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Ioan Piso, Viorica Rusu-Bolindeț, Rada Varga, Silvia Mustăță, Eugenia Beu-Dachin, Ligia Ruscu (eds.), Scripta Classica. Radu Ardevan sexagenario dedicata, Mega Publishing House, Cluj-Napoca, 2011, 494 pages, ISBN 978-606-543-196-6.

This volume is dedicated to Professor Radu Ardevan, a prominent specialist in Roman history, epigraphy and numismatic from the “Babes-Bolyai” University of Cluj-Napoca, in celebration of his 60 years. It brings together 53 contributions in the field of history, archaeology, epigraphy, numismatics and philology, authored by Professor’s colleagues and disciples from Romania, Italy, Germany, Spain, Hungary and Austria. The monumental volume was printed at high-quality standards by Mega Publishing House from Cluj-Napoca. It is prefaced by Ioan Piso (*Laurum lauro digno*, p. 11-12) and Livio Zerbini (*Amicitiae memor*, p. 13-14), two of the closest collaborators and friends of the celebrated. A *tabula gratulatoria* (p. 15-16) and a thoroughgoing list of Radu Ardevan’s publications (p. 17-24) also preface the book.

The scientific contributions were ranged by the editors in three categories: 1. *Archaeological Studies* (p. 31-192), 2. *Epigraphical and Historical Studies* (p. 195-443) and 3. *Numismatic Studies* (p. 447-493). Within each category, the items are arranged alphabetically by the authors’ name, although some exceptions from this convention can be seen in the last two categories. However, I will present the contributions by chronological and geographical criteria.

Two contributions concern the Pre-Roman period: one about the Sarmatic environment and another about the Dacians from the east of the Carpathians. The first one, authored by Vitalie Bărcă, deals with the „Sarmatian” bronze cauldrons from the current territory of Ukraine, the Republic of Moldova and Romania, dating back to the Early and Mid Sarmatian periods (2nd century BC-2nd century AD) (“Sarmatian” bronze cauldrons in the Sarmatian environment between Don River and the Carpathians, p. 41-50). The second one presents a hoard containing twenty-one Roman *denarii* accidentally found in Buda (Vrancea County) near a settlement belonging to the La Tène period, in the eastern part of Dacia (Virgil Mihăilescu-Bârliba, *New data concerning the hoard of Roman denarii from Buda*, p. 475-480).

As expected, most contributions refer to Roman Dacia.

Livio Zerbini offers a panoramic view of the Roman cities of Dacia taking into account a set of aspects for a better understanding of their specificities in regard to the neighbouring Danubian provinces (*Una panoramica sulle città romane della Dacia e del bacino danubio*, p. 403-409). Ioan Piso retakes into discussion five of nine military milestones discovered in Dacia (those of Mera, Almaşu Mare, Micia, Lăpuşnicel and Sucidava), bringing some corrections (*Note sur cinq bornes milliaires de Dacie*, p. 321-330).

Four papers deal with Apulum. The first of them, authored by George Bounegru, is dealing with the demarcation and chronology of the Roman cemeteries from Apulum. The author shows that there have been identified three (or maybe four) areas of burials lying along the road that were connecting the two centres to the rest of the Province and he notices that recent research proves the continuation of burials in this area even after the Roman administrative withdrawal (*Demarcation and chronology of the Roman cemeteries from Apulum*, p. 79-87). Also related to the funerary context is the numismatic contribution of Constantin Inel who provides a detailed analysis of some numismatic pieces from the Roman necropolis from Apulum „Stadion”, offering complex data that may be utilised in future comparative studies for the phenomenon of placing coins in graves of the Roman period – habit that will be taken over and maintained in Christianity (*Coins within the funerary context of the Roman necropolis from Apulum “Stadion”*, p. 465-474). The third paper focuses on the presence of the “Ringschnallencingulum” type belts at Apulum, both in burials or as isolated items and on sculptural representations, dated in the 3rd century AD. The author shows that this is the greatest concentration of this belt type not only in Dacia, but also possibly among the other provinces of the Empire (Daniela Ciugudean, *“Ringschnallencingulum”-type belts from Apulum*, p. 99-113). Another paper is about three votive statuettes that come from the old collection of the National Museum of the Union, Alba-Iulia, representing the goddesses Minerva, Venus and an unidentified deity (Radu Ota, *From beauty to wisdom: votive statues of Venus, Minerva and an unidentified goddess from Apulum*, p. 159-165).

