

PIETROASELE – THE EDIFICE WITH *HYPOCAUSTUM*. EPIGRAPHIC EVIDENCE OF *LEGIO XI CLAUDIA*

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Keywords: Edifice with hypocaustum installation, *legio XI Claudia*, roman period, stamped bricks, stamped tiles, Walachia.

Abstract: The systematic researches between 1976-2009 inside the edifice with hypocaustum in Pietroasele, have revealed a total of 17 bricks and tiles bearing the inscription of the *legio XI Claudia*. The article describes the epigraphic material and analyzes it in the context of the discoveries belonging to the *legio XI Claudia* in Walachia. We identified 5 different types of stamps framed during the 2nd and 3rd centuries AD of which 3 are singular to date on the territory of Walachia.

Rezumat: Cercetările dintre anii 1976-2009 în cadrul edificiului cu hypocaust de la Pietroasele au scos la lumină un număr de 17 cărămizi și țigle purtând indicativul legiunii a XI-a Claudia. Articolul descrie exhaustiv materialul tegular de la Pietroasele și îl analizează în contextul descoperirilor aparținând legiunii a XI-a Claudia din Muntenia. Sunt identificate 5 tipuri diferite de ștampile, încadrabile pe parcursul sec. II-III d. Hr., dintre care 3 singulare până în prezent pe teritoriul Munteniei.

The accidental discovery of an important hoard from the Age of migrations, nearby Pietroasa village, in the spring of 1873, was the starting point of interest for ancient relics in this place (nowadays Pietroasele, Buzău County). So, the name of Alexandru Odobescu, the one who devoted a monograph to the hoard discovered in Pietroasa, named “*Le trésor de Pétrossa. Étude sur l’orfèvrerie antique*”, structured in three volumes and printed in Paris between 1889-1900, has been linked with the first field research conducted on the Istrița hill area in 1866. On this occasion, among the existing houses in the village center, Odobescu managed to identify the stone walls of a rectangular fortification (approximate 130 x 160 m) and to undertake the first archaeological surveys inside it. These researches,¹ which led Odobescu to the assumption that Caucaland was here, where the Visigoths of Athanarich’s had settled in the second part of the 4th century AD, those who had held the famous treasure in his opinion, remained singular for more than a hundred years. Although, field researches in Pietroasa fortification (*castrum*) weren’t made until 1973, the issue about its role and the moment of its construction raised questions along the time. In this context, the main problem was the one related to the moment of its construction, the scientific dispute being divided around two hypotheses. The first one said that the fortification was built during Traian’s Dacian wars,² among the series of fortifications from the Walachia’ sub-Carpathians, while the second said that the moment of its construction needs to be related to the reign of Constantine the Great and to his actions of reintegration within the empire’s borders of the northern Danube territories, in the first part of the 4th century AD.³

The systematic research started in 1973⁴ and continued with interruption until nowadays, have partly cleared up the problems about this fortification because of the impossibility to research some large areas inside and near the fortification, overlapping areas of current housing, on the one hand, and, on the other hand, unfortunately, because of the incomplete and inconclusive publishing of the research results along the time (the archaeological material was presented by categories of objects, without mentioning the levels and the complexes they had proceeded from, while the open sections were only briefly described, without submitting the plans).⁵

In 1976, at the same time with the fortification research, it was made a first check in a wall construction,

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¹ Odobescu 1976, pp. 727-729.

² Ștefan 1948, p. 142; Tudor 1958, pp. 143-144; Macrea 1960, p. 349; Florescu 1968, pp. 31-38; Madgearu 2008, p. 63.

³ Vulpe 1952, p. 217; Dunăreanu-Vulpe 1967, pp. 47-49; Tudor 1978, p. 162; Diaconu 1980, pp. 1063-1069.

⁴ The research team was initially formed by researchers from the Institute of Archaeology, Bucharest (Gh. Diaconu – scientific responsible, Ioana Cătănicu, Magda Tzony) and from Buzău County Museum (Vasile Drâmbocianu and Eugen Marius Constantinescu).

