FRONTIERS OF THE ROMAN EMPIRE
ГРАНИЦИ НА РИМСКАТА ИМПЕРИЯ

THE LOWER DANUBE LIMES IN BULGARIA
ДОЛНОДУНАВСКИЯ ЛИМЕС В БЪЛГАРИЯ

PIOTR DYCZEK
Frontiers of the Roman Empire
Границы на Римской империи
David J Breeze, Sonja Jilek and Andreas Thiel

The Lower Danube Limes in Bulgaria
Долnodунавския лимес в България
Piotr Dyczek

Warsaw/Варшавa – Vienna/Виена 2008
Altar dedicated to Asclepios by the 1st Italic legion, discovered in front of the chapel of healing gods in the valetudinarium at Novae

Олтар дарен на Асклетий от I Италийски легион, открит пред светилище (sacellum) на лекуващи богове в valetudinarium в Novae

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1. Map of the Roman empire under the Emperor Antoninus Pius (AD 138–161)

Карта на Римската империя в средата на II в.н.е., по времето на Антонинус Пиус (138-161 г.н.е.)
FOREWORD

The inscription of the German Limes as a World Heritage Site in 2005, joining Hadrian’s Wall on the World Heritage Site List, was an important step towards the creation of a new trans-boundary Frontiers of the Roman Empire World Heritage Site. Such a Site might in time encompass all surviving sections of the frontiers of the Roman empire.

UNESCO has long regarded communication with the wider public and the provision of information as important. Accordingly, I welcome the launch of this series of publications which provides background information on this multi-national World Heritage Site and its possible future development as well as on the various national sections of the frontier.

The multiplicity of languages is a reflection of the large number of states which once formed part of the Roman empire.

The frontiers of the Roman empire form a link between these many countries. They also form a link between the states within the former Roman empire and those without for all the Roman artefacts now on display in the museums beyond the empire flowed through these frontiers. The frontiers of the Roman empire, once a great divide, form a unifying element in today’s world.

UNESCO is pleased to be associated with this initiative to inform a wide audience about the proposals to improve the understanding and protection of the frontiers of one of the world’s greatest states.

Francesco Bandarin
Director, World Heritage Centre, UNESCO

ПРЕДГОВОР

Регистрирането на Германския лимес като обект на световното наследство през 2005 г. и прибавянето на Хадриановата стена в списъка на подобни обекти е важна крачка напред към създаването на нови трансграницни обекти на световното римско наследство.

ЮНЕСКО има отдавнашна връзка с пошироката публика и предоставянето на важна информация. В тази връзка, приветствам пускането на серията публикации, която предоставя основна информация, както върху обектите на световното наследство от международен характер, така и върху различни национални участъци на границата.

Многообразието на езиките е отражение на множеството държави, съставляващи бившата Римска империя, между които съвързва толкова много страни. Те освен това определят връзката между държавите от бившата Римска империя и тези извън нея, защото всички римски предмети, които сега са изложени в музеите далеч от империята са минавали през тези граници. Границите на Римската империя доскоро разположени вече съставляват обединяващ елемент на съвременния свят.

ЮНЕСКО има удоволствието да е съпричастно към това начинание да бъде осведомена широката аудитория за предложенията, съвързани с по-доброто осмисляне и закрила на границите на една от най-големите световни държави.

Francesco Bandarin
Франческо Бандарин
Директор, Център за световното наследство, ЮНЕСКО
2. View on the Danube near Novae (Bulgaria)
Изглед на Дунав в околностите на Novae (България)
Today’s world offers many challenges. Roman frontiers defined a single state, albeit one which no longer exists. Their remains are now spread across our countries in Europe, the Middle East and North Africa. Not surprisingly, our knowledge of the archaeological resource varies from country to country. Yet, the common features of Roman frontiers demand that they are treated as a single monument. Roman frontiers are the joy of the aficionado of cultural tourism – here is one great cultural route running right round the Roman empire, offering not just different sites but a wide range of landscape and scenery.

Protection is a complex issue in the face of our modern society and its demands. Archaeological investigation is an increasingly complex operation requiring more resources. Access to existing information can be difficult owing to the range of languages and styles of documentation. Visitors have high expectations, fuelled by television and other media presentations. To create and manage a single large monument such as the “Frontiers of the Roman Empire” demands a management philosophy in which the whole frontier complex is treated holistically while local traditions and practices are respected: This is a considerable challenge as well as a great opportunity for international co-operation.

It is clear that the protection and enhancement of our common heritage requires much energy and tolerance, between and among the scientific community and administrators, at every level from the local to the international.

Днешния свят ни предлага множество изпитания. Границите на Римската империя от политическа гледна точка не съществуват. Но до наше време се е запазила само малка част от тях. Тяхните останки се намират в много райони в много европейски държави, Близкия изток и в Северна Африка. Във всяка от страните отделните обекти са в различно състояние. Но техните общи черти са основание за това, че цялата граница може да бъде разлеждан като един отделен древен обект. Също така римската граница е и туристическа атракция – от там минава туристическото трасе водещо по цялата някогашна Римска империя. Там могат да се видят не само отделни места, но и можем да си представим античния пейзаж и живот.

Защитата на границата е наше задължение. Археологическите изследвания ни дават все по-нови данни. Въпреки това достъпа до техните резултати е труден – повод за това са езиковата бариера и различите в системите за документиране. Но посетителите имат големи изисквания породени от средствата за масова информация. Такива проекти като “Граници на Римската Империя” дават възможност да се изработи обща философия, позволяваща за цялостното разлеждане на римския лимес с отразяването на местните традиции и със запазенето на местните обичаи. Това най-голямото предизвикателство и едновременно проблем, който трябва да се преодолее в рамките на международното сътрудничество. Това сътрудничество изисква консенсус между нуждите на археолозите и изискванията на местните общности и власти, както на местно, така и на международно ниво.
3. Fortification and corner tower at the fortress of Gasr Bishr (Jordan)
Укрепления и ъглова кула във форт Gasr Bishr (Иордания)
**Frontiers of the Roman Empire**

**Common cultural heritage of the Roman empire**

Roman frontiers are part of a common heritage of the countries circling the Mediterranean Sea. Successive generations have built on that heritage and modified it thus helping to create our modern world. Today, our world appears to be diverse, divided by language, religion and traditions. Yet, our heritage is more common than we sometimes appreciate. Much knowledge of the ancient world has come to us through the Arab world, the real inheritors of the late Roman empire.

How the Romans managed to rule their enormous empire with a relatively small professional army is a spectacular statement of power and a constant fascination. The Romans were not only experts in the use of power – and force – but also in portraying a strong image about themselves. Indeed, that image was so strong that it still excites our imagination today. Great literature and fantastic films demonstrate our continuing fascination with that image.

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4. The walls of Constantinople (Turkey). It was in 1453 that they fell to the Turks and the Roman empire came to an end

Стените на Константинопол (Турция), който в 1453 година е бил превзет от турците, което е било причината за окончателния упадък на Римската империя
The Roman state, in one form or another, survived for over 2000 years. Its empire was one of the greatest states which the world has seen, close only to China in its size and longevity. Indeed, our knowledge of the administrative arrangements of the Chinese empire, which have survived in better condition and more detail than those for the Roman empire, aids our understanding of the workings of Roman frontiers. Many great monuments of the Roman empire are World Heritage Sites, including Rome itself, but also many of its important cities such as Mérida and Lugo (Spain), Orange and Arles (France), Split (Croatia), Istanbul (Turkey), Petra (Jordan), Leptis Magna (Libya) and Volubilis (Morocco). Yet these most developed parts of the Roman world were protected and at the same time defined by frontiers. It was as if these frontiers were, as Aelius Aristides remarked in the second century AD, “enclosing the civilised world in a ring”. The frontiers did define the Roman empire and were essential for the stability and therefore economic growth of the interior: they allowed the cities of the empire to flourish. An essential part of the Roman genius was its ability to win the support of the people it conquered. It respected local traditions and ethnic characteristics, so long as the superior status of Rome was not challenged.
8. The Roman city of Volubilis (Morocco)
Римский город Volubilis (Марокко)

9. Relief with soldiers wearing elephant helmets, Tell el-Herr (Egypt)
Рельеф представляющий воинов в так называемые слоновые шлемы, Tel el-Herr (Египет)

Римская империя

Променяща облика си, Римская империя просуществовала после 2000 лет. Била е една от най-големите страни в света. По величина и време на съществуване може да се сравнява само с китайската цивилизация. За това не бива да умudiant факта, че изследвайки проблематиката за границите на Римската империя използваме по-добре запазените китайски източници.

Много римски постройки, започващи от тези, които знаем в самия Рим, са общо световно наследство. Можем да ги откряем в много страни. До днес ни възхищават такива градове като: Мерида и Луго (Испания), Оранж и Арл (Франция), Сплит (Хърватия), Истамбул (Турция), Петра (Йордания), Лептис Магна (Либия) и Волубилис (Мароко). Днес тези най-развити части от античния римски свят са защитени. За нас границите на Римската Империя до днес са ментална граница, разбира се така както е казал живеящия в II в.н.е. Аелиус Аристидес. Той е написал, че границите на могъщата държава са "обкръжавали целия цивилизован свят".

Наистина по някакъв начин те дефинират империята и са основата за нейната стабилизация и икономическо развитие; давали са възможност за грандиозното...
It encouraged local self-government, merely placing on top the relatively small imperial administration. This imperial administration helped to hold the whole fabric of the empire together. Members of the aristocracy criss-crossed the empire from one appointment to another. The army brought a touch of Rome to the furthest corners of the empire. More than that, it was a catalyst, helping to create a new frontier society.

11. Artefacts from Berenice (Egypt): obverse and reverse of a silver coin of the Western Indian monarch Rudrasena III (AD 362)

12. A graffito in Tamil-Brahmi on a Roman Dressel 2–4 amphora. The text mentions a man named Korra, a south Indian chieftain, dating to the mid-first century AD (Berenice, Egypt)

13. The tombstone of Regina, wife of Barathes of Palmyra, from South Shields (UK). The lower inscription reads in Palmyrene: “Regina, the freedwoman of Barathes, alas”
Frontiers and trade

Frontiers were the membrane through which Roman ideas as well as artefacts percolated into the outside world. Roman trade extended eastwards to India and beyond, southwards into the Sahara Desert and northwards to the shores of the Baltic Sea, and, in return, brought a vast range of goods and products into the empire. The museums of many countries beyond the empire contain Roman artefacts and hint at the extent of Roman influence.

Границы и търговия

Границите са представлявали вид мембрана, през която в двете посоки са прониквали както идеи, така и стоки. Търговската мрежа е стигала до Индия, пътищата са достигали до Сахара и Балтийско море. До днес в много музеи откриваме материали доказателства за този търговски обмен, а едновременно за влиянието на Римската империя на други антични култури.
15. Fragment of Chinese silk from Palmyra (Syria) with an inscription in Chinese characters
Фрагмент от копринена тъкан с китайски надпис, намерена в Палмира (Сирия)

16. Bandoleers with the depiction of eagles from the war booty sacrifice at Vimose (Funen, Denmark)
Апликация на бандолет с изображения на орли, произхождаща от дарове от военна плячка Vimose (Финландия, Дания)

17. Finger ring with the depiction of a female bust from Aquileia (Italy) made of amber from the Baltic Sea region
Изображение на женски бюст върху пръстен изработен от балтийски янтар - Аквилея (Италия)
18. Stone masonry in Bratislava-Dúbravka (Slovakia), beyond the empire, built in the Roman manner, is just one of the buildings beyond the frontier which imitated Roman styles.

The World Heritage Site
"Frontiers of the Roman Empire"

In 1987 Hadrian’s Wall (UK) was added to the list of World Heritage Sites. It was the first Roman frontier which has achieved this accolade. In 2005 the German frontier between the rivers Rhine and Danube, known locally as the Obergermanisch-Raetische Limes, achieved the same accolade. By this act a new, multi-national World Heritage Site, Frontiers of the Roman Empire, was created. This, it is hoped, is the first step towards the creation of a truly multi-national World Heritage Site encompassing countries in Europe, the Middle East and North Africa.

Световното наследство
"Граници на Римската империя"

В 1987 година в списъка на Паметници на световното наследство е вписана Стената на Хадриан (Великобритания). В 2005 година, още немската част от лимеса, разположена между Рен и Дунав – наричан от местните планинско-немски и рециен лимес. Тези две събития са причината, че де факто е създадена международна програма наречена "Границите на Римската империя". Надяваме се, че това е само първа стъпка за създаването на международния проект за Световното културно наследство, обединяващ страните от Европа, Близкия и Средния Изток и Северна Африка.
This project is a truly challenging concept with no real precedent. It involves the co-operation of archaeologists and cultural resource managers in many countries – and in international agencies. Certain rules have to be accepted and standards met. Yet, each country has its own traditions of undertaking its archaeology, protecting and managing its sites, and presenting and interpreting its monuments to the public. There is no intention to force each country to change its traditions. Rather, archaeologists and administrators are working together to create over-arching frameworks within which each country can adapt and enhance its own ways of working.

Този проект е уникално начинание каквото не е имало в минолото. За общата благородна цел той свързва усилията на археолозите, на мениджърите на културата и различните агенции. За да бъде успешно реализиран е необходимо изработването на съвместни правила и стандарди. Днес всяка страна се ръководи от своите традиции и има собствени методи за провеждане на археологически проучвания. Нашата цел не да ги променяме, а единствено да създадем общи рамки, които всички от страните за общото добро би трябвало да приеме и да изпълни със съдържание съгласно своите традиции.
The definition of a World Heritage Site

To that end, the co-ordinators of those countries which have already declared their intention to nominate their stretches of the Roman frontier as a World Heritage Site have formed themselves into a group. Named the Bratislava Group after the location of their first meeting in March 2003, it contains delegates from Austria, Croatia, Germany, Hungary, Slovakia and the UK.

The Bratislava Group acts as an adviser on archaeological and scientific aspects of the frontier. It has proposed the following definition for the Frontiers of the Roman Empire World Heritage Site:

"The Frontiers of the Roman Empire World Heritage Site should consist of the line(s) of the frontier at the height of the empire from Trajan to Septimius Severus (about AD 100 to 200), and military installations of Limes road different periods which are on that line. The installations include fortresses, forts, towers, the Limes road, artificial barriers and immediately associated civil structures".

Deфиниция на Паметниците на световното наследство

Координаторите от страните, които са декларирали готовност за предприемането на общи действия за съхраняването на границите на империята са сформирали работна група, носеща името на мястото където за първи път се срещат през март 2003 година – Братиславска група. В нея влизат представители от Австрия, Хърватия, Германия, Унгария, Словакия и Великобритания.

Ролята на Братиславската група е да съчетва по археологическите и научни въпроси. За да е ефективна, групата предлага дефиниция на границите на империята:

"Границите на Римската Империя, съставяващи Световното културно наследство, са гранична линия (линии) оформена в периода от Траян до Септимий Север (ок. 100 до 200 г. н. е.) и прилежащите до нея военни съоръжения от различни периоди (21-23). Основна военната конструкция – заедно с крепости, форты, кулни – на разстояние на границите пътища, изкуствените военни укрепления, а също и свързаните с тях конструкции и цивилни комплекси."
21. Statue of the Emperor Trajan (AD 98–117), who conquered Dacia (Romania) and Parthia (Iraq and Iran)
Статуя на Траян (98–117 г.н.е.), който е превзел Дакия (Румъния) и Партия (Ирак и Иран)

22. Coin depicting the Emperor Septimius Severus (AD 193–211), who campaigned on many frontiers and expanded the empire to the east, south and north
Монета на Септимий Север (193-211 г.н.е.), който е разширил границите на империята

This definition excludes outpost and hinterland forts. But it has the main advantage that it is relatively simple, an important element when seeking to undertake an entirely new concept. Roman military installations stretch across many kilometres of the Roman empire and to seek to include all within this single World Heritage Site would involve enormous tasks of definition, too complex to undertake at this most early stage in the process. It would, of course, be possible to amend the proposed definition in due course.

