

MARISIA

ARCHAEOLOGIA

HISTORIA

PATRIMONIUM

1

Târgu Mureș
2019



CONSILIUL JUDEȚEAN MUREȘ
MAROS MEGYEI TANÁCS/MUREȘ COUNTY COUNCIL

EDITORIAL BOARD

Executive Editor

Zoltán SOÓS

Editors

Sándor BERECKI

Zalán GYÓRFI

János ORBÁN

Szilamér Péter PÁNCZÉL

EDITORIAL ADVISORY BOARD

Tiberius BADER (Hemmingen, Germany)

Elek BENKŐ (Budapest, Hungary)

Marius-Mihai CIUTĂ (Sibiu, Romania)

Zoltán CZAJLIK (Budapest, Hungary)

András KOVÁCS (Cluj-Napoca, Romania)

Zsolt VISY (Pécs, Hungary)

CORRESPONDENCE

Muzeul Județean Mureș / Mureș County Museum

CP 85, str. Mărăști nr. 8A, 540328 Târgu Mureș, România

e-mail: marisiaedit@gmail.com

Cover: István KARÁCSONY

The content of the papers totally involve the responsibility of the authors.

ISSN 2668-7232



www.edituramega.ro
mega@edituramega.ro

CONTENTS

Sándor BERECKI – Attila Nándor HÁGÓ A Neolithic Settlement from Târgu Mureş. I. The Courtyard of the Fortress	7
Sándor BERECKI – Sándor József SZTÁNCSUJ A Neolithic Settlement from Ernei	31
Iosif Vasile FERENCZ – Cristian Constantin ROMAN A Late Iron Age Belt Buckle from Ardeu	43
Aurora PEŢAN News on the Discovery of the Ruins from Grădiştea Muncelului in the International and Local Press from the Beginning of the 19 th Century	49
Nicoleta MAN Life on Roman Limes. Civilian Settlements on Eastern Limes of Dacia (Between the Camps from Brâncovenesti and Sărăţeni)	55
Marius-Mihai CIUTĂ Two Sculptural Pieces Recently Returned to the National Cultural Heritage	71
Keve LÁSZLÓ – Zalán GYÖRFI Medieval Small Finds in the Borders of Ideciu de Jos	79
BOTÁR István A Csiki-medence középkori környezeti viszonyairól	91
Oana TODA Tobacco Clay Pipes from Rupea Castle and their Historical Context	119
István KARÁCSONY Date noi privind elementele de amenajare interioară ale bisericii reformate din Fântânele	139
János ORBÁN Istoricul casei Hirschmann şi începuturile stilului secession maghiar la Târgu Mureş	163
ABBREVIATIONS	189

NEWS ON THE DISCOVERY OF THE RUINS FROM GRĂDIȘTEA MUNCELULUI IN THE INTERNATIONAL AND LOCAL PRESS FROM THE BEGINNING OF THE 19TH CENTURY

Aurora PETĂN*

The natives' discovery of several coin hoards in the neighbourhood of the ruins from Grădiștea Muncelului (Hunedoara County), at the beginning of the 19th century, determined the Habsburg authorities to make investigations among the villagers and to forbid treasure hunts on the state lands. On this occasion, they discovered the impressive ruins of the Dacian fortress on the Grădiștea Hill, later on identified as Sarmizegetusa Regia, and huge official excavation campaigns were initiated aiming both at finding gold and for scientific reasons. The news related to the discovery of the ancient city up in the mountains and of the treasures, spread all over the world, the local and the international press reporting at large or briefly on this topic. The article herein is meant to analyse the information from the press of the time and the way in which it was spread.

Keywords: historiography, Dacian Kingdom, coin hoards, Sarmizegetusa Regia, Grădiștea Muncelului, the press of the 19th century

Cuvinte cheie: istoriografie, Regatul Dac, tezaure monetare, Sarmizegetusa Regia, Grădiștea Muncelului, presa secolului al XIX-lea

PREMISES

On the passage from the 18th to the 19th century, a series of information spread out, related to the existence of some treasures around the ruins from Grădiștea Muncelului (today Grădiștea de Munte, Hunedoara County), where in antiquity laid the fortress of Sarmizegetusa Regia, capital of the Dacian Kingdom. The natives from the nearby villages but also those from the newly founded colony of workers in the vicinity of the ruins rushed to the area, in search for gold.¹

The authorities found out about the discovery of a treasure consisting in Lysimachos-type gold coins in the area around Ceata hill (The Anineș valley, a few kilometers away from the ruins of Sarmizegetusa), in the autumn of 1802.

