

# A „REDISCOVERED” INSCRIPTION FROM DOBRUDJA. ROADS AND MILESTONES IN SCYTHIA (3<sup>rd</sup> – 4<sup>th</sup> CENTURIES AD)\*

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**Cuvinte cheie:** Crângu, manuscris, miliar, inscripție, Tetrarhie, Scythia Minor.

In 1906, V. Richter the custos of the excavations in Tropaeum Traiani (Adamclisi) informs Gr.G. Tocilescu, the director of the National Museum of Antiquities in Bucharest, about the discovery of a stone with inscription (milestone) in the village of Cara Amat (today Crângu). He was also sending a drawing of the stone and its dimensions. Because of his illness Tocilescu was not able to publish it. Later the inscription is only mentioned in the scientific literature in 1968 in TIR L 35 but never published in corpora. In 2007, during a research project in the archive fund of Gr. G. Tocilescu kept in the Manuscripts Collection of the Library of the Romanian Academy, we found the above mentioned letter (Mss Tocilescu 5312, page 178 and 179). Further, of significance is the back-page of the letter, bound in the archive volume as page 194. On this second drawing, the dimensions of the stone are also given and some erased letters are marked. The inscription is known only from Richter's drawings. There is no mention about the kind of stone or the dimensions of the letters. The inscription can be dated during the Tetrarchic period.

The analysis of this inscription and presentation of the existing documentation on late milestones and roman road from the 3<sup>rd</sup>-4<sup>th</sup> centuries AD from Scythia represent the aim of this contribution.

There are 22 milestones from the Tetrarchic period discovered in Romania and Bulgaria (Fig. 3), on the territory of the former province of Moesia Inferior. Three of them are unpublished; the first one is the stone from Crângu presented above and the other two belong to the private collection of Wili Visoșenschi from Mihail Kogălniceanu, Constanța

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County. The others have been found at: Medgidia (nr. 1), Valea Dacilor (nr. 2), Corbu (nr. 3-4), Rasova (nr. 5), Hârșova (nr. 6-8), Măcin (nr. 9), Mihai Viteazu (nr. 10), Garvăn (nr. 11), Dorobanțu (nr. 12), Mangalia (nr. 13), Albena (nr. 14), Razgrad (nr. 15), Štípsko (nr. 16), Vetren (nr. 17), Adamclisi (nr. 18) and one with unknown place of discovery, but from Dobroudja (nr. 19).

Starting with the reign of Diocletian, the Lower Danube region becomes very important for the Roman Empire. This part of the empire is constantly visited by the emperors. It is also important to add that many of the fortresses were repaired during this time. Also the roads are repaired and maintained in good conditions. The 3<sup>rd</sup>-4<sup>th</sup> century milestones presented in the catalogue have been found not only on the limes road, but also on the local ones (*semitae*).

The milestone from Crângu belongs to an important *semita*, going from Callatis to Durostorum, passing through Plopeni (former Cavaclar), Petroșani, Tropaeum Traiani, Urluia, Crângu (former Caramat) and Ion Corvin (former Cuzgun). This is a new evidence that not only the main roads were kept in good condition, but also the secondary ones. It also proves that the good functioning of the roads in this area was one of the main concerns of Roman emperors, taking into account the new political and military situation during the late Roman period on the Lower Danube.

În 1906, V. Richter, cel care supraveghea săpăturile arheologice de la Tropaeum Traiani (Adamclisi), îl informează printr-o scrisoare pe Gr. G. Tocilescu, directorul Muzeului Național de Anichități din București, despre descoperirea unei pietre cu inscripții (un miliar), în satul Cara Amat (azi satul Crângu, com. Adamclisi). El îi trimite și o schiță a pietrei, textul inscripției și dimensiunile acesteia. Fiind bolnav, Tocilescu nu a mai putut publica inscripția. Mai târziu aceasta apare din nou menționată în literatura de specialitate abia în 1968 în TIR L 35, dar nu este publicată în niciun volum de inscripții. În 2007, în cadrul unui proiect de cercetare a arhivelor, în fondul personal păstrat la Biblioteca Academiei Române, Secția Manuscrise, am găsit această scrisoare (Mss Tocilescu 5312, p. 178 și 179). Și mai importantă pentru noi este pagina 194 din același manuscris unde se păstrează un al doilea desen, tot al lui Richter, mult mai complet, incluzând urme ale literelor distruse și dimensiunile pietrei. Inscripția este cunoscută doar din desenele lui Richter. Acesta nu spune nimic despre tipul de piatră sau dimensiunile literelor. Inscripția se datează în perioada Tetrarhiei.

În lucrarea de față ne ocupăm de analiza acestei inscripții și a informațiilor obținute din analiza inscripțiilor de pe stâlpii miliari din secolele III-IV d. Chr. descoperite în Scythia Minor.

În prezent sunt cunoscuți 22 de stâlpi miliari descoperiți în Moesia Inferior, provincie care se întindea pe teritorii din România și Bulgaria (Dobrogea și jumătatea nordică a Bulgariei). Trei dintre ei nu sunt încă publicați: primul este cel de la Crângu, care face obiectul articolului de față, iar ceilalți doi provin din colecția particulară a lui Wili Visošenschi din localitatea Mihail Kogălniceanu, jud. Constanța. Ceilalți au fost descoperiți la Medgidia (nr. 1), Valea Dacilor (nr. 2), Corbu (nr. 3-4), Rasova (nr. 5), Hârșova (nr. 6-8), Măcin (nr. 9), Mihai Viteazu (nr. 10), Garvăn (nr. 11), Dorobanțu (nr. 12), Mangalia (nr. 13), Albena (nr. 14), Razgrad (nr. 15), Štípsko (nr. 16), Vetren (nr. 17), Adamclisi (nr. 18) și unul cu loc de descoperire necunoscut dar care provine din Dobrogea (nr. 19).

Începând cu domnia lui Diocletian zona Dunării de Jos devine foarte importantă pentru Imperiul Roman. Aceasta este constant inspectată de împărații și multe fortificații și drumuri sunt reparate. Miliarii datați în secolele III-IV d. Chr au fost descoperiți nu numai pe drumul de limes ci și pe arterele secundare, semitae.

Stâlpul miliar de la Crângu aparține unei semita importante care mergea de la Callatis la Durostorum trecând prin Plopeni (fostul Cavaclar), Petroșani, Tropaeum Traiani, Urluia, Crângu (fostul Caramat) și Ion Corvin (fostul Cuzgun). Miliarul „redescoperit” de la Crângu reprezintă încă o dovadă că în perioada tetrarhiei nu numai drumurile importante erau periodic reparate ci și cele secundare. În plus demonstrează o dată în plus că zona Dunării de Jos reprezintă o zonă importantă din punct de vedere strategic pentru administrația romană la începutul antichității târzii.

In August 1906 the director of the National Museum of Antiquities in Bucharest, Gr. G. Tocilescu, was informed in a letter by V. Richter, the custos of the excavations in Adamclisi<sup>1</sup>, about the discovery of a stone with inscription in the village of Caramat (see Appendix 1). He was also sending a drawing of the stone and its dimensions. Further, Richter is mentioning another site said to be of interest for archaeology, the „Cetatea” at Cavaclar<sup>2</sup>.

For Tocilescu, usually very interested in the epigraphic materials of the region, this was a hard period due to his illness and he was not able to publish the inscription<sup>3</sup>. In the scientific literature the find was mentioned only in 1968, *Tabula Imperii Romani* L35<sup>4</sup>. Afterwards the information was only cited, without any additional comment<sup>5</sup>.

In 2007, during a research project in the archive fund of Gr.G. Tocilescu, kept in the Manuscripts Collection of the Library of the Romanian Academy, we found the above-mentioned letter (Mss Tocilescu 5312, page 178 and 179). Further, of significance is the back-page of the letter, bound in the archive volume as page 194. On this second drawing, there are also given the dimensions of the stone and some erased letters are marked (see Fig. 2). The analysis of this inscription was the starting point of the present contribution. Its aim is to present the existing documentation on the late milestones (from the 3<sup>rd</sup>-4<sup>th</sup> centuries AD) from *Moesia Inferior/Scythia*.

