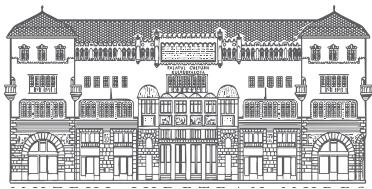


MARISIA

ARCHAEOLOGIA
HISTORIA
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6

Târgu Mureş
2024



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READY TO BE RECYCLED? A FRAGMENT OF A MILITARY DIPLOMA FROM CĂLUGĂRENI / MIKHÁZA (DACIA SUPERIOR)

Florian MATEI-POPESCU* – Szilamér-Péter PÁNCZÉL**

The present paper discusses a military diploma fragment discovered in the principia of the auxiliary fort at Călugăreni / Mikháza on the eastern limes of Dacia superior, in the destruction layers related to one of the weapon deposits (armamentarium). The fragment of the diploma dates between 133 and 142 AD. Taking into account the perfect cut, which was obviously intentional, and the late 3rd century AD context, we can conclude that it was prepared for recycling.

Keywords: *limes, Dacia superior, principia, military diploma, witness*

Cuvinte-cheie: *limes, Dacia superior, principia, diplomă militară, martor*

Călugăreni / Mikháza, located in Mureş / Maros County, Romania, is one of the major Roman military sites in Eastern Transylvania, situated in the south-western part of the modern village. It extends along the left bank of the Niraj / Nyárád River, benefiting from the natural defence provided by the Gurghiu / Görgényi Mountains and the hills of the Subcarpații Târnavei Mici / Sóvidéki dombság. Along with a series of watchtowers and other defensive structures located to the east, it was tasked with controlling the Roman frontier sector around the upper Niraj Valley and the Săcădat / Szakadát Valley, where the presumed ancient traffic routes to the *Barbaricum* passed through.

The *cohors I Augusta Ituraeorum* was stationed in the fort from the second–third quarter of the 3rd century AD.¹ The main components of the site: the auxiliary fort (Area A, Area D), the *balneum* (area B) and the surrounding

military *vicus* (Area C, Area ERC 2018) have been systematically investigated in the framework of research excavations (Fig. 1) and rescue excavations (ERA, ERC, CAP, CAB projects).²

The fragment was discovered during the 2024 excavation in the *principia* (Trench A/2024), in context no. 951, and has been recorded under the small find number 13745.³ The context is a collapsed roof of the south-western room of the southern wing of the headquarters building, so we can link the artefact to the latest phase of use of this room (Fig. 2.). Based on corroborated

² Due to various interconnected projects focusing on the research, conservation, and presentation of the site, aerial archaeological, geophysical, architectural, and topographical surveys, as well as rescue and research excavations have been undertaken at Călugăreni. We would like to thank our colleagues who participated in the field researches and Krisztina Csibi, Katalin Sidó for their help with the illustrations, Zsolt-Szabolcs Nagy, Tihamér András for conserving the artefact. For an overview concerning the state of research at Călugăreni, see: SZILÁGYI–PÁNCZÉL 2023, 45–46, and Kovács 2023; NAGY–PÁNCZÉL 2024 and BÁLINT–PÁNCZÉL 2024 published since.

³ The diploma is part of the Archaeological collections of the Mureş County Museum under the inventory number 18250.

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¹ For the auxiliary unit, see: PISO–MARCU 2008; ȚENEA 2012, 52–60; MATEI–POPESCU 2014, 207; SIDÓ–ÖTVÖS 2015; MATEI–POPESCU–ȚENEA 2016, 10; PETOLESCU 2021, 234–236, no. 50; NAGY–PÁNCZÉL 2024.

