

# Seal Boxes from Potaissa

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**Abstract:** The publication of a previously unpublished seal box discovered in Potaissa supports the reopening of the “dossier” of such items found both in the fort of the V Macedonica Legion and the city. One current knows of 10 artifacts in this category. Together with the other known writing implements, seal boxes complete our current knowledge regarding the use of writing and implicitly literacy in provincial society.

**Key-words:** seal box; writing; Potaissa.

**Rezumat:** Publicarea unei capsule de sigiliu inedite descoperită la Potaissa, a permis reluarea „dosarului” acestui tip de obiecte provenite atât din castrul Legiunii V Macedonica cât și din oraș. Se cunosc în prezent zece artefacte din această categorie, artefacte care împreună cu celelalte instrumente de scris cunoscute completează imaginea noastră despre folosirea scrierii și implicit știința de carte în societatea provincială.

**Cuvinte cheie:** capsulă de sigiliu; scriere; Potaissa.

Such boxes were used to protect seals authenticating documents and consisted of a box and a lid, usually decorated with enamel. Few such items are known from Roman Dacia, both because they were relatively expensive and uncommon and because they were discovered in fragmentary states, thus not always allowing for their correct identification; in fact, seal box fragments were often mistaken for appliques or pendants. The publication of certain lots of seal boxes has led specialists to correctly identify similar artifacts from various museum collections that had been previously ignored. New items were thus included in the scientific environment due to published analogies. 11 seal boxes were known from Dacia and Moesia Inferior until 1984,<sup>1</sup> while one can currently repertory 10 in Potaissa alone. A study from 2006 synthesized 29 items from Dacia<sup>2</sup>.

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<sup>1</sup> Mușețeanu 1984, *passim*.

<sup>2</sup> Benea et al. 2006, 137-150, pl. XX/4, pl. XXI/1-23, pl. XXVIII/1-3.

I. Bajusz has published a typology of such artifacts from the province of Dacia. Based on item shape, he has suggested the existence of eight main types, each with several variants.<sup>3</sup> Seal boxes are known from all areas of the Roman Empire, often in the Moesias and the Pannonias, and can be dated to the entire existence period of the province of Dacia (the 2<sup>nd</sup>-3<sup>rd</sup> centuries).<sup>4</sup> Generally, in the Empire, the spread of seal boxes with enameled lid is connected to the production of enameled items that reached a peak during the 2<sup>nd</sup> century and until the middle of the 3<sup>rd</sup> century AD.<sup>5</sup>

The present article starts from a previously unpublished seal box discovered in the fort baths that I have decided to present in the context of all similar artifacts from Potaissa grouped in an extensive catalogue of the type.

**1. Heart-shaped seal box**, almost entirely preserved. The item has two parts, the box and the lid, connected with a hinge. The hinge consists of a loop in the central upper part of the lid and two loops on the base, meant to fit together. All three vertical loops are provided with a central circular perforation where a pin was inserted. Such pins were usually made of iron, and this was probably also the case with the item under discussion, as the pin has not been preserved. At the lower end, opposite the hinge, the lid displays a locating pin, a prominence that fit in a corresponding lock on the base, allowing for the box to be shut closed. The decoration of the lid has been created by pouring enamel into bronze

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<sup>3</sup> Bajusz 1995, 40, pl. II – I. square-shaped type; II. rectangular-shaped type; III. lozenge-shaped type; IV. triangular-shaped type; V. circular-shaped type; VI. oval-shaped type; VII. heart-shaped type (or oil lamp-shaped); VIII. crescent-moon-shaped type. In a typology suggested for a lot of artifacts discovered in Augusta Rauricorum, A. R. Furger and E. Riha (Furger, Riha 2009, 48-49, Abb. 23, Tabelle 2) have repertoried the following formal types (with several subtypes): 1. tongue-shaped; 2. leaf-shaped; 3. lozenge-shaped; 4. triangular-polygonal; 5. circular; 6. oval; 7. square. M. Feugère, P. Abauzit have published another general typology (Feugère, Abauzit 1995, 43, fig. 1), with the following main types according to the shape of the artifacts: bag-shaped, circular, rectangular, and teardrop-shaped.

