

RECENZII / BOOK REVIEWS

Cristina - Georgeta Alexandrescu, BLASMUSIKER UND STANDARTENTRÄGER IM RÖMISCHEN HEER. UNTERSUCHUNGEN ZUR BENENNUNG, FUNKTION UND IKONOGRAPHIE, Mega Verlag, Cluj-Napoca, 2010, 427 p., 7 annexes (dessins et cartes), 103 pl. (photos et dessins).

Cet ouvrage constitue la variante légèrement remaniée d'une thèse soutenue en 2004 à l'Université de Cologne sous la direction du professeur Thomas Fischer. Il convient, tout d'abord, de souligner que le sujet en a été choisi d'une manière fort inspirée, car l'on ressentait vraiment le besoin d'une nouvelle approche consacrée aux problèmes ayant naguère attiré l'attention d'un A. von Domaszewski (« Die Fahnen im römischen Heer », *Abhandl. Arch.-Epigr. Seminar Univ. Wien* 5, 1885) ou d'un F. Behn (« Die Musik im römischen Heere », *Mainzer Zeitschr.* 7, 1912, p. 36-47). Comme il arrive souvent, si la base documentaire ne cesse de s'enrichir, il n'en va pas de même pour le renouveau de la problématique : il était donc grand temps que l'on en fit le point.

Je commencerai par dire d'emblée que l'ouvrage repose sur une documentation digne de toute admiration. Non seulement l'Auteur a assidûment fréquenté des musées et des collections archéologiques de plusieurs pays, ce qui en dit long sur l'ampleur et le sérieux de la documentation, mais elle a également parcouru et assimilé une bibliographie quasi exhaustive, de laquelle témoignent en dernier lieu la liste ajoutée à la fin du volume, ainsi que les nombreux renvois distribués entre les notes de bas de page et les catalogues raisonnés accompagnant cet excellent ouvrage.

Après une brève introduction (chapitre I, p. 11-19), l'Auteur présente de manière synthétique les sources littéraires, épigraphiques et iconographiques (majoritairement des stèles à reliefs, mais aussi des scènes de la Colonne Trajane, de la Colonne de Marc-Aurèle, du monument de Tropaeum Traiani, etc.), ainsi que les trouvailles d'instruments et d'étendards originaux, sans oublier de fournir des précisions sur le lexique utilisé et de proposer de manière raisonnable quelques inévitables conventions terminologiques (chapitre II, p. 20-29).

Le troisième chapitre (p. 30-145) est consacré aux musiciens utilisant des instruments à vent. Après un aperçu de l'état actuel des recherches et une discussion détaillée sur le rôle et la position des musiciens jouant d'instruments à vent dans l'armée romaine, agrémentée de plusieurs excursions sur des questions connexes, C.-G. A. présente les monuments classés d'après des critères typologiques : d'abord les reliefs représentant des musiciens jouant d'instruments à vent (considération sur les thèmes, les variantes dans la prise de l'instrument, l'équipement militaire et la tenue vestimentaire, etc.), puis les instruments proprement dits (les représentations sur des reliefs, de même que les trouvailles de pièces originales).

Le quatrième chapitre (p. 146-240), ayant trait aux porte-étendards, suit le même schéma. Après un commentaire réservé aux sources littéraires et épigraphiques, sont présentés les monuments archéologiques : représentations de porte-étendards sur des reliefs et découvertes d'étendards originaux ou d'éléments appartenant à de tels objets. Cette dernière sous-section porte comme intitulé, d'une manière suggérant une certaine réticence, « Ein vorläufiger Überblick », comme si l'Auteur était encore mécontente de l'étendue de ses enquêtes. Il est, bien entendu, difficile de prétendre, dans ce genre d'exercice, que les investigations aient été exhaustives, car les collections des nombreux musées abritant des antiquités de telle sorte, situés dans plusieurs pays et ne bénéficiant pas tous, hélas, de listes d'inventaire fiables, peuvent encore cacher d'autres objets dignes d'intérêt. J'estime toutefois que même à cet état « préliminaire », l'aperçu que propose C.-G. A. constitue un véritable modèle de méthode et, en même temps, une solide base de départ pour quiconque voudrait y insister.