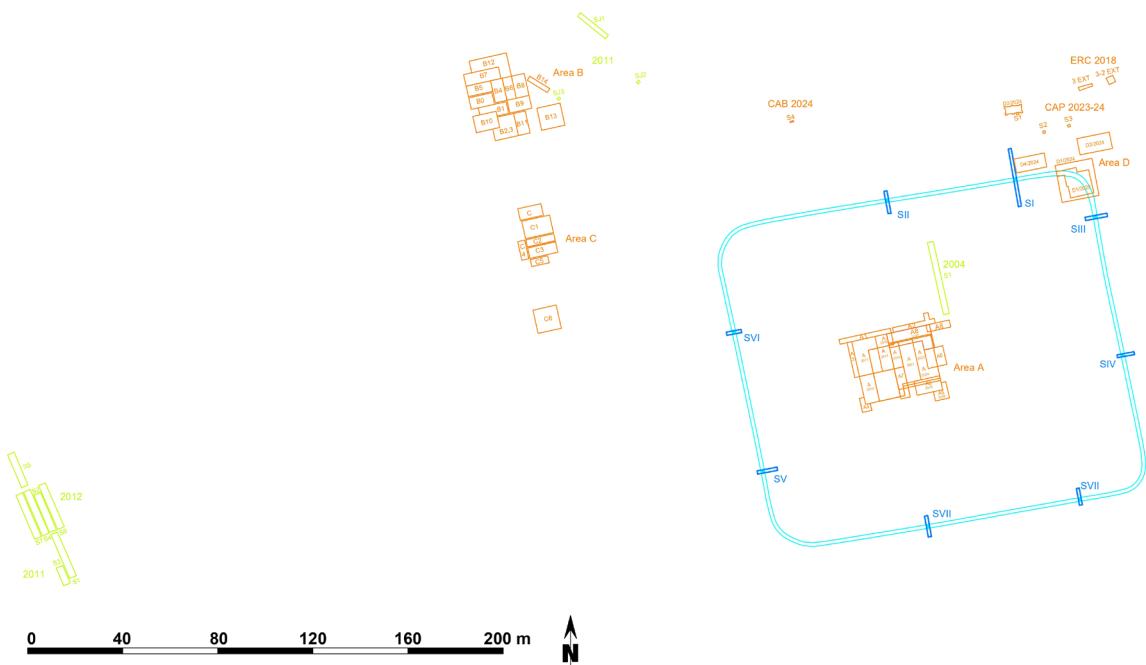


Fig. 1. Layout plan of the archaeological excavations until 2024 (auxiliary fort in turquoise); 1961 excavations in blue; 2004, 2011–2012 excavations in green; 2013–2024 excavations in orange (made by P. Simon and Sz.-P. Pánczél).



Fig. 2. Aerial photo at the beginning of the 2024 excavations in the *principia* (Area A/2024). The room where the fragment of the diploma was discovered is marked in green.

finds,⁴ the function of the room as an *armamentarium* has been confirmed.

It is essential to emphasise that the auxiliary fort and subsequently the *principia* have suffered extensive damage due to modern interventions, including looting and agricultural activities conducted in the area over the past centuries. As a result, the stratigraphic layers corresponding to the latest Roman occupation phases are only partially preserved and can be documented to a limited degree. The majority of the documented demolition and destruction layers of the *principia* can be dated to the second–third quarter of the 3rd century AD, related with the collapse of the Roman rule in Dacia.

There is a fragment from the top right quarter of *tabella II* of a diploma. Height 5,64 cm; width 6,2 cm; thickness 0.8 mm; weight 18.68 g. The lettering is well cut and clearly legible. The inner face bears no script. The letter height is 0.6 cm, the upper and the

⁴ PÁNCZÉL–LUKÁCSI 2019, 417; NAGY–PÁNCZÉL 2024, 62.



Fig. 3. The military diploma fragment from Călugăreni.

left edges show well-defined borders with one and two framing lines respectively. A green patina covered the entire fragment. The *tabella* was cut into four quarters, probably in order to be recycled. The *cognomina* of the first three witnesses are preserved as follows:

[<i>Ti. Claudi]</i>	<i>Menandri</i>	103–142 AD (RMD VI, 249, 256)
[<i>L. Pulli]</i>	<i>Daphni</i>	122–148 AD (RMD VI, 251, 256)
[<i>P. Atti]</i>	<i>Severi</i>	123–148 AD (RMD VI, 249, 255)

