



INSTITUTE OF ARCHEOLOGY
AND ART HISTORY OF ROMANIAN
ACADEMY CLUJ-NAPOCA



UNIVERSITATEA TEHNICĂ
DIN CLUJ-NAPOCA

JAHA
JOURNAL OF ANCIENT HISTORY
AND ARCHAEOLOGY

editura
MEGA

Journal of Ancient History and Archaeology



Scopus®



Clarivate
Analytics



Central and Eastern European Online Library

EBSCO



ERIH PLUS
EUROPEAN REFERENCE INDEX FOR THE
HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

DOAJ
DIRECTORY OF
OPEN ACCESS
JOURNALS

No. 12-1 / 2025

CONTENTS

STUDIES

ANCIENT HISTORY

Vasileios SPANOS

ANCIENT PHTHIA & MODERN PHARSALUS: LIVES PARALLEL OR OPPOSITE?.....3

Olivier HEKSTER

UNDERSTANDING THE PAST THROUGH THE PRESENT: THE CASE OF GAIUS SCRIBONIUS CURIO.....16

Matt A. CASADO

ON THE LOCATION OF *URCI*, *MURGI* AND THE *BAETICA-TARRACONENSIS* FRONTIER IN ROMAN *HISPANIA*.....22

Annamária-I. PÁZSINT

WORKING IN MOESIA INFERIOR. THE CASE OF SLAVES AND FREEDPERSONS.....28

Lucrețiu MIHAILESCU-BÎRLIBA, Ana ODOCHICIUC

THE MOBILITY VECTORS OF SOLDIERS RECRUITED FROM THE RURAL MILIEU IN MOESIA INFERIOR (OR THRACIA). II. THE INSCRIPTIONS FROM DOMITIANUS.....41

Florian MATEI-POPESCU, Peter ROTHENHÖFER

A NEW MILITARY DIPLOMA FOR A VETERAN OF THE *EXERCITUS DACIAE POROLISSENSIS*.....50

Péter KOVÁCS

PROCURATORES PANNONIAE, PANNONIAN PROCURATORS.....54

ARCHAEOLOGY

Akın TEMÜR

SYNCRETISM OF ANCIENT GOD-KINGS AND ANIMAL GODS: THE SPHINX.....66

Volkan ÖZTEKİN

SIDE'S EARLY IMPERIAL COLONNADED (?) STREET IN THE DIRECTION OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL FINDINGS – SMALL “C” STREET STUDIES.....78

Marisa TIVADAR

ROMAN RURAL LIFE IN ANCIENT DACIA. A BRIEF HISTORIC AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL OVERVIEW.....91

Geanina A. BUTISEACĂ, Ovidiu ȚENȚEA,

Veronika BRYCHOVA, Iuliana VASILIEV

NEW INSIGHTS IN THE ROMAN COLONISATION OF DACIA: DID THE ROMAN CLIMATIC OPTIMUM INFLUENCED THE ROMAN EXPANSION IN EASTERN EUROPE?.....102

Cristina-Georgeta ALEXANDRESCU, Albert BALTRES, Bogdan OLARIU

THE FIRST RECORDS ON LATE ROMAN AND BYZANTINE FORTIFICATIONS ON THE DUNAVĂȚ PROMONTORY, MURIGHIOL COMMUNE, TULCEA COUNTY (RO). CONSIDERATIONS ON LOCALIZATION AND USED LITHIC MATERIALS.....119

ARCHAEOLOGICAL MATERIAL

Cătălin PAVEL

THESEUS AND THE MINOTAUR BY THE BLACK SEA: A NEW *KLEINMEISTERSCHALE* FRAGMENT FROM HISTRIA.....148

Suhal SAĞLAN

HELLENISTIC PERIOD WHEEL-MADE TERRACOTTA LAMPS FROM THE SINOP MUSEUM.....162

Gabriel ANDREICA

POTTER OR ARTIST? CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE STUDY OF ROMAN POTTERY DECORATED WITH INCISIONS, IMPRESSIONS AND STAMPS FROM POTAISSA.....178

Vitalie BĂRCĂ, Sever-Petru BOȚAN, Anca MATIȘ

NOTES ON A GLASS BEAKER WITH APPLIED DECORATION FROM THE SARMATIAN CEMETERY OF TIMIȘOARA – *HLADIK 1* (TIMIȘ COUNTY).....196

ARCHAEOLOGICAL MAPPING

Casandra BRAȘOVEANU, Andrei ASĂNDULESEI, Radu-ALEXANDRU BRUNCHI

RESTORING THE BARROW LANDSCAPE OF NE ROMANIA: INITIAL REFLECTIONS.....211

Edmond NOGYI, Răzvan MATEESCU, Nica CIUBOTARU

CONSIDERATIONS REGARDING THE NUMBER OF TERRACES IN THE AREA OF *SARMIZBETUSA REGIA*.....223

ARCHAEOLOGICAL TOPOGRAPHY

Edmond NOGYI

THE ENSEMBLE OF FORTIFICATIONS FROM COSTEȘTI-BLIDARU: A VISIBILITY STUDY.....232

Metodi MANOV, Vassil DAMYANOV

AN UNKNOWN TYPE OF BRONZE COIN OF THE RULER OF THRACE – KAVAROS.....259

NUMISMATICS

Cristian GĂZDAC, Călin TIMOC

COINS IN ARCHAEOLOGICAL CONTEXT (VI). POJEJENA – AN AUXILIARY FORT WITH A DIFFERENT PATTERN OF COIN CIRCULATION THAN THE PROVINCE OF DACIA.....265

REVIEWS

Fernando BLANCO-ROBLES

REVIEW: FERNANDO LÓPEZ SÁNCHEZ, MARISA BUENO AND DAVID MARTÍNEZ CHICO (EDS.), *COINS, RICHES, AND LANDS. PAYING FOR MILITARY MANPOWER IN ANTIQUITY AND EARLY MEDIEVAL TIMES*, OXFORD & PHILADELPHIA, OXBOW BOOKS, 2025, 265 P. ISBN 978-1-78925-990-2 (HARDCOVER EDITION) // 978-1-78925-991-9 (DIGITAL EDITION).....293

ISSN 2360 266x
ISSN-L 2360 266x

Design & layout: Francisc Baja



EDITURA MEGA | www.edituramega.ro
e-mail: mega@edituramega.ro

ROMAN RURAL LIFE IN ANCIENT DACIA. A BRIEF HISTORIC AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL OVERVIEW

Abstract: This article is meant to be a methodological preamble for the study of a particular theme of the Roman era on the territory of the former province of Dacia. We consider that the importance of a critical approach to sources needs to be emphasized, opting for a qualitative rather than quantitative analysis. The methodology involves categorizing sources into primary sources (literature, epigraphic, and archaeological) and modern historiography, with the latter being classified thematically, as well as chronologically. Ancient Roman authors, such as Cato, Varro, and Columella, provide foundational insights into agricultural organization, complemented by archaeological discoveries of tools, *villae*, and artifacts that reflect both Roman luxury and local adaptation. Iconographic sources, such as mosaics and reliefs, visually depict agricultural activities and rural architecture, while epigraphic records reveal the identities and beliefs of rural inhabitants. Given the broad spectrum of rural life in Roman archaeology, the article distinguishes between general studies and those focused on specific subjects, while also considering a geographical comparative analysis of foreign and Romanian historiography. While earlier scholarship often overlooked rural settlements in favor of urban and military contexts, recent decades have witnessed a growing interest in this field.