The task ahead

The present task is daunting enough. Agriculture, and later industrialisation and the growth of towns and cities, has dealt harshly with some sections of the frontier. Many sectors are now no longer visible to the naked eye, yet they remain in the ground as an important archaeological resource. Their preservation is imperative for they hold the key to understanding frontiers better through controlled scientific research. The frontiers of the Roman empire are therefore well suited to convey the message that the protection of archaeological sites whether visible or invisible is vital for the preservation of the collective memory of mankind. The best way to protect the remains of the frontier in urban contexts has yet to be determined. This is all the more important
23. The east gate of the Roman fort at Traismauer on the Danube (Austria) dates to the fourth century but qualifies for nomination under the proposed definition.

Източния вход на римски форт в Traismauer край Дунава (Австрия), произхождаща от IV в. н.е., но – съгласно с приетата дефиниция – може да подлежи на защита в рамките на програмата “Граници на Римската империя”.

24. This inscription from Intercisa (Hungary) is one of several recording the erection of watch-towers to protect the empire from the illicit incursions of bandits during the reign of the Emperor Commodus (AD 161–180)

Една от множеството инскурици от времето на император Комодус (161-180г.н.е.) открита в Intercisa (Унгария). На нея е записано завършването на строежа на поредната наблюдателна кула охраняваща територията от атаките на разбайници.

**Бъдещи задачи**

Те са много. Някои от тях са например проблемите със селското стопанство, занаятите, създаването и развитието на градовете. Част от конструкцията се вижда с голо око, оставащи скрити под земята те са бъдещите археологически източници. Тяхната защита е основна задача. Трябва да се опазват, за да е възможно тяхното изследване в бъдеще от учени с помоща на най-новата техника. Важно е също да достигне до общественото мнение информацията, че независимо от това дали археологическите обекти са видими или не, тяхната защита е от огромно значение за запазването на общата памет. Трябва да се обръне внимание и на факта, че от особено значение са паметниците...
because modern excavation has demonstrated that archaeological deposits often better survive in towns than in the countryside. A further problem stems from the way that we protect our heritage. Museums cannot be World Heritage Sites. Yet parts of Roman frontiers – inscriptions, sculpture, pottery, artefacts, in short all the material which aids our understanding of life on the frontier – is displayed and stored in museums. Inscriptions are vital to our understanding of frontiers. They inform us when they were built, why and by whom, and what the constituent parts were called. Cramp holes demonstrate that they were once fixed to frontier buildings. In some manner, a way has to be found to associate them with the World Heritage Site itself. 

in situ намиращи се в границите на днешните градове. Там – както учи практиката – те се запазват по-добре и са по-добре съхранени. Следващия проблем възниква във връзка с начина, по който съхраняваме артефактите. Музейте не са зачислени към Паметниците на културното наследство, а точно там се съхраняват преносимите експонати съставящи част от границите на империята. Инскурипции, скулптури, керамика, дребни предмети за употреба, всичко това, което ни помага да разбираме всекидневния живот на границите се намират във показните витрини или в складовете. Изключително важни са инскурипциите, от които разбираме, кога са възникнали строежите, по какъв повод и за кого. От друга страна остатъците от фундаментите или негативите от зидове ни информират за граничните постройки. Трябва, следователно, да се намери начин за това, как всички тези уникални, важни и ценни предмети могат да станат съставен елемент на Културното наследство.

25. The Roman fort at Gerulata lies in the outskirts of Bratislava (Slovakia) Римски форт Gerulata в околността на Братислава (Словация)
The Roman perspective was that they had subjected the entire *orbis terrarum* to the rule of Roman people – as far as they had knowledge about it or considered it worth conquering. This philosophy did not encompass the idea of boundaries at all except the idea that “barbarians” should stay outside the Roman concept of the civilised world. However, Rome’s boundaries rarely remained stable. Constant political crises, major warfare and even border skirmishes created situations to which Rome had to react. In time, firm lines came into existence. 

The man who did most to define the edges of the Roman state was its first emperor, Augustus (27 BC–AD 14). Towards the turn of the Era he completed the conquest of the Alps and Spain, defined the eastern boundary by treaty with the Parthians, sent expeditions up the Nile and into the Sahara Desert, and brought Roman arms to the Danube and the Elbe. He famously gave advice to keep the empire within its present boundaries; advice conspicuously ignored by many of his successors, though their achievements were much less than his.

### History and extent of frontiers

От гледна точка на римляните империята е била *orbis terrarum*, който са управлявали. Външния свят ги е интересувал дотолкова, доколкото са го познавали или е бил терен за завоюване. Тази философия не означава, че "варварите" трябва да останат извън цивилизацията свят. Границите рядко са оставали ненарушени. Постоянните политически кризи, битки, а дори нападения принуждавали Рим да реагира.

Човекът, който е направил най-много за определянето на границите на Римската империя е бил първият император, Август (17 г.п.н.е – 14 г. н.е). На прелома на ерите присъединява към империята Алпите и завладява Испания. Определил е източната граница подписвайки договор с Партиите. Изпраща разпознавателни експедиции до Нил, до Сахара. Изпраща римски войски до Дунав и Елба. Съветвал е да се запази империята с тези граници. За съжаление много от неговите последователи не се вслушало в този съвет в стремежа си да надмине неговите постижения.
Rome’s foreign policy

Yet, Rome’s expansion was slowing down and her main aim became the maintenance of imperial security. In doing so Rome’s foreign policy used a wide range of different instruments and strategies to maintain her superior status. Her army did not rely only on force but also on the image of Rome itself as a policy instrument. As Adrian Goldsworthy states, “the Roman genius was to combine the practical with the visually spectacular so that the army’s actions were often designed to overawe the enemy with a display of massive power before they actually reached him”. Thousands of military buildings and installations erected along the border of the empire, many of which have survived until today, represent this two-fold demonstration of Roman power and influence, at once both architectural and imaginative.

27. The Tropaeum Alpium at La Turbie (France) commemorates the conquest of the Alps by the Emperor Augustus

Тропеум Алпий в Ла Турибе увековечава завземането на Алпите от император Август

28. Recent archaeological investigations have led to the discovery of timber towers erected beside the Rhine in the Netherlands under Claudius

Остатъци от дървена кула от времето на император Клавдий, открити край Рен в Холандия
29. The Limes-gate of Dalkingen (Germany). It has been argued that this special façade was created to mark the visit of the Emperor Caracalla in AD 213. 

Вход от лимесния Dalkingen (Германия). Твърди се, че нейната декоративна фасада е била изработена по случай визитата на император Каракала в 213 година.

The location of frontiers

The Roman empire encircles the Mediterranean Sea – Mare Nostrum, Our Sea, as they called it – and beyond that lay its frontiers. These, in time, stretched from the Atlantic Ocean, across Europe to the Black Sea, through the deserts and oases of the Middle East to the Red Sea, and thence across North Africa, skirting the edge of the Sahara Desert, to the Atlantic Coast of Morocco.

In the UK the frontier became established on the line of Hadrian’s Wall, though for a time even that was abandoned in favour of a more northern frontier, the Antonine Wall. Through much of Europe the frontier lay initially along the rivers Rhine and Danube. In the later first century AD, the first steps were taken to shorten the line between the headwaters of the rivers. Under Hadrian, this was formalised through the construction of a palisade for about 550 km. In contrast to the usual practice for pure defensive installations, its course is often mathematically straight, completely ignoring the topography of the land. The land now brought into the empire developed into a rich agricultural area supporting many villas and farms.

From Bavaria (Germany) to the Black Sea (Romania) the frontier ran along the river Danube. An exception to this was Dacia (modern Transylvania in
Romania) which was conquered by the Emperor Trajan in AD 106. The frontier now moved from the river to the more difficult terrain of the Carpathian Mountains.

In the East, the Romans faced two enemies, the powerful kingdom of the Parthians and the desert. Together, these defined Rome’s eastern frontier. No running barrier was erected, unnecessary in the desert, though a major river, the Euphrates, was used. A significant feature of this frontier were the roads running for hundreds of kilometres along the edge of the desert and to all intents and purposes defining the frontier itself.

The Sahara Desert defined most of the frontier in North Africa. The rich cities of Egypt and the Mediterranean coast were protected by a relatively light screen of forts. Where necessary, as in modern Algeria, barriers controlled the movement of the transhumance farmers.
25

The army and frontiers

Rome always reacted to the local situation and developed individual solutions to its different problems. The military installations on every frontier were connected by a road, often forming a major highway.

Indeed, it appears that the very name of a frontier — *limes* — derives from the Roman name for a frontier road.

The Roman army used local materials to construct its forts and frontiers. Stone, turf, clay, mud-brick, timber, tile, slate, thatch, mortar and plaster were amongst those used. Nor were these plain, unadorned or make-shift structures. Walls, whether of stone or timber, were often plastered and even painted. Painted wall-plaster has even been found in barrack-blocks.

32. Dura Europos on the Euphrates River (Syria). As in many cities along the Eastern frontier, it contained a regiment of the Roman army

Dura Europos край Еуфрат (Сирия), в която, също като в другите градове намиращи се край тази река, са били разположени части на римската армия

Армията на границите

Рим винаги е реагирал бързо на местните пробеми и е изработил добър начин за тяхното индивидуално решаване. Всички гранични войски конструкции са били свързани с улици, част от които са били главни транспортни артерии. Затова не е ужасяващо, че термемът *limes* в началото е означавал гранична улица.

За строителството на крепости и фортове римската армия е използвала местни материали: камъни, торф, глина, различни видове тухли, в това число сушени, дървесина, керемици, страни и хоросан от различен вид. Конструкциите винаги са били солидни и добре планирани. Често са били окрасявани със стенописи, фрагменти от които намираме дори във войсковите бараки.
33. Towers, such as this one in Turkey, aided communication along the frontier roads

Кули, приличащи на тази в Турция, са били разположени по дължината на ганичните пътища

34. The hospital of Novae (Bulgaria)

Римска болница в Novae (България)
35. The remains of the head-quarters building of the legionary fortress at Lambaesis (Algeria)
Остатъци от войсково комендантство в крепостта Lambaesis (Алжир)

The purpose of frontiers

Although bristling with military structures of every kind, and the base of armies whose main purpose was to defend the empire, the primary function of the frontiers themselves was the control of movement into and out of the empire. The buildings – walls, fortlets and towers – were supplemented by scouts whose duties were to maintain watch on land, and fleets whose sailors maintained surveillance over the river and sea boundaries of the empire.

The core of the provincial armies was formed by the legions. Only about 30 of these existed at any one time and they were strung out along the frontiers of the empire, sometimes on the actual line, elsewhere some distance to the rear. The main body of the provincial army was formed by auxiliary units – literally support troops – and these occupied much smaller forts than the legions. In the disturbed times following the fall of the Roman empire, fort walls provided protection. Many of today’s major cities have at their centre a legionary fortress.

Функции на границите

Въпреки че може да ни се струва, че единствената цел на границата е да охранява територията, трябва да помним, че главната им функция е била да контролира движението; хора и стоки влизащи и излизащи от империята. Освен постройките – зидове, крепости и кули – за безопасността на суходолния граница са били групи разузнавачи, а флотата е патрулирала реките и морските граници.

Основната част на армията са били легионите. Те са били около 30. Били са разположени както на постоянните граници, така и на временните им части, а понякога и извън границата. Главните отряди на армията в провинциите са били aux-ilia – дословно помощни отряди – разположени в малките фортове. В бурните времена, когато империята е клоняла към упадък, техните стени са осигурявали безопасен подслон. До днес центровете на много градове са разположени върху руините на крепости и фортове.
Soldiers and civilians

Nearly every fort in the empire attracted civilians to cater for the needs of the soldiers. Civilian settlements sprang up along the frontier. The military installations together with these civilian settlements created a significant economic power, which can only be compared to the great cities of the interior of the empire. This market sucked in goods and attracted trade from both its hinterland as well as from the people beyond the frontier.

Military administration

Both soldiers and civilians required management. The Roman army was excessively bureaucratic, even to our eyes – a receipt in quadruplicate, for example, survives. Every soldier had his own file, and even every horse. Each regiment created a day report. Strength returns were regularly made to Rome. Tiny samples of such documents survive from frontier forts, but they cast strong light on the workings of the Roman army.
Най-близкото обкръжение на фортовете е било изкушително място за цивилното население. Те отчасти са се занимавали със снабдяване на войските и са правили различни услуги на войниците. Нищо чудно, че много бързо по дължина на границите са се образували множество цивилни селища. Заедно с войсковите постройки те са ставали важни стопански центрове, чиято икономическа сила е била равна по сила с големите градове разположени във вътрешността на империята. Те са били места с интензивен търговски обмен, както с другите римски центрове, така и с народите обитаващи териториите извън граница.

Войскова администрация

Както войската, така и цивилните граждани са имали нужда от изправна администрация. Тя е била невероятно развита, дори като за нашия опит. Всеки войник е имал свои актове, имале са дори и конете. Всеки отряд е изготвял дневен рапорт. Отчетите редовно са били изпращани до Рим. Въпреки че знаем това от частично запазените документи открити във войсковите крепости, на тяхна основоположна връзка си представям как е действала цялата организационна структура.
40. The military fortification at Hān al-Manqūra (Syria), probably dating to the middle of the second century AD
Фортификация в Hān al.-Manqūra (Сирия) вероятно построена през II в.н.е.

41. Strasbourg (France), one of the seats of the European Parliament, has at its core the fortress of the Eighth Legion Augusta
Strasbourg (Франция) едно от креслата в Европейския Парламент, с образа на крепостта на VIII августовски легион

42. Aquincum Museum in Budapest (Hungary) founded in 1894
Музей в Aquincum (Унгария), основан в 1896 година
43. Coin of Hadrian, emperor from AD 117 to 138, who ordered the construction of the German Limes and Hadrian’s Wall

44. Aerial view of the town outside the legionary fortress of Carnuntum (Austria)

Research on Roman frontiers

Roman literature and other ancient sources have long provided a valuable source of information about frontier installations. These sources include several military treatises describing the Roman army and its structures, though, alas, generally not frontiers. They also include specific documents such as the report of the governor Arrian on the forts along the eastern shore of the Black Sea.
Inscriptions and documents

Literary sources are supplemented by thousands of inscriptions from every frontier describing the construction and purpose of military structures as well as providing details of the careers and movements of the officers and soldiers of the Roman army. More recently, documents on papyri, parchment and wood have been discovered through excavation and provide another valuable source of information.

Scholars started describing and planning Roman remains in the sixteenth century. Their records are especially valuable today in view of the great changes in the landscape and the damage to the archaeological remains inflicted during the following centuries. They also collected inscriptions and sculpture, and these frequently form an important element of great national and regional collections.

Survey and excavation

Although excavations were undertaken in the earlier nineteenth century, it was the 1890s which saw the beginning of the modern era of scientific archaeological investigations. This work did not just encompass excavation; an important element was the surveying and recording of existing remains. This work was often undertaken by institutions such as the Reichs-Limeskommission in Germany, founded in 1892 by the great German historian and winner of the Nobel Prize Theodor Mommsen.
Инскуриции и други писмени документи

Информационите съдържащи се в литературните източници са допълвани от хилядите инскуриции открити на много места. В тези сравнително кратки текстове често откриваме много детайли на тема структурата на армията, кариерата на отделните войници, движенето на частите и самите офицери. Тези данни са допълнени от откритите последно текстове записани на папируси или дървени таблици.

Любители и учени са започнали да описват римските руини и находки в XVI в. Сега тези описания за нас са от изключително значение, защото често те относят за несъществуващи вече постройки. Тогава също, по времето на ренесанса, е започнало събирането на инскуриции, скулптури и други дребни предмети, които често са били начелото на големи колекции както с регионално, така и с по-голямо значение.

