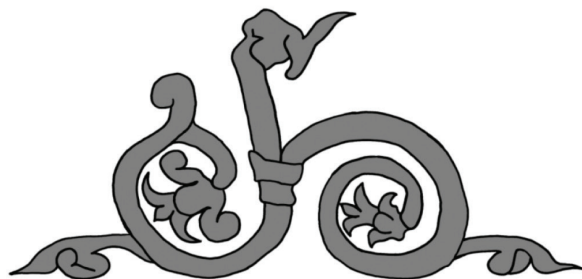


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About the *Castra* in *Dacia* and the Analogies They Are (Should Be) Involved in*

Dan Matei

Scripta V.-V. M. matri carissimae dedicata

Abstract: We hereby emphasize the good possibilities of analogy/comparison from the block of information available for the *castra* of *Dacia*. Despite the fact that the research of these is not so advanced as it is generally argued by many specialists outside the circle of researchers which study them, the level of knowledge on the Dacian *castra* is nevertheless satisfactory.

Keywords: *Dacia*, Roman province (s), *castra*, archaeological aspects and discoveries, analogies, comparison.

“Deutsche, Schweizer, Engländer, Franzosen (in Nord-afrika), Oesterreicher [here with reference in the footnote beside Austria, to Hungary and Transylvania – thus it can not be only of Austrian specialist, but also of others, Hungarians or writing in Hungarian in their majority; Transylvania being part in 1907 of the Austro-Hungarian Empire, in 1918 being united with the Kingdom of Romania; o.n.], Rumänen und Russen, sie wetteifern miteinander, um die Reste der römischen Limites auf dem Boden ihrer Heimatländer aufzunehmen: die Limesforschung ist, wie nichts anders zu erwarten war, international geworden. Dabei haben deutsche Gelehrte zuerst auch den Blick von den heimischen Grenzwehren nach denen der Nachbarn schweifen lassen, um Vergleichsmaterial für die Forschung im eigenen Lande zu erlangen, und so sind uns tüchtige, nicht nur auf dem Studium der Literatur, sondern auch auf Autopsie beruhende Arbeiten... Alle Limesforscher gewöhnen sich immer mehr daran, von den Objekten der eigenen Ausgrabung hinüberzuschauen nach den Arbeiten der Nachbarn, um das für gewisse Zeiten oder Gegenden and der Limites Typische zu erfassen, ohne deshalb die Verschiedenheiten, die durch die Landesnatur und Landessitte bedingt, aus dem Auge zu verlieren“ (Ernst Kornemann 1907¹).

“...nobody understands history today as a pointless enumeration of facts, without connection between them: the comparative method gave the best results, helping us understand certain phenomena with the help of others that are alike but placed differently in space or time. But we shall always have to take into consideration the fact that alike is not identical. There are so many imponderable elements in the conduct of human happenings, so many influences of the environment, of some circumstances that escape even the most attentive researcher, so that facts that seem identical at first sight can be deeply different through their results and consequences” (Gheorghe I. Brătianu, 1926, in Romanian²).

* The lines below originate in a presentation with close title delivered at *Sesiunea de comunicări științifice a doctoranzilor în istorie* [The scientific communications session of the PhD students in history], edition IX, Cluj-Napoca, 30–31 May 2014 (The “Babeș-Bolyai” University, Faculty of History and Philosophy, Școala Doctorală “Istorie. Civilizație. Cultură” [“History. Civilisation. Culture” Doctoral School]). – This small paper represents a corrected and expanded Romanian version which was titled identically with the mentioned presentation: Matei 2014 (2015). The majority of the lines of there and here are to be found also in the corp of our doctoral dissertation, dealing *Castrele Daciei după părăsirea lor de către armata romană* [The camps of Dacia subsequent their abandonment by the Roman army], defended with the „Babeș-Bolyai” University Cluj-Napoca in 2016 (Matei 2016), while some lines were already published in Matei 2011, 32 f.; Matei 2012, 54.– The translation from Romanian belongs in the majority to Dr. A. M. Gruia, while the other parts were translated by the author. We have revised also the text translated by Dr. Gruia, in order that our words to be transmitted with their trully original meaning, but we are sure that the unpleasant operation gave birth to some miserable grammatical errors, which we assume. – For reading the draft of the paper and giving us his feedback, we are thanking here too our friend dr. V. Sava (Complexul Muzeal [The Museal Complex] Arad).

¹ Kornemann 1907, 74–76.

