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THE ASSUMED “PISTIROS” EMPORION. PRELIMINARY INQUIRIES ABOUT ITS TRADE PURVEYORS

Pierre DUPONT^a, Alexandre BARALIS^b, Alexey GOTSEV^c,
Emil NANKOV^c, Vyara PETROVA^d, Tsvetelina SLAVKOVA^d

^a *ArAr Lab, Maison de l'Orient, Lyon, France; e-mail : pierre.dupont15@orange.fr*

^b *Musée du Louvre, Department of Greek, Etruscan and Roman Antiquities, Paris, France; e-mail: Alexandre.Baralis@louvre.fr*

^c *National Archaeological Institute and Museum, Bulgarian Academy of Sciences, Sofia, Bulgaria; e-mails: alexaim@abv.bg, eh2@cornell.edu*

^d *Archaeological Museum of Septemvri Prof. M. Domaradzki, Bulgaria; e-mails: vp_m@abv.bg, tsveta_slavkova@abv.bg*

Keywords: “Pistiros”, Bulgaria, Thracian hinterland, Greek emporion, trade relations, Hellenistic period

Abstract: Preliminary inquiries about the assumption of preferential trade relations between Thracian hinterland and Apollonia Pontica.

Cuvinte-cheie: „Pistiros”, Bulgaria, hinterland tracic, emporion grec, relații comerciale, epocă elenistică

Rezumat: Anchetă preliminară asupra presupuselor relații comerciale preferențiale dintre „Pistiros” și Apollonia Pontica.

Located right in the heart of the Thracian hinterland, the Vetren settlement, at first identified as possibly corresponding to the one of ancient Pistiros² on the basis of a Greek inscription discovered in the close vicinity, soon afterwards proved to be ambiguous³. For lack of conclusive epigraphical sources⁴, excavation campaigns have brought to light a rather diversified range of ceramic finds of Greek type, the determination of origin(s) of which would allow to get a concise idea of its main trade purveyors, either issued from the North-Aegean littoral or from the West-Pontic shoreline, as suggested by the mention of one Apollonia within the text of the sibylline inscription, thus allowing to identify this Euxine port of trade as the possible founder of far inland assumed “Pistiros”.

So, we have no choice but to deal with locally excavated archaeological finds, at least with those of well-identified places of manufacture, best suited to settle individually between the two involved geographical poles. For that purpose, we had recourse to XRF-analyses of discriminating varieties of ceramic samples, in order to compare the chemical data between finds from Vetren -name of the nearest modern site- on one side and its two assumed main suppliers on the other one, viz. both Northern Aegean and West-Pontic shoreline centered

on Apollonia⁵. For each variety of selected ceramic finds, the results of data processing will be summarized in a dendrogramme.

In spite of the persistent uncertainty about the very appellation of the site, the range of manufactured items excavated there might have been delivered, either from the North-Aegean littoral through waterway via the Hebros course⁶ or overland via the Nestos valley and the Rhodope mountains⁷; or overland from the Burgas gulf according to the supporters of an Apollonian origin. In order to test it, the archaeometrical process at first consisted, on selected samples, in testing the presence among the finds from the assumed “Pistiros” of specimens of ceramic products attributed to regional workshops of the Apollonia-Mesambria area.

For that purpose, three categories of ceramic products were preselected, viz. : 1) one variant of transport

¹ Study started under the guidance of the Mission Archéologique Française d'Apollonia Pontica, headed by Dr. A. Baralis, Musée du Louvre.

² See Loukopoulou 1999, p. 371; Gotsev 2019.

³ See Chankowski 2010 and 2012; Bouzek, Domaradzka 2013, p. 22–24.

⁴ On the “Pistiros” inscription, see Pistiros I (1996), p. 205; Bravo, Chankowski 1999; Bouzek, Domaradzka 2013, p. 22–24.

⁵ The preliminary archaeometrical results presented here fit with those formerly obtained on a small disparate sample of pottery finds from Apollonia (Blondé, Picon 2003), which at first seemed to have been locally made judging from the archaeometrical data including those of the common wares collected by the excavators (Bouzek *et alii* 2007), whereas the quality of the b.g. fine ones, considered of higher standard than the one of West-Pontic finds, rather led the excavators to interpret them *a priori* as imports of North-Aegean origin (Bouzek *et alii* 2013, p. 96 *infra*).

⁶ On the trading links between Maroneia and the upper Hebros valley, see Bravo, Chankowski 1999, p. 310–311. Through river course, then by sea, the transport duration from “Pistiros” to Thasos is estimated of one month duration after Gotsev 2019, p. 98.

⁷ Judging from the preponderance of Thasian amphoras put forward by Bravo, Chankowski 1999, p. 312. Conversely, one must have in mind that the area of manufacture of jars of Thasian type obviously widely extended beyond the island across the North-Aegean littoral.

amphoras of Heracleian type with englyphic stamp, some of them more or less related to Virginia Grace' *Parmeniskos Group*, overrepresented in the immediate hinterland of Burgas Gulf, on a site located in the vicinity of the modern village of Debelt⁸; **2**) one non-Attic variant of black-glazed fine wares, overrepresented among the finds of the Kalfata necropolis in Apollonia, thus most likely, if not of local, at least of close vicinity manufacture⁹; **3**) a range of roof-tiles and architectural terracottas from Apollonia, some of them A-stamped¹⁰, a device also borne by some tiles from "Pistiros", but there flanked by a fan-shaped device of relief lines¹¹, thus rather in favour of an imported artefact from elsewhere¹². Archaeometrical tests have consisted in comparisons of chemical data with samples of finds of similar types from "Pistiros".