The discoverer had been denounced at the end of February the following year, but the authorities started an investigation only at the beginning of the summer and forbade all other private searches on the imperial lands. The investigator, Paul Török,² went at the beginning of June to Ocolișul Mic, where the discoverer was living, and then he climbed up the Ceata Hill, at the place indicated by the villager. In the meantime, on the 16th of June, the priest from Vâlcelele Bune, shortly followed by a larger group of searchers, discovered in the vicinity of the ruins from Grădiștea a hoard of 400 kosons, near the path leading to Godeanu Hill. The news was quickly spread and numerous villagers climbed

* Aurora PETĂN. Study Centre of Dacica Foundation, Alun, RO, aurora.petan@dacica.ro.

¹ PETĂN 2018, 44 sqq.

² For Török's activity, see MITTHOF-MÁDLY 2016.

The text starts with a disambiguation: "There has been for some time much talk about treasures found and about an antique city or fortress discovered in our country. The rumors spread about this topic are so different and even contradictory that it is our duty to set the truth in its own right, according to the official reports".

There follows the presentation of three important events. The first is the discovery of a monetary treasure in the month of March of the same year, by two Romanians, Ieremia Toma and Zaharia Andrei, in the woods around Ocolișul Mic. The former found 214 pieces, the latter 66, and all the 280 pieces were handed over to the mint of Alba Iulia, hence they were sent to the Treasuriate of Sibiu which, in turn sent them to Vienna. The treasure consisted of Lysimachos-type gold coins, just two pieces belonging to Pharnakes and Asander.

Undoubtedly, it is the treasure of Arimie Popa, investigated by Török in June 1803. Probably, the real name was Ieremia Toma, as mentioned by the Treasuriate, but in the investigations, it appears as Arimie, while "Popa" ["priest" in Romanian] must be related to his office as a priest. The number of pieces is the same both in the witnesses' declarations and in the report, but the place of discovery is different: the press release mentioned the woods around Ocolișul Mic, while the investigation pointed at the Ceata Hill, on the Anineș Valley. As to Zaharia Andrei, the person who seemingly accompanied Arimie/Ieremia, he was mentioned only in the press release.

The second item of information is related to the discovery of the ruins of an old city of considerable size, in the woods of Hunedoara

County, up the Grădiștea Mountains. No inscriptions had been found yet, to enable us establish the old name of this city. A single piece of brick was found, engraved with the letters PERSCO Rilo.

These items of information, even if scarce, were taken from Török's report of 4 July, which also mentioned the discovery of the famous pot fragment carrying the embossed inscription PER SCORILO, discovered on 1 July 1803.⁶

The third event is represented by the discovery of a gold koson-type coin hoard, by another Romanian priest. The discovery was made in the neighborhood of Godeanu Mountain (spelled *Gottiano* or *Gattano* in different publications that published the news). The pieces, 400 in number, very well preserved, were purchased by the Treasury of Sibiu at the price of 4217 florins. There follows a description of this monetary type and a few opinions on the origin of kosons. It is acknowledged that they are 2000 years old and it is pointed out that the opinions of the numismatists are divergent: these coins are either supposed to have been issued in the Etruscan city of COSAE, or assigned to Marcus Iunius Brutus. The legend ΚΟΣΩΝ was misspelled in *Wiener Zeitung*, as Κοζην, but it was corrected by the editors of other publications, who drew the attention upon this mistake.

We are certainly talking about the treasure found by the priest from Vâlcelele Bune near a spring in the vicinity of the fortress, on the 16th of June 1803.

Finally, the press release states in the end that the state took steps towards continuing the diggings and investigations at the ruins discovered and around them.

THE REACTION OF THE INTERNATIONAL PRESS

The first publications that reported on the press release and published it entirely, without alterations, was the German daily *Allgemeine Zeitung*,

issued in Munich, ten days after its publication in Vienna.⁷ From here, at the beginning of September, the news reached Italy, where it was

⁶ JAKÓ 1968, 435; PETAN 2018, 354 sqq.