⁵ The point of view of the main research author, Gh. Diaconu, was expressed many time, and every time the fortification was chronologically framed in the 4th century AD. For the research results and author’s argumentation see Diaconu 1975, p. 411-414; Diaconu 1976, pp. 1056-1064; Diaconu *et al.* 1977, pp. 199-220; Diaconu *et al.* 1979, pp. 319-320; Diaconu 1981, pp. 35-40; Diaconu, Tzony 1983, pp. 69-77.

whose ruins, located approximately 400 m east of the fortification, had been reported to the site staff by the resident Alexandru Zaharioiu, in the previous year.⁶ After systematic research, in the next years (1977-1981), it could be established that, here was a building equipped with thermal hypocaust, said to be related to the fortification, as a supposed *thermae*-complex of it, and dated as well in the 4th century AD.⁷ The 80's researches partially established the limits of this fortification, eastern and southern sides, but they could not clarify the exact plan of the building, because of the overlay of the existing road connecting Pietroasa village and Șarânga village. Interrupted for more than 20 years, the researches were resumed in the summer of 2009, and they have been continued until nowadays, thanks of the upgrading works of the mentioned road, and surfaces covered until that moment by the road were opened, too.⁸

A special place in the archaeological inventory found in this edifice is occupied by the epigraphic material, belonging to the *legio XI Claudia*. The bricks and the tiles found until 1981 were mentioned several times by the discoverers. So, the presence of the epigraphic material found in the edifice with hypocaustum installation, was explained in different ways in the research articles and the reports about Pietroasele. In the '78 campaign report it was suggested that the origin of those bricks, dated before the 4th century AD, must be searched elsewhere: "...we call attention to the need of further research on Pietroasa for a better understanding of the 4th century AD monuments, in the hope of discovering a new fortification which, according to epigraphic documents, requires a dating from the reign of Caracala – Elagabal emperors"⁹ wrote Gh. Diaconu in 1979. In the next report, published in 1980, the dating of the thermal-complex in the 4th century AD is maintained, while admitting that: "The stamps with the inscription of *Pia Fidelis* and *Antoniniana* dated around 2nd and 3rd centuries AD, are the only elements that indicate an earlier age"¹⁰ said M. Tzony. Difficulties raised by the stamped bricks presence were not satisfactorily solved in any other article about the monument from Pietroasa, the authors continued to support the chronology of the 4th century AD, while the imperial surname *Antoniniana* on some bricks forced them to supplementary explanations like this one: "In our opinion, the stamp with *Antoniniana* inscription, surname that seems to be received during the reign of Caracalla, offers only the term *post quem* for the building of the *thermae*. They could have been build up at any time after that date, and, why not, even in the 4th century AD"¹¹ said M. Tzony in 1981. Further, M. Tzony and Gh. Diaconu, explained in 1983 "...on three fragments it is preserved the epithet of *ANT(oniniana)*, one fact that, according to epigraphic studies, would have to increase their dating and, implicitly, the thermal complex dating to the Caracalla – Elagabal emperors period".¹²

Even if the stamped bricks and tiles were an important indicator for the dating of that building, they never have been published exhaustively.¹³ Moreover, the discovery in the 2009 campaign of other bricks and tiles bearing the inscription of the *legio XI Claudia*, make us to believe that a detailed description of the epigraphic material discovered inside the edifice with hypocaustum installation is welcome for further evaluations and interpretations.

1. Fragmentary brick (Fig. 1), Length: 15 cm, Width: 11 cm, Thickness: 6.2 cm; simple die, rectangular, with rounded corners, fragmentary (α type according to Mușețeanu, Zahariade, Elefterescu 1979-1980¹⁴),

⁶ The campaign diary of 1976 is in the archive of the "Vasile Pârvan" Institute of Archaeology, in Bucharest.

⁷ Diaconu *et al.* 1977, pp. 204-206; Diaconu 1977, pp. 156-157; Diaconu *et al.* 1979, p. 320; Tzony 1980, pp. 348-350; Tzony 1981, pp. 41-49; Diaconu, Tzony 1983, pp. 72-73.

⁸ The research results of the campaign on which participated a team from the Buzău County Museum and M. Mărgineanu Cârstoiu, from the "Vasile Pârvan" Institute of Archaeology, are about to be published.

⁹ Diaconu *et al.* 1979, p. 320.

¹⁰ Tzony 1980, p. 349.

¹¹ Tzony 1981, p. 45.

¹² Diaconu, Tzony 1983, p. 73.

