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Roman Sites and Discoveries Around Potaissa (III). New Data and Clarifications Regarding the Topography of the Sites in Aiton*

Andrei-Cătălin Dîscă

Abstract: Specialized literature mentions a rural settlement, a *mansio*, and one or more *villae* in Aiton. These mentions are supported by the volume of the discoveries, on the one hand, and by the location of these discoveries along one of the main arteries of the province of Dacia, on the other hand. In fact, at the current stage of research, the topography of the Roman-Era finds in Aiton is rather poorly known, as most of the discovery spots are not located with precision in the field. In order to decide the degree to which mentions in the existing literature still stand, in 2018 I have performed a series of fieldwalking aimed at identifying and mapping the spots with discoveries. This initiative has indicated that these spots form five consistent clusters where the finds consisted of masonry traces, pottery, tools, and even coins and inscriptions. These clusters, plus the Roman road, are set considerable distances apart in the field.

Keywords: Province of Dacia; Aiton; rural settlement; *mansio*, *villa*; archaeological mapping.

General context

Located along the DJ 103G county road, about mid-distance between the cities of Cluj-Napoca (Roman Napoca) and Turda (Roman Potaissa, Fig. 1)¹, on the watershed between the rivers Mureş and Someş, the territory of Aiton village has been of interest to the human communities who have populated the area throughout history. This statement is supported by the inventory of the archaeological discoveries that includes materials from almost all eras, starting with the Neolithic and ending with the Modern Era².

During the Roman Period, Aiton was located on one of the most important roads of Dacia, the one connecting the Danube and the northern *limes* of the province, crossing the important urban centers of Ulpia Traiana Sarmizegetusa, Apulum, Potaissa, and Napoca. The location of the site on this road, at an average altitude of 620 m, in the proximity of the highest sector of the road connecting Potaissa and Napoca, has favored the development of a significant settlement in Aiton. Some of the vestiges of this settlement are still visible on site and their presence has triggered archaeological investigations ever since the beginning of the last century³, though researches have intensified especially since the second part of the 20th century. Despite these efforts, specialists have yet failed to reach conclusive results regarding the type of settlement that developed there during the Roman Era. The hypothesis that has taken shape over the last decades is that a rural settlement, a *mansio*⁴, and even one or more *villae*⁵ existed in Aiton.

Research methodology and objectives

At the current stage of research, one can state without hesitation that the volume of existing data regarding the Roman settlement in Aiton is above the average of settlements in Dacia. Nevertheless,

* English translation: Ana M. Gruia.

¹ 19 km southeast from the city center of Cluj-Napoca and 16 km north from the city center of Turda.

² Rep. Cj. 22–24, Aiton, no. 1–24; *Repertoriul Arheologic Național* – RAN codes: 55605.01 – 55605.05; 55605.07 – 55605.16, 55605.18; *Lista monumentelor istorice*, updated in 2015 – LMI codes: CJ-I-s-B-06937, CJ-I-s-B-06938, CJ-I-s-A-06939, CJ-I-s-B-06940.

³ In 1913 M. Roska performed the first proper archaeological researches in the territory of the village of Aiton.

⁴ Moşu 1990–1991, 179–180; Atlas Dacia, 114, Fig. D6; Fodorean 2015, 229.

⁵ Moşu 1990–1991, 180; Atlas Dacia, 114, Fig. D6.

even in this case, existing data are so brief that several spots with discoveries cannot be identified with certainty on site. In order to clarify these aspects, at least partially, in 2018 I have investigated this area closely through fieldwalking, in the context of a wider project that envisaged all Roman-Era sites around Potaissa⁶. Starting with 2019, the results of these researches have been published in a series of studies⁷ and the present text belongs to this series.

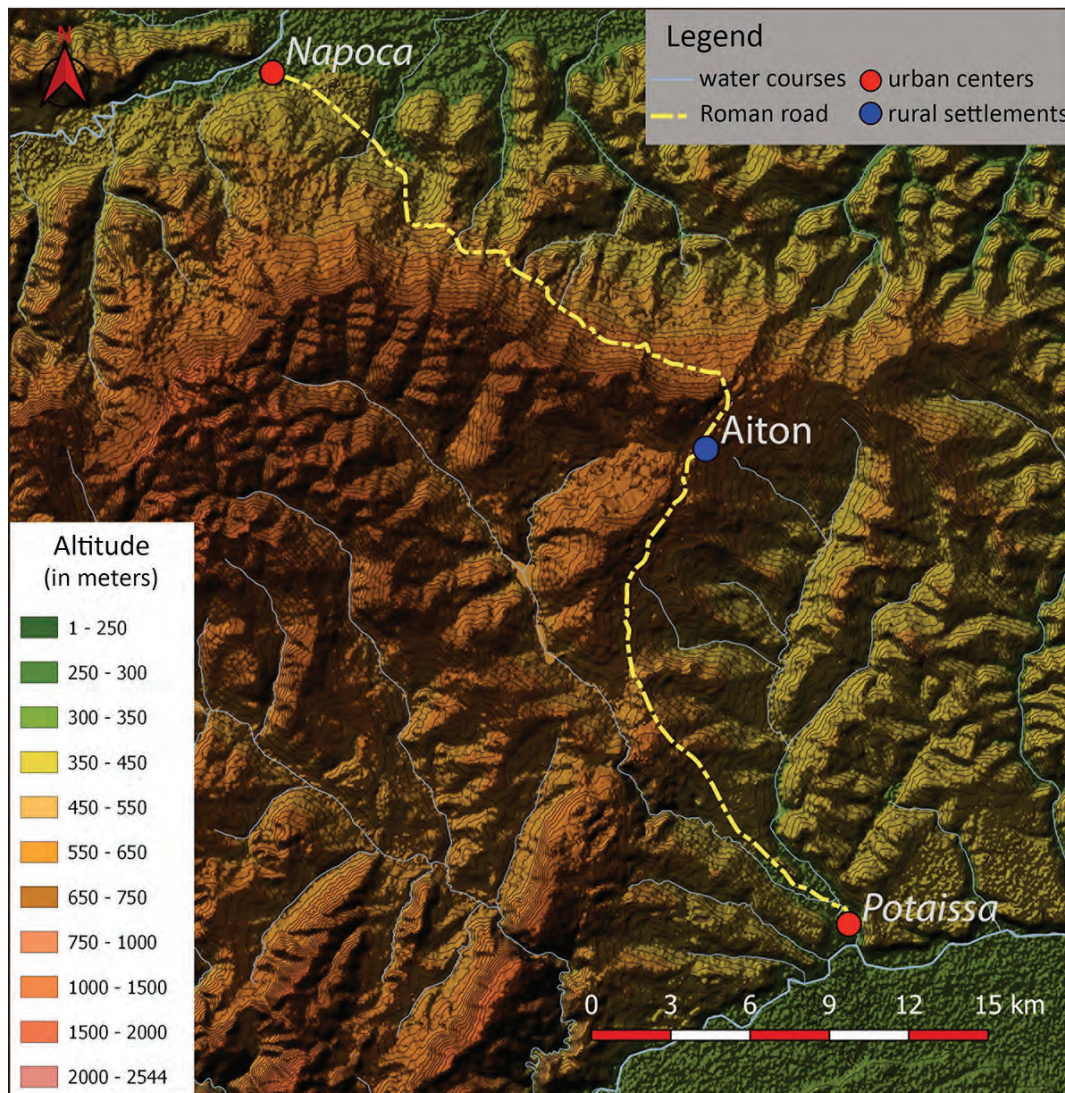


Fig. 1. Location of the Roman settlement in Aiton on the road connecting Potaissa and Napoca⁸.

From a methodological perspective, the above-mentioned research project was structured into three main stages: during the initial stage I have structured data already published in the existing literature regarding the discoveries in the envisaged area; during the second stage I have collected new data through fieldwalking aimed at identifying, delimiting and mapping Roman-Era sites using GPS devices and GIS-type mapping software (Fig. 2); during the third and final stage I have compared published data and the information I have collected during the fieldwalking.

In the case of Aiton, the present project was aimed, on the one hand, at evaluating the validity of the data in the existing literature regarding the Roman-Era settlement there and, on the other hand,

⁶ This project is part of my doctoral dissertation entitled *Perioada romană în bazinul hidrografic al Arieșului* (The Roman Period in the hydrographic basin of the Arieș) coordinated by Conf. Dr. Habil. Florin Fodorean at the “Babeș-Bolyai” University in Cluj-Napoca.

⁷ The first two studies in the series entitled *Situri și descoperiri de epocă romană din împrejurimile Potaissei* (Roman-Era sites and discoveries around Potaissa – Discă 2019, 87–102; Discă *et al.* 2019, 103–129) were published in *Sargetia* X (XLVI), SN, 2019.

⁸ Cartographic support: digital elevation model SRTM 30 m.

at revealing the functions of this settlement both in the province of Dacia and in the Roman Empire by identifying close analogies, starting from the topography of the spots with discoveries and their defining characteristics.

