

How to Perform and Publish a Lychnological Research with Multilingual Bibliography in the 4.0 Era: Reflections, Examples and Suggestions

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Abstract

The contribution focuses on the online bibliographic research strategy concerning lychnological studies. It proposes an empirical approach for finding the best results among multilingual publications.

Since the fall of the Berlin Wall, almost all governments decided to apply a nationalist language policy in humanities. As a sad consequence, if we speak about archaeology, even the most prestigious journals (edited by the Academy of Sciences and by the country's main Universities and Museums), which gathered articles written only in mainstream languages are now delivered in each country's own language. Sometimes this comes even without a small abstract in one of the 5 "classical" languages used by many associations – as it is the case for the AIAC.

Meanwhile, in archaeology and humanities in general, some of the most "neglected" countries (in primis the central and eastern European ones as well as Turkey), have made great efforts to provide free access to digitized articles and books. But to find those publications means to search for them using their original exact title or at least the keywords enclosed in quotation marks, such as "clay lamps" assorted with other words, in different languages (fig. 1).

How to Search and how to Quote a Title Written in a Non-Mainstream Language?

For the best chance of success, of course, search the title – or a part of it – as it is in its original language. Do not search for the transliterated version as you found it in western texts, (i.e. rendered in Latin letters according to the phonetical pronunciation fitting the language of the text, which quotes the title you desire to find).

If you cannot copy-paste the title from a recent PDF and you have to copy it from a book, use one of the free multilingual online keyboards (such as the very complete <https://www.lexilogos.com/keyboard>).

The reason for this exercise is that no digital result will give you access to the original text (if available online) if you use the "archaic" transliteration rules used by librarians and imposed by several top archaeological journals.



Fig. 1: Some examples of recent books in a multitude of languages.

For instance, we recently found the bibliographic abbreviation and the complete title of a Bulgarian article quoted like this:

SULTOV 1968

Sultov B., *Antični grobni nahodki ot Velikotŕnovski ok'rg*, IOMVT 4, 1968, 41–55.
In fact, the exact title you need for performing a successful research on the net (and to quote the article to let further readers to do the same) should be:

SULTOV 1968

Султов, Б., *Антични гробни находки от Великотърновски окръг*. – ИОИМ Велико Търново 4, 41–55.

How to Search and how to Quote a Journal Title Written in a Non-Mainstream Language?

Remaining on the same example, another important element to avoid is to not use the transcription of the journal's title. Further, all library systems use the contemporary title, and the full bibliographical notice encompasses all names a journal has had through its history. So, avoid quoting a paper with the name of the journal according to the year of publication, as this title is often no longer its actual one.

In the article we mentioned, IOMVT is defined as “Izvestiâ na Okrcznîa Muzej Veliko Tŕnovo”, while the actual Bulgarian National Librarian System quotes it as ИОИМ = Известия на Регионален исторически музей Велико Търново. The most complete way to quote the mentioned issue would be: Известия на Регионален исторически

музей Велико Търново, 4 (then Известия на Окръжния исторически музей Велико Търново, а.к.а. Известия – Исторически музей Велико Търново).

Abbreviations in any language (ИОМВТ, ИОИМ) are also an impediment for readers to find the PDF of the issue if it exists; these journals have useful websites, and are generally referenced on the net by their complete name.

The way to quote a periodical is a very important element, mainly in southern and eastern Europe, where several cities had new names during a quite short period (outside of the former USSR ones). This is also the case where territorial organizations, hence names (the equivalent of county, province, region, etc.), changed at least once during the communist regime, and a second time after the fall of the Berlin Wall.

We choose to underline this problem, because for lychnologists, issue n. 9 of the Varna Museum periodical delivers one of the most important discoveries concerning late lamps in the eastern Balkans, the Black Sea as well as Constantinopolis. It was discussed abundantly by John W. Hayes in his study on the lamps of the Saraçhane excavations,¹ and is the publication of the famous hoard of Byzantine lamp molds discovered at the Kranevo fortress.²

Just think that if you try to find Известна Археологическото Дружество в Гр. Сталин – subtitled Bulletin de la Société Archéologique à Staline (transcription: Izvestja Arheologicheskoto Drujestvo v Gr. Stalin), you will most probably have no results on the net. As a matter of fact, the famous Journal of the National Museum of Varna has been edited under this title for less than a decade and almost all national libraries quote those issues under Известия на Народния Музей Варна.

How to Quote Different Articles of an Author whose Name has been Transliterated in Different Ways?