¹³ Every time, the discovery's authors mention them without saying their numbers, and there are no drawings; there is only one exception represented by the brick discovered in 1976, see Diaconu *et al.* 1977, p. 206, fig. 9. They are also mentioned by Petolescu 1981, p. 609 and Petolescu 1983, p. 369.

¹⁴ Mușețeanu, Zahariade, Elefterescu 1979, p. 185, pl. X.

Length: 4.7 cm, Width: 3.5 cm. Inside the die it is preserved the final part of a retrograde stamp *[LEG(ionis) XI] C(laudiae) P(iae) F(idelis)* with thick letters; letter height : 1.8 cm; point between ‘C’ and ‘P’ letters; ‘P’ and ‘F’ letters in ligature on the bottom. It was discovered inside the room A, part of a *pilae*, in 1976. It fits into the type A, variant 2¹⁵ (Mușețeanu, Zahariade, Elefterescu typology, 1979-1980) or type V¹⁶ (typology of Culică 1978). Chronologically, this type of stamp is found in discoveries dated until the first two decades of the 2nd century AD (the beginning of Hadrian’s reign).¹⁷

Buzău County Museum, inv. no. 49562.



Fig. 1

2. Fragmentary tile (Fig. 2), Length: 14.75 cm, Width: 8 cm, Thickness: 2 cm; simple die, with right corners, fragmentary (β type according to Mușețeanu, Zahariade, Elefterescu 1979-1980¹⁸), Length: 7 cm, Width: 2 cm. Retrograde stamp *LE (gionis) XI CL(audiae)*, with thick letters; Height : 1.5 cm. It was discovered in 1980, inside the room C. It fits in type H, variant 1¹⁹ or type II,²⁰ and is dated between the last part of the 2nd century and the first part of the 3rd century AD.²¹

Buzău County Museum, inv. no. 49559.



Fig. 2

¹⁵ *Idem*, pp. 165-166.

¹⁶ Culică 1978, p. 229.

¹⁷ Mușețeanu, Zahariade, Elefterescu 1979, p. 165-166; Culică 1978, p. 229, admit the possibility of using this type of stamp until the beginning of the 3rd century AD.

¹⁸ Mușețeanu, Zahariade, Elefterescu 1979, p. 185, pl. X.

¹⁹ *Idem*, p. 171.

²⁰ Culică 1978, p. 228.

²¹ Mușețeanu, Zahariade, Elefterescu 1979, p. 171.

3. Fragmentary brick (Fig. 3), Length: 13 cm, Width: 10 cm, Thickness: 4 cm; simple die, with rounded corners, fragmentary, α type, Length: 4.75 cm, Width: 2.2 cm. Stamp [LEG] XI CL (*audiae*) with thick letters; Height: 1.8-2 cm. On the brick surface appear some shallow grooves. *Passim*, without mentioning the year of discovery. It fits in type C, variant 1²² or type VI,²³ and it is dated after that with the inscription 'PF'. Chronologically, this type of stamp is often found in the second part of the 2nd century AD until the beginning of the 3rd century AD.²⁴

Buzău County Museum, inv. no. 49567.



Fig. 3

4. Fragmentary brick (Fig. 4), Length: 17.5 cm, Width: 13 cm, Thickness: 4 cm; simple die, with rounded corners, fragmentary, α type, Length: 7 cm, Width: 1.5 cm. Retrograde stamp *LEC(ionis) XI CL(audiae)* with thin letters; Height: 1.4 cm; letter 'E's middle line extended to left; letter 'C' as letter 'G'; on the brick surface, above the die, are made four oblique grooves. The brick was discovered in section S IV T (the rooms C and D are partially crossed by this section) in 1978. It can be typed as 'C', variant 3²⁵ or type VI,²⁶ chronologically dated in the second half of the 2nd century AD and the beginning of the 3rd century AD.²⁷

Buzău County Museum, inv. no. 49566.



Fig. 4

5. Fragmentary brick (Fig. 5), Length: 17 cm, Width: 15 cm, Thickness: 7.8 cm; simple die, with rounded corners, fragmentary, α type, Length: 11.8 cm, Width: 2.8 cm.

²² *Idem*, pp. 167-168.

²³ Culică 1978, p. 229.

²⁴ Mușețeanu, Zahariade, Elefterescu 1979, p. 168; Culică 1978, p. 229.

²⁵ *Idem*, pp. 167-168

²⁶ Culică 1978, p. 229.

