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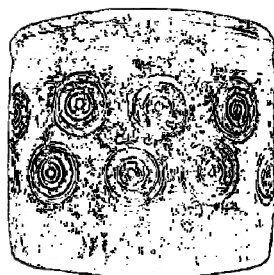
ARHEOVEST

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-IN MEMORIAM LIVIU MĂRUIA-

Interdisciplinaritate în Arheologie și Istorie

Timișoara, 7 decembrie 2013



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JATEPress Kiadó
Szeged
2013

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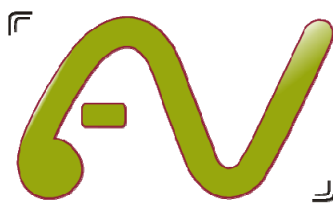
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**Asociația
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Președinte Lorena VLAD

www.arheovest.com

ISBN 978-963-315-152-5 (összes/general)

ISBN 978-963-315-153-2 (Vol. I), ISBN 978-963-315-154-9 (Vol. II)

Responsabilitatea pentru conținutul materialelor revine în totalitate autorilor.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESEARCH IN THE BANAT REGION AT THE END OF THE 19TH CENTURY AND THE BEGINNING OF THE 20TH CENTURY

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Rezumat. Cercetarea de față are ca scop readucerea în lumină a cercetărilor întreprinse în zona Banatului la sfârșitul secolului al XIX-lea și începutul secolului XX. Astfel, am tradus și interpretat istoriografia maghiară din acea perioadă, făcând astfel accesibilă o cantitate mare de informație bibliografică, care era adesea trecută cu vederea (în unele cazuri, din motive lingvistice). Principalul nostru scop a fost de natură istoriografică, nu neapărat analitică, întrucât nu ne-am propus să actualizăm toate datele prezentate și să interpretăm critic toate informațiile; bineînțeles, am racordat cunoștințele secolului al XIX-lea la starea actuală de cunoaștere și cercetare, dar acesta nu a fost scopul în sine al cercetării noastre. Principalele teme pe care am ales să le tratăm sunt: *limes*-ul și fortificațiile identificate sau bănuite, drumurile romane, descoperirile numismatice, monumentele epigrafice, piesele ce țin de cult și/sau arte minore și mineritul. Acestea sunt și părțile lucrării, însă trebuie să afirmăm din start că între ele se va remarca un oarecare dezechilibru – pe de o parte pur informațional, întrucât sursele noastre de bază nu se interesează în mod egal de aceste aspecte și pe de altă parte bibliografic, deoarece nici istoriografia modernă nu a fost în mod egal interesată de variile aspecte atinse în cercetarea noastră. Studiul va furniza și o prezentare generală a *Délmagyarországi Történelmi és Régészeti Társulat (Asociația de Istorie și Arheologie din Ungaria de Sud)* și a membrilor ei proeminenți interesați de cercetarea antichității și de descoperirea arheologică a zonei Banatului. Considerăm contribuția de față ca fiind un valoroasă, întrucât cercetătorul interesat va regăsi în ea informații punctuale privind zona în discuție, dar în același timp ea oferă și o perspectivă istoriografică interesantă asupra începuturilor cercetării arheologice pe teritoriul actual al României.

Cuvinte cheie: istoriografie maghiară, Banat, *limes*, drumuri romane, numismatică, minerit, epigrafie.

1. Introduction

During the late 19th century and the beginning of the 20th century, “History and Archaeology Associations” were founded in a number of counties. Their purpose was to lead the research at county level in organised fashion. They held meetings, founded museums, magazines, and also financed archaeological diggings. Such associations were at Cluj (“*Erdélyi Múzeum Egyesület*”), Deva (“*Hunyadvármegyei Történelmi és Régészeti Társulat*”), Alba (“*Alsó-Fehér-megyei Történelmi*,”

Régészeti és Természettudományi Társulat”), Oradea (“*Biharmegyei Régészeti és Történelmi Egylet*”) etc.

Among the first of such scientific associations, founded in 1872, was “*Délmagyarországi Történelmi és Régészeti Társulat*” (*The History and Archaeology Association of Southern Hungary*)¹, with its headquarters in Timișoara. Ten years later, in 1882, “*Délmagyarországi Történelmi és Régészeti Múzeum-Egylet*” (*The Reunion for History and Archaeology Museums in Southern Hungary*) was founded and, starting with 1885, the two associations, unite into the “*Délmagyarországi Történelmi és Régészeti Múzeum Társulat*” (*The History and Archaeology Museum Association in Southern Hungary*). Its magazine was “*Történelmi és Régészeti Értesítő*”, printed in Timișoara. It had its own museum (established in Timișoara), who’s director was Berkeszi István. The growth in number of artefacts was mainly due to the activities carried on by Ormós Zsigmond senior, Berkeszi István and Böhm Lénárd.

Among the members of the Association at that time, we find: Ormós Zsigmond senior (President of the Association), Ormós Zsigmond junior (Director of the Association), Milleker Bódog, Ortvyar Tivadar, Böhm Lénárd, Orosz Endre, Téglás Gábor, Kalitovich Lőrincz, Pesty Frigyes, Miletz János (secretary, 1876-1879), Pontelly István (secretary, 1880-1887), Patzner István (secretary, 1888-1901), Berkeszi István (secretary, 1902-1918).

