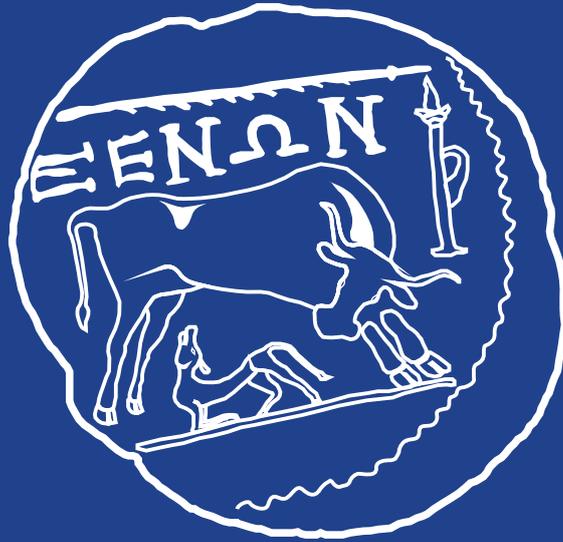


MUSEUM ARAD



ZIRIDAVA

STUDIA ARCHAEOLOGICA

39

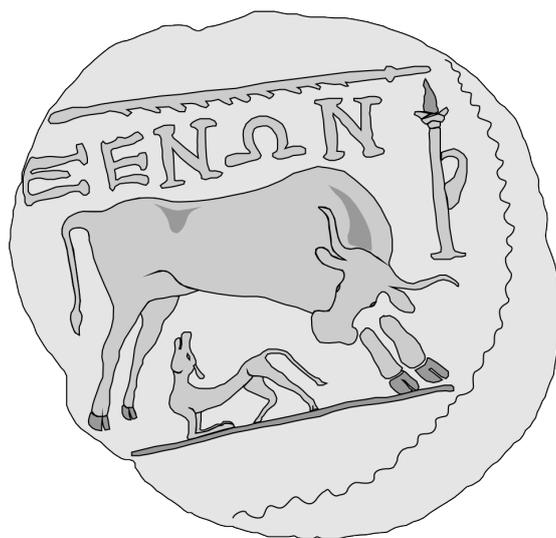
2025

ZIRIDAVA
STUDIA ARCHAEOLOGICA

39

2025

MUSEUM ARAD



ZIRIDAVA

STUDIA ARCHAEOLOGICA

39
2025

Editura MEGA
Cluj-Napoca
2025

MUSEUM ARAD

EDITORIAL BOARD

Editors: Victor Sava, Florin Mărginean

Editorial Assistants: Ioan Cristian Cireap, Vlad Murgu, Andrei Mărincean

EDITORIAL ADVISORY BOARD

Vitalie Bârcă (Institute of Archaeology and Art History, Cluj-Napoca, Romania)

Adina Boroneanț ("Vasile Pârvan" Institute of Archaeology, Bucharest, Romania)

Marin Cârciumar (Valahia University of Târgoviște, Romania)

Sorin Cociș (Institute of Archaeology and Art History, Cluj-Napoca, Romania)

Dragoș Diaconescu (The National Museum of Banat, Timișoara, Romania)

Daria Loznjak Dizdar (Institute of Archaeology, Zagreb, Croatia)

Florin Drașovean (Romanian Academy, Timișoara branch, Romania)

Alin Frînculeasa (Prahova County Museum of History and Archaeology, Ploiești, Romania)

Erwin Gáll ("Vasile Pârvan" Institute of Archaeology, Bucharest, Romania)

Florin Gogâltan (Institute of Archaeology and Art History, Cluj-Napoca, Romania)

Adrian Ioniță ("Vasile Pârvan" Institute of Archaeology, Bucharest, Romania)

Hrvoje Kalafatić (Institute of Archaeology, Zagreb, Croatia)

Aleksandar Kapuran (Institute of Archaeology, Belgrade, Serbia)

Rüdiger Krause (Johann Wolfgang Goethe-Universität Frankfurt, Germany)

Tobias Kienlin (Universität zu Köln, Germany)

Valéria Kulcsár (University of Szeged, Hungary)

Sabin Adrian Luca (Lucian Blaga University, Sibiu, Romania)

Barry Molloy (University College Dublin, Ireland)

Sorin Nemeti (Babeș-Bolyai University, Romania)

John O'Shea (University of Michigan, USA)

Karl Zeno Pinter (Lucian Blaga University, Sibiu, Romania)

Ioan Stanciu (Institute of Archaeology and Art History, Cluj-Napoca, Romania)

Imre Szatmári (Munkácsy Mihály Museum, Békéscsaba, Hungary)

Miklos Takács (Institute of Archaeology of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences, Budapest, Hungary)

Ioan Marian Țiplic (Lucian Blaga University, Sibiu, Romania)

In Romania, the periodical can be obtained through subscription or exchange, sent as post shipment, from Museum Arad, Arad, Piata G. Enescu 1, 310131, Romania.

Tel. 0040-257-281847.

ZIRIDAVA STUDIA ARCHAEOLOGICA

Any correspondence will be sent to the editor:

Museum Arad

Piata George Enescu 1, 310131 Arad, RO

e-mail: ziridava2012@gmail.com

The content of the papers totally involve the responsibility of the authors.

Layout: Francisc Baja, Florin Mărginean, Victor Sava

DTP: Petru Ureche

ISSN 2392-8786



EDITURA MEGA | www.edituramega.ro

e-mail: mega@edituramega.ro

This volume is dedicated to Florin Draşovean at 70 years

Acest volum este dedicat lui Florin Draşovean cu ocazia împlinirii a 70 de ani



Contents / Cuprins

Laudatio	9
-----------------------	---

Research papers / Studii

Cristian Eduard Ștefan

Vidra Type Axes Revisited: The State of Research Nearly Two Decades Later	17
---	----

Andrei Mărincean

Inside Daub: A Preliminary Study of Burnt Wattle-and-Daub from the Late Bronze Age Site of Sântana-Cetatea Veche	25
---	----

Feraru Remus Mihai

Theos Megas Derzelas, an Enigmatic Deity of Odessos: Cult and Iconographic Representations. A Numismatic and Epigraphic Study	51
--	----

Florin Mărginean, Erwin Gáll

Revised Information on the Early Avar Period Grave from Sânpetru German-Magazin	67
---	----

Călin Cosma

Social and Gender Symbolism of Earrings in the 7th–8th Century Avar Communities of Transylvania	77
---	----

Dan Băcueț-Crișan

Less Discussed Aspects in the Research of Early Medieval Wares from Romania: Purpose, Use, Re-use, and Recycling. Theoretical Interpretations and Archaeological Realities	115
---	-----

Imre Szatmári

The Round Church of Battonya	129
------------------------------------	-----

Augustin Mureșan, Adriana Gașpar

The Fortress of Pomezueu (Bihor): History, Heritage and Conservation	153
--	-----

Timea Major-Keresztes

Adornment, Status and Mobility: A Hairpin from Zalău-Valea Miții (Sălaj county) and Its Place in Early Modern Material Culture	179
---	-----

Field reports / Rapoarte asupra cercetărilor de teren

Vlad Murgu, Victor Sava, Ioan Cristian Cireap, Andrei Mărincean

Tehnici de teledetecție și cercetări de suprafață. Contribuții noi la cunoașterea așezărilor din zona Olari, județul Arad 187

Sofia Berteza, Victor Bunoiu, Iulian Leonti, Vyara Stancheva, Andrei Geor-gescu, Răzvan-Ioan Pinca, Bogdan Calotă, Patrik Ostaș, Dragoș Diaconescu, Robin DiPasquale, Ionuț Marteniuc

The Archaeological Excavations at Susani – Grămurada de la Jupani:
Report on the 2025 Field Campaign 233

Victor Sava, Florin Gogâltan, Marian Adrian Lie

Excavations at the Late Bronze Age Mega-Fort at Sântana – *Cetatea Veche*.
The 2018 Field Campaign 243

Ioan Cristian Cireap

Illyrian Drachmas and Late La Tène Iron Items Discovered at Monoroștia – *Dâmbu lui Hârtici*
(Arad County) 385

Cătălin Discă, Iulian Leonti

The Roman Roads South of Berzovia: Some Observations and the Results of New Research 291

György Kerekes, Zoltán Rózsa

Árokos. The Success Story of Identifying an Archaeological Site in Mezöhegyes – Revisited 317

Reviews / Recenzii

Alpár Dobos, Sándor Berecki (Eds.), *The Migration Period Cemetery from Ernei*. Bibliotheca Musei Marisiensis Series Archaeologica XIX. Mega Publishing House, Cluj-Napoca, 2023, ISBN 978-606-020-636-1, 192 pages.
(**Erwin Gáll**) 333

The Fortress of Pomezeu (Bihor): History, Heritage and Conservation

Augustin Mureşan, Adriana Gaşpar

Abstract: The fortress of Pomezeu (Bihor), also known as the “Ruins of Kornis Fortress”, is today represented by two partially preserved wall sections. Its attestation is disputed - probably 1558, 1595/96, while some sources suggest that a monastery may have previously existed on its site. In the 16th century, it served as a noble residence, later reinforced, and played a major strategic role during the Ottoman period (1661-1686). As the most important sanjak after Oradea within the Eyalet of Oradea (1660–1692), the fortress supervised trade routes and the military set-up of northwestern Transylvania. Material evidence, such as coins, pottery and architectural fragments, confirms the occupation of the stronghold during this period. The fortress’s plan and appearance may only be reconstructed based on an 18th-century Austrian map, a 19th century drawing and the fragmentary wall still surviving today. The study aims to reconstruct its historical evolution, highlight the material evidence and propose directions for future research and conservation.

Keywords: Pomezeu; Kornis Fortress; Ottoman archaeology; late medieval period; Ottoman ceramics.

The Pomezeu commune lies in the southern part of Bihor County, in the Beiuş depression, along the route of the micro-gulf dug by the waters of the Vida, a tributary of the Holod river (Pl. 1). The commune currently consists of eight villages: Pomezeu, Câmpani de Pomezeu, Coşdeni, Hidiş, Lacu Sărat, Sitani, Spinuş de Pomezeu and Vălani de Pomezeu. Pomezeu is the residence village, located approximately 59 km southeast of Oradea, housing on its outskirts the ruins of a fortification known as “The Ruins of the Kornis Fortress - Pomezeu”¹ (Pl. 2/1), recorded in the academic literature since the 19th century².

Its documentary attestation is unclear, some scholars believing that it was firstly recorded in 1558, while others in 1594-95³. Historical sources mention that by late 15th century, Romanian entities were in existence there, their presence being recorded by a 1492 document, when the village appears is mentioned as *Papmezzye* (in Hungarian)⁴. In Romanian, the toponym is translated by the phrase “Câmpia Popii/Priest’s Plain”⁵, linked to the legal status that the settlement likely enjoyed at that time, where one of the Romanian *pertinentia* (*pertinentia valachorum*), specific to southern Bihor, could exist.

During the 16th century, the fortification was property of the Telegdy noble family, while in the following century, it came under the administration of another noble dynasty, Kornis of Rusca, when Pomezeu became the most flourishing village in Bihor⁶. Subsequent to the expansion of the Ottoman Empire towards Europe, the fortress of Oradea was conquered in 1660 by serdar Köse-Ali Pasha, who would set up the Eyalet of Oradea (Pl. 1/2-3)⁷. The provincial residence was established at Oradea, and a year later, the Pomezeu fortress officially became one of its sanjaks, alongside Siniob⁸, Beiuş, and Şinteu⁹.

¹ Borcea 1974b, 154/300; Cod LMI – BH-II-a-B-01186, the monument is dated to the 15th-16th century.

² Bunitay 1884, 377; Borovszky Samu’s work was published in fascicles between 1899–1901, the complete volume being dated to 1901, see Borovszky 1901 (1899), 131-132. In one of his works of great scope, Adrian Andrei Rusu discusses the period prior to the construction of the fortification at Pomezeu and writes: „to us, it is simply – unknown”; Rusu 2005, 470.

³ Marta 2010, 53-54.

⁴ Zsigmond 1940, 316.

⁵ The village is recorded under toponyms: *Papmezew* (1508), *arx Papmezö* (1594-Pomezeu fortress), *Kisapamezö* (1913-Pomezeu Mic) etc., in Suciş 1967, 54.

⁶ Emödi 1986, 499, 501.

⁷ In Turkish, the historical term for Oradea is “Varat / Varad”. The Hungarian term is Nagyvárád; Călători străini ... vol. VI 1976, 329.

⁸ Historical terms in Turkish: Şenköy for Siniob; Belnoş, Belnuş for Beiuş; İşlenkör, Şelenkör for Şinteu.

⁹ Călători străini ... vol. VI 1976, 658, 661, 670-673.

Some interpretations suggest that a monastery had originally functioned on the fortress site, later transformed, perhaps once with the Ottoman rule, into a stronghold. These elements are discussed here as documentary and interpretive landmarks, without the claim of an exhaustive critical analysis, which remains open to future research. Hereinafter, the study will present the historical, architectural and archaeological evolution of the Pomezueu fortress, based on documentary sources and numismatic, sigillographic, architectural and archaeological finds.

