

THE MAIN RESULTS OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESEARCH AT REȘCA-ROMULA (1869-2019) AND CONSIDERATIONS ON THE GEOPHYSICAL APPROACH – PART 1

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ABSTRACT

Romula was the largest urban, economic and commercial center organized by the Romans in the north of the Danube and south of the Carpathians. In the years 101-102 AD, which was the period of the first war between the Dacians and the Romans, was

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built an impressive Roman fortification whose ruins are part of the central area of the Reșca-Romula nowadays archaeological site. At the beginning of the 2nd century, during the time of the emperor Hadrian, Romula became a municipium. It is considered that during the time of the Roman emperor, Septimius Severus Romula became a colony.

The first archaeological excavations took place in 1869, then resumed in 1900 and 1911, but systematic archaeological research was actually initiated in 1965 and continues to this day.

The first geophysical reports about a survey performed in the area of the Resca-Romula with the aim of deciphering the hidden archaeological structures date from 2002-2003. In the mentioned period 2 campaigns consisting of magnetic measurements on relatively small perimeters, were reported. Despite the promising results, it was a long-time gap (more than 15 years) until the next geophysical measurements were carried out at this archaeological site and reported in the National Archaeological Repertoire (RAN), a database of the National Institute of Heritage - Institute of Cultural Memory (CIMEC).

Given the importance of the site, we present here a review of the main results obtained during the archaeological research in several researched sectors (the northern necropolis, the ceramic district in the northern sector, the Wall of Philip the Arab, the Central Fortification and the southern tumular necropolis) for the time interval of 1869-2019, and the synopsis of the geophysical works undertaken in the northern sector and the Central Fortification from 2002-2019.

Keywords: Roman Period, Romula, Dacia Malvensis, archaeological excavations, geophysical investigations

INTRODUCTION

Dobrosloveni is a commune located at the northern limit of Caracal Municipality, in the central-southern part of Olt County. The commune has an area of approx. 55 km² and includes several villages (Dobrosloveni, Frăsinet, Potopin and Reșca) where valuable archaeological remains from Roman times were discovered. Geographically the commune is located in the Caracal Plain (part of the Romanian Plain) with soils favorable for agricultural crops and pastures. Gradually, they expanded on account of the forests from which the Reșca Forest remained and other wooded areas on the territories of the villages of Potopin and Frăsinet.

On the eastern side is the high terrace of Olt with an altitude of 17 to 21 meters, and the highest point is 104 meters, on the Potopin Hill, in the northern part of the commune. On the eastern border of the commune flows the Olt River, into which the Teslui stream flows, after gathering the waters of the Frăsinet, which flows to the south, and the Potopinu, which flows to the north. The climate is temperate without being excessive with normal temperatures and precipitation, generally respecting the multiannual averages.

Thanks to its position and the abundance of resources necessary for life, as well as the climate, this zone was seen by the Romans as a suitable location for laying the foundations of a fortification and then a Roman city.

Highlights of the history of Romula

During the first war between the Dacians and the Romans (101-102), the part of the Dacian kingdom from the south of the Carpathians and up to the Danube got under Roman occupation. Written documents revealed that the Olt Valley (which borders the archaeological site of the former Roman city of *Romula* to the east), was one of the main directions of the invasion planned by the Roman army in the first war between the Dacians and the Romans, and

therefore the archaeological findings from this area brought valuable information about it. Actually, on the territory of the nowadays Reșca-Romula archaeological site were discovered tiles and bricks with the stamps of some military units that participated in the first war between the Dacians and the Romans, respectively *Legio XI Claudia* (IDR, II, 381; Petolescu 2021, 140-141) and *Cohors I Flavia Commagenorum* (IDR, II, 382; Petolescu 2021, 205). It seems that detachments of these units were stationed in a fortification with walls made of unburnt bricks, built in the central area of the site (Tătulea 1994, 76). The entry of this territory under Roman presence is also confirmed by the “Hunt” Papyrus, dated in the year 105, indicating the existence of some military units from the army of the Moesia Inferior province at *Buridava* (the Roman fort from Stolniceni, Vâlcea county).

There are several theories related to the origin of the name “*Romula*”, one of them being “Little Rome”, due to the similitude of the name that has been preserved with the name of the capital of the Roman Empire. However, more plausible is the hypothesis that the name was given by Hadrian, a Hispanic emperor originating from the Roman city of *Italica*, very close to another Roman city named *Julia Romula*, located today in the territory of Seville.

