

NOVA ODKRITJA MED ALPAMI IN ČRNIM MORJEM
REZULTATI RAZISKAV RIMSKODOBNIH NAJDIŠČ
V OBDOBJU MED LETI 2005 IN 2015

ZBORNİK 1. MEDNARODNEGA ARHEOLOŠKEGA SIMPOZIJA,
PTUJ, 8. IN 9. OKTOBER 2015



MMXVIII

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BLACK SEA
RESULTS FROM THE ROMAN SITES
IN THE PERIOD BETWEEN 2005 AND 2015

PROCEEDINGS OF THE 1ST INTERNATIONAL ARCHAEOLOGICAL
CONFERENCE, PTUJ, 8TH AND 9TH OCTOBER 2015

IN MEMORIAM IVA MIKL CURK

UREDNIKI/EDITORS: MAJA JANEŽIČ, BARBARA NADBATH, TADEJA MULH, IVAN ŽIŽEK

Monografije CPA 6

Nova odkritja med Alpami in Črnim morjem

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izdajatelj / issued by

Zavod za varstvo kulturne dediščine Slovenije

Poljanska cesta 40, SI-1000 Ljubljana

<http://www.zvkds.si>

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ISSN 2630-208X

Katalogni zapis o publikaciji (CIP) pripravili v Narodni in
univerzitetni knjižnici v Ljubljani

COBISS.SI-ID=298964992

ISBN 978-961-6990-37-0 (pdf)

Spoštovani,

na Ptujskem gradu je 8. in 9. oktobra 2015 potekal 1. mednarodni arheološki simpozij z naslovom: *Nova odkritja med Alpami in Črnim morjem. Rezultati raziskav rimskodobnih najdišč v obdobju med leti 2005 in 2015. In memoriam Iva Mikl Curk.*

Simpozij sta organizirala Zavod za varstvo kulturne dediščine, Center za preventivno arheologijo in Pokrajinski muzej Ptuj Ormož.

V veliko veselje nam je bilo, da se je simpozij odvijal ravno na Ptuju. Kraj simpozija seveda ni bil izbran naključno. Gre za najpomembnejše rimsko mesto na območju današnje Slovenije in eno izmed arheološko najbogatejših mest v Sloveniji. Najpomembnejši kriterij za izbiro kraja našega prvega simpozija pa je bila množica arheoloških raziskav, ki so se na Ptuju izvajale v preteklih letih, in so prinesle številne novosti v poznavanju razvoja in življenja Petovione. Seveda pa številne raziskave niso potekale le na območju današnjega Ptuja. Tako smo organizirali simpozij, kjer so lahko kolegi iz Slovenije in bližnje ali daljne okolice predstavili aktualne rezultate raziskav rimskih najdišč ter razmislek in njihovo vključitev v širši kontekst ekonomskega, socialnega in družbenega dogajanja v rimskem obdobju. Kolegi iz Slovenije, Hrvaške, Avstrije, Italije, Srbije in Madžarske so se na vabilo množično odzvali. Tako smo poslušali 39 predavanj in si ogledali 12 plakatov.

Kot že sam naslov simpozija pove, smo ga posvetili cenjeni arheologinji dr. Ivi Mikl Curk, ki je dolga leta službovala znotraj Zavoda za varstvo kulturne dediščine Slovenije (tedaj Republiškega zavoda za varstvo naravne in kulturne dediščine). Bila je naša vodilna konservatorica za arheološko dediščino z mednarodnim ugledom in častna članica ICOMOS združenja. S svojim znanjem je doprinesla k številnim obnovam in vključevanju arheoloških spomenikov v moderne urbane celote ter orala ledino pri varovanju in valoriziranju arheološke dediščine v povojnem obdobju. Seveda pa Ivo Mikl Curk na Ptuj veže predvsem njena raziskovalna dejavnost, ki jo je posvetila predvsem rimskemu cesarskemu mestu oz. koloniji Ulpiji Trajani Petovioni in njenemu keramičnemu gradivu. Svoje raziskave je strnila in predstavila v več kot 70 delih.

Naša največja želja je bila, da prispevke simpozija tudi objavimo. V zadnjih treh letih smo temu posvetili veliko časa. Rezultat našega truda je sedaj tu pred nami; obsežna publikacija o novih dognanjih z različnih področij rimske provincialne arheologije. Želimo si, da bo to knjiga, ki jo bomo še dolgo uporabljali tako zaradi predstavljenih aktualnih interpretacij kot zaradi prvič predstavljenih terenskih raziskav.

Zahvaljujemo se Ministrstvu za kulturo Republike Slovenije ter Mestni občini Ptuj za podporo pri organizaciji simpozija. Prav tako se zahvaljujemo kolegom iz organizacijskega odbora, ki so pripomogli k izvedbi simpozija ter objavi zbornika, in seveda vsem predavateljem in udeležencem simpozija za njihova predavanja, plakate in ne nazadnje oddane prispevke.

Uredniški odbor

Dear reader,

The 1st International Archaeological Symposium entitled: *New Discoveries between the Alps and the Black Sea. Results from the Roman Sites in the Period between 2005 and 2015. In memoriam Iva Mikl Curk*, took place at Ptuj Castle on the 8th and 9th October 2015.

The Symposium was organised by the Institute for the Protection of Cultural Heritage of Slovenia, Centre for Preventive Archaeology and the Ptuj Ormož Regional Museum.