² Brătianu 1926, 7 f. (to our friend and former colleague Dr. D.-Tudor Ionescu, Biblioteca Metropolitană [The Metropolitan Library] București), we would like to adress also in writing our special thanks for his efforts in providing us with this work in its original variant); for the quotation see also Brătianu 2010, 43 (*Teorii nouă în învățământul istoriei. Cu prilejul unui studiu al domnului Șt. Zeletin* [New theories in the teaching of history. With the occasion of a study of Mister Șt. Zeletin]); for

Resuming with present occasion the topic of this small paper, our desire is to confer it the traits of a call, of a plea and of an invitation in the same time. A call for the current researchers of the *castra* of *Dacia* to improve the acces to their published works, a plea for the value of the informational block on these Dacian camps, an invitation for the foreign specialist to use this block for analogy/comparison with overall scientific benefit.

Since *Academia.edu* and *ResearchGate* were established, the physical acces to many works is assured. Many of these many works of the Romanian specialists are more and more published in international vehicular languages, so the language acces will soon be a minor problem³. And as by different ways, older works pertaining camps are also increasingly becoming available on-line⁴, we hope that the call will be as soon as possible made almost superfluos. But we will never stop of doing the plea and the invitation.

In the research of Roman *castra* specialists often turn to analogies and relation of some particular aspects and archaeological discoveries between two camps sometimes located great distance apart. The fact that these camps belong to a military system that was more or less unitary and their highly standardized architecture facilitate such endeavors. Although there are differences – sometimes considerable – between the manner of construction and the architecture of the European, Oriental or North-African fortifications of smaller dimensions⁵.

Overall and naturally, the *castra* in *Dacia* belong from an architectural point of view to those specific to the European area, as much a specific of these exists⁶.

If analogies regarding camps were made since long time ago and today are naturally made at a very high scale, comparisons between different frontier segments, respectively aspects or elements (other than camps) of different frontier segments exists likewise since many decades ago and likewise naturally, their number kept and keep on increasing. With respect to the latter comparisons, the works were not limited to the indication of theoretical issues⁷. We can cite a brief but good general tackling⁸. Comparison have been made, for example, between the European and the Oriental Roman frontiers during the epoch of Principate⁹, between the late frontier of *Britannia* and other frontiers of the same period¹⁰, between Hadrian's Wall and other Late Roman/Byzantine walls (but also that are earlier than the first), regarding their functions¹¹. A special approach tackled on the position of the Norman fortified points face to the former Roman fortifications – especially military ones – and their convergence towards these in Wales¹².

Finally, parallel views on some issues of the Roman frontier and that of China during the Early Han dynasty¹³, of the Roman frontier and that Chinese-Mongolian respectively the western frontier of the United States of America¹⁴, or of the Roman frontier in modern Germany (the Germano-Raetic more precisely) and the “Westwall” or “Siegfriedlinie” fortified line (set up by the Nazis shortly before the Second World Conflagration at the border with France, Luxemburg, Belgium and the Netherlands)¹⁵, indicate the profoundness of the comparisons in which the frontier of the Roman Empire is involved today¹⁶ in historical writing.

Otherwise, there were performed already numerous analogies/comparisons between the frontier

the analogies of special interest that the scholar made between aspects from different historical eras, see Platon 2003, 13–19.

³ Without discussing here, the witticism “traduttore – traditore”.

⁴ Consult: <http://www.cimec.ro/Biblioteca-Digitala/Biblioteca.html>; <http://www.digibuc.ro>; <http://real-j.mtak.hu>; <http://epa.oszk.hu>.

⁵ For these final observations, cp. Breeze 2012, 175, 177.

⁶ Cp. Gudea 2000, 360.

⁷ Kopytoff 1993; see also Hanson 1997, 373.

⁸ Breeze 2012, 177–180 (Chapter *A comparison of frontiers*), 85–91, 115 f.; see also Crow 1986, 725.

⁹ Visy 2002.

¹⁰ Collins 2009, 193 f.

¹¹ Crow 1986, esp. 728.

¹² Moore 1977.

¹³ Graf 2005; see also Visy 2005 but also Kornemann 1907, 106, 110, 114, 120 f.

¹⁴ Dyson 1974, 280–283.

¹⁵ Moschek 2010, 31.

¹⁶ E. Kornemann was performing or presenting at his time comparisons which for sure are keeping some interest, at least in certain cases, also for the current researchers: Kornemann 1907, 92–96, 103–106, 110, 114–116, 119–121.

of *Dacia* and the Germano-Raetic one, segments, elements of them or aspects related to them, some of these comparisons – especially among the first performed – noted as inappropriate¹⁷.

