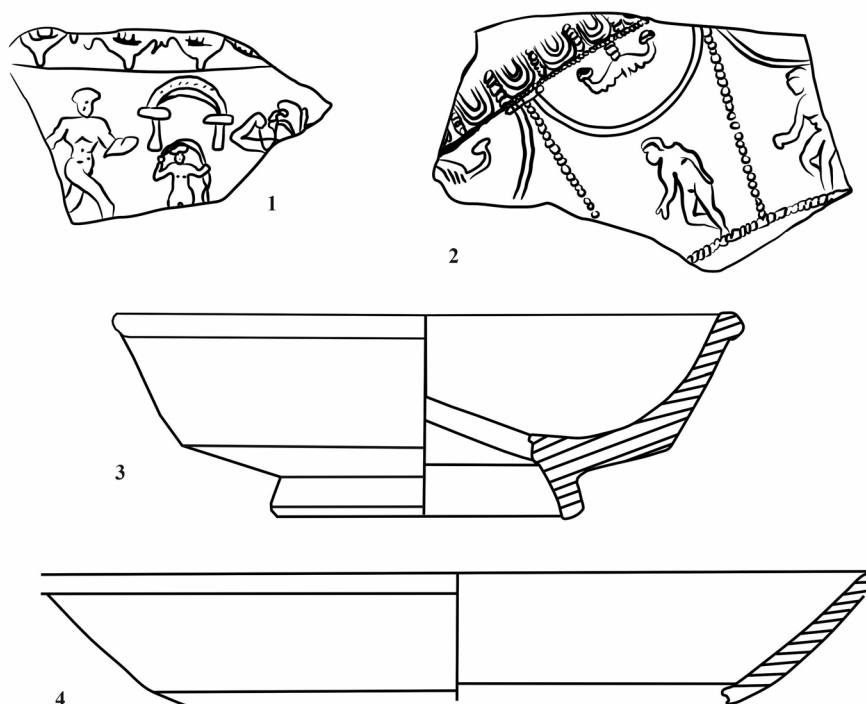


Fig. 8. Decorated and undecorated *terra sigillata* from Dacia Superior (BĂLUȚĂ 1982–1983, 222, Pl. VI).

be used for dating,¹⁰³ mentions why it is more difficult to identify undecorated vessels,¹⁰⁴ gives advice on illustration¹⁰⁵ and points out that the composition of the fabric is already being studied, for example in France.¹⁰⁶ Statistical,¹⁰⁷ stratigraphic and contextual analysis¹⁰⁸ is also present in his work, underlining that only the *terra sigillata* from rescue excavations can be analysed well from a contextual point of view.¹⁰⁹ A detailed description of locally produced wares is also provided, emphasising the current state of research and drawing comparisons with imports.¹¹⁰ In his opinion, the locally made ones are not necessarily inferior in terms of quality,¹¹¹ pointing to styles introduced from Western provinces.¹¹² The conclusions are drawn by highlighting economic and historical aspects,

closely examining the production and trade of *terra sigillata* in Dacia, linking it to the process of Romanisation.¹¹³

In 1988 Popilian's name reappears, this time co-publishing with Ion Ciucă.¹¹⁴ The article is categorising, also because it tries to present too many finds (148 fragments) in a short paper.¹¹⁵ There are mostly additions and comments to previously published material. The authors also mention that many of the finds were collected by local schoolchildren.¹¹⁶ The article follows the distribution by production centres structurally, also presenting statistical analyses, while the investigation of contextual correlations is almost entirely neglected.

The last paper from the 1980s to be discussed was published by Nicolae Gudea in

¹⁰³ ISAC 1985, 54.

¹⁰⁴ ISAC 1985, 21.

¹⁰⁵ ISAC 1985, 23.

¹⁰⁶ ISAC 1985, 17.

¹⁰⁷ ISAC 1985, 53.

¹⁰⁸ ISAC 1985, 54.

¹⁰⁹ ISAC 1985, 55.

¹¹⁰ ISAC 1985, 62–65.

¹¹¹ ISAC 1985, 65.

¹¹² ISAC 1985, 69.

¹¹³ ISAC 1985, 84–87.

¹¹⁴ POPILIAN–CIUCĂ 1988.

¹¹⁵ POPILIAN–CIUCĂ 1988, 61.

¹¹⁶ POPILIAN–CIUCĂ 1988, 61–62. Although this appears to be a general phenomenon, we believe it is worth mentioning because there is a growing revival of community archaeology today, emphasising the importance of the relationship between the local community and the archaeologists, even if it is only for simple finds recovery, as it was in this case.

1989.¹¹⁷ The *terra sigillata* vessels are presented in the form of a report, together with other finds from Porolissum.¹¹⁸ It summarises the attributes of previously published, imported material. He points out that only a small proportion (45 of the 120 pieces) could be identified so far.¹¹⁹ It focuses on the spread of material imported from Westerndorf.¹²⁰ The fragments are described briefly here, probably because it is a novel presentation of previously published material.¹²¹ The study is mainly informative, although it adds little to what we already knew. A more thorough contextual analysis, a detailed study of the motifs and a closer investigation of the functional aspects would have considerably upgraded the study.

