

8TH INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON THE ROMAN DANUBIAN PROVINCES

Cultural exchange across the Danubian provinces

Book of the abstracts

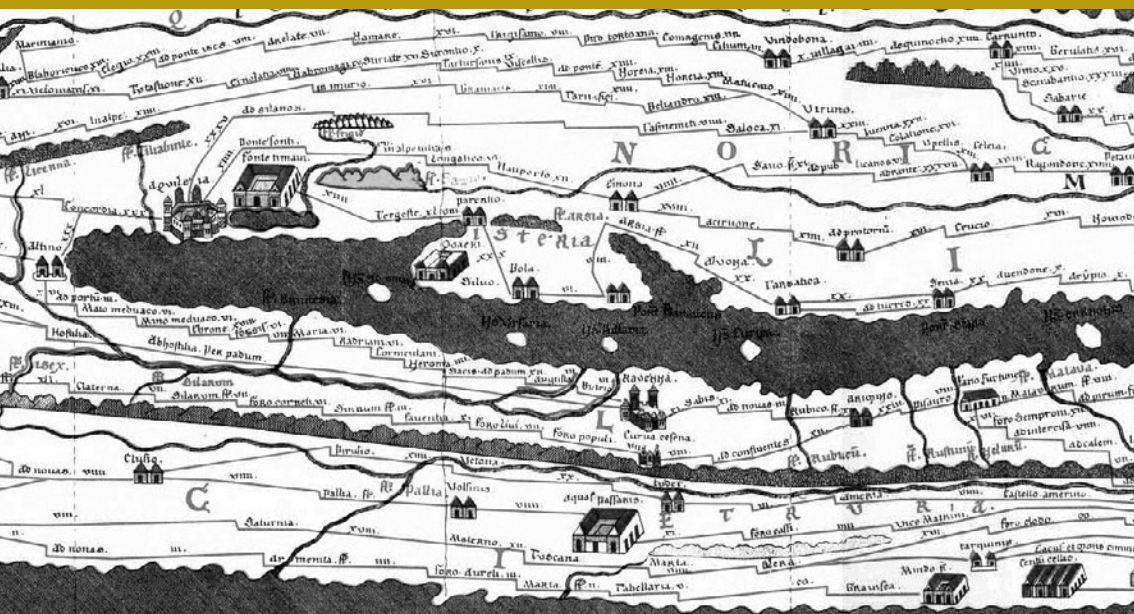
Udine/Aquileia, 12-17 October 2026

Venues:

Sala convegni, Fondazione Friuli, via Gemona 1, Udine

Museo Archeologico Nazionale, Piazza Duomo 13, Cividale

Sala Conferenze, Palazzo Brunner-Segrè, via Roma 20, Aquileia



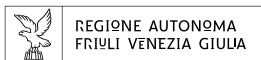


Laboratorio di studi e ricerche
sulle antiche province danubiane

In collaboration with
museo archeologico
nazionale Aquileia



With the support of



LECTURES

Cristina-Georgeta Alexandrescu
Institute of Archaeology
“Vasile Pârvan”, Bucharest
cgetalexandrescu@gmail.com

***Heros Equitans and his saddle:
iconographic considerations and the
interpretive value of minor details***

The figure of the Heros Equitans occupies a significant position in ancient visual culture and is most often interpreted through heroic posture, weaponry, and narrative action. This paper redirects attention to a frequently overlooked element of equestrian imagery: the saddle. Commonly dismissed as a minor or purely functional detail, the saddle functions instead as a dense visual marker with significant iconographic and cultural implications.

Through close visual analysis of selected reliefs and statues, the paper demonstrates how the presence or absence of the saddle, its structural complexity, contribute to the construction of heroic identity, pointing out temporality, status, and cultural affiliation, mediating between mythic heroism and historically grounded cavalry practice. In provincial and hybrid contexts, such details reveal processes of cultural transfer and localization that complicate standardized readings of the mounted hero. Methodologically, the paper foregrounds the analytical productivity of minor iconographic elements and advances a materially attentive, image-based approach to Heros Equitans imagery, including the so-called Thracian Rider. It concludes that subtle equipment details may also serve as diagnostic criteria for distinguishing between small- and medium-sized funerary and votive reliefs where inscriptions or secure archaeological contexts are lacking.

Marius-Tiberiu Alexianu
“Alexandru Ioan Cuza” University of Iași
alexianumarius@yahoo.com

***The cultural integration of pre-Roman
populations in Moesia Superior:
epigraphic evidence***

The incorporation of the Moesian territories into the Roman Empire generated, among many other phenomena, a gradual cultural integration at varying levels of intensity across various areas of the pre-Roman populations. Less intense in the province of Moesia and more pronounced in the provinces of Moesia Superior and Moesia Inferior, this phenomenon of cultural integration can be highlighted only through an epigraphic approach. To understand this phenomenon in depth, we must emphasize that it involves contact and, ultimately, confrontation between oral cultures and one written culture. Our approach aims to analyze the Illyrian, Thracian, and Celtic anthroponymy of Upper Moesia and to explore the complex mechanisms that explain this cultural integration.

Petya Andreeva
National Archaeological Institute
with Museum, Bulgarian Academy
of Sciences, Sofia
petya_letters@abv.bg

Miroslava Dotkova
National Archaeological Institute
with Museum, Bulgarian Academy
of Sciences, Sofia
md09@abv.bg

Anton Atanasov
National Archaeological Institute
with Museum, Bulgarian Academy
of Sciences, Sofia
anton_atanasov@gbg.bg

***Shared Space in a Frontier Fortress:
Archaeological Perspectives from the
Area of Porta Principalis Sinistra at
Novae (Moesia Inferior)***

This paper presents the results of long-term archaeological investigations conducted since 2014 in the western gate sector (*porta principalis sinistra*) of the Roman military fortress of Novae on the Lower Danube limes. The research focuses on the area enclosed by the gate, the *via principalis*, and the *via sagularis*, demonstrating that from the early Principate to Late Antiquity this zone functioned as a key shared space where movement, logistics, administrative activities, and social practices intersected. Central to the study is a building complex that underwent multiple construction phases and functional transformations. Initially used as a storehouse, it later functioned as *scholae* associated with the first cohort. During the Late Roman period, the area experienced intensive architectural reconfiguration, including the addition of a Late Roman building decorated with polychrome wall plasters. This annex significantly expanded the complex and introduced a different character and functional context. Excavations in 2024 revealed a hoard of over 1,000 coins within this building, whose decorative style closely parallels that of a richly decorated villa located immediately outside the western fortification wall. Analysis of spatial organization, architecture, and material culture suggests that the western gate sector of Novae constituted a permeable zone in which military, administrative, and civilian practices converged, illuminating processes of interaction, adaptation, and visual cultural transfer along the Lower Danube limes.

Rosalba Arcuri
Università degli Studi di Messina
rarcuri@unime.it

***La mobilità lungo l'alto corso del
Danubio: scambi di beni e mediazioni
culturali in età tardoantica***

Con il suo imponente corso il Danubio funzionò non solo come barriera naturale divisiva tra Roma e il *barbaricum*, ma anche e soprattutto come asse di collegamento tra l'Europa centrale e sud-orientale. Lo sviluppo lungo le sue sponde meridionali di una fitta rete di città, fortezze e porti fluviali favorì la circolazione di persone, merci e idee tra le province di Rezia, Norico, Pannonia, e, più ad est, le Mesie e la Tracia. Il grande fiume di confine contribuì a creare uno spazio culturale dinamico, in cui - veicolati dalla grande mobilità di soldati, mercanti, funzionari e artigiani - forme linguistiche, culti e modelli urbanistici di matrice romana e “mediterranea” si mescolarono con le tradizioni locali. In particolare, i contingenti militari, composti da uomini provenienti da regioni diverse, furono un efficace strumento di ibridazione culturale, accanto ai quali non vanno dimenticati i mercanti, attivi sul Danubio in ogni periodo della storia imperiale, di cui le fonti (*e.g.* Ammiano Marcellino nel tardo IV secolo) suggeriscono un ruolo di operatori di scambi, non solo di *species* e notizie, ma anche di forme culturali, usi sociali e credenze religiose. Tenendo in considerazione anche gli apporti allogeni nel complesso quadro delle società provinciali di frontiera, l'intervento tenderà di ricostruire alcune di queste dinamiche di scambio e il loro impatto sulla più ampia storia socio-culturale di province come il Norico e la Pannonia nei secoli IV e V d.C.

Adrian Ardeț

Scientific Researcher, Romanian Academy
ardetadrian8@gmail.com

Lucia Carmen Ardeț

“Traian Doda” National College,
Caransebeș
ardetcarmen@gmail.com,
ardetcarmen@yahoo.ro

Roman Dacia between East and West

Cultural exchange in the Roman Danubian provinces was a vibrant mix of military, commercial and population movement elements, blending Roman administration, Latin language and Greek culture with local traditions from Dacia, Thrace and Illyria, facilitated by the Limes frontier as an artery of communication, not just a barrier, introducing Roman architecture, law and goods, while local beliefs and crafts influenced Roman colonists, creating unique hybrid identities, observed in art, religion and daily life in provinces such as Pannonia, Moesia and Dacia.

Manifestations of cultural exchange:

- Syncretism in religion: Roman deities were worshipped alongside local gods, and religious practices mixed, creating unique provincial beliefs.
- Art and architecture: Roman building techniques, mosaics, and sculpture (such as Greek-inspired statues) appeared alongside local artistic styles in villas, public buildings, and tombs.
- Language and identity: Latin became the administrative language, but local languages persisted, while Roman citizenship and education fostered a Romanized elite, but provincial identities remained distinct and hybrid.
- Economic interdependence: Local populations provided food and crafts, while the Roman presence introduced new goods and economic structures, evidenced by the diverse pottery and

tools found.

This communication is based on archaeological discoveries made at Tibiscum (Caransebeș municipality, Caraș-Severin county) represented by Roman deities worshipped in the local environment, art and architecture, but also by the existence of craft workshops to which the colonists made a special contribution.

Radu Ardevan

“Babeș-Bolyai” University, Cluj-Napoca
rardevan@gmail.com

***Toponimia della Dacia romana.
Una ricerca in corso***

Da oltre 150 anni la ricerca storica segue la toponomastica della Dacia romana. Inizialmente le fonti disponibili erano poche, solo letterarie e cartografiche. Lo sviluppo dell'epigrafia ha consentito notevoli progressi nel XX secolo, e le nuove scoperte portano sempre nuovi chiarimenti.

Un elemento nuovo è stato recentemente apportato dalla collocazione più precisa dei siti individuati sulla mappa della provincia, unitamente al ricorso allo status giuridico dei vari insediamenti. Nei primi due decenni del XXI secolo tale mappa si è arricchita di alcuni nuovi toponimi. Tuttavia, la toponomastica della provincia rimane poco conosciuta rispetto a quella di altri territori romani sul Danubio.

Con questa relazione si intende presentare lo sviluppo dell'interpretazione delle fonti e l'evoluzione delle controversie scientifiche su questi temi. L'intensificazione degli scavi di salvataggio negli ultimi anni richiederà sicuramente alcune rivalutazioni.

Mariya Avramova

University of Warsaw
avramova.m@gmail.com

The Role of the Roman Military in the Development of Thermal Sites

The legions and the numerous military personnel stationed along the Roman limes played a pivotal role in facilitating cultural exchange throughout the Danubian provinces. Their presence significantly enriched the cultural fabric of the newly established provinces by introducing new elements and simultaneously influencing local traditions and practices. Mineral springs served as sacred sites for various Mediterranean religions. However, the thermal sites associated with these springs typically possessed limited local or, at most, regional significance and lacked substantial surrounding infrastructure. This situation often changed rapidly with the arrival of the Romans, as evidenced by an increase in votive offerings, which indicated a rise in visitor numbers, coupled with the construction of *thermae* in the Roman architectural style.

The paper examines the mechanisms underlying the development of thermal sites during the Roman period, providing evidence of the participation of soldiers in this transformative process through several case studies originating from the Danubian provinces.

Dávid Bartus

ELTE Eötvös Loránd University
bartus.david@btk.elte.hu

Exchanging Gods: Roman bronze figurines from Pannonia

The study of cultural encounters and interactions can be successfully approached through the perspectives of

religion and art. Research on the figural bronze sculpture of Pannonia has yielded numerous new results in recent years, particularly in the iconographic analysis of representations of individual deities. Special attention has been paid to the role of Greek large-scale sculptural prototypes, Roman copying practices, syncretism, and the preservation or integration of local traditions. This paper presents the most recent research questions and results concerning Pannonian bronze figurines, supplemented by data from recent archaeometric analyses.

Paul Victor Bayer

Landesmuseum für Kärnten/kaernten.museum
paul.bayer@kaernten.museum

Heimo Dolenz

Landesmuseum für Kärnten/kaernten.museum
heimo.dolenz@kaernten.museum

Die Transit- und Kontaktzone “Oberes Gailtal/Kärnten”

Der Beitrag bietet neue Einblicke in die römische Siedlungsgeschichte des oberen Gailtales. Sie wurden seit 2024 durch Forschungen der Abteilung Archäologie am Landesmuseum gewonnen und bilden derzeit den Forschungsschwerpunkt eines leader-Projektes.

Ausgehend von Luftbildanalysen und geophysikalischen Untersuchungen wurde in der Ortschaft Kirchbach ein römischer Apsisbau feldarchäologisch untersucht, für den auch eine Deutung als öffentliches Gebäude zu erwägen ist.

Weitere Fundstellen römischer Gutshöfe ließen sich naturwissenschaftlich detektieren, so dass sich ein neuer naturtopographisch basierter römischer Besiedlungsraster abzeichnet.

Die Untersuchungen der Heidenmauer zwischen Rattendorf und Jenig stellen ein spätantikes innerprovinziales, das obere Gailtal nach Osten sicherndes lineares Befestigungswerk dar, dass wohl im Zusammenhang mit der hochbedeutenden Nord-Süd-Alpentransversale an die Adria und deren Ausbau in valentinianischer Zeit zu sehen ist.

Lucrețiu Bîrlița

“Alexandru Ioan Cuza” University of Iași
blucretiu@yahoo.com

Colonization and economy in the rural milieu of Moesia Inferior. New data from Topolog (Tulcea county, Romania)

The epigraphic file of Topolog and *vicinia* is not rich, but the mention of C. Aufidius Helius, originary from Amurion, indicates a possible status of veteran. The archaeological surveys and researches reveal the existence of *villae rusticae*. My research focuses on mapping the archaeological finds, using the Archaeological National Repertoire of Romania and my own surveys I made recently. Using the epigraphic file in connection with the archaeological evidence, I shall follow the degree of colonization in this rural milieu, as well as the economic potential of the area, using archaeological mapping of the resources.

