

A TYPOLOGY OF THE LATE ROMAN GLAZED POTTERY OF PANNONIA¹

BETTINA KÖLCZE

Glazed pottery are a definite characteristic of the Late Roman period (3rd to 5th century AD). They occur in the material of both settlements and cemeteries. They became one of the most widespread finds of the period thus their knowledge is crucial for the Late Antique researcher. Glaze appears on all types of household wares, ornate pottery and lamps too. One step of scientifically processing this find type is defining its types, thus the material from graveyards is the subject of this present research. My work is a new summary and classification of the pottery finds discovered in the cemeteries of North-East Pannonia.

RESERARCH HISTORY

Glazed pottery has been present in Pannonia since the 1st century AD. Early specimen included imported wares from Italia. The technique of glazing originates from Asia Minor as attested by the work of Hans Gabelmann.² The glazed pottery type Hungarian research termed 'Late Roman Pannonian glazed ware' is closely related with the research of skeletal graves, although it appears in the material of settlements and other burials as well, the complete specimen most often are recovered from skeletal graves. The excavation of Late Roman cemeteries in Hungary began in the second half of the 20th century, from that point on does research have information on Late Antique non-cremated burials. On the area of former Pannonia (*map 1*) and neighbouring provinces such excavations began at this time, which introduced the research of glazed pottery too. The first detailed summary on Late Roman Pannonian graves with a statistical scope was penned by Vera Lányi in 1972 who processed more than 2000 graves from approx. 100 sites.³ So far glazed pottery scarcely appears in publications and a detailed analysis has not been published on this find so far.

Éva Bónis gave a brief overview on Pannonian glazed pottery, including production centers, antecedents, including also a summary on the work of researchers abroad in 1990. She processed glazed pottery during Imperial Age, providing ample examples from Hungary and abroad as well, noting the international demand for processing more of the Pannonian findmaterial.⁴ In 1992 the King Saint Stephan Museum in Székesfehérvár published a booklet in German language categorizing known glazed pottery examples with description and images, which has also helped further this research. Up to date it provides the most conclusive presentation of Pannonian glazed pottery. Early Roman glazed pottery were presented by László Barkóczi, Late Roman specimen were summarized by Éva Bónis, Gabriella Nádorfi and Zsuzsanna Bánki.⁵ In regard of Pannonian pottery Katalin Ottományi is to be named as well.

