

Abstract

Three pottery assemblages from the Yambol District were processed in this thesis to enrich our knowledge about the Roman and Late Antique pottery material in Ancient Thrace. The first, and most abundant assemblage, is from the Roman *vicus* called Yurta, which is located near the village of Stroyno and dated from the 1st/2nd c. AD till the Late Antiquity. This assemblage is substituted by different pottery classes which give us bases for identifying the variability of the pottery material and the different wares and fabrics in the area. In addition, it represents the main material for statistics and for a quantitative comparison of individual classes. The second assemblage includes 19 complete vessels from two burial mounds in Palauzovo, dated to the 2nd–3rd c. AD, and gives a comparative sample for the settlement contexts as well as a basis for studying the ways in which pottery was modified for special burial purposes. The last set of 57 vessels comes from a closed context dated to the end of the 6th c. AD, which was found in a collapsed house at the Dodoparon hillfort, rising above the village of Golyam Manastir. It represents a unique set of finds from the Late Antiquity, which is well dated and preserved.

The three pottery assemblages are all different, each with a distinct character, which allowed them to be processed and interpreted individually, in their own context. Nevertheless, the resulting data could also be put together with other pottery material from Ancient Thrace to create a bigger picture of the pottery development and usage in different contexts (settlements × burials), as well as in different periods (Roman × Late Antiquity), along the middle stream of the Tundzha River, as well as in Ancient Thrace.

Keywords

Bulgaria; Thrace; Thracia; pottery; Roman; Late Antique; settlement; *vicus*; hillfort; necropolis; burial mound.