

## THE RESEARCH AT THE ROMAN AUXILIARY FORT OF MIKHÁZA/CĂLUGĂRENI

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*In Mikháza, one of the major Roman military sites on the eastern border of Dacia, the headquarters building (principia) of the auxiliary fort was recently excavated. In the building located in the centre of the fort, parts of the aedes, the basilica, the internal courtyard, and several administrative rooms have been researched so far.*

Mikháza/Călugăreni in Maros/Mureș County, Romania is one of the major Roman military sites in eastern Transylvania. It is located in the south-western periphery of the modern village (Fig. 1). The archaeological site stretches on the left bank of the Nyárád/Niraj River, relying on the natural defence offered by the Görgényi/Gurghiu Mountains and the hills of the Sóvidéki dombság/Subcarpații Târnavei Mici. Together with a chain of watchtowers and other defensive elements situated towards the east, the auxiliary fort had the task of controlling the Roman border section around the upper Nyárád Valley and the Szakadát/Săcădat Valley where the ancient traffic routes towards the barbaricum were situated (Fig 2.).

### THE SITE



*Fig. 1: Aerial photo of the fort (Pánczél, Szilamér-Péter – Höpken, Constanze – Fiedler, Manuel – Döhner, Gregor – Szabó, Máté – Lenkey, László – Man, Nicoleta: Forschungen am dakischen Ostlimes zwischen Brâncovești und Sărățeni. Der Limes 8/2 (2014), 26)*

Since 2008, in the framework of different projects focusing on the research, conservation, and presentation of the sites on the eastern border of Roman Dacia, aerial archaeological, geophysical, architectural and topographical surveys, and systematic research excavation have been undertaken at the Roman military site of Mikháza.<sup>1</sup> The area of the auxiliary fort is known as *Vár/Cetate* (Castle), *Vár-tartomány* (Castle district), *Tündér Ilona vára* (Tündér Ilona's castle), and *Óvár* (Old castle), while the Roman road running next to it is called *Traján útja* (Trajan's road), *Só útja* (Salt road), and *Köves út* (Stone road). On the northern side of the road, northwest from the fort, at the area called *Palota* (Palace), *Palota melléke*

<sup>1</sup> The Roman border section in the area of Mikháza is explored through a series of interconnected projects: The *Digitizing the Roman Limes. Sector Brâncovești – Sărățeni* project was based at the Mureș County Museum in Târgu Mureș and financed by the Romanian Ministry of Research (CNCSIS-UEFISCDI) between 2013 and 2016. It focused on non-invasive research and the digitization of the available archive data.

In the years between 2013 and 2015 an interdisciplinary team organized *The Roman Limes as a European Cultural Landscape* archaeological field school. This Erasmus Intensive Programme was coordinated by the Winckelmann Institute of the Humboldt University from Berlin and involved lecturers and students of archaeology, geophysics, architecture, and restoration from the following institutions: University of Köln, University of Pécs, University of Technology and Economics from Budapest, Eötvös Loránd University in Budapest, University of Applied Sciences in Erfurt, Babeș-Bolyai University in Cluj-Napoca, and Petru Maior University in Târgu Mureș. Since 2016, the Mureș County Museum, the Chair of the Roman Provinces at the Archaeological Institute of the University of Köln, the Erasmus Fund of the Humboldt University in Berlin, and the Romanian Ministry of Culture have financed the research excavations.

Since 2012, the Mureș County Museum has hosted the *Roman Limes Route* project financed by the Administration of the National Cultural Fund of Romania (AFCN) and the Mureș County Council with the aim to preserve and display the sites belonging to this *limes* sector.

(Vicinity of the palace), and *Stráz-saház* (Guardhouse), remains of the Roman bathhouse were identified.<sup>2</sup>

In Szekler legends and fairy tales, the site is mentioned as the palace and castle of the beautiful fairy princess, Tündérszép Ilona, who is supposed to have also built the road to visit her lover living in Gyulafehérvár/Alba Iulia, the Roman conurbation of Apulum. Probably, the Roman ruins were still visible and the road was still in use when this tale started to be linked to the site. The story was meant to explain the presence and the origins of large stone structures in the landscape of eastern Transylvania where until the early twentieth century the architecture of the villages was dominated by wooden or wattle and daub vernacular buildings.

The unexplainable construction efforts and the lack of written sources concerning the features caused the storytellers to link it to the world of mythical beings, something which is a quite popular practice in the region.

