

car il facilite énormément la consultation de ce volume.

Le style de la présentation est clair et précis. Si les catalogues fournissent des descriptions adéquates et des références complètes, les chapitres de synthèse mettent en évidence l'érudition tempérée dont fait preuve l'Auteur – jamais de parade gratuite –, toujours étayée par des renvois nécessaires, mais guère luxuriants. Non seulement le travail obéit aux exigences d'une dissertation défendue dans une université allemande, mais il devient, voilà, une fois publié, un ouvrage de référence, bien conçu et présenté de manière raisonnée, commodément maniable, richement illustré et rigoureux de tous les points de vue. L'allemand, d'ailleurs sans faille, contribuera largement à faire susciter l'intérêt des spécialistes de l'archéologie romaine provinciale, de même que des historiens et épigraphistes attirés par les antiquités militaires romaines.

Alexandru Avram

Constantin C. Petolescu, DACIA. UN MILENIU DE ISTORIE, Editura Academiei Române, București, 2010, 384 p., 21 Fig., 1 hartă.

In 2010 the Romanian Academy Publishing House has printed the book of Constantin C. Petolescu: *Dacia. Un mileniu de istorie (Dacia. A millennium of history)*.

Over the years C. C. Petolescu's research has offered a larger perspective on the history of roman Dacia. His works are merely based on the epigraphic evidence but always in connection with the results of the archaeological excavations and the study of written sources.

In 1995 the author published *Short history of Roman Dacia* (C. C. Petolescu, *Scurtă istorie a Daciei romane*, Editura Didactică și Pedagogică, București, 1995). We might call it the first edition of the book here presented. At that moment, the unique synthesis of the history of Roman Dacia was the book written some three decades earlier by Mihail Macrea: *Life in Romanian Dacia* (*Viața în Dacia romană*, Editura Academiei Române, București, 1969, second edition 2007); it was a valuable and helpful contribution which needed to be updated because of numerous epigraphical and archaeological discoveries. Then the author was already started to teach at the Faculty of History from the Bucharest University. The permanent contact with the students and C. C. Petolescu's researches had led to the second edition of the book, much more amplified, in 2000: *Dacia and the Roman Empire. From Burebista to the end of Antiquity* (*Dacia și Imperiul Roman. De la Burebista la sfârșitul Antichității*, Editura Teora, 2000).

Between 2000 and 2010 C. C. Petolescu published another important works for the history of roman Dacia: *Auxilia Daciae* (București, 2002), *Contributions to the history of roman Dacia, I* (*Contribuții la istoria Daciei romane, I*, București, 2007), *Inscriptions externes concernant l'histoire de la*

Dacie, vol. II, 2000 and *Inscriptiile latine din Dacia* (The latin inscriptions from Dacia, Bucharest, 2005).

The present book is divided into four main chapters whose titles recall, as the author himself says in two notes (7, p. 3 and 1, p. 15), titles of well-known syntheses or ancient sources, nowadays lost and related to the topics. Each chapter is broken down into small sections, which typically fit logically into the topic of the chapter: I. *Getica* (pp. 15-69): The strangers across the sea (pp.15-30), Gets and Dacians on the Carpathian Mountains and at the Lower Danube (pp. 31-42), The king Burebista and his age (pp. 43-58), The religion of Geto-Dacians (pp. 59-69); II. *Dacica* (pp. 71-159): The Romans at the Lower Danube and Black Sea (pp. 71-92), The Dacian Royalty (44 B.C – 86 A.D.) (pp. 93-98); The Dacian war of the emperor Domitian (pp. 99-109), The Dacian kingdom during Decebal time (pp. 110-122), The Dacian war of the emperor Trajan (pp.123-160); III. *Romana* (pp. 161-308): The administrative organization of Roman Dacia (pp. 161-177), The defensive system and the communications of Roman Dacia (pp. 178-187), The roman army in Dacia (pp. 188-220), The roman settlements from Dacia (pp. 221-230), The population of Roman Dacia (pp. 231-241), The social life in Roman Dacia (pp. 242-249), Dacia into the Roman economic system (pp. 250-263), The religious life in Roman Dacia (pp. 264-271), Cultural and artistic life (pp. 272-278), The end of the roman rule in Dacia (pp. 278-291), The free Dacians and their relationships with the Roman Empire (pp. 292-307); IV. *Dacoromania* (pp. 309-361): The roman limes at the Lower Danube during the Dominate time (pp. 309-317), Between the Roman Empire and the Barbarian World (pp. 318-345), The local people (pp. 346-350). Along with this there is an Introduction (pp. 7-8), a final chapter called Instead of a conclusion: From romanization to the Romanian's ethnogenesis (pp. 351-362) and 21 illustrations and maps (pp. 363-385). Within the text of some chapters, there are an assortment of breakout texts that either describes an historic event, provides historical evidence to support historical theories, or relates bibliographical information about individuals who were propitious in shaping history: pp. 131-134: about the Triumphal Monument from Tropaeum Traiani (Adamclisi, Constanta country); pp. 170-177 *Fasti Daciae*; pp. 184-188: *limes transalutanus*.

