

MICRO-ASIAN VESSELES DISCOVERED IN PRE-ROMAN DACIA (2ND CENTURY BC – 1ST CENTURY AD). WORKSHOPS. PRODUCTION. DISTRIBUTION.*

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Keywords: Pre-Roman Dacia, vessels, workshops, Pergamon, Ephesus (?), Mytilene, Micro-Asian, West Slope, appliqué vessels, Hellenistic mouldmade bowls and related ware, lagynoi ware, lead glazed vessels, sigillata.

Abstract: The article presents Micro-Asian vessels from the second century B.C. until the end of the first century A.D. discovered on Geto-Dacian sites. The lot of Micro-Asian vessels under analysis consists of 171 items discovered on the Geto-Dacian sites in Barboși, Bâta - Doamnei, Bedehaza, Bordușani, Brad, Brăilița, București, Grădiștea, Pietroasele Gruiu - Dării, Piscul - Crășanilor, Poiana, Popești, and Răcătău. The material was examined in order to identify the centres of production, the characteristics of each center's specific products, and the dating of the items. The results allowed several preliminary observations on the spread of Micro-Asian vessels in pre-Roman Dacia.

Rezumat: Articolul prezintă veselă microasiatică din sec. II a. Chr. – I p. Chr. descoperită în siturile geto-dacice. Lotul de veselă microasiatică analizat este compus din 171 de piese descoperite în siturile geto-dacice de la Barboși, Bâta - Doamnei, Bedehaza, Bordușani, Brad, Brăilița, București, Grădiștea, Pietroasele Gruiu - Dării, Piscul - Crășanilor, Poiana, Popești și Răcătău. Materialul a fost examinat urmărindu-se identificarea centrelor de producție, caracterizarea produselor specifice fiecărui centru și datarea pieselor. Rezultatele au permis câteva observații preliminare privind pătrunderea veselei microasiatice în Dacia-preromană.

Starting with the second century B.C. one can note an afflux of Hellenistic and Roman pottery in pre-Roman Dacia, with an ascending trend until the end of the first century A.D. and the beginning of the second century A.D. Having the possibility to analyse directly the Hellenistic and Roman pottery discovered on several Geto - Dacian sites, I was able to identify its sources of production.¹ One of the most important source was Minor Asia, in particular the workshops in Pergamum and those that produced pottery under their influence. Following the distribution of discovered shapes according to workshops, their dating, and distribution on each site, one can formulate several preliminary observations on the introduction of Micro-Asian pottery in pre-Roman Dacia, the distribution routes, and the connections to the production centres. The lot of Micro-Asian vessels that I was able to identify consists of 171 items,² mainly preserved in fragmentary state, discovered on the Geto-Dacian sites in Barboși, Bâta - Doamnei, Bedehaza, Bordușani, Brad, Brăilița, București, Grădiștea, Pietroasele Gruiu - Dării, Piscul - Crășanilor, Poiana, Popești, and Răcătău (Fig.1). Besides the items under direct analysis, I also included several items from literature that, according to their published photographs and drawings, I was able to determine.³

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¹ The article presents several observations developed in a forthcoming study focusing on Hellenistic and Roman pottery discovered in pre-Roman Dacia (Popescu forthcoming). This is based on the analysis of a lot of ca. 700 entire and fragmentarily preserved items, most directly examined, with very few items only known from literature included in the database.

² Some of the items under analysis are presented here for the first time, others have been published: Glodariu 1974, pp. 210-219; Popescu 2010, pp. 51-66; Popescu 2011, pp. 315-332; Popescu 2012, pp. 5-10.

³ Sanie 1973, pp. 416-41, pl.3/1, 7/7; Glodariu 1974, no. 6, 19/c, 31/g, 34/7, 35/1-2, 6-8, 39, pp. 210, 212, 214, 216, 219; pl. XVIII, XXII-XXIV, XXXIX; Vulpe, Gheorghită 1976, p. 187, pl. 11/7-8; Turcu 1979, p. 206, pl. XVII/8; Sirbu 1982, pp. 108-111, fig. 4/2, 5/3; Sirbu 1983, p. 15, fig. 7/3; Sanie 1992, pp. 81, 84, pl. VIII/3a-d, 4, IX/ 6a-c, 7; Sirbu 1996, pp. 60,91, 147, fig. 20/4, 104/7,10; Sirbu, Dupoi 2001, p. 43, fig. 114/2-3; Vulpe, Teodor 2003, no. 854, 858, pp. 328-329, fig. 240/4,8; Trohani 2005, pp. 45, 59, pl. 75/8, 91/3.

Workshops

A. Pergamum

Several workshops producing fine tableware were active between the second century B.C. and the first century A.D. in Pergamum and its surrounding area.⁴ During this period, fine Pergamene wares are characterized by a variety of classes and shapes. Some of them were taken over from other centers and after a period of imitation they underwent a separate development, independent of their models,⁵ while others were created and developed in the workshops of Pergamum.⁶ During this period, the workshops under discussion produced West Slope vessel, mouldmade bowls, *appliqué* vessels, and *sigillata*.⁷ Though no direct arguments are available, there is enough data to presume the existence of a Pergamene production of *oinophoras*,⁸ lead-glazed vessels,⁹ and “lagynoi ware”.¹⁰ The Pergamene ware identified in the lot under analysis is diverse from the perspective of classes and shapes, reflecting the specific traits of the production of Pergamene workshops during this period.

West Slope vessel is represented by several shapes, decorative motifs, and decoration techniques, typical to the period of maturity and the later period of the Pergamene West Slope style.¹¹

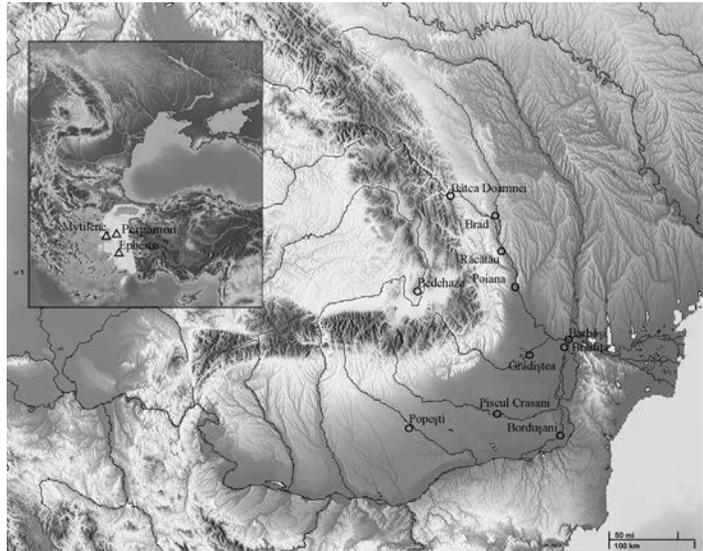


Fig. 1. Map with geto-dacian sites where were discovered Micro-Asian vessels and Micro-Asian centers of production.