The first comparative tests between the West-Pontic area Apollonia-Mesambria and "Pistiros" were focused on amphoras finds with englyphic stamp from both the Debelt area and Apollonia itself. The alternative of a continental track of delivery expected between them looking *a priori* rather uncertain, it appeared rather necessary to complete the comparative batch of samples Apollonia vs. "Pistiros" with an additional sortiment of amphoras from the North-Aegean fringe (Thasos, Abdera, Maroneia, Doriskos).

On the dendrogramme of classification of amphoric samples [Pl. I], it appears that if, on the whole, samples ascribable to the Heracleian circle collected both in Debelt and Apollonia actually form a relatively homogenous geochemical group within cluster [D]¹³, on the other hand just a single one out of five of those collected in "Pistiros", namely PST 14, stamped KAA[...] AIA[...] on neck as well as with graffito A under the handle. Furthermore, this group, gathered within cluster [D], appears clearly distinct from our amphorical references for the North-Aegean littoral fringe Maroneia/Ainos-Doriskos (clusters A et B)¹⁴, which more secondarily include two additional specimens from Pistiros: the former (PST 11) bearing a stamp MATPO / ΔΩΡΩ, side by side with a representation of helmet or vine-leaf¹⁵, assigned to Virginia Grace's *Parmeniskos Group*; the latter (PST 10), bearing a handle-stamp with inscription [...] / ΝΕΟΣ. As for cluster [C], it theoretically is out of place within this setting: only gathering samples of common wares from Mesambria, we added it only tentatively, for lack of having at our disposal samples of amphoras from that site, assumed to be of local manufacture, which would have allowed us to cross their results with those of other

recent archaeometrical contributions¹⁶. Lastly, relegated in marginal position within one very loose cluster, our two last samples from Pistiros PST 12 and 13 are raising problems of different kind: as for the former, consisting in an over-fired scrap collected on the hearth of a potter's kiln, even if the possibility of identifying it as a local product of "Pistiros" itself appears not at all excluded, it might also be the result of a great urban fire, either accidental or connected with war events; as for the latter sample, bearing a no more decipherable handle-stamp, its interpretation remains unclear at all.

Such results, focused on the Heracleian circle fit totally with those already obtained on the general distribution of amphoric finds¹⁷, which have already quite well evidenced the crushing majority of stamps of North-Aegean origin (88%) in comparison with those from Heraclea (7%) and Cnidus (1%).

Concerning our ten samples of black-glazed wares from "Pistiros"¹⁸, they have displayed no overlap at all of chemical pattern with the assumed variant of local manufacture from the Kalfata necropolis of cluster [B] [Pl. II], but have at first formed a mixed cluster [A] together with a little fraction of our black-glazed samples from the Ainos-Doriskos area, thus suggesting a North-Aegean origin, covering the Hebros estuary. Then, dealing with atticizing black-glazed wares, we have submitted additionally these samples of cluster [A] – as usual in such a case – to a comparison test with Attic references from the Agora excavations¹⁹, test which proved to be positive. Conversely, the same samples of black-glazed wares from "Pistiros" didn't reveal particular chemical affinities with the majority of our references for the North-Aegean littoral [clusters D-E-F-G-H]. In that case, such a predominance of Attic black-glazed wares together with a few others of North-Aegean manufacture might yet suggest deliveries in common up to the Thracian hinterland *via* the Hebros course. But, in that case, such a predominance of black-glazed wares of Attic manufacture within our small set from Pistiros seems rather connected with our random selection. Only PST 22 and 25 go off within mini-cluster [C], differing from both our Attic references and from the non-Attic black-glazed group from the Kalfata necropolis.

As for our minor lots of black-glazed samples from Mangalia and Anchialos, concentrated within cluster [I], they obviously correspond too to the products of local workshops, distinct from the one of Apollonia, as already forecast for a long time by the excavators²⁰, even if the leading role in the breakthrough of such West-Pontic

⁸ Balabanov 2010 ; *id.* 2011; Dupont 2023.

⁹ Dupont 2024.

¹⁰ Stoyanova 2022, p. 155 Tabl. I, nos. 1 and 6.

¹¹ Musil 1996, p. 54 Fig. 3 :7.

¹² Bouzek *et alii* 2013, p. 94, pl. 28 :3.

¹³ As already previously obtained (Dupont 2023, p. 57 fig. 2, cluster B1).

¹⁴ The distinction between two separate clusters being mainly based on calcium contents – high ones for [A], low ones for [B] –, might well be here only artificial, the data processing often cutting into two separate units a too large dispersion of a single chemical element.

¹⁵ See Bouzek *et alii* 2007b, p. 142, n°A.1.

¹⁶ *Viz* those by Stoyanov 2019.

¹⁷ See Tushlova *et alii* 2010.

¹⁸ On the finds of black-glazed vases from "Pistiros", see Trefny 2013.

¹⁹ On the geochemical point of view, black-glazed fine wares of Attic type are far from forming a homogenous group, so that attributions of origin are often more or less uncertain. For that reason, we have first of all based them on reference samples from the Athenian Agora excavations and matched up the results with those of similar finds of Attic type from Lycian Xanthos and Megara Hyblaea.

