

NEW FINDS OF DECORATED SOUTH GAULISH TERRA SIGILLATA IN THE FORELAND OF BRIGETIO¹

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KUZMOVÁ, Klára. Nové nálezy reliéfné zdobenej juhogalskej terry sigillaty v predpolí Brigetia. V predpolí Brigetia, na dolnom toku riek Nitra a Žitava, dochádzalo v dobe rímskej k intenzívnym kontaktom medzi Rimanmi a Kvádmi. Svedčia o tom aj početné rímske výrobky zo sídliska domáceho obyvateľstva situovaného v polohe Chotín-Delihegy, v blízkosti hraníc severnej Panónie. Ich súčasťou je aj rozsiahly súbor terry sigillaty, datovaný prevažne do severovského obdobia. Výsledky systematického prieskumu realizovaného v tejto oblasti v uplynulých rokoch významne zmenili doterajšie poznatky. Týkajú sa aj terry sigillaty, a to najmä jej kvantity, typológie a chronológie. Nový materiál zahŕňa aj nálezy, ktoré v Chotíne alebo v priľahlom regióne barbarika neboli ešte evidované. Patria k nim aj dva reliéfné zdobené fragmenty juhogalského pôvodu. Jeden z nich bol vyrobený v hrnčiarskom centre La Graufesenque koncom 1. až začiatkom 2. stor. po Kr. (dielňa M. Crestio alebo Crucuro I/II) a druhý v Banassacu v druhej štvrtine 2. stor. po Kr. (dielňa Germanus V). Na ich základe možno počiatky rímsko-germánskych vzťahov i prítomnosti Rimanov v predpolí Brigetia predpokladať v skoršom období ako doteraz, rámcovo od konca 1. stor. po Kr.

Kľúčové slová: terra sigillata, južná Galia, barbarikum, Slovensko, doba rímska

Keywords: Terra sigillata, South Gaul, Barbaricum, Slovakia, Roman period

The foreland of Brigetio, situated north of the confluence of the Danube and Váh rivers, and especially the area of the lower course of the Nitra and Žitava rivers, was rather densely settled by the Quadi population in the Roman period (*Kolník/Varsik/Vladár 2007, 36, 37*). The most distinctive site among the archaeologically attested settlements is Chotín-Delihegy, mainly due to its location near the Pannonian frontier and the abundant provincial products. The Roman finds date this native settlement roughly to the period between the 2nd and 4th centuries AD (*Březinová 1994; Romsauer 1978; 1980a; 1980b; Šebesta 2010*). They include a large collection of terra sigillata (234 pcs), which consists mainly of products made in the potters' centres of Rheinzabern and Westerdorf mostly in the Severan period (*Kuzmová 1997, 15, 72, 73, 122, 123; Kuzmová/Roth 1988, 35-62*). Previous knowledge of the Roman-German relations in this region has been significantly altered by a systematic survey conducted in the cadaster of Chotín in recent years. Terra sigillata formed a significant portion of the newly acquired material, outnumbering the previously known finds almost twice (an increase by 415 pcs). Equally important is the range of this collection, with products earlier unrecorded at Chotín and the adjacent region of barbaricum (*Kuzmová 2017; Rajtár/Kuzmová/Kolníková 2017, 180-182*). These include two fragments of decorated bowls made in South Gaulish workshops in the period between the end of the 1st century and the first half of the 2nd century AD (my thanks go to I. Žundálek, who provided me with access to the finds; fig. 1).

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Fig. 1. New finds of South Gaulish terra sigillata in the foreland of Brigetio, site Chotín.
1 – La Graufesenque; 2 – Banassac. Photo by K. Kuzmová

One of the fragments was found near the old riverbed of the Žitava river, in a remote part of the village called “Pri hradskej”, west of the Quadi settlement located at Chotín-Delihegy. It is a fragment of the upper portion of a hemispherical bowl (Drag. 37), with the following decorative elements: ovolo on a wavy line (Knorr, TuF, Plate 28: 9; 29: 18), metopes divided by wavy lines bonded with small rosettes, a sitting lion turned to the left (O. 1419; Knorr, TS-Gefässe, Plate 19: A, E; Knorr, TuF, Textfigure 17: E; Plate 28: 22; 35: 27), a small sitting figure (O. 921; see also Knorr, TS-Gefässe, Plate 68: A), an unidentifiable animal (?), Diana turned to the right (O. 103B; Knorr, TS-Gefässe, Plate 20: A; Knorr, TuF; Plate 29: 1), and arrow-shaped motifs (fig. 1: 1). The decorative elements, their combination and their arrangement into metopes suggest that this find is a product of South Gaulish workshops situated at La Graufesenque and can be associated with potters M. Crestio or Crucuro I/II.