Sometimes, the vestiges mention the term *Malva*, added to the name *Romula*, which made consider “*Malva*” to be probably the name of a political and military center of the Geto-Dacians before the war between the Dacians and the Romans in 101-102. Among the epigraphic arguments invoked in favor of the hypothesis that *Malva* would have been on the territory of the Roman city of *Romula*, we mention the military diploma from 230 AD. for the veteran *M. Aurelius Decianus* from *Colonia Maluense* (Tudor 1978, 191; CIL XVI, 144 = ILS, 2009), the inscription from Seville about *Sextus Iulius Possesor curator civitatis Romulensium Malvensium* (Petolescu 2021, 275; Tudor 1978, 191-192; CIL II, 1180 = ILS, 1043) and the one from *Caesarea Mauretaniae* of *Sextus Iulius Iulianus* former tribune of

n(umeri) Syrorum M(a)lvensium (Petolescu 2021, 275; Tătulea 1994, 51-52; Tudor 1978, 191; CIL VIII, 1931 = ILS, 2763).

Regarding the identification of Malva in this archaeological site, however, there are contrary opinions. Often some historians add to *Romula* the name Malva, which belonged to the political and military center of the Geto-Dacians before the war between the Dacians and the Romans (in 101-102 AD), which gave the name to the province of Dacia Malvensis, where *Romula* was the main urban, economic and cultural center. Archaeological research on the territory of the former Roman city led to the identification of vestiges attributed to the classical period of the Geto-Dacian civilization, but not to the identification of this Dacian fortification, which could also be in *territorium Romulense*.

Municipium Romulensium

There are several inscriptions discovered on the territory of the archaeological site of *Romula-Resca* which makes references about a *municipium* in this area. One of them is a funerary stela of a deceased person who mentions an *Aelius Germanus*, brother, of the *decurion* of the *municipium*. A votive plaque also mentions the function of *decurion* of a *municipium*. However, the most complete indication is an inscription discovered at *Oescus* about *T. Iulius Capito*, custom responsible of *Illyricum* and *ripa Thraciae*, to whom the *municipium Romulensium* granted, together with six others Danubian provinces, the *ornamenta duumviralia*. Based on this inscription, the specialists came to the consideration that *Romula* became a *municipium* during the reign of Emperor Hadrian (Tudor 1978, 188-189; Tătulea 1994, 72).

Romula Colony

There is the certitude that *Romula* was a *colonia* at the time of the emperor Philip the Arab (in Latin - *Marcus Iulius Philippus*). The emperor itself came in 248 AD, brought by the insecurity caused in this area by the Goths and their Carpi allies. He was even present in

the city of *Romula* at the time of the surrounding wall construction which bears his name today (Tătuțea 1994, 74). The ruins of the Wall of Philip the Arab were identified in 1870, a discovery described by V. A. Urechia (Tudor 1978, 180).

The renewed archaeologist Vasile Pârvan, as well as Dumitru Tudor, had the opinion that the city had acquired this status before the rule of Philip the Arab, perhaps since the time of the emperor Septimius Severus (Tătuțea 1994, 52).

The last decades of Roman presence in Dacia were marked by reign disturbances caused by the invasions of the Goths and their allies. As a result of such an invasion, in 245 AD. the *limes transalutanus* (fortified frontier of the Roman Empire) was abandoned, *Romula* becoming a Roman city on the border of the Empire. Resulted therefore necessary to enhance its fortification with an enclosure wall, rebuilt, it seems, during the presence of Emperor Philip the Arab in *Romula* (Tudor 1978, 189; CIL III, 7282 = ILS 315). But, shortly after his departure from the region, in the years 249-250 BC, the Roman fort from Slaveni, which had an extremely important role in the defense of the *Romula*, was destroyed. Therefore, given this context and under the increasingly numerous attacks of Barbarian populations, some historians even assumed that the province of Dacia would have been abandoned by the Romans during the time of Emperor Gallienus (253-268 AD).

Among those who retreated to the south of the Danube, during this troubled period, was also the mother of the future emperor Galerius whose name was *Romula*. This coincidence of names attracted the hypothesis that she could have been born in *Romula*. The mentioned emperor gave the name *Romuliana* to his residence in the south of the Danube, in memory of his mother and the place of origin of his family.

In the 4th century, the north of the Lower Danube Roman returned under Roman occupation, proof of this being the reconstruction of the Roman road from *Sucidava* to *Romula*, as indicated by a milestone discovered near the Danube River. Sporadic

traces of habitation from the 4th century were also discovered in the Northern Sector and in the central area of the *Romula* archaeological site. Additionally, an open rural settlement was identified in the northern part of the site, which can be dated to the VI-VII centuries.

