



JOURNAL OF ANCIENT HISTORY AND ARCHAEOLOGY

Institute of Archeology and Art History of
Romanian Academy Cluj-Napoca
Technical University Of Cluj-Napoca



JAHA
JOURNAL OF ANCIENT HISTORY
AND ARCHAEOLOGY

Journal of Ancient History and Archaeology

DOI: <http://dx.doi.org/10.14795/j.v9i1>

ISSN 2360 266x

ISSN-L 2360 266x



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JOURNALS

No. 9.1 /2022

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Design & layout:
Petru Ureche

ROMAN ARMY AND SALT EXPLOITATION IN SÂNPAUL- MĂRTINIȘ-OC LAND AREA

Abstract: The author investigates both archaeologically and epigraphically the Sânpaul-Mărtiniș-Ocland area from Roman Dacia, putting in connection the presence of the Roman army and the salt exploitation. He presents the results of some surveys he made in the area and corroborates these results with the epigraphic containing attestation of the Roman army and of clerks involved in the administration of salt exploitation.

Keywords: *Roman Dacia, salt exploitation, Roman army, Sânpaul-Mărtiniș-Ocland area.*

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The eastern frontier of Dacia was recently discussed by F. Matei-Popescu and Ovidiu Țentea.¹ The authors remark that the limes was set up in order to ensure a strong and unitary defence along the line of Eastern Carpathians.² The area I am focusing my present research (Sânpaul-Mărtiniș-Ocland) was seen by Matei-Popescu and Țentea in the frame of a Roman forts concentration, together with other forts or fortlets, around former late Iron Age settlements, considered to be a Dacian power centre, related to the expedition of M. Laberius Maximus on the Olt valley.

It is beyond any doubt that the forts line had a strategic military role, but moreover, in the Sânpaul-Mărtiniș-Ocland area, the salt resources represent a supplementary reason to strengthen the defence (**Fig. 1**). I will put together the field surveys I have made with my colleagues Andrei Asăndulesei and Felix Tencariu with the epigraphic file of this area, in order to establish a relation between the military presence, the strategic defence role and the salt resources.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EXCAVATIONS AND SURVEYS: SALT RESOURCES

A brief state of research was given in an article I recently published³. I will shortly mention the archaeological situation and the surveys I made, with some extra-details.

The fort of Sânpaul (Harghita county), situated on the stream Varcaba, next to Vlăhița pass, is a rectangular one, with round corner towers.⁴ At Ocland the fortlet (20 x 20 m) is provided with a ditch and a *vallum* of earth.⁵ It is

¹ MATEI-POPESCU/ȚENTEA 2016, 7-24.

² MATEI-POPESCU/ȚENTEA 2016, 18-19.

³ MIHAILESCU-BÎRLIBA 2019a, 136-137.

⁴ See especially MATEI-POPESCU/ȚENTEA 2016, 13, with bibliography.

⁵ RAJH, 167. See also MATEI-POPESCU/ȚENTEA 2016, 13.

DOI: 10.14795/j.v9i1.704

ISSN 2360 – 266X

ISSN-L 2360 – 266X

possible that it served as a *statio beneficiarii*, if one take into account the text mentioning a *beneficiarius*, found in the village of Crăciunel (comm. of Ocland).⁶ I shall discuss later in detail about the epigraphy of the area. In the same area, at Băile Homorod, is attested another fortlet, rectangular with round corners. At south-west, a small complementary fortlet was investigated. All the materials dated from Roman period.⁷

The *vicus* from Sânpaul was investigated by G. Ferenczi and I. Ferenczi in 1957-1958. They found some stone buildings with *hypocaustum*, as well as small findings from Roman period.⁸

At Sânpaul, D. Buzea and A. Chiricescu identified two salt brines in the village of Mărtiniș, both dating from pre-modern and modern time.⁹ They also carried out field surveys in the area, collecting fragments of Roman pottery from the camp and the *vicus* next to the camp.¹⁰ Buzea and Chiricescu noted in their report the so-called „Roman mines”, with wooden structures coming from the ground.¹¹ A. Harding and V. Kavruk carried out their field surveys using differential GPS, and gradiometer survey using a Bartington series 601 machine. At Mărtiniș, they surveyed the field situated east of the salt stream. Very close, at Mărtiniș-Bogoz, the authors surveyed a site of an extensive Early Iron Age pottery scatter.¹² Not far from Mărtiniș, at 1,8 km south-east of the village of Ocland, Harding and Kavruk observed a brine stream, showing timbers protruding from the stream bed.¹³ Harding and Kavruk took samples from the timbers and one falls in the Iron Age. The radiocarbon data of the timbers provide a chronology from Early Iron Age to medieval and pre-modern time. The authors noted that none of the samples were dated in Roman period.¹⁴ However, the inscription found in Sânpaul attesting the *conductor* C. Iulius Valentinus¹⁵ and the fact that the rain interrupted the work of Harding and Kavruk make me believe that a Roman exploitation was in that spot. Moreover, despite the lack of Roman pottery, the presence of the troops in the area proves that the territory was inhabited in Roman period and therefore the salt springs were undoubtedly used.

