

REI CRETARIÆ ROMANÆ FAVORVM

ACTA 46



CONGRESSVS TRICESIMVS PRIMVS
REI CRETARIÆ ROMANÆ FAVORVM
NAPOCÆ HABITVS
MMXVIII

OXFORD

2020

Published by the REI CRETARIÆ ROMANÆ FAVTORES, an international learned society
in association with Archaeopress Publishing Ltd

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Cover photo: Pottery display. National Museum of Transilvanian History. Cluj-Napoca.
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ISSN 0484-3401

ISBN 978-1-78969-748-3

ISBN 978-1-78969-749-0 (ePdf)

DOI 10.32028/9781789697483

This book is available to order from:

Archaeopress Publishing Ltd, Summertown Pavilion, 18-24 Middle Way, Oxford OX2 7LG, UK
Order online at www.archaeopress.com

Enquiries concerning membership should be addressed to the Treasurer: treasurer@fautores.org

Website: www.fautores.org

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FOREWORD

Since the beginning of its publication, back in 1958, the *Rei Cretariae Romanae Fautorum Acta* became a reference for all those dedicated to the different aspects of Roman pottery studies. With 60 years celebrated in 2017, *Rei Cretariae Romanae Fautores* is the oldest association dedicated to the study of Roman ceramics, bringing together more than 300 members (including more than 80 affiliated members) from 30 countries. This vigour and vitality is the result of the initiative by Howard Comfort and Elisabeth Ettliger to bring together Roman pottery specialists.

The volumes published so far, (with the exception of 3 to 8 and 13 that are not linked to specific Congresses) are the result of presentations (communications and posters) made in the Conferences organized by invitation in different parts of the former Roman Empire, every two years. This is the occasion, *par excellence*, for the presentation of research results on the most diverse topics on Roman ceramics in the different geographies of the Roman Empire and beyond. In these meetings, all researchers (not only the members of the association) can participate in a friendly atmosphere of knowledge sharing and fruitful debate over Roman ceramics and their historical significance. Lively discussions over potters' stamps, forms, typologies, fabrics and chronology of pottery sherds frequently take place as they allow inferences on different aspects of the Roman world.

The history of Roman pottery studies is reflected in the contents of the *Acta* volumes: with an initial, almost exclusive interest directed to *terra sigillata* this predominance gradually faded from the 80s and 90s of the 20th century, opening to other categories such as amphorae, common ware and lamps. Resulting from projects, fieldwork (excavations and surveys), underwater archaeology, preventive archaeology activities or other archaeology activities, the study of pottery assemblages play a crucial role in the interpretation of past societies.

Corresponding to a highly specialized field of knowledge, the studies and approaches on Roman ceramics offer information about the way different regions were integrated into the Roman sphere. As objects of daily use in the domestic context, they also allow the identification of consumption patterns and the understanding of exchange, circulation and distribution systems in the complex ancient economy. In the artisanal context, pottery production and its technological aspects are a key issue when approaching the archaeology of production. Archaeometric approaches are progressively used in research enquiries as to understand provenance or technological aspects of pottery. On the other hand, pottery in funerary assemblages also contains relevant data for the study of attitudes towards death, ancient culture and society.

With a commitment to maintaining high levels of scientific quality and rigour, the publication of the *Acta* has enabled a wide range of young researchers from various countries to present the results of their enquiries, alongside with senior scholars from all over the former provinces of the Roman Empire. This diversity, often reflected in the papers published, is also our strength. Thus, the international scope is guaranteed, no borders are recognized as the *Acta* papers are published in English, French, German, Italian and Spanish. Previous editors, such as Susanne Zabełhlicky-Scheffenegger and Susanne Biegert, have assured high-quality standards and kept the regularity of publication that is worth noting.

Volume 46 of the *Rei Cretariae Romanae Fautorum Acta* is the result of communications and posters presented during the 31st Conference of RCRF held in Cluj-Napoca (Romania) in September 2018. The main theme was '*Marketing of Roman pottery: economic relationships between local and imported products*', but many presentations addressed other related topics.

