The Vinkovci treasure of Late Roman silver plate: preliminary report
Hrvoje Vulić, Damir Doračić, Richard Hobbs and Janet Lang

The hoard of silver plate known as the Vinkovci treasure (or the Cibalae treasure, after the Roman name for the town) was discovered on March 23, 2012, during rescue excavations in the town of Vinkovci (Colonia Aurelia Cibalae) in the Vukovar-Srijem county of E Croatia (fig. 1). It is one of the most significant late Roman discoveries of the new millennium, and the first major 4th-c. A.D. assemblage of silver plate to be unearthed for at least half a century (the Seuso treasure was probably found in the late 1970s, and although new pieces of the Kaiseraugst treasure emerged in the 1990s the original discovery was made in 1961). This interim report on the treasure is based upon the results of research conducted by the authors in the 4 years that have passed since it came to light.

Discovery, display and subsequent actions

The treasure was discovered during rescue excavations conducted by a private archaeological contractor (Geoarheo LLC) under the direction of Šime Vrkić. The unit was excavating a site in the centre of modern Vinkovci in advance of the building of a New Yorker clothing store. The settlement of Cibalae was founded in the late 1st c. B.C. after the Roman conquest of Pannonia; during the reign of Hadrian (A.D. 117-38) the town became a municipium, and then under either Septimius Severus or Caracalla a colonia. Its most

Fig. 1. Map showing the location of Vinkovci (Cibalae) in eastern Croatia (del. Craig Williams, British Museum).