

TWO DECADES OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESEARCH IN THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF THE CITY OF TROPAEUM TRAIANI (4th-6th CENTURIES AD.) AND OTHER DISCOVERIES. MAJOR SCIENTIFIC RESULTS

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Abstract. Analysis of various aspects of everyday life, specific to the Roman world during the time of Constantine and post-Constantine in provincial territories, includes also the civil architecture. For the province of Scythia, we know so far, a few buildings included in the Domus type, as well as the ones discovered in the Roman and Roman-Byzantine fortifications and urban centres from Dinogetia, Histria and Tropaeum Traiani. Archaeological researches from the last decade, conducted in the southern neighborhood of the late Roman city Tropaeum Traiani, revealed a new civil imposing edifice, having a rectangular and axial plan, which corresponds to the „pattern” of the big Roman house, Domus type. Located west of cardo, this building brings new general and particular information regarding the plan metric and functional architectural development of such edifices, during the 4th-6th centuries AD. Their specific features for the eastern part of the Empire have been modified, mainly due to the available space, the repeated interventions on the original space by successive rearrangements, as necessary. At the same time, the location of this building, compared to other significant constructions in the area, indicates a possible social and economic importance. The discovery is exceptional for the history of the architecture of the city of Tropaeum Traiani in the Late Roman period and for that of the province of Scythia. Moreover, during the excavations in the southern quarter, numerous items were uncovered belonging to the category known as "small finds," namely coins from the 1st-6th centuries AD. and the 10th-11th centuries AD., either isolated or as part of hoards (four hoards, three of which are Early Medieval with late Byzantine pieces, and one containing early Byzantine pieces from the end of the 6th century AD.). Added to these are a number of fortuitous discoveries of small items such as fibulae, rings, and coins specific to the 1st-3rd centuries AD., the latter grouped in coin hoards, which highlight relevant aspects of the evolution of Roman society at Tropaeum and within its sphere of military, political, and economic influence in the province of Moesia Inferior during the Early Roman period, after the end of the Dacian-Roman conflict. All these archaeological and numismatic discoveries essentially complete the previous information regarding the situation of the early and late Roman city of Tropaeum Traiani, and its role within the historical, economic, and military realities specific to the ancient history of the Dobruja region.

Keywords: Tropaeum Traiani, southern neighborhood, archaeological research, 4th-6th centuries AD., province, Moesia Inferior, Scythia, coins, hoards, small find.

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INTRODUCTION

The complex of historical monuments at Adamclisi/Tropaeum Traiani includes, on the one hand, the triumphal monument (alongside the funerary altar and mausoleum), and on the other hand, the fortress built on a plateau during the reign of Emperor Trajan (98-107 AD.) for the families of veterans who participated in the Dacian-Roman wars. The triumphal monument at Adamclisi represents a remarkable achievement of Roman provincial art, being constructed according to the plans of the architect Apollodorus of Damascus between 106-109 AD. and dedicated to the god Mars the Avenger (*Mars Ultor*).



Fig. 1, 2 - The triumphal monument from Adamclisi

Grigore Tocilescu was the one who undertook the first systematic investigations at the monument, through professional excavations and methodical attempts at dating and historical interpretation. The campaigns began in 1882 and spanned five archaeological excavation seasons, ending in 1890. The triumphal monument belongs to the category of imperial monuments, being intended for the inhabitants of Pontic Dacia, dedicated to the eternal glory of the emperor, and stands as one of the most important monuments across the entire expanse of the old imperial Roman world. The current reconstructed monument present at Adamclisi was inaugurated on May 28, 1977, in the presence of the Romanian state president, Nicolae Ceaușescu.



Fig. 3, 4 – Inauguration of the Monument on May 29, 1977

On the same plateau, 250 meters northwest of the monument, lies the funerary altar dedicated to the approximately 3.800 Roman legionaries who fell on the battlefield in the winter of 101-102 AD. Additionally, about 100 meters north of the monument, a mound of earth or mausoleum was identified, dedicated to a senior Roman officer who died in the battle fought on the plateaus of Adamclisi (*praefectus castrorum*).



Fig. 5 - Positioning of the Monument, the altar and the mausoleum from Adamclisi

The fortress at Tropaeum Traiani (located in the village of Adamclisi, Constanța County), situated to the west of the village of Adamclisi, on the plateau in the Urluia Valley, is one of the most important economic, political, and religious centers of Roman Dobruja and the eastern part of the Empire (within the provinces of Moesia Inferior and Scythia). Specialized research carried out for over 120 years has revealed a wealth of historical, archaeological, and architectural information, disseminated in scientific and popular publications. The systematic archaeological research at Tropaeum Traiani, initiated by Grigore Tocilescu in 1891 (through 12 campaigns in the years: 1891-1893, 1895-1897, 1904-1909), had major objectives including establishing the layout and character of the fortress, uncovering monuments (towers, gates, walls, etc.), determining the topography and street grid of the late Roman and early Byzantine city, investigating Christian basilicas, and exploring various components of the city. Systematic investigations were resumed in 1968, yielding new and continuous discoveries up to the present day in fields such as urban planning, religion, economy, trade, coinage, and more. In recent decades, several areas within the fortress have been and are currently under investigation (for example and sector C-southern quarter), focusing on sectors corresponding to representative objectives for the history of the ancient city. The

broader context in which these research efforts are situated is that of provincial Roman archaeology.



Fig. 6 - The fortress of the Tropaeum Traiani from Adamclisi

Today, the archaeological research conducted at the Tropaeum Traiani-Adamclisi site has as its main objectives the understanding of representative monuments, the topography and general street layout of the late Roman city, the completion of research on the basilicas, and the investigation of the component urban quarters. Archaeological excavations have shown that the 5th-6th centuries AD. represent the last significant stage in terms of urban, economic, commercial, and religious development for the city of Tropaeum Traiani. The investigations carried out in the “Southern Quarter Sector” have only reinforced this perception, contributing numerous stratigraphic and historical elements that significantly refine the general data previously known.

The research from south and south-west roman-byzantine sector (actual C) from Tropaeum Traiani (Adamclisi commune, Constanța county) offered a long-time numerous data, archeological, historical, architectural, etc. They debuted nearly four decades ago-since 1969-(initially called D), but it did not last long, grouped into two chronological blocks, including campaigns in the '70s and '80s of last century.

The archaeological research was resumed at the end of the last decade of the last century and were held (with some interruptions) until the year 2024 (with founts from the Ministry of Culture and from the Museum of National History and

Archeology Constanța), in the area of the south Roman-Byzantine district of Tropaeum Traiani, positioned near the south gate of the city, built in Constantine period. Strictly for this sector, the purpose of these actions was to obtain new information on the overall image of the late Roman dwelling complexes and existing road system in the area, mainly *via forensis* (or *cardo*), who went down and up to the south gate.

