

Actas del Primer Congreso Internacional  
de Buenas Prácticas en Patrimonio Mundial:

# Arqueología

Mahón, Menorca, Islas Baleares, España 9-13 de abril de 2012

Proceedings of the First International Conference  
on Best Practices in World Heritage:

# Archaeology

Mahon, Minorca, Balearic Islands, Spain 9-13 April 2012

Alicia Castillo (Ed.)

Editora Complutense



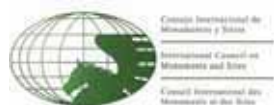
## Organiza



## Patrocina



## Colabora



ICOMOS ESPAÑA  
ICOMOS ICAHM. INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE ON ARCHAEOLOGICAL HERITAGE MANAGEMENT

**Edita:** Universidad Complutense de Madrid  
**© Copyright:** Universidad Complutense de Madrid  
**Diseña:** Imprenta Taller Imagen, s.l.  
**ISBN:** 978-84-695-6782-1  
**Depósito Legal:** SG.155/2011

## **Comité organizador:**

### **Directoras científicas:**

- Alicia Castillo, Investigadora Postdoctoral - Profesora del Departamento de Prehistoria. Universidad Complutense de Madrid
- M<sup>a</sup> Ángeles Querol, Catedrática del Departamento de Prehistoria. Universidad Complutense de Madrid

### **Secretaria científica:**

- Isabel Salto-Weis. Profesora Titular del Departamento de Lingüística Aplicada. Universidad Politécnica de Madrid

### ***Representantes del Instituto Menorquín de Estudios:***

- Margarita Orfila Pons. Catedrática del Departamento de Prehistoria y Arqueología. Universidad de Granada
- Clemen García, Institut Menorquí d'Estudis

### ***Representantes del Consell de Menorca:***

- María Nieves Baílo Vadell, Consejera de Cultura, Patrimoni i Educació del Consell Insular de Menorca
- Simón Gornés. Técnico arqueólogo.
- Joana Gual Cerdó. Técnica arqueóloga

### ***Representante del Pla de Dinamització del Producte Turístic de Menorca:***

- David Vidal, gerente

## **Comité de Honor:**

- Bauzá Díaz, José Ramón. Presidente del Govern de les Illes Balears
- Tadeo Florit, Santiago. Presidente del Consell Insular de Menorca
- Carrillo Menéndez, José. Rector de la Universidad Complutense de Madrid
- Bokova, Irina. Directora General de la United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)
- Prieto de Pedro, Jesús. Director General de Bellas Artes y Bienes Culturales del Ministerio de Cultura
- Ricard, Denis. Secretario General de la Organización de las Ciudades del Patrimonio Mundial (OCPM)
- Mayor Zaragoza, Federico. Ex director General de la UNESCO
- Araoz, Gustavo M. Presidente del Consejo Internacional de Monumentos y Sitios (ICOMOS)
- Suárez-Inclán Ducassi, Rosa María. Presidenta del Comité Español del Consejo Internacional de Monumentos y Sitios (ICOMOS)

## **Comité científico:**

- Albert, Marie Therese. Dr. Professor and Holder of UNESCO Chair. Brandenburg University of Technology, Cottbus, Germany
- Arsuaga, Juan Luís. Dr. Codirector del yacimiento de Atapuerca. Catedrático de Paleontología de la Universidad Complutense de Madrid, España
- Barceló, Juan Antonio. Dr. Profesor de Prehistoria. Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona, España.
- Bordoni, Luciana. Patrimonio Culturale. Italian National Agency for new technologies, energy and the environment (ENEA- FIM), Italy
- Comer, Douglas C. Dr. RPA Principal, Cultural Site Research and Management, Inc. (CSRM), Co-president ICHAM. USA
- Criado Boado, Felipe. Dr. Director del Instituto de Ciencias de Patrimonio, Incipit, CSIC, España.
- Doglioni, Francesco. Dr. Architect. Professor. Università IUAV di Venezia, Italy
- Fernández Cacho, Silvia. Dra. Jefa del Centro de Documentación y Estudios, Instituto Andaluz de Patrimonio Histórico, Sevilla
- Gándara, Manuel. Dr. Arqueólogo. Profesor-Investigador, Posgrado en Arqueología, ENAH/INAH, México
- Gavua, Kodzo Dr. Professor. Department of Archaeology and Heritage Studies, University of Ghana
- Inaba, Nobuko. Director/Professor, World Heritage Studies, Graduate School of Comprehensive Human Sciences University of Tsukuba, Japan
- Lasheras, José Antonio. Dr. Director del Museo Nacional y Centro de Investigación de Altamira. Ministerio de Cultura, España
- Lilley, Ian. Dr. Professor FSA. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies Unit, The University of Queensland, Brisbane, Australia
- Martinho Baptista, Antonio. Pré-Historiador de Arte. Parque arqueológico do Vale do Côa. Secretaria de Estado da Cultura. Portugal
- Mateos, Pedro. Dr. Científico Titular CSIC. Director del Instituto Arqueológico de Mérida, España.
- Mora Alonso-Muñoyerro, Susana. Dra. Profesora de la Escuela Técnica Superior de Arquitectura. Universidad Politécnica de Madrid, España