Изследователски разкопки

1980 година е призана за началото на съвременните археолозически изследвания, въпреки че тогава не винаги са били провеждани по сегашните начини. Най-често са били изследвани съществуващи и видими руини. Често разкопките са били провеждани от специално създадени местни институции такива като Reichs-Limeskommission в Германия. Тя е била основана в 1892 година от големия немски историк и носител на нобеловата награда – Теодор Момсен.

49. Roman military equipment from Augst (Switzerland)
Фрагменти от войскова екипировка от Аугст (Швейцария)

48. The timber palisade in Germany, excavated in 1894
Фрагменти на откритата в 1894 година гранична палисада в Германия
Aerial survey

Aerial photography provided another valuable tool. Aristide Poidebard’s great survey of Roman military sites in Syria, undertaken in the 1920s, and Sir Aurel Stein’s survey of Jordan remain a major source for the study of the Eastern frontier. Jean Ba-radez’s Fossatum Africæ, published in 1959, is based upon his aerial reconnaissance of North Africa and remains the starting point for any study of this area. Research in the twentieth century was dominated by excavation. Early work focussed on uncovering structural remains often neglecting the more detailed history of each site. Whole forts might be laid

Метода на въздушните снимки

Този метод е важен изследователски инструмент. За първи път той е бил използван в 20-те години на XIX в. при изследването на разположението на източната граница на империята. Първи са я използвали Аристидес Пойдебард – изследовател на римските войски в Сирия – и Сър Ариел Стейн – който се е интересувал от римските обекти в Йордания. С помощта на този метод Жан Барадез е изследвал разположението на границите на империята в Северна Африка – Fossatum Africæ. Резултатите от своите изследвания е издал в 1959 година. Неговото
open. Yet at the same time, members of the Reichs-Limeskommission in Germany were able to confirm that the frontier had indeed a timber palisade, while in Scotland it was revealed that the Antonine Wall was built of turf as described in the Historia Augusta. Techniques soon improved. Better use was made of dating evidence such as coins and pottery and, in time, weapons and other small finds. The advantages of stratigraphy in helping understand the history of sites was also appreciated.

Today, terrestrial and aerial survey is supplemented by remote sensing, in particular geophysical survey. So much of this work is facilitated by advances in computer technology in helping documenting and mapping. This will be great advantage in international co-operation in the study of Roman frontiers.

International co-operation in work on Roman frontiers began in the nineteenth century. In 1949 the Congress of Roman Frontier Studies was founded and has met regularly since in various countries. Today, research on the frontiers of the Roman empire brings together scientists from all over the world: the 20th Congress in Spain was attended by 300 scholars from 25 countries in all 5 continents. Many universities are specialised in the study of Roman history and of the sites along the edge of the Roman empire.

51. Tourism is not a modern phenomenon. This bowl was probably made as a souvenir of Hadrian’s Wall (UK) in the second century AD.

Turistikanata ne e sveremenna izmislitsa. Sjed ot II v.n.e., nameren na Stenata na Haidrian (Velikobritaniya).
The survey, excavation and recording of archaeological sites are but one part of the story. From the very beginning of excavation in the late nineteenth century, visitors wanted to see the remains which had been uncovered. Often, such archaeological sites were left open and unprotected. Archaeologists removed the valuable finds to museums, but visitors also wanted their own souvenirs and as a result some sites practically disappeared. The same years saw the first steps towards protecting ancient monuments. Country after country passed legislation to secure the future of their heritage. Agriculture had long threatened the survival of archaeological remains; now industry and its infrastructure competed with its destructive power. Vast economical developments everywhere gradually changed the face of archaeology, leading to large and complex rescue excavations. The needs of increasing numbers of visitors needed to be catered for. Military sites were laid out for public inspection; museums were built to house the large collections of artefacts, and, in time, other facilities were provided, such as archaeological parks, many containing reconstructions.
55. The reconstructed north gate of the fort at Porolissum (Romania)
Реконструкция на северни вход на Porolissum (Румъния)

Съхраняване и представяне на границите на римската империя

Археологическите изследвания, документацията на археологическите обекти, терени проспекции, това е само една част от историята. Вече от края на XIX век, когато са започнати разкопките на границата на империята, много хора са искали да видят откритите постройки и структури. Често те са оставали незащитени на открито. Най-ценните открития са пренесени в музеи. Случвало се е също, че някои находки, които са били намирани от туристите по време на посещението на археологическите обекти, са си оставяли за спомен. В резултат някои обекти са се разрушили, а находките разпръснали. През последните години, в много страни, това е ясно осъзнато и са взети защитни мерки. Това се постига с помощта на приемане, стъпка по стъпка, на съответни правни норми. Става въпрос също за защита от последиците от селскостопанската дейност и развитието на промишлеността и инфраструктурата. Тези икономически смени са променили също и работата на самите археолози, които все по-често се концентрират на спасителни изследвания. Растящата численост на туристите принуждава да се отварят съответни структури помагащи им при посещенията на музеите и археологическите обекти. На някои места са основани археологически паркове, в които са реконструирани антични постройки.

54. One of the earliest archaeological parks was that at the Saalburg (Germany) in the Taunus mountains. Here, in the 1890s, the walls and some of the internal buildings of a Roman fort were rebuilt
През 90-те години на XIX в. са възстановени стените и част от вътрешните постройки на форта в Залбург в планината Таунус (Германия), при което е основан еден от най-ранните археологически паркове
1. Lower Danube Limes in Bulgaria
Карта на дунавския лимес в България

2. Map showing the tribes north of the eastern part of the Danube Limes in Bulgaria
Карта на разположението на варварските племена на север от р. Дунав
Considering the Roman Limes over the ages, one easily concludes how inextricably it was connected with the history of the lands through which it ran. A regularity is to be noted as well: some modern borders actually follow the line of the ancient defenses. At the same time there are significant frontiers between particular sections of the Limes, resulting primarily from the topography, climate and changing strategic importance. The Bulgarian section of the Limes perfectly corroborates this regularity. For a considerable distance it runs along the Danube, which is nowadays also the border between Bulgaria and Romania. The lie of the land, the location of major settlements at convenient river crossings, a network of natural obstacles separating tribal territories and the relatively inhospitable region of the Balkans all contributed to making the area north of Mons Hae- mus more suitable for Roman urban and rural settlement, agriculture and overland commercial links. The Danube was always of foremost importance. A major natural obstacle and at the same time convenient communication route, it was easily defendable and facilitated control of trade routes, permitted quick and easy transport of goods, including army supplies, not to mention moving the army itself. Romanization also proceeded relatively quickly in this region, undoubtedly stimulated by the presence of Roman troops brought into the provinces mainly for the Dacian wars. Other factors influencing these processes included civilians engaged in trade and agriculture, rapid pacification of local tribes and a long tradition of coexistence of various ethnic groups, the culturally significant impact of the Greek colonies and polises in the Black Sea littoral, the synthesis of different traditions, languages and cultures. Another linking factor was a common enemy, regardless of whether it were the Goths, Ostrogoths, Huns, Karpi or Avars to mention just a few. Barbarians used to cross the Danube and ravage the well endowed regions of Dobruja.
destroying vineyards and ransacking towns. At the same time, they had a lasting impact on the material and spiritual culture and with time they settled in the border zones as foederati.

The complicated history of these areas after the fall of the Roman empire, which was terminated after several centuries by their incorporation into the Ottoman empire, resulted in immeasurable suffering and humiliation for the local population, but ensured relatively good preservation of the ancient Roman ruins. Some places were partly renovated, others re-settled and still others reconstructed in altered, but still essentially ancient form. These vestiges of the past, frequently veiled in local myth and legend, attracted the attention of travelers as well as military men interested in matters of war strategy. These “vagabonds” needed maps and instructions, hence it is hardly surprising that an atlas published in Stockholm in 1899 contained a good copy of Ptolemy’s map (the first edition was printed in Bologna in 1477) with the exact location of ancient sites on the Lower Danube. Ancient sites can be found also on two maps published by the famous Mercator (16th century). Meriting attention among the rich cartographic collection concerning the Bulgarian

3. Roman towns along the Black Sea coast

Римски градове край Черно море
stretch of the Limes is Frederic de Wit’s map of 1686 picturing the religious mosaic in the region and sites of major battles with the Turks (crusade of the Hungarian king Sigismund against the Sultan Bayazid). The important ancient centres were also marked on the map as points of reference, indicating that in the 17th century most of the ruins were still in relatively good condition. The oldest publication concerning the region appears to stand in confirmation; it is L. F. Marsigli: Danubius Pannonico-Mysicus. Observationibus geographicis, astronomicis, hydrographicis, historicis, physicis perlustratus et in sex tomos digestus, Hagaæ Comitium Amstelodami 1726, vol. 2. (4). Descriptions of ancient sites have come down to us from the times of the Russian-Turkish war, including Novae where on July 14 (27 according to the old calendar) 1877 Russian armies crossed the Danube. Since then many general and specific publications have been made, more than a thousand on Novae alone, it being the richest and fullest bibliography of all.

Interest in the various Danubian sites varied. Bulgarian archaeologists were joined by expeditions from other countries with Italians digging in Ratiaria, Germans in Iatrus, the British in Nicopolis ad Istrum. The Polish expedition excavating in Novae is currently the only foreign team still in the field. Some sites have been investigated better and more extensively, e.g. Oescus, Nicopolis ad Istrum, Novae, others, like Ratiaria and Durostorum, only in a small part; still others have been localized and surveyed or tested on a small scale. Even so, many of the sites known from ancient cartographic and written sources have never been located. This concerns rather the smaller sites, as the legionary headquarters, of the Fifth Macedonian (Oescus), FirstItalic (Novae) and Eleventh Claudia (Durostorum), are well known. Experience teaches, however, that forts and fortresses are an equally important source of information, especially when reconstructing defense systems and regional history. But even the relatively limited number of sites discovered so far is sufficient to reveal the archaeological richness of this beautiful land. The reasons for this state of research are manifold, partly financial, издание е от 1477 година в Болония) с точно обозначени антични обекти, намиращи се по дължината на долен Дунав. Намираме ги също и на две карти издадени от славния Меркатор (XVI в.). В богатата колекция от карти отнасящи се за българската част от границата на внимание заслужава издадената в 1686 година от Фредерик де Вит карта представляща религиозната мозайка на този район и главните места на битки с Турците (кръстоносния поход на унгарския крал Зигмунт срещу султан Баязид). Обозначени са също важни антични центрове, представляващи относителни точки, което доказва, че през XVII в. по-голямата част от руините е била в сравнително добро състояние. Вероятно това потвърждава най-старата публикация относно тези райони, творбата: Л. Ф. Марсилги: Danubius Pannonico-Mysicus. 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partly logistical, and partly caused by a lack of vision when the sites themselves are insufficiently appreciated and international collaboration is unwelcome. Bulgaria is largely terra incognita as far as the identification of Limes sites is concerned. Cooperation under the Culture 2000 programme and Bulgaria’s expected acceptance or rather return to the European family raises hope for the future. A consistent research programme is a must, as is closer international cooperation and, most importantly, changes of attitude. It is hardly surprising, however, that the rich Thracian tombs overshadow the apparently less spectacular Roman ruins. Time plays an important role in this “battle” for the Roman Limes in Bulgaria. Progressing erosion, modern urban and rural development, and a plague of illicit digging are fast destroying what vestiges of the splendor of the Roman empire still remain after many centuries of wars and turmoil in the region.

The present study is the first comprehensive approach to the subject of the Limes, aiming at a better understanding of the “Roman chapter” in

4. Novae also appears in many geographic descriptions from the time of the Ottoman Empire.

Novae е отразен на много карти от времето на Османската Империя
The history of the lands that are nowadays within the borders of modern Bulgaria. As the Culture 2000 programme took off, we had the opportunity to observe a growing understanding, not only among archaeologists, which is obvious, but also among local authorities, in Bulgaria as much as in Poland. It should be noted that the excavation project in Novae has always had full support of the authorities at both the university (Warsaw University and Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznań) and the ministerial levels, and the work has been funded from resources granted by the Polish government.

5. Novae also appears in many geographic descriptions from the time of the Ottoman Empire.
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Events on the Lower Danube followed a complicated scenario and not all aspects have yet been sufficiently explored. Administrative divisions and zones of influence formed gradually as the Roman empire developed territorially and successive military actions took place. By the beginning of the 2nd century AD, three provinces had been created: Dacia lying north of the Danube and Upper and Lower Moesia on the southern bank of the river (1). The situation in this region remained volatile with border revisions being frequent and barbarian tribes continuously engaging the Roman armies in skirmishes and outright wars.

The present study concentrates on border constructions and defenses present on the southern bank of the Danube in the area of modern-day Bulgaria.

The Limes on the Lower Danube: establishment and development

Tribes living on the Danube from the Bronze Age on cultivated strong economic ties with the Greek mainland and the Aegean. They formed a rich mosaic continuously fighting among each other for new territory despite often entertaining common roots. Many tribal names have been recorded in the written sources, but even so their histories and territories cannot be traced in anything but a very general outline (2).

In the 7th century BC at the latest the Greeks colonized the western and northern Black Sea coast. Successful colonies included Histria and Tomi established by Miletus and Callatis founded by Pontic Heraklea (3).

Roman expansion to the Lower Danube started in the first half of the 1st century BC. The first Roman commander to reach the Danube with his armies was C. Scribonius Curio. This was during the war with the Dardanai around 73 BC and the Romans

Историята на терените наричащи се край долен Дунав в много сложна и ние още не я познаваме добре във всичките и? аспекти. Едновременно с териториалното развитие на империята и следващите военни действия състоящи се тук постепенно се е оформило и административното разпределение и границите на влияние. Окончателно в началото на ІІ в. са се оформили три провинции: намиращата се на север от Дунав Дакия и Горна и Долна Мизия на южния му бряг. 1 Въпреки това ситуацията е била под въздействието на динамични промени предизвикващи корекции на границите, а римските войски практически постоянно са водели битки или войни с атакуващите терените край долен Дунав варварски народи.

В тази разработка ще се концентрираме на граничните укрепления и конструкции намиращи се на южния бряг на Дунав на територията на днешна България.
engaged in several skirmishes with the Tryballoi and the Moesians. The next expedition took place in 72/71 BC, during the third war with Mithridates king of Pontus. The governor of Macedonia Marcus Terentius Varro Lucullus defeated the Odrisai and subjugated the Greek colonies on the western Pontic coast of the Black Sea. Marcus Licinius Crassus commanded the next expedition triggered by the attack of the Dacii, Getai and Bastarnai on Rome’s allies, the Denteletai, in 29 BC. He repulsed the attackers. In 28 BC the Bastarnai returned to attack with the same force and Crassus defeated them again, going on to raid the Bessai and the Getic chieftains Dapux and

7. Map of the Bulgarian part of the Roman Limes
Карта на българската част от римската граница

на I в.пр.н.е. По време на войната с Дарданите С. Скрибониус Курит като първи римски предводител около 73 г. достига с войската до Дунав, влизайки с населващите тези терени племена Трибалите и Мезите. Следващия поход свързан с третата война с Медридатес, краля на Понт (74–64 г.пр.н.е.) е започнал в 72–71 г. пр.н.е. намесника на Македония Marcus Terentius Varro Lucullus, завземайки едно-временно Одрисите и подчинявайки на Рим гръцките колонии намиращи се на западното крайбрежие на Понт (Черно море). Следващата кампания на разглеждания терен е подприета от Marcus Licinius Crassus. Повърха
Zyraxes. He occupied Dobruja and reached the delta of the Danube, but this did not ensure peace. In 16–11 BC the Bessai rebelled. A big expeditionary force headed by Lucius Calpurnius Piso was sent to subdue the barbarians. The fighting was long and bloody and ended in Thrace being ceded to Rome’s allies, the tribal chieftains Rhoemetalces and Reskuporys II. The region was divided into two: one part south of Stara Planina (Balkans) and the other between Stara Planina and the Danube. It was given the name Ripa Thracia (Coastal Thrace) and reached from the Black Sea to the modern-day locality of Belene. Despite later administrative changes, the name for the Bulgarian part of the Roman Limes.