⁷ *Allgemeine Zeitung*, no 242, 30 August 1803, p. 968, München. Five days earlier, another newspaper from Munich published an incomplete version of this press release: *Kurpfalzbaierische Münchner Staatszeitung*, No 200, 25 August 1803, 981–982, München.

published by *Il corriere milanese*, which made a summary of the information, yet sticking to several details.⁸ In October, in Brussels, a large excerpt was published from this letter, which was wrongly said to come from *Armstadt* (instead of *Hermannstadt*).⁹ In Paris the news was published in the same year, to the same length as in the publications mentioned before, under the heading *Découverte de médailles et des ruines d'une ville ancienne en Transylvanie*.¹⁰ The editor corrected the legend on the koson-type coins wrongly mentioned in the Viennese version of the press release.

Towards the end of the year, a brief piece of news on the discovery of the ruins was taken from this report and included in a London monthly, on the 1st of January 1840.¹¹ The same text appeared in Dublin in February 1805.¹² A larger version was published by another London

magazine in 1804,¹³ and, one year later, London readers were given access to the almost integral text of the letter sent by the Transylvanian Treasuriate.¹⁴

The news of the discovery of treasures and of an ancient city crossed the ocean in the autumn of 1804. At the beginning of September, a New York weekly¹⁵ published it at length, and in the former half of 1805 one can find it in a publication from Philadelphia.¹⁶ The American public would have news on this site only more than a century later.¹⁷

The information spread at the slowness that characterized those times and until it got to England or over the ocean, the excavations had already been closed and the subject abandoned. Nevertheless, the fact that the news was spread all over the world within a year and a half, shows the high interest of the international press for this topic.

NEWS IN THE LOCAL PRESS

The news in the local press is more numerous. Very short after the press release made by the Treasuriate, on 1 August 1803, the Transylvanian newspaper *Siebenbürger Bote* published an article signed by Franz Xaver Hene¹⁸ about the coins found by the treasure hunters in the vicinity of the ruins from Grădiștea Muncelului. Hene's text announced the beginning of the diggings managed by the authorities, the mobilization of the appropriate institutions and it promised to publish the results at the proper moment (which, unfortunately, never happened).

It was also in August 1803 that *Zeitschrift von und für Ungarn*¹⁹ published a text signed by the Saxon historian Joseph Karl Eder, under the title *Antiquarische Erörterung neulich in Siebenbürgen gefundener Goldmünzen und Ruinen*, about the gold coins discovered by the treasure hunters at Grădiștea Muncelului. The discussion was focused on the interpretation of the koson-type coins, but it also gave some information on the ruins. The author mentioned remnants of walls and of a gate, carved stones and roof tiles and

⁸ *Il corriere milanese*, lunedì, 5 settembre 1803, 570, Milano.

⁹ *Le nouvel esprit des journaux français et étrangers*, tome second, octobre 1803, 124–125, Bruxelles.

¹⁰ *Magasin encyclopédique*, ou journal des sciences, des lettres et des arts, rédigé par A.L. Millin, IXe année, tome troisième, 1803, 219–220, Paris.

¹¹ *The Monthly Magazine; or British Register*, 16, part. II for 1803, no 109, January 1, 1804, 6 of vol. 16, 565, London.

¹² *Walker's Hibernian Magazine, or Compendium of Entertaining Knowledge*, for February 1805, 123, Dublin.

¹³ *The Gentleman's Magazine: and Historical Chronicle for the year MDCCCIV*, 74, Part the first, 1804, 58, London.

¹⁴ *The Philosophical Magazine: comprehending the various branches of sciences, the liberal and fines arts, agriculture, manufactures, and commerce*, by Alexander Tillich, 20, 1805, 282–283, London.

¹⁵ *Prospect: or View of the Moral World*, for the year 1804, by Elihu Palmer, 1, no 40, Septembre, 8, 1804, 320, New York.

¹⁶ *The Literary Magazine, and American Register*, for 1805, from January to June, 3, 1805, 477, Philadelphia.