History and documentary attestation

The noble castle is recorded as early as the 16th century in a document that mentions an edifice located on the Mihály and Miklós Telegdy estate¹⁰, descendants of a noble family who had their court at Tileagd, nearly 43 km north of Pomezueu¹¹.

Canon and scholar Bunyitay Vincze believes that the first documentary mention of the castle dates to 1558, which he mentions in his monograph dedicated to the Catholic Diocese of Oradea. According to his statements, the building would have been donated to the Telegdy family, based on a documented issued by Babolcsay Georg, at the disposition of Queen Isabella, a fact recorded by the Oradea Diocese in a letter kept in the documentary archive at Buda¹². Bunyitai firmly states there are no documents predating the 16th century recording this construction that would have been erected on the site of a former monastery¹³. Also in 1558, he mentions the existence of a possible fortification around the manor, in the context of a meeting held in the stone fortress (*Castrum lapidem*) between canon Georg Balbochay and Mihai of Tileagd¹⁴. Other scholars believe that the first attestation dates from 1594–1595, when the building is mentioned under the Latin term *arx* (“totalibus et integris arce Pap Mezö vocata”)¹⁵.

In what the original purpose of the building is concerned, historian Irta Vende Aladár infers, in the monograph edited by Borovszki Samu, that the ruins at Pomezueu, owing to their form and scale, suggested the existence of a large, fortified monastery similar to a castle, possibly identified with the Saint Benedict monastery¹⁶. Historian Jakó Zsigmond believed in 1940 that even a Romanian stone church, in Romanesque style, might have been laid there as early as the 15th century¹⁷, a hypothesis deemed possible in the context of the existing fortified castle¹⁸. In turn, Professor Constantin Pavel believed that the building of Pomezueu (with a 60 m frontispiece and a length of 120 m) had served a religious purpose, as a Franciscan or Pauline monastery, possibly even as an establishment of Bishop Dimitrie. Such hypothesis is based on the positioning of the edifice, different from the mountainous cones on which feudal fortresses of Bihor were usually located, built after the Tatar invasion. The hypothesis is also supported by the village name, *Papmező* (“Câmpia popii/Priest’s Plain”), as well as the local traditions related to the “red priests”¹⁹. It has also been presumed that, once with arrival of the Ottomans, the monastery would have been turned into a defence and refuge fortress, being mentioned in documents between the 16th and 18th centuries. Subsequently, it would have been demolished in 1711, after the Peace of Satu Mare, when the Habsburg authorities destroyed the fortifications believed resistance centres of the Kurucs²⁰.

On the other hand, historian Nicolae Boc concludes that the Bishopric of Oradea could have established a Franciscan monastery, alongside a local *voivode*, intended to convert the “schismatic”

¹⁰ Bunyitai 1884, 377, note 3.

¹¹ There is no documentary or archaeological information on a possible residence of this family at Pomezueu; Marta 2010, 61.

¹² The document is mentioned in a letter of the Oradea Diocese to the queen, preserved in the letter archive of Buda. We reproduce a short fragment from this donation document: “*ad possessionem PAPMEZEU nuncupatam consequenterque ad Castrum lapidem ibidem habitum... accessisset, ibique egregium Michaelem de D-Telegd... personalita repertum... ammonuisset*”; Bunyitay 1884, 377.

¹³ Boc 1970, 30.

¹⁴ Bunyitay 1884, 377, note 3.

¹⁵ Emódi 1986, 499; DL 10008, 32/74.

¹⁶ The information is found in volume “Magyarország vármegyéi és városai”, edited under the supervision of Borovszki Samu; <https://mek.oszk.hu/09500/09536/html/0005/6.html> (accessed on 06.09.2025).

¹⁷ Borovszky 1901 (1900), 377.

¹⁸ Zsigmond 1940, 316.

¹⁹ Pavel 1928, 49-50.

²⁰ Pavel 1928, 49-50.

Romanians to Catholicism, supporting the Angevin policy in Transylvania. According to him, after 1400, against the background of increasing Ottoman incursions, King Sigismund of Luxembourg paid special attention to the fortification of Transylvanian settlements. In these circumstances, the Pomezau monastery, probably lacking believers, would have been transformed into a fortress with thick walls, bastions and firing galleries, erected before the appearance of cannons. The construction would have been carried out with the consent of the feudal lord, who thus sought to protect his goods and workforce, whilst also offering a place of refuge in difficult times. Located in the middle of the defile, the fortification controlled the strategic passages between the valleys of the Crișul Negru and Crișul Repede rivers, defended the Pomezau depression and capitalized on the surrounding dense forests and fertile terrain, which reinforced both the defensive function and possibility of rapid refuge. The monastery's transformation into a fortress thus proved how religious constructions adapted to the military necessities of the period²¹.

The great clashes of the 16th–17th century, Transylvania's new status of autonomous principality, along with other causes, led to the decline of many Transylvanian old noble families. During the same period, noble families from Ottoman-occupied Hungary headed northwest, towards the Habsburg Empire. Some settled in Transylvania, while others remained in Bihor²². The decline of the Telegdy dynasty, owners of the Pomezau region for centuries, occurred in this context, replaced by another noble family, Kornis of Rusca²³. The senior, Sigismund Kornis of Rusca, played a key role in supporting young Stephen Bethlen, appointed commander of the Oradea fortress in 1621²⁴. Kornis contributed to the administrative and military organization, a fact also attested by a letter from the tailors' guild of Oradea, dated 1627²⁵. A 1633 document mentions this senior as having his noble residence at Pomezau, being described as a military man with a remarkable career, high-ranking alongside the captains of the Oradea fortress, four of whom later became princes of Transylvania²⁶. Stephen Bethlen's death in the same year generated a hiatus of over three years in the fortress leadership, between March 1633 and autumn of 1636, the command being exercised by his deputies, Andrew Csomakozi and Sigismund Kornis. For a short time, the latter also held the position of supreme commander of the armies in western Transylvania (Partium)²⁷, and in 1649 the fortress at Pomezau still appeared as his property²⁸. As a Germanophile, the noble was suspected of treason in the eyes of Prince Gabriel Bethlen, and Kornis was imprisoned for seven years at Gherla. Rehabilitated after his release, he died the same year and was buried at Pomezau on June 29, 1649²⁹.

Between 1657 and 1662, entire Transylvania was shaken by major conflicts. During this period, the supporters of Prince György Rákóczi II, who opposed the alliance with the Ottomans, clashed with those who believed otherwise. In the case of Bihor, consequences were dramatic; the region was occupied and turned into a province of the Ottoman Empire. Thus, on August 27, 1660, after a siege that lasted 46 days, Oradea was conquered by the reunited forces of the Pasha of Timișoara and those from Buda³⁰. Following this victory, the foundations of the new Ottoman province, the Eyalet (pashalik) of Oradea were laid, to include several sanjaks, with the residence established in Oradea (Pl. 1/2)³¹. Even the Ottoman chronicler Evlia Çelebi, who travelled through Bihor in the autumn of 1660, mentions that the Oradea pashalik was organized into four sanjaks: Sâniob, Pomezau, Beiuș (Belnos, Belnus) and Șinteu³². This structure was finalized in 1665, established also according to the

²¹ Boc 1970, 31-32.

²² Fazecaș *et al.* 2012, 57.

²³ Marta 2010, 56.

²⁴ Marta 2010, 56.

²⁵ Stephen Bethlen, nephew of the Transylvanian Prince Gabriel Bethlen, was appointed commander of the fortress of Oradea, aged 16. Because of his youth, he benefited of Sigismund Kornis of Rusca's support, the prince's right-hand man, who ordered Ștefan Bethlen a flag; Marta 2010, 56.

²⁶ Marta 2010, 56.

²⁷ Marta 2010, 56-57.

²⁸ Boc 1970, 33.

²⁹ Kraus 1965, 397.

³⁰ Bunitay 1892, 15-26.

³¹ Sanjaks of Salonta, Debrețin, Hălmațiu, Sâniob and Pomezau; Călători străini ... vol. VI 1976, 330.

³² Călători străini ... vol. VI 1976, 658. On the strongholds of Sâniob, Săcuieni, Pomezău and Beiuș, see also pages 661, 670-672, 673.

main localities of the former county composed of Pomezău, Tileagd, Beiuş, Sarkad, and Bajom (the last two in Hungarian territory)³³.

The official integration of the Pomezău fortress into the composition of the *eyalet* occurred in 1661, although an agreement between the Ottomans, the defenders of the Oradea fortress and Prince Gaspar Barcsai had previously established that, except for Oradea fortress and its surroundings, the Ottomans would not take any other fortress in Transylvania³⁴. However, the fortress was occupied upon the request of the Romanian serfs of Pomezău, who rose up against their noble masters and handed over the fortress to the Ottomans³⁵. Regarding the fortress garrison organisation, it is known that the Ottomans installed a 150-strong unit there, paid daily with a total sum of 1432 akçe, according to the payroll registers of October 4 and December 3, 1660. The garrison structure varied: three mosque attendants, twenty soldiers, ten cannoneers/artillerymen, seventy horsemen for patrols and incursions, as well as forty-seven *azabs* (infantrymen)³⁶.

The Ottoman administration of the Pomezău fortress was maintained until 1686, when the Ottoman troops were defeated by the Austrian imperial army led by Colonel Count of Corbelli that occupied Beiuş, Finiş, and Pomezău³⁷. Unfortunately, subsequent documents no longer mention the fortress (castle) at Pomezău. The extremely harsh battles between the Austrians and Ottomans between 1691-1692 ruined the county, along with the Pomezău region, also indicated by the quick conscriptions carried out by the newly established administration³⁸. It was not until June 6, 1692, that the Austrian troops led by Generals Badeni and Donat von Heiszler managed to drive the Ottomans out of Oradea and, implicitly, from the entire Bihor region³⁹.

In the 1692- property conscription of the Pomezău and Beiuş domains of the Kornis family, the surviving 1704-*urbarium* records that the Pomezău fortress was already in a state of ruin. The German soldiers had emptied the fortification of all artillery and ammunition, while the iron objects had been plundered by *haiduks*. The defence ditch around the fortress had turned into a pond. Out of a mill, near the gate, already ruined, only the site remained. There was also a vineyard, but it had been destroyed; if worked, it would have produced approximately thirty wine tubs. The large pasture around the fortress had been invaded by weeds and forest, although otherwise it could have produced about three hundred hay carts. The priest's house located inside the fortress had also been destroyed, with only the stone walls remaining standing. The land adjacent to the fortress was limited, because the place was narrow, and the farming land was overgrown⁴⁰.

In 1701, Prince Michael Apafi II is forced to relinquish his reign and Transylvania, including parts of Bihor, entered under Austrian rule. Faced with this situation, Francis II Rákóczi, in the spring of 1703, raised the fight flag against the Habsburgs. This quickly involved the Romanians from Bihor, and especially those from the Pomezău region, who participated in the revolt, motivated by his promises⁴¹. The Pomezău fortress became a strategic point of the rebel forces (*kurucs*). During the campaigns, special attention was given to the Beiuş fortress, to prevent connections between the Serbs and the Austrian army⁴². During this period, the Serbs attacked and plundered Beiuş twice, as well as several surrounding villages. Ultimately, Rákóczi's revolt was defeated, and the conflict ended with the Peace of Satu Mare on May 1, 1711. As a result, the fortresses at Finiş and Pomezău were destroyed, being considered resistance centres of the *kurucs*⁴³.

The remaining walls were dismantled starting with the 19th century. The new owners, whose lands included the fortress as well, allowed the use of stones from these walls to build several houses in the commune. These are noticeable even today in house foundations located near the ruins.

³³ Borcea 1974a, 200-201.

³⁴ Boc 1970, 33.

³⁵ Kraus 1956, 136.

³⁶ Ágoston 2014, 352.

³⁷ Boc 1970, 33-34.

³⁸ Fazecaş *et al.* 2012, 59.

³⁹ Scholtz 1907, 174, 188-197.

⁴⁰ The Bihor County Branch of the National Archives, *Urbariales et Conscriptiones*, fasc. 168, no. 40, (1704); Bársony 1992, 101.

⁴¹ Boc 1970, 34.

⁴² Thali 1873, 138.

⁴³ Boc 1970, 34.

Fortress Architecture

After 1660, historical data about the Pomezau fortress is scarce, even non-existent⁴⁴. The fortification layout is difficult to reconstruct, as it currently preserves only a single, fragmented wall section, oriented northwest-southeast, measuring approximately 25 m in length, with a surviving height varying between 4-5 m and a width of 1m (Pl. 2/2, 3/1)⁴⁵. The preserved masonry is composed of “quarry”⁴⁶ stone bound with a medium-quality mortar, and here and there, common boulders are worked⁴⁷. On interior wall faces, traces of former guard galleries can be seen. The existence of arrow slits also indicates a defensive role played by the Pomezau castle-fortress⁴⁸. The age of this fortress is also indicated by the mortar composition, which consists of lime and sand in a proportion of 40-50%, mixed with a certain percentage of crushed brick and a few pieces of charcoal. The mortar obtained this way was of higher quality to that used in the following centuries, when charcoal began to be used increasingly less and sand proportion grew to the detriment of the other components⁴⁹.