<sup>4</sup> Furger, Riha 2009, 47-89, Tabelle 3; Seal boxes presumably appeared in the Mediterranean area and were initially made of bone; the first known bronze item was dated around the year 100 BC. During the Imperial Era these artifacts spread to the northern and western provinces. Square-shaped seal boxes have been found starting with the first half of the 1<sup>st</sup> century AD in North Italy and Germania. Circular and heart-shaped items started to be used during the Augustan Period and were especially attributed to the military environment (and are frequent finds in frontier forts), though they have also been attested in civilian settlements, temples, and necropolises. During the Flavian Era, seal boxes spread to the Empire, especially in Gallia and Germania, subsequently also spreading to Noricum, Pannonia, Moesia, and Dacia starting with the 2<sup>nd</sup> century.

<sup>5</sup> Benea 1982, 341-343; Bajusz 1995, 62-66.

cases. In the central area one notes a teardrop-shaped motif with two symmetrical, lateral volutes inside and a dot-shaped motif below. The enamel has been largely destroyed, but the small preserved areas allow for the reconstruction of the original colors: red enamel in the inner decoration, alternating with turquoise-green enamel in the outer areas. The box is fragmentarily preserved, but its shape can be fully reconstructed. The box once contained seal wax. One notes the three securing circular orifices placed according to a triangular pattern. The closing system is located in the upper part, consisting of a hinge with two semicircular loops, though only one has been preserved. On the lower part, opposite the hinge, one notes a small locket, used in the close fitting of the lid (Pl. I/1-6).

Type: Bajusz VIIIf = Furger, Riha 2b, heart-shaped, the oblong variant; bronze, enamel; dimensions: L. total, with hinge 3.9 cm, L. lid 3.5 cm, width 1.9 cm, T. 0.2 cm; LD: in the fort baths, C15, the eastern control profile, the B/north area, in the extension of the *basilica*, h. 0.30-0.50 m; MIT, inv. no. 24574a, b.

Analogies: Apulum, Porolissum (Ciugudean 1997, 132, no. 3, fig 1/3, no. 4, fig. 1/4; Bajusz 1995, 67, no. 15, pl. IV/15).

Two items of a similar type (Bajusz VIIIf) and with similar decoration were also found in the fort of the V Macedonica Legion, in the *principia*. A seal box lid was uncovered in one of the *armamentaria* from the northern side (room 10), a room that has revealed diverse artifacts, some very special such as a bronze candle holder with the depiction of a Silenus<sup>6</sup> and an altar for the Genius armamentarii.<sup>7</sup> Another seal box lid, to be included in the same type, was discovered in the *basilica* of the commandment building. Generally, items of this type are dated to the period between the end of the 1<sup>st</sup> century and the middle of the 3<sup>rd</sup> century AD.<sup>8</sup>

**2. Oblong heart-shaped seal box**, only the lid of which has been preserved. The decoration consists of a heart-shaped motif with a circle inside and another small circle above. The cases that contained the enamel have tall, cast edges. The item is decorated with turquoise-green enamel in the central part and red on the margins. The enamel has not been preserved in the inner circle, but it was likely red. The circular loop

<sup>6</sup> Bărbulescu 1990, 821-831; Bărbulescu 1994, 138, pl. X/3; Petculescu 2003, 162, no. 280; Bărbulescu 2015, 144-146.

<sup>7</sup> Bărbulescu 2004, 375-376; Bărbulescu 2012, 216, no. 28, fig. 92; ILD 502.

<sup>8</sup> Furger, Riha 2009, 53, Tabelle 3, 61.

of the hinge, that fit between the two loops of the box, has been preserved in the upper central part of the item. In the lower part, the lid displays a circular protuberance that is slightly prominent on the inside, forming the securing system of the item (**Pl. II/1**).

