Cristian Olariu

TROPAEUM TRAIANI: THE BASILICA D SECTOR (WITH TRANSEPT) AND THE SURROUNDING AREA (ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESEARCHES, 2000-2006)

General presentation

The city (and fortress) of Troapeum Traiani (today, Adamclisi, Constanta county) is located in the southern part of the Late Roman province of Scythia Minor, at the intersection of the ancient roads that linked Aegyssus (Tulcea) in the northern part of the province, with the Moesia Inferior (later known as Moesia Secunda) in the south. From east to west, the fortress controlled the road from Callatis (on the shore of Pontus Euxinus) to the *limes* (at Sucidava-Izvoarele).

The city was located on the following coordinates: $44^{0}05$" north latitude, $27^{0}56$" east longitude, being located on a natural plateau, 66 m high from the sea level. It was founded by the Roman emperor Trajan, as a result of his victory over the Daces, during the campaign of winter 101/102 AD, and it is closely related to the triumphal *monumentum* raised by the same emperor nearby[1]. It was not an *ex nihilo* settlement; on the same place, there existed formerly an autochthonous settlement[2]. A Constantinian one followed the Trajanic foundation[3]. The city lasted until the VIIth century AD, when, due to the savage barbarian invasions, it was gradually deserted. Thus, at the arrival of the Ottoman Turks, there were only remains of the Trajanic monument. The name of the actual village, Adamclisi, is derived from Turkish, meaning (Adam klissi tc., "the church of man"), closely related to the form of the ancient monument[4].

---

1 See for details *Tropaeum Traiani. I. Cetatea*, Alexandru Barnea, Ion Barnea (coordinator), Ioana Bogdan Cătăniciu, Monica Mărgineanu-Cârstoiu, Gheorghe Papuc, Bucureşti, Editura Academiei RSR, 1979, p. 13.

2 *Ibidem*.

3 *CIL*, III, 12470. see also *Tropaeum Traiani*…, p. 13.

4 The Turks saw it as a deserted Christian church. See also *Tropaeum Traiani*…, p. 15.

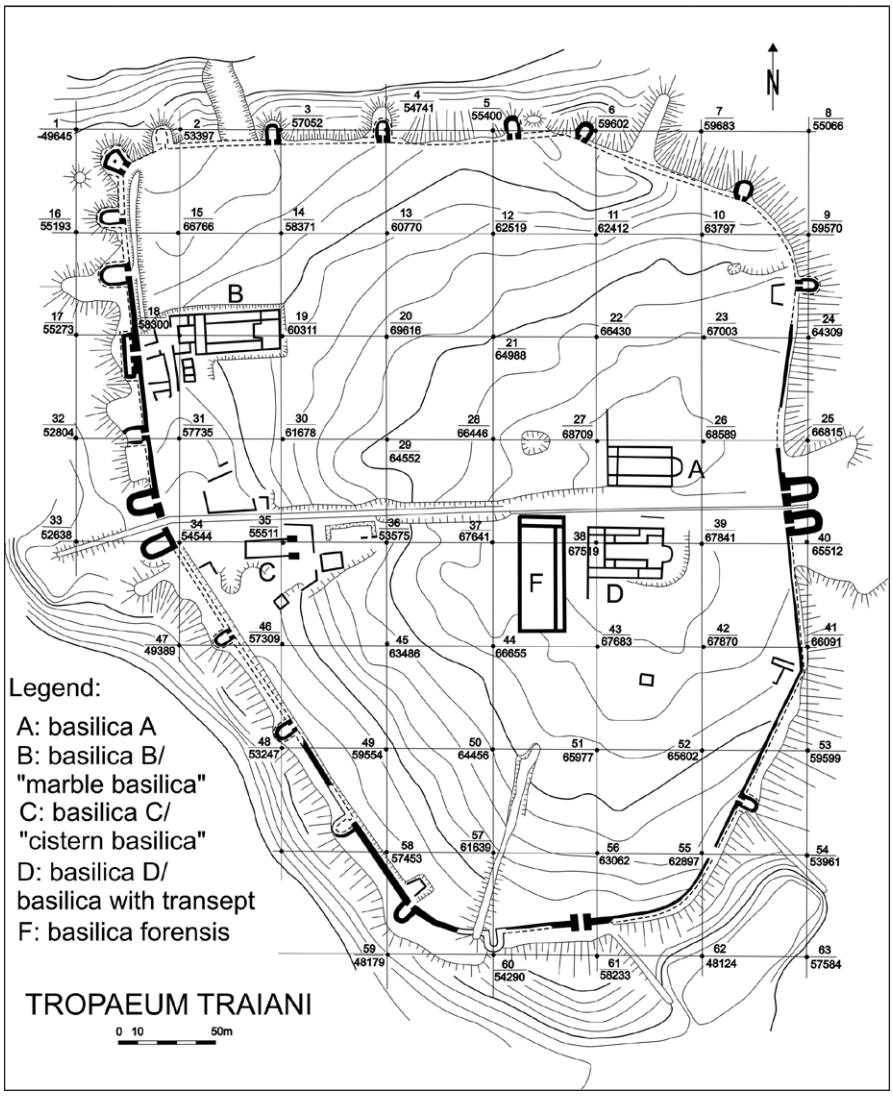

Fig. 1. General plan of Tropaeum Traiani.

