

NOVENSIA 28



Ośrodek Badań nad Antykiem
Europy Południowo-Wschodniej

Warszawa 2017

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STAMPS ON BRICKS AND TILES FROM NOVAE. OUTLINE OF CHRONOLOGY

Abstract: The First Italian legion produced building ceramics used in the construction of many buildings in the legion's camp at Novae (Bulgaria), the remains of which have been investigated by archaeologists since 1960. The paper sums up current results of research on the chronology of artifacts of this kind, giving an overall review of the course and development of studies of stamped building ceramics in Novae to date.

Key words: Novae, bricks, tiles, building ceramics, stamps, brick stamps, *legio I Italica*

The ruins of the Novae camp¹ are situated by the Danube River in the vicinity of the present-day town of Svištov in Bulgaria.² In Antiquity, Novae functioned as a camp for two legions; first, from the 50s of the first century AD, for the *legio VIII Augusta* (Eighth Augustan legion), and later, from the beginning of the 70s of the first century AD, for the *legio I Italica* (First Italian legion)³ [Fig. 1]. The latter legion, which at the time it was created bore the proud name of the “phalanx of Alexander the Great”,⁴ was stationed in Novae for the longest time, most probably until the Hun invasion in the middle of the fifth century.⁵ By the second half of the third century the process of transformation into a late Roman and early Byzantine city had commenced.⁶

Stamped ceramic building material was of interest from the start of the archaeological investigations of the camp,⁷ finding reflection in provisional reports published since 1960.⁸ First to publish on the stamped bricks from Novae were Jan Trynkowski,⁹ Maria Tačeva,¹⁰ Włodzimierz Pająkowski,¹¹ Zlatka Rakeva-Morfova,¹² Leszek Mrozewicz,¹³ Andrzej B. Biernacki¹⁴ and foremost Tadeusz Sarnowski, who is the author of the first typology of stamps from Novae, published in 1983¹⁵ and

¹ The project was financed from a National Science Center (Poland) grant DEC-2011/03/N/HS3/00873.

² I would like to thank: Dr. Iwona Zych for the language correction of this text, Prof. Piotr Dyczek for providing me with the documentation material from Novae and Agata Momot for preparing the drawings.

³ PRESS, SARNOWSKI 1990, p. 225.

⁴ Suet. *Ner.* 19.2; KOLENDO 1977, p. 401.

⁵ SARNOWSKI 1999, pp. 57–63.

⁶ MROZEWICZ 2010, p. 117.

⁷ On the history of research into the stamped bricks and tiles from Novae, see DUCH 2011, pp. 73–85.

⁸ On the history of research in Novae, see DYCZEK 2008, pp. 31–70.

⁹ [J. TRYNKOWSKI], “Stemplowane cegły i dachówki” [Stamped bricks and roof tiles], [in:] MAJEWSKI (ed.) 1964, pp. 251–257; IDEM [in:] PARNICKI-PUDELKO (ed.) 1965, pp. 184–192; IDEM [in:] MAJEWSKI (ed.) 1966, pp. 168–179.

¹⁰ TAČEVA 1964, pp. 44–48.

¹¹ PAJĄKOWSKI 1975, pp. 179–194; 1979, pp. 9–27; 1981, pp. 139–189.

¹² RAKEVA-MORFOVA 1970, pp. 33–43.

¹³ MROZEWICZ 1984, pp. 148–153.

¹⁴ BIERNACKI 1976, pp. 133–136; 1988a, pp. 161–168; 1988b, pp. 169–172; 1992, pp. 107–112; 1994, pp. 45–49; 1995, pp. 56–61; 1996, pp. 76–80; 2003, pp. 9–21.

¹⁵ SARNOWSKI 1983, pp. 17–61.

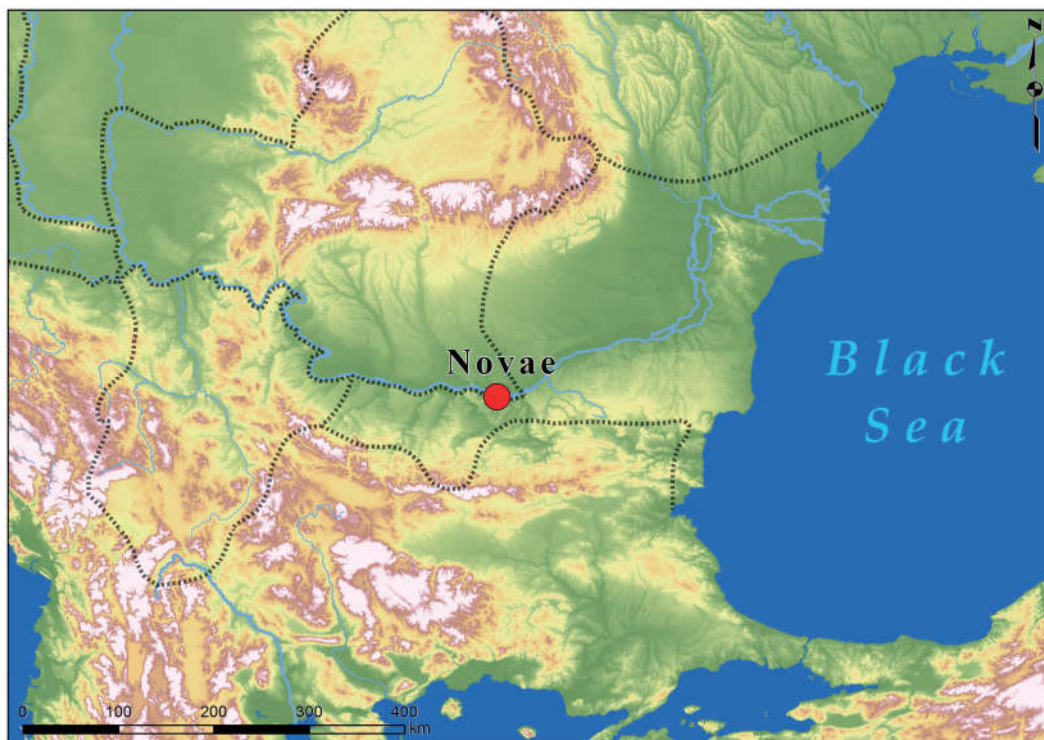


Fig. 1. Location of Novae (drawing by J. Niebieszczański)

a number of other important texts dedicated to this topic.¹⁶ Nicolae Gudea proposed a new typology of stamp impressions of the First Italian legion, taking into account examples not only from Novae, but also from the Danubian limes.¹⁷ Sarnowski's typology was supplemented and expanded by Marta Matuszewska in 2006,¹⁸ without going into issues of chronology however. Discoveries in sector IV gave Piotr Dyczek¹⁹ the opportunity to discuss *caligae* impressions on bricks,²⁰ as well as animal paw prints and marks on building ceramic material.²¹ Rumen Ivanov's book on ceramic building material from Oescus, Novae and Durostorum²² also deserves mention.

Most of the research on bricks and roof tiles from Novae is concentrated on the inscriptions impressed in their surfaces. This fits the general trend with regard to ceramic building material from the lower Danube area, where, as noted by Renate Kurzmann, the main emphasis is on the epigraphy.²³ Techniques for the production of ceramic building material were treated exceptionally by Stanisław Medeksza²⁴ and Ryszard Massalski,²⁵ but so far there has been no petrological examination of the bricks and roof tiles from Novae. Such a study of the bricks of legions from lower Moesia found in Crimea was undertaken by Sarnowski.²⁶ Pending this kind of research on the bricks from Novae, the main focus should be on establishing a production chronology based on

¹⁶ See bibliography.

¹⁷ GUDEA 2003, pp. 195–216.

¹⁸ MATUSZEWSKA 2006, pp. 45–63.

¹⁹ DYCZEK 2008, pp. 31–70.

²⁰ DYCZEK 2011a, pp. 105–117.

²¹ DYCZEK 2011b, pp. 85–108.

²² IVANOV 2002.

²³ KURZMANN 2006, p. 140.

²⁴ MEDEKSZA 1975; 1979.

²⁵ MASSALSKI 1977, pp. 182–187.