At Petreni (comm. of Mărtiniș), our investigations lead to the identification of a salt spring which was used until modern era. (Fig. 1-2). Taking into account the Roman findings in the area (Fig. 3), it is possible that Romans have used the salt resources. I strongly recommend an intrusive investigation (if it is possible), in order to collect pottery samples or other objects which can better indicate a chronology of the site's occupation.

I have made a next survey at Sânpaul (Fig. 4), together with my colleagues Andrei Asăndulesei and Felix Tencariu.¹⁶

⁶ IDR III/4, 256. See also MATEI-POPESCU/ȚENȚEA 2016, 13.

⁷ RAJH 244. MATEI-POPESCU/ȚENȚEA 2016, 13. <https://limesromania.ro/ro/articole/situri-arheologice/?page=1>, accessed May 2nd 2019.

⁸ FERENCZI/FERENCZI 1961, 404. For the discussion see TIMOC 2000, 397-399.

⁹ BUZEA/CHIRICESCU 2005, 225-226.

¹⁰ BUZEA/CHIRICESCU 2005, 226.

¹¹ BUZEA/CHIRICESCU 2005, 225, pl. V/8.

¹² HARDING/KAVRUK 2013, 43.

¹³ HARDING/KAVRUK 2013, 43-46. See also ANDRONIC *et alii* 2006, 80.

¹⁴ HARDING/KAVRUK 2013, 47.

¹⁵ IDR III/4, 248.

¹⁶ I would like to thank once again Andrei Asăndulesei and Felix Tencariu

The salting is still visible. I noticed also the wooden structures which can provide an ancient gallery, dating in my opinion not from the Roman time, but most likely from the modern era (Fig. 5-6). We have found many modern sherds and one pottery fragment from the Bronze Age (Fig. 8). The proximity to the camp, the inscription erected by a freedman of C. Iulius Valentinus, *conductor salinarum*,¹⁷ corroborated with this find, indicate, in my opinion, that at Sânpaul the salt exploitation has been functional in Roman period. This is also suggested by A. Chiricescu, who has seen the salting, too.¹⁸ Another salt spring is situated next to the camp and it was used until modern times: now it is no more in use.

In conclusion, the excavations in the area are only a few. They revealed the camp and the *vicus* situated next to camp. The field surveys provide many salt resources, especially salt brines and even the finds of materials dating from Roman time is quite rare, the use of these springs is beyond any doubt. The Roman pottery is less expected to be found in the exploitation zones, but in the settlements around this areas.

THE EPIGRAPHIC FILE

There are only a few relevant inscription found in the area (see *Supplementum epigraphicum*), but they are important for the history of salt exploitation in the region.

Let us begin with the texts mentioning military units. One tile, found at Sânpaul, preserves the name of *N(umerus) M(aurorum) S(...)* (SE 6) an another, discovered in the neighboring village, Mărtiniș, attests the *cohors I Vindelicorum* (SE 11). A *numerus Maurorum* Σ is attested at Răcari.¹⁹ N. Gostar has proposed the name of Răcari settlement *Saldae*, after the population of *Saldenses* mentioned by Ptolemy (6, 8, 1-2).²⁰ At Craiova was found another tile of that *numerus*, this time without the S or Σ epithet;²¹ according to Gostar, this was an argument for the name *S(aldae)* in the case of Răcari.²² At Sânpaul, the epithet indicates that it could be the same unit, it is still difficult to say if we can speak about a complete match.

Cohors I Vindelicorum had not its camp in Sânpaul,²³ however some detachments could have been present there. The cohort was firstly mentioned in Dacia in a military diploma issued in 109,²⁴ then in 110,²⁵ 136/138,²⁶ 144,²⁷ 157,²⁸ 179.²⁹ Other inscriptions from Tibiscum attested this unit.³⁰ It seems that some sub-units of this cohort were sent

for their help.

¹⁷ IDR III/4, 248.

¹⁸ CHIRICESCU 2006, 220.

¹⁹ IDR II, 168 a-h.

²⁰ GOSTAR 1954, 607-610.

²¹ IDR II, 173.

²² GOSTAR 1954, 609.

²³ The camp was in Banat, Vărădia (IDR III/1, 110a) and for a longer time at Tibiscum (AE 1971, 404c; I2000, 1257; 2006, 1176; DR III/1, 137; 163, 182, 184, 253).

²⁴ RMD III, 148.

²⁵ CIL XVI 163.

²⁶ RMD V, 384.

²⁷ CIL XVI 90.

²⁸ CIL XVI 107.

²⁹ RMD II, 123.

³⁰ AE 1971, 404c; 2000, 1257; 2006, 1176; IDR III/1, 163, 182, 184, 253, 254 a-d etc; PISO 1983, 110-111; PETRESCU/ROGOZEA 1990, 122; PISO/BENEA 1999, 97-98. See also ȚENȚEA/MATEI-POPESCU 2002-2003, 296.

in the eastern part of the province in order to strengthen the defence in the zone.

A shrine found at Crăciunel was consecrated to Jupiter by Aelius Valerianus and his son Valerianus, *beneficiarius consularis* (SE 8). The village of Crăciunel (comm. Of Ocand) is situated 9 km east from Sânpaul. Probably a *statio* of *beneficarii* was situated on a road connecting the camp of Sânpaul to Crăciunel. This text, related to the other tiles attesting military units, proves a strong military presence in the area, due not only to the defense of the region, but also to the protection of salt exploitation.