The activity of the members was concentrated in the Banat region, which comprised three counties: Caraș-Severin county (*Krassó-Szörény vármegye*, with the capital at Lugoj), Timiș county (*Temes vármegye*, with the capital at Timișoara), and Torontal county (*Torontál vármegye*, with the capital at Becicherecu Mare, today in Serbia). Nowadays, the county of Torontal covers the region of Northern Serbia, Western Romania and Southern Hungary, and the county of Timiș covers the region of South-Western Romania and Northern Serbia.

At that time, the President of the Timișoara Association was Ormós Zsigmond (1813-1894)², prefect (*főispán*) of the Timiș county. He started secondary school at Pecica and later on continued his studies at Timișoara and Szeged, graduating the Law School at Oradea. After having finished his studies, in 1832 he ends up back in Timișoara, working as a jurist. He worked in administration at Re-caș and Buziaș, but he was also a Member of the Parliament of Budapest. After the defeat of the Hungarian Revolution in 1848-'49, he was arrested and imprisoned in Timișoara for 4 years, but was acquitted in 1850. After getting out imprisonment, his activity was focused on political life. Regarding his scientific life, he mainly dealt with art history and archaeology. As a passionate art collector, he established the *Archaeology and History Association of Southern Hungary*. Its collection of documents, paintings, drawings, archaeological artefacts will be the basis of the collection of Museum of Banat, through his testamentary donation in September 18th, 1895.

¹ Bodor, 1996, p. 66-84; Balla, 2007, p. 7-9.

² Bodor, 1996, p. 66-84; Balla, 2007, p. 7-9.

Ortvay Tivadar (1843-1916)³ was a historian, archaeologist, geographer, professor, member of the Timișoara Association. He started his career as a priest (1866-1870), and afterwards he became a professor at the Lugoj secondary school (1870-1872). Between 1875 and 1906, he taught at the Pozsony University and in 1905 he became a member of *Magyar Tudományos Akadémia* (based in Budapest). In 1906 he moved to Budapest indefinitely, where he will focus on the study of history.

Berkeszi István (1853-1922)⁴ was a school professor, writer, culture historian, archaeologist and director of the Association's Museum starting with 1901. He went to secondary school at Berkesz (Hungary), high school at Ungvár (nowadays Ujhorod, Ukraine), university at Budapest, and in 1883 he got a PhD in philosophy. He became a supplementary teacher at the Superior School of Fehértplom (Biserica Albă, Serbia), from where he later returned to Budapest as a high school teacher. In 1888, he was appointed teacher of history and geography at the Real Superior State School of Timișoara, between 1911 and 1919 he was headmaster of the school, and in 1906 he became the President of the District Teacher Circle of Timișoara. During his didactical activities, he also got involved in the scientific life of the Timișoara Association. He takes part in the collection, study and presenting of the historical documents, archaeological pieces and objects of value in the Southern part of the country.

Milleker Bódog (1858-1942)⁵ was a great collector, historian, archaeologist and member of the Association. He finished his elementary studies in his hometown (Vârșeț, Serbia), after which he obtained a pedagogy diploma at Szeged. He returned to his hometown, where he founded the local museum, and the growth in number of exhibits was due to his activity that focused on the pre-roman period. He intensively studied the areas of Kisszerez, Malo Središte, Mesić, Paripa Pavliš, Vinča, Starčevo-Pancsova, Potporanj, Vatin, Dubovac, Dupljaja, Márktelke (Markovac), Meszesfalu (Mesić), Homokszél (Uljma), Károlyfalva (Banatski Karlovac), Ilonc (Ilandža).

2. Limes, camps and fortifications

One of the main preoccupations of the researchers of the roman period was, since the beginning, the discovery of the route of the *limes* and, implicitly, the camps that formed it. Identifying the camps on the Western border of Dacia is still a problem - and some assumptions made by the 19th century historians we are dealing with in the present study proved to be invalid. The *limes* researches in the area have a rather rich history: Theodor Mommsen placed it in the *Temes (vármegye) county*, Ortvay⁶ considered that the course of the river Tisa was practically Dacia's Western limes, and Torma Károly gave an interpretation that was very close to the modern

³ Bodor, 1996, p. 66-84.

⁴ Bodor, 1996, p. 66-84.

⁵ Medaković, 2008. The aforementioned researcher (Milleker) signs his studies written in German as Felix Milleker, while those written in Hungarian as Milleker Bódog, and lastly, those written in Serbian as Srećko Mileker.

⁶ Ortvay, 1875b, p. 258-270.

one, considering that, to the East of Tisa, there was an area of *glacis*, that belonged to the Iazygs, though under Roman control⁷. Torma travels in the Banat area during 1880 and 1882, but never manages to publish his observations from this trip. In a wider context, Torma states: “in 1880 I investigated the area from Poieni to the Danube and I am absolutely certain that the fortification wall from Poieni goes through Bihor county, through Argeş county and finally gets to Timișoara, where I saw the Roman wall connected to the Danube”.

On the other hand, unrealistically, Alfred von Domaszewky claimed that the Banat region mainly belonged to Moesia Superior⁸. Heinrich Kiepert (Roman cartography specialist) and Fröhlich Róbert agreed with this theory, while Király Pál denied it. A remarkable attempt at identifying the regional points that appear on the *Tabula Peutingeriana* was made by Milleker Bódog⁹; with some exceptions, certain assumptions of the author are not based on clear data, but more on intuitive logic, Milleker's identifications being mainly correct.