7. Map of the Bulgarian part of the Roman Limes
Карта на българската част от римската граница
of Ripa Thracia endured until the 2nd century AD. Presumably between AD 15 and 11 the praefectura civitatum Moesiae et Trebaliæ existed between the town of Nikopol and the river Vit. On these grounds and taking into consideration also Dio’s account, scholars have assumed that the province was established in AD 6. A. Caecina Severus is alleged to be the first governor of this province. An opposing view is based on an analysis of events which started in AD 12 when the Romans fought arm in arm with the Odrisai against the Getai to free the Thracian Aegyssus. The barbarians were ultimately defeated by the army of L. Pomponius Flaccus at the battle of Troesmis in AD 15. The Romans placed under their administration all of the territory lying south of the Danube. Therefore, the prevailing opinion nowadays concurs with Tacitus’ account, according to which the province of Moesia was established in AD 15.

In AD 62 to 66 Tiberius Plautus Silvanus Aelianus achieved Rome’s chief political and military objectives as far as the Danubian region was concerned, that is, the pacification and stabilization of the political and demographic situation north of the river. Resettling more than 100,000 barbarians in Moesia, he brought them under the province’s civil and military administration. He also temporarily annexed to Moesia territory lying between the delta of the Danube and Dniester. It was incorporated into the province permanently in AD 75; Dobruja was not incorporated until about AD 74. Moesia Inferior was created in AD 86 out of the division of the existing province into Upper and Lower parts. The borders of this new province have yet to be determined in their full extent and remain a hotly debated issue. The western border of Moesia Superior must have run in the neighbourhood of Almus. The southern border is more problematic to trace, because it tended to change. It is currently believed to have run along the highlands of Stara Planina, leaving Trajan’s Nicopolis ad Istrum (founded after the Dacian wars) on the Thracian side. Mesembria on the Black Sea, south of Odessos, belonged to Moesia Inferior. About AD 187 Nicopolis ad Istrum and Marcanopolis were incorporated into Lower Moesia while Mesembria was excluded. The next
correction of the borders occurred after AD 271 when the province lost its western territories, Oescus included, to the newly established Dacia Ripensis, but incorporated the area lying south of Nicopolis ad Istrum together with the *emporion Discoduraterae*. Yet another modification took place in the end of the 3rd century, in 286 or 293, when Lower Moesia was subdivided into Moesia Secunda in the Danubian area and Scythia Minor in Dobruja.
The Dacian wars of the end of the 1st and the beginning of the 2nd century AD strongly influenced the history of the said region. The actual war broke out in AD 101, but preparations for it had already started in AD 98 under the personal supervision of Trajan who visited the region. A considerable building effort was undertaken at the time. Fortresses like the one at Novae were repaired, roads were constructed and supplies accumulated.
The continuous threat of barbarian raids resulted in a system of defenses being built on the Lower Danube. The construction was extended in time. These defenses marked areas that remained under strict control and observation of Roman troops (7). One of the walls with a series of watch-towers followed the course of the Olt river for a stretch of 235 km. Another system of defenses 300

8. Fortifications on the Danube shore in Vidin (Bononia)
Укрепления на брега на Дунав във Видин (Bononia)
km long, referred to as Brazda lui Novac de nord, started near Drobeta, cut across the Olt and ended in the vicinity of Pietroasele. The next wall, Brazda lui Novac de sud, ran for 170 km, closing off from the north an area that, thanks to a bend in the Danube, cut deep into the territory of Moesia. Some scholars believe that it was constructed by the soldiers of the legio I Italica. Another three walls ran across Moldavia: the “Lower Moldavian Wall”, the “Bessarabian Wall” and the “Lower Bessarabian Wall”. Starting west of Tomis was a system of defenses, the so-called “Wall of Trajan”, which protected access to central Dobruja from the south and reached the Danube in the neighbourhood of Axiopolis. Consideration of the written sources has helped to identify more than 40 sites on the Bulgarian stretch of the Limes, but few have actually been investigated archaeologically and thus verified.

Nicopolis ad Istrum, as well as emporion Discodoraterae. In the year III b.c., having overcome in 286 or in 293 the army, they made the following changes on the provinces. Moesia Secunda – on the Danube headwaters and Scythia Minor – on the territory of Dobrudja.

For the history of the territories under consideration, the wars with the Dacians are of great importance, which took place here at the end of the I and beginning of the II centuries. Preparations for the war, which broke out in 101, were made in 98. He led them personally to the river Danube Trajan. Then began extensive construction work. Fortresses were repaired – for example Novae – roads were repaired and supplies were increased. The permanent danger of barbarian attacks is the reason why different systems of fortifications and ditches were built along the Danube, which defined the defensive areas remaining under control and supervision of the Roman army (7). One of the fortifications was placed along the length of the river Olt with a length of 235 km. On this defensive line were built countless watchtowers. Another, 300 kilometer long, fortification – Brazda lui Novac de nord – began in the vicinity of Drobota, cut across the Olt and ended in the vicinity of Pietroasele. The next wall, which ran for 170 km, Brazda lui Novac de sud, closed off an area from the north that, thanks to a bend in the Danube, cut deep into the territory of Moesia. Some scholars believe that it was constructed by the soldiers of the legio I Italica. Another three walls ran across Moldavia: the “Lower Moldavian Wall”, the “Bessarabian Wall” and the “Lower Bessarabian Wall”. Starting west of Tomis was a system of defenses, the so-called “Wall of Trajan”, which protected access to central Dobruja from the south and reached the Danube in the neighbourhood of Axiopolis.

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These are Almus (Lom), Augustae (Hărțec, Vraća district), Dimum (Belene), Sexaginta Prista (Ruse), Transmarisca (Tutrakan), Nigrinia – Candidiana (Malak Preslavac, Silistra district). Moreover, four legionary bases were also discovered and partly investigated: Ratiaria (Arčar, Vidin district), Oescus (Gigen, Pleven district), Novae (near Svistov), Durostorum (Silistra).

The above forts and fortresses belonged to Lower Moesia, but modern Bulgaria includes in its territory also forts once lying in Upper Moesia: Dorticum (Vrâv, Vidin district), Florentina (Florentin, Vidin district), Ad Malum (Košava, Vidin district), Bononia (Vidin), Remetodia (Orsola, Montana district), Pomodiana (Stanevo, Montana district), Cebrus (Goren Cibar, Montana district). Most of the sites, however, have been heavily damaged by erosion and human activity. The present study focuses on sites with ruins in a condition that accords visitors the opportunity to gain a better understanding of the past of this part of the Roman Limes located in modern Bulgaria.
Bononia (Vidin) in Upper Moesia was constructed in the 2nd century AD. It was a small fort situated on a steep river bank. The name has Celtic roots, but it also refers to the Latin ‘bonum’ meaning ‘good’. It was mentioned in the *Itinerarium Antonini* and later documents, such as *Notitia Dignitatum* and the works of Procopius. The fort, which in all likelihood, had a harbour associated with it, was manned by an auxiliary unit like the *ala I Cisipadensium*, for example. Architecture of the 2nd and 3rd century is largely unknown, perhaps with the exception of a fragment of a round tower seen inside the medieval fortress of “Baba Vida” (8, 10). In many places, however, excavations revealed a 3.70 m thick wall and towers.

Българският участък на лимеся: Описание на останките

Първия обект, намиращ се на територията на Горна Мизия, в който са се запазили антични останки е Bononia – Видин – построена през II в. Малкия castellum, чието наименование е най-вероятно с целици корени, но е свързано с латинския bonum – добър, се е намирало на високия дунавски бряг. Той се споменава също в *Itinerarium Antonini*, и в по-късните документи като *Notitia Dignitatum* или от Прокопий. Bononia е била форт на ауксилиа (помощни отряди), а тук е била разположена например *ala I Cisipadensium*. Тук най-вероятно е функционирало и пристанище. Построението на Bononii от II и III в. не ни е известно. Някои археолози смятат, че до фортifikационната система е принадлежал фрагмент от кръглата кула веждаща се отвъд средновековната крепост “Баба Вида” (8, 10). Но на много места са открити широки (3,70m) защитни стени и кули (с диаметър 20 m.) принадлежащи към фортifikация от IV в., когато Bononia е заемала територия от около 20 хектара (365 х 600 m). (7) В споменатата средновековна крепост освен античните руини (8) могат да се видят солидни фортifikации, от които има великолепен изглед към Дунав. В намиращия се в центъра на града музей може да се види интересна колекция от находки от Bononia и антична Ratiaria.

Близо до Видин, в град Кула, се намират руините на Castra Martis. Въпреки че са от по-късен период, от гледна точка на запазеното си състояние си струва да се видят. Тук има две малки фортifikации quadraburgium/tetrapyrgon (40 x 40 m) (12) построени по времето на Диоклециян и форт с площ 1,6 хектара plan построен преди гоцкото нападение от 70 години на IV в. Край река Арчарица в днешното село Арчар се намират руините на Ratiaria – (13) крепост легионерска и на града. Наименованието им произхожда от латинската дума ratis – сал – тъй като тук се е намирало важно пристанище. Крепостта е построена в I в., но нейното начало
(approximately 20 m in diameter, attributed to the 4th century fortifications, when the fort of Bononia covered c. 20 ha (365 x 600 m) (9). The ancient remains merit attention, but the sturdy fortifications of the medieval fortress also hold interest for the visitor, mainly because of the fine view stretching over the Danube. The museum in the city centre presents an interesting collection of objects from Bononia and ancient Ratiaria. At Kula near Vidin there lie the ruins of Castra Martis. They are of rather late origin, but nonetheless worth the visit (11,12). A small quadriburgium/tetrapyrgon (40 x 40 m) (12) erected in the times of Diocletian is one of the two fortifications on the site. The other is a fort covering an area of 1.6 ha (11 plan) constructed before the Goths’ raid in the 370s. The ruins of Ratiaria, a legionary base and town, are located on the river Arčarica in the modern village of Arčar (13) The name derives from the Latin ratis for raft, which is only natural considering that an important harbor had once operated
The fortress was built in the 1st century AD, but its origins must go back to the military expedition of Marcus Licinius Crassus. After the Dacian wars in 106, the settlement was granted colony status as *Colonia Ulpia Traiana* (14) and the military units were withdrawn. In the 1st and 2nd century, Ratiaria was garrisoned by the *legio IV Flavia* and *legio VII Claudia* and perhaps also by the *ala Gallica*. These were later briefly withdrawn.

At the end of the 3rd and in the 4th century, the army returned to Ratiaria. The *legio XIII Gemina* was transferred here from Apulum in Dacia (modern-day Romania). There was also a navy unit stationed there, the *classis Ratiarensis*. More importantly, a *fabrica* producing arms, one of six known to have existed in the Balkans, was located here. Ratiaria became the seat of a bishopric in the 4th century. In AD 442/443 the town was taken and burned by the Huns, but was soon rebuilt by Anastasius I (491–518), after which it was referred to as *Anastasiana*. The Avar raid of AD 586 brought ultimate destruction.

Investigations of Ratiaria started in the late 19th century to be continued with breaks throughout the 20th century. Aerial photography demonstrated that the town was originally rectangular in shape. The fortress was built in the 1st century AD, but its origins must go back to the military expedition of Marcus Licinius Crassus. After the Dacian wars in 106, the settlement was granted colony status as *Colonia Ulpia Traiana* (14) and the military units were withdrawn. In the 1st and 2nd century, Ratiaria was garrisoned by the *legio IV Flavia* and *legio VII Claudia* and perhaps also by the *ala Gallica*. These were later briefly withdrawn.

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plan, measuring 426 by 284 m, and that it was divided into insulae, each 60 by 25 m. Already at the close of the 3rd century it incorporated new territory, occupying in effect 30–35 ha. Some of the ancient structures are observed today, like the remains of an aqueduct on the banks of the ArLarica river. The wall in the western gate is also clearly visible (16). The defenses consisted of two parallel walls made of big blocks of dressed stone, reinforced by crosswise bonding walls at regular intervals. The inside of this casemate structure was filled with dried brick. Rectangular towers were observed at distances of 31.00 to 33.50 m along the inside curtain.

The towers in the western gate were based on a heptagonal plan projecting from the outer curtain. The walls were constructed in opus quadratum. The next rebuilding or rather repairs to Ratiaria’s defenses took place after the raid of the Huns in the end of the 5th and early 6th century. Another wall 1 m thick was raised against the outer face. At the same time presumably the proteichisma was built. The last known repairs were dated to the times of Justinian (527–565). Civil architecture in Ratiaria is poorly investigated. The ruins of houses and workshops from the 4th-6th century were noted near the western gate, as was also a monumental bath. Thorough investigations covered a large public complex in the centre of the northern part of the town which comprised heated chambers concentrated around a central apsidal hall decorated with a floor mosaic depicting various animals. The most monumental phase of this structure was in the end of the 5th and early 6th century AD when after a general rebuilding the apsidal hall received a groin vault supported on huge pillars. The legate of the province Dacia Ripensis is believed to have used this complex as his official audience hall.

A fort was built at Almus (modern Lom), which also served as a road station and customs post to judge by an inscription from the second half of the 2nd century AD. The name of this site located in the floodplain of the Danube is of Thracian or Illyrian origin, derived from the name of a nearby river. The local name for the fortifications was Kale стената, седмокълъчник, а изработени в opus quadratum. Следващият строеж, а по-точно ремонт на отбранителните стени на Ratiaria, е започнал след нападението на Хуните в края на V и началото на VI в. Към външната страна на стената е прилепена следваща, с дебелина 1,00м. Най-вероятно по същото време е създалена и proteichisma. Следващия, последен ремонт датира от времето на Юстиниан (527–565 г.).

Вътрешното застрояване на града е изследвано малко. В близост до западния вход са открити руините на жилищни постройки и занаятчийски работилищни, датиращи от IV – VI в. Намерени са също останките от монументални баня. Най-добре е изследван голям комплекс от представителен вид, намиращ се в центъра на северната част на града. Той се състои от отоплени помещения разположени около централната апсидна зала, чийто под е бил окрасен с мозайка представлява различни животни.

Най-представителен вид споменатия комплекс е придобил след престояването направено в края на V и началото на VI в. Тогава в апсидната зала са поставени големи колони поддържащи кръстосан свод. Смята се, че тук в началото се е намирала приемната зала на легата на провинцията Dacia Ripensis.

Castellum, пътна станция на Almus (днешен Лом) и както сочи инсписицията от 2 половина на II в. също и граничен пункт, е построен на заливната тераса на Дунав. Наименованието от тракийски или илирийски произход е взето от името на преминаващата наблюба река. Мястото кадето са се намирали фертилирательния речен порт се наричали: Кале махала.

В Almus в началото на II в. е била разположена малка войска сва, чиято задача е била да пази крайдунавската част от пътя и неговото кръстовище с пътя водещ към вътрешността ък Serdica (днешна София). Може би тук е имало и малко пристанище. Въз основа на ограничение разкопки е установено, че крепост с площ 4,1 хектара е била с квадратна форма и е имала четири квадратни кули. От западната страна и в югоизточната кула е имало входове.
Machala. From the beginning of the 2nd century AD Almus had a small army unit stationed here for the purpose of guarding the Danubian road on this stretch and its junction with a road leading inland to Serdica (modern Sofia). A small port may have also been located here. Limited excavations have provided sufficient data to determine the plan of the fort, which was square. The area inside the walls was calculated at 4.1 ha. Four square towers stood at the corners and the gates were on the west side and by the southeastern tower. Nothing is known about the fort architecture inside the enceinte except that the method of construction was *opus implectum*. Remains of a ceramic and lead water-pipe system were also uncovered. Part of the defenses have been affected significantly by erosion.

**Castellum Augustae** lies some 5 km to the north of the village of Hârlec near Kozloduj, on the Ogos-ta river. It was noted in *Tabula Peutingeriana* and *Itinerarium Antonini*. The fort was raised on a spot occupied earlier by Bronze Age and then Hellenistic settlement. Initially, it served as the seat of the *ala I Claudia Gallorum Capitoniana* (14–37), as indicated by an inscription erected by a veteran of this unit.