SECTOR C, SOUTH DISTRICT, TROPAEUM TRAIANI

In sector C, as architectural discoveries, until now, from an urban planning point of view, were identified four possible edifices, conventional called 1, 2, 3 and 4, with civil character (private), initially with plenty of free space available¹.

In the researched area, from a stratigraphic point of view, after a first vegetal layer (0.20-0.30 m), there was recorded a large layer of debris, in the edifices present to the east and west of the *cardo*. This layer is composed of pieces of stone (fragments or whole pieces), fragments of tiles, roof tiles, bricks, stones, pieces of adobe (burnt or not) and ceramic fragments (up to 1.05/1.10 m). From its base, the traces of the circulation level defined by the traces of a strong fire, the high temperatures melting, as we have surprised in the excavations, metal elements, glass and fragments or blocks of bare bricks, the whole archaeological deposition having a reddish color. Its depth is variable as the architectural structures of the buildings produce important variations, and the differences caused by the angle of descent of the field. Generally, it reaches, randomly, up to a depth of 1.45 and 1.50 m. In the C sector, no clear leveling has been found so far, with fragmented materials chaotic up to the vegetal level, up to the area of the *atrium* and vestibule, respectively up to

¹ Ghiorghe Papuc, Gabriel Talmațchi, *Adamclisi, com. Adamclisi, jud. Constanța (Tropaeum Traiani), Sector CI*, în *Cronica Cercetărilor Arheologice din România. Campania 2003*, ciMeC – Institutul de Memorie Culturală, București, 2004, p. 16; iidem, *Adamclisi, com. Adamclisi, jud. Constanța (Tropaeum Traiani), Sector CI*, în *Cronica Cercetărilor Arheologice din România. Campania 2005*, ciMeC - Institutul de Memorie Culturală, București, 2006, pp. 34-35; iidem, *Adamclisi, com. Adamclisi, jud. Constanța (Tropaeum Traiani), Sector CI*, în *Cronica Cercetărilor Arheologice din România. Campania 2006*, ciMeC - Institutul de Memorie Culturală, București, 2007, p. 28; Gabriel Talmațchi, Vitalie Bodolică, *Adamclisi, com. Adamclisi, jud. Constanța (Tropaeum Traiani), Sector CI*, în *Cronica Cercetărilor Arheologice din România. Campania 2010*, ciMeC - Institutul de Memorie Culturală, București, 2011, p. 7; Gabriel Talmațchi, Constantin Șova, *Adamclisi, com. Adamclisi, jud. Constanța (Tropaeum Traiani), Sector CI*, în *Cronica Cercetărilor Arheologice din România. Campania 2011*, ciMeC - Institutul de Memorie Culturală, București, 2012, p. 18; iidem, *Adamclisi, com. Adamclisi, jud. Constanța (Tropaeum Traiani), Sector CI*, în *Cronica Cercetărilor Arheologice din România. Campania 2012*, Institutul Național al Patrimoniului, Iași, 2013, pp. 17-18; iidem, *Adamclisi, com. Adamclisi, jud. Constanța (Tropaeum Traiani), Sector CI*, în *Cronica Cercetărilor Arheologice din România. Campania 2014*, Institutul Național al Patrimoniului, București, 2015, p. 20; iidem, *Adamclisi, com. Adamclisi, jud. Constanța (Tropaeum Traiani), Sector CI*, în *Cronica Cercetărilor Arheologice din România. Campania 2015*, Institutul Național al Patrimoniului, Târgu Jiu, 2016, p. 17; iidem, *Adamclisi, com. Adamclisi, jud. Constanța (Tropaeum Traiani), Sector CI*, în *Cronica Cercetărilor Arheologice din România. Campania 2016*, Institutul Național al Patrimoniului, București, 2017, p. 13.

the yellow-gray clay floors in the rooms. Generally, it is very likely that the construction from this area were out of use earlier than in some other parts of the city, but this is an exception. The reuse of column bases, as it may have been in the C sector, is a phenomenon attested in the fortress for the N 5 level, that is, with the end of the 5th century and the beginning of the 6th century, its end being the end of the same century (586 AD.)². For comparison, in the rest of the city, VI A is the final stage of habitation³.

The most imposing is no. 2 surprised on a large area, which lies west of *via forensis*, being a Roman house of *Domus* type (slightly adapted to the constructible space from the district). At this stage of the research, we specify that we face a large and important building, oriented north-south, with a width of around 24 m and a length of 50 m⁴. It is the most imposing and remarkable private building in the city, almost a “palace,” maintaining the appropriate proportions when compared to other relevant discoveries in the cities known in the eastern part of the Roman Empire. The closest structure to the *Domus*-type building and representative for the city of Tropaeum Traiani is the *basilica forensis*, located only about 10 meters to the north.



Fig. 7 - The Domus-type building in the southern quarter of Tropaeum Traiani

² Alexandru Barnea, Ion Barnea, Ioana Bogdan Cătănicu, Monica Mărgineanu-Cârstoiu, Ghiorghe Papuc, *Tropaeum Traiani, I, Cetatea*, Editura Academiei Republicii Socialiste Române, București, 1979, pp. 101, 104-105; Mihai Sâmpetru, *Orașe și cetăți romane târzii la Dunărea de Jos*, Editura Publirom Advertising, București, 1994, p. 37.

³ Idem, *Situația Imperiului romano-bizantin la Dunărea de Jos la sfârșitul secolului al VI-lea și începutul celui de al VII-lea*, în SCIV 22, 2, 1971, pp. 218-219.

⁴ Gabriel Talmațchi, Constantin Șova, *Despre cercetările arheologice din cartierul romano-bizantin (sector sud-C1) de la Tropaeum Traiani*, în Adriana Panaite, Romeo Cîrjan, Carol Căpiță (eds.), *Moesica et Christiana, Studies in honour of professor Alexandru Barnea*, Editura Istros, Brăila, 2016, p. 175; Gabriel Talmațchi, *Considerations regarding the Domus-type Roman urban house from Scythia Minor (4th-6th centuries AD)*, în Gocha Tsetskhladze, Alexandru Avram, John Hargrave (eds.), *The Greeks and Romans in the Black Sea and the Importance of the Pontic Region for the Graeco-Roman World (7th century BC-5th century AD): 20 Years On (1997-2017)*, Proceedings of the Sixth International Congress on Black Sea Antiquities (Constanța 18-22 September 2017), Archaeopress Publishing Ltd, Oxford, 2021, pp. 501-510.

The civilian basilica, also known as *basilica forensis*, was placed at the two city main roads cross point, *cardo* and *decumanus maximus*. It dates from Constantin the Great's and Licinius's epoch and probably represents an older building, repaired at the time. This was place where city public and administrative activities took place and also economic transactions were contracted. *Basilica forensis* (54 x 24 m) was separated into three naves by rows of supports and column bases (18 pieces). A single nave Christian chapel with an east side apse was built close to the North side in the 6th century⁵.