In order to have an alphabetically and chronologically ordered bibliography using Latin characters, opt for one single version – if possible, the English one – of a precise author's name's transcription. Avoid diacritics on capitals as they may not be compatible with the font used by the editor.

For instance, the well-known Bulgarian ceramologist Мария Чичикова has papers published in foreign languages as Cicikova, Čičikova, and Chichikova. Hence, a correct way to get rid of this mess in abbreviating the author's work and to remove the impression that we are dealing with four separate authors could be:

CICIKOVA 1950

Чичикова М., Калъпи за антични лампи от Мизия.– Годишник на Археологическия музей Пловдив 2, 149–156

CICIKOVA 1973

М. Čičikova, Lampes avec la marque “Armeni”, découvertes en Bulgarie.– Archaeologia Polona 14, 349–358

CICIKOVA 1974

M. Cicikova, Firmalampen du limes danubien en Bulgarie. In: Pippidi, D. M. (ed.), *Actes du 9^e Congrès international d'études sur les frontières romaines (Mamaïa, 6–13 septembre 1972)*, Bucharest, 155–165

CICIKOVA 1999

M. Chichikova, Lampes paléobyzantines de Novae. In: von Bülow, G.; Milcheva A. (eds.). *Der Limes an der unteren Donau von Diokletian bis Herakleios. Vorträge der internationalen Konferenz Svištov, Bulgarien (1–5 September 1998)*, Sofia, 105–110

Otherwise, you can opt to sort the titles by linguistic groups, as Florin Curta did on his milestone work on late antique lamps in the Balkans.³ As the article was published in Bulgaria, he started with references in Cyrillic-written languages, then Latin written ones, and ended with modern Greek ones.

Nevertheless, this choice obliges you also to put the abbreviated titles in the footnotes. According to the font changes made by the editor, the composer, and the typography, it could turn into a nightmare of 'small squares'. Additional proof-corrections would force you to reset all the characters, which were not understood by the graphic converters.

Examples of this second option:⁴

Аврамова, Д. / Машов, С. 2006. Археологически проучвания на Национален археологически резерват „Августа“, с. Хърлец, община Козлодуй през 2005 г. *Известия на Националния исторически музей* 17, 19–26.

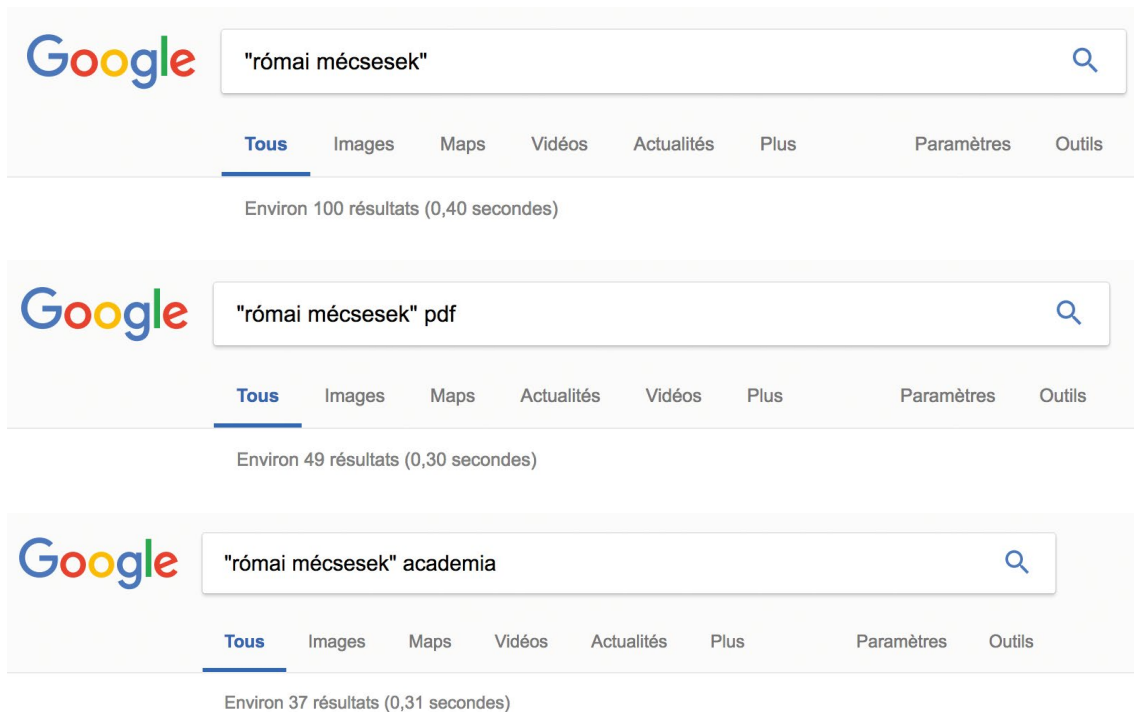
Аладжов, Д. 1995. Резултати от археологическите разкопки на Констанция. In: Панайотов, И. / Георгиева, Р. / Лещаков, К. / Александров, С. / Борисов, Б. (eds.). "Марица-изток". Археологически проучвания. Vol. 3. Раднево. 181–226.