According to Szilágyi János¹⁰ the reconstruction of the Dacian limes would be the following: Palánka (Palanca) – Fehértemplom (Biserica Albă) – Varadia (Vărădia) – Versec (?) (Vârșeț) – Zsidovin (Berzobia) – Vecel (Vețel) – Zalatna (?) (Zlatna) – Abrudbánya (Abrud) – Verespatak (Alburnus Maior) – Magyarpeterd (Petreștii de Jos) – Mikes (Micești) – Gyalu (Gilău) – Sebesvár (Bologa) – Kissebes (Poieni) – Meszes hegység (Meseș) – Tihó (Tihâu) – Alsókosály (Cășeu), Alsó-Ilosva (Ilișua) – Beszterce(?) (Bistrița) – Marosvécs (Brâncovenești) – Mikháza (Călugăreni) – Sóvárád (Sărățeni) – Énlaka (Inlăceni) – Székelyudvarhely (?) (Odorheiu Secuiesc) – Barót (?) (Baraolt) – Bereck (Brețcu) – Kovászna (Covasna) – Nagyborosnyó (Boroșneu Mare) – Barcarozsnyó (Râșnov) – Héviz (Heviz) – Kissink (Cincșor) – Felek (Avrig) – Olt vonala (linia Olt) – Alduna (Dunărea de Jos)

In what follows, we shall offer the list of major camps that were identified and signalled as such by the members of the Association (from West to East and North to South):

- Cubin (Kovin, *Temes (vármegye) county*) – *Contra Margum*¹¹ camp, with estimated sides of 40 m, with an earth and timber fortification; the construction had also been seen and drawn by Luigi Ferdinando Marsigli¹².
- Grebenaț (Grebeneč, *Temes (vármegye) county*, presently in Serbia) – Roman camp in the region called “*great citadel*”; Torma had placed here *A ponte fluvii*¹³.
- Berzobia (Zsidovin, *Krassó-Szörény (vármegye) county*) – identified as *Bersobia*¹⁴.

⁷ Milleker, 1892b, p. 191.

⁸ Milleker, 1892b, p. 192.

⁹ Milleker, 1892b.

¹⁰ Szilágyi, 1946, p. 4.

¹¹ Milleker, 1892b, p. 186.

¹² Milleker, 1892a, p. 112-113.

¹³ Milleker, 1892a, p. 110; Milleker, 1892b, p. 185.

- Surducul Mare (Nagy-Szurduk, *Krassó-Szörény (vármegye) county*) – in the same year, Torma had identified here the earth and timber fort of *Centum Putea*, with a size of 180×143 m¹⁵; in some points, one could still see the fortification, 8 m wide and 4 metres tall. A local (Csiky Mihály) stated that he had seen bricks stamped with *leg IIII Flavia Felix*. Although the bricks were mentioned in the literature that followed¹⁶, other identical or similar bricks were never found.
- Vărădia (*Temes (vármegye) county*) – Torma identified the camp in 1881, considering it the ancient *Arcidava*¹⁷.
- Biserica Albă (Fehértemplom, *Temes (vármegye) county*, presently in Serbia) – this camp's dimensions were 150×130 m, and the defensive wall was still visible; it is in the proximity of the Roman road¹⁸.
- Fârlug (Furlug, *Krassó-Szörény (vármegye) county*) – *Aizis* was localised here¹⁹.
- Pojejena de Sus (Szerb-Pozezsena, *Krassó-Szörény (vármegye) county*) – a *statio* was signalled here, with the dimensions of 16×8 m; at the same time, here, there were registered tiles with *legio I Minerva*, *legio VII Claudia pia fidelis* and *cohors V Gallorum*²⁰.
- Moldova Nouă (Új-Moldova, *Krassó-Szörény (vármegye) county*) – traces of a camp; a series of interesting artefacts were found: a gold chain, 4 lead tablets and perforated lead disks²¹.
- Moldova Veche (Ó-Moldova, *Krassó-Szörény (vármegye) county*) – Böhm Lénárt had done some surface research here, in 1879; in 1739, when the medieval fortification was destroyed, it became obvious that this had been built on a Roman camp and, maybe, *vicus*. Also, there were found clay tiles stamped *CO III DE* and *NCR* retrograde²².
- Delinești (Delényes, *Krassó-Szörény (vármegye) county*) – a camp, discovered in 1880 by Torma Károly and identified with *Caput Bubali*²³.

¹⁴ Milleker, 1892a, p. 137-139; Milleker, 1892b, p. 185; Szilágyi, 1946, p. 7. For the updated bibliography, see Nemeth *et alii*, 2011, p. 46-49.

¹⁵ Milleker, 1892a, p. 128; Milleker, 1892b, p. 186. For the updated bibliography, see Nemeth *et alii*, 2011, p. 45-46.

¹⁶ The most obvious example is IDR III/1, p. 133

¹⁷ Milleker, 1892a, p. 131-132; Milleker, 1892b, p. 185. For the updated bibliography, see Nemeth *et alii*, 2011, p. 41-45.

¹⁸ Milleker, 1892a, p. 108-109.

¹⁹ Milleker, 1892a, p. 109-110; Milleker, 1892b, p. 185. For the updated bibliography, see Nemeth *et alii*, 2011, p. 49-50.

²⁰ Milleker, 1892a, p. 125-126.

²¹ Milleker, 1892a, p. 118-120.

²² Milleker, 1892a, p. 118.

²³ Milleker, 1892a, p. 106-107; Milleker, 1892b, p. 186.

Presently, *Caput Bubali* is rather identified as Cornuțel, approximately 20 km away from Delinești²⁴.

