

AD FINEM IMPERII ROMANI! Studies in Honour of Coriolan H. Opreanu, editors: Cociș, S./ Lăzărescu, V.-A./ Gui, M./ Deac D.-A., Cluj-Napoca: Mega Publishing House, 2015, 390 pp. ISBN 9786065436008.

The present and impressive volume of studies is dedicated to Deputy Director of the Institute of Archaeology and Art History of the Romanian Academy from Cluj-Napoca, Romania.

The opportunity to have such a volume edited is always an excellent occasion to gather together both the scientific activity of the honoured person and the new works in the same field or adjacent ones of research.

The list of publications of C.H. Opreanu contains 128 works which indicate a wide area of research from the analysis on archaeological and material evidence to synthesis on very important aspects on the Roman History of Dacia and the post-Roman period.

Noticing the important contributions by C.H. Opreanu to the history of Romania, the works of contributors to this volume must have come at the same level of scientific level.

The first remark on this volume is that following the diversity of topics the editors have decided to organize the contents in alphabetical order of authors.

In order to have a better view on the scientific profile of this volume I am presenting the studies according to their main chronological segments.

Prehistory is represented by the study of F. Drașoveanu – *The Transition from the Neolithic to the Copper Age in Banat. Tradition and Innovation* (pp. 129-143) – on the transition period from the Neolithic to the Copper Age in Banat. The author is reconsidering the previous works in Romanian historiography on the chronology of this topic.

S.A. Luca – *Istoria unei comunități din primul val de neolitizare a teritoriului Transilvaniei* [*The History of one community from the first Neolithic wave in Transylvania*] (pp. 239-273) – produces an impressive synthesis work on the history of a community from the Starčevo-Criș Culture located on the Orăștie-Sibiu motorway itinerary.

Roman period represents the strongest section of this volume.

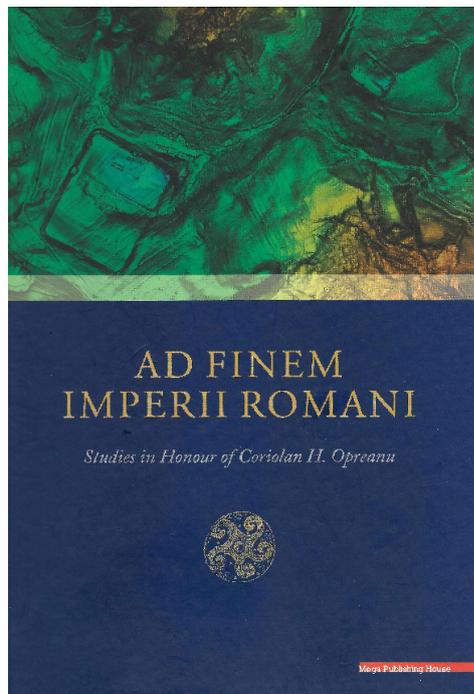
After the *laudatio* papers the first article by D. Aparaschivei – *Some remarks concerning the rural vici and their administration in Moesia Inferior Province* (pp. 27-43) – is a detailed approach on establishing general and specific patterns on the rural settlements from the province of Moesia Inferior.

S. Ardeleanu's work – *Reconstruction proposal for the Roman houses C1 and C2 in Deleu Street, Cluj-Napoca* (pp. 45-63) – on the reconstruction proposal of Roman dwellings is another well-documented study that analyses not only the architecture and the functionality of rooms but also the archaeological context in order to identify the phases of these dwellings. The reconstructions drawings bring a plus to these studies. Colorful plates for reconstructions and the wall painting fragments would be a great advantage for the reader.

R. Ardevan comes with a very concise and amateurish study on the size (two pages of text, two pages of references) of *collegia* in Roman Dacia, an

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old research topic of the author, in which the archaeological evidence on the ground by such edifices are an occasion to speculate on how many people could have been hosted inside – *On the size of collegia and associations in Roman Dacia* (pp. 65-70).

M. Dawson study on the peri-urban settlement from Roman Dacia is a magisterially example of a detailed analysis and synthesis of a topic. The author proves to be an excellent connoisseur on the Romanian historiography on this topic. Starting from the old Romanian bibliography on the topic, M. Dawson reveal the connection between the image of Roman urban life in Dacia written under the communist influence and pressure on historical writings. After the scholar establish general and specific patterns of urban development in Dacia and other provinces, his main conclusion is to establish the ‘duality between western style organisation and hierarchy and eastern practice’ – *Peri-urban settlement and Roman Dacia* (pp. 85-99).

The *grafitti* evidence from *Dacia Porolissensis* is presented and illustrated by D.-A. Deac – *Graffiti aus Dacia Porolissensis (I)* (pp. 101-106).

F.-Gh. Fodorean – *Landscape archaeology in Dacia. Mapping the Roman discoveries along the road Apulum-Brucla* (pp. 167-174) – contributes to this volume with a brief study on the Roman settlement discoveries from the segment of the former imperial road Apulum-Brucla. The methodological approach allowed the author to establish four categories of discoveries: archaeological evidence of structures and material; funerary discoveries; epigraphic and sculptural monuments; monetary discoveries.