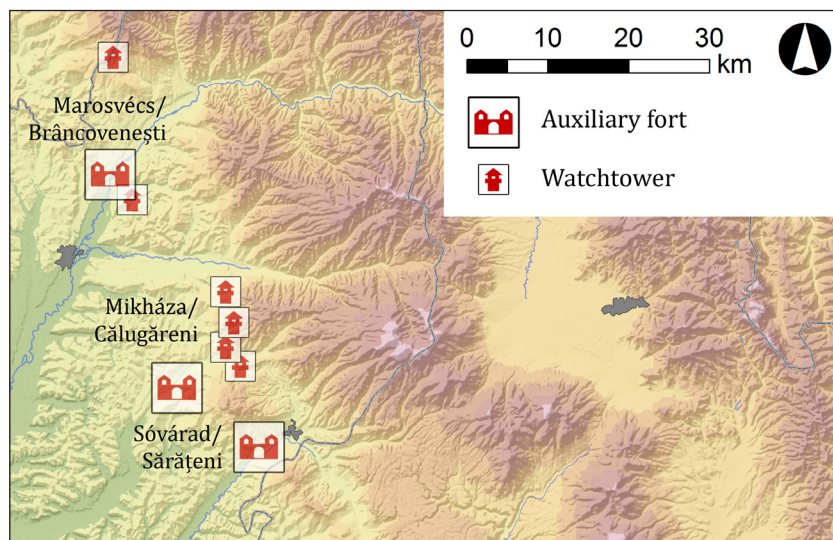


Fig. 2: The Roman limes sector from the area of Mikháza (Made by: Szabó, Máté)

### RESEARCH HISTORY<sup>3</sup>

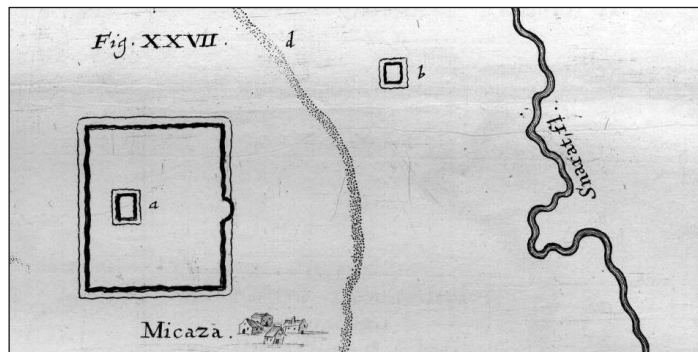


Fig. 3: The plan of the site in the early 18<sup>th</sup> century (Marsilius, Aloysius Ferdinandus: *Danubius Pannonico-Mysicus. Observationibus geographicis, astronomicis, hydrographicis, historicis, physicis perlustratus. II, Fig. 27. The Hague: Apud P. Gosse, R. C. Alberts, P. de Hondt – Amsterdam: Apud H. Uytwerf, F Changuion, 1726.*)

The Roman ruins were first mentioned in the early eighteenth century by Italian polyhistor Luigi Fernando Marsigli.<sup>4</sup> Due to him, Mikháza became one of the earliest known archaeological sites in eastern Transylvania. He made a first description of the site and a topographic plan (Fig. 3.). In his plan, the fort appears as a rectangular structure and the northern gate (*porta principalis sinistra*), which was probably still visible in his time, is shown as a half circle. Inside the fort, a rectangular building (based on its position it is seemingly the *principia*) is marked.

In the middle of the nineteenth century, the Prussian consul, Johann Ferdinand Neigebaur, mentioned several small finds and a votive

<sup>2</sup> Paulovics István: *Dacia keleti határvonala és az úgynevezett "dák" ezüstkincsek kérdése/The eastern border of Dacia and the issue of so-called "Dacian" hoards* (Kolozsvár: Minerva, 1944), 32–34; Lazăr, Valeriu.: *Repertoriul arheologic al județului Mureș* (Târgu Mureș: Mureș 1995), 122–124; Pánczél, Szilamér-Péter: The Roman Fort from Călugăreni (Mureș County, Romania). In: *LIMES XXII. Proceedings of the 22<sup>nd</sup> International Congress of Roman Frontier Studies Ruse, Bulgaria, September 2012*, eds. Vagalinski, Lydmil – Sharankov, Nicolay (Sofia: National Archaeological Institute with Museum, 2015), 910.

