

# EPHEMERIS NAPOCENSIS

XXIII

2013

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INSTITUTE OF ARCHAEOLOGY AND HISTORY OF ART CLUJ-NAPOCA

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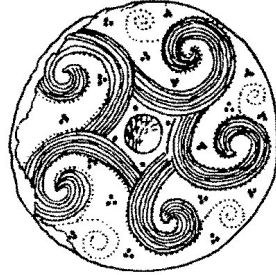
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INSTITUTUL DE ARHEOLOGIE ȘI ISTORIA ARTEI



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## **EPIGRAPHICA NAPOCENSIA. EPIGRAPHIC DISCOVERIES FROM VICTOR DELEU STREET IN CLUJ-NAPOCA\***

**Eugenia Beu-Dachin<sup>1</sup>, Sorin Cociș<sup>2</sup>, Valentin Voișian<sup>3</sup>**

**Abstract:** *Archaeological research performed in V. Deleu Street in Cluj-Napoca between 1991 and 2012 revealed several inscribed items, among which the rim of a “mortarium” bearing the potter master’s stamp “[Cl]audius) [D]omitia(nus) [Ev]aresto”, a ceramic pot inscribed “Λολλία”, a votive monument dedicated to “Silvanus Domesticus”<sup>4</sup> and two roof tiles bearing the stamp “EX·D·P – ex(ercitus) D(aciae) P(orolissensis)”.*

**Keywords:** *Napoca, “mortarium”, “Λολλία”, “exercitus Daciae Porolissensis”, “Silvanus Domesticus”.*

Preventive archaeological research was performed on V. Deleu Street in Cluj-Napoca between 1991–2001 (Fig. 1 and Pl. I) under the coordination of a team of archaeologists from the Institute of Archaeology and History of Art in Cluj-Napoca and the National History Museum of Transylvania. An area of 900 square meters was uncovered, leading to the identification of the following habitation stages: Roman settlement, with three stages that included wooden constructions, two stages of stone-made buildings, each with one rebuilding phase; then medieval settlement, with one stage dated to the eleventh-twelfth century, another stage, that left fewer traces, from the fourteenth-fifteenth century, and a stage that included constructions used during the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries<sup>5</sup>.

The two large size Roman buildings made of stone that were researched inside this perimeter and were conventionally labeled as C1 (to the north) and C2 (to the south) are separated by an interstice. The remains of these buildings were preserved after the completion of research (P1. I/2). Unfortunately, the team could not extend the researched perimeter to the west because that would have affected the supporting wall of the neighboring building.

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<sup>4</sup> COCIȘ ET AL. 2004, 235–239.

<sup>5</sup> COCIȘ ET AL. 1995; COCIȘ ET AL. 1996; COCIȘ ET AL. 1997, COCIȘ ET AL. 1998; COCIȘ ET AL. 1999; COCIȘ ET AL. 2002.