- Lăpușnicu (*Krassó-Szörény (vármegye) county*) – Torma identified a camp under the fortification of Dragamoi Jana²⁵.
- Gornea (Felső Lyupkova, *Krassó-Szörény (vármegye) county*) – in 1879, Böhm Lénárt identified a quadrangle camp, with sides of 60 m, with a wall that reached, in some places, 3-4 m in height²⁶.
- Jupa (Zsuppa, *Krassó-Szörény (vármegye) county*) – identified as *Tibiscum*²⁷.
- Caransebeș (Karánszebes, *Krassó-Szörény (vármegye) county*) – Pesty Frigyes had assumed that the medieval fortification had been built on a Roman camp, because of the artefacts that had been found by chance²⁸.
- Teregova (*Krassó-Szörény (vármegye) county*) – identified as *Gaganis*²⁹.
- Domașnea (Domásnya, *Krassó-Szörény (vármegye) county*) – identified with *Ad Pannonios*³⁰.
- Mehadia (*Krassó-Szörény (vármegye) county*) – identified as the fortress *Ad Mediam*³¹.
- Orșova (*Krassó-Szörény (vármegye) county*) – camp, identified as *Trans Tierna*³², with the estimated dimensions of 64 × 54 m; what stands out is the discovery of some stamps with *LEG XIII G* and of a child's coffin – probably discovered in some nearby burial grounds³³.
- Zăvoi (Szavoj, *Krassó-Szörény (vármegye) county*) – in 1881, Torma identified here the camp called *Agnaviae/Agmonia*³⁴.
- Voislova (Vaiszlova, *Krassó-Szörény (vármegye) county*) – in 1881, Torma placed here *Pons Augusti*³⁵.

Out of the above fortresses, few were identified and even fewer researched archaeologically. Periegeses and geo-physical studies would be necessary in order to confirm/infirm some of the 19th century conclusions. Unfortunately, from the identified ones we have very little concluding material and the time-span of their actual functioning cannot be determined. Some of the fortresses were obviously abandoned

²⁴ Nemeth *et alii*, 2011, p. 50.

²⁵ Milleker, 1892a, p. 114.

²⁶ Milleker, 1892a, p. 114-115.

²⁷ Milleker, 1892a, p. 140-143; Milleker, 1892b, p. 188; Szilágyi, 1946, p.28-29. For the updated bibliography, see Nemeth *et alii*, 2011, p. 51-56.

²⁸ Milleker, 1892a, p. 111.

²⁹ Milleker, 1892a, p. 129-130; Milleker, 1892b, p. 186.

³⁰ Milleker, 1892a, p. 107-108; Milleker, 1892b, p. 185.

³¹ Milleker, 1892a, p. 115-117; Milleker, 1892b, p. 184; Szilágyi, 1946, p. 27-28.

³² Milleker, 1892b, p. 188.

³³ Milleker, 1892a, p. 120-123; Szilágyi, 1946, p. 26-27.

³⁴ Milleker, 1892a, p. 127; Milleker, 1892b, p. 185. For the updated bibliography, see Nemeth *et alii*, 2011, p. 56-57.

³⁵ Milleker, 1892a, p. 131; Milleker, 1892b, p. 187.

(such as Vărădia, where archaeological researches have been undertaken) – and the situation might be similar for the whole western *limes*.

3. The Roman roads

Historians and archaeologists started being interested in Roman roads from the second half of the 19th century, when, step by step, some of the Roman routes were found, especially in the Banat region. These discoveries were mainly due to the activities of Torma Károly, Halováts Gyula, and, last but not least, Milleker Bódog. The results of these researches were incorporated in a number of studies, mainly published in the Association's journal, *Történelmi és Régészeti Értesítő*.

The main road in the Banat region was *Lederata – Tibiscum*³⁶. From Lederata, near the Danube, the Roman imperial road started from Banatska Palanka (*Lederata*), around the Nera canal, then over Biserica Roșie, Biserica Albă, going up along the Caraș river, hypothetically identified as *Apus flumen*³⁷, went through the settlements of Vărădia (*Arcidava?*), Forotic, Surducu Mare (*Centum Putea?*), towards Königs-gnad/Tirol and Fizeș, arrived at Berzovia, across the Bârzava river, from where it shifts direction towards North-East and passing through Fârluig (*Aizis?*) and Valeadni (*Caput Bubali?*), reaching Jupa (*Tibiscum*). The secondary road that connected the main road *Lederata – Tibiscum* was: *Lederata – Zlatița – Slatina Nera – Ciclova Română – Vărădia – Dognecea – Moravița – Bocșa – Berzovia*. We note the presence of two bridges³⁸: the first was built in *Lederata*, on the island on the Danube, called “*Szápája*” (“*Schanzl*”), and the second on the Caraș river. In 2006, archaeologists³⁹ state the following: “*Vărădia is on the left bank of the Caraș river. The position of the camp makes us believe that the Roman road has a course on the left side of Caraș in order to avoid the construction of a bridge*”. After having analysed the result of the research from 1892, that confirms the existence of a bridge on the aforementioned river, we tend to believe that the Roman road to the camp of Vărădia had a course on the right side of Caraș.

The second great road in the Banat region was the road *Dierna – Tibiscum*. The Roman road starts from the left bank of the Danube, from the camp at Orșova, situated on the right bank of the Cerna river. It arrives at the first stop, Mehadia (*Ad Mediam*), situated on the left bank of the Béla Réka (Belareca) river. From *Praetorium*, the road ramifies through Petnic towards Lăpușnicel. It was again discovered near the settlement of Domașnea, where, at the junction area of the Domașnea and Luncavița rivers, the Roman camp *Ad Pannonios* was discovered. From here, the Roman road passes by the Rusca settlement and the Teregova Roman camp and reaches *Tibiscum*.

