

ВИСОКА ТЕХНИЧКА ШКОЛА СТРУКОВНИХ СТУДИЈА  
У НОВОМ САДУ

**4. МЕЂУНАРОДНА КОНФЕРЕНЦИЈА  
УПРАВЉАЊЕ ЗНАЊЕМ И  
ИНФОРМАТИКА**

**ЗБОРНИК РАДОВА**

12 - 13. ЈАНУАР 2018.  
КОПАОНИК

## ZDELE SA LOKALITETA BOLJETIN

*Radmila Zotović<sup>1</sup>*

**Rezime:** Boljetin je imao tri faze života od I do VI veka, uključujući i nekropolu do njega iz I veka. Najbrojniji keramički material su zdele, koje se javljaju u period od I do V veka. Njihova pojava zabeležena je takodje in a nekropoli u funerarnom ritual. Druge zdele su korišćene za svakodnevnu upotrebu. Najredje su crveno bojene , glazirane zdele, a najčešće zeleno bojene glazirane zdele. Specifični su takodje tzv. Mortariumi i zdele sa dve ručke. Takodje postoji keramička grupa koja se može opredeliti izmedju tanjira i zdele.

**Ključne reči:** rimski period, utvrđenje, keramika, zdele, Boljetin

## BOWLS FROM BOLJETIN SITE

**Abstract:** Boljetin had three phase of living from I to VI century including and necropoly next to it from I century. The most numerous ceramics material from Boljetin are bowls, which appeared from I to V century. Their using occured also on the necropoly in the funeral rituals in I century. Other were used as rugh ceramics for every day using. The most rare are red coulored glazed bowls, and the most often are green coulored glazed bowls. The specific are aslo socalled mortariums and the bowls with two hands. There are also the group of ceramics wich is between plates and bowls.

**Key words:** roman period, fortress, ceramics, bowls, Boljetin

### 1. INTRODUCTION

Bowls in general make up the most widely represented ceramic group in ceramics for daily use, and Boljetin site is no exception. Among the bowls identified at Boljetin several major groups may be identified, according to their fabric and type of slip used for colouring. The least numerous group are bowls made of well refined earth, with burnished slip of red colour (T I/1, 2, 3), dated into the period from 1<sup>st</sup> to 3<sup>rd</sup> centuries. The most numerous group are the bowls glazed on the inside, mostly in different hues of green and a little brown, of sandy fabric (T I/5, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 17, 18), dated into a wider chronological period, going even as far as 5<sup>th</sup> century. The remaining bowls are mostly of sandy fabric, except for the types of coarser or coarse fabric (T I/10, 11). All bowls feature mostly various hues of grey or red firing colour, while kaolin bowls are present in a small number (T I/8, 10, 14, 15).

A ceramic material that was characteristic for the 6<sup>th</sup> century layer was identified during study examination of materials in the vessel fragments not characteristic for potential typological classification. The bowls in question were shallow and glazed in brown.<sup>2</sup>

According to the form, the bowls may also be divided into two groups. The bowls that cannot be positively claimed to have served as bowls only, but perhaps as plates as well, also belong to the group of bowls. This group is mostly made up of bowls that are glazed on the inside, and that can also in the largest number of cases be seen as bowls – deep recipient plates. Perhaps a special group may be made up of the bowls

<sup>1</sup> Doktor nauka, Arheološki institut, Knez mihailova 35/IV, 11 000 Beograd, e-mail: [rzotovic@eunet.rs](mailto:rzotovic@eunet.rs)

<sup>2</sup> Zotović - Petrović 1967, 70. In addition to the bowls that are part of the 6<sup>th</sup> century ceramic material, other materials not lending themselves to typological classification were fragments of dishes decorated by a characteristic ridge technique and/or fragments of brown glazed jugs.

that had a rather special, i.e. specific purpose, such as *mortaria*, or out of two-handled bowls, probably used as kitchen wares for keeping or preparing food.

It is especially interesting to mention that bowls as well as other ceramic groups found in the sacrificial pit often show traces of burning and point to the use of ceramic vessels in the funerary feast ritual.<sup>3</sup>

## 2. CATALOGUE

The bowls identified at Boljetin site are from the period from 1<sup>st</sup> to 5<sup>th</sup> centuries and they were identified in the following types:

Type I/1 is a type of a calotte-shaped bowl, with un moulded rim, more or less inverted, made from well refined earth, red fired with red burnished slip on the outside. They imitate *terra sigillata* bowls, form Drag. 40. Only three examples of this type of vessels were found at Boljetin, two of them with the rib moulded hollow pedestal foot. Their analogies were located at Karataš, Tekija, Singidunum and Pannonia.<sup>4</sup> They are dated into 1<sup>st</sup> century.