Fig. 8 - Basilica forensis from Tropaeum Traiani

Inside the *Domus* building were uncovered several compartments, the clearest being an *atrium* (7 x 5 m) and a *vestibulum* (11 x 4 m).



Fig. 9, 10 - Atrium in the Domus type building

⁵ Radu Vulpe, Ion Barnea, *Din Istoria Dobrogei. Romanii la Dunărea de Jos*, vol. II, Editura Academiei Republicii Populare Române, București, 1968, pp. 467-468.

The *atrium*, the focal point of the building, features a pavement made of large and medium sized limestone slabs, generally processed, bonded with mortar. Some tiles have a very flat surface, showing a long use of the complex. Near the western side and parallel to it appears a possible channel (0.45 m wide), bounded to the yard by a border about 5 m long (parallel to the west side). It may have been designed to drain water or be a small pool of water that delimits inside the central surface of the atrium. This discovery should be accompanied by a possible hypothesis of the presence in the roof of an empty space (compluvium), where rainwater flowed to a possible impluvium (at least in the initial phase of existence of the building) and that let it penetrate also the light, respectively clean air. Inside the *atrium* were discovered two limestone column bases (one found in situ, the second semi-inverted and slightly displaced), a limestone capitel and four broken column spindles, all of limestone. Its presence and dimensions correspond to the available space allocated in the neighborhood to such buildings as well as to the overall number of rooms available on both sides of the building, remaining flexible. Subsequent interventions have altered according to way of accommodating and change of habits and options of those who lived in⁶. We mention the possibility of two porticos, on the northern and southern sides of the atrium, which delimited its edges.



Fig. 11, 12 - The central corridor in the domus

A long *vestibulum* seems to link the *atrium* to the side or exit/entrance on the northern side, offering, as with other similar constructions, a long axis inside the building, creating the illusion of space and spatiality⁷.

⁶ Penelope M. Allison, *Domestic space and activities*, in John Joseph Dobbins, Pendar William Foss (eds.), *The World of Pompeii*, Routledge, London-New York, 2007, pp. 270-271.

⁷ John R. Clarke, *The houses of Roman Italy, 100 BC-AD 250. Ritual, space and decoration*, University of California Press, Berkley-Los Angeles, 1991, pp. 2-6.

The corridor features a pavement made of small and large processed limestone pieces (resembling a small surface slab), very well joined and bonded with mortar. At the same time, it is delimited on both sides by two “curbs” or thresholds for the entrances of the chambers on the eastern side. These are preserved in the form of a row of medium-sized pieces of stone, well bonded with earth and mortar in some places. The presence of the vestibule in the architectural structure at Tropaeum Traiani is also found in the edifices no. 2 and 3 in the via principalis B-C sector. A cause of the lack of stratigraphic rich storage is the use of the *atrium* area and the vestibule floor, continually, with perhaps little repairs almost impossible to notice. Hence the difficulty of a stratigraphic association with successively modified interior structures⁸. It should also be mentioned that this *vestibulum* intersects at a right angle with another, shorter *vestibulum* oriented west-east, intended to create entrances to the rooms located on the southern and northern sides of the building.

Also, inside the building, in the south-west corner, a narrow room (1.5 x 1 m) was identified, probably a pantry created for the storage of certain materials or products. It was placed under an inner stairway, betrayed by the existence of three stairs kept in situ, which led to a room from a higher level (near the southern portico)⁹. The staircase suggests that the edifice might have benefited from a floor made of stone and brick, and the roof seems to have had a wooden structure wrapped with tiles curved alternately with olans, probably made on the roof structure.

The building seems to be held, at this stage of research, almost seven entries to the outside of the building: four on the eastern side, two on the western side, and one on the northern side, to which are added others in the interior, some of which were blocked during the second phase of habitation. With the exception of the southern and the northern (providing communication between different parts of the edifice), the other entrances have stairs and thresholds to the outside (preserved in the form of limestone slabs, grouped by two or three) that were probably in the streets. By size, everything seems to be for people only. We make it clear that the interpretation is trivial to the stage of the research, and these “gates” can prove to be integral to the building, as internal (to other rooms or annexes), by not communicating absolutely to the exterior of the building (towards the *cardo*), or west of it. Also, by analogy with other discoveries, it is possible, according to an old custom respected also at Tropaeum Traiani, that all doors, hinged or pivoted, should open inwards, both sheets and just one of them¹⁰. Finally, they also had closing mechanisms, being

⁸ Simon P. Ellis, *The End of the Roman House*, în American Journal of Archeology, 92, 4, 1988, p. 568.

⁹ Gabriel Talmăţchi, Constantin Şova, *Observaţii privind casa urbană romană târzie (domus) din provincia Scythia şi alte descoperiri arheologice din sectorul Sud-CI de la Tropaeum Traiani*, în Peuce, 13, 2015, p. 151.

¹⁰ Emanuel Gamureac, *Piese de arhitectură şi sculpturale descoperite în sectorul B de la Tropaeum Traiani*, în Pontica, 43, 2010, p. 206.

discovered several types of keys (obviously belonging to different chronological moments).

From an architectural point of view, the building revealed part of its constituent chambers, beyond the initial spatial organization, defending new organizations inside (the emergence of new walls that multiplied the rooms to the detriment of the generous space from the beginning), in the second phase of evolution. To the east of the atrium, a first room (A) was discovered, from which two walls were discovered, the joints of which have been destroyed since antiquity, and a yellowish-gray ground floor. This room could be accomplished by re-partitioning at a later stage of building the edifice as a whole, since the use of partitioned column bases (two) can be observed, being reused. This technique of making late walls with reused materials (type *spolia*) was archaeologically documented in Tropaeum Traiani at edifice no. 4 in sector A, at the edifice D3 in sector D, at edifice B9 from sector B, respectively at an edifice not far from Domus, to the north¹¹. On the eastern side appears a second chamber (B), which is supposed to be also covered with pavement, inside which was found a dolium buried in the floor. Its northern side (1.15 m thick) also delimits the next room (C) on the eastern side of the edifice, from which the end of a yellow-green floor was surprised. No pavement traces have been found in this small space. This can be a warehouse room, but also a room with a household role. On the same eastern part, to the mentioned chambers, we also add those called D and E. We do not yet specify their dimensions because we will find more data with the removal of the witnesses in the area. The eastern side, directly from the *cardo*, could hide today, due to the conservation status, the debris of possible shops facing the street, which we can assume and the existence of windows¹².

Regarding the heating system, we have no clue in this regard. There is also very little data about the drinking water supply system, or the presence of domestic sewage channels, or the existence of a bath. However, the two gutters discovered in this edifice could be just a clue for possible disposal, perhaps to the streets and alleys, of the waste water.