THE 1990–2000S: THE RISE OF BROADER INTERPRETATIONS

In terms of structure and perspective, the publication of *terra sigillata* fragments had become quite standard by the 1990s. The number of studies, monographs and reports mentioning and describing this type of pottery, alongside other finds, seems to have increased during this decade. We will refer to three articles written between 1991–1993, which continue a similar analytical-comparative perspective and previously developed cataloguing method, publishing moulds,¹²² locally produced *terra sigillata* vessels,¹²³ and imported wares.¹²⁴

Three further works from 1994 include *terra sigillata* vessels.¹²⁵ The first is the Tibiscum monograph,¹²⁶ in which the vessels appear with a very simple, rudimentary description and

illustration (Fig. 9),¹²⁷ the authors not attempting to provide a more detailed presentation.¹²⁸ We find more scientific information on the topic in the Potaissa monograph,¹²⁹ which not only mentions the vessels,¹³⁰ but also compares imports and local production with the urban development of the area.¹³¹ By making some unusual comparisons with stamped pottery,¹³² it provides some interesting aspects to explore.¹³³ Its analytical approach is significantly more advanced in economic-historical aspects. The third one is a report including *terra sigillata* fragments from Brâncovenesti.¹³⁴ It offers only limited information on the discoveries, often presenting details that are unclear or inconsistent.¹³⁵

Over time, the number of studies mentioning or focusing on this type of Roman pottery vessels has increased. It is commonly published together with other pottery artefacts in articles,¹³⁶ reports,¹³⁷ or discussions about local pottery production centres.¹³⁸ Specialised publications have become much rarer in this period, with Dan Isac's 1997 paper standing out in this regard.¹³⁹ It discusses various aspects that

¹¹⁷ GUDEA 1989.

¹¹⁸ GUDEA 1989, 190.

¹¹⁹ GUDEA 1989, 190.

¹²⁰ GUDEA 1989, 191–192.

¹²¹ GUDEA 1989, 440–445.

¹²² BĂLUȚĂ 1991.

¹²³ POPILIAN-CIUCĂ 1992.

¹²⁴ POPILIAN-CIUCĂ 1993.

¹²⁵ BENEÀ-BONA 1994; BĂRBULESCU 1994; PROTASE-ZRINYI 1994.

¹²⁶ BENEÀ-BONA 1994.

¹²⁷ BENEÀ-BONA 1994, fig. 50, 51, 52. One of the illustrations also appears to be upside down (BENEÀ-BONA 1994, fig. 52).

¹²⁸ The style of the drawings is not necessarily consistent, with the dotting on the rims depicted almost identically to the fracture lines and the colouring of the decorative motifs can be confusing, especially in the case of the ovolo, which can usually be the main characteristic of potters.

¹²⁹ BĂRBULESCU 1994.

¹³⁰ BĂRBULESCU 1994, 110.

¹³¹ BĂRBULESCU 1994, 126.

¹³² BĂRBULESCU 1994, 111–112.

¹³³ BĂRBULESCU 1994, 126–127.

¹³⁴ PROTASE-ZRINYI 1994.

¹³⁵ PROTASE-ZRINYI 1994, 131–132. Based on the descriptions (PROTASE-ZRINYI 1994, 58.) and illustrations, two *terra sigillata* fragments are published (PROTASE-ZRINYI 1994, Pl. LXXVIII/4–5). One of these is questionable (4) because, according to the illustration, its shape is unusual for a *terra sigillata* vessel. On the other hand, it is possible that a third fragment also falls into this category (PROTASE-ZRINYI 1994, pl. LXXVIII/2), which may have been illustrated in reverse and thus represent an *ovolo* motif, or it could also be a ceramic negative.

¹³⁶ POPILIAN 1996.

¹³⁷ GUDEA 1996; BĂRBULESCU 1997; GUDEA 1997.

¹³⁸ POPILIAN 1997.

¹³⁹ ISAC 1997.

have not been addressed before. It compares *terra sigillata* vessels with stamped pottery and roughly describes where imported vessels come from at the sites from Gilău and Cășeu.¹⁴⁰ Isac doesn't only employ a broad analytical-comparative research perspective, but also refers to the production process.¹⁴¹ What is even more innovative is the presence of a more complete contextual analysis, also including archaeological stratigraphy.¹⁴² The publication of a repertory of decorative motifs, as well as the enhancement and clarity of the illustrations (Fig. 10), are also noteworthy.¹⁴³

We mark two publications from the 1990s.¹⁴⁴ The emphasis is still on the data's additive nature, but more detailed descriptions of locally produced imitations are supplied on occasion.¹⁴⁵ The dominance of contextual analysis can also be seen in a work published two years later on archaeological finds from Apulum,¹⁴⁶ which also investigates historiographical aspects (Fig. 11).¹⁴⁷ The production of pottery in Apulum has been attested by a mould¹⁴⁸ among other archaeological finds.¹⁴⁹ Evidence was also found from rescue excavations, names on pottery¹⁵⁰ and the more uncommon imported wares, such as the *terra sigillata tardo-padana*.¹⁵¹

By the early 2000s, contextual analysis had emerged and was used as the primary

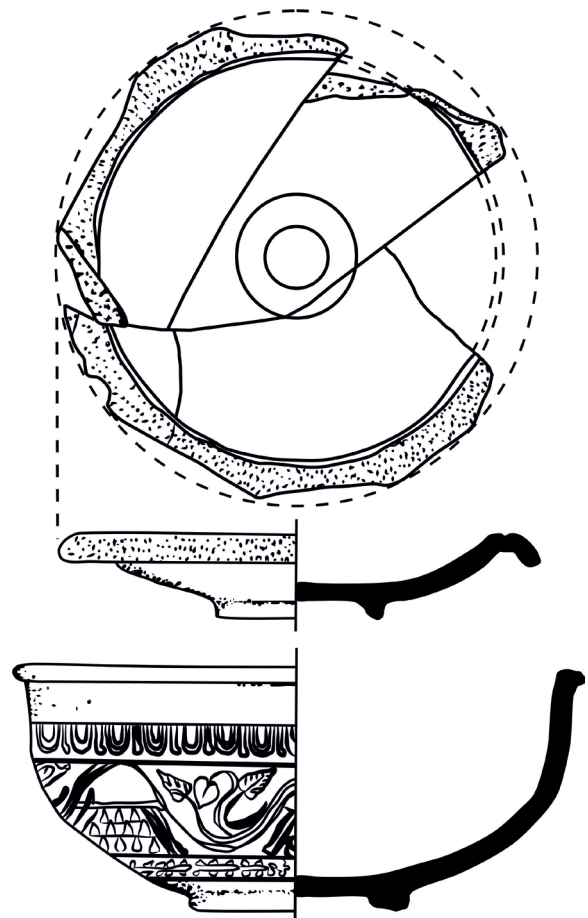


Fig. 9. *Terra sigillata* vessels from Tibiscum (BENEA-BONA 1994, Fig. 50).