Reusing stone material for construction and the practice of saving „ancient stones” in small museums or collections<sup>6</sup> caused problems for ancient monuments

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<sup>1</sup> The letter is part of the archive of Gr. G. Tocilescu in the collection of Romanian manuscripts of the Library of the Romanian Academy in Bucharest, Mss. Tocilescu 5132, p. 178-179 and 194. - About Vinzenz Richter see MURNU 1913, p. 424: „custodele muzeului din Adamclisi [...] de origine germană, numit Richter, un simplu zidar”. The architect G. von Cube, mentions his behaviour during the excavations from *Tropaeum Traiani* in his letter to Gr.G. Tocilescu, in July 1906 (Library of the Romanian Academy, Bucharest, Manuscripts collection/Correspondence S30(5)/XCIII).

<sup>2</sup> Caraclar/ Cavaclar, today Plopeni, Constanta county – PÂRVAN 1912<sub>i</sub>, p. 579; VULPE 1938, p. 336; BĂRBULESCU 2001, p. 68-69; NETZHAMMER 2005, p. 140.

<sup>3</sup> See for example BARBU, SCHUSTER 2005-2006, p. 43.

<sup>4</sup> E. Popescu, in: TIR L 35, p. 30, s.v. *Caraiman* (com. Ion Corvin).

<sup>5</sup> e.g. SUCEVEANU 1977, p. 146; BĂRBULESCU, CÂTEIA 1998<sub>i</sub>, p. 119-129, especially p. 127 note 89; BĂRBULESCU 2001, p. 121 note 952; PANAITE 2006, p. 67.

<sup>6</sup> On this see for example BARNEA 1979, p. 15; ALEXANDRESCU 2008, p. 305-318.

and especially for milestones or at least led to some unclear interpretation about the roads on which these stones had a function. The importance of the finding spot/place and of the finding context of archaeological materials is a common and well-known issue. There are some categories for which this information is even more valuable. Finding a milestone could be a hint or direct information about the existence of a road. Due to the formula of the inscription on a Roman milestone, which provides additional details such as the distance to or from a certain point, information on the building activity of one period can be gained and so on.

### The milestone from Crângu

The finding spot of the inscription is mentioned only by V. Richter. The village of Cara Amat, afterwards Caramat, since 1968 Crângu, part of the commune of Ion Corvin (former Cuzgun)<sup>7</sup> is on the modern road 10 km away from the ancient city of *Tropaeum Traiani*. It seems plausible, that the initial place of the milestone was not there. However the location of the milestone on the road from *Tropaeum Traiani* to *Durostorum* via Urluia or even Crângu is the most probable (Fig. 3). The milestones and the roads around the city of *Tropaeum Traiani* have been the subject of a recent study<sup>8</sup>.

According to the drawing on page 194 in the Mss Tocilescu 5132 (Fig. 2), the stone was 2.08 m high, presenting an upper diameter of 0.35 m and a 0.60 m broad base. The inscription is known only from Richter's drawings<sup>9</sup>. There is no mention about the kind of stone or the dimensions of the letters.

In the following paragraphs, the eight lines of the inscription are to be presented, with the proposed lecture and observed details.

	<b>NNIIOOEI</b>	[DD(ominis)]NN(ostris) DIOCLET[IANO]
	<b>ET MAXIMI</b>	ET MAXIMI[ANO]
	<b>INȚICTIA</b>	INVICTIS A[[VG(ustis) ET FL(avio)
		VAL(erio)]]
	<b>NSTAN</b>	
5	<b>MIANO</b>	[[CO]NSTAN[[TIO ET GALERIO VAL(erio)]] [MAXI]MIANO[[N]]
	<b>MII CAES</b>	N(o)BB(ilissimis) CAES[[s(aribus)]]
	<b>MIIIAIASS</b>	M I I I A I A S S
	<b>m P III</b>	M(ilia) P(assuum) III

<sup>7</sup> GHINEA, GHINEA 2000, s.v. *Caramat*: „vechea denumire (până în 17.02.1968) a satului Crângu, com. Ion Corvin, jud. Constanța” („the former name (till 17.02.1968) of the village Crângu, comm. Ion Corvin, Constanța county”).

<sup>8</sup> PANAITTE 2006. – On the milestones and roads from the late Roman period in the region see ZAHARIADE 2006, p. 44-49; BARNEA 1977, p. 29-43; SUCEVEANU, BARNEA 1991, p. 252-257.

<sup>9</sup> The actual collocation of the stone or even its preservation is for the time being unknown. According to a further letter of V. Richter to Gr. G.Tocilescu the intention was to send the stone to Bucharest (Library of the Romanian Academy in Bucharest, Mss Tocilescu 5129, p. 296).

All the ‚A’ letters present the broken middle *hasta* which is considered to be frequent in the late Roman epigraphy (from 3<sup>rd</sup> century AD onwards)<sup>10</sup>. In line 3, the ‚V’ is written as a Greek ‚Υ’. The fifth letter in this line is recorded in two different ways on the two drawings: on page 179 there is an ‚E’, on page 194 there is a ‚C’. For line 6 we assume that ‚MII’ stands for ‚NBB’ and Richter recognized only the vertical *hasta*.

Erased letters are marked on the drawing at page 194 (with Richter’s note saying that „the marked spots are broken letters”). They are at the end of the lines 3 (?), 4, 5 and 6 in the deleted names of the Caesares. The formular is well documented in the province and all over the Empire<sup>11</sup>. The date of the inscription is 293 AD. It was still in use during the first decade of the 4th century AD, when the martellation occurred.

For line 7 the *lectio* is not certain. One possibility is that a starting point of the road was mentioned. Another possible reading (and the most probable) for line 7 would be: *MILIA PASSVVM*. There are several examples of milestones attesting the different formula *mil(ia) pass(uum)* or even *milia passuum*<sup>12</sup>. The repetition (in line 7 and 8) in our example is without parallel<sup>13</sup>. The given situation could be also due to the person that made the inscription. Further, of interest in this aspect is line 8, where the distance is mentioned. The ‚M’ is written as a Greek ‚μ’. Together with the detail from line 3, this might indicate the Greek provenience of the lapicid, which would not surprise in the region of *Tropaeum Traiani*<sup>14</sup>.

At least as a hypothesis for line 7 is to be named the *municipium Tropaei* and eventually the reading: *A] M(unicipio) TR(opaei) TRAlA(nen)S(ium)*. The epigraphic evidence of the name of the city in the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> centuries is *municipium Tropaei*, without the imperial name „Traiani”<sup>15</sup>. In this line the name of the city could have been mentioned, which brings up the question if the stone was bearing only one inscription, from the time of the first Tetrarchy. However, the „A”-letters are all the same on the drawing, showing the characteristic of the late period<sup>16</sup>. In absence of the inscription, the accuracy of the drawing can not be

<sup>10</sup> PETOLESCU 2001, p. 244; CAGNAT 1914, p. 12 – see especially a tombstone from Hârşova (AE 1989, nr. 641 = AE 1990, nr. 866) showing the same particularity and also a ‚Υ’.

<sup>11</sup> For the emperor titels see KIENAST 1996.

<sup>12</sup> Hispania Citerior: AE 1997, 915; CIL II 4866; Galatia: CIL III 14184/20, 21, 27, 61; Syria: CIL III 14177/1. – For *milia passuum* Hispania Epigraphica 2, 558 = Hispania Epigraphica 9, 457. – FRENCH 1981, No. 8 (A) Medetli 1 (I), 293-305: *A Nicaea mil XXV* and No. 66 Kizlarsuyu, 286-305 : *m. pass, XI*.

<sup>13</sup> Another possibility are the milestones conserving more information and fulfilling a complex function, like the milestone from Kösching (*Raetia*) (CIL XVII 4, 70) mentioning the distance from the starting point of the road and also the distance from the camp of the legion – see e.g. KOLB 2007, p. 169-180, especially p. 172.

<sup>14</sup> BARNEA 1998, p. 213-228, especially p. 225. – see also POPESCU 1964, p. 192.