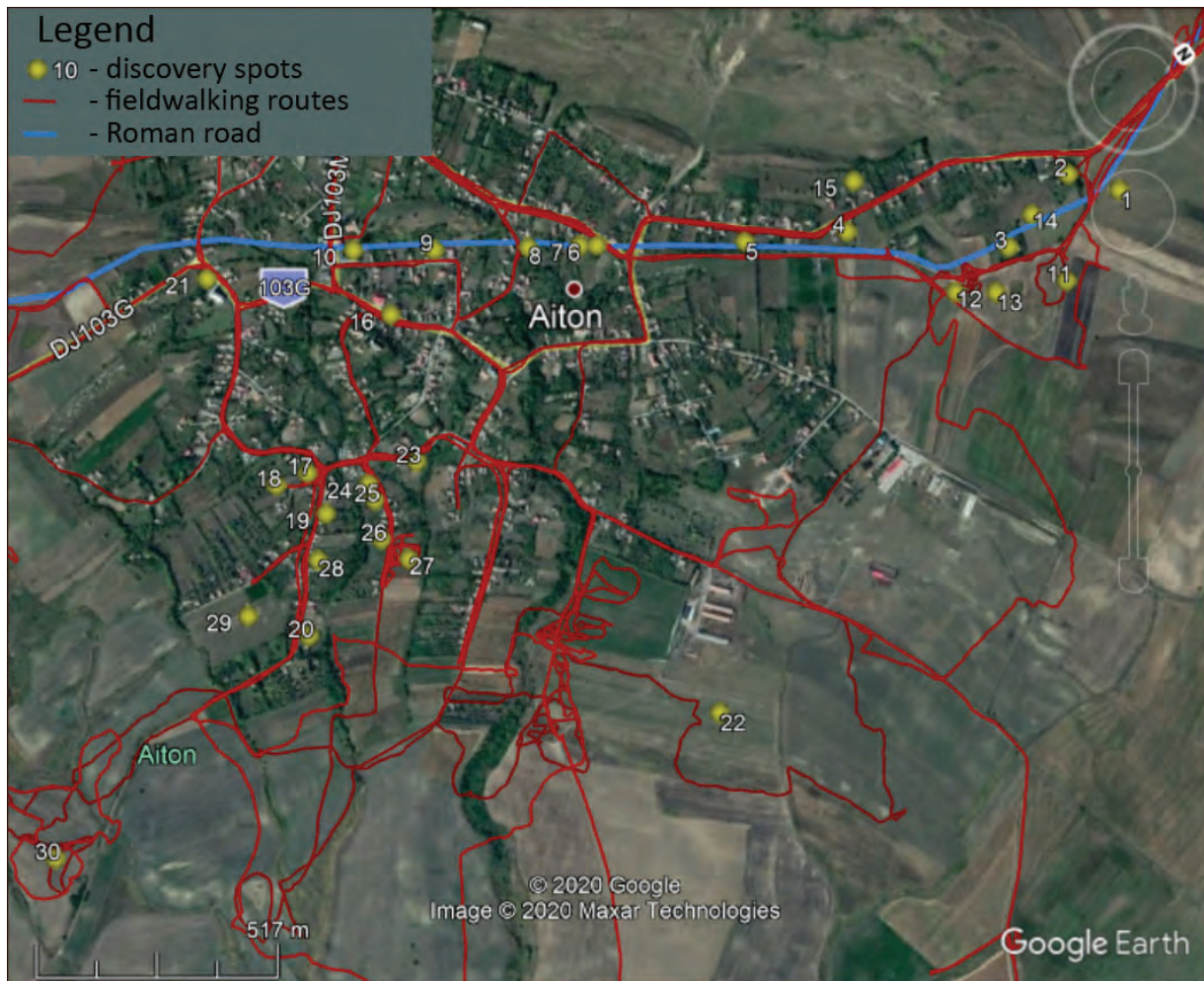


Fig. 2. Ground plan of field surveys performed on the territory of Aiton village⁹.

Spots with discoveries mentioned in the literature

As the existing sources that synthesize the information regarding the Roman-Era discoveries made on the territory of Aiton village diverge both on the number of spots with such finds and the discovered items¹⁰, in the present study I have chosen to briefly present each of the spots mentioned in the existing literature, mentioning for each of them the main data on their location and discovered materials. The presentation follows the approximate north – south location of these spots:

1) A Roman milestone was discovered in 1758 somewhere in the village territory. The milestone marked the tenth Roman mile of the road from Potaissa to Napoca¹¹ (Pl. 3/2). The monument had been erected in 108 AD by *cohors I Flavia Ulpia Hispanorum milliaria civium Romanorum equitata*, as

⁹ Cartographic support: Google Earth ortophotoplan.

¹⁰ The *Repertoriul arheologic al județului Cluj* (Archaeological repertory of Cluj County) includes 14 spots (Rep. Cj. 22–24, nos. 8–21). I. Moțu, who mainly processed the spots with discoveries of construction materials and masonry traces, indicates eight such spots (Moțu 1990–1991, 176–178, “buildings A–H”). Still, one must note that one of these spots (Moțu 1990–1991, 178, “building A”) is in fact on the territory of the village of Rediu, a considerable distance away from Aiton (Discă 2019, 87–102). *Repertoriul Arheologic Național* (The National Archaeological Repertory) mentions nine spots (RAN codes: 55605.04, 55605.05, 55605.10 – 55605.16). The 2015 *Lista monumentelor istorice* (List of historical monuments) includes two Roman-Era objectives: a settlement on the spot called “Deasupra Morii” (LMI code: CJ-I-m-A-06938.02) and the Roman road (LMI code: CJ-I-s-B-06940).

¹¹ Winkler 1982, 80–84.

the accompanying inscription clearly stated: *IMP(erator) / CAESAR NERVA / TRAIANVS AVG(ustus) / GERM(anicus) DACICVS / PONTIF(ex) MAXIM(us) / (tribunicia) POT(estate) XII CO(n)S(ul) V (sic) / IMP(erator) VI P(ater) P(atriciae) FECIT / PER COH(ortem) I FL(avia) VLP(ia) / HISP(anorum) MIL(liaria) C(ivium) R(omanorum) EQ(uitata) / A POTAISSA NAPOCAE / M(illia) P(assuum) X*¹². The milestone was published shortly after it was discovered¹³, but was subsequently lost and the only preserved depiction is a drawing included in one of M. P. Szathmári's manuscripts¹⁴. Despite the efforts researchers made in order to determine the exact spot of discovery, the only certain fact is that the monument was found in Aiton¹⁵.

2–10) Traces of the Roman road have been discovered in several spots on the territory of the village (Pl. 3/4). In the northeastern part of Aiton, the road entered the village through the yard of house no. 345 and continued southwest through the yards of houses nos. 346, 331, 330, 400, 401, 405, 431 and through the yard of the general school¹⁶. Near the mentioned spots the road was identified through a series of archaeological trial excavations performed towards the end of the 1970s. Some of the trial excavations mentioned above have led to the discovery of other items, not only the road. Thus, the trench opened in front of the house at no. 345 has revealed Roman-Era pottery and an *as* issued sometime between 141 and 161 AD for Faustina Senior¹⁷. In the proximity, in the yard of house no. 346¹⁸, archaeologists found Roman-Era pottery fragments and the handle of an imported amphora with the stamped inscription *VIRGIN* (Pl. 1/17). Based on analogies, the latter item has been dated to the first half of the 2nd century¹⁹. Further southwest, the yard of the general school has revealed one brick fragment with the stamped inscription *LEG VM(acedonica)* and Roman-Era pottery²⁰.

11) A large concentration of Roman-Era building materials was uncovered on the spot called “Locul lui Poțu”, in the northeastern part of the village, on the road to Gheorgheni, over an area of ca. 50–60 m². It consisted of cut stone, roof tiles, *tegulae mamatae*, and brick fragments for hypocaust pillars²¹. An archaeological trial excavation performed in this area has led to the uncovering of the foundations of a stone-and-mortar masonry wall, part of a building probably provided with a hypocaust heating system (Pl. 3/3). Due to the limited dimensions of the trial trench²² and the high degree of destruction of the foundations, one cannot provide many details on the ground plan of this building. The elements identified with certainty are three rooms with walls varying in thickness between 0.60 and 0.90 m. In the context of these investigations, archaeologists have also recovered numerous pottery fragments, one *sestertius* issued in Rome between 149 and 150 AD for Faustina Iunior, a “Firmalampe”-type oil lamp²³ with the stamped inscription *AVITI*, dated to the first quarter of the 2nd century²⁴ (Pl. 1/16), fine pottery with stamped decoration consisting of geometric and vegetal motifs²⁵ (Pl. 1/10–11, 14–15), *terra sigillata* fragments²⁶, iron spikes²⁷, and a column base²⁸.

12) Still on the spot of “Locul lui Poțu”, south of the above-mentioned trial trench, specialists

¹² CIL III, 1627.

¹³ Seivert 1773, 8–9, no. IX.

¹⁴ Winkler 1982, 80–84.

¹⁵ Torma 1864, 30; Winkler 1982, 80–84; Rep. Cj. 24, Aiton, no. 19; Fodorean 2015, 216–217.

¹⁶ Winkler *et al.* 1980, 66–68; Rep. Cj. 24, Aiton, no. 20; Cod RAN: 55605.04; LMI code: CJ-I-s-B-06940.

¹⁷ Winkler *et al.* 1980, 66.

¹⁸ Blăjan, Cerghe 1978, 22–23; Rep. Cj. 23, Aiton, no. 13; Cod RAN: 55605.14. M. Blăjan and T. Cerghe state that this discovery was made in the courtyard of house no. 316 that belonged at the time to a local called Nicolae Hiriț. This is most likely a typing error, as other studies (Moțu 1990–1991, 177) record the fact that Nicolae Hiriț lived at no. 346. In the proximity of the latter location one finds house no. 345 around which archaeologists found several pottery fragments, a Roman coin, and the Roman road (Winkler *et al.* 1980, 66); Another error likely features in the Rep. Cj. 23, Aiton, no. 13 and in RAN that indicate these discoveries at house no. 436 that is not mentioned in any of the studies dealing with field researched performed in Aiton.

¹⁹ Blăjan, Cerghe 1978, 22–23, Fig. 4.

²⁰ Winkler *et al.* 1980, 68, fig. 6/1.

²¹ Moțu 1990–1991, 177–178, building G.

²² The archaeological trial trench opened in 1981–1982 covered an area of 14.10 X 2.50 m.

²³ Moțu 1990–1991, 177.

²⁴ Moțu 1990–1991, 190, Pl. XXI/5.

²⁵ Moțu 1990–1991, 183–184, Pl. I/2–3, 6–7.