Six other contributions target Potaissa, where the military camp of *Legio V Macedonica* was established. Anca Căţinaş writes about two monuments from Potaissa with funerary representations – a *stela* with an inscription and a fragment of *aedicula*, dating from the middle and the second half of the 2nd Century AD (*Représentations de la scène du festin funéraire sur les monuments de Potaissa*, p. 89-98). Another funerary monument from Potaissa, built for Aurelius Iulianus by his sons, was subsequently reused as building material for the Roman Church of Turda (Mihai Săsărman, *Eine neue Grabinschrift aus Potaissa*, p. 361-364). Florin Fodorean’s paper provides a statement regarding the importance of Potaissa in the development of the road infrastructure and the economy and military strategy of Roman Dacia (*Landscape of Roman Dacia. Potaissa*, p. 121-133). An interesting history of the epigraphic research regarding Potaissa is presented by Mihai Bărbulescu, who gives a review of the collection, publishing and interpretation activities of inscriptions from the 16th century until the present day (*History of epigraphic research regarding Potaissa*, p. 221-230). Another paper is about the wasters from the Roman pottery workshops at Potaissa, the author noticing that the main concern of the craftsmen was the quality of the artefacts and the workshop’s status (Mariana Pâslaru, *Wasters from roman pottery workshops at Potaissa*, p. 167-182). Romeo Cîrjan discusses the juridical status of Potaissa in the times of Septimius Severus and Caracalla, questioning the simultaneous mentions of *Ilviri* and *IVviri* and discussing the plausibility of a constitutional „transition” and possible analogies with the urban development of Lauriacum (Noricum) (*Le statut juridique de Potaissa sous Septime Sévère et Caracalla*, p. 239-245).

Two papers present small finds from Porolissum: one of them is about 17 items of decorated glass recently found in the excavations at the building C3, in the auxiliary camp, dated in the 3rd century AD and considered as imports due to their decorations (Constanze Höpken, Szilamér Péter Pánczél, *Verzierte Importgläser aus Porolissum. Neufunde aus Gebäude C3*, p. 135-140); another one deals with a Roman panther-shaped bronze handle and focuses on the similarities with the same type of vessel handle discovered at Nijmegen, assuming that they could even be the products of the same provincial workshop (Silvia Mustaţă, *A Roman panther-shaped*

bronze vessel handle from Porolissum, p. 141-149). Emanoil Pripon brings into the scientific circuit an *aureus* issued by Trajan, found in 1998 on the imperial road from *Porolissum* to *Certiae* (Romita) (*An aureus discovered at Jac (Sălaj County, Romania)*, p. 491-493). Sara Faccini examines, through epigraphic evidences, the spiritual manifestations of soldiers from the auxiliary cavalry units in Dacia Porolissensis (*ala II Gallorum et Pannoniorum, Ala Siliiana c. R. and Ala I Tungrorum Frontoniana*) and notices a substantial conformism of the soldiers that used to obey to the official religion of the State and too little to intimate believes (*Le iscrizioni a carattere religioso presso i campi d'Ala della Dacia Porolissensis*, p. 275-281).

Two articles deal with Ilișua: one based on the recent numismatic monograph of *Arcobadara-Ilișua* pointing out the tricks of numismatic evidences (Cristian Găzdac, Corneliu Gaiu, Agnes Alföldy-Găzdac, *Die Fallstricke der numismatischen Zeugnisse. Das Auxiliarkastell von Arcobadara (Ilișua, Kreis Bistrița-Năsăud, Rumänien)*, p. 459-464), and another one about eight fragments coming from two military diplomas found in 1991 in the camp of *ala I Tungrorum Frontoniana* (Dumitru Protase, *Fragmente zweier Römischer Militärdiplome aus Dacia Porolissensis*, p. 331-337). From the fort at Gilău comes a lamp produced in Italy, with interesting symbols on its underside – namely an anchor and a palm branch –, used on a large scale on the epitaphs of the catacombs (Felix Marcu, *Spes in Deo*, p. 299-305).

Another paper concerns the settlements of veterans after their discharge and their evolution in the last century of the Republic and the first two centuries of the Empire, with special regard to *Colonia Ulpia Traiana Augusta Dacica Sarmizgetusa*, arguing in favour of the urban origin of the settlement, relaying on epigraphic and topographical data (George Cupcea, *Veteran settlement and Colonia Ulpia Traiana Sarmizegetusa*, p. 247-255).

Eastern Dacia is referred to in a contribution that reopens the file of a construction inscription found in the Roman fort at Boroșneul Mare and also proposes a new reading for a tile stamp found inside the fort, concluding that *ala I Latobicorum* had built the fort at the beginning of Hadrian's reign (AD 119-120), having been moved in another province soon after (Coriolan Horațiu Opreanu, *The building inscription of the fort at Boroșneul Mare (Covasna County)*, p. 339-344).