³⁶ Milleker, 1892a, p. 101-143; Milleker, 1892b, p. 173-192.

³⁷ In the XIXth century, for the toponym “*apo.fl*” from the *Tabula Peutingeriana*, the following formula was used “*A ponte fluvii*”, however, nowadays researchers use the designation of “*Apus flumen*” when identifying the same point (Grebenăț).

³⁸ Milleker, 1892a, p. 101-143.

³⁹ Fodorean, 2006, p. 231-232.

There is a road that connects the sections *Lederata – Tibiscum* and *Dierna – Tibiscum*⁴⁰. Here, the road passed by *Lederata – Dalboșeț – Lăpușnicel – Petnic – Mehadia*.

A third road consisted of the section *Drobeta – Ulpia Traiana Sarmizegetusa*. The road was identified by Hungarian archaeologists only at Drobeta and Dealu Comorâștea. F. Fodorean⁴¹ reunified the entire sector of Drobeta – Bumbăști Jiu and stated that the Roman road passed by the following settlements: Drobeta, Holânga, Puținei, Malovăț, Lazu, Cocorova, Dealu Viilor, Câmpu Mare, Cătunele, Dealu Comorâștea, Vârtopu and Pinoasa.

In the Banat region there are two main road ramifications. The first is Surduc – Ramna: near Surduc, the imperial Western road ramifies towards the right, passing through Doclin, Biniș, Bocșa, finally reaching Ramna. The second one is Jupa – Bulci: the road was identified only at Tincova and Pădureni. We know the entire line of this ramification due to the aforementioned archaeologist⁴²; thus, the Roman road starts at Tincova, passes through Criciova, Sărăzeni, Săceni, Surducu Mic, Răchița and ends up at Pădureni.

Aside from these roads, Milleker⁴³ talks about a road that starts at the Danube, going towards the mining region. Thus, the Roman road starts at Moldova Veche and goes through Moldova Nouă – Sasca Română – Ciclova – Oravița – Brădișoru de Jos – Bocșa, in areas where a lot of traces of Roman mining activities could be found. The road between the two Moldova settlements and Sasca was also identified and analysed by Téglás Gábor, who intensively studied mining activities in Dacia. Not only were there found traces of the Roman road in these settlements, but also the presence of some artefacts, inscriptions and Roman monuments⁴⁴.

While dealing with the roads in the Roman province of Dacia, F. Fodorean analyses some of their names⁴⁵. He thus identifies “*Drumul lui Traian*” (Traian's Road), “*Drumul de piatră*” (Stone Road), “*Drumul Bătrânilor*” (Elder's Road), “*Drumul vechi*” (Old Road) respectively “*Drumul sării*” (Salt Road). Analysing the Hungarian documents, we have managed to identify some names of the Roman roads in the Banat region, thus completing their repertoire: “*Irén útja*” (“*Drummu Jariné*”), identified in the region of Doclin, hence we assume it regards the Surduc – Ramna ramification. A second name is that of “*Mária Terézia útja*” (“*Trum de Maria Theresiá*”), identified in the settlement of Comorâște. At the same time, we have identified the Roman road on the hill of “*Zagradia*” (Dalboșeț), respectively on the Danube island in the place called “*Szápája*” (Lederata).

⁴⁰ Milleker, 1892a, p. 101-143; Fodorean, 2006, p. 237-239; Nemeth *et alii*, 2011, p. 24-25.

⁴¹ Fodorean, 2006, p. 236.

⁴² Fodorean, 2006, p. 240; Nemeth *et alii*, 2011, p. 25-26.

⁴³ Milleker, 1892b, p. 184.

⁴⁴ Ortway, 1875a, p. 206-214; Milleker, 1892a, p. 101-143; Milleker, 1892b, p. 173-192; Berkeszi, 1907, p. 1-49; Böhm, 1904, p. 39-51; Berkeszi, 1908, p. 139-143.

⁴⁵ Fodorean, 2006, p. 95-100.

4. Numismatic discoveries

Another theme of great interest for the 19th and beginning of 20th century researchers was that of numismatic findings. The preoccupation for this subject is understandable, not only because of the high informational value of numismatic pieces and their underlying character of collectable items, but also because of the findings of spectacular hoards, identified by the members of the Association. In what follows, we shall look over the isolated identified discoveries and we shall only provide information regarding greater numismatic groups/hoards.

A first hoard is reported at Băile Herculane (Herkulesfürdő, *Krassó-Szörény (vármegye) county*)⁴⁶; here, in 1864⁴⁷, 2.000 Roman coins were found, and, in 1866⁴⁸ - 900 Roman, part of which seem to have ended up in the collection of Ormós Zsigmond, the rest being spread and later lost. The first hoard dates from the times of Titus, Domitian, Traian, Septimius Severus, Caracalla, Geta, Severus Alexander, Trebonianus Gallus⁴⁹. In 1864, however, it seems that another compact hoard was found, in a pear shaped vessel – B. Milleker says – formed by 500 coins dating from 193-235 (thus, from the period of the Sever dynasty)⁵⁰.