²⁶ Moțu 1990–1991, 184, Pl. II/3–5.

²⁷ Moțu 1990–1991, 191, Pl. XXII/4, 8–10.

²⁸ Moțu 1990–1991, 177–178.

have identified another concentration of Roman-Era construction material consisting of cut stone, mortar fragments, roof tiles and ridge tiles²⁹. A stone-and-mortar wall was observed at ground level, over a length of 3.70 m. Besides building materials and pottery, existing publications also mention the discovery on this spot of three fragmentarily preserved stone monuments: a sculptural relief, a possible column capital volute³⁰, and a possible altar³¹.

13) The following items were found in the area between the two building material clusters on the spot called “Locul lui Poțu”: elements of military equipment³², iron tools³³, and three pottery fragments with inscriptions. Two of the three partially preserved inscriptions are written in Latin letters ([...] *TR* [...]³⁴ and [... *TEMENE* ...] / [... *FVSIAM* ...]?³⁵ respectively), while the third features Greek letters (**ΚΗΠΣ**)³⁶.

14) The foundations of an L-shaped Roman-Era building with five rooms and Roman-Era pottery were discovered north of the village, near “Podul de Piatră”³⁷. The walls of the structure, built in the *opus incertum* technique, measured 0.50 m in thickness, except for the wall of the room with an apse and the southwestern wall of room D that were 0.80 m-thick (Pl. 3/1). One should also mention that the remains of a *praefurnium* were identified southwest of the latter wall and room E has revealed several hypocaust pillars. Sporadic traces of black wall painting have been preserved above the foundations³⁸.

15) There are mentions of Roman-Era pottery fragments found in ploughland northwest of Aiton, as far as the electricity lines, in a part of the village called “La Izvoare” and “Butură”³⁹.

16–20) Roman-Era pottery fragments have been identified in the courtyards of the houses at nos. 160, 83, 84, 126, and 116⁴⁰.

21) The upper part of a terracotta statuette depicting a female character was discovered in the yard of the Orthodox Church, in the southwestern part of the village. Based on its production technique,

²⁹ Moțu 1990–1991, 178, building H.

³⁰ Moțu 1990–1991, 178, Pl. XXI/7–8.

³¹ Moțu 1990–1991, 178, Pl. XXIV; I. Moțu’s study includes several conflicting pieces of information regarding this item: in two places the item is indicated on Pl. XXII (Moțu 1990–1991, 178 and Moțu 1990–1991, 183) while in fact, in the catalogue of discoveries, the item is described on Pl. XXIII and illustrated on Pl. XXIV. Also, in the text the item is reported as found near “building H” (Moțu 1990–1991, 178), but in the catalogue as “between buildings G and H” (Moțu 1990–1991, 191, Pl. XXIII).

³² Moțu 1990–1991, 178; I. Moțu’s study includes several conflicting pieces of information regarding these items, as in the text he records that they were found “in the area between buildings G and H” (Moțu 1990–1991, 178), while in the catalogue the first item is recorded “300 m northwest from building G” (Moțu 1990–1991, 190, Pl. XXII/1) and the other in “Moara, in the western part of the village” (Moțu 1990–1991, 190, Pl. XXII/2).

³³ Moțu 1990–1991, 191, Pl. XXII/7; Pl. XXIII/14.

³⁴ Moțu 1990–1991, 178, Pl. XXI/2; the letters of the inscription are stamped in negative on a roof tile.

³⁵ Moțu 1990–1991, 178, Pl. XXI/3; the inscription is a graffiti on a roof tile fragment (?).

³⁶ Moțu 1990–1991, 178, Pl. XXI/4; in connection to the text of the inscription under discussion, a graffiti on a roof tile fragment (?), one notes certain unclear aspects as in the study where the item is published the inscription features as ΚΗΠΠ (Moțu 1990–1991, 182), while in the catalogue of discoveries it is listed as ΚΗΠΣ (Moțu 1990–1991, Pl. XXI/4).

³⁷ Roska 1915, 48–50; Blăjan, Cerghei 1977, 141, Fig. 10; Blăjan, Cerghei 1978, 21; Rep. Cj. 23, Aiton, no. 9; RAN code: 55605.10; In Rep. Cj. 23, Aiton, no. 9 and RAN, the spot called “Podul de Piatră” one notes the erroneous location of this toponym west of the village. The correct identification of this toponym north of the village is supported both by the authors of field researches in Aiton over the past decades (Moțu 1990–1991, 178; Blăjan, Cerghei 1977, 140) and by the locals that I have questioned during the research part of the present study. D. Tudor (Tudor 1968, 218–219) is probably the one who erred in the first place, as he is the first to state that the site was mentioned west of the village.

³⁸ Roska 1915, 48–50; one must still mention that the mentioned study includes a piece of contradicting evidence regarding the thickness of the walls: the Hungarian text indicates that the southwest wall of room D and the walls of the rooms with an apse measure 0.8 m, while the French abstract records the thickness of 0.6 m (Roska 1915, 50).

³⁹ Rep. Cj. 23, Aiton, no. 16; the data regarding these discoveries is probably correct, but the location of the spot on the map in Rep. Cj. 21, Fig. 3/16 is wrong. The site is placed much farther, beyond the electricity lines, on the territory of the village of Gheorgheni, a significant distance away from the territory of the village of Aiton. The electricity lines northwest of Aiton exit the village following a route oriented northeast, parallel to county road DJ 103G leading to Gheorgheni. 140 m after the lines exit the village, they follow a close curve and turn in the opposite direction in 150 m, continuing to the southwest for another 570 m until the relay tower and antennas on Cioltul Mare Hill. Taking this into account and the fact that agriculture is only practiced in this area on a few plots in the proximity of the houses and that the rest of the land consists of pastures, one can presume that the spot with discoveries is located close to the route exiting the village towards Gheorgheni, west of DJ 103G, in close proximity of the village. The discoveries made in “Podul de piatră” and “Locul lui Poțu” are located close by.

⁴⁰ Blăjan, Cerghei 1978, 21–22; Rep. Cj. 23, Aiton, no. 15; RAN code: 55605.16.

stylistic traits, and rendered details of dress, the item has been dated to the first part of the 2nd century AD⁴¹.

22) Significant quantities of Roman-Era building materials and numerous prehistoric pottery fragments were identified east-northeast of the village, on the spot called “Între Pâraie”, on a terrace, approximately 500–600 m northeast from the last house of the village. A Roman-Era channel is mentioned north of the construction materials cluster. The feature was identified over a length of 6.80 m. The channel, V-shaped in profile, was made of flagstones⁴². Among the items recovered from this spot, existing publications mention: fine pottery with stamped decoration consisting of geometric and vegetal motifs⁴³ (Pl. 1/9, 12–13), *terra sigillata*⁴⁴ and *terra nigra*⁴⁵ fragments, iron tools⁴⁶, as well as a fragmentary inscription ([...] *G H I H* [...])⁴⁷ stamped on a roof tile.

23) A Roman stone wall was identified in the courtyard of house no. 186. It measured 7.10 m in length and during the 1980s was used as foundation for a stable. Three rows of masonry were still preserved of this Roman wall, oriented northeast-southwest⁴⁸.

24) A Roman-Era channel was researched through archaeological excavations in the courtyard of house no. 130. It measured 11.6 m in length and contained numerous Roman-Era pottery fragments. On top of the channel, archaeologists have also identified three fragments from two stone monuments, one of which was probably an altar dedicated to I.O.M.⁴⁹

25) Published mentions record the foundations of a stone-and-mortar Roman-Era building in the courtyard of house no. 131⁵⁰ and a channel dated to the same period⁵¹.

26) One corner from a stone substructure built in the dry wall technique was researched through archaeological excavations in the courtyard of house no. 135. Several pottery fragments dated to the Bronze Age, Hallstatt, and the Roman Era were recovered on that occasion⁵².

27) Fragments of roof tiles, ridge tiles, and stone blocks were identified on the spot called “La Cânepi”/ “Cânepi”, southeast of the village⁵³. In this spot, the *Repertoriul arheologic al județului Cluj* (Archaeological repertory of Cluj County) mentions a Roman-Era building identified during as yet unpublished archaeological excavations. The building extended over 17.6 m in length and 14 m in width. In depth, its foundations were made of stone and clay, while above ground the wall was made of beams. The inner space was divided into several rooms and in the upper part it was protected by a tile roof⁵⁴.

28) Segments of two walls probably erected during the Roman Era were identified in the courtyard of house no. 121⁵⁵.

29) Roman pottery fragments and sandstone fragments are mentioned approximately 1 km upstream creek Togu, on a right-hand side terrace⁵⁶.

⁴¹ Blăjan, Cerghi 1978, 24, Fig. 5; Rep. Cj. 23, Aiton, no. 14; RAN: code 55605.15.

⁴² Moțu 1981, 293–294, Fig. I–XI; Moțu 1990–1991, 176–177, building F; 194 Fig. 2.

⁴³ Moțu 1981, 297, Fig. VIII/20; Moțu 1990–1991, 183–184, Pl. I/1, 4–5.

⁴⁴ Moțu 1990–1991, Pl. II/6.

⁴⁵ Moțu 1990–1991, Pl. II/2.

⁴⁶ Moțu 1990–1991, 191, Pl. XXIII/11–13.

⁴⁷ Moțu 1990–1991, Pl. XXI/1.

⁴⁸ Moțu 1990–1991, 176, building D.

⁴⁹ Rep. Cj. 23, Aiton, no. 12; RAN code: 55605.13.

⁵⁰ Moțu 1990–1991, 176, building E.

⁵¹ This is most likely the result of a confusion, as the study mentioned as original source for this piece of information (Blăjan, Cerghi 1978, 21 and the following pages) includes nothing regarding the existence of a channel in the yard of house no. 131.

⁵² Rep. Cj. 23, Aiton, no. 11; RAN code: 55605.12.