²⁰ Bozkova 1997, p. 15.

workshops across the Thracian hinterland still remains attributed to Apollonia²¹.

Still more uncertain proved to be the comparison between Apollonia and “Pistiros” in the field of roof-tiles and architectural terracottas²², for lack of having gathered at my disposal a suitable amount of samples. Faced with our thirty samples representative of Apollonia, supplemented by twelve more from Thasos and Maroneia, the only two fragments put at our disposal by the Septemvri Museum both formed on the dendrogramme [Pl. III] a single cluster [D] together with four of our specimens from Apollonia, three others from Thasos and a last one from Maroneia, thus rather in favour of a North-Aegean origin²³. It is also the case for two other clusters [A] and [B] on the dendrogramme, within which additional specimens of roof-tiles and architectural terracottas from Apollonia appear side by side with others from Thasos and Maroneia, once again in favour of a Thasian manufacture²⁴. As for the greater part of our specimens from Apollonia of local manufacture, they are concentrated within cluster [C], mainly gathering tiles, whereas architectural terracottas, most probably issued from a specialized workshop of coroplasts, stand apart within marginal mini-cluster [E].

As for architectural terracottas brought to light in “Pistiros” itself and that we were not allowed to sample, their standard of quality is reported by the excavators to surpass definitely the one of West-Pontic finds and parallels put forward, thus would rather to be assigned to the cities of the North-Aegean coastal fringe²⁵. In the same way, the above-mentioned parallel between the stamp [A] struck on some tiles from Apollonia and the one observed on others from “Pistiros” doesn’t hold up too: in quadrangular recess for the former²⁶; oval for the latter, surrounded by a double fan-shaped pattern²⁷.

In the light of our first stage of archaeometrical results, it would therefore appear that the site more or less interpreted initially as “Pistiros”, on the basis of a rather aleatory inscription, rather than from a hypothetical West-Pontic purveyor, was mainly receiving its imports, first of all of amphoras, from the North-Aegean sphere, viz. from the Thasos-Maroneia fringe, most probably by inland waterway via the Hebros valley²⁸.

Nevertheless, additional cross-inquiries might well still have to be envisaged about the impressive lot of finds of both tiles and architectural terracottas from Mesambria

excavations²⁹, of potentially local manufacture too, in order to separate it clearly from its Apollonian counterpart, not to mention problems inherent to Mesambria itself, e.g. the case of the *sima* type bearing a *Μοσχος* stamp, brought to light concurrently on some ornamental tiles from Olbia³⁰: are we faced with an import from Mesambria, with a local product of Olbia, or are we faced with two separate local products stamped under the *aegis* of two homonyms (officials ? producers ?). In the second case, one might also presume that Mesambria might have also distributed its local products towards the Thracian hinterland.

On the whole, at the present stage, amphoras finds probably represent our best indicator of the trade relations of ancient “Pistiros” as well as for other sites of the Thracian hinterland such as Seuthopolis, the amphoras imports of which, mostly originating from the North-Aegean sphere (Acanthos, Thasos, Ainos, Samothrace), are three times more numerous than those attributable to the Pontic area (Heraclea, Sinop, Tauric Chersonesus)³¹.

The rather convergent conclusions to which lead the preliminary attributions of origin of our selection of finds from the so-called “Pistiros” thus would rather reinforce, as regards the historical point of view, the general opinion after which, during the first half of the 4th century B.C., the Odrysian dynasts continuously endeavoured to maintain their control between the hinterland transversal Hæmos chain and the Aegean littoral, thus conferring its major importance on the transit waterway represented by the Hebros course down to its mouth, bordered by the important transit port of Ainos.

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- ²¹ Bozkova 2010, p. 491.
- ²² On the finds of architectural terracottas from “Pistiros”, see Bouzek *et alii* 2013.
- ²³ Even if the remains of a large kiln found there (Gotsev *et alii* 2011) confirm the existence of pottery manufacture, at least of common ware (Bouzek *et alii* 2013, p. 94).
- ²⁴ Considering the poor amount of clay sources on Thasos Island, workshops of both tile-makers and coroplasts were probably coastal ones, like those producing amphoras (see Picon, Garlan 1986).
- ²⁵ Bouzek, Musil 2007, p. 118.
- ²⁶ Stoyanova 2022, p. 155 Tabl. I nos. 1 and 6.
- ²⁷ Musil 1996, p. 54, Fig. 3.7.
- ²⁸ At least during the favourable periods (see Chankowski 2010, p. 244).
- ²⁹ Ognenova-Marinova 1980, p. 110–155.
- ³⁰ Brashinsky 1964, p. 308 (2nd half 4th c. B.C.), pl. 1/1.
- ³¹ See Tzochew 2018, p. 546 and Fig. 1.