At first glance the diploma dates between 123 and 142 AD, therefore it was copied after a constitution issued either by Hadrian or by Antoninus Pius in his very first years of reign. The witnesses appeared together, but with *P. Attius Severus* in second place, on diplomas between 133 and 142 AD.⁵ Up to this moment there is

no other attestation of the sequence in the *collegium* as it appears on this fragment, with *L. Pullius Daphnus* in second place, followed by *P. Attius Severus*. Moreover after *Menander* was no longer part of the *collegium*, *P. Attius Severus* climbed to first place, followed by *L. Pullius Daphnus*.⁶ He appears in second place after *Ti. Claudius Menander* on one fragment, but is

AD); AE 2017, 1762 (Moesia superior, 135 AD); CIL XVI 83 (Moesia inferior, 138 AD); RMD I 38 (Lycia et Pamphylia, 139 AD); CIL XVI 87 (Syria Palaestina, 139 AD); RMD VI 570 (*classis Ravennatis*, 139 AD); RMD I 39 = IDR I DiplMil 13 (Dacia inferior, 140 AD); RMD I 40 = RMD V, 917 = IDR I DiplMil 23 = ILD 9 (Dacia Porolissensis, 138–142 AD); RMD IV 264 and RMD V 392 (*classis Ravennatis*, 142 AD); RGZM 29 (Syria Palaestina, 142 AD).

⁵ Both in the Period 2 and 3: CIL XVI 76 (Pannonia superior, 133 AD); CIL XVI 79 (*classis Misenensis*, 134 AD); AE 2014, 1675 (Syria, 144 AD); AE 2015, 1904 (*equites singulares Augusti*, 144 AD); RMD I 44 (Asia, 145 AD); AE 2019, 1222 (Pannonia superior, 145 AD); RMD II 99 (Noricum?, 146 AD); CIL XVI 178 (Pannonia inferior, 146 AD).

⁶ Both in the Period 2 and 3: CIL XVI 76 (Pannonia superior, 133 AD); CIL XVI 79 (*classis Misenensis*, 134 AD); AE 2014, 1675 (Syria, 144 AD); AE 2015, 1904 (*equites singulares Augusti*, 144 AD); RMD I 44 (Asia, 145 AD); AE 2019, 1222 (Pannonia superior, 145 AD); RMD II 99 (Noricum?, 146 AD); CIL XVI 178 (Pannonia inferior, 146 AD).

followed by another witness, *Ti. Claudius Chresimus*.⁷ It seems that when the three appeared together, the sequence was observed. The reason why the sequence is different on this diploma remains unclear, there was probably a mistake.

On the majority of the diplomas where these three witnesses appear in first place, they are followed by: *P. Attius Festus*, *T. Flavius Laurus*, *Ti. Iulius Felix* and *C. Iulius Silvanus*, but other witnesses also appear, for instance *T. Flavius Romulus*⁸ or *M. Sennilius Iasus*⁹ instead of *T. Flavius Laurus*, to give only one example. Thus, it is

impossible to restore the entire list of witnesses on this diploma.

Based on the discussion above, we can assume that the fragment of the diploma dates between 133 and 142 AD. Taking into account the perfect cut, which was obviously intentional, and the later context of the *armamentarium* from the 3rd century AD, we can assume that it was prepared for recycling or melting. It is impossible to tell whether the diploma was issued to a veteran of the *cohors I Augusta Ituraeorum*, although it seems to be the case.

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⁷ WEISS ET AL. 2024, 223–224, no. 11: [Ti(beri) Claudi] Mjenandri / [L(uci) Pulli D]aphni / [Ti(beri) Claudi C] hresimi / [- - H]ermetis / [- - -]. *Ti. Claudius Chresimus* appears also on AE 2015, 1888–1889 (Moesia inferior, 146 AD).

⁸ RMD VI, p. 250, 254 (132–139 AD).

⁹ RMD VI, p. 251, 253, 256 (135–160 AD).