Ivan Bogdanović

Institute of Archaeology, Belgrade
leshicka@gmail.com

Fashion or function? The octagonal tower(s) of Late Roman Viminacium

Viminacium was one of the most important Roman military bases on the

Danube limes. It was established as a legionary fortress that primarily served as the home of Legio VII Claudia. Alongside the fortification, a civilian settlement developed and eventually became the capital of the provinces of Moesia Superior and later Moesia Prima. Recent archaeological excavations suggest that the legionary fortress was abandoned during the Late Roman period. This paper addresses the results of the latest investigations in the western annexe of the Viminacium settlement. Archaeological excavations, combined with non-destructive survey methods, indicate that this area was used to construct a new fortification on the right bank of the Mlava River in the first half of the 4th century. Particular attention is devoted to an octagonal tower situated along the western rampart. Monumental towers of this form are extremely rare in the region. To date, the closest parallels are known from fortified imperial palaces in eastern Serbia, dated to the Tetrarchic period. Besides presenting new data on the architectural remains, this study discusses the possible functional and symbolic reasons for the construction of such a tower at Viminacium and reconsiders the location of the legion in Late Antiquity.

Victor Bunoiu

Romanian Academy – Timișoara Branch
victor.bunoiu@gmail.com

Simona Regep

West University of Timișoara
simona.regep@e-uvt.ro

Considerations on Terra Sigillata Pottery Discovered at Praetorium (Mehadia, Caraș-Severin County, Romania)

The discoveries of terra sigillata pottery from the area of the castrum and civil settlement at Praetorium – Mehadia are

relatively few and extremely fragmented due to agricultural workcarried out over time in this area. Even if their number is modest, the study of these vessels with relief decoration is important for understanding the contribution that the settlement of Mehadia had in transit trade. As Mehadia was located on one of the main roads connecting the Danube with the interior of the Dacia province, the presence of these fragments of terra sigillata pottery belonging to centers that exported luxury goods, especially in the settlements bordering the Danube, is significant.

At Mehadia, products of craftsmen from the centers of Rheinabern (belonging to the circle of CERIALIS, COMITIALIS I AND VERECVNDVS I) and Westendorf (belonging to the circle of COMITIALIS-EROTVS AND COMITIALIS-DECIMINVS, VERENIVS) were identified. The products of these workshops arrived in the settlement of Mehadia sometime towards the end of the 2nd century and the first half of the 3rd century as goods serving the population here.

Camilla Campedelli

Berlin- Brandenburgische Akademie der Wissenschaften, *Corpus Inscriptionum Latinarum*
camilla.campedelli@bbaw.de

Il ruolo dei legati Augusti pro praetore e delle città nella gestione della viabilità danubiana: interazioni istituzionali e dinamiche di potere

L'espansione del dominio romano comportò l'instaurarsi di rapporti politici e culturali di reciproca influenza con le popolazioni sottomesse. Sul piano amministrativo, se da un lato Roma impose proprie infrastrutture e propri

funzionari, dall'altro riconobbe alle città, in Italia e nelle province, significativi margini di autonomia.

In tale quadro non faceva eccezione l'amministrazione delle grandi arterie stradali lungo l'asse strategico del corridoio danubiano, il cui funzionamento si fondava sulla collaborazione tra i governatori, i rappresentanti dell'autorità imperiale e le comunità civiche. È questa interazione a costituire l'oggetto del presente contributo, che intende mostrare come le strade non fossero soltanto infrastrutture indispensabili alla mobilità e al controllo del territorio, ma anche strumenti di autorappresentazione del potere e di integrazione amministrativa. Partecipando attivamente all'organizzazione dello spazio pubblico, le città negoziavano con l'autorità imperiale e contribuivano alla diffusione di modelli amministrativi condivisi.

Le principali fonti per questo tipo di indagine sono i miliari, che nelle province considerate riportano, oltre al nome dell'imperatore, quello del governatore in carica e quello delle città responsabili del rifacimento di specifici tratti stradali. L'analisi di tali documenti è stata recentemente agevolata dalla pubblicazione dei volumi tematici del *CIL XVII* dedicati a *Raetia* e *Noricum* (2005) e alla *Pannonia* (2025), nonché dai lavori in corso per il volume relativo a *Moesia* e *Thracia*.

Renata Ciolek

Department of Classical Archaeology,
Faculty of Archaeology, Warsaw
University
renataciolek@uw.edu.pl

Cultural Exchange and Local Identities in the Provincial Coinage of Moesia Inferior and Thrace (up to the Mid-Third Century AD)

Provincial coinage in the Danubian provinces up to the mid third century AD is an important source for studying cultural exchange and the ways in which local identities were expressed within the Roman Empire. In contrast to imperial coinage controlled by the centre, provincial issues were produced in urban mints and addressed mainly local communities. This made it possible to incorporate regional traditions, religious practices and civic symbolism into the visual language of the coin. The paper discusses selected iconographic types from the Danubian provinces, with particular attention given to Moesia Inferior and Thrace. It focuses on the interaction between imperial models and local cultural traditions visible in coin imagery. Local deities, river gods, personifications and civic symbols were integrated into designs that conveyed loyalty to Rome while at the same time emphasising local self representation. These images were not the result of mechanical copying, but of conscious choices and adaptations made at the local level. An analysis of recurring motifs, regional preferences and changes in iconographic choices during the second century and the first half of the third century AD shows that provincial coinage played an active role in cultural communication. Coins functioned as a visual medium through which local communities expressed their identity while remaining part of a shared imperial symbolic world.

Roxana-Gabriela Curcă

“Alexandru Ioan Cuza” Univesity of Iași
roxanagabriela@yahoo.com

Exploring dimensions of bilingualism in Moesia Superior: cultural interactions

As regards the Moesian territories, the number of bilingual inscriptions in Moesia Superior is much reduced

compared to those in Moesia Inferior. Still, they are highly significant for illustrating the phenomenon of bilingualism in the Roman Empire. In my paper, I aim to analyze these bilingual inscriptions, focusing on several aspects: the degree of similarity between the Latin and Greek texts, the presence of code-switching (tag-switching), the ethnicity, the socio-cultural background of the individuals mentioned in the bilingual text, their legal, socio-professional status, and their connections with other provinces, mixed onomastic formulae, as well as other phenomena related to Greek-Latin and Latin-Greek bilingualism.

Nicoleta Demian

National Museum of Banat, Timișoara
nicoledemian@gmail.com

Observations on the presence of late Roman coins from Aquileia in coin finds in Banat (SW of Romania and NE of Serbia)

The paper presents Roman coins from the 4th century AD minted in Aquileia and found in Banat, a region that represented the southwestern part of the former Roman province of Dacia. Currently, in this geographical area, which includes the southwestern part of Romania and the northeastern part of Serbia, there are 17 known late Roman hoards containing bronze coins minted in Aquileia (approx. 300 pieces), most of them coming from the Danube area (Gornea, Radimna, Măcești, Moldova Veche, Moldova Nouă, Dierna-Orșova, Vračev Gaj). Bronze coins from Aquileia also appear in the hoards from Răcășdia and *Tibiscum*-Jupa. From isolated finds, 17 coins (mostly bronze) are known from 9 localities, most of which are located on the Danube line. The only gold

coin minted in Aquileia known to have been found in Banat was discovered at the end of the 19th century in Vrșac. Where sufficient information about Aquileia coins is available, the issuers and monetary types are also presented. At the same time, comparisons are made with hoards discovered in neighboring areas (Serbia, Hungary, Transylvania). It is confirmed that the supply of coins to a region was made from the nearest mints; in the case of Banat, coins from Aquileia were present in a small percentage.

Zdravko Dimitrov

National Archaeological Institute with Museum, Bulgarian Academy of Sciences, Sofia
zdravkodimitrov@abv.bg,
zdravkodimitrov74@gmail.com

The Danubian Provinces Architecture – Tuscan Order as a Clear Example of Cultural Exchange in Military Centers

The architectural solutions that emerged in the Danubian provinces of the Roman Empire are a clear product of serious cultural contacts and interactions. In the military camps founded by the Romans along the river from Noricum, Raetia and Upper Pannonia and all the way to Lower Moesia, the principle of “importing” order solutions and the construction of main buildings in certain styles clearly prevailed. This is the case with the Tuscan order, which definitely goes with the legions of the Roman Empire. Such examples are the architectural solutions from Carnuntum, Brigetio, and Aquincum to Novae, Durostorum, Noviodunum, etc. Tuscan order was imposed by the colonizers in the borders of Pannonia and Moesia – right up to the mouth of the river. Romans import the architectural models of so-called “military

architecture” in most of the centers of Danubian lands, where order systems are previously unknown. Although the versions of Ionic and Corinthian styles exist, the Tuscan order, built by the Romans, giving us the clearest idea of the cultural exchange in the field of architectural models from the entire Danube Limes area.

Diana Dobрева

University of Verona
dianasergeeva.dobрева@univr.it

Kalin Chakarov

Regional Museum of History - Veliko Tarnovo
chakarovkalin@gmail.com

A Monumental Fountain at Nicopolis ad Istrum? New Evidence from the 2024–2025 Excavations South-West of the Forum

Since 2024, the Regional Museum of History - Veliko Tarnovo (Bulgaria), in collaboration with the University of Verona (Italy), has been conducting archaeological excavations at *Nicopolis ad Istrum* (today Nikyup, region of Veliko Tarnovo). The investigations are conducted under ministerial concession and with the official designation of the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation. The investigations focus on an *insula* located south-west of the *forum* complex, in a previously unexplored sector of the city bounded by *Decumanus* no. 8 to the south, *Cardo* no. 5 to the west, and *Decumanus* no. 7 to the north (the *decumanus maximus*). The first two excavation seasons have revealed the remains of a large public building directly facing *Cardo* no. 5 and the *agora* complex. Although the

monument was heavily affected by spoliation in the late eighteenth century, its foundations are well preserved. Excavation has brought to light eight vaulted chambers constructed with stone blocks and bricks bonded with mortar and embedded in a substantial foundation layer of mortar and pebbles. The interiors of these chambers display clear traces of water infiltration, including calcareous deposits on the walls and a 2–3 cm-thick limestone layer on the floor surfaces. The building's plan is characterized by two lateral wings flanking a central apse, likely originally covered by a semi-dome. Numerous architectural fragments – architraves, cornices, and column bases – suggest a richly articulated decorative programme and a monumentally conceived elevation. Based on its plan, construction techniques, and prominent urban position, the structure may tentatively be interpreted as a monumental fountain (*nymphaeum*), comparable to similar water monuments known from cities of the Roman East.

Miroslava Dotkova

National Archaeological Institute with Museum, Bulgarian Academy of Sciences, Sofia
md09@abv.bg

Monetary Circulation (1st–6th Century AD) in the Western Gate Area at Novae and the Dynamics of Cultural and Economic Contacts

The paper examines the coin assemblage from the western gate area at Novae as a key source for understanding economic dynamics, military supply systems, and cultural interactions between the local population, the Roman army, and the wider Danubian limes. The spatial context of the western gate, functioning

as a point of movement and exchange, provides valuable evidence for patterns of circulation and contact within and beyond the fortress.

The chronological span from the 1st to the 6th century AD allows for the identification of long-term changes in the intensity, structure, and orientation of monetary circulation, particularly in relation to the transformations of Late Antiquity. Special attention is paid to fluctuations in coin supply, the presence of imperial issues linked to military pay and logistics, and the implications of regional and supra-regional coinage for trade and communication networks. Through the analysis of coin types, mints, and chronological distribution, the study highlights shift in economic connectivity and cultural interaction along the Lower Danube frontier. The numismatic evidence from the western gate area thus contributes to a more nuanced understanding of Novae's role within the economic and cultural landscape of the Roman and Late Roman Danubian provinces.

Michał Duch

Adam Mickiewicz University, Poznań
micduc@amu.edu.pl

Stamped Building Ceramics from Novae: New Insights from Sectors IV and XII

Archaeological research conducted at Novae (Lower Moesia) over several decades has substantially expanded the corpus of evidence for stamped building ceramics. Excavations in Sector IV were completed in 2010, while systematic investigations in Sector XII began in 2011 and have continued to the present. This long-term fieldwork has yielded new material, including numerous previously

undocumented stamped building ceramics.

The accumulation of new finds and stratigraphic data makes it timely to revisit and supplement earlier interpretations. The present paper provides an updated overview of stamped building ceramics from Novae, based on material from Sectors IV and XII, and reassesses their chronological and contextual significance. By integrating legacy data with newly acquired evidence, this study contributes to a more comprehensive understanding of building ceramic production and use at the site. By situating the evidence from Novae in a broader Danubian context, the study highlights patterns of production, distribution, and cultural exchange across the Danubian provinces.

Kristina Džin

Institute of Social Sciences Ivo Pilar, Zagreb
kdzin@unin.hr

Vesna Lalošević

Institute of Social Sciences Ivo Pilar, Zagreb
vesnalalosevic@yahoo.com

Marko Dzin

Institute of Social Sciences Ivo Pilar, Zagreb
marko.dzin18@gmail.com

La Pannonia Secunda nello scambio viticolo durante il periodo antico

Nell'antichità, lo scambio di culture e buone pratiche era comune. È attestato da fonti scritte che, al tempo dell'imperatore Probo, vaste aree della Pannonia erano coltivate a vite. Un ruolo importante in questo fu svolto dagli abitanti della Gallia, ai quali l'imperatore permise di possedere e coltivare vigneti nelle province danubiane, grazie al

clima simile. Nelle fonti scritte dell'antichità si sono conservate informazioni sul metodo gallico di coltivazione della vite e sulle sue peculiarità. La coltivazione della vite nell'antichità è un argomento importante nelle opere scientifiche, ma l'influenza dei Galli in Pannonia non ha ricevuto sufficiente attenzione nella letteratura scientifica pertinente.

Basandosi su documenti provenienti da una fonte epigrafica della regione della Pannonia Secunda risalente al IV secolo, in combinazione con altre fonti scritte e letteratura recente, nonché con i più recenti risultati biotecnologici, questo saggio prenderà in considerazione lo scambio culturale nella coltivazione della vite e dei vigneti che ebbe luogo tra l'area Gallica e il Limes Danubiano in quel periodo, nonché la sua continuità durante il Medioevo. Questo lavoro fornirà un nuovo contributo allo studio interdisciplinare dei contatti tra l'Occidente e il Limes Danubiano in epoca antica.