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15. Gravestone of a veteran of the *ala I Claudia Gallorum Capitoniana* from the fort Aque kolo Kozloduj

Надгробна плоча на ветеран от *ala I Claudia Gallorum Capitoniana* от Castellum Aque край Козлодуй
16. Western wall at Ratiaria
    Фрагмент от западния зид в Ratiaria

17. The defensive system at Augusta
    План на отбранителната система в Augusta

an of the said unit (15). The *ala Augusta* was also stationed here (54–68). In Trajan’s time, the *Colonia Ulpia Oescensium* was established and *Augustae* became part of its territory. The Anonymous Geographer from Ravenna noted that the town was rebuilt in the rule of Justinian and became quite populous. The fort was destroyed in the Avars raids at the end of the 6th century AD. Archaeological explorations were concentrated on the fortifications (17) revealing that the first ramparts were of wood and earth. Vestiges of the original fossa were observed under the later west wall and part of the west gate. Under Trajan and Hadrian the fort was rebuilt in stone. At this time the orientation was changed insignificantly. The stone architecture inside the fort was not built apparently until the second half of the 3rd century as indicated by the fill of the moat which yielded coins of Septimius Severus and Iulia Domna struck in Pautalia (modern Kjustendil) and a coin of Geta from the mint at Marcianopolis (modern Devnia). Still standing today are stretches of the west and north wall, totaling 245 m in length. Rectangular towers can be seen projecting a metre from the fort wall, while the west gate has two towers flanking it and the entrance between them is 4.00 m wide. Major rebuilding works were

времето на Септимий Север. Развалена е северната стена и е разширена крепостта постройки: масивна, широка 2,5 м., нова защитна стена. Построените там кули са били с формата на буква U и са били издаде пред стената. В северозападния ъгъл е построена още голяма кръгла кула с диаметър 17 м. Ремонтираня северен вход е бил фланкиран от две U-образни кули. Прехода там са пазели както масивни порти, така и спусканата решетка. Augustae е бил също важен занаятчийски център. Открита е работилница, в която са били произвеждани селско стопански инструменти, каменарски работилници и множество пещи за изпичане на строителна и съдова керамика.

Руините на Oescus са едни от най-интересните места за посещение благодарение на проведените тук консервации на някои постройки. *Colonia Ulpia Oescus* се намира на край село Гиген, на 3 км от устието на Искър в Дунав, в местността наречена тук Градището, на около 100 м. от тракийското селище от късната бронзова епоха. Тази местност е спомената от Птолемей като “града на племето Трибали”. Той е означен на *Tabula Peutingeriana* и споменат в *Itinerarium Antonini*. 
undertaken in the time of Septimius Severus. The north wall was dismantled and the fort enlarged by the building of massive new fortifications, 2.5 m thick, reinforced with U-shaped towers projecting from the curtain. A big round tower measuring 17 m in diameter was raised at the northwestern corner. U-shaped towers also flanked the rebuilt northern gate. The passage was defended by massive doors and a portcullis Augustae was also an important workshop centre. Excavations uncovered a workshop where agricultural implements were produced, as well as shops processing flint and numerous firing kilns for pottery and building ceramics.

The ruins of Oescus are well worth a visit, not the least because of the effort put into the conservation of some of the buildings. Colonia Ulpia Oescus was localized near the village of Gigen just 3 km from where the Iskăr joins the Danube, at a locality known as Gradisteto, some 100 m from a Late Bronze Age Thracian site. The spot was mentioned by Ptolemy as a “town of the Tryballai”. It was noted in the Tabula Peutingeriana and was marked on the Itinerarium Antonini as well. The name has Thracian roots and means ‘water’. A.


Kъм края на първото десетолетие на I в. тук се намирали временнен войски лагер. Може би той е бил там още преди възникването на провинция Мизия. Има вероятност, че в този по-ранен период тук са били разположени два легиона: XX Valeria Vitrix и III Scythica. В края на управлението на Тиберий в Oescus е била и ala Pansiana. Историята на лагера е свързана с Legio V Macedonica. Той е бил там в 62 г. и през годините 71–106. През периода от 62 до 71 година е участвал във военните кампании на изток, а в Oescus е бил местопребиваването на cohors III Gallorum equitata. След завършването на източните кампании Legio V Macedonica е бил пренесен първо до Troesm MO (106–167 г.), а после до Patalisa (167–27 г.) в Дакия. До Oescus се е върнал в 275 г. Археологичeskite izследvaniya pokazvat.
Frov's research in 1941–1943 was continued from 1947 to 1987 by T. and R. Ivanov. Currently, G. Kabakčijeva is in charge of the excavations at Oescus. At the end of the first decade of the 1st century AD a temporary base camp was located here. It may have even predated the establishment of the province of Moesia. Two legions are likely to have been stationed here in the early period: *legio XX Valeria Victrix* and *legio III Scythica*. The *ala Pansiana* was here in the reign of Tiberius. Overall, however, the fort is connected with the *legio V Macedonica*, which stayed at Oescus in AD 62 and in 71–106. In the interval, the legion was engaged in military action in the East part of the Roman empire and Oescus was garrisoned by the *cohors IIII Gallorum equitata*. Upon returning from the East, the legion was first stationed at Troesmis (106–167) and then at Potaissa (167–275) in Dacia, returning to Oescus only in AD 275. 

Archaeological excavations have suggested that the first permanent fort, a wood-and-earth construction, was built in the reign of Claudius. In the 3rd century AD, it was rebuilt in stone, encircling within the enceinte an area of c. 18 ha. 

Че първоначалния постоянен лагер е основан най-късно по времето на Клавдий и е бил построен от дърво и пръст. В ІІІ в.н.e. той е препостроен от камък, построявайки castrum с площ около 18 хектара. Oescus e станала колония между годините 106 и 112. Такъв е бил статута до 275 година. През късната антика е бил важен и голям център – епископско седалище. Града е бил подпалван няколко пъти. Най-напред това са направили Готите в 250 г. и между годините 376 и 378, а в 447 – Хуните. Окончателно е разрушен от Аварите в 585 г.н.e. 

Натуралното оформление на терена е повлияло на неправилната форма на града. Вероятно по времето на Траян – или малко по-късно – той е бил ограден от защитни стени с правоъгълни вътрешни кули. Единствено при входовете кулите са били леко издадени напред. След първото готско нападение е разширена територията на града ограждайки със защитни стени, с друга конструкция, терен с площ 10 хектара. По времето на Консантин Велики кулите са препостроени във формата на подкова (18, 19).
20. Late Roman basilica at Oescus
Късноримска базилика в Oescus

21. Ruins of a Capitoleian Trinity sanctuary at Oescus
Руини на храма Капитолийската Троица в Oescus
Oescus became a colony sometime between AD 106 and 112 and retained this status until AD 275. In Late Antiquity, it was an important centre, big and populous enough to be the seat of a bishopric. It was burnt down a number of times, twice by the Goths (in 250 and then between 376 and 378) and by the Huns in 447. Ultimately, it was destroyed by the Avars in 585.

In this case, the topography impacted upon urban planning. Defense walls with inside rectangular towers were built in the rule of Trajan or somewhat later. The gate towers projected outward insignificantly. After the first raid of the Goths, a new set of walls of different construction was added, enlarging the town area to 10 ha. In the time of Constantine the Great the towers were reconstructed on a new, horseshoe plan (18, 19).

The town forum or main square has been investigated archaeologically. It took its orientation from the cardinal directions and measured 200 m North-South by 97.60 m. A Corinthian temple of Jupiter (21), Juno and Minerva stood on the northern side; it was erected in c. AD 125 and featured rich architectural ornamentation (22). A Corinthian colonnade decorated with bull protomes ran on three sides of the forum. North of the temple of the Capitoline triad there stood a basilica, also marked by elaborate architectural decoration (20). A temple of Fortuna inside a peristyle courtyard was founded in AD 190, during the reign of Commodus; it stood in the southeastern corner of the square.

22. Reconstruction of the Capitoleian Trinity sanctuary at Oescus
Реконструкция на храма Капитолийската Троица в Oescus
At Nikopol there probably existed a fort. The ancient name is not known. It must have stood on the high riverbank affording a fine view of the Danube and the general vicinity (23, 24). Indistinct remains of ancient walls were observed during reconstruction work on the site of the Turkish fort of Kaleto. They were seen at the very edge of the escarpment overlooking the Danube. Roman pottery of the 2nd century AD is scattered over the surface in many parts of the site. An undoubted attraction of this little town is a funerary inscription remade into a fountain in modern times (25, 26). In it, the despairing husband, who was a high official of the imperial administration in Lower Moesia in the times of Marcus Aurelius, dedicated a poem to the memory of his wife Aelia, extolling the virtues of the woman who had passed away prematurely and grieving for her loss.

On the road from Nikopol to Svištov, once we
В това малко селище намиращо се край Дунав, вероятно през римско време също е имало castrum. Но не знаем неговото антично наименование. Вероятно се е намирал на висок склон, от който днес се разпростира превъзходна гледка към Дунав (23, 24). Някои останки от антични зидове са открити по времето на реконструкции работи на т.нар. Кале – крепост от турско време. По-ранни зидове се виждат на самия склон от страната на Дунав. На много места могат да се намерят фрагменти от римска керамика от ІІ в. Несъмнено атракция на градчето е преправената на фонтан надгробна инсцрипция (25, 26) на която отчаян съпруг, висш служител на администрацията на империята в Долна Мизия, по време на Марк Аврелий, е предал фомата на стих на епитаф. Опява в него преимуществата на своята преждевременно загинала жена Aelia и изразява своята скръб от загубата и.

25. Part of a marble sarcophagus with inscription, built into a present day fountain at Nikopol
Страничната стена на мраморен съркофаг с инсцрипция в съвременен фонтан в Никопол

26. Modern fountain with spolia at Nikopol
Съвременен фонтан в Никопол с spolia
make a turn for the Danube and the once marshy plain of Belene, we find Belene, the ancient Dimum mentioned by Ptolemy, which was also marked on the Tabula Peutingeriana and recorded in the Itinerarium Antonini. Information on Dimum and Regio Dimensis is modest to say the least. Imported objects are virtually the sole evidence of a fort existing there since the time of Vespasian. To believe the written sources (CIL III, 12 399), it was also a road station and customs post on the Danubian road: statio Dimensis and publicum portorium Illirici utriusque et rapie Thraciae. Another document from AD 100 recorded the canabae Dimensium. The fort was garrisoned first by auxiliary units of the legio VIII Augusta (first half of the 1st century AD) and then the legio I Italica. In the 2nd and 3rd centuries, the ala Solensium, later reformed as cuneus equitum Solensium was stationed there. The 13 km long island of Persin (ancient Peuka) stretches opposite the fort. Alexander the Great is alleged to have reached this point on the river with his armies, but the later history of the site is better researched. The fort of Late Antiquity was rectangular in shape (27) with U-shaped towers in the corners (28) and entrances on every side defended by rectangular towers. A considerable part of the ruins are under water today.

Two forts, possibly meant to protect Dimum, were located on either side of the town to the east and west. Securisca and another fort stood at Hisar...
near the village of Biala Woda in the west, while 3 km east a fort stood in the locality of Gorno Gradište and another 2 km further on there was the fort of Quintodimum. Novae is the best explored legionary fortress in Bulgaria, not the least because of the concerted effort of Polish and Bulgarian archaeologists working on the site for many years. It is also a site where a visitor has the opportunity to see many ancient and often unique remains. Novae lies on the Danube in northern Bulgaria in the vicinity of modern-day Svishtov. It was an important military, and from the 4th century also, civil centre of the Roman and Byzantine province of Lower Moesia (29,30). In modern times, the ancient remains have been referred to as Pametnicite, this because of the monuments that were erected near the ancient ruins to commemorate the fording of the river by the Russian army in 1877 during the war with the Ottoman empire. The site is located strategically on the southernmost reach of the Danube, opposite the Romanian Plain, at the junction with a road leading to Byzantium.
29. The fortress of the 1st Italic legion at Novae

План на лагер на I Италийски легион в Нове
and a route across the Balkans into Thrace. The origins of the name are unclear; it may have been a Latinized form derived from the Thracian name for a local river, Noes, flowing east of the fort.

Until the middle of the 1st century AD, the fortification was manned by the *legio VII Augusta* which had been transferred to Moesia from Pannonia after the ultimate victory in the war against the Brits in AD 45. When it was transferred to Gaul, its place in Novae was taken by the *legio I Italica*, presumably in AD 69. According to Suetonius, this legion had been formed of Italian citizens and was intended by Nero as the core of his expeditionary forces to the Caspian Gates and on to India: The emperor “… also planned an expedition to the Caspiae portae. He even enlisted a new legion from among the Italians: all recruits being six feet tall (1.78 m). He called this legion the phalanx of Alexander the Great…”

The fort was initially an earth and timber construction and presumably until the end of the 1st century AD.
In the 1st century, the only buildings constructed of stone were the *principia* and a large *thermae legionis* lying west of the *via praetoria*, at the crossing with the *via sagularis*. Major rebuilding, during which the fortifications were made entirely of stone, occurred in the reign of Nerva or Trajan. The defenses effectively encircled an area 365 by 490 m (18 ha). Novae is mentioned in 17 ancient sources from Claudius Ptolemy (100–178) through the *Notitia Dignitatum* (4th/5th century) and the *Notitia Episcopatum* (9th/10th century). It is likely that it was represented on Trajan’s Column commemorating the emperor’s military superiority over the Dacians. We also find an image of it on the oldest known map of the Roman empire, the so-called *Tabula Peutingeriana* (31). In AD 250, Novae was attacked by Khiva’s Goths. Rebuilt after the raid, the town

Император: “...е планирал също поход до Caspiae portae. Вече е събрал нов легион, измежду италийците: всички новобранци високи шест стъпки (1,78 м.). Този легион е нарекъв фаланга на Александър Велики...”