- Murillo, Juan. Dr. Arqueólogo. Director Gerencia de Urbanismo del Ayuntamiento de Córdoba, España
- Musiba, Charles. Dr. University of Denver, Colorado, USA. Co-founder of the Tanzania Field School in Anthropology
- Rodríguez Alomá, Patricia. Arquitecta. Doctora en Ciencias Técnicas, Directora de Plan Maestro. Oficina del Historiador de la ciudad de La Habana, Cuba
- Santana Quintero, Mario. Dr. Rymond Lemaire Centre for Conservation, university of Leuven (Belgium)-President ICOMOS scientific committee on heritage documentation (CIPA)
- Shady Solís, Ruth. Dra. Aqueóloga. Antropóloga. Catedrática. Universidad Mayor de San Marcos (Perú). Directora del Projecte Especial Caral-Supe
- Silverman, Helaine. Dr. Professor, Department of Anthropology, University of Illinois. Director, CHAMP (Collaborative for Cultural Heritage and Museum Practices), USA
- Sivan, Renée. Museologist. Chief curator of the Tower of David Museum - Jerusalem Israel. Heritage Presentation Specialist
- Villafranca Jiménez, María del Mar. Directora del Patronato de la Alhambra y el Generalife, Granada, España
- Willems, Willem. Dr. Dean, Professor of Archaeological Heritage Management Leiden University (UL), Leiden, the Netherlands. Co-President of ICAHM



# In the footsteps of Roman army at the Balkanian periphery of the Empire. Limes Transalutanus: achievements, threats and expectations

*Tras las huellas del ejército romano en la periferia balcánica del Imperio. Limes Transalutanus: logros, amenazas y expectativas*

D. MĂNDESCU

(1) The Argeş County Museum, 44 Armand Călinescu Street, RO-110047, Piteşti (Romania)  
dragos\_mandescu@yahoo.com

## Abstract

This paper highlights the archaeological and heritage importance of the 235 km long fortification line (earth wave and Roman camps) constructed by the Romans on the eastern border of Dacia province between the Danube and the Carpathians (the first half of the 3-rd century BC). Conventionally this line is known today as *Limes Transalutanus*. The importance of a 125 km long sector of this *limes* is highlighted, i.e. the one that lies from the south-west to the north-east the actual Argeş County. Here the *limes* crosses all the relief forms. Half of the military constructions of the entire *limes* could be found here. The extreme importance of this sector consists in the fact that the most consistent archaeological diggings were performed here and the only Roman camp prepared to be visited by the public was arranged here. It was transformed in a museum that could be visited in a civilized manner. It is the Roman camp from Cămpulung, which is the first known element of the *Limes Transalutanus* (pointed out by the count Marsigli in 1689) and systematically studied from an archaeological point of view half of a century ago. It is stressed the touristic and natural potential of the area as well as the possibility that this fortification line to be included in a touristic circuit program. This fact could contribute to the increase of the economic and touristic potential of a less known and less promoted, though full of history area.

**Key words:** Roman Period, *Limes Transalutanus*, Balkans, Wallachia, archaeological remains, cultural heritage

## Resumen

Este artículo pone de relieve la importancia arqueológica y patrimonial de la línea de fortificaciones construida por los romanos en la frontera oriental de la provincia Dacia, con una longitud de 235 km, entre el Danubio y los Cárpatos (de la primera mitad del siglo III). Esta línea se conoce hoy en día como Limes Transalutanus. En particular se refiere a la importancia de un sector que cruza el actual condado de Arges, atravesando todo tipo de formas de relieve. Aquí se encuentran al menos la mitad de las construcciones militares de todo el limes, y aquí se han llevado a cabo las excavaciones más sistemáticas, además de encontrarse aquí el único sitio abierto al público. Este último es el campamento de Cămpulung, el primer elemento conocido del limes (documentado por el conde Marsigli en 1689) e investigado arqueológicamente durante medio siglo. El autor destaca el enorme potencial para el turismo y el área natural, y la posibilidad de que esta línea de fortificaciones romanas pueda ser incluida en un programa de visitas.