The book also includes six contributions regarding the Lower Danube area. Dorel Bondoc brings forward a new type of bronze representation of Mercurius, namely bust representations, and identifies nine such pieces at the Lower Danube, used as weights of balance or decorative elements of chariots, utilities connected to the god of trade and transport (*Bust representations in bronze of the god Mercurius at the Lower Danube*, p. 71-77). Dan Elefterescu writes about three clay moulds used for casting ornamental bronze buttons, from Durostorum (Ostrov), a Roman settlement known for its handcraft character (*A mould for casting ornamental bronze buttons discovered at Durostorum (Ostrov)*, p. 115-120). Another paper presents two enamelled finds from Troesmis, representing a rare category among the North Dobruja findings, namely a brooch and a seal-box lid, the first one dating from the mid 1st century to the end of the 2nd century AD and the second one from the 1st-3rd centuries AD (George Nuțu, Mihaela Iacob, Natalia Midvichi, *Two enamelled finds from Troesmis (Moesia Inferior)*, p. 151-157). From Oescus came Titus Flavius Valentinus, a knight mentioned in an inscription as patron of the *collegia fabrum* of both his own city and the *colonia Apulum* (Ligia Ruscu, *About T. Flavius Valentinus of Oescus*, p. 345-349). From Capidava comes an assemblage of 115 antler pieces discovered during half of century of excavations and originating in the Late Antiquity and Middle Byzantine period (Corneliu Beldiman, Diana-Maria Sztancs, Ioan Carol Opriș, *Data about antler objects from Capidava*, p. 51-70). Florian Matei-Popescu presents a Greek inscription from the epigraphic collection of the National Museum of Antiquities, probably found at Tomis and brought to Bucharest at the end of the 19th century or at the beginning of the 20th century, a possible votive altar or a statue base, raised by Sedatios Apollonios, already attested in Tomis by another inscription as *praefectus alae Gaetulorum veteranae* (*A Greek inscription from Tomis MNA L 419*), p. 307-310).

Some papers deal with topics in the field of the social and military history of Roman Dacia. Alexandru Dudău writes about the cult of *Genii* in the rural communities of Dacia, based on some inscriptions from Aquae and Micia, noting that they followed a conceptual model similar to the one from the West Roman provinces (*Les communautés rurales de la Dacie Romaine et leur génies. Quelques inscriptions de Aquae et Micia*, p. 267-273). Rada Varga writes about the Latin "citizenship",

the individual rights of the inhabitants of Latin communities (*Cives romani latinive cives?*, p. 379-385). Monica Dragostin proposes a review of epigraphic evidence regarding the distribution of tribes in Dacia and finds that, if citizens of the Antonine colonies are usually enrolled in the tribes *Papiria* and *Sergia*, the immigrants keep in most cases the tribe of their city of origin; a special attention is paid to the tribe *Collina*, always associated with Orientals (*Les tribus Romains en Dacie*, p. 257-265). Ovidiu Țentea writes about the first records of Palmyrenes within the Roman army, namely the *constitutions* of the province Dacia Superior from 120 and 126 (*Some remarks on palmyreni sagitarii*, p. 371-377). Atalia Ștefănescu-Onițiu discusses the options of the Roman soldiers concerning their heirs, noticing that it goes more often to comrades, less often to family members and quite often to freedmen, especially the legionnaire centurions (*Social relations in Roman Dacia (I). Heirs*, p. 365-369).

A few contributions focus on particular epigraphic topics. Antonio Sartori deals with the blank spaces in Latin inscriptions that have a value of emphasis or scan (*Vacuum loquitur*, p. 351-360). Alexandru Avram offers the first part of his study about the inscriptions on Greek sling projectiles (*Marginalien zu griechisch beschrifteten Schleudergeschossen (I)*, p. 195-199). Bogdan Muscalu brings attention to the enigmatic character Lucius Caesenius Sospes based on three inscriptions and the theories enunciated by historians so far regarding the subject (*L. Caesenius Sospes, an "Amicus Domitiani"?*, p. 311-319). Javier Velaza discusses the inscription CIL II 3228 containing an epigraphic *hapax*, a Greek word equivalent to the Latin *basis* (*Signum argenteum cum bomo: los porblemas de un hápax epigráfico*, p. 387-391). The "wandering stones" is the subject of a paper that analyses a number of Roman epigraphic monuments reused in the construction of altar tables in some Romanian churches, attempting to answer questions related to the reception of old found objects in the traditional society, the specific mythology created around such objects and how these Roman monuments were ritually deposited in the most sacred area of churches (Irina Nemeti, Sorin Nemeti, *In ecclesia pro ora. On Roman "wandering stones" from Romanian churches*, p. 435-444).