Another texts related to military milieu are two epitaphs, discovered in the military *vicus* next to the Sânpaul camp. One is set by a veteran probably to his wife and daughter (SE 5). The second epitaph belongs to a *decurio* and was set by a relative or a comrade (the *gentilium* Aurelius is no more relevant in the 3rd c. for expressing family relationships) (SE 10). The funerary stone was found in the village of Rareș (comm. of Mărtiniș, about 2 km north from the village of Sânpaul).

There are two votive shrines, consecrated to Jupiter and Juno (one for the health of Lucius Verus – SE 1, the other for an emperor whose name is no more preserved – SE 2). I. I. Russu considers that both shrines were set by the auxiliary units stationed at Sânpaul, even the inscriptions were found outside the camp, in the civilian settlement. The cult of Jupiter and Juno is very popular in the rural milieu. In other Roman provinces, there are numerous vows for Jupiter and Juno fulfilled in the rural areas (collective and individual, official and personal). In Germania Superior, the *vicani salutare*s (near Mainz) dedicated an altar to these deities,³¹ just like the *vicani Mogontiacenses vici novi*³² and two more persons within the same village.³³ I note other vows in the rural areas in a potential *vicus Victorum* (also on Mainz),³⁴ in the *civitas Mattiacorum*³⁵ or in the modern-day villages of Jagsthausen,³⁶ Hedderheim³⁷ and Niedernberg.³⁸ Concerning the civilian setting, O. Schipp observes for Germania Superior that, until mid-second century, the dedicators belong to the Roman culture (Roman citizens or Latin-speaking people who had immigrated from other provinces).³⁹ In Germania, there are also inscriptions dedicated to Jupiter and to Juno in the rural setting,⁴⁰ as well as in Gallia.⁴¹ The Danubian provinces (the Pannoniae⁴² and the Moesia⁴³) also provide such examples. I consecrated an ample article for the cult of Jupiter and Juno in the rural milieu of Moesia Inferior, 36 of 43 vows for the divine couple coming from the villages of the province.⁴⁴ The reason is

the same one as invoked by D. Fishwick: a manifestation of loyalty for the State, of belonging to the Roman structures: Jupiter and Juno also represented the imperial couple, a symbol of stability and power.⁴⁵

Another text, consecrated to the health of Alexander Severus, is set personally by someone whose name is not more preserved (SE 12), but is not excluded that the shrine was vowed in the name of a military unit or of a rural community.

The most important inscription is the shrine set for Sol Invictus by Iulius Omucio, freedman and *actor* of C. Iulius Valentinus, *conductor salinarum* (SE 3). It confirms not only the salt exploitation in the area, but also the presence of the clerks directly involved in this process. The military presence in the area confirms the importance placed by the state on the exploitation of salt in the region. Even if C. Iulius Valentinus is attested indirectly, through his freedman, the existence of an exploitation makes it probable that Valentinus was there, even more so given that it was in the interest of the freedman that the patron sees himself mentioned in the inscription. C. Iulius Valentinus is, just like the other *conductores salinarum* or better *pascui et salinarum*), an important character in the province. A homonymous individual, but probably the same person, is mentioned at Apulum as *IIIvir primus annualis municipii Septimii Apulensis* and as *patronus fabrum*.⁴⁶ A Iulius Valentinus is also attested at Tibiscum⁴⁷ as a *flamen municipii*: they are apparently the same person, even if the gentilium Iulius and the cognomen Valentinus are both frequent.

The texts mention, except C. Iulius Valentinus, another three *conductores salinarum* in Roman Dacia. Only one is called *conductor pascui et salinarum*, two are listed only as *conductor salinarum*, while the fourth is mentioned as a *conductor pascui, salinarum et commerciorum*: P. Aelius Marius,⁴⁸ [---]tilius Rufinus,⁴⁹ and P. Aelius Strenuus.⁵⁰ Omucio is not the only *actor* involved in the salt exploitation. At Micia is attested Ursio, *actor* of his master [---]lius Rufinus, *conductor salinarum*.⁵¹ I discussed almost a decade ago the occurrences of *actores* in Dacia.⁵² I will not re-pursue in this paper the meanings of the term *actor*. Most scholars distinguish between *actores* and *vilici*, concluding that the former generally designated the administrators of their master's private business.⁵³ In the rural milieu, *vilicus* could have sometimes been synonymous with *actor*, as argued by J. Carlsen: "in the second and the third centuries AD *actor* and *vilicus* became two different categories of trusted slaves, with separate duties and each with his own position in the hierarchy of the household".⁵⁴ Thus, the *actores* from the

³¹ CIL XIII 6723.

³² CIL XIII 6722.

³³ CIL XIII 7270.

³⁴ SCHILLINGER-HÄFELE 1977, no 91.

³⁵ CIL XIII 7266; FINKE 1927, no 204.

³⁶ CIL XIII 6555.

³⁷ CIL XIII 7353.

³⁸ CIL XIII 7736a.

³⁹ SCHIPP 2016, 49.

⁴⁰ CIL XIII 8495, 8589, 8809, 8811.

⁴¹ CIL XII, 996; XIII 3606, 4039, 4573; AE 1941, 155. See also MOITRIEUX 2011, 232-253.

⁴² CIL III 3626, 15179; RIU 356, 639, 642, 664, 722, 950; AE 2010, 1247.