1. A smaller bowl. Red burnished slip on the outside.

Study mat., cat. 23/67; probe I; depth 2.00 m.

2. Upper part of a bowl with dark red burnished slip on the outside.

Study mat., cat. 642/68; square I8-J8; depth 2.30 m.

3. Fragment of the rim, belly and bottom of a bowl with red burnished slip on the outside.

Field inv. no 1037/69; square K10; depth 1.55 m.

Type I/2 is a type of a calotte-shaped bowl with horizontally everted rim, featuring a horizontally placed plastic rib below, and a glued strip-like handle. The bottom was profiled on a ribbed hollow pedestal foot. They were made of well refined, red fired earth, red painted and burnished on the outside. At Boljetin this type of bowl was identified in only one instance. It was a slightly modified, provincial form Drag. 37. According to the form, this type of bowl may be dated into 2<sup>nd</sup> century and up to early 3<sup>rd</sup> century, and at Boljetin to an earlier period of 2<sup>nd</sup> century.<sup>5</sup>

4. A bowl, red painted and burnished.

Study mat., 1969; pit, necropolis.

Type I/3 is a type of biconical bowl with an almost flat upper part, with the rim with ribbed profile or with and everted slanting rim. In the upper half there is decoration made by a tracing wheel or by applying leaves. It is an imitation of *terra sigillata*, Drag. 44, and fine, luxury varnished

<sup>3</sup> Information received from Ljubica Zotović PhD, head of exploration at Boljetin, and the author kindly thanks her.

<sup>4</sup> Cermanović-Kuzmanović - Jovanović 2004, 116, n. 8, 9, Brukner 1981, 82, T. 78/ 12, 13, Bojović 1977, T. LIII/484, Jevremović 1987, T. III, I/45.

<sup>5</sup> Brukner 1981, T. 69, in Pannonia from 2<sup>nd</sup> to 4<sup>th</sup> centuries.

ceramics.<sup>6</sup> It is made of well refined and red fired earth, covered with a coat of red colour and burnished. It appears also in other provinces of the Empire.<sup>7</sup> This type of bowl is characteristic for the period of 2<sup>nd</sup> century, up to early 3<sup>rd</sup> century. According to the finds in the necropolis, it can be dated at Boljetin into the early period of 2<sup>nd</sup> century.

5. A bowl decorated by a tracing wheel on the outside and on the inside. Preserved in fragments.

Field inv. no 59/a/69; probe D, block II, depth 1.50 m.

6. Upper part of a biconical bowl with red burnished slip on the outside.

Field inv. no 118/a/69; probe D, block III-IV, pit, necropolis.

Type I/4 is a type of a calotte-shaped bowl, with flat-edged unmolded rim, while on the outer side such bowls usually feature one or two cannelured horizontal lines. Two variants were identified according to the fabric. Variant A was made of well refined earth, red firing colour, and with the burnished red slip on the outside. Variant B has a grey firing colour and black slip on the outside that is burnished. Variant A mostly imitates forms of Drag. 40, while variant B represents better or poorer imitations of luxury ceramics, the so-called *terra nigra*. They may be dated into late 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> centuries. At Boljetin they correspond to the first phase of the camp life, so they may thus be dated into late 1<sup>st</sup> and early 2<sup>nd</sup> centuries. The closest analogies appear at Tekija and Karataš.<sup>8</sup>

7. A bowl, red painted and burnished on the outside.

Field inv. no 116/a/69; probe D, block III-IV, pit.

8. A bowl, black slip on the outside.

Study mat., cat. 15/67.

9. A bowl with dark grey slip. On the inside, near the rim, cannelures were incised.

Field inv. no 117/a/69; probe D, block III-IV, pit, necropolis.

10. A bowl of grey firing colour, with dark grey burnished slip.

Study mat., no data

11. A bowl of light reddish-brown firing colour, preserved in fragments.

Field inv. no 802/68; square K9; depth 2.10 m.

Type I/5 was identified at Boljetin in three instances. This type differs from the previous type by having thicker walls, sandier fabric, the rim slightly inverted, and they are glazed green or brown. Only two bowls of this type were identified. A variant of this bowl type may have a widening at the

<sup>6</sup> Ibid., 89, T. 73, n. 52, second half of 2<sup>nd</sup> century to the end of 3<sup>rd</sup> century.