²⁶ SARNOWSKI 2005, pp. 91–110.

stratified finds from the recently completed excavation of sector IV in Novae [Fig. 2].²⁷ The earliest occupation in this area were legionary *thermae* of impressive size constructed at the beginning of the 70s of the first century AD,²⁸ followed by a legionary hospital from the beginning of the second century AD, built most probably for the purposes of Trajan's Dacian Wars, and, finally, a late antique district of civil architecture including the so-called "Building with Porticoes"²⁹ and no lack of workshops and storehouses.³⁰ The sector also yielded extensive material for research, including especially large quantities of bricks and roof tiles produced for the legion, although non-military production is equally abundant.

Taken together, the full stratigraphy and bountiful material provide firm grounds for a new typology of stamps on ceramic building material from Novae. In preparation for this, the present article provides a summary of the state of research on the chronology of the already published stamp impressions on bricks and tiles from Novae, supplementing the 2011 presentation of the state of research on the subject, including chronological issues.³¹ It also presents stamp impressions of already identified types and variants from sector IV (with the exception of ALBU and PCP stamps) omitted from previous publications, as well as stamps of other military units and private producers. A selection has been made of the material so as to show the most representative examples of stamps from Novae in chronological order.

The most numerous stamp impressions in question are those of the *legio I Italica* (the *legio VIII Augusta* is not represented at all, although non-military stamps from the period of its stationing at Novae are in abundance). Thus far, the chronology of the stamps from Novae in accordance with the typology introduced by Sarnowski is as follows:

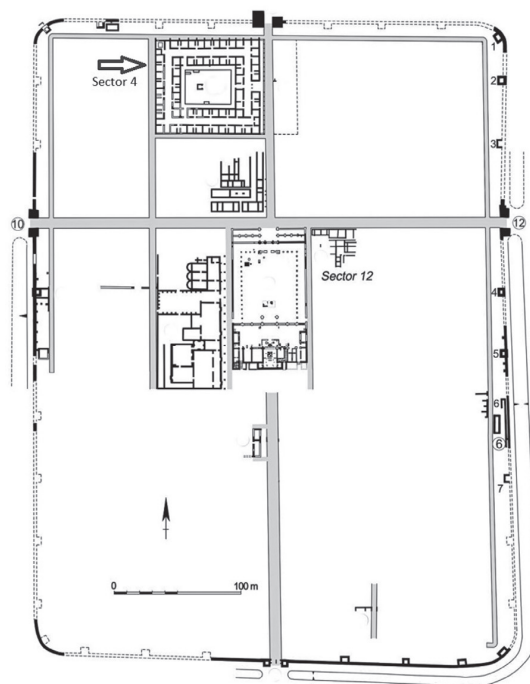


Fig. 2. Novae. Plan of the legionary fortress in the second and third centuries AD (outline by J. Kaniszewski, supplemented by T. Sarnowski, L. A. Kovalevskaja, P. Zakrzewski, P. Dyczek, M. Lemke)

²⁷ LEMKE 2009–2010, p. 191

²⁸ DYCZEK 2006, pp. 129–142.

²⁹ DYCZEK 2008, pp. 54–55.

³⁰ DYCZEK 2008, p. 63.

³¹ Cf. DUCH 2011, pp. 63–85.

I. *Legio I Italica* stamps

1. Flavian Times (from the early 70s to AD 96): IV 3–5, VI 27–28, VI 48, VI 52, VI 54, VI 100, VI 65, similar to VI 112 and VI 114;³²
2. Early second century AD: VI 61,³³ VI 104–105, VI 119–122³⁴ [and IV 12a];³⁵
3. First half of second century AD: types I–II, IV 1, IV 6, VI 9–11, VI 35, VI 114, VI 165–169;³⁶
4. AD 184: type XIX;³⁷
5. Fourth quarter of second – first quarter of third century AD: VI 159–164, VI 172–174;³⁸
6. Early third century AD: VI 46, VI 59–60, VI 67, VI 107–111, VI 113, VI 115–118, type XII;³⁹
7. AD 212–244: type V, VI 10, VI 60, VI 94–99, VI 146–154;⁴⁰
8. Third and fourth quarter of third century AD: VI 123–124, types XI and XIII;⁴¹
9. AD 212–222: type VII;
10. AD 222–235: types VIII–IX;⁴²
11. AD 316–317: types XVI–XVII;
12. AD 324–339: types XV and XVIII.⁴³

II. Stamps of the *legio I Minervia* and *legio XI Claudia* dated to AD 101⁴⁴

III. Military name stamps

1. Type XXIII (VETIA): no date;
2. Fourth quarter of third – first quarter of fourth century AD: type XXVII (MARC), MAX;⁴⁵
3. Type XXX (CEMEL): no date;
4. Late AD 360s: type XXXI (RUMO(ridus));⁴⁶
5. ALBU: no date;
6. Beginning to second quarter of third century AD: Aurelis Hegenianus⁴⁷ (or Helenianus).⁴⁸

IV. Private producers' stamps

1. Second half of second – early third century AD: type XXV (C. Antonius Magnus);⁴⁹
2. About 225–235: type XXXV (Aurelius Statianus);⁵⁰
3. Type XXII (ALSOL): no date;
4. Fourth quarter of third century AD: PCP.⁵¹

Some of the stamps can be dated precisely as they were found on bricks discovered *in situ*. However, a sizeable group is made up of stamps without an accurate date, hence the broad chronological framework.

³² DYCZEK 1997, p. 44; DUCH 2012, pp. 259–282.

³³ SARNOWSKI 1987, p. 110.

³⁴ RECLAW, ŻELAZOWSKI 2008, p. 58.

³⁵ This stamp was not included in Sarnowski's typology (SARNOWSKI 1983), but it was published by Matuszewska (2006). It has been dated by J. Reclaw and J. Żelazowski to the beginning of the second century AD (RECLAW, ŻELAZOWSKI 2008, p. 58).

³⁶ DYCZEK 2000, p. 95; SARNOWSKI 1983, p. 61; BIERNACKI 1995, pp. 56–57; BIERNACKI 1996, p. 76; DUCH 2011, p. 82.

³⁷ SARNOWSKI 1983, p. 61.

³⁸ SARNOWSKI 1983, p. 61.

³⁹ SARNOWSKI 1983, p. 61; DYCZEK 2000, p. 95.

⁴⁰ SARNOWSKI 1983, p. 61; BIERNACKI 1988b, p. 169; DUCH 2011, p. 83.

⁴¹ SARNOWSKI 1983, p. 61.

⁴² SARNOWSKI 1983, pp. 55–56.

⁴³ SARNOWSKI 1985, p. 117.

⁴⁴ SARNOWSKI 1987, pp. 118–122.

⁴⁵ Based on three specimens (inv. nos. 07-02c, 28-01c, 37-02c) from dated stratigraphic contexts in sector IV.

⁴⁶ SARNOWSKI 1985, pp. 107–127.

⁴⁷ ŻELAZOWSKI 2012, p. 162.

⁴⁸ *AE* 2012, no. 1266.

⁴⁹ TOMAS 2007, p. 36.

⁵⁰ TOMAS, SARNOWSKI 2007, p. 232.

⁵¹ Inv. nos. 39-00c and 29-12c from stratigraphic contexts in sector IV.

Of the bricks and roof tiles from Flavian-age Novae⁵² [Fig. 3], stamps nos. 1–4 were used by legionaries producing tiles to cover the roof of the bathhouse. These tiles were later reused in the construction of the hospital which was constructed on the ruins of the bathhouse. Some specimens have been preserved in their entirety. They feature two lines in the upper part of the inscription above the letters G and I. Stamps nos. 5–9 are distinguished by a characteristic frame in the form of a *tabula ansata* decorated with a leaf. Stamps nos. 24–28 from this group with the characteristic ligature of the letters LEGIITAL were found foremost on building material originating from the central heating system structure of the legionary baths.

