

A Tile from Ratiaria Depicting „Lazar’s Resurrection“ Scene Nikolai Markov

This paper presents a tile made in a mould depicting „Lazar’s Resurrection“ (Fig. 1). The tile was discovered on the territory of the ancient Ratiaria (present-day village of Archar, Vidin region) and is currently in a private collection. Its dimensions are 3.6 x 4 x 0.8 cm. The tile is made of brick-red fine clay, nicely fired. The left and part of the lower edge are very damaged. There is an inscription in Greek [O C]ΩTHPOC (the Savior) close to the upper edge of the tile.

There are about a dozen finds on which Lazar is depicted in an untraditional way - naked, in the process of rising, without an aedicule or a cave; these features as well as the similarities with the pre-Constantine style of depicting the figures give reason to date the tile to about the 3rd - early 4th centuries.

The suggestion is made that the tile most probably comes from some funeral construction, in which it was put or assembled.