<sup>15</sup> POPESCU 1964, p. 202-203; BARNEA 1979, p. 13. – In this context is to be considered the suggestion of E. Popescu for the *lectio* of the inscription dedicated to T. Alfenus Arignotus by the dyers from Thyatira, in Lydia, dated in the first decade of the 3<sup>rd</sup> century. In line 21 of the Greek inscription the name of the city is to be readed ἡ τῶν Τραιανῶν καὶ Τροπηῶν πόλις, for which Popescu suggests the translation *municipium Traianensium Tropaeensium*. – For the newest bibliography on this inscription see PETOLESCU 1996, p. 253-258.

<sup>16</sup> See above note 10 – this kind of letter have been recorded in the 2<sup>nd</sup> century also.

controlled.

### The milestones from *Scythia* (3<sup>rd</sup>-4<sup>th</sup> centuries AD)

There are 22 milestones from the Tetrarchic period discovered in Romania and Bulgaria (Fig. 3), on the territory of the former province of *Scythia*<sup>17</sup>. Three of them are unpublished; the first one is the stone from Crângu presented above and the other two belong to the private collection of Wili Visošenschi from Mihail Kogălniceanu, Constanța County<sup>18</sup>. The others have been found at: Medgidia (nr. 1), Valea Dacilor (nr. 2), Corbu (nr. 3-4), Rasova (nr. 5), Hârșova (nr. 6-8), Măcin (nr. 9), Mihai Viteazu (nr. 10), Garvăn (nr. 11), Dorobanțu (nr. 12), Mangalia (nr. 13), Albena (nr. 14), Abrit (Abtaat) (nr. 15), Ștîpsko (nr. 16), Vetren (nr. 17), Tropaeum Traiani (nr. 18). For the one with unknown place of discovery (nr. 19), is certain that it was found in Dobroudja. We should also point out the fact that none of the 22 milestones were found *in situ*.

#### 1. Medgidia, Constanța County (RO), MINAC, inv. 29703.

Bibliography: BĂRBULESCU, CÂTEIA 1998<sup>2</sup>, p. 195, no. 1; BĂRBULESCU, CÂTEIA 1997, p. 183, no. 1.

Date: 293-305.

*Imp(eratoribus) Cae[s(aribus duobus)] C(aio) Aur(elio) Val(erio)  
 Diocle[tiano] e[st] [Marc]o  
 [Aur(elio)] Va[l(erio) Maximi]ano  
 P(iis) F[(elicitibus) invict(is) Aug(ustis)] e[st]  
 F[l(avio) Val(erio) Constant]io  
 et Gal[erio Val(erio) Ma--]  
 ximi[ano]  
 nob(ilissimis)  
 Caes(aribus)  
 MP  
 XX?*

#### 2. Valea Dacilor, Constanța County (RO), MINAC, inv. 29704.

Bibliography: BĂRBULESCU, CÂTEIA 1998<sup>2</sup>, p. 196-197, nr. 2; BĂRBULESCU, CÂTEIA 1997, p. 184, no. 2.

Date: two inscriptions - (a) probably during the Severian time; (b) dated between 293-305.

<sup>17</sup> The following abbreviations are used in our catalogue: MINAC for the Museum for National History and Archaeology in Constanța and MNA for the National Museum of Antiquities in Bucharest, part of the Archaeological Institute „Vasile Pârvan” of the Romanian Academy.

<sup>18</sup> These milestones were mentioned by Maria Bărbulescu in her articles or papers presented at conferences. The first one (BĂRBULESCU, CÂTEIA 1998<sup>2</sup>, p. 198 and 200, note 25; BĂRBULESCU, CÂTEIA 1997, p. 190) is similar to one milestone from Corbu (in our catalogue nr. 3). The second one (presented in 2007 at the 40th Annual Conference of the National Museum of History and Archaeology from Constanța) is fragmentarily preserved and difficult to read, but probably also from the Tetrarchic period.

(a)  
 AUR CA  
 ANT O  
 O SEVE O  
 REL SE  
 IN  
 ET  
 OBB  
 ARE  
 IV  
 A  
 L  
 MP

(b)  
*Imp(eratoribus) Ca[es(aribus)]*  
*[C](aio) Val(erio) Dioclet[iano]*  
*et Marco [Aur(elio)]*  
*Max[imiano]*  
*[in]vict(is) A[ug(ustis) et]*  
*[Fl(avio)] Val(erio) Co[nstantio]*  
*[et] Galerio [Val(erio)]*  
*[Ma]xi[miano]*  
*[nob(ilissimis)] Caes(aribus)*  
 MP  
 III(?)

**3. Corbu, Constanța County (RO), MINAC, inv. 1327.**

Bibliography: BĂRBULESCU, CÂTEIA 1997, p. 190, no. 3.

Date: 293-305.

*Imp(eratoribus) [Caes(aribus) C(aio) A]ur[(elio) Val(erio)]*  
*Di[ocletia]no et*  
*[M(arco) Aurel(io) Val(erio)]*  
*Maximiano*  
*invict(is) Aug(ustis) et*  
*Fl(avio) Val(erio) Constantio*  
*et Galerio Val(erio) Ma-*  
*ximiano nob(ilissimis) Caes(aribus)]*  
 MP

**4. Corbu (Corbu de Sus)<sup>19</sup>, Constanța County (RO), MNA, inv. L 264**

Bibliography: TOCILESCU 1887, p. 39, nr. 44; CIL III 7614; IGLR 82 (Corbu de Sus = Corbu).

<sup>19</sup> GHINEA, GHINEA 2000, s.v. *Corbu de Sus*.

Date: two inscriptions - (a) between 293-305; (b) 360-363.

(a)

*[D(ominis) n(ostris) imp(eratoribus)  
C(aio) Aur(elio)] Val(erio)  
Dioc[letiano p(io)  
f(elici) Aug(usto) et M(arco)  
Aur(elio) Val(erio) Maximiano  
p(io) f(elici) Au]g(usto) et  
[Fl(avio) Val(erio) Consta]ntio  
[et Galerio Val(erio) Maximian]o  
nobil(issimis)  
C[ae]s(aribus)]*

(b)

*D(omino) n(ostro)  
Iuliano  
victor[i]  
se[m]p-  
er A[ug](usto)  
ACEL.E  
M(ilia) [p(assuum)]  
XI*

**5. Rasova, Constanța County (RO), MNA, inv. L 262.**

Bibliography: CIL III 13755; IGLR 190.

Date: two inscriptions - (a) 293-305; (b) 367-375.

(a)

*Imp(eratoribus) Caes(aribus) C(aio)  
Aur(elio) Val(erio) Diocletiano  
[et M(arco) Aur(elio) Val(erio) Maximiano] p(iis) f(elicibus) [Aug(ustis)]  
[invictissimis principibus et Fl(avio) Val(erio) Constantio] et  
[Gal(erio) Val(erio) Maximiano nobi]l[is-  
simis Caesarib]us.*

(b)

*Salvis  
D(ominis) n(ostris)  
Valentin[ia]no  
Valenti et  
Gratiano  
piisimis Augustis  
M(ilia) p(assuum)  
I L  
XIII.*

**6. Hârşova, Constanţa County (RO), MNA, inv. L 257**

Bibliography: TOCILESCU 1884, p. 29-30, nr. 6; CIL III, 7603; IGLR 230 (inscription b); ISM V 95.

Date: two inscriptions - (a) 200; (b) 293-305.

(a)

Imp(erator) C[aes(ar) L. Sep]-  
 Timiu[s Severus]  
 P(ius) Per[tinax Aug(ustus)]  
 Arab(icus) [Adiab(enicus)]  
 Part(hicus) m(aximus) [co(n)s(ul) II trib(unicia) po]-  
 tes(tate) VI [II imp(erator) XI]  
 pon[t(ifex) max(imus) proco(n)s(ul)]  
 p(ater) p(atriciae) et im[p(erator)] Ca[e]s(ar)  
 M. Au[r]el(ius) [A]nto-  
 [nin]us A[u]g(ustus) tri[b(unicia)]  
 pot(estate) II et [P.] Septi-  
 mi[us Geta] Ca[es(ar) Aug(ustus)]  
 restit[u]erun(t)  
 per C. Ovinium  
 Tertullum leg(atum)  
 Aug(usti) pr(o) pr(aetore)  
 <Ala II Arav(acorum)>  
 .....<IC>.....