We were especially pleased that the Symposium took place in Ptuj. Indeed the venue was not chosen by chance. Ptuj was the most important Roman town in what is now modern Slovenia and one of the richest towns in the country in terms of archaeological heritage. The most important criterion for the selection of the location of the first symposium was the vast amount of archaeological research undertaken in Ptuj in recent years, which brought many new insights into the development and lifeways of Poetovio. However much research has also taken place outside the area of modern Ptuj. Thus, the Symposium presented an opportunity for our colleagues from Slovenia and beyond to present the results of their research into Roman period sites, as well as their integration into the wider context of economic and social events in the Roman period. The invitation elicited a massive response by colleagues from Slovenia, Croatia, Austria, Italy, Serbia and Hungary, which gave us an opportunity to listen to 39 lectures and view 12 posters.

As the title of the Symposium suggests, the event held in honour of our esteemed colleague Dr. Iva Mikl Curk, who worked for a number of years at the Institute for the Protection of Cultural Heritage of Slovenia (the Institute for the Protection of Natural and Cultural Heritage of the Republic of Slovenia). She was our leading conservator for archaeological heritage with an international reputation and an honorary member of the ICOMOS council. Her vast knowledge contributed to numerous cases of the restoration and inclusion of archaeological monuments in modern urban units. She also broke new ground in the field of the protection and valorisation of archaeological heritage in the post-war period. Iva Mikl Curk was connected with Ptuj primarily through her research activities, which were mainly focused on the Roman imperial town, or Colonia Ulpia Traiana Poetovio, and its pottery. Her research has been presented and published in more than 70 works.

It was our greatest desire that the contributions to this symposium should be published. Over the last three years, we have devoted a lot of time and effort to this end. The result of our efforts is now before you; an extensive publication on new results from various areas of Roman provincial archaeology. We hope this will be a book that will long have currency, both for its presentation of current interpretations and of new fieldwork in the wider area of the Roman empire, which is published here for the first time.

We would like to thank the Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Slovenia and the Municipality of Ptuj for their support with the organisation of the Symposium. Furthermore, we would like to thank our colleagues from the Organising Committee, who contributed to the organisation and execution of the Symposium and the publication of this collection, as well as all the speakers and participants of the Symposium for their lectures, posters, and last but not least, for their contributions, which are published in this volume.

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New Aspects of Roman *villae* in Styria, Austria

Novi pogledi na rimske vile na avstrijskem Štajerskem

Susanne Lamm, Patrick Marko

Izvleček: Jugovzhodni del Norika, ozemlje municipija *Flavia Solva* (Wagna pri Lipnici, Štajerska), je zaznamovala cvetoča agrarna ekonomija, na kar kažejo tudi številne rimske vile, zlasti ob rekah, kot sta Mura in reka Lassnitz. Dve izmed teh vil, vila rustika Grünau in prestižna vila Forst-Thalerhof, katerih obstoj je bil znan že dalj časa, sta bili nedavno ponovno preučeni.

Ključne besede: Norik, *villae*, arhitektura, razkošje, lončenina, *horrea*

Abstract: The Southeast part of *Noricum*, the territory of the municipium *Flavia Solva* (Wagna bei Leibnitz, Styria), was characterised by a flourishing agrarian economy and exemplified by a number of Roman *villae* especially along the river courses, such as the Mur and the Lassnitz. Two of those *villae*, Grünau and Forst-Thalerhof, whose existence was known for some time, were recently re-examined.

Key words: *Noricum*, *villae*, architecture, luxury, pottery, *horrea*

The villa at Grünau

A Roman villa site and nearby barrows were unearthed in 14 excavation campaigns between 1988 and 2008. These were led by Erwin Pochmarski (Institute of Archaeology, University of Graz) and, later, by Barbara Porod (Department of Archaeology and Coin Cabinet, Universalmuseum Joanneum).¹ Part of the villa was analysed by Susanne Lamm in her Ph.D. thesis,² whilst the rest was studied in a follow-up project.³ The villa at Grünau is situated in the Lassnitz valley in the modern province of Styria. The site is approximately 20 km to the west of the *municipium Flavia Solva*, in the south-eastern part of the Roman province of *Noricum*. The northern and western

borders of the municipal territory are defined by mountain ranges, but the borders with the neighbouring towns of *Savaria*, *Salla*, *Poetovio* and *Celeia* are still a subject of debate,⁴ in spite of the fact that this local border also formed the provincial border between *Noricum* and *Pannonia*.⁵ However, the villa at Grünau can be counted lying within the territory of *Flavia Solva*, because of its location between the Koralm mountain range to the east and the river Mur to the west.

The villa complex (Fig. 2) was built on the virtually flat valley bottom close to the north facing hill slope on the southern side of the valley. The villa itself consists of a main building divided into two complexes, and two outbuildings. The earliest and the latest structures were identified in the eastern complex of the main building. A succession of construction phases can be classified, as follows in this area: a number of timber buildings (1st century AD),

1 A summary and the famous *Silberbecher* (silver skyphos) were published by Pochmarski, Porod 2008. A more recent analysis was published by Lamm, Marko 2012b.

2 Lamm 2011.

3 A complete publication of the *villa* at Grünau will be published in the near future. Some groups of finds have already been published: indigenous grey fine ware Lamm 2012 and glass finds Lamm 2016.

