

## **Red-slipped tableware made at pottery production centres in Moesia Inferior during the late 1st to mid-3rd century AD**

The main aim of this dissertation was to carry out a comprehensive analysis of red-slipped wares made at pottery production centres in Nicopolis ad Istrum between the end of the 1st century AD and the mid-3rd century AD. This analysis focused on pottery made at Roman workshops discovered in the modern-day towns of Pavlikeni and Butovo. An assessment was also made of whether archaeological descriptions could be used in conjunction with macroscopic descriptions of sherds and descriptions of the slip present on sherd surfaces to distinguish between vessels made at specific production centres without the need for any physico-chemical analysis. Another key issue addressed in this study was determining the distribution range of wares made at individual production centres and seeing whether it was possible to establish if the pottery from these workshops had been made to satisfy local demand or if it had been the object of long-distance trade. To this end, estimating the scale of pottery production based on available archaeological data proved very useful. A further important aspect of this analysis involved testing the working hypothesis that a variant of *terra sigillata* had been produced in the workshops of Butovo.

This dissertation consists of two volumes. The first volume comprises the main text, tables, figures and an appendix written by Małgorzata Daszkiewicz describing the methodology of the laboratory-based analyses. Individual chapters deal with questions concerning the definitions of *terra sigillata* and slip which appear in the archaeological literature. The history of research and analysis of *terra sigillata* is summarised and details are given about studies of pottery from Moesia Inferior. An overview is given of red-slipped wares, complete with descriptions, starting with the precursors of *terra sigillata* and including *arretine ware*, *samian ware* and *terra sigillata* itself, and encompassing vessels made at both eastern and western production centres as well as later imitations of this type of pottery. The history of the region is outlined, beginning with the events which preceded the foundation of the province of Moesia and ending with the period when the ceramic workshops in Nicopolis ad Istrum went into decline. There is a comprehensive discussion of all issues relating to pottery manufacture at ceramic workshops, with descriptions of the production centres at Hotnica, Pavlikeni and Butovo. Analogous contemporaneous workshops recorded in Dacia and elsewhere in Moesia Inferior are also described. The results of typological analysis are presented. Unfortunately, this analysis was significantly hampered by the small size of the sherds available for study. This made it very difficult to find analogies for the examined pottery and to identify individual

ceramic workshops based on criteria such as form and decoration. Details are given of the assessment method used for macroscopic analysis of pottery, which later served as the basis for characterising and describing the study material. For comparative purposes, descriptions are included of *terra sigillata* sherds from Rheinzabern and of pottery samples from Novae which were used to determine the principal reference groups referred to in this work. Macroscopic descriptions are provided of the surfaces of those sherds which were the focus of this study and (again, for comparative purposes) of *terra sigillata* sherds from Rheinzabern. The second volume of this dissertation is an artefact catalogue consisting of pottery record forms completed for the ceramic assemblage examined herein.

Comprehensive archaeological analysis made it possible to draw typological conclusions despite the limitations posed by the fragmentary nature of the studied sherds. It was demonstrated that individual reference groups defined on the basis of laboratory analysis results can be distinguished using macroscopic pottery analysis. The scale of production at pottery workshops in Pavlikeni and Butovo was estimated. Furthermore, it was observed that the Romanisation process, development and shifting borders of the province of Moesia Inferior had an impact on the production profile of pottery workshops. Conclusions were drawn about the distribution of vessels made at pottery workshops in Pavlikeni and Butovo based on the results of fieldwalking surveys. This was possible thanks to the detailed analysis of an economic space of some 740 km<sup>2</sup> around Novae and Iatrus. Laboratory analysis revealed that comprehensive physico-chemical analysis is essential even in the case of local *terra sigillata*-type wares. For the first time ever, chemical analysis using the pXRF technique was employed in the study of pottery from Moesia Inferior. The sherds were also examined in fresh fracture and using non-destructive surface analysis.