Abadie-Reynal, C. 1989. Les amphores protobyzantines d'Argos (IV-e-VI- siècles). In: Déroche, V. / Spieser, J.-M. (eds.). *Recherches sur la céramique byzantine*. Paris. 47–56.

Aibabin, A. I. 2012. Early Byzantine Military Fibulae with Returned Foot from Southwestern Crimea. In: Böhlendorf-Arslan, B. / Ricci, A. (eds.). *Byzantine Small Finds in Archaeological Contexts*. Istanbul. 407–415.

Γερούση, Ε. 2010. Λυχνάρια από το νεκροταφείο της Ύστερης Αρχαιότητας και των πρωτοβυζαντινών χρόνων στην Περίσσα Θήρας. In: Παπανικόλα-Μπακιρτζή, Δ. / Κουσουλάκου, Ν. (eds.). *Κεραμική της ύστερης αρχαιότητας από τον Ελλαδικό Χώρο (3ος-7ος μ. Χρ.)*. Επιστημονική συνάντηση, Θεσσαλονίκη, 12–16 Νοεμβρίου 2006. Vol. 1. Θεσσαλονίκη. 217–231.

Γκουτζιουκώστας, Α. / Μονίαρος, Ξ. 2009. Η περιφερειακή διοικητική αναδιοργάνωση της βυζαντινής αυτοκρατορίας από τον Ιουστινιανό: η περίπτωση της quaestura Iustiniana exercitus. Θεσσαλονίκη.



Figs. 2–4: Research performed with the 3 different ways and number results.

A Small Dictionary to Help You to Combine Correct Research Terms and Find Results

Ending with the starting point, when you want to search in a generic way for what has been published in a single country, try to combine the different basic terms listed below. Remember that the easiest way is to enclose the desired terms in quotation marks first (fig. 2). If you search only for online available full texts, then add “pdf” (fig. 3) or “academia” (fig. 4), for those who did not opt for Academia Pro, where you can perform a keyword search in each article.

To help you to get acquainted with the main keywords of 20 languages used in Europe and around the Mediterranean, we propose hereunder a small lychnological dictionary. This collective work is the fruit of an exceptional collaboration with many colleagues, who took care of the language(s) they master perfectly. Each of them receives our deepest thanks for their efforts: Dr. Cristina Bodó (HUN); Dr. Aleksandra Nestorovic (SLO/HRV/SRB); Dr. Exhlale Dobruna-Salihu (ALB); Dr. Ioannis Motsianos (GRE); Dr. Ergün Laflı (TUR); Dr. Evgenia Genceva (BUL); Dr. Florin Topoleanu (ROM); Dr. Irina Sheiko (UKR); Dr. Denis Zhuravlev (RUS); Dr. Ani Eblighatian (ARB); Dr. Benjamin Storchan (HEB); Dr. Marta Fitula and Dr. Janusz Reclaw (POL). The remaining entries were done by the author.

Languages are set by areas: Western Mediterranean, Central Europe, Eastern Adriatic, Black Sea, Arabic world.

Portuguese:

Lamp (s):	lucerna (sg.); lucernas (pl.) (rare: lâmpada; lâmpadas)
Clay lamp/s:	lucerna de barro cocido / lucernas de barro cocido
Bronze lamp/s:	lucerna em bronze / lucernas em bronze
Greek lamp/s:	lucerna grega / lucernas gregas
Hellenistic lamp/s:	lucerna helenística / lucernas helenísticas
Roman lamp/s:	lucerna romana / lucernas romanas
Late Roman lamp/s:	lucerna tardo-antiga / lucernas tardo-antigas
Byzantine lamp/s:	lucerna bizantina / lucernas bizantinas

Spanish:

Lamp (s):	lucerna (sg.); lucernas (pl.)
Clay lamp/s:	lucerna de terracota / lucernas de terracota
Bronze lamp/s:	lucerna de bronce / lucernas de bronce
Greek lamp/s:	lucerna griega / lucernas griegas
Hellenistic lamp/s:	lucerna helenística / lucernas helenísticas
Roman lamp/s:	lucerna romana / lucernas romanas
Late Roman lamp/s:	lucerna tardorromana / lucernas tardorromanas
Byzantine lamp/s:	lucerna bizantina / lucernas bizantinas

Catalan

Lamp (s):	llàntia (sg.); llànties (pl.)
Clay lamp/s:	llàntia de terracota / llànties de terracota
Bronze lamp/s:	llàntia de bronze / llànties de bronze
Greek lamp/s:	llàntia grega / llànties grecs
Hellenistic lamp/s:	llàntia helenística / llànties helenísticas
Roman lamp/s:	llàntia romana / llànties romanes
Late Roman lamp/s:	llàntia tardo romana / llànties tardo romanes
Byzantine lamp/s:	llàntia bizantina / llànties bizantines

French:

Lamp (s):	lampe à huile (sg.); lampes à huile (pl.)
Clay lamp/s:	lampe de terre cuite / lampes de terre cuite (or “en” instead of “de”)
Bronze lamp/s:	lampe de bronze / lampes de bronze (or “en” instead of “de”)
Greek lamp/s:	lampe grecque / lampes grecques
Hellenistic lamp/s:	lampe hellénistique / lampes hellénistiques
Roman lamp/s:	lampe romaine / lampes romaines
Late Roman lamp/s:	lampe tardo-antique / lampes tardo-antiques
Byzantine lamp/s:	lampe byzantine / lampes byzantines

Italian:

Lamp (s):	lucerna (sg.); lucerne (pl.)
Clay lamp/s:	lucerna di terracotta / lucerne di terracotta
Bronze lamp/s:	lucerna di bronzo / lucerne di bronzo
Greek lamp/s:	lucerna greca / lucerne greche
Hellenistic lamp/s:	lucerna ellenistica / lucerne ellenistiche
Roman lamp/s:	lucerna romana / lucerne romane
Late Roman lamp/s:	lucerna tardoantica / lucerne tardoantiche
Byzantine lamp/s:	lucerna bizantina/ lucerne byzantine

German:

Lamp (s):	Öllampe (sg.); Öllampen (pl.) (Ö = Oe)
Clay lamp/s:	Tonlampe / Tonlampen
Bronze lamp/s:	Bronzelampe / Bronzelampen
Greek lamp/s:	griechische Lampe / griechische Lampen
Hellenistic lamp/s:	hellenistische Lampe / hellenistische Lampen
Roman lamp/s:	römische Lampen / römische Lampen
Late Roman lamp/s:	spätantike Lampe / spätantike Lampen
Byzantine lamp/s:	byzantinische Lampe / byzantinische Lampen

(!) very often, lamps with an ornamented discus from early Roman to Late Antique times are named Bildlampe (sg.) or Bildlampen (pl.): “lamp with an image”

Polish:

Lamp (s):	Lampa oliwne (sg.); Lampki oliwne (pl)
Clay lamps:	Ceramiczna lampa oliwne / Ceramiczne lampki oliwne
Bronze lamp/s:	Lampa oliwne z brązu / Lampki oliwne z brązu
Greek lamp/s:	Grecka lampa oliwne / Greckie lampki oliwne
Hellenistic lamp/s:	Hellenistyczna lampa oliwne / Hellenistyczne lampki oliwne
Roman lamp/s:	Rzymska lampa oliwne / Rzymskie lampki oliwne
Late Roman lamp/s:	Późnorzymska / Późnorzymskie lampki oliwne
Byzantine lamp/s:	Bizantyjska lampa oliwne / Bizantyjskie lampki oliwne

Hungarian:

Lamp (s):	mécses (sg.); mécsesek (pl.)
Clay lamp/s:	agyag mécses / agyag mécses; agyag mécsesek / agyagmécsesek
Bronze lamp/s:	bronz mécses / bronzmécses; bronz mécsesek / bronzmécsesek
Lighting devices:	világító eszközök
Greek lamp/s:	görög mécses / görög mécsesek
Hellenistic lamp/s:	hellenisztikus mécses / hellenisztikus mécsesek
Roman lamp/s:	római mécses / római mécsesek
Late Roman lamp/s:	késő római mécses / késő római mécsesek
Byzantine lamp/s:	bizánci mécses / bizánci mécsesek

Slovenian:

Lamp (s):	Svetilka/oljenka (sg.); svetilke/oljenke (pl.)
Clay lamps:	Keramične/lončene svetilke
Bronze lamps:	Bronaste svetilke
Greek lamp/s:	grška svetilka / grške svetilke
Hellenistic lamp/s:	helenistična svetilka / helenistične svetilke
Roman lamp/s:	rimska svetilka / rimske svetilke
Late Roman lamp/s:	pozno rimska svetilka / pozno rimske svetilke
Byzantine lamp/s:	bizantinska svetilka / bizantinske svetilke

Croatian:

Lamp (s):	Svjetiljka (sg.); svjetiljke (pl.)
Clay lamps:	Keramičke svjetiljke
Bronze lamps:	Brončane svjetiljke
Greek lamp/s:	grčka svjetiljka / grčke svjetiljke
Hellenistic lamp/s:	helenistička svjetiljka / helenističke svjetiljke
Roman lamp/s:	rimska svjetiljka / rimske svjetiljke
Late Roman lamp/s:	kasno rimska svjetiljka / kasno rimske svjetiljke
Byzantine lamp/s:	bizantinska svjetiljka / bizantinske svjetiljke

Serbian:

Lamp (s):	Светиљка (sg.); Светиљке (pl.)
Clay lamps:	керамичке светиљке
Bronze lamps:	бронзане светиљке
Greek lamp/s:	грчка светиљка / грчке светиљке
Hellenistic lamp/s:	хеленистичка светиљка / хеленистичке светиљке
Roman lamp/s:	римска светиљка / римске светиљке
Late Roman lamp/s:	касно римска светиљка / касно римске светиљке
Byzantine lamp/s:	византијска светиљка / византијске светиљке

Albanian:	
Lamp (s):	kandil/llambë vaji (sg.); kandila/llamba vaji (pl.)
Clay lamps:	kandila prej argjile
Bronze lamps:	kandila prej bronzi
Greek lamp/s:	kandil grek / kandila grekë
Hellenistic lamp/s:	kandil helenistik / kandila helenistikë
Roman lamp/s:	kandil romak / kandila romakë
Late Roman lamp/s:	kandil i vonë romak / kandila të vonë romakë
Byzantine lamp/s:	kandil bizantin / kandila bizantinë
Greek:	
Lamp (s):	λύχνος (sg.); λύχνοι (pl.). Also λυχνάρι (sg.) λυχνάρια (pl.)
Clay lamps:	πήλινος λύχνος (sg.) πήλινοι λύχνοι (pl.). Also πήλινο λυχνάρι (sg.) πήλινα λυχνάρια (pl.)
Bronze lamps:	μπρούντζινος λύχνος or χάλκινος λύχνος (sg.) μπρούντζινοι λύχνοι or χάλκινοι λύχνοι (pl.). Also μπρούντζινο λυχνάρι or χάλκινο λυχνάρι (sg.) μπρούντζινα λυχνάρια or χάλκινα λυχνάρια (pl.)
Greek lamp/s:	ελληνικός λύχνος (sg.) ελληνικοί λύχνοι (pl.). Also ελληνικό λυχνάρι (sg.) ελληνικά λυχνάρια (pl.)
Hellenistic lamp/s:	ελληνιστικός λύχνος (sg.) ελληνιστικοί λύχνοι (pl.). Also ελληνιστικό λυχνάρι (sg.) ελληνιστικά λυχνάρια (pl.)
Roman lamp/s:	ρωμαϊκός λύχνος (sg.) ρωμαϊκοί λύχνοι (pl.). Also ρωμαϊκό λυχνάρι (sg.) ρωμαϊκά λυχνάρια (pl.)
Late Roman lamp/s:	ύστερος ρωμαϊκός λύχνος (sg.) ύστεροι ρωμαϊκοί λύχνοι (pl.). Also ύστερο ρωμαϊκό λυχνάρι (sg.) ύστερα ρωμαϊκά λυχνάρια (pl.)
Byzantine lamp/s:	βυζαντινό λυχνάρι (sg.) βυζαντινά λυχνάρια (pl.)
Turkish:	
Lamp (s):	kandil (sg.); kandiller (pl.)
Clay lamp/s:	Pişmiş toprak kandil / Pişmiş toprak kandiller
Bronze lamp/s:	Bronz kandil / Bronz kandiller
Greek lamp/s:	Antik Yunan Dönemi kandil / Antik Yunan Dönemi kandilleri
Hellenistic lamp/s:	Hellenistik Dönem kandil / Hellenistik Dönem kandilleri
Roman lamp/s:	Roma Dönemi kandil / Roma Dönemi kandilleri
Late Roman lamp/s:	Geç Roma Dönemi kandil / Geç Roma Dönemi kandilleri
Byzantine lamp/s:	Bizans Dönemi kandil / Bizans Dönemi kandilleri