4 Lamm 2014.

5 Lamm 2006, 392–412; Csapláros, Neuhauser 2012; Lehner 2012.

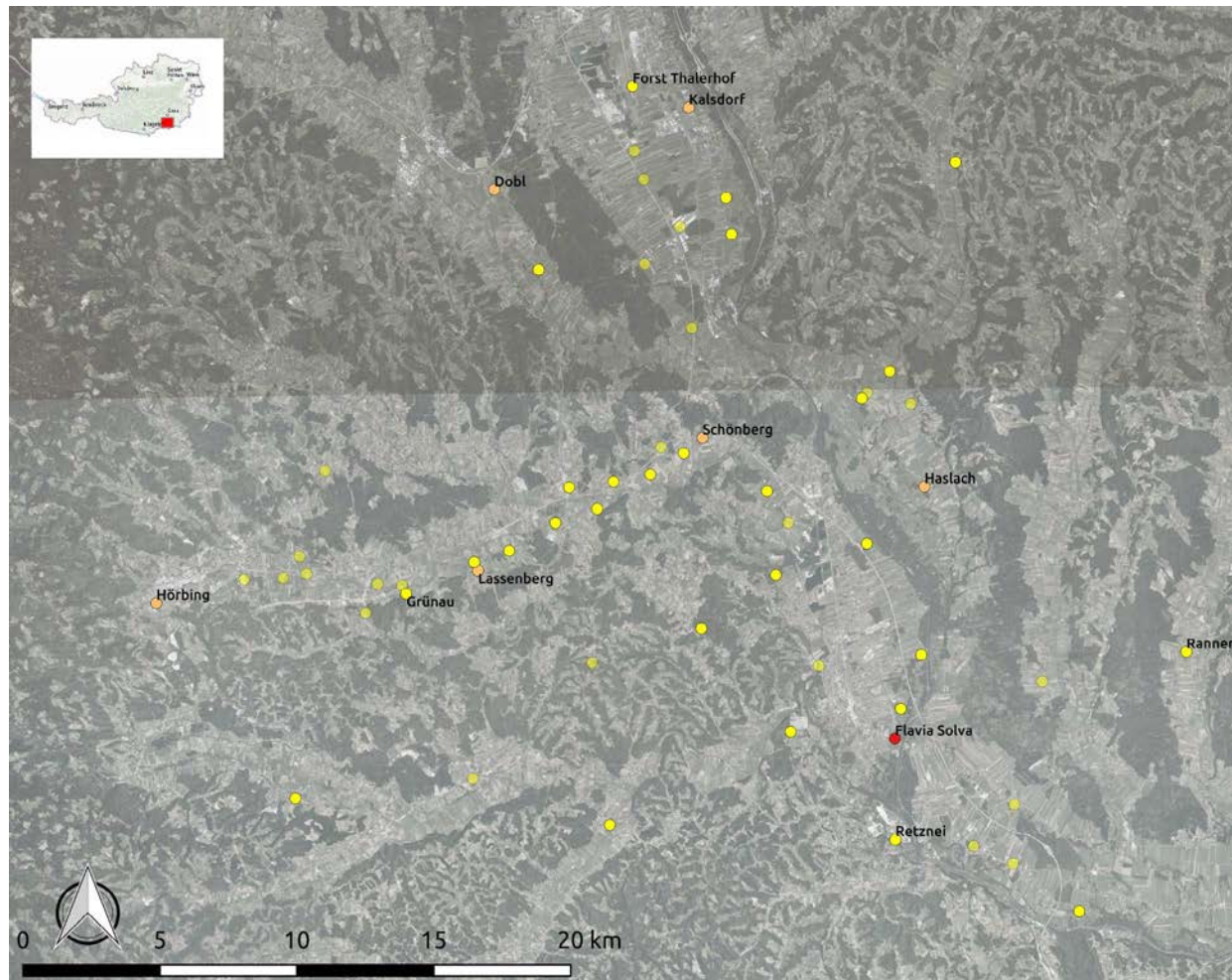


Figure 1 The Mur and Lassnitz valley, Styria, with Roman villae (yellow; possible sites in pale yellow), vici (orange), and municipium Flavia Solva (red) (illustration P. Marko; background orthophoto (C) basemap.at).

stone foundations (1st half of the 2nd century AD?), a partial levelling at or around the mid-2nd century AD, the main phase with a new building around mid-2nd century AD, the rebuilding of some of the structures (late second half of the 2nd century AD?) and a partial reuse/refurbishing in the Late Roman period.⁶ In addition to the usual coarse ware the finds in this area comprised a large amount of indigenous fine reduced ware (with or without coating; so-called grey fine ware), imported material such as Terra Sigillata, glass (vessels, jewellery), as well as metalwork (iron, bronze, lead), amphorae, lamps and gold and amber jewellery. There is evidence of textile manufacture (loom weights, spindle whorls, a lead tag), metalworking (slag, crucible fragments, a bellows' nozzle), as well as

evidence for grain cultivation (storage vessels) and animal husbandry (a cattle bell, bone fragments).

Two nearby mortuary sites, each comprising three barrows (*tumuli*), were also examined.⁷ The small finds and the plans of the *tumuli* indicate a construction date between the end of the 1st century and the middle of the 2nd century AD. Unfortunately, all of the excavated graves had been disturbed by looters in the past.

The main road through the Lassnitz valley is located about 300 metres to the north of the villa. The road runs west-east and connects the *municipium* of Flavia Solva with the Koralm area. Other Roman period settlement sites have been found along this route during the excavations that accompanied the construction of the Koralmbahn, the high-speed train link be-

⁶ These construction periods, also published in Lamm, Marko 2012b, revise the previously published construction periods, like shown in Pochmarski, Porod 2008, Fig. 1.

⁷ Pochmarski, Pochmarski-Nagele 1997; Pochmarski, Pochmarski-Nagele 1999.