Its initial construction we believed to belong to Constantine era or not long after, towards mid-century 4th AD. The destruction of some rooms through the repartitioning of the partition walls that closed smaller surfaces, the possible dismantling from the end of 6th century and the beginning of 7th century AD., and the later ones, have affected the internal composition of the house, the analyze by rooms being very difficult to realize.

¹¹ Adrian Panaitescu, *Descoperiri pe via forensis a municipiului Tropaeum Traiani*, în *Pontica*, 12, 1979, pp. 199-200.

¹² S. Masters, *Light, space and affluent taste: ancient pompeian houses and their decoration*, în *Akroterion* 54, 2009, p. 147.

This trend or necessity to repartitioning some big “aristocrat” buildings through the increase of room numbers inside the same build surfaces at the expense of comfort, it’s a general phenomenon manifested in the Balkan region of the Roman Empire, once with the end of 5th century AD., were with repartition claims the appearance of some stone walls bind with clay, an action that occurred especially in the second phase of inhabitation.¹³

The end of the habitation for the Roman-Byzantine period seems to be towards the end of 6th century AD., probably not long after the Avar attack from 586-587 AD. Moreover, archaeological research conducted at the east gate in the southern sector, revealed a striking destruction accompanied by a great fire, which can be dated to 586-587 AD.¹⁴

On our opinion, this edifice (no. 2) can be introduced in the category “Domus” (maybe slightly adapted for the possible constructive space from the district), belonging probably to some aristocrat family’s. It’s made not far from the *basilica forensis* (around 10 m south in a straight line in front of it) and very close to *via forensis*, the second main street from the city. Of course, that its research kept in mind its possible functionality and the identification of the access towards and from the main traffic artery (direct or indirect through small surrounding alleys).

The edifice is, overall, and through the nature of the small archeological findings, one by excellence with a civilian character, particular, initially with a lot of available space. The entire construction, in this stage of research, has a rectangular and axial plan (being organized on length). Also, it should also be arranged, on both sides of the central axis, in a symmetric way, constitutive spaces. Also, it’s noted countless of times changes in the rooms plan, a fact signaled also at other edifices of this type from Dobruja (for example at Dinogetia-Garvăn/Jijila commune, Tulcea county-, an atrium its divided with separating walls in three small room which communicated directly only with the central courtyard).¹⁵ The repeated changes over the edifice’s plan could, due to space constrain or other factors modify this standard plan of construction, giving birth to agglomeration. Since we have not completed our research on the north and south sides we don’t know if the atrium occupies exactly the central area of the building or deviates from this rule. The edifice should have, at least in 4th-5th century AD., rooms with special destinations, according with the plans of such constructions for the Roman epoch, consecrated and identified archeologically in the west and east of the Empire. But, until future

¹³ Florin Curta, *Apariția slavilor. Istorie și arheologie la Dunărea de Jos în veacurile VI-VII*, Editura Cetatea de Scaun, Târgoviște, 2006, pp. 110-112, 116-117.

¹⁴ Ghiorghe Papuc, *Considerații asupra perioadei de sfârșit a cetății Tropaeum Traiani*, în *Pontica*, 10, 1977, p. 358.

¹⁵ Ion Barnea, *O casă romană târzie de la Dinogetia*, în *SCIV*, 20, 2, 1969, p. 260.

researches, the hypothetical reconstruction of the interior of the building, especially in the first phase, remains purely speculative.

The clear differences of stone, of the way it was prepared and made the pavement in the atrium are similar identified also in another edifice B9 from sector B from Tropaeum Traiani were the same variety of presentation its observed in the way of building of the pavement identified in three rooms (α , β and γ) and in front of an entry from *cardo*. Probably that the entire building benefit of a *pavimentum*, at least in its early period of functionality, in the rooms being slightly raised compared with the atrium, as it was noted from practical reasons also at Dinogetia. Later, especially in the rooms, he was dismantled by taking the pavement which could easily be reused to build or rebuild other important urban structures of the city. We retain the hypothesis according to which, in another context from the city, the eventual dismantling in generally of the pavement would mark the change of functionality of an edifice, or on our opinion, possible of the interior of a room (from habitation rooms in ordinary storages). The destruction of some rooms through the alteration of the separating walls and making some smaller ones, the dismantling from the end of 6th century AD. and from later affected the intern composition of the building, the analyze on eventually rooms being very hard to accomplish.

Anyway, for the moment, with the exception of the *atrium* and of the vestibulum, we are retained to indicate a clear destination for the rooms (for example *triclinum*, *cucina*, *cubicula* etc.). This trend or necessity of repartition of some large “aristocrat” buildings or public edifice through increasing the number of rooms on same constructed surface to the detriment of comfort, respectively of some public activities, it’s a general phenomenon manifested in the Balkan area of the Roman Empire (at Callatis, Mangalia today, Romania); Novae, near Svishtov today, Bulgaria; Zikideva, Tsarevets hill, near Veliki Tîrnovo today, Bulgaria; Abritus, near Razgrad today, Bulgaria; Oescus (Ghighen today, Bulgaria); Sirmium, Stremska Mitrovica today, Serbia; Stobi, Gradsko/Vadar today, Republic of Macedonia etc.), once with the end of 5th century AD., where every repartition claims the appearance of some stone walls bounded with clay (as in the situation of the building surprised at Tropaeum Traiani), action that took place usually in the second phase of habitation. All this indicates a change of the urban environment in close connection with the economic phenomenon (the lack of prosperity and the rise of the number of the poor population) and administrative.

At Tropaeum Traiani, in the first part of 5th century AD. took place the consolidation if the precinct wall, as it was observed near the east and south gates, to which were added new *extramuros* buildings with stone walls bounded with clay. The last big constructive phase from Tropaeum Traiani belongs to Emperors Anastasius and Justinian I, being used again stone walls bounded with clay for private constructions, some even considered to be palaces, which had spaces

designated for of craftsmanship and economic-commercial activities, by them close proximity to the main circulation networks of the city.