The entrance gate was provided with a suspension bridge, defended by two towers, which extended over the deep, water-filled ditch that surrounded the fortress⁵⁰. The corner towers, protruding beyond the walls, flanked each other on each side and allowed crossfire, ensuring efficient defence⁵¹. The fortress courtyard included workshops, warehouses, rooms for soldiers and servants, stables, and other auxiliary constructions⁵².

The first historical descriptions of the fortress are found in the writings of the Ottoman traveller Evliya Çelebi, who describes it as a fortification facing the Pomezau plain, high and square-shaped, built of stone⁵³. The fortress shape is also confirmed by the first Josephine topographical survey, conducted between 1782-1785, where the fortress is very well represented, with a rectangular enclosure, oriented in the northwest-southeast direction, having a tower on each corner. The tower in the southwest corner is rendered the most pronounced, while the tower in the northwest corner appears almost inexistent (Pl. 4/1-2)⁵⁴. In the second military topographical survey, the Franciscan one (1819-1869), the fortress is represented by two rectangular enclosures, oriented approximately in the northeast-southwest direction, having a common corner: the southeast one for the first enclosure and the northwest one for the second (Pl. 4/3). On this plan, course changes of the Vida River may also be noticed⁵⁵. In the third Habsburg topographical survey, carried out during the reign of Emperor Francis Joseph (1869-1887), the fortress appears with a single L-shaped enclosure, the narrow side is oriented northeast-southwest and the wider side, to northwest-southeast, starting from the northeast middle of the first (Pl. 4/4)⁵⁶.

⁴⁴ The Monograph of Pomezau Commune, Gabriel Moisa (coord.), Gruia Fazecaş, Doru Marta, Crăciun Parasca, Oradea, Duran's Publishing House was published in 2010. This work is the most consistent and recent monograph synthesis on the Pomezau commune, with demographical, historical, toponymical data and descriptions of the local monuments; it includes mentions and illustrations on the existence and condition of the Kornis ruins.

⁴⁵ Except the segmentation, noticeably, the wall survives on approximately the same length it survived in the 80s, also reported by Ioan Emödi in his work; Emödi 1986, 501.

⁴⁶ The “quarry” stone, namely which could be relatively easily removed from the bedrock or which flaked, was preferable. Stone carving was difficult, required time and good tools, yet had the solidity advantage in a wall, of better stonework “settling”, especially at corners, towers, keeps and console. Often, stone types were mixed depending on specific masonry needs, but also the local resources; Godea 2011, 268.

⁴⁷ Fazecaş *et al.* 2012, 56-57.

⁴⁸ Máthé 1974, 301-302.

⁴⁹ Boc 1970, 32.

⁵⁰ Boc 1970, 32.

⁵¹ Boc 1970, 32. Late Professor Ioan Godea argued that the Pomezau stronghold was rectangular in shape, yet without towers; Godea 2011, 293.

⁵² Boc 1970, 32.

⁵³ Evliya Çelebi uses in the description “foothills of mount Pomezau”, most likely referencing the surrounding hills; Călători străini ... vol. VI 1976, 672.

⁵⁴ Josephinische Landesaufnahme, Königreich Ungarn, Coll XXVI, Sectio XXII.

⁵⁵ Franziszeische Landesaufnahme, Königreich Ungarn, Verwaltungs-Gebiet: Comitat Süd Bihar, Section N^{ro} 56, Colonne N^{ro} XLVI.

⁵⁶ Franzisco-Josephinische Landesaufnahme, <https://maps.arcanum.com/ro/map/thirdsurvey25000/?bbox=2479089.037100607%2C5907330.455023053%2C2483116.3130283826%2C5908646.605103838&map-list=1&layers=129>

The 1752-*urbarium* mentions two existing gates, one of which was oriented southwards⁵⁷, but also consolidation works on a vaulted cellar located in the central area of the fortress. The proper manor had a first floor in an advanced state of decay, being practically unusable, with the exception of one of the wings. At approximately eighty steps from the fortress, in front of the southern gate, there was a chapel in ruins, with a semicircular apse on the eastern side that had been turned into a small brewery⁵⁸.

In the summer of 1878, the historian and canon of Oradea Flóris Rómer, accompanied by Ferenc Stornó, undertook research in the south of Bihor County to study the ruins of existing churches in the area. During the travel, he also made ethnographic observations along the Crişul Negru River, as well as a detailed description, accompanied by a drawing, of the Pomezueu fortress ruins (Pl. 3/2-3)⁵⁹. He records that the fortress had the shape of an elongated rectangle, oriented north-south, with a rectangular addition on the eastern side. The enclosure walls oriented approximately eastwards measured 47.10 m in length and 27.80 m in width (Pl. 3/3). Rómer also observes the water ditch, which, according to the description, contained water at the time of the visit as well. In the southwest corner, the castle had the trace of a round tower⁶⁰. Flóris Rómer's descriptions continue with the foundations of exterior walls existing in the surrounding gardens, the siege corridor and the two-story high walls that preserved the round or rectangular holes, of 1.74-1.90 m. Rómer described the fortress rather as a castle located in a low, bushland area, made of stone of which the local noble's house was also erected, but there were also older, reddish bricks, with board traces. The mortar is fine, mixed with pebbles, and traces of whitewashing were found below. Its defence function was observed after the firing niches, flanked by more restricted holes, from the middle and the lower part of the southeast wall⁶¹.

In contrast to Rómer's description, which presents it as a modest construction, the Roman Catholic prelate Vincze Bunyitai sees an imposing, even huge building, with an elongated shape and round protuberances at corners⁶². A century later, in 1981, archaeologist Sever Dumitraşcu, together with topographer Árpád Hadnagy, inspected several archaeological sites in Crişana, including the one at Pomezueu. The authors carried out field measurements, made a graphic representation of the terrain and the remaining walls. Partially conserved enclosure walls and possible internal structures (buildings, towers) were noted, identified by surface outlines, some of which likely correspond to those reported in previous descriptions (Pl/1)⁶³.

Archaeological and material finds

1. Coin finds

In the spring of 1957, native inhabitant Negru Vasile of Spinuş village, located in the vicinity of Pomezueu village, while ploughing on a hill not far from the fortress, discovers a clay vessel containing over two kg of silver coins. The coins were dated to the 16th-17th century, most Polish coins⁶⁴, then from Transylvania and the Duchy of Prussia. The oldest is of the Duchy of Prussia, dating to 1541. Another two coins, of one and a half groschen each, both date to 1619⁶⁵. Another coin was minted in Transylvania by Gabriel Bethlen⁶⁶ in 1627, weighing two grams. All these coins can be found in

⁵⁷ Bunyitai 1884, 377.

⁵⁸ UC 190.

⁵⁹ On the drawing, together with castle *Papmeze* is also found the layout of the Remetea church (in Hungarian Magyarremete) and the ruins of the castle in the Şoimi commune (in Hungarian Solyom); for the plan see Balla, Lakatos 2015, 56-57.

⁶⁰ Measurements are expressed in "cm", likely a transcript error; Máthé 1974, 301-302.

⁶¹ Máthé 1974, 301-302.

⁶² Bunyitai 1884, 377, see also note 3.

⁶³ The final table (p. 360) explicitly mentions "Pomezueu — Feudal fortress", scale 1:500, year 1981 (obs.: "Fort. m."); Dumitraşcu, Hadnagy 1982, 360. The authors address thanks to Mr. D. Marta, who made available the map used in this analysis.

⁶⁴ For parallels with those Polish see Bratu, Vestale 1971, 32-56.

⁶⁵ Boc 1970, 31.

⁶⁶ Boc 1970, 31. Silver coin of 1627 minted by the Transylvanian Prince Gabriel Bethlen. Obverse: pearled exterior circle. Legend: GAB. DG. SA. RO. IM. ET. TRAN. PRIN. Below the crown in shield, the Hungarian coats of arms, the coats of arms of Bethlen family in the middle, to the left and right of shield: .N. B.- representing the Nagy Banyá (Baia Mare) mint. Reverse: pearled exterior circle, legend: PAR. REG. HUN. Do. SIC. CO. OP. R. DU 1627. Madonna and Child on crescent moon between rays (horns). Diameter 24 mm., see Buzdugan *et al.* 1977.

the collection of the History Museum of High School no. 2 in Beiuș⁶⁷. Unfortunately, the rest of the treasure was cast away in the Holod river by the aforementioned citizen, for reasons of superstition⁶⁸.

Why the owner of this treasure felt compelled to hide in the ground in that ceramic vessel is linked to the clashes occurring during the years preceding the occupation of Oradea by the Ottomans in 1660 and the transformation of the entire region into a pashalik⁶⁹. War preparations, military operations such as the Turkish raids in the Beiuș⁷⁰ area in the autumn of 1658, penchant for looting and violence, led the owner to put his treasure in a safe place inside a ceramic vessel, hiding it in the ground. Other coins were found by students or adult inhabitants of the commune during visits to the fortress, yet which have scattered⁷¹.

2. Sigillographic finds

The Seal Collection of the Bihor County Branch of the National Archives contains a seal matrix of the Pomezau commune⁷², date to 1880, which has the fortress-castle represented in its emblem (Pl. 6/5)⁷³. Its examination, together with the period when it was made, reveals that authorised individuals used in the local chancellery seals with symbolic representations closely linked to the history of this place.

The brass sealing matrix is round (33 mm), engraved by incision. The seal field exhibits a fortress, with a keep and two crenelated, pierced towers, between which lies a circumvented crescent moon, flanked by two stars in the dexter and one in the sinister, the fortification being placed on a terrace. In the exergue, between two linear circles, the legend was written in capital letters in Hungarian: *PAPMEZŐ KÖZSÉG PECSÉTJE 1880* (SEAL OF THE POMEZAU COMMUNE 1880)⁷⁴. The emblem symbol, namely the fortress-castle, is engraved, identically to the description in historical sources.

3. Architectonical finds

Similarly to other monuments existing in Bihor County, the Pomezau fortress was also strongly affected by historical events occurring over the course of time⁷⁵. In the 19th century, the landowners allowed the villagers to reuse the stones of the fortress to build houses, some of which still preserve their original foundations today. In this context, Ioan Emödi noted in the 1980s several fragments of Renaissance frames, made of stone carried from the commune vicinity. He found these were door fragments and dated them to the middle or second part of the 16th century. According to local accounts, more important parts were removed by the villagers from a room in the fortress covered with debris, which lies underneath the current surface level. At that time, the room was relatively intact and the door frames were dismantled directly from the walls⁷⁶. Emödi identifies two parts from the upper right corner of a door, fragments decorated with sculpted rosettes and garlands, and in the lower part with shells and garlands. After measurements, the door opening measured 73.6 cm in width and approx. 240 cm in height (Pl. 6/1)⁷⁷. Another smaller fragment, probably from the same door, was part of a cornice and presents an Ionic *kyma* ornament (Pl. 6/4)⁷⁸. From the upper right corner of another door come several fragments that have the identical profile, shape and ornament as the first door, except it lacks the rosette row. A side piece was also identified, which is fragmentary and decayed on one side,

⁶⁷ These coins are the closest to reality. They exhibit similar iconographic specificities with those published. We do not aim here to reconstruct the ensemble of the treasure, lost somewhere. To illustrate the coins discovered then, catalogues dedicated to such coin issues may be used. This could certainly represent a future study on the restoration of this coin hoard discovered by chance.

⁶⁸ Boc 1970, 31.

⁶⁹ On the surrender of Oradea, see Borcea 2005, 282; Felezeu 2002-2003, 141-151.

⁷⁰ Other details in Pavel 1924, 83-96.

⁷¹ Personal note (A. Mureșan) following discussion with local inhabitants.

⁷² Mureșan 2025.

⁷³ Bihor County Branch of the National Archives, Seal Collection, seal matrix inv. no. 495.

⁷⁴ Țărău 2009a, 137; Țărău 2009b, 94.

⁷⁵ We mention the conflicts by late 15th century, early 16th century, followed by the anti-Ottoman war of 1657-1662, the Austrian's war against the Ottomans by late 17th century and the anti-Habsburg war by early 18th century; Marta 2010, 54.

⁷⁶ Emödi 1986, 501, 505.

⁷⁷ Emödi 1986, 501, with the graphic reconstruction on fig. 1.

