

Returning to the title of the book, we can say the main idea of the author is that the outposts – the fortlets and the watchtowers were more than necessary in those areas where the *pax Romana* needed an increased level of security. The density of such military installations is a conclusive barometer for the security of a particular region. The role and the daily life of the garrisoned troops is highlighted by the means of internal planning and the written records of the soldiers that served on the Roman frontiers.

The aspect which I do not necessary fully agree with is that Symonds does not consider the possibilities that the fortlets could have played a role in establishing trade relations with the indigenous barbarian populations, aspect confirmed by several discoveries from the frontier of Dacia Porolissensis.

In the end, we want to underscore that the work of M. Symonds is of great importance and a step forward in understanding the complex mechanism of the Roman frontiers and their security. We believe that by adding new data from other provinces that were not included by the author in his study, like Pannonia, Dacia, Moesia, Thracia or Asia, the established analysis model will be both reconfirmed and refined.

HORAȚIU COCIȘ

Zalău County Museum of History and Art

hcocis12@gmail.com

Alina Streinu, Vase antice de sticlă din colecția “Maria și Dr. George Severeanu”. /The Glass Vessels in the “Maria și Dr. George Severeanu” Collection. Seria Colecția “Maria și Dr. George Severeanu” III. Editura Cetatea de scaun, Târgoviște, 2019, 264 p. (212 p. text with illustrations + 50 coloured plates). ISBN 978-606-537-447-8.

The Glass Vessels in the “Maria și Dr. George Severeanu” Collection represents the third volume of “Maria și Dr. George Severeanu” Collection Serie aiming to an as complete publication of the artefacts from this collection as possible in the near future. The above-mentioned collection represents probably one of the largest private collections of antiquities from Romania, today being part of the Bucharest Municipal Museum. The Collection is displayed in George Severeanu Museum, the house owned by the Severeanu family, recently restored, being one of the most beautiful History Museums in Bucharest and

Romania. The collection includes numerous artefacts from Prehistory up to the Middle Ages.

This book represents the hard work of Alina Streinu, an archaeologist and curator at the above-mentioned museum, she took the challenge of publishing the glass vessels from the museum collection in a manner that is accessible to a large public that visits the museum, but at the same time, the book represents a useful instrument for the scientific community as well. The volume consists of 264 pages, containing three main chapters, a detailed catalogue, a large bibliography list, a consistent English abstract, and 50 plates.

The first chapter, Ancient glass production is an introduction of the reader to the history of glass manufacture in Antiquity starting with the third millennium BC up to the Roman period where the author spends enough time explaining the entire technological production process along with the evolution of technology during the Greek and Roman time. This chapter is enriched with pictures making it easier to understand the different techniques used by the glassmakers to create the exquisite vessels. Techniques such as the modelling on a hard ceramic core, the mould-blowing technique, and finally the free-blowing technique, representing the technology that revolutionized glass manufacture around 1st century BC. Using the ancient literary sources, archaeological evidence, along with chemical and technological analysis, the author manages to summarize the entire *chaîne opératoire* and the glass manufacture, especially for the Roman period. The subchapter on the chemical composition represents an asset of the book, where the process of obtaining the beautiful colours of the ancient glass vessels are explained in an easily understandable manner. Following next is a subchapter on the ancient glass commerce in the Roman period, where once again, using the ancient literary and the epigraphic sources, A. Streinu creates a vivid description of the dynamic of the Roman society along with its acquired taste for luxury and the aesthetic of the vessels used in the daily life. The chapter ends with the description of the organisation of a Roman glass workshop, the recycling process, the condition of the glassworkers, their organisation as a guild within the Roman system of craftsmanship, along with a shortlist of the glass workshops archaeologically identified on the territory of Romania.

The second chapter represents a natural continuation of the first one, where the author explains the functionality and the forms of the glass vessels, their content, and their use in daily life. Here, once again using all the available literary sources, we are discovering the frequency of the glass vessels used as containers for a large variety of

pharmaceutical or cosmetical mixtures used in the daily life by the Romans, men, and women alike. The reader throughout this chapter discovers that by studying a single category of artefacts, the glass vessels, in this case, an archaeologist or a historian can offer an overly complex image about an ancient society with all their daily practices, and therefore discovering once more the importance of historical studies.

The third chapter is a description of the 154 glass vessels from the museum collection and the classification of the vessels into different groups based on their functionality. The glass vessels collection is a rather special one because almost all the vessels are complete, only a few being fragmentary. George Severeanu had a special appreciation for the antiquities, and he tried to obtain as much information as possible about the vessels he purchased. Information such as the discovery place and if there were some other artefacts connected to them. Numerous glass vessels from his collection represent grave goods discovered in different parts of the country, especially in the Dobrogea and Pontic area. Each category of vessels is described accordingly by the author. The main category of vessels (84) is represented by the *unguentaria* vessels, featured accordingly to their morphological characteristics, followed by the containers for transport, storage, and tableware (54), and other less numerous glass vessels such as glass candles, relief decorated vessels, and an *alabastron* and an *aryballos* vessel.

A fourth part is represented by a detailed catalogue of the vessels with typological identifications, analogies, and the dating of the vessels, appealing to the interest of the scientific community. The typological classification follows Isings' criteria along with other well-established typologies of the glass vessels. The catalogue has an easy to follow and coherent structure which makes it a useful scientific tool along with the detailed plates at the end with drawings and pictures of the vessels. The large bibliographical list with all the ancient sources, catalogues, corpora, and the general up-to-date bibliography is another important asset. The book ends with a very consistent English abstract and a second catalogue entirely in English which makes the book even more accessible to both the general public and the scientific community.

FLORIN-OVIDIU BOTIȘ
Babeș-Bolyai University, Cluj-Napoca
f.ovidiu.botis@gmail.com