Esto podría contribuir a un mayor potencial económico y turístico de una zona cargada de historia, pero poco difundida y conocida.

**Palabras clave:** Época romana, Limes Transalutanus, los Balcanes, restos arqueológicos, patrimonio

During its entire existence, the Roman Empire had natural borders: the Atlantic, the Rhine, the Danube, the Euphrates, the African desert. Where such natural borders did not exist, artificial ones were built as symbols of the Roman authority, power, glory, and greatneses; they represented clear delimitations between *Pax romana* and *Barbaricum*. It happened in Dacia, too. Here, a fortified border was constructed between the empire and the warrior populations from the east: the free Dacians (the Carpi) and the Roxolan Sarmatae (Figure 1a). We do not know the old name of this border, but we conventionally call it today *Limes Valahicus* or *Limes Transalutanus*, i.e. the limit from beyond the Alutus (Olt River).

*Limes Transalutanus*, the most important military construction from Dacia province is 235 km long and it is north-south orientated between the Danube (Flămânda, Tleorman County) and the Carpathians (the Rucăr-Bran mountain pass) crossing all the relief forms (Figure 1b). The distance between the *limes* and the Olt River varies from 10 to 50 km. Its southern end is on the Danube shore (the Roman camp from Flămânda) and its northern end is situated in Southern Carpathians, in the vicinity of the Rucăr-Bran pass. It is formed by an earth wave with burned core, that originally was around 2,5 m high and at least 10 m width. In the west of the wave of the *limes*, but close to it, there were situated the permanent military camps or stations - 20 *castra*, *castella* and *burgi* [1-5].

This impressive defensive system was *manu militari* built in the eastern limit of Dacia Inferior province (Dacia Malvensis), but the exact moment of its construction is still a subject of dispute among the scholars. There are opinions which talk about the reign of the emperor Septimius Severus (193-211), while newer points of view consider the next period as

a moment of the construction: the reign of the emperor Caracalla (211-217) [4-5].

It is not impossible that the roots of this borderline to be much older and to follow one of the access road of the Roman army to Transylvania in the year 105, during the second Dacian War of the emperor Trajan. This fact could be suggested by those small *castella* made of earth from the vicinity of the big Roman camps made of brick or stone (for example those from Urlueni, Săpata de Jos and Cămpulung-“Jidova”).

If the moment of its construction is still a subject of dispute among the specialists, its end is almost consensually considered the year 245, during the reign of Philip the Arab (244-249), when, as a consequence of the powerful attacks of the free Dacians from east-Carpathian lands (the Carpi) the *limes* was abandoned and the border of the empire was placed again along the Olt River [5-6].

The *Limes Transalutanus* was one of the first monuments of the Roman Antiquity studied on the territory of Walachia. After a short notice left by count Marsigli at the end of the 17<sup>th</sup> century, the study-research began toward the middle and continued during the second half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century by Cezar Boliac, Dimitrie C. Butculescu, Carl Schuchardt, and especially Grigore Tocilescu and Pamfil Polonic. But the most significant progress was recorded after the World War II due to the researches performed by many passionate archaeologists, museum curators and even enthusiastic self-taught persons.

The Roman military *limes* landmarks are more numerous in the Argeş County than in any other counties located on the territory of ancient Dacia from beyond the Carpathians Mountains. The county is diagonally crossed from the south-west to the north-east by more than a half of the *Limes Transalutanus* - 125 km from the total of 235 km. There are twenty Roman camps situated along the entire *limes*; half of them (ten