perspective of publishing *terra sigillata* fragments. It became clear that the vessels offered both economic-historical insights and valuable information on their discovery locations. Dan Isac compared stamped pottery with *terra sigillata* in his research on the methodology of local production.¹⁵² A vessel from Tibiscum was published using a similar approach, still primarily using a comparative-analytical method,¹⁵³ thereby identifying connections between archaeological features as well.¹⁵⁴

The pottery production centres in Dacia, where *terra sigillata* imitations may have been made, were also investigated more attentively. Another paper from 2000¹⁵⁵ attempted to prove through the presence of eight moulds, that a

¹⁴⁰ ISAC 1997, 389–390.

¹⁴¹ ISAC 1997, 390.

¹⁴² ISAC 1997, 391–393.

¹⁴³ ISAC 1997, 395–421. The clarity of the illustrations lies in the fact that the rubbings of the various decorative elements are shown in special detail, the representation of the edge is not similar to that of the breaking points, there is no stylisation, shading and there is a scale.

¹⁴⁴ STÎNGĂ 1998; BĂLUȚĂ 1999A, 225–237.

¹⁴⁵ STÎNGĂ 1998, 82–85.

¹⁴⁶ MOGA ET AL. 2000, 151.

¹⁴⁷ MOGA ET AL. 2000, 143–144. In this case, the representation is quite incomprehensible due to the shading and colouring, the main goal of which should be historical authenticity, not aesthetics. For example, the shape of the *ovolo* is completely lost, even though it can often be one of the most important clues in the identity of the potter.

¹⁴⁸ BĂLUȚĂ 1997.

¹⁴⁹ RUSCU 1992; DIACONESCU 2001; FIEDLER-HÖPKEN 2004; FIEDLER 2005; FIEDLER-HÖPKEN 2007.

¹⁵⁰ BĂLUȚĂ 1999B, 173–180.

¹⁵¹ MOGA 1999.

¹⁵² ISAC 2000, 329–336.

¹⁵³ ARDEȚ 2000.

¹⁵⁴ ARDEȚ 2000, 305–307.

¹⁵⁵ MAN 2000.

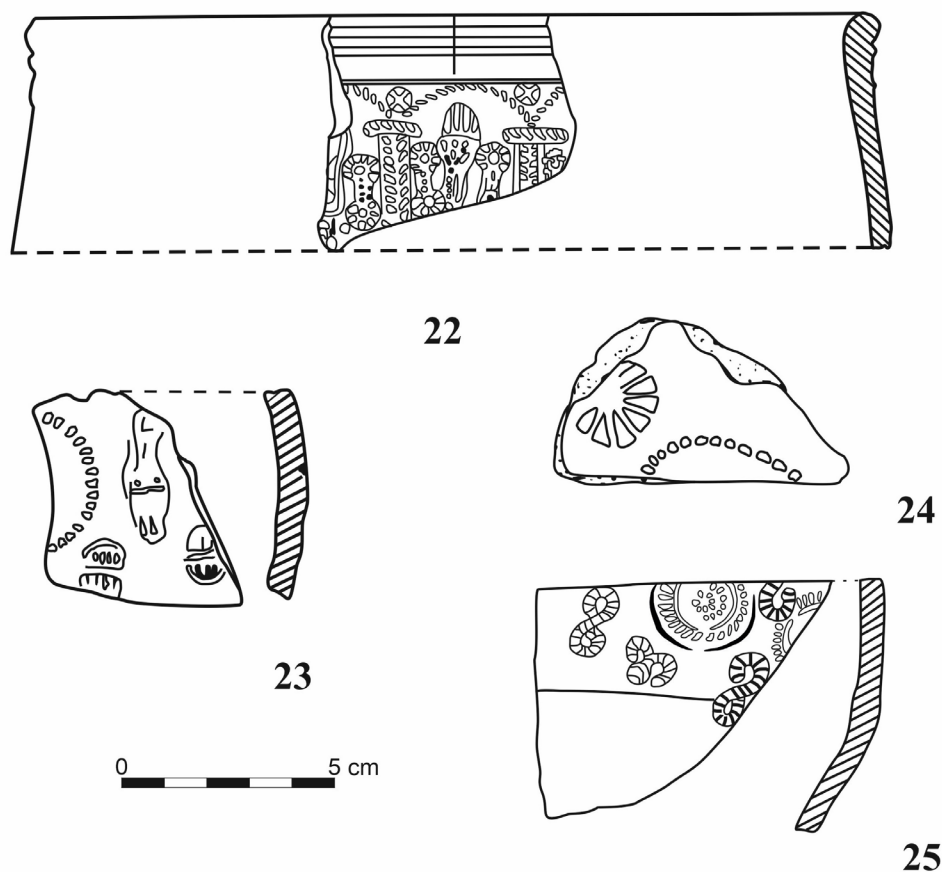


Fig. 10. Decorated *terra sigillata* from Gilău and Cășeu (Isac 1997, 404, Pl. III).

workshop of this kind may have operated in Cristești.¹⁵⁶ These finds do indicate this indeed, yet, further contextual analysis is not included.