Just as there were enough analogies/comparisons performed between *Dacia* and the trans-fluvial territories of *Germania Superior* and *Raetia* in regard to the reasons for their conquest¹⁸, the stepwise progress of the conquest of provincial areas¹⁹, of abandonment and the subsequent historical evolution of these territories²⁰, as well a few for the epigraphic horizon and monetary circulation during the time of “military anarchy”²¹.

We are aware of a very earlier intention of comparison with a (mistakely thought) camp in *Dacia*. In a letter dated 18 November 1878, Fr. Ohlenschlager was writing from München to C. Gooß in Transylvania: “Hochgeehrter Herr Colega! Eine Arbeit über die römischen Castra in Bayern nöthigt mich eine Reihe außerbayrischer der Bauzeit und Besatzung nach bekannten, nachweislich römischer Lager zum Vergleich beizuziehen. Unter den wenigen zu meinem Zwecken verwendbaren Lager derart gehört auch Sarmizegethusa (Várhely) [sic!, o.n.]...Die Beschäftigung mit den römischen und vorrömischen Alterthümern Daciens, denen ich zum Vergleich mit den ähnlichen oder gleichen Erscheinunhen unseres Landes einige Zeit widmen muß...”²².

The illustrious Torma K. was performing in his so meritorious work of 1880 a comparison between the superior part of “*limes dacicus*” (the Hungarian scholar referring only to the north-western – north sector of the province’s *limes*, from Kis-Sebes [Rom. Poieni] to Tihó [Rom. Tihău]) and the Hadrian’s Wall, the Antonine Wall, and the *limes* from Germany²³. Few years later, in 1884, dealing with certain earthen walls between the provinces of *Dacia* and *Pannonia*, we find out again about the importance given to analogy by the specialist within its efforts: “Wenngleich kein römischer Autor die römische Provenienz dieser Wallzüge bezeugt, so stellt es die vollständige Analogie der Structur der bekannten römischen Grenzwälle in Britannien, Germanien und Bessarabien doch ausser allen Zweifel, dass...”²⁴.

Regarding Torma K.’s statements on the “*limes dacicus*”, it is worth to reproduce J. Jung’s words in 1894 that “...im Allgemeinen ergibt die neuere Limesforschung ja an anderen Orten, z. B. am Taunus, in den Vogesen, in Serbien (Kanitz) Ergebnisse, die von der allgemeinen Schablone abweichen... Eine Untersuchung dieses «limes» mit Verwerthung der an anderen Orten gemachten Wahrnehmungen gehört zu den Aufgaben der künftigen Forschung”²⁵.

¹⁷ For now, we indicate on the matter and (more) older: Torma 1880, *passim*; Jung 1894, 133 f.; Kornemann 1907, 86, 103–105; Buday 1910, 103 (French abstract); Buday 1912a, 109 f., 112 f., 115 f., 117; 124–127 (French abstract); Buday 1912b, 79/92; Daicoviciu 1933–1935 (1936), 255 f.; (304 – German abstract) (= Daicoviciu [1970], 249) (and in relation with the ideas here, see further Macrea 1932–1938 (1938), 198, n. 3); Macrea 1932–1938 (1938), 205; 211, n. 19; 219, 221, 231 f.; 452 f. (German abstract); Ferenczi 1959, 337 f.; 343, n. 1, 5; 346 f., 350; Ferenczi 1967, 143 f., 148 with n. 18 and Abb. 8; Ferenczi 1968, 92, 94–96; Ferenczi 1971, 613–617, 619–621; Ferenczi 1973, 192, 194, 215; Ferenczi 1974, 136; Ferenczi 1987–1988 (1992), 185 with n. 42; 187, n. 43; Ferenczi 1989, 307, 310 f.; Ferenczi 1992, 61, 65 (in both these last almost identical papers, invoking for analogy/comparison also the *limites* in *Britannia*, *Syria*, *Arabia* and *Palestina*, but also some unnamed in Central Europe); see also Daicu [Daicoviciu] 1929, 167; Daicoviciu [1930–1931 (1932)], 4, n. 2; 16 with n. 12; 18 with n. 15; 22 with n. 20, 22; 28 (= Daicoviciu [1970], 163, n. 2; 169 with n. 12; 170 with n. 15; 172 with n. 20, 22; 175). – We believe that not even the most faulty comparisons are necessarily to blame. Due to the smaller quantity of information on the frontier of *Dacia*, the desire to increase it through analogy /comparison performing with the mentioned frontier(s) must have been so intense, that was glided beyond the limits of validity as naturally as possible.

¹⁸ Pârvan 1906, 21, 46 = Pârvan 2002, 30 f., 48 (between *Dacia* and *Agri decumates/Decumates agri*).

¹⁹ Buday 1912b, 74/87.

