

# MILESTONES INDICATING DISTANCES FROM *MOESIA INFERIOR*

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**Summary:** Milestones are special pillars typically inscribed with information which helped travelers during ancient times to move from one place to another. Initially, they contained only little geographic information. In time they become instruments of communication and propaganda, the text of inscriptions is becoming more elaborate including all the titles and genealogy of the emperor who built or repaired the road or other kind of data.

Among the information provided to travelers was the distance measured in *milia passuum* (1 MP = 1480m) from one place to the nearest locality. Although important it is not always specified. Sometimes neither the distance! In Lower Moesia were so far discovered 31 such *milliaria*. They are the subject of the present contribution. Most of them were identified *in situ* confirming distances recorded on ancient itineraries or had contributed to the reconstruction of the course of the ancient roads within the province.

**Rezumat:** Stâlpii miliari reprezintă bornele kilometrice ale antichității. Inițial inscripțiile de pe aceștia menționau doar câteva informații cu caracter geografic care să-i ajute pe călători să se orienteze în spațiu. Cu timpul însă au devenit instrumente ale comunicării și propagandei, textul inscripției cuprinzând întreaga titlatură a împăratului care a construit sau reparat drumul sau alt tip de date. Între informațiile furnizate călătorilor se afla și distanța măsurată în *millia passuum* (1 MP = 1480m) până la cea mai apropiată localitate. Nu întotdeauna numele acesteia este menționat. Câteodata nici distanța nu apare în inscripție! În provincia *Moesia Inferior* s-au descoperit până în prezent 31 de astfel de miliari. Aceștia reprezintă subiectul contribuției de față. Cei mai mulți dintre ei au fost identificați *in situ* confirmând astfel distanțele înregistrate pe itinerariile antice sau au contribuit la reconstituirea traseelor drumurilor antice de pe teritoriul provinciei.

One of the most important information given by the inscriptions on the milestones was the distance. Among the 109 *milliaria* discovered in the province of *Moesia Inferior* 31 indicate the distance.<sup>1</sup>

In *Tomis* were found four milestones indicating distances.<sup>2</sup> The most interesting of them<sup>3</sup> mentions the locality *Tres Protomae*: ... *ab III Protomis / m(ilia) p(assuum) XXVII*. Where exactly (or even in what direction<sup>4</sup>) was *Tres Protomae* it is not known, over time have been advanced several hypotheses on its location: Weiss at Nicolae Bălcescu (former Danichioi);<sup>5</sup> V. Pârvan,<sup>6</sup> R. Vulpe,<sup>7</sup> Al. Suceveanu<sup>8</sup> and Em. Popescu<sup>9</sup> at Mircea Vodă (Constanța County); I. Mititelu at Vadu;<sup>10</sup> A. Aricescu at Corbu;<sup>11</sup> M. Bărbulescu at Medgidia or Valea Dacilor.<sup>12</sup>

Nicolae Bălcescu is approx. 40 km (27 MP) far from Constanța. The distance corresponds to the information on milestones but the discoveries made until now do not qualify it for the location here of *Tres Protomae* settlement.<sup>13</sup>

At Mircea Vodă (Constanța County) were identified early Roman traces<sup>14</sup> and a late antique fortress.<sup>15</sup> The latter is located on the highest part of the Celibihaci hill, in a strategically chosen place. From here one can keep under observation the Carasu Valley from close to the Danube up to Medgidia. Not far from here (at approx. 4.5 km) at Mircea Vodă railway station were reported Early Roman traces and a

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<sup>1</sup> Panaite 2011; Panaite 2012, pp. 67-80.

<sup>2</sup> ISM II 53(19); ISM II 112(78); Bărbulescu, Rădulescu 1980, pp. 140-157, no. 2; Bărbulescu, Rădulescu 1991, pp. 123-141.

<sup>3</sup> ISM II 53(19).

<sup>4</sup> Aricescu 1977, pp. 146-148; Aricescu 1975, pp. 325-326.

<sup>5</sup> Weiss 1911, p. 69.

<sup>6</sup> Pârvan 1912, p. 581.

<sup>7</sup> Vulpe 1938, p. 166, note 1; Vulpe, Barnea 1968, p. 137.

<sup>8</sup> Suceveanu 1977, p. 69 and fig. 1.

<sup>9</sup> TIR L 35, p. 73.

<sup>10</sup> Mititelu 1943, p. 88.

<sup>11</sup> Aricescu 1975, pp. 325-326; Aricescu 1977, pp. 146-148.