Type: Bajusx VIIIf = Furger, Riha 2b, heart-shaped, the oblong variant; bronze, enamel; dimensions: L. 4.2 cm; LD: *principia*, the northern side, room 10; MIT, inv. no. 6772.

Analogies: Apulum, Porolissum (Ciugudean 1997, 132, no. 2, fig 1/2; Bounegru, Bolog 2012, 100, fig. 2; Bajusz 1995, 67, no. 15, pl. IV/15).

Bibliography: Bărbulescu 2015, 188-189, 295, nr. 120, fig. 343; Bărbulescu 2017, 17, Tav. I/6.

**3. Oblong heart-shaped seal box**, only the lid of which has been preserved. The decoration consists of a heart-shaped motif with a circle inside and a small circle above. The tall contours that formed the decoration and subsequently held the enamel were cast. Alternating turquoise-green and red enamels have been set thus: green in the inner circle, red in the heart-shaped motif, and again green on the margins. The hinge element is broken. The same circular protuberance that corresponded to a prominence inside the lid, with the role of closing the seal box tight, can be noted on the lower part (**Pl. II/2**).

Type: Bajusz VIIIf = Furger, Riha 2b, heart-shaped, the oblong variant; bronze, enamel; dimensions: L. 3.5 cm; LD: *principia*, the southern side (*basilica*); MIT, inv. no. 6773.

Analogies: Apulum, Porolissum (Ciugudean 1997, 132, no. 2, fig 1/2; Bounegru, Bolog 2012, 100, fig. 2; Bajusz 1995, 67, no. 15, pl. IV/15).

Bibliography: Bărbulescu 2015, 188-189, 295, nr. 121, fig. 344; Bărbulescu 2017, 17, Tav. I/7.

Three other seal boxes discovered in Potaissa can be included in the heart-shaped type (or oil lamp-shaped type), the variant with the lower part ending in a trefoil pattern (Bajusz VIIe). Two of them were discovered in the fort (in the baths and in the *principia*), while the third was found during a rescue excavation performed in 2017 in the civilian area of Potaissa. As for the decoration, analogies in the bibliography dedicated to this type of artifacts have been described as phallus-shaped. Depictions of phalluses were interpreted as good luck charms, as well as fertility symbols. In the western provinces, phalluses usually feature on enameled heart-shaped seal boxes (the variant with the decoration consisting of an enameled circle placed around a disk that was also enameled, inside which the relief decoration was applied) that are dated

to the period between the second half of the 2<sup>nd</sup> century and the 3<sup>rd</sup> century AD.<sup>9</sup>

**4. Heart or oil lamp-shaped seal box**, the variant with the lower part ending in a trefoil pattern; only the lid has been preserved. The lid is decorated with the depiction of a phallus riveted to the body of the item and covered in green enamel. The central decoration is placed in a sunken circular field surrounded by a stripe decorated in the *millefiori* technique. A succession of small rectangular cases divides the surface of the circular band and one can note the alternate use of two decorative motifs. The first consists of flowers with eight blue petals around a white disk with red border set against a white background. The second motif, against a red background, consists of a square checkered field with nine blue-gray and white squares. A V-shaped enameled motif decorates the top of the lid, consisting of alternating rectangular red and green elements (**Pl. II/3**).

Type: Bajusz VIIe = Furger, Riha 2a; bronze, enamel; dimensions: L. 4 cm; LD: baths (*latrina* II), h. 90 cm; MIT, inv. no. 15608.

Analogies: Apulum, Potaissa, Porolissum, Tibiscum (Benea 1982, 337-338, no. 2, fig. 2, 3; Bajusz 1995, 67, no. 14, pl. IV/14; Bărbulescu 2015, 186-187, 295, no. 118, fig. 338-340; Bărbulescu 2017, 16, Tav. I/1, 2).

Bibliography: Bărbulescu 2015, 188, 295, no. 119, fig. 341-342; Bărbulescu 2017, 17, Tav. I/4-5.