During the archaeological excavations carried out inside the building, numerous fragments of stone of the *spolia* type (remains of friezes with vegetal motifs, column shafts, column bases, fragments of capitals, etc.) were discovered within the structure of interior walls. These remained embedded in the walls and are present especially in those that appeared with the subdivision of the building, particularly in the central part. It should also be noted that several *spolia*-type stone fragments were found in the actual collapse layer recorded throughout the entire area of the building, which reaches a thickness of approximately 0.75-0.90 m. This debris originates from the upper part of the building's walls and the upper story structure. Among these *spolia* stone fragments, we mention the discovery in 2012 of a sculptural fragment representing the head of a female figure reused as construction material. The hairstyle can be related to the portrait fashion of Faustina the Elder, especially those found in the provinces of the Empire. This detail, along with other artistic considerations (which reflect a style of Asia Minor tradition), allows the fragment to be dated to the second half of the 2nd century-early 3rd century¹⁶. Inside the buildings and in the area of the street (*cardo*) were discovered a large number of fragments of identifiable pieces, whole or fragmented. An appreciable quantity it's represented by late Roman pottery, numerous fragments of glasses (common use), glass fragments, metallic objects (nails, spikes, staples, knife blades, rings, coins, fibulae, buckles, keys, medical instruments etc.) and bone objects. The coin finds specific to the Late Roman and Early Byzantine periods are very well represented as a result of the archaeological excavations. Proportionally, those belonging to the Late Roman period are the most numerous (approximately 40% of the total finds) and were found in secondary contexts. Coins specific to the Early Byzantine period represent about 30-35% of the total discovered, with the last issuer being Emperor Mauricius Tiberius. In general, we can also mention, though in smaller quantities and likewise in secondary positions, coins from the Macedonian Kingdom (dating to the 4th-3rd centuries BC.), as well as from the colonies of Tomis, Callatis, and others, Early Roman coins, Ottoman, and modern ones. The latest coin identified is a 3 lei piece issued by the Romanian state in 1962, discovered at a depth of nearly 2 meters at the bottom of one of the many large pits that appeared mainly in the central-northern area of the domus-type building. This coin also serves as a *terminus post quem*, likely marking the final phase of anthropic

¹⁶ Gabriel Mircea Talmațchi, Cristina Georgeta Alexandrescu, *Clădirea de tip domus din sectorul C de la Tropaeum Traiani-întrebări (re)deschise de materialele litice reutilizate*, paper presented at the Annual Scientific Communications Session „Metodă, Teorie și Practică în Arheologia Contemporană-In Memoriam Eugen Nicolae”, Institutul de Arheologie „Vasile Pârvan” al Academiei Române, 26-28 martie 2025.

disturbance of the archaeological contexts in this sector, due to the massive dismantling of the walls in the southern quarter of the Tropaeum Traiani fortress.

Likewise, the 2023 archaeological excavations conducted to the north of the domus-type building revealed the existence of a new structure or a possible annex of the *basilica forensis*. The western side uncovered so far is oriented slightly northwest and is built on a continuous stone socle laid out west-east. This socle consists of very well-fitted flagstones, wider than the mentioned wall itself, which reaches a width of approximately 2.50 m. Two monumental entrances were also identified, oriented toward two spacious interior areas, separated by a narrow wall aligned north-south. The two entrances, facing south and approximately 1.50 m long, are fitted with several steps descending into the building's interior. In this early stage of the excavations, a limestone column base fragment and a stone trough used for water collection were found in secondary positions. At the western end of the room, near the junction of the two parts of the building's side, the imprint of a wooden post with a diameter of 0.25 m was discovered. This post intersected a hard yellow-colored floor at this corner, which was completely broken in the area of the post. Additionally, at the base of the post, at its foundation level, small stone fragments and remnants of roof tiles appeared, intentionally concentrated-likely as an added reinforcement solution to support the roof pressure sustained by the post during a final habitation stage. In the middle section of the western wall (from what has been preserved today), a depression made of loose soil was identified, sloping diagonally "through" the wall. At that spot, two adjoining stones were missing from the inner façade of the wall, forming a relatively circular area. In this "pocket" of soil, where in antiquity a special niche was created-dug diagonally into the body of the wall and directly behind the wooden post-a coin hoard was discovered, consisting of 35 folles and their subdivisions from the 6th century, which can be considered a market sum for everyday use. Its composition is as follows: 4 coins from Justin I: 2 coins of 40 nummia from Constantinople and Nicomedia dated to 518-522, 2 coins of 20 nummia from Constantinople from the same period, and 1 coin of 5 nummia from Constantinople dated to 522-527; 3 coins from Justin I or Justinian I: 2 coins of 40 nummia from Constantinople dated to 522-537, and 1 coin of 20 nummia from Nicomedia from the years 518-537; 7 coins from Justinian I: 2 coins of 40 nummia from Constantinople from 522-537, 1 coin of 20 nummia from Constantinople dated to 527-537, 1 coin of 10 nummia from Constantinople dated to 546-565, 2 coins of 40 nummia from Nicomedia dated to 543/544 and 546/547, and 1 coin of 16 nummia from Thessaloniki dated to 538-562; 17 coins from Justin II: 1 coin of 40 nummia from Constantinople dated to 565-575, and 16 coins of 20 nummia, of which: 5 from Constantinople dated to 569/570, 571-572, 567/568-578, and 565-578; 3 from Nicomedia dated to 569-570, 571-572, and 574-575; and 8 from Thessaloniki dated to 567-568, 569-570, 571-572, 574-575, 575-576, and 568/569-

578; 3 coins from Maurice Tiberius: 3 coins of 20 nummia from Constantinople and Thessaloniki dated to 582-583 and 591-592.

Beyond other observations, we note for this deposit the presence of small coins in a significant percentage within it, as a sign of a still monetized daily market.

The second primary objective of the research it's represented by the discovery of a portion of the second primary street of the city, *cardo/via forensis*, with all the details of construction and repairs. Archaeological excavations in the sector identified a portion of approximately 20 m of the *cardo*, with a variable width between 2.20 and 2.30 m, oriented north-south, descending on a slope toward the southern gate. The latter did not have special arrangements for the passage of carts, a fact which suggests pedestrian movement. In general, the street appears at a depth between 0.65-0.80 m from the current walking level and presents itself as a compact, well-trodden platform of greyish-yellow earth, containing small fragments of bricks, pottery, and fine stone. Based on the data identified, two repairs were observed: the first from the second half of the 4th century AD., and the second from the first half of the 5th century AD. The *cardo* remains, in the 6th century AD., the second most important vital internal transport route for the fortress.

Alongside the Roman vestiges, the last decade has brought to researchers' attention- albeit relatively discreetly-artifacts specific to the Early Middle Ages, discovered during the investigation of the southern quarter of the fortress. In fact, over time, archaeological research has uncovered numerous traces specific to the early medieval period in the fortress of Tropaeum Traiani. Most of these have been found in the area of five pits into which household waste had been thrown-pits dug into the late Roman habitation level from the 6th century AD. From their fill, ceramic fragments were recovered (rim sherds and wall pieces from pots without handles and a bowl with burnished or incised decoration, grey pottery, etc.), fragmentary glass bracelets, clay sling bullets, likely a miniature whip handle made of clay, spindle whorls made of clay and lead, flint tools, antlers with traces of processing (handle), bone awls, bronze belt ends, appliquéés, rings, arrowheads, lead medallions, and probably a small iron anvil. From the area of the Domus-type building, other numerous early medieval items have also been recovered, such as rings, bells, appliquéés, harness pieces, etc.