<sup>7</sup> Popilian 1997, 13, Fig. 13//1, 2, T. 14/3, 4.

<sup>8</sup> Cermanović-Kuzmanović - Jovanović 2004, 118, n. 43; Jevremović 1987, T. V, I/69.

rim for the fingers, or a small handle. One bowl of this variant was identified.<sup>9</sup> Based on the analogies, this type may be dated into 4<sup>th</sup> century.<sup>10</sup>

12. A bowl of red fired earth, glazed green on the inside.

Study mat., no data.

13. A bowl of red fired earth, glazed brown on the inside.

Field inv. no 391/66; square F5; depth 1.80 m.

14. A fragment of the rim, belly and bottom of a bowl, red firing colour, glazed green on the inside.

Field inv. no 113/65; square C2; depth 1.50 - 1.90 m.

Type I/6 is a type of hemispherical form of the body with the rim turned outwards and down. The walls are thicker, of red firing colour, and with a coat of red slip. Only one example of this type of bowl was identified. It is dated into the end of 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> centuries.<sup>11</sup> As for Boljetin, this ceramics type responds to the first phase of the life of the camp.

15. A bowl preserved in fragments.

Study mat., cat. 95/a/69, probe C, block II, depth 2.0 m.

Type I/7 is a type of bowl of hemispherical form, with the rim turning outwards and down, cannellured at the edge, and with the ribbed moulded pedestal foot; earth refined, grey firing colour with burnished slip on top. Imitation of *terra sigillata*, Drag. 35. Only one instance of this type of bowl was identified. It was dated into the second half of 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> centuries,<sup>12</sup> but at Boljetin it may be determined as early 2<sup>nd</sup> century at the latest.

16. A bowl preserved in fragments.

Field inv. no 114/a/69; probe D, block III-IV, pit, necropolis.

Type I/8 is a type of bowl with slanting moulded rim, belly high placed, protruding and ribbed, and flat bottom. Below the rim there are two opposing handles. It was made of white or yellowish-white kaolin earth. It is dated into the period from late 2<sup>nd</sup> century to mid-4<sup>th</sup> century.<sup>13</sup> This type of bowls at Boljetin may be connected both to the second phase of the life of the camp, i.e. period of 2<sup>nd</sup> half of 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> centuries, and to the first phase as well, most probably the second quarter of 2<sup>nd</sup> century, judging by the find in the necropolis.

17. A bowl preserved in fragments.

<sup>9</sup> Such a "star-shaped" projection at the rim is present in the bowl with two handles from Pannonia, Brukner 1981, T. 97, n. 204. It is registered as unidentified type. A bowl was found in Singidunum where the rim is wavy in its entire surface. It is dated into 4<sup>th</sup> century, Bojović 1977, 34, 101, n. 473.

<sup>10</sup> Ibid., 34, Brukner 1981, T. 76, n. 93.

<sup>11</sup> Ibid., 90, T. 75, n. 85; Popilian 1976, T. LXX, n. 878, 879; Cermanović-Kuzmanović - Jovanović 2004, 119, n. 52.

<sup>12</sup> Brukner 1981, 88, T. 72, n. 29.

<sup>13</sup> This type of bowls appeared in different chronological periods. It was made of sandy earth, red or grey firing colour. Brukner 1981, 98, T. 95, n. 191; Djordjević - Nikolić 2000, 53, T. I/93.

Study mat., cat. 11/67, probe I, depth 1.10-1.40 m.

18. A bowl preserved in fragments.

Field inv. no 123/a/69, probe D, block III-IV, pit, necropolis.

Type I/9 is a type of bowl with high belly, protruding at the shoulder or flat above and tapering below, with flat bottom and slanted or horizontally everted rim. Bowls with the belly that is flat in the upper part and tapering below are in essence variant B of this bowl type. Variant A bowl may have a decoration of incised lines on the belly. The earth they were made of is sandy, in the hues of red, brown or grey firing colour. The closest analogies were found at Tekija.<sup>14</sup> They are dated into the period from 2<sup>nd</sup> to 3<sup>rd</sup> centuries, and as for Danube *limes*, even earlier, into 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> centuries<sup>15</sup>. At Boljetin the examples of this type and fabric are related to the first and second phase of the life of the camp, so this bowl type at Boljetin site may be more precisely determined into late 1<sup>st</sup> century as well as late 3<sup>rd</sup> century.<sup>16</sup>

19. A bowl of brown firing colour, surface unworked.

Field inv. no 504/67; square E 11; depth 1.30 m.

