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DOCTORAL SCHOOL OF „HISTORY. CIVILIZATION. CULTURE”

ASPECTS OF THE RURAL ENVIRONMENT IN DACIA POROLISSENSIS

Summary

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CLUJ-NAPOCA
2025

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Summary

The first part of the work is called *Introduction to the study of rural areas*, where the geographical delimitation of the space referred to in the text is mentioned, as well as the objectives of the work. The thesis analyzes the rural area of Dacia Porolissensis, a Roman province located between the Mureş and Arieş rivers, with an emphasis on identifying and locating archaeological sites as precisely as possible. The study focuses on understanding the transformations that took place in this region, at the intersection of Roman and local influences, with the objective of systematizing existing information and filling in the gaps in the specialized bibliography. In this first part, I also mentioned the importance of studying rural settlements, defining the concept of "rural environment", as well as a brief presentation of the applied working methodology. The work was designed to serve as a starting point for anyone who wishes to study the rural area during Roman rule in Dacia Porolissensis. This is based on a complete repertoire of rural discoveries from the area delimited by the former Roman province.

The subject of the first chapter of the thesis refers to *The research history on the rural environment in Dacia Porolissensis*. It balances the importance of primary sources regarding agriculture, architecture and the organization of rural space with that of secondary sources, represented by the literature published starting from the end of the 19th century up to the present, with the aim of highlighting the evolution of ideas, concepts and research methods over time.

The second chapter is the most consistent, being represented by *The catalogue of discoveries from the rural environment of Dacia Porolissensis*, where I chose to include all the agro-pastoral nature discoveries. I structured this repertoire in the form of descriptive sheets, one for each site. The discoveries were divided into categories, namely rural settlements (the most numerous) and *villae rusticae* (the best researched). Thus, for each site we prepared a sheet mentioning the location, the toponym (where it exists), the RAN (National Archaeological Repertory) and LMI (List of Historical Monuments) codes, as well as general data about each site, such as the type of site (rural settlement or *villa rustica*), dating, landform, one or more nearby hydrographic landmarks, the state of conservation of the site, its estimated area, if it was researched (we mentioned the year of the archaeological research together with the responsible person), but also the bibliographic sources in which the site was mentioned (here we attempted an exhaustive treatment in order to understand the level of research that the respective site has reached). Then

we tried to achieve the most accurate geographical positioning (in DMS coordinate format – degrees, minutes, seconds) based on the correlation of information from several sources. Some sites were misplaced, both on the maps in the archaeological repertoires (especially that of Cluj County) and in the database of the National Archaeological Repertory. We then used the descriptions in the bibliography and identified the toponyms on older maps that were consulted online. Last but not least, I included a short site description for each case, along with information about the discovered materials (construction materials, archaeological artifacts, inscriptions, and coins). Additionally, where there was a known location, I provided a map that places the site within its spatial context, with rural settlements marked in red and *villae rusticae* in blue. Whenever possible, I also included excavation images showcasing the uncovered materials and artifacts, as well as field photographs from sites I was able to visit in person. In the cases where I observed several reported points in proximity, I chose to make a single site sheet, grouping all the discoveries as part of a single settlement. Such cases are observed, for example, at Aiton, Apahida or Pălatca.

In Chapter III, I included a series of ***Some observations based on the catalogue of discoveries***. In addition to numerical observations related to the records of rural settlements versus villas in the bibliography, I also observed how little research has been done on the rural area compared to large urban or military centers. The chapter continues with general information about these structures, with their divisions and classifications within the limits allowed by the stage of research for each, but also with a section on the location of the sites, where, after correlating information from different sources, I tried to achieve the most accurate location possible. The descriptions in the bibliography and a series of topographical sources formed the basis of this subchapter. At the end, I thought of a classification of the sites into categories based on the level of information available (where Category I includes sites that have been researched and where the rural character is undeniable, Category II includes sites that have not been researched but where a significant amount of archaeological material has been discovered, suggesting the existence of a settlement or a *villa rustica*, and Category III includes sites that have been reported and classified into one of the two categories of structures from the rural environment solely based on the ceramic material observed on terrain).

In Chapter IV I chose to discuss the ***The distribution of rural structures along the roads of Dacia Porolissensis***. A general map presents the overall picture of these discoveries in relation to the existing roads, and throughout the chapter I dealt with each segment of the Imperial road

and its ramifications, emphasizing the nearby discoveries, as well as the epigraphic discoveries that convey a wealth of information regarding the characters who carried out their activity in the rural environment two millennia ago. In addition to these roads mapped in the literature, I also traced two more possible routes based on the distribution of points observed on the general map, one in the Bistrița area, which could possibly start either from the Beclean area, towards Sânmihaiu de Câmpie and reach Brâncovenești, or from the area of the Chiraleș locality, towards the south, also towards Sânmihaiu de Câmpie, to finally arrive at the same place as the previous route. The other route could be in Cluj County, connecting the towns of Suatu and Viișoara.

At the end of the paper, some **Conclusions** were drawn regarding the study of the rural environment, both pleasant and unpleasant, highlighting the need to increase research in the rural environment in the future. Last but not least, the final parts of the thesis include the **List of Figures**, **Bibliographical Abbreviations**, **Ancient Sources**, **Online Sources** and **Bibliography**.

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