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PST: “Pistiros”
APO: Apollonia
APO41-45: Mesambria
MRN: North-Aegean

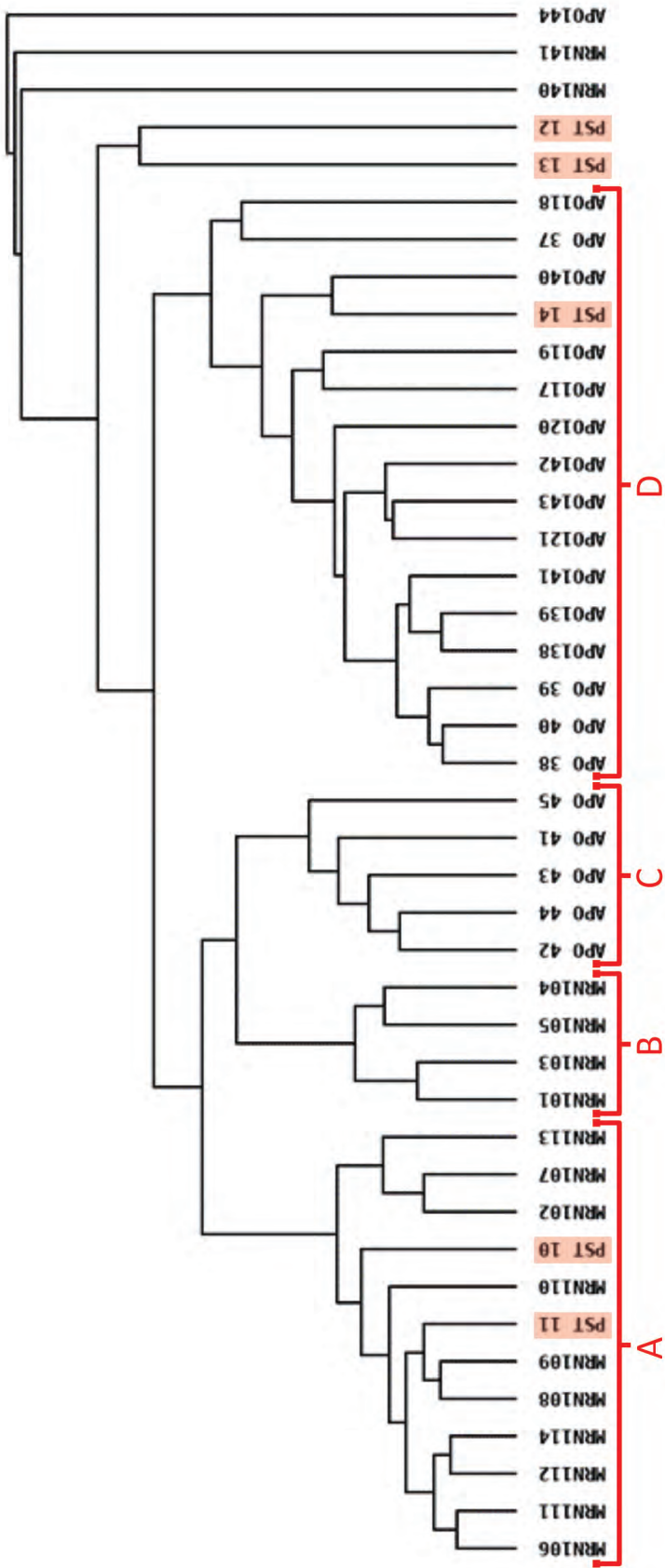


Plate I. Dendrogramme of XRF chemical data: “Pistiros” vs. Apollonia: amphoras.