⁵³ Blăjan, Cerghi 1977, 140; Blăjan, Cerghi 1978, 21–22; Rep. Cj. 23, Aiton, no. 10; RAN code: 55605.11; the indications in Rep. Cj. 23, Aiton, no. 10 regarding the location are correct, but on the map in Rep. Cj. 21, Fig. 3/10 the site is erroneously placed.

⁵⁴ Rep. Cj. 23, Aiton, no. 10.

⁵⁵ Blăjan, Cerghi 1978, 22; Moțu 1990–1991, 176; Rep. Cj. 23, Aiton, no. 15; RAN code: 55605.16.

⁵⁶ Blăjan, Cerghi 1978, 22; Rep. Cj. 23, Aiton, no. 17; the location of this spot is rather problematic as the study that published the piece of information does not include all necessary data. The suggested location of the spot in Rep. Cj. 21, Fig. 3/17 is also problematic, as no creek can be found in the indicated area. For the location here I have started from the topographic plan employed by D. Ursuț while researching the Potaissa-Napoca Roman road sector (Planul topografic 1:5000, L-34-48-D-c-3-III, printed in 1974). On this plan, preserved at the Institute of Classical Studies of the Babeș-Bolyai University, Cluj-Napoca, one notes a pencil-written label “Pârâul Togu” near the right arm of Cânepii Creek.

30) Remains of Roman masonry are mentioned 0.5 km southwest of the village⁵⁷.

31) Stray finds made in Aiton have led to the recovery of the following items: one fragment from a limestone statuette, the preserved part of which probably depicted Jupiter's head,⁵⁸ one fragment from a female terracotta statuette⁵⁹, a bronze *as* issued in Rome by Aelius Hadrianus between 119 and 138, and a *sestertius* with *Provincia Dacia* issued during the reign of Phillip the Arab (247 AD)⁶⁰.

The results of the field surveys

The archaeological fieldwalking performed in Aiton was aimed at identifying the house yards where discoveries have been made in the village⁶¹, on the one hand, and at delimiting the Roman-Era sites outside the village⁶², on the other hand. Mapping the data collected during these field surveys, it has become apparent that the discoveries cluster into six main areas: I) the Roman road; II) the north-eastern part of the village; III) the central-western part of the village; IV) east-northeast of the village; V) the southern part of the village; VI) southwest of the village (Fig. 4⁶³).



Fig. 3. Materials from the Roman road, on the border between the villages of Aiton and Gheorgheni.

I) The Roman road connects in Aiton the discoveries described above at nos. 2–10; during my fieldwalking I have identified nos. 2–5, 7–8, and 10⁶⁴ (Fig. 4). Outside the village, the traces of the Roman road, consisting of gravel and flagstones, were identified in the plow layer both to the northeast and

⁵⁷ Blăjan, Cerghi 1978, 22; Rep. Cj. 23, Aiton, no. 18; I found no Roman-Era material where this spot is located on the map in the repertory, despite the fact that visibility was excellent on the surface of the plow layer that covered the entire area. The spot of this discovery could be rather the one identified during the field researches performed south-southwest of the village.

⁵⁸ Pop 1971, 553–554, no. I.2, Fig. 1/2.

⁵⁹ Moțu 1990–1991, 190, Pl. XXI/6.

⁶⁰ Moțu 1981, 298, no. 44, 45.

⁶¹ In order to verify if the numbering of the houses changed over the last decades, I asked several of the local inhabitants and all said no. This is confirmed by the fact some of the houses (e.g. nos. 154 and 345) feature two number plates, one older and one newer, indicating the same number.

⁶² When a site was identified on the ground, I carefully investigated the adjacent area in order to identify the area with scattered archaeological materials. I have thus recorded with GPS devices all the routes of my field surveys and then mapped them.

⁶³ Cartographic support: Planurile directeare de tragere, indicative 3068 – Aiton, Id 291, printed in 1956.

⁶⁴ Geographic coordinates: 2) house no. 345: 46°41'40.19"N, 23°44'38.97"E; 3) house no. 346: 46°41'34.45"N, 23°44'42.24"E; 4) house no. 331: 46°41'25.62"N, 23°44'30.42"E; 5) house no. 330: 46°41'19.08"N, 23°44'25.46"E; 7) house no. 401: 46°41'9.69"N, 23°44'15.87"E; 8) house no. 405: 46°41'6.02"N, 23°44'14.00"E; 10) the yard of the general school: 46°40'55.80"N, 23°44'3.87"E.

to the southwest of Aiton (Fig. 3). The road enters the village territory on the watershed between the rivers Mureş and the Someş⁶⁵, and after continuing for 0.5 km southwards it enters in Aiton, crossing it for a distance of 2.3 km. From the place the road exists the village and until it reaches the border of the village of Ceanu Mic one can note obvious traces of the feature in the plow layer, over almost the entire 2.5 km distance that it covered until that point⁶⁶. In total, the Roman road crosses the territory of Aiton village over a distance of 5.3 km, following a route rather similar to that of county road DJ 103G.

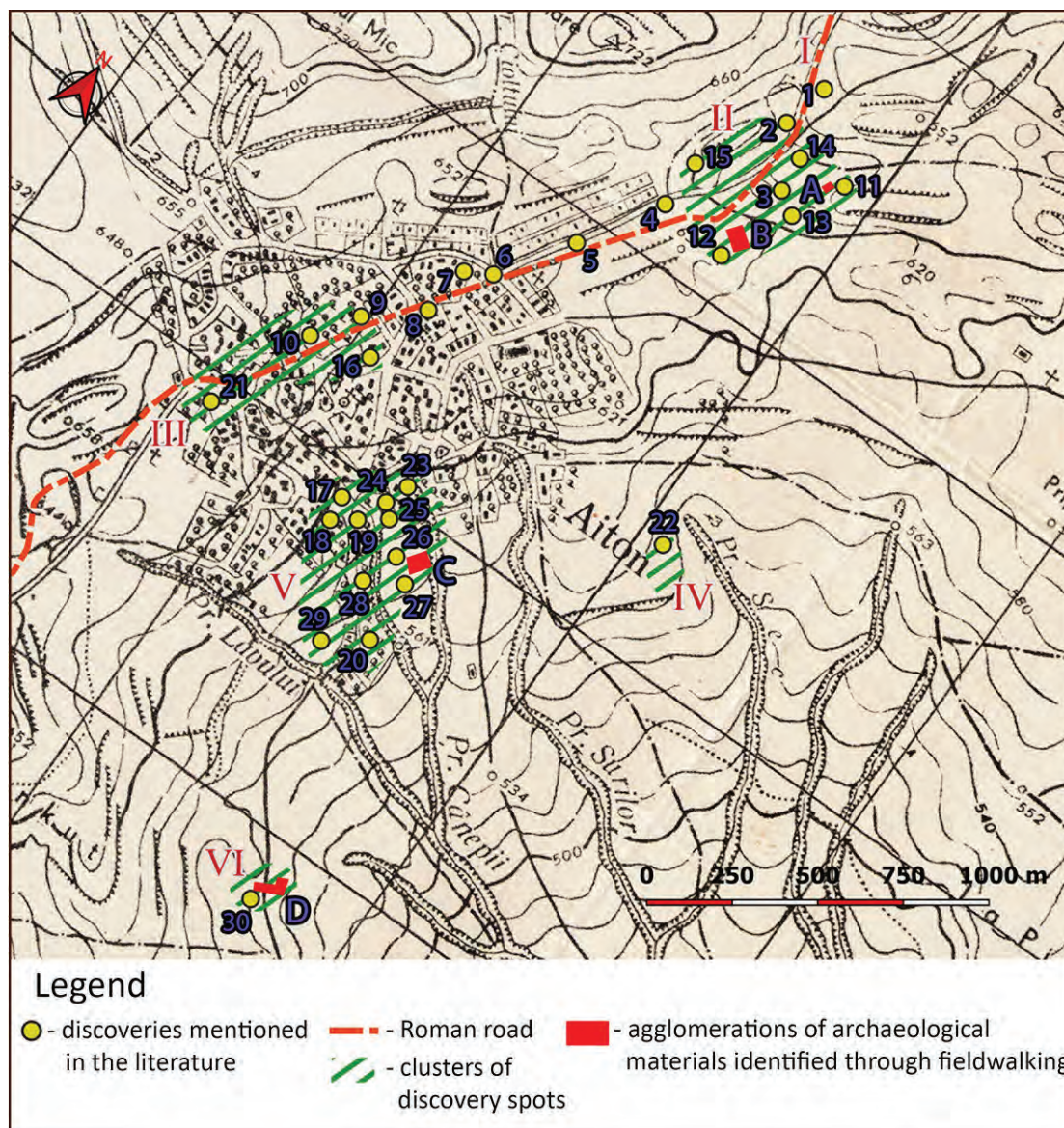


Fig. 4. Topography of the Roman Era discoveries made in Aiton (**Arabic numbers** – discoveries mentioned in the literature: 1 – the milestone; 2 – house no. 345; 3 – house no. 346; 4 – house no. 331; 5 – house no. 330; 6 – house no. 400; 7 – house no. 401; 8 – house no. 405; 9 – house no. 431; 10 – yard of the general school; 11 – “Locul lui Poțu” north; 12 – “Locul lui Poțu” south; 13 – “Locul lui Poțu” center; 14 – “Podul de Piatră”; 15 – “La Izvoare” and “Butură”; 16 – house no. 160; 17 – house no. 83; 18 – house no. 84; 19 – house no. 126; 20 – house no. 116; 21 – yard of the Orthodox church; 22 – “Între Păraie”; 23 – house no. 186; 24 – house no. 130; 25 – house no. 131; 26 – house no. 135; 27 – “La Cânepi”; 28 – house no. 121; 29 – upstream Creek Togu; 30 – 0.5 km southwest of the village; **Roman numbers** – clusters of discovery spots: I – Roman road; II – in the northeastern part of the village; III – in the central-western part of the village; IV – east – northeast from the village; V – in the southern part of the village; VI – southwest from the village; **letters** – agglomerations of archaeological materials identified through fieldwalking: A – “Locul lui Poțu” north; B – “Locul lui Poțu” south; C – “La Cânepi”; D – southwest of the village).