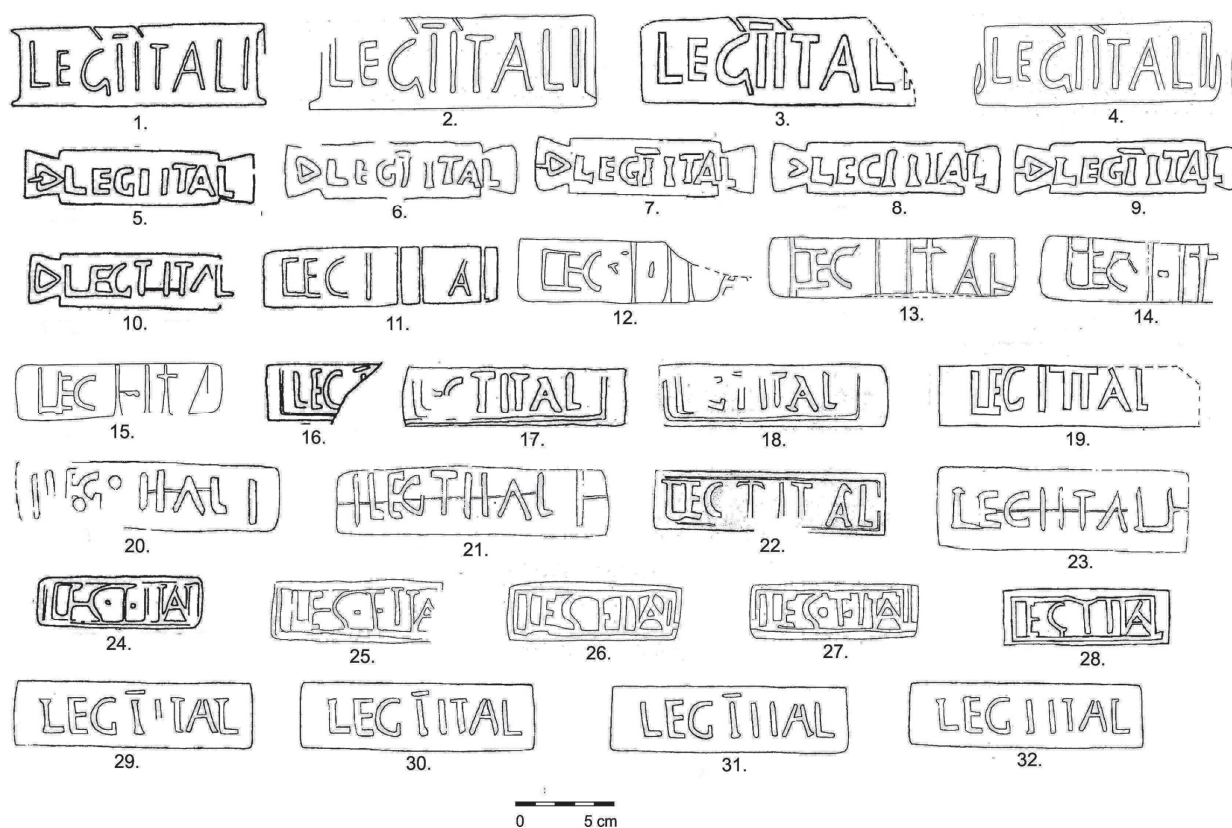


Fig. 3. Stamps from Flavian times (Duch 2012, pp. 259–282)

⁵² DUCH 2012, pp. 259–282.

A large group is made up of stamps dated to the beginning of the second century [Fig. 4], which are connected to the initial period of the construction of the legionary hospital.⁵³ These are mainly simple stamps, lacking any decorative elements, placed within a rectangular frame. The abbreviations visible on the stamps are limited to the inscription LEG I ITAL and LEG I ITALI, without providing any additional information. Such characteristic letters as G, T and A are distinguishing features of the majority of the stamps from this group.



Fig. 4. Stamps from the early second century AD (after Reclaw, Żelazowski 2008, p. 61, fig. 5)

⁵³ For this group of stamps and its chronology, see RECLAW, ŻELAZOWSKI 2008, pp. 53–63.

Yet another group consists of stamps dated generally to the first half of the second century [Fig. 5]. The most characteristic stamps are those in the shape of a ship (nos. 10–20), interpreted as liburnas. The stamps testify to the ties the *legio I Italica* had with a river fleet; they are also confirmation of the existence of a river port in the vicinity of Novae.⁵⁴ The text on the stamps is slightly more extensive than in the case of the previous group as it contains the inscriptions LEG I ITAL (nos. 5–20), LEG I ITALI (nos. 3–4), LEG I ITALIC (no. 2) and LEG I ITALICAE (no. 1).

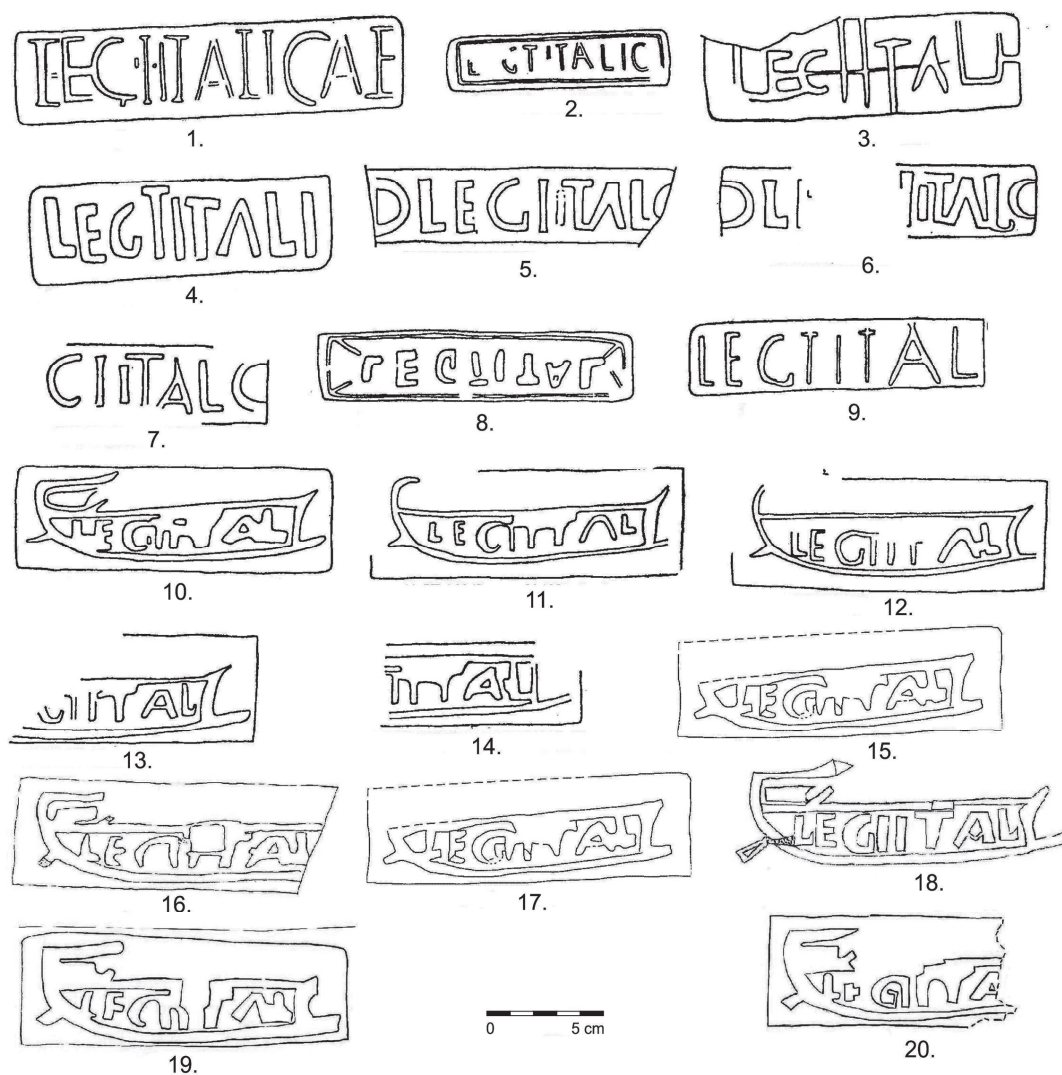


Fig. 5. Stamps from the first half of the second century AD
 (1. Sarnowski 1983, I 1 [pl. II]; 2. Sarnowski 1983, II 1 [pl. II];
 3. Sarnowski 1983, IV 1 [pl. II]; 4. Sarnowski 1983, IV 6 [pl. II];
 5.–7. Sarnowski 1983, VI 9–11 [pl. II]; 8. Sarnowski 1983, VI 35 [pl. III];
 9. Sarnowski 1983, VI 114 [pl. V]; 10.–14. Sarnowski 1983, VI 165–169 [pl. VI];
 15. Inv. no. 11-02c; 16. Inv. no. 08-02c; 17. Inv. no. 11-02c;
 18. Inv. no. 15-01c; 19. Inv. no. 27-08c; 20. Inv. no. 31-08c)

⁵⁴ SARNOWSKI, TRYNKOWSKI 1986, pp. 536–541.

