

COOKING WARES FROM TROPAEUM TRAIANI

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Abstract: In this article, we continue the presentation of the archaeological materials discovered at Tropaeum Traiani, in Sector A (north of Basilica A), from 2005 to 2016, with kitchen wares. This category includes cooking pots, casseroles, frying pans, bowls, and storage pots. Cookware is the broadest category, encompassing various forms and production centres, whose study provided data regarding the diet of the city's inhabitants and on the economic contacts within the ancient province.

Cuvinte-cheie: Tropaeum Traiani, ceramică, ceramică de bucătărie, oale, caserole, producție locală, producție regională

Rezumat: În articolul de față se continuă prezentarea materialelor arheologice descoperite la Tropaeum Traiani, în Sectorul A (la nord de Basilica A), în anii 2005–2016 cu vesela de bucătărie. În această categorie am inclus oalele de gătit, caserolele, tigăile, bolurile și oalele pentru păstrarea proviziilor. Cea mai largă categorie este cea a oalelor de bucătărie, fiind observată o bogată varietate de forme și centre de producție. Studiul acestora oferă date importante cu privire la dieta locuitorilor orașului și contactele economice existente în cadrul provinciei antice.

INTRODUCTION

The present study resumes the publication of the various categories of archaeological materials discovered at Tropaeum Traiani, in Sector A (north of Basilica A), between 2005 and 2016 (Pl. I/1). After the systematic investigations carried out in this area of the Roman city by Alexandru Barnea¹ (1968–1974) and Liana Oța² (1995–1998), the excavations were reopened in 2005 by Adriana Panaite, and they continued without interruptions until 2016³ (Pl. I/2–3). Recent excavations in the area were undertaken in 2022–2024⁴, and the resulting archaeological materials are still being processed.

The purpose of the investigations carried out since 2005 is to uncover, the buildings and the street network from this area of the city. Also, as the excavation advances, the annexes of Basilica A on its northern side. Late Roman housing issues, the general stratigraphy of the area and the urban changes occurring in the period between the 4th and 6th/beginning of the 7th century are also discussed. The ultimate goal is to uncover and explore the whole *insula* delimited by the *decumanus* and *cardo*, the AV1 and the AB IV streets.

Until now, some edifices were excavated completely, while others only partially: Edifice A2. Edifice A5 was completed, as well as the segment of street AV1, located between A2 and A5. The narrow space between Edifices A4 and A5 was researched, as well as a number of other constructions, indicated by one or maximum two sides, without being able to specify their plan, size or destination yet⁵. Edifice A15 is still under investigations, while to the West of it there is an area without constructions, a possible courtyard for the pilgrims, if we consider the large crypt of Basilica A, the main Christian monument dominating this part of the town⁶ (Pl. I/1).

Different categories of archaeological materials were meanwhile published: Roman and Late Roman coins⁷, Late Roman amphorae⁸, Late Roman fine wares⁹, drinking vessels¹⁰, Early Roman amphorae¹¹; also, chemical analyses

¹ Barnea et alii 1979, p. 79–88.

² The research reports prepared by Liana Oța for the years 1995, 1997 and 1998 are in the Archive of the “Vasile Pârvan” Institute of Archaeology of the Romanian Academy, Bucharest.

³ Between 2016 and 2021, the Tropaeum Traiani archaeological site has not received any funding from the Ministry of Culture and National Identity.

⁴ Panaite 2023, p. 20–23; Panaite 2024, p. 20–25.

⁵ Panaite 2006; 2007; 2009; 2010; 2011; 2012; 2013; 2014; 2015; 2016; 2017.

⁶ A paper focused on the results of the archaeological investigations carried out so far in the area, with the title *Aspects regarding late Roman urbanism. The results of recent archaeological research at Tropaeum Traiani (Adamclisi, Constanța county)*, prepared by one of the present authors, A. Panaite in collaboration with Gabriel Talmațchi, from the Museum of National History and Archaeology, Constanța, was presented at the 7th International Conference on the Roman Danubian Provinces - Frontier Landscapes along the Danube (Sofia-Vidin, 22–28 September 2024), and will be published in the forthcoming proceedings.

⁷ Panaite, Vilcu 2019.

⁸ Grigoraș, Panaite 2021.

⁹ Domžalski, Panaite 2019.

¹⁰ Grigoraș, Panaite 2023.

¹¹ Grigoraș, Panaite 2025.