Сл. 1. Генерални план Тропеум Трајани.

A short history of the archaeological researches

The archaeological excavations started in 1891, conducted by Gr. Tocilescu[5]. Several other researchers, such as G. Murnu, P. Nicorescu, Gh. Ştefan and Ion Barnea, then followed these. The last one is also responsible for the re-start of the archaeological excavations, in 1968; since 1975, the scientific responsible is Alexandru Barnea, professor at the Faculty of History, University of

5 For the history of research, see *Tropaeum Traiani*…, pp. 15-34.

Bucharest. The first researches were concentrated on the fortification and public edifices, with an accent on the aspect of public monuments and the retrieval of ancient objects. The research technique was, according to the XIXth century AD, mainly related to putting in evidence the Early Roman walls, the later ones thus being considered as "barbarian". In consequence, they were removed, thus being lost a large part of the archaeological information. Thus, a large part of the archaeological information was lost (mainly those related to the last part of dwelling of the city, this related to the Vth and VIth centuries AD). According to this system, the main objective was to retrieve the main edifices and the most spectacular objects. Only in the late period of excavations, post 1968, the researches had a scientific approach, thus being included stratigraphic analysis, a scientific technique of research, registration of all objects discovered, and so on. The Roman city was divided in 4 sectors (A, B, C and D) and it was suited to preserve for conservation the IVth century level of inhabitance.

The D sector

The sector of the D *basilica* (with transept) is located inside a square formed by the landmarks 38-39 on the north side and 42-43 on the southern side[6]. The archaeological research is related to the technique of surface excavation, thus being stopped at the latest stepping level, except for some soundings down to the IVth century AD level. This technique is used especially in order to put in evidence the Late Roman level (Vth-VIth centuries AD), the most important in order to understand the latest phases of dwelling at Tropaeum Traiani.

The basilica D sector. The interior and annexes

Inside the basilica D there were made several cases, in order to elucidate the construction phases of the basilica. According to the research, there were observed the following: a. the D basilica was constructed on the remains of a former large edifice, heated in the hypocaust technique; to support this statement, we have the discoveries inside the basilica: an apse in the southern part of the basilica (see the plan from figures 5A and 5B), later re-used, with a pavement formed of slabs (37 x 37 cm), discovered on the whole of the apse; in the cases opened in the northern part of the basilica, there were also discovered hypocaust piles, at –86 cm.

Subsequent to this edifice, it seems that it was erected a first *basilica*, probably unfinished, identifiable only by the wall discovered in C22 and C23, with a slightly-deviated orientation towards south (from the main direction, east-west), too thin to sustain the large projected edifice, that what abandoned. The next edifice is the still visible one, where there can be found at least three building phases. A first level is formed of yellow clay, fragmentary preserved and broken by a series of garbage pits (as in C25, at –104 cm; C15, at –90 cm; C26, at –150 cm). There had appeared also two stepping levels (mortar), in the

6 See the annexed plans (figures 1, 5A and 5B).

cases C11, C4A, C22, C28, C37 and the section S1. The first level was identified at –80 cm, being, with small variations, present inside the entire basilica, whilst the second was identified fragments in the above-mentioned fragments (at –65 cm). The first layer is 7 cm thick, whilst the second one is 9 cm thick. Further, their composition is different, the second layer (those from –65 cm) being made from a rougher material[7]. A last stepping level can be identified in C26, where at – 86 cm, there was discovered a furnace in a circular shape, 76 cm in diameter and 4 cm depth. It is extremely possible that this furnace represents the last phase of use of the basilica, when the atrium lost its initial function and was transformed in a (pottery) workshop[8].

Also, in the area of basilica's apse, there were discovered 20 *tesserae*, the logic conclusion being that of an interior decoration of the apse in the mosaic technique. For this period (the VIth century AD), the interior decoration of churches in this technique seems to be dominant[9]. Outside the apse (and on the exterior of the basilica) there were identified plaster fragments, most probably from the outside part of the apse's wall.

In C15, at –114, near the northern profile, there was discovered a blocked stone channel, made of re-used parts of other edifices, whose's function might be merged with the initial civil edifice with thermal installations, prior to the basilica.

The northern annexes of the basilica

In the northern part of the basilica, there were confirmed older and already published discoveries, that attest the gradually desertion of the city in the second half of the VIth –the beginning of the VIIth centuries AD.