⁷⁸ Emödi 1986, 501, fig. 2.

but which preserves a vegetal ornament (Pl. 6/2). Other profiles are unornamented (Pl. 6/3, top)⁷⁹. The pieces' decoration is suggestive of an early phase of the Renaissance, however Emödi believes it dates later, based on different stone treatment and stylisation. The upper part of a door was identified by historian Nicolae Boc in the cemetery of Pomezueu, a frame that was likely removed from the fortress and placed at the head of a woman's grave in the village cemetery of Pomezueu (Pl. 5/2)⁸⁰. Also in a burial context, garlands executed in a similar manner are found on a fragment of a funerary slab from Tileagd⁸¹, dated to the 16th century (Pl. 6/1; 6/3, bottom). Rosettes may date to the middle or second part of the 16th century and the vegetal motif to the first third of the 16th century, as indicated by the parallel of Pécs⁸². Based on these chronological classifications, Emödi considers the fortress at Pomezueu to be a fortified Renaissance castle, possibly one of the oldest of its type in Transylvania, widespread during the course of the 17th century⁸³.

4. Recent archaeological finds

At the Pomezueu fortress, the material culture is attested primarily by objects identified as a result of fieldwalks and chance finds. To date, we have no knowledge of intrusive archaeological research at this site.

In the spring of 2022, a test fieldwalk was conducted on the west side of the surviving wall in the Pomezueu fortress (Pl. 2)⁸⁴. The field surveys were favoured by the recently ploughed land, which was devoid of agricultural crops or vegetation. Near the northwest end of the wall, a higher concentration of artefacts was noted, consisting primarily of ceramic fragments (Pl. 2/1). The majority of the recovered fragments come from ceramic vessels, supplemented by a few interior pieces represented by stove eye tiles intended for heating stoves. The typological analysis took into consideration representative parts (rims, bases, decorated wall fragments, etc.), which allowed the classification of vessels as common tableware. The pottery lot includes cooking ware and food storage vessels, recipients for liquids – especially pitchers and, possibly, a water mug, as well as tableware, represented by plates.

Pots, made of semi-fine fabric with added fine sand and chalk fragments are serial forms, plain, undecorated, with a narrow base, marked shoulders and the maximum diameter located in the upper part, known as jar-pots⁸⁵ (Pl. 7). The firing process resulted in reddish-brown or brown pottery, sometimes with a brownish-grey core, but also in white pottery. Decoration is limited to rim grooves, some with an internal bevel for a lid, sometimes traces of secondary firing, an indication that the pots were used as cooking ware.

The lot is represented mostly by pitchers, used for the storage or transport of water, but also by a possible water mug (Pl. 8/(1a-d) – (3a-c); Pl. 9, 14). These were made of semi-fine fabric, sometimes mixed with sand and chalk pieces, a few having a slightly porous surface to the touch, fired in either an oxidised or reduced atmosphere. The firing resulted in brown, reddish-brown, white-pink, yellowish-white and grey ceramics. Pitcher forms are simple, with a globular body and a straight or lobed mouth – with slight grooves on the exterior (Pl. 8/1a-d, 2a-c). In general, those fired in an oxidizing environment are plain, undecorated, but can also be glazed on the interior or in the upper exterior part (Pl. 14/3a-c, 5a-c, 6a-c). The decoration was made by painting with red or brown paint, with straight or wavy lines rendered on vessel body and shoulders (Pl. 8/3a-c, Pl. 9). Numerically, handles that may be easily ascribed to these recipients stand out (Pl. 12/2a-f, 3a-e; Pl. 13/1a-e). They are not painted or glazed; their general shape is that of a rectangular section band, with a groove or channels in the upper area, straight or convex-shaped underneath. Only one, which also preserved part of the wall, has a circular section, covered with cream-colored glaze, which may have belonged to a water mug (Pl. 13/2a-g). Pitchers fired in a reducing environment are plain, glazed on the exterior or with glaze traces on the upper half (Pl. 8/2a-c, Pl. 14/1a-c, 4a-c).

⁷⁹ Emödi 1986, 501, fig. 3-5.

⁸⁰ Boc 1970, 32.

⁸¹ The burial slab may be ascribed to Nicolae Telegdi, deceased in 1583; Emödi 1986, 502, fig. 1, 6.

⁸² Emödi 1986, 502-503, fig. 2 for the Ionic kyma decoration, fig. 3 for the vegetal motif.

⁸³ Emödi 1986, 505.

⁸⁴ Observations resulted from the test fieldwalk carried out by Adriana Gaşpar were incorporated in this study.

⁸⁵ Marta 2013, 135, 139-140.

Base fragments, some with soot traces may be associated with either cooking pots or pitchers (Pl. 10-11, 12/1a-c). One specimen presents a central orifice made after firing, indicative of its reuse (Pl. 11/1a-d).

In the tableware class, only the presence of a plate fragment was documented, made of white fabric with a slightly yellowish hue, decorated with straight and wavy lines painted in brown (Pl. 8/4a-c).

The fragments recovered during the fieldwalk also include a stove eye tile, pot-type with a rectangular opening, made of fine fabric mixed with sand and mica, fired in a reducing atmosphere (Pl. 13/3a-e). In previous years, similar items were observed in the field, relatively piled in groups, during personal investigations or study visits with the students of the local school⁸⁶. Subsequently, these specimens were exhibited at the school museum of the General School in Pomezueu, where we also delivered their drawing⁸⁷. Typological parallels indicate similarities with the finds at Bodrog⁸⁸ and Şimand⁸⁹. It is possible these are related to the pottery centres specialised in tile manufacturing, active near the Gyula fortress, the Şimand market (Arad County)⁹⁰, Salonta⁹¹, or more likely, Oradea⁹².

In this context, the presence of a significant number of pipes, whole or fragmentary, within the fortress's area must be mentioned⁹³. Some complete specimens are held by local inhabitants, such as the family of Morgovan Crăciun of Pomezueu⁹⁴.

Concluding remarks

The Kornis fortress, also known as the “Ruins of the Kornis fortress” is a piece of valuable historical heritage, preserved today only by a fragmented and unstable wall, tilting southwards by approximately 15°, in danger of collapse. The situation is complicated by the fact that the wall lies on private properties⁹⁵, which limits any possible direct conservation interventions. In the absence of archaeological research, the loss of this wall would be equivalent to the disappearance of important information about the organisation and daily life during the medieval and premodern period of the fortress.

The archaeological material available for analysis comes from a small number of ceramic fragments, which restricts the formulation of definitive conclusions. However, the analysis offers significant preliminary data for understanding consumption and local production. Consequently, vessels made of white⁹⁶ and brown pottery predominate, intended especially for cooking, storage and the transport of liquids. The decoration, made with light-brown or brownish paint, with geometric motifs, is part of the tradition of white pottery widely spread in Bihor⁹⁷. In Oradea, this ceramic type is documented in Ottoman contexts of the second half of the 17th century⁹⁸, indicative of the continuity of a long-standing craft tradition. In contrast, tableware (plates, bowls) is poorly represented, and decorative

⁸⁶ Between 1970 and 1978 I was a history and geography teacher with the School of Pomezueu (A. Mureşan). The stove eye tiles were noticed by chance, between 1969-1975 by the local inhabitants, either students or adults, without them knowing what these were. When delivering the items for the school museum collection, I made the following description: “a stove tile shaped as a square-mouth plate, light brown, unglazed. Starting from the base, the edges of its walls widen towards the mouth in the shape of a square. On a side, it was darkened by soot. Height. 10.5 cm, mouth diameter: 18.4 – 18.,5 cm, base diameter: 10 cm. Dating, the 16th-17th century”.

⁸⁷ In 2012, during a visit there, we no longer found them unfortunately.

⁸⁸ Hurezan, Szatmári 1998, 85, pl. II, fig. 1, 2. 8 (with references).

⁸⁹ Hurezan, Szatmári 1998, pl. XVI, fig. 2 and pl. XVII, fig. 1-2.

⁹⁰ Hurezan, Szatmári 1998, 84.

⁹¹ Crişan, Zuh 2001, 59, fig. 3-4.

⁹² Ignat, Marta 2004, 88, pl. VIII, fig. 3-4.

⁹³ Based on personal observations (A. Mureşan), some of the discovered pipes have parallels with exemplars known at Oradea; Rusu 2002, pl. LXXXVII/11.

⁹⁴ Information from Morgovan family, following discussions with the author, between 1970-1978 (Augustin Mureşan).

⁹⁵ The aspect of private proprieties was discussed with Mayor Viorel Ciuhandu of Pomezueu commune, in the context of preliminary undertakings for archaeological excavations, in order to clarify access possibilities to the land. We thank the Mayor here too.

⁹⁶ In this region, the term “kaolinic” is used; Marta 2013, 142. In Hungary the term of “white ceramics” is used. For instance, see Molnár *et al.* 2018 for ceramics analysis.

⁹⁷ There are no petrographic analyses for the white ceramics of Bihor. The analyses on the lot of Kecskemét, Hungary, shows that white ceramics contains a significant percentage of kaolinite; Molnár *et al.* 2018: 23, 27.

⁹⁸ Its diffusion is wide, mentioning the villages of Ateaş, Cefa - La Pădure, Beiuş, Tileagd, Sânmartin de Beiuş, Săcuieni - Horo, yet also in the neighbouring counties, Cluj and Sătmar; Marta 2013, 142.

ceramics (Chinese porcelain, Kütahya, Iznik) and imports are missing. This fact may reflect utility-oriented consumption and supports the preponderantly military and functional character of the garrison, unlike the large urban centres. At regional level, production of white and reddish-brown ceramics is well documented: at Marghita, kilns active since the late 17th century were discovered, where vessels in light shades, with iron oxide-based red paint, were worked; at Vadul Crişului⁹⁹, workshops specialised in vessels made of whitish, powdery fabric function even today, and at Tileagd and again at Marghita, pits with light-brown ceramic remains were identified¹⁰⁰. These finds highlight the role of white pottery not only as utilitarian production, but also as a cultural and aesthetic expression of the communities in the area.

Grey pottery is attested only by a few fragments of pitchers and stove eye tiles, in contrast to other contemporary nearby centres, such as Timişoara for instance. In the Ottoman contexts from this region, grey pitchers, some provided with filters or pouring spouts, are widely spread starting from the second half of the 16th century. Originally, those with porous surface seem to have been preferred, while glazed variants are more numerous in the 17th century¹⁰¹. Among the finds from Oradea, grey pottery is documented from late 13th century until the 17th century, in rather restricted lots¹⁰². Likely unpopular in the area, this pottery type was replaced by standardised common-use production, such as reddish-brown and painted white pottery¹⁰³.

The presence of grey pot-type eye tiles with rectangular openings, datable to the second half of the 16th century¹⁰⁴ indicates that stoves functioned constantly from the Hungarian period until the Ottoman occupation (1661-1686). Regarding the production centres, the gray ceramic vessels likely also originate from nearby workshops such as Oradea¹⁰⁵, Salonta¹⁰⁶, Şimand (Arad County)¹⁰⁷ or other centres operating in the Pannonian Plain¹⁰⁸.

On the other hand, hypotheses expressed by historians and local researchers suggest that the fortress might have been erected on the site of a previous church or monastery. If this is confirmed, the archaeological research could identify habitation levels older than the Ottoman period, contributing to the reconstruction of the original layout and dating of successive building phases. Thus, archaeological investigations are compulsory, as these could clarify details on military structures (bastions, defence towers), Muslim religious edifices (mosques, spaces for ritual hygiene), but also crafting workshops (pottery, blacksmithing, tanning) that we expect to emerge. Concurrently, the find and extended analysis of the ceramic material would contribute to understanding how the garrison integrated into the region's economic and cultural networks.

The results of such research could represent a starting point for the conservation and capitalisation of the historical heritage, offering the necessary basis for future restoration and protection projects, as well as for a deeper understanding of the historical, cultural and religious influences that have marked this area.

Augustin Mureşan

Independent researcher
Arad, RO
augmuresan49@gmail.com

Adriana Gaşpar

Vasile Pârvan” Institute of Archaeology
Bucharest, RO
adrianagaspar81@gmail.com

⁹⁹ Emódi 2013, 260; Marta 2013, 141.

¹⁰⁰ Emódi 2013.

¹⁰¹ Observation made from comparisons with suburb materials, where it was found in large numbers; Gaşpar 2024, 29.

¹⁰² Rusu 2002, 137-138.

¹⁰³ At present, black ceramics is still produced in northern Romania, in the Marginea village from Suceava county.

¹⁰⁴ Marta 2013, 160; Rusu 2002, 137.

¹⁰⁵ Ignat, Marta 2004, 88, pl. VIII, fig. 3-4.

¹⁰⁶ Crişan, Zuh 2001, 59, fig. 3-4.

¹⁰⁷ Hurezan, Szatmari 1998, 84.

¹⁰⁸ Kovács 1984, 146.