²⁷ Mușețeanu, Zahariade, Elefterescu 1979, p. 168.

Retrograde stamp *LECIONIS XI CL(audiae)* with irregular letters, of different measures; Height: 0.8-1.7 cm; the ligature is at the bottom of the letters 'L' and 'E'; the cipher 'T' with base; letter 'C' as letter 'G'. It was discovered in section S IV T, in 1978. It is a part of type D, variant 1²⁸ or type X,²⁹ this type of stamp is known only by a few samples, which may suggest its short existence in the second part of the 2nd century AD, or in the beginning of the 3rd century AD.³⁰

Buzău County Museum, inv. no 49560.



Fig. 5

6. Fragmentary brick (Fig. 6), Length: 13 cm, Width: 12 cm, Thickness: 5 cm; simple die, with right corners, fragmentary, β type, Length: 4 cm, Width: 3 cm. Retrograde stamp [*LEG XI*] *CL(audiae)* *ANT(oniniana)*, with thick lowercases; Height: 1.7 cm; letters 'C', 'L', 'A', 'N' and 'T' in ligature (are bound between them). It was discovered in section S V T, in 1978. It is a part of type "I", variant 2³¹ or type IX³² and is dated at the beginning of the 3rd century AD (introduced during emperor Caracalla; it does not exceed the end of Elagabal's reign, 222 AD).³³

Buzău County Museum, inv. no. 49565.



Fig. 6

7. Fragmentary brick (Fig. 7), Length: 13.5 cm, Width: 9 cm, Thickness: 4 cm; simple die, fragmentary (it can not be ascertained the type, having the both ends broken), Length: 7.3 cm, Width: 2.6 cm. Inside the

²⁸ *Idem*, p. 168

²⁹ Culică 1978, p. 231.

³⁰ Mușeteanu, Zahariade, Elefterescu 1979, p. 168.

³¹ *Idem*, pp. 171-172.

³² Culică 1978, pp. 230-231.

³³ Culică 1978, p. 231.

die it appears the retrograde stamp *[L]EC XI CL(audiae) ANT(oniniana)*, with thick lowercases; Height: 1.7-2 cm; the letters 'A', 'N' and 'T' in ligature; letter 'C' as letter 'G'. It was discovered in *praefurnium*, having no dating. There are the same type and date³⁴ as the previous fragment (inv. nr. 49565).

Buzău County Museum, inv. no. 49568.



Fig. 7

8. Fragmentary tile (Fig. 8), Length: 15 cm, Width: 8 cm, Thickness: 2.7 cm; simple die, with rounded corners, fragmentary, *a* type, Length: 4 cm, Width: 2.5 cm. Inside the die there is still preserved the final part of a stamp on which is visible the letter 'A', probably in ligature with letters 'N' and 'T', being as those of the type *LEG XI CL ANT*; Height: 1.8 cm. *Passim*, without mentioning the year of the discovery. It is possible to be classified in the same type I, variant 2³⁵ or type IX,³⁶ with the same date (first decades of the 3rd century AD)³⁷ as the previous fragments (inv. no. 49565 and 49568).

Buzău County Museum, inv. no. 49564.



Fig. 8

9. Fragmentary tile (Fig. 9), Length: 5 cm, Width: 8.5 cm, Thickness: 2.2 cm; simple die, fragmentary (it can not be ascertained the type, because of the two broken ends), Length: 3.6 cm, Width: 2.4 cm. The retrograde stamp content is *[LEG XI] CL (audiae) A[NT] (oniniana)*, with thick lowercases; Height: 1.8 cm; 'L' and 'A' letters in ligature at the bottom. It was discovered in section S IV T, in 1978. It fits into the same type

³⁴ *Idem.*

³⁵ Mușețeanu, Zahariade, Elefterescu 1979, pp. 171-172.

³⁶ Culică 1978, pp. 230-231.

³⁷ *Idem.*

as the previous ones (inv. nr. 49565, 49568 and 49564), with the same chronological frame.³⁸
Buzău County Museum, inv. no. 49570.



Fig. 9

10. Fragmentary tile (Fig. 10), Length: 6.7 cm, Width: 9.2 cm, Thickness: 2.4 cm; simple die, fragmentary (it can not be classified in a particular type), Length: 4 cm, Width: 2.5 cm. Stamp, fragmentarily preserved, could be read as [LEG] XI *C(laudiae)*; thick letters, with the upper edges broken. It was discovered in section S IV T, in 1978. Fragmentary condition of the stamp does not allow a typological and chronological framing of the fragment.