Keywords: *rural life, villa rustica, historiography, primary sources, modern sources.*

Marisa TIVADAR

Babeş-Bolyai University, Cluj-Napoca, Romania
marisa.tivadar@yahoo.com

Roman rural life in the province of Dacia offers a fascinating glimpse into the dynamics of Roman society, reflecting both the integration of local practices and the imposition of Roman norms. The study of rural life in this region is crucial for understanding the daily lives, economic activities, and social structures that underpinned the Roman Empire's provincial system. This article examines the various types of sources that provide insights into the rural landscape of ancient Dacia, ranging from ancient literary texts, archaeological discoveries and iconographic representations, to modern and contemporary sources.

By "rural environment" we refer to the extra-urban space occupied by agricultural settlements, farms and *villae rusticae*, as well as small settlements inhabited by peasants and craftsmen. These settlements were located in fertile areas, along rivers or near urban and military centers, and played an essential role in the economic and social life of the province. Although it was one of the most important areas of economic activity of the population of the province at that time, today it seems to be one of the least explored areas of research for specialists. Country life was by no means "backward" and conditions were not "archaic" at all as some researchers claimed sometime in the second half of the 20th century¹. On the contrary, archaeological

¹ See the expressions of MACREA 1969, 411 and RUSSU 1981, 191. M. Macrea also mentions

evidence has brought to light that the Romans brought their city luxuries to the countryside, as evidenced by the many discoveries (from luxury ceramics to coins and sculptural monuments) in villas, but also in settlements.

Although for many years the research primarily focused on cities, fortifications, and military infrastructures, recent decades have seen a growing interest in the study of rural settlements, where the majority of the province's population conducted their activity. To accurately reconstruct the rural life of Roman Dacia, it is essential to systematically categorize and analyze the available sources. These sources are divided into two main categories: primary sources and modern and contemporary historiography. Primary sources are further classified based on their nature, encompassing narrative written sources, archaeological findings, iconographic materials and epigraphic records. Modern and contemporary historiography is then separated into works that approach the subject either broadly or with a specific focus.

1. PRIMARY SOURCES

1a. Ancient literary sources: limited yet valuable

The ancient literary sources, while predominantly centered on the Italic heartland, provide valuable insights that can be extrapolated to other provinces, including Dacia. These sources shed light on various aspects of rural life, such as the laws regarding constructions, the organization of rural spaces, and the techniques and materials used in building. Through these records, we can begin to piece together an image of the Dacian society in relation to the core of the Roman Empire.

Starting with the middle of the 2nd century BC, Roman authors, such as Cato, Varro, Vergilius, Columella, and Palladius, wrote extensively about rural households, covering topics like land cultivation, plant management, shepherding, and animal husbandry. To delve a little bit into the subject, Cato the Elder, in his work *De Agricultura* suggests that to maximize the yield and sustainability of agricultural practices, several aspects are important, including crop rotation, which would maintain soil fertility, suggesting alternating vegetables with cereal to increase nutrient levels, and also emphasizing the importance of proper soil preparation to ensure good conditions for seed development². He also gives good advice on vineyard management, on planting and caring for vineyards, including selecting the right grape varieties and pruning techniques, on using irrigation systems so that crops receive the necessary amount of water, and then on how to store and prepare the wine³.

(p. 410) that “The poor rural population was exhausted by hard physical labor and constantly threatened by the specter of hunger. Moreover, living conditions in the villages worsened with the proliferation of cities, as the burden they had to bear became increasingly heavy.” However, it is difficult to imagine that life in the villages could have been so harsh, given that the immense resources required by the rapidly growing cities and military centers would have, in turn, brought substantial income to the rural areas, ensuring a decent standard of living. This is evidenced by numerous discoveries of imported luxury ceramics, statuettes, altars, and coins from settlements, as well as other materials.

² CATO, *De Agricultura*, see sections 6, 34–37, https://penelope.uchicago.edu/Thayer/E/Roman/Texts/Cato/De_Agricultura/A*.html. Accessed on 11 January 2025.

³ CATO, *De Agricultura*, for advice on how to care and manage vineyards

In *De re rustica* Marcus Terentius Varro discusses Roman agricultural practices, including the most efficient way to organize a farm. The work is divided into three books, each addressing different aspects of farm management. According to Varro's writings, the location of a farm is crucial, with fertile soil, nearby water sources, and proximity to markets being absolutely necessary. He advises arranging the farm so that labor and transportation costs are minimal, with careful placement of fields, vineyards, olive groves, and pastures to maximize productivity⁴.

The poet Virgil presents the ideal organization and management of a farm in his work *Georgica*. Although the work is more poetic and less technical than the works of Cato and Varro, it still offers advice on the agricultural organization, focusing especially on harmony with nature and careful planning of tasks. Virgil stresses the importance of understanding nature and is convinced that the success of agriculture is based on coming to understand the peculiarities of the seasons, meteorological phenomena, and observation of the natural environment and characteristics of the land⁵. He also praises the beauty of a farmer's life and the richness of the earth:

“O farmers, more than happy if they've realized their blessings, for whom Earth unprompted, supreme in justice, pours out a rich livelihood from her soil, far from the clash of armies!”⁶

At the end of the 1st century BC, Vitruvius, in his fundamental work *De Architectura*, writes, unrelated to agricultural practices, about rural and urban architecture in the rural environment. His writings are particularly important because he refers to the organization, appearance and construction of farms, the main purpose being to optimize the functionality, comfort and security of landowners and workers. In the construction of a *villa*, he considers measurements, proportions and order to be very important⁷. Within our research area, the *villa rustica* from Apahida, at “Tarcea Mică” (Cluj county), stands out. Á. Buday describes it as being located in accordance with the criteria specified by Vitruvius⁸.

In *De re rustica*, Lucius Junius Moderatus Columella presents a comprehensive and detailed account of the organization and administration of a Roman farm. His work, which

see sections 1, 6, 11, 32, https://penelope.uchicago.edu/Thayer/E/Roman/Texts/Cato/De_Agricultura/A*.html. Accessed on 11 January 2025. Also, for advice on wine recipes 104–115, https://penelope.uchicago.edu/Thayer/E/Roman/Texts/Cato/De_Agricultura/G*.html. Accessed on 11 January 2025.

⁴ VARRO, *De re rustica*, see book 1, chapters 1–2, 4, 12, 18, https://penelope.uchicago.edu/Thayer/E/Roman/Texts/Varro/de_Re_Rustica/1*.html. Accessed on 11 January 2025.

⁵ VIRGIL, *Georgica*, see book 1 which deals with the cultivation of crops and understanding the signs of the weather, https://www.poetryintranslation.com/PITBR/Latin/VirgilGeorgicsI.php#anchor_Toc533589842. Also see book 2, about growing and caring for different kind of trees, https://www.poetryintranslation.com/PITBR/Latin/VirgilGeorgicsII.php#anchor_Toc533843195. Accessed on 11 January 2025.

⁶ VIRGIL, *Georgica*, book II, lines 458–460, https://www.poetryintranslation.com/PITBR/Latin/VirgilGeorgicsII.php#anchor_Toc533843195. Accessed on 11 January 2025.

⁷ VITRUVIUS, *De Architectura*, see book VI, chapters 5–6, https://penelope.uchicago.edu/Thayer/E/Roman/Texts/Vitruvius/6*.html. Accessed on 11 January 2025.

⁸ BUDAY 1913a, 130.

spans over twelve books, is considered one of the most complete ancient treatises on agriculture. The instructions he provides cover virtually every aspect of managing a successful farm and demonstrate that he possessed extensive knowledge of agriculture, economic planning, and efficient labor management. Like Varro, he considers that the location and organization of the farm, labor management, proper storage of products, the importance of a well-established irrigation system, and the understanding that productivity is influenced by climate and soil to be of great importance⁹. According to D. Alicu, the *villa* at Chinteni – “Dealul Tulgheș” (Cluj county) in Dacia Porolissensis, meets the criteria stated by Columella¹⁰ (Fig. 1).

