

# NEW EPIGRAPHIC EVIDENCE ABOUT *LEGIO XI CLAVDIA* DISCOVERED AT PIETROASELE

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**Key words:** *balneum*, *legio XI CLAVDIA*, stamped bricks, stamped roof tiles, Roman Age.

**Abstract:** The article is an exhaustive presentation of a batch of 10 bricks and stamped roof tiles belonging to the *XI CLAVDIA* legion, found in the Pietroasele hypocaust building/*balneum*, most of which were discovered during the 2011-2013 campaigns. To the five types of stamps discovered in Pietroasele a new one is added, making 6 out of the 12 types known to belong to this Roman legion present on site. All six types of stamps are from between the beginning of the 2<sup>nd</sup> century and the first half of the 3<sup>rd</sup> century A.D., this interval being an important chronological factor in the dating of the building and the use of the edifice.

**Rezumat:** Articolul prezintă exhaustiv un lot de 10 cărămizi și țigle ștampilate din cadrul edificiului cu hypocaust/*balneum*-ului de la Pietroasele, majoritatea descoperite în campaniile din anii 2011-2013, aparținând unor unități ale legiunii *XI CLAVDIA*. La cele 5 tipuri de ștampile descoperite la Pietroasele se adaugă acum un tip nou, ajungându-se la un total de 6 tipuri din cele 12 cunoscute. Toate cele 6 tipuri de ștampile se încadrează între începutul secolului al II-lea și prima jumătate a secolului al III-lea p. Chr., fiind un indicator cronologic important pentru momentul construcției și perioadei de utilizare a edificiului.

The archaeological excavations undertaken in the edifice with *hypocaustum* from Pietroasele during the 2011 – 2013 campaigns resulted in the uncovering of the entire area in which the objects were found and in the identification of the precinct wall. Also, some hypotheses can be launched about the function of the building, its construction phases and its relevant chronology.<sup>1</sup>

During the latest excavations,<sup>2</sup> the goal was to uncover the northern area of the building, situated under the Pietroasele – Șarânga (DJ 205) road, but also the southern area in order to identify the precinct wall. Many more Roman *tegulae* (roof tiles and bricks) were discovered, some of which are stamped. As in previous years, the stamped artefacts were found inside this edifice/*balneum* of Pietroasele in a secondary position – thus in the destruction layer, without any possibility of precise stratigraphic identification, in the context of subsequent interventions during mediaeval and modern times. These belong exclusively to several detachments of the *XI CLAVDIA* legion. The results of this excavation were published as reports<sup>3</sup> and the stamped material was much too briefly described, ignoring the stamp typology, with poor graphical representation, and sometimes even with errors. For this reason it was considered that a detailed publication was necessary in order to complete the information on the Pietroasele edifice. The recently found *tegulae* analysed in this article were put together with two unpublished discoveries made *ante* 1983 that were identified at a re-evaluation of the whole archaeological material gathered during 1976 – 1983 after excavations, materials kept in the repository of the Buzău County Museum.

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<sup>1</sup> Mărgineanu Cârstoiu 2015, pp. 91-120.

<sup>2</sup> For a brief history of the excavation, see Stăicuț 2011, pp. 87-88.

<sup>3</sup> Constantinescu *et alii* 2011, pp. 125-134; *Idem* 2012, pp. 155-173; *Idem* 2013, pp. 106-107.