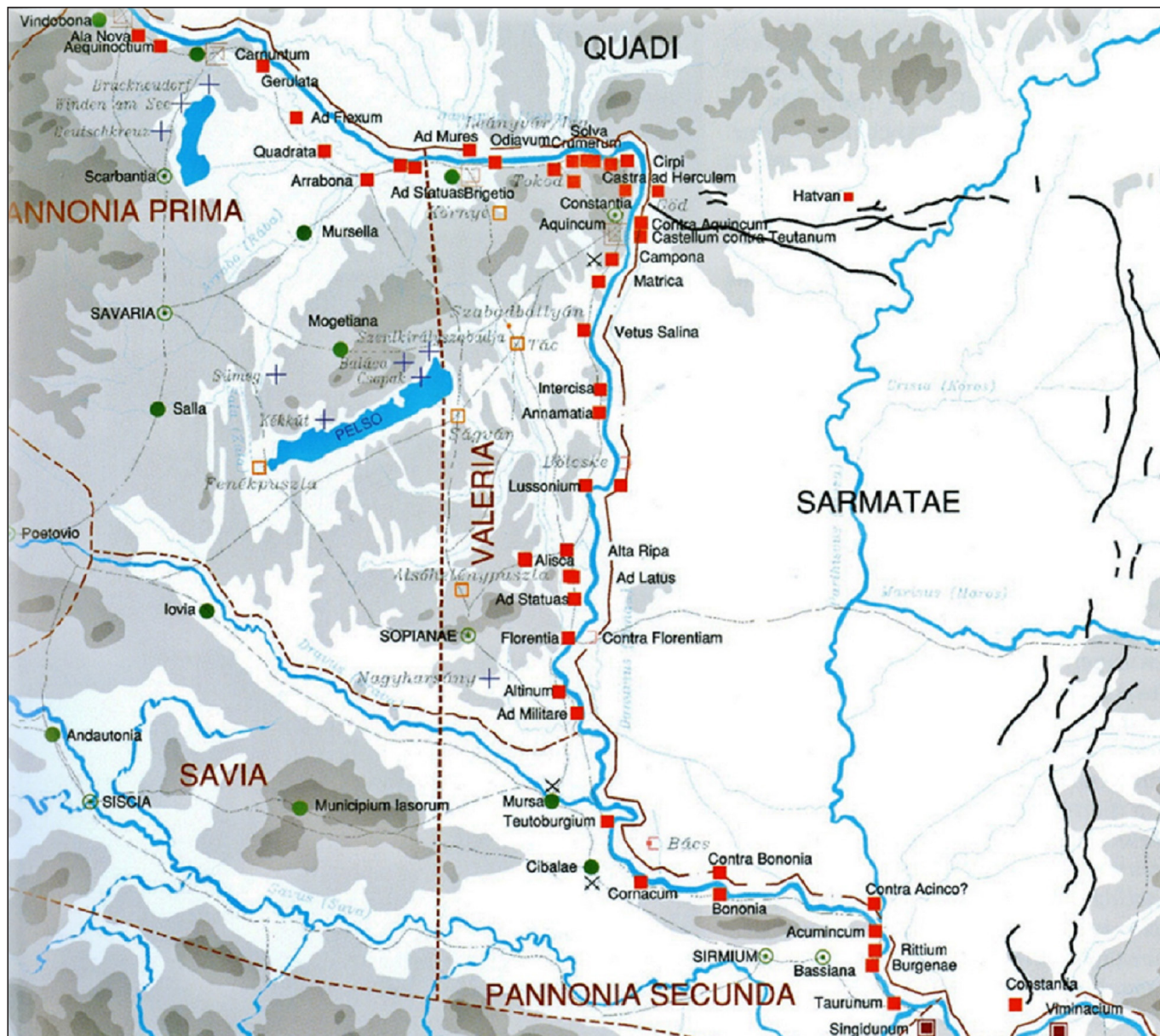
¹ This article is based on the results of the author's BA thesis titled 'Glazed pottery in the Late Roman cemeteries of Valeria – New data to the tipochronology of glazed wares' which was presented on the 33rd National Scientific Student Conference (OTDK) in April 2017 in the wonderful city Pécs. The author continues this research in a MA thesis on the Late Roman cemeteries of Dunaújváros (Intercisa).

² Gabelmann, Hanns: Zur hellenistisch-römischen Bleiglasurkeramik. *Jahrbuch des Deutschen Archäologischen Instituts* 89 (1974) 260–307.

³ Lányi, Vera: Die spätantiken Gräberfelder von Pannonien. *Acta Archaeologica Academiae Scientiarum Hungaricae* 24 (1972) 53–213.

⁴ Bónis Éva: A mázas kerámia Pannoniában (Die Glasierte Keramik in Pannonien). *Archeológiai Értesítő* 117 (1990) 24–38.

⁵ Nádorfi, Gabriella: Glasierte Keramik in den spätrömischen Gräberfeldern Pannoniens. In: *Glasierte Keramik in Pannonien*. Ed. : Bánki, Zsuzsanna – Cserményi Vajk. (Székesfehérvár: A Szent István Király Múzeum Közleményei 1992) 45–51; 78–86.



Map 1: Pannonia in Late Antiquity (Visy 2000, map 29/1)