²⁰ Alföldi 1930, 1 f., 9; Alföldi 1940, 48 f.; Macrea 1936–1940 (1941), 295–297 = Macrea 1978, 185–187; Macrea 1943, 918 f.; Daicoviciu [1969]a; Daicoviciu 1969b; Daicoviciu 1969 (1970), 80; Castritius 1979, 13; Hind 1984, 191 f., to be consulted together with Hügel 2003, 168 with n. 168; Bóna 1990, 63, 76; Unruh 1993, 246 f.; Nuber 1990, 58; Nuber 1993, 104; Nuber 1998, 377; Whittaker 1994, 171, 173, 205; Benea 1995, 154, 165 f.; Benea 1996, 22 f., 27, 39 f.; Okamura 1996; Zahariade, Phelps 1999, 321; Ruscu 2000, 267 f., 273; Ruscu 2003, 192–205, 213; Schmauder 2002 (we address our warm thanks to dr. V. Lăzărescu, as it is due to him that we can invoke this paper); Opreanu 1999–2000 (2000), esp. 396 = Opreanu 2001, esp. 69; Opreanu 2004, esp. 14; Opreanu 2007, 105 f.; Protase² 2010, 268, 692; Găzduc² 2010, 199. – See also Horedt 1973, 135 f., see also 144; Horedt 1988, 16; Gudea 1998, 154, n. 1; see also 159 f.; Steidl 2000, 120 f.

²¹ Mrozewicz 1998; Steidl 2000, 120 with n. 903.

²² Wollmann (Hg.) 1983, 147 f., Nr. 117.

²³ Torma 1880, 86 f., 91–97, 102; see also the unsigned presentation of the work, presentation entitled *Der «Limes Dacicus»*, in *Ungarische Revue* [2 Jg.], 1882, III. H., März, 280, 283 f.; and also see Századok XIV évfolyam, 1880, III. füzet, 253 (at the section *Tárcza, Magyar Tudományos Akadémia*).

²⁴ *Ungarische Revue* 4 Jg., 1884, I. H., Januar, 75 f. (at the section *Kurze Sitzungberichte*, the presented report bearing the title: *Limes pannonico-dacicus oder den westlichen Grenzwall des römischen Daciens*).

²⁵ Jung 1894, 133.

Within its focus on the defensive line across the Olt, one should also mention here “*the analogy with the walls from England*” that Gr. G. Tocilescu (Biblioteca Academiei Române [Library of the Romanian Academy], mss. 5139, 139) intended to follow²⁶. At a certain moment, in 1898 (1900), this one was writing: „*Cette muraille en terre brulée [sc. by him called limes cis-alutanus; in fact then and today the so-called limes transalutanus] on peut la considérer comme une ligne de postes avancés se trouvant avec le limes alutanus dans le même rapport que le premier vallum de Bretagne au second [sic!]*”²⁷.

In 1929, Em. Panaitescu pertinently pleaded for a research at a superior level of the Roman defensive system in the area of Transylvania²⁸. The words that E. Fabricius personally transmitted him some time before, namely that “*«the later study of the Dacian limes requires knowledge of the Rhenan and British limes in order to reach a more perfected method and with even brighter results»*”²⁹, though absolutely superfluous, should give Romanian researchers even today something to think about, maybe even more pregnantly than back then.

As the results of the Romanian archaeology of *castra* became, in time, more numerous, the insufficiently clarified or plainly un-clarified issues have multiplied in direct proportion. But the researchers of the Roman defensive systems in Germany, the United Kingdom or in other areas had to face enough of these issues as well, they being solved, more long ago or recently, acceptable or optimal. Unknowing or, worse, ignoring the conclusions reached regarding these aspects by the researchers of the Roman defensive system in *Dacia*, did not and does not lead to anything but the faulty situation of reaching conclusions already reached before by foreign researchers and, implicitly, to a waste of efforts. Efforts that could have been focused on revealing certain characteristics proper to the system in our province or to bringing real contributions to a better general knowledge of the Roman defensive system through results obtained on the system in *Dacia*.

N. Gudea’s ambiguously expressed assertion: “*One can affirm without fear of being wrong that during these years [previous 25 year face to 1997–2000; o.n.] Romanian archaeologists in Dacia Porolissensis!!! [the repeated exclamation belonging to N. G.; o.n.] managed to get closer to the standard of knowledge of the province’s limes at the level known for the limes of the well-researched provinces from Western Europe (Britannia, Germania)*”³⁰, was then – and still remains, obviously – a delusion. A minute autopsy of the available block of information for the defensive system of this province makes us face an opposite reality.

The evolution of the research of the Dacian defensive system can be followed thanks to the survey or other character works written at different times or for certain research intervals³¹.