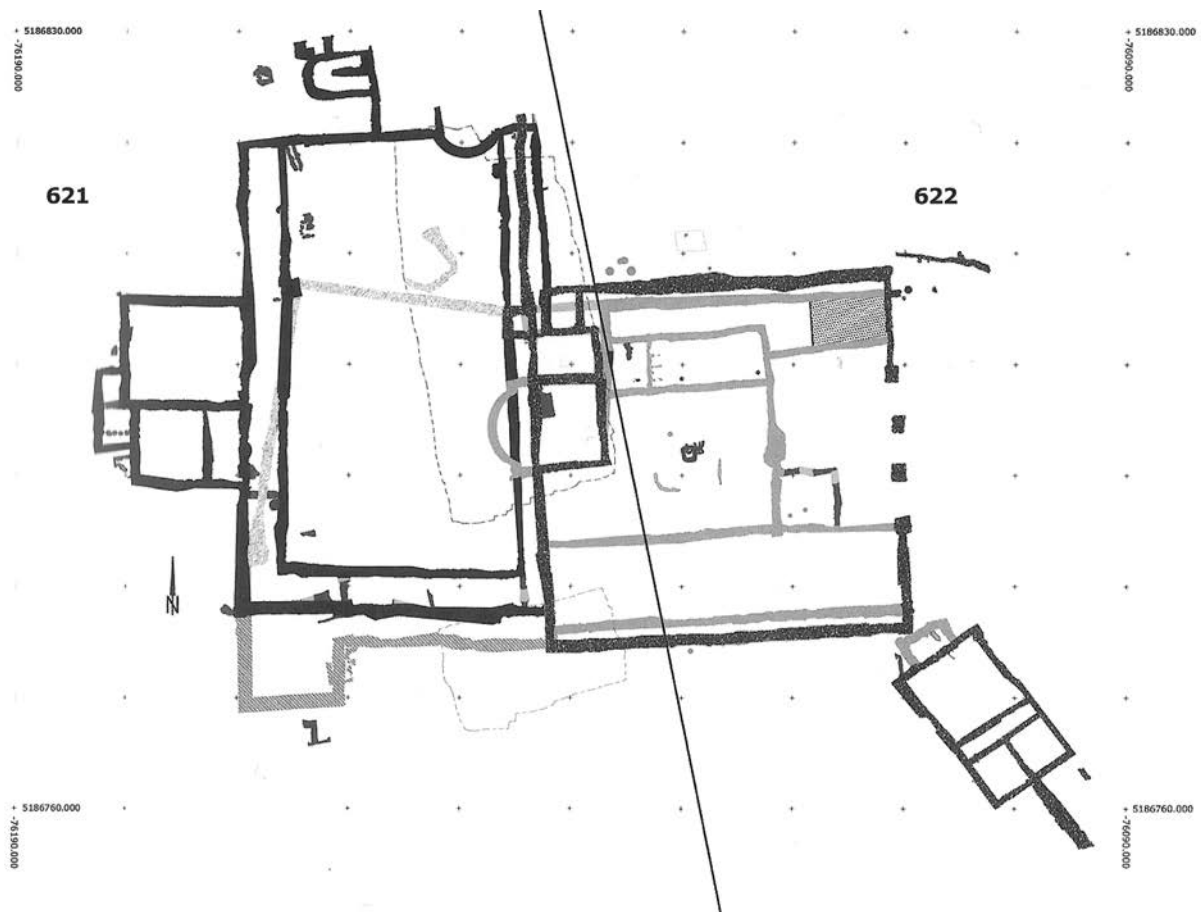


Figure 2 *The Grünau villa (illustration T. Neubauer).*

tween Graz and Klagenfurt. In addition, several Roman period graves were also excavated. One of them can be directly linked to the Grünau villa, because it is located at the junction between the main road and a side road to the villa.

The latter site is the gravel foundation of a Roman funerary monument, the width of the excavated southern side of which is 4.80 m. The foundation was surrounded by an enclosing wall, which was 15 m wide.⁸ Both the funerary monument and the enclosing wall were destroyed in the post-Roman period, the only part remaining *in situ* being the gravel foundation.

During the 1950s a fragment of a relief with the depiction of a *sella curulis*, a *lictor* and a *scriba* (Fig. 3) was found in the foundations of the enclosing walls

of the church in Groß Sankt Florian, the modern town nearest to the Grünau villa. In my opinion the *sella curulis* relief was a part of the funerary monument that was found to the north of the Grünau villa because the dimensions of the reconstructed relief correspond with those of the gravel foundation. Therefore, one of the villa owners must have been a *duumvir* from the *municipium* of *Flavia Solva*.

Another interesting building connected to the villa was identified on an aerial photograph from the 1950s. Crop-marks indicate the existence of a large *horreum* (38 × 25 × 40 × 26 m; 950–1040 m²) about 100 m to the north of the villa (Fig. 4).

The Grünau villa was only well known until recently for its most valuable find, the silver skyphos. However, our mental image of the site has become far more vivid during the last years (Fig. 5). It can now be seen as a site where people lived, tilled the soil, bred

⁸ Lamm 2015.



Figure 3 *The relief from Gross St. Florian (photo P. Weisi).*

animals, carried out crafts and manufacturing, where the owners, at some point magistrates from the nearby *municipium*, were buried in barrows and other funerary monuments. The villa must also have been a central collection point for agricultural produce from other farms. Goods were transported from here to urban areas by road.