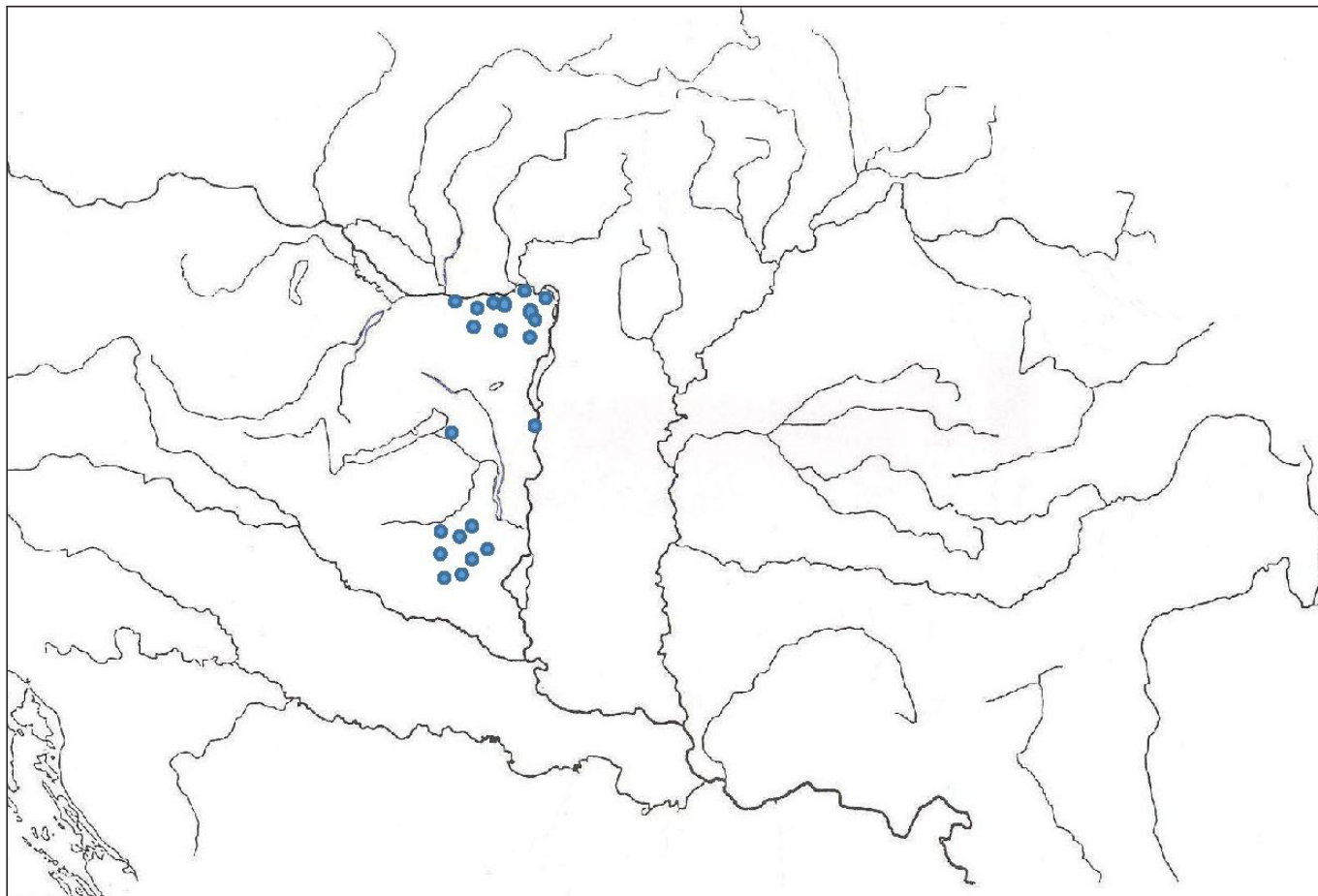
THE BASIS OF THE RESEARCH - THE GRAVEYARDS⁶

So far Late Roman glazed pottery were collected from selected cemeteries (Map 2) the extensive analysis of other finds and the archaeological context is yet to be completed. Other parts of Pannonia have not been included in this work, the main reason for this is that the author had access mainly to this region, which yields most published cemeteries. In the future the cemetery of Csákvár is to be included which includes several thousand graves, the preliminary report of 1981 recorded 1425 excavated graves.⁷

The major part of graves is dateable from the reign of Emperor Constantine I to Valentinian I, including the cemeteries at Ságvár, Zengővárkony and Óbuda, determining a more detailed chronology is a future goal. Early specimen were covered entirely with a homogenous glaze. Late specimen are covered only partially

⁶ Processed Late Roman cemeteries include: Esztergom (Solva), Szőny (Brigetio), Pilismarót (Castrum ad Herculeum), Tokod (Cardabiaca), Mogyorósbánya, Budapest-Óbuda (Aquincum), Zengővárkony, Fazekasboda, Pécs (Sopianae), Dombóvár, Ságvár (Tricciana), Tordas, Bogád, Somodor-puszt, Dunaújváros (Intercisa), Csákvár (Floriana). Kisdorog, Mucsfa-Száráspuszta, Mór, Budaörs.

⁷ Nádorfi Gabriella: Csákvár. *Régészeti Füzetek Ser I. No 35* (1982) 39.