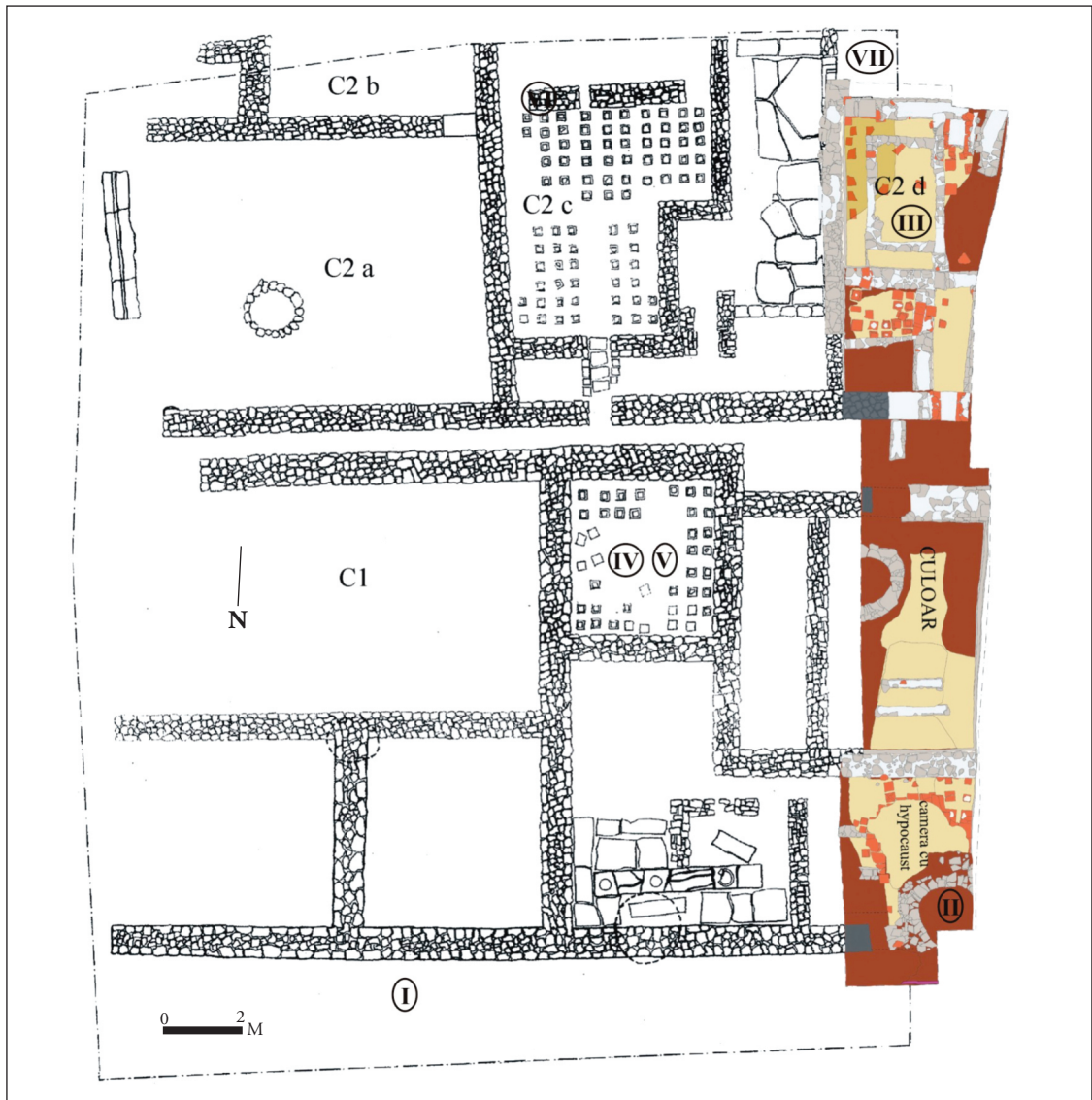


Fig. 1. Plan of the excavation, marking the points where the seven objects described in this article were found (I-VII).

In 2012, the construction of a new building on that plot that aimed at preserving the basement as an area open to the public allowed us to perform a preventive excavation that extended to the foundations of the building to the west (Fig. 1 and P1. I). This research campaign was meant to identify the western limit of the two Roman constructions and of the possible medieval and modern constructions. The perimeter researched on this occasion confirmed the previously identified stratigraphies<sup>6</sup>.

The preventive archaeological research performed in Victor Deleu Street provided valuable data on the Roman settlement of *Napoca*, related to its chronology, historical development, population<sup>7</sup>, and other aspects of Roman daily life<sup>8</sup>.

<sup>6</sup> COCIȘ ET AL. 2013, 85–86.

<sup>7</sup> RUSU-BOLINDEȚ 2007, 97–98; OPREANU 2008.

<sup>8</sup> GĂZDAC ET AL. 2003; COCIȘ ET AL. 2004; ȚIPLIC ET AL. 2004; GĂZDAC ET AL. 2010; MUSTAȚĂ ET AL. 2012.

For the present study we have only selected the epigraphic data revealed by the research on this site.

*Description of the discoveries:*

**1. Jug or cup (?)<sup>9</sup>** (Pls. III and IV/1), small in size, of which just part of the body has been preserved, i.e. in the area of maximum diameter. Made of semi-fine fabric, with inclusions or calcite and mica, oxidant firing, yellow color (10YR, 8/6 yellow). The pot seems not to have been covered in engobe or firnis. Inside one can note traces of leveling from the potter's wheel. Dimensions: d = 11.7 cm; h = 7.6 cm; h letters = 3 cm. Place of discovery: Building C1, room C6 (the room with hypocaust), from the filling of the oven (Fig. 1/II). Chronology: era of Trajan – Hadrian. MNIT, inv. no. V.63326.

Text: ΛΟΛΛΙΑ

The pot preserves on the body a *grafitto* incised in the raw but dried fabric, before firing<sup>10</sup>. The text is in Greek and renders a female name: ΛΟΛΛΙΑ (sic!). The letters are mixed: λ is in cursive writing, while vocals O, I, and A are in capitals. Reading: Λολλία.

The name inscribed on the pot is probably that of the owner. It is attested in Greek inscriptions from the oriental part of the Roman Empire<sup>11</sup>, but also in Latin inscriptions, in its Latinized form<sup>12</sup>. The name's frequency is much higher in Latin inscriptions; it is attested by over 30 epigraphic objects. The origin of this name can be traced back to the Greek-Oriental world, in some inscriptions attested as belonging to slave or freed women<sup>13</sup>. One can note that

<sup>9</sup> We thank our colleague Viorica Rusu-Bolindeş for her kind aid in the identification of the fabrics.

<sup>10</sup> The writing seems to have been made with ease, the letters are cursive, and this suggests the fact that it was incised before firing. On the other hand, the fabric inside the incisions is fired just like the rest of the pot. The pottery is of good quality, fired at an elevated temperature thus making the pot's walls very hard and impossible to incise after firing without causing visible deteriorations.