⁴³ MIHAILESCU-BÎRLIBA 2019b, 42-51, with bibliography.

⁴⁴ MIHAILESCU-BÎRLIBA 2019b, 42-51.

⁴⁵ FISWICK 2004, 355.

⁴⁶ IDR III/5, 204; AE 2007, 1205.

⁴⁷ IDR III/1, 139.

⁴⁸ IDR III/3, 119. S. also BENE 2007, 43; BENE 2010, 45-74; ILD 804 (with a better lecture in DANA/ ZĂGREANU 2013, 31); IDR III/1, 145 ; EGRI *et alii* 2018, 268.

⁴⁹ PISO 2004-2005, 179-182.

⁵⁰ IDR III/5, 443.

⁵¹ PISO 2004-2005, 179-182.

⁵² MIHAILESCU-BÎRLIBA 2009, 307-316.

⁵³ Se especially MARQUARDT 1886, 139; HABEL 1894, 329-330; SIRAGO 1958, 180-186; AUBERT 1993, 171-181; AUBERT 1994; CARLSEN 1995, 122-123.

⁵⁴ CARLSEN 1995, 123.

administration of the saltworks are private agents of the *conductores*, but act in their name particularly on issues of a financial nature. In a recent article, I think I succed to explain why P. Aelius Marius is mentioned in an inscription raised by Hermadio, *actor* of a certain Turranius Dios.⁵⁵ In this instance, the slave is listed as an agent of another individual, Turranius Dios.⁵⁶ Hermadio is an *actor* of Turranius Dios, but he is delegated by the master to act in his name in his affairs with the lessee. It follows that a *conductor* also had commercial responsibilities. It is true that the text does not mention P. Aelius Marius's capacity as *conductor pascui et salinarum*, and it is probable that he had private commercial relations with Turranius Dios. In any case, a *conductor* must have also had this competency in understanding and promoting the trade in the product or products yielded by a leased domain. The two inscriptions throw light on these trade competences that a lessee had to possess, even if it's not clear whether P. Aelius Marius only had private businesses with Turranius Dios or also acted in his capacity of *conductor*. Another text can offer another supplementary information on this issue. At Potaissa, Hermadio vows a shrine for Silvanus.⁵⁷ Potaissa is next to the rock salt exploitation of Turda, the largest in Dacia. Silvanus was popular among miners, as other divinities of soil products (not only metals and stone, but also grains, wood, grass and wine).⁵⁸ I think that Hermadio's presence in Potaissa was related to salt exploitation, which confirms his relationship to P. Aelius Marius.

Hermadio was an *actor* of Turranius Dios and he manages some commercial activities related to salt. That is why he knew P. Aelius Marius and that is why he is setting an altar to Silvanus in Potaissa, close to the salt exploitation. Yet another actor of P. Aelius Marius is mentioned at Domnești.⁵⁹ As stated, there is a salt exploitation at Domnești, with the very place of discovery being called "the salt spring". The text constitutes a proof that the functionaries of this administration were located at the very site. The lessee entrusts part of this administration to his slaves, the *actores*. They probably had proven their efficiency on other occasions and enjoyed the trust of the master. Though it was a state exploitation, the lessee acted a private person and consequently could use his most trusted underlings for administering the exploitation. The last text mentioning P. Aelius Marius is by an unnamed individual from Porolissum, but it is likely that the anonym is also another of the lessee's slaves or freedmen, who is delegated to act in the name of the master or patron.

In the case of Iulius Omucio, even though manumitted, the freedman continued acting as the financial agent of the patron, either counting among the *operae* he owned his master, either by his own will.⁶⁰ It is worth noting that the presence of Omucio at Sânpaul proves that the personnel members of salt administration were effectively involved in the field activity and shows the importance of

salt exploitation granted by Roman state and by the tenants of such exploitation.

SALT EXPLOITATION IN SÂNPAUL-MĂRTINIȘ- OCLAND AREA IN THE CONTEXT OF STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES OF THE ROMAN ARMY IN DACIA

The case of Sânpaul is not unique for the salt exploitation in Roman Dacia, but is has, however, its particularities. Roman army was mostly in the proximity of salt exploitation in Dacia (Fig. 9).⁶¹ It is important to notice the inscription of the *centurio regionarius* attested at Domnești.⁶² I. Piso and G. Cupcea argue that the presence in this area of a *regionarius* was meant to protect the cattle herds roaming the pastures, since they could be raided by brigands (local or from across the mountains), and that salt was abundant in Dacia.⁶³ The *centuriones regionarii* had police duties in areas belonging to the imperial fiscus, as asserted by N.B. Rankov.⁶⁴ Piso and Cupcea consider that besides these pastures and saltworks belonging to the fiscus, *regio* could have also designated the territory near the *limes*.⁶⁵ Not far there were the castra from Orheiul Bistriței⁶⁶ and Ilișua.⁶⁷ Accordingly, this *centurio regionarius* had police duties not only with regards to the pastures, but also the saltworks, because both sectors belonged to the fiscus. Besides them, the units from Orheiul Bistriței and Ilișua probably contributed too to the protection of the salt exploitations. The epigraphic file from Sărățeni consists in tile-stamps belonging to *cohors I Alpinorum*⁶⁸ and several private inscriptions.⁶⁹ The cohort stayed in a fort built on the right bank of the Târnava Mică river. The role of Sărățeni camp was to defend the eastern *limes* of the province and the salt resources from Sovata. The fort of Inlăceni is better known in the archaeological literature. It was built in order to control the roads on both Târnava rivers. The *vicus militaris* was situated next to the fort, but only geomagnetic prospections were carried out.⁷⁰ At Inlăceni were accommodated many auxiliary units, like *cohors VIII Raetorum c. R. eq. torq.*,⁷¹ *cohors III Hispanorum*.⁷² Brick-stamps of *cohortes I Alpinorum*⁷³ and *II Gallorum*⁷⁴ were also found. The position of the camp and the geographical position face to both salt exploitations (Sovata and Praid) make me believe that the units accommodated in Inlăceni