Buzău County Museum, inv. no. 49569.



Fig. 10

11. Fragmentary brick (Fig. 11), Length: 11.7 cm, Width: 7.5 cm, Thickness: 3.5 cm; simple die, fragmentary (it can not be classified in a particular type), Length: 7 cm, Width: 2 cm. Fragmentarily preserved stamp *LEC(ionis)* with thick letters; letter 'C' as letter 'G'. It was discovered in section S IV T, in 1978. In the current state of conservation we can not specify the inscription of the legion and any other evidence that could make possible its chronological and typological classification.

Buzău County Museum, inv. no. 49563.

12. Fragmentary brick (Fig. 12), Length: 11.2 cm, Width: 15.3 cm, Thickness: 3.7 cm; simple die, with right corners, fragmentary, β type, Length: 4 cm, Width: 2.7 cm. Fragmentary stamp *LE[G] (ionis)*, with thick letters; Height: 1.9 cm. *Passim*, discovered in 1981. Having no possibility to know the legion surname.

Buzău County Museum, inv. no. 49561.

13. Fragmentary brick (Fig. 13), Length: 10.5 cm, Width: 12.1 cm, Thickness: 3.5 cm; simple die, with

³⁸ *Ibidem*.



Fig. 11



Fig. 12

rounded corners, fragmentary, α type, Length: 8.4 cm, Width: 2.7 cm. The stamp [LEGION]IS(?) XI CL (*audiae*), unequal letters, letter 'I' as letter 'L', H: 2,5 cm. *Passim*, discovered in 2009. If the last two letters in front of the ciphers, partially preserved, are 'I' and 'S' (other possible shortcuts of the word "*legionis*" that appear on the stamps are LEG, LEC or LE, no one seems to be right for this case), then this stamp is one of type D³⁹ or X,⁴⁰ with chronological limits - the second part of the 2nd century AD and the first decades of the 3rd century AD.

Buzău County Museum, inv. no. 51123.



Fig. 13

³⁹ Mușțeanu, Zahariade, Elefterescu 1979, p. 168.

⁴⁰ Culică 1978, p. 231.

14. Fragmentary brick (Fig. 14), Length: 19.1 cm, Width: 13.6 cm, Thickness: 3 cm; rectangular die, with internal handle in 'K' letter form, Length: 10.9 cm, Width: 3 cm. The stamp *LEG (ionis) XI CL (audiae)*, with thick letters of different measures. Height: 2-2.6 cm; letters 'L' and 'E' in ligature at the bottom; 'C' letter dull in the bottom; the last 'L' letter partially dull, with the inferior line oblique. It was discovered in section S I/2009, in the N 2 basin filling. The stamp is type C⁴¹ or type VI,⁴² and chronologically, between the second half of the 2nd century AD and the beginning of the 3rd century AD.

Buzău County Museum, inv. no. 51124.



Fig. 14

15. Fragmentary tile (Fig. 15), Length: 6.5 cm, Width: 6.9 cm, Thickness: 2.6 cm; simple die, fragmentary (it can not be ascertained the type, because of the both broken ends), Length: 5.7 cm, Width: 2.5 cm. Fragmentary stamp [LE]C XI [*Claudiae*], with thick letters, well outlined, different measures; Height: 1.8-2.1 cm; letter 'C' as letter 'G'. It was discovered in S I/2009, square 10, at - 0.64 m depth. The stamp can not be classified typologically and chronologically because of the missing of the stamp final part.

Buzău County Museum, inv. no. 51125.



Fig. 15

16. Fragmentary brick (Fig. 16), Length: 16.1 cm, Width: 15.6 cm, Thickness: 3.9 cm; fragmentary die, with concave extremity, (type $\delta 1$ after Mușețeanu, Zahariade, Elefterescu typology 1979-1980⁴³), Length: 4.6 cm, Width: 3.1 cm. Fragmentary stamp *LE[gionis]*, with thin letters; Height: 2.1 cm. *Passim*, discovered in 2009 campaign. Chronologically and typologically, it can not be ascertained.

Buzău County Museum, inv. no. 51126.