Forst-Thalerhof

A similar, though even more luxurious, picture of upper class life in the area of *Flavia Solva* is also emerging from the recent systematic evaluation of decades of research on the villa at Forst-Thalerhof. The site is situated roughly 25 km north of the *municipium Flavia Solva* in the Mur valley. It was originally excavated between 1937 and 1939, although the results of the

excavation were never published in detail.⁹ This is all the more unfortunate, since the largest and most luxurious of the Southeast Alpine *villae* was found in Thalerhof; in fact, the main building, the only structure uncovered in the excavations, occupied 4700 m². This size is only rivaled in all of *Noricum* by the villa in Loig near Salzburg.¹⁰ Further examples of comparable luxury buildings can only be found in few central areas of the Roman Empire, such as the centres of the senatorial/aristocratic *villeggiatura* in Campania, around Rome and the North Italian lakes,¹¹ as well as the extremely rich region of *Histria*, which was part of the *Regio X* of Italy in imperial times.¹² The extraordinary luxury of the villa at Thalerhof is also visible in the finds, which were extremely rich in

9 A short preliminary report was published by Grubinger 1959.

10 Gruber 2015.

11 Cf. Mayer 2005, 39.

12 Cf. De Franceschini 1998, 799–800.



Figure 4 Orthophotograph of the Grünau villa site (data source: Bundesamt für Eich- und Vermessungswesen; orthophoto: Institute of Geography and Regional Sciences, University of Graz).



Figure 5 Overview of sites in Grünau (illustration S. Lamm; image © GoogleEarth).

fragments of wall paintings, stucco and marble furnishing. The villa consists of three separate wings, connected by a main corridor, which was 80m in length (Fig. 6). A bath complex with an area of over 500 m² was located in the southern part of the west wing (Fig. 6: 56–68);¹³ the central wing contained representative rooms with polygonal plans (Fig. 6: 21, 28) and apses (Fig. 6: 26, 28), whilst a georadar survey in 2007 identified a *horreum* with an area of at least 225 m² was in the east (Fig. 6: 87).¹⁴ The layout has frequently been compared to that of the classical peristyle type villa, although the main corridor (Fig. 6: 16, 24) does not appear to have been an open colonnade: It featured an elaborate hypocaust heating, with a subterranean *praefurnium* under the central tract (Fig. 6: 19), from where the West and East halves of the corridor could be heated separately.

A curious feature of the villa is a structure that is approximately 175 m (almost 1 *stadium*) in length with drop-shaped ends on its northeastern side (Fig. 6: 76, 77, 82, 83), which was identified recently in a geophysical survey and from aerial photographs. While lacking exact parallels, similar building shapes were

found e.g. in the villa *ad duas lauros* in Centocelle, where a slightly smaller *deambulatorio o xystus*¹⁵ with rounded end pavilions connects the main building to a *zona termale*, or in Nennig, where the so-called *lange Halle*¹⁶ covers the more than 250 m to the villa bath. All in all, the Thalerhof villa warrants a closer examination than has been previously undertaken, not least to clear up the time frame for this singular building: While the excavators dated the villa to the 3rd to 4th centuries AD,¹⁷ later researchers prefer an earlier date,¹⁸ comparing the structure to imperial Hadrianic architecture.

However, unfortunately the apparent luxurious nature of the architectural remains does not extend to the small finds, which are very few in comparison to the aforementioned fragments of building decoration. Nevertheless, recent work on the small finds has revealed several pieces that shed some light on the previously unclear timeline. The pottery found in Thalerhof¹⁹ can mostly be categorized as typical southeastern Norican coarse ware, such as that found in large

¹³ Cf. Lamm, Marko 2012a.

¹⁴ Heymans, Morawetz 2008. A more detailed description of the horreum in Thalerhof is in preparation in Lamm, Marko 2017 forthcoming.

¹⁵ De Franceschini 2005, 176–179.

¹⁶ Glaser, Marek, Schumacher 2007, 36–37.

¹⁷ Grubinger 1959, 19.

¹⁸ E. g. Schrettle 2007, 262.

¹⁹ Some ceramic finds from Thalerhof were published already in Marko 2016a, for the complete analysis of the small finds cf. Marko 2017.