Map 2: The location of Late Roman cemeteries included in this research

with glaze, although this could be a question of different workshops. Localizing workshops is another key feature as this article is a precursor to a more extensive survey in this promising field which is currently in progress. Pannonia is rich in glazed pottery which is a defining find type of the Late Roman period. Although subjective, typology is one of the most important methodological steps. With the completion of the planned typology the processing and documentation of Late Roman glazed wares discovered in the future will be considerably easier and could be compared with the material of settlements.

TYPOLGY⁸

Finds recovered from graves are usually the most complete specimen, thus they formed the basis for the typological classification. A cornerstone is setting the right terms, which was done based on the entries of the Hungarian Ethnographic Lexicon⁹ and selected academic publications.¹⁰ For reasons of perspicuity all types were included in function-based supergroups which are not included in the typology. The forms sometimes differ from present-day items termed 'mug', bowl, 'cup' etc. Preliminary processing includes 13 supergroups: **Containers** (type 1: jug, type 2: pitcher, type 3: bottle [Fig. 1]) **Drinking wares** (type 4: mug, type 5: glass, type 6: cup); **Mortar** (type 7: mortarbowl); **Service wares** (type 8: bowl, type 9: plate) **Other functions** (type 10: lamp, type 11: spice and inkjars, type 12: barrel shaped pottery, type 13: other, wares with unidentifiable function).

⁸ Table 1.

⁹ Magyar Néprajzi Lexikon, II. kötet. Szerk.: Ortutay Gyula (Budapest 1979). <http://mek.oszk.hu/02100/02115/html/3-752.html> (2015. február 27.) Kancsó címszó. Magyar Néprajzi Lexikon, III. kötet. Szerk.: Ortutay Gyula, (Budapest 1980). <http://mek.oszk.hu/02100/02115/html/3-752.html> (November 1, 2018) continuation of K.

¹⁰ Cf. bibliography and cited works.