¹⁷ In the summer of 1934, a special correspondent of *The New York Times* announced that, finally, the capital of the Dacian Kingdom, the legendary city of Decebalus, Trajan's terrible opponent, was discovered. Although the ruins had already been known for over a century, their identification with Sarmizegetusa Regia, acknowledged only in the inter-war period, by archeologist D.M. Teodorescu, represented a sensational subject for the American press. PETAN 2018, 463–464.

¹⁸ *Siebenbürger Bote*, 1 August 1803, no 29, apud FINÁLY 1911, 349.

¹⁹ EDER 1803.

it is shown that the ruins are overgrown by an old forest. This is the first published description of the ruins. Eder had access to many of the Transylvanian archives. He is the one who saved several documents, by copying them, among which a few reports of the Austrian Tax Authority.²⁰ His information is probably sourced from these reports. His text appeared after the first digging reports had been drawn up and, for this reason, he brought extra information, as compared to the Treasuriate press release.

Most remarkably, Eder intuited the Dacian origin of these vestiges and assigned them to Decebalus who, in his opinion, would have built them for defense, after the first war with Trajan. He quotes historian Konrad Mannert, who claimed that these mountains were Decebalus' refuge place, after he had been chased out of his own residence. Just as Hene, Eder pointed out to the fact that the officials mobilized in order to investigate the area.

The text with the greatest impact all along the 19th century was that of Major Péchy Mihály, published on the 1st of July 1805 in a Transylvanian newspaper under the heading *Bemerkungen über die unlängst vorgefundenen alten römischen Ruinen bei Gredistie*.²¹ Dispatched to Grădiștea Muncelului short after the diggings made by the Tax Authority had ended, the major drew up a report on the 26th of June 1805, preserved to this day in the Imperial War Archives of Vienna and immediately published by the Transylvanian magazine.

The text is short and it has two parts: the description of the most important monuments seen on the site (four in number) and an attempt at establishing the identity of the antique city. In his capacity of architect with a classic instruction, Péchy was influenced by what he knew from Greek and Roman architecture, so that he sought for similarities in the vestiges from Grădiște. Thus, the great stone circle was, in his

opinion, a *monopteros*-type temple, by analogy with the one in Pozzuoli (which proved later to be a *macellum*). The large building south of the fortification was that of a Roman bath, according to him. He also noticed the city walls, built of limestone and a clay pipeline placed on carved stone blocks. His conviction was that the ruins of Grădiștea Muncelului are those of a Roman city, identified as *Aquae*.

The echoes of this text are to be found a few years later in the press: for instance, in 1807, *Allgemeine Literaturzeitung* published a press review for the year 1805 and included an abstract of Péchy's article.²²

As the chamber authorities never published the results of the excavations from 1803–1804, and Péchy's report was the only text published at that time on the excavations, the public opinion attached the major's name to these excavations. To this, surely contributed the fact that the image of the officer was attached to the garrison that had really taken part in the excavations and which the public opinion was knowledgeable of. The error persisted until the publication of the Austrian Tax Authority reports by Sigismund Jakó. He showed that Péchy was mistakenly attributed the management of the excavations, since he never took part in them, but he only visited the site one year after they had been closed.²³

The public opinion must have waited with interest for the publication of the excavations' results. Unfortunately, they were not made public until a few decades ago. More than a century after Xaver Hene's article, announcing the beginning of the diggings and promising that the results would be published, Finály Gábor pointed out that nothing had been published related to the official endeavors deployed at these ruins and he, somehow ironically, expressed his hope that they would not have to wait for another hundred years to hear some news related to this topic.²⁴ Unfortunately, his fears turned true.²⁵

²⁰ PEȚAN 2018, 133.

²¹ PÉCHY 1805. For a detailed analysis of this report see PEȚAN 2018, 129–131 and 241–243.

²² *Allgemeine Literaturzeitung vom Jahre 1807, Erste Band, Januar bis Junius*, no 98, 24 April 1807, Coll. 780, Halle-Leipzig.

²³ JAKÓ 1973, 636.

²⁴ FINÁLY 1911, 349; FINÁLY 1916, 12.

²⁵ The excavation reports were identified in archives and edited by S. Jakó in 1966–1973, but they were turned into account only in 2018, see PEȚAN 2018, 82.

REFERENCES

EDER 1803

K. Eder, Antiquarische Erörterung neulich in Siebenbürgen gefundener Goldmünzen und Ruinen, *Zeitschrift von und für Ungarn* 4, 12 August 1803, 113–118.