⁴ The following workshops are known so far: those in Çandarlı, those in the valley of River Ketios, and the workshop near the Gymnasion. S. Loeschcke identified the workshops in Çandarlı in 1911. He discovered several pits with firing waste materials and documented very well the sigillata produced there. The latter he classified in two main groups: an early group, dated to the Tiberio-Claudian period, and a late group, dated to the second century A.D. (Loeschcke 1912, pp. 344-407). J. W. Hayes reevaluated the activity period of the workshops in Çandarlı, suggesting a period between the era of Augustus and the third, maybe the fourth century A.D. (Hayes 1985, p. 71). The workshop near the Gymnasion was discovered in 1913. It dated to (probably) the second half of the second century B.C. or the first half of the subsequent century (Hepding 1952, pp. 49-60). The workshops in the valley of River Ketios were researched by Turkish archaeologists between 1977 and 1988. Their most important production stage most probably started during the first half of the third century B.C. and continued until the era of Augustus, when the area started to be used as a necropolis (Erdemgil 1980, pp. 103-107; Erdemgil 1981, pp. 63-66; Bounegru, Erdemgil 1988, pp. 263-277; Bounegru 2003, pp. 255-274).

⁵ An example of this can be found in the introduction and development of Pergamene West Slope pottery. They type started to produce in the workshops of Pergamum under the influence of Attic products. Shapes and decorative motifs typical to the Attic workshops were taken over along with the new decoration technique, but later on, the Pergamene production of West Slope followed its own development, independent of its sources of inspiration (Schäfer 1968, pp. 45-63; Behr 1988, pp. 97-178; Rotroff 2002, pp. 99-100).

⁶ Appliqué vessels, for example, was created in the workshops of Pergamum (Hubner 1993).

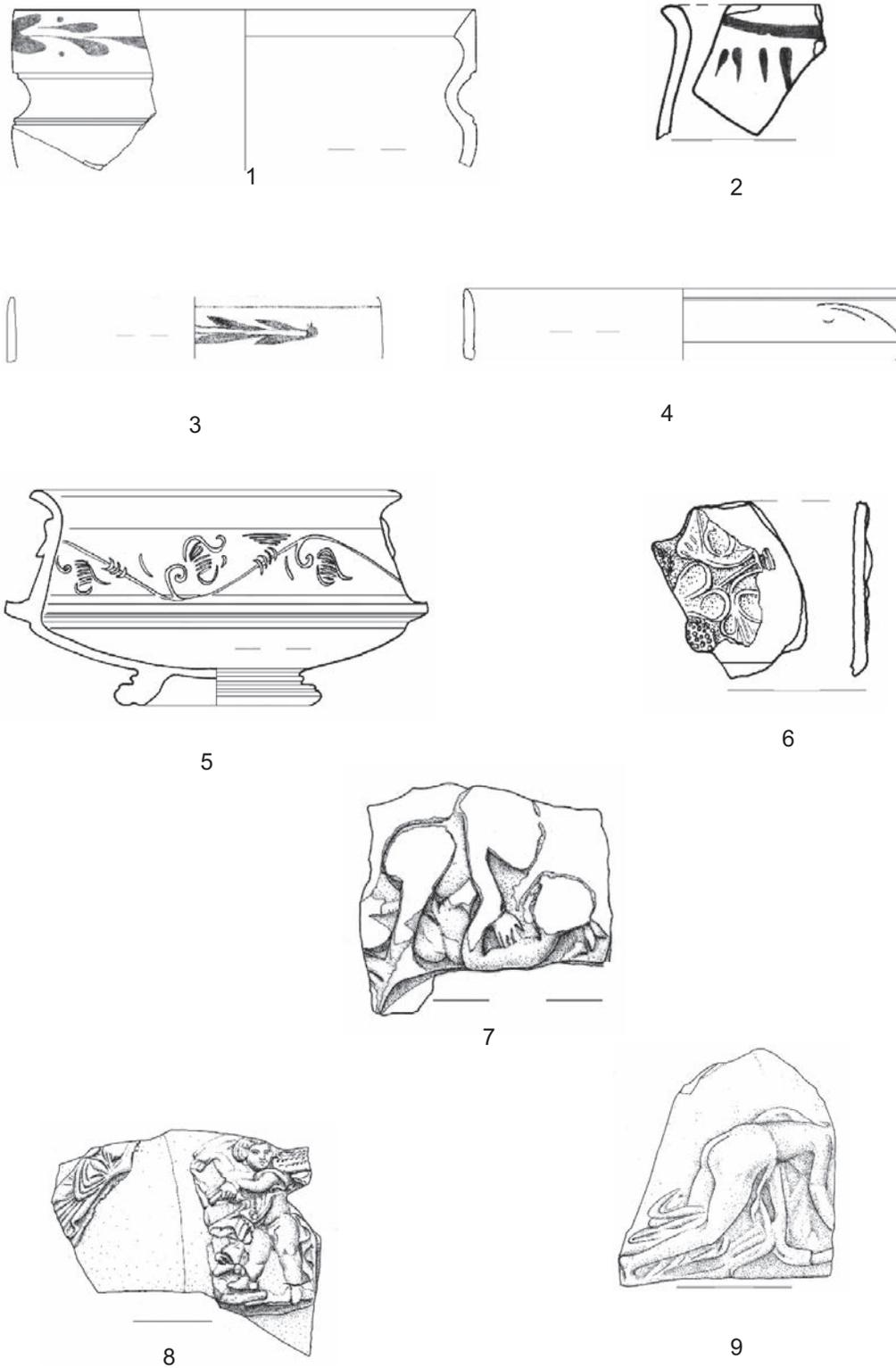
⁷ Hepding 1952, pp. 49-60; Schäfer 1968, pp. 45-100; Behr 1988, pp. 97-178; Meyer-Schlichtmann 1988; Hubner 1993; Bounegru, Erdemgil 1988, p. 266.

⁸ Mandel 1988.

⁹ Pinkwart 1972, pp. 140-163; Gabelman 1974, pp. 301-302; De Luca 2000, pp. 129-146.

¹⁰ Schäfer 1968, pp. 101-115.

¹¹ The main studies on West Slope vessel discovered in Pergamum: Schäfer 1968, pp. 45-63; Behr 1988, pp. 97-178. West Slope vessel started to be produced in the workshops of Pergamum during the third century B.C., under the influence of the attic products, a trait obvious due to the pottery shapes and decorative motifs employed in Pergamum during the initial stage of production. Subsequently, the workshops of Pergamum were to develop their own production of West Slope pottery, with specific shapes and decorative motifs, experiencing a stage of maturity between the middle of the second century B.C. and the middle of the first century B.C. Decoration created through a combination of several techniques (painting, incision, polishing) or in a single technique is typical to Pergamene West Slope pottery. Painting was preferred during the early stage of production, but from the middle of the second century B.C. incision gained in importance and during the late stage of production it was used almost exclusively. Since it resembles more the sigillata than the West Slope pottery, D. Behr considers that the term *Westabhangnachfolgekeramik* is much more appropriate for the late production stage of Pergamene West Slope vessel.



Pl. I. Pergamenian workshops: 1-5. West Slope; 6-9 Appliqué vessels.