Pliny the Elder wrote *Naturalis Historia* in the form of an encyclopedia, gathering knowledge from various fields, including botany, animal husbandry, horticulture and viticulture. In the sections dedicated to agriculture, he makes detailed observations and gives advice on crops, plants and animals, also emphasizing the natural qualities of plants¹¹.

These literary works, though not directly focused on Dacia, help us understand the ideals and practices of rural life in the Roman world. They provide a foundation for visualizing the *villa rustica* that symbolizes Roman agricultural life¹².

1b. Archaeological sources: uncovering the past

Excavations across Dacia have uncovered a wealth of information, including both immovable materials like walls and structures, and movable artifacts that provide clues about daily life depending on the archaeological context. For example, the discovery of agricultural tools in specific areas of a building can indicate the purpose of that space, such as a shed used for storage, as seen in the example at Lechința (Mureș County), where a deposit consisting of agricultural tools was found and published in 1960¹³ (Fig. 2). Further research proved the existence of an extended Roman settlement in the area¹⁴.

These findings offer tangible evidence of rural life in Dacia, helping to clarify and expand upon the information provided by literary sources. The archaeological record allows us to see how Roman techniques and styles were adapted to the local context, revealing a blend of Roman and indigenous influences in rural Dacian life.

1c. Iconographic sources: visualizing rural life

Iconographic sources, including mosaics, frescoes, and reliefs, offer a unique visual representation of rural life in the Roman Empire. These images not only give us a perspective about how humans looked and dressed during the Roman

period, but we can also see different examples of rural constructions that they lived in, as well as various activities, tools and animals used in agriculture. For instance, the mosaic of *Master Julius* from Carthage vividly portrays a *villa* at the center, surrounded by scenes of rural activities and the four seasons, providing a snapshot of the ideal Roman rural life (Fig. 3).

Other examples include the Zliten mosaic, which features a depiction of a *villa rustica* alongside the harvesting of corn, and mosaics from Tunisia and the Trier fresco, all of which depict various aspects of rural and agricultural life. Reliefs, such as those on Trajan’s Column, also offer detailed images of Roman soldiers engaging in agricultural work, including scenes of digging and harvesting wheat. On another relief dedicated to the god *Saturn*, we can observe the owner with his family depicted in the first register, whereas in the second register is illustrated the process of plowing and harvesting the grain, as well as in the last register where we see the grains being transported to the markets.

These visual representations not only complement the literary and archaeological records but also provide a direct glimpse into the tools and techniques used in Roman agriculture. For example, the Harvester of Buzenol relief shows a worker using a *vallus* (a Gallo-Roman harvesting machine) first mentioned by Pliny in *Naturalis Historia*. Similarly, fragments of funerary reliefs from *Ulmetum* (today Pantelimonul de Sus, Constanța County) and *Șeica Mică* (Sibiu County), the latter belonging to *Caius Iulius Quadratus*, depict workers using simple plows, providing an accurate visual record of the agricultural practices in Dacia (Fig. 4).

We can also observe representations of agricultural tools on a bas-relief from Napoca depicting the god *Silvanus* holding a pruning knife (Fig. 5), as well as on the horse armor from Gherla (Cluj County), where a female figure is seen holding a sickle.

1d. Epigraphic sources: names, gods, and status

Epigraphic sources, such as inscriptions, are particularly important for understanding the social aspects of rural life in Dacia. Inscriptions can reveal the names of *villa* owners, the gods they worshipped, their origins, and details of their social status. These records provide a more personal dimension to the study of rural life, offering insights into the identities and beliefs of those who lived and worked in the countryside.

Inscriptions found in Dacia often reflect the complex social context of the province, where Roman settlers, local elites, and various ethnic groups interacted. These epigraphic records are invaluable for reconstructing the demographics, religious practices, and social hierarchies of rural Dacian communities.

In 1911, during the spring agricultural works in Ciunăfaia (Cluj County), six votive altars were uncovered on the upper terrace of the “Dombor” hill. Five of them were dedicated by *Aelius Iulius* to: *Dibus*, *Deabus* and *Fortuna Conservatrix*, *Iuno Regina*, *Apollo*, *Mercurius* and *Minerva*, and another altar was dedicated by *Publius Aelius Maximus* to the syncretic god *Hercules Magusanus*¹⁵. The two were most likely father and

⁹ COLUMELLA, *De re rustica*, see book I, chapter 2, chapter 4, chapter 6, chapter 9, https://penelope.uchicago.edu/Thayer/e/roman/texts/columella/de_re_rustica/1*.html. Also see book II, chapters 4–5, https://penelope.uchicago.edu/Thayer/E/Roman/Texts/Columella/de_Re_Rustica/2*.html. Accessed on 11 January 2025.

¹⁰ ALICU 1998, 131.

¹¹ PLINIUS, *Naturalis Historia*, books 14–20, https://penelope.uchicago.edu/Thayer/e/roman/texts/pliny_the_elder/home.html. Accessed on 11 January 2025.

¹² For visual representations on the “ideal” *villa* imagined by Cato, Varro, Vitruvius and Columella, see figures 6–9.

¹³ CRIȘAN 1960.

¹⁴ PROTASE/LAZĂR/GROZAV 1988.

¹⁵ BUDAY 1911.

son, owners of the same *villa rustica*. Another good example of a *villa* owner's name comes from the rural settlement at Dezmir – "Crișeni" (Cluj County), situated on the approximate path of the imperial road, where a votive inscription dedicated to *Silvanus* by the slave *Securus*, for the health of the local owner *Aelius Iulianus*¹⁶.

From Micăsasa (Sibiu County) comes a votive altar dedicated to the Microasiatic god *Saromandus*¹⁷, and in Șpring (Alba County), we have the only attestation of the goddess *Obile* (Celtic deity) attested in Dacia¹⁸. Overall, due to the many related discoveries, the most worshiped god in the countryside seems to be *Silvanus*¹⁹.

Important data, about the owners and their status, we also learn from the funeral inscriptions and from the military diplomas. The *tegulae* and other stamped materials give us information about the connection of the settlement with other military or urban units. For example, the tile with the stamp of *alla II Pannoniorum* discovered at Juc-Herghele²⁰ (Cluj County).

2. MODERN AND CONTEMPORARY HISTORIOGRAPHY

The study of rural life in Roman Dacia is an evolving field, marked by significant scholarly contributions that have deepened our understanding of the region's history. From the early foundational works to the more recent specialized studies, the research on Dacian rural life offers a comprehensive view of the social, economic, and cultural dynamics that shaped the lives of its inhabitants. As this field of study continues to evolve, these works provide a vital foundation for ongoing research and discovery.

2a. Sources that address the subject in a general manner

The exploration of rural life in Roman Dacia began to take shape with the works of Dumitru Tudor²¹ in 1968 and Mihail Macrea²² in 1969. These scholars offered comprehensive analyses of rural settlements and the lifestyle of the Dacian population under Roman rule. Their studies remain foundational, providing a broad overview of the rural society, economic activities, and cultural practices in Dacia.

Building on the foundation laid by Tudor and Macrea, later scholars have expanded the scope of research, providing more detailed and nuanced insights into various aspects of rural life. Dumitru Popa's²³ contributions from 2001 and 2002 are particularly noteworthy. His 2001 work offers a general overview of rural life in the Transylvanian region, while his 2002 publication compiles a repertoire of all known

settlements and rural structures within the intracarpethian area, making it an invaluable resource for researchers.