Първоначално – вероятно до края на I в. – крепостта е била построена от дърво и пръст. Единствените каменни постройки са били *principia* и със значителни размери *thermae legionis* – намирали се отзадната страна на *via praetoria* при нейното кръстосване с *via sagularis*. По времето на Нерва или Траян, крепостта е препостроена сменяйки дървено-пръстните конструкции с каменни. Със защитни стени е ограден терен с размери 365 на 490 м. в резултат на което лагера е заемал повърхност от 18 хектара. Novae е споменат в 17 антични текста на Клавдий Птолемей (около 100–178 г.)
became an important settlement and centre of glass production. A new wave of raiding Goths in AD 376–378 put an end to its relative prosperity. In 441, it was raided again, this time by the Huns. Inscriptions found in the principia confirm that from this point in time it lost all military importance. In the 480s, during the reign of the Byzantine Emperor Zeno, it acted as a temporary residence of the Ostrogoth Theodoric, later ruler of the kingdom of Italy. A semblance of prosperity returned to Novae in the reign of Justinian (527–565). During its long history Novae hosted some of Rome’s best known emperors: Trajan (98–117), whose visit is confirmed by three lead seals with the inscription Imp(eratoris) Tr(aiani), Hadrian (117–138), Caracalla (198–217). The Emperor Maximinus Thrax (235–238) may have been born at Novae. The modern history of the site started with the publication of ‘Description du Danube’, in which Luigi Fernando Marsigli recorded his voyage as diplomatic envoy in 1691. Novae is frequently mentioned in various geographical reports based on travels in the Ottoman empire. Another important record was K.V. Škorpil’s publication of 1905, containing a plan of the ruins. Archaeological research in Novae began in 1960. The site was selected jointly by Prof K. Majewski of Warsaw University and D. Dimitrov of the Institute of Archaeology of the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences. Bulgarian-Polish archaeological works are still being carried out in five areas: the army hospital and Flavian baths (P. Dyczek – Warsaw), houses of the tribunes (E. Genčeva – Sofia), baths from the times of Trajan, basilica and episcopal residence (A. Biernacki – Poznań), army headquarters (T. Sarnowski – Warsaw), villa extra muros (P. Vladkowa – Veliko Tarnovo). Many years of concerted digging effort by the various teams have brought to light the fortifications, towers, system of moats, elements of wooden fort architecture, main gates and sections of streets leading to these gates, legionary and civil baths, building of the command headquarters, unique army hospital, fragmentary legionary barracks, sections of the water distribution system. Originating from a later period are several churches, villas, crafts workshops and private houses. Novae lies 4 km to the east of the modern town of
Svištov which is easily reached from Sofia. It is just about 60 km west of the border crossing at Ruse. Turning off for Svištov in Biala, the visitor will find himself motoring straight across the site, but it is best to commence a visit to the ruins from the Tourist Centre by the western fortress gate, situated on top of the ruins of a Roman villa which was once extra muros. Paths lead from the centre to all the major archaeological features. First, there is the reconstructed western gate with its three arches, rebuilt from the original single passage that existed in the end of the 1st and beginning of the 2nd century. There were two rectangular towers flanking it, both furnished with steps leading to the top of the defense walls. At the close of the 3rd and in the beginning of the 4th century, the gate was rebuilt to provide two passages. The towers were projected further in front of the line of defenses in the times of Anastasius. They are presumed to have been higher than the other towers, reaching 18–20 m in height. Upon entering through the western gate, visitors can follow a path to a small wooden bridge from where there is a nice panorama of the site. To the south of it there lie the ruins of the scannum tribunorum and some late public architecture, including a stretch of street with a portico, a small bath house and a medieval church. On the other side, there is a grand panorama stretching over the Danube, the fully explored army hospital and a Late Roman villa designated as the Building of the

32. East wing of the legionary hospital (valetudinarium) at Novae

Фрагмент от източното крило на болницата на легионата (valetudinarium) в Novae

33. Painted stucco from the decoration of the Flavian legionary bath at Novae

Фragment от рисувана мазилка произхождаща от декорацията на флавийската легионна баня в Novae
Porticoes (32).

The Flavian legionary baths stood at the corner of the via sagularis and via praetoria on the west side of the latter (34). Their current size is 80 by 80 m; therefore, they must have taken up the entire area of the scamnum. They must have been built to accommodate the newly arrived legio I Italica, that is, around AD 69. The main bathing chambers included the changing room and rooms containing cold and hot water basins, serviced by three brick-vaulted praefurni and a sound hypocaust system. The floors were made of ceramic tiles and small bricks in what is called opus spicatum technique, alternating with strips of mosaic. Walls were plastered and painted with ornamental motifs (33). Marble statuary decorated the chambers as well, one such find being a life-size figure of a nymph which is likely to have been part of a group framing a monumental water fountain.

Preparations for the war with the Dacians presumably in the very end of the 1st century AD brought entirely new investment in the form of an army hospital, one of the biggest known valetudinarium from the Roman period (35). The building was erected in place of the dismantled baths. It remained in operation until the first half of the 3rd century, when it was purposefully abandoned. The plan of the building is surprisingly simple but functional. It measured 81.90 x 72.90 m on the
outside and contained a large inner courtyard lined with shaded porticoes (42.23 x 32.60 m). Each wing running around this courtyard consisted of a circuit corridor down the centre and two series of rooms on either side. The roof was consequently basilican in construction, the centre part above the corridor being raised above the level of the rooms and furnished with big clerestory windows in order to light up the interior in daytime. Skylights existed in the corner rooms. The main entrance to the valetudinarium was from the via praetoria which was 6 m wide at this point.

Verоятно започването на приготовленията за войната с Даките е причината, че банята е разрушена в края на I в. (Траян). На нейно място е построена нова сграда – войскова болница. Тя най-вероятно е била изоставена в началото на I половина на IIIв.н.e. Простия план на valetudinarium удивлява със своето функционалност. Неговите вътрешни размери са 81,90 x 72,90 м. Около големия двор с портик (42,23 x 32,60 м.) са разположени два реда помещения разделиeni с окръжен коридор. Такъв план е определял конструкцията на покрива, който наричаме базиликов. За да се освети коридора неговите стени са били повдигнати над нивото на покрива закриващ страничните помещения. Над него е построен ред големи прозорци. В вътрешните помещения на покрива са поставени прозорчета. Главния вход в valetudinarium е разположен от широката страна, с дължина 6 м. via praetoria. По дължината и е имало широк външен портик. Монументален, украсен с високи полуколони външ в са затваряли двукрилни дървени порти, укрепени със железни връвчета. Те са се откривали в посока на широк (5,20 м.) коридор. През главните врати се е минавало към двора (37). В повечето случаи болничните помещения са разположени в характеристични тройки. Две галеми помещения са разделиeni от малко антре, в което се влеза от коридора. И доколкото антретата са били тъмни, допълнително в стаите за болни е имало по два големи
Lining the facade on this street was a wide outer portico. The main entrance was a monumental doorway flanked by engaged columns, closed with an iron-studded double-winged wooden door. The door opened into a corridor 5.20 m wide and gave straight into a courtyard (37). The hospital rooms were arranged in characteristic threes: two big rooms joined by an anteroom leading from the corridor. The vestibules were dark but the rooms had two big windows each. Window bays, at least 1 m wide, can still be seen in one of the rooms. The inner walls were plastered and painted red. The floors were made of layers of fine sand. The vestibules had furniture in the form of shelves for storing whatever was needed: plates, bowls, jugs, mortaria, lamps, glass vessels and amphora. Also caskets containing medicine, surgical instruments and cosmetic utensils. Candelabras and vessels stood inside the rooms. Each room could hold from four to six patients, which puts the total capacity of the hospital at about 300 legionaries. Some rooms were used as magazines of amphorae and tableware. There is also a latrine (36). The latrine channels contained many broken or unnecessary objects that had been prozoretsa s широчина 1 м. В едно от болничните помещения до днес нишите се виждат. Вътрешните стени на болницата са били измазани с мазилка и боядисани с червена боя. Подовете са изработени от слоеве дребен пясък. В антретата някога е имало рафтове за необходими предмети: чинии, купи, кан, мортарии, лампи, стъклени съдове и амфори. Там е имало също украсени с апликации от бронз касетки за лекарства и медицински инструменти и козметика. От антретата е имало вход към големите помещения – стаите за болни. Във всяка една от тях е имало най-вероятно по 4–6 болни, имало е канделабри и съдове. Общо в болницата, единовременно е имало около 300 легиониста. В болничните помещения е имало също складове за керамика и амфори. Има също латрина (36). В каналите намерихме много предмети, които вече ненужни на своите собственици, са били изхвърляни там като боклук. Войсковата болница от Novae е уникално откритие. Поради няколко причини, те е една от най-ранните болници построени от камък,
thrown away as rubbish by their owners.

The army hospital was a unique discovery, mainly because it is one of the earliest stone hospitals and one of the biggest — almost 6000 m² in area. It is also among the best preserved buildings of its kind from the territory of the Roman empire. A small temple to Asclepius stood in the center of the courtyard (38). The chapel, measuring 2.46 x 2.60 m, was raised on a low podium with steps leading up to the interior of the sacellum (37). A low wooden screen between the two columns in the front portico guarded the entrance. Altars, statue bases and votive slabs to other deities, such as Juno and the Capitoline Triad, were erected in the unpaved courtyard around the temple. A passage paved with roof tiles ran from the entrance to the temple, facilitating communication and emphasizing the east-west axis of the architectural complex.

After the raid of the Goths Novae was gradually turned into a civil town. One of the new complexes was the ‘Building of the Porticoes’, a Late Roman villa that was founded in the 3rd century AD and functioned until the 6th century. It occupied the southwestern part of the old valetudinarium. The building comprised several rooms of both habitational and domestic character planned around two courtyards with porticoes. There was also a bath with hypocaust system and basins, and a well-head. A glass workshop and a big horreum were also part of this villa.

принадлежи към най-големите — заема територия от почити 6000 m². Преди всичко тя е най-добре запазената днес постройка от този тип, която виждаме на терена на Римската империя. В центъра на двора е имало малко светилище на Асклепий (38). Наблизо до него са открити множество олтари и бази. Параклис с размери 2.46 x 2.60 m. е стоял на висок ро̀диум. Към него е водело стълбище. Единствено дървена бариера е отделяла двуколонния портик от вътрешността на sacellum (37). На ненастлания двор е имало също олтари и вотивни плочи посветени на други божества на пример на Юнон или Капитолската троица. От входа към двора е имало покрита с тухли широка ива, спомагаща за комуникацията и отбелязваща оста Изток-Запад за цялото архитектурно поставяне.

След готското нападение Novae постепенно става цивилен град. Построени са нови сгради. Една от тях е Сградата с портиките – късноантично вилно строителство, най-вероятно е построено в III в.н.е. и функционира до VI в.н.е. Тя заема югоzapадната част на бившия valetudinarium. Основната част на плана е двор с два портика, около който са групирани жилищни и стопански помещения. Ясно се откроява римската баня с хипокаустова система и басейните за къпане. Вихода се също и облицован кладенец. Към вилния комплекс е принадлежала също
From the hospital the tourist path leads in the direction of the principia, that is, the headquarters building. The building stood in an exposed place in the centre of the fort. It was a big edifice (59.5 x 106 m) incorporating a monumental gate, courtyard, transversal hall and back row of club and administration rooms which included a temple of the standards. The headquarters in Novae was erected during the reign of the Flavian dynasty (69–96), but the basilica was built in the times of Trajan (98–117). In the beginning of the 3rd century, the hypocaust system was reconstructed, in chamber Bw among others. The monumental tripartite entrance led to a spacious square surrounded on three sides by colonnaded arcades. The facade of the basilica formed the fourth side; it featured a row of arcades and an inner gate in line with the main axis of the complex. The basilica was planned as a two-aisled structure, but was finally erected as a hall almost 18 m wide. The row of rooms behind the basilica shared a monumental facade decorated with engaged columns in the Tuscan style. A stone railing fenced in the area in front of the chapel, which was filled with pedestals for altars and statue bases. The small chambers Fw and Fz connected with the temple of the Standards served as treasuries. The remaining rooms were used presumably as offices and archives. The interior furnishing of the temple of Standards merits special attention. The floor was paved with large slabs and at the back there was probably a wooden platform for mounting the legion’s standards. Altars and images of deities and emperors (including a marble head of Caracalla) were found inside the temple (39). Hundreds of broken or cut pieces of bronze were scattered all over the floor in the treasuries and adjoining chambers; these were fragments of military standards, cylindrical hinges used for mounting them, ex-vota, mirrors, letters cut from sheet metal, fragments of fingers, robes and parts of an equestrian statue.

Novae’s main basilica measured 46.26 by 24.30 m (40). It was built in the late 5th century to the west of the former principia. A spacious courtyard extended in front (trapezoid in plan, measuring стъкларска работилница и голям хореум. След болницата означения археологически път ни води към principia – войсковото комендантство. Сградата на щаба е заемала експонирано място в центъра. Тази голяма сграда (59,5 x 106 м) е имала величествен вход, двор, напречна зала и заден ред клубно-административни помещения с параклис на знамената. Комендантството в Novae е било построено по времето на управление на флавийската династия (69–96 г.н.е.), а базиликата вероятно е построена чак при управлението на Траян (98–117 г. н.е.). В началото на ІІІ в. е направен ремонт прибавяйки м.др. в помещение Вw хипокаустова система. В монументалния вход три пасажа са водели към обширен площад огражден от три страни колони и двора. Четвъртата е затваряна от фасадата на базиликата с ред аркади и разположена на оста на комплекса вътрешна порта. Базиликата, в първоначалния план двукорабна постройка, окончателно е имала формата на широко 18 m огромна зала. Разположения зад базиликата ред помещения е имал величествена фасада украсена с тоскански полуколони. Повърхността пред параклиса е била оградена с каменна ограда, в чиито обхват е имало цокъли от олтари и бази на статуи. В свързаните с параклиса на знамената малки помещения Fw и Fz са били хазните. Останалите помещения са служели за бюра и архиви. Специално внимание заслужава вътрешното устройване на параклиса на знамената. Пода е бил покрит с големи плочи и в задната част вероятно имало дървен подиум, в който са били вбити легионните знамена. В параклиса е имало и множество олтари, портрети на божества и императори в това число и Каракала, чиято мраморна глава е намерена на това място (39). На пода на хазните и частично и на други помещения от задното крило на сградата са намерили стотици счупени или срязани парчета от бронз: фрагменти от войсковите знамена, цилиндрични панти от тяхното прикрепяване, предмети от бронз, огледала, букви от ламарина, фрагменти от пръсти,
22.83 x 13.57 x 14.40 m). It was the biggest basilica in the Balkans at the time. Rebuilt repeatedly, the edifice was constructed initially as a single-aisled structure with apse at one end. In the 6th century, soon after construction, the aisles and narthex, not to mention a baptism, were added to the nave. In the first half of the 6th century, the basilica was elaborately decorated with various furnishings made of Proconessian marble, i.e., altar screen, pulpit, capitals. Liturgical chambers were added as well and the presbytery was separated from the rest of the building. A baptismal font in the shape of a tetraconch was added in the middle of the 6th century. A three-aisled lesser basilica with stone reliquary under the altar was erected next to the main basilica.

The next church built in Novae dates from the 9th century. It was a small rectangular apsidal structure (7.50 x 5.05 m) erected in the western end of the courtyard in front of the main basilica, quite likely serving as a baptistery. The episcopal residence was integrally connected with the complex of the basilica. The ruins of two earlier buildings were recognized under its floors: a public obelisk, fragments of a horse statue.

The main basilica in Novae is with dimensions 46.26 x 24.30 m (40). It was built in the courtyard in the western end of the principia. In the 6th century, it was enlarged with a large square narthex. The apse was added in the middle of the 6th century. A three-aisled lesser basilica with stone reliquary under the altar was erected next to the main basilica.

40. The legionary hospital (valetudinarium), the Late Roman building with porticoes and the main basilica at Novae, aerial photograph.
bath with central heating system of a regular type, built presumably in the early 6th century AD and incorporated later into the episcopal residence, and a legionary bath from the times of Trajan. The pool, natatio, had huge hypocaust cellars and furnaces to heat the water in it. The persevering tourist can follow a pathway along the line of the circuit wall, starting from the western gate and proceeding south to the southern gate and then outside into one of the three burial grounds around Novae. The southern gate was erected in two stages. The stone construction was built at the close of the 1st or in the early 2nd century AD. Two square towers flanked a double passage. Traces on the threshold suggest that the gate was closed with double-winged doors from the outside and two iron grates on the inside. A water pipe ran through one of the passages. The gate was rebuilt into a single passage in the 3rd/4th century. The walls of the towers were thickened then and given U-shaped form.

The visitors’ path leads along the walls with their projecting U-shaped towers to the Warsaw University field station which includes a rich display of architectural members, funerary steiae and altars (entrance free). Upon leaving the station the visitor can go down the asphalt road to the Danube and then follow a path along a rivulet (Demmen-Dere) to the river bank. Remains of ancient pottery kilns are to be noted on the east side, protruding from the face of the eroded escarpment.

Excavations in the valetudinarium at Novae and various later structures built on top of the army hospital uncovered a number of Latin inscriptions and one in Greek. Of special merit is a cult altar of Asclepius erected in front of the small temple in the middle of the valetudinarium courtyard (41). Two inscriptions (statue bases) from the valetudinarium testify to the practice of erecting silver statues of Asclepius and Hygieia (42). Beside the official monuments set up to the healing deities in the valetudinarium there were also a few altars erected by private individuals. Two dedications by physicians who were not military men have been recorded. Other inscriptions from this sector of the excavations (IV) included large funerary slabs originally from the necropolis out-
side the town. These provided important data on such aspects as the geographical origins of soldiers of the *legio I Italica*, e.g. Cuintus Vettius came from what is today Cologne, Marcus Fonteius from Arminium in Italy and Caius Aurelius from Clunia, an important town in Spain.