Tomasz Dziurdzik

Collection of Ancient Art, National Museum in Warsaw
tdziurdzik@mnw.art.pl

Chiara Cenati

University of Vienna
chiara.cenati@univie.ac.at

Adrianna Gizińska

University of Warsaw
ak.gizinska@uw.edu.pl

From the Danube to Warsaw, via Rome: two tombstones of equites singulares Augusti in the National Museum in Warsaw

A new corpus of Latin inscriptions in the National Museum in Warsaw is currently being prepared. The project explores not

only texts, but also the materiality and collection histories of monuments. In this paper we analyse two tombstones of *equites singulares Augusti*, whose post-antique biographies illustrate how Roman inscriptions were used to construct notions of *Romanitas* in northern Europe (grant 2025/57/N/HS3/03076 of the National Science Centre, Poland). One tombstone, brought from Italy for a Polish aristocrat's lapidarium, was later confiscated by Russian authorities and lost for decades. The other, probably from the Lateran necropolis, served as a teaching aid in a provincial German school. The 20th century brought them together in a "central collection of antiquities" in Warsaw, which aimed to underline Polish ties with the classical tradition. The epitaphs commemorate horsemen probably from the Danubian provinces, whose inscriptions reflect the complex cultural identities of members of a close-knit, yet diverse elite group. However, the acquisition of those tombstones for northern European collections depended less on their individual biographies than on their mode of communication: the use of Latin and a common visual language. Thus, men once foreigners in Rome, were perceived, centuries later, as textbook Romans.

Dénes Gabler
Independent Researcher
denes.gabler@freemail.hu

Die früheste Besatzung des mittleren Donaubebietes

In der Wasserstadt (Viziváros) von Aquincum (Budapest II. Bez.) hätten im Gegensatz zu den älteren Vermutungen nicht ein Lager, sondern zwei, vielleicht drei Kastelle im 1.

Jh. n.Chr. angelegt werden können. An den auf dem Bem Platz von A. Nagy 2021-2022 durchgeführten Ausgrabungen kamen mehr als ein Dutzend augusteisch-tiberischen Sigillaten (unter ihnen mehrere Exemplare mit Namenstempeln) ans Tageslicht. Aus ihrer chronologischen Analyse ergab es sich, dass das erste Lager nicht um 50 b.Chr., sondern zur Zeit der Mission von Drusus, vielleicht während der Landnahme der Jazygen, zwischen 17 und 20 n.Chr. mit einigen anderen Militäranlagen an der Donau (Carnuntum, Arrabona) errichtet wurde. Auf dem Bem Platz gehört das zweite Lager schon zu den claudischen Kastellen; das beweisen die in grösserer Menge gefundenen tiberisch-claudische Sigillaten. Das früher von K.Kérdő lokalisierte, von den obigen etwas südlicher freigelegte dritte Lager hätte ein neu nach Aquincum kommandierte Reitertruppe zwischen 68 und 89 n.Chr. errichten können.

Cristian Gazdac
University of Oxford
cgazdac2000@yahoo.co.uk

Beyond Payment: Coin Hoards and the Cultural Economy of the Danubian Frontier

Based on a huge database (over 15000 hoards and 7.5 million coins) – the Oxford University Project: Coin Hoards of the Roman Empire –, this paper moves beyond transactional readings to consider hoards as active participants in the **cultural economy** of Rome's Danube frontier. By analyzing hoard composition, deposition patterns, and regional distribution across provinces including Pannonia, Moesia, Dacia, and Noricum, the study demonstrates that

hoards reflect not only monetary behavior but also networks of mobility, identity negotiation, and cross-cultural contact. The paper argues that coin hoarding operated as a medium of **cultural exchange**, where currency functioned simultaneously as payment, prestige object, votive proxy, and marker of social affiliation. The presence of non-local issues, imitations, mixed metal assemblages, and selective retention of older or foreign coin types suggests deliberate engagement with coins as culturally charged objects rather than purely fiscal instruments. Hoards are further contextualized alongside frontier phenomena such as veteran settlement, market integration, and diplomatic exchange beyond the empire, revealing patterns of connectivity that challenge models of strictly centralized monetary flow. By reframing hoards as **repositories of cultural choice**, this paper highlights their role in provincial interactions along and across the Danube, offering new insights into how monetary practices intersected with cultural transmission, local agency, and frontier social dynamics.

Petra Grizelj
Archeological Museum
Osijek pgrizelj@amo.hr

Slavica Filipović
Independent Researcher
sfilipovic999@gmail.com

Western suburbium of roman Mursa: challenges and interpretation

Aelia Mursa (today Osijek, Croatia) was one of the last Roman cities to gain colonial status. Its importance, acquired before the end of the first half of the 2nd century, stemmed

from the strategic location of the site developed besides the Drava River, i.e. at the most convenient crossing point over the easternmost section of the aforementioned water course and the surrounding marshes. The main challenge of archaeological research in *Mursa* lies in the fact that this area is densely urbanized and actively inhabited even today. Therefore, surveys which were conducted in Osijek in the last twenty years or so have mainly been consisted of rescue excavations and related to the construction of modern-day University *campus*. Mostly, they were focused on the western *suburbium* of the ancient city. In addition, several systematic excavations have been carried out at the site, revealing the main *cardo* of the Roman colony. The aim of this paper is to present an overview and preliminary interpretation of the rescue excavations of the western *suburbium* of the Roman colony of *Aelia Mursa*, to consider its role in the wider urban context, and also to discuss the most recent survey results and theses.

Ana Cristina Hamat
Museum of National History and
Archaeology, Constanța
anahamat@yahoo.com

Ștefan Georgescu
Museum of National History and
Archaeology, Constanța
viorel.stefan.g@gmail.com

Cristina-Georgeta Alexandrescu
Romanian Academy "Vasile Pârvan"
Institute of Archaeology Bucharest
cgetalexandrescu@gmail.com

Aurel Mototolea
Museum of National History and
Archaeology, Constanța

***In the shadow of the big city. Castelu
(Constanța county, Romania)
excavation from 2024***

The intend lecture will discuss the preventive archaeological research carried out in 2024 on the territory of Castelu locality in Constanța county (Romania), for the implementation of a large infrastructure project.

The area of Castelu village is known in the specialized literature through many archaeological discoveries, chronologically framed from prehistory to the classical era, along with the early Middle Ages. The current locality and implicitly the ancient sites on its territory are located on the road that comes from Tomis (Constanța) to Axiopolis (Cernavodă) and implicitly, this is the most direct route between the Danube and the Black Sea coast, used from Antiquity to the present day.

The preventive archaeological research consisted of researching 4800 square meters, and on this occasion a number of 39 archaeological complexes were researched and recorded, with archaeological materials mainly dated to the Roman era (2nd-3rd centuries AD) and the Romano-Byzantine era (6th century AD), but also complexes dated to the Bronze Age, as well as a tomb with Scythian material. The 20 tombs (cremation and inhumation) researched here are dated to the Roman era, and they are part of a tumular necropolis belonging to a settlement located in the vicinity of the research. The tombs had a rich inventory, consisting of ceramic and glass vessels, the usual coin as an obol for Charon and occasional objects for adornment, in only one case these being made of gold. Among the most important pieces discovered here is a votive relief with the Thracian Knight and a bronze ring with the representation of dextrarum iunctio.

Markus Handy

Institut für Antike, Universität Graz
markus.handy@uni-graz.at

***Deus Aquileiae oder Deus Noricus? Zur
Verehrung des Belenus***

Ausgehend von zwei Textstellen in den Schriften des frühchristlichen Autors Tertullian, die in der altertumswissenschaftlichen Forschung durchaus kontrovers besprochen werden, steht die Bedeutung des Belenus-Kultes im Zentrum des Beitrages: Tertullian bezeugt dabei die Verehrung dieses Gottes in der römischen Provinz Noricum und scheint dabei von einer durchaus prominenten Position dieses Gottes in der Götterwelt der Austria Romana auszugehen. Die wenigen erhaltenen Weiheinschriften bestätigen diese beiden literarischen Zeugnisse allerdings nicht, während hingegen die beträchtliche Menge an Belenus-Denkmalen in Oberitalien durchaus auffällt. Hier ist also nach dem Ausgangsort des Kultes zu fragen. In beiden Regionen wurde jedenfalls in der Prinzipatszeit der Gott im Rahmen einer römischen Kultpraxis verehrt und wurde damals vermutlich nicht als keltischer Stammesgott gedeutet, zumal dessen Quellenbelege kaum in die vorrömische Zeit zurückreichen. Die Zeugnisse seiner Verehrung, wie die Aufstellung von Statuen und Weihealtären, gelten nämlich als typisch römische Formen antiker Kultpraxis.

Ștefan Honcu

Institute of Archaeology Iasi, Romanian
Academy – Iași Branch
stefanhoncu@yahoo.com

Gabriel Mircea Talmatchi

Museum of National History and
Archaeology Constanța
gtalmatchi@yahoo.com

Irina Sodoleanu

Museum of National History and
Archaeology Constanța
irina.sodoleanu@gmail.com

***Late Roman Pottery from Histria
(Metaxa–Constanța Sector):
Chronological and Historical
Perspectives***

The ceramic assemblage from the Metaxa–Constanța sector at Histria can be divided into two main chronological phases: the 6th century AD and the first three decades of the 7th century AD.

The material has been classified into several functional categories, including tableware, cooking ware, drinking vessels, lighting devices, and transport amphorae used for olive oil, wine, and fish products. Overall, the ceramics recovered from this sector align closely with the broader pattern of Histria's commercial networks and, more generally, with the economic framework of the province of Scythia Minor.

From a historical and archaeological perspective, the assemblage provides valuable evidence for the chronology of the sector and, in particular, for the final phase of occupation within the fortress. The latest occupation level identified in the Metaxa – Constanța sector yielded both hand-made pottery –characterized by coarse fabrics and simple profiles – and fragments of a plates belonging to Hayes 109 type. The presence of hand-made vessels points to a shift toward small-scale, local production during the terminal phase of habitation. The Hayes 109 plate, widely dated to the early decades of the 7th century AD, serves as a key chronological marker for this horizon.

This association demonstrates that occupation in the area continued into the first half of the 7th century, a period of profound transformations in the

urban and economic life of the city. The coexistence of imported fine wares from Mediterranean trade routes and locally produced ceramics reflects both the persistence of long-distance commercial links and the adaptive strategies of local communities in response to changing political and economic conditions in Scythia Minor. Overall, the assemblage offers important insights into domestic practices and commercial exchanges in the urban context of the province during the early 7th century.

Maja Janežič

Institute for the Protection of Cultural
Heritage of Slovenia, Centre for
Preventive Archaeology
maja.janezic@zvkd.si

***Pottery material from a Roman
military camp at the Obrežje site
(Slovenia)***

Between 2001 and 2004 a Roman military camp was excavated along the river Sava near Obrežje on the road leading from Italy via Emona and on to Siscia, a strategically very important position, situated on today's border to Croatia at Bregana.

Archaeological investigations revealed a nearly 7-hectare camp (approx. 323 × 215 m) with a well-preserved double ditch on three sides and a single ditch on one side.

The establishment of the camp is most probably linked to two military actions: the end of the occupation of Pannonia in 14-8 BC and the Pannonian-Dalmatian insurrection in 6-9 AD.

Nearly half of all artefacts from the camp are ceramic. Terra sigillata is rare, most examples being cups of the Sarius form. Thin-walled pottery is far more common. Amphorae are also rare. Two-handled jugs

probably served as transport containers, likely imported from central or southern Italy. Bowls, tripods, and lids are rare. Most numerous are cooking pots, though many likely functioned as storage or transport vessels rather than for cooking.

Gordana Jeremić

Institute of Archaeology, Belgrade
gjeremic@ai.ac.rs, jeremic.g@gmail.com

Milica Tapavički-Ilić

Institute of Archaeology, Belgrade
m.ilic@ai.ac.rs, mtapavic@gmail.com

Hercules' sanctuary at Campsa

In the late 1960s and early 1970s, during the construction of the Đerdap hydro-power plant in the Iron Gates region, a large-scale rescue excavation was carried out. Many Roman settlements, forts and other structures of the Roman limes on the Danube were excavated. After the Đerdap lake was formed, they remained sunken. One of the sites that shared this fate was *Campsă*. The late Roman fortification (late 3rd – end of the 6th century) revealed remarkable architectural traces and numerous interesting small finds. The research also identified remains from the end of the 1st to the second half of the 3rd century.

A sanctuary dedicated to Hercules certainly belongs to the most interesting discoveries at *Campsă*, dating to the period of the Severan dynasty. In the northern part of the excavated late Roman fort, several finds indicating the existence of a sanctuary were unearthed, including a stone altar, an oil-lamp with the image of Hercules fighting the Nemean lion and a pottery sherd depicting Hercules with a lion's skin over his shoulder and holding a club. The figural decoration on the sherd is

performed in the typical manner of the Roman provincial art, executed in the manner of the so-called snake-vessels.

Marija Jović

Institute of Archaeology, National institute for the Republic of Serbia
marija_zlata@yahoo.com

Igor Bjelic

Institute of Archaeology, National institute for the Republic of Serbia
igor_bjelic@yahoo.com

Bojana Iljić

Homeland Museum of Knjaževac
bobailijic@gmail.com

Functional and Spatial Transformation of the Main Command Building in the Fort of Timacum Minus

Within the Archaeological Research of site Timacum Minus near Knjaževac (Serbia), systematic excavations were conducted in the central administrative and command building (principia) in order to clarify the phases of its construction, transformation, and reuse over several centuries of the fort's existence. The younger building, by its architectural characteristics was most likely erected during the reign of Constantine and his sons. It was certainly constructed on the foundations of an earlier principia. During Late Antiquity, a significant functional change occurred: by the end of the fourth century, due to barbarian devastation and the withdrawal of the population within the fortifications, the principia lost its administrative role and was converted into an economic facility. Excavations identified damage caused by the attack of Uldis' Huns in 409, after which the western part of the building was restored

and transformed into a ground-level food storage facility. The discovery of large quantities of carbonized grain, the arrangement of massive ceramic pithoi, as well as the walls and flooring of a later annex, confirm its function as a horreum. In the immediate vicinity, additional storage buildings and workshops were established, remaining in use until the final destruction of the fortification during Attila's attack in 441/443.