REFERENCES

- Ágoston 2014 G. Ágoston, *Európa és az Oszmán hódítás [Europe and the Ottoman Conquest]*. HM Hadtörténeti Intézet és Múzeum. Budapest 2014.
- Balla, Lakatos 2015 T. Balla, A. Lakatos, „*Biharmegye kultúrhivatását férfiasan emeljük...*” *Rómer Flóris Nagyváradi Évei*, Nagyváradi Római Katolikus Püspökség, Nagyvárad. Oradea 2015.
- Bársony 1992 I. Bársony, *Conscrierea camerală din 1692 a Comitatului Bihor*. Crisia XXII, 1992, 98-114.
- Boc 1970 N. Boc, Câteva considerații asupra cetății din Pomezau. Zbor alb (journal of High School no. 2 and the Teacher's College of Beiuș), Year II, no. 1, 1970.
- Borcea 1974a L. Borcea, *Unele aspecte ale stăpânirii otomane în Bihar și nord-vestul României în secolele XVI-XVII*. Crisia IV, 191-211.
- Borcea 1974b L. Borcea, *Pomezau (s.v.)*. In: S. Dumitrașcu (coord.), *Repertoriul monumentelor naturii, arheologice, istorice, etnografice, de arhitectură și artă din județul Bihar*. Oradea 1974, 154-155.
- Borcea 2005 L. Borcea, *Bihorul medieval. Oameni. Așezări. Instituții*. Oradea 2005.
- Borovszky 1901 Borovszky S., *Bihar vármegye és Nagyvárad. Magyarország vármegyéi és városai*, Apolló Irodalmi Részevényszaság. Budapest 1901.
- Bratu, Vestale 1971 I. Bratu, D. Vestale, *Tezaurul feudal din Dealul Viilor - Oradea (a doua jumătate a secolului al XVI-lea)*. *Lucrări științifice, Series Istorie-Științe sociale-Pedagogie*, 31-56.
- Bunyitai 1884 V. Bunyitai, *A Váradi Püspökség története*, III. Nagyvárad [Oradea] 1884.
- Bunyitai 1892 V. Bunyitai, *Nagyvárad a török foglalás korában*. Budapest 1892.
- Buzdugan et al. 1977 G. Buzdugan, O. Luchian, C. C. Oprescu, *Monede și bancnote românești*. Bucharest 1977.
- Călători străini ... vol. VI 1976 M. Holban (ed.), *Călători străini despre Țările Române*, vol. VI, Bucharest 1976.
- DL 10008 „*Diplomatarium Ladislaianum*” sau „*Documenta Latina*” in the collections of the National Hungarian Archives (Magyar Nemzeti Levéltár).
- Crișan, Zuh 2001 I. Crișan, I. Zuh, *Cercetările arheologice de la Salonta*. Crisia XXXI, 2001, 57-65.
- Emódi 1986 I. Emódi, *Fragmentele arhitectonice renascentiste de la Pomezau*. Crisia XVI, 499-506.
- Dumitrașcu, Hadnagy 1982 S. Dumitrașcu, Á. Hadnagy, *Cercetări de topografie arheologică în Crișana*. Crisia XII, 1982, 353-360.
- Fazecaș 2010 G. Fazecaș, *Cadrul natural al comunei Pomezau*. In: G. Moisa (coord.), *Monografia Comunei Pomezau*. Oradea 2010, 9-15.
- Fazecaș et al. 2012 G. Fazecaș, D. Marta, N. Pop, *Cetățile medievale ale Bihorului-trecut și present*. Oradea 2012.
- Felezeu 2002-2003 C. Felezeu, *Relații bilaterale politico-diplomatice transilvano-otomane*. AMN 39-40/II, 2002-2003, 139-152.
- Gașpar 2024 A. Gașpar, *Arheologie în suburbiile Timișoarei otomane (secolele XVI-XVII)*. SCIVA, tom 75 (1-4), 2024, 37-75.
- Godea 2011 I. Godea, *Arhitectura din Romania între anii 1300-1700: sinteze, crestomatie, reconstituiri, imagini*. Oradea 2011.
- Hurezan, Szatmári 1998 P. Hurezan, I. Szatmári, *Colecția de cahle și de ochiuri de cahlä din Evul Mediu târziu a Muzeului din Arad*. Ziridava XXI, 1998, 83-138.
- Ignat, Marta 2004 D. Ignat, D. Marta, *Cuptoare medievale de ars ceramică descoperite în Oradea-Piața Unirii*. Crisia XXIV, 2004, 87-102.
- Jakó 1940 Zs. Jakó, *Bihar megye a török pusztítás előtt. Település és népiségtörténeti értekezések*, 5. Szám, Sylvester Nyomda Zrt. Budapest 1940.

- Kraus 1965 G. Kraus, *Cronica Transilvaniei, 1608-1665*. Bucharest 1965.
- Lajkó 2004 O. Lajkó, *Kora újkori kerámiaegyüttes Óföldről*, MFMÉ. *Studia Archaeologica* X, 2004, 553-574
- Marta 2010 D. Marta, *Realități medievale și premoderne din ținutul Pomezeului. Mărturii documentare, comentarii istorice, realități economice, mod de trai*. In: G. Moisa (coord.), *Monografia Comunei Pomezeu*. Oradea, 41 - 82.
- Marta 2013 D. Marta, *Cetatea Oradei: de la începuturi până la sfârșitul secolului al XVII-lea*. Oradea 2013.
- Máthé 1974 (1975) Márta Sz. Máthé, *Rómer Flóris bihari munkássága (A bihari útinapló)*. DDMÉ, 1974 (1975), 283 - 346.
- Mureșan 2025 A. Mureșan, *Tiparul sigilar din anul 1880 al comunei Pomezeu, județul Bihor*. Uniunea Ziariștilor Profesioniști din România (UZPR), <https://uzpr.ro/12/09/2025/tiparul-sigilar-din-anul-1880-al-comunei-pomezeu-judetul-bihor-de-augustin-muresan/>
- Pavel 1924 C. Pavel, *Beiușul și cetatea Finișului până la ivirea turcilor în Bihor*. *Calendarul Bihorului* 4, Beiuș, 1924, 59-72.
- Pavel 1928 C. Pavel, *Școalele din Beiuș, 1828-1928, Cu o privire asupra trecutului românilor din Bihor*. Beiuș 1928.
- Rusu 2002 A. A. Rusu, *Cetatea Oradea, Monografie arheologică. I. Zona palatului episcopal*. Oradea 2002.
- Rusu 2005 A. A. Rusu, *Castelarea carpatică. Fortificații și cetăți din Transilvania și teritoriile învecinate (sec. XIII-XIV)*. Cluj-Napoca 2005.
- Szalardi 1853 I. Szalardi, *Siralmas magyar krónika, Második Könyv*. Budapest 1853.
- Scholtz 1907 B. Scholtz, *Nagyváradvárának története*. Nagyvárad [Oradea] 1907.
- Suciu 1967 C. Suciu, *Dicționar istoric al localităților din Transilvania*, 1966, vol. II, O-Z. Bucharest 1967.
- Thali 1873 R. Thali, *Archivum Rakoczyanum*, I. Pest 1873.
- Țărău 2009a A. Țărău, *Armorialul general al sfragisticii rurale din Crișana*. *Biharea* XXXI-XXXIII, 2004-2006 (2009), 127-236.
- Țărău 2009b A. Țărău, *Sfragistica rurală din Crișana*. Oradea 2009.
- UC 190 Magyar Országos Leveltar, *Urbaria et Conscriptioes*, UC 190.

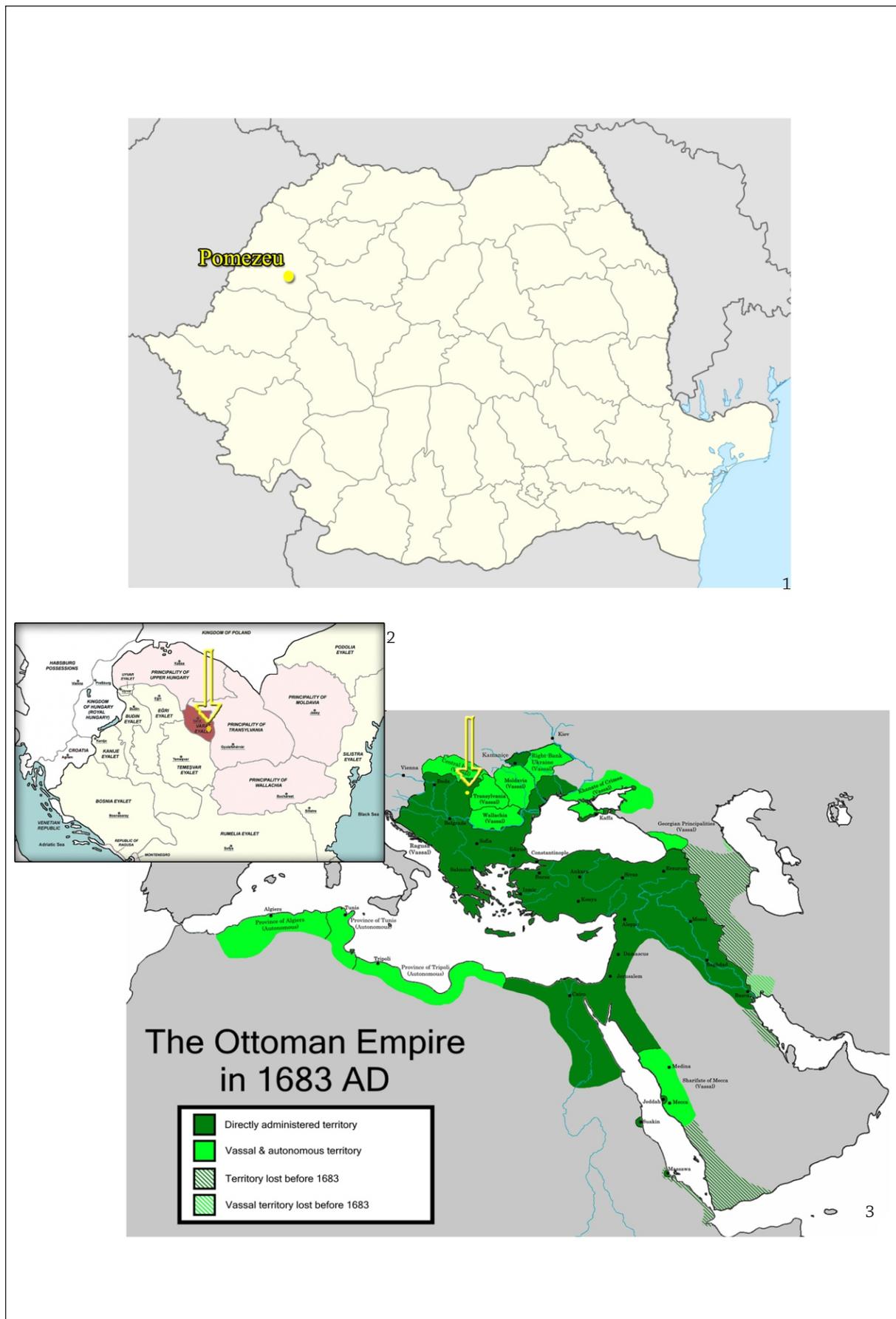


Plate 1. 1. Pomezeu (yellow dot) in Bihar County and on the map of Romania; 2. Oradea Eyalet and Pomezeu commune (yellow dot and arrow), in relation to neighbouring administrative units; 3. Pomezeu marked with a yellow dot and arrow on the map of the expansion of the Ottoman Empire, 1683 (graphic processing A. Gaşpar).



1



2

Plate 2. 1. Ruins of the Kornis fortress (yellow arrow) in Pomezee (Google Maps, graphic processing A. Gașpar);
2. Fragmented wall of the fortress, view from southwest (photo A. Gașpar).

