

A kiln for bricks near Serdica

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The communication presents an installation for baking bricks, which was discovered and studied in 2001 in the close proximity of a Late Roman mausoleum in Sofia-Lozenets (fig. 1). The kiln is two-chambered and has a rectangular plan, 4.40 by 2.90 m. Its preserved height is 1.70 m (fig. 2). The kiln is entirely built of bricks measuring 30 by 30 by 3-4 cm, linked together by mud. The lower chamber is partitioned by a longitudinal breast wall, on both sides of which vaulted tunnels are constructed. The tunnels merge into a funnel-

shaped firebox in the front part of the kiln (fig. 3). The grate is formed by four pairs of arches lying at a distance of 20 or 30 cm from each other (fig. 4). The working platform in front of the kiln is flanked by two walls, which stand closer at the entrance of the installation. The kiln has parallels in Bulgaria dated back to the 3rd - 5th century AD. The immediate proximity to the mausoleum gives reason to consider its functioning closely related to the construction of the mausoleum in the mid-4th century AD.