Based on material and sculptural evidence, M. Gui presents in an attractive and scientific way the functionality of Ringschnallengulum in Dacia – *How to wear the Ringschnallengulum in Dacia* (pp. 175-189).

The study by Z. Mari on the Trajan’s villa from Arcinazzo (Italy) is an excellent synthesis on the recent excavations at this fascinating archaeological findspot – *La villa di Traiano ad Arcinazzo Romano alla luce delle recenti ricerche* (pp. 275-296).

Another study that discussed the functionality and chronology of a Roman artefact is the one written by S. Mustață and S. Cociș on a Roman bronze basin discovered at the Roman site of Micia (nowadays, Vețel, Hunedoara County, Romania) – *A Roman bronze basin found at Micia (Mintia, Vețel Commune, Hunedoara County)* (pp. 301-310).

The Late Roman Empire period is a topic of the study by M. Olędzki, A. Dubicki, – *The lower Danube in the propaganda of Constantine the Great* (pp. 315-322). The authors demonstrate through the numismatic evidence that the concern of the Empire for the Lower Danube territories is pointed out on the monetary military types.

The study by C. Onofrei and D. Blaga – *Some issues regarding the identification of ancient Romula with the urban ghost Malva* (pp. 323-330) – raised a methodological aspect. Based on epigraphic evidence and military diploma the two scholars proved that the long-term debated issue on the possibility to identify the Roman town of Romula with Malva it is far from being settled.

On the same methodological line, can be framed the article by C. Radu and B. Kelemen – *Estimating stature for*

*archaeological human remains. A methodological review* (pp. 331-338) – which reviews the main criteria on establishing stature based on Human bone remains.

L. Ruscu study on *Das Amt des Protos Archon in Bithynien und Thrakien* (pp. 339-345) is one of the few articles which deals with other parts of the Roman Empire than Dacia as well as it is focused on the onomastic and local tradition in the both provinces.

The territory at the north-west border of Roman Dacia is magisterially analysed by I. Stanciu in his synthesis *Schimbări demografice și culturale pe durata secolelor I-II p.Chr. în spațiul nord-vestic al României [Demographic and cultural transformations during the 1<sup>st</sup>-2<sup>nd</sup> centuries AD in the northwestern part of Romania]* (pp. 347-372). The author demonstrates that from the material evidence point of view during the 1<sup>st</sup>-2<sup>nd</sup> centuries AD this territory was inhabited by the bearers of Przeworsk Culture. An evidence, which I. Stanciu clearly points out that it is limited by the absence of ethnic and linguistic information.

Using the opportunity to enlist the Roman frontier of Dacia in the World Heritage Linear Site E.S. Teodor presents in detail the advantages and limits on the various segments of the *limes* in Romania – *A Romanian World Heritage linear site? Unsolved issues* (pp. 373-390).

The early medieval period in Romania is represented by the work of D. Băcuet-Crișan – *Pagans or Christians in the early mediaeval cemetery from Zalău “Valea Răchișorii/Pălvăr”?* (pp. 71-83). The author discusses whether those buried in the ‘Valea Răchișorii’ cemetery (Zalău, Romania) were Christians or heathens. One can easily notice the rich illustrations that follows the demonstration of the author.

A. Dobos’ study on the punched decoration artefacts from Migration Period and early Middle Ages from Transylvanian cemeteries is not a simple catalogue but also a typologic scheme and functional approach – *Notes on artefact with punched decoration discovered in the late row-grave cemeteries in Transylvania* (pp. 107-128). His arguments are strongly supported by high quality illustration.

Chr. Eger – *Guarrazar und seine Bedeutung für eine Archäologie des westgotischen Königiums* (pp. 145-166) – re-discusses the famous Visigoth treasure discovered at Guarrazar, near Toledo, Spain, through the new archaeological evidence following the excavations from 2013.

Zs. Körösfői comes with an exotic subject, that of grave-looting technique in the Sântana de Mureș Culture – *Grave-looting in the Late Roman age cemetery of Sântana de Mureș/Marosszentanna* (pp. 191-209).

An impressive by scientific achievement, demonstration, size, illustration is the team-work of V.-A. Lăzărescu, B. Ciupercă, A. Anton on the case-study about the site of Ciorani (Prahova County, Romania) of the post-Černjachovian horizon – *The post-Černjachovian horizon in Wallachia revisited. A case study for the newly discovered site* (pp. 211-237).

S. Nemeti presents a rare artefact discovered in Transylvania – a brooch of the Udine-Planis type dated in the first half of the 6th century AD – *Une fibule du type Udine-Planis en Transylvanie* (pp. 311-314).

Two engineers, M. Munteanu and V. Țopa, present the benefits for archaeology of the archaeometric measurements

at the Technical University of Cluj-Napoca – *The Archaeometry in the technical University of Clu-Napoca* (pp. 297-300).

Summing up, it can be stated that honoring a prominent figure of nowadays Romanian Archaeology, C.H. Opreanu, this volume gathers studies of various generations of archaeologists and of a large area of research from prehistory to the Middle Age.