⁴¹ Mușețeanu, Zahariade, Elefterescu 1979, pp. 167-168.

⁴² Culică 1978, p. 229.

⁴³ Mușețeanu, Zahariade, Elefterescu 1979, p. 185, pl. X.



Fig. 16

17. Fragmentary tile (Fig. 17), Length: 10.4 cm, Width: 10.3 cm, Thickness: 2.5 cm; simple die, with rounded corners, fragmentary, α type, Length: 4.1 cm, Width: 3.4 cm. Fragmentary stamp L[egionis]; Height: 2.8 cm. It was discovered in the southern part of *praefurnium* in the 2009 campaign. The legion and the date can not be ascertained.

Buzău County Museum, inv. no. 51127.

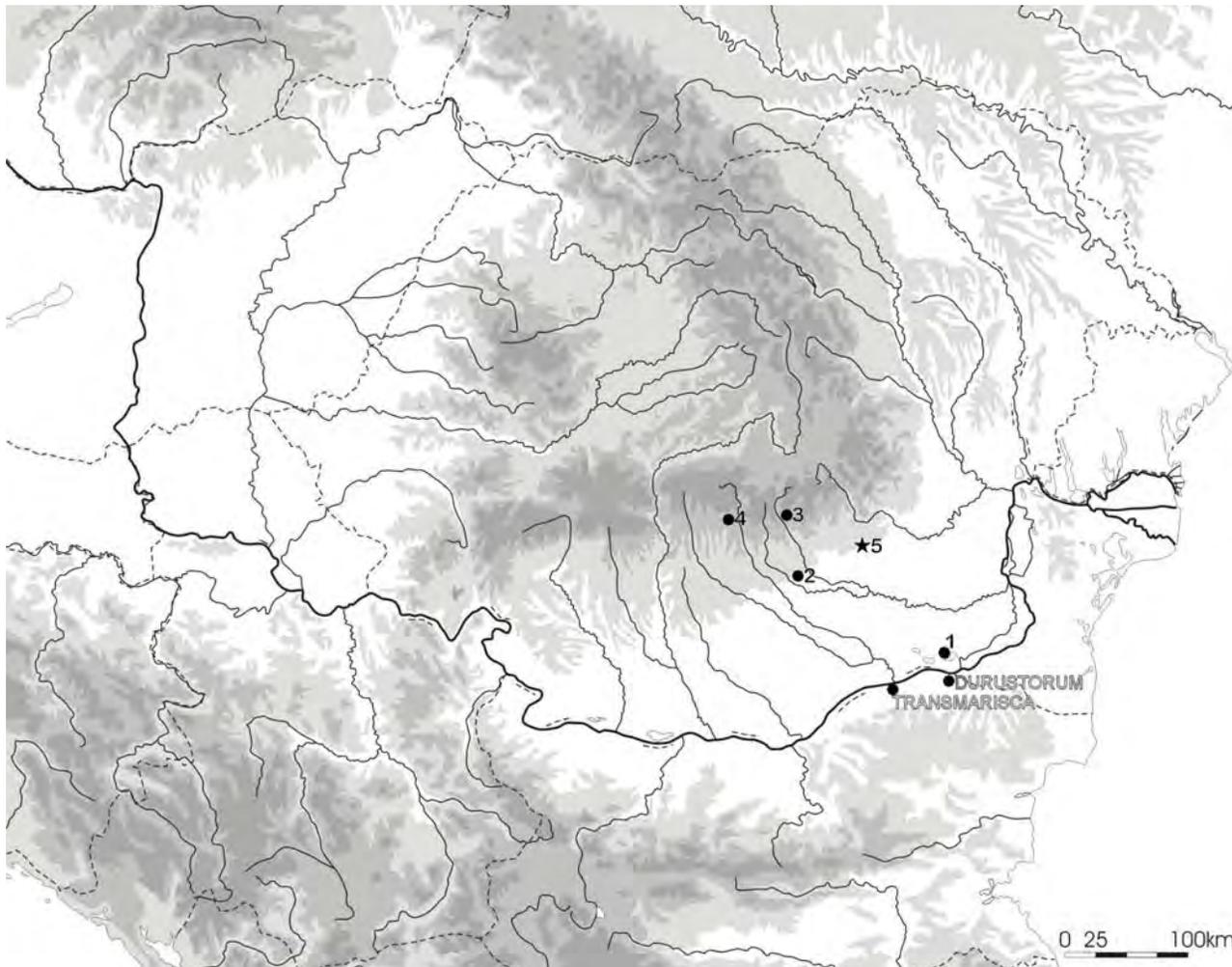


Fig. 17

Table 1.