**5. Heart or oil lamp-shaped seal box**, the variant with the lower part ending in a trefoil patterns, with the box, the lid, and the hinge. The lid displays a circular prominence that fits into a circular concavity placed symmetrically on the long end of the box. These elements allowed for the seal box to be closed shut. It is placed between two small circular protuberances. The decoration consists of a relief phallic depiction riveted onto the body of the lid. The phallus motif is filled with burgundy enamel. It is followed by a tall circular band case covered in enamel. Six white rectangular cases with inserted black vegetal decorations alternate with six other cases in red. A lunula-shaped decoration covered in turquoise enamel has been placed towards the pointy end of the lid, with incised circular elements on top and below (**Pl. II/4**). On the body of the box one notes two lateral perforations, placed symmetrically, three circular orifices on the bottom, and two circular protuberances on the long end, flanking the closing orifice. Much of the seal is preserved inside

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<sup>9</sup> Boucher, Feugère 2009, 11, fig. 5; Furger, Riha 2009, 54, 61; Milovanović, Raičović Savić 2013, 221.

the box, consisting of beeswax mixed with vegetal oil and resin, as well as linen strings. During restoration, specialists have noted under the wax mass the string that entered through one of the orifices on the bottom of the box. Biologist Aurelia Igna performed the analyses and the investigations in 1983.<sup>10</sup>

The discovery of this seal box has clarified the function of items that have been published over time as pomanders or, due to their fragmentary state upon discovery, as pendants, amulets, etc. Roman seals guaranteed the origin of documents and preserved their secrets, as they were only meant to be opened by the intended recipients. Seal boxes protected the seals that authenticated documents in the form of wax tablets or scrolls. Tablets were tied across with a string. The ends of the string were inserted into the box through the two lateral notches and were knotted inside. The sealing material was subsequently poured in and the seal applied to the soft wax. The tablets could then only be opened by cutting the string. In the case of scroll-type documents, the string was rolled on top, but the document could have been extracted. Still, the seal box could be sewed to the document through the orifices on the bottom of the box. The document was subsequently rolled, tied with string, and sealed. The box remained attached to the document even after it was opened, thus still confirming its authenticity.<sup>11</sup>

Type: Bajusz VIIe = Furger, Riha 2a; bronze, enamel; dimensions: L. 4 cm; LD: *principia*, in one of the *armamentaria* located on the northern side of the edifice (room 9); MIT, inv. no. 6737.

Analogies: Apulum, Potaissa, Porolissum, Tibiscum (Benea 1982, 337-338, no. 2, fig. 2, 3; Bajusz 1995, 67, no. 14, pl. IV/14; Bărbulescu 2015, 188, 295, no. 119, fig. 341-342; Bărbulescu 2017, 16, Tav. I/1, 2).

Bibliography: Bărbulescu 1994, 138; Bărbulescu 2015, 186-187, 295, no. 118, fig. 338-340; Bărbulescu 2017, 13-14, fig. 1-2.

**6. Heart or oil lamp-shaped seal box**, the variant with the lower part ending in a trefoil pattern; only the lid has been preserved, displaying the same type of decoration.

Type: Bajusz VIIe = Furger, Riha 2a; bronze; LD: I. I. Russu St., the civilian area of Potaissa; MIT, inv. no. 23630.

Bibliography: previously unpublished; information kindly provided by P. Chiorean.

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<sup>10</sup> Analysis report March 12, 1983, MNIT, biologist Aurelia Igna.

<sup>11</sup> Bărbulescu 2015, 185-186; Bărbulescu 2017, 15; see also Furger, Riha 2009a, 18-25.

Four other seal boxes discovered over time in Potaissa are only known from the bibliography. Three of them are of the circular type, one decorated with the relief depiction of an eagle (Bajusz Va), the other two with enameled geometric decoration (Bajusz Vc).