- *cups* with double S-shaped profile, low rounded body, strongly concave on the outside at the meeting between body and rim, and two handles (PF2, D32; Behr 1988, no. 46; PF6, Ts 1a)¹² (Pl. I/1). The decoration, consisting of a double garland of petals with petiole and dots, is painted in white and ochre on black firnis. The form is typical to Pergamene workshops and is decorated in the upper part of the body, generally with incised volutes (*volutenranken*) specific to the “Westabhang-Nachfolgestil.”¹³ D. Behr dated the items with West Slope decoration between the middle of the second century B.C. and the middle of the first century A.D.¹⁴

- *kantharoi* from the third phase of Pergamene production, with S-shaped profile and rounded lower body (PF2, D52, D63, D65; Behr 1988, phase 3, no. 18; PF6, S6),¹⁵ decorated with spearhead necklace painted in white against a dark firnis background (pl. I/2). It has been suggested that this shape was produced from the end of the second century until the second quarter of the first century B.C.¹⁶

- *skyphoi with straight rim*, angular at the junction between rim and base, and deep base with sloping walls and two horizontal handles, fixed on the rim (PF6, S2),¹⁷ (Pl. I/3,4). In Pergamum, this shape, with or without decoration, features in contexts dated between the middle of the second century B.C. and the first third of the first century A.D.¹⁸ Fragments identified in Geto-Dacian sites are decorated with double garlands of petals with petioles, painted in white against a brown-reddish firnis background, or with incised vegetal motifs.

- *skyphoi with short body*, angular at the junction between wall and base (PF2, D29-30; Behr 1988, variant C; PF6, S8)¹⁹ attested in Pergamum from the last quarter of the second century until the third quarter of the first century B.C.²⁰ (Pl. I/5). Their decoration is painted (white garlands of petals) or incised (vegetal motifs) in the specific “Westabhang-Nachfolgestil” variant.²¹

Appliqué vessel appeared in the Pergamene workshops during the second century B.C., very probably from its second quarter, and was produced almost until the middle of the first century A.D.²² The Pergamene production of *appliqué* vessel is characterized by a varied repertory of shapes, consisting of both classical shapes and those typical to Pergamum, while in the late period by shapes typical to the Hellenistic world.²³ Among the 11 fragments decorated with *appliqué* reliefs that I have identified in the lot under analysis, I can only

¹² Schäfer 1968, D32, p. 58, pl. 9; Behr 1988, no. 46 (form), 48 (decorative motifs), 143, fig. 11-12; Meyer-Schlichtmann 1988, TS1a, no. 76, p. 85, pl. 10.

¹³ Behr 1988, p. 143.

¹⁴ *Ibidem*, pp. 139-140. The dating of the form is confirmed by discoveries made in urban contexts from Pergamum (Meyer-Schlichtmann 1988, pp. 84-85).

¹⁵ Schäfer 1968, D63, D 65, pp. 49-50, pl. 15-16; Behr 1988, no. 18, p. 123, fig. 6; Meyer-Schlichtmann 1988, no. 19, pp. 67-68, 214, pl. 8, 29.

¹⁶ Behr 1988, pp. 114-115. D. Behr's suggested dating is confirmed and nuanced by C. Meyer-Schlichtmann (Meyer-Schlichtmann 1988, p. 67).

¹⁷ Meyer-Schlichtmann 1988, no. 8, pp. 63-64, 213, pl. 7, 29. The erroneously identified form in Popescu 2010, no. 4, p. 57, fig. 1, pl. I.

¹⁸ Meyer-Schlichtmann 1988, p. 64.

¹⁹ Schäfer 1968, D29-30, Taf. 11; Behr 1988, variant C, no. 30-36, pp. 126-127, Abb. 9, 10; Meyer-Schlichtmann 1988, no. 28-36, pp. 69, 215, pl. 4, 8, 9, 29, 36.

²⁰ Meyer-Schlichtmann 1988, p. 69.

²¹ Behr 1988, pp. 132-136.

²² The main works on *Appliqué* vessel discovered in Pergamum: Schäfer 1968, pp. 64-100; Hubner 1993. Through a complex stylistic analysis of the material and of the contents in which it was discovered, G. Hubner established several chronological stage in the development of the production of Pergamene *appliqué* vessel: an early stage, when the type was designed, between 170 -160 B.C.; a flourishing period between 160 – 130 B.C.; a late stage dated between 130-100 \ 100-60 B.C.; and two later stages dated between 60 and 20 B.C. and, respectively, between 20 B.C. and around the middle of the first century A.D. The creation and development of *appliqué* vessel in Pergamum can be understood, from the author's perspective, only in the historical and cultural context in which the city developed during the second century B.C. and in strong connection to the royal cult and the veneration of Pergamene gods through the mediation of the Attalids. After 136 this context disappeared and the production of *appliqué* vessel lost in quality and became popular in character (Hubner 1993, pp. 39-49, 181).

²³ Hubner 1993, p. 1, pp. 9-21.

attribute five to the workshops of Pergamum, on the basis of stylistic analogies.²⁴ Four of them belong to the skyphoi *PF7* class, type I.²⁵ Due to the size of the fragments, I was only able to identify one form, *PF7*, type I, form 1 (Pl. I/6).²⁶ The fifth fragment belongs to a lagynos with rounded body (Pl. I/8). The plates on these items are decorated with ivy leaves with berries to the right, erotic *Symplegmata*, Eros with *krotalen* to the left and woman to the right, wearing *chiton* and *himation*. All mentioned decorative motifs have analogies in Pergamum.²⁷

Pergamene sigillata are among the earliest classes of Micro-Asian sigillata;²⁸ it began to be produced somewhere in the second half of the second century B.C.²⁹ The shapes that I have identified are varied. They are shapes specific to the Pergamene Hellenistic repertoire, but also new shapes, developed by local workshops or imitated after *Arretine sigillata* shapes:

- *skyphoi* with short body, angular at the junction between wall and base (*PF2*, type II, *C21*; *PF6*, *S8*)³⁰ (Pl. II/1). The shape was developed at the earliest during the last quarter of the second century B.C. and was, most probably, produced no later than the third quarter of the first century B.C.³¹
- *skyphoi* with short, rounded body and handles with ivy leaves in the upper part (*PF6*, *S9*)³² (Pl. II/11), dated from the middle or third quarter of the second century B.C. until around the end of the first century B.C./beginning of the first century A.D.³³
- *skyphoi* with short body, elevated handles and sanded slip (*PF6*, *S5a-b*)³⁴ (Pl. II/10), dated on the basis of analogies from the end of the first century B.C. until the middle of the first century A.D.³⁵
- *skyphoi* with vertical rim, deep bottom with straight walls, and horizontal handles, angular at the junction between rim and base (*PF6*, *S2*)³⁶ (Pl. II/2). The shape can be found in Pergamum in contexts dated between the middle of the second century B.C. and the first third of the first century A.D.³⁷
- *cups* with conical body (*PF6*, *N39b*)³⁸ (Pl. II/3) with analogies in the repertoire of *Arretine sigillata* forms, dated from the middle of the first century B.C. until the beginning of the second century A.D.³⁹
- *plates with slopping walls and flat floor* (*PF6*, *T16*)⁴⁰ (Pl. II/4), dated from the end of the first century B.C./beginning of the first century A.D. until the middle of the latter century.⁴¹
- *plates* with bevelled outside rolled rim and slopping walls (*PF6*, *T18*)⁴² (Pl. II/5), attested in Pergamene contexts from the beginning to the middle of the first century A.D.⁴³

²⁴ In 2010 I published a note presenting Pergamene vessels discovered on Geto-Dacian sites. Among the items presented on that occasion there were 11 fragments of vessels decorated with plates with relief decoration (Popescu 2010, no. 11-22, pp. 54-55, 59-60, fig. 2, pl.1-2). Due to the fact that I had the opportunity to examine directly vessels discovered in Pergamum, including appliqué vessel and I am able to compare the fabric and firmis, I can only attribute with a high degree of certainty to Pergamum five fragments.