As decided in the *Fautores* General Assembly in Cluj, this volume appears both in printed and electronic version (with DOI) and is printed and distributed by Archaeopress. As the production and dissemination of knowledge are our main goals, all the necessary steps are being taken to make available previous volumes of the Acta online to assure full open-access. Also, RCRF allows self-archive of papers in institutional repositories. With more than 300 members (including more than 80 institutional ones), the Acta is present in most prestigious research centres, universities and libraries all over the world.

It is this tradition of knowledge sharing and scientific advancement that we intend to pursue. Our review process based on the scientific quality of the papers presented (peer review) assures independent evaluation of the Acta contents in all different stages of the editing process. Publication Guidelines were adapted to Archaeopress style regarding Bibliography and referencing. Details of these can be accessed in the RCRF webpage (<https://www.fautores.org>).

Finally, one should mention that the editing process was done with unexpected difficulties due to the Covid 19 pandemic restrictions that struck everyone on different levels. Fortunately, this occurred when we were already in the last phases of the publication and we were only partially affected since museum stores and research centres in universities were closed and some researchers still needed to review a few details of their ceramics.

In this occasion, I would like to thank all the members of the editorial board who participated in the editing activities of this volume and took part in the review process, Dario Bernal-Casasola, Tatjana Cvjetičanin, Maria Duggan, Philip M. Kenrick, Simonetta Menchelli, Christine Meyer-Freuler, Viorica Rusu-Bolindeț, Kathleen Warner Slane and Inês Vaz Pinto, as well as Rui Roberto de Almeida for the formatting and layout and David Davison from Archaeopress. I am also most grateful to Susanne Zabehlicky-Scheffenegger and Susanne Biegert for their help and wise advice.

September 2020

Catarina Viegas
(General Editor)

INTRODUCTION

Why a special introduction, although we could do without since our first Acta were published in 1958? Well, because I was asked to draw attention to the core and heart of our association – the congress(es) – i.e. what happened before you have this book in your hands. Normally we meet every second year by invitation of a member in any part of the Roman Empire. We have already been as far in the south-east as Ephesus and as far in the north-west as York.¹ In 2018 Viorica Rusu-Bolindeț seduced us to come to Cluj-Napoca, the second time that a congress took part in Romania, after 1994 at Timișoara. And we are looking forward to our next congress in Athens, the first ever in Greece, whenever it will be possible to meet again without health risk.

The volume you have at hand now comprises 64 articles on 617 pages. Out of the 120 scheduled lectures and posters presented at the congress, 61 are included in the present volume, to which were added three others. Given the location of the conference in Romania it seems natural that the amount of articles related to the Balkans and Danube region is the largest one (with 20 articles). It is followed by contributions concerning Italy (15), and the Iberian Peninsula (13). The 'rest of the world' is split between the Roman provinces in the East (8), in North-Africa (6), and in central respectively western Europe (2). What a difference to the first fifteen volumes of our Acta, containing 111 articles, where France predominated by far with 29 (followed by Italy with 13, Hungary and general items with 11 each, Germany with 9 and the Iberian Peninsula with 8 to list but the main ones)!² And of course also the topics changed enormously: in the Acta 1-15 (published 1958 to 1973) 62 articles dealt with *sigillata* matters only(!), followed by general items treated in 15 articles; only one to four each discussed other types of pottery. Whereas at that time only in four cases various wares were combined in one and the same article, now nearly every author is presenting or at least mentioning whole contexts, assemblages, or at any rate different wares from a certain find spot or region.

Since long, though by far not from the beginning, it has been customary to propose a general theme for a congress. Of course it is not obligatory to follow it, and other items are also welcome, but it always serves as a good guideline and clamp. At Cluj-Napoca we were asked to contribute to 'Marketing of Roman pottery: economic relationships between local and imported products' and it influenced many of the presentations. Although that is a broad subject and one can pack nearly everything into that label, just look at the titles, how many researchers followed it literally: we can read about and learn upon imports versus local products (mostly in contexts with mixed material) from east (*Potaissa*, Romania) to west (Beja, Portugal) and from north (*Aquincum*, Hungary) to south (*Thelepte*, Tunisia). It is not the appropriate place here to review the articles, but a short summary may be given: proved or reasonably assumed workshops are presented from Serbia, Bulgaria, Turkey, Egypt, Italy and Spain; when papers deal only with a single type of pottery, amphorae as well as *sigillata*

¹ See the *Historia Favorvm* in our website <<https://www.fautores.org/pages/historia-favorum.htm>>. Under 'News' in the same website one can find reports on the last four congresses with many pictures.