The first chapter, *Getica*, is dedicated to the history of the Gets and Dacians to the roman conquest. Using large quotations from the literary sources the author presents first contacts between the Gets and the Greeks, their conflicts with Persians, the struggles between the Odrysian kingdom and the Scythians etc. It is important to emphasize that the author strongly insists on the distinction between the two populations: Gets and Dacians, especially when we discuss about their religion (pp. 59-69). He also draws attention on the expressions „geto-daci” (geto-dacians) and „daco-geți” (gets-dacians), its use and significance in the scientific literature. In this chapter the main accent is put on the Burebista's reign. The different opinions about the localization of the capital of his kingdom or the controversions concerning the exact time of his

rule are carefully examined. On the other side new problems, generated by archaeological discoveries, are introduced in the discussion, as it is the case of newly discovered gold Dacian bracelets (pp. 40-42).

In the second chapter, *Dacica*, the author deals with contacts between Dacians and Romans, their expansion in the Balkans and finally the two wars between them. The author begins with the presentation of the stages of the roman expansion in the Balcan Peninsula, the organization of the *limes* along the Danube and of the provinces nearby Dacia, integrating it in the general history of the Roman Empire. As one would expect, conflict between Decebal and Trajan is widely examined, from its causes to the the development of the two wars of *Expediitio Dacica*, during the years 101-102 and 105-106 A.D. Even so, C. C. Petolescu dedicates several pages to present the Dacian society in this period. Likewise, he presents sensitive issues regarding the origin of Decebal, his ascension to the throne, etc., enumerating all the divergent opinions known in historiography (pp. 97, 98-111). Author pays particular attention to the assumptions released in the literature by Vasile Lica. It is not the first time when C. C. Petolescu demonstrates that some of the above-mentioned historian assumptions about Decebal cannot be sustained (pp. 98-99, especially notes 123, 124).

Chapter three, *Romana*, is dedicated to the Roman period, from the organization of the province until withdrawal of the Roman domination. Is the largest of the whole work. It begins by presenting the administrative organization of the Roman Dacia. It is undoubtedly one of the main considered aspects, especially because, for a long period of time, it was thought that, immediately after the wars there was a single administrative unit - the province of Dacia (pp. 161-167). Numerous epigraphic discoveries have changed considerably the issue, solved some unknowns, and how can we suspect, have raised new problems. Some of them can be analyzed following the dislocation of military units on the territory of the province of Dacia. Each legion which was stationed in Dacia has a brief overview, auxiliary units are very briefly presented, to these data being added information on the defensive and communication system of roman Dacia (pp.188-221). The author pays a special attention to the Dacian soldiers mentioned in inscriptions, as well as roman military units composed of Dacians.

Petolescu exposes in detail and quoting *in extenso* from the literary sources, the issue of the abandonment of Dacia. The thesis of leaving the province by the end of the reign of Gallienus, an idea accepted by several modern historians, is a formal agreement and concordance with the ancient sources. Based on it, we are able to explain the persistence in this area of a part from the Roman population after the official abandonment of the province.

The forth chapter, *Dacoromania*, deals with the history of the area in the late Roman time, focusing on its evolution, „between Empire and the barbarian world”, a geographic area on which, starting with the ninth century, one can speak about Romanian people and Romanian language.

The work *Dacia. Un mileniu de istorie (Dacia. A millennium of history)* is a tight, compact book that covers the main aspects on the history of Dacia.

The author's writing is eloquent and understandable. He uses translations of the original texts and sometimes the original texts to illustrate his contentions, thereby providing a balanced and well-documented work. With a large and updated bibliography and in most of the cases, extremely detailed notes the author exposes not only his own theories but also other assumptions or interpretations circulating in the scientific literature. This is why this work represents in the same time a synthesis and an excellent working instrument.

Adriana Panaite

Florian-Matei Popescu, THE ROMAN ARMY IN MOESIA INFERIOR, Conphys Publishing House, Bucharest, 2010, 325 pp., 7.Tables.

As the author himself confesses, *The Roman Army in Moesia Inferior* is the adapted version of his doctoral thesis with the same title, which he defended with the Faculty of History within University of Bucharest on July 6, 2009. It is for the first time that we have a synthetic work on military organization for this Roman frontier province, as Moesia Inferior was, which go further than the former studies driven by nationalism. Until now the only works available for scholars regarding this topic were obsolete, due to new epigraphic and archaeological discoveries and moreover they were only partial approaches. The first attempt to highlight the defence system on the Lower Danube was a book entitled *Die Legionen den Provinz Moesia von Augustus bis auf Diokletian* (Klio, Beiheft VI, Leipzig, 1906) published by the Bulgarian scholar Bogdan Filow, which presented chronologically all the information available on the legions stationed in the province, followed one year later by H. van de Weerd's study regarding the three legions of Moesia Inferior (van de Weerd, 1907). Despite these efforts, the most important contribution on this topic remained still nowadays Ritterling's article on legions in RE (Ritterling 1925), supplemented about one century later by A. Passerini's new study (Passerini 1949), updated by the proceedings of the congress organized at Lyon in 1998 (Le Bohec 2000). Nevertheless, one can not ignore the Romanian contribution on the troops of Moesia Inferior. First of all, Andrei Aricescu's, *Armata in Dobrogea romană* (Bucharest 1977), unfortunately a book which suffered from national-communist ideology of the time and therefore focusing only on one part of the province. Furthermore, we may mention the more recent contributions, like the one of A. Suceveanu in his work on Roman Dobroudja as a general view (Suceveanu 1990) or even more specialised work, like the book on the Roman military presence on the West Pontic coast (Ionescu, Papuc 2005). Regarding the auxiliary troops, until the publishing of this book, we were able to rely