<sup>3</sup> See in detail: Pánczél, Szilamér-Péter: The Roman Fort from Călugăreni (Mureș County, Romania). In: *LIMES XXII. Proceedings of the 22<sup>nd</sup> International Congress of Roman Frontier Studies Ruse, Bulgaria, September 2012*, eds. Vagalinski, Lydmil – Sharankov, Nicolay (Sofia: National Archaeological Institute with Museum, 2015), 909–916.

<sup>4</sup> Marsilius, Aloysius Ferdinandus: *Danubius Pannonico-Mysicus. Observationibus geographicis, astronomicis, hydrographicis, historicis, physicis perlustratus* (The Hague: Apud P. Gosse, R. C. Alberts, P. de Hondt – Amsterdam: Apud H. Uytwerf, F Changuion, 1726), II, 59–60, Fig. 27.



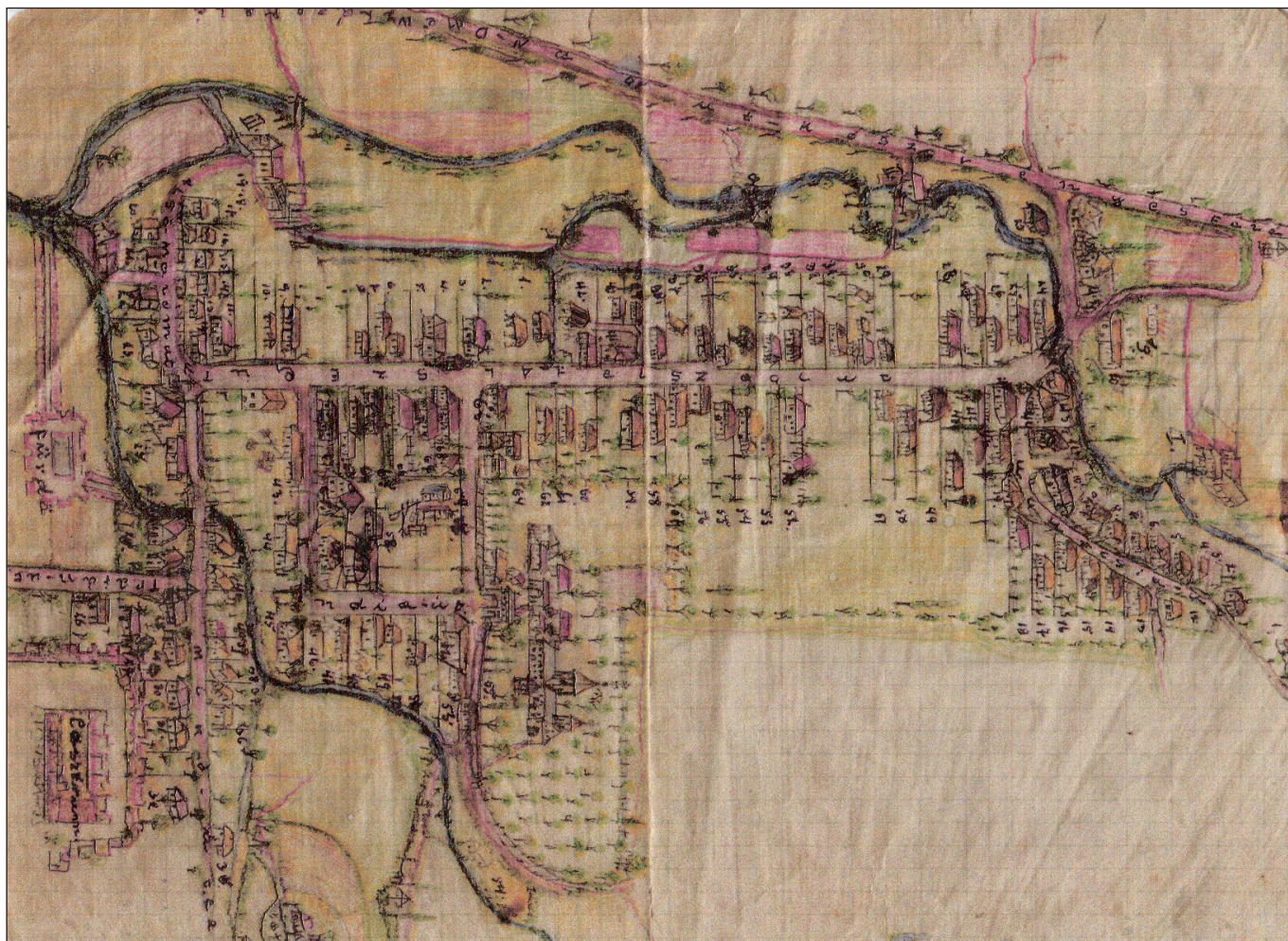


Fig. 4: Plan of Călugăreni made by pater Antal Lokody (Pánczél, Szilámér-Péter: *The Roman Fort from Călugăreni (Mureș County, Romania)*. In: *LIMES XXII. Proceedings of the 22nd International Congress of Roman Frontier Studies Ruse, Bulgaria, September 2012*, eds. Vagalinski, Lydmil – Sharankov, Nicolay, 911, Fig. 2. Sofia: National Archaeological Institute with Museum, 2015.)

inscription discovered in 1847 and lost in 1848.<sup>5</sup> During his vast survey of the region, Balázs Orbán visited the site and mentioned that the ditches and the precinct walls of the rectangular fort were well preserved.<sup>6</sup> He underlined the fact that the fort had rounded corners with towers and two gates, both of them located centrally on the southern and northern precinct walls (probably the *porta principalis sinistra* and *porta principalis dextra*), and that the ruins from the central part of the fort (probably the *principia*) represent the residence of the commander (*praetorium*) and the troop quarters.