Mladen Jovičić

Institute of Archaeology, Belgrade
mladen_jovicic@yahoo.com

Craft, Trade, and Agriculture in the Provincial Capital and Its Surroundings: Iron, Bronze, and Stone Tools from Viminacium (Moesia Superior) as Evidence of Economic Activity

Emerging alongside the military camp of Legio VII Claudia, the civilian settlement at Viminacium gradually evolved into the provincial capital, attaining the rank of municipium and later colonia, while steadily expanding its population. This urban growth fostered a diverse range of crafts. The intensification of construction required skilled masons, carpenters, joiners, stonemasons, sculptors, as well as trained surveyors and architects. Metalworking flourished, encompassing foundry, blacksmithing, and goldsmithing, and produced both utilitarian objects and luxury items. Trade, the lifeblood of the economy, held a central role in daily life and relied on an established system of measures. Situated in the fertile Stig plain along the lower course of the Mlava River, Viminacium also benefited from favorable climatic conditions for agriculture. From the 2nd century onward, villae rusticae

and rural settlements appeared in its hinterland, cultivating grain as the primary crop, alongside other agricultural products and livestock breeding. These economic activities are indirectly reflected in the numerous iron, bronze, and stone tools uncovered during excavations. This paper presents a comprehensive analysis of these finds, situating them within the broader framework of economic practices, production trends, and local manufacture between the 2nd and 4th centuries.

Lajos Juhász

Römisch-Germanische Kommission
lajos.juhasz@dainst.de

Production of coins east of Pannonia: beyond gold and silver

In recent years, numismatic research has increasingly focused on the production of forgeries and imitations of official Roman coinage, both within the Empire and beyond its borders. These objects were produced at different times, in a variety of materials, and with markedly uneven geographical distribution. From a modern perspective, such non-official coinage is often viewed as inherently illicit; yet the sheer volume of surviving examples suggests that their production and circulation were, at least to some extent, tolerated.

It might therefore seem obvious that populations beyond the imperial frontiers – lacking a regular supply of official Roman issues – would have relied more heavily on the imitation of coinage. However, the archaeological evidence presents a more complex picture. In particular, new finds from the regions east of the Pannonian frontier reveal a differentiated and locally specific approach to coin imitation. Notably, this area

represents the only region within the Barbaricum where copper imitations played a significant role alongside silver issues, challenging established assumptions about the nature and function of non-official coinage beyond the Roman world.

Elena Klenina

Adam Mickiewicz University, Poznań
olekle@amu.edu.pl

Distribution Networks in the Lower Danube Region: The Evolution of Late Roman Military Supply and Storage in a Regional Perspective

This paper provides a comprehensive overview of the results of recent interdisciplinary research on the Lower Danube region, with a focus on the supply systems of Late Roman frontier troops and their evolution during Late Antiquity. Particular attention is given to changes in the organisation and delivery of the annona militaris, including shifts in supply routes and the geographical origins of provisions. The study also examines the location, architectural form, and volumetric characteristics of storage facilities associated with military supply, offering new insights into their function and logistical role.

A key case study is the Roman legionary camp and Early Byzantine city of Novae (Moesia Inferior / Moesia Secunda), one of the most important and best-researched military centres on the Lower Danube frontier. Excavations within Polish–Bulgarian research projects revealed a monumental armamentarium in the fortress's central zone, later replaced in the 4th century AD by a horreum after the arsenal's destruction. This architectural transformation coincides with an intensified building activity, likely linked to the reigns of Constantius II, Valens

and Valentinian. Comparable horrea of similar design appear at Capidava, Histria, and Serdica, suggesting a broader regional pattern. Architectural features indicate that these buildings were used primarily for storing goods transported in amphorae, reflecting new logistical requirements and functions of Late Roman military installations along the Danube frontier.

Scheila Koch

University of São Paulo
scheilaasclepio@gmail.com

The Paradox of Asclepius

The cult of Asclepius/Esculapius, during the Roman period, is very peculiar, since signs of it can be seen throughout the Empire, especially because many times it was spread by the legions, although identifying the god's temples and sanctuaries is not as easy as one might expect. That's exactly the case of the allegedly sanctuary at Apulum, where the Legion XIII Gemina was stationed. There, more than twenty inscriptions relating to the god were found, yet the exact place of the allegedly sanctuary remains unconfirmed. We will discuss the difficulty in identifying such temples and sanctuaries not only in the case of Apulum but also throughout the Roman Empire.

Ana Kovačič

Independent researcher; Skupina Stik
radohova@gmail.com

Castra ad Fluvium Frigidum within Late Roman Fortification Networks

Based on recent archaeological excavations, this paper examines the Late Roman site of Castra (Castra ad Fluvium Frigidum)

within the broader patterns of connectivity between northern Italy and the Danubian regions in Late Antiquity. Although located in Italy, Castra occupied a key position on communication routes linking the Adriatic hinterland with the south-eastern Alpine corridors and the inland provinces.

The paper analyses Castra in terms of its architectural development and functional role. The Late Roman fortress was not constructed on the site of an earlier legionary camp, but developed from a pre-existing road station (mansio), which sets it apart from many fortified sites along the imperial frontiers. At the same time, the construction phases, defensive layout, and spatial organisation of Castra correspond with broader Late Roman concepts of fortification and infrastructure. Similar approaches are evident at fortified sites along the Danubian frontier dating from the late third to the fifth century. By situating Castra in this wider context, the paper explores how architectural ideas and strategic solutions circulated across different regions of the Empire. Castra is thus understood not as an isolated Italian site, but as part of a wider Late Roman landscape shaped by mobility, communication, and the control of movement.

Renate Lafer

Institut für Geschichte, Abteilung für Alte Geschichte, Altertumskunde und Archäologie, Universität Klagenfurt
renate.lafer@aau.at

Aspekte des Kaiserkultes und der Kaiserverehrung in Noricum und Pannonia Superior

Auch in den westlichen Provinzen des Reiches stellt die kultische Verehrung der Kaiser und ihrer *domus* ein vielschichtiges,

wenngleich nicht derart ausgeprägtes Phänomen wie im östlichen Reichsteil dar. Als verbindendes Element zwischen römischer und einheimisch-lokalen Kulturtraditionen ist sie insbesondere in Hinblick auf ihre integrative Funktion von besonderer Relevanz und somit in kultureller, historischer wie auch sozial- und religionsgeschichtlicher Perspektive von Bedeutung. Während Praktiken der Kaiserverehrung vor allem in den östlichen Provinzen auf mehreren Ebenen fassbar werden, sind es im Westen vorzugsweise jene im munizipalen Umfeld mit Nennung der dafür zuständigen Kaiserpriester sowie inschriftlich dokumentierte Verehrungspraktiken im privaten Bereich. Darüber hinaus scheinen mitunter auch vereinzelt Vereine (*collegia*) unter anderem mittels Feierlichkeiten und Zeremonien zu Ehren von Kaisern und des Kaiserhauses zur Verbreitung des Kaiserkultes in den Provinzen beigetragen zu haben. Hinweise zu diversen Aspekten des Kaiserkultes finden sich sowohl in Noricum als auch in Pannonia Superior, wenngleich die Quellenbasis gerade für Noricum nicht allzu umfangreich bzw. aussagekräftig ist.

Irena Lazar

University of Primorska, Faculty of Humanities, Institute for Archaeology and Heritage
irena.lazar@fhs.upr.si

Alenka Tomaž

University of Primorska, Faculty of Humanities, Institute for Archaeology and Heritage
alenka.tomaz@fhs.upr.si

Romula (Ribnica near Brežice, Slovenia), an important early imperial trade and supply station in Pannonia

On the Via Publica Aquileia–Emona–Siscia, the road and customs station of Romula was excavated between 2001 and 2004 at the site of Ribnica near Brežice. A significant part of the settlement, including the remains of the Roman road and the western necropolis with 131 graves, was uncovered.

Based on the material analysed so far, the settlement in Romula was founded after the Augustan occupation of Illyricum and Tiberius' Pannonian War (14–8 BC), perhaps even after the suppression of the great Pannonian-Dalmatian uprising between 6 and 9 AD. The peak of its development and prosperity was in the 1st and the 2nd centuries.

The earliest material from the Petričev grič area and the settlement shows a distinctly supraregional character and reflects trade connections and imports from Spain to the Levant, with diverse and high-quality imported products coming from major production and supply centres from the end of the Augustan and early Tiberian periods until the end of the 1st century AD.

In terms of diversity and quantity, the finds stand out even in comparison with larger centres of that time in the wider area, such as Emona and Siscia. In the following decades, the ceramic and glass material is enriched by more regionally and locally represented products from Pannonia and Noricum.

Stefano Magnani

Università degli Studi di Udine
stefano.magnani@uniud.it

Tra Adriatico e Danubio: difficoltà, rischi e pericoli di viaggio

Utilizzate fin da epoche remote, in età romana le antiche piste e i percorsi che collegavano l'Adriatico al Danubio furono inglobati in un complesso sistema di vie e infrastrutture, le cui funzioni erano quelle di garantire il controllo

delle province illiriche, la solidità delle frontiere, la continuità e la sicurezza delle comunicazioni e degli scambi commerciali e culturali.

A partire dalla prima epoca imperiale, infatti, fu sviluppata una rete di vere e proprie strade, attrezzate con i servizi essenziali per i viaggiatori, tra cui luoghi di cambio e di sosta, ponti e guadi, stazioni doganali e di controllo, e caratterizzate dalla presenza di piccoli insediamenti distribuiti tra i centri maggiori, che fungevano da terminali delle singole tratte. Nonostante lo sviluppo di questo sistema, il viaggio continuò a essere una fonte di apprensioni, difficoltà e pericoli per coloro che viaggiavano lungo le strade. Mentre la documentazione letteraria antica sembra avere prestato scarsa attenzione ai dettagli delle esperienze vissute dai viaggiatori che attraversavano queste regioni, le testimonianze epigrafiche lasciate da alcuni di loro, benché con numerosi limiti, consentono di ricostruire un quadro più articolato e vivido.

Con questa comunicazione, si intende focalizzare l'attenzione su tali testi, che in forma diretta e immediata sono in grado di trasmettere la drammaticità degli eventi vissuti da coloro che, per ragioni assai diverse, spostandosi in una direzione o nell'altra, frequentavano le regioni comprese tra l'alto Adriatico e il bacino danubiano.

Luca Mantovani

University of Cluj - Napoca
lucamaceta@gmail.com

Lo studio della storia daco - romana durante il regime comunista rumeno

Si analizza come il regime comunista, al potere, consecutivamente dal 1948 al 1989 abbia condizionato e manipolato le attività accademiche, gli scavi

archeologici, la nascita e la conduzione delle strutture museali. Questo periodo si suddivide in tre fasi, seguendo spesso le direttive sovietiche, anche se nell'ultima, l'aspetto nazionalistico diventa evidente. In base a queste, alcuni studi punteranno a vedere nei Daci il popolo sottomesso dai capitalisti Romani; quando invece prevarrà un clima di distensione, allora i Romani vengono dipinti come portatori di civilizzazione. Inoltre, si evidenzierà come alcuni studiosi si piegheranno a questa volontà manipolatrice, mentre quelli più resistenti dovranno chiudersi nei loro studi per non subire ritorsioni. Si sottolineeranno i pochi confronti con gli altri studiosi stranieri, compresi quelli appartenenti al blocco comunista, a scapito della qualità delle ricerche, nonostante operassero anche studiosi dalle grandi competenze.

Valentina Mantovani

Independent Researcher
mantovanivalentina1@gmail.com

Tra Reno, Danubio e Italia settentrionale: identità culturale, mode, ispirazioni e Koinè. La ceramica come fine, la ceramica come mezzo

Tra la seconda metà del II e il III secolo d.C. si assiste in ambito nord-italico alla circolazione di vasellame fittile e vitreo dalla Gallia centrale, dalla Gallia Belgica, dai territori di area renana e dalla Pannonia. Parallelamente, in Italia settentrionale, sono documentate produzioni ceramiche e vitree che in parte richiamano il vasellame importato. L'osservazione del fenomeno riporta l'attenzione sui significati di imitazione, ispirazione, contaminazione dalla cui analisi scaturiscono riflessioni di carattere culturale, sociale, economico e artigianale.

Milica Marjanovic

Institute of Archaeology, Belgrade
milica.mm1987@gmail.com

Materializing Self-Representation: Local Identities and Funerary Commemoration in Moesia Superior

Funerary monuments of the Roman period were displayed in public spaces and often functioned as an important medium that conveyed messages to the wider community, through inscriptions and widely shared visual symbols. They also illuminate aspects of the past that are frequently overlooked in historical sources, namely the lives of non-elite individuals. This perspective is particularly valuable for provinces for which written evidence is scarce, especially the frontier regions of the Empire, where Roman and local cultural traditions intersected far from the imperial center. This paper addresses one aspect of this complex phenomenon: the funerary monuments of the autochthonous population of the province of *Moesia Superior*. Through the analysis of the text and iconography of the monuments left behind by the local inhabitants of this Danubian province, the paper examines the articulation of identity within a new socio-political context – that of the Roman Empire. Selected monuments analyzed as a case study, reveal the complexity of cultural interaction and demonstrate how their elements were deliberately combined to express social affiliation, status, and local traditions. The adoption of Roman funerary commemoration was not a passive act of assimilation, but a selective strategy through which local communities negotiated regional expression, emphasizing creolization rather than fixed cultural categories.

Anna Mech

Independent Researcher
anna.a.mech@gmail.com

In Her Own Words: Female Religious Agency in Roman Dacia and Moesias

Female religiosity in the Roman provinces remains an emergent field of study. Although the situation presented in anachronistic and Rome-centric literary sources offers limited insight, epigraphic and archaeological evidence – with the developing adoption of new interpretative tools and perspectives into ancient religious studies, provide us with a much more nuanced picture.

The aim of this paper is to provide a preliminary presentation of the religious activity in Latin of women in the Danubian provinces of the Balkans. As a starting point, the methodology employed in my doctoral dissertation on the religious activity of women in Dalmatia will be applied; this utilised a quasi-biographical approach to each female dedicant in order to shift the perspective in favour of the dedicants rather than the deities. On this basis, female dedicants from both Moesias and Dacia will be identified. The study will also attempt to address several key questions: what were the potential religious intentions and motivations of these women? What were their ethnic and social backgrounds? Furthermore, were there any priestesses among them? Consequently, an attempt will be made to determine whether – in the case of female religious activity – one may speak of ‘religious exchange’ or shared similarities across these neighbouring provinces.