A very interesting aspect, from the evolutionary point of view of the north-eastern area, nearby the *via principalis*, is related to the five building phases of the Late Roman city sewerage. Here, Mihai Ionescu and Robert Constantin, archaeologists at the MAC Mangalia, made the research[10]. Their conclusions were the following: 1. the oldest phase is represented by a stonewall with white mortar, c. 50 cm width. This wall has a parallel route to those of the *via principalis* and it continues towards west. The superior level is at +65903 m. Related to the same phase, there were researched north of the wall two of the street's pavement slabs, piled up on a level of mortar. The dating is before the IVth century AD, because the leveling made at the beginning of the century erased from the wall's elevation to the construction level of the *via principalis*.

---

7 See the archaeological report presented in *CCA,* 2002, p. 21. For an image on the archaeological work in the basilica an the location of section and cases, see the working plan presented in figure 6.

8 See archaeological diary mss Cristian Olariu, TT 2002, 31.07 (unpublished).

9 For analogies, the well-known imperial portraits from San Vitale church in Ravenna, with the mosaic representing the emperor Justinian, his wife Theodora and the courtiers; usually the Late Roman Christian were decorated with mosaics, a technique that is still in use in the Orthodox churches; see for San Vitale church, *Ravenna*, A. Longo Editore, 1996.

10 See figure 2.

Fig. 2. Document: photos of the northern annexes of basilica D.

Сл. 2. Документација: фотографије северног анекса базилике D.

2. CI section consisting of four ceramic *tubuli* that breaks the above-mentioned wall's route. The first tube has 53cm length and a diameter at the coupling of 10cm; the second one has 51 cm length and 19cm diameter; the

third is 49cm length and 16cm diameter; the fourth one has 31cm length and 16cm diameter, it's body being furrowed by transversal striae of 0,001cm thick. The tube section had been repaired using a muff made of tube fragments tied in mortar (see fig. 2).

The construction positioning of the pipes (with the coupling on the east), as well as the different dimensions of the pipes shows that we are in a front of a secondary line of collection or a route of adduction or a route for draining.

3. The channel CII was realized from an obstruction made by small rocks, linked with white mortar. The pipe (36x29cm) was waterproofed with *opus signinum*. CII cuts the wall Z1, the relationship between CI and CII being unclear. After a N-S route, the channel CII turns in C46 towards east under a floor ca. 5 cm, covered by a brick floor, that represents the level under the portico, at +65647; on the floor is laying the DVPc7 base, that sustained the portico's columns. The date is around the first half of the IVth century AD, when the portico was built, up to the VIth century AD, when, from the previous information, the main drainage was still functional, a fact that would have been allowed the function of the channel CIII.

4. CIII – drainage route, the channel's walls being made of lime that limit a pipe paved with 35x10 cm bricks. The channel disaffects CI and CII towards east, where after cca. 20m flows to the main channel. The lime slabs mark the channel's route in the actual stepping level, that goes down from +65448 to +64573 m, the slope being of 4,3%. The date is Vth-VIth centuries AD.

5. Wall route – Z2 –that chronologically represents the last construction phase, because it cuts both CI and CIII"[11].

The area south of basilica D
(the southern district, also known as south bas D)

In order to clarify some archaeological situations that appeared south of the basilica during the 2000 campaign, there had been started in the same year (2000) the archaeological research in this area. There has mainly been used the technique of surface research, in order to gather as many as possible data on the last dwelling level (those of the 2nd half of the VIth century AD). Another major objective, though established during the research period, was to realize a connection between the so-called M. Sâmpetru district and *cardo maximus*, in order to complete, for the first time in the history of modern Tropaean archaeological research, the relationship between the eastern premises' wall and the city center (represented by the *basilica forensis*). Furthermore, another important element in justifying the research was to analyze the relationship between the D *basilica* and the space located south of it during Late Antiquity. As it is well known from the historical information, the Later Roman Empire witnessed the concentration of the political elites nearby the public edifices. Together with

[11] *CCA,* 2006, pp. 37-38.