Two other publications from the following years deal with or include this subject.¹⁵⁷ We will continue our review with Viorica Rusu-Bolindeț's publication, which follows a substantially new outline and perhaps covers all the researchable aspects of this type of pottery.¹⁵⁸ The paper discusses imported wares from Italy, citing numerous analogical sources and may be the first to mention their actual presence in Dacia.¹⁵⁹ Its innovation lies in challenging previous assumptions by revealing that, despite the province's later historical activity, Dacia may have possessed quantities of *terra sigillata*

tardo-italica comparable to those found elsewhere. Top of Form Bottom of Form

Viorica Rusu Bolindeț also initiates the study of the clay fabric of *terra sigillata*, a field that has yet to become fully systematic.

Ana Catinaș's work on the imported vessels at Potaissa followed a similar method the same year.¹⁶⁰ She examined the finds individually, comparing the decorations to those on stamped pottery.¹⁶¹ The contextual analysis, meanwhile, seems both self-evident and essential for conclusions. A 2005 paper looks at the pottery from Apulum from a new perspective, with a key development being the analysis of the fabric.¹⁶² Although only one piece of local *sigillata* is mentioned,¹⁶³ since the publication does not deal exclusively with this type, it is still

¹⁵⁶ MAN 2000, 337–338; MAN 2011, 67–71, 73–89.

¹⁵⁷ POPILIAN–GROSU 2003.

¹⁵⁸ RUSU-BOLINDEȚ 2004.

¹⁵⁹ RUSU-BOLINDEȚ 2004, 712.

¹⁶⁰ CĂȚINAȘ 2004.

¹⁶¹ CĂȚINAȘ 2004, 83–87.

¹⁶² CIAUȘESCU–GLIGOR 2006, 239.

¹⁶³ CIAUȘESCU–GLIGOR 2006, 243.

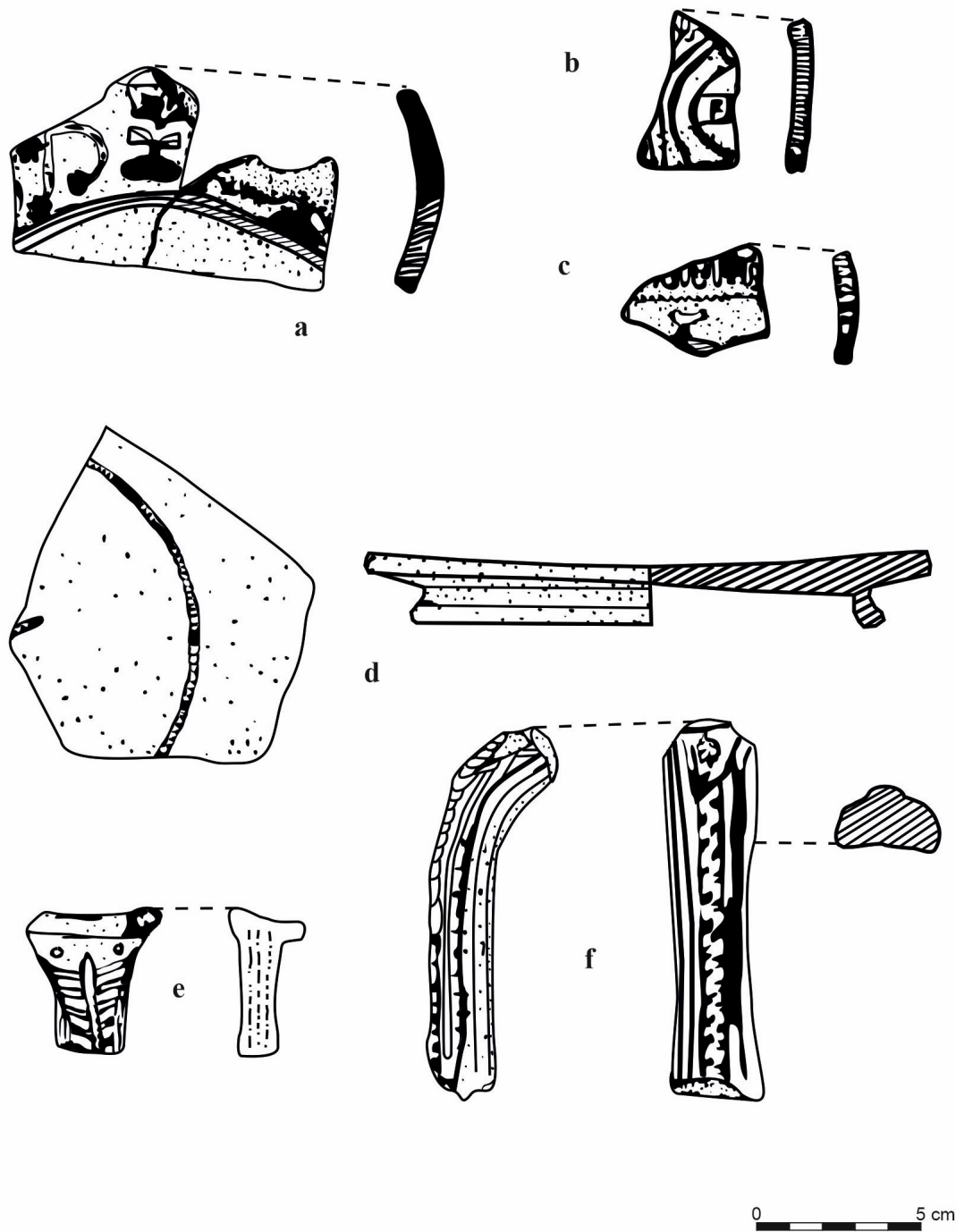


Fig. 11. *Terra sigillata* fragments from Apulum (MOGA ET AL. 2000, 200, Pl. 21).

worth highlighting for its methodology. A typological¹⁶⁴ and a stratigraphic context analysis are already the main methods here.¹⁶⁵

In these years, there was a growing interest in the subject, particularly in the case of

Tibiscum.¹⁶⁶ A study from 2007 will be mentioned, which examines *terra sigillata* vessels imported from Westerndorf.¹⁶⁷ The article is more than just a report on artefacts, it also provides an economic-historical overview,¹⁶⁸ ana-

¹⁶⁴ CIAUȘESCU-GLIGOR 2006, 241.