<sup>12</sup> Bărbulescu, Câteia 1997, p. 196.

<sup>13</sup> According to M. Bărbulescu 2001, *passim* the so far discoveries do not sustain this hypothesis; in the area was researched a cremation cemetery, see Scorpan 1973, p. 144 and Irimia 1973, pp. 42-46; were also reported early tumuli and a Roman settlement.

<sup>14</sup> Coșșa, Popescu 1951, p. 170; Coșșa 1957, pp. 325-326, no. 1; TIR L 35, p. 51.

<sup>15</sup> Barnea, Ștefănescu 1971, pp. 64, 69, 103, 112; Barnea 1998, pp. 162-166.

Roman-Byzantine fort.<sup>16</sup> The fortifications are later than the milestone in order to localize *Tres Protomae* here. In addition, the distance between these two points is greater than the one indicated in the inscription (52-53 km, about 35-36 MP).

Another hypothesis considers Vadu. The same area was also proposed as location for other settlements such as *vicus Parsal?*, *vicus C...cos?* or *vicus Celeris*. The most plausible version is still the one according to which here was *vicus Celeris*.<sup>17</sup> The settlement is at the limit between *regio Histriae* and the territory of the city itself, *chora*. The demarcation line between those two includes probably Fântânele, Cogeaalac and also Sinoe.<sup>18</sup> Besides *vicus Celeris*, located exactly 1.5 km S of the village, in the area was also identified another rural settlement 2 km NW of the village.<sup>19</sup> Both are dated between 1<sup>st</sup>-3<sup>rd</sup> centuries A.D. Vadu is positioned on the coast road that connects *Histria* with the settlements located to the North and to the South of it, first of all, with Vadu and Sinoe.<sup>20</sup> To the South, the road passes through Săcele - Vadu - Corbu and from there on, it seems that, based on archaeological finds, surrounds Lake Taşaul.<sup>21</sup> The real distance to Constanța (about 70 km = 54 MP; surrounding Lake Taşaul, same as in Antiquity) is too long to be argued that *Tres Protomae* was localized at Vadu.

Another proposed location was Corbu,<sup>22</sup> important settlement on the coast road with significant discoveries.<sup>23</sup> From Corbu comes an important inscription mentioning the settlements *Laikos Pyrgos* and *Chora Dagei*. Both were located in the immediate vicinity of the public road (“where the public road began”), what suppose the fulfillment of tasks, which at a time proved to be very difficult.

Communities of the two settlements – which were not yet localized on the field – but it is likely to be found not far from Corbu, maybe on the road linking Histria with Tomis, within *regio Histriae*<sup>24</sup> – address to the Governor to be exempted from these duties. Even if we do not know where exactly the „public road began”,<sup>25</sup> we have to keep in mind this particularly important aspect related to road maintenance, a *munus* which was not always carried out with money from the central treasury.

From Corbu there are two milestones mentioning distances. The first<sup>26</sup> indicates the distance of 100 MP. It is hard to say where from is measured this distance, the number being very high (100 MP = 146 km) and none of the milestones in the province gives such a big distance! On the second one<sup>27</sup> one can read *m(ilia) [p(assuum)]/ XI*. The inscription includes the city name – of a locality, probably *Celeris*, but it is too damaged to give a reliable reading. It is more likely for *vicus Celeris* to be the mentioned locality because the distance on the field between those two – Corbu and Vadu is about 16 km. On one condition – *vicus Celeris* to be found in Vadu! The distance Corbu - Constanța is about 69 km (46 MP), much too long to localize *Tres Protomae* at Corbu.

Relatively recent, based also on milestone discoveries the area Medgidia<sup>28</sup> – Valea Dacilor<sup>29</sup> was proposed for *Tres Protomae*. It is located near the intersection of the central road (through the middle of Dobrudja, from *Noviodunum* and *Aegyssus* to *Marcianopolis*) with the road *Tomis – Axiopolis*, which runs along the Carasu Valley.

<sup>16</sup> TIR L 35, p. 51.

<sup>17</sup> TIR L 35, p. 76; ISM I pp. 463 – 469 and no. 350 – 356; Bărbulescu 2001, pp. 45- 46 and note 167.

<sup>18</sup> Suceveanu 1998, pp.161-162; Bărbulescu 2001, p. 39; Panaite 2010, pp. 373-380.

<sup>19</sup> Munteanu, Ocheșanu 1975, pp. 175-213.

<sup>20</sup> Suceveanu 1977, p. 115.