PST: "Pistiros"
APO: Apollonia

AAG: Athenian Agora
MRN: North-Aegean

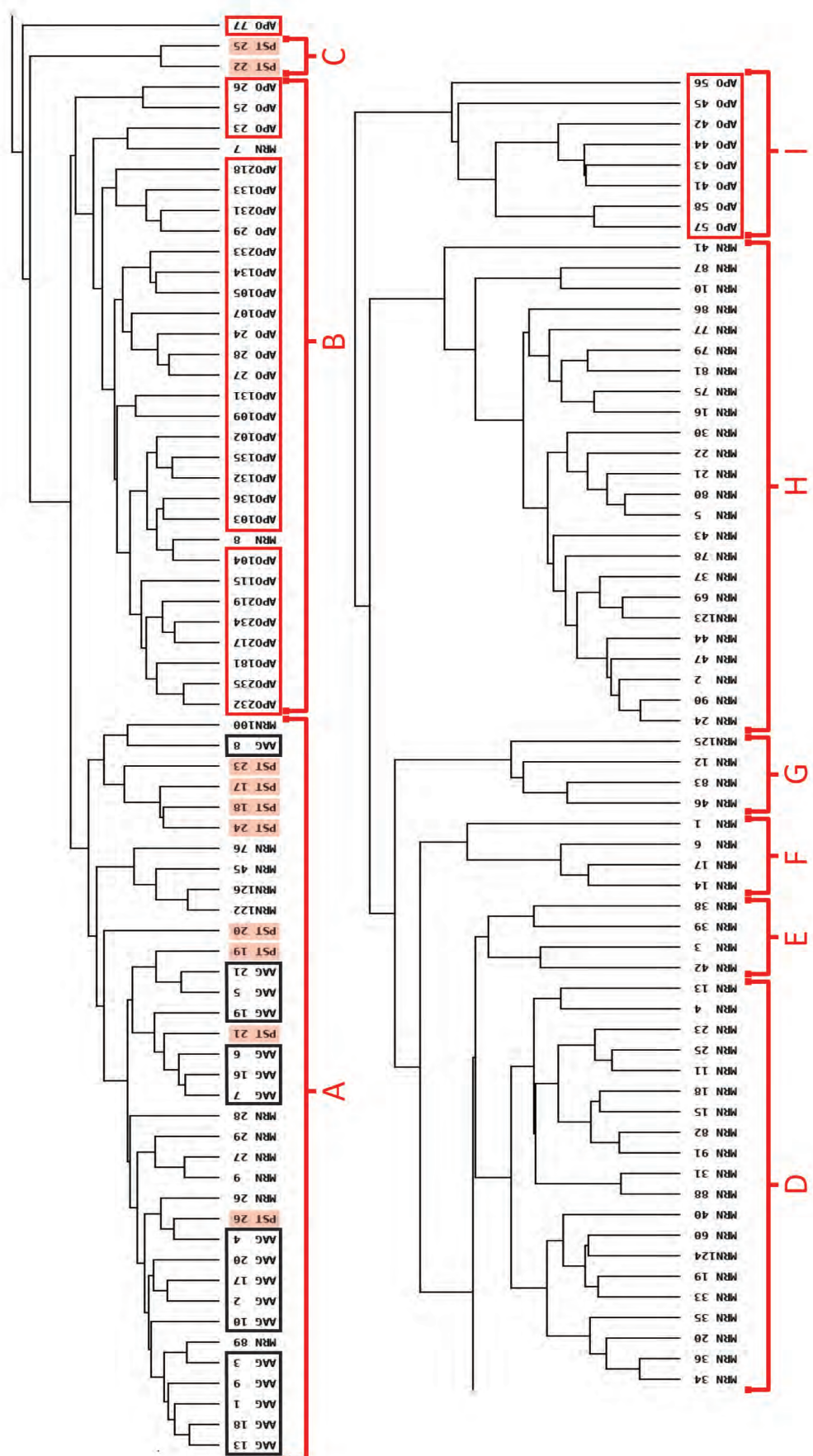


Plate II. Dendrogramme of XRF chemical data: "Pistiros" vs. Apollonia: black-glazed wares.

PST: “Pistiros”
APO: Apollonia
AHG: Thasos
MRN: North-Aegean

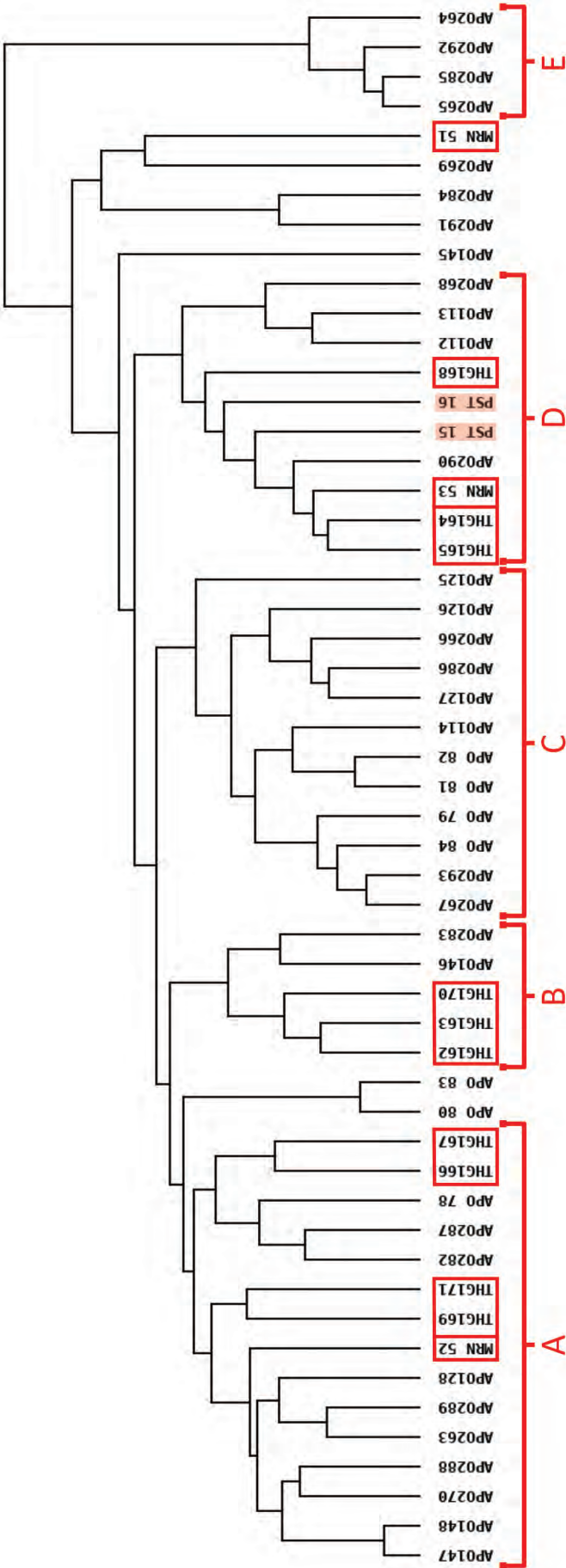


Plate III. Dendrogramme of XRF chemical data: “pistiros” vs. Apollonia: tiles and architectural terracottas.