<sup>11</sup> LGPN II: Λολλία (f.), Marathon (Greece), 120–138 AD, IG II<sup>2</sup> 2776, 69f (fl. Λολλία); LGPN IV: Λολλία (f.), Salymbria (Thrace), II–I BC, IByz. nr. 45.

<sup>12</sup> The name Lollia features in more than 30 inscriptions from the Roman Empire, both in the oriental and western provinces (according to the Epigraphische Datenbank Heidelberg <http://edh-www.adw.uni-heidelberg.de> (05.08.2013): Latium et Campania (HD 016164 = AE 1990, 181a: *Lollia M(arci) l(iberta) Hermiona*; HD 003004 = AE 1984, 229: *Lolliae / [S]aturni[n]ae*); Apulia et Calabria (HD 010076 = AE 1987, 282: *Lollia Rufa*), Roma (HD 004692 = AE 1976, 105: *Lollia Athenais*); Samnium (HD 014880 = AE 1989, 251: *Lollia*; HD 016422 = AE 1990, 251: *Lollia M(arci) l(iberta)*); Sicilia (HD 018470 = AE 1953, 159: *Lollia Irenus* (!)); Noricum (HD 009242 = CIL III 5618: *Lol(liae) Atticae ... Lol(lia) Onesime / f(iliae) p(ientissimae) fecit*); HD 035219 = CIL III 5610: *Lol(lia) Pocca*; HD 042486 = AE 1978, 595: *Lollia Pro[bi]at[is]*; HD 057650 = CIL III 4746: *Lollia Probata*); Baetica (HD 011242 = AE 1971, 182: *Lolliae ... Manlianae*; HD 031136 = CIL II<sup>2</sup>, 5, 4746: *[L]olliae L(uci) f(iliae) / [M]arciana*); Belgica (HD 040547 = CIL XIII 3630: *Lol(liae) Aciliae*); Dalmatia (HD 034487 = IJug 2183: *Lol(lia) Victo[ri]na Lol(lia) Cali[sto]meno [c]on(iugi) p(iissimo?)*; HD 053715 = CIL III 12822: *D(is) M(anbius) / Lolliae / Dracontillae*; HD 061005 = CIL III 12823: *Lol(liae) / S(a)ecundi[nae] Lollia / Lupa / filia*; HD 062749 = CIL III 2421: *Lolliae Secundae / filiae*; HD 062750 = CIL III 2420: *Lollia / R(h)odope*; HD 062751 = CIL III 2419: *Lollia L(uci) l(iberta) Musa*; HD 063415 = CIL III 8897: *Lollia Pri/vata*; HD 063699 = CIL III 9097: *Lolliae / Basiliae*); Mauretania Caesariensis (HD 010132 = AE 1972, 723: *Lol(lia?) Saturni/na v(ixit) annis CV*; HD 015490 = AE 1967, 639a: *Lol(lia?) Saturni/na v(ixit) a(nnos) CV*); Africa Proconsularis (HD 011762 = AE 1973, 620: *Lollia Red/ducta*); Asia (HD 028929 = AE 1911, 146: *Lolliae Cimbri filiae Ampelio*!); Numidia (HD 041194 = IALg 2, 3021: *Lollia / Contenta*; HD 041195 = IALg 2, 3022: *Lollia M(erula)*; HD 041196 = CIL VIII 19811: *Lollia / Monni/na*; HD 041197 = IALg 2, 3024: *Lollia M(arci) filia / Silandulla*; HD 048180 = AE 2000, 1788: *Lollia Modesta*).

<sup>13</sup> See for ex.: Latium et Campania (HD 016164 = AE 1990, 181a: *Lollia M(arci) l(iberta) Hermiona*); Samnium (HD 016422 = AE 1990, 251: *Lollia M(arci) l(iberta)*); Dalmatia (HD 062751 = CIL III 2419: *Lollia L(uci) l(iberta) Musa*).

in several cases the women called *Lollia* bore either a Greek *cognomen* or belonged to families whose members were of Greek-Oriental origin<sup>14</sup>. In Dacia, the name is attested for the first time.

The pot was broken during Antiquity, but four perfectly matching fragments have been preserved. It is possible that the writing was placed upside down (from right to left), due to the reversed position in which the pot was held while the writing was incised<sup>15</sup>.

**2. Jug or cup neck fragment (?)** (Pl. IV/2) – the part towards the maximum diameter; fine fabric, with inclusions consisting of very fine calcite particles, in some places mica, oxidizing firing, light red color (2,5 YR, 7/8 light red). Possible traces of light red engobe on the outer surface, mainly in the area where the letters have been incised. Dimensions: h = 5.7 cm; l = 5 cm; h letters = 2.6 cm. Place of discovery: Building C2 (room C2d) (Fig. 1/III). Chronology: era of Trajan-Hadrian. MNIT, inv. no. V.63327.

Text: SC (?).