<sup>21</sup> Discoveries from Piatra and “Rățarie”; Suceveanu 1977, fig. 3 – map II. Against: Aricescu 1975, p. 321 note 46.

<sup>22</sup> Bărbulescu, Câteia 1997, p. 196.

<sup>23</sup> Important coastline settlement where from come sculptures (some brought from Histria, Pippidi 1967, pp. 230-232; ISM I 366) and inscriptions (there were found three *milliaria*, showing the restoration of the road near the settlement during the late roman time; points with roman traces: 1. 500 m W of Corbu de Sus - early Roman settlement 2. 2.5 km N-W - late roman settlement 3. two points with Roman traces, see Irimia 1980, p 89; Avram *et alii* 1987, pp. 333-336; tumuli are signaled.

<sup>24</sup> It is possible that they were part of an imperial *Saltus*, see Suceveanu 1977, p 45; Suceveanu 1998, p 167.

<sup>25</sup> ISM I 378.

<sup>26</sup> ISM I 321.

<sup>27</sup> CIL III 7614, IGLR 82.

<sup>28</sup> Here is located *vicus I Urbi ...*, cf. Harțuche 1971, pp. 252-257.

<sup>29</sup> A settlement is supposed to be here based on the pottery discovered – cf. Bărbulescu 2001, p. 57 and a milestone (see *infra*).

On the milestone found in Medgidia<sup>30</sup> one can read the distance XX (or XXI) MP representing around 30 km, which is the straight line distance to Adamclisi.<sup>31</sup> Both are on the central road but one can not specify in more detail which was its route. The number XX or XXI MP can not refer to the distance between Medgidia and Constanța because between these two are approximate 44 km (about 29 MP).

The milestone found at Valea Dacilor<sup>32</sup> indicates a distance of I or III MP. This one needs to be analyzed together with the one from Medgidia and both with the Central Road through the Dobruđja. Both milestones are dated back to the late Roman time.<sup>33</sup> Based on them the previous reconstructed route of the Central Road<sup>34</sup> – through *Zaldapa* – *Tropaeum Traiani* – Mircea Vodă – was abandoned. This reconstruction was also based on the the location of *Tres Protomae* at Mircea Vodă.<sup>35</sup>

Other milestones discovered in *Tomis*<sup>36</sup> indicate shorter distances related to repaired segments of road, without being able to give supplementary information.

From the important settlement of Sinoe<sup>37</sup> come two milestones – dated in 159 and 162 A.D. respectively – which indicate both XVIII MP<sup>38</sup>. Sinoe lays North of Histria. On ancient itineraries North of Histria the nearest locality is *Ad Stoma* – at a distance of LX MP (on *Tabula Peutingeriana*), respectively *Ad Salices* – at a distance of XXV MP (in the *Itinerarium Antonini*). *Ad Stoma* is too far, but if from the distance of XXV MP (*Ad Salices* – *Histria*) we take off XVII MP (distance indicated on both milestones from Sinoe) there are VI MP. That is the actual distance on the ground between *Histria* and Sinoe. So, milestones were placed not far from their place of discovery.

From 23 August (former Tatlageac) comes a milestone<sup>39</sup> indicating VII MP from *Callatis: A Call / tide [m (Ilia) p (assuum)] / VII*. The actual distance between *Callatis* and 23 August – where was located *vicus Amlaidina*<sup>40</sup> is corresponding with VII MP. Probably the settlement was located on the shore of Tatlageac Lake. Another two settlements were identified in the same area during a survey.<sup>41</sup>

From *Callatis* come another milestone indicating a distance of II MP.<sup>42</sup> It could belong either to the road to *Tropaeum Traiani*, or to the road to *Zaldapa*.

On the milestone discovered at Mirișteea<sup>43</sup> (located in the *territory* of *Callatis*) one can read *m(ilia) p(assuum) / VI*. The milestone was transported here from the coast road because the distance between Mangalia and Mirișteea 25 km (aprox. 17 MP) is too big than the one written on the pillar.<sup>44</sup>

From *Odessos* – situated on the coast road and in the same time the ending point of another important

<sup>30</sup> Bărbulescu, Câteia 1997, p. 183, no.1.

<sup>31</sup> Bărbulescu, Câteia 1997, pp. 195-196.

<sup>32</sup> Bărbulescu, Câteia 1997, pp. 184, no.2.

<sup>33</sup> The milestone from Valea Dacilor bears two inscriptions: one of them is fragmentary and was dated to the age of Severs, the second one, more complete and dated between 293-305 A.D., is that containing the distance of I or III MP.