⁶¹ See my recent researches on the topic: MIHAILESCU-BÎRLIBA 2018, 32-36; MIHAILESCU-BÎRLIBA 2019a, 135-144; MIHAILESCU-BÎRLIBA 2019c, 163-186; MIHAILESCU-BÎRLIBA/ASÂNDULESEI 2019, 27-48; MIHAILESCU-BÎRLIBA/ALEXIANU 2021, 119-124.

⁶² PISO/CUPCEA 2014, 115-123.

⁶³ PISO/CUPCEA 2014, 121-122.

⁶⁴ RANKOV 1983, 55-56. S. also SPEIDEL 1984, 185-188; HERZ 2011, 307; FUHRMANN 2012, 222-223; IVANOV/ LUKA 2015, 205-206.

⁶⁵ PISO/CUPCEA 2014, 119-120.

⁶⁶ At Orheiul Bistriței camped *cohors I Hispanorum* (SPAUL 2000, 109-110; PETOLESCU 2002, 111-112). For the camp itself, s. MARCU 2009, 86-87. More recently, with bibliography MATEI-POPESCU/ȚENTEA 2016, 9.

⁶⁷ S. especially PROTASE, GAIU, MARINESCU 1997, 45-47, MARCU 2009, 78-85 (for the *ala I Tungrorum Frontoniana*); for the civilian settlement (Arcobadara or Arcobara), s. especially NEMETI/BĂRBULESCU 2006-2007, 107-118; NEMETI/BĂRBULESCU 2010, 446-455; NEMETI 2014, 79-133.

⁶⁸ IDR III/4, 213, 1-5.

⁶⁹ ISR III/4, 206-210.

⁷⁰ POPA *et al.* 2010, 112.

⁷¹ IDR III/4, 263. See also PETOLESCU 2002, 119-120, no 54.

⁷² IDR III/4, 265, 271-275, 288-278, 280-281, 283-285, 301.

⁷³ IDR III/4, 299.

⁷⁴ IDR III/4, 300.

⁵⁵ IDR III/1, 45.

⁵⁶ IDR III/1, 145.

⁵⁷ ILD 492.

⁵⁸ DUŠANIĆ 1999, 1301-31.

⁵⁹ ILD 804.

⁶⁰ S. especially WALDSTEIN 1986, 55-58; MASI DORIA 1993; GONZALES 1997, 155-187; MIHAILESCU-BÎRLIBA 2006, 20-21; MIHAILESCU-BÎRLIBA 2009, 313.

were meant, as F. Matei-Popescu and O. Țentea rightly argued, to control and defend the roads on the Târnava rivers.⁷⁵ On the other side, the camp of Sărățeni was situated closer both to Sovata an Praid and I think that the units stationed at Sărățeni were supposed to protect the salt exploitation. However, their defensive role for the roads of eastern Dacia cannot be denied. A few salt springs was located at Olteni and around.⁷⁶ A military fort was built on a high terrace of the river Olt. The strategic role of the fort was in connexion with the defence of Tușnad pass and the Olt valley. In the collection of the Székely Nation Museum in Sfântu Gheorghe there are 51 tile- and brick-stamps with the name of a cohort coming from a Roman grave dating at the end of the 2nd c.-beginning of the 3rd c. AD.⁷⁷ The lecture of the unit's name has originated some controversies. N. Gostar⁷⁸ and C. C. Petolescu⁷⁹ have read *cohors II Bessorum*. However, a ligature can be observed at the letter E. A ET or EL can be read. A. Bordi and R. Zăgreanu have recently proposed the solution *cohors III B(a)etiasianorum* or *B(a)etica*,⁸⁰ following N. Gudea.⁸¹ I do not think, seeing the good photos of the stamps, that one can speak about *cohors II Bessorum*. Even *cohors III B(a)etiasianorum* or *III B(a)etica* are hard to accept, because of the lack of occurrences, we cannot ignore the hypothesis advanced by F. Matei-Popescu and O. Țentea: according to them, in the 3rd c. the presence of units still unknown in Dacia can be taken into account.⁸² The lecture *c(ohors) IIII Bel(garum)* seems to me the more plausible. Another inscriptions found in Olteni is a property mark on a bronze moulding. It belonged to Candidus, from the *centuria* of Maximus.⁸³ These property marks are originating exclusively from military milieu.⁸⁴ In this case, we cannot speak about a *centuria* of a legion, but of the cohort accommodated in Olteni. However, the soldiers can own their equipment and weapons.⁸⁵ The text proves once again the military presence at Olteni. Like in the previous cases, the strategic role of the auxiliary unit was in connexion with the protection of salt resources. The recent investigations carried out in Ocna-Dejului-Sic-Cojocna-Gherla area proved the existence of salt deposits and salt springs and they are connected closely with the military presence (*ala II Pannoniorum*, accommodated in Gherla).⁸⁶ Moreover, in the camp of Samum (Cășeu), not far from Ocna Dejului, accommodated *cohors II Brittanorum* ∞⁸⁷ and *cohors I Britannica* ∞ c. R. eq.⁸⁸ Moreover, at Samum is attested a *statio* of *beneficarii consularis*.⁸⁹ Surveying the salt exploitation of Ocna Dejului was one of their tasks.