At this time, the research of the *limes* of *Dacia*, is, under a cool regard but also by comparison with other provinces, at a stage that can be (in a relatively manner) judged – we believe – as satisfactory. Claiming this, we draw attention to the fact that it would be exaggerated to only compare it with the famous German *Limesforschungen* or to the British research in the field.

²⁶ Bogdan-Cătănicu 1991, 194; Bogdan-Cătănicu 1997, 58, n. 23.

²⁷ Tocilescu 1900, 123 f.

²⁸ Panaitescu 1926–1928 (1929), VI–VIII (reference to the defensive system from Transylvania alone was made based on the fact that the lines in question written by the professor from Cluj envisaged especially issues of archaeology from this historical province); Panaitescu 1929, 76, 82.

²⁹ Panaitescu 1926–1928 (1929), VIII f. –Confessing the good augury of the informational gains on the matter from beyond the area of our province for the personal work on the *limites alutanus* and *transalutanus*: Bogdan-Cătănicu 1997, 60.

³⁰ Gudea 2000, 364, see also 360; the same in Gudea 1999, 919, see also 915.

³¹ See (having knowledge also on important earlier works): Torma 1880 (for the north-west – north of *Dacia*; from here, for the *castra* see 20, no. 10–12; 28, no. 23; 31, no. 29; 42–44, 80–82, 88, 119–124); Jung 1894, esp. 130–140 and *passim* (for Transylvania); Tocilescu 1900, 120–141 (for Oltenia – Little/Lesser Wallachia and Muntenia – Greater Wallachia); Kornemann 1907, 75, n. 1; 86, 97, 99, 103–105, 114; Pârvan 1926, 14 f. (= Pârvan 1981, 332 = Pârvan 2006, 395); Christescu 1937, 126, 130 *sq.*, 133–154 (in the recent edition, Christescu 2009, 118, 122 f., 125–141); Berciu 1944, 24 f. (for the area of *Dacia* in Transylvania and Banat); Macrea, Crișan 1964, 320, 349–364 (Anexa II) (mainly for Transylvania and for the interval 1944–1964); Ferenczi 1973, 191–195, 198–215; Ferenczi 1974a; Gudea 1974a; Gudea 1974b; Gudea 1977a; Gudea 1977b; Gudea 1979; Gudea 1980 (for the years 1970–1979); Gudea 1983–1984 [1985]; and the amplified variant Gudea 1986, 477–492, 495–497 (for 1979–1982); Gudea 1992, 69–86 (for 1983–1988); Gudea 1997 (1998); Benea 2008; Benea 2009 (these two for the defensive system from the southern-western area of the province); Isac 1999 (*Dacia Porolissensis*, 1983–1997 [1998]); Benea 1999 (*Dacia Apulensis*, 1983–1994); Avram, Petolescu 1999 (*Dacia Malvensis*, 1983–1997); Dvorski 1996 (the Olt line, 1980–1994/1995); Nemeth 2007 (the western frontier, 1998–2006); a perspective for the defensive system of *Dacia Porolissensis*, from the period of the second half of the 19th century and until 1997 inclusively (in fact 1998) to Gudea 1999; Gudea 2000, 360–364. – For the northern-eastern sector of the Dacian defensive system at the level of the year 2014: Matei-Popescu 2014.

In what quantity and to what quality can the informational block on the *castra* from *Dacia* serve for analogies/comparisons for cases elsewhere, especially in the European part of the Empire? Not even general considerations on the two issues can be safe from the risk of erring. But such considerations must be made, despite all fears that they might be negative.

We are confident that if in this year 2018 the research of *castra* in Romania were placed under the harshest yet fairest indictment, a definitive condemnation must be totally excluded. Stressing the great and small errors and shortcomings but at the same time illustrating the good Roman principle of *suum quique dare*, a faire prosecutor would also have to take one fact into consideration. Great Romania (subsequently cruelly diminished) was created quite late, at the end of a long labor, in two major stages. Henceforth, its road has never been too easy. One cannot demand to Romanian archaeological discipline, in this case the one of the *castra*, results that the country (continuously hit by different plagues) was unable to sustain their obtaining. Pathetic? Certainly not. Of course, beyond the reasons of the un-fulfillments, be they subjective or objective, the actual *status* of the information block for the Dacian *castra* remains essential – what Romanian archaeology offers to the international research of the *castra*. We shall never say: “enough”, but with all responsibility we say: “much”, and much of a good quality.