<sup>34</sup> Suceveanu, Barnea 1991, p. 135, fig. 8.

<sup>35</sup> If, however, *Tres Protomae* would be localized at Mircea Vodă, taking off XVII MP (specified by the milestone from *Tomis*) from XX or XXI MP (distance indicated on the milestone from Medgidia) there are 6-7 MP (about 10 km), representing the distance between Medgidia and Mircea Vodă, with the remark that the pieces are from different periods, cf. Bărbulescu, Câteia 1997, p. 196.

<sup>36</sup> Bărbulescu-Munteanu, Rădulescu 1980, pp.140-157, no. 2: *II [m (Ilia) p (assuum)]* - item located on the coast road, maybe at *Turris Muca*; Bărbulescu, Rădulescu 1991, pp. 123-141: *m(ille) p(assuum) I* - indicates the repair of a road segment near the city; IGLR 6: *m(ilia) p(assuum) / IIII* - indicates probably a road segment of 4 MP repaired near the city.

<sup>37</sup> Epigraphically attested up to the III<sup>rd</sup> century A.D.; ISM I 324-341; However, where exactly is to be found *vicus Quintionis* is difficult to say because in the area were identified two important nuclei with traces of inhabitation. First, at 2 km SE of the village investigated in the campaign of 1952, with particular traces from the V-VI centuries A.D. (Canarache 1953, pp. 136-138) and the second, 3 km from Sinoe on the shore of the lake with the same name, where was identified a relatively large settlement with early Roman ceramic material, see Avram *et alii* 1985, p. 119, no. 25).

<sup>38</sup> ISM I 317, 318.

<sup>39</sup> ISM III 195.

<sup>40</sup> Also mentioned on the *Scutum Durae Europi repertum* 11; CIL III 13743; ISM II 266; ISM III 237; Mititelu 1943, pp.78-91.

<sup>41</sup> Bărbulescu 2001, p. 64.

<sup>42</sup> Bărbulescu-Munteanu, Rădulescu 1980, pp.140-157, nr. 5.

<sup>43</sup> ISM II, 114(80); IGLR 81.

<sup>44</sup> Bărbulescu, Câteia 1997, pp. 196-197.

road, parallel with the *limes* – through *Montana – Nicopolis ad Istrum – Marcianopolis*<sup>45</sup> – come a bilingual milestone, indicating a distance of II MP.<sup>46</sup> This milestone, together with the one from Topolite<sup>47</sup>, confirms the reparation of the road, between the 2<sup>nd</sup> and the 5<sup>th</sup> miles, just before an imperial trip, most probably, of Gordian the III<sup>rd</sup>.<sup>48</sup> The distance mentioned on the milestone is V MP. Between *Odessos* and Topolite there are 7.5 km, about V MP, so the milestone was discovered close to the original place where it was positioned in Antiquity.

Two milestones from *Sexaginta Prista*<sup>49</sup> indicate both LX MP. Most probably the first editor did not correctly read the inscription; in fact, it is possible to be IX MP (about 13 km), as it is in *Tabula Peutingeriana* and in the field (14 km), between *Sexaginta Prista* and *Tigris*.

From Vetren (*Tegulicium*) there is a milestone<sup>50</sup> mentioning *m(ilia) p(assuum) XII*. This corresponds to the distance in *Itinerarium Antonini*, between *Candidiana* (Malak Preslavets) and *Tegulicium*. In *Tabula Peutingeriana* the distance between those two is about XIII MP. If the MP XII would refer to the distance between *Durostorum* and *Tegulicium*, it follows that the milestone was found near the place where it was placed in the Antiquity, which is also implied by the distance in the field between them, measuring about 16.5 km.

On the milestone from Celei<sup>51</sup> one can read *m(ille) p(assuum) I*. The milestone was found *in situ* and thus the distance of 1000 steps (= 1480 m) corresponds to the distance from the end of the bridge over the Danube and the place of discovery. It was, probably, the first one of the milestones set on the road to *Romula*.<sup>52</sup>

There are two milestones indicating distances from Rasova. The first one<sup>53</sup> it says: *A / Sa <ci> dave / M (Ilia) P (assuum) IIII*. Its discovery has contributed to localize *Sacidava* at Dunăreni (former Muzait).<sup>54</sup> On the second<sup>55</sup> it stands: *m(ilia) p(assuum) / IL / XIII*, which shows a segment of road of 14000 steps (14 MP) length repaired, between Rasova and *Axiopolis*.

