

GLASS FINDS IN PRE-ROMAN DACIA FROM THE 2ND CENTURY BC TO THE 1ST CENTURY AD. THE GLASS VESSELS DISCOVERED IN THE SETTLEMENT OF CÂRLOMĂNEȘTI, BUZĂU COUNTY

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Keywords: pre-Roman Dacia, Cărlomănești, glass, core made, cast made, free blown, alabastra, cast grooved bowl, cast ribbed bowl.

Abstract: The glass production in the areas of the Mediterranean basin, during the Hellenistic and the Early Roman Imperial periods experienced an unprecedented effervescence, regarding the manufacturing techniques, the raw materials, the specific vessel forms and their distribution, which radiated beyond the boundaries of the “civilized world”. Glassware found in the Geto-Dacian sites from the northern Danube area is a testimony to this matter. The pieces found in the site from Cărlomănești, Buzău County, are not numerous, but they draw attention due to the variety of techniques in which they were made (core-made, cast-made, free blown), the materials from which they were made, and their use. The following of the contexts of discovery and distribution of vessels in the stratigraphy of the settlement raises challenging questions related to the pace of imports, the status, and the internal chronology of the settlement from Cărlomănești.

Rezumat: Producția de sticlă din zonele riverane bazinului mediteranean cunoaște, în perioada elenistică și în perioada imperială timpurie, o efervescență fără precedent, în ce privește tehnicile de confecționare, materia primă, formele de vase specifice și distribuția lor, care a iradiat și dincolo de fruntariile „lumii civilizate”. Produsele de sticlă descoperite în siturile geto-dacice, de la nordul Dunării, sunt mărturie în acest sens. Pieseile descoperite în situl de la Cărlomănești, județul Buzău, nu sunt numeroase, dar atrag atenția datorită varietății tehnicilor în care au fost confecționate (core-made, cast-made, free blown), a materialului din care au fost confecționate și a utilizării lor. Urmărirea contextelor de descoperire și a distribuției vaselor în stratigrafia locuirii geto-dace ridică întrebări provocatoare legate de ritmul importurilor, de statutul și de cronologia internă a așezării de la Cărlomănești.

Preliminary clarifications regarding the production of glass in the circum-mediterranean area between the 2nd century BC and the 1st century AD.

The production of glass in the Mediterranean area knows, during the Hellenistic and the Early Roman Imperial period, an unprecedented effervescence, regarding the manufacturing techniques, the shapes of specific vessels and the material from which they were made. During this period, three basic processes for making glass products are known and, implicitly, the shapes of vessels specific to each one. An older core-made technique (core of sand, clay, or organic matter, etc.), known in Egypt and the Middle East, is revitalized during the Hellenistic period, in centres of the Syro-Palestinian coast, and reaches the final phase of its development in the 2nd century BC and in the first decade of the 1st century AD.¹ The vessels obtained with this technique – amphorae, oenochoe, plops, and alabastra – were closed forms, small in size, intended for storing/serving liquids or were containers for perfumes and various flavours.² Most likely, in the workshops on the Syro-Palestinian coast, a new manufacturing technique appears, casting, which involves pressing a glass pill on an open mould.³ This technique allowed glassmakers to make open forms – bowls, plates, and cups – and broadened the horizon of an active trade, over long distances with glass products, which will enjoy great popularity at the end of the Hellenistic period and the Early Roman Imperial period.⁴ Also we owe the discovery of the process of blowing glass to the glassmakers on the Syro-Palestinian coast.⁵ The oldest vessels obtained by free blowing can be dated to about the middle of the 1st century BC,⁶ but the new way of making

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¹ Grose 1989, pp. 109, 122; Weinberg, Stern 2009, pp. 19, 21.

² Grose 1989, p. 109.

³ Weinberg 1970, pp. 17-19; Hayes 1975, p. 16; Grose 1979, p. 14; Jennings 2000, p. 42; Weinberg, Stern 2009, pp. 33-35.

⁴ Grose 1982, p. 29; Jackson –Tal 2004, p. 17; Weinberg, Stern 2009, pp. 25, 36.

⁵ Grose 1977, pp. 32-34; Hayes 1995, p. 29; Weinberg, Stern 2009, pp. 43-44.

⁶ Weinberg, Stern 2009, p. 43.