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ABBREVIATIONS

<i>ActaAntHung</i>	Acta Antiqua Academiae Scientiarum Hungaricae, Budapest
<i>ActaArchHung</i>	Acta Archaeologica Academiae Scientiarum Hungaricae, Budapest
<i>ActaMilMed</i>	Acta Militaria Mediaevalia
<i>ActaMN</i>	Acta Musei Napocensis, Cluj-Napoca
<i>ActaMP</i>	Acta Musei Porolissensis, Zalău
<i>ActaPraehistA</i>	Acta Praehistorica et Archaeologica
<i>AnB</i>	Analele Banatului
<i>Angustia</i>	Angustia. Muzeul Carpaților Răsăriteni, Sfântu Gheorghe
<i>Antiquity</i>	Antiquity. A Quarterly Review of Archaeology
<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
<i>Banatica</i>	Banatica, Muzeul Banatului Montan, Reșița
<i>BAR (I.S./B.S.)</i>	British Archaeological Reports, International Series / British Series, Oxford
<i>BayVgBl</i>	Bayerische Vorgeschichtsblätter
<i>BerRGK</i>	Bericht der Römisch-Germanischen Kommission
<i>BHAUT</i>	Bibliotheca Historica et Archaeologica Universitatis Timisiensis
<i>BMA</i>	Bibliotheca Musei Apulensis
<i>BMusBrux</i>	Bulletin des Musées Royaux d'Art et d'Histoire, Bruxelles
<i>CA</i>	Cercetări Arheologice
<i>CommArchHung</i>	Communicationes Archaeologicae Hungariae, Budapest
<i>Complutum</i>	Complutum. Publicaciones del Departamento de prehistoria de la Universidad complutense de Madrid
<i>Crisia</i>	Crisia. Muzeul Țării Crișurilor, Oradea
<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>DissArch</i>	Dissertationes Archaeologicae ex Instituto Archaeologico Universitatis de Rolando Eötvös Nominatae, Budapest
<i>EphemNap</i>	Ephemeris Napocensis, Cluj-Napoca
<i>EurAnt</i>	Eurasia Antiqua
<i>FI</i>	File de Istorie. Muzeul de Istorie al Județului Bistrița-Năsăud, Bistrița
<i>FolArch</i>	Folia Archaeologica, Budapest
<i>Germania</i>	Germania. Anzeiger der Römisch-Germanischen Kommission des Deutschen Archäologischen Instituts
<i>HOMÉ</i>	A Herman Ottó Múzeum Évkönyve, Miskolc
<i>JAHA</i>	Journal of Ancient History and Archaeology
<i>JAMÉ</i>	A Nyíregyházi Jósa András Múzeum Évkönyve, Nyíregyháza
<i>JASc</i>	Journal of Archaeological Science
<i>JbRGZM</i>	Jahrbuch des Römisch-Germanischen Zentralmuseums, Mainz
<i>JRA</i>	Journal of Roman Archaeology