⁷⁵ MATEI-POPESCU/ȚENTEA 2016, 10.

⁷⁶ BUZEA/(CHIRICESCU) DEÁK 2008, 47, 53.

⁷⁷ BORDI/ZĂGREANU 2010, 201-204. See also IDR III/4, 318.

⁷⁸ GOSTAR 1966, 178-179.

⁷⁹ PETOLESCU 2002, 85.

⁸⁰ BORDI/ZĂGREANU 2010, 200; see the English version BORDI/ZĂGREANU 2011, 131-144.

⁸¹ GUDEA 2001, 55-60.

⁸² MATEI-POPESCU/ȚENTEA 2016, 13.

⁸³ IDR III/4, 319.

⁸⁴ See for example, a property mark from Moesia Inferior published by RUBEL 2008, 1-8 (see also MIHAILESCU-BÎRLIBA 2011, 100-101).

⁸⁵ BISHOP/COULSTON 2006, 242; MANNING 2014, 15.

⁸⁶ JAKAB *et alii* 2018, 201; KAVRUK *et alii* 2019, 17-47; MIHAILESCU-BÎRLIBA/ALEXIANU 2021, 119-124.

⁸⁷ ISAC 1987, 175-180; 2003, 33-38.

⁸⁸ PETOLESCU 2002, 86-87; ISAC 2003, 38-47.

⁸⁹ CBI 525-536. Surtout PISO 2019, FRANCE/NÉLIS-CLÉMENT 2014, 117-245

Returning to our case in Sânpaul-Mărtiniș-Ocland area, we have a lot of data on salt exploitation and its connection with the military presence. The filed surveys attested many salt springs and a salting, which were used, at least a few of them, in Roman period. The inscription mentioning Iulius Omucio, freedman and *actor* of C. Iulius Valentinus, *conductor salinarum*, confirms the presence on field of the personnel members of salt administration. The field surveys and the few systematic excavation revealed a fortlet which accommodated small units and a *vicus militaris*. The other epigraphic texts found in the area attested not only a *n(umerus) M(aurorum)* and *cohors I Vindellicorum*, but also a *beneficiarius consularis*. The units accomplished both defense of Vlăhița pass and protection of salt exploitation. The *beneficiarius* was assigned to a *statio* situated likely on the road between Mărtiniș and Ocland, in order to strengthen the tasks of the units and to assure security to the staff members of the salt exploitation and to the workers.

In the final, I strongly recommend that intrusive excavations may begin in the area, in order to emphasize the relation between the fort, the salt exploitation, and the civilian settlement.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

This work was supported by a grant of the Romanian Ministry of Education and Research, CNCS - UEFISCDI, project number PN-III-P4-ID-PCE-2020-0383, within PNCDI III.

SUPPLEMENTUM EPIGRAPHICUM (SE) FROM SÂNPAUL-MĂRTINIȘ-OC LAND AREA

Sânpaul

1. Votive shrine, fragmentary. Datation: 161-169 AD
I(ovi) O(ptimo) [M(aximo)] / et Iuno[ni] Reg(inae)] / p(ro) salute [Imp(eratoris)] / Caes(aris) L(uci) A[ur(eli) Ver]i Aug(usti) tr[ib(unicia) pot(estate)] / --- / ---
 Bibliography: IDR III/4, 247.
2. Votive shrine, fragmentary. Datation: second half of the 2nd c. AD.
[I(ovi) O(ptimo)] M(aximo) / [et Iunon]i Reg(inae) / [pro] salute Imp(eratoris) C(aesaris) / --
 Bibliography: ISM III/4, 249. I have followed the lecture of Petolescu 1991, 267.
3. Votive shrine. Datation: second half of the 2nd c.-beginning of the 3rd c. AD.
Soli Inv(icto) pro / salute<m> / Ca(i) Iuli Valen(tini) c(onductoris) salinar(um) / Iulius Omucio / libertus actor / posuit.
 Bibliography: IDR III/4, 248.
4. Epitaph, fragmentary. Datation: 2nd-3rd c. AD.
[D(is) M(anibus)] / M(arcus sive -arcus) Aur(elius sive -elio) / ---AR --- / --- / ---
 Bibliography: IDR III/4, 251.
5. Epitaph. Datation: before 212 AD, most likely 3rd c.
[D(is) M(anibus) / Iustina vixit / [ann(is)] LV Aurelia / vixit annis / ---s vet(eranus) / ---

Bibliography: IDR III/4, 250.

6. Fragmentary tile. Datation: 2nd-3rd c. AD.

N(umerus) M(aurorum) S(...)