Ioana Oltean's work represents a significant advancement in the field, characterized by a modern vision that reflects the fresh style of contemporary scholarship²⁴. Her innovative perspectives have enriched the understanding of rural Dacia, complementing the earlier works with fresh insights.

The latest synthesis on rural settlements in Roman Dacia comes from Nicolae Gudea²⁵ in 2008. His work is particularly comprehensive, offering a detailed and complete repertoire of rural settlements, further cementing its status as a critical reference in the study of Dacian rural life.

In addition to general syntheses, several specialized studies have made important contributions to specific aspects of rural life in Roman Dacia. The economic dimensions of rural life have been explored in the past by Vasile Christescu²⁶ and, more recently, by Codruța Jucan²⁷, which provide insights into the economic activities and structures that sustained rural communities. The religious practices and beliefs of rural Dacians are well-documented in the works of Mihai Bărbulescu²⁸ and Constantin Pop²⁹, offering a glimpse into the spiritual life of these ancient communities. Agriculture, the backbone of rural life, has been the focus of studies by Ioan Glodariu³⁰ and Ion Dumitrescu³¹. These works detail the agricultural techniques, crop management, and the role of agriculture in the rural economy. Rural architecture, including the construction and organization of rural spaces, is covered in Dragoș Blaga's³² work, which sheds light on the architectural practices of rural Dacians. The internal organization of rural spaces and the general aspects of rural life have been explored in various works over the years. Dumitru Protase³³ made significant early contributions with his studies from 1968, 1969, and 1971, which laid the groundwork for understanding the social and spatial organization of rural settlements. Subsequent works by Iudita Winkler³⁴ and Volker Wollmann³⁵ provided further insights into the Romanization of rural territories. The exploration of rural life continued with the research of Doina Benea and Adrian Bejan³⁶, Gheorghe Popilian³⁷, Virginia Cartianu³⁸, and Nicolae Gudea³⁹, each adding layers of detail to our understanding of rural society. The turn of the century saw further contributions by Doina Benea⁴⁰, Gheorghe Popilian and Dan Bălțeanu⁴¹, Dumitru Popa⁴², and Ioana Oltean⁴³, who collec-

²⁴ OLTEAN 2007.

²⁵ GUDEA 2008.

²⁶ CHRISTESCU 1929.

²⁷ JUCAN 2003.

²⁸ BĂRBULESCU 1998.

²⁹ POP 1998; POP 2003; POP 2004.

³⁰ GLODARIU 1977.

³¹ DUMITRESCU 2018.

³² BLAGA 2016.

³³ PROTASE 1968; PROTASE 1969; PROTASE 1971.

³⁴ WINKLER 1974.

³⁵ WOLLMANN 1975.

³⁶ BENE/BEJAN 1987–1988; BENE/BEJAN 1989–1993.

³⁷ POPILIAN 1989.

³⁸ CARTIANU 1992.

³⁹ GUDEA 1994.

⁴⁰ BENE 1998.

⁴¹ POPILIAN/BĂLȚEANU 1998.

⁴² POPA 2002b.

⁴³ OLTEAN 2004.

¹⁶ CIL III, 863.

¹⁷ CIL III, 964 = IDR III/4, 92.

¹⁸ CIL III, 6263 = IDR III/4, 29.

¹⁹ As seen from the numerous epigraphic (and not only) discoveries made on the territory of the former province of Dacia, e.g. CIL III, 1306 = IDR III/3, 328; CIL III, 903; CIL III, 1207 = IDR III/5–2, 483; CIL III, 1359 = IDR III/3, 117; CIL III, 1361 = IDR III/3, 129; CIL III, 6248; CIL III, 1377; ILD 609; CUPCEA/RUSU-BOLINDEȚ/PETIȘ/ONOFREI 2019, 158–160; CIL III, 863=7661, etc.

²⁰ DIACONESCU 2012, 66.

²¹ TUDOR 1968.

²² MACREA 1969.

²³ POPA 2001 and POPA 2002a.

tively enriched the knowledge with their studies on rural life and settlement patterns.

A very useful and important source is represented by *Tabula Imperii Romani – Forma Orbis Romani: Dacia*, a synthesis that gathers all the Roman era discoveries from the territory of Roman Dacia based on localities, including the most recent reports. This comprehensive work includes every report, excavation, and detail about the known rural settlements or villas⁴⁴. Furthermore, the latest work of Mihai Bărbulescu dedicates several sections to the rural environment and the activities carried out there. The author recalls the most well-known discoveries, and in a subchapter dedicated to agriculture, he presents evidence of its practice in Roman settlements, also mentioning the types of plants, cereal and vegetables cultivated in this area⁴⁵.

2b. Sources that address a particular subject

The investigation of Roman rural life in Dacia began in the late 19th century, with early mentions of rural structures primarily focusing on rural villas. In 1880, Károly Torma briefly noted the existence of such a *villa*, namely the one at Apahida (Cluj County)⁴⁶. Gabor Téglás followed in 1891 with similar observations⁴⁷. However, it was not until 1898 that more systematic archaeological work commenced, with Finály Gábor partially excavating a structure at Jucu de Sus (Cluj County)⁴⁸.

The turn of the 20th century saw a significant increase in archaeological activity. Finály continued his work, investigating two *villae rusticae* at Apahida in 1901⁴⁹, and subsequently documenting additional sites at Viștea (Cluj County) and Șard (Cluj County) in 1904⁵⁰. István Téglás expanded research to Rediu (Cluj County) in 1906⁵¹, while Márton Róska conducted excavations at Dezmir (Cluj County) in 1911⁵² and Aiton (Cluj County) in 1915⁵³. Árpád Buday, published in 1913 and 1914 comprehensive excavation reports from sites such as “Tarcea Mică” (Apahida commune)⁵⁴, Mănerău (Hunedoara County)⁵⁵, and Gârbou (Sălaj County)⁵⁶, setting a high standard for archaeological documentation.

The interwar period saw a decline in archaeological research on Roman rural life in Dacia, with fewer discoveries and publications. Notable exceptions include Alexandru Ferenczi’s excavation of a *villa* at Poiana Selei (Hunedoara County)⁵⁷ in 1924 and Dorin Popescu’s discovery of a Roman rural settlement at Lechința (Mureș County)⁵⁸ in 1925, where further research would continue later. Constantin Daicoviciu identified a new site at Sânnicoară (Cluj County)

⁵⁹ a few years later, and Octavian Floca discovered a *villa rustica* at Sarmizegetusa (Hunedoara County) in 1937⁶⁰.

After 1940, particularly during the communist period, research into rural Dacia gained momentum. The era’s political ideology, which emphasized the narrative of a Roman colonizing force subjugating the local Dacian population, influenced many studies. This is evident in works such as Octavian Floca’s 1953 article titled “*Fermă (villa rustica) din epoca sclavagistă romană*”⁶¹ (transl.: *Farm (villa rustica) from the Roman Slave Era*). During this period, researchers took advantage of increased support for archaeological projects, leading to significant discoveries across the former province. Key sites excavated include Hobița and Cinciș (Hunedoara County), Aiud (Alba County), Ciunăfaia (Cluj County), Obreja (Caraș-Severin County), Slimnic (Sibiu County), Cristești (Mureș County), Ghirbom (Alba County), Hodoni (Timiș County), and Micăsasa (Sibiu County).

The research landscape did not change dramatically after 1980 in terms of volume, but methodological advancements began to play a larger role. Traditional excavation techniques continued, but the introduction of modern technologies, such as aerial photography and geophysical surveys, began to transform the field. These non-invasive methods allowed the identification and documentation of the rural structures without extensive excavation. Noteworthy examples include Ioana Oltean’s use of aerial photography to identify villas at sites like Micești, Oarda (both in Alba County), and Strei (Hunedoara county). At Oarda⁶², geophysical surveys provided detailed plans of a *villa*, demonstrating the efficiency and precision of modern techniques.