Bebina Milovanovic

Institute of Archaeology, Belgrade
bebina27@yahoo.com

Wooden boxes in Viminacium graves

In the graves of the *Viminacium* necropolises, the presence of small wooden boxes is attested by numerous fittings, handles, locks, rivets, as well as nails, clamps, and rings. Although wooden elements are only rarely preserved and usually survive merely in traces, in several cases the original appearance of the boxes could be reconstructed on the basis of the preserved metal fittings. Analysis of the excavated graves at *Viminacium* indicates a higher frequency of wooden boxes in cremation burials than in inhumation graves. The assemblage of objects typically associated with these caskets includes cosmetics, toiletries, and spinning implements. Based on the types of finds, it may be concluded that the caskets were primarily deposited in the graves of women and younger individuals of female sex. This interpretation is supported by representations of women holding caskets on funerary monuments, as well as by their occurrence in grave inventories as attributes associated with the identification of married women. Their presence in the graves of girls has been interpreted as reflecting the need for early instruction in the care and management of personal property. The funerary practice of burial with a wooden box was present in *Viminacium* during the 2nd century and the first half of the 3rd century AD.

Alenka Miškec

National Museum of Slovenia, Ljubljana
alenka.miskec@nms.si

Emona in Late Roman Period: Numismatic Evidence for Coin Circulation between Italy and the Danubian Provinces

This paper analyses coin circulation in Emona (modern Ljubljana, Slovenia) during the Late Roman period (3rd–5th centuries AD) on the basis of hoards, funerary contexts, and single finds. The study examines mint provenance, chronological distribution, and denomination structure in order to reconstruct patterns of monetary supply and circulation. During the 4th century, monetary inflow into the territory of present-day Slovenia appears stable and sufficient, with bronze coinage dominating everyday transactions and no clear evidence for currency shortages or the systematic use of imitations. Differences between Emona and selected Pannonian towns, particularly Poetovio and Carnuntum, become more apparent in the 5th century. In Emona, the latest regular bronze issues, especially the Gloria Romanorum 11 type of Honorius (408–423), are relatively well represented, suggesting continued circulation into the first half of the 5th century. In contrast, such coins are rare in Poetovio, despite archaeological evidence for continued occupation and ecclesiastical activity. These observations indicate differing local developments in monetary circulation and settlement continuity at the western margins of Pannonia. The paper contributes to a regional comparison of late Roman monetary supply and offers insights into the gradual fragmentation of circulation networks in Late Antiquity.

Eléonore Montbel

Aix-Marseille Université
eleonore.montbel@hotmail.fr

Le culte des Silvanae en Pannonie et en Dacie

Les Silvanae constituent les équivalents onomastiques féminins de Silvanus. Absentes de la littérature antique, elles sont néanmoins bien attestées par l'épigraphie et l'iconographie entre le II^e et le III^e siècle ap. J.-C. Leur présence est majoritairement concentrée en Pannonie, où l'on recense vingt-deux attestations, et plus marginalement en Dacie, avec quatre occurrences, principalement à Vlpia Traiana Sarmizegetusa.

Cette communication propose un état des lieux des sources archéologiques attestant l'existence d'un culte des Silvanae dans ces deux provinces, afin de les comparer et de déterminer le rôle et la place de ces divinités dans la religion romaine. Il apparaît qu'elles ne sont pas systématiquement associées à Silvanus, ce qui plaide en faveur d'un culte autonome. Elles portent fréquemment l'épiclese Augustis, suggérant une intégration au cadre religieux impérial. En Pannonie, les Silvanae sont par ailleurs souvent associées aux Quadruviae, divinités liées aux carrefours, soulevant la question de la nature de leur relation. L'étude interrogera ainsi les liens entre Silvanae et Silvanus, ainsi qu'entre Silvanae et Quadruviae, tout en mettant en lumière les spécificités régionales entre Pannonie et Dacie, à partir de vingt-six attestations archéologiques.

Nemanja Mrđić

Institute of Archaeology, Belgrade
nemanjamrdjic@gmail.com

***When luxury meets military –
extraordinary finds in legionary
fortress of Viminacium***

Legionary fortress was always considered as the site where military contexts dominate as rough and exclusive, where cold steel annihilates art, luxury and evidence that soldiers were actual people to. Finds at the Viminacium tend to change some of these views. A number of recent finds bring the view of luxury into clear and cold military contexts. One of the finds especially stands out. During the recent excavations of the legionary camp of the legion VII Claudia at Viminacium, a considerable segment of principia was explored. In one of the administrative rooms of this building, together with a coin hoard, weapons and pieces of military equipment, fragments of a luxurious glass vessel were discovered. Fragments of the recipient, and relief decorations have been preserved, the most representative of which is the fish-shaped application. Considering the stratigraphy and other dateable finds from the same context, this vessel is dated to the first decades of 4th century. Vessel fragments can be assigned to the group of so-called Konchyliebecher, or conchylia cups, named after the Latin term for shells – conchylia. These cone-shape goblets are usually richly decorated with embossed sea creatures, namely combination of fish and shellfish. As a unique specimen of this type of vessel on the territory of Viminacium, and even Serbia, this find raises questions of trade routes and artistic trends, but also the status of military officials and the use of luxury goods among military community.

Eleonora Pawlikowska

University of Warsaw, Doctoral School of
Humanities
e.pawlikowska3@uw.edu.pl

***Antler Combs and Cultural
Entanglement in the Migration Period
Central Balkans***

Antler combs are among the most frequent yet understudied artefacts of everyday life in the Migration Period. This paper examines antler combs from present-day Serbia, dating from the late 4th to the 6th century, based on both published and unpublished material from settlement, funerary, and stray-find contexts.

During this period, antler combs became the most common toiletries, replacing other grooming implements known from antiquity. Despite a degree of standardisation imposed by their utilitarian function, combs remained highly personal objects with ritual significance, as items in direct contact with the owner's hair, an element associated with vitality and strength. Their frequent inclusion in grave inventories highlights this symbolic dimension.

Typological and technological analysis reveals a combination of inherited Late Roman craft traditions and innovations associated with Barbarians active along the Middle and Lower Danube. Across the Roman borderlands, varied forms and decorative schemes developed, reflecting regional craft traditions and networks of interaction. Rather than treating combs as ethnic markers, this study adopts the concept of cultural entanglement to explore ongoing interactions between Roman and non-Roman communities. Situated within a wider Danubian framework, the Serbian material sheds light on processes of cultural adaptation, continuity, and exchange.

Radu Petcu

Museum of National History and
Archaeology, Constanța
radupetcuarheo@gmail.com

***From Sign to Stone: The Cross as Grave
Marker. The First Funerary Crosses
from the Province of Scythia***

From Sign to Stone: The Cross as Grave Marker. The First Funerary Crosses from the Province of Scythia explores the transformation of the cross from a primarily symbolic sign of Christian identity into a permanent stone grave marker in the Roman province of Scythia. The study focuses on the earliest archaeological evidence of funerary crosses and situates them within the broader process of Christianization in the Late Roman period. By analyzing form, material, inscriptions, and archaeological context, the topic highlights how funerary crosses reflect both religious change and continuity with earlier Roman burial traditions. These monuments demonstrate the growing visibility of Christianity in the public and funerary landscape, as well as local adaptations of the cross as a marker of faith, memory, and identity. Overall, the emergence of stone funerary crosses marks a significant shift in commemorative practices and illustrates the integration of Christian symbolism into everyday life and death in Scythia.

Ingrid Petcu-Levei

Museum of National History and
Archaeology, Constanța
ingridpetculevei@gmail.com

***Burial Below the City: Hypogeum
Tombs and the Transformation of
Funerary Landscapes at Tomis –
Province of Scythia***

The hypogeum-type tombs of Tomis illustrate urban funerary practices in Late Antiquity (4th–6th centuries AD) and reflect the process of Christianization within the local community. Among these monuments, the *Painted Tomb* stands out for its mural decoration featuring Christian iconography (orant figures, birds, vegetal motifs), indicating a high social status and symbolic integration into the spiritual framework of the Late Roman Empire. The hypogeum discovered in the area of Hotel Maria displays a similar architectural layout but a more restrained decorative treatment, highlighting the typological diversity of such funerary structures. The presence of additional hypogea in the Valea Portului area, arranged approximately parallel to present-day Traian Street, suggests the development of a coherent funerary zone at the periphery of the city. Taken together, these monuments confirm the synthesis between Roman funerary traditions and emerging Christian concepts within the late urban landscape of Tomis.

Silviu Istrate Purece

Lucian Blaga University of Sibiu
silviu.purece@ulbsibiu.ro

***Roman Coins and the Goths in the
Context of Their Settlement in the
Roman Empire***

The presence of the Goths in the former territory of Roman Dacia is increasingly well documented through recent discoveries of coin hoards. Until recently, hoards containing fourth-century silver coinage – *silicvæ* – appeared to be relatively rare; however, new finds have partially revised this assessment. At the same time, hoards containing heavily

worn denarii, issued predominantly during the Antonine dynasty, appear with growing frequency. Such hoards, terminating with denarii minted no later than the early reign of Septimius Severus, were formed in the eastern regions of present-day Ukraine, an area dominated by the Goths until the arrival of the Huns. Particularly significant is the presence within these hoards of imitations of Antonine imperial issues, a phenomenon characteristic of the barbarian milieu north and east of Dacia. Monetary finds associated with the Goths in the former territory of Dacia show a strong correlation with the routes of Roman roads, which facilitated more effective territorial control. There appears to be a close relationship between the phenomenon of hoarding and the events that preceded the Goths' crossing of the Danube, events that ultimately led to the political reconfiguration of the regions north of the Danubian limes.

Lyuba Radulova

“Sv. Kliment Ohridski” University, Sofia
lyuba.radulova@gmail.com, lradulova@uni-sofia.bg

Modelli culturali e linguistici nelle iscrizioni relative a iura sepulchrorum della Moesia Inferior e della Thracia

La relazione si propone di esaminare le epigrafi funerarie della zona balcanica centrale, concentrandosi sulle particolarità linguistiche e contenutistiche del formulario. L'analisi dimostra un'incongruenza importante nelle formule usate, le quali risultano tipiche di varie località al di fuori dei Balcani. Attraverso lo studio dei casi più interessanti, si cercherà di proporre una ricostruzione di alcuni canali di scambio culturale che hanno definito il quadro del diritto sepolcrale nei Balcani centrali.

Milena Raycheva

National Archaeological Institute with Museum, Bulgarian Academy of Sciences, Sofia
milenaraycheva@gmail.com

The “bouleuterion” of Nicopolis ad Istrum revisited

The so called “bouleuterion” building at the agora of Nicopolis ad Istrum in Lower Moesia is among the most debated ones in the history of the ancient city's research. Its chronology, layout and especially function (bouleuterion, imperial cult temple, library, tabularium etc.) have been examined numerous times in academic literature. In the light of recent publications including more detailed accounts of excavation history and archaeological data, this paper aims to revisit and reassess the current state of knowledge of the building and particularly its use as an imperial cult venue in the 2nd - 3rd century AD.

Davide Redaelli

Università degli Studi di Udine
davide.redaelli@elettronetnicaredaelli.com

Forme e luoghi degli scambi culturali in Pannonia e Dalmazia

La macroregione illirica, racchiusa dalle province romane di Pannonia e Dalmazia, si presenta fin dall'epoca più antica come una zona di frontiera e di scambio assai fluida, nella quale confluirono diverse esperienze culturali. Lingue e popolazioni si succedettero fino alla conquista romana; ed è proprio a partire dall'epoca romana e dall'affermazione del latino che abbiamo a disposizione testimonianze scritte significative per ricostruire la storia dell'area. Il processo di romanizzazione e

l'uso esclusivo della lingua latina portarono a un'intensificazione di prestiti, scambi e interferenze tra diverse identità e realtà culturali, poiché le province di Dalmazia e Pannonia si trovarono pienamente inseriti nelle modalità relazionali dell'impero: commerci, amministrazione, unità militari. È soprattutto attraverso l'analisi della documentazione epigrafica di età imperiale che il fenomeno si comprende meglio e si possono individuare le modalità e i luoghi della “mediazione” e degli scambi tra Romani e non Romani e tra etnie differenti. L'intervento mira a mostrare, anche attraverso riletture e nuovi approcci alla documentazione epigrafica, alcuni significativi esempi delle modalità e dei luoghi di questi scambi culturali: i santuari, le istituzioni organizzative dei peregrini eredi delle popolazioni conquistate dai Romani, i soldati e i mercanti provenienti da diverse aree dell'impero.

Silvia Ripà

Università Niccolò Cusano, Roma
silvia.ripa@unicusano.it

Corpi di frontiera: il ruolo culturale del meretricio lungo il Limes danubiano (I a.C.-II d.C.)

Questo lavoro intende esplorare le complesse dinamiche socio-culturali della frontiera danubiana attraverso la pratica del meretricium, focalizzandosi in particolare sulle interazioni tra i soldati romani e le donne locali. Sebbene la storiografia tradizionale abbia spesso trattato la prostituzione di ambito militare come una mera questione logistica, quasi sempre marginale, lo studio si propone di dimostrare come essa abbia rappresentato un canale informale di scambi non solo culturali, ma anche politici.

Il contributo approfondisce come l'afflusso femminile nelle *canabae* abbia generato una sottocultura di frontiera, unica nel suo genere. Attraverso le fonti epigrafiche e storiografiche, lo studio risponderà in particolare a due quesiti: - qual era la percezione diffusa nei confronti del meretricio in un contesto di frontiera, dove l'“altro” era un soggetto conquistato? - in che misura l'esercizio della prostituzione nelle province danubiane differiva dai modelli conosciuti, documentati in particolare a Pompei? L'ipotesi di partenza è che il *meretricium* qui fosse meno regolato dalla *lex Iulia* e più influenzato dalle dinamiche e strutture tribali locali. Questo modello “periferico” rivela uno spazio sociale ibrido, in cui il corpo femminile assume un significato particolare, diventando parte di un fenomeno complesso, affinando la nostra percezione di una soggettività femminile nella storia.

Alexander Rubel

Institute of Archaeology of the Romanian Academy – Iasi Branch
alexander.rubel@yahoo.de; rubel@arheo.ro

“News from the Barbarians”. Roman Imports and crisis diplomacy north of the Lower Danube in the wake of the Marcomannic Wars

This talk tries to highlight the new developments in research north of the Lower Danube and east of the Carpathian Mountains. Recently the dimension and impact of Roman influence in and on the Barbaricum had been reconsidered. What seems to be probable for the north-western Barbaricum (as indicated i.a. by H.U. Voß, A. Rau or X. Pauli Jensen) is recently mirrored in the findings from

north-eastern Romania, Moldova and especially Ukraine: The Marcomannic Wars precipitated the Roman Order of the World into a huge Crises. The “Hinterland” of the Barbarian World descended into chaos. New players, like the Costoboci and the Vandals appeared, the complex ethnogenesis of the “Goths” was imminent, as old alliances and existing contacts between barbarian groups far away from the Limes became obsolete. The decline of the ancient World Order and the attempts to establish a new one are mirrored in the spectrum and amount of “Roman Imports” discovered in recent years east of the Carpathians.