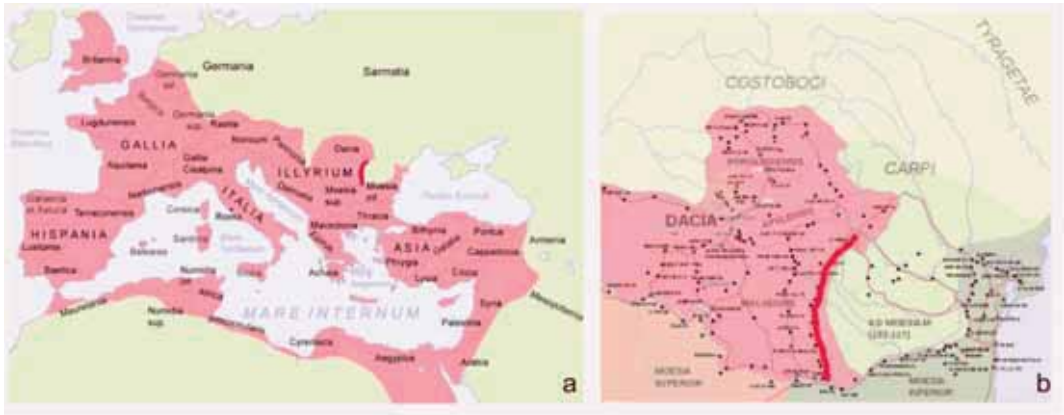


Figure 1. The Roman Empire (a) and Dacia province at the beginning of the 3<sup>rd</sup> century. The red line on the maps marks the *Limes Transalutanus*

Roman camps) are in the Argeş County: Urlueni – two Roman camps, Fâlfani, Săpata de Jos – two Roman camps, Albota, Purcăreni, Câmpulung-“Jidova” – two Roman camps, Rucăr-“Scărișoara”, plus the interesting site from the “Măilătoaia” Hill from Voinești (Figure 2). This sector is also extremely important because the most numerous and relevant archaeological researches were performed here and because the only Roman station prepared to be visited by the public was arranged here, at Câmpulung-“Jidova”. It was transformed in a museum that could be visited in a civilized manner.

In the following paragraphs we will present the actual situation of the important landmarks of this sector of the Argeş County. Despite all the lacks and non-achievements and threats especially due to the ignorance of our contemporaries and to the inherited lethargy, the scientific and touristic potential of this periphery of the Roman Empire remains considerable. This entire ensemble formed by the ten Roman camps could become a coherent touristic objective that could lead to important economic and social achievements for the local communities.

From the high terrace where they were built, the two Roman camps from Urlueni

[1, 7] dominate the entire valley of Cotmeana River. The archaeological diggings performed along many campaigns by Ioana Bogdan Cătănicu [3, 8] cover be seen even today, thus making possible a quick and efficient orientation among the essential elements of the Roman military architecture. The general situation in Urlueni is a good one: the area of the site is out of the agricultural circuit (except a small sector that corresponds to the small Roman camp) and we did not notice traces of any modern destructive action. The village county intensely agrees the archaeological diggings and expresses the intention to protect and preserve it and also to include it in a touristic itinerary. Anyway, by promoting the site, the parish could only gain because the agritourism could become here a profitable sector.

Being isolated few kilometres from the present village, the Roman camp from Fâlfani benefits of a privileged situation. It is situated in the north-eastern part of the actual locality but distant enough from it. The monument was threatened neither by the recent land reforms nor by any of the modern destructive actions. The Roman camp is situated in a forest and thus it was protected along the time from any natural and anthro-

pic aggressions, including the agricultural works. It is one of the best preserved old monuments from the Argeş County. The traces of the two thoroughfare ditches performed almost twenty years ago by a collective of archaeologists [9] are still visible on the surface and thus they could be highlighted for possible future researches.

In Săpata de Jos [1, 10-11], the ruined “fortress” that time ago had massif walls made of burned bricks, still waits to be restored on a promontory situated in a land

which today is an orchard, right next to the road that goes along the Cotmeana River. There is no sign to indicate that in that place, 18 centuries ago the auxiliary units guarded the north-eastern borders of the empire which then was on the peak of its glory. Today, because the green of the grass is enhanced by the brown of the bricks fallen from the ruins, the landscape is similar to a bucolic painting.

In Albota [1, 7], the small Roman *castrum*, considered till now to be “swallowed”



Figure 2. The nowadays Argeş County sector of *Limes Transalutanus* with the Roman camps locations

under the basement of the actual Station for the Agricultural Research and Development is situated instead, probably untouched by the modern actions, on the northern terrace from the vicinity of the station. The Pamfil Polonic's plans, placed it on this very terrace and not on the one the agricultural building is situated on. This was also confirmed by our observation in field. The place is a dominant one, offering an excellent visibility to the east and south-east. The vestiges of a ditch are still visible. In circumstances that it would be brought to light by an archaeological programme and then capitalized through the preservation of its (though modest) architectural elements, the *castellum* from Albotă could represent one of the Pitești's biggest touristic attractions, especially because it is situated very close to it; in fact it is situated in its south-eastern side, right next to the national road Pitești – Craiova (Figure 3).

