

MANJŠA RIMSKA NASELJA NA SLOVENSKEM PROSTORU

MINOR ROMAN SETTLEMENTS IN SLOVENIA

Uredniki / Edited by:
Jana Horvat
Irena Lazar
Andrej Gaspari



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LJUBLJANA 2020

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PREDGOVOR / PREFACE

Monografija je posvečena manjšim rimskim naseljem, ki ležijo na območju današnje Slovenije. Gre za prehodni in geografsko raznolik prostor, na katerega so segale tri velike upravne enote rimske države: Italija ter provinci Norik in Zgornja Panonija.

Strnjena naselja, ki jih predstavljamo, so po velikosti in pomenu vmesni člen med avtonomnimi mesti in razpršeno poselitvijo podeželja, katere osnova so bile vile rustike. V zadnjih desetletjih je arheologija z velikimi zaščitnimi izkopavanji pridobila obsežne in pomembne nove podatke o tovrstnih naseljih, ki pa do zdaj večinoma še niso bili poglobljeno analizirani in objavljeni. Potreba po zbranem vedenju se je npr. izrazito pokazala v sodelovanju z mednarodno skupino *Adriaticum mare* pri projektu Informatiziranega atlasa antičnega Jadrana (*AdriAtlas*). Tri ustanove, Inštitut za arheologijo Znanstvenoraziskovalnega centra Slovenske akademije znanosti in umetnosti, Inštitut za arheologijo in dediščino Fakultete za humanistične študije Univerze na Primorskem ter Oddelek za arheologijo Filozofske fakultete Univerze v Ljubljani, so leta 2015 dale pobudo, da bi vedenje o manjših naseljih zbrali, ustrezno ovrednotili in dvignili na višjo raven.

Delo je dozorelo v štirih letih. Šestindvajset avtorjev prihaja iz različnih ustanov, od univerz, raziskovalnih inštitutov in muzejev do Zavoda za varstvo kulturne dediščine Slovenije, ali pa gre za posameznike, ki delujejo kot samostojni raziskovalci. V samostojnih poglavjih predstavljajo dvajset naselij različnega tipa in stopnje raziskanosti. Avtorji so najboljši poznavalci oziroma aktivni raziskovalci najdišč, ki jih obravnavajo. Prav za potrebe monografije so se poglobili v primarno dokumentacijo novejših raziskav in poročila, v drobno gradivo in razpršene starejše objave. Zgoščene predstavitve naselij bolj ali manj sledijo skupnemu konceptu. Podatki so umeščeni v prostor, podprti s kartami in načrti, vsebinsko primerljivi in jasno ovrednoteni. Vsako poglavje vsebuje podatke o legi naselja in njegovem antičnem imenu, kratko zgodovino raziskav, morebitno obljudenost lokacije v prazgodovini, predstavitev antičnih literarnih virov in epigrafskih spomenikov. Osrednji del je usmerjen v pregled arheoloških ostankov rimske

The book discusses the minor settlements that dotted the territory of present-day Slovenia in the Roman period. This geographically diverse territory was crossed by important lines of communication and divided between three large administrative units of the Roman state: Italy and the provinces of Noricum and Upper Pannonia.

The compact minor settlements represent a link, in both size and significance, between the autonomous towns and the dispersed settlement of the countryside with countryside villas as its backbone. In recent decades, the large-scale rescue excavations across Slovenia have yielded vast and important data on these minor settlements, though they have for the most part not yet been analysed in detail and published. Clearly, there is a great desire for the information these excavations brought to light, but the consequent knowledge became even more desirable during the collaboration with the international *Adriaticum Mare* group on the *AdriAtlas* or *Computerised Atlas of the Antique Adriatic* project. In 2015, three institutions in Slovenia (Institute of Archaeology ZRC SAZU; Institute for Archaeology and Heritage, Faculty of Humanities, University of Primorska; Department of Archaeology, Faculty of Arts, University of Ljubljana) came together with the shared goal of advancing our knowledge on the minor Roman settlements in Slovenia by appropriately analysing and evaluating the data, new and old.

The book is the result of four years of work and research. Twenty-six authors wrote contributions on individual settlements. They come from different institutions – both universities, research institutes, museums, the Institute for the Protection of Cultural Heritage of Slovenia – and from the ranks of independent researchers, and present twenty settlements of different types and degrees of investigation in separate chapters. The authors are either those with the most in-depth knowledge on a specific site or those who actively investigated it. For the purposes of this book, they examined the excavation records and reports, the recovered small finds and different earlier publications, and presented their results in a comprehensive and clear manner roughly following

dobe: v topografijo, infrastrukturo, stavbe, grobišča in premične ostanke posebnega pomena. Sledijo podatki o statusu naselja, o družbenem položaju posameznih prebivalcev, njihovih administrativnih ali vojaških funkcijah, poklicih in etnični pripadnosti. Poglavje zaokroža oris zgodovinskega razvoja naselja.

Želimo si, da bi delo omogočilo primerjave med posameznimi naselji, da se bodo razjasnila nekatera vprašanja o njihovem gospodarskem in družbenem pomenu ter o njihovi vlogi v poselitveni sliki širšega prostora med Jadranom in Donavo. Predvsem pa si želimo, da bi spodbudilo nove analize in objave gradiva ter bilo z njimi kmalu preseženo.

Radi bi se zahvalili mnogim. Najprej Francisu Tassauxu iz Bordeauxa, duši združenja Adriaticum mare, za prijazno spodbudo. Poleg obeh glavnih recenzentov, Janeza Dularja in Ivana Šprajca, so h kakovosti posameznih besedil mnogo pripomogli številni kolegi, s katerimi so se posvetovali avtorji ali uredniki. Mateja Belak, Andreja Dolenc Vičič, Dragotin Valoh in Tamara Korošec (vsi ZRC SAZU – Inštitut za arheologijo) so poskrbeli za enotno podobo knjige. Prevodi v angleščino so delo Mete Osredkar, Andreje Maver, Gregorja Pobežina in Lucije Jelenko.

Jana Horvat, Irena Lazar, Andrej Gaspari

a common concept. The information they obtained is located in space, illustrated with maps and plans, clearly conveyed and properly evaluated. The presentation of each settlement opens with its location and name in Antiquity, possible habitation traces from prehistory, mentions in ancient literary texts and documents, and recovered epigraphic evidence. The next, main part offers an overview of the archaeological remains from the Roman period: topography, infrastructure, buildings, cemeteries and portable remains of particular significance. This is followed by the information on the status of a settlement, social standing of its inhabitants, their administrative or military functions, as well as professional or ethnical background. All is brought together in an outline of the historical development of each settlement.

It is our wish and aim that the information in this book enables and incites comparisons between individual sites in order to shed light on certain issues pertaining to their economic and social role in the settlement of the wider area between the Adriatic and the Danube. Even more importantly, it is our wish that the book would serve as a stepping stone for further research and better knowledge on the subject.

The book is a result of a concerted effort of authors and numerous other individuals. First of all, our thanks go to Francis Tassaux from Bordeaux, the soul of the Adriaticum Mare Association, for his kind incentive. In addition to the two main peer reviewers, Janez Dular and Ivan Šprajc, numerous colleagues shared their knowledge and offered professional advice to both the authors and the editors. Mateja Belak, Andreja Dolenc Vičič, Dragotin Valoh and Tamara Korošec (all ZRC SAZU – Institute of Archaeology) made sure that the book of numerous contributions functions as a whole. Meta Osredkar, Andreja Maver, Gregor Pobežin and Lucija Jelenko translated the contributions into English.

Jana Horvat, Irena Lazar, Andrej Gaspari

ROMULA – RIBNICA

Irena LAZAR



Izvleček

Rimska postaja *Romula* je v antičnih virih znana in omenjena na dveh itinerarjih rimske dobe, na Tabuli Peutingeriani in Antoninskem itinerariju. Postajo je na podlagi naselbinskih ostankov na območje današnje vasi Ribnica (pri Jesenicah na Dolenjskem) lociral Peter Petru. Zgrajena je bila na strateško izjemno ugodni točki, prehodu iz dolin Krke in Save v Panonsko nižino. Nove in obsežne raziskave (2001–2004) so odkrile obsežen naselbinski del z izstopajočim obrambnim objektom, potek rimske ceste *Emona–Siscia* in velik del zahodnega grobišča (129 grobov). Med najdbami velja izpostaviti del posvetilnega napisa Silvanu Avgustu, ki ga je dal postaviti suženj združenja zakupnikov carine, in napis ROMVLA na svinčeni ploščici za blago. Najdbi sta pomembni za opredelitev statusa naselbine in potrditev njenega imena ter lokacije.

Ključne besede: Zgornja Panonija, Ribnica, *Romula*, rimska doba, naselbina, cestna postaja, carinska postaja, cesta, most, svetišče, utrjena stavba, grobišče

Abstract

Roman road station *Romula* is known from ancient sources and mentioned on two Roman itineraries, the *Tabula Peutingeriana* and *Itinerarium Antonini*. On the basis of the settlement remains, the station was located on the area of present village Ribnica (near Jesenice in Dolenjska) by Peter Petru. It was built on a strategical point, the transition of the valleys of Krka and Sava Rivers to the Pannonian plain. New and extensive research (2001–2004) revealed a large settlement area with a prominent defensive building, the Roman road *Emona–Siscia* and a large part of the western necropolis with 129 graves. It is important to single out the find of a votive inscription to *Silvanus Augustus*, dedicated by the slave of the customs officers' society, and an inscription ROMVLA on a lead tablet. Both finds are important for the definition of the administrative status of the settlement and for the confirmation of its name and location.