Gustavo Sartin

University of São Paulo
ghsartin@gmail.com

The concept of “romanization” and the Dacian Paradox

Romanian archaeologists have been calling the (relative) lack of evidence of the presence of the natives in Roman Dacia as the “Dacian Paradox”. We will propose that this inability of discern the natives is tied up with some presuppositions, namely, that the natives, by being culturally inferior would gladly adopt Roman values, institutions and even Roman identities, whilst abandoning their own. We will examine, briefly, of course, the issue of the alleged romanization of the Dacian natives and propose a different approach to the matter. Our proposal is aligned with the current perspectives about Roman imperialism at The Museum of Archaeology and Ethnology of University of São Paulo.

Eleni Schindler Kaudelka

Archäologischer Park Magdalensberg
elenischindler@gmail.com

Neuverpackung von mediterranen Lebensmitteln in Romula /Pannonia superior. Die archäologische Evidenz

Im Zuge der Bearbeitung der Keramikfunde der Fundstelle Petričev grič. in Romula (Tomaž, A. I. Lazar in E. Schindler Kaudelka 2025, *Ribnica pri Brežicah: Romula, območje Petričev grič*. Arheologija na avtocestah Slovenije 118/3, Ljubljana) wurden unüblich hohe Zahlen bei hispanischem (Dr. 7-11 und Beltran 2A) und italischem Garum (Grado 1 und orlo a fascia) und von Oliven (Schörgendorfer 558 und glatte troncoconiche da olive) festgestellt. Das helltonige Material enthielt sowohl importierte als auch regional produzierte Garumtöpfe und Oliventöpfe. Zur Diskussion steht die Frage, ob ein in Romula ansässiger Händler Fischsaucen, Garum und Oliven aus diesen Amphoren in kleinere Gebinde für den Detailverkauf umfüllte.

Eleni Schindler Kaudelka

Archäologischer Park Magdalensberg
elenischindler@gmail.com

Valentina Mantovani

Indipendent Researcher
mantovanivalentina1@gmail.com

Federico Biondani

Indipendent Researcher
biondani.federico@gmail.com

La Terra Sigillata Tardo Padana (Consp. 39-45) e la sua distribuzione in Italia settentrionale e nel Noricum: discussione e problemi aperti

A partire dalla seconda metà del I secolo d.C. la produzione di *terra sigillata* si contrae anche in Italia settentrionale, riducendo il repertorio morfologico a poche forme.

Le recenti analisi dei contesti di Romula e Flavia Solva evidenziano la presenza di un considerevole numero di vasellame padano riferibile alle forme Consp. 39-45, dato che contrasta con le più esigue e fino ad ora note testimonianze di *Terra sigillata* Tardo Padana nei territori della Valle Padana.

La spiegazione del fenomeno non è presto data e solo attraverso l'analisi dei dati, un corretto approccio metodologico e considerazioni sociali e commerciali di più ampio respiro si potranno sondare le dinamiche che sono alla base del fenomeno.

Kathrin Schuchter

Universität Innsbruck
kathrin.schuchter@gmx.at

The Roman Settlement of Meclaria – Infrastructure and Exchange in Southern Noricum

The settlement of Maglern on the Austrian-Italian border was already identified in the early 20th century as the successor of Meclaria mentioned by Paulus Diaconus. Epigraphic evidence for beneficiarii as well as rescue excavations indicated a Roman settlement at the foot of the so-called Schlossberg, located at the outskirts of the modern village. Large-scale geophysical prospections conducted by the University of Innsbruck in 2021 and 2022 enabled, for the first time, the precise localisation and spatial definition of the *vicus*. Covering an area of at least 6.5 ha, several roads and architectural features were identified, including a possible *mansio* and/or *statio*.

These results underline the settlement's strategic position at a major crossroads between the Val Canale and the Gail Valley.

The material evidence indicates occupation from the Late La Tène period onwards. Coin finds and non-local imports attest to intensive contacts with Roman Italy prior to the 1st century AD and highlight the early economic connections to southern Noricum. Furthermore, lead and tin votives indicate a Roman sanctuary on the Schlossberg, with model-identical examples attested not only in Noricum but also in Pannonia.

Alina-Oana Streinu

Bucharest Municipality Museum
musatalina@yahoo.com

By river, by land, and by sea: Perspectives on Danubian trade networks in urban and rural sites in Scythia minor

Starting from the very beginning of Roman rule in northern Dobroudja – as part of Moesia Inferior and subsequently became Scythia Minor – all kinds of goods began to flood the local markets. Regarding pottery, wine and oil amphorae, as well as fine tablewares, became part of daily life in all settlements: urban, rural, and military. While the coastal urban sites had a long tradition of trade and were more adept at tapping into wider networks, the new Danubian settlements were largely military and occupied areas dominated by local populations. However, while the wine and oil supply was regulated by the army's logistics, finewares are a different matter, as they represent personal preferences and were purchased individually.

This presentation follows the evidence of supply chains in these Danubian sites, the types of finewares discovered, and how they connect with the major urban trading hubs on the western coast of the Black Sea. The main purpose is to investigate noticeable differences between the products traded in Danubian (e.g. Dinogetia, Noviodunum) and the coastal sites (e.g. Tomis, Histria, Argamum), as well as the trading networks responsible for these supply chains.

Marius Cristian Streinu

Institutul Național al Patrimoniului,
Romania
marius.streinu@patrimoniu.ro

Bogdan Șandric

Institutul Național al Patrimoniului,
Romania
bogdan.sandric@cimec.ro

A Research Infrastructure for the Roman Danubian Provinces. Case Study: the Romanian National Archaeological Record

National, regional, and federal archaeological registers across Europe were not originally designed as research resources or infrastructures, but rather as administrative records and management tools intended for the protection of archaeological heritage.

This paper argues that such registers can be transformed into effective instruments for investigating a complex cultural phenomenon along the Danube, namely the Roman civilisation. Drawing on the experience gained through the Romanian National Archaeological Record, employed here as a case study, we outline the procedures by which heterogeneous information – derived from scholarly literature, archaeological

investigations, historical archives, and administrative documentation – is standardised, normalised, and integrated into a relational database, subsequently exported as geospatial datasets for spatial analysis.

These datasets enable both quantitative and spatial analyses concerning settlement hierarchies, frontier systems, and road networks. The transition “from inventory to infrastructure” demonstrates that national archaeological registers can support comparative research at a macro and cross-border scale, providing a replicable methodological framework for the Danubian provinces and ensuring interoperability with European research infrastructures such as ARIADNEplus and Europeana.

Karl Strobel

Universität Klagenfurt
strobel.karl@mein.gmx

Kultureller und wirtschaftlicher Austausch der Donauprovinzen mit ihren Nachbarn: Eigendynamik und Steuerung

Die steigende Zahl und Dichte der Funde jenseits der administrativen und militärischen Grenzen der Provinzen an der mittleren und unteren Donau bis nach Pommern, Polen, West- und Nordukraine, wesentlich zurückgehend auf den wissenschaftlichen Einsatz von Metalldetektoren wie legalen und illegalen Sondengängern, zeigen eine große Dynamik im „Barbaricum“ und neue räumliche Strukturen der Elitebildung wie des römischen Einflusses.

Dies eröffnet neue Perspektiven, aber auch eine komplexe Problematik bezüglich des Verständnisses des

wirtschaftlichen und kulturellen Austausches aus den Donauprovinzen heraus durch Im- und Exporte sowie Mobilität und diplomatische Beziehungen. Zugleich ist die Wechselwirkung und Dynamik in den Grenzprovinzen selbst weiter zu beleuchten. Doch handelt es sich um rein eigendynamische Prozesse, wie gerade von archäologischer Seite oft vorausgesetzt, oder stellt sich nicht doch die grundsätzliche Frage nach den Akteuren auf römischer Seite in diesem komplexen Phänomen und ihre steuernde Rolle: Grenzentwicklung, Steuer- und Zollsystem. Regulierung von Personen- und Warenverkehr und Märkten und die dahinter stehende Politik der Kaiser, der Reichszentrale, der jeweiligen Statthalter, Diplomatie und Soldnerwesen. Dies soll in einer knappen Skizze vorgestellt werden.

Melinda Szabó

Eötvös Loránd University, Department of Classical and Roman Archaeology
szabo.melinda@btk.elte.hu

No Passport Required: Interprovincial Origins and Family Relations of Women in Pannonia

The present paper examines the connections of women in Pannonia with other provinces. These connections vary widely: in some cases, a husband comes from another province; in others, women's roots can be traced to distant regions; elsewhere, an unusual name appears within a family. The main question is whether these seemingly random and individual pieces of evidence form a pattern, or at least allow for conclusions and new insights into the social history of Pannonia.

Amra Šaćić Beća

University of Sarajevo, Faculty of Philosophy, Department of History, Chair of Classical History
sacic.amra@gmail.com, amra.sacic@ff.unsa.ba

Provincial Boundaries as Zones of Cultural Exchange and Pannonian Influences in the Epigraphy of Northern Dalmatia

During the formation of the province of Dalmatia, Roman authorities took ethnic boundaries into account, which led to the administrative incorporation of several southern Pannonian communities. These populations – settled across present-day northern and central Bosnia, eastern Bosnia, western Serbia, and northern Montenegro – exhibited profound cultural affinities with northern Dalmatia. Indeed, writers of the Principate, such as Strabo, consistently associated this region with Pannonia rather than Dalmatia. This Pannonian cultural influence is especially evident in funerary epigraphy and iconography. Notable features include depictions of women wearing headscarves in Dalmatia's mountainous interior, an area that aligned more closely with the cultural sphere of the Pannonian provinces. Furthermore, funerary monuments often display chain-linked fibulae, reflecting jewelry craftsmanship originating from Lower Pannonia. Some monuments in the Drina Valley even portray women in traditional Pannonian attire. Complementing these visual cues, indigenous names characteristic of Pannonia, such as Licania, Liccus, and Basseana, frequently appear throughout the Dalmatian interior.

Katarina Šmid

University of Primorska, Faculty of Humanities, Institute for Archaeology and Heritage
katarina.smid@fhs.upr.si

Transmitting Myth: The Iphigenia in Tauris Cycle and Artistic Networks in the Danubian Provinces

The contribution examines the transmission of mythological scenes across the Danubian provinces through the case study of the episodes of Iphigenia in Tauris cycle in Roman funerary art in Danubian area. Particular attention is given to the tomb of the Spectatii at Sempeter in the Valley of Savinja (Noricum), whose reliefs display striking correspondences with Attic sarcophagi and with a bronze krater from Dionysopolis on the Black Sea coast. These parallels reveal not only shared narrative motifs but also distinctive deviations from the Euripidean version of the myth, suggesting the circulation of alternative visual models.

The paper explores the mechanisms by which such iconographic patterns may have spread between workshops in different provinces, emphasizing the role of affordable media – such as relief pottery, oil lamps, and casts – alongside luxury toreutic objects. By tracing the movement of motifs between Noricum, Pannonia, and the western Black Sea region, this study highlights the Danubian area as an active zone of artistic mediation, where local traditions and metropolitan models intertwined.

Ivo Topalilov

Institute for Balkan Studies and Center of Thracology – Bulgarian Academy of Sciences
itopalilov@yahoo.com

The pseudo-tribes in the Danubians' onomastic nomenclature

The pseudotribes are one of the key elements in the onomastic nomenclature, especially among the soldiers of the Danubian provinces, though not exclusively. They function as explicit evidence of Roman citizenship, in accordance with the *lex Iulia*, during the second half of the 2nd and the first half of the 3rd century. In principle, Roman citizens adopted the imperial name derived from the title of their native cities; however, there are exceptions that reveal the mechanisms behind their selection and use. It is precisely these exceptions that form the subject of the present presentation.

Tünde Vágási

Semmelweis University, Institute of Languages for Specific Purposes; MTA-SZTE Lendület Mithras Research Group
vagasitunde6@gmail.com

Mithras on the Move: Portable Reliefs and Personal Cult Practice in Roman Pannonia

Portable reliefs constitute a distinctive category within the material culture of the Mithraic cult. These small-scale objects could be carried by individual worshippers, enabling personal devotional practice during travel and in locations lacking an organized Mithraic community. Such finds are attested across the Roman Empire and are particularly well represented in Pannonia, suggesting their widespread use. Typically made of high-quality marble, but also of chased metal, bronze, or silver, these reliefs

depict the central cult image alongside narrative scenes from the Mithras Vita. This paper examines the Pannonian material with particular attention to issues of mobility, military circulation, and individual religious practice, proposing a typological classification and highlighting regional patterns within the broader Mithraic visual tradition.

Ivan Valchev

“Sv. Kliment Ohridski” University, Sofia
ivan.valchev@uni-sofia.bg

Roman Ritual in a Local Context: Suovetaurilia in Moesia

The *suovetaurilia*, a sacrificial ritual involving a pig, a ram, and a bull, was among the most ancient practices of Roman religion. Nevertheless, it appears only infrequently in the provincial record. In the territory of present-day Bulgaria, three votive monuments have been identified as evidence of its presence: one from Ratiaria in Upper Moesia and two from Lower Moesia, from Basarbovo and Suhindol. The reliefs from Ratiaria and Basarbovo depict a procession of the three sacrificial animals and are dedicated to Jupiter and Juno. However, their iconography diverges from conventional Roman representations. At Ratiaria, the deities are depicted as riders in a chariot, while the Basarbovo relief portrays Jupiter on horseback and Juno mounted on a stag. The presence of these unusual depictions, in conjunction with alterations in the order of the animals, suggests a provincial reinterpretation of the *suovetaurilia*. This reinterpretation is indicative of local Thracian religious traditions, rather than official Roman cult practice.

Rada Varga

Babeş-Bolyai University, Cluj-Napoca
rada.varga@ubbcluj.ro

Ana Odochiciuc

“Alexandru Ioan Cuza” University of Iaşi
odochiciuc.ana@gmail.com

Salt, Strategy, and Settlement: Continuity and Connectivity in Roman Dacia. The military camp of ala I Batavorum milliaria

This study examines settlement dynamics at Războieni-Cetate, located along the Mureş River in central Romania, an important trade and military corridor in Roman Dacia and the site of the fort of *ala I Batavorum milliaria*. Using archaeological survey data from the Romanian National Archaeological Record (RAN), the research explores how Iron Age settlement strategies influenced Roman occupation of the landscape. Rather than representing a radical break, Roman colonization shows strong continuity with pre-Roman settlement patterns, particularly in the exploitation of salt resources at nearby Salinae (Ocna Mureş).