M. Crestio is considered to be one of the most productive potters, who were active at La Graufesenque for a long period of time. Based on find contexts, his metope style decoration, also applied on the find from Chotín, is dated by A. W. Mees (1995, 74, 75) to the beginning of the 2nd century AD, while the end of his production is assumed around the year 110 AD. The distribution of this potter's products was targeted mainly at the western provinces, but his ware is also attested in the Danubian provinces. Terra sigillata of Crucuro I or Crucuro II, dated between 80/90 and 120 AD, is typologically and chronologically similar to the products of M. Crestio (Mees 1995, 75, 76). The ware produced by these potters also occurs on the northern frontier of Pannonia, e.g. at Vindobona, Carnuntum and Gerulata, roughly in the years 80 – 110 AD (Gabler/Pichlerová 1996, 53; Groh 2017, 18, 19, 37; Table 5; Weber-Hiden 1996, 66). Based on what has been said, the find from Chotín may have been produced between the end of the 1st and the beginning of the 2nd century AD, more specifically in 80/90 – 110/120 AD.

The starting point for examining the occurrence of the South Gaulish terra sigillata in the foreland of Brigetio are the finds from Brigetio itself. These are known especially from an old local collection (today mainly deposited in the Danube Region Museum in Komárno; Juhász 1935; Kuzmová 1992, 41, 42) and from more recent systematic excavations (Beck 2003, 30, 31). However, these finds are related to other potters, or cannot be closely identified due to their fragmentary nature. Scholars have paid special attention to one find associated with the Roman fort at Iža, the bridgehead of the legionary fortress at Brigetio. It is a fragment

of South Gaulish origin, deposited in the said museum collection, and is considered to be the earliest terra sigillata from this site. It was first published by Gy. Juhász in the first half of the 20th century as a La Graufesenque product dating to the period covering the reign of Vespasian to Domitian (Juhász 1935, 26, 127, 199, 200; Plate XLI: 1). On a later treatment of the collection, this find was ascribed to the potter Mercator, who was productive in this workshop during the rule of Domitian (Kuzmová 1992, 83, No. 362; 2003, 14, 15). The main production period of this potter was later dated by A. W. Mees (1995, 86) to the 90s, a dating that was accepted also for the finds from the northern part of the civilian town of Aquincum (Gabler 2017, 112, 113). A group of Mercator's products from the central part of the civilian town of Carnuntum has recently been dated to the broader time frame of 90 – 120 AD (Groh 2017, 18, 19, Table 5).

In the past, the significance of the Iža fragment was that it helped date the origin of the Roman fortification (or the presence of the Romans in this area) to the end of the 1st century (Barkóczy 1949, 68; 1951, 9, 17; Juhász 1935, 199, 200). When summarising available information about the development of this fort in the historical and architectural context, K. Kuzmová and J. Rajtár pointed out that the Iža find is a rare fragment of South Gaulish origin with a known find spot but without data of its find circumstances. However, questions can also be raised about its location, as the long-time intensive excavation at this site has not produced any contemporary terra sigillata (Kuzmová 2003, 14, 15; Kuzmová/Rajtár 1986b, 187). The origins of the Roman fort and of the permanent presence of the Romans in the immediate foreland of Brigetio were first illuminated when the remains of the earliest permanent fortification in this location were excavated. It is an earth-and-timber fort and dates to as late as the final phase of the Marcomannic wars, a dating based partly on terra sigillata from Lezoux and Rheinzabern (175 – 179 AD; Hüssen/Rajtár 1994, 218; Kuzmová/Rajtár 1986a; Rajtár 1992; 2002, 104). Despite this, a temporary military presence of the Romans in the foreland of Brigetio in an earlier period cannot be ruled out completely, as other unique finds of Roman origin were found in the vicinity of the Roman fort at Iža in the first half of the 20th century. These are bronze components from horse harnesses and a brooch of Almgren 236 type, both datable to the Domitian period (Rajtár 1992, 151, 153; fig. 3: 2-4).

In the broader foreland of Brigetio, in the barbarian environment of the lower Nitra and Žitava valleys, the Chotín find is so far the only attestation of terra sigillata from La Graufesenque. This is nothing exceptional in terms of the influx of these products to the area north of the Danube, as decorated ware from this potter's centre is equally rare in the rest of the territory settled by the Quadi that today forms south-western Slovakia. Only two such finds are known, and come from the site Bratislava-Devínska Nová Ves in the foreland of Carnuntum. Only one of them has been closely identified, and is considered to be a product of Mercator (Kuzmová 1997, 16). No new finds of this kind have been found in recent excavation and surveys (Elschek/Groh/Kolníková 2015, 93).