Key words: Pannonia Superior, Ribnica, *Romula*, Roman period, settlement, road station, custom station, road, bridge, temple, fortified building, cemetery

IME

Ribnica (pri Jesenicah na Dolenjskem; Petru 1975, 259) oz. tudi Ribnica pri Brežicah, kot se je ime najdišča uveljavilo v času arheoloških raziskav ob gradnji avtocest (2001–2004), je kot območje rimske obcestne postaje *Romula* med arheološkimi spomeniki Posavja v Registru kulturne dediščine.¹

ANTIČNO IME
IN UTEMELJITEV LOKACIJE

Romula je v antičnih virih znana in omenjena na dveh itinerarjih rimske dobe (Šašel 1975) in sicer na Tabuli Peutingeriani in v *Itinerarium Antonini*. Kot postajo na glavni cesti *via publica Aquileia–Emona–Siscia–Sirmium* jo Tabula Peutingeriana (IV, 3) postavlja na točko 10 rimskih milj od municipija *Neviodunum* in 14 milj od postaje *Quadrata*, *Itinerarium Antonini* s konca 3. st. pa jo kot postajo, označeno pod številko 274,4 na cesti II *Aquileia–Senia–Siscia*, postavlja na lokacijo 10 rimskih milj od kraja *Bibium* in 14 rimskih milj od postaje *Quadrata* (Šašel 1975, 76–77).

V delu *Cosmographia* anonimnega geografa iz Ravene je *Romula* omenjena med postajami vzdolž cest med Dravo in Savo. Navedena je pod številko 15, med postajo *Fines* (14) in krajem *Nomiduni* (16), nekdanji rimski *Neviodunum* (Šašel 1975, 80).

Rimska postaja *Romula* je bila v arheološki stroki deležna precej pozornosti, predvsem zaradi vprašanja svoje lokacije. Alfonz Müllner (1879, 104) jo je nedokazano umeščal na polje med Mokricami in Jesenicami na Dolenjskem, druga možna lokacija so bile tudi Prilipe pri Čatežu pri Brežicah.

Postajo *Romula* je na podlagi naselbinskih ostankov na območje današnje vasi Ribnica pri Jesenicah lociral Peter Petru (1961, 193–202). Ob gradnji avtoceste Bratstva in enotnosti (1958–1960) so bili namreč na območju vasi Ribnica odkriti in delno raziskani ostanki arhitekture oziroma naselbine, z ostanki stavbe s hipokavstom, in grobišča z več deset dobro ohranjenimi grobovi s številnimi grobnimi pridatki, ostanki izropane grobnice in grobnih parcel (Petru 1969, 20).

Med pomembnejše najdbe zadnjih izkopavanj (2001–2004) sodi napis v kurzivni pisavi na svinčeni ploščici za blago (*sl. 10*; Lovenjak 2005, 43). Dvostranski napis na ploščici na eni strani beremo kot ROMVLA / ANIONIS. Ena od možnosti je, da gre v tem primeru za ime naselja in pomeni "iz Romule", v drugi vrstici pa je izpisano ime lastnika *Anio-nis* v 2. sklonu. Tako interpretiran napis ROMVLA bi lahko nedvoumno potrdil pravilnost lociranja naselbine.

¹ Ministrstvo za kulturo RS, Register nepremične kulturne dediščine, evidenčna številka EŠD 9335.

NAME

Ribnica (near Jesenice in Dolenjska; Petru 1975, 259) or Ribnica pri Brežicah, as the site came to be known during archaeological research when the highway system was under construction (2001–2004), is now listed among the Posavje archaeological monuments in the Register of Cultural Heritage as the area of the Roman road station *Romula*.¹

ANCIENT NAME AND LOCATION

Romula was twice mentioned in ancient sources, i.e. in two Roman itineraries (Šašel 1975): the *Tabula Peutingeriana* and *Itinerarium Antonini* from the end of the 3rd century. The former (IV, 3) places it as a road station on the main *via publica* through *Aquileia–Emona–Siscia–Sirmium*, 10 miles from the *Neviodunum* municipium and 14 miles from the *Quadrata* station, while the latter marks it under number 274.4 on the II *Aquileia–Senia–Siscia* road, 10 Roman miles from *Bibium* and 14 miles from the *Quadrata* station (Šašel 1975, 76–77).

In his *Cosmographia*, an anonymous geographer from Ravenna mentions *Romula* as one of the stations along the roads between Drava and Sava. It is listed under number 15, between the *Fines* station (14) and the *Nomiduni* settlement (16), formerly the Roman *Neviodunum* (Šašel 1975, 80).

The Roman station *Romula* received considerable attention in the archaeological community, mainly due to the question of its location. Müllner (1879, 104) placed it without proof on the field between Mokrice and Jesenice na Dolenjskem; another possible location was Prilipe near Čatež not far from Brežice.

The location of the station was finally pinpointed on the basis of settlement remains by Petru (1961, 193–202) in the area of today's village of Ribnica near Jesenice. During the construction of the motorway in the 20th century (1958–1960), remains of architecture or of a settlement were discovered and partly researched in the area of the village of Ribnica: the remains of a building with a hypocaust and a cemetery with dozens of well-preserved graves with numerous grave goods, remains of a robbed tomb and grave plots (Petru 1969, 20).

Among the most important finds of the last excavation (2001–2004) was the inscription in cursive script on a lead tablet for cloths (*Fig. 10*; Lovenjak 2005, 43). The two-sided inscription on the tablet reads ROMVLA / ANIONIS on one side. One possibility is that the name signifies the settlement "Romula" and the second line shows the name of the owner of the *Anio-nis* in the genitive case. So interpreted, the inscription ROMVLA could clearly confirm the exact location of the settlement.

¹ Ministrstvo za kulturo RS, Register nepremične kulturne dediščine, No. EŠD 9335

GEOGRAFSKA LEGA

Rimska postaja *Romula* je bila zgrajena na strateško izjemno ugodni točki na prehodu iz dolin Krke in Save v Panonsko nižino oziroma ob vznožju Gorjancev, na prehodu v ravnino reke Save (*Savus*; *sl. 1*). Na najožjem delu terase med Savo in pobočjem Gorjancev je potekala tudi *via publica Emona–Siscia*. Z vrhov Kincej in Škofljančeva gabrina na obronkih Gorjancev se širi pogled na zahod do Čateža pri Brežicah in na vzhod do Zagreba, na severu pogled sega do Bizeljskega hribovja, južno stran pa varuje pobočje Gorjancev. Naselbina je bila zgrajena na ozkem delu, kjer je bilo mogoče nadzorovati tudi rečni promet po Savi, ki je bila v rimskem obdobju pomembna transportna komunikacija. Del naselja je bil tudi potok Gračnica,² ki je prečkal osrednji del naselbine, sekal rimsko cesto in se izlival v Savo. Cestna postaja *Romula*, ki je zaradi svojega položaja povezovala vhod v Italijo z Balkanskim polotokom, je bila zato označena v že omenjenih itinerarjih.

ZGODOVINA RAZISKAV

V začetku 20. stoletja so na območju arheološkega najdišča pri obdelavi njivskih površin kmetje pogosto naleteli na ostanke rimske arhitekture, ceste, grobov in posamičnih najdb (Petru 1975, 259). Z načrtnimi raziskavami območja Romule so začeli v teku trasiranja in gradnje avtoceste Bratstva in enotnosti med letoma 1955 in 1960. Ob gradnji avtoceste so bili na tem območju odkriti ostanki arhitekture oziroma del naselbine (k. o. Podgračeno – ostanki rimskega poslopja s hipokavstom, k. o. Velika dolina stavbni kompleks in prefurnij) in grobišča z ostanki grobnice in grobnih parcel (k. o. Velika dolina). Vzhodna nekropola, na kateri so odkrili 41 grobov, je ležala severno od ceste *Emona–Siscia* (Kolšek, Petru 1958–1959; Petru 1961; 1962; 1969).

Nove in obsežne raziskave na najdišču so potekale med letoma 2001–2004, v izvedbi Zavoda za varstvo kulturne dediščine, OE Novo mesto, ob gradnji dolenjskega dela nove avtoceste Ljubljana–Obrežje.³ Rezultati teh raziskav so prinesli precej novosti, med drugim odkritje obsežnega naselbinskega dela Romule in njenega obsega ter poteka trase rimske ceste *Emona–Siscia*. Raziskan je bil tudi velik del zahodnega grobišča z dobro ohranjenimi grobnimi konstrukcijami, grobnimi inventarji in štirimi grobnimi parcelami, skupno je bilo odkritih 129 žganih in skeletnih grobov (Breščak 2003; 2006).

² Domačini ga poimenujejo tudi Gračnica ali Grajena, v *Atlasu Slovenije* (Ljubljana 1986) je poimenovan kot Gračnica.

³ Arheološka izkopavanja je vodil Danilo Breščak, s sodelovanjem številnih kolegov, ki so vodili delo po sektorjih. Iz poročila (Breščak, 2004) povzemamo tudi mnoge podatke v tem prispevku.

GEOGRAPHIC POSITION

The Roman station *Romula* was built on a strategically exceptionally favourable point at the passage from the valleys of the Krka and Sava Rivers to the Pannonian Plain at the foot of the Gorjanci hills, at the passage into the plain of the Sava River (the *Savus*; *Fig. 1*). On the narrowest part of the terrace between the Sava River and the Gorjanci slope ran the *via publica Emona–Siscia*. From the peaks of Kincej and Škofljančeva gabrina hills on the outskirts of Gorjanci hills, the view spreads west to Čatež near Brežice and east to Zagreb, in the north to Bizeljsko hills, while the south side is protected by the slopes of Gorjanci. The settlement was built on a narrow section where river traffic along the Sava River – an important transport communication in the Roman period – could be supervised. Part of the settlement was also the stream Gračnica,² which crossed the central part of the settlement, and flowed into the Sava river, crossing the Roman road as well. This is why the *Romula* road station, which linked, due to its position, the entrance to Italy with the Balkan Peninsula was marked in the aforementioned itineraries.

