

# DECORATED CENTRAL GAULISH TERRA SIGILLATA FROM CHOTÍN<sup>1</sup>

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**KUZMOVÁ, Klára. Reliéfne zdobená stredogalská terra sigillata z Chotína.** Chotín je známou polykultúrnou lokalitou na juhozápadnom Slovensku. Rozsiahle kvádske sídlisko z doby rímskej tu preskúmal v polohe Delihegy P. Romsauer. Nachádzalo sa v blízkosti severopanónskej hranice, v predpolí Brigetia a jeho predmostia v Iži. Na základe rímskoprovinciálnych výrobkov je rámcovo datované do 2. – 4. stor. po Kr. Spomedzi nich vyniká terra sigillata prevažne zo severovského obdobia, najmä z 1. pol. 3. stor. Nové výsledky priniesli prieskumy v polohe Horné konopište, kde sa našli aj zlomky stredogalskej Terry sigillaty z predchádzajúceho, antoninovského obdobia. Sú to výrobky z Lezoux (Criciro, Cinnamus, Mammius (?), štýl Banuus (?)) a Paternus II). Zvlášť dôležitá je terra sigillata z dielni Cinnamus a Paternus II, ktorá je v Panónii známa z kontextov spätých s markomanskými vojnami. Nechýba ani v barbariku, najmä popri riekach Morava, Váh, Nitra, Žitava a Hron, ktoré určovali smerovanie komunikačných trás, využívaných aj pri postupe rímskych vojsk na územie Kvádov. Jedna z nich viedla aj Ponitím a Požitavím, o čom svedčia nielen nálezy Terry sigillaty a iných provinciálnych predmetov, ale aj dočasné poľné tábory. Analyzované nálezy z Chotína-Horného konopišťa sú preto prínosom pre skúmanie vplyvu historických udalostí na prílev rímskoprovinciálnych výrobkov do barbarika. Ich skladba úzko súvisela so zásobovaním priľahlej časti provincie, najmä vojenských pozícií na hraniciach Panónie.

**Kľúčové slová:** Terra sigillata, stredná Galia, Lezoux, barbarikum, Chotín, antoninovské obdobie;

**Keywords:** Terra sigillata, Central Gaul, Lezoux, barbaricum, Chotín, Antonine period;

Chotín (situated in Komárno district) is a well-known archaeological site in southwestern Slovakia, which was settled intensively as early as in prehistoric times. This is attested by rich collections of archaeological finds from several excavations including unique items from various periods. One of the significant sites in the cadaster of this village has been excavated by Peter Romsauer, when he unearthed a polycultural settlement on the southwestern edge of Chotín in the course of three excavation seasons (1977-1979).<sup>2</sup> The settlement was situated on a sand dune in the location Delihegy near one of the original branches of the Žitava River. In the Roman period, there was an extensive settlement of the native Quadi population, which deserves special attention. The material culture of the local inhabitants was strongly influenced by the vicinity of Pannonia, from where many Roman products arrived. These included mostly pottery imported from the western provinces – terra sigillata and the so called Raetian ware – but also brooches and glass items made in Pannonia. Based on these finds, the settlement has been dated broadly between the second and fourth century AD

<sup>1</sup> This article has been written within the project VEGA No. 1/0346/15: „The castellum at Iža – a part of limes romanus in Slovakia (Kastel v Iži - súčasť limes romanus na Slovensku)“.

<sup>2</sup> The author of this article participated in the excavation as a student of the Department of Archaeology at Comenius University in Bratislava in 1977, and later studied and published a large collection of terra sigillata from the site (Kuzmová/Roth 1988; Kuzmová 1997). Thanks to P. Romsauer for both opportunities.

(Březinová 1994; Kuzmová 1997; Kuzmová/Roth 1988; Romsauer 1978; 1980a; 1980b; Šebesta 2010, see also the contribution of J. Rajtár, E. Kolníková and K. Kuzmová in this volume).