⁶⁵ Geographic coordinates: 46°41'54.29"N, 23°44'33.61"E.

⁶⁶ More consistent traces of the Roman road were identified on the following spots: 1) 46°40'38.32"N, 23°43'50.72"E; 2) 46°40'20.02"N, 23°43'45.59"E; 3) 46°39'49.78"N, 23°43'15.78"E.

II) In the northeastern part of the village, along the Roman road, one notes the concentration of the discoveries mentioned at nos. 2–3 and 11–15. The first two have been identified with certainty during fieldwalking⁶⁷. Also, two agglomerations of archaeological materials have been identified northeast of the village, on both sides of the cobblestone road (Fig. 5), consisting of Roman-Era pottery (Pl. 2/1–3, 6), fragments of cut stone, and pieces of simple and ridge roof tiles. The first agglomeration, labeled A, was located ca. 120 m northeast of house no. 346 and covered an area of 0.10 ha (Fig. 4/A). The second agglomeration, labeled B, was located ca. 110 m S of the above-mentioned house and covered an area of 0.35 ha (Fig. 4/B). These two agglomerations of archaeological materials are very likely the discovery place of the finds described under nos. 11 and 12, while the area between them might be the place of discovery of the finds mentioned under no. 13⁶⁸.



Fig. 5. House no. 346 and the arable plot on the spot called “Locul lui Poțu”.

III) The spots with discoveries mentioned at nos. 10, 16, and 21 are clustered in the central-western part of the village. All of these spots have been identified during my field surveys⁶⁹ (Fig. 4/III).

IV) Only the discoveries described at number 22 are located east-northeast of the village (Fig. 4/IV). These discoveries were most likely made in the proximity of the former state stables erected during the Communist regime east-northeast of Aiton, as one exits the village. I have reached this conclusion analyzing the data presented by I. Moțu⁷⁰ and the 1:5000 Topographic Survey⁷¹ on which the toponym “Între Pâraie” features east-southeast of the village, on the right bank of Creek Surilor. The site was not identified during my fieldwalking as at the time the entire area in the vicinity of the stables was covered by perennial cultures and I was thus unable to observe possible archaeological materials.

V) The discoveries mentioned at nos. 17 – 20 and 23 – 29 are clustered in the southern part of the village, ca. 0.5 km south of the Roman road. This cluster reunites the most numerous discovery points (Fig. 4/V). Most of the spots mentioned in this area have been identified on site⁷². The only uncertainty relates to the discoveries described under no. 29. During my fieldwalking performed southeast of the village, between the road that passes in front of the house at no. 135 and Cânepi Creek, over an area of 0.30 ha, I have noted in the plow layer an agglomeration of archaeological materials con-

⁶⁷ Geographic coordinates: 2) house no. 345: 46°41'40.19"N, 23°44'38.97"E; 3) house no. 346: 46°41'34.45"N, 23°44'42.24"E.

⁶⁸ Geographic coordinates: cluster A: a) 46°41'36.74"N, 23°44'47.44"E; b) 46°41'36.50"N, 23°44'48.38"E; c) 46°41'35.54"N, 23°44'47.84"E; d) 46°41'35.84"N, 23°44'46.90"E; cluster B: a) 46°41'31.85"N, 23°44'41.83"E; b) 46°41'30.47"N, 23°44'44.15"E; c) 46°41'28.89"N, 23°44'42.33"E; d) 46°41'30.33"N, 23°44'40.08"E; the areas between clusters A-B): a) 46°41'36.45"N, 23°44'44.88"E; b) 46°41'35.27"N, 23°44'48.47"E; c) 46°41'30.17"N, 23°44'44.88"E; d) 46°41'31.25"N, 23°44'42.47"E.

⁶⁹ Geographic coordinates: 10) the yard of the general school: 46°40'55.80"N, 23°44'3.87"E; 16) courtyard of house no. 160: 46°40'55.31"N, 23°44'11.54"E; 21) the yard of the Orthodox church: 46°40'46.05"N, 23°43'57.67"E.

⁷⁰ Moțu 1981, 293–294, Fig. I – XI; Moțu 1990–1991, 176–177, “building F”; 194, Fig. 2.

⁷¹ L-34-48-D-c-3-III, printed in 1974.

⁷² Geographic coordinates: 17) house no. 83: 46°40'44.14"N, 23°44'19.85"E; 18) house no. 84: 46°40'41.83"N, 23°44'19.04"E; 19) house no. 126: 46°40'43.47"N, 23°44'24.24"E; 20) house no. 116: 46°40'37.44"N, 23°44'33.51"E; 23) house no. 186: 46°40'50.85"N, 23°44'25.03"E; 24) house no. 130: 46°40'47.26"N, 23°44'24.31"E; 25) house no. 131: 46°40'46.91"N, 23°44'26.09"E; 26) house no. 135: 46°40'45.74"N, 23°44'29.77"E; 28) house no. 121: 46°40'41.16"N, 23°44'27.89"E.

sisting of cut stone blocks, fragments of roof tiles, bricks, and ridge tiles (Fig. 6), as well as numerous Roman-Era pottery fragments (Pl. 2/4–5, 10, 12–13). This agglomeration, labeled C⁷³ (Fig. 4/C), represents according to all indications the spot of the discoveries described in the specialized literature as from the place called “La Cânepi”. Besides Roman-Era materials, this area has also revealed items dated to numerous other eras, starting with Prehistory and ending with the Modern Era.



Fig. 6. Archaeological materials scattered in the plow layer on the spot called “La Cânepi”.

VI) Only the discoveries described under no. 30 are mentioned southwest of the village. During the fieldwalking, 0.5 km southwest of the village and Lavului Creek, over an area of ca. 0.20 ha. I have identified an agglomeration consisting of Roman-Era pottery fragments (Pl. 2/7–9, 11, 14) and pieces of sandstone. This agglomeration, labeled D⁷⁴ (Fig. 4/D), is probably also the place of discovery of the finds indicated under no. 30.

During the field surveys, in the southeastern part of the village, on both sides of Surilor Creek, two more spots where prehistoric and Migrations-Era materials are frequently found have also been identified⁷⁵. Prehistoric items are mostly found on the spot located on the left bank of the above-mentioned creek⁷⁶ (Pl. 1/1–6, 8), while the items dated to the 1st millennium AD become apparent mostly on the spot on the right bank⁷⁷ (Pl. 1/7).

Observations and interpretations regarding the topography of Aiton during the Roman Era

In 1915 M. Roska published the building that he had investigated in Aiton and interpreted as a Roman *villa*⁷⁸. His interpretation was subsequently adopted without much hesitation in the specialized literature⁷⁹. The hypothesis was first debated almost five decades after its original publication, in

⁷³ Geographic coordinates: a) 46°40'46.12"N, 23°44'30.77"E; b) 46°40'47.61"N, 23°44'32.25"E; c) 46°40'46.84"N, 23°44'33.91"E; d) 46°40'44.95"N, 23°44'32.31"E.

⁷⁴ Geographic coordinates: a) 46°40'15.45"N, 23°44'37.33"E; b) 46°40'14.23"N, 23°44'37.71"E; c) 46°40'12.90"N, 23°44'34.18"E; d) 46°40'13.46"N, 23°44'33.76"E.

⁷⁵ Other finds have been mentioned from this area in the existing specialized literature: Blăjan, Cerghi 1977, 131–135; Blăjan, Tatai-Baltă 1978, 33; Rep. Cj. 22, Aiton, no. 2.

⁷⁶ Geographic coordinates: a) 46°40'54.77"N, 23°44'45.41"E; b) 46°40'50.20"N, 23°44'46.70"E; c) 46°40'45.58"N, 23°44'56.19"E; d) 46°40'48.34"N, 23°45'0.25"E; e) 46°40'53.44"N, 23°44'54.54"E; f) 46°40'56.20"N, 23°44'49.10"E.

⁷⁷ Geographic coordinates: a) 46°40'46.92"N, 23°44'43.61"E; b) 46°40'43.17"N, 23°44'47.12"E; c) 46°40'39.32"N, 23°44'51.06"E; d) 46°40'40.96"N, 23°44'54.18"E; e) 46°40'46.91"N, 23°44'51.07"E; f) 46°40'49.27"N, 23°44'46.20"E.

⁷⁸ Roska 1915, 48–50.

⁷⁹ Tudor 1968, 218–219, with the mention that the spot is erroneously placed in the western part of the village; Macrea 1969, 293–294; Protase 2001, 170.

the context of a study focusing on the *villae* of Roman Dacia⁸⁰. In this study I. Mitrofan claimed that the stone wall structure that M. Roska researched in Aiton should rather be connected to a *mansio* because a single building is known, not very large, in the proximity of the Roman road, about mid distance between Potaissa and Napoca⁸¹. The field researches performed over the last decades have revealed numerous other spots with Roman-Era discoveries in Aiton, considerable distances apart. The increasingly preferred hypothesis envisages the existence of a rural settlement, a *mansio*⁸², and possibly one or more *villae*⁸³. Still, there are also more cautious approaches. Some authors believe that a rural-type habitation existed during Roman Era in Aiton, but in the absence of detailed topographic surveys or of inscriptions one cannot decide upon the exact type of rural settlement⁸⁴.