At Sîntandrei (Szent-András, *Temes (vármegye) county*), a hoard consisting in coins dating from the period of the Principate⁵¹ was found - unfortunately, there is no adjacent detailed information regarding these pieces. At Bocşa Vasiovei (Bogsánbánya, *Krassó-Szörény (vármegye) county*), in 1851, during the construction of a road, 119 silver coins were found, dating from the Vespasian-Decius⁵² period. The author mentions that the coins had been sent to the museum in Vienna, returned, and their fate following that was not known to him. During the period of time between 1880-1884⁵³, several coins from Kuptore (Cuptoare, *Krassó-Szörény (vármegye) county*) ended up at the Association's Museum: Gordianus, Severus Alexander, Geta (from Babinszky József, 1880), Gordianus, Antoninus and Severus Pius (from Szakosán István, 1881), Severus Alexander, Gordian (Wolf Franciska, 1882) Severus Alexander, Gordian III, Filip Pater (from Kramár Béla, 1882)⁵⁴. At Orşova (*Krassó-Szörény (vármegye) county*)⁵⁵, a large quantity of coins was also discovered, dated from Octavian to Arcadius (almost all the emperors are represented, but, most probably, it does not represent a compact lot, but a series of separate findings). At Palánk (*Temes (vármegye) county*)⁵⁶, however, a hoard of 57 coins was found,

⁴⁶ Milleker, 1892a, p. 110-111.

⁴⁷ Suciu, 2000, p. 24-25.

⁴⁸ Suciu, 2000, p. 25.

⁴⁹ Berkeszi, 1907, p. 21.

⁵⁰ Milleker, 1892a, p. 110-111.

⁵¹ Berkeszi, 1907, p. 8.

⁵² Berkeszi, 1907, p. 10; Suciu, 2000, p. 29.

⁵³ For some of them, preserved today, see Suciu, 2000, p. 34.

⁵⁴ Berkeszi, 1907, p. 25-26.

⁵⁵ Berkeszi, 1907, p. 29-31.

⁵⁶ The former Palánk is today divided in two villages: Banatska Palanka and Stara Palanka, both situated in Vojvodina (Serbia).

interestingly dated, between Tiberius and Hadrian⁵⁷. At Rafna, (Raffna, *Krassó-Szörény (vármegye) county*), 120 coins were discovered in 1851, apparently ranging from the time of Traian up to Gordian⁵⁸. In 1905, Iglea Lázár from Remetea Mare (Temes-Remete, *Temes (vármegye) county*)⁵⁹ discovered, during agricultural works, Roman coins and jewellery. These were brought to Timișoara, where Berkeszi states that he saw them personally, the lot being composed of 169 silver dinars. Another hoard comes from Recaș (Rékás, *Temes (vármegye) county*)⁶⁰; this consisted of 90 silver coins and was dated as being a late-period lot: Elagabal, Gordian III, Filip I, II, Decius, Etruscilla. The last numismatic hoard that we shall list here comes from Vârșeț (Versecz, *Temes (vármegye) county*)⁶¹, where Rittinger Ede initially discovered 140 coins, and, a few days later and a few hundred steps away, he discovered another 266 coins. It is very interesting that the coins date from the time of Constantine the Great and his sons.

A different finding is that from Denta (*Temes (vármegye) county*)⁶², where, in 1875, during piping works, a skeleton facing East was discovered. According to the workers, 13 gold coins were found around the skeleton, dating from the times of Valentinianus, Valens and Gratianus.

In those mentioned above, we have not listed, of course, all the numismatic findings in the Banat region. We have only identified the major ones, which might have an impact over the numismatic research of the area.

5. Epigraphic pieces, sculptural monuments and minor art

Another important category of pieces is that of epigraphic artefacts. Such discoveries in the Banat region are not too many, but part of them must be taken into consideration.

Thus, we identify the discovery at Băile Herculane (Herkulesfürdő, *Krassó-Szörény (vármegye) county*)⁶³ of the inscriptions: CIL III, 1546, 1560, 1561, 1563, 1564, 1565, 1566, 1567, 1568, 1569, 1570, 1571, 1573, 1574, 1575, 1578, 1579 and 1580. In the same settlement, in 1736, 7 statues representing Hercules were found. In 1775, the sarcophagus of a woman was discovered, having the same hero was represented on its sides. All the pieces were sent by ship to Vienna - the famous ship that sunk in the Danube at Budapest. At Marga (Vama-Márğa, *Krassó-Szörény (vármegye) county*)⁶⁴, the inscription CIL III 1547 was found. The piece was drawn by Marsigli, and was later lost. Another epigraphic piece is identified at Turnu (*Krassó-Szörény (vármegye) county*)⁶⁵. However, there is no data on the state of

⁵⁷ Berkeszi, 1907, p. 31-32.

⁵⁸ Berkeszi, 1907, p. 35.

⁵⁹ Berkeszi, 1907, p. 35-36.

⁶⁰ Berkeszi, 1907, p. 36; Suci, 2000, p. 50.

⁶¹ Berkeszi, 1907, p. 45-47.

⁶² Berkeszi, 1907, p. 15-16; Suci, 2000, p. 158.

⁶³ Milleker, 1892a, p. 110-111.

⁶⁴ Milleker, 1892a, p. 115.

⁶⁵ Milleker, 1892a, p. 130.

preservation or the text. From Vârșeț (Versecz, *Temes (vármegye) county*)⁶⁶ come the pieces CIL III 6273 and 6274 - both presently lost.

As we can see, the epigraphic artefacts are rather few and not out of the ordinary. Still, their identification is valuable, since a great part of them no longer exists nowadays, and any data, as close chronologically as possible to the moment they were actually seen, is valuable.