What made the Quadi settlement unique was its advantageous location on the lower course of the Žitava river. Not only did it lie near the Roman frontier running along the Danube (in a distance of 7 km), it was also situated in the foreground of the legionary fortress of Brigetio (now Komárom-Szöny, HU) and of its bridgehead on the left bank of the river, the auxiliary fort at Iža (SK). The two fortifications played a key role in the military control of the Danube and Váh confluence and the adjacent section of the Roman border, and it served as a base for the advance of Roman military troops to barbaricum. The presence of the Roman army north of the Danube has been attested by the ground plans of temporary field camps dating to the period of the Marcomannic wars, discovered at the nearby sites of Iža, Radvaň nad Dunajom and Virt by aerial prospection. One of such camps has recently also been confirmed at Chotín (Rajtár 2008). Another important fact is that one of the eastern branches of the Amber Road certainly crossed the Danube in this area and continued northwards across the barbarian territory (Wielowiejski 1970, 209-217, 211, 212; 1996, 57-59, 61). The uncommonly intensive contacts between the Romans and the Germanic populations in the „third zone“ lying north of the Danube, immediately beyond the Pannonian border, have previously been noted by J. Bouzek and I. Ondřejová (1990). They have also been confirmed by the finds of Roman provincial products from Chotín-Delihegy. The most numerous among these finds is terra sigillata, which also constitutes the most numerous collection of finds from Germanic sites both in the territory of southwestern Slovakia and the adjacent middle-Danubian barbaricum (234 pcs; Kuzmová 1997, 15). A typological analysis has confirmed products of four potters' centres with a clear predominance of the Westerndorf ware (60.7%). Products from Rheinzabern were fewer by almost a half (27.3%) and the small group of Pfaffenhofen sigillata had a rather complementary character (7.3 %; Kuzmová 1997, 72, 73, 122, 123; see also Kuzmová/Roth 1988, 35-62). Only two fragments from this large collection (Drag. 18/31, Drag. 37) were classified as Central Gaulish terra sigillata, and they constitute a minor share (0.8%; Kuzmová 1997, 72; Kuzmová/Roth 1988, 64). The influx of terra sigillata into this site dates broadly from mid-second to mid-third century, with most products arriving in the Severan period, particularly during the first half of the third century. Finds dating before and during the Marcomannic wars are represented only by isolated fragments (Kuzmová 1997, 72).

This state of research was significantly changed by the results of later surveys in the lower Žitava valley, which revealed several fragments of terra sigillata of Central Gaulish provenance in the cadaster of Chotín.<sup>3</sup> There are 13 finds of decorated bowls Drag. 37 from the location “Horné konopište” situated near the old branches of the Žitava river, northwest of the above mentioned native settlement in Chotín-Delihegy (Cat. No. 1-13; fig. 1). Some of the finds can be identified as products from Lezoux made in the workshops of Criciro, Cinnamus and Mammius (?), while others are decorated in the style of Banuus (?) and Paternus II. Significant among them is the ware of Cinnamus, which constitutes almost a half of this collection (5 pcs; fig. 1: 3-7), and is among common Central Gaulish products in the middle-Danubian area. It is also a typical find of Pannonian structures associated with the Marcomannic wars (Beck 2003, 33; Gabler 1994, 365, Tabelle 1; 2012a, 420-422; 2012b, 213).<sup>4</sup> The ware also occurs in the territory settled by the Quadi, though the closer context of these finds is mostly unknown (Kuzmová 1994, 245, 246; Kuzmová, forthcoming 2017).

There are another three terra sigillata finds from Chotín-Horné konopište related to the find horizons linked to the Marcomannic wars. One of them was made in the workshops

<sup>3</sup> The finds were obtained in cooperation with I. Žundálek.

<sup>4</sup> Products of Cinnamus are also known from the bridgehead of Brigetio – the auxiliary fort at Iža – as unstratified fragments from its inner area, and from the collections of the Danube Region Museum in Komárno (Kuzmová 1992, č. 366-368; 2003, 15, Cat. No. 48-50). However, they have not been found in uncovered structures of the earth-and-timber fort dated to the period of the Marcomannic wars (Kuzmová 1997).



*Figure 1. Chotín-Horné konopište. Decorated Central Gaulish terra sigillata.  
Photo by: K. Kuzmová*

of Criciro (Cat. No 1-2; Figure 1: 1, 2), whose products are uncommon in the Middle-Danubian area, but occur on some of the Pannonian sites, e.g. Brigetio (*Beck 2003, 34, Cat. No. 235-237*), Aquincum (*Gabler 2002, 230*) and Gorsium (*Gabler/Kocztur 1977, 75, tab. I; Gabler 1994, 365, Tabelle 1*). Decoration on two other finds reminds of the style of Paternus II (Cat. No. 10-11; Figure 1: 10, 11), a late Central Gaulish potter, whose products have been found in several contexts in Pannonia associated with the Marcomannic wars (e.g. in Aquincum, Brigetio, Arrabona, Salla, Mursa: *Beck 2003, 33; Gabler 1994, 365, Tabelle 1; 2012a, 420-422; 2012b, 213*) and are also attested in barbaricum north of the Danube (Bratislava-Dúbravka, Stupava, Branč: *Kuzmová 1994, 245, 246*). Further four terra sigillata finds can also be dated to the mid- to late Antonine period. One of them has been identified as ware of Mammius (?) (Cat. No. 8; Figure 1: 8), another one is decorated in Banuus style (?) (Cat. No. 9; Figure 1: 9), and the last two fragments are unidentifiable products from Lezoux (Cat. No. 12-13; Figure 1: 12, 13).

