

Since 2014 the expedition of the Institute of Archaeology, Nicolaus Copernicus University in Torun has been carrying archaeological research of the Roman cohort fort at Bologa, Romania. An agreement for scientific co-operation between the National Museum of Transylvanian History in Cluj-Napoca and the Institute of Archaeology, Nicolaus Copernicus University in Torun for the period 2014-2018 allows for conducting research on the site that seem crucial for the project to be successful during its realization. The Romanian side is represented by Dr. Felix Marcu.

Dacia Porolissensis was the northernmost region from the Danube, directly connected with the world of the Sarmatians and western Germans. The north-western border of the Roman province of Dacia is one of the less recognized parts of the Roman Limes. The examined site can be identified with the ancient Resculum, a garrison centre for the Roman auxiliary troops, whose duty was to guard stations located in the surrounding mountains. The above-described section of limes is the last uninvestigated part of the Roman frontier in Europe.

The main aim of the project shall be the recognition of the settlement characteristic in the region of Resculum. The fort was established in the first decade of the II century A.D. as a garrison of Cohort II Hispanorum Cyrenaica and Cohort I Aelia Gaesatorum and occupied until the end of the III century A.D.. The south-east part of the camp shall be archaeologically surveyed. It abuts to the remains of the praetorium with hypocaustum system that has been uncovered in the years 2014-2015. To complete the picture of the settlement situation, archaeological prospection in the form of non-invasive research as well as archaeological boreholes drilling shall be performed to pinpoint the localization of the civilian settlement and other elements of settlement's infrastructure outside of the fortification system. On the other hand, there shall continue the inventory and documentation works of Limes line as well as the constructions which are related with Limes, north of Resculum region. Approximately 25 km long section of Roman frontier toward the region of Buciumi shall be catalogued. This way, the south-west line of Limes Porolissensis shall be recognized as well as further research opportunities of its constructions.

The realization of the grant validates preliminary results of the archaeological survey that have been carried out in Resculum and its surrounding area by the applicant. Moreover, the site preserved in very good state and has not been destroyed in modern times. In 2015 almost entire building, identified as the praetorium has been uncovered. However, it is located in the vicinity of the porta principalis dextra. One should noticed an interesting spatial layout of this building as well as the techniques used here, analogical to those of the so-called Hadrian's Wall. In 2014 the building of the northern gate has been unearthed. Various Roman military troops have stationed in the fort. Their soldiers have left some stamps on tiles and bricks with the marks of the cohort. These valuable sources shall allow to reconstruct the process of translocation of the Roman army within the Empire. Twelve coins have been found in the cultural context; among them – denarius of Marcus Antonius, denarius of Vespasian as well as Dacian coin from the time of Trajan's conquest. Certainly further research shall provide new material data for the study of the monetary circulation in the province of Dacia Porolissensis. A great diversity of artefacts have been observed, especially metal (for example, gold ring, the remains of Roman sandal, bronze oil lamp) but also stamps with inscriptions on bricks and roof-tiles as well as terracotta figurines.

Along with the excavations, archaeological prospection of the Roman Dacia frontier line shall be carried out. There are ongoing explorations of the remains of earth ramparts, moats, signal towers, as well as other Roman constructions connected with securing the boarder. The remains of Limes are being inventoried by tracking the possible stations according to a GPS device with the use of GIS. Aerial photographs are included in the documentation. The requested grant shall not only make it possible to create a complete elaboration on architectural artifacts, including the remains of material culture (movable relics, vessel ceramics, coins, metal objects) related to the Roman settlement in Dacia Porolissensis, but also collect, systemize and prepare the material for the planned monograph which shall be provided with a complete set of photos (orthophotographic and aerial), plans and geophysical maps.

The results of the research shall be presented to the scientific world during international and national conferences as well as through articles published in scientific journals of national and international reach. The requested grant shall provide significant, Polish contribution to the studies on the history of the development of Roman Dacia. It shall also explore the contacts and relations of the Roman Empire with the European Barbaricum. The Roman Limes is a common cultural heritage of the countries situated around the Mediterranean and is one of the relics of the largest European civilization. Therefore, some of the frontier sections as Hadrian's Wall or so-called Upper Germanic and Rhaetian Limes were inscribed on the List of UNESCO World Heritage Sites.