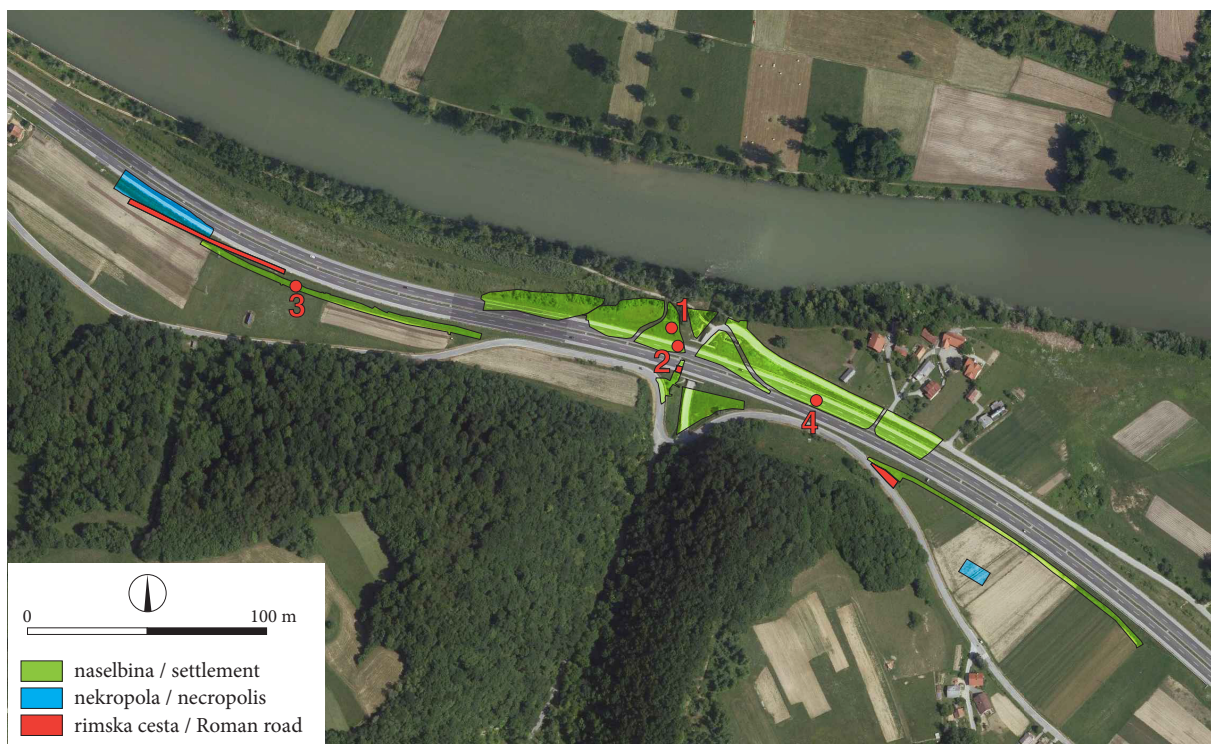
RESEARCH HISTORY

In the beginning of the 20th century, farmers often stumbled upon the remains of Roman architecture, road, graves and individual finds in the area of the archaeological site, when they were ploughing their fields (Petru 1975, 259). Targeted research of the *Romula* area began during the construction of the old motorway between 1955 and 1960; during the construction, remains of architecture or parts of a settlement were discovered (remains of a Roman building with a hypocaust in the cadastre municipality Podgračeno and a building complex and a *praefurnium* in the cadastre municipality Velika dolina) as well as a cemetery with remains of tombs and grave plots (cadastre municipality Velika dolina). The eastern necropolis, in which 41 graves were discovered, lay north of the *Emona–Siscia* road (Kolšek, Petru 1958–1959; Petru 1961; 1962; 1969).

New and extensive research at the site was carried out between 2001 and 2004 under the supervision of ZVKDS OE Novo mesto, during the construction of the Dolenska part of the new Ljubljana–Obrežje highway.³ The results of this research have brought a lot of new discoveries, including the extensive residential area of *Romula* and the course of the Roman *Emona–Siscia* road. A large part of the western cemetery with well-

² Locals refer to it as Gračnica or Grajena; it is named Gračnica in the *Atlas Slovenije* (Ljubljana 1986).

³ Archaeological excavations were supervised by Danilo Breščak with numerous colleagues who supervised the works in different sectors. Several data in this paper are surmised from his report (Breščak, 2004).



Sl. 1: Ribnica. Lega rimske naselbine Romula, stavbe 1–4.

Fig. 1: Ribnica. The position of the Roman settlement Romula, Buildings 1–4.
(Arhiv / Archive: ZVKDS OE Novo mesto; izvedba / elaborated by A. Ogorelec)

PRAZGODOVINA

Na območju arheološkega najdišča so že bile znane prazgodovinske najdbe (Petru 1975, 259), več prazgodovinskih najdb pa je bilo dokumentiranih v teku izkopavanj v letih 2001–2004. Njihov razpon sega od bakrene do mlajše železne dobe. Najdbe so bile odkrite na skoraj celotnem območju najdišča, večinoma v sekundarni legi, znotraj mlajših plasti. V celoti gledano gradivo kronološko ni homogeno in sodi v različna obdobja prazgodovine. Najstarejše najdbe so datirane v čas eneolitika, kot najmlajše pa so opredeljene najdbe lončenine iz mlajše železne dobe.

Večjo koncentracijo najdb in ohranjene strukture so zasledili na vzhodnem območju najdišča. Dve jami sta interpretirani kot vodnjaka oz. zbiralnika za vodo. Manjši zbiralnik je delno presekal večjega, starejšega, ki je bil nepravilnega tlorisa. Na dnu so odkrili ostanke lesene konstrukcije lijakaste oblike. Vzorec lesa je bil pregledan z radiokarbonsko analizo in datira zbiralnik za vodo v srednjo bronasto dobo.

preserved grave constructions, grave inventories and four grave plots were also explored. Altogether, 129 cremation and inhumation graves were discovered (Breščak 2003; 2006).

PREHISTORY

In the area of the archaeological site, prehistoric finds were already known (Petru 1975, 259), and many more were documented also during the excavations in 2001–2004. Ranging from the Copper age to the La Tène period, they were discovered in almost the entire area of the site, mostly in the secondary position, within later layers. Overall, the material is chronologically not homogeneous and belongs to different periods of prehistory. The earliest finds date to the period of Eneolithic, whereas the latest finds are pottery fragments from the La Tène period.

A greater concentration of finds and survived structures were observed in the eastern area of the site. Two pits are interpreted as wells or water tanks, the smaller one partially cutting into the larger, earlier one with an irregular ground plan. Remains of wooden, funnel-shaped structure were discovered at the bottom. Wood samples were examined by radiocarbon analysis, which dated the water tank to the Middle Bronze Age.

RIMSKA DOBA

EPIGRAFSKI VIRI

Napisi z območja Romule so vključeni v korpuse epigrafskega gradiva: *AIJ* 253; *ILJug* 1116, -1117, -1118, -1119, -1120 in *ILSl* 1, 54, -74, -79, -97, -98, -99; najdbe z zadnjih izkopavanj pri tem še niso upoštevane.⁴ V elektronsko bazo *UBI ERAT LUPA* pa je vključen med zadnjimi izkopavanji odkrit posvetilni napis sužnja združenja zakupnikov carine (*lupa* 22475, brez fotografije).

Epigrafske najdbe, ki verjetno izvirajo z naselbinskega območja Ribnice, omenjajo že od začetka 20. stoletja. Od tu verjetno izvira že prej odkriti žrtvenik, ki je bil vzdan v gradu Mokrice: posvetilno aro Jupitru je dal postaviti suženj Rufin (*ILSl* 1, 54 = *AIJ* 253).

Nagrobnik Tiberija Klavdija Evidija iz 1. st. sta dala postaviti osvobojenec, katerega ime ni ohranjeno, in Tiberij Barbij Primus (*ILSl* 1, 74). Del drugega nagrobnika je bil najden leta 1958 v Podgračenem (*ILSl* 1, 79), leta 1961 pa deli treh nagrobnikov na njivi K. Zanjug (*ILSl* 1, 97–99). Dva izmed njih kažeta izredno kakovostno izvedbo črk (*ILSl* 1, 97 in 98), vsi pa so zelo fragmentarno ohranjeni. Vsi ti nagrobniki izvirajo z zahodne nekropole.

Med novjšimi najdbami velja posebej izpostaviti že omenjeni posvetilni napis Silvanu Avgustu (*lupa* 22475),⁵ ki ga je dal postaviti Fajder Cecilijan ([*Ph*]aeder Caecilianus), suženj združenja zakupnikov carine (*sl.* 2), in napis ROMVLA na eni od svinčenih ploščic za blago (*sl.* 10; Lovenjak 2005, 42). Ploščice (najden je bil tudi večji kos prepognjene svinčene pločevine) na eni strani odpirajo vprašanje obstoja proizvodnje in obdelave blaga (lat. *fullonica*) v naselbini, kar bi bilo glede na bližino reke in zadostno količino vode mogoče. Zgoraj omenjena ploščica pa je predvsem pomembna zaradi zapisa imena naselbine oz. postaje.