As a testimony of the Middle Ages, are a necropolis dating from the 14th-15th centuries (located in the southern part of the Wall of Philip the Arab), and several dwellings and storage pits were discovered to the north part of this former Roman enclosure.

Sometimes the Ancient Roman constructions were destroyed with the purpose of reusing the bricks and stones. For example, bricks from former Roman constructions were used to build the church dedicated to St. Nicholas of Caracal, respectively the church of the Hotărani Monastery.

Highlights of the archaeological research

Systematic archaeological research in the period 1869-1911

The first written information about *Romula* is provided by Dimitrie Cantemir in the *Hronicul vechimii romano-moldo-vlahilor* (Chronicle of the Roman-Moldavian-Vlachian Age). He mentions that had heard, from Petre Stambol (unknown character), that on the banks of the Olt River, near the present-day Caracal City, there was a fortress that the peasants called “Curțile lui Ler Împarat” (Courts of the Ler Emperor) (Cantemir 1981, 94).

Between the years 1689-1691, during the Austro-Turkish war, Count Fernando de Marsigli, a captain in the Austrian army, made a sketch that includes three rectangular forts (Figure 1) within the zone of the Roman city of *Antina* (Tătulea 1994, 8).

In the 19th century, the vestiges of the Roman city that remained visible at the surface were also visited by August Treboniu Laurian (1845) and Dimitrie A. Sturdza, and they were mentioned in writings of Bogdan Petriceicu-Hasdeu, Vladimir Blaremburg, Alexandru Odobescu (Tătulea 1994, 8).

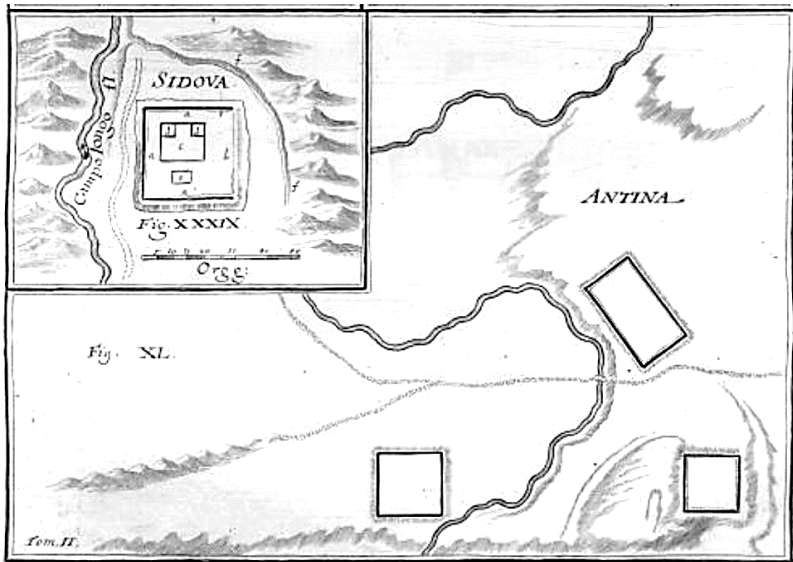


Figure 1 - Sketch after Marsigli 1746, depicting the Roman city of Antina (name for Romula at that time) and Sidova

In 1869, the amateur archaeologist Cezar Bolliac, benefiting from a large workforce summing over 150 workers, excavated two tumulus graves, in the location named the “Southern Necropolis” of the Roman city. He also leads the excavation works at “La Moară” (At the Mill) point, deploying 100 workers. In the results of the excavations, it is mentioned that Roman vessels and lamps, coins from Septimius Severus to Honorius, and other objects were discovered (Bolliac 1869, 32-39).

In 1870, the path of the Wall of Philip the Arab, which was built to protect the city from the attacks of the barbarians from the middle of the 3rd century p.Chr., was identified, a discovery described by V. A. Urechia (Tudor 1978, 180).

In 1900, the engineer Pamfil Polonic, sent by Professor Grigore Tocilescu from the University of Bucharest, carried out the first systematic excavations at *Romula* in the S-E part of the Central

Fortification, identifying a building with *thermae*. In 1911, Alexandru T. Dumitrescu identified the city's Curia, and described the roads and defense ditches (Tătulea 1994, 10), with the approximated position given in Figures 2-3.

Systematic archaeological research in the period 1965-2019

Systematic scientific research at *Romula* was restarted in 1965. Under the leadership of Professor Dumitru Tudor was studied the Northern Sector of the Roman city, the Central Fortification, and the Southern Tumular Necropolis (Tătulea 1994, 11).