The other of the two fragments of South Gaulish terra sigillata from Chotín was also discovered near the old riverbed of the Žitava river, in a remote part of the village called "Horné Konopište", north-west of the previous find and of the Quadi settlement excavated at Chotín-Delihegy. It is a small fragment, also deriving from the upper portion of a hemispherical bowl (Drag. 37), decorated with the following motifs: ovolo on a wavy line (Knorr, TS-Gefässe, Plate 30: C), a vertical wavy line (?) and a gladiator (fig. 1: 2; similar to O. 1022 type). A close parallel to this fragment is a find from Ovilava (Noricum) depicting a pair of gladiators, where the figure on the right resembles the one depicted on the terra sigillata from Chotín. Based on the stamp [GER]MANIF it was identified by P. Karnitsch as ware produced in the style of GERMANI SER(VUS), which was probably manufactured at La Graufesenque and dates to the period of Domitian and Nerva (Karnitsch, Ovilava, 122, No. 7; Plate 22: 7). According to A. W. Mees, the products of Germanus bearing stamps of this type (GERMANIF) were made in the South Gaulish workshop at Banassac. Mees therefore

attributes the Ovilava find to this workshop, namely to the Germanus V series, which he dates to 130 – 150 AD (Mees 1995, 109, 185; Plate 229: 6). The products of this potter found in the central part of the civilian town of Carnuntum are dated roughly to the same period (Groh 2017, 18, 19; Table 5).

As for the finds found at Brigetio, the collection of the Danube Region Museum in Komárno contains four fragments from Banassac, which, however, were made by other potters than Germanus (Kuzmová 1992, 42, 43, No. 14-17). Later excavations yielded also some products of Germanus, but these have not been closely identified due to their fragmentary nature (Beck 2003, 30). The finds of this kind are not known from the Roman fort at Iža, but they are attested in the western part of the North-Pannonian frontier, for instance at Gerulata (Dekan/Kuzmová 1996, 149, No. 25-27; Gabler/Pichlerová 1996, 55, No. 19, 20, 30, 31).

In the foreland of Brigetio, terra sigillata from Banassac occurs only on the Quadi settlement in Branč, in the context of the earliest settlement phase ('A'), which falls between the years 120/140 and 180/200 AD (Kolník/Varsik/Vladár 2007, 31, 35). It consists of five fragments of decorated ware, whose origin is associated with potter Natalis (Kuzmová 1997, 16, 67, 70, 71, 86, 87; Kuzmová/Roth 1988, 21, 22, 24, 25; fig. 3: 2-4; 4: 12, 13). In south-western Slovakia, such ware is otherwise only found in Bratislava-Devínska Nová Ves and Zohor (Elschek/Groh/Kolníková 2015, 91; Kuzmová 1997, 16; Kuzmová/Roth 1988, 28; fig. 5: 9, 10). However, on the northern frontier of Pannonia, the terra sigillata of Natalis is attested on several sites, e.g. at Vindobona (Weber-Hiden 1996, 92-102), Carnuntum (Groh 2017, 18, 19; Table 5) and Gerulata (Dekan/Kuzmová 1996, 149, 150, No. 29-34; Gabler/Pichlerová 1996, 55, 56, No. 21-27; Krekovič 1996, 193, 194, No. 7-9; Varsik/Kuzmová/Schmidtová 1996, 193, No. 7-9, 220, No. 52, 222, Nr. 79). Based on find contexts, these products date to 110/120 – 140/150 AD (Gabler 2017, 114, 115; Groh 2017, 18, 19; Table 5; Mees 1995, 111).

The distribution of Banassac products, unlike the terra sigillata manufactured in La Graufesenque, was targeted at the Danubian provinces (Mees 1995, 108). This is attested by the South Gaulish ware from Pannonia, with its preponderance of Banassac products. The only exception are a few sites on the Danubian frontier, including Brigetio, where the products from La Graufesenque predominate (Beck 2003, 31; Gabler 2017, 114). Overall, the proportion of finds from the adjacent Quadi territory corresponds to the one on the majority of Pannonian sites (Kuzmová 1997, 16).

Despite their rare occurrence and the absence of the find context, the presented finds of South Gaulish terra sigillata from Chotín are an important contribution to the study of the contacts between the Romans and the Quadi in the foreland of Brigetio, and of the development of native settlements near the borders of northern Pannonia. They were found on the trade route that is regarded as the continuation of one of the eastern arteries of the Amber Road, running from Brigetio northwards into the barbarian interior (Wielowiejski 1970, 209-217, 211, 212; 1996, 57-59, 61). The concentration of the finds of provincial origin determines its course along the Žitava and Nitra rivers. The significance of this route increased during the Marcomannic wars, when it was demonstrably used for military purposes (Rajtár 2008, 178, 179, 181; fig. 7). However, the presented finds of South Gaulish terra sigillata date to an earlier period, when the military and civilian structures at Brigetio were only being built and the bridgehead at Iža was yet to be raised. Despite this, the occurrence of terra sigillata on the neighbouring Quadi territory can clearly be associated with the supply of both the Roman army and the civilian population on the adjacent section of the Pannonian frontier. The studied terra sigillata indicates that the contacts between the Romans and the native population existed earlier than has been assumed so far, i.e. already from the late 1st century. This is supported by other recent finds, in particular the chronologically sensitive brooches, fragments of bronze vessels, and coins (Rajtár/Kolníková/Kuzmová 2017, 175, 180, 185, 187).