NUMIZMATIČNI VIRI

Numizmatične najdbe z izkopavanj v obdobju 2001–2004 je obdelala Alenka Miškec in predstavila v poročilu (2004). V času izkopavanja je bil na najdišču odkrit 1001 novcev, od tega je 969 rimskih (6 republikanskih, 97 iz obdobja do konca 1. st., 99 iz 2. st., 98 iz 3. st. in 630 iz 4. st.). Najdena sta bila tudi dva keltska srebrnika in srednjeveški srebrnik iz 12. st. Iz obdobja od 17. do 20. stoletja je izviralo 18 novcev.

⁴ V objavi Milana Lovenjaka 1998 (*ILSl* 1) je navedena vsa starejša literatura in prve objave epigrafskih spomenikov, zato jih tu ponovno ne navajamo.

⁵ Napis je interpretiral Milan Lovenjak, Filozofska fakulteta Univerze v Ljubljani. Interpretacijo glej še v zaključku besedila.

ROMAN PERIOD

EPIGRAPHIC SOURCES

The inscriptions from Romula are included in the epigraphic corpora: *AIJ* 253; *ILJug* 1116, -1117, -1118, -1119, -1120 in *ILSl* 1, 54, -74, -79, -97, -98, -99; the latest excavations not taken into account yet.⁴ A dedicatory inscription of a slave to the association of publicani was discovered during the last excavations and listed in the electronic database *UBI ERAT LUPA* (*lupa* 22475, without photo).

Epigraphic finds, which probably originate from the Ribnica settlement area, have been mentioned since the early 20th century. An altar built into the Mokrice castle probably originated from Ribnica. It was erected by the slave Rufinus (*ILSl* 1, 54 = *AIJ* 253).

The tombstone of Tiberius Claudius Eudius from the 1st century was built by his freedman and by Tiberius Barbis Primus (*ILSl* 1, 74). A part of the second tombstone was found in 1958 in Podgračeno (*ILSl* 1, 79). Three tombstones were found in 1961 on the field of Zanjug (*ILSl* 1, 97–99). Two of them show a high-quality lettering (*ILSl* 1, 97 and 98), all of them survived only in fragments. All these tombstones come from the western necropolis.

Among the more recent finds, the partial inscription for Silvanus Augustus should be mentioned (*lupa* 22475),⁵ set up by [Ph]aeder Caecilianus, a slave to the association of publicani (*Fig.* 2). The inscription ROMVLA was discovered on one of the lead tablets (*Fig.* 10; Lovenjak 2005, 42). Together with a large piece of folded lead sheet, the lead tablets raise the question of the existence of production and processing of textile in the settlement (lat. *fullonica*), which would be possible due to the proximity of the river and sufficient quantities of water. The above-mentioned tablet is especially important because of the name of the settlement or the station.

NUMISMATIC SOURCES

Numismatic finds from the 2001–2004 excavations were processed and reported on (2004) by Alenka Miškec. 1001 coins were discovered on the site during this excavation, 969 of which were Roman (6 Republican, 97 from the period until the end of the late 1st century, 99 from the 2nd century, 98 from the 3rd century and 630 from the 4th century). Two Celtic silver coins were also found and one medieval silver coin from the 12th

⁴ In Lovenjak's publication 1998 (*ILSl* 1) all previous literature and first publishing of epigraphic sources are listed, which is why they are not listed here.

⁵ The inscription was interpreted by Milan Lovenjak, Filozofska fakulteta, Univerza v Ljubljani.



Sl. 2: Ribnica. Posvetilni napis Silvanu Avgustu, ki ga je dal postaviti suženj združenja zakupnikov carine F. Cecilijan.
 Fig. 2: Ribnica. Votive inscription for Silvanus Augustus dedicated by F. Caecilianus, slave of the *sociorum publici portorii* - custom association.
 (Arhiv / Archive: ZVKDS OE Novo mesto)

OBSEG NASELJA

Rimska postaja je nastala na ravninskem prehodu med reko Savo in skrajnim severnim robom Gorjancev, in sicer na najožjem delu. Zrasla je na zgornje savski terasi in pobočjih potoka Gračenica. Zaradi naravnih meja na severu in jugu se je naselje lahko širilo le na vzhod in zahod, vzdolž rimske ceste. Z raziskavami med letoma 2001 in 2004 določena dolžina postaje je tako znašala približno 600 m, širina pa le med 60 do 125 m (sl. 1).

Vzhodna meja naselja je bila določena s položajem vzhodne nekropole. Na vzhodnem delu je bila meja naselbine omejena z leseno konstrukcijo, neke vrste ograjo oz. palisado z nizom stebrov, postavljenih v smeri sever–jug. Položaj nekropole potrjuje, da se poselitev ni širila izven meje palisade. Zahodna meja naselbine je bila določena z raziskanim območjem zahodne nekropole.

CESTA

Trasa rimske ceste *Emona–Neviodunum–Siscia* je bila potrjena z arheološkimi raziskavami najprej leta 1958, ko so odkrili vzhodno nekropolo Romule, ki je v ozkem pasu ležala vzdolž ceste (Petru 1969). Med izkopavanji v letih 2001–2004 pa je bila trasa ceste po-

century. 18 coins were from the period between the 17th and 20th century.

THE EXTENT OF THE SETTLEMENT

The Roman station was built on narrowest point of the plateau pass between the Sava River and the far north edge of Gorjanci hills. It developed on the upper Sava terrace and the slopes of the Gračenica stream. Due to natural restrictions to the north and south, the settlement could spread only to the east and west, along the Roman road, reaching the length (measured during research between 2001 and 2004) of approximately 600 m, while its width was only between 60 and 125 m (Fig. 1).

The eastern boundary of the settlement was determined by the position of the eastern necropolis; here, the settlement was enclosed by a wooden construction, some kind of fence or palisade with a series of wooden pillars, following the north–south direction. The position of the necropolis confirms that the settlement did not spread beyond the palisade. The western border of the settlement was determined by the investigated area of the western necropolis.

THE ROAD

The route of the Roman road *Emona–Neviodunum–Siscia* was first confirmed by archaeological research in 1958, when the eastern Romula necropolis was discovered, which lay in a narrow strip along the road (Petru 1969). During the 2001–2004 excavations, the route of the road was again documented in three places, which enabled the reconstruction of its course through the settlement (Fig. 1).

In the western part of the site, the road was documented along the Roman cemetery in the total length of 110 m. The road was built as a gravel fill, and steeply sloped to each side from the centre. The main part of the road was 6 m wide and no more than 0.20 m thick in its preserved state; its level corresponded to the level of the graves beside it, which suggests that it couldn't have been significantly thicker (Fig. 3). The fill was predominantly fine carbonate pebbles, in places it consisted of gravel and debris. Here and there, the edge of the road was fortified with larger stones.

In the central part of the settlement, only a short section of the road was documented; here, the gravel was 0.5 meter thick. In the eastern part of the site, the road was uncovered in the length of 30.8 m. The body of the road was 6 m wide, together with erosion residues 6.5 m. It was in poor state; the gravel fill was 0.15 m thick, underneath it was a 0.20 m thick layer of road foundation consisting of large, closely packed stone blocks mixed with sand.

>> Sl. 3: Ribnica. Površina rimske ceste odkrita ob zahodni nekropoli.

Fig. 3: Ribnica. The surface of the Roman road discovered near the western necropolis.
(Arhiv / Archive: ZVKDS OE Novo mesto)

novno dokumentirana na treh mestih, kar je omogočilo rekonstrukcijo njenega poteka skozi naselbino (sl. 1).

Na zahodnem delu najdišča je bila cesta dokumentirana ob rimskem grobišču v skupni dolžini 110 m. Cesta je bila grajena kot prodnato nasutje, v sredini je bila napeta in se je proti robovom izklinila. Osrednji del ceste je bil širok 6 m, debelina ohranjenega nasutja ni presegala 0,20 m. Njen nivo se je ujemal z nivojem vkopanih rimskih grobov ob njej, iz česar lahko sklepamo, da v osnovi ni bila bistveno debelejša (sl. 3). Nasutje so pretežno sestavljali drobnejši beli karbonatni prodniki, ponekod pa je bila sestavljena iz proda in zaplat drobirja. Na posameznih mestih je bil rob ceste utrjen z večjimi kamni.

V osrednjem delu naselja je bila cesta dokumentirana le v kratkem odseku, prodnato nasutje je bilo tu debelo 0,5 m. Na vzhodnem delu najdišča je bila cesta odkrita v dolžini 30,8 m. Jedro ceste je bilo široko 6 m, z erozijskimi ostanki pa 6,5 m. Njena ohranjenost je bila slaba, prodnato nasutje je bilo debelo 0,15 m, pod nasutjem pa je ležala 0,20 m debela plast podlage za cesto, ki so jo sestavljali močno zbiti oglati kamni, pomešani s peskom.

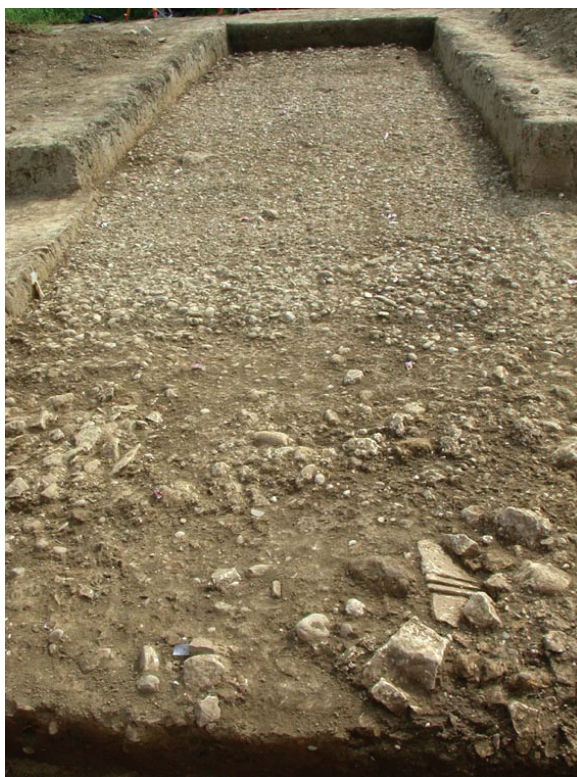
Glede na stratigrafsko lego je gradnja ceste datirana v 1. st. Brez dvoma pa je bila v uporabi skozi celoten obstoj naselja, to je v obdobju med 1. in 4. st.