Prof. Dumitru Tudor underestimated the extent of this archaeological site, evaluating at only 64 hectares the area confined by the Philip the Arab Wall (Tătulea 1994, 40). In order to know the area of the Roman city and to protect the archaeological site more effectively, in March 2007, the territory of the archaeological site was delimited for the first time, on a map at a scale of 1:5000 (in Stereo 70 coordinates, according to the standards at the moment). The calculated area of the site, including the cemeteries and the northern pottery workshops area areas, exceeds 306 hectares (Negru et al. 2008, 258).

The Northern Necropolis

A necropolis of the Roman city was identified in the northern sector of the site (Figures 2 and Figures 3). It was called the Northern Necropolis or the Necropolis of the Poor, in comparison with the one located in the south of the city, with tumular burial structures. In the Northern Necropolis, during the excavations undertaken by Dr. Mircea Babeş, a number of 199 flat graves of inhumation and cremation types, dated to the II-III centuries AD, were discovered. The biritual necropolis stretches along the Roman road that connected *Romula* to *Acidava*, on the high terrace of the Olt River. Some of the graves showed remains of a ritual in which the deceased persons were wrapped in textiles and buried in wooden coffins or brick boxes. However, dominantly, were the cremation graves with

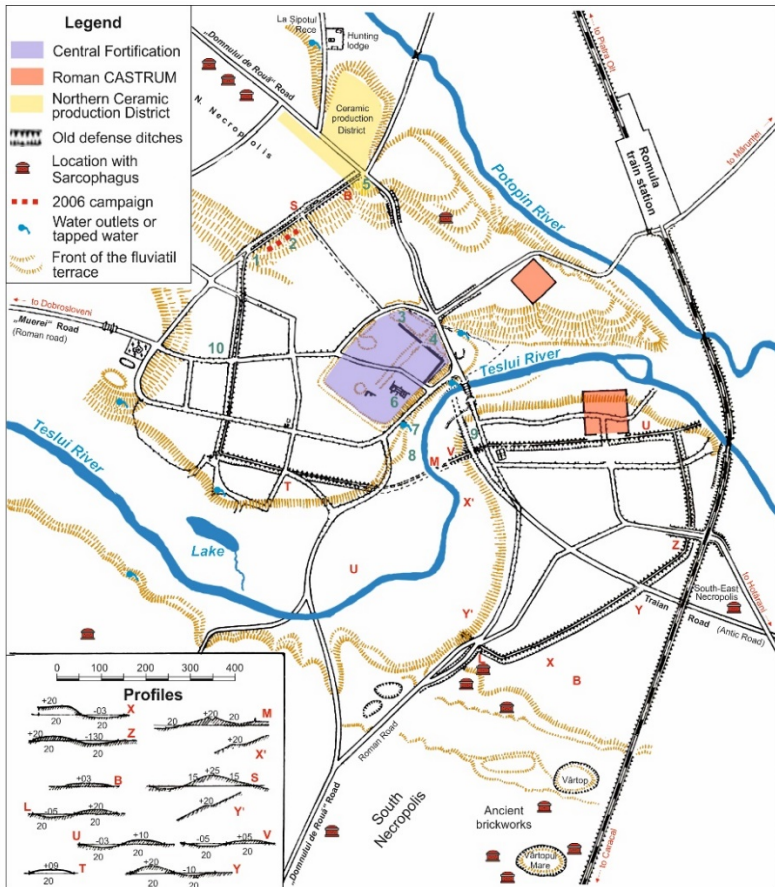


Figure 2 – Sketch of the Romula with the approximated position of some ancient traces of habitation (after Tudor 1978, with modifications). 1 - areas in which processed stones embedded into the walls were found. 2- locations where it was found the inscription “LEG. XXII PR”, 3- evacuation channels, 4-defensive wall, 5-possible location of the North Gate of Romula, 6- archeological excavations from 1900, 7-Aqueduct and cistern, 8-location where the Testul Valley was closed with a wall, 9-the probable location of the South Gate, 10-probably the West entrance. Although they appear on the original sketch from Tudor 1978, most of the drawn elements are still not confirmed by indisputable pieces of evidence.

burning at the ustrinum. The remains, together with the funerary inventory, were deposited in ritually burned rectangular or oval pits. There are also cremation graves with the remains of bones burned at the ustrinum and the inventory deposited in a simple pit or in an urn (Babeş 1970, 167-206).