Bibliography: IDR III/4, 254.

7. Fragmentary brick. Datation: 2nd-3rd c. AD.

VIPO

Bibliography: IDR III/4, 255.

Crăciunel

8. Votive shrine, fragmentary. Datation: second half of the 2nd c.-first half of the 3rd c. AD.

[I(ovi) O(ptimo) M(aximo) / --- / Ael(ius) Va[leria]/nus cum Vale/riano f(ilio) b(ene)f(iciario) co(n)s(ularis) / v(otum) s(olvit) l(ibens) m(erito).

Bibliography: IDR III/4, 256

9. Votive shrine, fragmentary. Datation: 2nd-3rd c. AD.

[---]IO / ---

Bibliography: IDR III/4, 258.

Rareș

10. Epitaph. Datation: first half of the 3rd c. AD.

D(is) M(anibus) / Aur(elius) Se/verus / dec(urio) / vix(it) a(nnis) XXXX / Aur(elius) Qui/[ntianus?] --- / ---

Bibliography: IDR III/4, 259.

Mărtiniș

11. Tile. Datation: 2nd-3rd c. AD.

C(ohors) I V(indelicorum)

Bibliography: IDR III/1, 254c; ILD 230c.

12. Honorific inscription. Datation: 222-235 AD.

Pr(o) sal(ute) victor(ia) / Imp(eratoris) D(omini) n(ostri) M(arci) Au(reli Sever)i Ale(xandr(i) Pii F(elicis) / --- III --- / --- / pos(uit) / l(ibens).

Bibliography: IDR III/4, 260.

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CIL

Corpus Inscriptionum Latinarum (Berlin),

ILD

Inscriptii latine din Dacia (Bucharest),

IDR

Inscriptiones Daciae Romanae (Bucharest-Paris).

RIU

Römische Inschriften Ungarns (Budapest).

RMD

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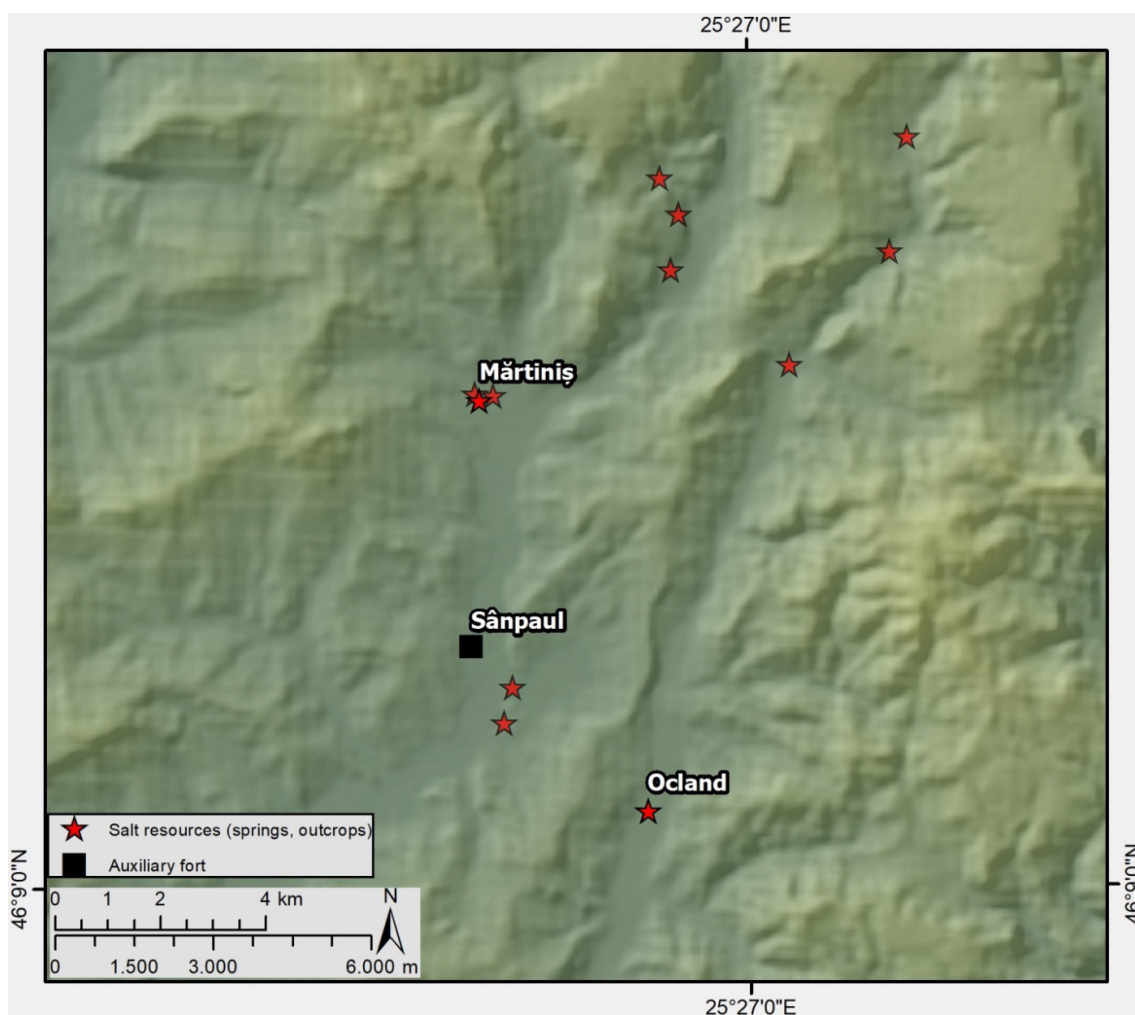


Fig. 1. Main salt springs found in Sânpaul-Mărtiniș-Ocland area (©Andrei Asăndulesei).