MOST

V najstarejši fazi poselitve je bil južno od rimske ceste postavljen most, ki je vodil preko potoka na zahodnem delu naselbine in je služil kot notranja komunikacija. Žal je bil zaradi srednjeveških in novo-veških gradenj uničen in dokumentiran le v skromnih ostankih.

STAVBE

V okviru raziskane naselbine velja izpostaviti štiri objekte, ki so bili odkriti v vzhodnem in osrednjem delu naselja. V vzhodnem delu, tako rekoč na vzhodnem robu naselbine, je severno ob rimski cesti ležal odlično zidan in izstopajoč objekt 4 (sl. 1: 4; 4). Stavba je bila pravokotnega tlorisa, dolžine 18,5 in ohranjene širine 10,5 m. Jugozahodna stran objekta je bila namreč deloma uničena ob gradnji ceste leta 1958. Objekt je bil orientiran v smeri severozahod–jugovzhod, grajen



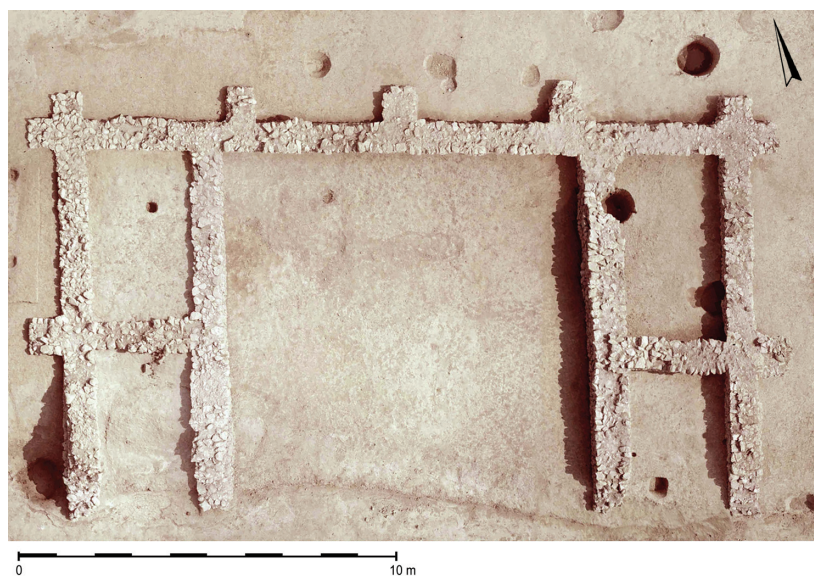
According to its stratigraphic position, the construction of the road dates to the 1st century. It was undoubtedly used throughout the entire existence of the settlement, that is, between the 1st and 4th century.

THE BRIDGE

In the earliest settlement stage, the Roman bridge was located south of the Roman road, leading across the stream in the western part of the settlement and serving as an internal communication. Due to medieval and early modern construction it was unfortunately destroyed and documented only in modest remains.

THE BUILDINGS

Four buildings need special attention; they were discovered in the eastern and central part of the settlement. In the eastern part, almost on the eastern edge of the settlement, a well-built, striking *Building 4* was located (Figs. 1: 4; 4) on the northern side of the Roman road. The building had a rectangular ground plan, it was 18.5 m long and 10.5 m wide in its survived extent. The southwestern side of the building was partly destroyed during the construction of the road in 1958. The building was oriented northwest-southeast and was built from mortar-bound stones. The foundations of the walls were 0.5 to 1.5 m deep, depending on the terrain, and the walls above the



Sl. 4: Ribnica. Vzhodni del rimske naselbine. Tloris objekta 4 s kontrafori.
Fig. 4: Ribnica. Eastern part of the settlement. Ground plan of the Building 4 with buttresses.

(Arhiv / Archive: ZVKDS OE Novo mesto; izvedba / elaborated by A. Preložnik)

je bil iz kamnov, vezanih z malto. Temelji zidov so bili visoki od 0,5 do 1,5 m, odvisno od podlage, zidovi pa so se nad nekoliko razširjenimi temelji ohranili v višini ene do dveh vrst kamenja. Širina zidov je bila 0,8 do 1 m. Na severovzhodni strani objekta je tekel najdaljši zid, na katerega so se pravokotno prislanjali štiri krajši zidovi. Dva sta predstavljala zunanja zidova objekta, dva pa sta delila notranjost v tri prostore (osrednji širine 9,5 m; stranska širine 2,9 m). Stranska prostora sta bila s prečnim zidom deljena še na manjše prostore. Na zunanji strani objekta so bili na vseh treh stranicah pravilno razporejeni kontraforji, pet na daljši in po dva na krajših stranicah. Glede na širino zidov in dodatne ojačitve s kontraforji lahko sklepamo, da gre za močno konstrukcijo, ki je lahko nosila veliko višino.

O namembnosti zgradbe, ki v tem trenutku verjetno predstavlja najpomembnejši objekt raziskane naselbine, ni neposrednih dokazov. Glede na izredno trdno gradnjo, najdbe vojaške opreme (sulične osti, osti kopja, puščična ost) in položaj objekta, ki kontrolira vhod v naselbino z vzhodne strani, pa lahko sklepamo o varovalni in morda delno vojaški namembnosti stavbe. Nastanek objekta je na osnovi keramičnih najdb mogoče postaviti v drugo polovico 2. st. (Vidrih Perko 2004).

V osrednjem delu sta bila na sedlu na vzhodni strani potoka Gračenica raziskana objekta 1 in 2 (sl. 1: 1,2; 5).

Na območju objekta 1 je najprej stala lesena stavba, kasneje pa je na istem mestu zrasla kamnita stavba pravokotnega tlorisa velikosti 13 × 11 m (notranji premer 10 × 11 m), ki je bila glede na širino temeljev (med 70 in 80 cm) in zidov (med 55 in 60 cm) visoka vsaj med 6 in 8 m. Orientirana je bila v smeri severovzhod–jugozahod, skladno s potekom rimske ceste, severovzhodni vogal ni bil ohranjen. Stavba je bila grajena iz enakomerno velikih apnenčastih kamnov, vezanih z malto. Zunanje in notranje lice zidov je bilo izdelano iz pravilno oblikovanih

slightly thicker foundations were preserved to the height of one or two rock lines. The width of the walls was 0.8 to 1 m. The longest wall was on the north-eastern side of the building; four shorter walls were perpendicular to it, two of which were the outer walls of the building, while the other two divided the interior into three rooms (the central one 9.5 m wide, the two side rooms 2.9 m wide). The side rooms were further divided by transverse walls into smaller rooms. On the outside of the building, buttresses were lined at even spacing on all three sides: five along the longest side and two along the short ones. Judging by the thickness of the walls and additional reinforcement with buttresses, it is safe to assume that this was a strong construction, capable of supporting a tall building.

There is no direct evidence of the purpose of this building, which is, at this moment, probably the most important object of the explored settlement. Judging by its extremely solid construction, some finds of military equipment (lance, spearheads, arrowheads) and its controlling position at the entrance to the settlement from the eastern side, it is safe to speculate about the protective or possibly military purpose of the facility, whose construction can be placed in the second half of the 2nd century based on ceramic finds (Vidrih Perko 2004).

In the central part, Buildings 1 and 2 (Figs. 1: 1,2; 5) were examined on the saddle on the eastern side of the Gračenica stream.

In the area of Building 1, a wooden building first lay, which was later substituted for a stone building with a rectangular ground plan measuring 13 × 11 m (internal diameter 10 × 11 m); judging from the thickness of the foundations (between 70 and 80 cm) and the walls (between 55 and 60 cm), the building was at least 6 to 8 m high. Facing northeast-southwest, its floorplan followed the direction of the road; its north-east corner did not survive. The building was built of even, mortar-bound



Sl. 5: Ribnica. Osrednji del rimske naselbine. Tloris objektov 1 in 2.

Fig. 5: Ribnica. Central part of the settlement. Ground plans of the Buildings 1 and 2.

(Arhiv / Archive: ZVKDS OE Novo mesto; izvedba / elaborated by A. Preložnik)

kamnov. V južnem zidu se je ohranila konstrukcija vhoda v objekt. V zahodnem delu stavbe so se ohranili štirje pravokotno obdelani kamni, morda del podstavka za steber.

Drobne najdbe so raznolike in segajo od fibul, igel, jagod do žrnelj, rezil, sekačev in živalskih kosti. Interpretacija objekta zato ni povsem jasna, čeprav njegova arhitektura brez dvoma kaže, da je šlo za enega glavnih upravnih objektov naselja. Prav tako so zanimiva številna kurišča, dokumentirana znotraj objekta. Dokumentirane strukture (kurišča in peč) so bile vkopane v hodno površino ali pa so ležale na njej.