Two numismatic contributions, in addition to those mentioned so far, are due to Mihai Munteanu and Andreea Drăgan. The first

one discusses the reason which determined Traianus Decius to issue the series of consecratio *antoniniani* at the middle of the 3rd century AD, showing that it is likely that these pieces represent a last echo of the celebration of 1000 years of Rome (*A study on consecratio coins issued at middle of the 3rd century AD*, p. 481-489). The second one aims to identify how monetary circulation relates to administrative structures, juridical and economic site categories of the Roman Empire, respectively urban and rural sites and those involved in production and commercial activities, during the 3rd century AD (*Monetary circulation in urban and rural contexts of Roman Dacia in the 3rd century AD. General and specific patterns*, p. 447-458).

There are also papers referring to other Roman provinces. Géza Alföldy offers a contribution about a funerary inscription from Aquincum (CIL III 1509) that has been read unsatisfactory until now; the author recomposes the text and reads the name of a Gallic nobleman, Albius Aemilius Maximus Conconnibitus Pollio, dated in the first half of the 2nd century AD (*Ein gallischer Adliger in Aquincum*, p. 211-219). Giulia Baratta does an iconographical and epigraphic analysis of a gravestone from Rome, belonging to a certain Eutropos, a *marmorarius* represented by himself on his own gravestone, but identified in the same time as buried in a catacomb, thus having a “double grave” (*Il paradosso di Eutropos: sull’inconografia di ICVR VI 17225*, p. 31-40). The subject of Gian Luca Gregori’s paper is the Brescian senator M. Nonius Macrinus (cos. 154 AD) who had held two military tribunates – the first one in the legion VII *Gemina* and the second one in the legion XVI *Flavia Firma*; confronting the inscription dedicated to him in Brescia with the one from Ephesus, during his consulate in Asia, the author suggests that the second tribunate was held in the legion X *Fretense* or X *Gemina* (*A proposito dei due tribunati militari del senatore bresciano Marco Nonio Macrino*, p. 283-287). The interpretation and the “styled” presentation of the Roman fort *Abusina-Eining* at the Danube, in Raetia, from the point of view of a heritage manager is the subject of C. Sebastian Sommer’s paper (*Abusina-Eining an der Donau – archäologische Quelle, römische Ruine, denkmalpflegersiches Problem, Ort der Vertmillung?* p. 183-192).

The philological area is represented by two papers occasioned by readings from Tacitus: Carmen Fenechiu discusses the manner in which dreams are recorded in the *Annals* of Tacitus, exploring

the five dream narrations and trying to define their place and role in the context of this literary work (*Narrating dreams in Annals*, p. 201-206), and Marc Mayer y Olivé analyses a passage from the *Histories* of Tacitus that provides information about the payment of the praetorians under Emperor Galba and before Domitian's pay raise (*Sobre Tácito, Historias, 1, 24, y la posible remuneración de los pretorianos*, p. 207-210).

Two papers are related to the Late Roman Empire. Lietta de Salvo discusses the contribution of Themistius to the achievement of the supremacy of Constantinople as a New Rome (*Nea Rome*), especially under the emperor Theodosius (*Constantinopoli città sovrana nella visione di Temistio*, p. 411-418). About the same Themistius and his discourse celebrating the singularity and the superiority of the non-hereditary Principate of Valentiniani writes Nelu Zugravu (*La diarchia dei fratelli nella tarda antichità: modelli mitici e storici: i diarchi valentiniani*, p. 419-423).

Juan Ramón Carbó García closes this historical journey dedicated to Professor Ardevan by drawing attention to the funerary inscription of the Grand Master of the Order of Malta, Jean Parisot de la Valette, who led the defence during the great Turkish siege of 1565 and in which the Turk enemies are surprisingly called *Getae* ("Per arma Getis". *La inscripción del Gran Maestre de la Valette en Malta y la identificación entre los turcos y getas en el siglo XVI*, p. 425-434).

These 53 contributions compound a fascinating fresco of large areas and different disciplines of ancient history, illustrating both the interests of the honoured Professor and the number of specialists who appreciate, love and pay homage to him. Uneven in approach, extent or depth, the studies reflect the authors' experience and ages, but all together compose a great gift for one of the most brilliant and beloved teachers of the "Babeş-Bolyai" University of Cluj-Napoca, Professor Radu Ardevan.

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