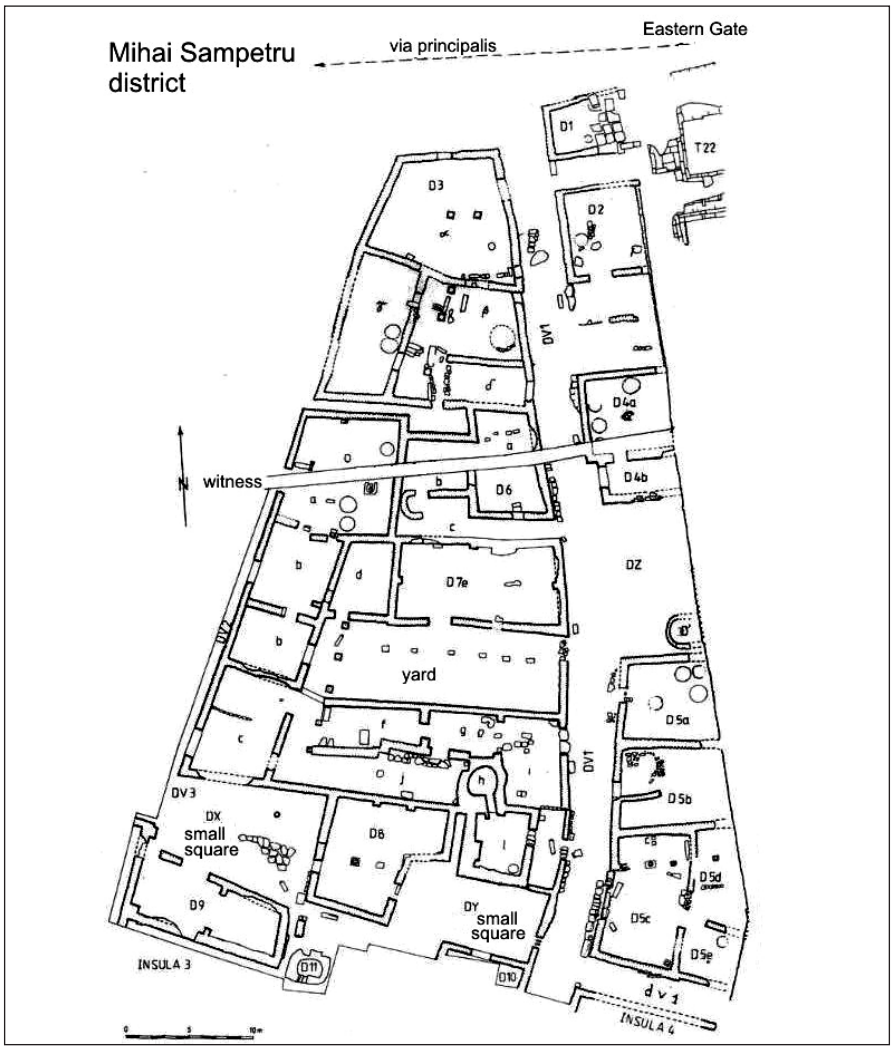

Fig. 3. Mihai Sampetru district.

Сл. 3. Округ Михаи Сампетру.

the Christianization of the state, there also has been a transformation of the dwelling pattern inside the Roman city: from the grouping of elite dwellings around the political (and religious) city center, usually represented by the forum, towards the creation of several religious/political *foci*, thus represented by the Christian churches. At Tropaeum Traiani, this aspect was relatively less researched (although the 4 Palaeochristian basilicas inside the city benefited partially of such researches). Thus, another major objective was represented by the relationship between the D basilica and the southern district. Finally, during the researches south of basilica D there emerged another problem, due to

the strange orientation of dwellings. As it may be noticed in the Sampetru's archaeological plan[12], it's orientation is not strictly north-south, rather, it is north-east-southwest, following the fortress's wall. Also, the D basilica has a strictly East-West orientation. During the researches post 2000, it was noticed that the dwellings' orientation from the southern part did correspond neither to those of the basilica, nor to the Sampetru district. Accordingly, the southern district has a Northwest-southeast orientation. Thus, there emerged the problem of the relationship between the Sampetru area-D basilica and the southern district that we hope would be clarified during the further researches.

Further, there will be presented the results of archaeological researches of 2000-2006, in the southern area.

Firstly, some technical data: there were realized 37 sections, 7 cases and 3 soundings, together with the breaking up of 17 witnesses. During the research, the digging respected a rule: that of stopping the archaeological research on the final dwelling level (those of the VIth century AD), with few exceptions.

There was elucidated the problem of the relationship between the southern district and the southern annexes of the D basilica. Also, there was realized the ling between the Sampetru area and *cardo maximus*, thus being revealed some problems related to the street grid of the Late Roman city.

Problems related to the Late Roman street network

What could be observed on the relationship between the southern district and the basilica is that the VIth street grid usually respects the contour of the basilica's annexes. This fact became obvious when one will look on the southeastern part of the basilica, where a part of the previous great edifice was included in the basilica's plan. It is an apsidal building, located south of the transept, re-used as an annex of the basilica. The street located on south of this building, that probably starts from the Sâmpetru district towards west, did respect the apse's shape, then it intersects with a short one, oriented NW-SE that ends in a small plaza, paved with large stone blocks. The plaza seems to be a convergence/focal point for the other streets identified so far during the researches in the southern district. It can be identified at –26cm depth and the floor is composed of irregular shaped stones. From this small plaza there starts towards east a narrow street c. 27m length, partially researched. It was identified as follows: S14, -64cm, S16, -60cm, S17, -48 cm, S27, -62cm, S30, -50cm, S33, -40cm, S34, -23cm. The above-mentioned street is 2,5m width. Apart from the small plaza, the south street communicate with that situated nearby the basilica through a passage (partially researched), 1, 5m width (identified in boxes C24 and C33). All the above-mentioned streets have a stepping level composed of well-beaten grey soil with small pottery shards and small stones in the composition. In S38, in the eastern part of the section, there has been identified a level made of stone block (-63cm) that was a part of a street which (most probably) represented a fork of the above-mentioned street. Unfortunately, we still do not know this street's width due to incomplete research. It should also be men-

[12] See the plan of Sâmpetru district, figure 3.