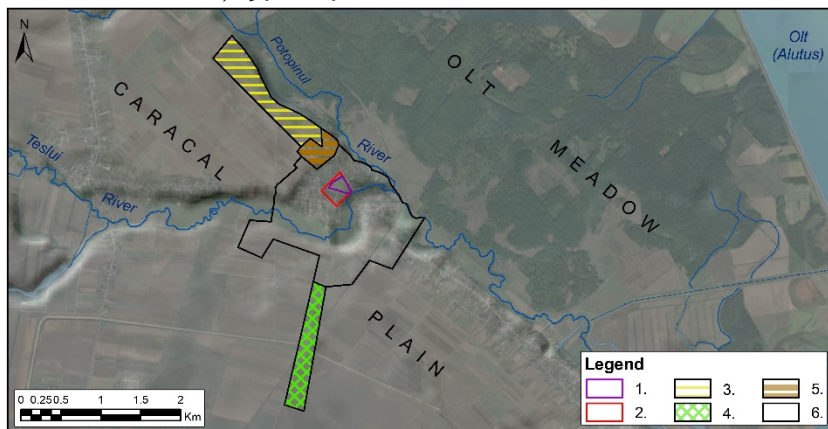


Figure 3 - Romula archaeological site with perimeter delimitations as follows: 1-part of the Central Fortification where geophysical and archeological campaigns were executed (detailed in Figure 7), 2-approximated contour of the Central Fortification, 3-Northern Necropolis (detailed in Figure 4), 4-Southern Cemetery, 5-Northern Ceramic production district, 6-contour of the territory with archeological load related to ancient City of Romula

The Wall of Philip the Arab

The fortification of the Romula (named ***Wall of Philip the Arab***) was a necessity due to the repeated attacks of the Carpi and Goths from the middle of the 3rd century AD which resulted in the abandonment by the Romans of *limes transalutanus*, the eastern border of the province of *Dacia Malvensis*, settlement in the western part of Muntenia. Starting in 245 AD, the border of the Roman Empire north of the Lower Danube became the River Olt (*Alutus*).

The capital of the province of *Dacia Malvensis* was located on the new border, on the high terrace of the Olt River.

The construction mode of the Wall of Philip the Arab is only partially known. In 1846, A. T. Laurian described eight sides of the Wall, but at the beginning of the 20th century, Pamfil Polonic and Alexandru T. Dumitrescu found only five sides. This indicates the high rate of degradation of this historical monument in the modern. The ruins of the ancient wall no longer appear on the surface today, except in the areas excavated by archaeologists.

The discovered inscriptions talk about the *manu militari* construction of the new fortification. Among the military units that participated in its building are detachments from the 5th Cohort of *Legio XXII Primigenia Pia Fidelis*, as well as the 6th and 9th cohorts of *Legio VII Claudia Pia Fidelis Philippiana*. To these are added the units from the city garrison *cohors I Flavia Commagenorum* and *numerus Surorum sagittariorum Malvensium* (Tudor 1978, 167-168).

The wall enclosed within it a larger area in the northern part between the high terrace of Olt River and the Teslui stream. Probably, there were entrance and exit gates in the direction of the roads that went to the north, south, and southeast (towards *Sucidava*). Apart from that, a good part of the territory of the former Roman city that included the ceramic workshops, the northern and southern necropolis remained outside the fortified wall.

The wall generally had a foundation made of brick fragments, and its actual thickness varied between 1.50 and 1.75 m. Outside was the berm with a width of approx. 2.40 m, and then a defensive ditch with openings from 5.50 to 6.00 and depths up to 3.20 m (Tudor 1978, 187).

During the excavations carried out under the supervision of one of the authors (M. Negru), in 2006, in the Northern Sector (the investigated area is marked in Figure 2), pieces of the Philip the Arab wall were found. On this occasion was noticed that the Wall of Philip the Arab had been dismantled over the centuries by the locals, who used the bricks for household improvements. The width of the

dismantling pit was 1.70-1.74 m, and the wall foundation, consisting of fragments of bricks and tiles, was 0.70-0.75 m deep compared to the ancient reported level. In front of the wall, to the north, were found traces of a berm of 4.90 m long, then a triangular defensive trench (fossa) with an opening of 3.50 m and a depth of 2.55 m compared to the Roman level of the mid-3rd century AD, respectively 3.05 m from the current level. Based on this information, we can estimate that the level difference between the bottom of the trench and the upper part of the brick wall was 5-6 m, which made it a difficult obstacle for an invasion (Negru et al. 2007).