Regarding the Roman camp from Purcăreni [1], we have to say that it survives only in our memories. The monument was situated in the eastern side of the actual village Purcăreni, in the spot "Podul Belului", on the right bank of the Doamnei River. Nothing is known about this Roman camp except the plan drawn by Pamfil Polonic (Figure 4a) and published by Grigore Tocilescu more than one century ago [12], as well as few Roman weapons (Figure 4c) discovered by chance, now kept in the Argeș County Museum reserve.

More than a half of the Roman camp was destroyed by the waters of the Doamnei River, and also by the construction of Pitești – Câmpulung road, that crosses right through its middle. How many of those who drive along the road between Pitești and Câmpulung know that by crossing the Doamnei River they are transiting a very important historical area and that a powerful Roman military camp lied in that very place situated under their feet? No sign (again!)

to indicate such things. According to Polonic's plans it seems that the western side of the Roman camp is still preserved today, but nothing can be seen *in situ*, as long as the recent intervention led to the complete changing of the landscape (Figure 4b). Though a hope still exists as long as new study-researches are possible, when the announced process of modernization of the actual road will start.

The most important and the best preserved Roman camp situated along the *Limes Transalutanus* (also the only one built in stone) is the one from Câmpulung, the Pescăreasa neighbourhood, "Jidova" spot [1, 7, 13-14]. This Roman camp was signalled for the first time by the count Luigi Ferdinando de Marsigli (Figure 5a), engineer officer in the Habsburg army, after a trip mission in these places in 1689. Few years later, Marsigli includes a sketch and a description of the Roman camp in his big work about the Danube (Figure 5b) [15].

We do not know the old name of the Roman camp, but late after the armies retreat from Dacia commanded by the emperor Aurelianus and after the great migrations period when the architectural works of the Antiquity collapsed, in the dawn of the Middle Ages, the inhabitants of those places and the travellers following the road to the mountains were impressed by the still solid walls of the ruined Roman camp and considered them to be built by the fabulous tall, huge and powerful people who lived at the beginning of the world – called *Jidovi* in the folk language –, as they are described in the most of the European mythologies. This is why we consider that in the specific toponymy "Jidova" should be the final form and thus to quit for good the invented form "Jidava" intended to suggest the existence of a possible Dacian settlement ("dava") previous to the construction of the permanent Roman station. Such a locality never existed [16].



Figure 3. The spot of the Roman camp from Albota (marked by the red arrow).  
Right: the European road E 574 Pitești – Craiova.  
In the distance: the buildings of Pitești, the main city in Argeș County

The stone Roman station from “Jidova” (132,5 m x 98,65 m) is one of the best preserved in the entire Roman Dacia. The archaeological researches, for the first time performed 130 years ago (half a century of archaeological systematic diggings is to celebrate this year 2012), as well as the important works of restoration and consolidation (Figure 6), represent a model of consistency and achievement in our intention to go closer to the monuments of the Antiquity.

Here, in the site museum which the Roman camp was transformed in, (could be seen) a suite of specific elements of a Roman military station: the strong stone wall precincts and the adjacent towers (Figure 7a), the building of the officers, the commander dwelling, the storehouse for food and the ingenious heating system specific for the Roman technique – the *hypocaustum* (Figure 7b).

A military unit of the imperial Roman army active along the *Limes Transalutanus* was attested in “Jidova”. It was an auxiliary unit formed by fighters from Commagena, a region from the north of the Syria province: *cohors I Flavia Commagenorum* [4-5, 17-18]. The impressive quantity of arrowheads discovered in the *principia's armamentarium* proves that the arch was one of the favourite weapon of this unit (*sagittarii*), while the impressive dimensions of the *horreum* (13 m x 34,70 m) seem to prove the presence of the horses in the Roman camp, i.e. a unit of rider archers.

On the “Măilătoaia” Hill from Voinești [1], on the spot called “Malul lui Cocoș”, in the eastern side of the actual village, in a dominant position, one of the most important objectives of the Roman Antiquity in the Argeș County is situated. Its importance consists in the fact that the main mi-



Figure 4. The spot of the Roman camp from Purcăreni viewed by P. Polonic at the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century (a) and a recent picture showing the nowadays situation of the site; one of the Roman spearheads found by chance in the area (c)