The first excavations undertaken in the fort of Mikháza took place in the spring of 1878 under the supervision of the abbot, Ferencz Kovács from Marosvásárhely/Târgu Mureș – a well-known collector of antiquities. Regarding these excavations, we have only a summary report written by the historian Farkas Deák.<sup>7</sup> According to this, parts of the *porta principalis sinistra* were excavated, where the remains of the stone doorstep and possible metal fittings belonging to a wooden door were identified. Beside this, at 2 m depth, a roughly worked, reclining funerary lion was discovered. During the excavations a fragmentary funerary inscription, an *umbo*, and other finds were also discovered.<sup>8</sup>

<sup>5</sup> Neigebaur, Johann Ferdinand: *Dacien aus den Ueberresten des klassischen Alterthums, mit besonderer Rücksicht auf Siebenbürgen* (Kronstadt: Johann Gött, 1851), 247–249; CIL III, 944; ILS 3748; IDR III-4, 215.

<sup>6</sup> Orbán Balázs, *A Székelyföld leírása. Történelmi, régészeti, természettajzi s népművelési szempontból* (Pest: Ráth Mór, 1870), IV, 88–89.

<sup>7</sup> Deák Farkas, *A mikházi ásatások/The excavations from Mikháza*. *Archaeologiai Értesítő* 12 (1878), 267–269.

<sup>8</sup> For the inscription, see CIL III, 7716; IDR III-4, 217.



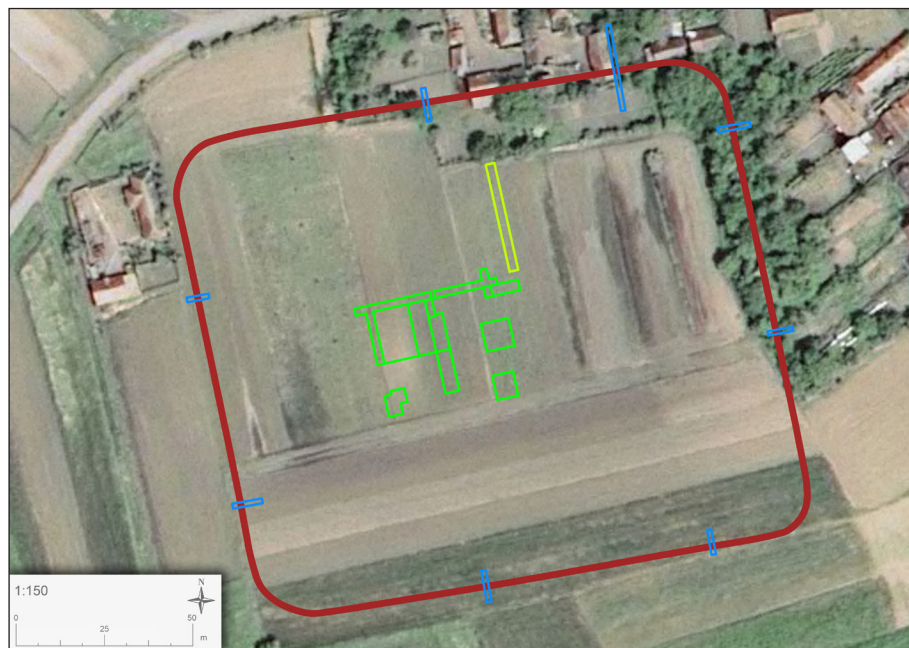


Fig. 5: Plan of the fort with the excavation (Made by: Laczkó, Nándor)