Another distinct category of discoveries is that of coins, specific to the period, grouped into coin hoards composed of pieces belonging to the Byzantine Empire and the Latin Empire of the East from Constantinople. During 2020, a monetary hoard was discovered inside the building, near the south wall. It was buried in a very fine soil, different from the nearby one, which led us to think of its initial storage in a bag of leather or fabric that disintegrated over time. Above the hoard, completely covering it like a lid, was an old, broken bowl bottom, which was

positioned upside down. The hoard is composed of *follesi* (anonymous pieces) from classes A 2 and 3 (from Basil II - Constantine VIII, 976-1028 AD, a total of 34 pieces; class B from Roman III, 1028-1034 AD., a total of 16 pieces; class C from Michael IV, 1034-1041 AD. a total of 9 pieces, class D, from Constantine IX, 1042-1055 AD., a total of 2 pieces. The hoard was buried due to the insecurity installed in Paristrion against the background of the Pecheneg raids from 1046 to 1048 and later. As the final date of burial, this hoard is added to three other treasures discovered at Dinogetia (1) and Păcuiul lui Soare (2). In general, it is the 56th hoard trove dating back to the 11th century in Dobruja and is a sign of turbulent history on the border of the Byzantine Empire.



Fig. 13, 14 - Early medieval hoard discovered in 2020

During last year's campaign (2022), in the eastern ends of the former sections S 15-19, the remains of some witnesses were removed in order to completely capture the second row of walls of the building on the eastern side, of those that delimit a series of inner chambers (A, B, E and F). They were discovered on this occasion, in addition to a rich ceramic baggage and numerous metal materials, such as fragments of clothing accessories, rings, brooches, coins from the pre-Roman, Roman, early Byzantine, late Byzantine, Ottoman periods, etc. The area was heavily disturbed by a series of anthropic interventions from the medieval and modern period when shaped stone was extracted from the central-northern area of the edifice. On this occasion, a small witness (nearly 3 m long, nearly 2 m wide and about 1 m high) was removed in room D, where a vessel made of kaolin was discovered containing 11 Byzantine coins from the centuries X-XI AD. The monetary deposit is composed of 11 bronze coins (folles), of which 9 coins from class A2-A3 (from the years 1000-1028 AD., emperors Basil II-Constantine VIII), one from class B (from the

years 1028-1034, emperors Constantine VIII-Roman III); one from class D (from the years 1042-1055, Emperor Constantine IX). The vessel, spherical in shape, was caught slightly inclined to the west, under the large rubble, at its base and with the mouth covered and defended by two tegulae, one of which is fragmentary, of a yellowish color. The depth to the maximum height of the witness and the upper end of the tile is 0.50 m. Under the pit of the vessel, we identified a yellowish-brown soil with clay pigments, with burnt wood, relatively compact. The small hole in which the vessel was placed was filled with loose, brown soil. This vessel is positioned at a distance of approximately 33 m in a straight line from the hoard discovered previously mentioned, in the northeast direction. Also, in room D, two other Byzantine coins from the 10th-11th centuries AD. were discovered.



Fig. 15, 16, 17, 18 - Early medieval hoard discovered in 2022

Also, during the research of sector C, there appeared some disused bronze coins from the end of the 11th century and the beginning of the 12th century (from Alexios I Comnenon, 1081-1118) and from the end of the 12th century (from Isaac II-years 1185-1195). All these coins come, unfortunately, from the earth resulting from the archeological excavations of almost 70-80 years ago, *held near*, which was thrown over the *domus* type building we are researching.

Also, north-northwest of the ancient town of Tropaeum Traiani, on the right side of the road to Ostrov, halfway between the villages of Adamclisi and Urluia, was found last year by a local, during agricultural works, a small monetary hoard scattered on 7-8 m linear. It consists of 28 cut (fragmented) specimens of bronze stamen, cut after the Tatar attack from 1241-1242 AD., from the 13th century. The issues are Latin imitations beaten in Constantinople (1204-1261) and an imitation of the Latin Kingdom of Thessaloniki (1204-1224). The deposit ends with a

Bulgarian coin from Constantin Asen (1257-1277). Most of the pieces are cut, which is a characteristic of the local monetary supply after 1242, due to the passage of the Tatar armies south of the Danube, there is a shortage of coins on the Dobrujan market. When in urban communities (at Silistra and Isaccea), where attempts were being made to resume economic and trade relations, small change was needed and this was not enough. We assume that the warehouse was hidden under the threat of imminent danger in the 60s and 70s of the 13th century (corroborating with the isolated finds from the area, whose series ends in the last quarter of the 13th century, with a coin issue from Michael VIII). In fact, isolated discoveries in the area are interrupted in the last quarter of the 13th century, with an issue by Michael VIII. Such discoveries are rare in the south of Dobruja. This hoard probably belonged to a merchant who had trade connections to or from Silistra, or was passing through the area to the coast or northern Dobruja.



Fig. 19 - Early medieval hoard from 13th century discovered near fortress

The few isolated monetary discoveries coming from the building area and from a large mass of earth resulting from the archaeological excavations carried out nearby, to the southwest, during the 60s and 70s of the last century, belong to the same issuers, for the X-XI centuries AD., which also forms a monetary treasure as we shall see. From this chronological point of view, the situation comes to certify the circulation of coins from about the same periods of issuance of both isolated and hoard monetary discoveries (Basil II-Constantine VIII, Roman III, Michael IV, Constantine IX).

OTHER ARCHAEOLOGICAL DISCOVERIES

The discoveries under consideration focus on a small assemblage of Early and Late Roman brooches (11 pieces) discovered during some works in the northern outskirts of Adamclisi. In the autumn of 2020, under the conditions of emergency requests from the Adamclisi administration (to Constanța Heritage Department and the Constanța National History and Archaeology Museum) and with a government financial aid, the water pipe of the locality was replaced. It was severely affected by the passage of time in several underground points which severely altered the quality and safety of water consumption. Given the pandemic situation and the state of alert established at a national level, the old water pipe was replaced very quickly by mechanized excavation with a new one, mainly on the previous location. The action took place in the northern outskirts of the village perpendicular to a hill for a distance of about 0.75 km (in the SE-NW direction). The area, close to the route of the pipeline introduced by mechanized excavations in the 80's of the twentieth century, suffered during the communist period many other interventions that irreparably affected the land. In this regard, we mention the planting of fruit trees during the 50's, the abandonment of these and the terrace of the hill, the planting of vines and the introduction of hundreds of cement poles and, finally, the making of a small quarry for stone extraction, visible even today from the village. The archaeologists from Constanța National History and Archaeology Museum of the Tropaeum Traiani research team, although they did not identify clear contexts (the stratigraphy is extremely disturbed), recovered several ceramic fragments and archaeological artefacts specific to the Early Roman, Late Roman and Early Byzantine times from the filling of the works ((including this group of brooches).