(b)

[I]m[p(eratores) Caes(ares) C(aius) Aur(elius) Val(erius) Di]ocle-  
 [tian]us [et M(arcus) Aur(elius) Val(erius)]  
 [Maximianus] Aug[ust]i in[v]ictissi-  
 [mi principes et Fl(avius) Val(erius)] Co[n]st[an]-  
 tius et Gal[erius Val(erius) Maximianus]  
 nob(ilissimi) Cae(sares)  
 C  
 V  
 COI

**7. Hârşova, Constanţa County (RO), MNA, inv. L 269.**

Bibliography: TOCILESCU 1884, p. 27, nr. 3; CIL III 7606; IGLR, 231 (inscription b); DORUȚIU-BOILĂ 1968, p. 404-408, nr. 4; VULPE, BARNEA 1968, p. 233-234, ISM V 98.

Date: two inscriptions - (a) 238-241; (b) 293 - 305.

(a)

*Imp(eratori Cae[s(ari)] M.  
 Antonio  
 Gordi[ano]*

*Pio Fel[ici in]-  
victo A[ug(usto) p(ontifici) m(aximo)]  
trib(unicia) p[ot(estate) p(atri) p(atria)]  
pr[oc(o)n(s)uli) pontes]  
et vi[as restituit pe]-  
e C. P[le .....]  
leg(atum) A[ug(usti)]  
pr(o) [pr(aetore)]*

(b)  
*Imp(eratoribus) Caes(aribus) C(aio) Aur(elio)  
Val(erio) Diocletian[o]  
[et M(arco) Aur(elio) Val(erio) Maxi-  
miano Aug(ustis) invictissi-  
5 mis principibus et Fl(avio) Val(erio)  
Con]stant[io  
et Galerio] Val(erio) Maxi-  
miano no-  
b(ilissimis) C(aesaribus)  
m(ilia passuum) II*

**8. Hârşova, Constanţa County (RO), MNA, inv. L 261**

Bibliography: TOCILESCU 1884, p. 31, nr. 8; CIL III 7609; IGLR 232.

Date: two inscriptions: (a) 293-305; (b) 323-337.

(a)  
*[D(ominis) n(ostris) C(aio) A]ur(elio) Val(erio)  
[Diocletiano] et M(arco)  
[Aur(elio) Val(erio) Ma]ximi-  
[ano Aug(ustis) in]victis-  
[simis pr]incipi-  
[bus et] Fl(avio) Val(erio)  
[Constantio et] G(alerio) Val(erio)  
[Maximiano] n(o)b(ilissimis)  
C(aesaribus)*

(b)  
*D(ominis) n(ostris)  
Constanti-  
[no m]ax(imo) et  
Constanti[no]*

**9. Măcin, Tulcea County (RO), MNA, inv. L 140**

Bibliography: TOCILESCU 1887, p. 70, nr. 144; CIL III 7610; IGLR 239.

Date: 293-305.

*Imp(eratoribus)*  
 [C]aes(aribus) Ca[i]-  
 o Aur(elio) Val(erio)  
 Diocleti-  
 ano et M-  
 arc(o) Aur(elio)  
 [Val]l(erio) Maxi-  
 [m]iano e[t]  
 [F]l(avio) Val(erio) Co[n]-  
 [st]antio e[t]  
 Gal(erio) Val(erio)  
 [M]aximi-  
 ano  
 m(ilia) p(assuum)  
 III

**10. Mihai Viteazu, Constanța County (RO), MNA, inv. L 254**

Bibliography: TOCILESCU 1900, p. 212, nr. 41; DORUȚIU-BOILĂ 1964, p. 133; CIL III 14463; IGLR 167.

Date: two inscriptions - (a) 305; (b) 324-326.

(a)

*Imp(eratoribus) Caes(aribus duobus)*  
 C(aio) Aurel(io) Val(erio)  
 [Diocletia-  
 no et M(arco) Aurel(io)  
 Val(erio) Maximia-  
 no et F]l(avio) Val(erio)  
 [Con]stantio  
 et [G]alerio  
 [M]aximi[ano]

.....  
 (b)

*D(ominis) n(ostris) Constan-*  
*tino max(imo) victori*  
 [s]emper Aug(usto) et Iul(io)  
 [Crisp]o? et Fl(avio) Iul(io)Con-  
 [stan]tino et Fl(avio) Iul(io)  
 [Cons]tanti<n>o  
 [n(o)]b(ilissimis) Caes(aribus)

**11. Garvăn, Tulcea County (RO), MNA, inv. L 1 349**

Bibliography: ȘTEFAN, BARNEA *et alii* 1954, p. 166-167, fig. 6; ȘTEFAN 1957, p. 221-227, fig. 1 and 2; IGLR 240.

Date: 293-305.

*Imp(eratoribus) C[ae-*

*s(aribus)] Ca[io  
A]ur(elio) [Val(erio)  
Diocle-  
t]iano [et  
Marc[o] A]ur(elio)  
V]al(erio) Max[i-  
m]ia[n]o A(ugustis)  
[et] F[l(avio) Val(erio) Con-  
stantio et C(aio) Val(erio)  
Maximiano n(obilissimis)  
C(aesaribus) ....]*

**12. Dorobanțu, Constanța County (RO), MNA, inv. L 256**

Bibliography: TOCILESCU 1891, p. 27, nr. 52bis; CIL III 12516; IGLR 83.  
Date: 293-305.

*D(ominis) n(ostris) ...  
Cai(o) Aurel(io) Val(erio)  
[Diocletiano]  
[et M(arco) Aurel(io) Val]eri[o]  
[Maximia]n[o et  
Fl(avio) Val(erio) Constan-  
tius et Galerius Valerius  
Maximianus ....]*

**13. Mangalia, Constanța County (RO), MINAC, inv. 47**

Bibliography: GOSTAR 1963, p. 301, fig. 3; ARICESCU *et alii* 1964, p. 70-72,  
fig. 3; IGLR 84; ISM III 196.

Date: two inscription - (a) 212-217; (b) 293-305.

(a)

*Imp[erator Caesar] M(arcus)  
A[urell]i[u]s A]ntonin-  
u[s] ...feli[x Aug(ustus)] ponti-  
[fex maximus] trib[u-  
niciae potest]atis ...  
CAE  
VSAR*

(b)

*Imp(eratores) C[aes(ares)] C(aius)  
Aur[el(ius)] Diocle-  
Tianus et M(arcus) Aur-  
el[ius] Maximianus]  
invicti Aug(usti) et M(arcus)*

*[Fl(avius) Val(erius) Constant]iu[s]  
[et Caius Galerius Valerius  
Maximianus]*

**14. Albena, Dobrich Province (BG), Museum of Dobritch, inv. 1499**

Bibliography: HOLLENSTEIN 1979, p. 42-46.

Date: 293-305.

*Imp(eratoribus) [d(ominis)]  
n(ostris) C(aio)[Aur(elio) Val(erio)]  
D[iocletiano]  
Et [M(arco) Aur(elio) Val(erio)]  
Max[imiano]  
pii[s] felicibus  
invictis Aug(ustis)] et Fla[v(io) Val(erio)]  
Cons[tantio]  
et [Gal(erio) Val(erio)]  
Maximiano  
nob(ilissimis) Caes(aribus)].*

**15. Abrit (Abtaat), Zaldapa, Dobrich Province (BG), Museum of Varna, inv. 142**

Bibliography: MIRČEV 1952, p.69-81, no. 3; HOLLENSTEIN 1975, nr. 59.

Date: 293-305.

*[D(ominis) n(ostris) C(aio) Val(erio) Diocleti-]  
[a]no[ et C(aio) Aur(elio)]  
Val(erio) Maximiano p(atribus) p(atriciae)  
P(iis) felicibus invictis) Aug(ustis) et Fl[a-  
Vi]o Val(erio) Constantio  
et C(aio) Val(erio) Maximia-  
no nob(ilissimis) ces(aribus) (sic!)*

**16. Štípsko, Varna Province (BG)**

Bibliography: CIL III 14215<sup>1</sup>.

Date: 293-305.