¹⁶⁵ CIAUȘESCU-GLIGOR 2006, 238.

¹⁶⁶ TRĂILĂ 2005; TRĂILĂ 2006; TIMOC 2006.

¹⁶⁷ TRĂILĂ-ȚUNDREA 2007.

¹⁶⁸ TRĂILĂ-ȚUNDREA 2007, 219.

lysing the operation of the production centre in Westerndorf and the particular impact of its exports on Tibiscum.¹⁶⁹ It looks at potters' workshops and studies the amount and manner of their product deliveries.¹⁷⁰

By the end of the 2000s, the study of *terra sigillata* from Dacia had advanced significantly. An example of this is Viorica Rusu-Bolindeţ's 2007 work¹⁷¹, which, alongside examining imported vessels from Napoca, also addresses the broader topic and emphasises its significance. The first paper provides information on previous research on Napoca.¹⁷² It emphasises the current conditions and underlines the significance of the *terra sigillata* study in Dacia.¹⁷³ It uses a division by production centres and a typological structure, making the publication very clear (Fig. 12) and allows examining each piece in detail.¹⁷⁴ The use of statistical graphs¹⁷⁵ and the much more extensive contextual analysis,¹⁷⁶ followed by a summary of interpretive conclusions,¹⁷⁷ is considered to be a new approach. Her other paper, generally speaking of all the pottery types found in Napoca, contains the most profound and up-to-date information.¹⁷⁸ Imported *terra sigillata* vessels¹⁷⁹ and local ones¹⁸⁰ are treated in separate chapters. The study also highlights terminological issues and typologies,¹⁸¹ drawing interpretive conclusions in each case.¹⁸² After her publications, research on this topic began to shift from a data-driven typological research methodology to an

interpretive-analytical one. From this point forward, we focus not only on the quantity and quality of the vessels, but also on their interpretive value in understanding the history of different regions of Roman Dacia.

FROM THE 2010S TO THE PRESENT: ESTABLISHED PATTERNS, UPDATED METHODS

From the 2010s to the present, research on the topic has grown to such an extent in our region that it is neither appropriate nor our intention to discuss all of the publications that include, mention, or discuss *terra sigillata* in detail. We will only highlight a few. Nor do we consider it necessary to analyse all of these studies in depth because they adhere to a widely accepted standard and schematised scientific criteria, in fact surpassing the pattern of research methodologies used in other areas regarding the Roman provinces. The publications of archaeological reports and material continue to include, now in more detail, the *terra sigillata* fragments as well.¹⁸³

Rusu-Bolindeţ published the most significant works in these years, using a similar interpretive-analytical methodology in the research of locally produced *terra sigillata* and common pottery made in Dacia.¹⁸⁴ A study of imported *terra sigillata* vessels from the Severan dynasty followed a similar outline.¹⁸⁵

The 2018 study by Małgorzata Daszkiewicz, Gerwulf Schneider, Marcin Baranowski, David Petruţ, Viorica Rusu-Bolindeţ, and Nicoleta Man is the most recent and methodologically advanced of the publications reviewed,¹⁸⁶ in which *terra sigillata* fragments discovered in Dacia (specifically from Buciumi and Brâncovenesti) were compared with reference groups of Moesian sherds produced at Butovo, Pvliveni, and Novae, using WD-XRF and

¹⁶⁹ TRĂILĂ-ȚUNDREA 2007, 220.

¹⁷⁰ TRĂILĂ-ȚUNDREA 2007, 220–221.

¹⁷¹ RUSU-BOLINDEȚ 2007A; RUSU-BOLINDEȚ 2007B.

¹⁷² RUSU-BOLINDEȚ 2007A.

¹⁷³ RUSU-BOLINDEȚ 2007A, 195.

¹⁷⁴ RUSU-BOLINDEȚ 2007A, 195–208. The representation of both decorated and plain pieces has become uniform, the colouring or stippling of the rim is no longer typical (and not even relevant), the scale is always present and the decorative elements are also represented in their simplicity and reality.

¹⁷⁵ RUSU-BOLINDEȚ 2007A, 199, 210.

¹⁷⁶ RUSU-BOLINDEȚ 2007A, 208–209.

¹⁷⁷ RUSU-BOLINDEȚ 2007A, 216–219.

¹⁷⁸ RUSU-BOLINDEȚ 2007B.

¹⁷⁹ RUSU-BOLINDEȚ 2007B, 138–190.

¹⁸⁰ RUSU-BOLINDEȚ 2007B, 190–230.

¹⁸¹ RUSU-BOLINDEȚ 2007B, 190–192.

¹⁸² RUSU-BOLINDEȚ 2007B, 168–178; 212–218.

¹⁸³ MAN-CIOATĂ 2012, 85–101; DOBOS ET AL. 2017; EGRI 2018; PETRUȚ 2018, 63–76; ANGHEL 2019; HÖPKEN ET AL. 2020; KOVÁCS 2023.