Le dernier chapitre dans le cadre du traitement de synthèse fait place aux conclusions (p. 241-245), présentées d'une manière remarquablement lucide et sobre. C.-G. A. démontre entre autres que les représentations iconographiques d'instruments à vent, d'étendards ou de leurs porteurs revêtent des significations différentes selon le contexte de la commande artistique, mais qu'il n'est point question que ces variations puissent être mises en liaison avec la nature du commanditaire. « Musikinstrumente und Standarten, Blasmusiker und Standartenträger trugen also in den Bildkompositionen unterschiedliche Bedeutungen, die aber nicht ausschließlich für einen der drei – staatlich, privat oder militärisch – Auftraggeber spezifisch waren. Allem Anschein nach spielten bei der Auswahl andere, nicht immer genau nachvollziehbare Faktoren eine Rolle. » (p. 245).

Au traitement synthétique fait suite le corpus des documents, lequel est constitué de trois catalogues. Le premier catalogue (p. 249-315), présenté sous la forme d'un tableau, comprend, avec toutes les références nécessaires, les musiciens jouant d'instruments à vent et les porte-étendards attestés dans les sources épigraphiques ou dans les papyrus. Seul bémol : les transcriptions fautives, sans accents et sans esprits, de quelques anthroponymes et mots grecs (p. 267, 281, 307, 310, 314) figurant surtout dans les papyrus. Ce qui demeure surprenant, car dans le reste de l'ouvrage, les mots grecs sont rendus correctement. Le deuxième catalogue (p. 316-357) rassemble les représentations sur des reliefs, alors que le troisième (p. 358-380) est réservé aux trouvailles d'objets originaux (instruments à vent et étendards) actuellement connues.

Le tout est clos par une liste bibliographique extrêmement riche (p. 381-392), un bref glossaire de termes musicologiques (p. 392), une liste des illustrations (p. 393-394) et un index (p. 395-427), d'ailleurs tout à fait bienvenu,

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

only on the studies of C. Cichorius (Cichorius 1894; Cichorius 1901) and G. L. Cheeseman (Cheeseman, 1914), to which we may add, concerning particular issues, the contributions of W. Wagner (Wagner 1938) and K. Kraft (Kraft 1951). Recently, valuable studies were issued by P. A. Holder (Holder 1980) and J. E. H. Spaul (Spaul 1994; Spaul 2000), last of them trying to amend and update C. Cichorius' articles, but proving to be pretty inaccurate for the province of Moesia Inferior.

This book represents the most up to date synthesis on the Roman army in Moesia Inferior, presenting this fundamental element of the Roman Empire both on historiographic and prosopographic bases. The author choice regarding this topic seems to be a natural one if we take into account the fact that he knows it intimately, as previously to this book he wrote a valuable monographic study on the auxiliary troops of the province (Popescu 2001/2002).

The book is build on five chapters, divided into subchapters, along with an introduction, conclusions, two *addenda*, a selected bibliography, tables and an useful index.

In book's introduction, the author states the historiographic milestones on the topic, often influenced by the political developments of the time the studies were issued. He also makes a strong distinction between the Roman army on one hand and European and American modern armies on the other hand in terms of organization and he sees no equivalence. According to recent directions in Roman historiography the author emphasizes on the lack of rigidity within the Roman army and he underlines its mobility and adaptability to provinces particularities, as more and more sources point out, like the recently found *papyri* from Dura Europos, the tablets from Vindolanda and Vindonisa and *ostraka* from the Egyptian desert. In this general framework set by the author we can imagine also the army from Moesia Inferior. Nonetheless, its primary function was to defend the above mentioned province against any threat, but we can find troops of Moesia Inferior involved in many actions within *inermes* provinces, as Asia, Cilicia, Lycia et Pamphylia. Of equal importance is the relation of the army with the civil population, which can be traced in all the structures and environments: Roman and Greek cities of the province, rural and veterans settlements.