Fig. 4. Late Roman ceramic fragment (plate).

Сл. 4. Касно-римски керамички фрагмент (плоча).

tioned the fact that in this part the soil has gradients due to previous research in the basilica D area. In fact, one of the major problems that occurred in the last years was represented by the presence of a large mound made of earth from earlier excavations, removed in 2005. In the western part of the sector, there had been identified two streets starting from the *cardo* towards east, the first one in Su1 (the northern part, close by the annexes south of the atrium) and the other one in S41 (the northern half of the section). Only the northern street is well preserved, the southern one being identified only on a small part of S41. The northern street is a perfect example for the problems raised by the Late Roman orientation of the district towards that of the basilica. Bordered at the north by the basilica's annexes, to the south by a building that will be discussed later, the street is gradually narrowing, from 200 cm on the entrance in the cardo, to 100cm width at 600cm further east. It seems that by the second half of the VIth century AD, an east-west oriented wall, 60cm width, blocked the street with an unknown functionality yet[13]. Farther east, the street is curving towards south. The archaeological evidence for this fact is that at the DS6 building corner[14] there is a large stone block, in order to protect the above-mentioned corner. Then the street is again oriented towards east, with a width of 210cm, being identifiable along 6 meters. An interesting situation is to be found in the sections S32 and S38 where, between the edifices DS3 and DS5 there were discovered the fragments of a brick pavement at –32cm. At this moment we cannot explain the utility of this pavement.

---

13 See the archaeological report in *CCA*, 2006 for Adamclisi, pp. 35-36.

14 The buildings identified so far are numbered as: from east to west, DS1, bordered at SW by the already mentioned small square, north of the small street that separate it from the "southern apse"; to the south by another street that links Sampetru district and the small square; DS2, partially discovered, bordered at north by the street Sampetru district-small square; DS3, on west from the small square; DS4, partially discovered, south-west from DS3 and separated by a small street; DS5, north of DS4; DS6, west of DS5, to west being framed by the *cardo maximus*.

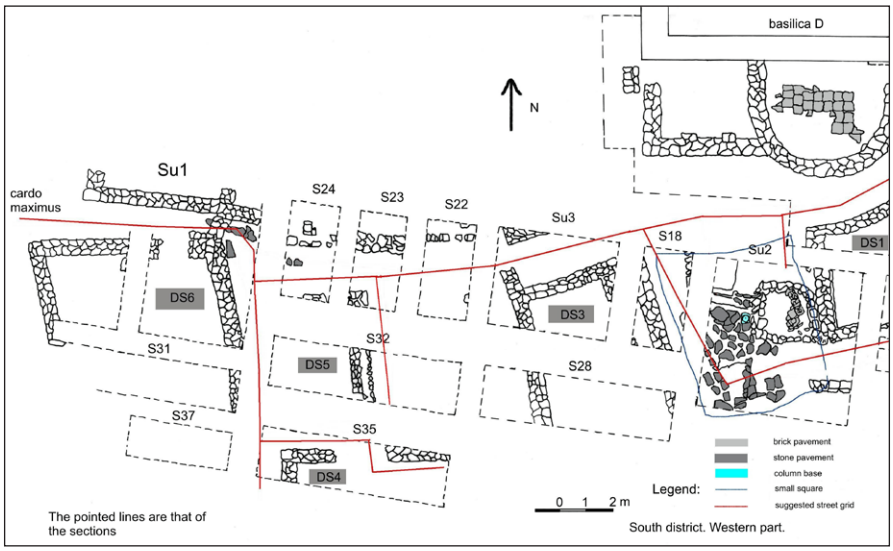

Fig. 5A. South basilica D district. The Western part.

Сл. 5А. Јужна базилика „Д“ област. Западни део.

The edifices

DS1: This building has the following coordinates: at north, is limited by the small street that separate the basilica's annexes from the southern district; in the south, there is the street that links Sampetru district to the small square in south district; to the east, there is the small passage that links the above-mentioned street to the one that is bordering the southern district from the basilica's annexes; finally, on the west, with the small square. The building is NV-SE oriented thus respecting the general orientation of the district. More, on the northern side there is an abnormality related to the street grid, that is, in the area where the northern street do respect the basilica's annexes plan (the so-called "southern apse"). Here, the building that we discuss has in the NW part, a deviation in order to respect the street width (200cm).