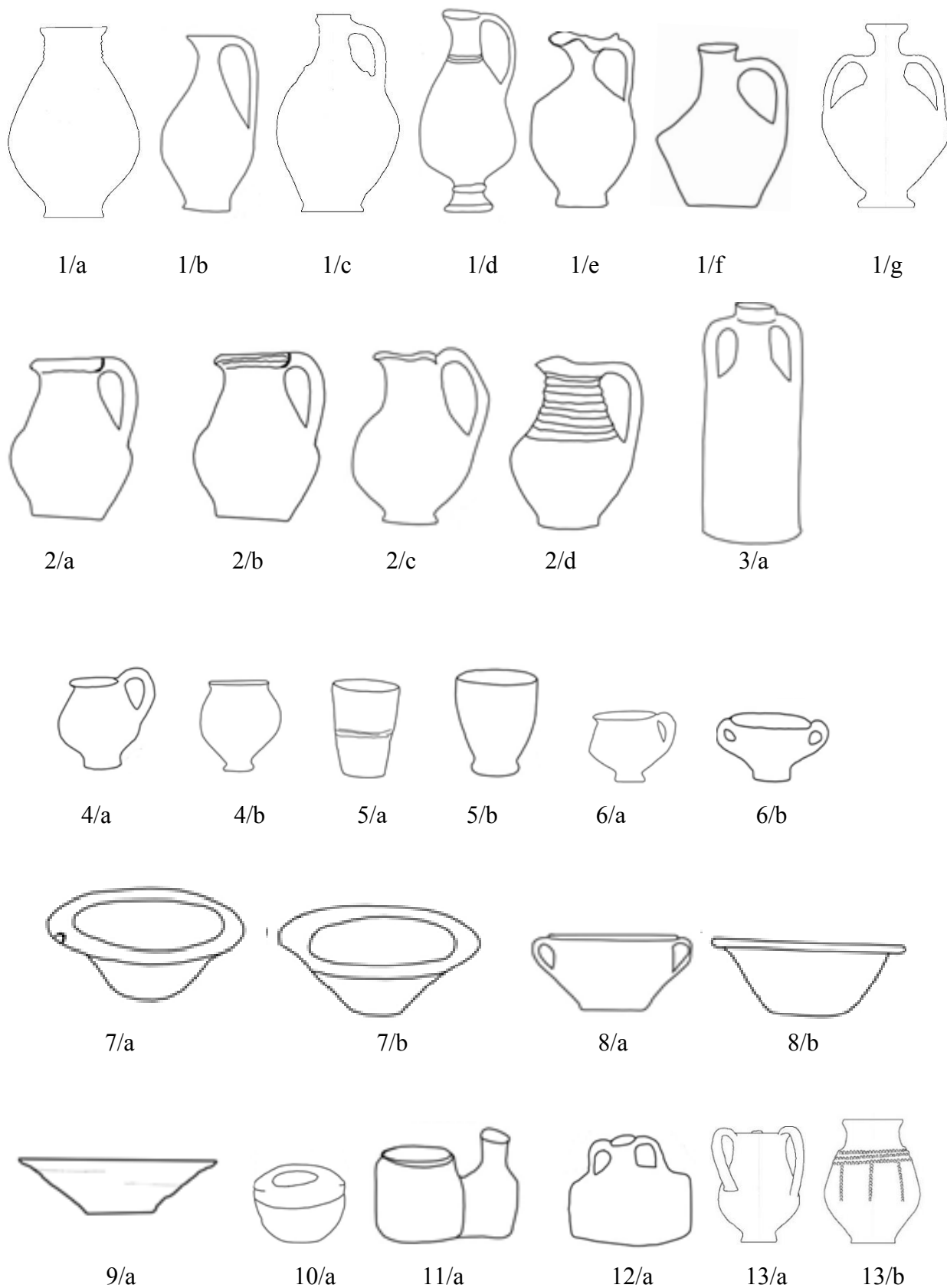


Table 1: Typological table of Late Roman glazed wares



Fig. 1: Glazed two handled jug from Esztergom, Inv. Nr. 95.260.1. (Photo: Orsolya Horváth MNM BBM)

Some types are subdivided into subtypes. Most subtypes were established regarding jugs, it is plausible that this type was the most widespread glazed ware. The 'Other functions' supergroup contains lamps, spice jars, barrel shaped pottery (Fig. 2),¹¹ wares with unidentifiable function such as a small cup with three handles (Fig. 3), and a vessel with cylindrical neck, scaled decoration without handles (Fig. 4).

The research yielded the observation that more than one glazed ware rarely occurs in graves. A possible explanation is that home wares were preferred, regardless that glazed pottery was widespread. Glasswares, various metal objects



Fig. 2: Glazed barrel-shaped vessel from Csákvár (Nádorfı 2000, fig. 90/2)



Fig 3: Three handled vessel from Dunaiújváros, Inv. Nr. 67.2.88.12 (Photo: Bettina Kölcze)

¹¹ Nádorfı, Gabriella: Spätromische glasierte Keramik. In: *Von Augustus bis Attila. Leben am ungarischen Donaulimes*. Ed.: Kemkes, Martin. (Stuttgart: Zweigmuseum des Württembergischen Landesmuseum Stuttgart und der Stadt Aalen. 2000) 89–91.

and other pottery types constitute more common gravegoods than glazed pottery.

It is probable that glazed ware was common amongst the Roman upper-middle class and was likely afforded by rich households.¹² This may have changed with the spread of mass production. Glazed wares were present in male, female and child graves in a similar ratio. Most specimen were placed along the legs as customary with grave goods of the period and survived almost always entirely.

SUMMARY

In the course of this work 13 main types and subtypes of Roman glazed pottery were established in regard of North-East Pannonia. The typology is based on form rather than chronology. Glazed jugs are the most common form in Late Roman graves, which could indicate this being the most common glazed form. Other common forms include glazed pitchers, cups and mortaria. Accomodating finds are typical to the Late Roman period and provide no peculiarity.

The future of the research will include the grave goods from other graveyards in Pannonia and its neighbouring provinces. This will enable determining forms typical to NE Pannonia as well as provide answers to other questions.

The research of Late Roman Pannonian glazed pottery has moderate literature so far. Hopefully in the future several of the presently unpublished cemeteries will be rendered available to the public and provide key information for the continuation of this work.

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Fig 4: Glazed vessel with scaled decoration from Dunaújváros, Inv. Nr. 67.2.302.13 (Photo: Bettina Kölcze)

¹² Ottományi Katalin: Késő római mázas kerámia a Budaörsi telepen (Late Roman Age Pottery in the Budaörs Settlement). *Arrabona* 49:1 (2011), 263–290.

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