ABREVIERI / ABRÉVIATIONS / ABBREVIATIONS

AAC – Acta Archaeologica Carpatica, Kraków
ACMI – Anuarul Comisiunii Monumentelor Istorice, București
ACMIT – Anuarul Comisiunii Monumentelor Istorice, Secțiunea pentru Transilvania, Cluj
ActaArchHung – Acta Archaeologica Academiae Scientiarum Hungaricae, Budapest
ActaMM – Acta Moldaviae Meridionalis, Vaslui
ActaMN – Acta Musei Napocensis, Cluj
ActaMP – Acta Musei Porolissensis, Zalău
ActaMT – Acta Musei Tutovensis, Bârlad
AIGR – Anuarul Institutului Geologic al României, București
AJPA – American Journal of Physical Anthropology
Alt-Thüringen – Alt-Thüringen : Jahresschrift des Museums für Ur- und Frühgeschichte Thüringens
Aluta – Aluta. Revista Muzeului Național Secuiesc Sfântu Gheorghe
Anatolia Antiqua – Anatolia Antiqua. Revue internationale d'archéologie anatolienne. Institut Français d'Etudes anatoliennes d'Istanbul
Anatolica – Anatolica. The Netherlands Institute for the Near East in Leiden
AnB – Analele Banatului, Muzeul Banatului, Timișoara
AncNearEastSt – Ancient Near Eastern Studies, Leuven, Belgia
Angustia – Angustia. Arheologie, Etnografie, Sfântu Gheorghe
Anmed – Anmed. Anadolu Akdenizi Arkeoloji Haberleri, Antalya, Turcia
Antiquity – Antiquity. A Quarterly Review of Archaeology, University of York
AnUCraiova – Analele Universității din Craiova, Craiova (seria Istorie)
AO – Arhivele Olteniei
Apulum – Acta Musei Apulensis. Muzeul Național al Unirii, Alba Iulia
Archaeol Anthropol Sci – Archaeological and Anthropological Sciences
ArchBulg – Archaeologia Bulgarica, Sofia
ArchÉrt – Archaeológiai Értesítő, Budapest
ArchHung – Archaeologia Hungarica, Acta Archaeologica Musei Nationalis Hungarici, Budapest
Area – Area. Royal Geographical Society, London
Argesis – Argesis. Muzeul Județean Argeș. Pitești
ArhDIUkrajn – Arheologija i Danija Istorija Ukraini, Institut Arheologij NAN Ukrainj, Kijv
ArheologijaKiiv – Arheologija. Nacional'na akademija nauk Ukraini. Institut arheologii, Kiev
ArheologijaSSSR – Arheologija SSSR. Svod Archeologičeskih Istočnikov, Moscova
ArhMold – Arheologia Moldovei, Iași
ArhPrevMoldova – Arheologia Preventivă în Republica Moldova
BA – Biblioteca de Arheologie, București
BARIntSer – British Archaeological Reports. International Series, Oxford
BCH – Bulletin de Correspondance Hellénique, Athènes-Paris
BCMI – Buletinul Comisiunii Monumentelor Istorice
BerRGK – Bericht der Römisch-Germanischen Kommission des Deutschen Archäologischen Instituts, Frankfurt am Main
BiblIstroPontica-A – Biblioteca Istro-Pontica. Seria Arheologie, Tulcea
BiblMemAnt – Bibliotheca Memoriae Antiquitatis, Piatra-Neamț
BiblThrac – Bibliotheca Thracologica, București
BMC – *Coins of the Roman Empire in the British Museum*, Londra; II, *Vespasian to Domitian*, 1930; IV, *Antoninus Pius to Commodus*, 1968; V, *Pertinax to Elagabalus*, 1950 (H. Mattingly)
BMI – Buletinul Monumentelor Istorice
BMJT – Buletinul Muzeului Județean Teleorman, Alexandria
BOR – Biserica Ortodoxă Română
BSA – British School at Athens, Athens
BSNR – Buletinul Societății Numismatice Române, București
BSPF – Bulletin de la Société Préhistorique Française, Paris
BSSC – Buletinul Societății de Științe din Cluj
CA – Cercetări Arheologice. Muzeul Național de Istorie a României, București
Carpica – Carpica. Complexul Muzeal „Iulian Antonescu” Bacău, Bacău