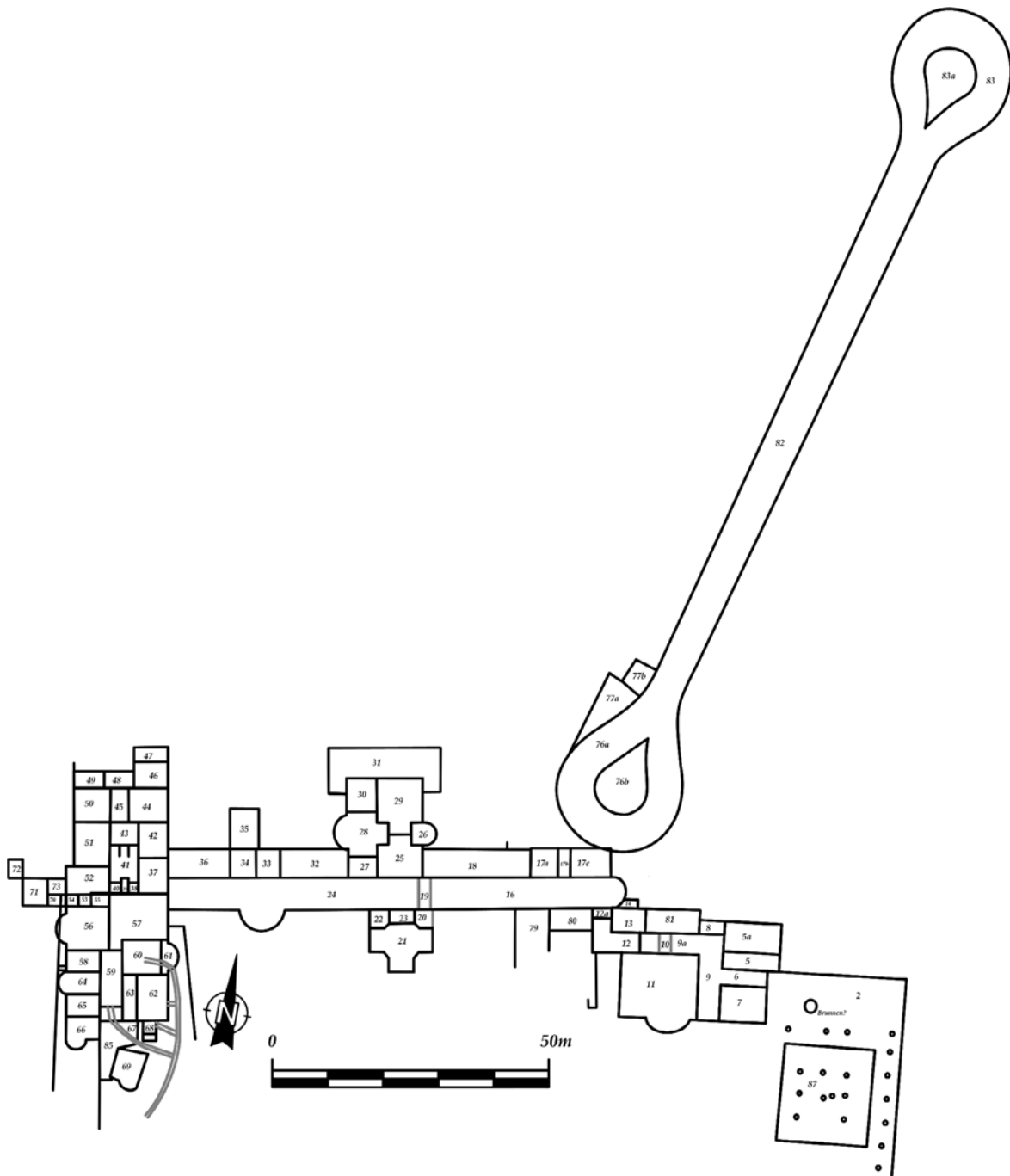


Figure 6 *The Forst-Thalerhof villa (illustration P. Marko).*

quantities in all the settlements of Roman Imperial date in the vicinity, e.g. *Flavia Solva*²⁰, Kalsdorf²¹, or Gleisdorf²². These include several tripods, both with inverted rim (*Cat. No. 503, 506, 508, 541*) and with horizontal rim (*Cat. No. 548, 948*), which were pres-

ent throughout the 2nd century AD in Styria,²³ with early specimens from *Poetovio* dating to the Flavian period.²⁴ Another bowl (*Cat. No. 967*) has a parallel from the late 1st century AD in *Carnuntum*,²⁵ as does a good quality firma lamp (*Cat. No. 944*) similar to examples found in the western cemeteries of *Poetovio*, which Istenič dates to the late 1st to the early

20 Recent research on finds from *Flavia Solva* e.g. in Hinker 2014.

21 Lohner-Urban 2009.

22 Jeschek 2000.

23 Cf. Csapláros, Hinker, Lamm 2012.

24 Istenič 1999, 144.

25 Petznek 1997, 242.

2nd century.²⁶ Three bowls of the so-called Pannonische Glanztonware (*Cat. No. 494, 495, 936*) are also comparable to examples from the late 1st or 2nd century AD in Gleisdorf.²⁷ The general trend is further supported by two Terra Sigillata fragments found in the villa. The first is a fragment of a Dragendorff 37 bowl (*Cat. No. 945*) from the workshop of *Laxtucissa*²⁸ or *Paternus*²⁹ in central Gaul, dating to the second half of the 2nd century AD, whilst the second is a small bowl bearing a stamp of *Africanus* (*Cat. No. 947*), which can be dated to the Hadrianic period.³⁰ However there is another group of finds that not only defies attempts to date them, but also to identify their purpose in the first place. In the context of the small number of small finds from Thalerhof, this is quite a large group of extremely puzzling pottery fragments (*Cat. No. 522, 523, 906*; in total 24 fragments were found). They are a range of fragments of oxidised bowls, generally showing smoke residue and/or traces of mortar, with holes in their bottom, around which a tube with more holes in the side is mounted. Similar shapes have been interpreted as chimney covers, lamps, or incense burners,³¹ but all of these ideas have their respective weaknesses, and

none of those has exactly the same shape as the examples from Thalerhof. So for the moment these finds have to remain unexplained.

The general trend discernible in the small finds points to a time frame for the Thalerhof villa in the 2nd century AD, possibly beginning as early as the Flavian period. No Late Roman pottery whatsoever was found, nor were any finds dateable to after 200 AD with certainty (taking into account the obvious problems with precise dating in a chronology that relies almost exclusively on locally produced coarse wares). This corresponds very well to the general trend of increased development in the area that can be observed e.g. in the nearby *vicus* of Kalsdorf, probably stimulated by the granting of the title *municipium Flavium* to the nearby village of *Solva*.

The relationship between *villa*, *vicus*, and *municipium*, and the greater context of the settlement structure in perialpine Styria will be another very interesting field for research,³² made all the more promising with an increasingly stable foundation provided by the latest detailed work on single sites like Thalerhof, or Grünau,³³ as well as on archaeological landscapes such as that of the Lassnitz valley.³⁴

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28 Stanfield, Simpson 1990, 372, T. 97: 2.