²⁵ Hubner 1993, Typ 1, pp. 22-26, fig. 4-7.

²⁶ *Ibidem*, Typ 1, form 1, no. 105, 106, pp. 22-26, fig. 4-5, pl. 17, 23.

²⁷ *Ibidem*, no. 90, 100-104, 106-107, 109 -114, 120, 127, pl. 16-23; Schäfer 1968, *Symplegmata* tip III, var. i (?), E 42, p. 80, pl. 30; Ziegenaus, de Luca 1975, no. 406, pl. 54/2.

²⁸ These are the main studies on Pergamene sigillata: Loeschcke 1912, pp. 344-407; Schäfer 1962, pp. 777- 802; Hayes 1985, pp. 71-78, pl. XVI-XVIII/1-4; Meyer-Schlichtmann 1988.

²⁹ Meyer-Schlichtmann 1988, p.11.

³⁰ Schäfer 1962, C21, p. 37, Taf. 6; Meyer-Schlichtmann 1988, no. 28-36, p. 69, pl. 4, 8, 29, 36.

³¹ Meyer-Schlichtmann 1988, p. 69.

³² *Ibidem*, no. 37-41, pp. 70, 215, pl. 8.

³³ *Ibidem*, p. 70.

³⁴ *Ibidem*, no. 16,18, pp. 66, 214, pl. 8.

³⁵ *Ibidem*, p. 66.

³⁶ *Ibidem*, no. 8, pp. 63-64, 213, pl. 7, 29.

³⁷ *Ibidem*, p. 64.

³⁸ *Ibidem*, no. 183, pp. 112-113, 227, pl. 13.

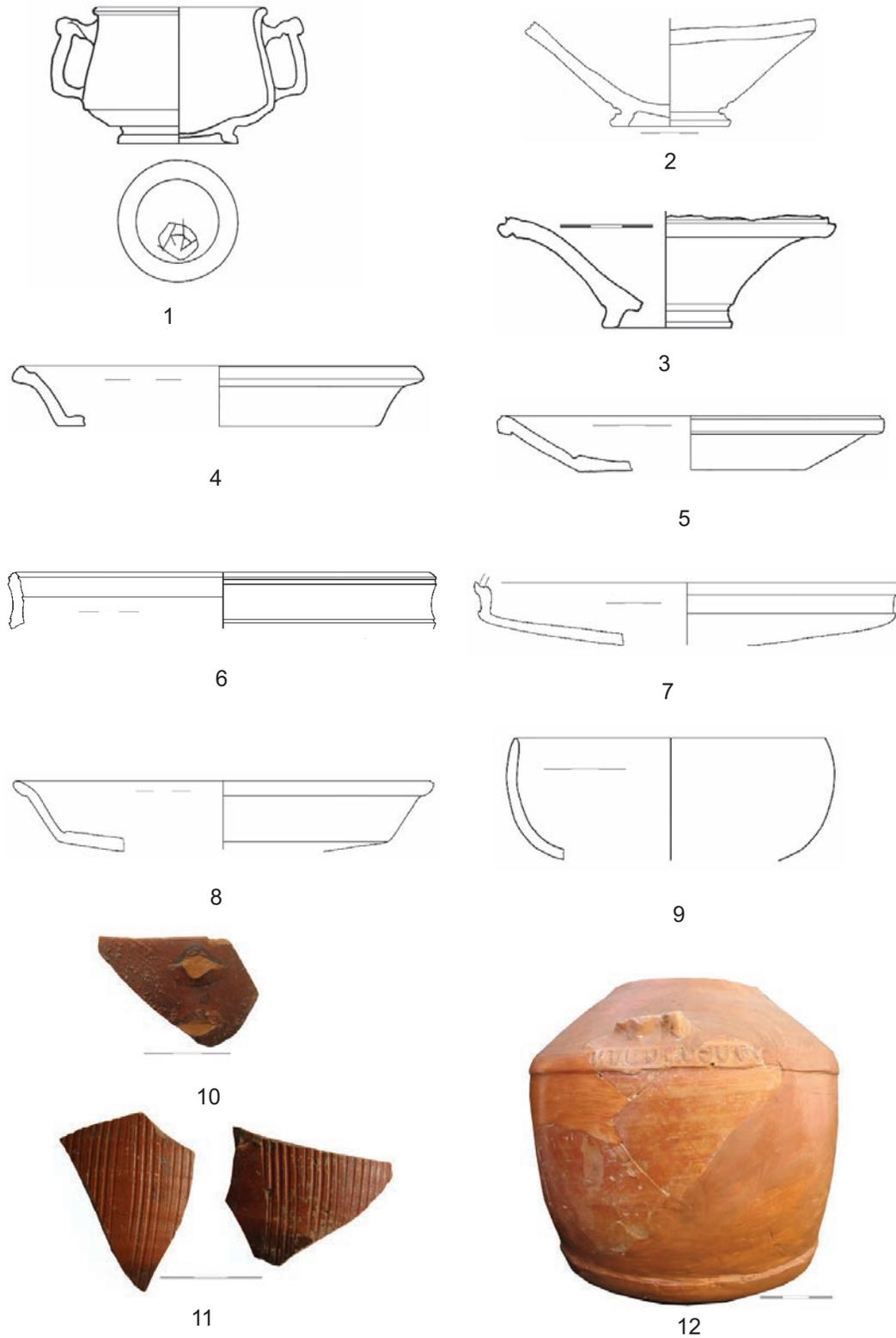
³⁹ *Ibidem*, p. 113.

⁴⁰ *Ibidem*, no. 288, 289, pp. 142, 235, pl. 5, 17, 35.

⁴¹ *Ibidem*, no. 292, pp. 142-143, pl. 18.

⁴² *Ibidem*, no. 292 , p. 143, pl. 18.

⁴³ *Ibidem*, p. 143.



Pl. II. Pergamenean workshops: 1-12. Terra Sigillata.