**3. Mortarium fragment** (Pl. II), semi-fine fabric, light pink-yellowish in color (5YR, 6/4 light reddish yellow), with inclusions consisting of small calcite particles, average-size iron oxide fragments, and sometimes mica. Inside the recipient one can note calcite and iron oxide particles in relief, included in the fabric, a trait typical to *mortaria*. Dimensions: d = 45.5 cm, b.d. = 7 cm, h = 12 cm, stamp: 5.5 × 3.8 cm, h. letters = 0.8–1.1 cm. Place of discovery: north of building C1 (Fig 1/I). Chronology: end of the second century – beginning of the third century AD. MNIT, inv. no. V.52835.

Text: [Cl(audius)] [D]omitia(nus) [Ev]aresto

The potter master's stamp is impressed on the vessel, reading [Cl(audius)] [D]omitia(nus) [Ev]aresto<sup>16</sup>. The stamp includes the writing on two rows separated by the depiction of a fir tree branch; the stamp's two ends are shallower and the writing can only be deciphered in the middle. The stamp is in negative. In the text, letter R is rendered as P (rho according to the Greek alphabet). Reading the text poses some difficulties in case of the *nomen* [D]omitia(nus). Letter D, that might have been rendered as O<sup>17</sup>, appears effaced, probably due to the vessel's prolonged use or to an imprecise impression of the stamp. The letter after O can only be read with difficulty, since it is strongly effaced, and between it and the subsequent letter from which one ascender is clearly visible, one can note certain depositions that make reading more difficult. The existence of a letter M (for *Domitianus*) is less likely, rather an N followed by I, a form for which analogies are available. Among the stamps from Dacia, even if they have been read as *Domit...* one can clearly discern letter N from *Donitia(nus)*.

The works included in the bibliography referring to this stamp extend the discussion to include both objects found in Dacia (in Romula, Slăveni, Sucidava, Apulum, Ilișua, now

<sup>14</sup> See for ex.: Latium et Campania (HD 016164 = AE 1990, 181a: *Lollia M(arci) l(iberta) Hermiona*; Roma (HD 004692 = AE 1976, 105: *Loll[ia Athen]ais*); Sicilia (HD 018470 = AE 1953, 159: *Lollia Irenus* (!)); Noricum (HD 009242 = CIL III 5618: *Lol(liae) Atticae ... Lol(lia) Onesime / f(iliae) p(ientissimae) fecit*); Dalmatia (HD 034487 = ILJug 2183: *Lol(lia) Victo[ri]na Lol(lia) Cali[sto]meno [c]on(iugi) p[ri]ssimo?*; HD 062750 = CIL III 2420: *Lollia / R(h)odope*; HD 062751 = CIL III 2419: *Lollia L(uci) l(iberta) Musa*; HD 063699 = CIL III 9097: *Lolliae / Basiliae*).

<sup>15</sup> Due to the object's fragmentary state, one cannot establish with certainty the pot's shape, though it seems to have narrowed towards the base and thus the writing would have been placed upside down.

<sup>16</sup> For the detailed publication of this stamp, with the complete bibliography, see BEU-DACHIN/COCIȘ. A stamp with the name of *Claudius Donitianus Evaresto* at Napoca (ms.). In Jahrb. RGZM 2014.

<sup>17</sup> Analogies: TUDOR 1965, 178, Fig. 1, no. 9, 186–187, no. 16; CULICĂ 1971, 333, Fig. 1, no. 2; POPILIAN 1976, Pl. XVII, no. 216, no. 217; BĂLUȚĂ 1977, 251, Fig. 4; IDR II 472; IDR III/6, 319.

also Napoca) and the provinces of Moesia Superior (Viminacium) and Inferior (Durostorum, Olbia)<sup>18</sup>.

The Greek name Εὐάρεστος (derived from the adjective εὐάρεστος, ὄν < ἀρέσκω = likeable, acceptable)<sup>19</sup>, also known under the popular variant of Εὐάριστος, consists of the particle εὖ (good) and the adjective ἀρεστός, ἡν, ὄν. The name can be encountered in the provinces of the Roman Empire<sup>20</sup> in the Latinized variant *Euarestus* or in the Greek form rendered with Latin letters *Euarestos* or *Euaresto*. The stamp from Napoca renders the proper Greek name with Latin letters, the variant *Euaresto* being a nominative singular lacking the desinence *s*. The name *Claudius Donitianus Euaresto* follows the structure of Roman names according to the *tria nomina* system. The individual bearing the name in our case seems to have been a freed man<sup>21</sup> who has inherited his master's *nomen* and *cognomen* (*Claudius Donitianus*, or maybe *Domitianus* at first), adding his own name as *cognomen*. Thus, the master's *nomen* was used as *praenomen* (abbreviated, according to the tradition of the *praenomen*), his *cognomen* was placed as a *nomen* (also abbreviated, but this time probably due to the lack of available space), and his own name (of Greek origin, given at birth) represents, in this *tria nomina* structure, the *cognomen*. The variant *Donitianus* is probably a corrupt form of the *cognomen* *Domitianus* (derived, in its turn, from the *gentilicium* *Domitius*).