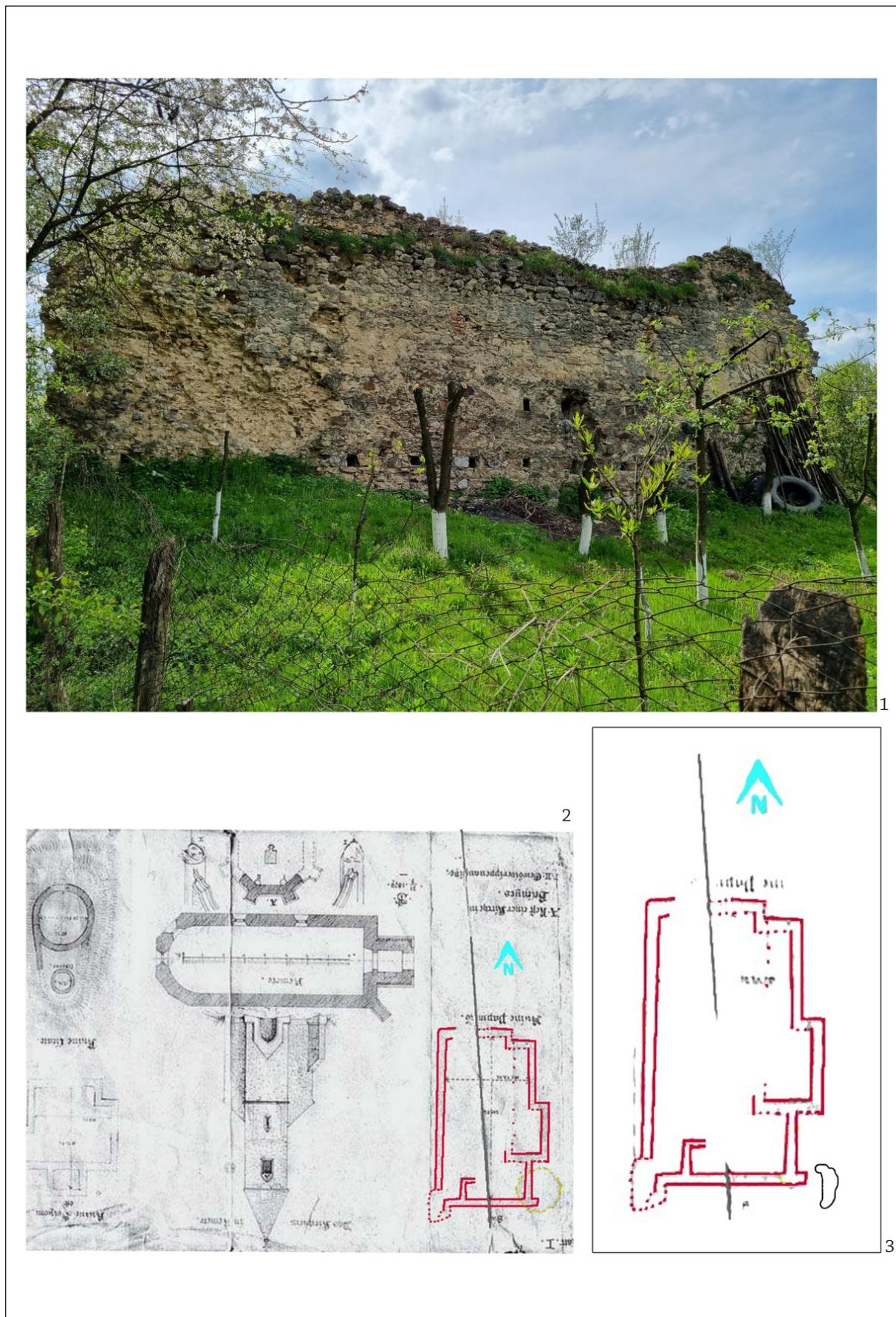


Plate. 3. 1. Fragmented fortress wall, view from the interior, southeast side (photo A. Gaşpar); 2. Sketch made by Ferenc Stornó in 1878, with the Pomezeu fortress and other nearby fortresses (after Balla, Lakatos 2015, 56); 3. The Pomezeu fortress, rendered based on Ferenc Stornó's sketch (graphic processing A. Gaşpar).

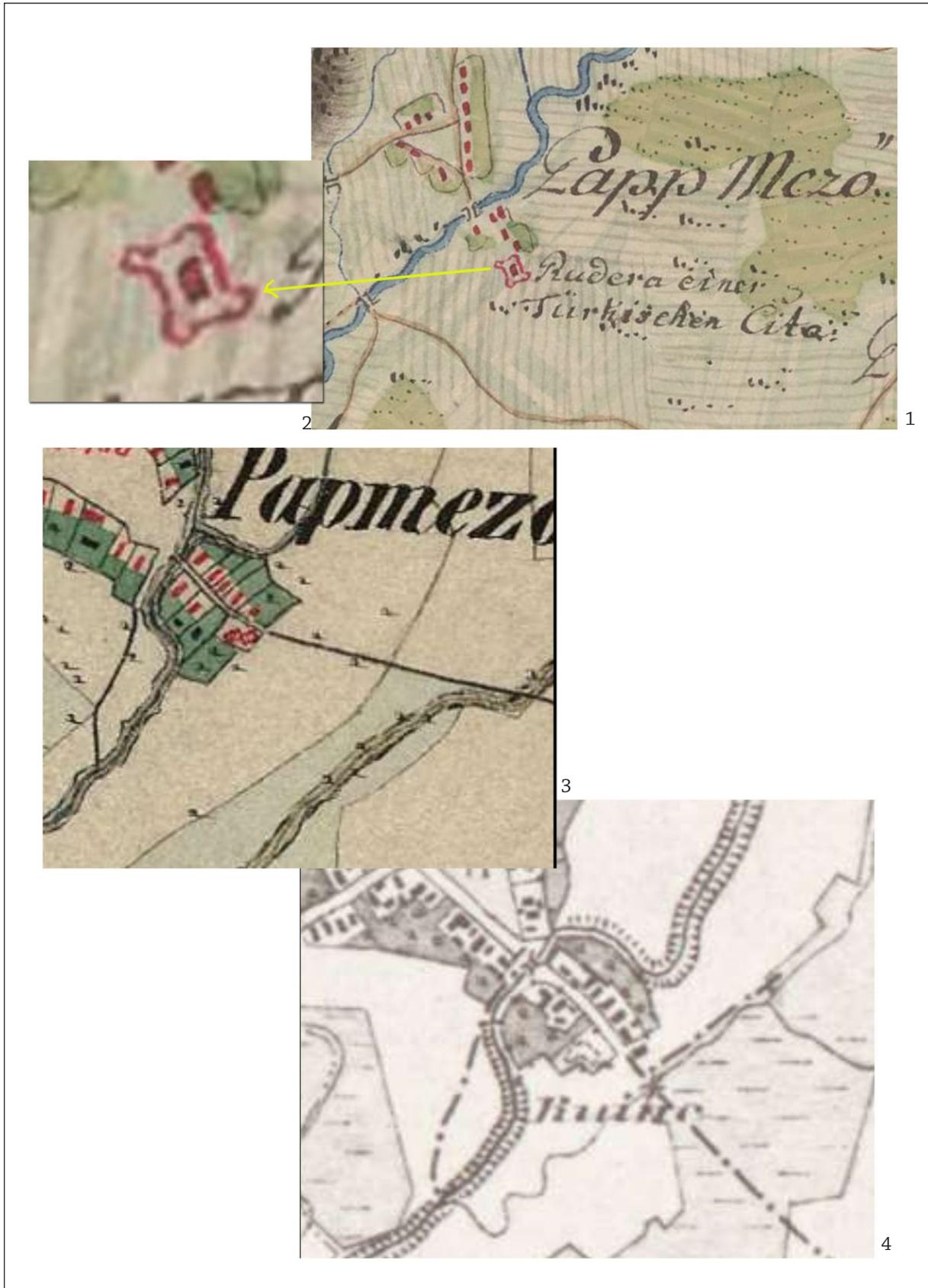


Plate 4. 1-2. The Pomezéu fortress, highlighted on the Josephine map, Josephinische Landesaufnahme, Königreich Ungarn, Coll XXVI, Sectio XXII.; 3. The Pomezéu fortress, highlighted on the Franciscan map, 1819-1869, Franziszeische Landesaufnahme, Königreich Ungarn, Verwaltungs-Gebiet, Comitat Süd Bihar, Section N-ro 56, Colonne N-ro XLVI; 4. The Pomezéu fortress, highlighted on the third Habsburg military survey, (<https://maps.arcanum.com/ro/map/thirdsurvey25000/?bbox=2479089.037100607%2C5907330.455023053%2C2483116.3130283826%2C5908646.605103838&map-list=1&layers=129>).

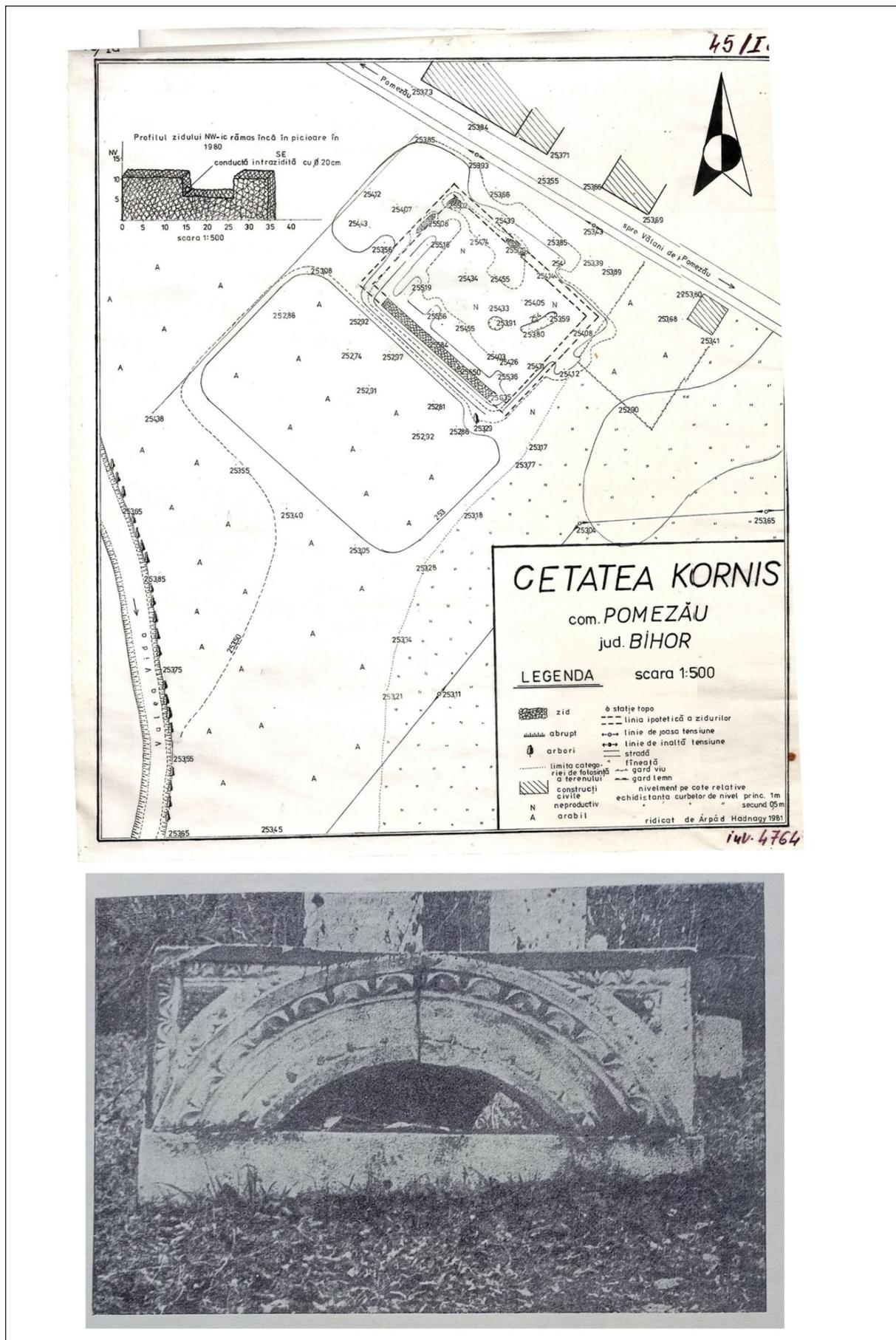


Plate 5. 1. Topographical survey of the fortress performed by Árpád Hadnagy (after Dumitrașcu, Hadnagy 1982, 360);
 2. Door frame found in the local cemetery of Pomezue (after Boc 1970, 32).