Similar methods were employed by Hungarian researchers like Máté Szabó, who used geophysics to map villas in Pannonia⁶³. The *villa* at Rapoltu Mare (Hunedoara County)⁶⁴, for instance, was investigated using *Ground Penetrating Radar*, a technique that further underscores the shift towards non-invasive archaeological methods.

Despite the numerous discoveries, site-specific monographs remain relatively few. Some of the most significant include: Slimnic – Ioan Glodariu’s work⁶⁵ on the Daco-Roman settlement in Sibiu county; Obreja – Dumitru Protase’s study⁶⁶ of the settlement and Roman cemetery; Gârla Mare (Mehedinți County) – Ion Stîngă’s monograph⁶⁷ on a *villa rustica*; Florești-“Polus Center” – a collective volume⁶⁸ documenting excavations at this site located in Cluj county; Juc-Herghelie – Alexandru Diaconescu’s work on a *villa rustica* in Cluj County⁶⁹ as well, referred to as a “farm”; Timișoara-Freidorf (Timiș County) – a comprehensive monograph⁷⁰ that presents results from excavations dating

⁴⁴ BĂRBULESCU/FODOREAN/NEDELEA 2021.

⁴⁵ BĂRBULESCU 2024, 383–394, *passim*.

⁴⁶ TORMA 1880, 18.

⁴⁷ TÉGLÁS 1891.

⁴⁸ FINÁLY 1898.

⁴⁹ FINÁLY 1901.

⁵⁰ FINÁLY 1904, 244.

⁵¹ TÉGLÁS 1906, 361–362.

⁵² RÓSKA 1911.

⁵³ RÓSKA 1915.

⁵⁴ BUDAY 1913b.

⁵⁵ BUDAY 1913a.

⁵⁶ BUDAY 1914.

⁵⁷ FERENCZI 1924.

⁵⁸ POPESCU 1925.

⁵⁹ DAICOVICIU 1928–1932, 62.

⁶⁰ FLOCA 1937.

⁶¹ Published in *Materiale și Cercetări Arheologice* 1, 1953, 743–754.

⁶² OLTEAN/HANSON 2007, 131; also see OLTEAN 2007, 126.

⁶³ SZABÓ 2012.

⁶⁴ BARBU *et alii* 2016; also see BARBU *et alii* 2019.

⁶⁵ GLODARIU 1981.

⁶⁶ PROTASE 2002.

⁶⁷ STÎNGĂ 2005.

⁶⁸ For discoveries related to the Roman period see: CIAUȘESCU/MUSTAȚĂ 2009; CIONGRADI/COCIȘ/ILOVAN/GĂZDAC 2009; MUSTAȚĂ/GĂZDAC 2009; TECAR/NAGY/TECAR 2009.

⁶⁹ DIACONESCU 2012.

⁷⁰ MARE *et alii* 2011.

back to 1984, highlighting the importance of long-term systematic research. Last but not least, the rural settlement at Țibot (Alba County) – “În Obreji”, is a site worth mentioning as it is the only settlement fully excavated and researched. The settlement included 17 buildings, a Roman road, baths, and a possible forum, as well as a necropolis which contained 210 graves, most of which were cremation graves⁷¹.

3. SHORT FINAL REMARKS

The study of Roman rural life in ancient Dacia has progressed from early, sporadic observations to a more systematic and technologically advanced discipline. The evolution of research methods, coupled with a growing body of discoveries, has significantly enhanced our understanding of rural settlements and their role in the broader context of Roman Dacia. As modern techniques continue to be integrated into archaeological practice, future studies will likely provide even deeper insights into the rural life of this ancient province.

REFERENCES

- ALICU 1998
Alicu, D., *Les villae rusticae dans le basin du Someș Rece (La villa rustica de Chinteni I)*. In: Baumann, V. H. (ed.), *La politique éditiale dans les provinces de l'Empire romain IIème-IVème siècles après J.-C. 3*, (Tulcea: Brastar), 127–160.
- BARBU *et alii* 2016
Barbu, M. Gh./Bărbat, I. A./Băeștean, G./Bălos, A./Gonciar, A./Brown, A., Raport preliminar privind cercetările arheologice de la Rapoltu Mare-La Vie, campaniile 2013–2015, *Banatica* 26/1, 273–321.
- BARBU *et alii* 2019
Barbu, M. Gh./Bărbat, I. A./Băeștean, G./Barbu, I. L./Barbu, M. M./Țuțuianu, C. D./Marc A. T./Bălos, A./Gonciar, A./Brown, A., Raport preliminar privind cercetările arheologice de la Rapoltu Mare – La vie, campania 2017, *Banatica* 29/1, 67–81.
- BĂRBULESCU 1998
Bărbulescu, M., *Cultes et croyances dans le milieu rural en Dacie*. In: Baumann, V. H. (ed.), *La politique éditiale dans les provinces de l'Empire romain IIème-IVème siècles après J.-C. 3*, (Tulcea: Brastar), 197–206.
- BĂRBULESCU 2024
Bărbulescu, M., *Civilizația romană în Dacia* (Cluj-Napoca: Editura Școala Ardeleană).
- BĂRBULESCU/FODOREAN/NEDELEA 2021
Bărbulescu, M./Fodorean, F.-Gh./Nedelea, L. (eds.), *Tabula Imperii Romani – Forma Orbis Romani: Dacia* (București: Editura Academiei Române).
- BĂLTĂC 2016
Băltăc, A./Damian, P./Apostol, V./Streinu, A./Dolea, A./Paraschiv-Grigore, I./Paraschiv-Grigore, E./Nicolae, C./Voicu, B., Cercetările arheologice preventive din așezarea romană de la Țibot, punctul „În Obreji” (jud. Alba) — considerații preliminare, *Cercetări Arheologice* 23, 49–104.
- BENEA 1998
Benea, D., *Le habitat rural dans le sud-ouest de la Dacie (les siècles III IV-ème)*. In: Baumann, V. H. (ed.), *La politique éditiale dans les provinces de l'Empire romain IIème-IVème siècles après J.-C. 3*, (Tulcea: Brastar), 101–117.
- BENEA/BEJAN 1987–1988
Benea, D./Bejan, A., Viața rurală în sud-vestul Daciei în secolele II–IV (I), *Acta Mvsei Napocensis* 24–25, 247–260.
- BENEA/BEJAN 1989–1993
Benea, D./A. Bejan, Viața rurală în sud-vestul Daciei în secolele II–IV (II), *Acta Mvsei Napocensis* 26–30, 127–148.
- BLAGA 2016
Blaga, G. D., *Arhitectură și habitat privat în Dacia romană*, m. s. PhD Thesis (Cluj-Napoca).
- BOȚAN/BĂRCĂ/COCIȘ 2023
Boțan, S.-P./Bărcă, V./Cociș, S., Notes on some of the glass finds in the villa rustica of Dealul Lomb – Cluj-Napoca, *Journal of Ancient History and Archaeology* 11/3, 161–171. DOI: 10.14795/j.v11i3.1087.
- BRANGA 1969–1973
Branga, N., Unelte agricole și gospodărești dacice și romane din Muzeul Brukenthal, *Cibinium* 3, 39–55.
- BUDAY 1911
Buday, Á., Pótlások a C. I. L. III. Kötetéhez, *Dolgozatok az Erdélyi Múzeum Érem- és Régiségtárából* 2/2, 260–270.
- BUDAY 1913a
Buday, Á., Római villák Erdélyben. I. Római villa Magyarosdon, *Dolgozatok az Erdélyi Múzeum Érem- és Régiségtárából* 4, 110–128.
- BUDAY 1913b
Buday, Á., Római villa Kolozsvár “Kistarcsa” nevű határ-részében, *Dolgozatok az Erdélyi Múzeum Érem- és Régiségtárából* 4, Cluj-Napoca, 128–154.
- BUDAY 1914
Buday, Á., Római ház maradványai Csákgorbón, *Dolgozatok az Erdélyi Múzeum Érem- és Régiségtárából* 5/1, 45–62.
- BUDAY 1916
Buday, Á., Szorványos római kori emlékek Erdélyből, *Dolgozatok az Erdélyi Múzeum Érem- és Régiségtárából* 7/1, 27–91.
- CARTIANU 1992
Cartianu, V., Villa rustica celto-romană răspândită din Britannia până în Dacia, *Marisia* 15–22, 78–85.
- CHRISTESCU 1929
Christescu, V., *Viața economică a Daciei romane* (Pitești: Tipografia „Artistica” P. Mitu).
- CIAUȘESCU/MUSTAȚĂ 2009
Ciaulescu, M./Mustață, S., *Ceramica din așezarea romană*. In: Mustață, S./Gogăltan, F./Cociș, S./Ursuțiu A. (eds.), *Cercetări arheologice preventive la Florești – Polus Center*, jud. Cluj (2007) (Cluj-Napoca: Editura Mega), 243–278.
- CIL
Corpus Inscriptionum Latinarum (Berlin).
- CIONGRADI/COCIȘ/ILOVAN/GĂZDAC 2009
Ciongradi, C./Cociș, S./Ilovan, M./Găzdac C., *Monumentul funerar roman*. In: Mustață, S./Gogăltan, F./Cociș, S./Ursuțiu A. (eds.), *Cercetări arheologice preventive la Florești – Polus Center*, jud. Cluj (2007) (Cluj-Napoca: Editura Mega), 285–318.
- COCIȘ/FODOREAN/URSUȚIU/BĂRCĂ 2010
Cociș, F./Fodorean, A./Ursuțiu, V./Bărcă, V., *Villa rustica de pe Dealul Lomb (Chinteni, Cluj-Napoca)*. In: Pop H./Bejinariu, I./Băcuet-Crișan S./Băcuet-Crișan D. (eds.), *Identități Culturale Locale și Regionale în Context European. Studii de arheologie și antropologie istorică*. In memoriam Al. V. Matei (Cluj-Napoca: Editura Mega), 565–574.
- COVACEF 1998
Covacef, Z., *Quelques Considerations Concernant Les Activites Agricoles Dans La Dobroudja Romaine, Refletees Par Les Monuments Sculpturales*. In: Baumann, V. H. (ed.), *La politique éditiale dans les provinces de l'Empire romain IIème-IVème siècles après J.-C. 3*, (Tulcea: Brastar), 260–276.