Of special interest is a stamp bearing the name of the Consul L. Cossonius Eggius Marullus dated to AD 184 [Fig. 6]. This artifact is unique not only for Novae but also for all of the Lower Moesia province.⁵⁵

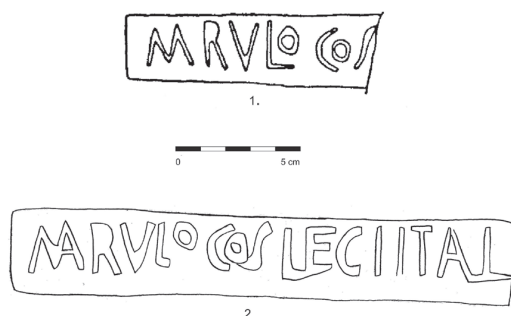


Fig. 6. Consular stamp from AD 184

(1. Sarnowski 1983, XIX 1 [pl. VII]; 2. Inv. no. 17-83c, first published in Press [ed.] 1985, p. 102, fig. 19, prepared by M. Duch and A. Momot)

The stamps dated to the fourth quarter of the second–first quarter of the third century AD [Fig. 7] have a very interesting framing in the shape of a *planta pedis* (nos. 1–7) and a legionary eagle⁵⁶ (nos. 8–11).



Fig. 7. Stamps from the fourth quarter of the second–first quarter of the third century AD

(1–3. Sarnowski 1983, VI 159–161 [pl. VI]; 4. Inv. no. 16-96c;
5. Sarnowski 1983, VI 162 [pl. VI]; 6. Sarnowski 1983, VI 164 [pl. VI];
7. Sarnowski 1983, VI 163 [pl. VI]; 8–9. Sarnowski 1983, VI 173–174 [pl. VI];
10. Sarnowski 1983, VI 172 [pl. VI]; 11. Inv. no. 40-00c)

⁵⁵ SARNOWSKI 1983, p. 55; KURZMAN 2006, p. 130.

⁵⁶ SARNOWSKI 1983, p. 61.

Stamps from the beginning of the third century AD [Fig. 8] show significant similarities to earlier stamps, especially those from Flavian times [Fig. 3, nos. 29–32]. These are for the most part simple stamps without decoration, placed within a rectangular frame.⁵⁷

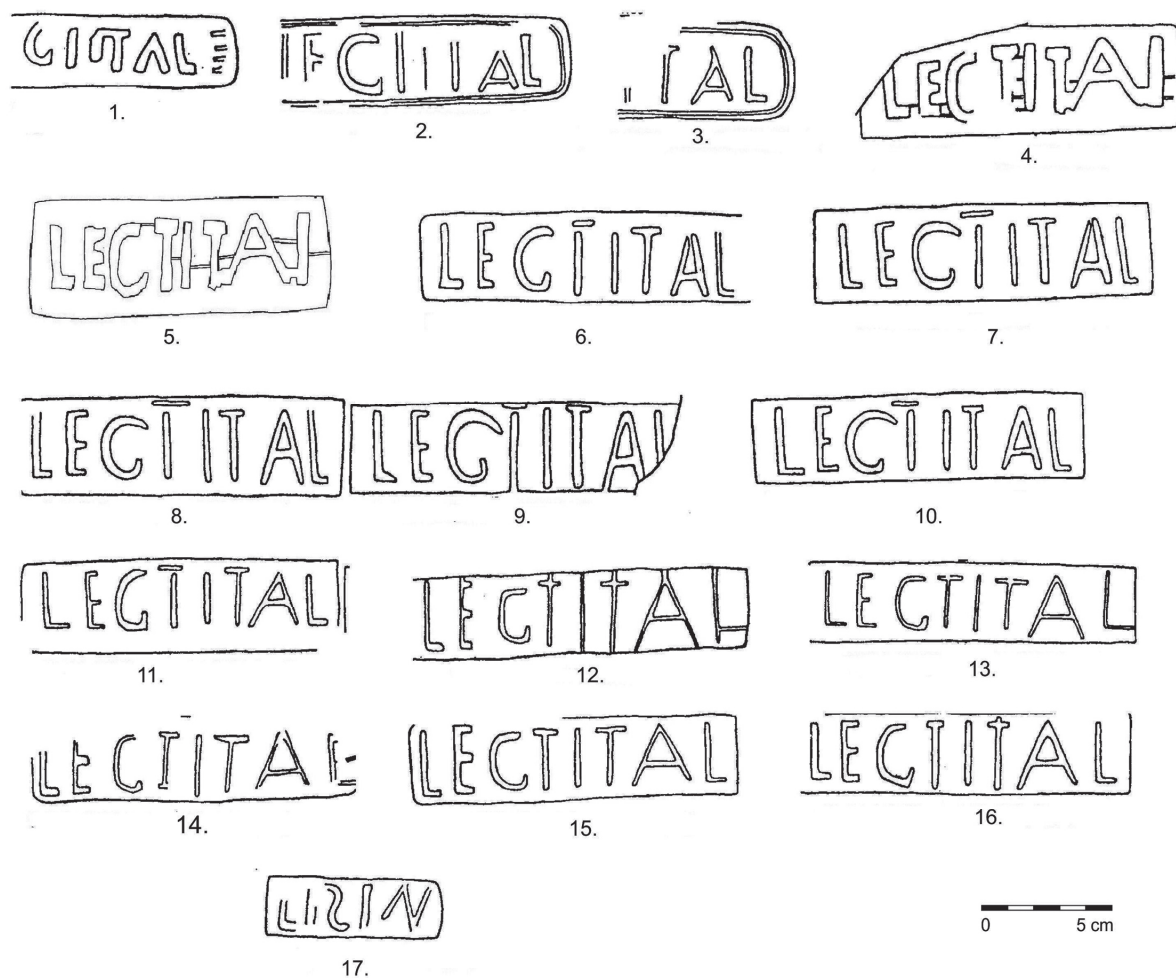


Fig. 8. Stamps from the early third century AD
 (1. Sarnowski 1983, VI 46 [pl. III]; 2.–3. Sarnowski 1983, VI 59–60 [pl. III];
 4. Sarnowski 1983, VI 67 [pl. IV]; 5. Inv. no. 10-13c;
 6.–12. Sarnowski 1983, VI 107–113 [pls. IV–V];
 13.–16. Sarnowski 1983, VI 115–118 [pl. V]; 17. Sarnowski 1983, XII 1 [pl. VII])

⁵⁷ SARNOWSKI 1983, p. 61.

A group of stamps [Fig. 9] was dated to AD 212–244, having been discovered on ceramic tiles forming the floor of one of the legionary bathhouse pools.⁵⁸ This stamp variant has not been observed in any of the earlier archaeological layers.

The form of stamp impressions dated to AD 212–222 [Fig. 10, nos. 1–6] is more developed than in the case of stamps presented above. Sarnowski read this text as follows: LEG(ionis) I ITAL(icae) ANT(oniniana). The letters ANT appear in ligature. During the reigns of Caracalla and also of Elagabalus, the *legio I Italica* bore the cognomen *Antoniniana*, which is attested epigraphically.⁵⁹