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RESUMÉ

Nové nálezy reliéfné zdobenej juhogalskej terry sigillaty v predpolí Brigetia

Predpolie Brigetia, ležiace severne od sútoku Dunaja a Váhu, bolo v dobe rímskej pomerne husto osídlené Kvádmi. Spomedzi archeologicky doložených sídlisk sa svojou polohou v blízkosti panónskych hraníc a výskytom provinciálnych výrobkov vyníma Chotín-

Delihegy (2. – 4. stor. po Kr.). K nim patrí aj rozsiahly súbor terry sigillaty (234 ks), prevažne zo severovského obdobia. Systematický prieskum v blízkosti tohto náleziska (v polohách „Pri hradskej“ a „Horné Konopište“) priniesol nové početné nálezy (415 ks) a značne zmenil doterajšie poznatky o typológii a chronológii tejto keramiky na skúmanom území. Osobitný význam majú dva fragmenty juhogalskej terry sigillaty z konca 1. až z prvej polovice 2. stor. po Kr., ktorá tu doteraz nebola doložená.

Prvý z nich je výrobkom z La Graufesenque, z dielne M. Crestio alebo Crucuro I/II, z konca 1. a začiatku 2. stor. po Kr., presnejšie z obdobia medzi rokmi 80/90 – 110/120 po Kr. (obr. 1: 1). V širšom predpolí Brigetia je tento nález zatiaľ jediným dokladom reliéfnej terry sigillaty z La Graufesenque. Nejde o výnimočný jav, keďže aj na ostatnom kvádskom území je táto keramika veľmi zriedkavá, známa iba z Bratislavy-Devínskej Novej Vsi. Druhý fragment pochádza z hrnčiarskeho centra Banassac, z dielne Germanus V, z obdobia ohraňeného rokmi 130 – 150 po Kr. (obr. 1: 2). Na priľahlom barbarskom území sa terra sigillata z Banassacu vyskytla iba v najstaršej fáze kvádskeho sídliska v Branči. Ďalšie nálezy z juhozápadného Slovenska pochádzajú z Bratislavy-Devínskej Novej Vsi a zo Zohora. Výrobky oboch dielní sú evidované na viacerých panónskych náleziskách ležiacich na hraniciach i vo vnútrozemí provincie.

Uvedené nálezy juhogalskej terry sigillaty z Chotína sú napriek svojmu ojedinelému výskytu a absencii nálezového kontextu prínosom pre štúdium kontaktov medzi Rimanmi a Kvádmi v predpolí Brigetia, a tiež aj vývoja germánskeho osídlenia v blízkosti hraníc severnej Panónie. Našli sa na komunikačnej trase, ktorá sa považuje za pokračovanie jednej z východných vetiev Jantárovej cesty vedúcej z Brigetia na sever do barbarského vnútrozemia. Na základe koncentrácie nálezov provinciálneho pôvodu sa jej priebeh novšie lokalizuje pozdĺž riek Žitava a Nitra. Význam tejto komunikácie výrazne vzrástol v období markomanských vojen, keď sa preukázateľne využívala aj na vojenské účely. Presentované nálezy juhogalskej sigillaty však pochádzajú zo skoršieho obdobia, v ktorom sa vojenské a civilné stavby v Brigetiu postupne budovali a predmostie v Iži ešte nebolo postavené. Napriek tomu, jej výskyt na susednom kvádskom území možno jednoznačne spájať so zásobovaním rímskej armády i civilného obyvateľstva na priľahlom úseku panónskych hraníc. Skúmaná terra sigillata dovoľuje predpokladať kontakty Rimanov a domáceho obyvateľstva skôr, ako sa doteraz predpokladalo, t. j. už od konca 1. stor. po Kr. Tento predpoklad podporujú aj ďalšie novoobjavené súveké nálezy, najmä chronologicky citlivé spony, fragmenty bronzových nádob a mince.

Obrazová príloha

Obr. 1. Nové nálezy juhogalskej terry sigillaty z predpolia Brigetia, nálezisko Chotín. 1 – La Graufesenque; 2 – Banassac. Foto: K. Kuzmová.

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