- *plates* with vertical rim bounded above and below on the outside by mouldings separated from the wall by grooves (*PF6, T31, variant ?*)⁴⁴ (Pl. II/6), dated from the middle of the first century B.C. until the third quarter of the first century A.D.⁴⁵
- *plates* with vertical rim bounded above and below on the outside by mouldings and deep groove in the upper part of the rim (*PF6, T35, variant ?*)⁴⁶ (Pl. II/7) dated from the final quarter of the first century B.C. until the third quarter of the first century A.D.⁴⁷
- *bowls* with slopping walls (*PF6, Sa27; Atlante II, form L 26 A*)⁴⁸ (Pl. II/8) that can be framed, chronologically, between the middle of the first century B.C. until the end of the first century A.D.⁴⁹
- *bowls* with rounded body and inwardly slopping walls (*PF6, N1?; Atlante II, form L20?*) (Pl. II/9) dated from the middle/end of the second century B.C. until the end of the first century A.D.⁵⁰
- *jugs* with cylindrical body (*PF6, Kr 5*)⁵¹ (Pl. II/12) that appear in the workshops of Pergamum during the first century B.C. and are attested until the beginning of the second century A.D.⁵²

B. Micro-Asian workshops

A significant number of items show obvious similarities to shapes, decorative techniques and motives typical to the workshops in Pergamum. In the absence of exact analogies for the decorative motifs, I did not attribute them to Pergamene workshops. In the case of skyphoi with shape and decoration similar to that of skyphoi *PF6, S8* with West Slope decoration, their division among the groups produced in Pergamum and in Micro-Asian workshops was made on the basis of their fabric and firmis. Most probably, these items were produced in Micro-Asian workshops where the influence of Pergamene wares prevailed. Besides the influence of Pergamum, in some cases that will be mentioned later in this text, one can also note the influence of other Micro-Asian production centers.

West Slope vessel is represented by skyphoi with short body, angular at the junction between wall and base, similar in shape to the skyphoi produced in Pergamum (*PF2, D29-30; Behr variant C, PF6, S8*)⁵³ (Pl. III/1-3). The identified fragments are decorated in the median area of the body with garlands of long petals, lacking petioles, painted white, or right under the rim, with white dots and incised lines in wave-like patterns and white dots. In some cases the petals are transparent, hardly visible against the color of the vessel. Items painted in white, translucent paint, probably produced locally or regionally, were also identified in Ephesus.⁵⁴ On the basis of analogies to skyphoi *PF6, S8* from Pergamum, these items can be dated from the last quarter of the second century B.C. until the third quarter of the first century B.C.⁵⁵

Mouldmade bowls and related ware. Fragments of mouldmade bowls, (Pl. III/4-5), are hemispherical in shape, walls inwardly arched, or flared rim with strong concavity on the outside. They are decorated with vegetal compositions (vine leaves and tendrils, alternating with ivy leaves) and “long petals”. The shapes and decorative motifs have analogies in Pergamum.⁵⁶

Several fragments of cups with double S-shaped profile, low globular body, angular meeting between rim and body, and two handles with drops, with relief decoration in the upper part (Pl. III/6), also have analogies in Pergamum. The shape is close to that of Pergamene sigillata cups *PF6, Ts1a-c* and *Atlante II*,

⁴⁴ *Ibidem*, no. 320, 321, pp. 151-152, 238, pl. 19, 34.

⁴⁵ *Ibidem*, p. 152.

⁴⁶ *Ibidem*, no. 331, pp. 154-155, 239, pl. 19, 34.

⁴⁷ *Ibidem*, pp. 154-155.

⁴⁸ *Ibidem*, no. 235-240, p. 128, pl. 16,32; Hayes 1985, p. 77, pl. XVII/10-12.

⁴⁹ Meyer-Schlichtmann 1988, p. 117. For the variants of this shape produced by the workshops in Çandarlı the suggested dating is from the middle until the end of the first century A.D. (Hayes 1985, p. 77).

⁵⁰ Meyer-Schlichtmann 1988, no. 89-97, p. 89, pl. 11, 30; Hayes 1985, pp. 76-77, pl. XVIII, 8-9.

⁵¹ *Ibidem*, no. 387, p. 244, pl. 4, 25, 34.

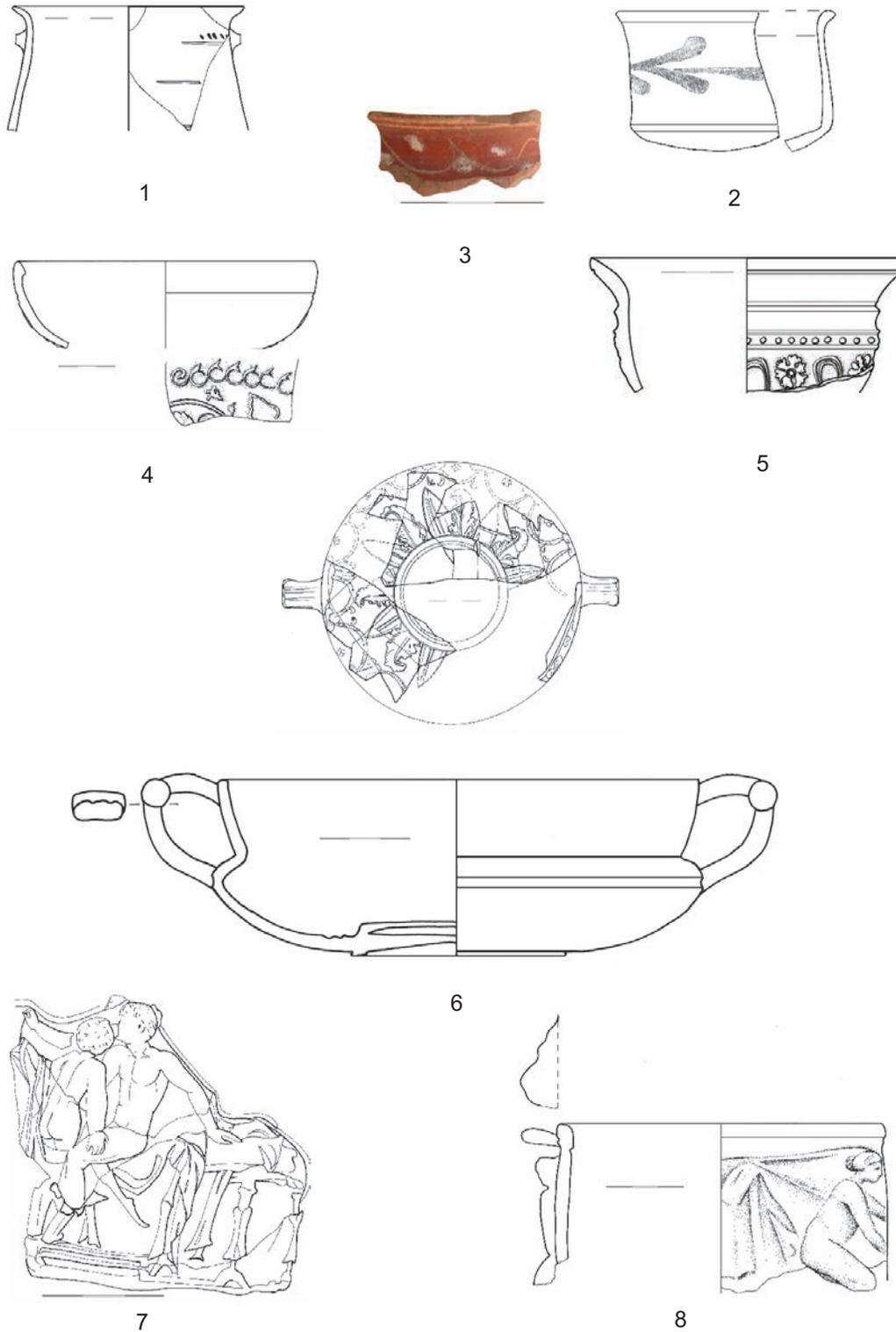
⁵² *Ibidem*, p. 173.