FINÁLY 1911

G. Finály, Archäologische Funde im Jahre 1910: Ungarn, *AA*, 1911, 340–349.

FINÁLY 1916

G. Finály, A Gredistyei dák várak, *ArchÉrt* 36, 1916, 11–43.

JAKÓ 1968

S. Jakó, Date privitoare la cercetările arheologice de la Grădiștea Muncelului în anii 1803–1804 (I), *ActaMN* 5, 1968, 432–443.

JAKÓ 1973

S. Jakó, Date privitoare la cercetările arheologice de la Grădiștea Muncelului în anii 1803–1804 (IV), *ActaMN* 10, 1973, 627–639.

MITTHOF–MÁDLY 2016

F. Mitthof – L.-L. Mády, Zwischen Kameralverwaltung und Archäologie: Der Fiskalprokurator Paul Török und die „k. Schatz- und Alterthümergrabung“ der Jahre 1803–1804 zu Grădiștea Muncelului in Siebenbürgen, in: F. M. Müller (Hg.), *Graben, Entdecken, Sammeln. Leienforscher in der Geschichte der Archäologie Österreichs* (Wien 2016) 57–69.

PÉCHY 1805

M. Péchy, Bemerkungen über die unlängst vorgefundenen alten römischen Ruinen bei Gredistie, *Siebenbürgische Provinzialblaetter* 1, 1805, 249–252.

PEȚAN 2018

A. Pețan, *Sarmizegetusa Regia. 1. Redescoperirea cetății* (Alun 2018)

ABBREVIATIONS

<i>AA</i>	Archäologischer Anzeiger. Beiblatt zum Jahrbuch des Archäologischen Institut, Berlin
<i>Acta</i>	Acta (Siculica), Muzeul Național Secuiesc, Sfântu Gheorghe
<i>ActaAC</i>	Acta Archaeologica Carpathica, Academia Scientiarum Polona Collegium Cracoviense, Kraków
<i>ActaMN</i>	Acta Musei Napocensis, Cluj-Napoca
<i>ActaMP</i>	Acta Musei Porolissensis, Zalău
<i>ActaTS</i>	Acta Terrae Septemcastrensis, Sibiu
<i>AnnalesUA, SH</i>	Annales Universitatis Apulensis, Series Historica, Alba Iulia
<i>Angustia</i>	Angustia, Muzeul Carpaților Răsăriteni, Sfântu Gheorghe
<i>Antaeus</i>	Antaeus. Communicationes ex Instituto Archaeologico Academiae Scientiarum Hungaricae, Budapest
<i>Apulum</i>	Apulum, Acta Musei Apulensis, Alba Iulia
<i>ArchÉrt</i>	Archaeologiai Értesítő, Budapest
<i>ArchKorr</i>	Archäologisches Korrespondenzblatt, Römisch-Germanischen Zentralmuseum, Mainz
<i>ArhMold</i>	Arheologia Moldovei, Iași
<i>ASZ</i>	Agrártörténeti Szemle
<i>AttiSocFriuli</i>	Atti della Società per la preistoria e protostoria della Regione Friuli – Venezia Giulia
<i>AVSL (NF)</i>	Archiv des Vereins für Siebenbürgische Landeskunde, (Neue Folge), Hermannstadt
<i>BAI</i>	Bibliotheca Archaeologica Iassiensis, Iași
<i>BAM</i>	Bibliotheca Archaeologica Moldaviae, Iași
<i>Banatica</i>	Banatica, Muzeul de istorie al județului Caraș-Severin, Reșița
<i>BAR</i>	British Archaeological Reports, International Series / British Series, Oxford
<i>BCMI</i>	Buletinul Comisiei Monumentelor Istorice
<i>BMA</i>	Biblioteca Mvsei Apvlensis, Alba Iulia
<i>BMM</i>	Bibliotheca Mvsei Marisiensis, Archaeologia, Târgu Mureș / Cluj Napoca
<i>BMN</i>	Bibliotheca Mvsei Napocensis, Cluj-Napoca
<i>BMP</i>	Bibliotheca Mvsei Porolissensis, Zalău
<i>BudRég</i>	Budapest Régiségei, Budapesti Történeti Múzeum, Budapest
<i>CA</i>	Cercetări Arheologice, București
<i>CCA</i>	Cronica Cercetărilor Arheologice din România, București
<i>CMM</i>	Catalogi Musei Marisiensis, archaeologia, Târgu Mureș
<i>ComArchHung</i>	Communicationes Archaeologicae Hungariae, Budapest
<i>Cumidava</i>	Cumidava, Anuarul Muzeelor Brașovene
<i>CsSzME</i>	Csíki Székely Múzeum Évkönyve, Csíkszereda
<i>Dacia (N. S.)</i>	Dacia. Recherches et découvertes archéologiques en Roumanie, I–XII (1924–1948), București; Nouvelle série (N. S.), Dacia. Revue d'archéologie et d'histoire ancienne, București