In conclusion, the studied collection of terra sigillata significantly completed the existing collections of finds from Chotín by Central Gaulish products made in Lezoux. They date broadly to the Antonine period, most of them to the period of the Marcomannic wars, from which only isolated fragments of Rheinzabern ware were known so far. Such finds, above all the products of Cinnamus and Paternus II, often occur in contexts related to the above mentioned war events, in Pannonia attested along the frontier as well as in the inner area of the province. They are also found in barbaricum, particularly near the rivers Morava, Váh, Nitra, Žitava and Hron flowing into the Danube, which determined the direction of communications, also used by the Roman military troops advancing into the territory settled by the Quadi. One of the communications led along the Nitra and Žitava valleys, which is attested not only by the finds of terra sigillata and other items of provincial origin, but also temporary field camps from the period of the Marcomannic wars located in the foreground of Brigetio and its bridgehead at Iža. In this respect, the finds of the Central Gaulish terra sigillata from Chotín-Horné konopište contribute to the research of the impact that historical events had on the influx of Roman provincial products into barbaricum. Their composition was closely related to the supply of the adjacent area of the province, particularly the nearby military positions on the northern frontier of Pannonia.

### Catalogue

1. Drag. 37, body fragment. Horizontal wavy line (*Rogers A23*), two concentric circles (*Rogers E26*). (Figure 1: 1)  
Lezoux, Criciro  
Antonine period (140/145-170)
2. Drag. 37, body fragment. Ovolo above the wavy line (*Rogers A23, B47*). Vertical bead row (*Rogers A2*), in two concentric circles (*Rogers E26*) erotic scene (*O. XC: B*). (Figure 1: 2)  
Lezoux, Criciro  
Antonine period (140/145-170)
3. Drag. 37, body fragment. Ovolo above the bead row (*CGP, fig. 47: 1; Rogers A2, B223*). Leaf motif (?) (*CGP, fig. 47: 3?*), leaf (?). (Figure 1: 3)  
Lezoux, Cinnamus  
Antonine period (145-170/178)
4. Drag. 37, body and base fragment with foot-ring. Vertical ornament with plain ring (?), in the narrow panel bordered by bead rows (*Rogers A2?*) with dots on joints and ends, mask (<*O. 1214*) and ornament (*Rogers U55, T38?*); in the wider panel a wild-boar (*O. 1666, 1668?*) and a horizontally orientated gladiator (*O. 1059*). (Figure 1: 4)  
Lezoux, Cinnamus  
Antonine period (145-170/178)
5. Drag. 37, body fragment. Unidentified motif, vertical bead row (*Rogers A2*), Aesculapius (*O. 905*). (Figure 1: 5)  
Lezoux, Cinnamus  
Antonine period (145-170/178)

6. Drag. 37, four body fragments. Ovolo above the wavy line (CGP, fig. 47: 3; Rogers A24, B85). In panels bordered by a vertical bead row (Rogers A2): floral ornament (<Rogers Q42), plain ring, warrior (O. 177) in two concentric circles, astragalus (?). (Figure 1: 6a-d)  
Lezoux, Cinnamus  
Antonine period (145-170/178)
7. Drag. 37 (?), body fragment. Leaf (Rogers J 178?), tendril. (Figure 1: 7)  
Lezoux, Cinnamus  
Antonine period (145-170/178)
8. Drag. 37, body fragment. Hercules (O. 796). (Figure 1: 8)  
Lezoux, Mammius (?)  
Antonine period (150-180)
9. Drag. 37, body fragment. In two concentric circles a kneeling warrior (<O. 204; CGP, Pl. 140: 10, 13, 16), rhomboid ornament (Rogers U32), vertically corded border (Rogers A34) ending in a rosette (CGP, fig. 41: 2; Rogers C173), part of a stamp (?). Decoration bordered by plain band. (Figure 1: 9)  
Lezoux, Banuus style (?)  
Antonine period (160/170-190)
10. Drag. 37, body fragment. Wild-boar turned to the left (O. 1696 I). (Figure 1: 10)  
Lezoux, Paternus style  
Antonine period (160-180/190)
11. Drag. 37, body fragment. Unidentified motif, bear turned to the right (O. 1589), bear turned to the left (O. 1617), small dog running to the left (O. 2023A?). (Figure 1: 11)  
Lezoux, Paternus style  
Antonine period (160-180/190)
12. Drag. 37, body fragment. Rosette (?) and unidentified motif. Decoration bordered by two basal lines. (Figure 1: 12)  
Lezoux  
Mid- to late Antonine period
13. Drag. 37, body fragment. In two plain circles an unidentified motif, vertical bead row (Rogers A2), standing figure (?). (Figure 1: 13)  
Lezoux  
Mid- to late Antonine period