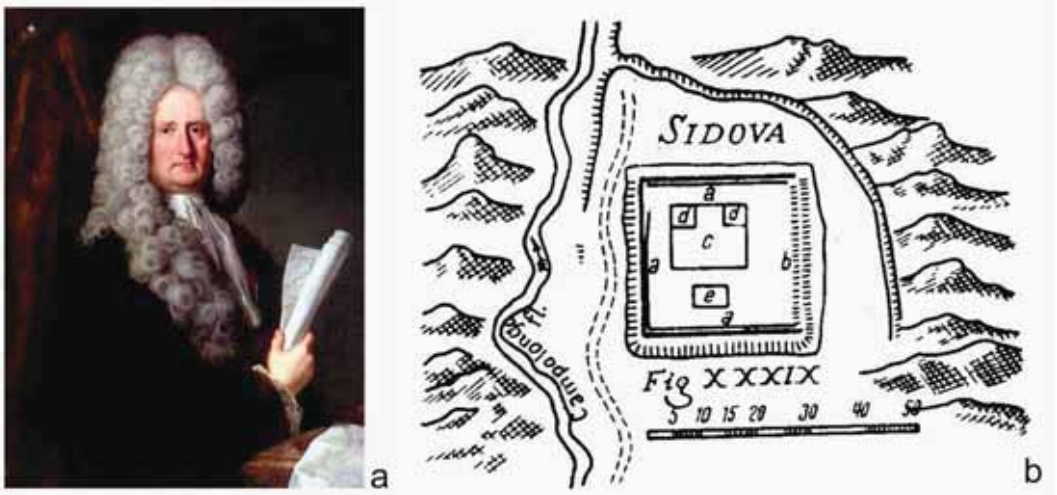


Figure 5. Luigi Ferdinando de Marsigli, the first investigator of the Roman monuments on *Limes Transalutanus* (a) and his drawing representing the Roman camp from “Jidova”

litary objective (Roman camp or *castellum* – the bricks on which the stamps of the legion XI Claudia Pia Fidelis and of the cohort I Flavia Commagenorum discovered there represent a proof [19]) is doubled by a (probably) civilian one, which represents a very rare situation for the *Limes Transalutanus*.

In Rucăr, on „Scărișoara” spot, in the “Rucăr Field”, there is almost no trace of the *castellum* or of the archaeological diggings performed a quarter of century ago which partially highlighted it [3, 20]. The site is situated on a private property and because of that, there are many difficulties in performing a scientific research. The capitalisation of the potential of this monument could be a huge chance for the local community especially for the inhabitants working in the domain of agritourism or for the motel owners from Rucăr, as long as the motels are situated only some hundred meters away from the *castellum* (Figure 8).

Beyond the unfavourable situations (most of which being reversible) generated mostly by careless people and by the fact that the law is not applied, than by disho-

nesty, after such a periphus we should still have a positive opinion.

The weak points; though numerous and some of them difficult to be solved (for example: the different property regime of the site’s lands – some of them are public some other private with a series of problems arising in the law enforcement – the absence of the archaeological reservation rank for some of the Roman camps – those at Fâlfani and Albota are not even included in the national heritage list of historical monuments [21] – the poor infrastructure, the lack of experience in the administration of such monuments, the voluntariate - inexistent and not promoted) are dominated by the strong arguments (the vicinity of the Roman camps to the main routes, the easy access from the present localities, also from the Capital of the county and even from the Capital of the country, the fact that they belong to the same administrative system, great opportunities for agritourism, a non polluted countryside as well as the fact that many of the Roman camps are outside the areas where the mechanised agricultural works are performed and the fact that archaeolo-

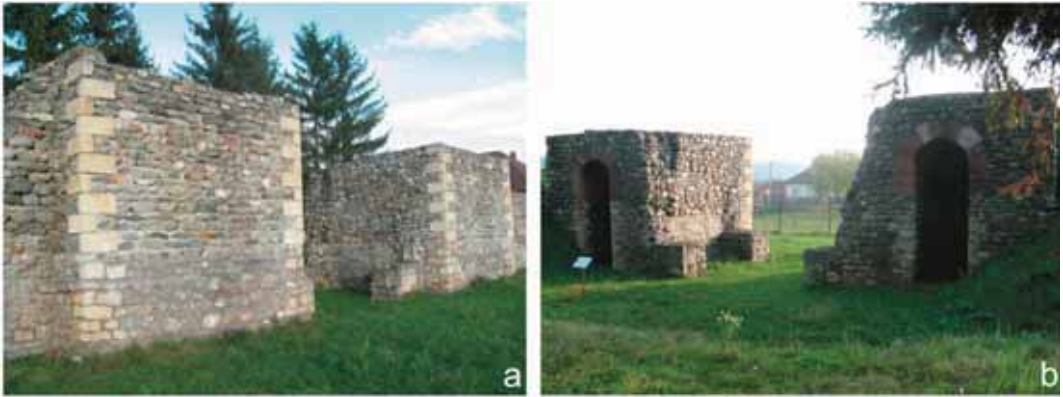


Figure 6. The Roman camp from Câmpulung-‘Jidova’. *Porta praetoria* partially restored in 1987-1988. Outside (a) and inside (b) views