29 Stanfield, Simpson 1990, 382, T. 107: 26.

30 Oswald 1964, 7.

31 Cf. Adler-Wölfl, Sauer 2000; Höpken, Fiedler 2011.

32 For preliminary studies cf. Gspurning *et al.* 2015; Marko 2016b.

33 Further important Styrian villa sites recently studied include Retznei – Schrettle 2012, Rannersdorf – Schrettle, Tsironi 2007 or Grafendorf – Bellitti 2014.

34 Fuchs 2006; Fuchs 2008.

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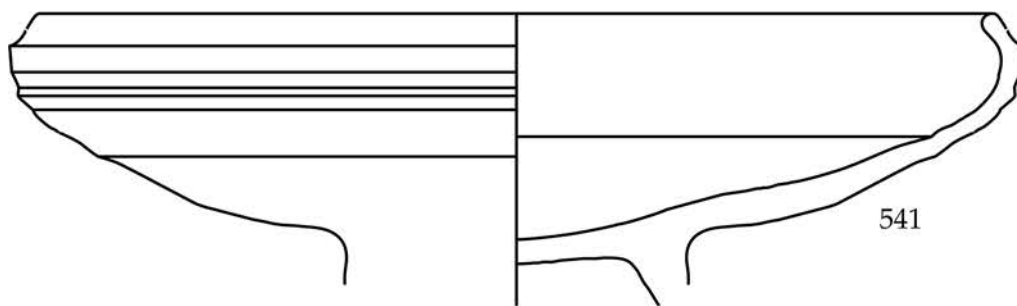
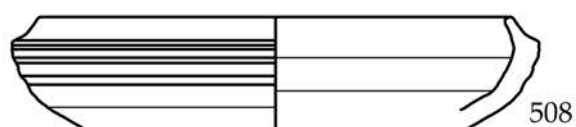
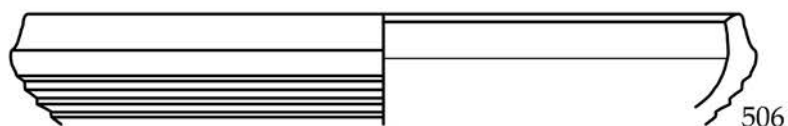
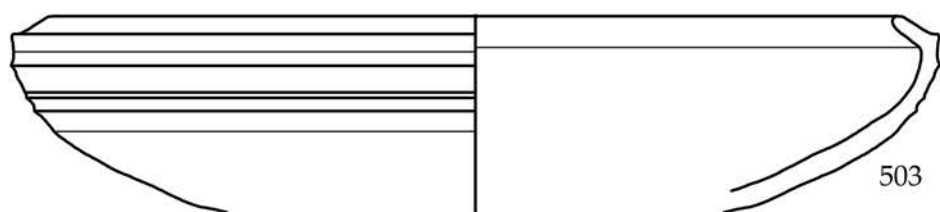


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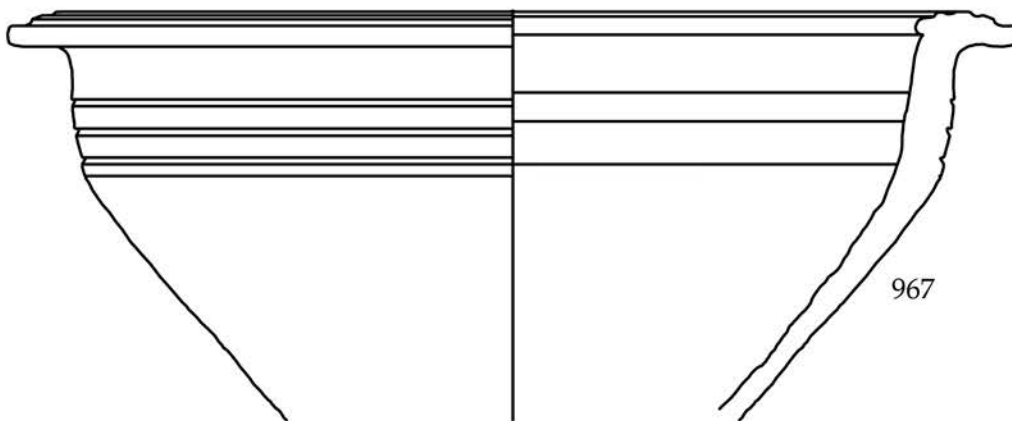
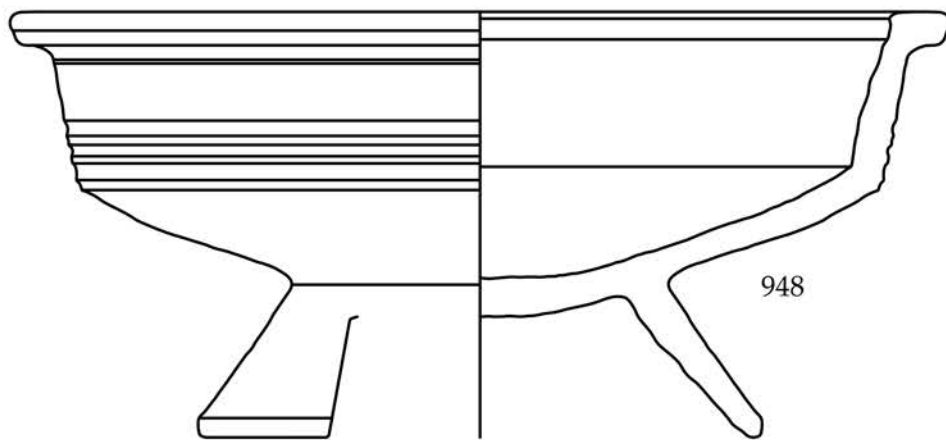
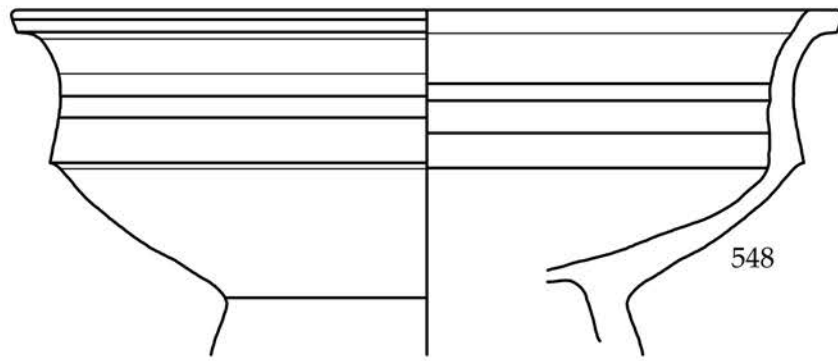