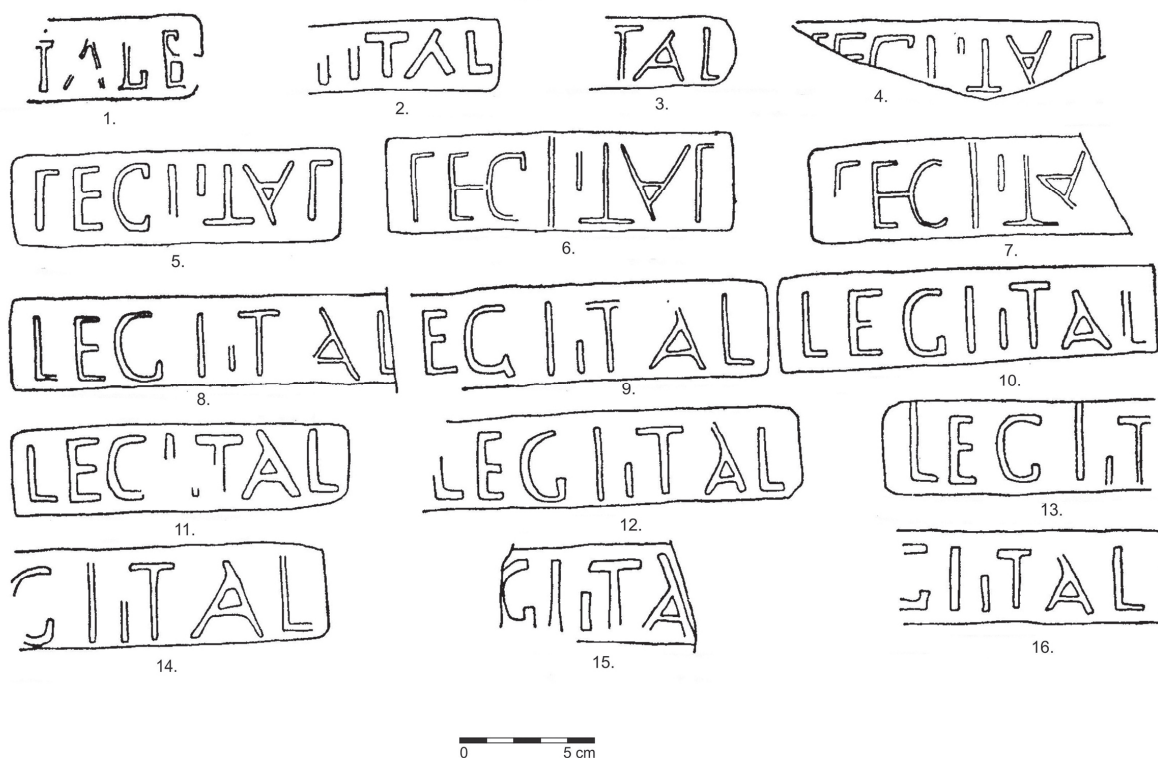


Fig. 9. Stamps from AD 212–244
(1. Sarnowski 1983, V 1 [pl. II]; 2.–7. Sarnowski 1983, VI 94–99 [pl. IV];
8.–16. Sarnowski 1983, VI 146–154 [pl. VI])

⁵⁸ BIERNACKI 1988b, p. 169; MROZEWICZ 1984, p. 150.

⁵⁹ SARNOWSKI 1983, p. 55.

The stamps dated to AD 222–235 [Fig. 10, nos. 7–9] are similar to the ones just discussed. They are read as *legionis I Italicae Alexandrianae*.⁶⁰

Stamps from third quarter of the third and fourth quarters of the third century AD [Fig. 11] are without decoration, placed within a rectangular frame. The text on the stamps contains the inscriptions LEG I ITAL (nos. 1–4) and LEG I (nos. 5–7).

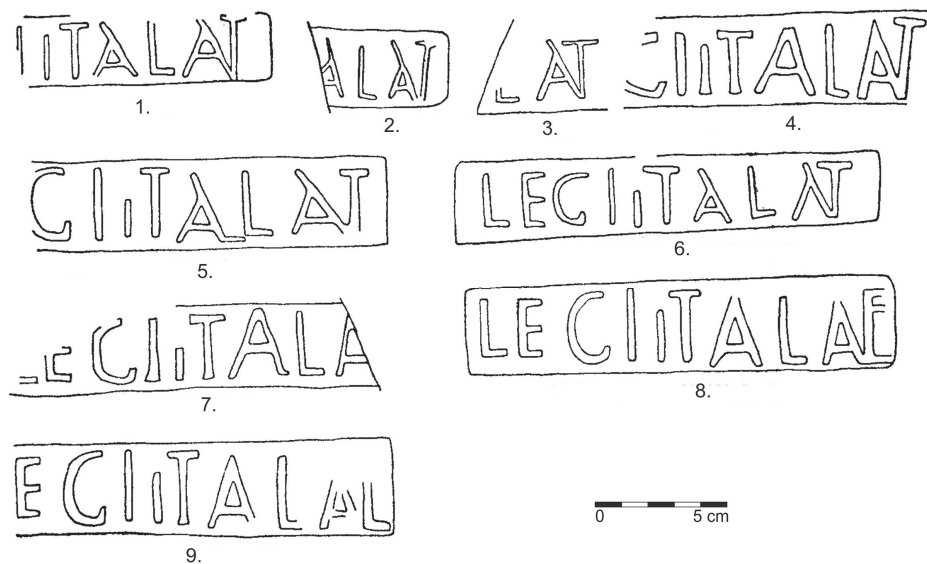


Fig. 10. Stamps from AD 212–235
(1.–7. Sarnowski 1983, VII 2–8 [pl. VI]; 8.–9. Sarnowski 1983, VIII 1–2 [pl. VI])

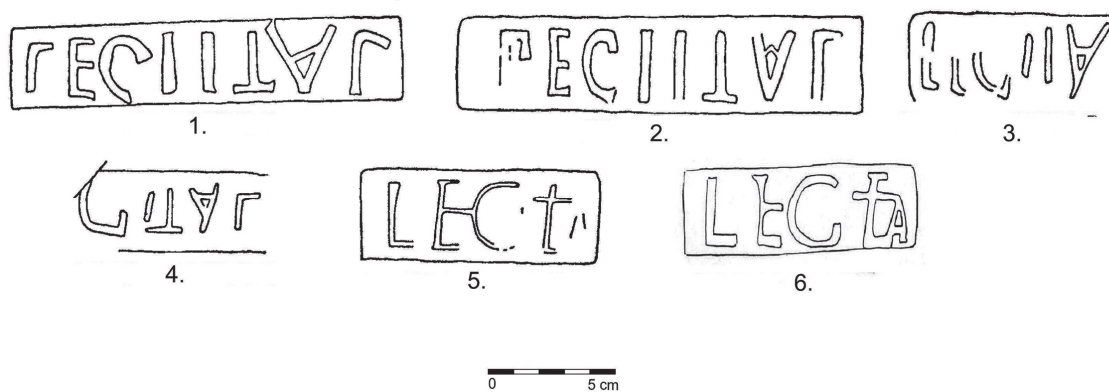


Fig. 11. Stamps from the third and fourth quarter of the third century AD
(1.–2. Sarnowski 1983, VI 123–124 [pl. V]; 3.–4. Sarnowski 1983, XI 1–2 [pl. VII];
5. Sarnowski 1983, XIII 1 [pl. VII]; 6. Inv. no. 17-95c)

⁶⁰ SARNOWSKI 1983, pp. 55–56.

Stamps dated to AD 316–317 [Fig. 12, nos. 3–5] and AD 324–339 [Fig. 12, nos. 1–2, 6–16]⁶¹ were discovered mostly on bricks used for the reconstruction of the western gate, and also the western and southern fortifications. These bricks produced in the fourth century were of a worse quality than those produced in the first to third centuries. This explains why the letters impressed on bricks from the fourth century are much more massive, being almost twice as big as those from the previous centuries. Had the same size of the stamps been retained as was used, for example, in the third century on clay which was of a much poorer quality and not as flexible, the stamp might have been illegible.⁶² According to Sarnowski, we should interpret these inscriptions as follows:

LE P I FIGV CRT V: LE(gionis) P(rimae) I(talicae) FIGV(lina) C(oho)RT(ium) V (quinque)
(or C(o)H(o)RT(ium) V (quinque));

LEG I ITA FI C ∞: LEG(ionis) I (primae) ITAL(icae) FI(glina) C(ohortis) ∞ (milliariae).⁶³