Bulgarian:

Lamp (s):	лампа (sg.); лампи (pl.)
Clay lamp/s:	глинена лампа / глинени лампи
Bronze lamp/s:	бронзова лампа / бронзови лампи
Greek lamp/s:	гръцка лампа/гръцки лампи
Hellenistic lamp/s:	лампа от елинистическата епоха / лампи от елинистическата епоха
Roman lamp/s:	римска лампа / римски лампи Also лампа от римската епоха / лампи от римската епоха
Late Roman lamp/s:	късноримска лампа / късноримски лампи
Byzantine lamp/s:	византийска лампа / византийски лампи Also лампа от византийската епоха / лампи от византийската епоха

Romanian:

Lamp (s):	opaiț (sg.); opaițe (pl.) / lampă (sg.); lămpi (pl.)
Clay lamps:	opaiț / lampă de lut; opaițe / lămpi de lut
Bronze lamps:	opaiț / lampă de bronz; opaițe / lămpi de bronz
Greek lamp/s:	opaiț grecesc / opaițe grecești
Hellenistic lamp/s:	opaiț elenistic / opaițe elenistice
Roman lamp/s:	opaiț roman / opaițe romane
Late Roman lamp/s:	opaiț roman târziu / opaițe romane târzii
Byzantine lamp/s:	opaiț bizantin / opaițe bizantine

Ukrainian:

Lamp (s):	світильник (sg.) світильники (pl.)
Clay lamps:	Керамічний світильник / Керамічні світильники
Bronze lamps:	бронзовий світильник / бронзові світильники
Greek lamp/s:	Грецький світильник / Грецькі світильники
Hellenistic lamp/s:	Елліністичний світильник / Елліністичні світильники
Roman lamp/s:	Римський світильник / Римські світильники
Late Roman lamp/s:	Пізній Римський світильник / Пізні римські світильники
Byzantine lamp/s:	Візантійський світильник / Візантійські світильники

Russian:

Lamp (s):	светильник (sg.); светильники (pl.)
Clay lamps:	глиняные светильники
Bronze lamps:	бронзовые светильники
Greek lamp/s:	греческий светильник / греческие светильники
Hellenistic lamp/s:	эллинистический светильник / эллинистические светильники
Roman lamp/s:	римский светильник / римские светильники
Late Roman lamp/s:	позднеримский светильник / позднеримские светильники
Byzantine lamp/s:	византийский светильник / византийские светильники

Arabic:	
Lamp (s):	سراج (sg.); سُرُج (pl.)
Clay lamps:	سُرُج فَخَّارِيَّة (literally سُرُج طِينِيَّة, but this is not a common term)
Bronze lamps:	برونزيَّة سُرُج
Greek lamp/s:	يُونَانِيَّة سُرُج / يُونَان سُرُج
Hellenistic lamp/s:	هَلَنَسْتِيَّة سُرُج / هَلَنَسْتِي سُرُج
Roman lamp/s:	رُومَانِيَّة سُرُج / رُومَان سُرُج
Late Roman lamp/s:	مَتَأَخَّرَة رُومَانِيَّة سُرُج / مَتَأَخَّر رُومَان سُرُج
Byzantine lamp/s:	بِيْرَنْطِيَّة سُرُج / بِيْرَنْطِي سُرُج
Hebrew :	
Lamp:	רנ (sg.), תורנ (pl.)
Clay lamps:	סרחה תורנ
Bronze lamps:	הזנורב תורנ
Greek lamp/s:	מיינווי תורנ / ינווי רנ
Hellenistic lamp/s:	מייטסינלה תורנ / יטסינלה רנ
Roman lamp/s:	מיימור תורנ / ימור רנ
Late Roman lamp/s:	מירחואמ מיימור תורנ / רחואמ ימור רנ
See also:	תרחואמה תימורה הפוקתהמ רנ
Byzantine lamp/s:	מייטנזיב תורנ / יטנזיב רנ

Notes

¹ Hayes 1992, 80–90.

² Тончева 1953, 81–88.

³ Curta 2016.

⁴ Curta 2016, 104 f.

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Figs. 1–4: Laurent Chrzanovski.

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