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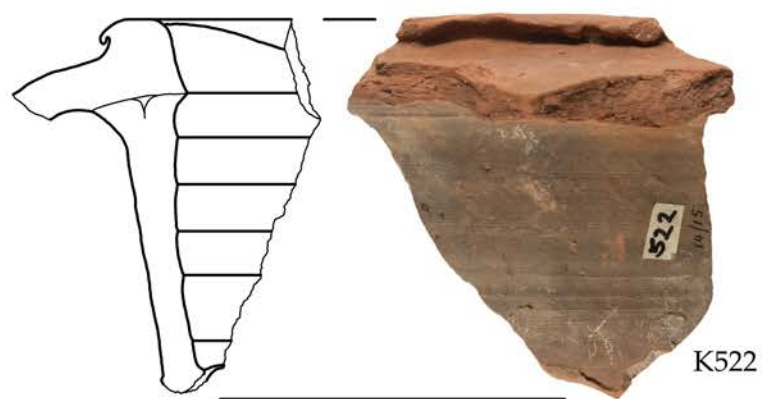


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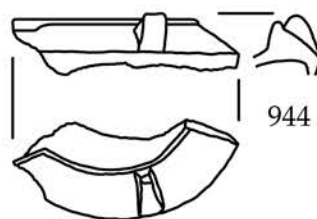
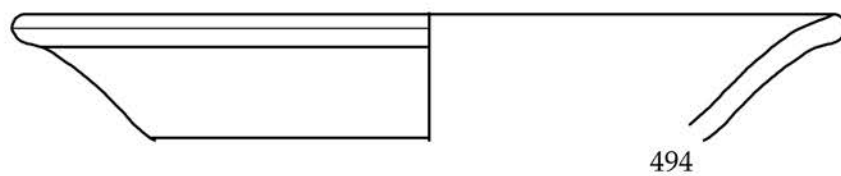
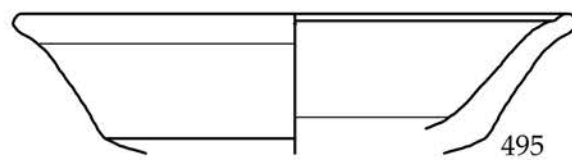
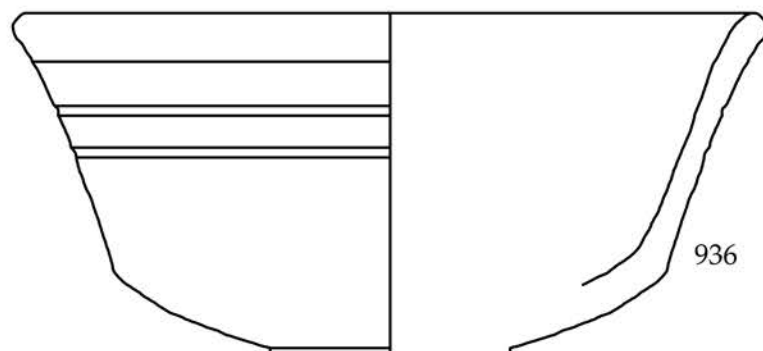
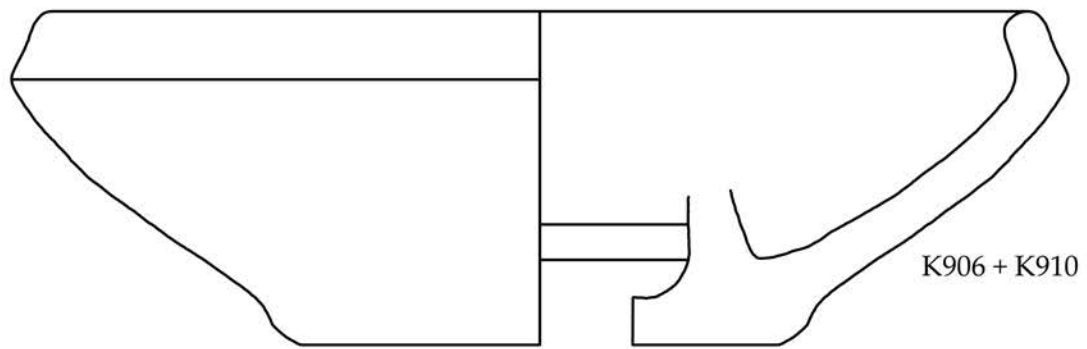


Table 4 Drawings P. Marko.