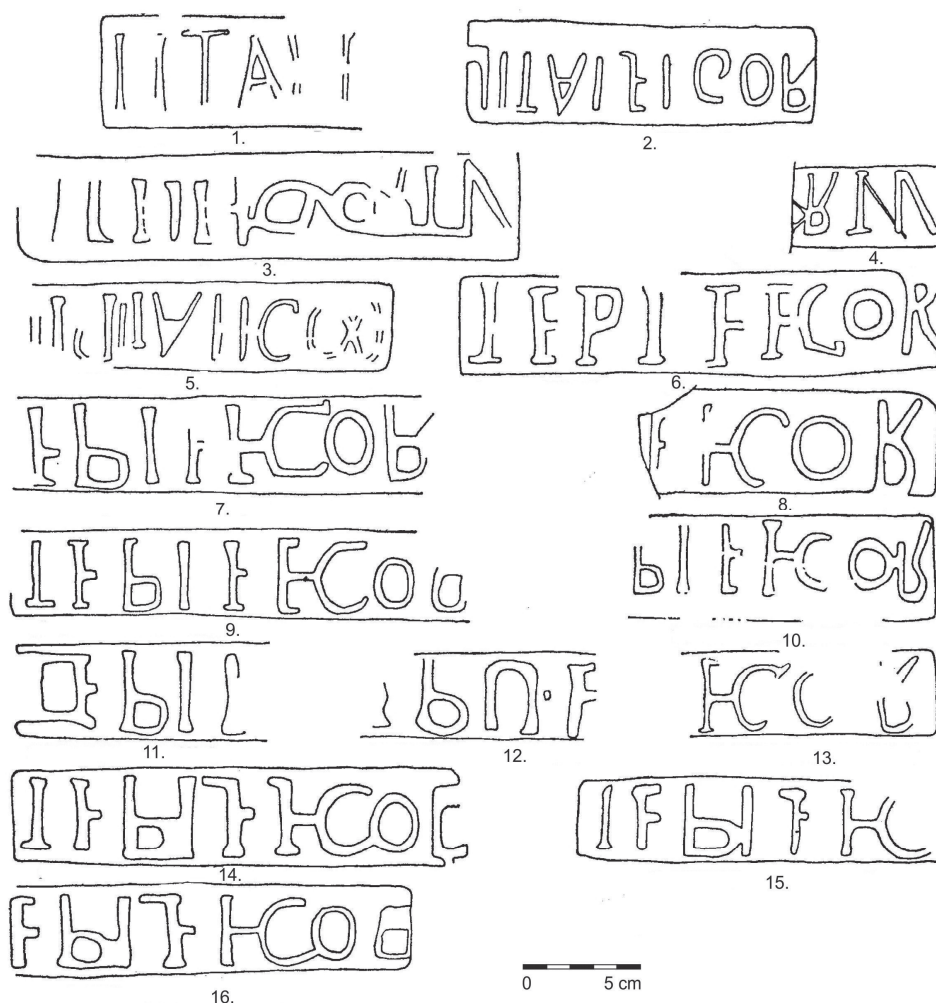


Fig. 12. Stamps from AD 316–339

(1.–2. Sarnowski 1983, XV 1–2 [pl. VII]; 3.–4. Sarnowski 1983, XVI 1–2 [pl. VII];
5. Sarnowski 1983, XVII 1 [pl. VII]; 6.–16. Sarnowski 1983, XVIII 1–11 [pl. VII])

⁶¹ SARNOWSKI 1985, p. 117.

⁶² SARNOWSKI 1985, p. 110.

⁶³ SARNOWSKI 1985, p. 127.

Stamps of the *legio I Minervia* and *legio XI Claudia* [Fig. 13] have also been found in Novae. Both legions appear to have been producing tiles for the legionary hospital roof⁶⁴ and for the covering of the canal in sector XII.⁶⁵ The few types and variants recorded indicate the short-lived nature of this production. According to Sarnowski, assigned detachments of both legions were stationed in Novae in AD 101.⁶⁶

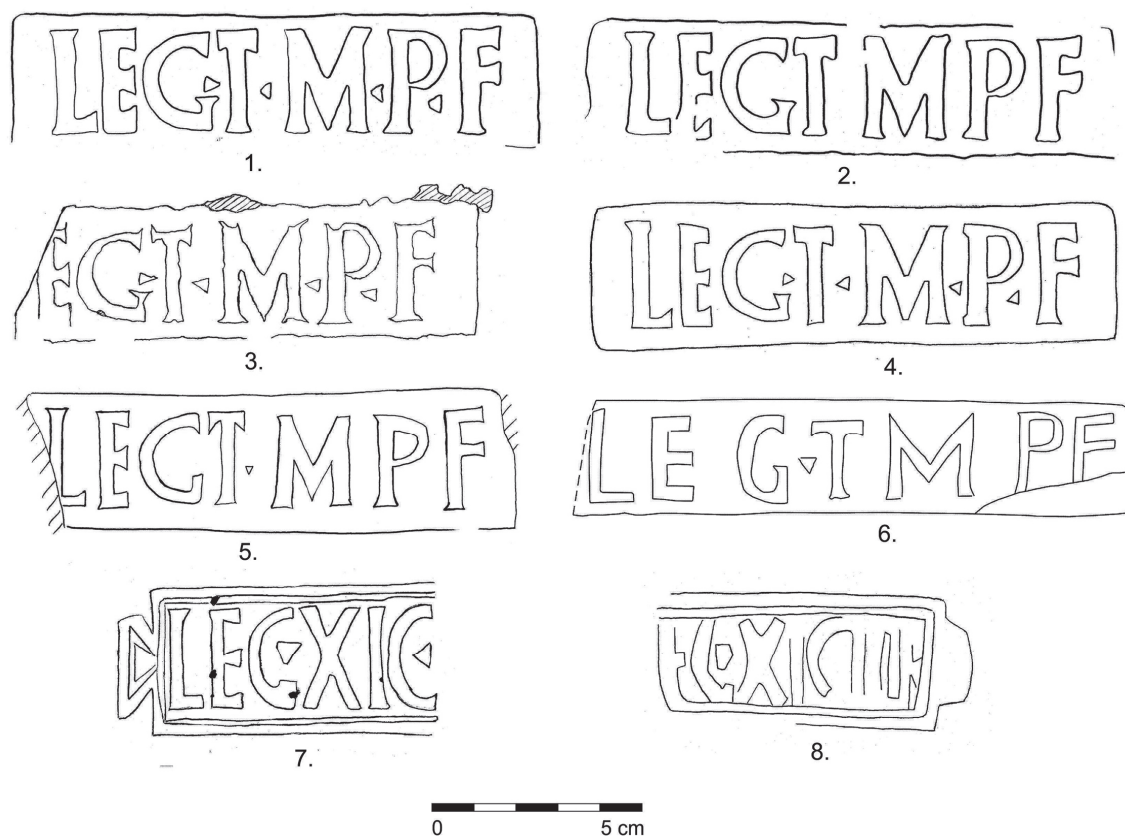


Fig. 13. Stamps of the *legio I Minervia* and *legio XI Claudia*

- (1. Inv. no. 13-96c; 2. Inv. no. 10-96c;
 3. Inv. no. 135-00c; 4. Inv. no. 05-15c;
 5. Inv. no. 13-00c; 6. Inv. no. 37-01c;
 7. Inv. no. 89-12c; 8. Inv. no. 56-12c;
 all stamps prepared by A. Momot)

Stamp impressions with a name are another interesting group of inscriptions on bricks and roof tiles. In most cases, it is difficult to determine whether these named stamps list civilian contractors, producers of roof tiles for the needs of the legion in Novae or soldiers involved in the production of ceramic building material for the camp. Tiles and bricks with stamps containing

⁶⁴ SARNOWSKI 1987, pp. 107–122.

⁶⁵ LEMKE 2013, pp. 193–194.

⁶⁶ SARNOWSKI 1987, pp. 118–122.

the names MARC, MAX, VETIA, CEMEL, ALBU [Fig. 14] refer to the names of soldiers involved in the production of ceramic building material. This is confirmed by the discoveries from Oescus, where roof tiles with the stamps FIR, MAX, PROCU, VETIA were found together with the stamps of the *legio I Italica*.⁶⁷ Perhaps the same is true of the recently discovered stamp, which Jerzy Żelazowski has read as *Aurelius Hegenianus*⁶⁸ or *Helenianus*⁶⁹ [Fig. 14, no. 12].