In one section of his introduction, the author presents briefly the state of reserch for the troops attested in Moesia Inferior (both legions and *auxilia*), pointing out the main contibution of Romanian and foreign scholars. He also describes the process of establishing the province, insisting on the military organization. In this regard, the author prefers the notion of *limes Moesiae Inferioris* instead of *ripa Danuvi*, attested by inscriptions from the second half of the 1st century and a well known passage from Tacitus (*Ann.*, 4, 5, 3), as he considered the *limes* just an ideological border. For this standpoint we can put foward the fact that between 102-118 A.D., the northern frontier of the province was moved North of the Danube, to the line of the Southern Carpathians and Southern Moldavia. Based merely on epigraphic evidence, excepting the Danube *limes*, the author observes a high density of records in some

areas of the province, like Montana, an important mining region and road junction or the Balkan Mountains passes. A more reserved position he has regarding the coast line defence or a so-called "maritime *limes*", supported by A. Suceveanu (Suceveanu, 1974; Suceveanu, 2009), M. Ionescu and Gh. Papuc (Ionescu, Papuc 2005). As the author points out, the soldiers which are attested especially at Tomis, have tasks rather in policy and surveillance field.

Chapter I (p. 35-76) focuses on legio V Macedonica. The author traces back the presence of the legion in the Lower Danube region as far as 33-34 A.D., when an inscription recorded the construction of a road along the Danube by two legions, one of them probably V Macedonica which could be placed somewhere between Viminacium and Ratiaria. The author seems to consider the quartering of the legion at Oescus prior to Claudius' reign, but the first evidence in this respect dates around 44 A.D. The legion is displaced to Armenia and, after the Jewish uprising, it will be sent to this new battle scene and for this reason its return to Moesia will happen only in 71 A.D. Encamped at Oescus after the Dacian attack during the winter of 85/86A.D., the legion will become one of the most important actors of the military confrontations within this area untill 167A.D., when it is transferred to Potaissa, in Dacia. Undoubtedly legio V Macedonica was involved in the two episodes of Trajan's *Bellum Dacicum*, as is shown by the large epigraphic evidence and relatively large number of legion's tile material south the Carpathians, an area which in Hadrian's period was under direct administration of the legate of Moesia Inferior (Petolescu 1985). After the Dacian attack in Moesia, the legion is transferred to Troesmis, defending this sector of the *limes*. Afterwards, the legion marches against Parthians in 161 A.D. and upon its return in Moesia, it is transferred in Dacia, to Potaissa, for a better defence against Marcomanni. *Vexillations* of legio V Macedonica are attested by epigraphic sources in the North of the Black Sea, at Tyras, Chersonesus or Olbia, but also involved in the Parthian war of emperor Trajan, soldiers of the legion being attested at Bettir, in Palestine or Thyatira, as well as in Hadrian's Jewish war. Paying respect to author main formation, as epigraphist, the main part of this chapter deals with the unit's prosopography. Thus, the reader will be able to find useful information regarding *legati legionis*, *tribuni militum*, *praefecti castrorum*, *primipili legionis*, *centuriones legionis*, *milites* (*principales* and *immunes*, but also *gregarii*), as well as veterans. The last remarks conering the history of legio V Macedonica are related to the lost of province Dacia during Gallienus reign, followed by the actions of emperor Aurelianus, which is forced to move all the Roman army from Dacia to the South of the Danube, including legio V Macedonica, which is encamped again to its previous garrison from the first century, at Oescus.

Chapter II (p. 77-123) is dedicated to the history of legio I Italica in the Lower Danube area. After a brief discussion on the main milestones of the legion's evolution after its founding by emperor Nero in 66 A.D., the author put foward the main events attended by this unit during its encampment at

Novae, prior the garrison of legion VIII Augusta, transferred to Gaul after the civil war won eventually by Vespasian. Following the reorganization of province Moesia performed by Domitian, legio I Italica and its garrison entered the authority of Moesia Inferior governor. In this context we can find a *vexillation* of the legion participating in the emperor's Dacian war and later in the Trajan's Dacian expeditions, as well as sending a *vexillation* in the Parthian expedition of the same emperor. A turning point in Danubian *limes'* evolution is the displacement of legio V Macedonica to Potaissa, whose moesian sector will be transferred to the legio I Italica. The loss in the province defence is demonstrated by the Costoboci attack of 170 A.D. strongly felt at Tropaeum Traiani and in this context we must read the inscription mentioning the presence in this city of a *vexillation* of legio I Italica and one of legio V Macedonica D(acica). But the authority of the legion goes further, to the North of the Black Sea where the command of the *vexillations* sent by the legions V Macedonica and XI Claudia passed to the *angusticlave* tribunes of legio I Italica after legio V Macedonica displacement in Dacia. The last subchapter is dedicated to the legion's prosopography and tile stamp tipology and distribution.