An excellent doctoral dissertation focusing on the internal planning of the forts in *Dacia*, saw the light of the print several years ago, both in English and Romanian (and in separate volumes)³². We are not aware of a similar endeavor for another Roman province. The degree of analogy of the discoveries in the Dacian forts with cases in the forts from other provinces is at high level within this work. By better clarifying the discoveries from the forts in *Dacia* through those analogies, new ideas can be born also on the cases with which the analogy was made. What we have just stated is but the generalization of a well fundamentated declaration, expressed quite a long time ago and punctually: “if I turned to presenting the situations in the fortress of other legions as terms of comparison, it is no less true that the data obtained through the excavations in the fortress from *Potaissa* become, henceforth, valuable benchmarks for other legionary fortresses”³³. Serving in clarifying some discoveries in the *castra* of *Potaissa* to a maximal scientific benefit and thus with the possibility of serving the other way around, the numerous analogies performed in the monograph dedicated to the legionary fortress from Turda become a poignant plea for the benefices of intense and opportune analogy, which is desirable to be used in the Romanian archaeology of the *castra*. Within the same register, one must also note the monograph for the fort in *Cășeiu-Samum*³⁴.

Continuing to exemplify – and we emphasize, exemplify – from the informational block available for analogy performing, we invoke some older and (more) recent works on *principia*³⁵, *horrea*³⁶, *praetoria*³⁷ and *scholae*³⁸ of the camps in *Dacia*. Even the study appeared four and a half decades ago on gate turrets³⁹ still represents a good source of information for those interested in the topic.

The older works, though naturally obsolete to various degrees and many in Romanian with just short abstracts (sections) in international vehiculated languages, are maintaining and will further maintain different levels of their undeniable usefulness. For that their revisiting with the possibility, or hope the probability, to be integral translated in one of those more commonly understood languages, will take a while. It is sure that in some cases not a short while, as the archaeology in Romania is at the present moment, in spite of no war and no economic collapse, shamefully underfinanced.

³² Marcu 2009a; Marcu 2009b. – As we ourselves read most of the Romanian literature employed by the author, we have noted numerous information processing errors. The fact is somewhat understandable considering the enormous quantity of data with which was operated and still only affects to a small degree on the overall value of the work.

³³ Bărbulescu 1987, 190.

³⁴ Isac 2003.

³⁵ Stanciu 1985; than on the headquarters of the legionary *castra* in Turda-*Potaissa*: Bărbulescu 1987, 122–169; 194–197 (German abstract); Bărbulescu 1990; Bărbulescu 1997, 25–32; and Alba Iulia-*Apulum*: Gudea, Inel, Oargă 2012.

³⁶ Petculescu 1987; for those of the legionary *castra* in Turda-*Potaissa*: Bărbulescu 1987, 164–169; 197 (German abstract); Bărbulescu 1997, 36 f.

³⁷ Isac *et al.* 1994 = Isac 2001, 44–69; for the recent diggings on the *praetorium* of the fort in Bologna see Marcu, Cupcea 2015, 75–80.

³⁸ Marcu 2006; Marcu 2009.

³⁹ Alicu 1973; for the turrets of the *porta decumana* of the fortress in Turda-*Potaissa*: Bărbulescu 1987, 110–114; 193 (German abstract); Bărbulescu 1997, 18–21; for those of *porta principalis dextra* of the *castra* in Alba Iulia-*Apulum* see Moga 1999a; Moga 1999b; Moga 1998, 33, 54 f.; 138 (German abstract), with ill.

We are hardly waiting to see published a PhD thesis dealing the barracks from the auxiliary camps in *Dacia*⁴⁰, beside the existing pages on those legionary of the *castra* in Turda-Potaissa⁴¹, deeply regretting that another PhD thesis approaching the military baths in our province⁴², *must* remain unpublished. Though, regarding the baths, a small bilingual Romanian-English work is available shortly, good for a brief informational and bibliographical introduction in the issue⁴³.

Then, available for analogy/comparison performing exists consistent information – also published in international languages – on coin series, monetary circulation⁴⁴ and epigraphical manifestation⁴⁵ in the Dacian camps, as well as for various art items⁴⁶ or, for example, for metal vessels discovered within the *castra*⁴⁷.

A series of realities present in the internal architecture of the Dacian camps in the time of “military anarchy”, less or not at all encountered during the previous periods, such as the partial or even total blocking of some gates, atypical enlargements of some of the commanders’ houses (*praetoria*) or the headquarters (*principia*), the erection of some constructions or the extension of existing ones on the roads (especially *via sagularis*) and over the *agger*, the use of *spolia*, have been dealt⁴⁸.

