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I hereby added my comments on Petra Tušlová's doctoral dissertation as appointed external examiner.

The title of the dissertation by Petra Tušlová is *Roman and Late Antique Pottery from Ancient Thrace, Selected Assamblages from the Yambol District*. She is currently a student in the doctoral program at the Historické vědy, subject Klasická Archeologie.

Petra Tušlová's cooperation with the Regional Historical Museum in Yambol (RIM), and the Tundzha Regional Archaeological Project (TRAP) as a team member since 2009 and her acquaintance with the surveyed pottery led to a joint project with Yurta-Stroyno Archaeological Project (SAP) which was carried out by RIM and the Institute of Classical Archaeology in Prague. Roman *vicus* in Yurta-Stroyno, located near Elhovo town was excavated and its surrounding area was surveyed between the years 2014 to 2016. The excavated buildings and the material from surveyed plots were published and the material was quantified and dated by coins.

The pottery material incorporated into the doctoral dissertation includes her research at the sites around Yambol district in the southeastern Bulgaria, the area with a strategic importance during the Roman period through Late Antique period. The area was incorporated into the Roman province of Thrace in 45-46, and at the turn of the 3rd Century during the reign of Roman emperor Diocletian incorporated into the *diocese* of Thracia. This status continued during the reign of Constantine the Great.

The examiner expected to see a detailed historical record in the Introduction of the dissertation covering especially the Roman period; the importance of the Roman organization of this area, the reasons for it, the transformation due to historical and political means. The Roman literary records, the arrangement of the Province, Gothic period (3rd century AD),

political transformation during the Late Antique period needs to be considered. Otherwise the pottery represented here does not fit into an argument.

She has worked directly with the pottery from the surveyed sites as well as excavated area. She has developed skills to work with surveyed as well as excavated pottery. She has published preliminary views on this research. The data she has compiled for her dissertation is quite important to document the Roman military establishment in Moesia and Thracia. However the viewer finds it difficult to follow her text, she needs to use a common terminology for vessel types, as well as pottery groups, in most cases she does, but not uniform in the whole text.

The examiner expects a routine dissertation format for the representation of the data; such as the adjustment of the Tables inserted in the text for the surveyed data to be in the *Appendix*. For each area she gives a preview of the pottery types and a detailed published comparanda from Thrace and Moesia, but she needs to add bibliographic references from well published sites in connection with this region in Asia Minor such as Parion, Ilion (Troy), Thracian Chersonesus. It would have been good to arrange the drawing pages and photos together to follow up the catalog with ease.

The pottery from the Roman *vicus* at **Yurta-Stroyno** forms the **2nd Chapter** of her dissertation. Here one expects to see; how the pottery changes our view of the site and its interaction with other military establishments within Moesia, Pannonia and Asia Minor, a comment section is needed, as well as pottery production sites in the area and their active periods and types of vessels they produced.

3rd Chapter although small number of finds gave a precise date, roughly between 2nd – 3rd century AD) which contains 19 vessels from the two burial mounds excavated near **Palauzovo** village in the north-eastern part of the Yambol District. These mounds were investigated by RIM in 2007, the finds reconstructed, and, without further documentation or publication, exhibited in the Historical Museum in Straldzha. The nature of the burial site in relation to other burial sites and range of pottery groups need to be discussed using the same terminology and methodology used for the other sites.

Chapter 4 contains pottery from the hillfort of **Dodoparon**, placed on one of the few elevated hills of the Yambol District, Manastirski Vazvishenie, near the village of Golyam Manastri.

57 intact pottery pieces were found in one house destroyed and burned down at the end of the 6th c. AD. The majority of the vessels were reconstructed and provide full profile of the forms. Overall this assemblage is well documented, Tušlová examined the context in each plot and researched parallels for the vessel types.

Tušlová's affirmation on the difference of pottery finds from each site is also worth noting. The uniform red-slipped table ware is distinct for the region of Palauzovo the variants of the ware group with occasional grey or black glaze is worth noting for future research. **Yurta-Stroyno** has yielded abundant types of pottery under different classification of wares and forms. Each group serve for external dating as well. **Dodoparon** provide an assemblage to less variable household equipment of a sandy fabric without slip consisting mostly of pots and jugs that are of local production series.

Tušlová has arranged her catalog and plates in a fashion that each plate illustrate common assemblages in deposit, images are well drawn and photographed. The details of each surveyed or excavated plot is given in tables as well. The tables include vessel types, quite useful for the viewer but as mentioned above they need to be in the *Appendix*.

The dissertation can PASS. The examiner expects suggested revisions and corrections to be made before the defense by Tušlová.

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