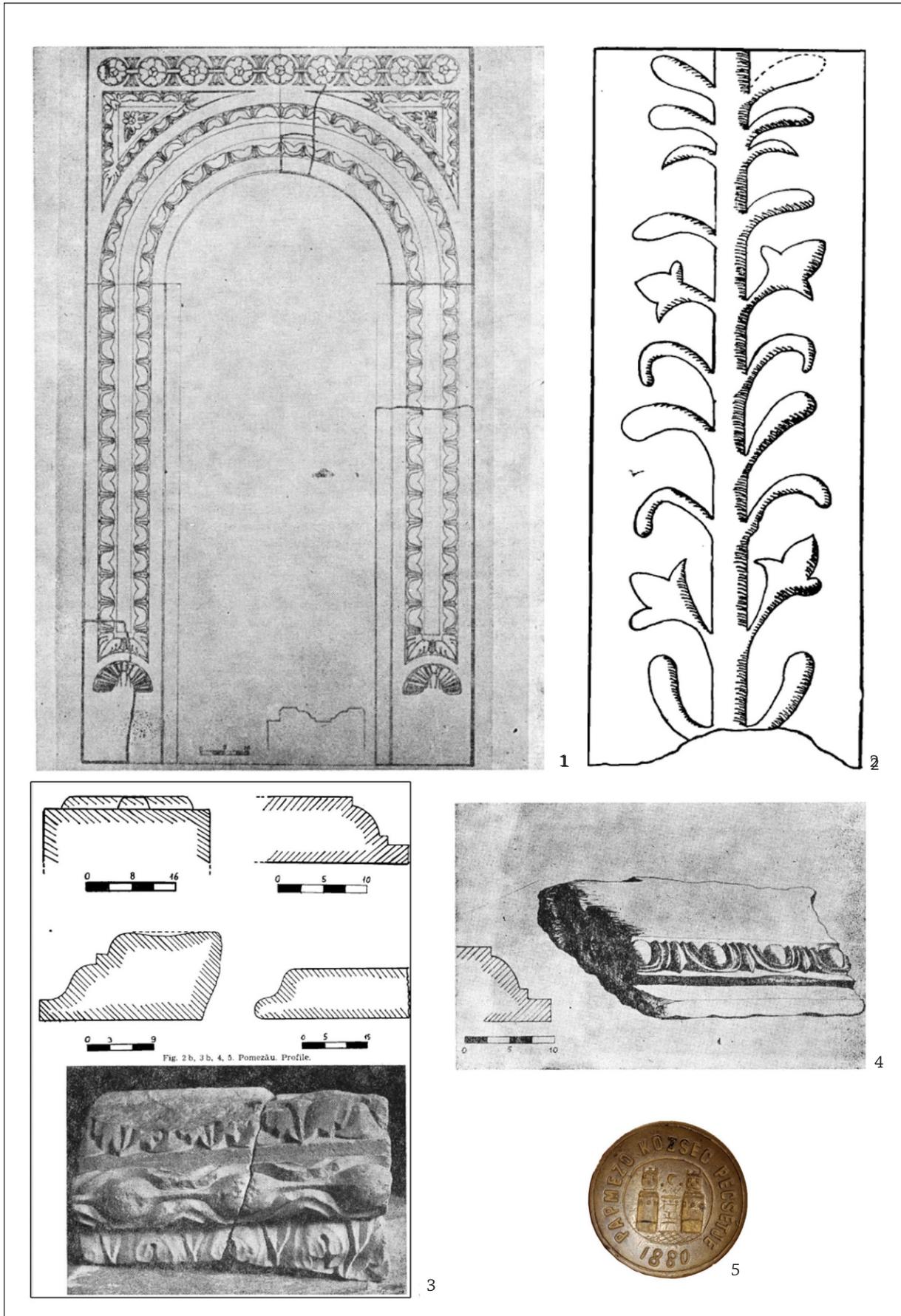


Plate 6. 1. Door sculpted in Renaissance style (after Emödi 1986, 500, Fig. 1); 2. Drawing of a gate fragment, vegetal motif (after Emödi 1986, 503, Fig. 3); 3-4. Drawing of unornamented profile fragments (upper part) and fragment of a burial slab, Tileagd (lower part) (after Emödi 1986, 504, Fig. 4-6); 5. Seal of the Pomezău commune, 1880.

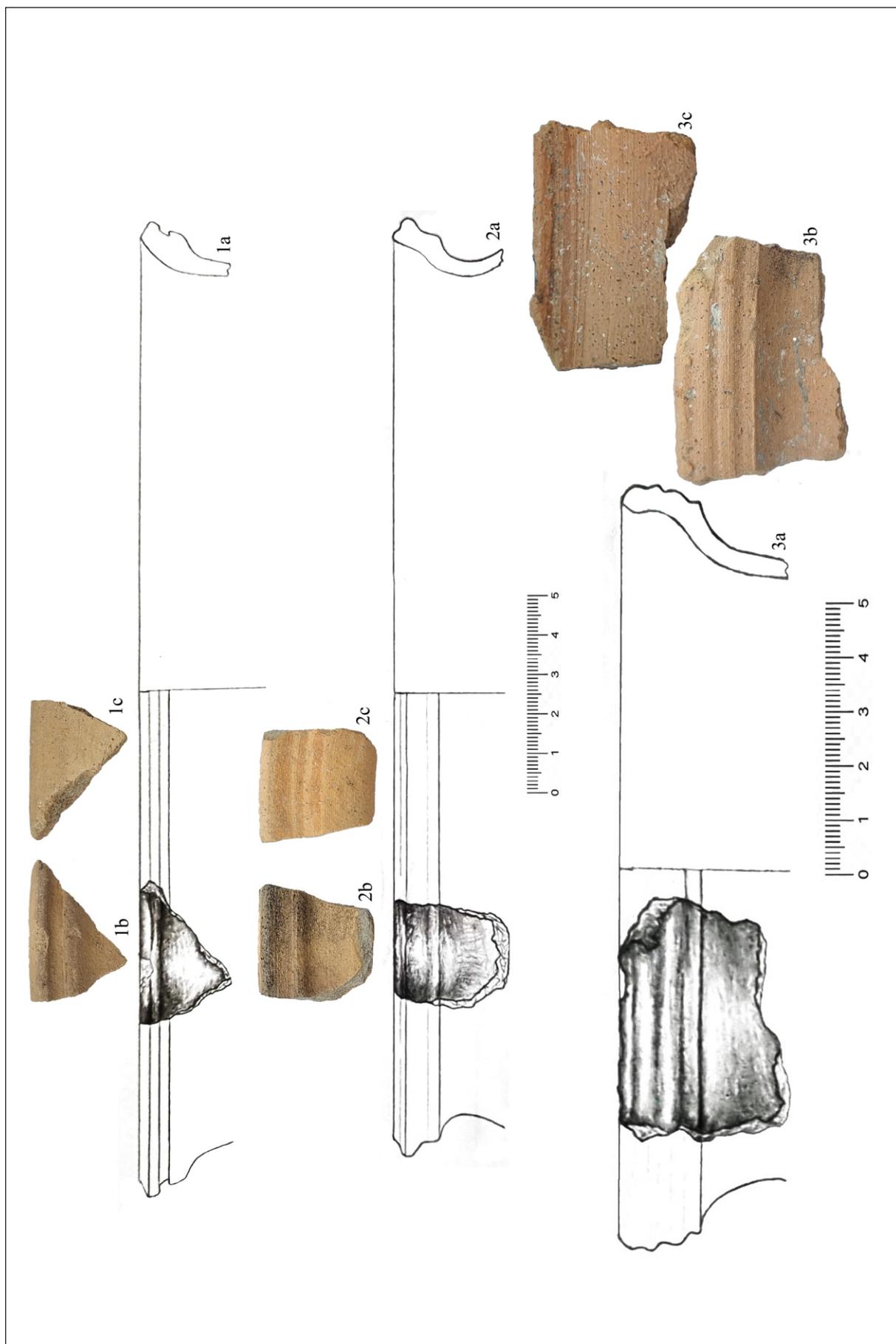


Plate 7. Pot fragments, 17th century
(photo and drawing A. Gaşpar).

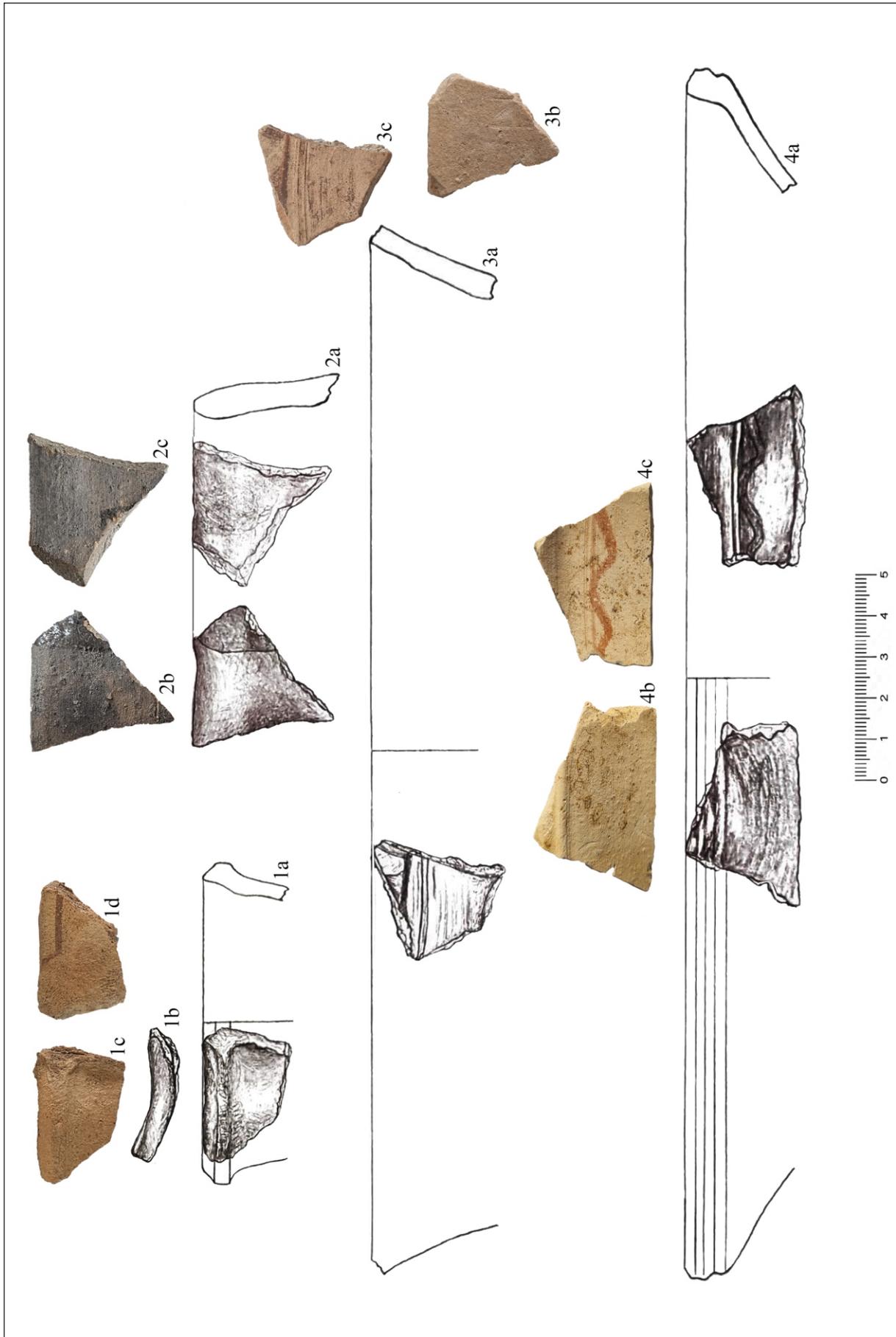


Plate 8. 1a-d, 2a-c, 3a-c: Pitcher fragments, 17th century; 4a-c: Plate fragment, 17th century (photo and drawing A. Gașpar).

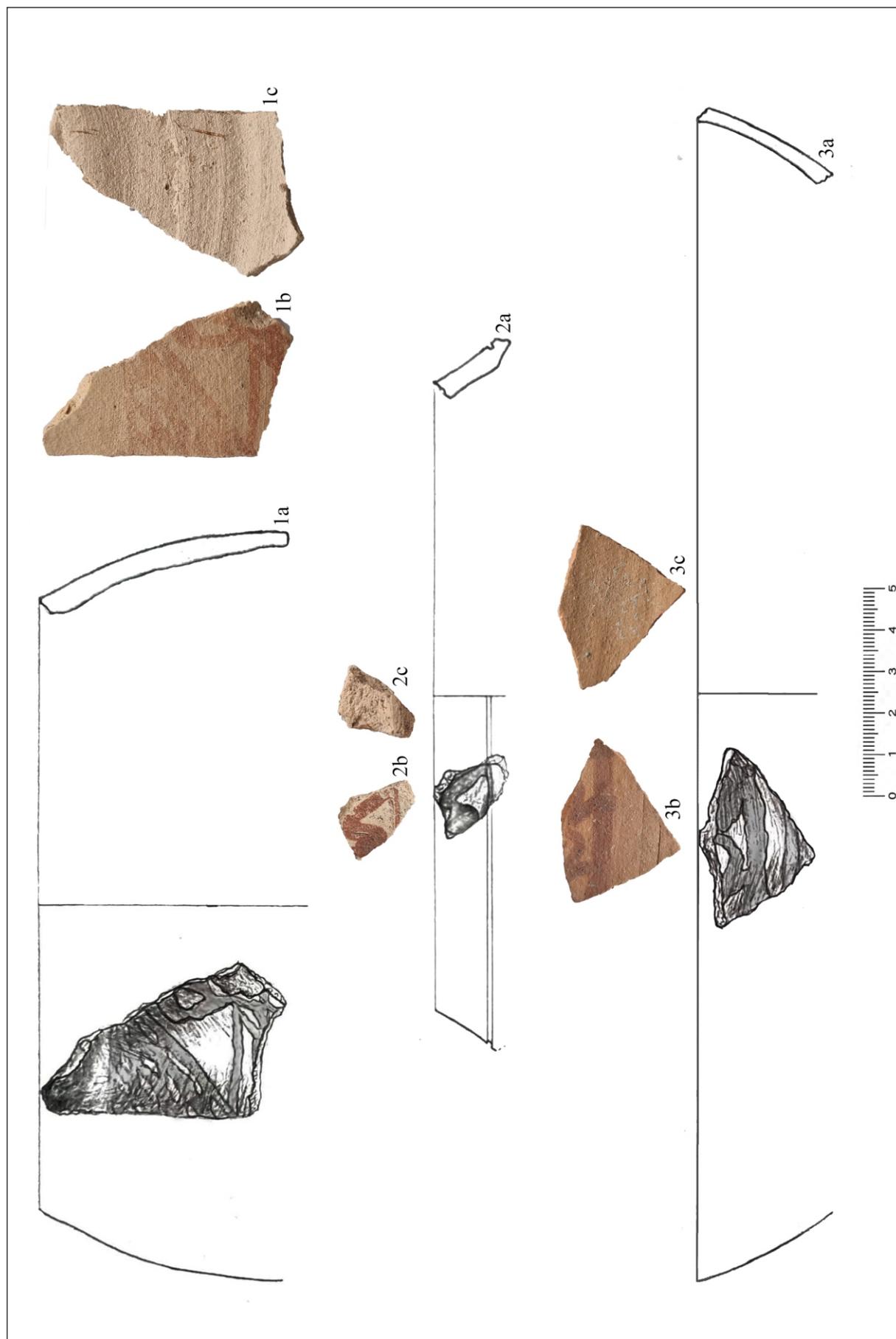


Plate 9. Pitcher fragments, 17th century
(photo and drawing A. Gaşpar).