The ground researches published in the present article clearly indicate that five habitation cores existed in Aiton during the Roman Era, represented by the clusters of discoveries described above under numbers II-VI. Among them, the most significant, both as inventory and extent, are the clusters described under number II, in the northeastern part of the village, and under number V, in the southern part of the village. The first covered an area of ca. 11 ha., while the second extended over ca. 14 ha. The habitation core described under number IV, located east-northeast of the village, includes a relatively large inventory of items, but the area it covered has not been determined. One can only infer, starting from the data presented by I. Moțu in connection to the size of this core, that it included either a single building, or a small number of constructions⁸⁵. The habitation cores described under number III in the central-western part of the village and VI located southwest of the village, are modest both in term of their inventory and covered area: the first extends over ca. 5.5 ha, and the second over ca. 1.5 ha. On site, the distances between the five habitation cores presented above vary between 0.5 and 1 km.

In order to sketch the functions that the settlement in Aiton might have fulfilled during the Roman Era, I shall present below several settlements with similar characteristics, located both in the province of Dacia and in other provinces of the empire. By settlements with similar characteristics I envisage settlements with several habitation cores located along first-rank roads, in places of crossing between different geographic areas, where comparable discoveries have been made.

The first example of such a settlement is located in Seveux, in the present-day French department of Haute-Saône, part of the province of Germania Superior starting with the Flavian Era. The main core of the settlement in Seveux, located by the Roman road connecting Besançon and Langres, on the spot where it crossed the river Saône, covered an area of ca. 35 ha on both sides of the mentioned road. The same settlement probably also included the other smaller habitation cores identified at distances of ca. 1–1.5 km away from the road and the main core. A *villa* was located less than 1 km from the main core of the settlement, while other five were identified over a radius of at most 5 km from it. The settlement in Seveux fulfilled several functions: agricultural center, center of bronze and iron processing, and station on the Roman road between Besançon and Langres, as the *Tabula Peutingeriana* mentions a *mansio* there⁸⁶.

A Roman settlement dated between the end of the 1st century and the beginning of the 5th century AD was identified in the vicinity of the present-day village of Scole, on the border between the counties of Norfolk and Suffolk, in the Roman province of Britannia⁸⁷. This settlement had several habitation cores, covering several hectares each, on both sides of River Waveney, at the intersection of the Camulodunum – Venta Incenorum road with a second-rank road running along the valley of the above-mentioned river⁸⁸. Existing data suggest that the inhabitants of the settlement from Scole were less active in agriculture and more engaged in manufacture and possibly animal husbandry, as indicated by traces of iron, bronze and possibly animal skins and furs processing⁸⁹.

In Gallia Belgica, at Marsal, in the French department of Moselle, archaeologists have researched

⁸⁰ Mitrofan 1973, 127–150.

⁸¹ Mitrofan 1973, 149–150, footnote 51.

⁸² Moțu 1990–1991, 179–180; Atlas Dacia 114, Fig. D6; Fodorean 2015, 229.

⁸³ Moțu 1990–1991, 180; Atlas Dacia 114, Fig. D6.

⁸⁴ Nemeti *et al.* 2003, 69–70.

⁸⁵ Moțu 1990–1991, 176–177.

⁸⁶ Rorison 2001, 192–193.

⁸⁷ Ashwin, Tester 2014, 216–218.

⁸⁸ Allen, Smith 2016, 40, Fig. 2.28.

⁸⁹ Ashwin, Tester 2014, 216–218.

a settlement located on the Roman road between Metz and Strassbourg, in the place where it crossed the River Seille. Not much is known on the extent and topography of this settlement, but two *villae* were located less than 1 km apart from its center, while 4 more were identified over a radius of up to 5 km. The settlement in Marsal specialized in salt production, iron processing, and plant cultivation⁹⁰.

In Dacia, around the present-day village of Gligorești, on both banks of River Arieș, close to the place where it flows into the Mureș, specialists have identified a settlement with five habitation cores located between 0.2 and 1 km apart⁹¹. The Roman road along Mureșului Valley crossed the territory of this settlement from the northeast to the southwest and across the River Arieș. Another road might have crossed the territory of this settlement from the northwest to the southeast, from the legionary fort in Potaissa, along Arieșului Valley. In Gligorești this road might have joined the one along Mureșului Valley⁹². The development of the settlement is connected to its function as road junction and to a presumed military presence in the area⁹³, possibly also with the exploitation of salt resources and the existence of a *statio*⁹⁴.

As indicated by the examples presented above, in the case of the settlement in Aiton as well, its functions during the Roman Era must be connected with its road settlement status. The evolution of this settlement was decisively influenced by the local geographic peculiarities, on the one hand, and by the decisions of the central administration, on the other.

The manner in which the spots with discoveries mapped here are grouped suggests that the hypothesis stating the existence of a rural settlement, a *mansio*, and one or more *villae* must be taken into account by future researches. The cluster of discovery spots into several distinct habitation cores shows that this hypothesis is plausible, even if other interpretations are possible as well. The discovery cluster labeled II, in the northeastern part of the village, on both sides of the Roman road, mid-distance between Potaissa and Napoca, located but 0.5 km from the highest point of this road sector, meets several of the characteristics of a *mansio*. Cluster V, in the southern part of the village, 0.5 km away from the Roman road, displays the dimensions and volume of discoveries that fully support the existence of a rural settlement. Clusters IV and VI, considerably smaller and with fewer finds, might represent a *villa* and a farm respectively, while cluster III, in the central-western part of the village, with an inconclusive inventory of discoveries, cannot be included in any certain category.

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⁹⁰ Rorison 2001, 217–218.

⁹¹ Popa 2000, 60–65.

⁹² Fodorean 2006, 168–169.

⁹³ Popa 2000, 60–65.

⁹⁴ Gogăltan *et al.* 2004, 75.

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Catalogues of Roman Era pottery discovered during the 2018 fieldwalking⁹⁵

1. Pot with ring base (Pl. 2/1) – wheel-thrown pottery; oxidation firing on the outside (Munsell 10YR 7/6, Yellow⁹⁶)/ reductive firing on the inside (Munsell 10YR 7/6, Very Pale Brown); plain surface; semi-fine fabric, compact structure; T.w. = 0.65 cm; T.b. = 0.5 cm; D.b. = 9.5 cm; place of discovery: northeast from the village, in the plow layer, in the proximity of house no. 346.
2. *Dolium*-type pot (Pl. 2/2) – wheel-thrown pottery; even oxidation firing (Munsell 10YR 8/6, Yellow); plain surface; semi-fine fabric, sandy outlook, with traces of engobe on the outside, in the neck area (Munsell 2.5 YR 6/8, Light Red); T.w. = 0.75 cm; T.r. = 2.5 cm; D.r. = 19 cm; one notes a small groove between the (horizontally recurved) rim and the body of the pot; place of discovery: northeast from the village, in the plow layer, in the proximity of house no. 346.
3. Pot with ring base (Pl. 2/3) – wheel-thrown pottery; even oxidation firing (Munsell 7.5 YR 8/6, Reddish Yellow); plain surface; semi-fine fabric; compact structure, with a slightly sandy outlook; T.w. = 0.85 cm; T.b. = 0.80 cm; D.b. = 9 cm; place of discovery: northeast from the village, in the plow layer, in the proximity of house no. 346.
4. *Dolium* (Pl. 2/4) – wheel-thrown pottery; even oxidation firing (Munsell 10YR 8/6, Yellow); plain surface; fine fabric, with sandy outlook, with traces of engobe on the outside, in the neck area (Munsell 5 YR 7/8, Reddish Yellow); T.w. 0.70 cm; T.r. = 2.6 cm; D.b. = 22 cm; one notes a well-defined groove between the (horizontally recurved) rim and the body of the pot; place of discovery: in the southern part of the village, in the plow layer, immediately east of house no. 135.
5. Pot with ring base (Pl. 2/5) – wheel-thrown pottery; oxidation firing (Munsell 5YR 5/4, Reddish Brown); plain surface; semi-fine fabric; compact structure; T.w. = 0.60 cm; D.b. = 9.5 cm; place of discovery: in the southern part of the village, in the plow layer, immediately east of house no. 135.
6. *Turibulum*-type pot (Pl. 2/6) – wheel-thrown pottery; oxidation firing, even along the profile; plain surface; semi-fine fabric (Munsell 5YR 6/8, Reddish Yellow); contains small inclusions; T.w. = 0.9 cm; T.r. = 2.35 cm; D.r. = 22 cm; the rim is decorated with alveoli made through finger impressions; place of discovery: northeast from the village, in the plow layer, in the proximity of house no. 346.
7. Pot with ring base (Pl. 2/7) – wheel-thrown pottery; oxidation firing (Munsell 5 YR 8/4, Pink); semi-fine fabric; burnished surface, but uneven due to the temper material; T.w. = 0.9 cm; T.b. = 0.45 cm; D.b. = 9 cm; place of discovery: in the plow layer, on a terrace located 0.5 km southwest of the village and Lavului Creek.
8. Bowl with slightly recurved rim, thicker at the end (Pl. 2/8) – wheel-thrown pottery; oxidation firing (Munsell 5 YR 7/6, Reddish Yellow); plain surface; semi-fine fabric, with traces of engobe on the outer part of the rim (Munsell 2.5 YR 5/6, Red); T.w. = 0.95 cm; T.r. = 1.2 cm; D.r. = 19 cm; place of discovery: in the plow layer, on a terrace located 0.5 km southwest of the village and Lavului Creek.
9. Pot with ring base (Pl. 2/9) – wheel-thrown pottery; oxidation firing (Munsell 7.5 YR 7/6, Reddish Yellow); plain surface; semi-fine fabric with a sandy outlook; T.w. = 0.9 cm; D.b. = 15 cm; place of discovery: in the plow layer, on a terrace located 0.5 km southwest of the village and Lavului Creek.
10. Bowl with S-shaped curved profile and outwards thickened rim (Pl. 2/10) – wheel-thrown pottery; reduction firing (Munsell 5 YR 7/1, Light Gray); plain surface; semi-fine fabric; the entire surface of the pot is covered in gray engobe, with a slightly metallic outlook (Munsell 5 YR 4/1, Dark Gray); T.w. = 0.7 cm; D.r. = 18.5 cm; place of discovery: in the southern part of the village, in the plow layer, immediately east of house no. 135.
11. Cooking pot with the base flat in the center and outer groove (Pl. 2/11) – wheel-thrown pottery; even oxidation firing (Munsell 2.5 Y 8/4 Pale Brown); plain surface; semi-fine fabric, with sandy outlook; T.w. = 0.80 cm; D.b. = 19 cm; place of discovery: in the plow layer, on a terrace located 0.5 km southwest of the village and Lavului Creek.
12. Dish with stepped profile and rounded corners (Pl. 2/12) – wheel-thrown pottery; oxidation firing (Munsell 7.5 YR 8/6, Reddish Yellow); plain surface; semi-fine fabric, with traces of engobe on the inside of the rim (Munsell 5 YR 4/6, Yellowish Red); T.w. = 0.7 cm; D.r. = 26 cm; place of discovery: in the southern part of the village, in the plow layer, immediately east of house no. 135.
13. Jug with grooves in the recurved rim (Pl. 2/13) – wheel-thrown pottery; even oxidation firing (Munsell 10 YR 8/6, Yellow); plain surface; semi-fine fabric with sandy outlook; T.w. = 0.65 cm; T.r. = 2.25 cm; D.r. = 13 cm; the rim of the pot is decorated with two horizontal grooves; place of discovery: in the southern part of the village, in the plow layer, immediately east of house no. 135.
14. Bowl with D-shaped rim (Pl. 2/14) – wheel-thrown pottery; oxidation firing (Munsell 7.5YR 8/4, Pink); plain surface; semi-fine fabric, with traces of engobe both on the inner surface (Munsell 2.5 YR 3/4, Dark Reddish Brown) and on the outside (Munsell 2.5 YR 7/6, Light Red); T.w. = 0.7 cm; T.r. = 1.25 cm; D.r. = 26 cm; place of discovery: in the plow layer, on a terrace located 0.5 km southwest of the village and Lavului Creek.