The building has the following dimensions: 870 cm long (from east to west) and 550 cm wide (from north to south). The building seems to be a multi-storeyed one, having as evidence the discovery in the SW corner of a hole made by a pole, most probably used to support at least one floor. The entrance is still undiscovered. The inner floor is made of yellow-grey colored clay, with Late Roman pottery shards in composition. In the western part of the edifice, nearby the small square, there has been identified another small round building with brick pavement. It seems that this building is a granary, undoubtedly deserving DS1. Thus, inside the granary there were discovered two distinct pavements: the first one, made of bricks, followed by a thin stratum of debris and another pavement, made of slabs, beneath the vegetal soil (-20cm)[15]. The usefulness of

[15] *CCA*, 2003, p. 25.

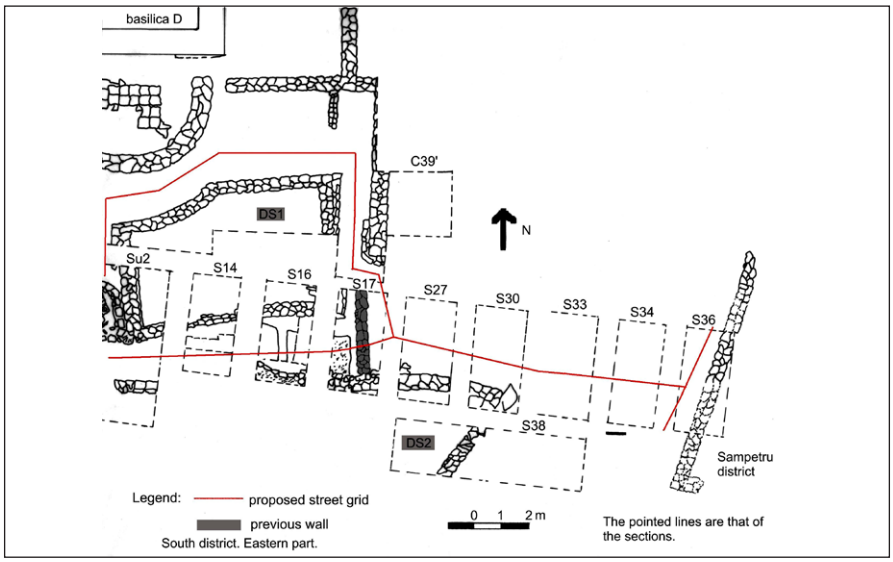

Fig. 5B. South basilica D district. The Eastern part.

Сл. 5B. Јужна базилика „Д“ област. Источни део.

this edifice is related to the DS1 building, as it's granary. In fact, it seems most probable that DS1 was either a workshop, or a house with a workshop for agricultural tools[16].

In this edifice there were identified the northern wall (11.5m length) and partially the eastern wall (4.70m), oriented northeast-southwest. The walls are 63cm thick and in the northeastern corner of S38 there had been identified a blocked entrance, 156cm in width. The subsequent research would clarify the functionality of this edifice.

Inside the building, al –70cm depth, there had been identified a floor made of yellow clay. Also, in S17, at –80 cm, on a length of 4 m, there had been discovered a wall, oriented c. north-south, cut by the subsequent northern wall of DS2. This wall belonged to an earlier disaffected building.

DS3: It is a building bordered at the east by the above mentioned small square, at west by a possible small street/avenue oriented northwest-southeast and at north, probably by the street that begins from the *cardo maximus* and then is joined by those located north of DS1. This building is most possible to be a residence. A number of small objects were discovered inside it. Amongst them, one must notice a small ceramic fragment that belonged to a dish. It is dated in the second half of the Vth century AD[17]. There were also other small objects discovered inside the building (amongst them several fragments of lamps, glassware, a hairpin made of bone) that strengthen the opinion on the residential character of the building.

---

16 *CCA*, 2004, p. 15.

