

# POTTERY WORKSHOPS FROM ROMAN DACIA \*

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## I. STAGE OF RESEARCH

The study of Roman pottery from Dacia hasn't reached the stage of an exhaustive publication of the material from different sites up to the present date, situation which would offer a global view on the general evolution and particularities of the imports, but also on the characteristics of the local production. The only general study analyzing the pottery from the southern part of the province (imports and local production) belongs to Gh. Popilian and it was published in 1976<sup>1</sup>. Besides this paper, which remains a reference book for the study of Roman pottery from Dacia, the following studies tried to bring up-to-date the analysis of the provincial pottery workshops. From these, the contribution of N. Gudea regarding the local pottery production from Roman Dacia, it is to be mentioned<sup>2</sup>. Trying to stress on the progresses made by the research, the author analyzed the main categories of finds from the province referring to pottery production, the criteria used for identifying a workshop, the distribution area of products coming from private workshops etc. The analysis is accompanied by a very useful catalogue comprising the elements of pottery workshop identification from the province<sup>3</sup>.

More recent contributions referring to local pottery production belong to D. Benea, as part of an overview study regarding the stage of research of the handicrafts from Roman Dacia<sup>4</sup>. Taking into account the archaeological elements that prove the activity of the local workshops, the author concludes that in comparison with the data referring to other handicrafts developed in Dacia, the pottery production is very well represented from the viewpoint of archaeological research and of the number of published studies, even if the lack of special monographs and general studies is very much felt<sup>5</sup>.

The latest approach of the subject belongs to V. Rusu-Bolindeț in the monograph of the Roman pottery from Napoca<sup>6</sup>. The study contains an exhaustive presentation of the state of research conducted in the last fifty years concerning the Roman pottery from Dacia<sup>7</sup>. The conclusions focus on the progress made in the analysis of special categories

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<sup>1</sup> POPILIAN 1976.

<sup>2</sup> GUDEA 1978.

<sup>3</sup> GUDEA 1978, 140-147.

<sup>4</sup> BENEA 2007, 35-66.

<sup>5</sup> BENEA 2007, 48.

<sup>6</sup> RUSU-BOLINDEȚ 2007.

<sup>7</sup> RUSU-BOLINDEȚ 2007, 15-31.