¹⁸⁴ RUSU-BOLINDEȚ 2011; RUSU-BOLINDEȚ 2014.

¹⁸⁵ RUSU-BOLINDEȚ 2016.

¹⁸⁶ DASZKIEWICZ ET AL. 2018.

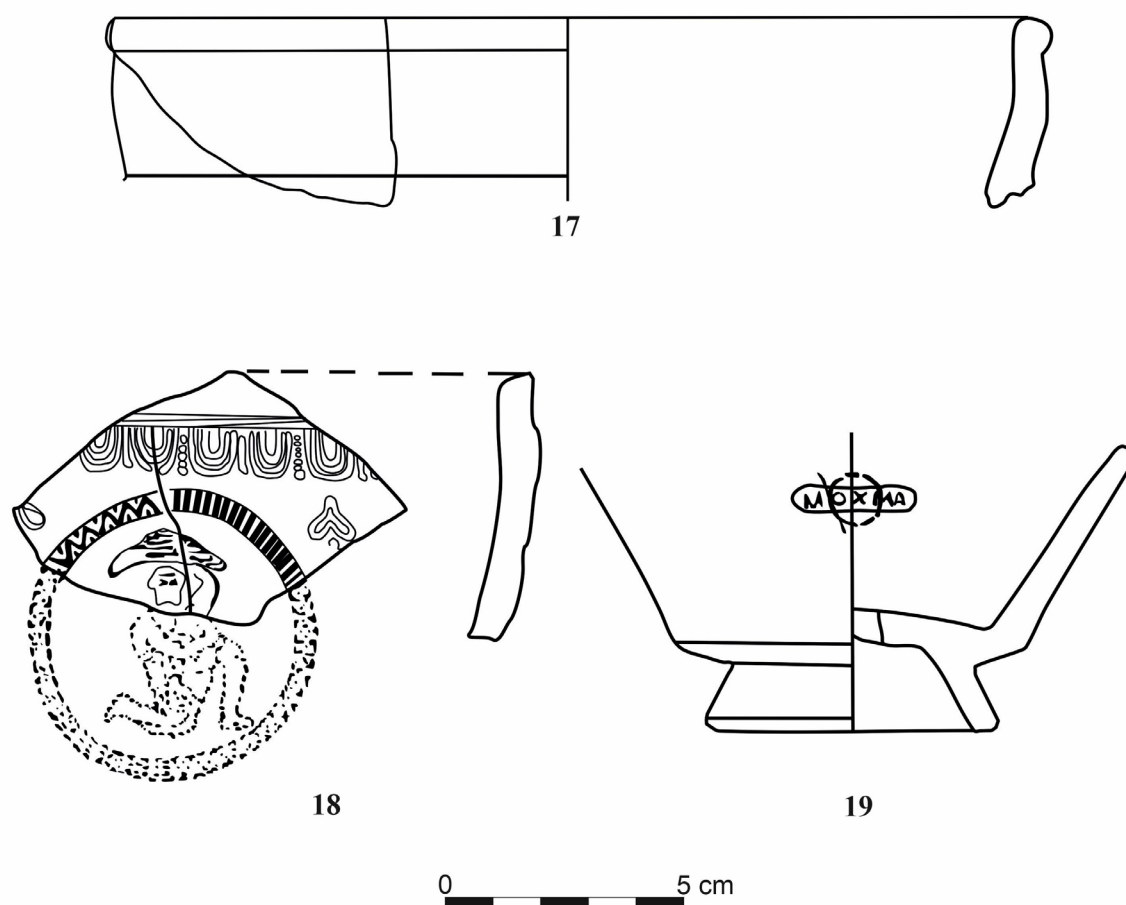


Fig. 12. *Terra sigillata* fragments from Napoca (RUSU-BOLINDEȚ 2007A, 242, Pl. V).

p-ED-XRF analyses. As a result, the origin of the imported vessels and the local provenance of 10 fragments could be determined.

CONCLUSIONS

One of the key characteristics of the first few decades (from the 1960s to the 1990s) was the promotion of the research's significance. This may no longer be essential given that it is now well recognised and that we are aware of the importance of the historical and archaeological data it provides. It may also no longer be necessary to discuss *terra sigillata* tableware as a luxury product of the Romans, given that it is much more of a stereotype in the literature, while the very meaning of the word 'luxury' is debatable. The reason we distinguish it from common Roman pottery is the special elaboration of its material, the decoration, and the entire

production method. Also, it remains unclear whether the term 'luxury' had any particular meaning for the Romans in this context, and its usage in historiography does not advance the study of *terra sigillata*. The authors published mostly decorated *terra sigillata* for a long time (which are easier to identify), together with common pottery or other archaeological finds. There has been a noticeable increase in publications dedicated to this specific category, and even in those where it is mentioned only briefly, additional data is being recorded, regardless of its relevance.

Nevertheless, it remains important to address these finds separately, as they can be analysed from numerous perspectives. When considered in conjunction with other discoveries or pottery, crucial details that are vital for the final interpretation may be overlooked.

The lack of focus on contextual analysis for an extended period may be attributed to the

differences in archaeological excavation practices during those decades, where valuable stratigraphic information was often not recorded. As a result, these vessel fragments were frequently used solely for dating purposes, without further discussion of other relevant aspects. However, from the 1990s onward, this approach became more widespread, with research increasingly adopting an interpretive framework. Consequently, a more structured approach emerged, incorporating not only typological elements but also chronological, economic-historical, interpretive, contextual and comparative considerations.