*[Imp(eratoribus) Cc(aesaribus) C(aio) Aur(elio) Val(erio) Diocletiano et M(arco)  
Aur(elio) Val(erio) Maximiano Augg(ustis) invictissimis principibus et Fl(avio) Val(erio)  
Const[an]t[io] et G(alerio) Val[er]io Ma[ximi]ano] nob[is]b(ilissimis) C[la]ssaribus m[ilitia]  
p[ro]p[ri]um) XI*

**17. Vetren, Silistra Province (BG), Museum of Silistra**

Bibliography: TEODORESCU, MATEESCU 1915, p. 215-216; HOLLENSTEIN 1975, no. 56.

Date: 293-305.

The text of the inscription was not published.

**18. Tropaeum Traiani, Constanța County (RO), Museum of Adamclisi**

Bibliography: PANAI TE 2006, p.63-71.

Date: 293-305.

...REL (?)..

...AVGG...

...FICI....

**19. Unknown place in the Dobroudja (RO), MNA, inv. L 128**

Bibliography: IGLR 276.

Date: two inscriptions - (a) 293-305; (b) 324-326.

(a)

*Imp(eratoribus) C[aes(aribus duobus)]  
[C(aio) Aur(elio) Dio]cl[e-  
tiano et Marco Aurelio Valerio Maximiano]*

(b)

*D(ominis) n(ostris duobus) [Fl(avio)]  
Constanti-  
[n]o max(imo) victo-  
[r]i semper Augus-  
to et Fl(avio) Iul(io) [Crispo]  
et Fl(avio) Cl(audio) Constan-  
[tin]o et Fl(avio) Iul(io) Con-  
[stan]t[io]*

**The Roman roads from Scythia (3<sup>rd</sup>-4<sup>th</sup> centuries AD)**

With the exception of the milestones from Mangalia, *Tropaeum Traiani*, Hârșova (nr. 6)<sup>20</sup> and Vetren (nr. 17)<sup>21</sup>, all the others are dedications to emperors, so they are in the dative case<sup>22</sup>. According to the dedication form there are two groups of inscriptions: *Dominis Nostris*<sup>23</sup> and *Imperatoribus Caesaribus*<sup>24</sup>. The

<sup>20</sup> The milestones from Mangalia (nr. 13) and Hârșova (nr. 6) contain names of emperors in Nominative case. We can only assume that this was also the case for the milestone from *Tropaeum Traiani* (nr. 18) because of the form of the verb: *fici(t)*.

<sup>21</sup> The inscription of this milestone was not entirely published by the authors and we have not seen it, that is why we do not know if it is in nominative or dative case.

<sup>22</sup> KOLB 2004 p. 135-155, especially p. 148.

<sup>23</sup> *D(ominis) N(ostris)* is a formula which frequently appears from the time of Constantine onwards. Milestones from Tetrarchic period with this dedication are: Corbu (nr. 4), Hârșova (nr. 8), Dorobanțu (nr. 12), Mihai Viteazu (nr. 10/b), *Abrittus* (nr. 15) and the one of unknown provenance (nr. 19).

<sup>24</sup> Medgidia (nr. 1), Valea Dacilor (nr. 2), Corbu (nr. 3), Rasova (nr. 5/a), Măcin (nr. 9), Hârșova (nr. 7), Mihai Viteazu (nr. 10/a), Garvăn (nr. 11), Mangalia (nr. 13) and Ștîpsko (nr. 16).

milestone from Albena (nr. 14) has a mixed dedication: *Imperatoribus Dominis Nostris*. Only the milestones from Corbu (nr. 4) and Hârşova (nr. 8) show the same form of dedication on both inscriptions they are bearing. Six of the milestones have two inscriptions: three of them are once again used as milestones during the 4<sup>th</sup> century AD<sup>25</sup>, and the other three are earlier and were reused during the time of the Tetrarchy<sup>26</sup>. All of them are generally dated between 293-305<sup>27</sup>.

Starting with the reign of Diocletian, the Lower Danube region becomes very important for the Roman Empire<sup>28</sup>. After the reforms of Diocletian and later Constantine, on this territory appear three new provinces with their own military units: *Scythia*, *Moesia Secunda* and *Dacia Ripensis*<sup>29</sup>. Due to their strategic position, repairing and maintaining the roads represent an important task. This part of the empire is constantly visited by the emperors. It is also important to add that many of the fortresses were repaired during this time<sup>30</sup>.

Diocletian's journeys to the Lower Danube are well documented<sup>31</sup>. Between 294 and 303 he travelled across the region three times. In 293 he visited *Hadrianopolis* and *Philippopolis*<sup>32</sup>. In 294 he left *Singidunum* on 8<sup>th</sup> of September and we know, according to the imperial decrees gathered in *Codex Justinianus*, that his journey continued as it follows<sup>33</sup>: 8<sup>th</sup>-10<sup>th</sup> of October in *Ratiaria*, 11<sup>th</sup> of October in *Cebus* (Gorni Cibre - Lom), 13<sup>th</sup> of October in *Variana* (Selanovtsi, Orjachovo), 17<sup>th</sup> of October in *Appiaria* (Rjachovo, Ruse), 18<sup>th</sup> of October in *Transmarisca* (Tutrakan), 21<sup>st</sup>-22<sup>nd</sup> of October in *Durostorum* (Siliistra), 25<sup>th</sup> of October in *Reginassi* (mss: not yet identified<sup>34</sup>), 26<sup>th</sup> of October in *Marcianopolis*, 28<sup>th</sup> of October in *Anchialos*, 29<sup>th</sup> of October in *Deultum* (Develt, Burgas), 1<sup>st</sup> November in *Burtudizum* (Babaeschi), where he remains until the 3<sup>rd</sup> of November and then continues his journey to *Byzantium*. In 303 Diocletian travelled along the Danube

<sup>25</sup> Corbu (nr. 4): 360-363); Rasova (nr. 5): 365-367; Mihai Viteazu (nr. 10): 324-326; Hârşova (nr. 8): 323-337; unknown place (nr. 19): 324-326.

<sup>26</sup> Hârşova (nr. 6): around 200 AD; Hârşova (nr. 7): the time of Gordian III; Mangalia (nr. 13): 212-217; Valea Dacilor (nr. 2): 2<sup>nd</sup> – 3<sup>rd</sup> century AD, could be Severian time.

<sup>27</sup> With the exception of the milestone from Mihai Viteazu (nr. 10) dated in 305.

<sup>28</sup> About the chronology and stratigraphy of the fortresses on the *limes* see BARNEA 1990, p. 285-290.

<sup>29</sup> VULPE, BARNEA 1968, p. 369-378; SUCEVEANU, BARNEA 1991, p. 154-159; ZAHARIADE 2006, p. 39-42; GUDEA 2005, p. 317-566, about the military roads especially p. 372-374.

<sup>30</sup> Among them: *Transmarisca* and *Durostorum*. The inscription from *Transmarisca* (CIL III 6151= ILS 641) was dated by V. Velkov on 1<sup>st</sup> March 293, see: VELKOV 1958, p. 124-138. - According to I. Barnea the inscription can be dated in 297 – VULPE, BARNEA 1968, p. 375.

The inscription from *Durostorum* (first published by RUSSU 1933-1935 (1936), p. 210-212) was dated by Velkov in 302, but according to I. Barnea, it can be dated "a year or two earlier than the one from *Transmarisca*", which means 295-296 – VULPE, BARNEA 1968, p. 376.

<sup>31</sup> PATSCH 1928, p. 7-9.

<sup>32</sup> VELKOV 1958, p. 124-138.

<sup>33</sup> VELKOV 1958, p. 124-138; BARNES 1982, p. 47-91: *Imperial residences and journeys, Diocletian*, p. 49-56.

<sup>34</sup> TORBATOV 2000, p. 59-72 supposes (p. 70) that *Reginassi* could be localized "somewhere along the road section south from the modern village of Vladimirovo".

again. On the 8<sup>th</sup> of June he arrives in *Durostorum*. From *Durostorum* he goes to *Nicomedia*<sup>35</sup>. The course of the emperor's journeys allows us to notice how well developed the system of the roads across the region was (Fig. 3).

*Along the Danube was the border road, the limes road, which linked all the fortifications and settlements built along the river; it is the oldest and undoubtedly the most important of the region*<sup>36</sup>.