Mostly reverting comparisons/analogies performed already by M. Scholz or further following some comparisons he performed, we have invoked in a preliminary manner comparisons/analogies for some of these phenomena from camps in *Germania Superior*, *Raetia* and *Britannia*⁴⁹. Cases from the camps of *Dacia* in which specialists have noted (and interpreted as such), the blocking of gates (Bologa, Ilișua, Inlăceni, Râșnov), had already been invoked as analogies by M. Scholz for the cases from *Germania Superior* and *Raetia*⁵⁰ and the so-called “Wallbau” from the fort of Kapersburg (situated

⁴⁰ Timoc 2007.

⁴¹ Bărbulescu 1987, 169–172; 197 f. (German abstract); Bărbulescu 1997, 33–35; Nemeti, Nemeti (ed.) 2017.

⁴² Huszarik 1999.

⁴³ Țentea, Burkhardt 2017. – Under print is now the volume of M. Bărbulescu (coord.); M. Andone-Rotaru, C. Bărbulescu, M. Bărbulescu, T. Bărbulescu, A. Cătinaș, Fábian I., F. Fodorean, P. Huszarik, L. Nedelea, I. Nemeti, S. Nemeti, *Termele din castrul legionar de la Potaissa* [The therms from the legionary fortress at Potaissa]. Series Patrimonium Archaeologicum Transilvanicum vol. 15. Cluj-Napoca 2019 (authors and title were shared us by professor M. Bărbulescu, to which we are transmitting our best thanks here also).

⁴⁴ Găzdac ²2010 *passim*; Dudău 2006; Munteanu 2017, esp. 129–152, and the data in the catalogue and on the CD; Găzdac *et al.* 2006; Găzdac, Isac 2007; Găzdac *et al.* 2009; Pișlaru 2009; Găzdac *et al.* 2011; Găzdac, Pripon 2012a; Găzdac, Pripon 2012b; Găzdac *et al.* 2015a; Găzdac *et al.* 2015b.

⁴⁵ Beside the well-known *Inscriptiones Daciae Romanae* volumes, *L'Année épigraphique* and *Cronica epigrafică a României* [The epigraphic chronicle of Romania] held by professor C. C. Petolescu in the review *Studii și cercetări de istorie veche și arheologie* (București), see more recently *LED*; *ILD* and *ILD II*; *IDR Appendix I* and *II*; the paper series of *Studia Porolissensia* of professor I. Piso (see in last in the series, the VIth, Piso 2015, at 193, n. *, the place of publishing of the previous ones); Ardevan 2016; Bărbulescu 2012.

⁴⁶ See *e.g.* recently for the legionary fortress of Turda-Potaissa: Bărbulescu 2016; Bărbulescu 2015.

⁴⁷ Mustață 2018.

⁴⁸ Hügel 2003, 130, 132, 134, 137–146; Isac 2006–2007 [2008], 132, 139–146; Isac 2009, 779 f., 782–790; Piso 2018, 431–434, 436; Deac 2018 (in this paper, mainly the use of certain *spolia* in the structures of the fort in Moigrad/Jac-Porolissum – “Pomet”). Generally regarded, we are having to do with pertinent works, well anchored in the documentary reality. – See also Matei 2012, 56–70, 75 f.; Matei 2011, 34–49, 54 f. (a first variant of the previously mentioned paper), in both being cited also other specialists, in addition to those mentioned above, who have brought their share to the clarification of the issues.

⁴⁹ Matei 2012, 53, 55 f., 62–64, 66 f., 69, 75 f.; Matei 2011, 31, 33, 35, 41–43, 45–47, 49, 54 f.; see newly also Piso 2018, 432 f. – We want to mention with this occasion that for the rectangular “clădirea [building] A” in the fort of Bologa, which belongs to that series of rectangular buildings placed on *via sagularis* and *agger* and in the vicinity of a gate, M. Macrea (1932–1938 (1938), 221 with n. 28, 452 (German abstract)), was bringing analogies from *Germania Superior* and *Raetia* trying to detect its functionality.

⁵⁰ Scholz 2002–2003 (2006), 116, using the work of N. Gudea (1997 (1998)) (work useful for a primary information, despite the numerous errors in synthesizing the available information and not only), as well as the small German-Romanian bilingual guide of the same author, Gudea 1997 (about which on p. 2 we find out that represents a “Publication appeared on the occasion of the XVIIth international congress of studies on the frontiers of the Roman Empire Zalău, September 1997”). The just mentioned publication has other seven “sisters” dedicated to camps (Buciumi, Românași, Romita/Brusturi, Moigrad/Jac-“Pomet”, Gilău, Turda) and one to the fortifications, especially the towers, on the Meseș line. The utility of these *guides* has been pertinently underlined: Isac 2003, 11 f., and we have just showed this usefulness once more, if needed. – For a connected issue, M. Scholz also quoted the older monograph of the fort in Buciumi in its German variant: Chirilă *et al.* 1972b (that was and remains an excellent endeavor; the variant in Romanian: Chirilă *et al.* 1972a). – If we mentioned the Romanian publications mentioned by the German author, it was not only to illustrate a sample of good documentation for dealing of an issue in which have also been used scientific published products of the Romanian

on the northern frontier of *Germania Superior*, in Taunus), had been compared by the same researcher with the rectangular buildings placed on the *via sagularis* and the *agger* from the forts of Bologna, Buciumi and Moigrad/Jac-“Pomet” respectively⁵¹.