Of all the funerary monuments brought from the necropolis to the ruins of the hospital there is one richly decorated piece that merits special attention. The image in the *tympanum* consists of two bushes of houseleek (*sempervivum tectorum L.*), and the inscription field is framed with a grapevine dotted with birds sitting in it, shown with sufficient realism for different species to be identifiable.

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41. Altar dedicated to Asclepios by the 1st Italic legion, discovered in front of the chapel of healing gods in the *valetudinarium* at *Novae*

Олтар дарен на Асклепий от I Италийски легион, открит пред светилище (sacellum) на лекуващи богове
In the village of Krivina 14 km to the east of Novae a German expedition discovered a Late Roman fort. *Iatrus*, as it was called, lay at the mouth of the Iantra, where it flowed into the Danube. The site appears to have been marked on the *Tabula Peutingeriana* as *Latro*, and it was also mentioned by Herodotus and Pliny; however, it does not seem to have been important from the military standpoint before the 4th century AD. There can be no doubt that a fort existed here possibly in the 1st century AD and most certainly in the 2nd and 3rd centuries AD. This is suggested by the plan of the fort, which in the opinion of archaeologists exploring it, was based on typically Principate specifications, relevant to the times when a *numerus Quorum* and *cuneus equitum scutariorum* of the *legio I Italica* legion were stationed there. *Iatrus* disappeared from the maps presumably at the close of the 6th century AD. The fort was surrounded by defense walls with U-shaped towers and a rectangular granary projecting from the curtain (43). Since some of the walls have slid into the Danube, the size of the fort cannot be established, but one thing is certain: the walls followed the edges of an irregular eminence.

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hence the plan was multi-sided. The *via praetoria*, more than 7 m wide, runs from the main eastern gate for 115 m. A portico in the Roman Doric order lined the street. Narrow side streets turned off this main street, forming successive blocks of architecture with crossing streets parallel to the main one. Two rows of square *tabernae* lay to the north of the main street, which led to the building of the headquarters building or *principia* (24.80 x 14.80 m). This structure comprised a small courtyard lined with porticoes and a rectangular hall with an apse on one of the long sides. Most likely still in the 4th century AD the *principia* stopped fulfilling its military function. South of the edifice there is the complex of the *praetorium*. Other domestic structures, as well as a church and other sacral buildings, were erected in the reign of Constantine. The church was a small three-aisled structure with rectangular narthex and apse. The basilica was destroyed in the first quarter of the 5th century AD and on its ruins another basilica was erected in the second half of the century. To the north of this second structure was a baptistry and cult chamber with marble offering table called a *mensa sacra*. From the same period come stores and a small bath which used one of the walls of the *principia* in its construction. After a great conflagration that destroyed the said buildings in the first quarter of the 5th century, workshops appeared on the ruins of the stores and a mill was erected next to the old *principia*. Raiding Huns destroyed the town in the 440s. In the reign of Anastasius Iatrus was partly rebuilt. The defenses were reinforced, some of the houses reconstructed and new domestic buildings were raised. In the last phase in the rule of Justinian, the third and most monumental basilica of the lot was constructed in place of the previous ones.

Leaving the Ruse–Târnovo road, visitors follow the signs southwards to reach the ruins of *Nicopolis ad Istrom* which Trajan founded in AD 106. Its population was resettled by the emperor from Asia Minor. The preserved architecture is therefore of Greek character and the organization of the municipal authorities was also Greek. Although the town did not evolve from a military fort and there was even a time when it was not within the vicinity of the town as a whole, it was characterized by a systematic arrangement of the streets and building blocks. This is also the case with the church, which stands on the same site as the earlier basilica.

The town was founded by the emperor Trajan (98-111 AD) and it became the capital of the Roman province of Moesia Inferior. It was named *Nicopolis ad Istrom* (Greek *Nikopolis*), meaning “victory town”, as it was founded on the site of a previous Roman fortress. The town was a major center of commerce and had a large population, estimated at around 20,000 people. It was an important junction on the Via Egnatia, a major trade route that ran from Italy to Constantinople. The town was also a важен център на религиозни и администрациони функции във Византия.
borders of Moesia Interior, its cultural and economic importance had an impact on the troops stationed on the Danube. Well known and economically important sites lay nearby: *emporion Discoduraterae* (modern Gostilica) and *Piritensium* (modern Butovo, see below), as well as numerous *vici* and Roman villas. Nicopolis ad Istrum is mentioned by Claudius Ptolemy in his *Geography* as *Nicopolis ad Haemus* ("City of the Victory at the foot of the Balkans"). On the *Tabula Peutingeriana* it was marked as *Nicopolistro*. The name used by researchers, Nicopolis ad Istrum, was recorded in an inscription of AD 136 and was initially identified mistakenly with Nikopol (see above). In 1872, F. Kanitz identified the correct location. Archaeological excavations have been going on for more than a hundred years, the first work having been done in 1889. Regular excavations began in the area of the so-called agora in 1900 (G. Saure). They were continued by V. Dobruski from 1906 to 1909, but...
the most interesting and important results were obtained by T. Ivanov, who worked methodically from 1954 to 1987. R. Ivanov took over after that and since 1985 L. Slokovska has been in charge. Nicopolis covers an area of 21.26 ha (512 x 407 m) (44). A fort (excavated by a British expedition) of 5.74 ha in area was added on the south side in the 4th century (44). The town was laid out according to an orthogonal plan with streets crossing at right angles and marking the *insulae* or city blocks. The hillside quarries in nearby Hotniza, still to be seen today, must have met the needs of the local builders. A monumental aqueduct supplied the town with water brought from a distance of 26 km (from the modern village of Mussina), and a *castellum aquae* was uncovered inside the town itself already in the 19th century. The aqueduct crossed the nearby river of Rosista on arcades, the foundations of which can still be seen on the riverbank. A visit to the site today starts with the northern gate where the *cardo* begins. The street was paved with large slabs covering a big sewage drain. Numerous inscriptions and sarcophagi originating from the necropolis

45. Entrance to the *buleuterion* at Nicopolis ad Istrum

Вход до т.нар. *buleuterion* в Nicopolis ad Istrum


Археологическите разкопки се провеждат повече от 100 години. Първите сондажни изследвания са започнати в 1889 година. Разкопки от по-голям мащаб са започнати в 1900 година (G. Saure) на терена на т.нар. агора. Те са били продължени от В. Добруски в годините 1906–1909. Но най-големи резултати са донесли изследванията на Т. Иванов, който методично и планово е провеждал разкопки от 1954 до 1987 година. След това са продължени от Р. Иванов, а от 1985 от Л. Слоковска.

Nicopolis заема терен от 21,26 хектара – 512 x 407 м. IV в.н.е. от неговата северна страна е достроен, изследвания от английската археологическа експедиция, т.нар. *castellum* с повърхност 5,74 хектара (44). Градът е планиран съгласно ортогоналната система т.зн. че улиците са се пресичали под прав ъгъл, като по този начин са определяли кварталите за застройване – *insulae*. Вероятно за нуждите на строителите на близките хълмове в село Хотница са пуснати в движение каменоломни. Техните останки се виждат и до днес. До града е прокаран огромен акведукт носещ вода на разстояние 26 km. (от днешната село Мусина), а в самия град още в XIX в.н.е. е открит *castellum aquae*. Пресичайки течащата през Nicopolis река Росица, той е разположен на аркади, чиито фундаменти продължават да се виждат над брега на реката. Днес посещението този обект се започва от северния вход, при който започва *cardo* – настлана с огромни плочи, покриващ също обширен канал. По дължина на улицата стои множество инсципции и произхождащи от некропола саркофази. *Cardo* води към старанно настлана агора (40,90 m x 42) повдигната над нивото на околността. Величествени архитрави, основи на колони, йонийски капители, прагове, руини на постройки всичко това доказва както...
now line this street. The cardo leads to the finely paved agora (40.90 x 42 m) raised above the level of the surrounding ground. The monumental architraves, column shafts, Ionian capitals, thresholds, ruins of buildings testify to the scale and aesthetic refinement of the architecture. Statue bases and altars with Greek inscriptions can be seen in the agora. An excellently preserved bouleuterion (18.20 x 14.50) with semicircular tiered seats can be visited from the agora (45). The effect of rising sets of benches was achieved by using the Roman technique of brick arcades. Immediately next to the council chamber there stand the ruins of a double-aisled portico. East of the agora there are the remains of a rectangular odeon (36.20 x 28.10 m) with well preserved orchestra, audience and orthostats dividing the two structures. It opened on a peristyle (paradoi) running on either side of an important perpendicular street, the decumanus. This street leads the visitor to one of the most curious buildings excavated at Nicopolis. The Greek inscription on the architrave below a monumental tympanum reads: “The town council (bule) and the people (demos) of Nicopolis ad Istrum erected the thermoperipatos in the time of Commodus (184–185)”. It was a rectangular building (28.30 x 69 m), the entrance to which was flanked by Ionic columns and led from the cardo. Adjoining the large central chamber was a series of small rooms. The function of this structure remains unknown. Outside the district explored by archaeologists there are many ruins still visible on the ground, including the so-called eastern shops. A British expedition working by the south fortifications uncovered a fortified annex of 6th century AD date, the walls containing 15 projecting semicircular towers of which 12 can still be seen. Of these the western one is still to be seen. Inside this Byzantine town (polis) the ruins of several churches were discovered, as well as a huge granary and workshops.

B. Soultov’s research on the pottery manufacturing centres in the neighbourhood of Butovo and Pavlikeni has indicated considerable specialization as regards the kinds of ceramic products produced. The esthetically refined and raised above the level of the surrounding ground. The monumental architraves, column shafts, Ionian capitals, thresholds, ruins of buildings testify to the scale and aesthetic refinement of the architecture. Statue bases and altars with Greek inscriptions can be seen in the agora. An excellently preserved bouleuterion (18.20 x 14.50) with semicircular tiered seats can be visited from the agora (45). The effect of rising sets of benches was achieved by using the Roman technique of brick arcades. Immediately next to the council chamber there stand the ruins of a double-aisled portico. East of the agora there are the remains of a rectangular odeon (36.20 x 28.10 m) with well preserved orchestra, audience and orthostats dividing the two structures. It opened on a peristyle (paradoi) running on either side of an important perpendicular street, the decumanus. This street leads the visitor to one of the most curious buildings excavated at Nicopolis. The Greek inscription on the architrave below a monumental tympanum reads: “The town council (bule) and the people (demos) of Nicopolis ad Istrum erected the thermoperipatos in the time of Commodus (184–185)”. It was a rectangular building (28.30 x 69 m), the entrance to which was flanked by Ionic columns and led from the cardo. Adjoining the large central chamber was a series of small rooms. The function of this structure remains unknown. Outside the district explored by archaeologists there are many ruins still visible on the ground, including the so-called eastern shops. A British expedition working by the south fortifications uncovered a fortified annex of 6th century AD date, the walls containing 15 projecting semicircular towers of which 12 can still be seen. Of these the western one is still to be seen. Inside this Byzantine town (polis) the ruins of several churches were discovered, as well as a huge granary and workshops.
duced there (46). The furnaces apparently were contemporary and most likely had different owners. Almost 30 kilns were located near Hotniza, along with a rectangular workshop comprising a number of rooms. Based on the contents and the pottery fragments, we can assume that the workshop produced cooking pots made of gray clay and thin-walled vessels for drinking wine. The excavator believes that it mainly supplied the stonemasons working in the nearby quarries. The centre in Bijala Cerkva specialized in building ceramics which required special furnaces. Roof tiles and bricks were also produced at Butovo. Interestingly, the roof tiles found at Butovo were marked with stamps of the legio I Italica, indicating that they may have been manufactured by legionaries manning the kilns. Altogether 39 different furnaces were discovered here, mostly for the production of tableware. Other categories of local products included lamps, terracotta figurines and jugs (oinochoe) made of gray clay.

At Pavlikeni the pottery workshops covered an area of at least 15 hectares. Some 100 kilns were identified and the pottery collection from the excavations (which started in 1971) contains more than 200,000 pieces. An extensive housing district has also been uncovered. Comprehensive research has revealed that the apogee of its development fell in AD 138–170. New and more luxurious buildings were erected next to the older and more modest ones. Rooms of different size and function lined a columnar courtyard, and granaries were built, as well as numerous structures of unidentified function and a new workshop. The overall layout suggests different potters

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46. Bowl with en barbotine decoration from the antique pottery centre at Butovo

Купичка с декорация en barbotine произведена в античния център за керамика в Бутово

са работили успоредно и вероятно са принадлежали на различни собственици. В Хотница са намерени почти 30 пещи и правоъгълна няколкостаен работилница. Въз основа на техния състав и керамичните фрагменти можем да съдим, че този център е произвел кухненски съдове от сива глина и керамика за хранене. Представляватъкостенни съдове за пиене на вино. Според откривателя този център е снабдявал каменарите работещи в близките каменоломни.

Център в Бяла Черква се е специализирал - което доказват откритите тук специални пещи - в продукцията на строителна керамика. Цигли и тухли са произвеждани също в Бутово. Интересното е, че намерените в Бутово цигли са били белезани с печат на италийски легион, което подсказва, че са изработени от работещи тук легионисти. Общо тук са открити 39 пещи от различен вид, по-голямата част от които е служила за производството на керамика за хранене. Но освен керамиката за хранене и строителната тук са се произвеждали също лампи, теракотни фигурки и oinochoe от сива глина.

В Павликени керамичният център е територия от поне 15 хектара, на която са открити около 100 пещи и са намерени повече от 200 000 съда и техни фрагменти. От началото на разкопките в 1971 година са открити не само строителните съоръжения, а и различна голяма част от продукциита на керамика, но и разширена жилищна част. Тъй като този център е изследван комплексно, знаем, че неговият връх на развитие е бил в годините 138–170. Към по-скромните постройки са добавяни нови, по-луксозни. Помещенията с различна големина и функции са ограждали двор с колони, построени с камък, построени със складове, построени със складове, построени със складове. Новата е във връзка със също много нови стради с неопределен размер и нова работилница. Аранжировката на целия център подсказва, че там са работили различни гръцки архитекти вероятно от една legina с много officinae. Това доказва също многообразието на отпечатъци на пръсти, в това число на жени и деца, виждаща се на повърхността на съдовете. Съдовете не са били подпечатани, поради което не знаем имената на гръцките.
possibly forming a fabric (figilina) with numerous workshops (officinae). The variety of fingerprints, including those of women and children, identified on the surface of pottery vessels produced on site confirms this theory. The vessels were not stamped which means that no names of potters have come down to us.

The remains of the fort of Scaidava, which was mentioned in the Itinerarium Antonini, were discovered in the village of Batin on the Danube in the 1920s. Taking a sinuous road following a rivulet down to the Danube, the visitor reaches the rocky sandstone riverbank where cisterns had been cut in antiquity, presumably to collect water from this rivulet. There is nothing, however, to date these constructions. The ruins of fortifications discovered on the plateau measured 100 by 300 m. In 1979, a square tower was explored together with a section of the fort wall. Coins of Constantine II dated the defenses to Late Antiquity. This was further confirmed by bricks with the stamp of RUMORID, presumably Flavius Rumoridus—magister militiae and consul in the time of Arcadius. On the other hand, stamps of the legio I Italica are telling proof of the fort functioning already in an earlier period.

The fort in Sexaginta Prista was erected at the mouth of the Rusenki Lom river where it flows into the Danube and covered an area of 4–5 ha. It was raised as a earth and timber construction, presumably in the Flavian period. The reconstruction in stone dates to Trajan’s time. The name is interpreted as meaning “sixty ships”, suggesting the presence of a large river harbour here. Some of the fortifications were destroyed during irrigation works in 1911.

