

**REVISTA DOCTORANZILOR ÎN
ISTORIE VECHĂ ȘI ARHEOLOGIE**

ReDIVA

**THE POSTGRADUATE JOURNAL
OF ANCIENT HISTORY AND
ARCHAEOLOGY**

II/2014

**CLUJ-NAPOCA
2014**

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Rada Varga, *The Peregrini of Roman Dacia (106-212)*, Mega Publishing House, Cluj-Napoca, 2014, English translation by Cosmin Mihail Coatu, 168 pages, ISBN 978-606-543-404-2.

The book *The Peregrini of Roman Dacia* represents the doctoral research thesis of Rada Varga, defended in 2012 (summa cum laude). The author is currently assistant researcher at the Center for Roman Studies, “Babeş-Bolyai” University, Cluj-Napoca. Her main fields of interest include classic studies, cultural research studies and archaeological research.

The book contains a Foreword (p. 7) signed by the author, the main body is divided into 8 chapters (pp. 9-117), followed by the onomastic catalogue (pp. 117-139), supplementum epigraphicum (pp. 139-153), abbreviations (pp. 153-155) and bibliography (pp. 155-168).

The first chapter of the book (pp. 9-11), entitled *Historiographical and Methodological Coordinates*, presents the historiography of this subject as well as the author’s research methodology. The reader is advised that no single monograph concerning the *peregrini* from Dacia was written before by other researchers, the subject being however briefly touched upon in various articles and studies published over the course of the years.

The second chapter (pp. 13-45) is entitled *The Peregrine status*. The chapter starts by discussing the Roman citizenship. Next the author presents the main Roman legal sources concerning the *peregrini*: Gaius’s *Institutiones* and Domitius Ulpianus’s *Liber Singularis Regularum*, laws connected with their status and rights - *Tabula Heracleensis*, *Lex Iulia Municipalis*, *Lex Aelia Sentia*, *Lex Ursonensis*, *Lex Salpensana*, *Lex Iritana*, *Lex Malacitana*, *Lex Calpurnia*, *Lex Rubria*, *Lex provinciae* - and last but not least *Caracalla’s Constitutio Antoniniana*. The chapter offers information about the status of peregrines and the rights they could enjoy in Roman society.

The third chapter of the book (pp. 47-58) entitled *Population Studies and Epigraphic Representativeness*, discusses the importance of demographic studies for the Roman Empire and how epigraphic representativeness can help in shaping demographic models. We are

cautioned however that the author did not rely solely on epigraphy as the basis for the research but that archaeological research had to be combined with epigraphy in order to obtain a viable picture. The author also discusses some examples of demographic studies conducted for Britannia, Hispania and Rome.

The fifth chapter presents an *Overview of the Peregrines from Dacia* (pp. 59-86). The author uses epigraphic information in order to highlight this category of persons. The peregrines form a group that is "by excellence multifarious, including soldiers from the auxiliary troops, the miners from Alburnus, the many peregrines from the rural environment [...] the urban peregrines." The author highlights the peregrine epigraphic element, mostly observed around military element and in rural settlements but at the same time very timid in the urban environment. The situation from some of the Roman cities from the province is analyzed in terms of percentages of Roman, peregrine respectively slave population: Apulum, Sarmizegetusa, Porolissum, Arcobadara, Gherla and Alburnus Maior. The lowest percentages of peregrines are encountered at Apulum and Sarmizegetusa while the highest are at Alburnus Maior and Gherla. R. Varga used onomastics in order to determine the ethnic origin of these peregrines reaching the following order: Roman - most of them -, Illyrian, Greek, Celtic, Thracian, Semitic and finally Dacian origin - less than 1%.

Following this the focus shifts to the *Military peregrines* - chapter 5 of the book (pp. 87-98). Again the author uses onomastics in order to determine the ethnic origin of these military peregrines and reaches the following order: Roman - most of them -, Thracian, Celtic, Semitic, Illyrian, Greek, Germanic, Iranian and finally Dacian origin. It is noted the peculiar character of the disproportion between the names of soldiers and the names of other characters from the military environment but it might be the result of hazard as the author specifies. Next the gods of these peregrines are analyzed. The conclusion is that the official gods of Rome are worshipped; the military gods and Oriental cults encountered in the votive inscriptions are simply a personal choice and means of expression of the dedicant.

We now reach the presentation of the *Peregrine communities* – chapter 6 (pp. 99-113). As previously stated the largest peregrine community is encountered at Alburnus Maior so the author chose this for a case study. The author analyses the ethnic origin of the peregrines, the family relations that existed between them and the gods worshipped here. The information she uses comes from wax tablets, votive and funerary monuments and military diplomas.

The *Conclusions* (pp. 115-116) form chapter 7 of the book. To quote the author “two aspects seem fundamental: who were the attested *peregrini* and which was their place within the provincial society.” The *peregrini* seem to be defined by the lack of certain rights but still they manage to “find various means of integration and make use of multiple means of expression that indicate their enormous cultural plurality.” R. Varga also mentions here perhaps the only drawback of this monograph: what were the changes brought about by the *Constitutio Antoniniana* in Dacia?

The catalogue of epigraphic names (pp. 117-137) contains 398 entries and presents systematically the character, the origin of the name, the filiation, the military troop, his status and relations, what deities he worshipped, the type of the inscription, other relevant information, the place of discovery and the number in the Supplementum Epigraphicum. The Supplementum Epigraphicum (pp. 139-152) contains a number of 269 inscriptions along with the necessary bibliography for each of them. The book contains a total number of 13 graphs that the author uses to present information synthetically.

The present book marks a new chapter in the research of the *peregrini* from Dacia and is a must for any researcher who wishes to tackle the social history of this province or of the Roman Empire in general.

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