We arrived at various conclusions or even questions in reviewing the development of the illustrations. Even though many of them are quite similar, there is apparently no systematic method for drawing and visualising *terra sigillata*. The real question is whether they need to be standardised at all. Different styles will inevitably develop and some details – like whether the vessel's profile is partially filled or not – may not matter in the end. Systematisation is crucial to the extent that historical accuracy, rather than artistic expression (shading, punctuation, or embellishment), should be the primary consideration in every publication.

Technical drawings assist researchers in identifying analogies and connections. While photographs can also aid in this process, they often distort details, such as decorative motifs, due to factors like lighting, angle, hue, and shadows. In contrast, rubbings provide a more accurate representation of these intricate details. Accurate field documentation is also crucial to the proper processing of the material. This is primarily due to the fact that the finds have the potential to be dated, as *sigillata* fragments sometimes change the definition of our context's chronology and *vice versa*. As we have stated, the illustration will, first of all, provide the necessary information, stylistic characteristics, typological features, and even more accurate dating.

The analysis of functionality remains

underexplored in the publications reviewed, with much of it overlooked. From the typological classifications, we can only infer that the vessels are, for example, bowls or cups. To gain deeper insight into their actual use, analogies can be drawn by examining and comparing other types of vessels. The consideration of these details does not preclude the development of a more comprehensive understanding; rather, it contributes to a more nuanced and complete interpretation. Another distinct topic is the issue of the motifs of the decorations. Even though many repertoires and catalogues have been created about them, we hardly ever come across any mention of them in the publications discussed above. Along with identifying and coding the decorative elements we come across, the following questions arise: Is there anything behind them? Does it relate to the cultural world, mythology, or real-world existence, or is it merely an aesthetic requirement? Motifs and patterns differ from vessel to vessel and can help identify the producer, but did their use depend on anything in particular? Further research is also necessary on stamps, particularly in the case of provincially produced *terra sigillata*.

This opens up a wealth of new information for research, such as how and when *Dacia* traded with other provinces, the extent to which a particular type of pottery influenced trade, and the degree to which we should take cultural assimilation into account when analysing the socio-historical aspects of its distribution and appearance. Statistics and qualitative analysis that focus on the various versions and origins of *terra sigillata* vessels can help with this.

Although the research into this type of archaeological material began relatively late, the shift from aesthetic and quantitative analysis to a more technical, comprehensive, and interpretive approach is likely still ongoing. It is widely acknowledged across publications that a thorough study of *terra sigillata* from across *Dacia* is essential, and it is precisely these works that advance this goal.

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ABBREVIATIONS

<i>ActaAntHung</i>	Acta Antiqua Academiae Scientiarum Hungaricae, Budapest
<i>ActaArchHung</i>	Acta Archaeologica Academiae Scientiarum Hungaricae, Budapest
<i>ActaMilMed</i>	Acta Militaria Mediaevalia
<i>ActaMN</i>	Acta Musei Napocensis, Cluj-Napoca
<i>ActaMP</i>	Acta Musei Porolissensis, Zalău
<i>ActaPraehistA</i>	Acta Praehistorica et Archaeologica
<i>AnB</i>	Analele Banatului
<i>Angustia</i>	Angustia. Muzeul Carpaților Răsăriteni, Sfântu Gheorghe
<i>Antiquity</i>	Antiquity. A Quarterly Review of Archaeology
<i>Apulum</i>	Apulum. Acta Musei Apulensis, Alba Iulia
<i>ArchÉrt</i>	Archaeologiai Értesítő, Budapest
<i>ArchKorr</i>	Archäologisches Korrespondenzblatt, Römisch-Germanischen Zentralmuseum Mainz
<i>ArhMold</i>	Arheologia Moldovei
<i>Banatica</i>	Banatica, Muzeul Banatului Montan, Reșița
<i>BAR (I.S./B.S.)</i>	British Archaeological Reports, International Series / British Series, Oxford
<i>BayVgBl</i>	Bayerische Vorgeschichtsblätter
<i>BerRGK</i>	Bericht der Römisch-Germanischen Kommission
<i>BHAUT</i>	Bibliotheca Historica et Archaeologica Universitatis Timisiensis
<i>BMA</i>	Bibliotheca Musei Apulensis
<i>BMusBrux</i>	Bulletin des Musées Royaux d'Art et d'Histoire, Bruxelles
<i>CA</i>	Cercetări Arheologice
<i>CommArchHung</i>	Communicationes Archaeologicae Hungariae, Budapest
<i>Complutum</i>	Complutum. Publicaciones del Departamento de prehistoria de la Universidad complutense de Madrid
<i>Crisia</i>	Crisia. Muzeul Țării Crișurilor, Oradea
<i>Dacia (N. S.)</i>	Dacia. Recherches et découvertes archéologiques en Roumanie, I–XII (1924–1948), București; Nouvelle série (N. S.): Dacia. Revue d'archéologie et d'histoire ancienne, București
<i>DissArch</i>	Dissertationes Archaeologicae ex Instituto Archaeologico Universitatis de Rolando Eötvös Nominatae, Budapest
<i>EphemNap</i>	Ephemeris Napocensis, Cluj-Napoca
<i>EurAnt</i>	Eurasia Antiqua
<i>FI</i>	File de Istorie. Muzeul de Istorie al Județului Bistrița-Năsăud, Bistrița
<i>FolArch</i>	Folia Archaeologica, Budapest
<i>Germania</i>	Germania. Anzeiger der Römisch-Germanischen Kommission des Deutschen Archäologischen Instituts
<i>HOMÉ</i>	A Herman Ottó Múzeum Évkönyve, Miskolc
<i>JAHA</i>	Journal of Ancient History and Archaeology
<i>JAMÉ</i>	A Nyíregyházi Jós András Múzeum Évkönyve, Nyíregyháza
<i>JASc</i>	Journal of Archaeological Science
<i>JbRGZM</i>	Jahrbuch des Römisch-Germanischen Zentralmuseums, Mainz
<i>JRA</i>	Journal of Roman Archaeology