The archaeological investigations at the Wall of Philip the Arab continued in 2007 in the northwestern area of the ancient city, on the northern side of its wall, close to the place where this defensive belt turned towards the south. At the described point, the microrelief registers a slight rise, a kind of severely flattened mound. Here, by plowing, numerous fragments of Roman bricks and tiles came to the surface, along with a few pieces of limestone which showed traces of processing (Negru et al. 2009; Negru et al. 2007; Negru and Mihai 2007b). Archaeological research performed in the summer of 2007 (location marked in Figure 2) brought the information that, in the investigated area, the brick wall was only 1.20 m thick, less than was recorded in the specialized literature (Tudor 1978, 183; Vlădescu 1986, 40). Its structure consisted of bricks bound with mortar, between which, during some repairing works, various limestone slabs with carvings (probably recovered from monuments or decommissioned buildings) were embedded. The wall was placed on a foundation made of broken bricks, which, being wider, also had the role of a plinth that protected the interior and exterior of the wall (Negru et al. 2008).

The quarter of ceramic production

The most intensive systematic archaeological excavations, in the northern sector, were led by Dr. Gheorghe Popilian, between

1965 and 1998. Among others, Marin Vasilescu (1983-1992), Mircea Negru (1992-1997, 2002-2018) and Dan Bălțeanu (1994-1998).

The ceramic production district in the northern part of the Roman city of *Romula* (Figures 2-4) was on both sides of the Roman road to *Acidava* (Enoșești), north and south of Philip the Arab's Wall.

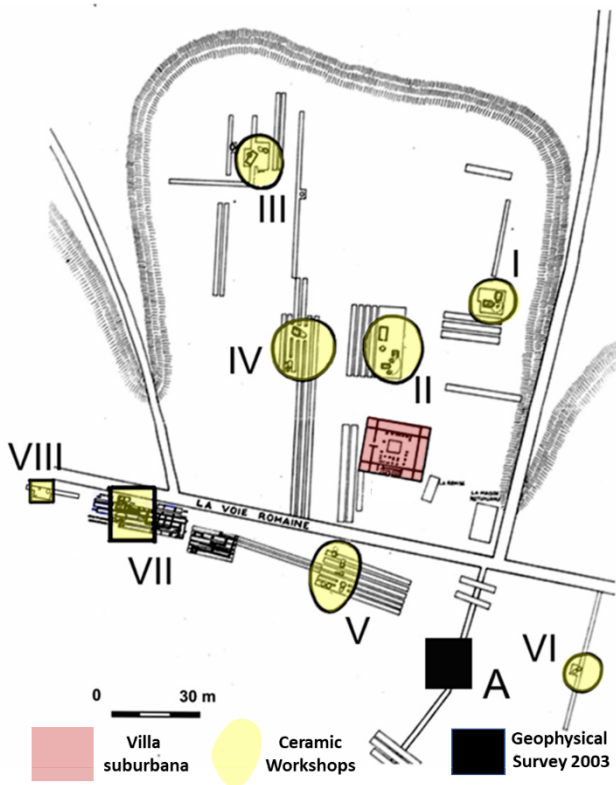


Figure 4 - Quarter of ceramic production from the Northern Sector (with modification, after Popilian 1997 and Negru et al., 2014).

The archaeological research undertaken between 1965 and 1998 ended with the identification of numerous ceramic production workshops (Figure 4) with a number of 21 kilns for firing vessels and bricks (Figure 5). Most of these kilns were tronconical with two

combustion chambers and a grate supported by a central pillar. A number of five large rectangular ovens were also discovered, probably used for the production of bricks, tiles, and other construction materials (Popilian 1997).

Starting from 2003, the archaeological excavations in this sector were retaken, by a new research group, the results being published in specialized journals (Negru and Schuster 2016, 11; Negru, 2004).



Figure 5 - The potter's oven no. 24 from the Quarter of ceramic production from the Northern Sector (Photo source -Link 1)

In the period between 2013-2018, it was discovered and studied the Ceramic Workshop number VIII (Figure 4), the northernmost in this sector of the former Roman city. On this occasion, were identified four more kilns for firing (Figure 5), various clay objects, as well as numerous ceramic objects (Negru et al. 2014, Negru et al. 2019). In this specific zone were also identified several buildings that were related to ceramic

production activities. But the most important building discovered in the area is the *villa suburbana* (described by Popilian 1976b), located inside the area of the ceramic production workshops (Figure 4).

The villa suburbana had a rectangular shape with sides extending 26.70 m in length, respectively 23.00 m in width. The walls were made of bricks bound with mortar overlaying on a foundation made of gravel of approx. 0.45-0.50 m. Around the central courtyard (atrium) was a portico supported on wooden pillars. The inner courtyard hosted a rectangular pool, probably a typical impluvium (for rain water-catchment). There were several rooms all around, one of which was equipped with a hypocaust (Popilian 1976b).