⁹⁵ Abbreviations employed in the description of pottery: D.r. = rim diameter; D.b. = base diameter; T.r. = rim thickness; T.b. = base thickness; T.w. = wall thickness.

⁹⁶ Munsell 1994.

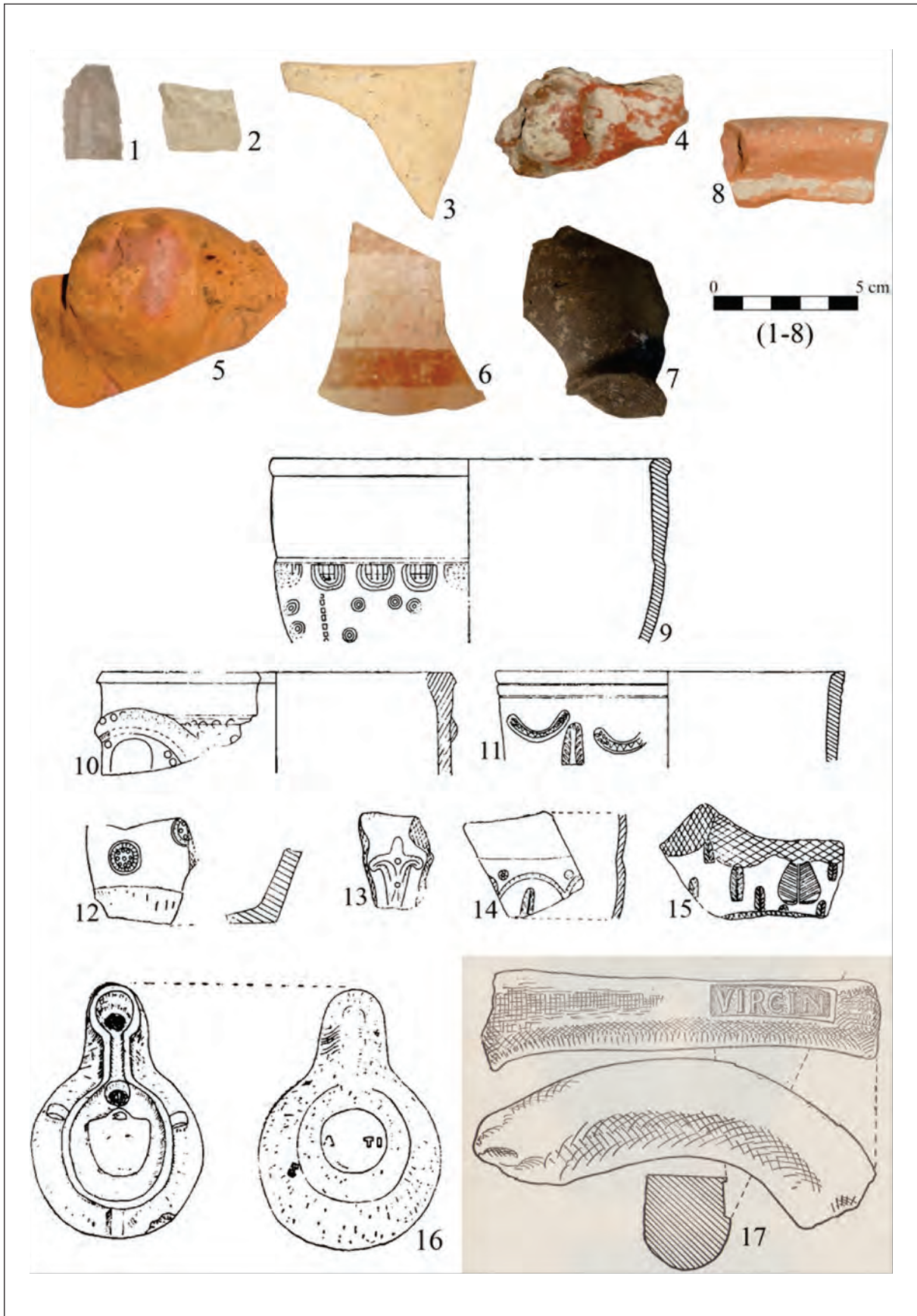


Plate 1. Archaeological materials discovered in Aiton: 1–8. Prehistoric and Migrations-Era artifacts identified in 2018; 9–15. Roman-Era pottery with stamped decoration (taken from Moțu 1990–1991, Pl. I); 16. “Firmalampe”-type oil lamp, with the stamped inscription *AVITI* (taken from Moțu 1990–1991, Pl. XXI/5); 17. Amphora handle with the stamped inscription *VIRGIN* (taken from: Blăjan, Cerghi 1978, Fig. 4).

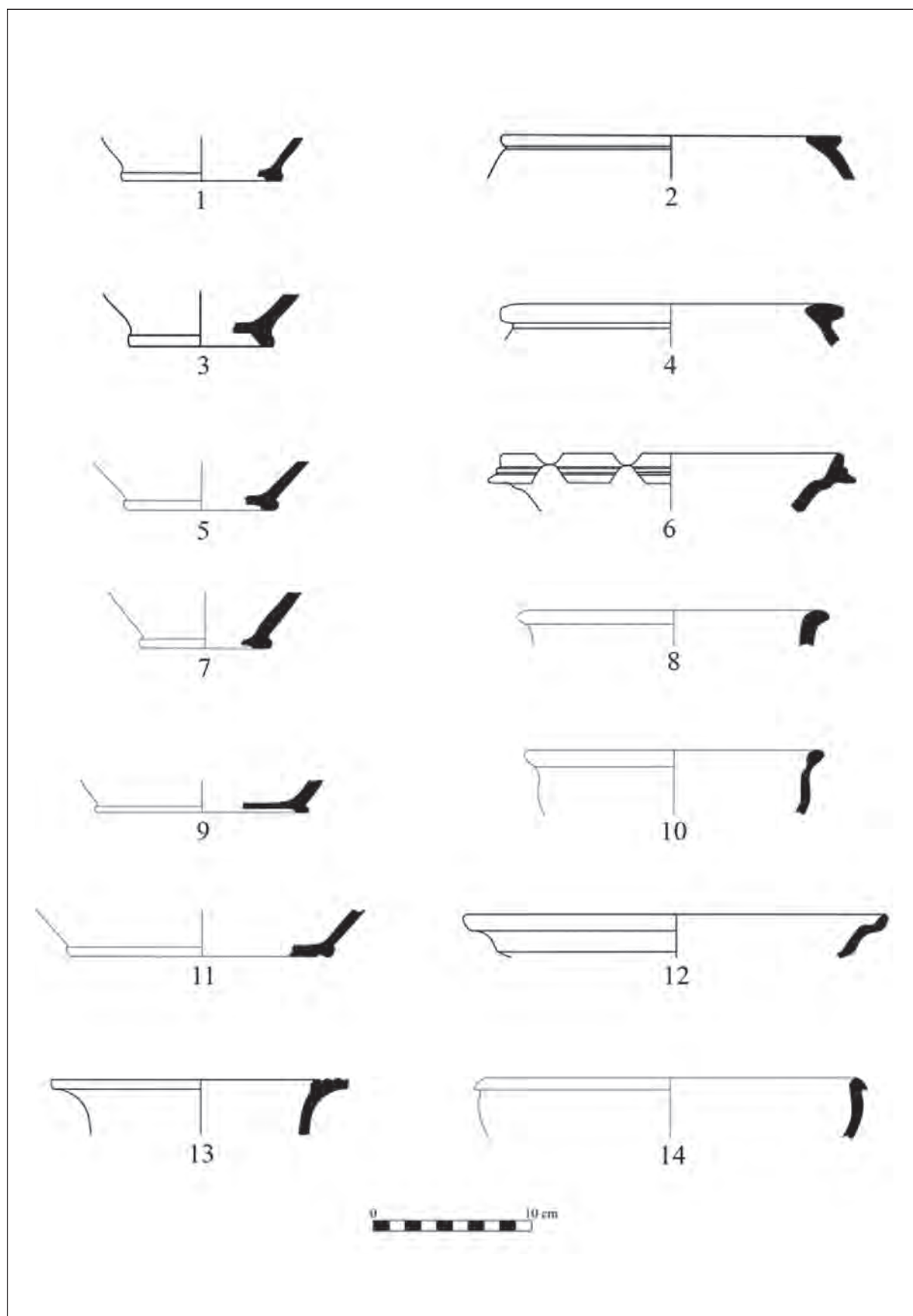


Plate 2. Pottery fragments discovered in Aiton during the 2018 ground researches (1-14).