The existence of some phenomena of the reduction of the active area of some baths of the camps from *Germania Superior* and *Raetia*, the destination change of some of the spaces of these with some unspecific to a bath destinations or the construction of *balnea* inside some auxiliary forts – all in the *Soldatenkaiserzeit* and betraying a lessening in numbers of the soldiers in the garrison places where they came into evidence – has determined us to follow the issues also for the baths of the *castra* from *Dacia*⁵². But the first intention for comparison belonged to M. Scholz who expressed in this regard: “*Leider sind die dortigen Badeanlagen zu wenig erforscht, um feststellen zu können, ob auch diese verkleinert wurden*”⁵³.

Finally, we note that was performed an investigation on the “pair” auxiliary camps from *Germania Superior* and *Dacia*, stressing their increased incidence in these two provinces⁵⁴.

Recently, in both variants of his editorial initiative regarding a considerable sector of the *limes transalutanus*, E. S. Teodor expressly dedicated a section of *Capitolul 6. Probleme generale/Chapter 6. General issues* to the *Analogia cu limesul german/The analogy with the Raeto-German limes*, and in *Capitolul 8. Estimarea trupelor necesare pentru apărarea segmentului analizat/Chapter 8. The military force required for guarding the limes. An estimation*, the section *Comparație cu Valul lui Antoninus Pius The comparison with the Antonine Wall*. Within the two variants of the work are to be found also other analogies between elements of the portion of the Dacian *limes* in discussion and elements of the Germanic and Raetic *limites*, of Hadrian’s Wall, of Antonine Wall or belonging to Gask Ridge⁵⁵.

We have tried through the rows above to emphasize on the good possibilities of analogy/comparison from the information block available for the camps of *Dacia*. This is not so poor as some too leveling visions, Romanian or foreign, would like to present it. We hope that when we will return to the topic, when it will be, the analogy to be performed at the level claimed by the importance of the *castra*’s discoveries from our province.

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| Alföldi 1940 | A. Alföldi, <i>Daci e Romani in Transilvania</i> . Biblioteca «Mattia Corvino» No. 9. Budapest 1940. |
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| Ardevan 2016 | R. Ardevan, <i>Once more on the last inscriptions of Roman Dacia</i> . In: idem, E. Beu-Dachin (ed.), <i>Mensa rotunda epigraphica napocensis</i> (Papers of the 4 th Romanian-Hungarian epigraphic round table, <i>Mensa rotunda epigraphiae Daciae Pannonicaeque</i> , held in Cluj-Napoca, 16–17 October 2015). Cluj-Napoca 2016. |

researchers, but also to illustrate the need of a minimum good will from the part of the foreign researchers in detecting and read them for performing analogies or a wider documentation (so many scientific products – quite reduced in number – which are to be found at the present moment in the libraries of specialized institutions abroad and are written in international languages). But the common sense and the chivalrousness impose to the Romanian specialists to massively deliver their editorial products to those libraries, before claiming the products be taken into consideration.

⁵¹ Scholz 2002–2003 (2006), 69, 116 and 117, Abb. 27 (where the ground plans of the forts in Bologna and Buciumi are rendered, taken from Gudea 1997 (1998), and are marked the constructions with which that “Wallbau” from the German fort was compared).

⁵² Matei 2015; an initiation of the discussion in Matei 2012, 70–72, 75; Matei 2011, 50 f., 54.

⁵³ Scholz 2002–2003 (2006), 116.

⁵⁴ Marcu 2005 (2009); see already Marcu 2005, 704, n. 10; 706.

⁵⁵ Teodor 2013, 112–114, 193–200 – for the two sections; 23 (table) with n. 12; 57, n. 21; 109; 111 with n. 17; 133 with n. 19; 137 – for the rest of the analogies; Teodor 2015, 116–118, 203–210 – for the two sections; 26 (table) with n. 25; 62, n. 23; 114–116, 139 f. with n. 20; 143 – for the rest of the analogies.

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