⁵³ Schäfer 1962, C21, p. 37, taf. 6; Meyer-Schlichtmann 1988, no. 28-36, p. 69, pl. 4, 8, 29, 36.

⁵⁴ Rogl 2003, p. 195.

⁵⁵ Meyer-Schlichtmann 1988, p. 69.

⁵⁶ Conze 1913, pl. 42, 43; Ziegenaus, de Luca 1975, no. 304, p. 90, pl. 52/5.



Pl. III. Micro-Asian workshops: 1-3. West Slope; 4-5. Mouldmade bowls; 6. Related ware; 7-8. Appliqué vessels.



Pl. IV. Micro-Asian workshops: 1-3. Lagynoi ware; 4-8. Lead glazed vessels; 9-11. Varia.

form A9, decorated in the West Slope and Westabhang – Nachfolgestil technique.⁵⁷ The main decoration with vegetal motifs or the vegetal calyx with acanthus leaves with the tip curved to the left, alternating with long lotus petals placed around the central medallion, strips decorated with Ionian Kyma, have analogies in the decoration of Hellenistic mouldmade bowls discovered in Pergamum.⁵⁸

The fabric and slip of a mouldmade bowl that lacks decoration (Pl. IV/10) are eccentric among the other items of similar shape and production technique discovered on the site of Borduşani. The item was probably produced in a Micro-Asian workshop. Undecorated mouldmade bowls, similar in shape to those with relief decoration, of Micro-Asian origin, were noted even in the Athenian Agora.⁵⁹

Appliqué vessel (Pl. III/7-8). The identified fragments belong to Type 1 in G. Hübner's classification,⁶⁰ but they can be identified with some difficulty due to the small dimensions of the preserved fragments. The iconography is typical to Pergamene appliquéés – Erotic Symplegmata, animals – but the fabric and firmis do not support their Pergamene origin.

Lagynoi Ware (Pl. IV/1-3). The term refers to a type of vessels – kraters, plates, cups, thymiateria – decorated with motifs painted in dark colors against a light background. The best known are the “white ground” lagynoi (*lagynoi á engobe blanc*) that provided the name of the entire type, with a peak of production between the middle of the second century B.C. and the middle of the first century B.C.⁶¹ The variety of fabrics and technical and stylistic details indicate the existence of several production centers. One (or several) such center(s) might have been located in the region of Pergamum.⁶² An entire lagynos and three other fragments with decoration typical to the “white ground” lagynoi were identified on Geto-Dacian sites. The entirely preserved item has an angular body, typical to lagynoi in series 1 according to A. Westholm's classification.⁶³ The body is decorated with dark bands. The other three fragments are decorated with wreath wrapped in a net-like pattern and tied with round bow, with wreath wrapped with fillet or bands. I have identified similar motifs on lagynoi published from Pergamum.⁶⁴

Lead-glazed vessel (Pl. IV/4-8). Besides items that can be attributed to the center in Mytilene, I have also identified others that, from a decorative perspective – decoration technique and motifs –, can be attributed to the “workshops from Smyrna”.⁶⁵ Some of them display obvious stylistic and technical connections to Pergamene pottery, especially appliqué vessel⁶⁶ (Pl. IV/4-5), while others resemble lead-glazed vessel produced in Mytilene⁶⁷ (Pl. IV/6).

Varia. One fragment from plate with thick walls, curved on the inside (Pl. IV/9), has analogies among the “Ionian Platter” group, but its pink fabric and firmis that is orange on the outside, brown on the inside, with metallic sheen, suggest a workshop in the area of or even from Pergamum itself. The fabric and firmis of the illustrated jug fragment (Pl. IV/11) also indicate the fact that it is a Micro-Asian product. Several undecorated skyphoi, similar in shape to those with West Slope decoration mentioned above, for whom, in the absence of more detailed information on the contexts of discovery, I suggest the same dating. A group of items – skyphoi and cups – with barbotine decoration was also produced in Asia Minor. Certain skyphoi (Pl. V/1-2) have shape-related analogies in Pergamum.⁶⁸ Barbotine decoration is attested in Micro-Asian workshops during the first century A.D.⁶⁹

⁵⁷ Meyer-Schlichtmann 1988, no. 76-79, pp. 84-85, Taf. 10, 30, 37; Hayes 1985, p. 74, pl. XVI/ 11.

⁵⁸ Conze 1913, pl. 42/3; Hepding 1952, pl. 3/8; Ziegenaus, de Luca 1975, pl. 46/4, 48/11, 52/5.

⁵⁹ Rotroff 1997, no. 1701, p. 415, fig. 100, pl. 135.

⁶⁰ Hubner 1993, Tipus 1, pp. 22-29, fig. 4-6.

⁶¹ Rotroff 1997, p. 226.

⁶² The large number of discoveries concentrated around Pergamum allow for the formulation of this hypothesis (Schäfer 1968, pp. 101-115; Ziegenaus, de Luca 1975, p. 122); one lagynoi with the painted name *Ατταλου* was identified in the Athenian Agora (Rotroff 1997, no. 1525, p. 125, pl. 116).

⁶³ Rotroff 1997, p. 228.

⁶⁴ Conze 1913, pl. 46, 4.

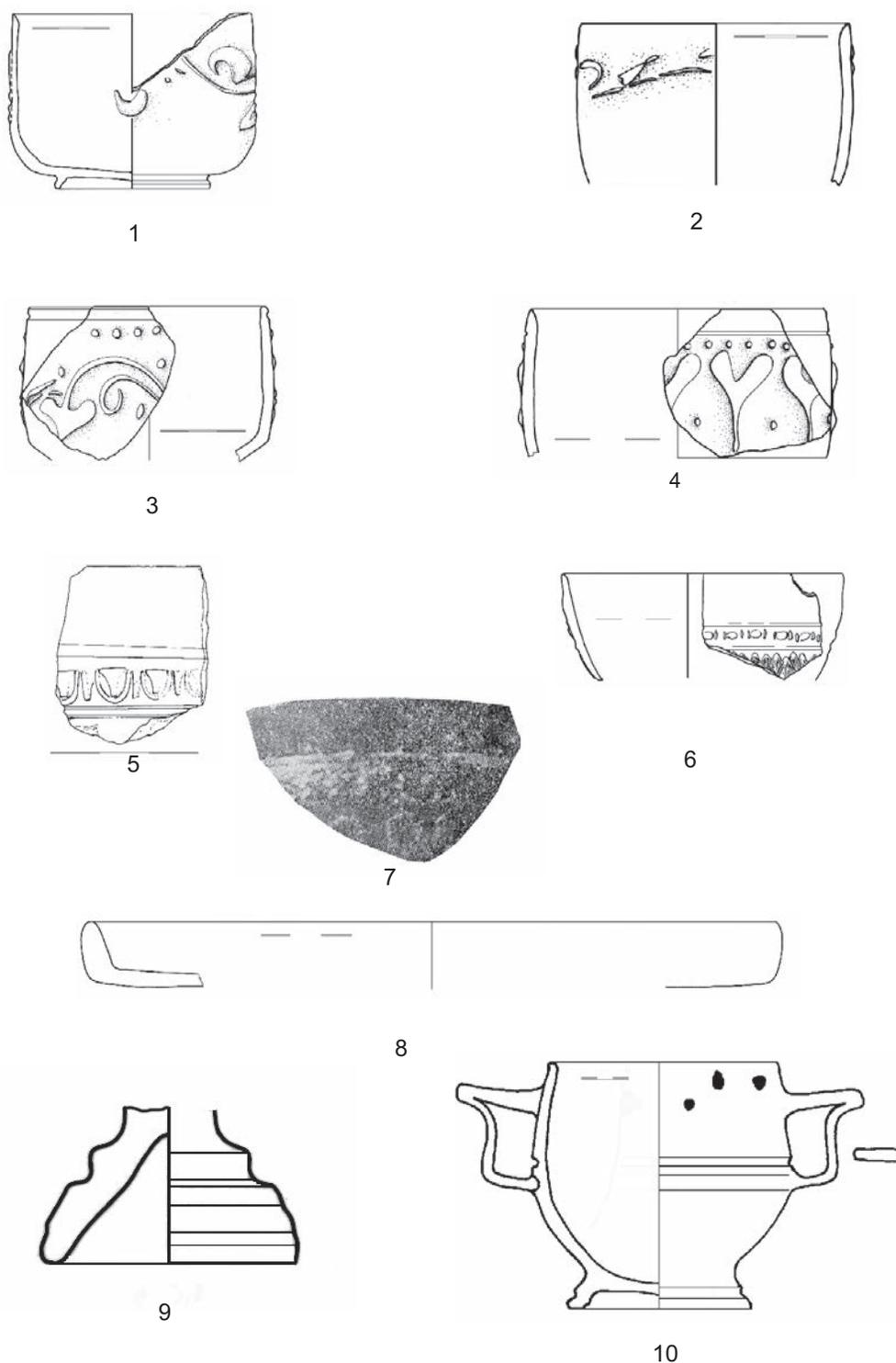
⁶⁵ Hochuli-Gysel 1977, pp. 122-129.