In what follows, we shall list a series of pieces of other nature that were registered, but that, unfortunately, have been lost. Thus, at Coronini (*Krassó-Szörény (vármegye) county*)⁶⁷, a Roman burial monument was found (no details can be found). At Új-Palánka (*Temes (vármegye) county*, nowadays in Serbia)⁶⁸, a bronze statuette was found in 1880. It was about 11 cm high including the pedestal, and it represented Hercules in nude. From Turnul (*Krassó-Szörény (vármegye) county*)⁶⁹, we can see that an inscription discovered in the medieval ruins was brought to the Association's Museum. From Var (Vaár, *Krassó-Szörény (vármegye) county*)⁷⁰, due to Kimpian Tivadar, a fragmentary statue representing Pan ended up at the same museum.

Two very interesting findings, though very different in nature, come from Zlatița (Zlaticza, *Krassó-Szörény (vármegye) county*)⁷¹ and Jena (Zséna, *Krassó-Szörény (vármegye) county*)⁷². The first concerns a temple in the forest close to the settlement - but this hypothesis was never researched and confirmed. The second regards a votive hand, rather spectacular: it is a real size right hand, in the typical *benedictio* pose. The object is on its inner side decorated with a ram head and an eagle covering with its left wing a turtle. The three animals are partially encircled by a snake. On the outer side, one can see a frog, possibly a vessel with two handles and a lizard. Milleker does not speculate on the cult, but such hands appear sometimes in connection with Dolichenus and Sabazios. In our case, the latter is probably the right answer, due to the *benedictio latina* sign.

6. Mining

The last major theme we shall approach is that of mining. Though the data regarding mining extractions are not very numerous, their identification can be useful to interested researchers.

Thus, Milleker Bódog mentions the presence of some Roman mining traces in a number of marks on the Banat region map. The mining activity seems to have been present at Ciclova Montană (Csiklova, *Krassó-Szörény (vármegye) county*)⁷³,

⁶⁶ Milleker, 1892a, p. 132-133.

⁶⁷ Milleker, 1892a, p. 104.

⁶⁸ Milleker, 1892a, p. 123-124.

⁶⁹ Milleker, 1892a, p. 130.

⁷⁰ Milleker, 1892a, p. 131

⁷¹ Milleker, 1892a, p. 133.

⁷² Milleker, 1892a, p. 133-136.

⁷³ Milleker, 1892a, p. 106; Boroneanț, 2000, p. 120.

at Dognecea (Dognácska, *Krassó-Szörény (vármegye) county*)⁷⁴, at Brădișoru de Jos (Majdán, *Krassó-Szörény (vármegye) county*)⁷⁵, at Oravița (Oraviczabánya, *Krassó-Szörény (vármegye) county*)⁷⁶ – this was a gold mine –, at Sasca Montană (Szászkabánya, *Krassó-Szörény (vármegye) county*)⁷⁷, at Tincova (Tinkova, *Krassó-Szörény (vármegye) county*)⁷⁸.

At Bocșa Montană (*Krassó-Szörény (vármegye) county*)⁷⁹, along with visible traces of mining exploitation, a lamp and 119 coins were found, dating back from the period of time between 70-251. In Moldova Nouă (Új-Moldova, *Krassó-Szörény (vármegye) county*)⁸⁰ mining traces are registered on the bank of the Danube. In these mines (exploited in the 19th century), Roman mining tools, measuring tools, lead weights, illuminating devices, keys and coins were discovered.

Most of these exploitations were functional up until later times, or at least the intense mining was revived during the Habsburg period.

7. Archaeological research in the Banat region during the 19th century

Since we are talking about the early stages of this domain we cannot discuss an applied scientific methodology. As stated above, rarely were there cases in which excavations were undertaken, mostly the artefacts being found accidentally by archaeologists or locals. Unfortunately, many artefacts are not accompanied by drawings or pictures. We also observe the lack of plans made for the researched buildings or maps regarding the line of the *limes* and roads.

As a positive aspect, there is the collecting of the archaeological pieces, thus saving them from getting lost and the numerous surface researches made on the field. Out of these archaeologists, the ones who stood out were Ormós Zsigmond, Torma Károly (who worked in the region of Southern Hungary between 1880 and 1882), sometimes together with Böhm Lénárd and Ortway Tivadar. We can also mention Halováts Gyula, who studied the Roman road (especially the Fârlug – Berzovia section), Szentkláray Jenő (started the diggings at Arača, Serbia), Rómer Flóris (made archaeological excavations and measurements with the occasion of the construction of the parochial edifice at Cenad, Serbia), Pesty Frigyes (excavations in the medieval citadel Caransebeș), Miske Kálmán and Bella Lajos (excavations on the territories of Cubin, *Temes (vármegye) county*, financed by “*Múzeumok és Könyvtárak Országos Felügyelősége*”). The aforementioned archaeologists were usually aided by locals, which also helped with additional information. Such persons were Csiky Mihály (Surducul Mare, *Krassó-Szörény (vármegye) county*), Szende Béla (Tincova, *Krassó-Szörény (vármegye) county*), the teachers Nemoján János and Pontelly István (Voislava, *Krassó-Szörény (vármegye) county*).

⁷⁴ Milleker, 1892a, p. 107.

⁷⁵ Milleker, 1892a, p. 115.

⁷⁶ Milleker, 1892a, p. 120.

⁷⁷ Milleker, 1892a, p. 126-127.