From Seimeni there is a milestone<sup>56</sup> on which one can read: *ab Axiu(poli) m(ilia) p(assuum) / VI*. The milestone was found near the place where it was placed in ancient times because the distance corresponds to the actual one between this point and *Axiopolis*. Instead, it is hard to specify where from exactly this distance was measured because in the area are certified more points with archaeological finds dating back to the Roman period: the civil settlement Seimeni- Siliștea Valley lies on the northern shores of Tibrinului and Silistea Valleys; the fortification is located in the northern part of the nearby farm, to the Danube River, approx. 300 m; a defense tower nearby, dated to the 4<sup>th</sup> century A.D.<sup>57</sup> and an epigraphically attested *villa rustica*.<sup>58</sup>

One of the milestones discovered in *Capidava*<sup>59</sup> indicates *III m(Ilia) p(assuum)*. It belongs to the *limes* road across the Danube but the researchers do not exclude another possibility for it, that is to come from the secondary road to *Tomis* or *Histria* through the locality of Băltăgești. If so, then the number would indicate a segment of road repaired in that direction because the distance between *Capidava* and Băltăgești<sup>60</sup> is longer than III MP, it is about VI MP (10 km).

<sup>45</sup> Panaite 2011.

<sup>46</sup> IGB I<sup>2</sup> 252 (b); inscription (a) is written in Greek.

<sup>47</sup> Mirčev 1952, pp. 69-81, no.1; Hollenstein 1975, no. 42.

<sup>48</sup> Hristov 2009, pp. 101-105.

<sup>49</sup> Hollenstein 1975, no. 8; Seure 1915, p. 184, no. 139.

<sup>50</sup> Teodorescu, Mateescu 1915 (1916), pp. 215-216; Hollenstein 1975, no. 56.

<sup>51</sup> IGLR 278.

<sup>52</sup> Fodorean 2006, pp. 81-82.

<sup>53</sup> Rădulescu 1969, pp. 349-354, Hollenstein 1975, no. 48.

<sup>54</sup> Aricescu 1970, pp. 297-305; Aricescu 1977, p. 160.

<sup>55</sup> CIL III 13755, IGLR 190.

<sup>56</sup> ISM V 1.

<sup>57</sup> TIR L 35, p. 65; IGLR, pp. 212-213; ISM V, p. 21; IGLR 205.

<sup>58</sup> ISM V 4 – *M. Atius Firmus – loci princeps*, owner of the private estate in the area.

<sup>59</sup> Opriș, Popescu 1996, pp. 189-190.

<sup>60</sup> Băltăgești – *villa rustica* (ISM V 7) and two settlements: one Roman with traces less consistent (sporadic habitation) 2 – 2.5 km W of the village and a rural settlement from the Roman-Byzantine period at about 2 km N of village and a *tumulus* on Băltăgești hill – see Diaconu 1959, p 617-629; TIR L 35, p 26, and a survey within the area cf. Barbulescu 2001, p. 112, n. 856.



On one of the milestones discovered in Topalu<sup>61</sup> one can read: *V [m(ilia) p(assuum)]*. The V MP corresponds to the distance between the place of discovery and *Capidava*.<sup>62</sup> The second milestone discovered in Topalu<sup>63</sup> does not indicate any distance, but based on the two pillars was restored the route of ancient road in the area of Topalu, road passing at 2 km further to the East from the present one.

The milestone indicating V MP must be put in relation with another of the same period found in *Carsium*.<sup>64</sup> On this can be read *m(ilia) p(assuum) X*. The sum of the two distances, XV MP, is approximately the distance between *Capidava* and *Carsium*, which in *Itinerarium Antonini* is XVIII MP. In addition, the distance indication of ten thousand steps corresponds to that between *Carsium* and *Cius* given by *Itinerarium Antonini* (224).<sup>65</sup> On another milestone from *Carsium*<sup>66</sup> the distance is: *m(ilia) p(assuum) XVIII*. 18,000 steps is the distance between *Capidava* and *Carsium*, identical with that given by *Itinerarium Antonini* (224). A third milestones from *Carsium* indicates *m(ilia passuum) II*. Very probably this remark refers to the repair of a road segment of 2000 steps (2 MP) length, probably north of *Carsium*.<sup>67</sup>

The milestone discovered in *Arrubium* (Măcin)<sup>68</sup> indicates a distance of IV MP and confirm repair of a road segment of 4000 steps length in the area *Arrubium – Dinogetia – Noviodunum*.