- CCA – Cronica Cercetărilor Arheologice din România, București
- CCDJ – Cultură și Civilizație la Dunărea de Jos, Călărași
- Cerclst – Cercetări Istorice, Muzeul de Istorie a Moldovei, Iași
- Cumidava – Cumidava. Culegere de studii și cercetări. Muzeul de Istorie Brașov
- Current Anthropology – Current Anthropology. University of California, Merced
- Dacia – Dacia (Nouvelle Série). Revue d'archéologie et d'histoire ancienne. Académie Roumaine. Institut d'archéologie « V. Pârvan », Bucarest
- Danubius – Danubius, Revista Muzeului de Istorie Galați
- DHA – Dialogues d'histoire ancienne, Institut des Sciences et Techniques de l'Antiquité
- DissArch – Dissertationes Archaeologicae. Eötvös Loránd University, Budapest
- Documenta Praehistorica – Documenta Praehistorica, University of Ljubljana, Faculty of Arts, Department of Archaeology, Ljubljana
- EphemNap – Ephemeris Napocensis. Academia Română, Institutul de Arheologie și Istoria Artei, Cluj-Napoca
- FolArchPoznan – Folia Praehistorica Posnaniensia, Instytut Archeologii, Poznań
- Germania – Germania. Anzeiger der Römisch-Germanischen Kommission des Deutschen Archäologischen Instituts, Frankfurt
- Hill¹ – P.V. Hill, *The dating and the arrangement of the undated coins of Rome, A.D. 98–148*, Londra, 1970
- Hill² – P.V. Hill, *The coinage of Septimius Severus and his family of the mint of Rome, A.D. 193–217*, Londra, 1964
- HOMO – HOMO. Journal of Comparative Human Biology, Stuttgart
- Howgego – C. J. Howgego, *Greek Imperial Countermarks. Studies in the provincial coinage of the Roman empire*, Londra, 1985
- Human Evolution – Human Evolution, International Institute for Humankind Studies and University of Florence
- IJO – International Journal of Osteoarchaeology
- Istros – Istros, Muzeul Brăilei, Brăila
- JAMÉ – A nyíregyházi Józsa András Múzeum Évkönyve
- JAnat – Journal of Anatomy
- JAS – Journal of Archaeological Science
- JDAI – Jahrbuch des Deutschen Archäologischen Instituts, Deutsches Archäologisches Institut, Berlin
- JFS – Journal of Forensic Sciences
- JHE – Journal of Human Evolution
- JRA – Journal of Roman Archaeology
- JRGZM – Jahrbuch des Römisch-Germanischen Zentralmuseums Mainz, Mainz
- JRS – The Journal of Roman Studies
- Klio – Klio. Beiträge zur Alten Geschichte, Berlin
- KST – T. C. Kültür Bakanlığı, Eski Eserler ve Müzeler Genel Müdürlüğü, I. Kazı Sonuçları Toplantısı, Ankara, Mayıs 1979 [Republic of Turkey, General Directorate of Ancient Monuments and Museums, first Turkish annual meeting for the results of excavations, Ankara, May 1979] (1979–2020).
- LRBC, I – *Late Roman Bronze Coinage A.D. 394–498*, Londra, 1965; I, *The Bronze Coinage of the House of Constantine A.D. 324–346* (P.V. Hill, J.P.C. Kent)
- LRCW – Late Roman Coarse Wares, Cooking Wares and Amphorae in the Mediterranean. Archaeology and Archaeometry
- MAIASP – Materialy po Arheologii i Istorii Antičnogo i Srednevekovogo Pričernomor'ja (Материалы по Археологии и Истории Античного и Средневекового Причерноморья), Nižnevarovsk.
- Marisia – Marisia. Studii și materiale. Arheologie – Istorie – Etnografie, Târgu Mureș
- MCA – Materiale și Cercetări Arheologice, București
- MemAnt – Memoria Antiquitatis, Piatra Neamț
- MHÁS – Magyarország honfoglalás kori és kora Árpád-kori sírleletei, Miskolc–Budapest–Szeged–Szombathely
- Mousaios – Mousaios. Buletinul Științific al Muzeului Județean Buzău
- MPR – I. Barnea, Les monuments paléochrétiens de Roumanie, Sussidi allo studio delle antichità cristiane pubblicati per cura del Pontificio Istituto di archeologia Cristiana 6, Città del Vaticano, 1977
- Musaica – Musaica Archaeologica, Univerzita Komenského v Bratislave, Bratislava
- Olba – Mersin University Publications of the Research Center of Cilician Archaeology, Mersin, Turkey
- Oltenia – Oltenia. Studii și Comunicări, Craiova
- Pallas – Pallas. Revue d'Etudes Antiques, Toulouse
- PATABS – *Production and Trade of Amphorae in the Black Sea*
- PBF – Prähistorische Bronzefunde, Münster
- Peuce – Peuce. Studii și cercetări de istorie și arheologie, Institutul de Cercetări Eco-Muzeale, Tulcea
- Pontica – Pontica. Studii și materiale de istorie, arheologie și muzeografie, Muzeul de Istorie Națională și Arheologie Constanța