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## RESUMÉ

### **Reliéfne zdobená stredogalská terra sigillata z Chotína**

Chotín je známou polykultúrnou lokalitou na juhozápadnom Slovensku. Rozsiahle sídlisko z doby rímskej tu preskúmal v polohe Delihegy P. Romsauer. Nachádzalo sa v blízkosti rímskej hranice, v predpolí Brigetia a jeho predmostia v Iži. Na základe provinciálnych výrobkov je datované do 2.-4. stor. po Kr. (*Romsauer 1978; 1980a; 1980b; Kuzmová/Roth 1988; Březinová 1994; Kuzmová 1997; Šebesta 2010*; pozri tiež príspevok J. Rajtára, E. Kolníkovej a K. Kuzmovej v tomto zborníku). Spomedzi nich vyniká terra sigillata prevažne zo severovského obdobia, najmä z 1. pol. 3. stor. Nové výsledky priniesol prieskum v polohe Horné konopište, kde sa našla aj sigillata z predchádzajúceho, antoninovského obdobia. Sú to výrobky zo stredogalského hrnčiarskeho centra Lezoux (Kat. č. 1-13; obr. 1). Takmer polovicu z nich tvorí tovar z dielne Cinnamus (5 ks; obr. 1: 3-7), ktorý sa v Panónii spája s udalosťami markomanských vojen (*Beck 2003, 33; Gabler 1994, 365; 2012a, 420-422; 2012b, 213*) a je známy aj z kvádskeho prostredia (*Kuzmová 1994, 245, 246; Kuzmová, forthcoming 2017*). Do tohto obdobia spadajú /442/

aj ďalšie tri nálezy. Jeden je z dielne Criciro (Kat. č. 1-2; obr. 1: 1, 2) s paralelami na panónskych náleziskách (Brigetio: Beck 2003, 34, Kat. č. 235-237; Aquincum: Gabler 2002, 230; Gorsium: Gabler/Kocztur 1977, 75, Tab. I; Gabler 1994, 365, Tabelle 1). Výzdoba ďalších dvoch nálezov je blízka štýlu Paternus II (Kat. č. 10-11; obr. 1: 10, 11), jedného z neskorých stredogalských hrnčiarov. Jeho výrobky sa našli na viacerých lokalitách v Panónii (Aquincum, Brigetio, Arrabona, Salla, Mursa: Beck 2003, 33; Gabler 1994, 365, Tabelle 1; 2012a, 420-422; 2012b, 213) a sú doložené aj v Barbariku severne od Dunaja (Bratislava-Dúbravka, Stupava, Branč: Kuzmová 1994, 245, 246). Zo strednej až neskorej doby antoninovskej pochádzajú aj posledné štyri nálezy (Mammius (?): Kat. č. 8; obr. 1: 8; štýl Banuus (?): Kat. č. 9; obr. 1: 9; a dva bližšie neurčiteľné zlomky: Kat. č. 12-13; obr. 1: 12, 13).

Analyzovaný súbor významne doplnil doterajšie nálezy o výrobky z Lezoux, rámcovo datované do antoninovského obdobia. Zvlášť dôležitá je terra sigillata z dielni Cinnamus a Paternus II, ktorá je v Panónii známa z kontextov spájaných s markomanskými vojnami. Nechýba ani v Barbariku, najmä popri riekach Morava, Váh, Nitra, Žitava a Hron, ktoré určovali smerovanie komunikačných trás, využívaných aj pri postupe rímskych vojsk na kvádskom území. Jedna z nich viedla aj Ponitím a Požitavím, o čom svedčia nie len nálezy terra sigillaty a iných provinciálnych predmetov, ale aj dočasné poľné tábory. Nálezy z Chotína-Horného konopišťa sú prínosom pre skúmanie vplyvu historických udalostí na prílev rímskoprovinciálnych výrobkov do Barbarika. Ich skladba úzko súvisela so zásobovaním priľahlej časti provincie, najmä vojenských pozícií na hraniciach Panónie.

### **Zoznam príloh**

Obr. 1. Chotín-Horné konopište. Reliéfne zdobená stredogalská terra sigillata. Foto: K. Kuzmová

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