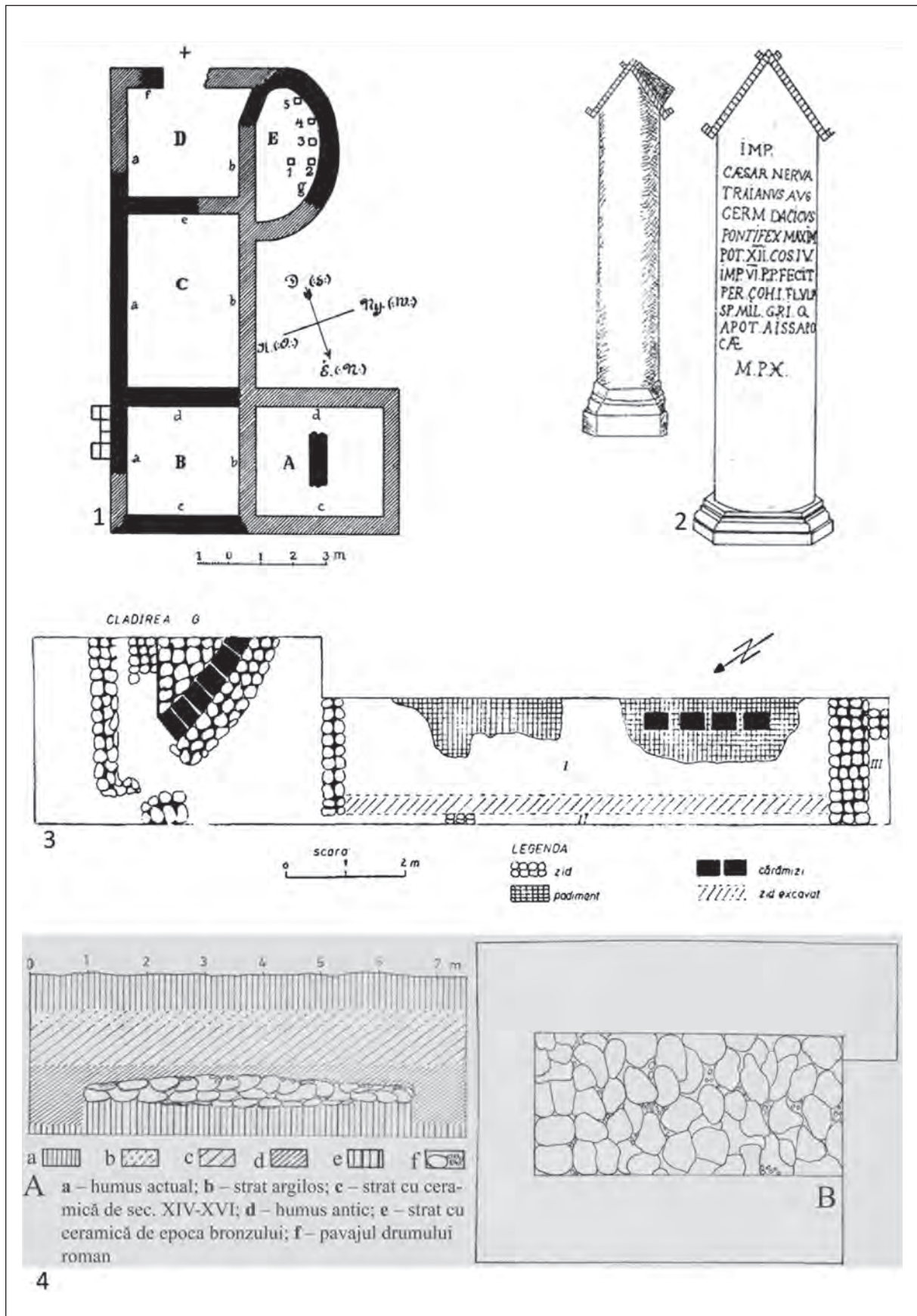


Plate 3. Roman-Era stone monuments and structures discovered in Aiton: 1. Ground plan of the building on the spot called "Podul de Piatră" (taken from: Roska 1915, Fig. 1); 2. The milestone in Aiton (taken from: Winkler 1982); 3. Roman walls researched on the spot called "Locul lui Poțu" (taken from: Moțu 1990–1991, Fig. 3); 4. The Roman road: A – profile and B – ground plan (taken from: Winkler *et al.* 1980, Fig. 5)

Abbreviations

ActaArchHung	Acta Archaeologica Academiae Scientiarum Hungaricae.
AAC	Acta Archaeologica Carpathica, Cracow.
ActaMN	Acta Musei Napocensis, Cluj-Napoca.
ActaMP	Acta Musei Porolissensis, Zalău
AnArchRessoviensia	Analecta Archaeologica Ressoviensia, Rzeszów.
AAS at CEU	Annual of Medieval Studies at CEU, Budapest.
Apulum	Acta Musei Apulensis – Apulum, Alba-Iulia.
Alba Regia	Alba Regia, Székesfehérvár.
Antaeus	Antaeus, Budapest.
Arrabona	Arrabona, Győr.
ArhMed	Arheologia Medievală, Cluj-Napoca, Brăila, Reșița.
ArchBaltica	Archaeologia Baltica, Vilnius.
Arch.Inf	Archäologische Informationen.
ATS	Acta Terrae Septemcastrensis, Sibiu.
ArchÉrt	Archaeologiai Értesítő, Budapest.
Banatica	Banatica, Reșița.
BBMÉ	A Béni Balogh Ádám Múzeum Évkönyve, Szekszárd.
BUFM	Beiträge zur Ur- und Frühgeschichte Mitteleuropas.
BCMI	Buletinul Comisiei Naționale a Monumentelor, ansambluri situri istorice. București.
CommArchHung	Communicationes Archaeologicae Hungaricae, Budapest.
CCA	Cronica Cercetărilor Arheologice, Comisia Națională de Arheologie, București.
CIL	Corpus Inscriptionum Latinarum, Berlin.
CMA	Complexul Muzeal Arad.
Dolgozatok	Dolgozatok az Erdélyi Múzeum érem- és régiségtárából, Cluj.
Dolg.	Dolgozatok a Magyar Királyi Ferencz József Tudományegyetem Archaeologiai Intézetéből, Szeged.
Dolg. ÚS	Dolgozatok az Erdélyi Múzeum Érem- és Régiségtárából, Új Sorozat. Cluj-Napoca / Kolozsvár.
EphNap	Ephemeris Napocensis, Cluj-Napoca.
HOMÉ	A Hermann Ottó Múzeum Évkönyve. Miskolc.
JAHA	Journal of Ancient History and Archaeology, Cluj-Napoca.
JAM	Jósa András Museum, Nyíregyháza.
JPMÉ	Janus Pannonius Múzeum Évkönyve.
JRGZM	Jahrbuch des Romisch-Germanischen Zentralmuseums, Mainz.
KRRMK	Kaposvári Rippl Rónai Múzeum Közleményei, Kaposvár.
LMI	Lista monumentelor istorice, updated in 2015.
MittArchInst	Mitteilungen des Archäologischen Instituts der Ungarischen Akademie der Wissenschaften.
MOL	Magyar Olaj- és Gázipari Részvénytársaság / Hungarian Oil and Gas Public Limited Company
Marisia	Marisia, Târgu Mureș.
NyJAMÉ	A nyíregyházi Jósa András Múzeum Évkönyve, Nyíregyháza.
PBF	Praehistorische Bronzefunde. Berlin.
Przegląd Archeologiczny	Przegląd Archeologiczny, Wrocław.
Rad	Jósa András Museum, Archaeological Archive
RégFüz	Régészeti Füzetek, Budapest.

RKM	Régészeti Kutatások Magyarországon/Archaeological Investigations in Hungary, Budapest.
RAJ Arad	Repertoriul Arheologic al Mureşului Inferior. Judeţul Arad. Timişoara 1999.
RAN	Repertoriul Arheologic Naţional.
Sargetia	Sargetia. Acta Musei Devensis, Deva.
SCIV(A)	Studii şi Cercetări de Istorie Veche şi Arheologie, Bucureşti.
SGB	Studii de Geografie a Banatului, Timişoara.
SIB	Studii de Istorie a Banatului, Timişoara.
Slavia Antiqua	Slavia Antiqua, Poznań.
SlovArch	Slovenská Archeológia, Nitra.
SMK	Somogyi Múzeumok Közleményei, Kaposvár.
SovArh	Sovetskaja Arheologija, Moskva.
SRTM	Shuttle Radar Topography Mission.
StudiaUBB Historia	Studia UBB Historia, Cluj-Napoca.
SzKMÉ	A Szántó Kovács Múzeum Évkönyve, Pécs.
Századok	Századok, Budapest.
Terra Sebus	Terra Sebus. Acta Musei Sabesiensis, Sebeş.
Tibiscum S. N.	Tibiscum S. N., Caransebeş.
TransRev	Transylvanian Review, Cluj-Napoca.
ZalaiMúz	Zalai Múzeum, Zalaegerszeg.
ZSA	Ziridava. Studia Archaeologica. Arad.
Živa Antika	Živa Antika, Skopje.