- PZ – Prähistorische Zeitschrift, Berlin-Mainz
- Quaternary International – Quaternary International. The Journal of the International Union for Quaternary Research
- RAASI – Revista de Arheologie, Antropologie și Studii Interdisciplinare, Institutul de Cercetări Bioarheologice și Etnoculturale, Republica Moldova
- Radiocarbon – An International Journal of Cosmogenic Isotope Research, Cambridge
- RAN – Revue archéologique de Narbonnaise, Montpellier
- RCRF – Rei Cretariae Romanae Fautorum
- Recueil – W.H. Waddington, E. Babelon, Th. Reinach, *Recueil général des monnaies grecques d'Asie Mineure*, I-IV, Paris, 1904–1912
- RevArh – Revista Arheologică, Academia de Științe a Moldovei, Chișinău
- RevMuz – Revista Muzeelor, București
- RGZM – Römisch-Germanisches Zentralmuseums Mainz, Mainz
- RIC – *The Roman Imperial Coinage*, Londra. II, *Vespasian to Hadrian*, 1926; III, *Antoninus Pius to Commodus*, 1930; IV.1, *Pertinax to Geta*, 1968 (H. Mattingly, E.A. Sydenham); IV.2, *Macrinus to Pupienus*, 1938; IV.3, *Gordian III – Uranius Antoninus*, 1949 (H. Mattingly, E.A. Sydenham, C.H.V. Sutherland); VII, *Constantine and Licinius A.D. 313-337*, 1966 (P.M. Bruun)
- RIC, II².1 – I.A. Carradice, T.V. Buttrey, *The Roman Imperial Coinage*, II.1, *Vespasian to Domitian*, Londra, 2007 (ediția a II-a, revizuită)
- RossArch – Rossijskaya Arheologiya. Institut arheologii Rossijskoj akademii nauk, Moskva
- RPC III – M. Amandry, A. Burnett, J. Mairat, *Roman Provincial Coinage*, III, *From Nerva to Hadrian (AD 96–138)*, Londra / Paris, 2015; versiune online https://rpc.ashmus.ox.ac.uk/search/browse?volume_id=3
- RPC IV.1 – V. Heuchert, *Roman Provincial Coinage*, IV.1, *From Antoninus Pius to Commodus (AD 138–192): Cyrenaica to Bithynia-Pontus*, online (2005); https://rpc.ashmus.ox.ac.uk/search/browse?volume_id=4
- RPC V.3 – A. Burnett et alii, *Roman Provincial Coinage*, V.3, *From Pertinax to Macrinus (AD 193–218): Lycia-Pamphylia to Egypt*, online (2024); https://rpc.ashmus.ox.ac.uk/search/browse?volume_id=10
- RPC VI – D. Calomino, A. Burnett, *Roman Provincial Coinage*, VI, *From Elagabalus to Maximinus Thrax (AD 218–238)*, online (2017, 2022); https://rpc.ashmus.ox.ac.uk/search/browse?volume_id=11
- RPC VII.2 – J. Mairat, M.S. Butcher et alii, *Roman Provincial Coinage*, VII.2, *From Gordian I to Gordian III (AD 238–244): all provinces except Asia*, Londra / Paris, 2022; versiune online https://rpc.ashmus.ox.ac.uk/search/browse?volume_id=14
- RPC VIII – J. Mairat et alii, *Roman Provincial Coinage*, VIII, *Philip I (AD 244–249)*, online (2020); https://rpc.ashmus.ox.ac.uk/search/browse?volume_id=15
- SA – Sovetskaja Arheologija, Akademija Nauk SSSR, Institut Arheologii, Moskva
- SAA – Studia Antiqua et Archaeologica, Iași
- SCIV(A) – Studii și Cercetări de Istorie Veche (și Arheologie), București
- SCN – Studii și Cercetări de Numismatică, București
- SEAT – Studien zur Eisenzeitlichen Archäologie Thrakiens, Rahden/Westphalia
- Simpozion Chișinău 2004 – *Simpozion de numismatică organizat cu ocazia comemorării Sfântului Ștefan cel Mare, Domn al Moldovei (1504–2004)*, Chișinău, 29 septembrie – 2 octombrie 2004. *Comunicări, studii și note*, București, 2007.
- ŚląskieSprawArch – Śląskie Sprawozdania Archeologiczne, Wrocław, Polonia
- SMMIM – Studii și Materiale de Muzeografie și Istorie Militară, București
- SNG-ANS, *Macedonia I – Sylloge Nummorum Graecorum. The Collection of the American Numismatic Society, Part 7, Macedonia I: Cities, Thracio-Macedonian tribes, Paeonian kings*, New York, 1987
- SNGCop 5 – *Sylloge Nummorum Graecorum. The Royal Collection of Coins and Medals, Danish Royal National Museum*, Copenhaga, 1942-1969 (serie reeditată); V, *Ionia, Caria and Lydia*, West Milford, 1982
- SP – Studii de Preistorie, București
- SprawArch – Sprawozdania Archeologiczne, Warsaw
- StArchBrno – Studia Archaeologica Brunensia, Masaryk University, Brno
- Starinar – Starinar. Arheološki institut Beograd
- StComPitești – Studii și Comunicări, Seria Istorie, Muzeul Județean Argeș, Pitești
- StMatTârguMureș – Studii și Materiale, Târgu Mureș
- StratumPlus – Stratum Plus, Școala Superioară de Antropologie, Chișinău, St Petersburg, București
- Studia Hercynia – Studia Hercynia. Journal of the Institut of Classical Archaeology, Univerzita Karlova, Cehia
- Studia Praehistorica – National Archaeological Institute with Museum of the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences
- Syria – Syria. Archéologie, art et histoire. Institut Français du Proche-Orient
- Terra Sebus – Terra Sebus. Acta Musei Sabesiensis, Anuarul Muzeului Municipal „Ioan Raica”, Sebeș
- Th-D – Thraco-Dacica, București

Transylvanian Review – Transylvanian Review. Centrul de Studii Transilvane, Cluj-Napoca

Tyrageia – Tyrageia. Anuarul Muzeului Național de Istorie a Moldovei, Chișinău

UPA – Universitätsforschungen zur Prähistorischen Archäologie, Bonn

VAH – Varia Archaeologica Hungarica V. Redigit Csanád Bálint. Publicationes Instituti Archaeologici Academiae Scientiarum Hungaricae, Budapest

Valachica – Valachica. Studii și cercetări de istorie și istoria culturii, Complexul Muzeal Național Curtea Domnească Târgoviște

Varia Anatolica – Varia Anatolica. L'Institut Français d'Études Anatoliennes, Istanbul

Vărbănov I – I. Vărbănov, *Greek imperial coins and their values (the local coinage of the Roman Empire)*, I, Dacia, Moesia Superior, Moesia Inferior, Burgas, 2005

Vărbănov II – I. Vărbănov, *Greek imperial coins*, II, Thrace (from Abdera to Pautalia), Burgas, 2005

WorldA – World Archaeology

ZAM – Zeitschrift für Archäologie des Mittelalters, Bonn

Ziridava – Ziridava. Studia Archaeologica, Arad