<i>DissPann</i>	Dissertationes Pannonicae, ex Instituto Numismatico et Archaeologico Universitatis de Petro Pázmány nominatae Budapestinensis provenientes, Budapest
<i>DolgKolozsvár (Ú.S.)</i>	Dolgozatok az Erdélyi Nemzeti Múzeum Érem- és Régiségtárából, (új sorozat, 2006–), Kolozsvár
<i>Drobeta</i>	Drobeta, Muzeul Regiunii Porților de Fier
<i>EJA</i>	European Journal of Archaeology
<i>EMúz</i>	Erdélyi Múzeum, Kolozsvár
<i>EphemNap</i>	Ephemeris Napocensis, Cluj-Napoca
<i>ESzNMJ</i>	Emlékkönyv a Székely Nemzeti Múzeum 50 éves jubileumára
<i>FK</i>	Földtani Közlöny, Budapest
<i>Hesperia</i>	Hesperia, the American School of Classical Studies at Athens
<i>Hydrobiologia</i>	Hydrobiologia. The International Journal of Aquatic Sciences
<i>JAMÉ</i>	A Nyíregyházi Jós András Múzeum Évkönyve, Nyíregyháza
<i>JQS</i>	Journal of Quaternary Science
<i>JRA</i>	Journal of Roman Archaeology
<i>Lymbus</i>	Lymbus. Magyarságtudományi Forrásközlemények, Budapest
<i>Marisia</i>	Marisia (V–), Studii și Materiale, Târgu Mureș
<i>MCA</i>	Materiale și Cercetări Arheologice, București
<i>MIMK</i>	Molnár István Múzeum Kiadványai, Cristuru Secuiesc/Székelykeresztúr
<i>MNy</i>	Magyar Nyelv, Budapest
<i>Művészet</i>	Művészet, Országos Magyar Képzőművészeti Társulat, Budapest
<i>NK</i>	Numizmatikai Közlöny, Budapest
<i>NyIK</i>	Nyelv- és irodalomtudományi közlemények
<i>NumZ</i>	Numismatische Zeitschrift, Wien
<i>RevBis</i>	Revista Bistriței, Complexul Județean Muzeal Bistrița-Năsăud
<i>RevIst</i>	Revista Istorică, București
<i>Sargetia</i>	Sargeția, Buletinul Muzeului județului Hunedoara, Acta Musei Devensis, Deva
<i>SCIV(A)</i>	Studii și Cercetări de Istorie Veche (și Arheologie 1974–), București
<i>StComSM</i>	Studii și Comunicări Satu Mare
<i>StudiaAA</i>	Studia Antiqua et Archaeologica, Iași
<i>Studia UBB</i>	Studia Universitatis Babeș-Bolyai, series Historia, Cluj-Napoca
<i>Studia UBB, TCV</i>	Studia Universitatis Babeș-Bolyai, series Theologia Catholica Varadinensis
<i>Studii</i>	Studii. Revistă de Istorie, București
<i>Suceava</i>	Suceava, Anuarul Complexului Muzeal Bucovina
<i>Századok</i>	Századok, A Magyar Történelmi Társulat folyóirata
<i>Terra Sebus</i>	Terra Sebus, Acta Musei Sabasiensis, Sebeș
<i>VAH</i>	Varia Archaeologica Hungarica, Budapest
<i>WMMÉ</i>	Wosinsky Mór Múzeum Évkönyve, Szekszárd
<i>Ziridava (StudArch)</i>	Ziridava (Studia Archaeologica 2010–), Arad