The man is also attested south of the Danube, according to available data from Durostorum and Olbia in Moesia Inferior and from Viminacium in Moesia Superior. It is possible that *mortarium*-type vessels discovered on the territory of Dacia that bear this stamp were produced south of the Danube, considering the Greek-Oriental origin of the potter master's *cognomen*, and reached Napoca from southern Dacia.

**4. Roof tile fragment** (Pl. IV/3), semi-fine fabric, dark brick-red in color. Dimensions: L = 13 cm; w = 11 cm; thickness = 3 cm; L cartouche = 11 cm; w cartouche = 2.6 cm, h. letters = 2 cm. Place of discovery: building C1, room D4 (Fig. 1/IV). Chronology: 123 – 168/169 AD. MNIT, inv. no. V.41373.

Text: *Ex(ercitus) D(aciae) P(orolissensis)*

The stamp, interpreted by various authors in published specialized works as *Ex(ercitus) D(aciae) P(orolissensis)*<sup>22</sup>, is framed by a *tabula ansata*. Among the six items from Napoca (found before the items under discussion), the place of discovery is only known in case of three: two

<sup>18</sup> TUDOR 1962, 118; TUDOR 1965, 178, Fig. 1, no. 9, 186–187, no. 16; CULICĂ 1971, 331–336; POPILIAN 1976, 49, 172, Pl. XVII, no. 216, no. 217; BĂLUȚĂ 1977, 249–252; PETOLESCU 1980, 459–461; BĂLUȚĂ 1981, 264–265; PETOLESCU 1983, 173–174; PETOLESCU 1984, 72; PETOLESCU 1985, 157–171; TUDOR 1988, ed. 4, 85, Fig. 21, no. 9; IDR II 472; IDR III/6, 319; MUȘEȚEANU 2003, 106–107, 115, Pl. 39, no. 89; KRAPIVINA 1993, 65, 104–105; VARGA 2011, 175; BJELAJAC 1994, 139–148.

<sup>19</sup> LIDDELL/SCOTT 1883, s.v. εὐάρεστος.

<sup>20</sup> SOLIN 2003, 934, 935, 780, 781: slaves and freedmen called *Euarestus* and *Euaristus* are mentioned. In Canusium (Apulia et Calabria): *Euaristo lib(erto)*, AE 1986, 196 = HD 007275; *lib(ertus) Euaristus fecit*, AE 1986, 205 = HD 007302; in Astigi (Baetica): *Q(uintus) L(---) Euarist[us]*, CIL II 1500 = HD 032027; in Saloniae (Dalmatia): *L(ucio) Iulio / <E>uaristo patro/uo*, CIL III 14801 = HD 061211 (<http://edh-www.adw.uni-heidelberg.de/>) (18.07.2013).

<sup>21</sup> PETOLESCU 1980, 459, no. 5: the author was the first to present the hypothesis that the master might have been a slave or a freedman.

<sup>22</sup> This reading was suggested by A. v. Domaszewski (CIL III 8063), making reference to two bricks preserved in the collection of the MNIT (inv. no. 5962 = V. 12874 and 5963 = V. 12873), which are known to have been discovered in Napoca, but no further details are available on the context. Researchers have accepted this reading. See MACREA 1964, 158; MITROFAN 1964, 206–207; MACREA 1978, 68–86; ILD 572; RUSU-BOLINDEȚ 2007, 80–81; GREC 2010, 21–32.

were found on Horea Street, in front of the former Hotel Partizanul (present-day Chamber of Commerce)<sup>23</sup>, while the third was identified in Museum Square<sup>24</sup>. Roof tiles and bricks bearing the same stamp were also discovered in *Potaissa*, Gilău, Romita, and *Porolissum*<sup>25</sup>.

As for the dating of this item, the earliest evidence attesting the formation of Dacia Porolissensis is the military diploma from Gherla<sup>26</sup>, dated August 10, 123 (thus the province might have been created sometime between 119 and 123 AD<sup>27</sup>). The year can be considered a *terminus post quem*, and the reorganization of Dacia during the reign of Marcus Aurelius and the transfer of Legion V Macedonica to *Potaissa* (168) can be a *terminus ante quem* for bricks and tiles bearing the stamp *exercitus Daciae Porolissensis*.

**5. Roof tile fragment** (Pl. IV/4), semi-fine fabric, dark brick-red in color. Dimensions: L = 19.4 cm; w = 17.2 cm; thickness = 3.2 cm; L cartouche = 6.6 cm; w cartouche = 2.4 cm; h. letters = 2 cm. Place of discovery: building C1, room D4 (Fig. 1/V). Chronology: 123 – 168/169 AD. MNIT, inv. no. V.47587.

