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EARLY CHRISTIAN LUXURIOUS GLASS FINDS IN SERBIA

The period of the Late Antiquity was prosperous age in the history of provinces that existed at the territory of the modern Republic of Serbia (*Pannonia Secunda*, *Moesia Prima*, *Dacia Ripensis*, *Dacia Meditteraneaand Dardania*). This prosperous period is embedded in the fact that several Roman emperors had been born here who left significant influence in their birthplaces in construction activities including economy and other measures: *Sirmium* (Sremska Mitrovica) that was one of the capitals in the Roman Empire, *Romuliana* (Gamzigrad), Šarkamen, and *Naissus* (Niš).

The best way to track the Christianisation of the late antique cities in Serbia is with artefacts of the 4th and first half of 5th centuries. During this period of prosperity luxurious glass vessels tells a story about the needs and tastes of the inhabitants in the Roman cities. The vessels ware was done in techniques of mosaic, fondi d'oro or with relief figural presentations or inscriptions and it was mostly discovered in the grave units or within settlement's layers, as well as within the church buildings in the larger or small settlements: *Sirmium*, Kruševlje, *Singidunum* (Belgrade), Bor vicinity, *Campsa* (Ravna), *Diana* (Karataš), *Aquae* (Prahovo) and *Mediana* (Brzi Brod, Niš).

Workshops for manufacture of glass tableware from late antiquity have been discovered until present in *Sirmium*, *Mediana* nearby *Naissus*, as well as several sites close to the mine centres, however, it is possible that these supplied local and regional inhabitants. Luxurious vessels with Christian symbols or from Christian context, especially those done by mosaic glass, could reach these areas by trade roads or as some present or moving.

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RECENT FINDS OF THEROMAN AND LATE ANTIQUE GLASS FROM NAISSUS (NIŠ, SRB)

Naissus was important city in Moesia Superior (later in Dacia Mediterranea) province as well-developed economic, political and religious centre in the Roman period and in the time of late antiquity and early Christianity. Historical sources witness that here were born emperors Constantine I, Constantius III and possibly Flavius Severus. The city had state factory for military equipment (fabrica), court officina for manufacture of luxurious objects of precious metals including other smaller private or public officinae in the city and its vicinity for local and regional markets.

Roman and late antique city *Naissus* that is preserved below layers of modern and middle age cities of Niš is researched more than 150 years with various intensities and it is, however, known to a very modest extent. Until present days the best explored areas are the necropolises formed along main magistral roads. During extent excavations due to needs of underground passages construction performed in 1990-1991 at the left bank of *Navisos* (Nišava) river, registered were the late antique (4th-5th century) necropolis of the skeletal buried individuals within