*The extension of this road towards the South was represented by another road that followed the coast of the Black Sea from the Danube Delta to Byzantium. Like the limes road, this one connected the ports and civil settlements lying on the seacoast. This road had an economic role rather than a military one. In the harbours along the road goods from others provinces arrived and were after that carried on the land roads to their final destinations*<sup>37</sup>.

*A third route of communication was the so-called "central road"; it was coming from Marcianopolis to Ibida and at this point it split into three roads that were heading for Troesmis, Noviodunum and Aegyssus. This road was younger than the other two. A milestone discovered near Abrittus, dating from the time of Hadrian (in 118)<sup>38</sup>, gives information about an older road being rebuilt and extended. This road does not appear on the Tabula Peutingeriana or in the Itinerarium Antonini and its route was 'restored' based on the written and archaeological sources<sup>39</sup>. This road was intersected by the ones crossing Dobroudja from the West to the East, from Tomis to Capidava and Axiopolis. The "central road" was connected with the Black Sea coast by the Zaldapa – Tomis road<sup>40</sup>.*

*The province was crossed through the middle, from the West to the East by a road parallel to the limes, from Naissus through Montana, Comakovci, Nicopolis ad Istrum, Abrittus, to the Black Sea Coast; in the same time, the cities already mentioned were crossed by the roads orientated North-South, connecting the Danube with the province of Thrace. Among them were: Oescus – Philippopolis (through the Sipka mountain pass), Oescus – Comakovci – Serdica, Durostorum – Marcianopolis and Novae – Melta – Philippopolis<sup>41</sup>. Another category of roads was that of local ones, connecting every main city with the rural communities on its territorium.*

The 3<sup>rd</sup>-4<sup>th</sup> century milestones listed above have been found not only on the *limes* road, but also on the local ones. Rasova, Hârşova, Măcin, Garvăn and Vetren are located along the *limes* road. On the road along the Black Sea coast are Mangalia, Corbu, Mihai Viteazu and Albena. Along the so-called "central-road", which crosses the province from South to North, are Dorobanţu, *Abrittus* and Mihail Kogălniceanu. Medgidia, Valea Dacilor and Štjpsko are on secondary roads (*semitae*) of the province.

<sup>35</sup> PATSCH 1928, p. 11; Lactantius, *De mortibus persecutorum*, XVII 3, 4.

<sup>36</sup> PANAITESCU 1938; PÂRVAN 1912, p. 575-576; ARICESCU 1977; WIELOWIEJSKI 1984, p. 150; ROSSET 1970, p. 106-107; GAJEWSKA 1974; ZAHARIADE 1988; ZAHARIADE, GUDEA 1997, p. 43; VULPE, BARNEA 1968, *passim*; SUCEVEANU, BARNEA 1991, p. 256; TODOROV 1937; VELKOV 1977, p. 197.

<sup>37</sup> See also IONESCU, PAPUC 2005.

<sup>38</sup> VULPE, BARNEA 1968, p. 136 and footnote 78.

<sup>39</sup> SUCEVEANU, BARNEA 1991, p. 254.

<sup>40</sup> *Ibidem*.

<sup>41</sup> MAJEWSKI 1965, p. 102-104.

The milestone from Crângu (comm. Ion Corvin) belongs to the important road (Fig. 3), going from *Callatis* to *Durostorum*, passing through Plopeni (former Cavaclar), Petroșani, *Tropaeum Traiani*, Urluia, Crângu (former Caramat)<sup>42</sup> and Ion Corvin (former Cuzgun). Traces of this road and of other Roman roads in the vicinity of *Tropaeum Traiani* could be noticed at the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Pamfil Polonic made a description of them in 1892 (see Appendix 2 and Fig. 1)<sup>43</sup>, at the beginning of the excavations in the fortress. V. Pârvan also published a map of the roads in the area in his study dedicated to the Roman city of *Tropaeum Traiani*<sup>44</sup>. According to him there was a military road, which connected the city with *Durostorum* passing through Cuzgun. The distance, *m(ilia) p(assuum) III*, approximately 4,44 km<sup>45</sup>, demonstrates that the milestone in Crângu was not found *in situ*<sup>46</sup> and was probably reused there. Maybe the original place of it was in Urluia, a rural settlement during the Antiquity<sup>47</sup>.

The “rediscovered” milestone from Crângu was situated on a very important *semita*. This is a new evidence that not only the main roads were kept in good condition, but also the secondary ones. At the same time it represents a confirmation of Pârvan’s supposition concerning the line of this road (from *Callatis* to *Durostorum* through the territory of the Roman town *Tropaeum Traiani*). It also proves that the good functioning of the roads in this area was one of the main concerns of Roman emperors, taking into account the new political and military situation during the late Roman period.

#### APPENDIX 1: The Letter from V. Richter to Gr.G. Tocilescu

(after Library of the Romanian Academy in Bucharest, Mss Tocilescu 5312, pages 178, 179 and 194)

**Transcription** (the underlines are made with carbon pencil, evtl. by Tocilescu)

(Page 178)

*Adam Clissi 2 august 1906*

*Domnule Derector,*

<sup>42</sup> PÂRVAN 1912<sub>1</sub>, p. 580; PANAIT 2006, p. 57-70.

<sup>43</sup> Library of the Romanian Academy in Bucharest, Mss Tocilescu 5128, f. 12-15, see the translation of the text in Appendix 2. It is important to notice that Polonic gave in his description the whole line of the so-called central road, including the part on the territory of today’s Bulgaria.

<sup>44</sup> PÂRVAN 1912<sub>2</sub>, p. 52 and the map, p. 53.

<sup>45</sup> A roman mile is about 1,48 km – e.g. KOLB 2001, p. 505.

<sup>46</sup> On the modern road the distance between Adamclisi (the present day village) and Crângu is about 9,5 km. The roman city of *Tropaeum Traiani* is 3 km East from the village.

<sup>47</sup> On the modern road the distance between Adamclisi (the present day village) and Urluia is 4 km. – On the ancient site in the area of the modern village see BĂRBULESCU 2001, p. 120-121.

*Va raportes ca D<sup>lui</sup> Harrer a plecat din Adam Clissi și am gazit 3 djami spart la odai cari am rezervat pentru Dumneavoastră și un djam la bocataria cari am cerut cont de lor și mi dat respuns ca dinsul nu plătește deloc mai și luat un salte mic cari ie propitate al Museului.*

Cocona al lui D<sup>lui</sup> Harrer are aci un patriot cari avut planul se intra in servițul ca ri și oferit se dai suma lei 150 lui se pote a intra in servițul am fost la Caramat și am cazit acestu pietra cun in scripci am dat în pastrari al lui Consilier al Satu Caramat din dos are copia acesta pietra  
Cun cel mai prefunt respect V. Richter  
*D<sup>sate</sup> Domnului Director al Museului de Antichitate*  
*Bucuresci*

*se fi bine seme duc pana Kavlaclar seved ce fel de citate se fi acolo nusint sigur de plecari acolo ora step ordin din parti Domnevoastra se sciți in cas de plecari alte parti astept se me duc la Kavlaclar sau no.*

(Page 179) – to the right of the drawing  
*acesta pietra se gazit in caton Karama Cumuna Kuzgun Plasa Ostrof*

(Page 194) - to the right of the drawing  
*acesta colona se gazit in satul Karamat cumuna Cuzgun Plasa Ostrov*  
*locuri cari sint semnat sint slove stricate*

### **Translation**

(Page 178)

„Dear Sir,

I am writing to inform You that Mr. Harrer has left Adamclisi and I have found 3 broken windows in the rooms reserved for You and one broken window in the kitchen; I asked him to pay for them but he answered he would not; also, leaving Adamclisi he took with him one mattress which is the property of the museum. Mr. Harrer’s wife knows somebody here, a countryman, who wanted to get a job and even offered 150 lei to become employed.

I was in Karamat and I found this stone with inscription; I gave it to a member of the local authorities to keep it. On the back of this page there is a drawing of it.

With my deep respect, V. Richter

To the Director of the Museum of Antiquities, Bucharest

It will be good to go to Kavaclar to see what kind of a fortress is there but first I shall wait for your orders.”

(Page 179)

„This stone was found in the village Karama, Cuzgun commune, Ostrov county.”