Distribution of types of stamps belonging to the legion XI Claudia in Wallachian territory.

DISCOVERY PLACE	TYPES OF STAMPS
1. CUZA VODĂ (Călărași county)	LEG XI CL (type C; type VI)
2. TÂRGȘOR (Prahova county)	LEG XI CPF (type A; type V)
3. DRAJNA DE SUS (Prahova county)	LEG XI CPF (type A; type V) LEG XI CL (type C; type VI)
4. VOINEȘTI (Argeș county)	LEG XI CPF (type A; type V)
5. PIETROASELE (Buzău county)	LEG XI CPF (type A, variant 2; type V) LEG XI CL (type C; type VI) LEGIONIS XI CL (type D; type X) LE XI CL (type H; type II) LEG XI CL ANT (type I; type IX)



Epigraphic material belonging to *legio XI Claudia* found on the territory of Walachia (1. Cuza-Vodă, Călărași county; 2. Târgșoru Vechi, Prahova county; 3. Drajna de Sus, Prahova county; 4. Voinești, Argeș county; 5. Pietroasele, Buzău county).

At a first analysis of the 11 fragments of bricks and tiles whose stamps can be determined, it comes out that in the edifice with hypocaustum installation from Pietroasele 5 different types of stamps were found, which proves the presence of some units of the *legio XI Claudia* (LEG XI CPF, LEG XI CL, LE XI CL, LEGIONIS XI CL and LEG XI CL ANT), chronologically framed between the beginning of the 2nd century AD and the first part of the 3rd century AD. The first two types of stamps, dated in the beginning of the 2nd century AD, are also found in the other sites in Walachia (see table and map) where the presence of the *XI Claudia* legion was bounded with the Roman troops advancing to the Dacian kingdom, namely Cuza Vodă⁴⁴ and Târgșor⁴⁵ (in association with epigraphic material belonging to the *cohors I Flavia Commagenorum*), Drajna de Sus⁴⁶ (there are attested detachments of the legions *I Italica* and *V Macedonica* and of the *cohors I Flavia Commagenorum*), and Voinești⁴⁷ (with detachments of the *cohors I Flavia Commagenorum*). But the presence

⁴⁴ Mușeteanu, Zahariade, Elefterescu 1980, p. 93.

⁴⁵ Zahariade, Lichiardopol 2007, pp. 125-126.

⁴⁶ Ștefan 1948, pp. 122-124; Zahariade, Dvorski 1997, pp. 19-23.

⁴⁷ Bădescu 1981, pp. 291-292.

of the other 3 types of stamps discovered till now in Pietroasele, singular in Walachia and dated between the second half of the 2nd century AD and the beginning of the 3rd century AD, can suggest the presence of some detachment of *legio XI Claudia* and also a Roman control exercised over this area for a longer period of time, until the middle of the 3rd century AD.⁴⁸ Also, the association of 5 types of stamps inside the same construction could suggest the existence of various stages of construction (restorations, additions?), that have not been revealed so far based on architectural elements discovered by archaeological research.⁴⁹

We trust that further research to be undertaken in the perimeter of the fortification and also in the northern part of the edifice with hypocaustum, might bring new information on the date of the early stage of the Pietroasele site, and will also complete the existing information regarding the presence of some *vexillationes* of the *legio XI Claudia* in the Walachian area during the 2nd and the 3rd centuries AD.

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⁴⁸ A singular point of view has C.C. Petolescu, who dates the edifice with hypocaustum installation and the fortification in the context of Caracalla's defensive policy because of the attacks of the Carpi; see Petolescu 1989, pp. 186-187 or Petolescu 2005, pp. 276-277.

⁴⁹ Between 1976-1981, the archaeologists raised the hypothesis that the edifice was to be dated in the 4th AD, because of the discovered archaeological material (mainly ceramics), being contemporaneous with the fortification, and they sustained the existence of only one stage of construction and usage in the researched areas, could not see "further interventions, destructions and restorations", see Tzony 1981, p. 45.

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