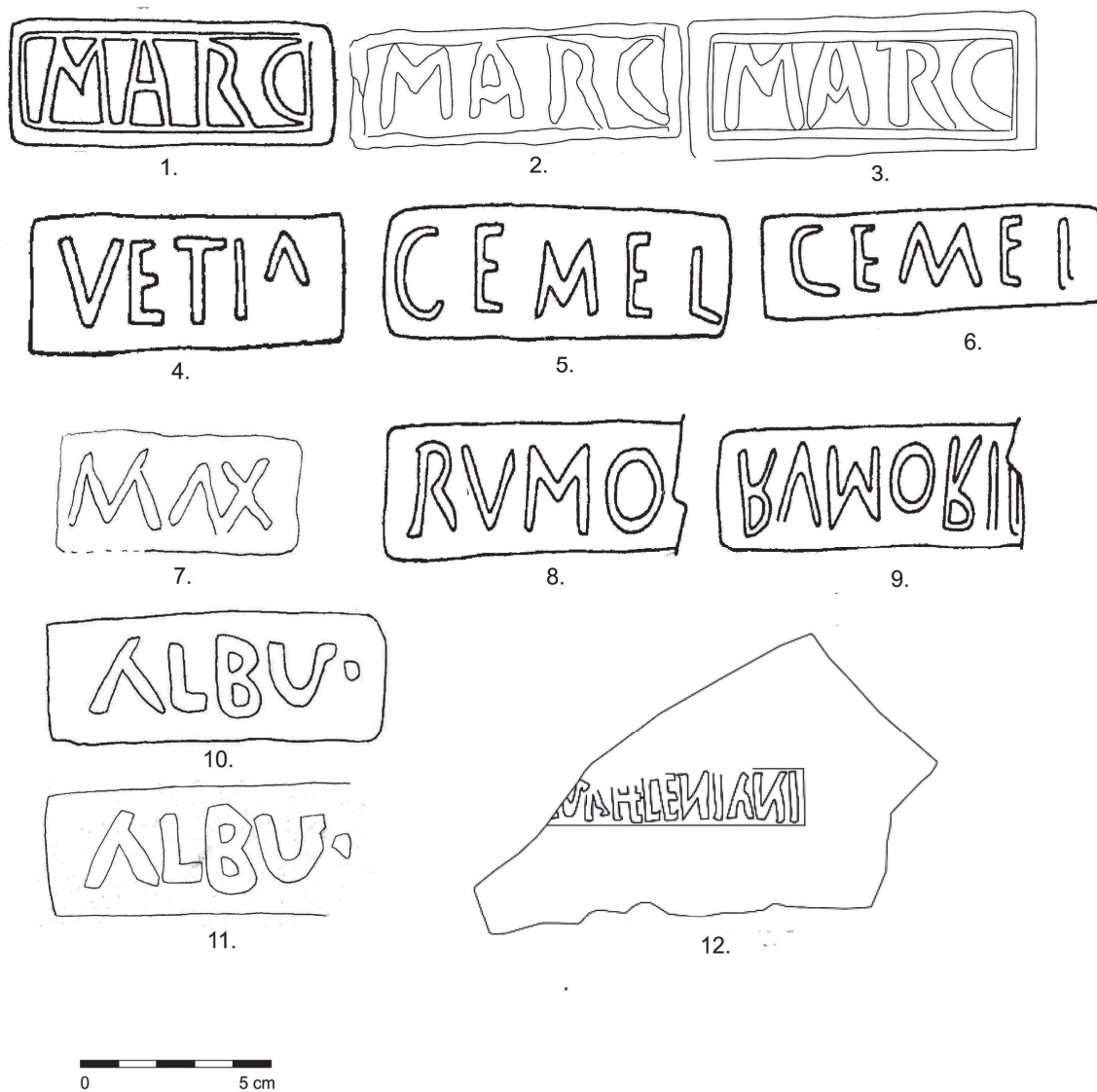


Fig. 14. Military stamps with the *nomen*

- (1. Sarnowski 1983, XXVII 1 [fig. 18]; 2. Inv. no. 07-02c; 3. Inv. no. 28-01c;
4. Sarnowski 1983, XXIII 1 [pl. VII]; 5.–6. Sarnowski 1983, XXX 1–2 [fig. 18];
7. Inv. no. 37-02c; 8.–9. Sarnowski 1983, XXXI 1–2 [fig. 18]; 10. Inv. no. 75-03c;
11. Duch 2017, p. 239, fig. 3; 12. Żelazowski 2012, fig. 1;
nos. 2–3 and 10–11 prepared by A. Momot)

⁶⁷ IVANOV 1981, p. 42.

⁶⁸ ŻELAZOWSKI 2012, pp. 159–165.

⁶⁹ *AE* 2012, no. 1266.

The situation is quite different in the case of the stamps of Caius Antonius Magnus, Alexandros Sol(...), Aurelius Statianus and a stamp L COEL PRIMI [Fig. 15]. These were producers of ceramic building material connected with the military in some way, as they supplied places primarily in the vicinity of military camps. Caius Antonius Magnus [Fig. 15, nos. 1–4] was a local producer of ceramic building material. The bricks he produced were discovered in Novae, Svištov (4 km west of Novae), Dimum, Ostrite Mogili (a vicus near Novae).⁷⁰ His activities are dated to the second half of the second–beginning of the third century AD.⁷¹ In sector IV at Novae, so far only four bricks from Antonius' brickyard have been found, and even these were discovered in the late stratigraphic layers. One interpretation of this modest distribution in Novae is that he was a private producer who did not deliver material to the military camp.⁷² According to Sarnowski, Antonius represented someone's interests (an *actor*) and leased land, which might have belonged to the state, the emperor or a private person.⁷³ Another interpretation of C ANTON MAG was put forward by Jerzy Żelazowski, who deduces that it was a name of a soldier working in a brickyard rather than a private producer.⁷⁴

Alex(andro)s Sol(...) [Fig. 15, no. 9] known only from Greek stamps, was another ceramic building material producer from Lower Moesia. It is also possible that bricks stamped with the inscription ALSOL [Fig. 15, nos. 7–8] should be connected with this producer rather than with the *ala Solensium*.⁷⁵ This would seem all the more possible as thus far this cavalry unit has not been noted in any other sources.⁷⁶ ALSOL stamps have been excavated primarily in the territory west of Novae.⁷⁷ ALSOL stamps have also been discovered in the vicinity of Pliska, where imperial property was located in Antiquity. This led Sarnowski to put forward the supposition that Alexandros Sol(...) was a land tenant within the imperial dominium.⁷⁸

In two inscriptions from Novae dated to the turn of the second century AD and dedicated to *Deus Aeternus*, Aurelius Statianus appears together with Elius Alexander.⁷⁹ According to Tadeusz Sarnowski and Agnieszka Tomas, who based their opinion on the analysis of a military diploma with the name of Aurelius Statianus,⁸⁰ he was a veteran born in the vicinity of Nicopolis ad Istrum. In Sarnowski's and Tomas's opinion, the stamped bricks with the inscription [A]VREL(ius) [STAT(ianus)] discovered in Novae [Fig. 15, no. 6] were produced by the same person. The researchers assumed that M. Aurelius Statianus leased land somewhere near Novae and was involved in the production of ceramic building material. There is no convincing evidence that Statianus supplied his products to meet the demand for construction material of the legionaries in Novae. The scant amount of brick finds signed with his *nomen* and *cognomen* may indicate a short production period; interestingly, however, they are quite widespread geographically, having been found in Dimum, Novae and Sexaginta Prista; strangely enough, these are all military locations, but there were civilians nearby who might also have been his customers. The example of Statianus is fascinating as it shows a veteran who developed skills acquired in the army in his later life as a civilian.⁸¹

⁷⁰ SARNOWSKI 1994, p. 22; RAKEVA-MORFOVA 1970, p. 39; MAJEWSKI (ed.) 1961, p. 83, fig. 15; PAJAKOWSKI 1973, p. 124; KARADIMITROVA 2004, p. 119, figs. 40–41.

⁷¹ TOMAS 2007, p. 36.

⁷² Inv. nos. 25-70c, 41-77c, 37-06c, 155-06c: the first two are surface finds of unknown origin.

⁷³ SARNOWSKI 1994, p. 21; According to B. Gerov, C. Antonius Magnus was associated with the family of Antonius, who were tenants of *portorium publicum Illyrici*; see GEROV 1980, pp. 122–123, note 23.

⁷⁴ ŻELAZOWSKI 2015, p. 253.

⁷⁵ BIERNACKI 1992, p. 107. Gerov (1977, p. 308) put for-

ward the idea that ALSOL stamps should be linked to *ala Solensium*. This hypothesis was adopted by Sarnowski (1988, p. 75) after which he came to the conclusion that this may in fact refer to a producer of ceramic building material, cf. SARNOWSKI 1994, p. 22.

⁷⁶ There are no inscriptions from the third century attesting to this military unit.

⁷⁷ SARNOWSKI 1988, p. 74.

⁷⁸ SARNOWSKI 1994, p. 23.

⁷⁹ *ILNovae*, nos. 3–4.

⁸⁰ *RMD* IV, no. 311.

⁸¹ DUCH 2017, pp. 212–213.