The Roman fort was strategically positioned on slightly elevated terrain, overseeing a river crossing and controlling access to surrounding resources. GIS-based analyses, including buffer zones, least-cost path modelling, and viewshed analysis, reveal a concentration of settlements near the fort and the salt source, while more distant areas supported agriculture and secondary resource exploitation. River and road networks facilitated mobility, trade, and connectivity, integrating local and regional landscapes into a coherent economic and social system. Overall, the evidence demonstrates that Roman military and economic infrastructure complemented, rather than replaced, existing settlement patterns, contributing to broader discussions on continuity and integration in the Danubian provinces.

Viktoria Videvska

“Sv. Kliment Ohridski” University, Sofia
videvskaviktoria@gmail.com

Athena or Minerva? A Case Study of Religious Creolization in the Provinces of Moesia Inferior and Thrace

The main aim of the paper is to highlight the challenges of identifying Greco-Roman deities in regions where their cults were introduced through successive waves of colonization, focusing on the provinces of Moesia Inferior and Thrace. In these areas, sustained interaction between local traditions, Hellenic civic culture, Roman imperial structures, military mobility, and migration did not simply reproduce established cults, but generated new, creolized religious forms. As a result, divine identities could become layered and fluid, resisting clear attribution to a single cultural framework.

The study reviews current methods used to identify anepigraphic representations and assesses their strengths and limitations. It analyzes a broad range of artifacts that mention and/or depict Athena (Minerva), most of them originating from multi-ethnic urban centers inhabited by immigrants, veterans, and Hellenized local elites. In such contexts, the goddess' image and associations were not merely translated between different traditions, but reshaped through the processes of adaptation, reinterpretation, and selective appropriation.

By addressing issues of divine identity, attribution, and cult reconstruction in the absence of abundant epigraphic or literary evidence, the paper argues that uncertainty is not only methodological but intrinsic to provincial religious life, where “Athena” and “Minerva” may reflect overlapping yet locally reconfigured identities.

Julijana Visočnik

University of Ljubljana
julijana332@yahoo.com

The Valerii in Danubian Provinces

The Italian Valerii family is regarded as the most influential family in Poetovio. Its members left a clear imprint on the municipal administration of the city and beyond, especially if we consider Marcus Valerius Maximianus. As such, the family most likely also exerted an influence on the colonization of certain other Danubian provinces. Epigraphic monuments from these provinces could confirm – or refute – this assumption.

Of particular interest is the apparent connection between the southern Norican region (which, in addition to the Celeian area, may also include Poetovio and its surroundings) and Dacia. This connection was also established through legio XIII Gemina, which was stationed at Poetovio in the second half of the 1st century AD and was transferred to Apulum in Dacia at the turn of the 1st to the 2nd century. A survey of the Valerii in Dacia – or maybe even (if necessary) in a broader geographical context – could thus indirectly reveal the spread of influence of the Valerii, including those from Poetovio, across the Danubian provinces, with a particular emphasis on Dacia.

Lorena Zanin

University of Leeds
zaninlorena@hotmail.com

Alliances, partnerships and marriages: the impact of Aquileian family networks on the life of Magdalensberg (Noricum)

This paper examines the early Roman presence at the Magdalensberg in pre-

annexation Noricum, highlighting the cultural and economic role of alliances – such as marriages, patron-freeman ties, and business collaborations – within Aquileian merchant families. Rather than seeing traders as isolated actors, it situates them within networks built through prior connections, marriages, and trust among slaves and patrons.

In frontier regions without stable Roman institutions, economic exchange relied on trust, reputation, and kinship networks. Drawing on epigraphic evidence and *tesserae nummulariae*, the study reconstructs the activities of Aquileian trading families expanding into new territories from the mid-first century BCE. These families organised commercial ventures through *societates* and relied on slaves and freedmen to manage operations, reducing risk and ensuring continuity. Furthermore, marriages reinforced alliances, capital, and inheritance strategies.

The Magdalensberg thus shows how culturally embedded family policies underpinned economic expansion and facilitated early market integration beyond direct Roman political control.

Radmila Zotovic

Institute of Archaeology, Belgrade
zotovicradmila7@gmail.com

Cultural Impacts of Province of Pannonia on Eastern Part of Roman Province of Dalmatia

The finding of a single epigraph monument certifies that it was a procurator from Domavia that managed the main districts of the provinces of Pannonia and Dalmatia. The claim that the river of Drina was the route for trading, mining, and transfer of cultural impacts of the Province of Pannonia,

and particularly the Lower Pannonia, can be made with high certainty. These impacts are demonstrated through the resemblance of medal ornaments transferred from the Lower Pannonia gravestones to those located in the eastern part of the Roman Province of Dalmatia. Also, these impacts reflected on the first carving workshop designs to spread, in particular, across the northern region of the eastern part of the Province of Dalmatia. Though, it is highly likely that the southern region of the Province was included in the process, namely the areas of the current towns of Prijepolje and Pljevlja. The carved occurrence of the group of lions in the acroteria stela findings in the eastern regions of Dalmatia is also related to the areas of the Province of Pannonia.

POSTERS

Vasiliki Anevlavi

National Hellenic Research Foundation,
Austrian Archaeological Institute,
Austrian Academy of Sciences
Vasiliki.Anevlavi@oeaw.ac.at

Petya Andreeva

National Archaeological Institute with
Museum, Bulgarian Academy of Sciences
petya_letters@abv.bg

Walter Prochaska

Austrian Archaeological Institute,
Austrian Academy of Sciences
walter.prochaska@oeaw.ac.at

Gergana Kabakchieva

National Archaeological Institute with
Museum, Bulgarian Academy of Sciences
gkabakchieva@abv.bg

Kalina Petkova

National Archaeological Institute with
Museum, Bulgarian Academy of Sciences
kalina.petkova@naim.bg

Marble Supply and Cultural Exchange at the Roman Lower Danubian Limes: Archaeometric Evidence from Selected Artefacts

Marble was a key material in the visual expression of Roman power, identity, and connectivity, and its circulation provides valuable insights into patterns of cultural and economic exchange across the Danubian provinces. This paper presents preliminary archaeometric results from a selected group of marble artefacts recovered from sites located along the Roman Lower Danubian limes, including urban and military centres such as Novae and Oescus. The study applies a multi-proxy analytical approach, combining petrographic analysis, stable carbon and oxygen isotope measurements, and trace element analysis, in order to investigate the provenance of the raw materials and

the associated supply networks. The results reveal a heterogeneous pattern of marble procurement, reflecting both regional exploitation and supra-regional connections within the wider Roman marble trade, including marbles from sources such as Prokonnesos, Thasos (Vathi), and the Asenovgrad region. These supply strategies suggest that local choices were embedded within broader imperial distribution systems, facilitating the movement not only of raw materials but also of technologies and artistic practices across the Danubian frontier zones. By focusing on a limited yet representative dataset, this contribution aims to open a broader discussion on marble circulation as an indicator of cultural exchange, rather than mass trade alone.

Andrzej B. Biernacki

Adam Mickiewicz University, Poznań
biernack@amu.edu.pl

Roman Architectural Practices on the Danubian Frontier: The Case of Novae (Moesia Inferior)

This paper presents a comprehensive comparative study of 1,386 architectural elements and details from Novae, analysed by archaeologists, architects, and geologists. Employing macroscopic petrographic methods, the elements – primarily Tuscan and Ionic-Roman capitals – were classified according to typology, style, and material. The study revealed a strikingly parallel chronology for the Tuscan and Ionic-Roman capitals and enabled broader conclusions on architectural programs and construction practices in Novae. The principia, a well-preserved legionary headquarters, and the valetudinarium demonstrate the extensive use of the Tuscan order, adapted to local crumbly limestone and reflecting

Italian legionary building traditions. Conversely, the 48 Ionic-Roman capitals and 8 fluted capitals, mostly crafted from organogenous detrital limestone sourced from Hotnitsa, suggest stylistic influences from western Asia Minor and central Anatolia, as well as the organisation of quarry workshops and transport networks for stone elements. The research highlights variations in execution quality, unfinished decorative work, and the absence of evidence for on-site workshops in Novae, indicating broader logistical and labour considerations in Roman provincial construction. This study provides a foundation for understanding architectural production, material sourcing, and stylistic dissemination in the Lower Danubian frontier.

Nikol Blagoeva

Regional History Museum, Vidin
nicoleblagoeva@gmail.com

Medical instruments dating back to the Roman Period in the collection of the Regional History Museum in Vidin

The topic of medical instruments from the territory of Bulgaria is known to us from numerous publications and specimens. However, there are no such specimens specifically from the region of Moesia Superior. This publication includes finds of medical instruments from the collection of the Regional History Museum Vidin. These finds are not many in number, but they are important because they are from key sites from the region (Ratiaria, Bononia...). An attempt has been made to interpret the available instruments from the fund and determine their functions according to known specimens in the literature. A large part of the instruments can serve more than one function. Also, the

instruments can be more ordinary, as well as more special.

The specimens included here are representatives of the main instruments, including tweezers, needles and zips. As well as auxiliary instruments – spoons, spatulas, probes and others. Most of the specimens are made of bronze, only a few of them are silver.

Dorel Bondoc

Museum of Oltenia, Craiova
dorelbondoc@yahoo.com

Bull head representations from Little Wallachia (Romania)

Bull representations appear frequently not only in Dacia, but also in other provinces of the Roman Empire, on reliefs, statues, vessels and especially, on pendants. There are rare cases when the bulls were rendered entirely, usually their representations limiting itself to just rendering the animal's head.

We can imagine from the very beginning, the bulls were especially sacrificed to the deities, during religious processions. On the other hand, the bull represent a symbol of the fecundity and fertility and also, of the masculine force and virility. These are the reasons why, such representations are frequently inside the Roman settlements.

From Little Wallachia come such representations on moulds and ceramic vessels, on bronze pendants and statuary representations.

Renata Ciolek

Department of Classical Archaeology,
Faculty of Archaeology, Warsaw
University
renataciolek@uw.edu.pl

Countermarked Coins from Novae on the Lower Danube

This poster examines countermarked coins from the Roman legionary fortress of Novae and considers their place in the circulation of bronze coinage on the Lower Danube. The reported early Imperial group comprises seven specimens from Sectors IV, XI and XII, although the quality of their archaeological documentation varies. Three coins from stratified contexts in Sector XII preserve identifiable Moesian countermarks. According to Paunov's typology, these include both standardised combinations classified as type C1 and an isolated countermark of type C2b. Most of the early Imperial specimens belong to the reign of Claudius or to the same circulation horizon, with a sesterius of Nero as the principal exception. Their heavily worn surfaces and clearly legible countermarks suggest that the marks were applied at an advanced stage of circulation and may have facilitated the continued use of the coins.

A separate case is a provincial bronze coin with the marks Δ and NIKO, discovered in Sector XII in 2024 and probably dating to the Severan period. It is likely the first known specimen of this group from a securely recorded archaeological context. Its presence at Novae indicates that at least one such coin reached a military site beyond the urban centre tentatively associated with the NIKO mark.

The evidence does not represent a single, continuous countermarking practice. Instead, it points to chronologically and functionally distinct uses of secondary marks. The findspots document the presence and circulation of these coins, but do not establish where, or by whom, the marks were applied.

Gabriela Cristescu

Museum of Oltenia, Craiova
gabryela1982@yahoo.com

Some small discoveries with horse representations from southern Romania

Archaeological discoveries made in recent years within the research of the Oltenia Museum Craiova, have highlighted several pieces with representations of animals, among which, those with horses, have a certain number. Such objects with representations of horses come from the sites of Cioroiu Nou, Răcari, Slăveni and Romula. All of these belong to the Roman era and are located in the southern area of Romania. Going beyond the purely decorative purpose of the representations, one can also glimpse a certain realism regarding the appearance of these animals, in Roman antiquity.

Diana Dobrevă

University of Verona
dianasergeeva.dobrevă@univr.it

From the Black Sea to the Northern Adriatic: Explaining the Presence of Sinopean Amphorae at Late Antique Aquileia

Why do amphorae produced on the southern shores of the Black Sea appear in archaeological contexts more than 1500 kilometres away, in the northern Adriatic? The discovery of a Pontic carot-type amphora in the context of a Late Antique marketplace collapse in Aquileia offers an opportunity to address this question and reconsider the role of the northern Adriatic within the long-distance exchange networks of the 5th century CE.

Pontic carrot-shaped amphorae, which morphologically mostly conform to Kassab Tezgör's type-variant C Snp III-1 or 2, have been produced along the southern coast of the Black Sea, particularly in the region of Sinope. Archaeological evidence suggests that these containers were manufactured between the early 4th and the early 6th century CE and circulated widely beyond the Pontic basin. Although they are most commonly interpreted as vessels for the transport of wine, the precise contents of these amphorae remain uncertain, and other commodities, such as fish products or oil, have also been proposed. Rather than representing an exceptional occurrence, the presence of a Sinopean amphora at Aquileia reflects the role of the northern Adriatic as a western interface of Pontic exchange systems, demonstrating that connections with the Black Sea world remained active even during the transformative decades of the late 5th and early 6th centuries.

Diana Dobрева

Università di Verona
dianasergeeva.dobрева@univr.it

Stefano Magnani

Università degli Studi di Udine
stefano.magnani@uniud.it

Maddalena Zunino

Università degli Studi di Udine
maddalena.zunino@uniud.it

Dal Mar Nero ad Aquileia. Una nuova testimonianza delle relazioni economiche a lunga distanza

Un frammento di anfora, trovato durante gli scavi delle Grandi Terme di Aquileia, reca un'iscrizione graffita in greco che arricchisce le conoscenze relative alla

rete di relazioni commerciali tra l'altro Adriatico e le regioni del Ponto Eusino e alle tipologie di prodotti che erano commerciati.