According to M. Feugère and P. Abauzit, the circular seal box with the depiction of an eagle preserved in the collection of the museum in Debrecen marks on the map the easternmost border of the distribution area of circular seal boxes. Such items are dated to the period between the middle of the 1<sup>st</sup> century and the beginning of the 2<sup>nd</sup> century AD.<sup>12</sup> A. R. Furger and E. Riha mention the fact that items of this type discovered in Augusta Rauricorum were found in archaeological features that can be dated between the middle of the 1<sup>st</sup> century and the first quarter of the 3<sup>rd</sup> century AD, while on the level of the Empire they are generally dated between the 1<sup>st</sup> century and the end of the 3<sup>rd</sup> century AD.<sup>13</sup>

The following seal box displays the only zoomorphic depiction in the catalogue of items from Potaissa. In the iconographic repertory of seal boxes, eagles are the most frequent zoomorphic depictions,<sup>14</sup> certainly in connection to the official symbolic repertoire of the Roman army.<sup>15</sup>

**7. Circular seal box;** the lid is ornamented with an applied, riveted decoration depicting an eagle.

Type: Bajusz Va? = Furger, Riha 5a?; bronze; dimensions: 2.1 cm; Déri Museum Debrecen.

Bibliography: Selye 1939, 38, no. 6;<sup>16</sup> Feugère, Abauzit 1995, 53, nr. 18; Bărbulescu 2015, 188.

Two other circular seal boxes with enamel decoration are mentioned in Téglás' manuscript. Artifacts of this type are dated between the middle of the 1<sup>st</sup> century and the end of the 3<sup>rd</sup> century AD.<sup>17</sup>

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<sup>12</sup> Feugère, Abauzit 1995, 50-51.

<sup>13</sup> Furger, Riha 2009, 74-75.

<sup>14</sup> Feugère, Abauzit 1995, 43 - out of a total of 57 items with applied zoomorphic decoration, 21 feature the depiction of an eagle; see also Feugère, Abauzit 2000, 21.

<sup>15</sup> Boucher, Feugère 2009, 10; Milovanović, Raičović Savić 2013, 221.

<sup>16</sup> I. Selye mentions a circular seal box lid with zoomorphic decoration consisting of an eagle, identical in decoration with other items discovered in Siscia, Novi-Banovici, as well as Carnuntum; the item is not illustrated and the author mentions the fact that it was found in Turda, providing no other details regarding its place of discovery.

<sup>17</sup> Furger, Riha 2009, 68-69, 76.

**8. Circular seal box;** only the lid and probably the box have been preserved. The lid displays a slightly heightened geometric decoration made of cast bronze, consisting of a central dot surrounded by a circle and eight other dots placed symmetrically in a second circular field. The enamel poured in these two circular cases has not been preserved and one can only suspect that two different colors were used. A box seems to belong to the same item, as it has similar dimensions (though one cannot exclude the possibility that the fragment belongs in fact to another, similar artifact, in the light of clear details regarding the discovery of artifacts in question). The bottom of the circular box displays three circular orifices (**Pl. II/5**).

Type: Bajusz Vc = Furger, Riha 5e;<sup>18</sup> bronze; dimensions: D. lid: 1.8 cm; D. box 1.7 cm; LD: fort ("inside the fort, on Bakucs' plot" during agricultural works performed in 1903.<sup>19</sup>)

Analogies: Porolissum, Potaissa (Bajusz 1995, 66, no. 5, pl. III/5; Bajusz 2005, 513, no. 1, fig. 29/97).

Bibliography: Bajusz 2005, 512-513, no. 2, 3, fig. 29/97.

**9. Circular seal box with an extension in the lower part;** only lid has been preserved. The lid displays a slightly heightened cast bronze geometric decoration consisting of a central dot surrounded by a circle and eight other dots placed symmetrically in a second circular field. The enamel cast in the two circles has not been preserved; one can only suspect that two different colors were used. A fragmentarily-preserved seal box seems to belong to the same item (though one cannot exclude the possibility that the fragments belong to a similar artifact, in the case of clear details regarding the discovery of the artifacts). The bottom of the circular box displays three circular orifices (**Pl. II/6**).

Type: Bajusz Vc = Furger, Riha 5e; bronze; dimensions: L. lid: 2.1 cm; LD: fort ("inside the fort, on Bakucs' plot" during agricultural works performed in 1903.<sup>20</sup>)

Analogies: Porolissum, Potaissa (Bajusz 1995, 66, no. 5, pl. III/5; Bajusz 2005, no. 3, fig. 29/97).