This group of brooches is remarkable because they contribute to highlighting the Early Roman and Late Roman sequence in the evolution of the city. The assemblage analyzed in this paper consists of 11 brooches chronologically dated between the 1st and 4th centuries AD. The typological variety of these brooches originating in the Lower Danube area but also more distant provinces should be emphasized.

All types are known in the region but some of them have been discovered for the first time at the Tropaeum Traiani. The group from the Early Roman period includes two strongly profiled 'Pontic' brooches, a brooch with bilateral spring and the chord wrapped around the bow, a regional *Avcissa*, a wheel-shaped and a lozenge one. This series is closed by one knee brooch produced perhaps in the *Durostorum-Ostrov*-, „*Ferma 4*” workshops. During the Late Roman period, new types emerged. A divided bow brooch with a trident-shaped head-plate was probably made in a workshop in the Lower Danube area at the turn of the 3rd and the 4th century AD. Early crossbow brooches are used in the same period along with “*Fibel mit*

umgeschlagenem Fuß”. Both types will become obsolete with the generalization of the late crossbow brooches.

The small assemblage of brooches from Tropaeum Traiani, although lacking a context of discovery, illustrates the city’s evolution in the first three centuries since its foundation. We point out the existence among the archaeological artefacts recovered from the works in the northern outskirts of Adamclisi of various objects, which from a chronological point of view range from the Early Roman to the early Byzantine period. However, the artefacts that date chronologically beyond the 4th century AD are a clear minority, which leads us to the idea that the area where they were discovered belonged to one of the necropolises of the city between the beginning of the 2nd century and the 4th century AD. Successive earthworks and anthropogenic interventions have led to severe damage to the ancient landscape¹⁷.

A MONETARY HOARD DISCOVERED IN THE IMMEDIATE SURROUNDINGS OF THE CITY OF TROPAEUM TRAIANI (2ND CENTURY AD.)

An early imperial Roman coin hoard was discovered by chance in 2012, approximately four km. as the crow flies from the western gate of the Roman-Byzantine fortress of Tropaeum Traiani. A hoard was found by chance as a result of some floods caused by the heavy autumn rainfalls. Probably, it has been partially recovered and published as such. The hoard fragment was found near the wagon road between Zorile (Adamclisi Commune) and Șipotele (Șipotele Commune, Constanța County), not far from the route of the aqueduct that connected the water sources that supply the city of Tropaeum Traiani with water and its western gate.¹⁸ According to the finder’s account, the coins were found in a ravine that was oriented perpendicularly towards a road located relatively on the bottom of a not very deep valley, between the two localities. The coins were disorderly arranged in a gravel area, being found after two rainy autumn days (October). The aqueduct presents *tubules* of the *canalis structilis* type (NAR code 61728.05) and starts from the south of Șipotele locality, crosses the ridges of two hills (on a level curve of 70 m) and then descends along a valley that ends up intersecting with Urluia valley.¹⁹ Once at

¹⁷ George Nuțu, Gabriel Mircea Talmațchi, Sorin Ailincăi, Constantin Șova, Cristian Cealera, *A group of brooches from Municipium Tropaeum Traiani*, în Sergiu Mustață, Vlad Andrei Lăzărescu, Vitalie Bârcă, Viorica Rusu-Bolindeț, Dan Matei (eds.), *FABER Studies in Honour of Sorin Cociș at his 65th Anniversary*, Editura Mega, Cluj-Napoca, 2022, pp. 276-296.

¹⁸ The information was communicated briefly by telephone in 2015 to the scientific director of the Tropaeum Traiani archaeological site at that time, the professor Alexandru Barnea.

¹⁹ Alexandra Ștefan, *Apeductele cetății Tropaeum Traiani*, în Buletinul Monumentelor Istorice, XLI, 3, 1972, pp. 43-53; Adrian Rădulescu, *Tropaeum Traiani. Monumentul și cetatea*, Editura Sport-Turism, București, 1988, p. 174; Ghiorghie Papuc, Mihai Ionescu, Robert Constantin, *Les aqueducs de la cité romaine de Tropaeum Traiani*, în Pontica, 44, 2011, pp. 323-341.

the western gate of the fortress, the water was captured in a reservoir that will be transformed by the religious enthusiasm specific to the early Byzantine era into a basilica.²⁰

The hoard fragment in the catalog includes a number of 36 Imperial Roman denarii as follows: Trajan (6 pieces/16.66% of the total). Hadrianus (9 pieces/25% of the total), Antoninus Pius (7 pieces/19.44% of the total), Marcus Aurelius Caesar (one piece/2.77% of the total), Diva Faustina (10 pieces/27.77% of the total), Divus Antoninus (one piece/2.77% of the total) and Marcus Aurelius (2 pieces/5.55% of the total). As can be seen, half of the denarii of the treasure fragment are beaten under Antoninus Pius (along with Diva Faustina and a denarius from Marcus Aurelius Caesar), with 18 denars (50% of the total).

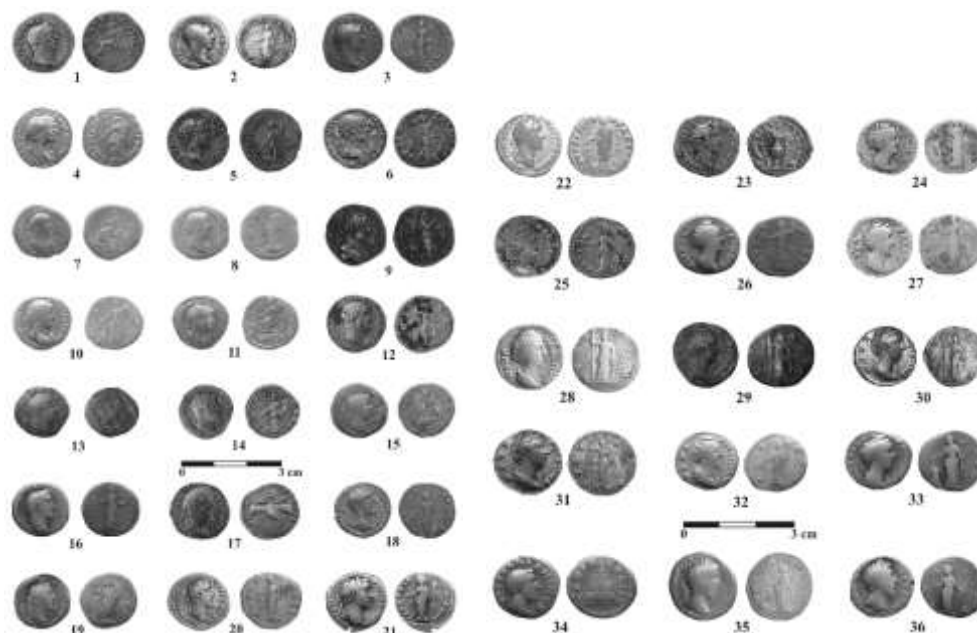


Fig. 20, 21 - Imperial Roman denarii from the 2nd century AD hoard

All coins belong to the Nerva-Antonine dynasty, chronologically the first issue belongs to the year 100 AD. and the last to the years 169-170 AD. More specifically, for Trajan there are denarii struck in the years: 100 AD (one piece), 103-111 AD. (four pieces) and 112-114 AD. (one piece). For Hadrianus are identified denarii struck in the years: 117 AD (one piece), 118 AD (two pieces), 119-121 AD (two pieces), 125-128 AD. (two pieces) and 134-138 (two pieces). For Antoninus Pius