Dragana Gavrilović

Institute of Archaeology, Belgrade
gavrilovicdragana@yahoo.com

Ivan Bogdanović

Institute of Archaeology, Belgrade
leshicka@gmail.com

Goran Stojić

Institute of Archaeology, Belgrade

Kristina Ponjavić Višnjic

Institute of Archaeology, Belgrade

The Temple in the Service of the Amphitheatre and Its Wall Decoration

Archaeological investigations of the temple discovered adjacent to the amphitheatre at the archaeological site of Viminacium (eastern Serbia) have yielded numerous remarkable results. The temple was used during religious ceremonies performed as part of processions (pompa) that preceded the combats in the arena. Archaeological research has demonstrated that the structure had at least two construction phases. A new building of slightly larger dimensions (29 × 10 m) was erected on the site of the earlier structure. Both buildings featured an apse on the southern side. The temple was in use from the 2nd century until the first half of the 4th century, with the latest alterations in the northern part of the building – where additional rooms were added – carried out at the end of the 3rd century.

In the lower zone of the apsidal area, remains of wall paintings imitating

stone revetment were discovered. In this part of the structure, the paintings were restored several times in antiquity. Through conservation and restoration work on fragments of wall paintings found in the soil, several coherent units were reconstructed, providing information about the motifs that once adorned the walls and columns of the building. Fragments of floral decoration and part of a Latin inscription were identified.

Ștefan Georgescu

Museum of National History and Archaeology, Constanța
viorel.stefan.g@gmail.com

Ana Cristina Hamat

Museum of National History and Archaeology, Constanța
anahamat@yahoo.com

The Danubian Connection. From Isis lactans to Venus nutrix

This poster will discuss a finger bone distaff discovered in Callatis, today the city of Mangalia on Rumanian Black Sea coast.

The find from Romania joins to several similar finger bone distaff (all 9 of them republished by Vessela Atanassova in 2023), discovered in different settlements from the territory of the Central and Eastern Roman Empire, in what is today's Hungary, Bulgaria and Serbia. The distaff discovered in a tomb from the Callatis necropolis is an older find (made in 1968), and it was not included in the aforementioned typology, even so, the context was published in 1969 by Constantin Iconomu.

This particular distaff was worked in bone and decorated with a figurine depicted a woman in the manner of a

naked Venus, holding a child in her arms and breastfeeding him. Like all of the artefacts coming from discoveries made in Odessos, Iatrus, Appiaria, Deultum, Cabyle, Horeum Margi, and in an unknown place from the territory of Hungary, it was preserved fragmentary. Corroborating this particularity of the findings with a complex iconography, we mention the fact that today, their identification and functionality is not completely clear. Our paper will present this find, and will try to demonstrate that this rare typology is specific for Danubian provinces (at least, at this stage of the discoveries).

Beatrice Harrach

Università Babes Bolyai beatriceharrach@hotmail.it

Identità in discussione: categorie etniche e interpretazioni accademiche sui Vandali

Nel dibattito storiografico del XX secolo, l'attribuzione delle popolazioni vandaliche a una presunta "famiglia" germanica oppure a una matrice slava è stata a lungo terreno di contesa tra approcci di storia etnica, filologia delle fonti e letture politico-culturali dell'Europa tardoantica. Questo ricostruisce criticamente l'evoluzione delle interpretazioni accademiche, mettendo in evidenza come categorie identitarie "nazionali" o "etiche" abbiano spesso guidato (o distorto) la lettura delle testimonianze materiali. Saranno discussi i criteri metodologici adottati dagli studiosi per collegare i Vandali a aree linguistiche e geografiche alternative: tipologia dei nomi, confronto onomastico, lettura delle migrazioni e uso (talora selettivo) delle evidenze archeologiche. Il poster propone

quindi una sintesi comparativa delle principali linee interpretative (germanista vs “slavista”, con varianti interne), evidenziando quali assunzioni risultino oggi più solide e quali invece siano state indebolite da revisioni critiche delle fonti e da una maggiore cautela nell’impiego di categorie etniche rigide. Obiettivo finale è mostrare che l’etichetta attribuita ai Vandali non è soltanto un dato storico, ma un indicatore della maniera in cui le discipline storiche hanno costruito i propri oggetti: un percorso che, attraverso il XX secolo, rivela il rapporto dinamico tra metodo, fonti e immaginari identitari.

Simona Maria Herlea

Lucian Blaga University of Sibiu
simona.herlea@ulbsibiu.ro

Capidava Fortress: Archaeological Context and Ceramic Restoration (4th–6th Centuries AD)

Identified by Vasile Pârvan in 1912 during an archaeological survey, the fortress of Capidava (Topalu commune, Constanța County), situated midway between Axiopolis and Carsium, was built in the early 2nd century AD under Emperor Trajan, in the context of the organization of the Danubian limes and the preparations for the Dacian Wars. Located on the right bank of the Danube, the fort occupied a high rocky promontory that provided a strategic defensive position controlling an important river crossing. Rebuilt several times between the 2nd and 11th centuries, Capidava represents a characteristic example of the transition from the Roman to the Late Roman, Romano-Byzantine, and Middle Byzantine periods in terms of military, administrative, and ecclesiastical organization.

Archaeological excavations at Capidava began in 1924 under the direction of Grigore Florescu and, despite interruptions during the communist period, have continued to the present day. Since 2008, I have coordinated students from the Conservation and Restoration program at the Faculty of Social and Human Sciences, Lucian Blaga University of Sibiu, in preventive conservation on the site and in the restoration and curative conservation of ceramic material recovered at Capidava. This poster presents the restoration stages of two ceramic artifacts dated to the 4th–6th centuries AD.

Kalina Petkova

National Archaeological Institute with Museum, Bulgarian Academy of Sciences, Sofia
kalina.petkova@naim.bg

Ruslan Stoychev

Institute of Art Studies, Bulgarian Academy of Sciences, Sofia
ruslan.stoychev@gmail.com

Veselka Kazarova

National Archaeological Institute with Museum, Bulgarian Academy of Sciences, Sofia
veselka_kazarova@naim.bg

From Hellenistic to Roman Times: Cultural Change in an Ancient Settlement near Voditsa, Northeastern Bulgaria

The poster presents the results of archaeological excavations conducted in 2020 at an ancient settlement near Voditsa, Northeastern Bulgaria, with a focus on the Hellenistic occupation of the site and the presence of Roman period features within the same settlement area.

An area of approximately 7,000 sq. m was investigated, revealing 116 archaeological structures, the majority of which date to the Hellenistic period (3rd–2nd century BC), alongside a smaller but significant group of Roman period features. The Hellenistic occupation is represented mainly by pits and by the remains of rectangular dwellings with wattle-and-daub walls. These structures indicate an organized settlement with stable domestic and economic activities. The spatial distribution of the features suggests intensive use of the area during the Hellenistic period. Roman-period structures appear within this established settlement zone rather than forming a separate occupation area. Their presence indicates continuity in the use of the site, accompanied by changes in practices and material expression. A distinctive Roman period feature demonstrates a different approach to the use of space and depositional behavior when compared to the earlier phase. The evidence highlights both the persistence of Hellenistic settlement traditions and the integration of Roman period elements in Northeastern Thrace.

Stefan Pircher

Landesmuseum für Kärnten
stefan.pircher@kaernten.museum

The Roman settlement of Tasinemetum – Emmersdorf near Rosegg in Carinthia (A)

The discovery and verification (between 2014 and 2017, project management: Paul Gleirscher (kaernten.museum)), a site previously known primarily for its extensive Hallstatt period burials came to the attention of scientists. Finds secured in the vicinity of the two Drau bridges and already published (by Ursula Schachinger (Graz) and Christoph

Hinker (ÖAI/ÖAW)) illustrate the frequent use of the crossings from the late La Tène period to the end of the Roman Empire. Between 2020 and 2023, extensive settlement areas were identified on both banks of the Drau using geophysical prospecting (BDA, ÖAI/OAW (Christian Gugl), Geosphere Austria GmbH (Ralf Totschnig and Klaus Löcker).

In the resulting excavation campaigns carried out between 2023 and 2025, several sections of the areas surveyed geophysically both north and south of the river Drau were excavated (project management: Stefan Pircher (AFIN and KIAGK)). In the course of this, it was possible to identify a sanctuary with a potential altar or possible statue base, which was enclosed by a temenos. In 2025, the archaeological excavations carried out in cooperation with the Department of Ancient Studies at Paris Lodron University Salzburg (Felix Lang) focused on the areas immediately north of the Drau, where parts of a storage building with a probable landing stage for river traffic have been documented.

Angelina Raičković Savić

Institute of Archaeology, Belgrade
araickovic@yahoo.com

Imported Fine Wares and Cultural Exchange in Early Roman Viminacium (1st–2nd c. AD)

Early Roman Viminacium, the capital of Moesia Superior and the base of Legio VII Claudia, provides a unique context for examining cultural interaction along the Danubian frontier. Among the most informative categories of material culture are imported fine wares, whose presence in the earliest horizons reflects both military supply

systems and wider economic networks of the western provinces. This poster focuses on three key groups of imported ceramics dated to the late 1st and early 2nd centuries AD: Italic thin-walled vessels, northern and central Italian fine wares, and selected forms of Gallic terra sigillata (Drag. 25, 35, 36, 17b, 18, 33). Several pieces bear potters' stamps, allowing for more precise attribution and chronological definition. Their distribution within the camp, suburban zones, and early necropoleis demonstrates stable trade routes connecting the Danube with northern Italy and southern/central Gaul, but also reveals aspects of consumption, identity formation, and status display within a military-urban environment. Comparative analysis of imported shapes and their local imitations further indicate the gradual integration of provincial workshops into broader Mediterranean ceramic traditions. By presenting representative examples and their archaeological contexts, the poster highlights imported fine wares as key indicators of cultural exchange, mobility, and connectivity in early Roman Viminacium.

Janusz Reclaw

Antiquity of Southeastern Europe
Research Centre, University of Warsaw
j.reclaw@uw.edu.pl

Waterways of the Novae Microregion

The Novae microregion is understood here as the part of the Roman province of Lower Moesia extending between Oescus, Melta, Nicopolis ad Istrum and Sexaginta Prista, with Novae as its central point. In this area, during the Principate (1st–3rd c. AD), a dense network of water routes operated. This paper presents the

preliminary results of the reconstruction of riverine component.

The area is dominated by the Danube, but its tributaries and smaller streams also play a crucial role, having been used by the Romans for transporting raw materials and another heavy products. The survey identified several dozen sites directly connected with waterborne transport: towns, emporia and ports, quarries and stone-working installations, centres of ceramic and metallurgical production, as well as associated military sites like fortresses, forts and watchtowers, all functionally linked to nearby watercourses.

Analysis of the spatial distribution of these points shows that most of them are located on higher, dry edges of the tributary valleys – on the side of the steep right slopes – as well as along the margins of the Danube floodplain. This pattern reflects valley asymmetry and the way it was exploited logistically. A recurrent logistic scheme can be observed: “mine or workshop – short overland haul – river transport down to the Danube”. At the same time, hydrological observations make it possible to trace landscape changes along this stretch of the limes, opening the way for further research into the evolution of the fluvial network and its impact on the organisation of transport in the Novae microregion.

Saša Redžić

Institute of Archaeology, Belgrade
sasa.redzic@gmail.com

Sacred Waters of Viminacium: Exploring of the Nymphaeum Complex

In 2003, a combination of geophysical surveys and archaeological excavations led to the discovery of two aqueducts that supplied water to the inhabitants

of *Viminacium*. Several years later, the aqueducts once again became the focus of archaeological interest. On that occasion, they were identified much closer to *Viminacium*, along the road extending eastwards from the eastern gate of the Castrum towards *Pincum*, at a distance of 1,300 m from the gate. At this point, both previously discovered aqueducts reached two separate structures.

The western aqueduct connected to a *castellum aquae*, whose purpose was to slow down and purify the water brought by the aqueduct before it was distributed through pipes to the city. The eastern aqueduct was linked to a structure measuring 16 × 12 m, which can be confidently identified as a *nymphaeum*. Situated along an important road, the *Viminacium* nymphaeum functioned not only as a fountain providing refreshment for travellers, but also as a sanctuary dedicated to the nymphs, protectors of springs. As the nymphaeum complex was threatened by open-cast coal mining, it was relocated in its entirety to another area within the Archaeological Park.

Mattia Vitelli Casella

Università degli Studi di Bologna
mattia.vitelli@unibo.it

Appunti per un quadro aggiornato della romanizzazione nella Dalmazia interna

Le recenti indagini nell'ambito dell'epigrafia e dell'archeologia hanno significativamente accresciuto le nostre conoscenze sul territorio interno della Dalmazia, corrispondente in gran parte all'attuale Bosnia-Erzegovina. Sicuramente si tratta di una zona in cui le condizioni geografiche e le possibilità economiche – fatto salvo lo sfruttamento delle miniere – erano molto meno

attraenti che sulla costa, laddove fin dalla tarda Repubblica si insediarono gruppi di commercianti italici e furono poi fondate ricche e popolose colonie. Non serve qui ricordare che la romanizzazione procedette su binari molto differenti, ma gli studi cui si è accennato mostrano una certa diffusione dell'integrazione nei nuovi costumi anche tra le popolazioni indigene dell'attuale Bosnia. L'obiettivo del mio articolo sarebbe unire dati vecchi e nuovi per fare il punto sulla romanizzazione dell'area, partendo dai monumenti iscritti, con una particolare attenzione all'elemento di genere.

Mirjana Vojvoda

Institute of Archaeology, Belgrade
mirjana.vojvoda@gmail.com

Coins and Burials: Numismatic Evidence from Viminacium's Funerary Practices

Archaeological excavations at Viminacium have so far uncovered more than 12,000 graves and over 8,600 coins within its extensive necropoleis. This substantial corpus of coins recovered both from graves and from sacrificial areas above individual and group graves at the necropolis provides a valuable basis for examining the role of coinage within funerary practices. The poster presents the results of analyses focused on several key aspects: differences in coin use between cremation and inhumation burials; the placement of coins in relation to the deceased in inhumation graves; and coins deposited on sacrificial areas associated with recurrent commemorative rituals performed after burial. Together, these datasets offer new insights into the symbolic, ritual, and practical dimensions of monetary offerings within the funerary sphere of Roman Viminacium.



DIUM 
DIPARTIMENTO
DI STUDI UMANISTICI E DEL
PATRIMONIO CULTURALE
UNIVERSITÀ DEGLI
STUDI DI UDINE



LABORATORIO
DI EPIGRAFIA
GRECA E LATINA



**SOCIETÀ FRIULANA
DI ARCHEOLOGIA** odv



**Università
degli Studi
di Ferrara**

Laboratorio di studi e ricerche
sulle antiche province danubiane

Information

<https://pages.dium.uniud.it/stefano-magnani/index.html>

Contacts

danubianprovinces8@gmail.com