⁷¹ BĂLTĂC *et alii* 2016.

- CRIȘAN 1960
Crișan, I. H., Un depozit de unelte descoperit la Lechința de Mureș (plugul la geto-daci), *Studii și cercetări de istorie veche* 11/2, 285–301.
- DAICOVICIU 1928–1932
Daicoviciu, C., Notițe arheologice și epigrafice, *Anuarul Institutului de Studii Clasice (Cluj-Napoca)* 2, 58–63.
- DIACONESCU 2012
Diaconescu, Al., *Juc Herghelie. O fermă în teritoriul anticei Napoca și aprovizionarea cu cai a armatei romane* (Cluj-Napoca: Editura Mega).
- DUMITRESCU 2018
Dumitrescu, I., *Agricultura în Dacia (sec. II–IV p. Chr.)*, m. s. PhD Thesis (Bucharest).
- FERENCZI 1924
Ferenczi, Al., Fouilles archéologiques de Poiana Selei, *Dacia – Revue d'archéologie et d'histoire ancienne* 1, 264–272.
- FINÁLY 1898
Finály, G., A római telepekről a Kis-Szamos völgyében, *Archeologiai Értesítő* 18, 427–431.
- FINÁLY 1901
Finály, G., Két római épületről apahidán, *Archeologiai Értesítő* 21, 239–250.
- FINÁLY 1904
Finály, G., Római és pseudo-római nyomokról Kolozsvármegyében, *Archeologiai Értesítő* 24, 243–246.
- FLOCA 1937
Floca, O., O nouă villa rustica suburbana în hotarul Sarmisegetuzei, *Sargetia* 1, 25–43.
- GLODARIU 1977
Glodariu, I., Die Landwirtschaft im römischen Dakien, *Aufstieg und Niedergang der Römischen Welt. Berlin – New York* 2/6, 950–989.
- GLODARIU 1981
Glodariu, I., *Așezări dacice și daco-romane la Slimnic. Contribuții la continuitatea dacilor în Dacia romană* (București: Editura Academiei Republicii Socialiste România).
- GUDEA 1994
Gudea, N., *Die ländliche Siedlungen und die Landwirtschaft im römischen Dakien*. In: Bender, H. (ed.), *Ländliche Besiedlung und Landwirtschaft in den Rhein – Donau – Provinzen des Römischen Reiches* (Espelkamp: Leidorf), 511–519.
- GUDEA 2008
Gudea, N., *Așezări rurale în Dacia romană (106–275 p. Chr.). Schiță pentru o istorie a agriculturii și satului daco-roman* (Oradea: Editura Primus).
IDR
Inscripțiile Daciei Romane (București: Editura Republicii Socialiste România).
ILD
Petolescu, C., *Inscripții latine din Dacia* (București: Editura Academiei Române), 2005.
- JUCAN 2003
Jucan, C., Villa rustica din Dacia intracarpatica si Banat. Aspecte economice, *Sargetia* 31, 231–240.
- MACREA 1969
Macrea, M., *Viața în Dacia romană* (București: Editura Științifică).
- MAN 2011
Man, N., *Așezarea romană de la Cristești* (Cluj-Napoca: Editura Mega).
- MARE ET ALII 2011
Mare, M./Tănase, D./Drașovean, F./El Susi, G./Gál, S. S., *Timișoara – Freidorf. Cercetările arheologice preventive din anul 2006* (Cluj-Napoca: Editura Mega).
- MUSTAȚĂ/GĂZDAC 2009
Mustață, S./Găzdac, C., *Așezarea romană*. In: Mustață, S./Gogăltan, F./Cociș, S./Ursuțiu A. (eds.), *Cercetări arheologice preventive la Florești – Polus Center, jud. Cluj* (2007) (Cluj-Napoca: Editura Mega), 223–242.
- OLTEAN 2004
Oltean, I., Rural settlement in Roman Dacia: some considerations, in Roman Dacia. The making of a provincial society, *Journal of Roman Archaeology Suppl.* 56, 143–164.
- OLTEAN 2007
Oltean, I., *Dacia. Landscape, colonisation and romanisation* (London – New York: Routledge).
- POP 1998
Pop, C., *Vita spirituale nell'ambiente rurale della Dacia Superiore*. In: Baumann, V. H. (ed.), *La politique éditiltaire dans les provinces de l'Empire romain IIème-IVème siècles après J.-C.* 3, (Tulcea: Brastar), 189–196.
- POP 2003
Pop, C., Viața spirituală în mediul rural din Dacia Superioară (II), *Tibiscum* 11, 267–277.
- POP 2004
Pop, C., Viața spirituală în mediul rural din Dacia Superioară (I), *Apulum* 41, 309–320.
- POPA 2001
Popa, D., *Viața rurală în Transilvania romană* (Sibiu: Editura Mirton).
- POPA 2002A
Popa, D., *Villae, vici, pagi: așezările rurale din Dacia romană intracarpatică* (Sibiu: Editura Economică).
- POPA 2002B
Popa, D., Considerații privind habitatul rural din spațiul intracarpatic al Daciei romane, *Acta Terrae Septemcastrensis* 1, 129–144.
- POPESCU 1925
Popescu, D. O., Fouilles de Lechința de Mureș, *Dacia – Revue d'archéologie et d'histoire ancienne* 2, 304–344.
- POPILIAN 1989
Popilian, Gh., Considerații cu privire la așezările rurale din Dacia romană de la sud de Carpați, *Symposia Thracologica* 7, 381–382.
- POPILIAN/BĂLTEANU 1998
Popilian, Gh./Bălțeanu, D., *À propos des villae rusticae d'Olténie*. In: Baumann, V. H. (ed.), *La politique éditiltaire dans les provinces de l'Empire romain IIème-IVème siècles après J.-C.* 3, (Tulcea: Brastar), 173–188.
- PORTASE/LAZĂR/GROZAV 1988
Protase, D./Lazăr, V./Grozav, M., Săpăturile arheologice din anii 1983–1986 la Lechința de Mureș (jud. Mureș), *Apulum* 25, 181–206.
- PROTASE 1968
Protase, D., Observații în legătură cu așezările rurale din Dacia romană, *Acta Musei Napocensis* 5, 505–511.
- PROTASE 1969
Protase, D., Sur les établissements ruraux de la Dacie romaine, *Revue roumaine d'histoire* 8/1, 3–14.
- PROTASE 1971
Protase, D., Observații asupra așezărilor rurale din Dacia romană și postromană (sec. II–IV e. n.) până la venirea slavilor, *Banatica* 1, 93–101.
- PROTASE 2002
Protase, D., *Obreja. Așezarea și cimitirul daco-roman. Dovezi ale continuității* (Cluj-Napoca: Nereamia Napocae).
- RÓSKA 1911
Róska, M., Rómaikori villa Dezmér határában, *Dolgozatok az Erdélyi Múzeum Érem- és Régiségtárából* 2/1, 106–108.