<i>JRomMilSt</i>	Journal of Roman Military Equipment Studies
<i>JRS</i>	The Journal of Roman Studies
<i>KuBA</i>	Kölner und Bonner Archaeologica
<i>Marisia</i>	Marisia (V–), Studii și Materiale, Târgu Mureș
<i>Marisia-AHP</i>	Marisia: Archaeologia, Historia, Patrimonium, Târgu Mureș
<i>MCA</i>	Materiale și Cercetări Arheologice, București
<i>MFME</i>	A Móra Ferenc Múzeum Évkönyve, Szeged
<i>Oltenia</i>	Oltenia. Studii și comunicări. Istorie-Arheologie
<i>OxfJA</i>	Oxford Journal of Archaeology
<i>PBF</i>	Prähistorische Bronzefunde, Stuttgart
<i>ProcPrehistSoc</i>	Proceedings of the Prehistoric Society
<i>PZ</i>	Praehistorische Zeitschrift
<i>RA</i>	Revue archéologique
<i>RadMV</i>	Rad vojvođanskih muzeja (1994- Rad Muzeja Vojvodine)
<i>ReiCretActa</i>	Rei Cretariae Romanae Fautorum Acta, Tongeren
<i>RevBis</i>	Revista Bistriței, Complexul Județean Muzeal Bistrița-Năsăud
<i>SaalbJb</i>	Saalburg-Jahrbuch. Bericht des Saalburg-Museums
<i>Sargetia (S.N.)</i>	Sargetia. Acta Musei Devensis, Deva
<i>SCIV(A)</i>	Studii și Cercetări de Istorie Veche (și Arheologie 1974–), București
<i>SlovArch</i>	Slovenská Archeológia, Bratislava
<i>SMIM</i>	Studii și Materiale de Istorie Medie
<i>StComBrukenthal</i>	Studii și comunicări – Muzeul Brukenthal
<i>SUBB-Historia</i>	Studia Universitatis Babeș-Bolyai, series Historia, Cluj-Napoca
<i>Századok</i>	Századok, A Magyar Történelmi Társulat Folyóíráta, Budapest
<i>Tibiscum</i>	Tibiscum. Studii și comunicări. Muzeul Județean Caransebeș
<i>Tisicum</i>	A Jász-Nagykun-Szolnok Megyei Múzeumok Évkönyve
<i>Tyragetia</i>	Tyragetia. The National Museum of History of Moldova, Chișinău
<i>UPA</i>	Universitätsforschungen zur Prähistorischen Archäologie, Bonn
<i>Ziridava</i>	Ziridava (–2012 Studia Archaeologica)
<i>ZMúz</i>	Zalai Múzeum. Közlemények Zala Megye Múzeumaiból
<i>ZPE</i>	Zeitschrift für Papyrologie und Epigraphik

MARISIA. ARCHAEOLOGIA, HISTORIA, PATRIMONIUM

With a publishing tradition since 1965, in 2019 the annual of the Mureș County Museum initiated a new series entitled: *Marisia. Archaeologia, Historia, Patrimonium*. The publication provides a panel for new research results in archeology, architecture and material heritage of the history of arts and culture. The studies mainly focus on the inner Transylvanian region that encompasses also Mureș County. Beyond local valuable contributions, the annual aims at a regional and global concern that is relevant for the whole of Transylvania. Among the annual's missions is to provide mutual interpretation of the research results produced by the Romanian and Hungarian scientific workshops. Therefore, the annual articles are mainly in English but based on the field of research and the approached topic studies in German, Romanian or Hungarian are also accepted.

Cu o tradiție din anul 1965, anuarul Muzeului Județean Mureș s-a relansat în 2019 sub titlul *Marisia. Archaeologia, Historia, Patrimonium*. Această publicație se descrie ca o platformă științifică care cuprinde rezultatele cercetărilor în domenii precum: arheologia, arhitectura și patrimoniul material din zona istoriei artelor și a culturii, studii localizate în regiunea centrală a Transilvaniei, din care face parte județul Mureș. In extenso, anuarul își propune să ofere un spațiu unitar contribuțiilor științifice valoroase, relevante din perspectiva geografică a ceea ce înseamnă întreaga regiune a Transilvaniei. Una dintre misiunile publicației este aceea de a oferi tuturor celor interesați spațiul de schimb pentru cele mai noi rezultate din atelierele științifice românești și maghiare. Articolele anuarului sunt scrise în general în limba engleză, existând totodată articole scrise în germană, română și maghiară, în funcție de specificul domeniului și a temei abordate.

A Maros Megyei Múzeum 1965 óta megjelenő évkönyvének 2019-ben útjára bocsátott új sorozata, a *Marisia. Archaeologia, Historia, Patrimonium* elsősorban a mai Maros megyét is magába foglaló belső-erdélyi régió régészeti, épített és tárgyi örökségére, nemkülönben az ezekhez kapcsolódó művészettörténeti, művelődéstörténeti kérdésekre vonatkozó újabb kutatások tudományos fóruma. A lokális perspektíván túl igyekszik kitekinteni a regionális és univerzális összefüggésekre, így a tágan értelmezett Erdély területére nézve is közöl kiemelkedő értékkel bíró tanulmányokat. Küldetésének tekinti a hazai román és magyar tudományos műhelyekben született eredmények kölcsönös tolmácsolását. A dolgozatok nyelve főként az angol, de szakterülettől és témától függően német, román vagy magyar nyelven is közöl írásokat.