Text: [*Ex(ercitus)*] *D(aciae) P(orolissensis)*

**6. Votive altar** (Pl. VI/4), limestone. Dimensions: 54 × 29 × 23 cm. Dimensions of the letters: 2–4 cm; Place of discovery: building C2, room C4 (Fig. 1/VI); Chronology: end of the second century – beginning of the third century AD. Un-inventoried.

Text: [*Si*]lu

*ano Do*

*ṁ[e]ṣtiço*

*ex voto po*

sui(t) EPITOT (?)

Translation: To *Silvanus Domesticus* (monument) erected by *EPITOT* (?), following a promise.

Bibliography: COCIȘ ET AL. 2004, 235–239; PETOLESCU 2003–2004, no. 1065, 380; ILD 552; AE 2003, 1469; HD 043815 (accessed 08.08.2013).

**7. Un-inscribed altar**<sup>28</sup> (Pl. VI/1–3), limestone. Dimensions: 35.5 × 24 × 21 cm; h. base = 13.5 cm; *focus*: L = 10 cm, w = 10 cm, depth = 1.3 cm; traces of firing on the *focus*. Place of discovery: building C2, room C2c (Fig. 1/VI and Pl. V); Chronology: second half of the second century – beginning of the third century AD. MNIT, inv. no. V.63328.

<sup>23</sup> MITROFAN 1964, 206–207.

<sup>24</sup> WIETTENBERGER 1994, 17: the author mentions the discovery of a stamp EX DP, but does not mention on what type of object it was impressed (brick or tile).

<sup>25</sup> MACREA 1964, 158; MACREA 1978, 84–85; ISAC 1979, 58; ISAC 1997, 20–21, 85 (Pl. IV, Fig. 6): the author mentions several bricks with this stamp; MATEI/BAJUSZ 1997, 98, 160 (Pl. II/ 14); GUDEA 1997, 28, 107 (Fig. 18): several bricks stamped EX DP are mentioned.

<sup>26</sup> IDR I, DiplD VII.

<sup>27</sup> PISO 1993, 34.

<sup>28</sup> This item was included in the catalogue of epigraphic discoveries made on V. Deleu Street despite the fact that it lacks an inscription. We nevertheless believe that publishing it is relevant due to certain details we have noted while analyzing the monument. It was certainly prepared for an inscription. The field that was to contain the inscription was polished and then hammered in a certain area. There are no traces to indicate the existence of a text there before the hammering.