20. A bowl of black firing colour, and sandy fabric.

Field inv. no 773/67; square I3; depth 1.70 m.

21. A bowl of grey firing colour, unworked on the outside.

Field inv. no 130/a/69; probe D, block III-IV, pit, necropolis.

22. A fragment of a bowl, grey firing colour.

Study mat., cat. 643/?; square D3; depth 1.40 - 1.60 m.

23. A fragment of the rim and belly of a bowl of grey firing colour.

Study mat.; square B7; depth 0,90 - 1.20 m.

Type I/10 is a type of bowl - *mortarium*, of larger size, with everted rim where the spout was placed, with thick belly walls and broad massive bottom. This type was made of insufficiently refined clay in the hues of red, yellowish or brown colour, with surface unworked. Bowls may bear the stamp of the workshop which was impressed next to the spout. They are dated into the period of 2<sup>nd</sup> century, and may be made of earth that was red or brown.<sup>17</sup> There was only one instance of this bowl type at Boljetin, and according to the location of the find, it is believed to be early 2<sup>nd</sup> century.

24. A bowl of yellowish-white clay, sandy fabric. A spout drawn to the outside.

Field inv. no 122; probe D, block III-IV, pit, necropolis.

<sup>14</sup> Cermanović-Kuzmanović - Jovanović 2004, 120, n. 68, n. 71.

<sup>15</sup> Ibid., Garašanin - Vasić - Marjanović-Vujović 1984, 26, T. I.

<sup>16</sup> Зотовић - Петровић 1968, 80-81.

<sup>17</sup> Вјелажас 1994, 142 - 143, tip II, Pl. II, 3, 4, 5; Djordjević-Nikolić 2000, 40, tip I/53.

Type I/11 is a type of bowl - *mortarium* with a slanting rim ending in a spout, slanting walls of the belly and flat bottom. This type was made of unrefined clay, of brown or red firing colour, and the inside of the vessel is light or dark olive glazed. This bowl type represents local production and they appeared during 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> centuries.<sup>18</sup>

25. A bowl of red firing colour, glazed dark olive on the inside.

Field inv. no 37/65; square B4; depth 1.50 - 2.10 m.

Type I/12 is a type of calotte-shaped or hemispherical bowl with a slanting or horizontally everted rim. Bowls were made of refined earth, predominantly red or brown-red firing colour, with or without coloured slip on the outside, and glazed green on the inside. The rim often featured a geometrical decoration. The bottom is flat or ribbed moulded, on a short pedestal foot or without it. The closest analogies were found at Tekija.<sup>19</sup> In Pannonia this bowl type is dated into 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> centuries.<sup>20</sup> As for Boljetin, the finds of this bowl type are considered as related to the second phase of the camp's life, so they may be dated into the second half of 3<sup>rd</sup> century and 4<sup>th</sup> century.

26. A bowl of red-brown firing colour preserved in fragments. Circular perforation in the belly.

Field inv. no 37/65; square B6; depth 1.40 - 1.80 m.

27. A bowl with red slip on the outside.

Field inv. no 637/67; square G12; depth 2.0 m.

28. An upper part of a bowl, red-brown firing colour.

Field inv. no 100/65.

29. An entire bowl. Brown glazing on the inside, red firing colour.

Field inv. no 638/67; G12; depth 2.0 m.

30. A fragment of the rim, belly and bottom of a bowl, red-brown firing colour.

Study mat., cat. 270/68; square D6; depth 1.55 - 1.90 m.

31. A fragment of the rim, belly and bottom of a bowl, red firing colour.

Field inv. no 542/67; square E11; depth 1.60 m.

32. A fragment of the rim, belly and bottom of a bowl.

Study mat., cat. 283/66.

33. An upper part of a bowl with a visible metal rivet for patching.

Study mat., cat. 283/66.

<sup>18</sup> Ibid., 16 - 17, tip I/1, Brukner 1981, 84, T. 61, n. 18.

<sup>19</sup> Cermanović-Kuzmanović - Jovanović 2004, 119 - 120, n. 58 - 60.

<sup>20</sup> Brukner 1981, 97, T. 93, n. 164 - 167.

34. An upper part of a bowl.

Study mat., cat. 270; depth 1.55 - 1.90 m.

35. A fragment of the rim, belly and bottom of a bowl.

Field inv. no 598/67; square F12; depth 2.05 m.

36. A larger part of a bowl.

Field inv. no 720/67; square E6; depth 1.95 m.

37. A fragment of the rim, belly and bottom of a bowl.

Field inv. no 560/67; square F12; depth 1.30 m.