Bibliography: Bajusz 2005, I/2, 512-513, no. 1, fig. 29/97.

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<sup>18</sup> I believe that the item also displayed a small extension of the lid, that was subsequently lost, and thus can be included it in variant Bajusz Vc - circular seal boxes with an extension in the lower part. I cannot exclude the possibility that the item has a simple circular shape, variant Bajusz Va, but the decoration of the lid features mostly on items that can be included in variant Va.

<sup>19</sup> Bajusz 2005, 512.

<sup>20</sup> Bajusz 2005, 512.



A single item discovered in Potaissa can be included in the lozenge-shaped type. Such artifacts are generally dated during the period starting after the middle of the 1<sup>st</sup> century and ending during the first third of the 3<sup>rd</sup> century AD.<sup>21</sup>

**10. Lozenge-shaped seal box;** only the box holding the seal has been preserved, with the orifices on the bottom, placed symmetrically, in a triangular pattern. The loops of the hinge have been broken and a semicircular locket for the securing pin of the lid has been preserved (Pl. II/7).

Type: Bajusz IIIc = Furger, Riha 3a; bronze; LD: Potaissa (the precise place of discovery remains unknown; Téglás István mentioned the item in 1911 in a manuscript besides other artifacts discovered in the area of Sândului Valley, in the civilian area of the Roman city).

Analogies: Porolissum, Apulum (Bajusz 1995, 66, no. 1, pl. III/1; Mușețeanu 1984, 362, II, 363, no. 3, fig. 1/3<sup>22</sup>).

Bibliography: Bajusz 2005, I/2, 711, fig. 45/66; Bărbulescu 2015, 188, footnote 342.<sup>23</sup>

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The catalogue of seal boxes discovered in Potaissa currently includes 10 artifacts. From a typological perspective, the following categories have been attested: the lozenge-shaped type – Bajusz IIIc (no. 10), the circular type – Bajusz Va (no. 7), the circular type, the variant with an extension in the lower part – Bajusz Vc (nos. 8, 9), the heart-shape type, the variant with the lower part ending in a trefoil pattern – Bajusz VIIe (nos. 4, 5, 6), and the heart-shape type, the oblong variant – Bajusz VIIf (nos. 1, 2, 3).<sup>24</sup> The decoration of such items is enameled (nos. 1, 2, 3, 8, 9), enameled and riveted (nos. 4, 5, 6), or riveted (no. 7).<sup>25</sup> The lids display stylized vegetal decoration (nos. 1, 2, 3), geometric decoration (nos. 8, 9), the depiction of a phallus (nos. 4, 5, 6), while zoomorphic

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<sup>21</sup> Furger, Riha 2009, 64.

<sup>22</sup> C. Mușețeanu published the item mentioning that it was found in Transylvania. The seal box was taken over by the National Museum of Romanian History from the National History Museum of Transylvanian History (MNIT). At the latter institution, the inventory documents mention the entire item, with both lid and box, and record the place of discovery in Apulum (Partoș); the lid is still preserved in the collection of the MNIT.

<sup>23</sup> I. Téglás has not identified the function of the item, but it is interesting to note that he noted in his diary the fact that the three orifices probably allowed for the artifacts to be sewed onto garments.

<sup>24</sup> Bajusz 1995, 62-65, 70, pl. II.

<sup>25</sup> Feugère, Abauzit 1995, 43.

decoration is only signaled once, consisting of the depiction of an eagle (no. 7). All repertoried types can be dated to chronological intervals that cover the existence period of the province of Dacia.<sup>26</sup>

As for the geographic distribution of the artifacts, one notes that most were found in the fort of the V Macedonica legion. Seven items were discovered on the surface of the fort, in the baths and the *principia*, or were found by chance on the site before the start of the archaeological excavations. Only two of the artifacts were found in the civilian settlement and the context of discovery of one of them remains unknown.