⁶⁶ Hubner 1993, fig. 6, no. 64.

⁶⁷ Archontidou-Argyri 1997, pl. 179/16519α, 182/16382.

⁶⁸ Hayes 2008, pp. 3-4, pl. II/1.

⁶⁹ Rotroff 1997, pp. 63-65.



Pl. V. Micro-Asian workshops: 1. Varia. Mytilene workshop; 2-3; Lead glazed vessels. Ephesian workshops (?); 4-6. Mouldmade bowls with relief decoration; 7. Gray Ware; 8. Varia; 9. West Slope.

C. Mytilene

Two cup fragments were produced in the center of Mytilene; they have lead-based glazing, low body, angular at the junction between wall and base, and are decorated with motifs applied en barbotine (Pl. V/3-4). The activity of the workshops producing lead-glazed vessels identified in this center was dated to the period between the end of the first century B.C. and the beginning of the second century A.D.⁷⁰

D. Ephesus (?)

Some of the items have analogies among the vessels discovered in Ephesus.⁷¹ There is a good possibility that they were produced in Ephesus, though no workshops have been discovered so far in this important Micro-Asian center. Some fragments of *mouldmade bowls* have shapes and decorative motifs typical to the “Ionian workshops”⁷² (Pl. V/5-7). One *kantharos-baggy*, decorated with white dots over the dark brown firnis, (Pl. V/10), has analogies in shape and decoration among the West Slope vessels discovered in Ephesus.⁷³ The *Gray Ware plate* fragment (Pl. V/8), typical to Ionian Platter, has analogies among the Gray Ware plates discovered in Ephesus.⁷⁴ A *skyphos* foot, profiled (Pl. V/9), also has good analogies in shape, fabric, and firnis among the items discovered in the Prytaneion of Ephesus.⁷⁵ Except for the skyphos foot, that has analogies in Ephesus from contexts dated to the first century A.D.,⁷⁶ the other items can be generally dated from the second century B.C. until the beginning of the first century A.D.⁷⁷

E. Eastern Sigillata B.

The center(s) producing Eastern Sigillata B have not been yet identified. The numerous discoveries in south-western Asia Minor, concentrated in the valley of River Meander, suggest that the production center(s) might have been located in this area.⁷⁸ Eastern Sigillata B shapes identified in Geto-Dacian sites are Atlante II, 32 cups; Atlante II, 5 (?) and Atlante II, 58 plates, and Atlante II, 60 bowls (Pl. VI/1-7). Generally, taking into consideration the chronology of the identified shapes and that of the settlements where they were found, Eastern Sigillata B were present in pre-Roman Dacia throughout the first century A.D., while shapes that started to be produced in the middle of the latter century were most common (*Atlante II, 58* and *Atlante II, 60*).⁷⁹

Observation. Micro-Asian vessels represent approximate 25% of all analyzed Hellenistic and Roman pottery (Fig. 2). The analysis of the material according to production centers and its dating stress several significant details of the dynamics of the introduction of Hellenistic and Roman pottery in pre-Roman Dacia. From the presentation of the material, one can note that the most diverse group of pottery – under the aspect of vessels classes and shapes – was produced in the workshops of Pergamum. A representative percentage of items have been produced in the workshops of Pergamum and the Micro-Asian workshops under their influence. From a chronological perspective, the highest concentration of Micro-Asian vessels is recorded during the time span between the middle/end of the second century B.C. and the end of the first century B.C./beginning of the first century A.D. (Fig. 3). On the contrary, during the first century A.D. the Pontic workshops became the main

⁷⁰ Archontidou-Argyri 1997, p. 250.

⁷¹ These are the main studies on the pottery discovered in Ephesus: Mitsopoulous-Leon 1991; Gassner 1997; Meriç 2002; Steskal 2010.

⁷² Mitsopoulous-Leon 1991; D34, pl. 81; D37-38, pl. 82.

⁷³ *Ibidem*, pp. 36-37; B32-33, pl. 29-30.

⁷⁴ *Ibidem*, F4, pp. 79, 82, pl. 94.

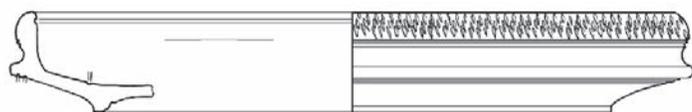
⁷⁵ Steskal 2010, K 289-294, pp. 129-130, pl. 180, 221.

⁷⁶ *Ibidem*, pp. 94-95.

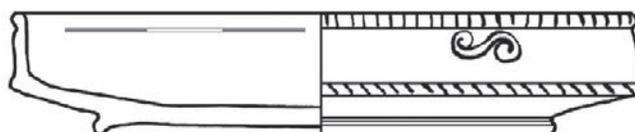
⁷⁷ Mitsopoulous - Leon 1991, pp. 44, 6, 81.

⁷⁸ The production centre(s) might be located in Tralles or Ephesus. For Tralles there is Pliny the Elder's mention of the city among the pottery production centres of Antiquity (*Hist. Nat.* 35.46.160), the fragments of Eastern Sigillata B stamped CAESAREA, the city's ancient name, and the large number of discoveries made in its area (Hayes 1985, p. 49). For Ephesus there is a large number of discoveries of items part of series ESB 1, some of them novel shapes, made of fabrics similar to that of other vessels that were certainly produced in Ephesus (Mitsopoulous-Leon 1991, p. 107). Mitsopoulous - Leon does not exclude another possibility, that the workshops in Ephesus took up the production of Eastern Sigillata B under the impulse of such products brought from Tralles to Ephesus – the closest port – in order to be transported by sea towards the distribution markets (Mitsopoulous-Leon 1991, p. 107).