On the milestone found in Crângu<sup>69</sup> one can read *m(ilia) p(assuum) III*. It seems that it was not found *in situ* and belongs most likely to the road from *Tropaeum Traiani* to *Durostorum*.

At about 1 km East of Abritus and 15 km South of the present road Razgrad - Shumen was discovered a milestone<sup>70</sup> indicating: *I m(ille) p(assuum)*. As the inscription indicates, it was placed at one mile from the fortress from Abritus in *territorium Abritanorum*.<sup>71</sup>

Tlačene lies West of Čomakovci and North of the presumed route parallel to the *limes* road, within the segment between *Montana – Čomakovci*. From here comes a milestone<sup>72</sup> on which one can read: *m(ilia) p(assuum) I*. The distance indicated on it is probably a road segment of one mile length that was repaired.

<sup>61</sup> Bărbulescu-Munteanu, Rădulescu 1980, pp.140-157, no. 1.

<sup>62</sup> Found *in situ* in the settlement that would have been here before the IV<sup>th</sup> century fortification, Bărbulescu, Câteia 1998, p. 124, note 50.

<sup>63</sup> Bărbulescu, Rădulescu 1993, pp.197-206; Bărbulescu, Câteia 1998, pp. 125-126, note 70; Petolescu 1996, pp. 409-416, proposes the period of Elagabal.

<sup>64</sup> ISM V 96.

<sup>65</sup> It may have been brought from *Cius* to Hârșova as long as in *Carsium* it is known another one dating from the same year, and whose inscription says that a part of the road was restored by the soldiers from *ala II Aravacorum* quartered in *Carsium* - ISM V 95 (a).

<sup>66</sup> ISM V 100.

<sup>67</sup> ISM V 98 (b); Tocilescu 1884, p. 27, no. 3; CIL III 7606; IGLR 231(b).

<sup>68</sup> CIL III 7610; IGLR 239.

<sup>69</sup> Alexandrescu, Panaite 2009, pp. 429-455.

<sup>70</sup> Ivanov 1981, pp.48-54.

<sup>71</sup> *Territorium Abritanorum* is a form of administrative-territorial organization (with juridical status of *vicus*) located one mile away from the fortress itself (*castellum* (Ivanov 1980), mentioned in an inscription from Aquileia, dated at the end of the III<sup>rd</sup> century A.D. - CIL V 942), and should not be confused with the civil settlement depended on it, *canabae* (attested epigraphically, cf. Ivanov 1980, pp. 16-17). Field investigations had identified the remains of a Roman settlement at Hisarlâshko Selishte, confirming thus the distance indicated on milestone.

<sup>72</sup> ILBR 159.

The milestone from Bodenets<sup>73</sup> indicates *m(Ilia) p(assuum) I* ---. Quite possibly, it was found near the place where it was set in ancient times; the distance of I MP corresponds to the distance between Bodenets and Mezdra, both being situated on the road from *Oescus* to *Serdica*.

The distance written on the milestone from Štípsko<sup>74</sup> is *m(ilía) p(assuum) XI*. Štípsko is situated on the road from *Marcianopolis* to *Durostorum*. It lies North of Kipra<sup>75</sup>, where was also found a milestone. Between the two points there are about 16 km. It follows that the XI MP on the milestone from Štípsko indicate the distance between the two cities and also that both *miliaria* were found near the place where they were placed in Antiquity.

Among the milestones presented above, 17 are dated back to the Early Roman time and 14 during the late Roman time. To be more precisely the late Roman milestones are dated between 3<sup>rd</sup>-4<sup>th</sup> centuries A.D.<sup>76</sup> Most of them were discovered along the main roads of the province, but there are also pieces coming from the secondary roads. Information provided by the inscriptions allows us to reconstruct the system of roman roads in the province of Moesia Inferior and its chronological evolution. It is very important to notice that the distances mentioned on the inscription between two different settlements are correct; not only with the real distances in the field but also with those from the ancient itineraries. This represents extremely valuable information taking into account the fact that traces of roman roads are practically not visible today. On the other hand it is true, that an important part of those milestones indicate only repaired segments of road, of different length. But they provide additional data that contribute to the chronological sequencing of the construction and maintenance of roads.

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<sup>73</sup> CIL III 12521; ILBR 158.

<sup>74</sup> CIL III 13758 (cf. CIL III 12519).

<sup>75</sup> Besevliev 1964, no. 149.

<sup>76</sup> The milestone from Kipra (see *infra*) is the latest on from the Lower Danube area; it is dated 383-393 A.D. After this time there are no milestones discovered.

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