A plan drawn in 1901 by the Franciscan friar, *pater* Antal Lokody, is preserved in a private collection in Marosvásárhely, showing the village of Mikháza around 1885 (Fig. 4.). On the left side of this plan, parts of the northern, eastern and southern precinct walls of the fort were marked, together with a large building in the interior, probably representing the *principia* or the *praetorium*, or both.

In the nineteenth and the first half of the twentieth century, in synthesis papers about the history of Roman Dacia or the military history of the region, Mikháza was listed among the

important military sites of the province. In this period, fragments of a funerary inscription were published. It turned out that it was written as a *distichon*, attesting the taste of the provincial population for Latin poetry.<sup>9</sup>

During his survey on the eastern *limes* in 1942, the archaeologist, István Paulovics, visited Mikháza and, based on his field observations, described the accurate location of the fort and published a plan of the site.<sup>10</sup> Beside summarizing and correcting the already known data, he mentioned that during his visit, the south-western corner of the fort was still visible as a small heap.

The first systematic excavations in the fort were carried out in 1961 under the scientific supervision of Dumitru Protase. The purpose of the eight evaluation trenches (marked with blue on Fig. 5.) was to define the outlines and the phases of the fort. The precinct walls were sectioned, and it was established that the main gate, the *porta praetoria*, of the fort was oriented toward the east and that the fort covered an area of approximately 2.25 ha.<sup>11</sup> Based on a trench which sectioned all the defensive elements of the fort on the northern side, it was stated that the fort had an early earth-timber phase dated in the 2<sup>nd</sup> century AD and a later stone phase.<sup>12</sup>

In 2004, in the northeastern part of the military fort, research excavations were begun by the Mureș County Museum under the scientific supervision of Nicoleta Man. The trench (marked with yellow on Fig. 5.) sectioned the *via principalis*, the gutter of the road, and a long building – probably a barrack – with six rooms.<sup>13</sup>

The geomagnetic measurements carried out in 2008 covered most of the fort. Based on the interpretation of the authors, it includes all the typical elements of a Roman auxiliary fort.<sup>14</sup>

<sup>9</sup> CIL III, 7716 = 12552; IDR III-4, 216.

<sup>10</sup> Paulovics István: *Dacia keleti határvonala és az úgynevezett "dák" ezüstkincsek kérdése/The eastern border of Dacia and the issue of so-called "Dacian" hoards* (Kolozsvár: Minerva, 1944), 32–38, 5. kép.

<sup>11</sup> Protase, Dumitru: Castrul roman de la Călugăreni (r. Târgu Mureș). Săpăturile din anul 1961. *Acta Musei Napocensis* 2 (1965), 209–214.

<sup>12</sup> Protase, Dumitru: Castrul roman de la Călugăreni (r. Târgu Mureș). Săpăturile din anul 1961. *Acta Musei Napocensis* 2 (1965), 212.

<sup>13</sup> S1 evaluation trench, see Man, Nicoleta – Crișan, Coralia – Cioată, Daniel: 64. Călugăreni, com. Eremitu, jud. Mureș. Punct: Castrul Roman. *Cronica Cercetărilor Arheologice din România. Campania 2004* (2005), 101–102; Man, Nicoleta: Ceramica șampilată descoperită în castrul roman de la Călugăreni. *Marisia* 28 (2006), 113–117.

<sup>14</sup> Popa, Alexandru – Cociș, Sorin – Klein, Christina – Gaiu, Corneliu – Man, Nicoleta: Geophysikalische Prospektionen in Ostsiebenbürgen. Ein deutsch-rumänisch-moldauisches Forschungsprojekt an der Ostgrenze der römischen Provinz Dacia. *Ephemeris Napocensis* 20 (2010), 108–110, 124, Abb. 10–12.

