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**BOOK OF  
ABSTRACTS**



Institute of Archaeology  
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military slaves (unless there were some disciplinary issues, but this remains purely speculative), but they certainly could have been used for prisoners of war. Such finds on military sites raise series of questions that have to be thoroughly discussed, without necessarily providing clear and definite answers.

### **Fishing at the Upper Moesian frontier: Remains of freshwater and migratory fish from Viminacium (Upper Moesia, Serbia)**

Ivana Živaljević, Sonja Vuković – Bogdanović, Ivan Bogdanović

The site of Viminacium, a legionary fortress and the capital of the Roman province Upper Moesia/Moesia Prima, is situated on the right bank of Mlava river near its confluence with the Danube. Its location and the vicinity of water suggest that fishing must have contributed (at least to some degree) to the diet of its citizens and legionaries. However, fish remains are fairly scarce in the Viminacium faunal assemblage, represented only by a few dozen of bones (in comparison with several thousands of mammal bones). This is primarily a consequence of hand - collecting of animal bones. Nonetheless, although much fewer in number, fish remains offer insights into fishing and fish supply practices in this Roman city and consequently in the Upper Moesian frontier in general, as the Viminacium faunal assemblage is the only one analysed in this part of the limes. The largest assemblage comes from the area of the city itself – the Roman amphitheatre and its surroundings, but also from settlements located outside of the city and fortress. Fish remains include those of catfish, cyprinids, pike, as well as migratory sturgeons (including its largest representative – the beluga sturgeon). In order to understand the significance of fishing and the role of fish in the diet at the Upper Moesian frontier, we will look into contextual data, taxonomic composition, taphonomic data and biometry of fish remains. We will further discuss possible supply routes of highly valued fish in Roman times - large beluga sturgeon at the frontier and inland. We will also take into account the archaeological findings of fishing equipment from Viminacium, particularly fishing hooks and weights used for fishing nets. The diachronic changes in fishing practices (from the 2nd until the 4th century AD) will also be discussed, namely the differences in the spectrum of species and fishing equipment with respect to certain periods.

### **A Stronghold of the Lower Danube's Hinterland: New Fieldwork on the Fortifications of Zaldapa, Bulgaria**

Brahim M'Barek, Dominic Moreau, Nicolas Beaudry  
with the collaboration of  
Georgi Atanasov, Valeri Yotov, Albena Milanova

Zaldapa is largest known Romano-Byzantine stronghold of the hinterland of Romano-Byzantine Scythia and Moesia Secunda. The city was known in the sixth century as the birthplace of General Flavius Vitalianus († 520), who rebelled against Emperor Anastasius I and contributed to the rise of the Justinianic dynasty; later sources also mention the city as an episcopal see. The city's irregular walls followed the topography and defended a large, densely built plateau structured by two main thoroughfares running NNE-SSO and NNW-SSE. The site was explored between 1889 and 1910 by the fathers of Bulgarian archaeology, Karel and Herman Škorpil; Romanian archaeologists carried limited excavation between 1913 and 1940; and in 1949, a cistern was exposed NW of the defended perimeter.

Since 2014, Georgi Atanasov and Valeri Yotov have been excavating a large church thought to be the city's cathedral. While the city walls were planned, summarily described and dated to the 4th century, they remain to be thoroughly studied, together with the other military structures of Zaldapa. This poster introduces an international archaeological project launched in 2018 to study of the Christian and military landscapes of Zaldapa. It will present and discuss the results of its first field season, focusing on fieldwork carried in the NW part of the city's defenses.

### **How to trace and date the Roman roads? A case study from the territorium of Antiochia Hippos**

Adam Pažout

Although the physical remains of Roman roads and milestones in the Golan Heights are known at least since pioneering work done by Gottlieb Schumacher in the 1880s they drew little scholarly attention. To date only short summaries of Z.U. Ma'oz and of the Golan Survey are available; both of which indeed raise more questions than answers. Particular lacunae in our understanding of the Roman roads, mainly in the southern Golan, pertain to the development and chronology of the road system. Another question arises concerning the actual continuation of the known road stretch westward.

The current research concentrates on the Roman road system in the southern Golan, encompassing southern part of Gaulanitis district and territory of the city of Antiochia Hippos. The research is undertaken in three phases:

- 1) GIS analysis locating best optimal routes in the region using cumulative focal mobility network approach. The results are used in concordance with historical topographical maps as a tool for field survey evaluating westward continuation of the extant remains of the Roman road.
- 2) Survey of the physical remains of the various stretches of the ancient roads focusing on the characteristics of road construction methods, materials and dimensions; which may help in distinguishing stages of development of the road system and identification of Roman and later roads.
- 3) Metrological study of the milestones and their comparison with milestones from provinces of Judaea and Arabia may clarify the dating of anepigraphic milestones and thus allow dating of the road system as well.

The combination of these analyses seeks for better understanding of the development of Roman road system in the region where provinces of Judaea, Syria and Arabia converge and of the Roman army involvement in the territorium of Antiochia Hippos and the Gaulanitis district.

### **Stone made projectiles found in the Roman fort of Mehadia (Caraș-Severin County, Romania)**

Simona Regep

During the archaeological researches patroned by the West University carried out during the last decade inside the Roman fort of Mehadia, three stone projectiles were found, in the deepest inhabited level at 0,15 - 0,40 m in depth, having 5,2 to 9 cm in diameter. To these we add one piece found by Professor M. Macrea between 1942-1948 (having 10 cm in diameter). The shape of these projectiles is round, bearing visible craft marks. Two of these projectiles were found in the central area where the craft center of Mehadia developed. We consider that they were realised in an workshop found within this area beside one pottery workshop (with two furnaces and a clay basin), found near a bronze workshop (also with a furnace). The importance of these discoveries from Mehadia is underlined by the fact that they were discovered in the last habitation level dating from Constantine the Great time (first half of the 4th Century), when the entire fortification was rebuilt. The closest resemblances to these, that correspond from the chronological point of view are the projectiles found in Capidava, Topraichioi, Suci-dava-Celei. We must add that they have the same shape and weight with pieces found dating from the classical imperial age and that they were common to Roman Dacia at Porolissum, Arcobadara (Ilișua), Buciumi etc.

The military unit that was stationed in the fortification of Mehadia, during Late Roman epoch, is not epigraphically attested, but we have to suppose that in a similar way with Dierna, the one from Mehadia integrated itself in the area belonging to Legio XIII Gemina.