(Page 194)

„This stone was found in the village Karama, Cuzgun commune, Ostrov county.”

„The marked places represent damaged words or letters.”

## Appendix 2

(after Library of the Romanian Academy in Bucharest, Mss Tocilescu 5128, pages 12-15)

În împrejurările cetății se pot observa urmele mai multor drumuri vechi, cari duceau spre cetate sau treceau pe dinaintea ei:

1. Spre NW se suie pe coasa dealului un drum care este tăiat în curbă pe 500 metri lungime, mai păstrează pe ici și acolo petre din pavagiul său și suie pe culmea dealului unde se afla monumentul.

2. De la carieră sau mai bine zis de la cimitirul de lângă ea se recunoaște bine un drum săpăat în linie dreaptă 700 m lungime, care socotesc că nu se scoboară la cetate, suișul fiind prea greu ci drumul servea numai pentru căratul pietrei din carieră în direcțiunea platoului pe care se înalță monumentul triumfal.

3. De la cetate în linie dreaptă spre acest monument se observă pe coasta dealului o altă tăietură de drum care probabil a servit drept comunicațiunea cea mai lesnicioasă spre monument. După aparențe ai credea că ai înainte-ți o tăietură sau o scurgere naturală. Dar ea, fiindcă este tăiată transversal scurgerei, îți arată că-i făcută într-adins de mână de om.

4. Asemenea se sue de la cetate spre răsărit, trecând prin ruinele vechilor așezăminte din preajma orașului un drum principal, care se recunoaște foarte deslușit mai ales în partea lui superioară; el este tăiat pe o distanță de mai bine de un kilometru prin deal, tăietura având uneori până la 10 metri adâncime și iese aproape de cimitirul turcesc, în deal de satul Adamklissi; la ieșirea lui de aici se bifurcă; o cale ia direcțiunea drept spre răsărit, pe când cealaltă apucă spre NE, unde se mai recunoaște încă o dată în vâlcea care se scurge spre Molcova (?), lângă drumul ce duce la Enigea. Această comunicațiune este cea mai dreaptă și mai lesnicioasă între deal și cetate și croiala ei ne arată cât de bine știu inginerii vechi a întrebuința pozițiunea terenului pentru orice construire.

5. Drept spre apus, dincolo de valea Urlui se sue desemnat pe teren ca un zid/rido încet pe coasta dealului un drum, care desigur lega în linia cea mai dreaptă Durostorum (Silistra) cu cetatea.

6. În sudul cetății se vede gura a două drumuri tăiate prin limba de deal care se prelungeste din deal de la Adamklissi până în dreptul cetății. Aceste două drumuri se unesc dincolo de deal și apoi se scoboară pe coastă bine desenat ca un rido (?) în valea Ghiolpunarului; aici pentru câțva timp se pierde, dar îl regăsim iarăși în dreptul satului Kirim Kuiușu unde scurând nu parcurge valea care face aici o curbă mare, ci o taie printr-o săpătură de 500 m lungime și 20 m adâncime; apoi continuă iarăși pe vale. E de presupus că la satul Kioselor se bifurcă, unu luând direcțiunea spre sud pe valea Ghiolpunarului către Constantinopole, pe când celălalt spre Marea Neagră către Mangalia.

7. O cale principală pe care am urmărit-o până la granița bulgarică la punctul *Enişenlia-Hasarlik*, iar de acolo mai departe a fost cercetată de *Skorpil*<sup>48</sup> și constatată până la *Abtaat-Kalesi*, poate vechiul *Abbritus*. Ea poartă în graiul viu al lăcuitoilor numele de *Taschjolu*, care în limba turcească însemnează drum de piatră, și într-adevăr, pe alocurea, cum priviră (?) pe valea ce scoboară de la mormântul triumfal la cetate, se văd uneori in situ lespezi de pietre așezate la rând. La sud de *Enişenlia* drumul urcă dealurile ce despărțesc văile *Hasarlikului* și *Tutünkioiului*; trece apoi îndată pe la movila *Kasalmas* și *Dobromir* (la NW de *Tekederessi*). La începutul văii *Tekeleressi* traversă o mică strămoare, numită *Nalkikesik*, apoi un deal: *Kurdulatceaiv* cu două movile și ajunge după ce a tăiat de-a curmezișul valea – la *Abdaat-Kalesi*, unde se văd ruinele unei vechi cetăți cu 32 turnuri, cele mai multe de formă rotundă. După *Skorpil* aici ar fi fost vechiul *Abbritus*, vestit prin sângeroasa bătălie dintre romani și goți, în care bătălie a picat însuși împăratul *Decius*, a. 251 d. Chr. La *Abdaat-Kalesi* drumul se desparte; o ramură duce la *Callatis* (*Mangalia*), alta la *Marcianopolis* (*Devnia*) și *Odessos* (*Varna*), iar o a treia poate la *Nicopolis ad Istrum* (*Stari Nikiup*, nu departe de *Tirnov*).

### Translation

“Around the fortress can be observed the traces of several old roads which were going to the fortress or passing by it:

1. To the NW a road is climbing up to the slope of the hill in a 500 m long curve; here and there are still stones from the original pavement; the road climbs up to the top of the hill where the triumphal monument was situated.

2. From the quarry or actually from the cemetery near by a straight road can be recognized carved straight along 700 m; in my opinion this road does not go to the fortress because climbing is too difficult; this road was only used for to carry the stone from the quarry to the plateau where the triumphal monument rises.

3. On the slope of the hill, going straight from the fortress to the monument, another road can be noticed, which was the easiest way to get to the monument. It seems to be a natural form of relief but it being carved across the slope demonstrates that it was built up by man’s hand.

4. Another main road, which can be easily noticed, is climbing from the fortress towards the East passing near the ruins of the constructions situated in its vicinity; this road is carved through the hill for more than 1 km, the trench being here and there up to 10 m deep and traces of it appear next to the village of *Adamklisi*; at this point there is a fork in the road: a branch goes to the East, and the other one to the NE; parts of the second branch can be recognized near the road to *Enigea*, in the valley to *Molcova*(?). This communication line was the straightest between the hill and the fortress; the way it was built demonstrates how skilful the Roman engineers were in adapting any construction to the relief forms.

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<sup>48</sup> Karel *Skorpil* (1859-1944), together with his brother *Herman* had settled in Bulgaria as a part of a large group of Czechs, whose aim was to assist the newly established Bulgarian state. *K. Skorpil* carried out scientific trips across Bulgaria in 1887 and 1892, initiated the excavations of *Pliska* in 1899 and founded the Bulgarian archaeological school. He published several studies on Roman and medieval archaeological materials after his journeys and excavations. The Roman road system was one of his points of interest.

5. Further, on the other side of the Urluia Valley, on the slope of the hill, straight to the West, a road is climbing up; certainly, this is the straightest road connecting Durostorum with the fortress.

6. South of the fortress can be recognized traces of two roads carved through the hill. Those two roads are bound together beyond the hill and get down, along the slope of the hill into the Ghiolpunar Valley; here there is no trace of it for a while and one can find it again in the vicinity of the village Kirim Kuiu, where the road, which is 500 m long and around 20 m deep, crosses a large bend in the valley, and then goes further along the valley. We can suppose that from the village of Kioselor the road forks on, one branch goes to the south, along the Ghiolpunar valley, to Constantinople and the second one goes to the Black Sea to Mangalia .

7. Another main road, which I could follow to the Bulgarian border, to the point named Enisenlia-Hasarlik, was studied by Skorpil beyond the border; it goes from the Bulgarian border to Abtaat-Kalesi (maybe the ancient *Abbritus*). This road is named Taschjolu, by the local inhabitants, which in Turkish means “stone-road”; the part of this road going down, from the monument to the fortress still has stones from the pavement, lined up one next to the other. South of Enisenlia the road climbs up the hills separating the valleys of Hasarlik and Tutünkioi; further it passes next to Kasalmas hillock and further, to the NW of Tekederessi, through the Saragia and Dobromir valleys. At the beginning of the Tekederessi valley the road goes through the small passage of Nalkikesik, then across a hill, Kurdulatceiv (with two hillocks) and then arrives, after crossing the valley, at Abtaat-Kalesi. There are the ruins of an ancient fortress with 32 towers, most of them round in shape. Skorpil likes to locate here the ancient *Abrittus*, famous for the battle from 251 AD between the Romans and the Goths, during which the emperor Decius died. Here the road ends up in three branches: one goes to *Callatis* (Mangalia), a second one goes to *Marcianopolis* (Devnja) and the third one goes to *Nicopolis ad Istrum* (Stari Nikiup, near Tirnovo).“

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### Source of the illustration

Fig. 1 Iuliana Barnea and Adriana Panaitte (after the map by P.Polonic, Library of the Romanian Academy in Bucharest, Mss P. Polonic I Varia 101).