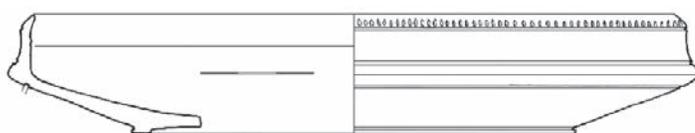
⁷⁹ Hayes 1985, pp. 54, 59, 63-64.



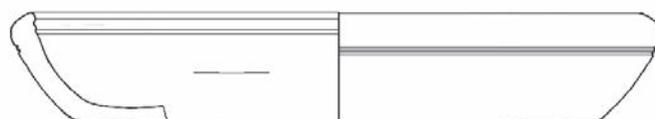
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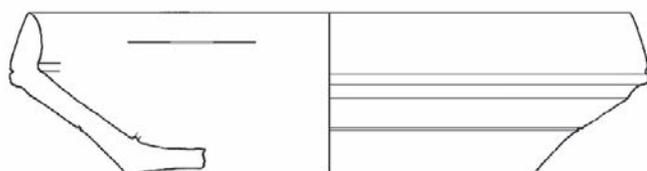
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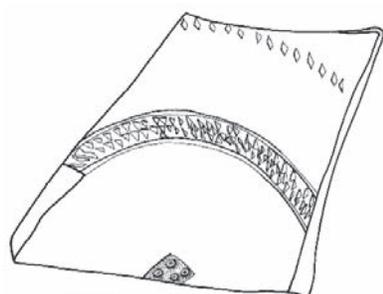
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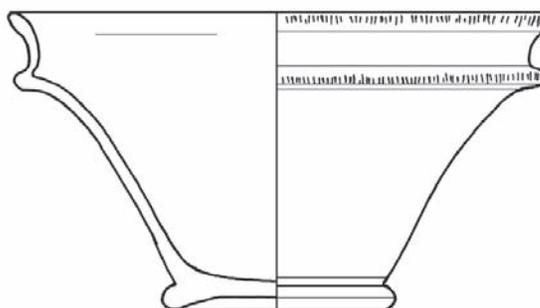
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7

Pl. VI. Eastern Sigillata B.

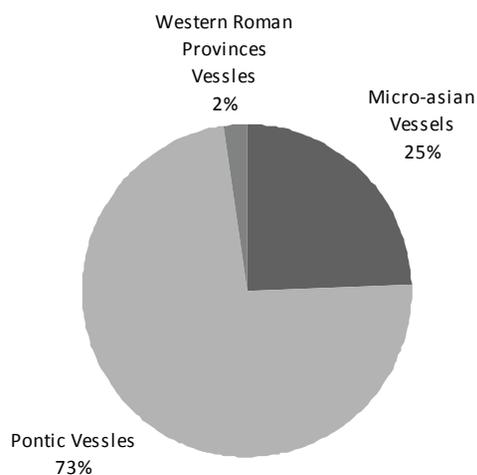


Fig. 2. Ratio between sources of Hellenistic and Roman vessels identified in pre-Roman Dacia.

providers of fine vessels, as the settlements with habitation levels dated to the first century A.D. – Poiana, Răcățâu, and Brad – were “flooded” with Pontic sigillata. The identified Micro-Asian pottery does not point to the existence of direct connections between its consumers and its workshops, but suggests instead the dynamics and extent of pottery exports from the latter. The analyzed items has analogies on the sites from the Pontus, and this indicates that the connections between the production centers and the Geto-Dacian consumers were mediated by the Greek Pontic cities. The distribution patterns of Micro-Asian pottery in pre-Roman Dacia partially overlap those of Aegean amphorae. Significant quantities of amphorae have been discovered in all the settlements where I have identified Micro-Asian vessels items.⁸⁰ The largest concentration of amphorae (Aegean almost without exception) is recorded during the second and first centuries B.C., approximately during the same period when the largest quantity of Micro-Asian pottery is recorded.⁸¹ This suggests that the latter entered the Geto-Dacian sites in association with the amphorae, through the same distribution network used for the commerce with wine and oil from Aegean sites.

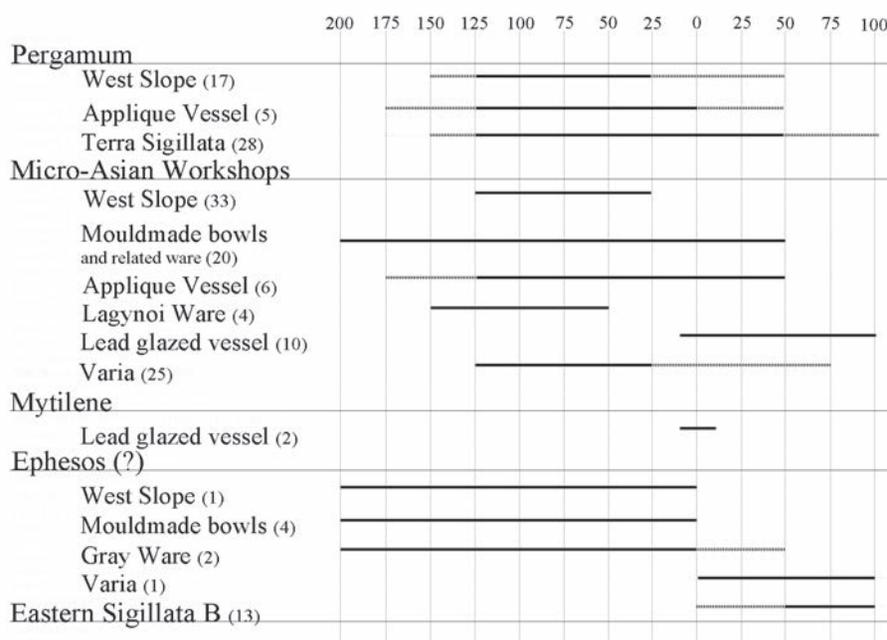


Fig. 3. Quantitative and chronological distributions of the Micro-Asian vessels discovered in pre-Roman Dacia.

⁸⁰ According to research available during the 1970s, 1100 amphorae have been repertoried in pre-Roman Dacia, the great majority of them discovered on sites located along the Danube and its main effluents; this suggests the existence of an infrastructure for the commerce in wine and oil that was based on the existing hydrographic network. According to identified stamps, the absolute majority were amphorae produced in Rhodes, followed at a significant distance by those from Pontic Heraclea, Sinope, Thasos, Knidos, Chrosnesos, and Kos (Glodariu 1974, pp. 27-40). A statistical approach of amphora fragments discovered in the settlement in Brad, published in 1995, indicates that at least 619 amphorae were discovered on this site. No stamps have been found, but according to the morphological characteristics of handle, base, and rim fragments, specialists have identified amphorae made in Thasos, Kos and pseudo-Kos, Rhodes, and Soloha II. (Ursachi 1995, pp. 208-211).

⁸¹ Glodariu 1974, pp. 36-37.

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