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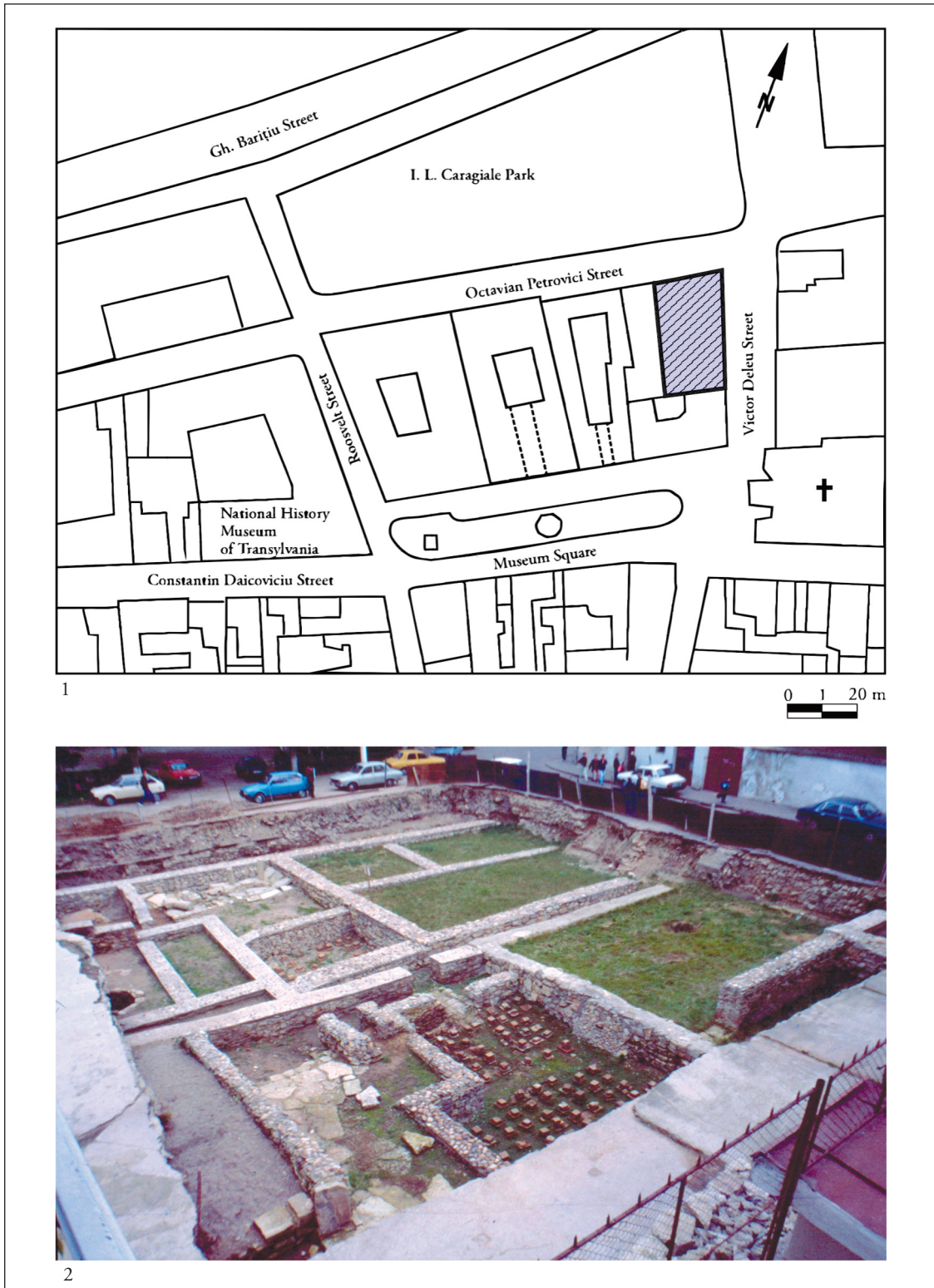
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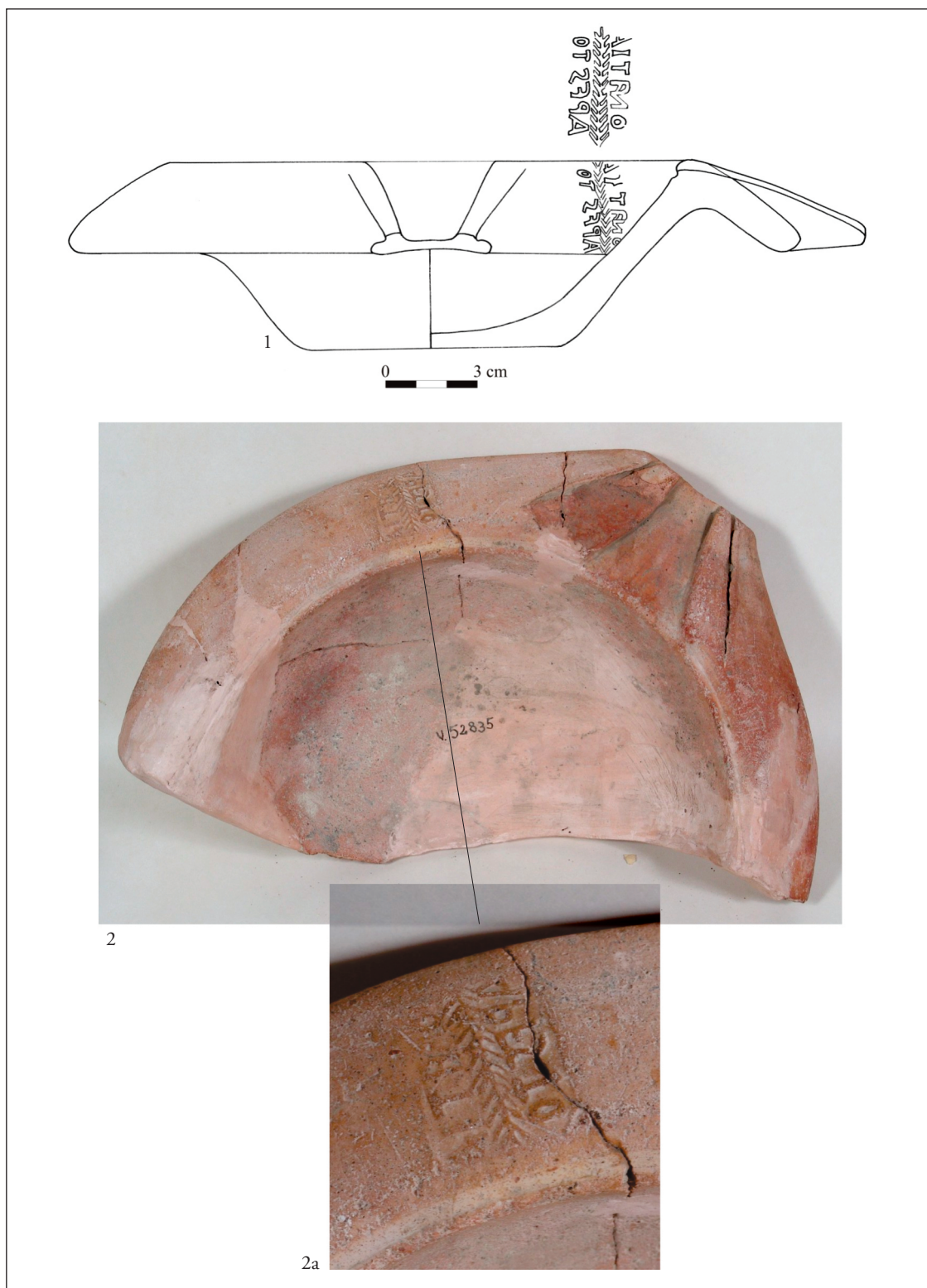
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Pl. I. 1: plan of the central part of Cluj-Napoca with the excavations from Victor Deleu Street (after MUSTAȚĂ ET AL. 2012). 2: plan of the archaeological site in V. Deleu Street.



