

## SIGILLIA PENTRU DECORAREA CERAMICII DIN PROVINCIA DACIA

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**Key words:** *sigillia*, local workshop, ceramics

*Abstract: The instruments for the decoration of the ceramics play a very important part in the identification of the pottery workshops. Most of these instruments are sigillia. They were discovered in the urban environment, at Ulpia Traiana Sarmizegetusa (1), Apulum (2), Napoca (1), Potaissa (1), Porolissum (5), Romula (3). Such pieces are also present in civilian settlements near camps, such as Acidava-Enoșești (2), Cristești (6) and in the rural settlement from Micăsasa (2). Except the pieces from Ulpia Traiana Sarmizegetusa and Porolissum, the other ones come from pottery workshops. The pieces from Porolissum are the only ones showing traces of usage. Rarely, sigillia appear in camps at Buciumi (1) and Ilișua (1), but with no possibility to connect them to the production activity of the military craftsmen. Most of the stamps were made of clay, and two pieces of bone. They are carefully and meticulously executed. The decoration is very different: vegetal (leaves, rosettes), geometrical (lines, circles, points), zoomorphic (lion) or anthropomorphic motifs (Apollo, Medusa).*

*In the present stage of research a differentiation between the stamps for terra sigillata and those for stamped pottery is impossible. Most of the times, both ceramic categories were made in the same workshop. Chronological, there is evidence of an early local production of terra sigillata and stamped pottery from the first half of the II century, this production reaching its peak at the end of the same century and the beginning of the following one.*