² The foundation of the now so flourishing SFECAG in 1973 was almost certainly the reason for a regrettable decline of French participants in our association: the amount of relevant articles diminished from 26% to 2%. Fortunately up to now the establishment of the SECAH in Spain has not had the same effect and the Iberian Peninsula provided 16% of the articles in the last five volumes!

and related wares prevail, followed by cooking wares and a rather sporadic treatment of votive vessels or offerings, figural vessels, lamps, *louteria* and *mortaria*; the chronology of the presented finds spans from the Hellenistic to the Late Roman/ Byzantine periods. Hence everyone can find something to his/her taste and the volume once again attests and demonstrates the ample field of the Roman pottery research to which we are devoting our work and which the *Rei Cretariae Romanae Fautores* are supporting.

What else happened and enriched us during the congress? First of all, we had plenty of time to discuss everything between us - pottery matters of course, but also personal news - during the breaks, refreshed with coffee and cookies, in front of the many posters, during the shared meals regaled with abundant delicious food and beverage, and during the full-day excursions. The first of these led us to Zalău, where we had another session of lectures before we visited the County Museum of History and Art with a pottery display and then the site of *Porolissum*, ending up in a huge tent with nice food, Roman soldiers and dance. In the second excursion we visited the historic town of Alba Iulia with its wonderful three fortifications. After lectures we strolled around and were guided to the National Museum of Unification with another hands-on pottery display and the town with its remains of various periods, not only Roman, the two cathedrals and the Vauban citadel. Dinner adequately was served in an old barbican.

The post-congress trips (not any longer joined by all of us) led to *Ulpia Traiana Sarmizegetusa* (site and museum) and the Hunyadi Castle at Hunedoara as well as to Turda/*Potaissa* (site and museum) and the ample salt mine, where salt was exploited from Roman times until the early 20th century. At the end we had gained many new friendships!

One of the highlights was (the opening of) the exhibition 'The supply of ceramic goods in Dacia and Lower Moesia: imports and local developments' in the National Museum of Transylvanian History at Cluj-Napoca, with an immense pottery display of all the main ceramic production centres of these provinces. There we were presented with two comprehensive volumes, the exhibition catalogue: V. Rusu-Bolindeț and F.-O. Botiș (eds.) in collaboration with C.-A. Roman, I.-A. Iliescu, I. Potra, B.E. Grigoraș, L. Nedelea et al. 2018, *The supply of ceramic goods in Dacia and Lower Moesia: imports and local developments. Exhibition catalogue*, Cluj-Napoca, Mega Publishing House and the elaborate and very useful synopsis of the manifold local productions in Romania: V. Rusu-Bolindeț, C.-A. Roman, M. Gui, I.-A. Iliescu, F.-O. Botiș, S. Mustață and D. Petruț (eds.) 2018, *Atlas of Roman Pottery Workshops from the Provinces Dacia and Lower Moesia/Scythia Minor (1st–7th centuries AD) I* (Biblioteca Musei Napocensis L), Cluj-Napoca, Mega Publishing House, both compiled on occasion of our congress!

Organizing a congress is at times a cumbersome labour, but a very rewarding task. We are deeply grateful to Viorica Rusu-Bolindeț and her collaborators and helpers that they did such a great job in organizing the whole lot in such an excellent way! Thank you all!

Catarina Viegas, our new editor, now devoted hard work to compile the present volume and we are much obliged to her effort! Enjoy reading it, hopefully at a profit!

October 2020

Susanne Zabehlicky-Scheffenegger



Some impressions of the congress.