- RÓSKA 1915
Róska, M., Rómaikori villa Ajton (Kolozs vm.) határában, *Dolgozatok az Erdélyi Múzeum Érem- és Régiségtárából* 6, 48–50.
- RUSSU 1981
Russu, I. I., *Etnogeneza românilor* (București: Editura științifică și enciclopedică).
- STÎNGĂ 2005
Stîngă, I., *Villa rustica de la Gârla Mare, județul Mehedinți* (Craiova: Editura Universitaria).
- SZABÓ 2012
Szabó, M., *Using remote sensing and non-invasive archaeological methods in the research of Roman villas and the ancient landscape of Pannonia*. In: Czajlik, Z./ Bödöcs, A. (eds.), *Aerial Archaeology and Remote Sensing From The Baltic To The Adriatic*. Annual Conference of the Aerial Archaeology Research Group, 13th–15th September 2012, Budapest, Hungary (Budapest: Institute of archaeological sciences, Faculty of humanities, Eötvös Loránd University), 79–123.
- TECAR/NAGY/TECAR 2009
Tecar, M./Nagy, S./Tecar, T., *Mormântul roman de incineratie*. In: Mustăță, S./Gogâltan, F./Cociș, S./Ursuțiu A. (eds.), *Cercetări arheologice preventive la Florești – Polus Center, jud. Cluj* (2007) (Cluj-Napoca: Editura Mega), 279–284.
- TÉGLÁS 1891
Téglás, G., Ujabb adalékok Dácia föld-és helyiratához, *Földrajzi Közlemények* 65–86.
- TÉGLÁS 1906
Téglás, I., Pusztaszentmártoni és Röödi épü-letmaradványokról, *Archeologiai Értesítő* 26, 361–362.
- TUDOR 1968
Tudor, D., *Orașe, târguri și sate în Dacia romană* (București: Editura Științifică) 1968.
- VORTISCH 2015
Vortisch, T., *Villa rustica. Die Darstellung römischer Landgüter in antiken Primärquellen*, Seminararbeit, Technical University of Braunschweig, 2014/2015.
- WINKLER 1974
Winkler, I., Procesul romanizării în lumina monumentelor epigrafice și sculpturale din așezările rurale ale provinciei Dacia, *Studii și cercetări de istorie veche* 25/4, 497–515.
- WOLLMANN 1975
Wollmann, V., Epigrafia și problema romanizării în provincia Dacia, *Anuarul Institutului de Istorie și Arheologie* 18, 281–289.



Fig. 1. Aerial image of the excavated *villa rustica* at Chinteni (after ALICU 1998, fig. 3).

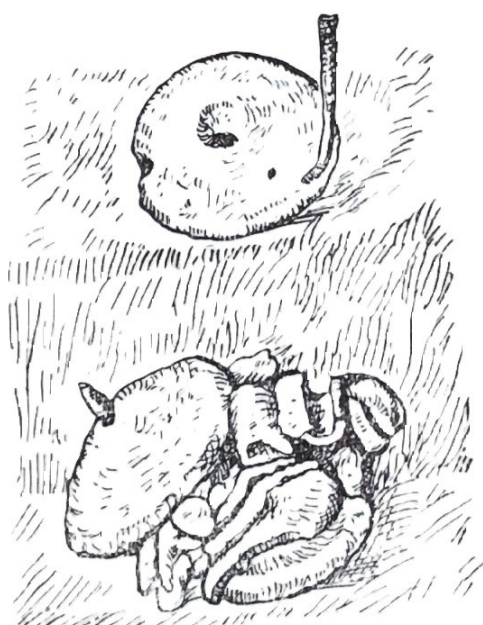


Fig. 2. Iron agricultural tools deposit discovered at Lechința de Mureș – drawing of the *in situ* artifacts (after CRIȘAN 1960, fig. 2).



Fig. 3. Dominus Julius's mosaic from Carthage (Source: <https://www.alamy.com/roman-mosaic-fourth-century-mosaic-depicting-an-aristocrat-lord-julius-lower-right-and-his-villa-centre-in-carthage-near-the-modern-day-city-of-image335341854.html>. Accessed 21 August 2024).