The third chapter (p. 125-165) concerns legio XI Claudia Pia Fidelis, attested for the first time during the civil wars by mid first century B.C., when a legion, bearing this number is mentioned among the troops of C. Iulius Caesar Octavianus. The displacement of legio XI Claudia in Moesia Inferior must be related to the Dacian war of emperor Trajan. The author establishes this moment in the winter of 101/102 A.D., after the Dacian attack of Dobroudja. First, it will be quartered at Oescus, but during Q. Pompeius Falco' governorship (115-117 A.D.), the legion is attested at Durostorum. The author states that after the displacement of legio V Macedonica to Potaissa the area north to Capidava entered under the control of legio I Italica and not of legio XI Claudia whose control range restricted to solely south of Dobroudja. An important argument for this conjecture is the relatively small number of soldiers from legio XI Claudia recorded within this area compared to legio I Italica. As in the case of the other two legions from Moesia Inferior, legio XI Claudia also sent *vexillations* to the North of the Black Sea, where starting with the second half of the second century is supposed that the Olbia garrison entered the control of a centurion of legio XI Claudia. The chapter ends with the prosopography of the legion while stationed in Moesia Inferior and the known tile stamps from the province.

The fourth chapter (p. 167-244), entitled *Auxilia*, follows the main events related to the Roman military units of Moesia Inferior, describing first the cavalry units (*alae*) and then the infantry ones (*cohortes*). During the existence of this province, the epigraphic evidence, especially military diplomas comprise together ten *alae*, thirty-two *cohortes* and two *numeri* (adding other two hypothetical *numeri*). In this respect, of great interest for the province military history is the diploma discovered at Cataloi, dated June, 14, 92, which listed a number of seven *alae* (Petolescu, Popescu, 2004). As one can easily discern an important moment is represented by the preparations for the

Dacian expeditions. Thus from the beginning of Vespasian's reign until the Dacian expeditions on the territory of Moesia were stationed nine *alae* and twenty-two cohorts, merely a full strength of approximately 4,500 horsemen and 12,000 soldiers from the cohorts. After Trajan's Dacian expedition, some of these troops remained in the newly conquered territory and for this reason the diploma of 107 A.D. lists only six *alae* and thirteen cohorts. By the beginning of Marcus Aurelius' reign there are attested five *alae* and nine cohorts, supplemented in 198 A.D. by cohort *II Mattiacorum*, which will be equal to a total manpower of approximately 2,500 soldiers for *alae* and 6,000 soldiers for cohorts. During the third century no massive strength changes occurred, although from this period date the single certain records on the existence of military irregular units: *numerus civium Romanorum* at Montana and *numerus scutariorum* at Novi Pazar.

The history of the Roman fleet, *Classis Flavia Moesica*, does not cover an important part of this work, as a special book on this topic was previously issued, although it comprises some mistakes (Bounegru, Zahariade 1996). For this reason, the general information on the presence of the Roman fleet in the region is presented by the author within only four pages, insisting instead on the prosopography of its members, a great extend being granted to the eleven *praefecti* recorded by epigraphic sources.

As the evolution of the military defence system of Moesia Inferior is intimately bound with the territory North of the Danube, the author brings forward in the first *addendum* of the book (p. 257-269) the subject of the involvement of Moesia Inferior army in Trajan's Dacian War. The second *addendum* (p. 271-274) lists *vexillations* of Moesia Inferior composed of several or unmentioned units.

Finally, the conclusions of the book provide a general view over the huge number of written sources used by the author, doubled on some occasions with some archaeological remarks, all interpreted in accordance with the proper scientific rigour.

To sum up, the study issued by Florian Matei Popescu is a book that must be read by all the scholars interested in Roman history of the Lower Danube region and will certainly become a compulsory tool for the study of military organization and for understanding the complex relation between the Roman army and the diversified civil environment of Moesia Inferior.

Bibliographical abbreviations:

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 Cheesman 1914 = G. L. Cheesman, *The Auxilia of the Roman Imperial Army*, Oxford, 1914.
 Cichorius 1894 = C. Cichorius, *Ala*, RE I, 1894, col. 1224-1227.
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 Holder 1980 = P.A Holder, *Studies in the Auxilia of the Roman*

- Army from Augustus to Trajan*, BAR Int. Ser., 70, Oxford, 1980.
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