Fig. 2. The salt spring of Petreni (photo Lucrețiu Mihailescu-Bîrliba).



Fig. 3. The salt spring at Petreni (photo Lucrețiu Mihailescu-Bîrliba).



Fig. 4. Roman pottery fragment found at Petreni (photo Mihaela Asăndulesei).



Fig. 5. Sânpaul – view from the salting (photo Lucrețiu Mihailescu-Bîrliba).



Fig. 6. Salting with wooden structures at Sânpaul (photo Lucrețiu Mihailescu-Bîrliba).



Fig. 7. Detail with a piece of the wooden structures at Sânpaul (photo Lucrețiu Mihailescu-Bîrliba).



Fig. 8. Bronze Age sherd found at Sânpaul in the salting (photo Lucrețiu Mihailescu-Bîrliba).

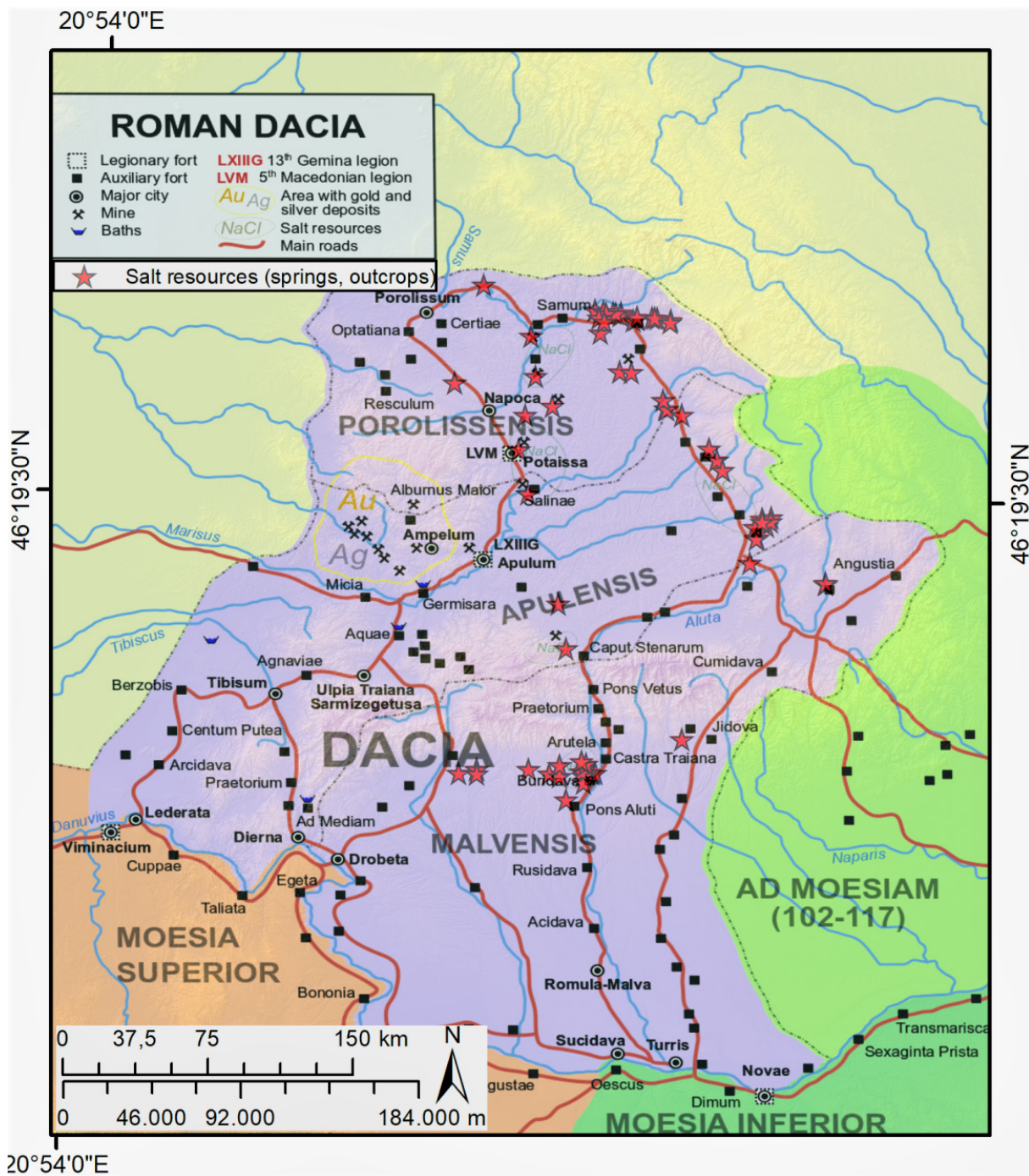


Fig. 9. General map of Dacia with military camps and salt exploitations (© Andrei Asăndulesei).