Figure 7. The Roman camp from Câmpulung-‘Jidova’. The southern wall with *porta praetoria* (a) and *hypocaustum* inside *pratorium* (b) – reconstructions from the ‘80s of the 20<sup>th</sup> century

gical campaigns are still performed and newer or older information is still capitalised, plus the fact that here is the only Roman camp situated along the *Limes Transalutanus* that could be visited in a decent manner, i.e. ‘‘Jidova’’).

The first step should flow from the application of legislation, namely the removal of recent construction, illegally built, which affects the surface of some Roman sites: a metallic structure sustained the high voltage grid at Săpata de Jos (Figure 9a) and a fodder storage and its annexes at Rucăr (Figure 9b). Second, inclusion of all these military camps, *castra*, *castella* or *burgi*, without exception in the heritage list of protected mo-

numents. Then, passing each of these archaeological sites under the direct administration of the village hall which belong territorially or even administered by the county council. The only viable model that ensures the protection of Roman remains and the scientific and touristic exploitation in a stable and long-term perspective is offered by the stone station from ‘‘Jidova’’. This *castrum*, seen as an archaeological reserve, is placed under the authority and the ownership of the Argeş County Council and managed by the Argeş County Museum as a section of it (an open air site museum). For now, in the envisaged area, only a public authority seems to have any chance of



Figure 8. The landscape and spot of the Roman camp from Rucăr (marked by the red arrow). In the distance, left: the newly raised motels and pensions in locality

success in managing such kind of historical and archaeological monuments. After their release under a public authority (local village hall or county council) should continue to the next step: the direct involvement of local people and engaging them as potential workforce: guards, administrators, guides, excavations workers during the archaeological campaign etc.

Only respecting “the path” described by these steps, this remarkable archaeological treasure, still virgin in most part of it could be highlighted and heritage and also touristic. Valued the still latent potential of the *limes* becomes more attractive in terms of cultural tourism, if we consider that it is located in an area absolutely special, with a great diversity and importance of the historical sites in southern Romania. In the Argeş area, entirely crossed by *Limes Transalutamus*, may be fully caught successive sequences of Romanian historical becoming.

From close to the *limes*, in an area of up to 50 km one side and the other of the old Roman fortified line, are concentrated a lot of historical milestones of great interest and touristic attraction: the former residences of the medieval Wallachia (Curtea de Argeş and Câmpulung), castles and fortress (Poenari and Bran), cave churches (Cetățeni, Nămăești, Corbii de Piatră), secular and ecclesiastical architectural monuments (fortified boyars courts from Golești and Băjești, Argeş Monastery). So, apparently dispersed elements of a cultural, architectural and historical puzzle with a great impact force, placed in a fresh and unpolluted natural environment, which could achieve consistency in terms of a concerted effort on the part of local government, on the part of the local economic operators and also on the part of the common people of inhabitants (Figure 10).

The biggest problem is that the public opinion is still careless. It is absolutely compul-

sory to make the two sides of the coin (authorities and inhabitants) co-interested in a common effort of protection and promotion of the monuments as well as the promotion of some tourist circuits or the renewal of those yet existent. Only the archaeologists and the specialists are interested in these vestiges for the moment. And this is the big problem. We are not able to really promote the image of this extremely important historical sight and to make people interested in the common capitalisation of a glorious past. A real success of this approach could only be gained by making the local communities and the public local authorities co-interested in the matter. The first and the most important beneficiaries of a strengthened *limes* (to place signs and to facilitate the access to the sites, guides dressed like the officers of the Roman legions, the reconstitution of military parades and fight exercises performed mainly by volunteers, thematic summer schools, archaeological diggings performed together interested volunteers etc.) would be the local communities.

This work was supported by a grant of the Romanian National Authority for Scientific Research, CNCS – UEFISCDI, project

number PN-II-RU-TE-2011-3-0078 (*The archaeological relevance of periphery*).