Južno od objekta 1 je na oddaljenosti 3 m ležal objekt 2 (sl. 1: 2; 5), ki je bil ohranjen le deloma, v severozahodnem delu. Južni del ni bil raziskan, ker je ležal pod nasutjem za magistralno cesto. Objekt je bil postavljen v smeri severovzhod–jugozahod, skladno s

limestone blocks. The outer and inner faces of the walls were made of properly shaped stones. In the south wall, the structure of the entrance to the building survived. In the western part of the building, four rectangular stones survived, perhaps parts of pillar bases.

Small finds are diverse, ranging from fibulae, needles, beads and querns, blades, cutters and animal bones. This makes the interpretation of the building somewhat unclear, although its architecture clearly indicates that it must have been one of the main administrative structures of the settlement. Equally interesting are many fireplaces inside the building. Documented structures (fireplaces and furnace) were dug into the walking surface or lay on it.

Building 2 (Figs. 1: 2; 5) was located at a distance of 3 m south of Building 1. It survived only partially in the north-western part. Its southern part was not researched

potekom rimske ceste. Ohranjene dimenzije zunanjih zidov so bile 8×6 m, grajeni so bili iz bolj ali manj velikih apnenčastih kamnov, vezanih z malto. Tloris objekta je zanimiv, saj konstrukcijo zahodnega dela tvorita dva vzporedna vogala – zunanji in notranji. Zunanji, širši in močnejši zid, in notranji zid sta bila ločena z 1,8 m širokim hodnikom. Tloris dvojnih zidov kaže na kompleksen objekt in zasnovo, ki bi jo lahko interpretirali kot del svetišča obhodnega tipa, kot jih poznamo npr. v Podkrajju pri Hrastniku in Celeji (Lazar 2011).

Med objektoma 1 in 2 je bila ohranjena tlakovana prodnata površina, ki je interpretirana kot antična hodna površina. V plasti izravnave je bilo najdenih precej odlomkov rimske keramike in gradbenega materiala. Med drobnimi najdbami velja omeniti ločno fibulo, prstan, iglo in rozeto s steklenim vložkom. Oba objekta sta živela v 1. in 2. st.

V centru zahodnega dela naselja pa je bil odkrit lesen objekt 3 (vel. $5,8 \times 5,1$ m; sl. 1: 3), postavljen na kamnitih temeljih, z odvodnim kanalom, ki je bil znotraj obložen z deskami. V objektu in severno izven njega sta bili dokumentirani dve peči. Ohranjenih je bilo veliko kosov ožgane ilovice in kosov žindre. Objekt je stal tik ob rimski cesti in bil odprt proti njej, zato je bil interpretiran kot delavnica oz. kovačija. Najdbe datirajo stavbo v 1. in 2. st.

GROBIŠČA

Vzhodna nekropola (raziskave v letih 1958–1960) je ležala vzhodno od naselja, v ozkem pasu neposredno severno ob cesti *Emona–Siscia* (sl. 1). Odkriti žgani in skeletni grobovi (41 grobov, od tega 5 skeletnih) sodijo v čas od začetka 1. st. do 3. st.

Zahodno grobišče, pri vasi Podgračeno, je bil raziskano v letih 2002 in 2004 v dolžini 95 m in širini do 16 m. Raztezalo se je vzdolž severne strani rimske ceste. Grobišče je od ceste ločil 1,5 m širok pas prodnatega nasutja oz. hodne površine. Vsi grobovi so bili orientirani glede na potek ceste. Skupaj je bilo odkritih 129 grobov, od tega 105 žganih in 24 skeletnih. Poleg posamičnih grobov so bile raziskane štiri zidane grobne parcele z več posamičnimi grobovi. Dokumentirane oblike žganih grobov so raznolike: žgan grob v preprosti grobni jami, žgan grob pokrit s kamni, bustum, žgan grob z žaro, grob z žaro v grobni jami s kamnito ploščo na dnu, grob obložen z lomljeni in ploščami na dnu, grob v kvadratni skrinji iz kamnitih plošč, grob v pravokotni zidani grobnici (sl. 6). Skeletni grobovi so največkrat v obliki preproste grobne jame, sledijo pokop z oblogo tlakovcev, opečna skrinja iz tegul in en pokop v pravokotni zidani grobnici.

V grobovih so bili priložni številni keramični, jantarni, kovinski in stekleni pridatki, nekateri še posebej izstopajo zaradi kakovosti. Zahodno grobišče kaže vsaj dve fazi uporabe. Starejši grobovi, iz zgodnjega oz. prve

because it lay under the fill for the main road. The building was facing northeast-southwest, following the course of the Roman road. The dimensions of the survived outer walls were 8×6 m; they were built of more or less large limestone mortar-bound blocks. The ground plan of the building is interesting because the construction of the western part forms two parallel – outer and inner – corners. The outer, thicker and stronger wall, and the inner wall were separated by a 1.8 m wide corridor. The floor plan of the double walls points to a complex building. According to the ground plan, it could be interpreted as an ambulatory temple similar, for example, to those in Podkraj near Hrastnik and Celeia (Lazar 2011).

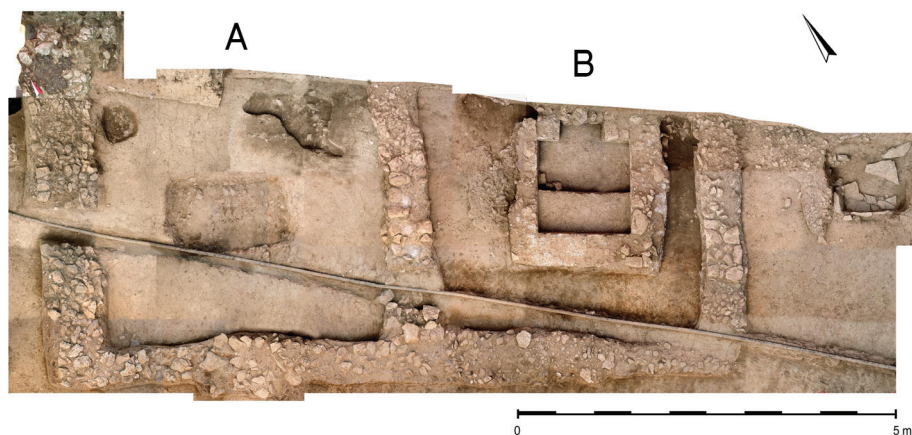
Between Buildings 1 and 2 a gravel-paved area survived, interpreted as an ancient walking surface. A number of fragments of Roman ceramics and construction material were found in the levelling layer. Among small finds, a fibula should be mentioned as well as a ring, a needle and a rosette with a glass insert. Both buildings were in use in the 1st and 2nd century.

In the centre of the western part of the settlement, a wooden *Building 3* (5.8×5.1 m; Fig. 1: 3) was discovered; built on stone foundations, it featured a drainage channel that was covered with planks on the inside. Two furnaces were documented in the northern part of the building. Judging by numerous pieces of burnt clay and slag as well as the position of the building facing the road, it was interpreted as an ironworks workshop or a smithy. Findings date the building to the 1st and 2nd century.

THE CEMETERIES

The eastern necropolis (researched 1958–1960) lay east of the settlement, in a narrow strip north of the *Emona–Siscia* road (Fig. 1). The uncovered cremation and inhumation graves (41 graves, 5 of which were inhumations) date to period from the early 1st century to the 3rd century.

The western cemetery, near the village of Podgračeno, was excavated in 2002 and 2004 in the length of 95 m and width of up to 16 m. Stretching along the Roman road on its north side, it was separated from the road by a 1.5 m wide gravel-paved walking surface; orientation of all the graves respected the course of the road. A total of 129 graves were discovered, 105 of which were cremation graves and 24 inhumations. Apart from individual graves, four grave plots with several individual graves were explored. The documented forms of cremation graves are quite diverse: a cremation grave in a simple grave pit, a stone-covered cremation grave, a bustum, a cremation grave with an urn, an urn grave with a stone slab at the bottom, a grave pit walled with stone slabs and a stone plate on the bottom, a square chest-like grave made of stone slabs, a grave in a masonry built tomb of rectangular form (Fig. 6). Inhumation graves usually have simple grave



Sl. 6: Ribnica. Del zahodne rimske nekropole s tlorisi grobnih parcel in grobov.
 Fig. 6: Ribnica. Part of the western Roman necropolis with ground plan of the grave plots and graves.
 (Arhiv / Archive: ZVKDS OE Novo mesto; izvedba / elaborated by A. Preložnik)



Sl. 7: Ribnica. Zahodna rimska nekropola. Grob 7 v grobni parceli B.
 Fig. 7: Ribnica. Western Roman necropolis. Grave No. 7 within the grave plot B.
 (Arhiv / Archive: ZVKDS OE Novo mesto)

polovice 1. st., so bili globlje vkopani in niso imeli kamnite konstrukcije. Značilno je ožiganje grobne jame oz. sežig pokojnika na mestu pokopa – *bustum*. Mlajša faza grobišča, verjetno od druge polovice 1. st. dalje, pozna grobne konstrukcije, grobne parcele, tlakovanje, ustrine, dokumentirani so bili tudi ostanki ceste. Dve grobni parceli, označeni kot A (3,90 × 4,10 m) in B (3,60 × 4,10 m; sl. 6; 7), sta ležali neposredno ena poleg druge in sta bili pravilne, skoraj kvadratne oblike. Omejeni sta

pits, sometimes there are brick-paved graves, graves in a form of a chest made of tegulae and one grave was found in a rectangular masonry built tomb.

A number of ceramic, amber, metal and glass goods were found in the graves, some of them of particularly striking quality. The western cemetery shows at least two stages of use. The earlier graves from the early 1st century were dug deeper and did not have any stone construction. The cremation of the deceased at the burial site – bus-



bili s kamnito ograjo iz apnenčastih lomljencev. Apnenc je bil iz kamnoloma pri Podgračenem.