<i>JRomMilSt</i>	Journal of Roman Military Equipment Studies
<i>JRS</i>	The Journal of Roman Studies
<i>KuBA</i>	Kölner und Bonner Archaeologica
<i>Marisia</i>	Marisia (V–), Studii și Materiale, Târgu Mureș
<i>Marisia-AHP</i>	Marisia: Archaeologia, Historia, Patrimonium, Târgu Mureș
<i>MCA</i>	Materiale și Cercetări Arheologice, București
<i>MFMÉ</i>	A Móra Ferenc Múzeum Évkönyve, Szeged
<i>Oltenia</i>	Oltenia. Studii și comunicări. Istorie-Arheologie
<i>OxfJA</i>	Oxford Journal of Archaeology
<i>PBF</i>	Prähistorische Bronzefunde, Stuttgart
<i>ProcPrehistSoc</i>	Proceedings of the Prehistoric Society
<i>PZ</i>	Praehistorische Zeitschrift
<i>RA</i>	Revue archéologique
<i>RadMV</i>	Rad vojvođanskih muzeja (1994- Rad Muzeja Vojvodine)
<i>ReiCretActa</i>	Rei Cretariae Romanae Fautorum Acta, Tongeren
<i>RevBis</i>	Revista Bistriței, Complexul Județean Muzeal Bistrița-Năsăud
<i>SaalbJb</i>	Saalburg-Jahrbuch. Bericht des Saalburg-Museums
<i>Sargetia (S.N.)</i>	Sargetia. Acta Musei Devensis, Deva
<i>SCIV(A)</i>	Studii și Cercetări de Istorie Veche (și Arheologie 1974–), București
<i>SlovArch</i>	Slovenská Archeológia, Bratislava
<i>SMIM</i>	Studii și Materiale de Istorie Medie
<i>StComBrukenthal</i>	Studii și comunicări – Muzeul Brukenthal
<i>SUBB-Historia</i>	Studia Universitatis Babeș-Bolyai, series Historia, Cluj-Napoca
<i>Századok</i>	Századok, A Magyar Történelmi Társulat Folyóirata, Budapest
<i>Tibiscum</i>	Tibiscum. Studii și comunicări. Muzeul Județean Caransebeș
<i>Tisicum</i>	A Jász-Nagykun-Szolnok Megyei Múzeumok Évkönyve
<i>Tyragetia</i>	Tyragetia. The National Museum of History of Moldova, Chișinău
<i>UPA</i>	Universitätsforschungen zur Prähistorischen Archäologie, Bonn
<i>Ziridava</i>	Ziridava (–2012 Studia Archaologica)
<i>ZMúz</i>	Zalai Múzeum. Közlemények Zala Megye Múzeumaiból
<i>ZPE</i>	Zeitschrift für Papyrologie und Epigraphik

MARISIA. ARCHAEOLOGIA, HISTORIA, PATRIMONIUM

With a publishing tradition since 1965, in 2019 the annual of the Mureş County Museum initiated a new series entitled: *Marisia. Archaeologia, Historia, Patrimonium*. The publication provides a panel for new research results in archeology, architecture and material heritage of the history of arts and culture. The studies mainly focus on the inner Transylvanian region that encompasses also Mureş County. Beyond local valuable contributions, the annual aims at a regional and global concern that is relevant for the whole of Transylvania. Among the annual's missions is to provide mutual interpretation of the research results produced by the Romanian and Hungarian scientific workshops. Therefore, the annual articles are mainly in English but based on the field of research and the approached topic studies in German, Romanian or Hungarian are also accepted.

Cu o tradiție din anul 1965, anuarul Muzeului Județean Mureș s-a relansat în 2019 sub titlul *Marisia. Archaeologia, Historia, Patrimonium*. Această publicație se descrie ca o platformă științifică care cuprinde rezultatele cercetărilor în domenii precum: arheologia, arhitectura și patrimoniul material din zona istoriei artelor și a culturii, studii localizate în regiunea centrală a Transilvaniei, din care face parte județul Mureș. In extenso, anuarul își propune să ofere un spațiu unitar contribuților științifice valoroase, relevante din perspectiva geografică a ceea ce înseamnă întreaga regiune a Transilvaniei. Una dintre misiunile publicației este aceea de a oferi tuturor celor interesanți spațiul de schimb pentru cele mai noi rezultate din atelierele științifice românești și maghiare. Articolele anuarului sunt scrise în general în limba engleză, existând totodată articole scrise în germană, română și maghiară, în funcție de specificul domeniului și a temei abordate.

A Maros Megyei Múzeum 1965 óta megjelenő évkönyvének 2019-ben útjára bocsátott új sorozata, a *Marisia. Archaeologia, Historia, Patrimonium* elsősorban a mai Maros megyét is magába foglaló belső-erdélyi régió régészeti, épített és tárgyi örökségére, nemkülönben az ezekhez kapcsolódó művészettörténeti, művelődéstörténeti kérdésekre vonatkozó újabb kutatások tudományos fóruma. A lokális perspektíván túl igyekszik kitekinteni a regionális és univerzális összefüggésekre, így a tágan értelmezett Erdély területére nézve is közöl kiemelkedő értékkal bíró tanulmányokat. Küldetésének tekinti a hazai román és magyar tudományos műhelyekben született eredmények kölcsönös tolmácsolását. A dolgozatok nyelve főként az angol, de szakterülettől és témától függően német, román vagy magyar nyelven is közöl írásokat.