⁷⁸ Milleker, 1892a, p. 130; Boroneanț, 2000, p. 123.

⁷⁹ Milleker, 1892a, p. 126-127; Boroneanț, 2000, p. 120; Benea, 2008, p. 24.

⁸⁰ Milleker, 1892a, p. 118-120; Boroneanț, 2000, p. 122; Benea, 2008, p. 22.

Fortunately, the reports written in the 19th century are rather thorough, both topographically and historically. Up until now, we have managed to identify a number of locations from the territory of Banat during the studied period of time, respectively house numbers where archaeological excavations were undertaken. Their safeguarding depends, first of all, on their correct registration, which meant the analysis of Hungarian documents, the realisation of topographical measurements, respectively the verification of the gathered information, through geophysical measurements with a georadar and a ground resistivity measuring system. Through the analysis of the Hungarian documents we have managed to identify some public and private buildings where archaeological diggings were made or Roman artefacts were found. Out of the public buildings we mention the medieval church at Arača, the parochial centre at Cenad, the medieval fortress at Caransebeş, the yard of the brewery (Weifert, rue Stockhaus) in Panciova, and Podul Roiga from Denta. Regarding the non-public constructions, mentioned in the documents are the house of Rohr János (Károlyfalva, 438 Sándorfalvi street), Joaneszku György's garden (Mehadia, house no. 143), the yard of Szatnizlav Simon (Timișoara), the land of Dumescu Duma (Teregova, house no. 273), the land of Heinrich Nándor (Vlaicovăț), the yard of mail man Schultz (Zlatina), the yard of Lazarevics Fedor (Nagy-Szredistye), the land called Nagy Rét of Seemayer Bódog (Vârșeț). In the future, it is necessary that the information gathered through the analysis of these documents to be also verified and registered through topographical and geophysical measurements.

Where are the archaeological artefacts from this period of time? After finding them, a rather high percentage ended up in the possession of antique collectors such as Ormós Zsigmond (Timișoara, Romania), Milleker Bódog (Vârșeț, Serbia), Böhm Lénárd (Biserica Albă, Serbia), Rittenger Ede, Plank Ferencz (Eger, Hungary), Miletz János (Kiskunfélegyháza, Hungary). Out of the mentioned collectors, we know that Ormós left all his collection by testament to the Association's Museum, and so did Miletz, who left his collection to the museum in his hometown, Kiskun Múzeum.

There are certain artefacts that are mentioned to have ended up in the private collections of certain schools, such as the Secondary School in Lugoj (Romania), Székesfehérvár college (Hungary) and last but not least, Secondary School of Panciova (Serbia). Unfortunately, nowadays we do not have the necessary information as to what later happened to these.

Fortunately, a great number of the found artefacts ended up at different museum in Europe. First, we mention the Association's Museum at Timișoara, Magyar Nemzeti Múzeum at Budapest, and the Naturhistorisches Museum Wien. The Association received artefacts through donation a number of times, thus saving them from disappearance. The social status of the people that made the donations is varied, ranging from farmers to county judges. Thus, we mention Bolesznyi Antal (Băile Herculane, *Krassó-Szörény (vármegye) county*), bishop Bonnaz Sándor (Cuptoare, *Krassó-Szörény (vármegye) county*), Schwerer János, Milutinovics Szilárd (Panciova, Serbia), Péch József (Temesch Paulisch, Serbia), Kimpian Tivadar (Var, *Krassó-Szörény (vármegye) county*), Szándy Lajos (Bărăteaz, *Temes (vármegye)*

county), priest Ambrus József (Beba Veche, Serbia), Sztudlik Tivadar, doctor of *Temes (vármegye) county*, judge Vuja (Borlova, *Krassó-Szörény (vármegye) county*), public notary Heliszek (Denta, *Temes (vármegye) county*), Manojlovits Adám (Hiti-aş, *Temes (vármegye) county*), Starckenberg Frigyes (Moşniţa Veche, *Temes (vármegye) county*).

We cannot omit the fact that a lot of the artefacts found have been lost over the years. Some, for example, like those from Băile Herculane, sunk in the Danube, as already mentioned. Another example is that of the 119 coins found at Bocşa Română (*Krassó-Szörény (vármegye) county*), that were sent to Vienna, but they were sent back. Unfortunately, no information was found regarding what happened afterwards with these coins. Also regarding coins, but this time from Cerneteaz (*Temes (vármegye) county*), the Austro-Hungarian Bank of Timișoara bought some and donated part of them to Ormós (and ended up in the Association's Museum), but many of them cannot be found anymore. Another example is what happened in the spring of 1905 in Remetea Mare (*Temes (vármegye) county*), when Iglea Lázár found coins and jewellery during agricultural works, and then sold them one by one at Timișoara. Some of them were given to Bleyer Izsó, lawyer from Timișoara. These are just some of the examples in which we know how the artefacts in the Banat region got lost. Taking into account the researched time frame, we can assume a much higher percentage got lost over the years.

Making the data sets and information presented in this article available on the international scientific circuit is important from more than one point of view. First of all, it is a historiographic recovery that has monographic value with regard to the researched area and given time span. Second, it underlines the origins of certain ideas (as the identification of fortresses, establishing the route of the Roman roads etc.). Then, it raises some questions regarding the fate of artefacts even today (in the sense of recovery and re-discovery, but as well preservation). Last but not least, it brings forth new research possibilities, as part of the hypothesis or speculations from the 19th century were never confirmed or denied through up-to-date scientific investigations.

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