Na območju vzhodne nekropole je bila dokumentirana ustrina z več ostanki keramike (Petru 1969), na zahodni nekropoli je bilo dokumentiranih 12 ustrin, katerih oblike in dimenzije so bile različne. Manjše so merile 0,5 × 0,6 m (ustrina 6), večje pa do 1,5 × 2,0 m (ustrina 11), njihova globina je znašala od 5 do 30 cm. Dve večji ustrini, 3 in 11, bi lahko bili ostanek sežiga para pokojnikov. Med najdbami na ustrinah so poleg sežganih odlomkov kosti prevladovali ostanki konstrukcije ob sežigu – žebli, gradbeni material, in značilni grobni dodatki: odlomki keramike, stekla, deli osebne noše. Posamični grobovi in predmeti so bili že objavljeni, med njimi jantarne najdbe iz grobov (Križ 2017) in izbrani stekleni predmeti (Lazar 2017).

PREMIČNI OSTANKI POSEBNEGA POMENA

Med arheološkim gradivom izstopajo nekatere najdbe iz naselbine in grobišč. Iz naselja izvira bronasta plastika Lara (sl. 8), zavetnika in varuha hiše in polj. Kakovostno izdelana bronasta plastika je datirana v 1. st.

Med izjemnimi steklenimi predmeti iz naselbine velja omeniti v kalup pihano čašo z napisom mojstra

<< Sl. 8: Ribnica. Bronast kipec Lara – predstavljen je v frontalnem pogledu v dinamični pozi in značilnem plesnem koraku, stoji na desni nogi, leva je pokrčena in iztegnjena nazaj. Oblečen v kratko, prepasano tuniko, ki mu valovi v gibanju. V dvignjeni levici nad glavo drži pivski rog – rityon, desnica je pokrčena in spuščena ob telesu. 1. st.

Fig. 8: Ribnica. Bronze statue of a Lar – he is represented frontally, in a dynamic pose and a typical dancing step. He stands on his right leg, the left one is bent and extended backwards. He is dressed in a short belted tunic, wavy due to his movement. In his extended left he holds a drinking horn - rhyton, the right hand is slightly bent and turned down. 1st century. (Arhiv / Archive: ZVKDS OE Novo mesto)

tum – was applied. The later phase, probably from the second half of the 1st century on, has grave constructions, grave plots, paving, ustrinae, even some remains of a road have been documented. Two grave plots, almost completely square shaped (Figs. 6; 7), designated A (3.90 × 4.10 m) and B (3.60 × 4.10 m), lay directly next to each other; they had a stone wall of limestone quarry stones. The limestone was from the quarry in Podgračeno.

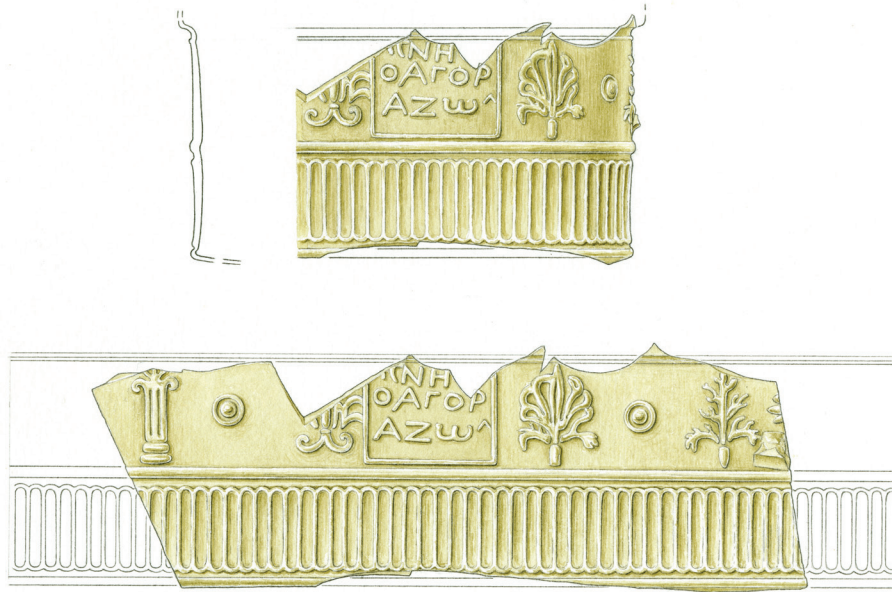
In the area of the eastern necropolis, an ustrina with several ceramic residues was documented (Petru 1969); in the western necropolis 12 ustrinae of different shapes and dimensions were documented, smaller ones measuring 0.5 × 0.6 m (Ustrina 6) and larger ones up to 1.5 × 2.0 m (Ustrina 11). Their depth ranged from 5 to 30 cm. Two major ustrinae, 3 and 11, could be the remains of the cremation of a deceased couple. Apart from burnt bone fragments in the ustrinae, remains of cremation construction were found (nails, construction material), as well as typical grave items, such as fragments of ceramics, glass, parts of personal wear. Individual graves and objects have already been published, among them amber finds from graves (Križ 2017) and selected glass objects (Lazar 2017).

SMALL FINDS OF SPECIAL IMPORTANCE

Some finds from the settlement and cemeteries stand out among the archaeological material. In the settlement, a high-quality bronze statue of a Lar (Fig. 8) was found, the patron and the guardian of the house and fields. It dates to the 1st century.

Among the exceptional glass objects from the settlement, the mould blown beaker with the signature of master Ennion (Fig. 9) is particularly striking; working in the east, Ennion extended his commercial network to the west and the Adriatic (Lazar 2006, 331–332). This was the first find of such a prestigious vessel in Slovenia (Lazar 2005b, 40), dating from 35 to 45 AD.

An equally rare find is the bottom of a larger rectangular bottle with the inscription of Sentia Secunda (Lazar 2005a, 42), which can be reconstructed, based



Sl. 9: Ribnica. Risba Enionove čaše – V kalup pihana steklena čaša z napisom mojstra Eniona, ki je deloval na vzhodu, najverjetneje v Sidonu, svojo trgovsko mrežo pa razširil tudi na zahod. Gre za prvo najdbo teh izdelkov pri nas, ki sodijo med najbolj prestižno stekleno posodje svojega časa. Čaša iz rumeno obarvanega stekla ima v kvadratnem okviru ohranjen napis v grščini ΜΝΗΘΗ Ο ΑΓΟ ΠΑΖΩΝ “Naj se ohrani ime kupca”. Napis na drugi strani ENNI / ΩΝΕΙΠ / ΟΙΗCΕ Ν “Enion me je izdelal”, ni ohranjen. Datirana je med letoma 35 do 45 n. št.

Fig. 9: Ribnica. Drawing of the Ennion cup – the mould-blown glass cup with the inscription of the master Ennion who was active on the East, most probably in Sidon, and spread his trade network to the west. This is the first find of one of these most prestigious glass vessels of its time found in Slovenia. The cup made of yellowish glass bears the Greek inscription in a square frame ΜΝΗΘΗ Ο ΑΓΟ ΠΑΖΩΝ “Let the buyer be remembered”. The inscription on the other side ENNI / ΩΝΕΙΠ / ΟΙΗCΕ Ν “Ennion made me” is not preserved. The cup is dated between 35 and 45 AD.

(Risba / Drawing: A. Fortuna; M. / Scale = 1:2)

Eniona (sl. 9), ki je deloval na vzhodu, trgovsko mrežo pa razširil tudi na zahod in Jadran (Lazar 2006, 331–332). Gre za prvo najdbo tega prestižnega posodja pri nas (Lazar 2005b, 40), datirano v čas med letoma 35 in 45 n. št.

Prav tako redka je najdba dna večje pravokotne steklenice z napisom Sentie Sekunde (Lazar 2005a, 42) na dnu, ki ga lahko na osnovi redkih primerjav rekonstruiramo v napis *SENTIA SECUNDA FACIT AQUILEIAE* – izdelala *Sentia Secunda* iz Akvileje. Izdelek sodi v 1. st.

V grobovih zahodne nekropole izstopajo jantarni pridatki, ki s svojo kakovostno izdelavo sodijo med izjemne in posebne najdbe. V rimski kulturi so jantarni predmeti (lat. *sucinum*, *electrum* ali *glaesum*) predstavljali prestiž in naj bi imeli magične in zdravilne lastnosti. V grobu 1 je bil priložen jantarni medaljon v podobi psice, ki ščiti svoje mladiče (Križ 2017, 131, št. 4). Jantarne predmete so vsebovali tudi grob 15 (ib., 62, 130, št. 1–3), grob 25 (ib., 58, 131–133, št. 5, 6, 9, 10) in grob 16 (ib., 60, 133, št. 11).

on rare comparisons, as *SENTIA SECUNDA FACIT AQUILEIAE* – “Made by Sentia Secunda from Aquileia”. The product belongs to the 1st century.

In the graves of the western necropolis, outstanding and rare amber items of particular quality stand out. In Roman culture, amber items (lat. *sucinum*, *electrum* or *glaesum*) stood for prestige and were thought to have magical and healing properties. In Grave 1, an amber medallion was placed in the image of a she-dog protecting her young (Križ 2017, 131, Nr. 4). Amber objects were also found in Graves 15 (Križ 2017, 62, 130, Nr. 1–3), 25 (Križ 2017, 58, 131–133, Nr. 5, 6, 9, 10) and 16 (Križ 2017, 60, 133, Nr. 11).

DEVELOPMENT OF THE SETTLEMENT

Archaeological research has defined the events in the Romula area in two overall stages of the settlement life; an earlier phase dating to the 1st and 2nd century, and the later phase in the 3rd and 4th century.