Fig. 2 C.-G. Alexandrescu (after the drawing by V. Richter, Library of the Romanian Academy in Bucharest, Mss Tocilescu 5312, p. 194).

Fig. 3 Iuliana Barnea (Archaeological Institute „Vasile Pârvan”, Bucharest).

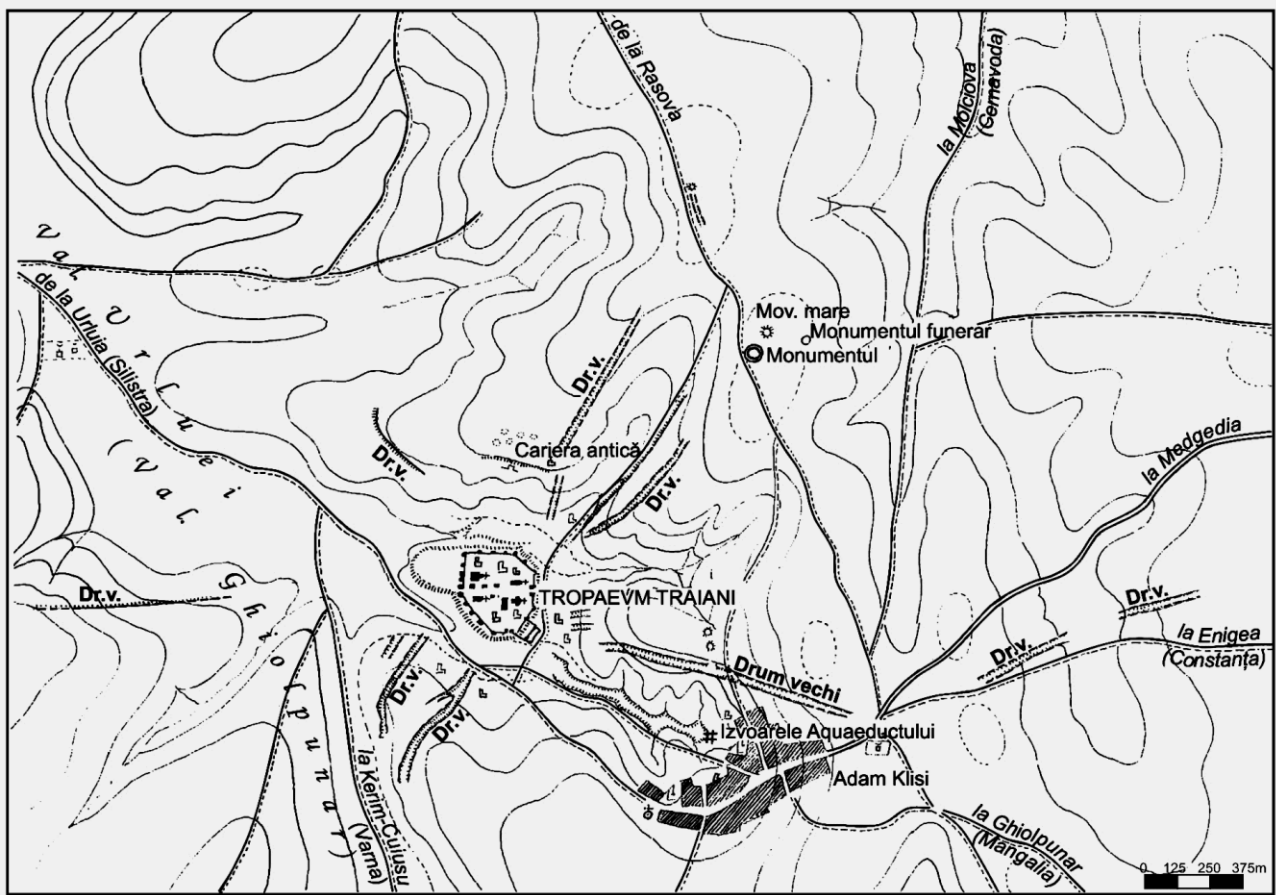


Fig. 1 - Tropaeum Traiani and the surroundings, with the marked traces of "old roads" (on the map 'Drum vechi' or 'Dr. V.')



Fig. 2 - The milestone from Crângu (after Richter's drawing).

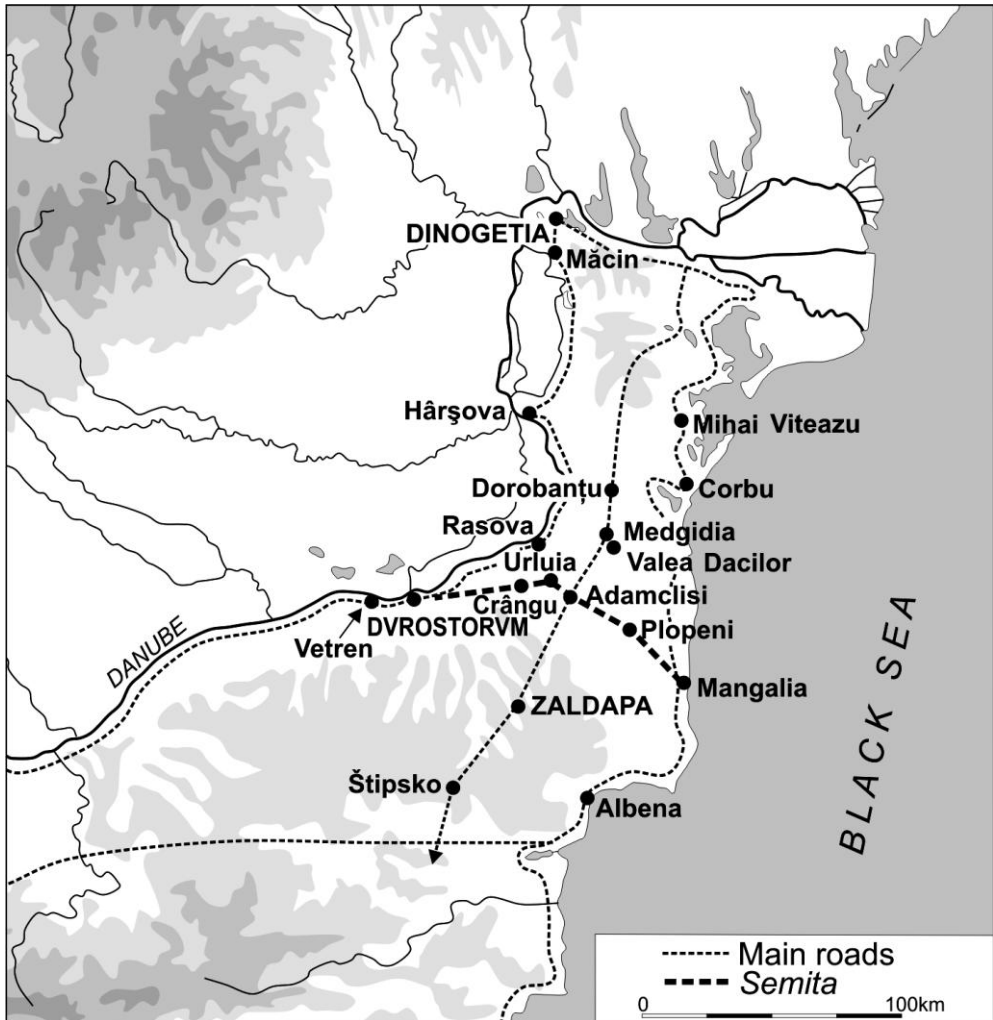


Fig. 3 - Scythia - roads and finding places of the milestones from the 3<sup>rd</sup>-4<sup>th</sup> century AD.