The Central Fortification

The first archaeological research undertaken in Resca in the 19th century (Figure 2, area marked as “6”) took place in the zone mentioned as the central area of the site and of the former Roman city. The so-called Central Fortification has dimensions of 216x182 m and is located in the central part of the site, near the Teslui stream. The main Roman roads entering the city from the south, west and east met at this point (Tudor 1978, 186).

In this central area of the former Roman city, several buildings were discovered during research in the first half of the 20th century, including a building with *thermae*, (found in 1900 by Pamfil Polonic during an archaeological campaign under the coordination of Grigore G. Tocilescu). It had impressive dimensions: 39 meters on the length side while from the width side was preserved at a length of 27 meters. The walls were made of bricks bound with mortar displaying 0.60 m in thickness, overlaying on a foundation made of shaped stone blocks of 1.10 m wide (Tudor 1978, 321).

Systematic research on this point began, however, only in 1965, under the leadership of Professor Dumitru Tudor. They were then continued by Dr. Cristian Vlădescu (who published the sketch given in Figure 6), from the National Military Museum, until 1992.

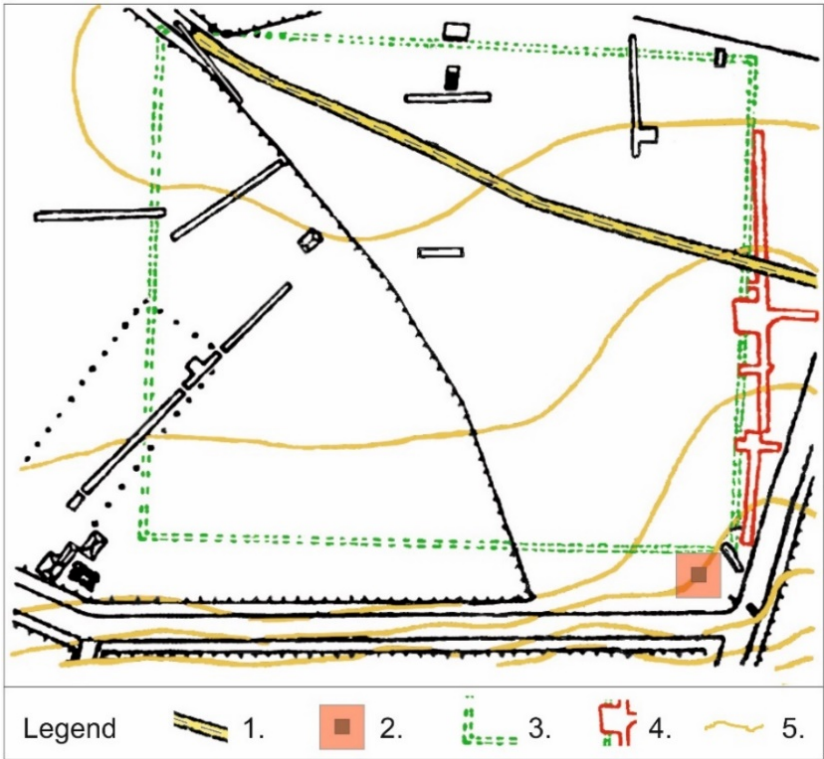


Figure 6 - Sketch of the Central Fortification zone, as depicted by Cristian Vlădescu in 1986 (with modifications), displaying trenches from the early archaeological campaigns. 1-Contemporary road, nowadays disbanded, 2-Historical Monument of the Heroes of the First World War, 3-The fort from the Trajan period, 4-Area depicting the entrance gate to the Central Fortification, brick phase, 5-Level curves. Although they appear on the sketch from Vlădescu 1986, the position of elements depicted at nr. 3 and 4 is uncertain.

Initially, here was a fortification with an enclosure made of unburnt bricks and a ditch with a *berm* in front of it. Later, the brick wall of the new fortification was implanted in the ditch of the first fortification. This wall had a thickness varying between 1.85 and 1.95

m, and exceptionally, on the southeast side, the wall reached a thickness of approx. 3.00 m. The *berm* was between 2.50-2.60 and 3.20 m wide. The *fossa* was 6 to 7.20 m wide and reached 2.50 down to 3.20 m deep, while the *agger* was 7.00 m on the south side and 3.00 m on the north side (Tudor 1978, 186; Vlădescu 1986, 37-38).

In 2009, in the Central Fortification (located in the center of Reșca), near the Monument to the heroes of the First World War, a north-south oriented section was excavated (Figure 7). The section had 80 m long and 2 m wide. The archaeological research was carried out to a depth of approx. 0.70 m. In the following years, the research continued in this section, being renamed with the code S4/2014.