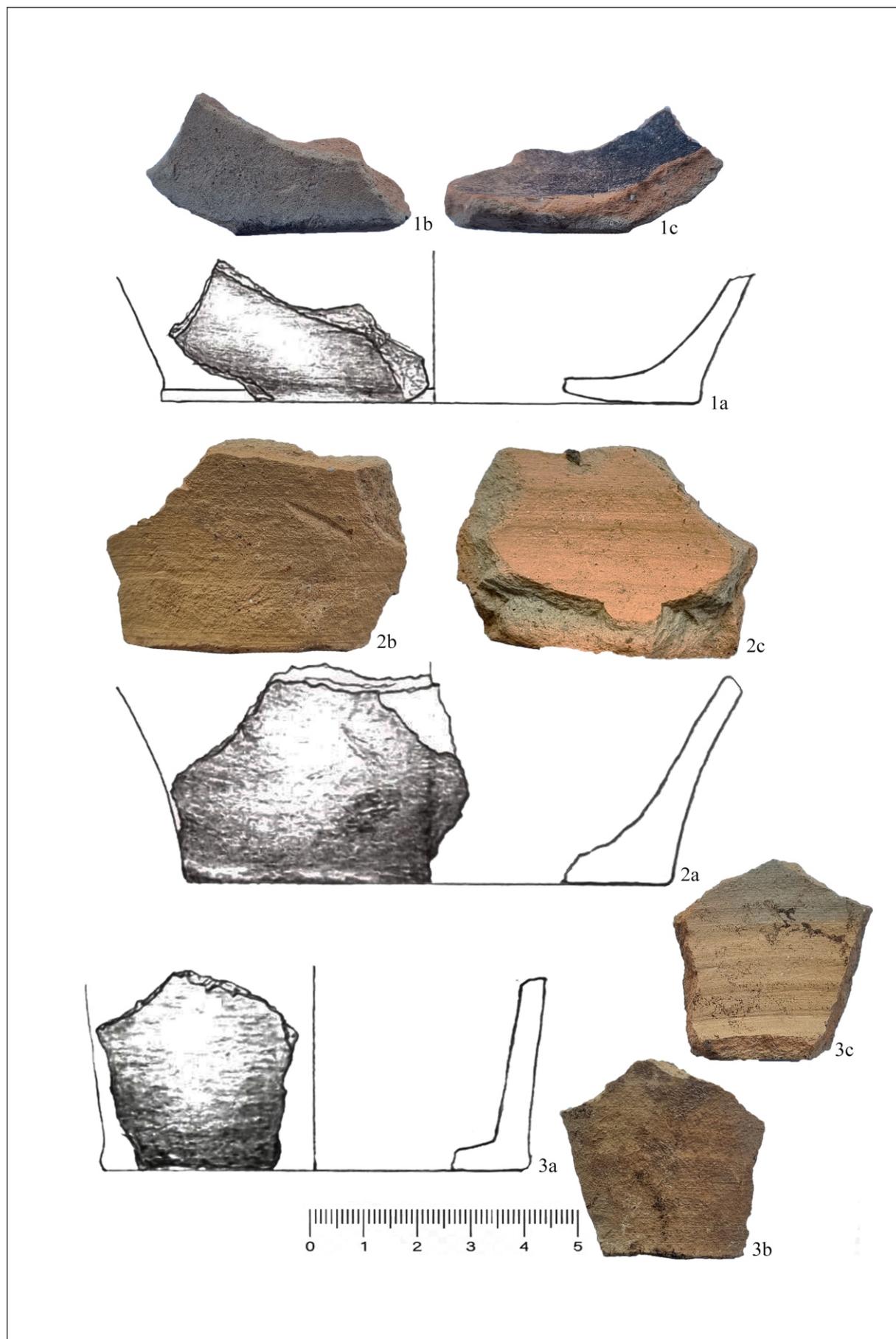


Plate 10. Pot and pitcher bases, 17th century
(photo and drawing A. Gașpar).

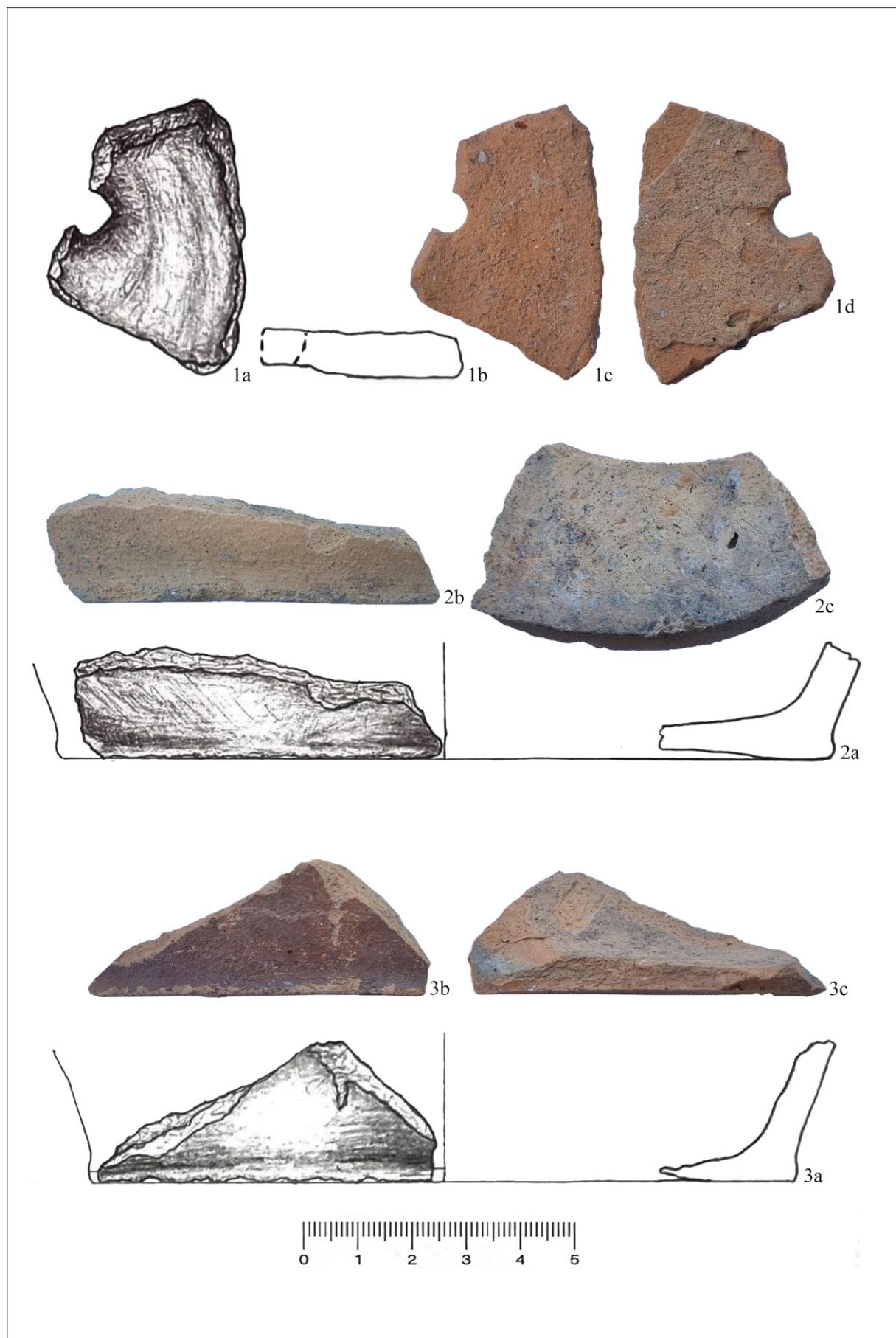


Plate 11. Pot and pitcher bases, 17th century
(photo and drawing A. Gaşpar).

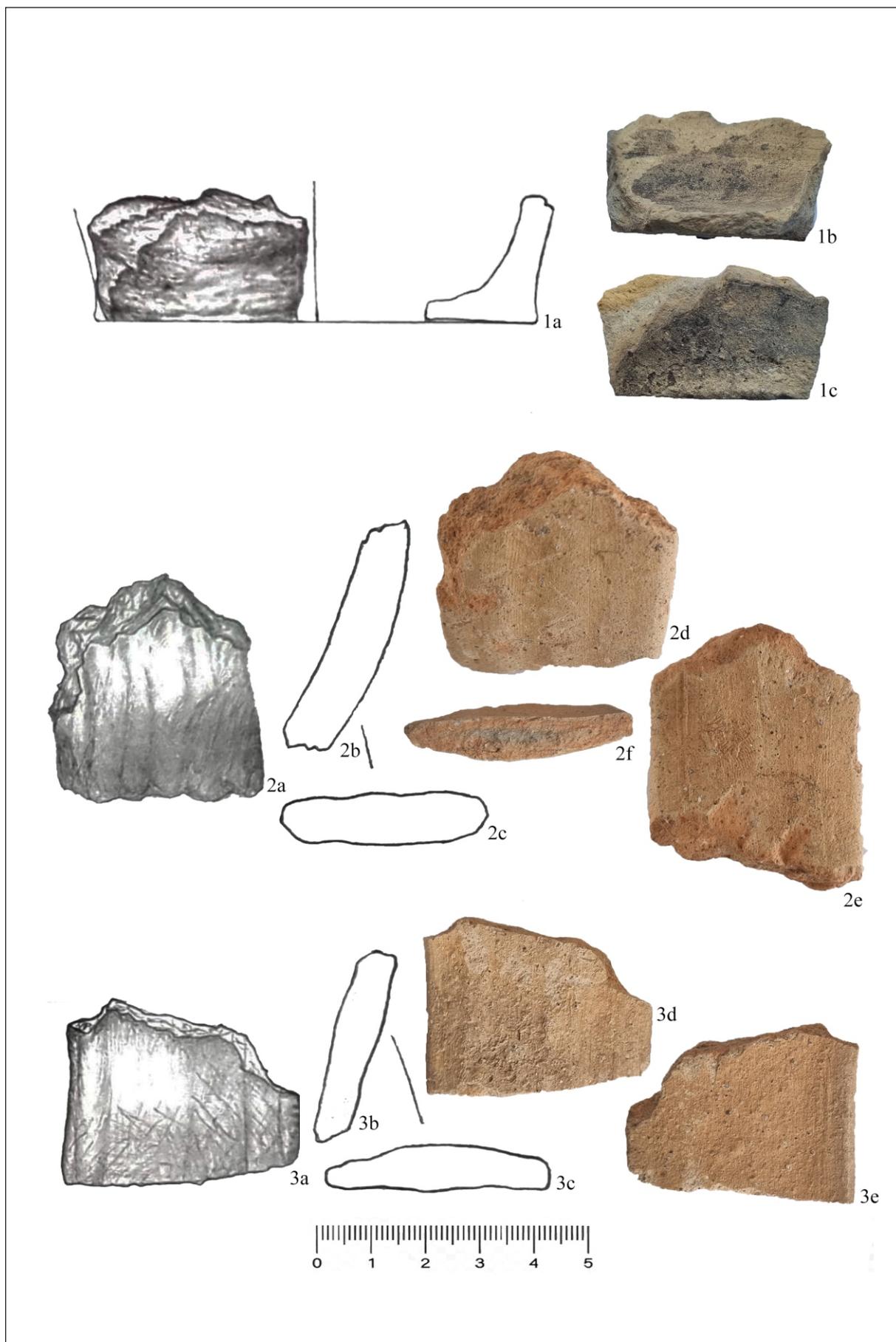


Plate 12. 1a-c: Pot base; 2a-d: Pitcher handles, 17th century
(photo and drawing A. Gașpar).



Plate 13. 1a-e: Pitcher handles; 2a-g: Mug handle; 3a-d: Stove eye tile with rectangular opening, 17th century (photo and drawing A. Gaşpar).



Plate 14. Pitcher fragments, 17th century
(photo A. Gașpar).