20 Monica Mărgineanu-Cârstoiu, *Problèmes d'architecture concernant la cisterne romaine et la basilique chrétienne de Tropaeum Traiani*, în *Dacia*, N.S., 21, 1977, pp. 235-250; Ion Barnea, *La basilique cisterne de Tropaeum Traiani à la lumière des dernières fouilles archéologiques*, în *Dacia*, N.S., 21, 1977, pp. 221-234.

there were identified denarii struck in the years: 140-143 AD. (one piece), 145-161 AD. (one piece), 147-148 AD. (two pieces), 148-149 AD. (one piece), 155-156 AD. (one piece), 158-159 AD (one piece) and after 161 AD. (Divus Antoninus, postum under Marcus Aurelius). Postum denarii are identified only for Diva Faustina, struck after the year 141 AD. with ten pieces (under Antoninus Pius) and for Antoninus Pius (under Marcus Aurelius, type *DIVUS ANTONINUS*) struck after the year 161 AD. Finally, for Marcus Aurelius are identified postum denarii struck in the years: 140-144 AD (one piece, Caesar under Antoninus Pius), 166-167 AD. (one piece) and 169-170 AD (one piece). 34 denarii are struck in the mint of Rome (94.44% of the total), one in the province and one is a hybrid piece, with uncertain mint (5.55% of the total). The last one being probably dated to the years 155-156 AD.

If this structure given by the issuers respects the general composition of the hoard, it can be assumed that the hoard was hidden in the context of the events that developed in 170 AD., known as the military and robbery incursion lead by the Costoboci people in the Balkan Peninsula. Epigraphical and archaeological evidence regarding the impact of the incursion were found in Tropaeum Traiani. These evidences can now be associated with the monetary proof²¹.

THE COMPLETION OF THE ROMAN COIN HOARD DISCOVERED AT ABRUD IN 1982

The hoard was discovered in the yard of a local resident from Abrud (Adamclisi commune, Constanța County), at a depth of approximately 0.60 m below the current walking level. The hoard, which at the time was believed to consist of 2.060 coins (1.850 denarii, 209 antoniniani, and one drachma)²², had been stored in a clay vessel broken since antiquity and covered with a stone lid. The discovery was made in the presence of several people who were in the yard of the local resident, helping with a small family construction project. At the time of the scientific publication of the hoard, the earliest coins were denarii struck during the reign of Emperor Vespasianus (the first from the years 69-70 AD.), and the latest were antoniniani issued during the reign of Emperor Volusianus (the last of these dated to the first part of the year 252 AD.). Therefore, it was considered that the hoard had been accumulated over a long period of time, and the structure of the core fully corresponds to the composition of a type of hoard from the 30s of the third

²¹ Gabriel Mircea Talmațchi, Cristian Cealera, *New information on roman monetary discoveries in the vicinity of the Tropaeum Traiani (com. Adamclisi, county Constanța) in the context of the second century AD.*, în *Studia Antiqua et Archaeologica*, 27, 1, 2021, pp. 173-189.

²² Gabriel Custurea, Gabriel Talmațchi, *Repertoriul tezaurelor monetare din Dobrogea*, Editura Ex Ponto, Constanța, 2011, p. 123; the coins are registered at the Numismatic Cabinet of the Museum of National History and Archaeology in Constanta under inventory numbers 51.445-53.504.

century²³. To correctly place the discovery within the ancient landscape, we mention that it was made at an approximate distance of 6.5 km in a straight line from the fortress of Tropaeum Traiani. Unfortunately, as has happened many times in the history of coin hoard discoveries, not all the coins remained in the possession of the main discoverer; some ended up with individuals connected to the discovery. We know that the Abrud coin hoard also went through this situation, even though it was initially believed to have been “practically recovered in its entirety”²⁴. One of the individuals who held for a time-until the late 1980s-a coin specimen and a ring originating from the hoard, brought the two artifacts in the 1980s and early 1990s to the church in Adamclisi, where they were kept as cultural and historical items. They eventually ended up in the collection of the Museum of National History and Archaeology Constanța.



Fig. 22 - Coin minted for Emperor Severus Alexander in Rome in 233-235 AD

The coin specimen belongs to the Roman Empire, issued during the reign of Severus Alexander (mint of Rome, years 233-235 AD.). From the same emperor, 345 silver pieces were originally known in the hoard. The second recovered artifact is a silver ring, of the type with a loop whose ends are twisted and featuring two symmetrically placed knots on the upper part of the loop. The importance of the ring is exceptional, considering that provincial Roman goldsmithing produced few examples of this type in the territory of Moesia Inferior. Given the long period of accumulation of the hoard, the ring cannot be more narrowly dated than the end of the 1st century to the 3rd century AD. According to the information provided by the coins, the burial of the hoard likely took place in the first months of the year 252 and may have been caused by a military context that could also be explained by a possible barbarian incursion into the Roman provincial territory of Dobruja²⁵.

²³ Antoaneta Vertan, Emanuel Petac, *Tezaurul monetar roman imperial descoperit la Abrud (com. Adamclisi, jud. Constanța)*, în *Pontica*, 33-34, 2000-2001, p. 614.

²⁴ Antoaneta Vertan, *Circulația monetară în Dobrogea romană (secolele I-III)*, Editura Nereamia Napocae, Cluj-Napoca, 2002, p. 270, nr. 1.

²⁵ Anca Cristina Hamat, Gabriel Mircea Talmațchi, *Despre o posibilă restitutio din perspectiva tezaurului monetar de la Abrud (com. Adamclisi, jud. Constanța)*, în Dorel Bondoc, Călin Timoc, *In honorem Constantin C. Petolescu*, Editura Antheo, Craiova, 2023, pp. 165-172.

In conclusion, stratigraphic, archaeological and monetary observations and the exceptional discoveries can complement each other harmoniously to contribute to the identification of important sequences in the life of the local community in the 2th-6th centuries AD. and 10th-11th AD., from one of the most important Roman provincial centers in the Roman and Byzantine provinces of Scythia and Paradunavon, Tropaeum Traiani. The fortress of Tropaeum Traiani, in all its current complexity-together with the numerous discoveries mentioned throughout the article, made in its relatively immediate surroundings and within its sphere of influence-represents a remarkable historical and archaeological site, of primary importance among the Roman-era sites in the eastern part of the Roman Empire.