On the grounds of the tile stamps with the abbreviation *CPAI* discovered at Mikháza, it has been recently concluded that an auxiliary infantry unit, the *cohors I Augusta Ituraeorum*, was stationed in the fort during the 2<sup>nd</sup> and the 3<sup>rd</sup> century AD, and the tile stamps of the *legio XIII Gemina* and the *cohors I Alpinorum* most likely represent dispatch materials.<sup>15</sup>

### RECENT EXCAVATIONS AT THE MILITARY HEADQUARTERS

Since 2011, excavations have been carried out in the military headquarters (*principia*) of the auxiliary fort (area A), the bathhouse (area B), and the northern part of the military settlement (area C). These excavations are still in progress and the results of the field campaigns were published in preliminary excavation reports or shorter papers.<sup>16</sup>

The archaeological excavations undertaken in the headquarters (*principia*) of the auxiliary fort at Mikháza followed a strategy determined by two important factors: the scientific research of the building and the detailed registration of the planimetry and exterior stepping levels. This information was necessary for the planning of a protective building which will cover the structure as part of the future development of the archaeological park.

Five excavation campaigns (marked with green on *Fig. 5.*) were carried out mostly in the north-western quarter of the building, represented by the *aedes* and two of the back offices, the northern half of the *basilica*, and part of the courtyard. At the same time, the field researches led to the identification of the exterior stepping levels along all sides and the exact location of the four corners of the building. This approach was necessary since due to massive modern disturbances, this information was not clearly visible on the geophysical measurements.

The site was badly damaged by modern interventions ranging from the activity of thieves, which affected mostly the exterior wall of the *principia*, to contemporary agricultural works which were undertaken in the area of the Roman fort in the last century. For these reasons, most of the layers related to the last Roman phases of inhabitation are only partially preserved and could only be documented up to a certain extent. Most of the documented demolition layers represent re-depositions of the initial contexts during modern times.

<sup>15</sup> Piso, Ioan – Marcu, Felix: La cohors I Augusta Ituraeorum en Dacie. *Acta Musei Napocensis* 43–44/I (2006–2007 [2008]), 167–176; Sidó, Katalin – Ötvös, Koppány Bulcsú: New types of Roman stamped tiles from Călugăreni. In: *Archaeologia Transylvanica. Studia in honorem Stephani Bajusz*, eds. Dobos, Alpár – Petruț, Dávid – Berecki, Sándor – Vass, Lóránt – Pánczél, Szilamér Péter – Molnár-Kovács, Zsolt – Forisek, Péter (Cluj-Napoca – Târgu Mureș – Budapest: Transylvanian Museum Society – Mureș County Museum – Martin Opitz, 2015), 175–187.

<sup>16</sup> Pánczél, Szilamér-Péter – Höpken, Constanze – Fiedler, Manuel – Döhner, Gregor – Szabó, Máté – Lenkey, László – Man, Nicoleta: Forschungen am dakischen Ostlimes zwischen Brâncovenesti und Sărățeni. *Der Limes* 8/2 (2014), 23–27; Man, Nicoleta – Cioată, Daniel: Archaeological researches in the military vicus from Călugăreni. *Marisia* 32 (2012), 85–99; Man, Nicoleta – Cioată, Daniel – Crișan, Coralia – Pánczél, Szilamér – Cociș, Sorin: Călugăreni, com. Eremitu, jud. Mureș. Punct: 8. Vicusul castrului roman de la Călugăreni. *Cronica Cercetărilor Arheologice din România. Campania 2011* (2012) 34–37, 368; Man, Nicoleta – Cioată, Daniel – Crișan, Coralia – Pánczél, Szilamér – Cociș, Sorin: 10. Călugăreni, com. Eremitu, jud. Mureș. Punct: Vicusul castrului roman de la Călugăreni. *Cronica Cercetărilor Arheologice din România. Campania 2012* (2013) 36–38, 311; Man, Nicoleta – Pánczél, Szilamér – Cioată, Daniel – Crișan, Coralia – Cociș, Sorin – Fiedler, Manuel – Stürmer, Veit: 23. Călugăreni, jud. Mureș. Punct: Vicusul castrului roman de la Călugăreni. *Cronica Cercetărilor Arheologice din România. Campania 2013* (2014) 37–38, 281–284; Man, Nicoleta – Pánczél, Szilamér – Cioată, Daniel – Fiedler, Manuel – Crișan, Coralia – Cociș, Sorin – Mustăță, Silvia – Dobos, Alpár – Vass, Lóránd – Sidó, Kata – Ötvös, Koppány – Petruț, Dávid: 18. Castrul roman, termae și vicusul militar de la Călugăreni, jud. Mureș. Punct: Castrul roman, termae și vicusul militar. *Cronica Cercetărilor Arheologice din România. Campania 2014* (2015) 45–47, 336–340; Man, Nicoleta – Pánczél, Szilamér – Cioată, Daniel – Fiedler, Manuel – Crișan, Coralia – Cociș, Sorin – Mustăță, Silvia – Dobos, Alpár – Vass, Lóránd – Sidó, Kata – Ötvös, Koppány – Petruț, Dávid: 7. Călugăreni, jud. Mureș. Punct: Castrul roman, termae și vicusul militar de la Călugăreni. *Cronica Cercetărilor Arheologice din România. Campania 2015* (2016) 22–24; Man, Nicoleta – Pánczél, Szilamér – Cioată, Daniel – Fiedler, Manuel – Bonta, Coralia – Mustăță, Silvia – Dobos, Alpár – Vass, Lóránd – Sidó, Katalin – Ötvös, Koppány – Petruț, Dávid – Daczó, Levente – Nyulas, Dorottya – Burckhardt, Britta – Grunwald, Marie-Hélène – Höpken, Constanze: 15. Călugăreni, com. Eremitu, jud. Mureș. Punct: Castrul roman, termae și vicusul militar de la Călugăreni. *Cronica Cercetărilor Arheologice din România. Campania 2016* (2017) 37–39.