17 Hayes, J. W., *Late Roman Pottery*, London, 1972, pp. 266-267 and 286 for analogies. See also figure 4.

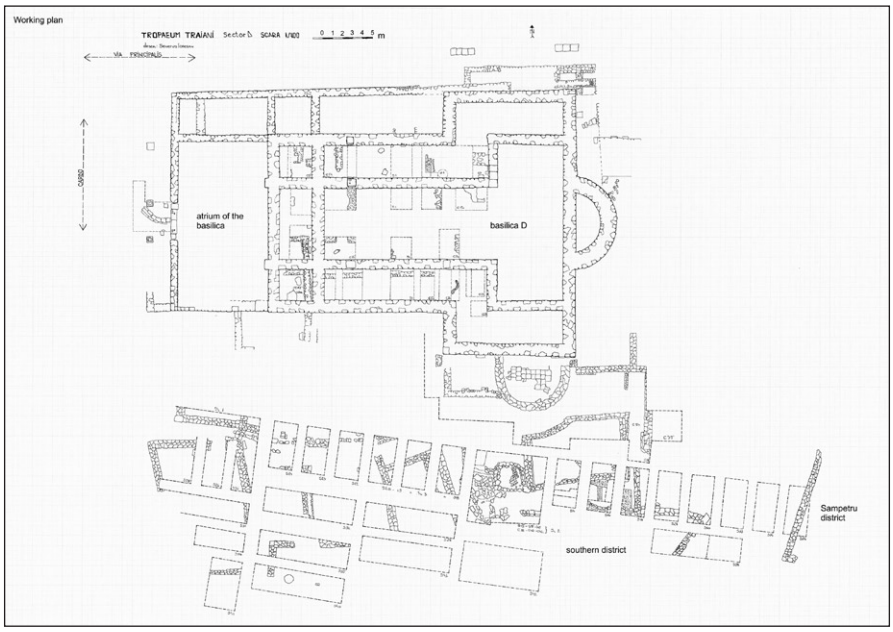

Fig. 6. The working plan.

Сл. 6. Радни план.

Also, this building superposes another earlier one, whose remains – a wall- was identified in S19 (50cm thick, orientation NW-SE).

DS4: This edifice is partially researched, too. It is located south of DS5 and SW from DS3, west of *cardo maximus*. From this edifice it had been unearthed the northern wall, 7.5m length, with an entrance (2.5m width). Inside, the floor is at –63cm. A later floor made of yellow clay was discovered at –20cm, superposed by a pavement made of bricks (- 16cm).

DS5: From this building, there were unearthed the north and west walls (in Su4). They are 65cm thick, as the majority of the buildings' walls discovered so far in the southern district. Also, in S32, a bronze coin from Justin II was discovered on the edifice's floor 9-16cm).

DS6: This building is adjacent to the *cardo maximus* (in the west), the small blocked street that separate the annexes and the basilica's *atrium* (north), on east with DS4 and in southeast with DS4. Towards south the research still incomplete did not elucidate the belonging of the wall discovered in S41 (oriented SW-NE). Inside the building, at –30cm depth, there had been discovered the last stepping level, broken by the debris from the roof. The building also could be dated in the period of Justin II, due to a bronze coin discovered on the above-mentioned stepping level. Also, in S37, at –99cm depth, there had been identified a level of destruction, made of small burned charcoal pieces and pottery shards. This destruction level can certainly be corroborated with the great invasion of the Kutrigurs (AD 559)[18] that gravely affected the urban life in Tro-

[18] For the Kutrigur invasion, see among other works, Protase, D., Suceveanu,

paeum Traiani. Underneath this level of destruction, there had been discovered a previous one, made of well-beaten yellow clay. Due to some other findings – two *dolia*, one in S31-S37 witness (at –80cm), the other in S37 (at -86cm) and a Roman pond worth of 1/3 *libra* at –70cm, we can assume the functionality of the building as being that of a deposit or, in any case, an economic function.

The discovery of several *dolia*[19] in the majority of the buildings identified in the southern district led to the assumption that their initial function, as deposits for grains, did change in the Late Antiquity. Then, after the central water supply system was disaffected, the *dolia* were used as reservoirs for rain water. This was the preferred solution, because the water in the nearby sources contains a very high percentage of limestone. The alternative water sources were at c. 7km far from the Roman city. Due to the insecurity of the countryside during the second half of the VIth century, the inhabitants of Tropaeum Traiani adopted this alternative solution for storing the water.

Conclusion

The results of the archaeological excavations are only partial. They are still incomplete, yet there can be drawn some preliminary conclusions. The area we discussed (the southern district) had a double functionality, with residences such as DS3, workshops (as DS1, where numerous fragments of iron agricultural tools were discovered) and granaries (such as the one linked to DS1 and obviously working for it). The relatively numerous bronze coins discovered in the area (the majority of them being dated in the second half of the VIth century AD) strengthen the idea of a residential-productive district. The strangest image is that of the district's orientation – the street grid is oriented NW-SE, without any relation with the basilica D or the Sampetru district. We can assume then that after the great Kutrigur invasion, the inhabitants rebuilt their homes without respecting the previous regulations on the orientation of the building. Also, the re-use of some building fragments initially belonging to the basilica D (such as the re-use of a Christian shrine table fragment for the erection of a wall or fragments of *cancelli*[20]) could led to the idea that the basilica lost it's function in the period post- 559.

The new buildings erected by the surviving inhabitants are of lower quality as their pre-invasion predecessors, with walls composed of *spolia* even from the basilica D. The streets in the southern district are narrow and often blocked by later "improvements". In fact, the VIth century Tropaeum Traiani seemed more likely with a medieval town than an Ancient one.