Pl. II. *Mortarium* pictures and drawing.



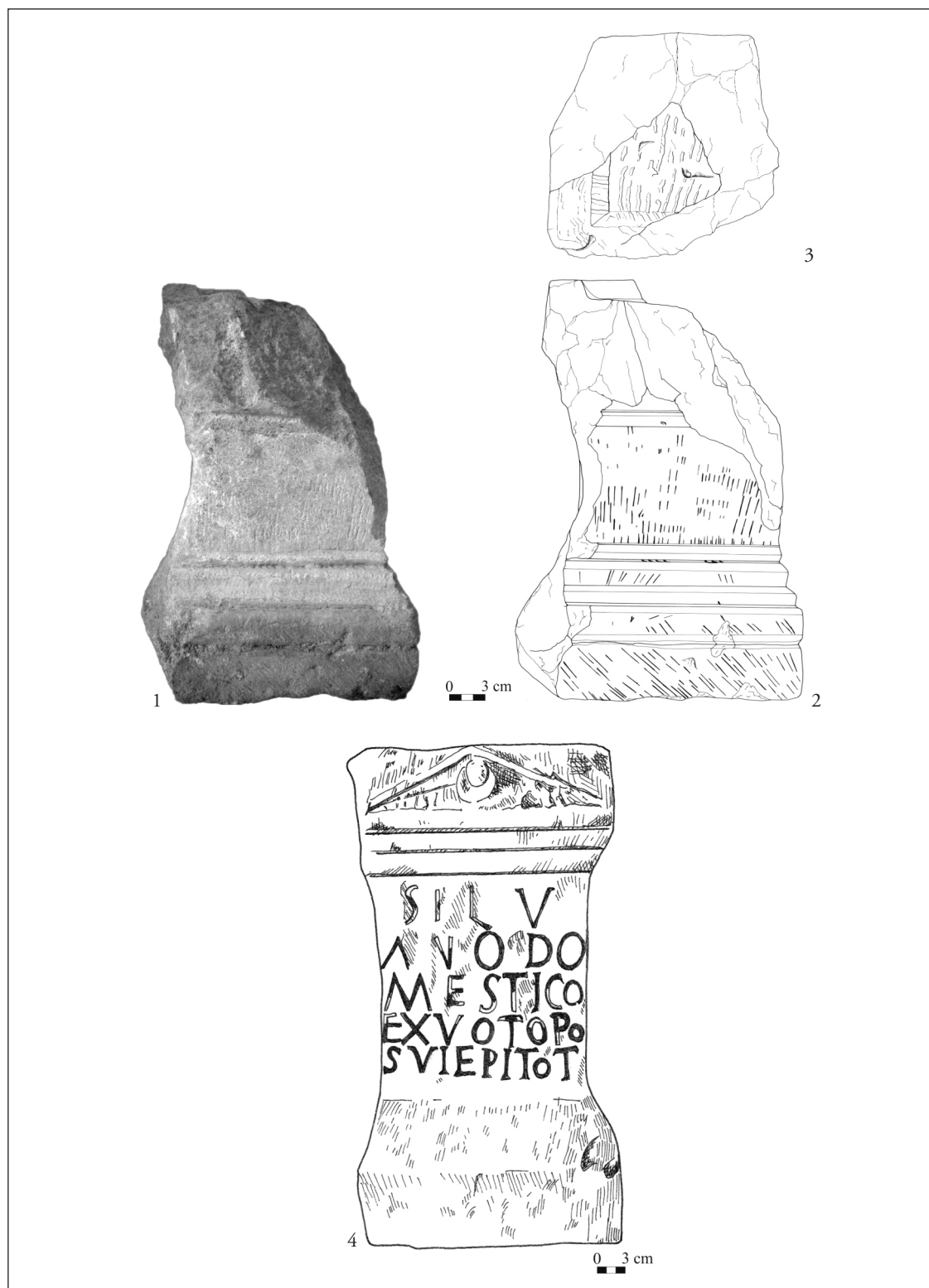
Pl. III. Piece no. 1.



Pl. IV. 1 – piece no. 1. 2 – piece no. 2. 3 – piece no. 4. 4 – piece no. 5.



Pl. V. Un-inscribed altar. *In situ* images.



Pl. VI. 1-3 – Un-inscribed altar. 4 – votive altar dedicated to *Silvanus Domesticus*.