Regarding the building as a whole, the excavations revealed the existence of two construction phases: an earlier one with a timber building, identified for the moment in the north-western part of the structure, and a later one with stone features. The absolute chronology of the two phases cannot be established since no dating elements related to the building or the destruction of the timber structures have been identified. Regarding the construction of the building, during the stone phase two main techniques were used. The foundations of the exterior wall of the *principia* together with the shrine which housed the standards of the unit (*aedes*), back offices, and *basilica* were built from masonry using irregularly shaped and randomly placed uncut volcanic stones, river cobbles, and mortar (*opus incertum* technique). The part surrounding the courtyard, towards the *via principalis*, consisted of a cobble foundation bound with clay and a timber-adobe elevation. As a general observation, it can be said that all the areas investigated so far, and belonging to the stone *principia*, were destroyed by fire.



Fig. 6. The excavation area in 2013 with the *aedes* (Pánczél, Szilamér-Péter – Höpken, Constanze – Fiedler, Manuel – Döhner, Gregor – Szabó, Máté – Lenkey, László – Man, Nicoleta: *Forschungen am dakischen Ostlimes zwischen Brâncovenesti und Sărățeni*. *Der Limes* 8/2 (2014), 26)

The archaeological research of the *principia* started with the investigation of the western part of the building (Fig. 6.). Next to the *aedes* two offices positioned towards the north were identified. The *aedes*, shaped as an apse on the inside, was not entirely uncovered during excavations and, for the moment, its southern limit can only be presumed based on the geophysical measurements. It was provided with a floor made of very small pieces of tiles and bricks, mixed with mortar and then beaten down with a rammer (*opus signinum* technique) – heavily affected by modern interventions. The two northern offices had floors made of clay. The first one, next to the *aedes*, was provided with a brick platform in the middle, very probably used as a base for a mobile fireplace. The room was provided with a window on the western wall which was found broken on the floor. The postholes identified inside the room could be related to a system of shelves for the archives of the unit. No finds or features which could establish the functionality of the second office have been identified so far. Access to the first office was possible directly from the *basilica* and the second one could be accessed through the first office. The traces of the entrances were not preserved, but the imprints of the two thresholds, stolen during modern times, were documented during excavations. The *aedes* was accessed from the *basilica* by means of a small monumental entrance consisting of a masonry base, possibly for a timber or adobe fence, limited to the south by two square foundations made of bricks and stones on which, very probably, votive altars were positioned. Given the fact that the middle axis of the *aedes* also represents the axis of the building, it is to be expected that a similar small structure will be identified as the excavations are extended towards the south. Parts of the southernmost office from the back of the *principia* were identified during the 2016 campaign, carried out to locate the south-western corner of the building. The interior of the room was divided at a certain point with the help of a narrower wall, an action which determined the appearance of a limited space in the corner (measuring 1.1 m in width) which might have functioned as a staircase or a corridor. More than 100 m<sup>2</sup> from the northern part of the *basilica* has been excavated until now. The room had a massive roof, partially identified as being collapsed inside the room and above the gravel alley and the courtyard positioned north and east of the building. The excavations focused until now on late activities, namely the layers related to the disuse of the structure (demolitions and destructions) and the walking levels of the stone *basilica* (Fig. 7.).