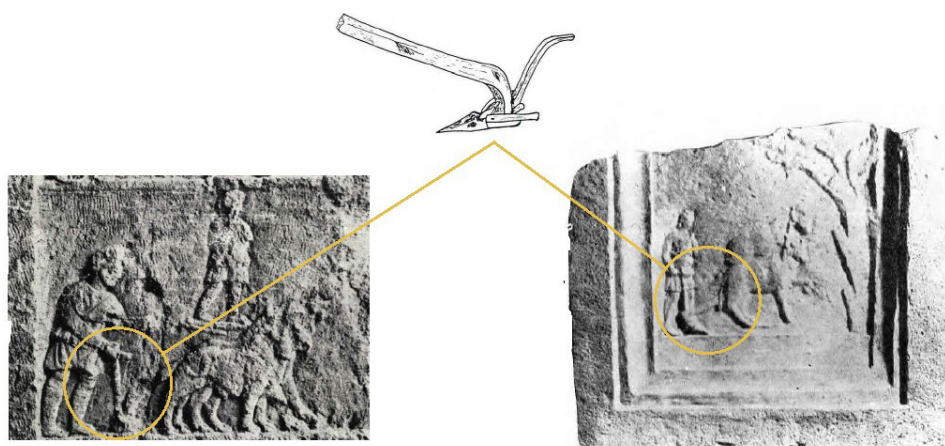
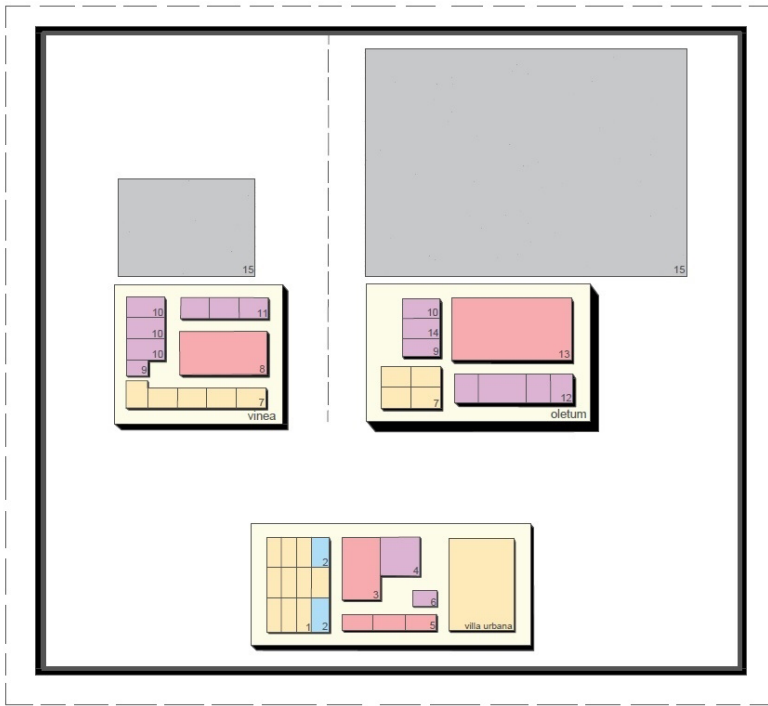


Fig. 4. The reliefs discovered at Șeica Mică (left) (after COVACEF 1998, fig. 3), and *Ulmetum* (right) (after BRANGA 1969-1973, fig. 6), both illustrating the use of plows in agriculture. Above, the reconstitution of such a plow (after DUMITRESCU 2018, fig. 25b).



Fig. 5. Bas-relief of Silvanus holding a pruning knife (after BUDAY 1916, fig. 16).

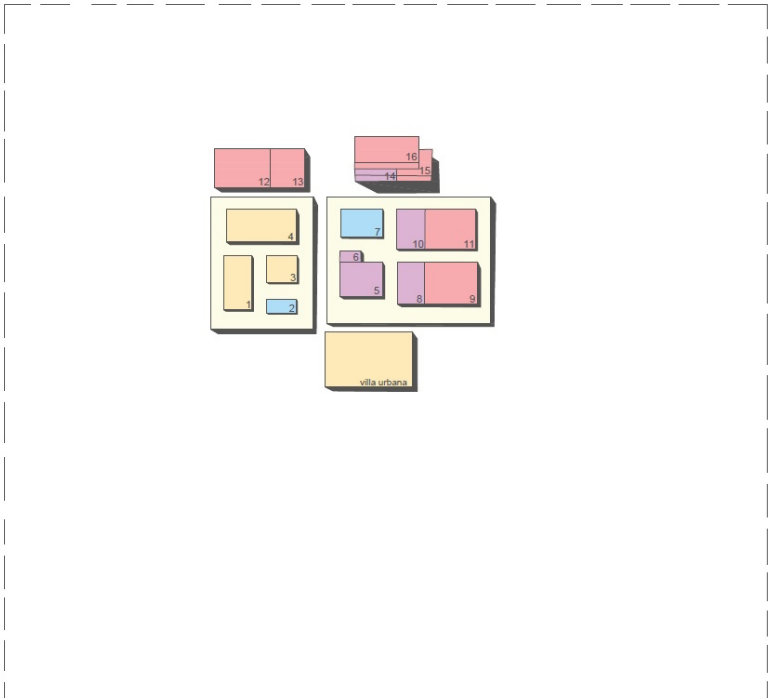


LEGEND

1 Cattle stalls	5 Meat chamber	9 Hand mill	13 Oil chamber
2 Manger	6 Oven	10 Donkey mill	14 Spanish mill
3 Granary	7 Staff	11 Wine press	15 Cultivated area/ Arable land
4 Threshing floor	8 Wine cellar	12 Oil press	

 Living Areas	 Storage	 Production	 Outbuilding	 Arable Land
--	--	--	---	---

Fig. 6. *Villa rustica* illustrated model designed according to Cato's writings (redrawn by M. Tivadar, after VORTISCH 2015, 9.1).



LEGEND

1 Horse stable	5 Kitchen	9 Oil chamber	13 Pantry
2 Manger	6 Oven	10 Wine press	14 Grain mill
3 Sheep pen	7 Baths	11 Wine cellar	15 Grain chamber
4 Cattle stalls	8 Oil press	12 Barn	16 Granary

 Living Areas	 Storage	 Production	 Outbuilding	 Arable Land
--	--	--	---	---

Fig. 7. *Villa rustica* illustrated model designed according to Vitruvius's writings (redrawn by M. Tivadar, after VORTISCH 2015, 9.2).

Fig. 8. *Villa rustica* illustrated model designed according to Varro's writings (redrawn by M. Tivadar, after VORTISCH 2015, 9.3).

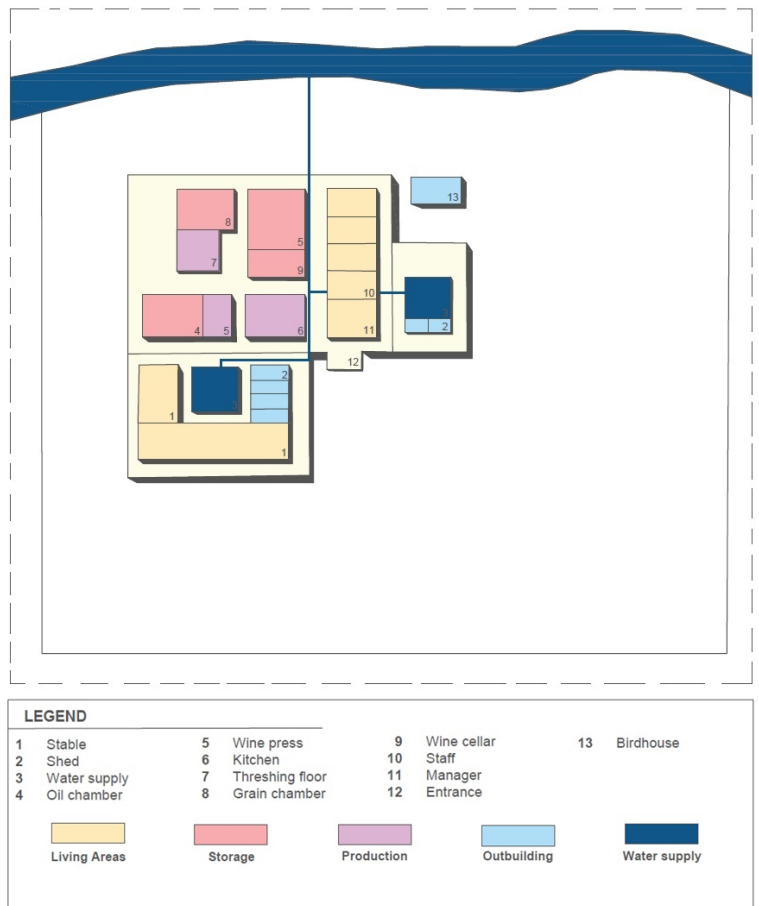


Fig. 9. *Villa rustica* illustrated model designed according to Columella's writings (redrawn by M. Tivadar, after VORTISCH 2015, 9.4).