Type I/13 is in a certain way a variant of the previously discussed bowl type, but due to the moulding of the rim and the belly form they were separated into a different bowl type. The rim of this bowl type is also horizontally everted or everted and slanting, but the inner edge features a more or less plastically emphasized rib. The body is calotte-shaped, more or less emphasised as round or angled. The firing colour is red-brown, fabric is a better sandy one, and they are glazed green on the inside. The examples of larger dimensions, such as cat. no 38, belong to pounding bowls. In Pannonia the analogous finds, glazed on both surfaces, or only on the inside, are dated into 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> centuries.<sup>21</sup> Boljetin bowls may be dated into the period from the second half of 3<sup>rd</sup> century and into 4<sup>th</sup> century.

38. A fragment of the rim and belly of a bowl.

St. mat square A12; depth 1.60 - 2.10 m.

39. A fragment of the rim, belly and bottom of a bowl.

Field inv. no 421/66; square D8, depth 2.10 m.

40. A fragment of the rim, belly and bottom of a bowl.

Field inv. no 415/66; square D8; depth 1.80 m.

Type I/14 are spherical bowls with more or less upward slanting everted rim. They were made of yellowish-white or red-brown sandy earth, and glazed in green or yellowish-green on the inside. Analogous bowls were found in Tekija, with no glazing, and they are dated into 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> centuries.<sup>22</sup> It is probable that glazed bowls from Boljetin may be dated into the later period, into 3<sup>rd</sup> century.

41. A fragment of the rim, belly and bottom of a bowl. Kaolin earth, yellowish green glazing.

Field inv. no 391/66; square F5; depth 1.80 m.

42. A fragment of the rim, belly and bottom of a bowl. Brown-red firing colour, green glazing.

<sup>21</sup> Brukner 1981, 97, T 93, n. 152, 158, T 61, n. 13, 23.

<sup>22</sup> Ceranović-Kuzmanović - Jovanović 2004, 121, n. 71, nap. 88.



Study mat., cat. 554/67; square K9; depth 1.90 m.

Type I/15 are calotte-shaped bows with everted rim slanted downward, with a cannelured line next to the outer edge. They were made of yellowish-white or red refined earth, and glazed green or yellowish-green on the inside. In Pannonia this bowl type is dated into 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> centuries,<sup>23</sup> while at Boljetin it chronologically corresponds to the second phase of the life of the camp.

43. A fragment of the rim, belly and bottom of a bowl, red firing colour. Yellowish green glazing on the inside.

Field inv. no 156/65; square C6; depth 1.40 m.

44. A fragment of the rim, belly and bottom of a bowl made of yellowish white earth. Yellow greenish glazing.

Field inv. no 785/67; square 67; square H1; depth 1.60 m.

45. A part of a bowl made of red fired earth. Green glazing.

Field inv. no 871/68; square F5; depth 2.30 m.

46. A bowl of red fired earth, glazed yellowish green on the inside.

Field inv. no 518/67; Square D11; depth 1.55 m.

Type I/16 is a calotte-shaped bowl with horizontally everted rim decorated by a geometrical ornament. They were made of refined earth of grey firing colour. The belly may have slightly emphasised ribs. There were only two instances of this bowl type. It may be dated in the period from the second half of 3<sup>rd</sup> century to 4<sup>th</sup> century, and it represents a variant that is similar to previous types of glazed bowls.<sup>24</sup>

47. A fragment of the rim, belly and bottom of a bowl.

Field inv. no 362/66; square D2; depth 2.15 m.

48. A fragment of the rim, belly and bottom of a bowl.

Field inv. no 68/65; square B2; depth 1.50 - 2.20 m.

Type I/17 is a bowl with the belly placed high and with an emphasized shoulder turning into the belly. The rim is horizontally everted and decorated by a geometrical ornament, and so is the belly. This type was made of well refined earth, brown-red firing colour, glazed green on the inside. Only one example of this bowl type was identified. According to an analogous instance from Pannonia, which is classified as a plate, it may be dated into 4<sup>th</sup> century period.<sup>25</sup>

49. A fragment of the rim, belly and bottom of a bowl.

Field inv. no 38/65; square B5; depth 1.70 m.

<sup>23</sup> Brukner 1981, T. 93, n. 150, 151

<sup>24</sup> Djordjević-Nikolić 2000, 27 - 28, that the bowls glazed on the inside of red, or more rarely, grey firing colour may be dated into the period from the end of 3rd century till early 5th century.

<sup>25</sup> Brukner 1981, 97, T. 94, n. 172