The first unit to be stationed here was the cohors III Gallorum, followed by the cohors II Mattiacorum until about AD 145, after which it was replaced by the cohors II Flavia Brittonum equitata and a detachment of the legio I Italica. Milestones found on the site indicate that the road to Nicopolis ad Istrum ran somewhere in the neighbourhood. In Trajan’s time, as indicated by a building inscription dated to AD 100–101, a simple bath was raised at Sexaginta. The next inscription from AD 230–232 (CIL III 7473) informs of the reconstruction of a bath belonging to the cohors II.
Flavia Brittonum. Rescue excavations uncovered a fragment of the northern fortifications including a rectangular corner tower and four buildings. The stretch of wall, which was c. 2.70 m thick, runs for about 50 m (47). A building inscription from 289–299 testifies to a renovation of the fort at this time, possibly necessitated by damage suffered at the hands of raiding Karpai in AD 296. It was rebuilt yet again, this time by the Emperor Justinian. From this period come the four multi-room buildings that had been uncovered.

The fort Appiaria lay on a small hill 10–15 m above the Danube, 6 km east of the village of Rjachovo. The name could refer to the Latin word apiarium meaning beehive or apiarius which is translated as “beekeeper”. Nothing of the ruins that K. Škorpil had seen in the 19th century survives today due to erosion. His reports suggest a defense wall 2.50 m thick and surviving on a stretch 80 m long. Building ceramics and pottery collected from the site span a considerable time horizon, but it is likely that the fort was erected around AD 76, a date confirmed by a building inscription referring to some unidentified military structures. A considerable number of coins covering a period from the time of Trajan to Aurelian, pottery, fibulae and a marble bust constitute evidence for intensive development of the fort during this time. Different military units are known to have been stationed at Appiaria: initially most probably the cohors Matthiacorum (?) and ala I Gallorum Aectorigiana (CIL III 12452), later cavalry perhaps. In Late

47. The northern fortifications discovered at Ruse (Sexaginta Prista)
План на северната част на фортификация открыта в Русе (Sexaginta Prista)
Antiquity, *miles tertio nauclarii* stayed there with all certainty. In AD 294, the fort was visited by the Emperor Diocletian.

In 1982, a unique Roman mausoleum was discovered 2 km east of the village. An earth tumulus concealed four rooms set out in line, the total length being 22.30 m. It was constructed most likely in the 2nd century AD, presumably to inter the bodily remains of a rich Appiarian boasting Thracian ethnic and cultural roots.

The high riverbank in the centre of the town of Tutrakan was investigated archaeologically by L. Vagaliński in 1989–1991 and 1995–1997. He discovered the ruins of the defenses of the fort Transmarisca (48), the remaining fort architecture being concealed under the modern settlement. The name derives from a nearby river, which was called *Marisca* in antiquity and is now known as Arđmen. The fort was marked on the *Tabula Peutingeriana* and it was also mentioned in the *Itinerarium Antonini*. Two square towers were traced and a stretch of fortified wall mentioned in K. Škorpil’s 19th century report. The fort was most likely in the shape of a trapeze with the sides measuring respectively 200 x 240 x 300 x 300 m. A double line of defenses spaced 30 m apart ran from the south. On the west there was a ditch. The tower with an inscription has been restored. In the early 2nd century AD, the cohors *I Thracum Syriaca* and detachments of the *legio XI Claudia* were 12452), а после може би езда. Но знаем със сигурност, че през късния антич тук са пребивавали: *miles tertio nauclarii*. В 294 г. н. е. *castellum* е бил посетен от император Диоклециан.

В 1982 година 2 км на запад от селото е открит уникален римски мавзолей. Под земния тумулус са се намирали четири подредени в една линия помещения, с обща дължина 22.30 м. Той е направен вероятно в ІІ в. н. е. Развален е два века по-късно. В гробницата вероятно е погребан богат гражданин Appiiaria, вероятно с тракийски етнички и култури корени. На високия крайдунавски склон в центъра на град Тутракан в резултат на археологически изследвания проведени от Л. Вагалиński в годините 1989–1991 и 1995–1997 са открити останките на крепостните стени на *castellum Transmarisca* (48). Други останки на форт са закрити от модерно строителство. Наименованието произхожда от името на близката река – в античността наричана *Marisca* – днес Арджеш. *Castellum* е отбележано на *Tabula Peutingeriana*, за него споменава също *Itinerarium Antonini*. Открити са две квадратни кули и части от крепостна стена, за чието съществуване споменава още в XIX в. К. Шкорпил. Форта е бил с формата на трапец с размери: 200 x 240 x 300 x 300 м. От юг е преминавала двойна линия от крепостни стени
stationed here. Sections of a Roman road were discovered in the villages of Dunajec and Kuršulite near Tutrakan, but nothing remains to be seen today.

Not far from the village of Malak Preslavets lies a fort erected around AD 86. The name Nigranis presumably derived from the name of a governor of Lower Moesia, one Cornelius Nigrinus Curiatius Maternus. In the times of Diocletian this was changed to Candidiana. The ruins of the fort are located in a locality referred to by local inhabitants as Kadikioi (49). A favorable location, gentle hills and the proximity of the Danube and a lake have made this a location favored for settlement ever since the Neolithic. A hoard of 2638 coins of the 2nd and 3rd century AD was found near the fort. It is not clear whether the site contains the ruins of one or two forts. The original construction was of wood and earth, presumably replaced by a stone construction in the time of Caracalla. The new structure measured 400 by 400 m and was constructed using the opus mixtum technique which was unique in Moesia at the time. The tech-
nique calls for rows of stone blocks to be separated by brick lacing. Further rebuilding took place presumably in the 3rd century, simultaneously with the change of name mentioned above. Archaeological excavations in 1948 and 1957 uncovered fortifications still standing and measuring a total of 120 m in length and the north-eastern corner tower as well as two U-shaped donjons (50). Brick works must have been found somewhere in the vicinity, as suggested by finds of bricks featuring stamps of the Legionis XI Claudiae Figlinae Candidiane. In the 2nd century AD (?) the cohors I Lusitanorum Cyrenaica was stationed there, replaced in Late Antiquity by the miles primi Moesiaci. Coming from Nigrianis-Candidiana is a fragment of a bronze statue of the Emperor Domitian or Trajan and two army diplomas of c. AD 145.

One of the four legionary bases known on the Bulgarian section of the Roman Limes was identified within the borders of the modern town of Silistra (Durostorum). It was strategically located c. 800 m south of the Danube riverbank. The fortress occupied an area of 19.32 ha. From AD 104 it was the headquarters of the legio XI Claudia. The beginnings of the fort reach back, however, to the late 1st century AD when the cohors II Flavia Brittonum equitata was stationed here, between AD 86 and 101. With the coming of the legion the old auxiliary fort was thoroughly overhauled and enlarged to two forts. Първоначално форта е бил построен от дърво и пръст. Вероятно по времето на Каракала той е променен на каменен форт с размери 400 x 400 м, използвайки уникалната топология от това време в Македония техника opus mixtum – редовете от камъни са раздели от редовете тухли. Вероятно в III в. н.e. е направен следващия ремонт и тогава също, както бе споменато по-горе, е сменено изграждането. Археологическите изследвания са проведени в годините 1948 и 1957. Тогава са открити виждащи се до днес части от крепостна стена – с обща дължина 120 м – и североизточния зъл и две U-образни кули (50). Може би в околността е имало и тухларница, за което могат свидетелства тухли с печат: Legionis XI Claudiae Figlinae Candidiane. Във II в. н.е. (?) тук е била разположена кохорта I Lusitanorum Cyrenaica, а през късния антик miles primi Moesiaci. От Nigrianis-Candidiana произхождат фрагмент от бронзова статуя на император Домициан или Траян и две войскови дипломи от 145 г.н.e.

В границите на днесния град Силистра е открит един от четирите легионни лагера известни от българската част на римския лимес – Durostorum. Той се намира на стратегическата позиция на около 800 м. на юг от брега на Дунав и е с площ 19,32 хектара. От 104 година той е бил главното седалище на легион XI Claudia. Вероятно лагера е съществувал от края на І в. н.e. и първоначално тук е била разположена cohors II Flavia Brittonum equitata — 86–101 г. н.e. Заедно с пристигането на легион на някогашния форт на помощните войски е бил цялостно ремонтиран и е заемал територия 400 x 390 м. Тогава също в околността на крепостта се е развила цивилния

50. The fortress at Nigrianis
План на крепост открита в Nigrianis
cover an area of 400 by 390 m. A civil settlement sprang up around the fortress. Repairs and refurbishing accompanied each imperial visit: Durostorum was visited by Septimius Severus and by Caracalla. These royal visits resulted in the building of trapezoid towers projecting from the wall curtain. In the written sources Durostorum is mentioned as an important customs post: statio publicum portorii Illyrici. The fort was also an important base for the Roman fleet, the classis Flavia Moesica in this case. Regular excavations in Silistra were carried out in 1972–1981 (P. Donevski). Earlier work in 1969–1971 was limited to rescue explorations.

The fortifications of the first fort were 1.50 m thick and had inside rectangular towers measuring 6.40 by 3.40 m. The exception was a tower in the southwestern corner which was trapezoidal. The fortification system was rebuilt in the time of either Aurelius or Diocletian. The towers were placed outside the walls the thickness of which was increased to 2.60 m. The southwestern tower was also enlarged to measure 21.70 x 12.80 m. Fort architecture has not been investigated sufficiently. Only a part of the army barracks (contubernia)

Крепостните стени на първия лагер са с дебелина 1,50 м и са с вътрешни правоъгълни кули с размери 6,40 x 3,40 м. Изключение прави кулата в югозападния ъгъл, защото тя е с формата на трапец. Фортификационната система е била препроцекена по време на Аврелий или Диоклециан. Тогава дебелината на стените е увеличена до 2,60 м, а кулите са изнесени навън. Уголемени са размерите на споменатата югозападна кула – 21,70 x 12,80 м.
belonging to the first and second cohort was excavated in the praetentura (51). These follow an East-West orientation and comprise two rows of rooms measuring each 3.80 by 4.40 m. The so-called Centurion’s House was excavated in the retenitura of the fortress.
The civil settlement around the fortress (canabae legionis) spread out to the northeast, north and southwest, covering an area of 25–30 ha. The origins are placed in the reign of Hadrian and/or Antoninus Pius, as confirmed by a dedicatory inscription of AD 145 mentioning cives Romani et consistentes in canabis Aelis. Some 200 m to the north of the fortress there was a large residential complex (70 by 40 m). This town house (villa urbana) comprised several rooms heated by a hypocaust system. A row bath is distinctive. In the time of Constantine the villa was rebuilt substantially.

Near the village of Ostrov (in modern Romania) there was a vicus that was turned into municipium Aurelium Durostorum in the times of Marcus Aurelius. An important workshop center appears to have been located there as well, as indicated by lead seals with the inscription Kastra Legionie XI Claudiae and stamps of Legionie XI Claudiae Figlinae Kastrorum.

Durostorum remained important well into Late Antiquity. A bishop resided here from the 4th to the 6th century AD (53). Another undoubted local tourist attraction is the painted tomb of a military commander from the 4th century AD (52, 54).
Where to see the Bulgarian Limes

A trip to the Limes sites should start in Sofia with the Archaeological Museum in the city centre and the National Museum in Bojan’s Residence. It should be kept in mind that museums in Bulgaria (entrance fees from 1 to 5 Euro) are closed on Mondays; on other days they are open from 9am to 5pm with a lunch break between 1pm and 3pm. Museum staff can be asked for assistance in opening sites and arranging visits. The direction to take from Sofia is Vidin to the north. Vraca with its beautiful caves is well worth a look on the way.

Vidin (Bononia)
In Vidin it is easy to find the ruins of the ancient fort at “Baba Vida” on the bank of the Danube. A small but interesting museum and open-air presentation of antiquities from Vidin and Arçar (Ratiaria) stands in the centre of the town.

Kula (Castra Martin)
From Vidin it is a short drive of 25 km to Kula where the ruins of Castra Martin can be seen. The so-called quadriburgium fort originating from the times of the Tetrarchy is exceedingly well preserved. Tourists should take the side roads along the Danube, exercising caution at all times because of the many small localities and villages along the way.

Arçar (Ratiaria)
The road runs on the bank of the Danube where the necropolis can be seen on both sides and ancient ruins in some places. Remains of an aqueduct stand on a nearby river bank to the south of the ruins.

Lom (Almus)
From Arçar the road leads to the town of Lom. Antiquities are presented on the ground floor of a small museum in the town center. The rest of the display is devoted to local history and ethnography. The ruins of the fort Almus are reached on the top of a hill above the museum.

Kozloduj
From Lom the visitor should go to Kozloduj to see the nearby ruins of Augustae and then continue east to Gigen (Oescus).

Gigen (Oescus)
The reconstructed fortifications of Gigen (Oescus) can be seen in the village. Driving past them in the direction of the Iskár river tourists can see the ancient town.
From Gigen the road runs along the Danube toward Nikopol, passing Somovit at the mouth of the Wit river on the way. No ruins can be seen in the ancient Utus but the landscape, cemeteries and the charm of a small Bulgarian village are well worth the visit. About 1 km east of the center of Nikopol a rock church cut in the limestone massif can be seen. Next the route takes visitors by the only available road about 500 m south to a spring (Češma) with an ancient inscription. Turning right by the small church the visitor goes on to the Turkish fort in Kaleto from where there is a splendid panorama of the Danube.

From Nikopol the route goes on to Pleven, where a local museum presents antiquities found at Gigen (Oescus). The painted Panorama of the Battle of Pleven should be seen by all means. For lovers of nature the Kajlka park with its waterfalls and grottos is a must; a nice lunch can be had in a restaurant located in one of the caves.

From Pleven there is a good road to Svištov. A turnoff before Svištov leads to Belene with the ruins of Dimun standing above the Danube. In Svištov there are three places to visit in the city centre. The Museum of a renowned Bulgarian poet Aleko Konstantinov also contains some antiquities from Novae and an interesting ethnographic exposition. Just 50 m further on a small but rich archaeological museum operates in the building of the “Svištov” restaurant and a display of antiquities can be seen in the restaurant itself. Leaving for Novae by the road to Ruse, tourists pass a church that is one of the oldest examples of the Bulgarian renaissance. A visit to Novae, which lies about 4 km east of the town, will take from 2 to 3 hours.

A few kilometers from the fortress, at Krivina, lie the ruins of Iatrus.

From there the route goes on to Biala, where a right turn should be taken for Veliko Tarnovo. On the way, visitors should look for a sign indicating the direction to Nicopolis ad Istrum. At Samovodene located further down the road to Tarnovo, a right turn will take visitors to the quarries at Hotniza. Tarnovo is one of Bulgaria’s former capitals and one of the most beautiful cities in the country thanks to its location. A spacious archaeological museum is.
logical museum and a museum of the history of Bulgaria are located in the city centre. An unforgettable impression is left by the Carevec, fortress of the Bulgarian tsars. North from Tarnovo, there are the pottery manufacturing centres at Butovo and nearby Pavlikeni reached by side roads.

**Ruse**

From there visitors should head for Ruse taking the main Ruse-Sofia transit route. After 30 km a sign shows the way to the village of Batin, the ancient Scaldava. Ruse has an archaeological museum to visit and the most persevering tourists can search for the almost invisible ruins of Sexaginta Prsta.

**Tutrakan (Transmarisca)**

Silistra is the next stop on the road, but on the way a small road climbs to Tutrakan with the partly reconstructed ruins of the fort Transmarisca.

**Silistra (Durostorum)**

Continuing on to Silistra, a turn to the left will take visitors to Mlak Preslavets from where by taking a road toward the inactive power plant on the Danube and then following a field path to the west along the Danube, one can visit the ruins of the fortifications if Nigrianis-Candidiana now hidden in the woods. A bird reserve can be visited before reaching Silistra. In the town there is an interesting museum in the city center presenting a rich collection of antiquities from Durostorum (ask to see an ancient tomb in the town). The first complex of ruins lies about 500 m south of the museum, the second, which has been restored, in a park by the Danube.
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