Al., coord., *Istoria românilor*, vol. II. *Daco-romani, romanici, alogeni*, Bucureşti, Editura Enciclopedică, 2001, p. 728; Barnea, Al., Suceveanu, Al., *La Dobroudja romaine*, Bucarest, Editura Enciclopedică, 1991, p. 174.

[19] See other *dolia*: S40, building DS4, -61 cm; S41, recoverable *dolium*, at –88 cm; S42, h-78 (building actually being researched, only the NW corner unearthed).

[20] See the archaeological diary, mss., Cristian Olariu (unpublished), entries for 31.07. 2007, S47; 04.08.2007 S47.

Bibliography:

Barnea, Al., Suceveanu, Al. *La Dobroudja romaine*, Bucarest, Editura Enciclopedică, 1991.

Barnea, Ion (coordinator), Alexandru Barnea, Ioana Bogdan Cătăniciu, Monica Mărgineanu-Cârstoiu, Gheorghe Papuc, *Tropaeum Traiani. I. Cetatea*, Bucureşti, Editura Academiei RSR, 1979.

Cronica cercetărilor arheologice, Bucureşti, edited by CimeC (Institutul de Memorie Culturală –The Institute of Cultural Memory), 2002.

Cronica cercetărilor arheologice, Bucureşti, edited by CimeC (Institutul de Memorie Culturală –The Institute of Cultural Memory), 2003.

Cronica cercetărilor arheologice, Bucureşti, edited by CimeC (Institutul de Memorie Culturală –The Institute of Cultural Memory), 2004.

Cronica cercetărilor arheologice, Bucureşti, edited by CimeC (Institutul de Memorie Culturală –The Institute of Cultural Memory), 2006.

Hayes, 1972. Hayes, J. W., *Late Roman Pottery*, London, The British School at Rome, 1972.

Olariu Olariu, Cristian *Jurnal de săpătură*, mss., unpublished.

Protase, Suceveanu, 2001. Protase, D., Suceveanu, Al., coord., *Istoria românilor*, vol. II. *Daco-romani, romanici, alogeni*, Bucureşti, Editura Enciclopedică, 2001.

Ravenna, Ravenna, A. Longo Editore, 1996.

Abbreviations

CCA *Cronica cercetărilor arheologice*

Кристијан Олариу

ТРОПЕУМ ТРАЈАНИ (TROPAEUM TRAIANI): СЕКТОР „Д“ БАЗИЛИКЕ (СА ПОПРЕЧНИМ БРОДОМ)И ОКОЛИНА(АРХЕОЛОШКА ИСТРАЖИВАЊА, 2000-2006)

Константин и Лициније, римски цареви, 316. нове ере, поново су основали град од Скитије Минор – Тропеум Трајани (Tropaeum Traiani). „Нови“ град имао је старе темеље, још од Трајана, што је био резултат потоње победе над коалицијом коју је организовао дакијски краљ Децебал, у зиму 101/102 Н.Е. Град је саграђен као додатак тријумфалном споменику који је Трајан подигао на платоу који се налази на североисточној страни града. Град је представљао други модел римске колоније (као што је то, на пример, био Тимгад-Тамугади, војна колонија у северној Африци, коју је основао исти цар). Декаденција овог града у III веку н.е. довела је до његовог поновног оснивања почетком IV века н.е.

Позно-римски град Тропеум Трајани садржао је само оскудне остатке претходног. Али, урбана географија се променила. Док је у време Принципата град био изграђен према хиподамичном моделу (што је било опште правило за већину римских колонија), у касноантичком периоду дошло је до занемаривања ових правила. Одстојање више није било неопходно, тако да су места за становање приањала уз одбрамбене зидине. Такође, јавна места су била премештена, у складу са новим хришћанским правилима, при чему су палео-хришћанске базилике биле најважније. Тако је у Тропеум Трајани било шест палео-хришћанских базилика, од који две са додатним осликаним зидовима, а свака од њих представљала је ново друштвено, економско и културно језгро. Такође, мрежа улица није била у складу са хиподамичким стандардима, већ је промена првобитног хиподамичног плана града била одређена густином популације. Осим тога, од III века, присуство варварских савеза довело је до даље измене првобитног плана утврђења, као што је “annex”.

Када се ради о снабдевању водом, што је било од суштинске важности за Добруђу, она није довођена у град аквадуктима већ су се цистерне унутар града поново користиле као резервоари за становништво. Аквадукти се више нису користили а у градској цистерни подигнута је палео-хришћанска базилика.

Структура новог града се променила, од града изграђеног по хиподамичном плану до града који већ има ознаке средњег века - узане улице, недостатак комуналних инсталација, итд.

Град је опстао све до почетка VII века. Одсуство било какве везе са Константинопољом коначно је довело до његовог напуштања. Град ће поново бити основан у отоманском периоду, али као турско село - Адам Клиси („Adamclissi”, “човекова црква”), а као римски град поново је откривен у XIX веку.