Bricks of a producer identified with the stamp L COEL PRIMI were discovered in Novae [Fig. 15, no. 5] and in a few places on the Danube without a precise localization in the museum documentation.⁸²

According to those who discovered the RUMORID(us) stamps [Fig. 14, nos. 8–9], these late antique artifacts should be identified with Flavius Rumoridus, who was the dux of the Moesia II province during Valens's reign.⁸³

The ceramic material marked with the PCP stamp belonged in all probability to a private producer [Fig. 15, nos. 10–11]. It was discovered in Ostrite Mogili (approximately 2 km from Novae) and in Novae, in sector XII, within a glass furnace;⁸⁴ material from sector IV comes from a stratigraphic context, the date of which intimates that this brick-maker was producing in the years between AD 271 and 285.⁸⁵ It should be noted that the area belonging to the *castra* started to be occupied by civilian residents from the mid-third century AD.⁸⁶

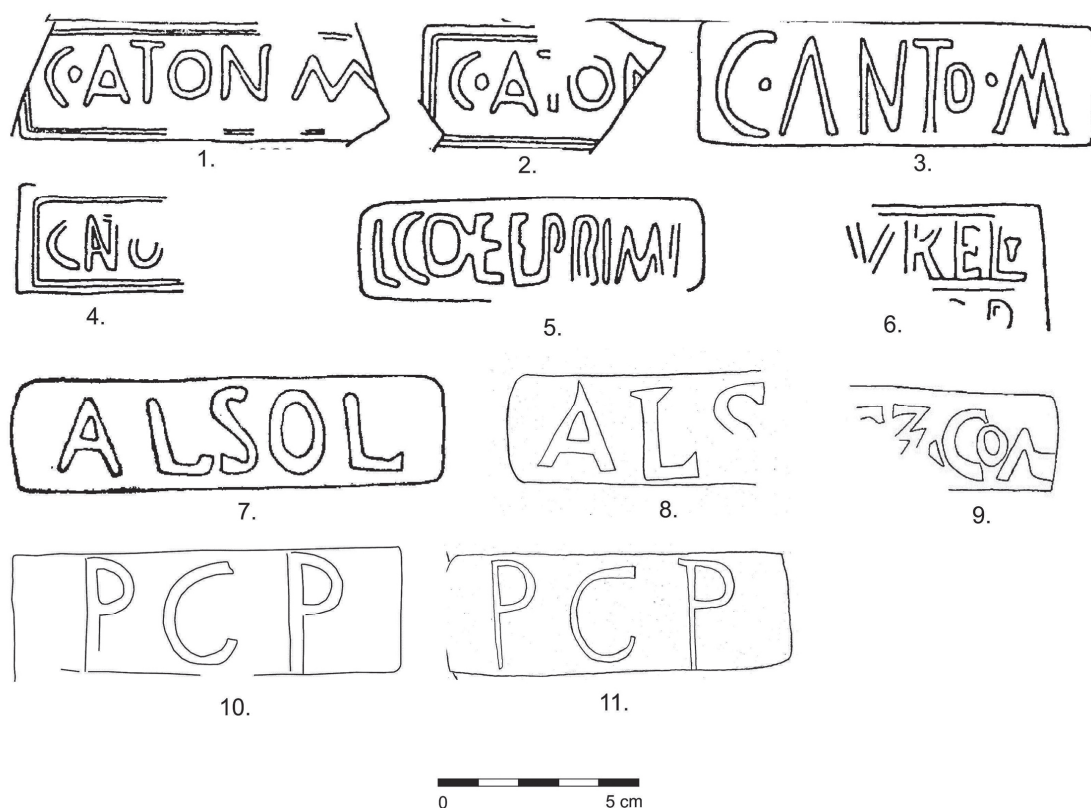


Fig. 15. Private producers' stamps

(1.–4. Sarnowski 1983, XXV 1–4 [fig. 18]; 5. Sarnowski 1983, XXVI 1 [fig. 18];

6. Sarnowski 1983, XXXV 1 [fig. 18]; 7. Sarnowski 1983, XXII 1 [pl. VII];

8. Inv. no. 22-12c; 9. Inv. no. 80-13c; 10. Inv. no. 39-00c; 11. Inv. no. 29-12c;

nos. 8–11 prepared by M. Duch)

⁸² SARNOWSKI 1983, p. 61.

⁸³ SARNOWSKI 1985, pp. 107–127; TORBATOV 2012, p. 166.

⁸⁴ Inv. nos. 30-12c, 29-12c.

⁸⁵ DUCH 2017, p. 209.

⁸⁶ DYCZEK 2008, pp. 31–70.

This article contains a short summary of 59 years of research on the chronology of bricks and tiles from Novae as reflected in numerous publications, which have been listed in the bibliography. The existing typologies of Novae stamps were prepared on the basis of the material discovered in the legionary *principia* and to a lesser extent based on the material from sector IV (Sarnowski's typology). This was supplemented by material from excavations conducted in sector X, where in 1970 the remains of a bathhouse dated to the second and third centuries AD and a bishop's residence from late antiquity were found (Matuszewska's typology). The completed excavation in sector IV with its full stratigraphy presents the greatest research potential. Based on both the published and unpublished stamped bricks and roof tiles from Novae, a new typochronology of these artifacts could be proposed. Petrological analyses of the stamped building ceramics from Novae would be the next step in research and it would certainly be worthwhile to take a closer look at the cutaway forms of roof tiles to see whether their shape at Novae underwent evolution and if so, whether it could influence the dating of unstamped ceramic material.⁸⁷

Abbreviations

<i>AE</i>	<i>L'Année épigraphique</i> , ed. M. CORBIER, P. LE ROUX, S. DARDAINE.
<i>ILNovae</i>	<i>Inscriptions latines de Novae</i> , ed. V. BOŽILOVA, J. KOLENDO, L. MROZEWICZ, Poznań 1992.
<i>RMD</i>	<i>Roman Military Diplomas</i> , vol. IV, London 2003.

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⁸⁷ Research of this type is being successfully carried out in England (WARRY 2006, pp. 43–49).

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Streszczenie

Stemple na ceglach i dachówkach z Novae. Zarys chronologii

Stemplowana ceramika budowlana z Novae jest obiektem intensywnych badań już od 1960 roku. Jak dotąd opracowano dwie rozbudowane typologie tych zabytków (Sarnowski 1983; Matuszewska 2006). Powstały one w oparciu o materiał odkryty przede wszystkim w komendanturze legionowej oraz na odcinku IV, na którym jeszcze w latach osiemdziesiątych badano pozostałości tzw. Willi z Portykami (typologia Sarnowskiego). Obraz ten został uzupełniony o materiał pochodzący z wykopalisk z odcinka X, gdzie od roku 1970 badane są pozostałości łaźni datowanej na II–III w. i rezydencji biskupiej z IV w. (typologia Matuszewskiej). W 2010 roku zakończono badania na odcinku IV, a tym samym eksplorację szpitala legionowego i łaźni z czasów Flawiuszy, dzięki temu znana jest już jego pełna stratygrafia. Zatem w materiale pochodzącym z odcinka IV drzemie obecnie największy potencjał badawczy. Na podstawie opublikowanego i nieopublikowanego materiału tegularnego z odcinka IV warto w przyszłości zaproponować nową typologię, uporządkowaną przede wszystkim chronologicznie. Dlatego autor niniejszego artykułu dokonał wstępnego podziału materiału tegularnego oraz zaproponował roboczą wersję nowej typologii, która stanowić będzie punkt wyjścia do dalszych uzupełnień oraz modyfikacji. W artykule nie ujęto wszystkich znanych odcisków stempli z Novae, a w przypadku odcisków legionu I Italskiego uwzględniono tylko te, które są już chronologicznie umocowane. W ten sposób pierwsza grupa to stemple legionu I Italskiego. Druga grupa to stemple innych jednostek wojskowych produkujących ceramikę budowlaną na potrzeby Novae. Grupa trzecia obejmuje tzw. wojskowe stemple imienne, a ostatnia (czwarta) — odciski stempli najprawdopodobniej prywatnych producentów. Każda z tych grup została podzielona chronologicznie. W ten sposób najliczniejszą grupę pierwszą podzielono na czternaście podgrup chronologicznych, grupę drugą na dwie podgrupy, trzecią na sześć, a czwartą na cztery.

Autor zwraca także uwagę, że przyszłością badań nad stemplowaną ceramiką budowlaną z Novae będą z pewnością analizy petrologiczne. Warto również przyjrzeć się przekrojom wypustów dachówek i zastanowić się, czy w Novae ich kształt ulegał ewolucji i czy ma to wpływ na datowanie nieostemplowanego materiału ceramicznego.

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