

# PERGAMIAN POTTERY DISCOVERED IN GETO-DACIAN SITES (2<sup>ND</sup> – 1<sup>ST</sup> CENTURIES BC)\*

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**Keywords:** Pergamian Pottery, Geto-Dacian sites, decorative motifs, West Slope, appliqué.

**Abstract:** The present article attempts a classification of the Pergamian ware of the 2nd century BC and 1st century AD from North of Danube based on discoveries following systematic excavations or sondages, sherds either presented within the Romanian archaeological literature or not published. Thus, Pergamian ware could be identified only in 8 of the 27 investigated sites, more precisely in the localities of Brad and Răcătău, Bacău county; Poiana, Galați county; Grădiștea and Brăilița, Brăila county; Bordușani and Piscul Crăsani, Ialomița county; Pietroasele - "Gruiu Dării", Buzău county.

**Cuvinte cheie:** ceramică pergameniană, situri geto-dacice, motive decorative, West Slope, vase cu reliefuri aplicate.

**Rezumat:** Pe baza materialului ceramic descoperit prin săpături sistematice sau sondaje, atât piese prezentate în literatura arheologică românească, cât și piese inedite, articolul de față încearcă să facă o clasificare a ceramicii pergameniene de la nordul Dunării între sec. II a. Chr. și sec. I p. Chr. Astfel, numai în 8 din cele 27 situri investigate s-a putut identifica ceramică pergameniană, și anume în localitățile Brad și Răcătău, jud. Bacău; Poiana, jud. Galați; Grădiștea și Brăilița, jud. Brăila; Bordușani și Piscul Crăsani, jud. Ialomița; Pietroasele - „Gruiu Dării”, jud. Buzău.

The Hellenistic ware and its circulation during the 2<sup>nd</sup> century BC - 1<sup>st</sup> century AD in the territory north of the Danube inhabited by the Geto-Dacians is poorly mirrored by the Romanian archaeological literature<sup>1</sup> in spite of numerous references within excavation reports, studies or monographs dedicated to certain Geto-Dacian sites systematically researched or only sondaged regarding the discovery of import pottery, "Hellenistic and Roman pottery", "Hellenistic - Roman pottery", etc.,<sup>2</sup> and, additionally, the recognition of their impact on local, especially painted pottery production.<sup>3</sup>

Therefore, I attempted to show, in accordance with the pottery material directly available to me<sup>4</sup> or the published material which I succeeded to classify based on illustrations and descriptions, which are the Pergamian pottery products present in the north of the Danube in the 2<sup>nd</sup> - 1<sup>st</sup> centuries BC.<sup>5</sup> Hence, in only 8 of the 27 investigated sites we could identify Pergamian pottery. They are located outside the Carpathian arch: Brad and Răcătău, Bacău county; Poiana, Galați county; Grădiștea and Brăilița, currently a neighbourhood of Brăila city, Brăila county; Bordușani and Piscul Crăsani, Ialomița county; and Pietroasele - "Gruiu Dării", Buzău county.

## a. West Slope

The *West Slope* style appears in Athens during the first quarter of the 3<sup>rd</sup> century BC and soon, numerous centres would produce ware decorated with light painted motifs on dark background.<sup>6</sup> The name of the class – *Keramik vom Westabhang* or *Westabhangkeramik* – was given by Carl Warzinger based on the location where pottery fragments decorated as such were firstly discovered, i.e. the western slopes of the Acropolis,

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<sup>1</sup> Lungu, Trohani 2000, pp. 137-162; Lungu 1999/2000, pp. 43-87.

<sup>2</sup> For instance: Teodor 1994, pp. 73-123; Ursachi 1994, pp. 208-225; Sanie 1973, pp. 407-435; Sârbu 1982, pp. 99-125; Sârbu-Atanasiu 1983, pp. 11-42; Crișan 2000, p. 132; Vulpe, Teodor 2003, pp. 89-95, 321-334.

<sup>3</sup> Crișan 1969, pp. 200-202; Glodariu 1974, pp. 140-142; Florea 1998, pp. 80-81.

<sup>4</sup> The pottery material available to me for this study comes from the following settlements: Brad, Bordușani, Grădiștea, Poiana and Răcătău.

<sup>5</sup> Mariana-Cristina Popescu, *Cultural Interferences in pre-Roman Dacia. The imported pottery*, PhD thesis defended in 2008 with the Babeș-Bolyai University of Cluj-Napoca, ms.

<sup>6</sup> Rotroff 1991, p. 60; Rotroff 1997, pp. 38-44; Rotroff 2002, p. 97.