Fig. 7. The excavation area in 2016  
(Made by: Pánczél, Szilámér-Péter)

The existence of timber structures anterior to the stone *principia* was documented for the first time during the 2014 campaign. The scarce information regarding the existence of timber phases for the headquarters of Roman forts in general determined the beginning of detailed research in this area. The results of the later campaigns revealed the existence of a tribunal made of timber-adobe walls, provided with a row of posts along the southern side to support its weight. The inside of the structure was plastered, including the sealing. The floor, made of clay, was very likely covered at least partially with a row of planks which were burned at a certain point (Fig. 8.). The tribunal was positioned, very likely, in the north-western corner of the timber *basilica*, but the exact plan of the timber phase will have to be researched farther towards west during the next campaigns.

The information regarding the eastern part of the *principia*, towards *via principalis*, is scarce at the present state of the research. The trenches which were opened to locate the entrance, the north-eastern corner, and south-eastern corner of the building offered data which can be related to the existence of a portico in front of the building. The areas around the building led to the identification of gravel alleys and roads on all sides.

As mentioned above, intense modern activities on the site did not allow a proper preservation of the most recent phases. For this reason, the structure of the tribunal, the platform of the commanding officer in the *basilica*, was only partially identified. However, the structural elements identified at the northern end of the *basilica* suggest that during the stone phase, the tribunal was positioned in the same area as the tribunal of the timber phase, namely in the north-western corner of the room, attached to the western precinct wall. Regarding the courtyard, the walking levels inside were identified as being much lower in comparison with the *basilica*. Along the northern and the southern side of the courtyard, the excavations allowed the identification of lateral offices and a portico positioned in front of them.



Fig. 8. The tribunal from the timber phase  
(Made by: Pánczél, Szilámér-Péter)

## THE TIME BOX PAVILIONS AND THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL PARK

In 2015, due to a collaborative effort between the local and county authorities, the first steps have been made to stop the agricultural exploitation on a few hectares of meadow, and to establish the archaeological park of Mikháza. The Mureș County Museum administrates the park and its purpose is to protect the unexcavated archaeological features and give us the opportunity to develop concepts on how to conserve and present the excavated remains.<sup>17</sup> Since the inauguration of the park, information boards brief visitors

<sup>17</sup> Related to the architectural concepts for the development of the archaeological park, see: Gaul, Cicelle – Sági, Gergely – Vasáros, Zsolt (szerk.): *Identitás és kultúra : Identity and Culture*. Ipartanszék füzetek No. 1 (Budapest: BME, 2014); Gaul, Cicelle – Vasáros, Zsolt (szerk.): *Identitás és kultúra<sup>2</sup> : Identity and Culture<sup>2</sup>*. Ipartanszék füzetek No. 3 (Budapest: BME 2015); Gaul, Cicelle – Vasáros, Zsolt (szerk.): *Identitás és kultúra<sup>3</sup> : Identity and Culture<sup>3</sup>*. Ipartanszék füzetek No. 4 (Budapest: BME 2016).



about the major components of the site, and since 2016, two wooden buildings called TIME BOX pavilions are hosting the permanent exhibitions of the site. The pavilions are the first architectural features of the park, and the design was made as part of a student competition organized by the Budapest University of Technology and Economics. Participants were meant to propose innovative solutions for the presentation of the Roman ruins of Mikháza in an unconventional space and to allow the visitors to detach themselves from the present to participate in a sort of time travel. Since then, the two pavilions have become popular landmark features in the rural environment of the village and emblematic buildings of the archaeological park (Fig. 9).

The exhibitions in the two pavilions are focusing on the auxiliary fort and the military unit – respectively the bathing and the healthcare customs of the Roman age. Visitors can also receive insight into the results of the archaeological investigations carried out in Mikháza and different aspects of Roman civilian and military daily life on the *limes*.



Fig. 9. The TIME BOX pavilions with the team from 2017  
(Made by: Pánczél, Szilamér-Péter)

#### LITERATURE

HÖPKEN, CONSTANZE – PÁNCZÉL, SZILAMÉR-PÉTER – SZABÓ, MÁTÉ – SZABÓ, ANDRÁS – FIEDLER, MANUEL – DÖHNER, GREGOR – KOSZA, ANTAL

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