### References

- [1] Tudor, D. (1978): *Oltenia romană* (4th ed.). Bucharest: Editura Academiei Republicii Socialiste România.
- [2] Bogdan Cătănciu, I. (1974): Nouvelles données sur le Limes Transalutanus. In D. M. Pippidi (Ed.), *Actes de IX<sup>e</sup> Congrès International d'Études sur les Frontières Romaines, Mamaia, 6-13 septembre 1972* (pp. 259-265). Bucharest / Köln-Wien: Editura Academiei Republicii Socialiste România / Böhlau Verlag.
- [3] Bogdan Cătănciu, I. (1997): *Muntenia în sistemul defensiv al Imperiului Roman. Sec. I-III p. Chr.* Alexandria: Muzeul Județean Teleorman.
- [4] Petolescu, C. C. (2002): *Auxilia Daciae*. Bucharest: Ars Docendi.
- [5] Petolescu, C. C. (2010): *Dacia. Un mileniu de istorie*. Bucharest: Editura Academiei Române.
- [6] Popescu, E., & Petolescu, C. C., & Cioflan, T. (1984): Distrugerea castrului roman de la Câmpulung (Jidava).



Figure 9. Recent constructions affecting the surface of the Roman sites: a metallic structure sustained the high voltage grid at Săpata de Jos (a) and a fodder storage and its annexes at Rucăr (b)



*Studii și comunicări*, 3, 15-17. Muzeul Câmpulung.

- [7] Vlădescu, C. (1993): *Armata romană în Dacia Inferior*. Bucharest: Editura Militară.
- [8] Bogdan Cătănciu, I. (1994): Castella de la Urluieni. *Studii și cercetări de istorie veche și arheologie*, 45 (4), 327-355. Institutul de Arheologie «Vasile Pârvan» București.
- [9] Petolescu, C. C., & Avram, R., & Cioflan, T., & Amon, L. (1995): Castrul de pământ de la Fâlfani-Izbășești, jud. Argeș. Raport preliminar. *Argesis*, 7, 31-40. Muzeul Județean Argeș.
- [10] Christescu, V. (1934): Le trésor de monnaies de Sapata de Jos et la date du limes Romain de la Valachie. *Istros*, 1, 73-80. Facultatea de Litere, Universitatea București.
- [11] Christescu, V. (1938): Le castru roman de Săpata de Jos. *Dacia*, 5-6, 435-447. Muzeul Național de Antichități.
- [12] Tocilescu, Gr. (1900): *Fouilles et recherches archéologiques en Roumanie: communications faites à l'Académie des inscriptions et belles-lettres de Paris, 1892-1899*. Bucharest: Tipografia "Corpului Didactic" C. Ispasescu & G. Bratanescu.
- [13] Popescu, Em., & Popescu, E. (1968):



Figure 10. A minimum set of conditions to make things work

- Castrul roman Jidava-Câmpulung. (Observații preliminare). *Studii și comunicări*, 1, 67-79. Muzeul Pitești.
- [14] Petolescu, C. C., & Cioflan, T. (1995): Castrul roman de piatră de la Câmpulung (Pescăreasa, jud. Argeș). Cercetările din anii 1978-1989. *Argesis*, 7, 17-30. Muzeul Județean Argeș.
- [15] Marsili, L. F. (1726): *Danubius Pannonico-Mysicus, Observationibus geographicis, astronomicis, hydrographicis, historicis, physicis perlustratus Et in sex Tomos digestus ab Aloysio Ferd. Com. Marsili Socio Regiarum Societatum Parisiensis, Londoniensis, Monspeliensis*. Hague / Amsterdam: P. Gosse, R. Chr. Alberts, P. de Hondt / Herm. Uytwerf & Franç. Changuion.
- [16] Măndescu, D. (2008): De la „Jidova” la „Jidava” și înapoi sau despre avaturile unui microtoponim arheologic. *Argesis*, 17, 53-68. Muzeul Județean Argeș.
- [17] Petolescu, C. C. (2010): *Inscripțiile latine din Dacia*. Bucharest: Editura Academiei Române.
- [18] Matei-Popescu, F. (2010): *The Roman Army in Moesia Inferior*. Bucharest: Conphys Publishing House.
- [19] Bădescu, M. (1981): Ștampile tegulare de la Voinești-Lerești, com. Lerești, jud. Argeș. *Studii și cercetări de istorie veche și arheologie*, 32 (2), 291-295. Institutul de Arheologie «Vasile Pârvan» București.
- [20] Bogdan Cătănicu, I. (1974): *Cercetări în castellum de la Rucăr*, *Studii și cercetări de istorie veche și arheologie*, 25 (2), 277-288. Institutul de Arheologie «Vasile Pârvan» București.
- [21] Direcția Județeană pentru Cultură și Patrimoniul Național Argeș (2011): *Catalogul monumentelor istorice din județul Argeș*. Pitești: Tiparg.