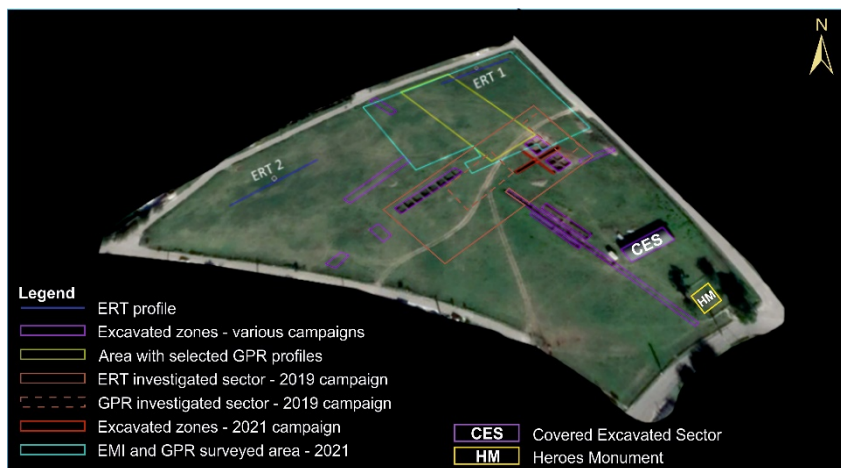


Figure 7 - Central Fortification with excavated sectors (various campaigns) and geophysical investigated perimeters of the 2019 and 2021 campaigns.

Starting from 2013, large-scale systematic archaeological research was carried out at this point of the archaeological site and findings contributed to a better knowledge of the Roman city quarter.

The main results of these researches refer to the fortification elements, as well as to civilian housing, respectively the craft activities in this area of the city.

Regarding the fortification elements, we mention the identification of two enclosure walls built of sun-dried bricks (which represent a unique phenomenon on the scale of the North-Danube Roman provinces), respectively the verification of the route of the burnt brick wall (the first enclosure walls of the former fortification, was replaced during the time of Emperor Septimius Severus (Figure. 8). The new wall was made of burnt bricks) and the two defense trenches (*fossae*).



Figure 8 - Burnt brick enclosure wall in the Central Fortification zone (after Negru, 2018).

Another major finding, is the two workshops for glass processing, rising to 3 the total number of glass processing workshops in the entire

province of Dacia, with its three subdivisions. The excavation also revealed the presence of some residential structures, Roman edifices, which have a parallel or perpendicular arrangement along the route of the first enclosure walls of the former fortification. We highlight here a building with a hypocaust in the interior of which more than 3000 fragments of Roman frescoes decorated with plant motifs were discovered (Negru and Schuster 2016; Negru et al. 2020; Negru 2022).

Only part of the excavated features remained open (marked as CES in Figure 7), the rest of the excavated sectors being back-filled with soil, for protecting the documented traces of habitation.

Southern Necropolis

The southern necropolis develops on both sides of the Roman road that connected *Romula* to *Sucidava* (position marked in Figures 2 and 3). In this necropolis, the research was undertaken by a group led by Dr. Valeriu Leahu and consisted of two campaigns, in 1969 respectively 1972.

Inside the researched tumuli, cremation graves were discovered (Leahu 1975), which are sometimes similar from the point of view of the funeral ritual to those of the Romanian settlers who came from Dalmatia and Illrycum. Leahu (1975) mentioned having discovered in one tumulus a sarcophagus made from stone, while in other locations found tombs made of bricks and one Cenotaph (tomb with brick sarcophagi with no remains) in the most complex tumulus (an oval surface with diameters of 18 and 15,5m) from the ones investigated

Capitalizing on the results of archaeological research

Over time, the archaeological discoveries from this site have been presented in books and reference studies for the research of the Roman era in the north of the Lower Danube. Among these, we can mention the Roman Pottery from Oltenia (Popilian 1976a), the Fortifications from Dacia Inferior (Vlădescu 1986), respectively

Romula (Tudor 1968), Roman Oltenia (Tudor 1978) and *Romula-Malva* (Tătuțea 1994).

Recently, the publication of the results of archaeological research within the *Romula* Series was initiated. Archaeological reports from 2013 and 2015, are already published (Negru 2022; Negru and Schuster 2016). All campaigns are also presented in the RAN - CIMEC database.

Future works

This review of the past archeological findings and geophysical campaigns presented in this chapter was made as part of the ROMULA Scientific Research Project financed by the Research Institute of the University of Bucharest, project in which multi-disciplinary research teams comprising researchers from University of Bucharest, Romanian Society of Applied Geophysics (SGAR) and National Institute of Earth Physics (INFP) will continue to explore the Romula - Roman City with the aim of bringing to light additional information on the cultural heritage of Roman period.

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