RAZVOJ NASELJA

Arheološke raziskave so v grobem opredelile dogajanje na območju Romule v dve glavni fazi življenja naselbine; starejša faza, ki obsega 1. in 2. st., ter mlajša faza, zamejena med 3. in 4. st.

Zahodni del naselja je sodeč po raziskanih apnenicah, ki so ležale pod rimskimi plastmi, živel že ob koncu 1. st. pr. n. št. Naslednjo fazo, datirano v 1. st., določajo odpadne jame in ustrine, v nadaljevanju pa ta del naselja postane aktiven del naselbine z gospodarskimi objekti; arhitekturni ostanki starejše faze sodijo v 1. in 2. st., mlajša faza pa v 3. in 4. st.

V osrednjem delu naselja, ki je hkrati tudi najširši del najdišča, so severno od rimske ceste ležali kulturni in verjetno upravni objekti, s površino ob potoku in teraso, južno od ceste pa delavnice oz. gospodarski objekti. Kulturni in upravni objekt sta trenutno datirana v 1. do 2. st.

Vzhodni del naselbine, sodeč po ostankih verjetno lesene arhitekture neposredno ob prometnici, je prav tako živel že od 1. st. dalje (Petru 1961, 194). To potrjujejo tudi najstarejši grobovi vzhodne nekropole, ki sodijo v prvo polovico in sredino 1. st. (Petru 1969). V 2. st. pa je na skrajnem vzhodnem robu zgrajen močan zidan objekt, ki varuje in kontrolira dostop do naselbine in živi dalje v 3. in 4. st.

Enak časovni razpon in dve glavni fazi kažeta tudi nekropoli. Najzgodnejši grobovi so datirani v prvo polovico oz. sredino 1. st., z največjo količino pokopov v času od druge polovice 1. do konca 2. st., skeletni grobovi pa se pojavijo od 3. st. dalje. Slednji so po številu in vsebini skromni in verjetno že odražajo upad pomena in vloge naselja.

STATUS NASELJA

Romula je na Tabuli Peutingeriani zapisana kot poštna in obcestna postaja. Z zadnjimi izkopavanji je bilo odkrito novo epigrafsko gradivo, ki podpira verjetnost, da je na območju postaje Romula verjetno delovala tudi carinska postaja. Gre za že omenjeni posvetilni napis Silvanu Avgustu, ki ga je dal postaviti Fajder Cecilian (sl. 2), suženj združenja zakupnikov carine (*[Ph]aeder / soc(iorum) p(ublici) p(ortorii) ser(vus) / Caecilianus / Silvan(o) Aug(usto) / sa(crum)*).⁶

Napis ROMVLA (sl. 10) na svinčeni ploščici za blago (Lovenjak 2005, 42) izpričuje ime naselbine in pravilnost njenega lociranja.

Judging from the investigated lime-kilns under the Roman layers, the western part of the settlement existed already at the end of the 1st century BC. The next phase, dated to the 1st century, is determined by rubbish pits and ustrinae; later, this part of the settlement becomes active with economic facilities. Architectural remains of the earlier phase belong to the 1st and 2nd centuries and the later phase to the 3rd and 4th centuries.

In the central part of the settlement, which is also the widest part of the site, the cult building and what was most likely an administrative building with a terrace along the stream lay on the north side of the road; south of the road, commercial buildings and workshops were built. The cult and administrative building were dated to the 1st to 2nd century.

Judging by the remains of probably wooden architecture right by the road, the eastern part of the settlement also lived from the 1st century onwards (Petru 1961, 194). This is confirmed by the earliest graves of the eastern necropolis, which belong to the first half and the middle of the 1st century (Petru 1969). In the 2nd century, a large building was built on the far eastern edge, which protects and controls access to the settlement and remained in use in the 3rd and 4th century.

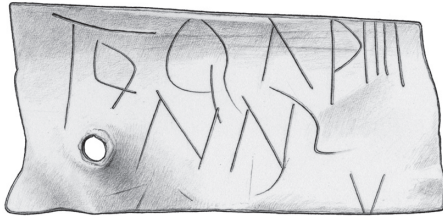
The same time span and two main phases are also exhibited in the necropolises. The earliest graves are dated to the first half or the middle of the 1st century, the largest amount of burials being from the second half of the 1st century to the end of the 2nd century; inhumation graves appeared in the 3rd century. The latter are scarce in number and modest in content and probably already reflect the decline of the settlement and its importance.

STATUS OF THE SETTLEMENT

Settlement is recorded as Romula in the Tabula Peutingeriana, i.e. a road or postal station. The new excavations have uncovered new epigraphic material, which supports the idea that there was a customs station in the area of Romula. The epigraphic material in question is the inscription dedicated to Silvanus Augustus,⁶ erected by Phaeder Cecilianus (Fig. 2), a slave to the association of publicani (*[Ph]aeder / soc(iorum) p(ublici) p(ortorii) ser(vus) / Caecilianus / Silvan(o) Aug(usto) / sa(crum)*). The inscription ROMVLA (Fig. 10) on the lead tablet (Lovenjak 2005, 42) attests the name of the settlement and the correctness of its location.

⁶ Najden je bil v sektorju IV, v osrednjem delu naselbine. Napis je interpretiral M. Lovenjak, glej op. 5; *lupa* 22475.

⁶ It was discovered in sector IV, in the central part of the settlement. The inscription was interpreted by Lovenjak, see note 5; *lupa* 22475.



Sl. 10: Ribnica. Svinčena ploščica za blago z napisom ROMVLA / ANIONIS. Verjetno gre za ime naselja in ga beremo “iz Romule”, v drugi vrstici pa ime lastnika *Anio-nis* v 2. sklonu. Fig. 10: Ribnica. Lead tablet for cloth with an inscription ROMVLA / ANIONIS. Most probably this is the name of the settlement and can be read as “from Romula”, in the second line we read the name of the owner *Anio-nis* in the 2nd case. (Risba / Drawing: A. Fortuna; M. / Scale = 2:1)

DRUŽBENI STATUS POSAMEZNIKOV

Med napisi izstopa nagrobnik Tiberija Klavdija Evdija (*Tiberius Claudius Eudius*) iz 1. st., ki s svojo imensko formulo *tria nomina* govori o polnopravnem rimskem državljanu (*ILSl* 1, 74). Njegov kognomen *Eudius* je zabeležen samo na tem napisu (*ILSl* 1, 74), zato domnevajo, da gre za grškega sužnja, ki mu je pravice podelil cesar Klavdij (Petru 1960–1961, 38). Na istem nagrobniku je ohranjeno tudi ime osvobojenca Tiberija Barbija Prima, ki je dal spomenik postaviti.

Ohranjeno je tudi ime sužnja združenja zakupnikov carine, ki je posvetil napis Silvanu Avgustu, in ime sužnja Rufina, ki je dal postaviti aro Jupitru (*ILSl* 1, 54).

ETNIČNA PRIPADNOST

Z izjemo že omenjenega grškega kognomna *Eudius*, ki ga drugje ne poznamo (*ILSl* 1, 74), drugih direktnih pričevanj o etnični pripadnosti prebivalcev Romule za sedaj ne poznamo. Ne gre pa prezreti značilnih grobnih pridatkov zahodne in vzhodne nekropole – hišastih žar, ki brez dvoma pričajo o avtohtonem prebivalstvu in njihovi kulturi oziroma izročilu širšega območja današnje Dolenjske in sosednje Hrvaške oz. Zagorja (Petru 1971; Gregl 1997; Križ 2003, 24; Križ, Stipančič, Škedelj Petrič 2009, 176, 357–360).

SOCIAL STATUS OF INDIVIDUALS

The funerary monument to Tiberius Claudius Eudius from the 1st century stands out among the inscriptions. Its *tria nomina* formula reveals a full-fledged Roman citizen (*ILSl* 1, 74). His cognomen Eudius is only recorded in this inscription (*ILSl* 1, 74), so it is assumed that this was a former Greek slave awarded his rights by Emperor Claudius (Petru 1960–1961, 38). The same inscription also records the name of the freedman Tiberius Barbis Primus who had the monument built.

The name of the slave to the association of publicani is also preserved, who dedicated an inscription to Silvanus Augustus, and the name of the slave Rufinus, who erected an altar dedicated to Jupiter (*ILSl* 1, 54).

ETHNICITY

With the exception of the Greek cognomen Eudius, which is unknown elsewhere (*ILSl* 1, 74), there are no other direct testimonies to the ethnicity of the inhabitants of Romula. However, one shouldn't neglect the typical grave items of the western and eastern necropolises – the house urns, which undoubtedly testify to the autochthonous population and their culture or the traditions of the wider area of today's Dolenjska and neighbouring Zagorje in Croatia (Petru 1971; Gregl 1997; Križ 2003, 24; Križ, Stipančič, Škedelj Petrič 2009, 176, 357–360).

Translation: Gregor Pobežin

Okrajšave / Abbreviations

- AIJ = V. Hoffler, B. Saria, *Antike Inschriften aus Jugoslawien 1: Noricum und Pannonia Superior*. – Zagreb 1938.
- ANSI = *Arheološka najdišča Slovenije*. – Ljubljana 1975.
- ILJug = A. et J. Šašel, *Inscriptiones Latinae quae in Jugoslavia inter annos MCMLX et MCMLXX repertae et editae sunt* (Situla 19), Ljubljana 1978.
- ILSI 1 = M. Lovenjāk, *Inscriptiones Latinae Sloveniae 1. Neviodunum* (Situla 37), Ljubljana 1998.
- lupa = UBI ERAT LUPA, F. und O. Harl, <http://lupa.at/> (Bildatenbank zu antiken Steindenkmälern).
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