Seal boxes were used more frequently in the military environment, but such items were also found in public or private areas, temples, and necropolises. Seal boxes were precious artifacts, indicating the significance of the documents they were attached to: contracts, last wills, letters, and official documents, administrative or military in nature. The presence of seal boxes in graves attests the deposition of sealed documents besides the bodies of the deceased, while those found in temples attest the practice of writing requests to the gods.<sup>27</sup> One knows that other types of objects were also sealed, such as coin boxes or bags, as noted in the case of a hoard discovered in Trier.<sup>28</sup>

From a technical perspective, the manufacture of these artifacts required specialized skills. The two parts were cast in molds and then finished through cutting and polishing. They were then enameled by inserting glass plates or crushed glass into decorative fields cast as such. Glass was colored by adding iron and copper oxides to the glass paste. Monochrome or *millefiori* rods were also used, cut into small segments and applied to the fields already set with molten glass. The items were then reinserted into an oven for a brief secondary firing that allowed for the glass mass to melt and adhere to the metal case. The enameled decoration was subsequently finished.<sup>29</sup>

One cannot decide if the items discovered in Potaissa were locally produced or were among the commercial goods manufactured outside the province. Doina Benea has argued for the existence in Tibiscum of a workshop that produced enameled items, including seal boxes.<sup>30</sup> The items found in Dacia are generally highly unitary from a typological and decorative perspective, with close analogies in the Pannonias and in

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<sup>26</sup> Furger, Riha 2009, 47-87.

<sup>27</sup> Bajusz 1995, 62; Boucher, Feugère 2009, 51; Furger 2009a, 38-41; Milovanović, Raičović Savić 2013, 220-221; Bărbulescu 2017, 188.

<sup>28</sup> Gilles 1994, 19, fig. 8.

<sup>29</sup> Benea 1982, 340-341.

<sup>30</sup> Benea 1982, 342-343.

Germania. For this reason, I. Bajusz believes they were manufactured in a workshop from Gallia or Germania that provisioned the Danubian provinces with enameled bronzes.<sup>31</sup> The distribution of these artifacts is connected to the exchange of correspondence, thus spread between particular regions and settlements, more intense in the military environment, without close connection to the main directions of the trade network.<sup>32</sup>

**List of plattes:**

Pl. I/1. Heart-shaped seal box, type Bajusz VIIIf, MIT, inv. no. 24574; drawing by Luciana Nedelea.

Pl. I/2-4. Heart-shaped seal box (lid), type Bajusz VIIIf, MIT, inv. no. 24574; photo S. Odenie, ©MIT.

Pl. I/5-6. Heart-shaped seal box (box without lid), type Bajusz VIIIf, MIT, inv. no. 24574; photo S. Odenie; ©MIT.

Pl. II/1. Heart-shaped seal box (lid), type Bajusz VIIe, MIT, inv. no. 6772; taken from Bărbulescu 2015, 188-189, 295, nr. 120, fig. 343.

Pl. II/2. Heart-shaped seal box (lid), type Bajusz VIIe, MIT, inv. no. 6773; taken from Bărbulescu 2015, 188-189, 295, nr. 121, fig. 344.

Pl. II/3. Heart-shaped seal box (lid), type Bajusz VIIe, MIT, inv. no. 15608; taken from Bărbulescu 2015, 188, 295, nr. 119, fig. 341-342.

Pl. II/4. Heart-shaped seal box, type Bajusz VIIe, MIT, inv. no. 6737; taken from Bărbulescu 2017, 13-14, fig. 1-2.

Pl. II/5, 6. Circular seal boxes, type Bajusz Vc; taken from Bajusz 2005, 512-513, nr. 1-2, fig. 29/97.

Pl. II/7. Lozenge-shaped seal box, type Bajusz IIIc; taken from Bajusz 2005, I/2, 711, fig. 45/66.

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<sup>31</sup> Bajusz 1995, 65-66.

<sup>32</sup> Boucher, Feugère 2009, 50-53.

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Pl. I



