

THE ARCHEOLOGICAL RESEARCHES FROM BUCOȘNIȚA

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Cuvinte cheie: arheologie preventivă, Bucușnița, construcție romană
Key words: preventive archaeology, Bucușnița, roman building

Caransebeș Depression is represented through a hill relief. It opens with the passing of the plateau called “*Câmpul Fomiș*”, placed between two villages: Ilova and Slatina Timiș. On one side of the Caransebeș Depression there is the Semenice Mountain and on the other side the Țarcu Mountain¹.

At the ground of this plateau, as we mentioned before, opens Timiș flood plain, which is a prolongation of the Timis plain towards the Caransebeș Depression.

The contemporary villages Bucușnița, Petroșnița, Vălișoara and Timiș Vallay (Cârpa) are spread at the base of the hills representing extensions of the Țarcu Mountain or the Semenice Mountain.

Through the middle of this depression flows the Timiș River, the most important river from Banat. Along the time this area represented an important interest for archeologists and historians. Scientific explorers recorded marks of the prehistoric period and of the Roman times. We recommended for research the territory between the Bolvasnita brook and Ilova brook, on a length of almost 7 km (pl. I). In this area there were recorded the following discoveries:

1. Bolvasnita. Poll made in 1968 by Florin Medeleț who discovered a brick with the stamp MID.²

2. Bucușnița.

A. The point called *Șes* lies on the 2nd platform of the Timiș river³, where were recorded marks of brickwork with mortar and tiles.

B. In the point called *La Numere*, which incorporates the subject that we deal with, lies along the National Road of Romania DN6 on the route București –

¹ Caraș-Severin 1981, 9-11.

² IDR III/1, XXVII, 141.

³ Petrovsky / Munteanu, 1979, 431.

Timișoara, which is situated at approximately 1 km South from the crossroad with the road of Buceșnița⁴.

3. Goleț (Buceșnița village). In this point was discovered a hoard dated in the time of Gallienus (253-254 p.Hr). *The hoard discovered in 1840, by a country woman named Maria Terebuga, while digging a corn field, was hidden in a chest*⁵.

4. Petroșnița (Buceșnița village). In this point there is a Roman building, which lies at 200 meters west from the land mark on DN 6 which indicates kilometer 10 to Caransebeș. It was incompletely studied in 1995⁶.

5. Timiș Valley (Cârpa). In this point there had been recorded marks of Roman materials since the end of the 19th century⁷. In the year 2006, when the network of drinking water was introduced in the village, at the entrance of the settlement near the house of Munteanu's family were revealed marks of Roman walls bound with mortar, bricks and Roman pottery. A summary archeological investigation was made, which revealed a Roman river stone wall bound with mortar orientated east-west, crab of 0,90m⁸.

6. Vălișoara (Buceșnița village). In the point called Șes, which lies at approximately 400 meters south-west from the village were recorded marks of tiles and fragments of pottery⁹.

7. Vârciorova (Bolvașnița village). In the point called *La Copaci* were recorded stone walls bound with mortar, tiles and pottery material¹⁰.

Following, we are referring only to the researches made in the point called *La Numere*, which lies right of the Buceșnița village and recorded as being along the road DN6. When this important portion of the road line was modernized in the autumn of 2006 there appeared the marks of Roman constructions.

In a first stage we initiated making a section of 30 X 2 m North-South (fig. 1), a parallel section with the national road, revealing 6 wall of which 4 of river stone bound with mortar and 2 of limestone and bricks.

⁴ Petrovszky / Munteanu, 1979, 431-432.

⁵ Medelet 1994, 262.

⁶ Ardet 2000, 217-222.

⁷ Tudor 1968, 36.

⁸ The research collectivity is formed by A. Ardet, Lucia Ardet and Flavius Muntean.

⁹ Petrovszky / Munteanu, 1979, 435.

¹⁰ Bozu/Munteanu/Petrovski 1982, 328.

This situation required enlargement of the section towards west with 4 more meters. After this change we succeeded to catch 3 quadrilateral rooms noted by us with *A, B, C* (pl. II). We mention that these diggings were not finalized due to the unfavorable weather conditions¹¹. We hope to begin as soon as possible the study of this important archeological point.

Due to this impediment in our research we succeeded in getting to only 1 meter depth overtaking a stratigraphic situation which can be changed. In this conditions the first level surprised us by its depth of 1 m. It is composed of a yellow loam mixed with sand, thick of approximately 0,30-0,40m. This situation appears outside the rooms, more exactly in the small squares 1-4, 12-17, 23-25. Over this level there is a section of ruins composed by stones and mortar outside the buildings. Inside the buildings this section is composed by tiles bound with stones from the walls, thick of 0, 30-0,40m. Over these archeological there levels is the modern earth, thick of appreciatively 0,20m.

Room *A* is composed by two parallel walls, which lies at a distance of 6 m one by the other (fig. 1). These walls are made of river stone bound with mortar and are 0,75m thick. These walls are closed with a stone wall, tighter than the one mentioned before, with a thickness of 0,50m. Inside these walls we succeeded to discover in the northern side the floor made of bricks with the dimensions of 42X27 cm. In the south of this building the floor is composed by smaller bricks with the dimensions of 22X22cm. In the middle of the room the brick layer was destroyed by some locals who made some modern sounding.

The second room noted by us with *B* lies at 5 meters south of the building *A* and has a rectangular form with the dimensions of 6 X 5,7m. The northern wall and the southern one are 0,75m thick and the eastern one and the western one are 0,50m thick. The walls are made of river stone bound with mortar. The third room discovered during these researches is in the most far southern side of the section and was surprised in the small squares 26-30 (Fig. 2).

This building is composed by two parallel walls made of limestone and brick bound with mortar. They are 0,90m thick, being closed by a similar wall destroyed in modern times. We mention that this building had outside four alternative sections of opus signium and plaster. In the interior these walls were lined with pieces of marble boot. We suppose it was a water basin.

¹¹ The researches started at the middle of September and developed during October.

Discovers made at Bucoşniţa were not very generous with archeological material, even if this material (pottery, ferrum, coins) missed completely. The only discovers that deserve a special attention is represented by a brick which has printed the stamp *MID*¹² (fig. 3) with the dimensions 23 X 19 cm and thickness of 5 cm. A piece of brick has only the letter *M* stamped, which comes also from a brick with the stamp *MID*.

Except these two bricks, two pieces of tiles were discovered, with the stamp *G T I*¹³ (fig. 4), having the printed letters in a cartridge with the dimensions of 8 X 3, 5cm.

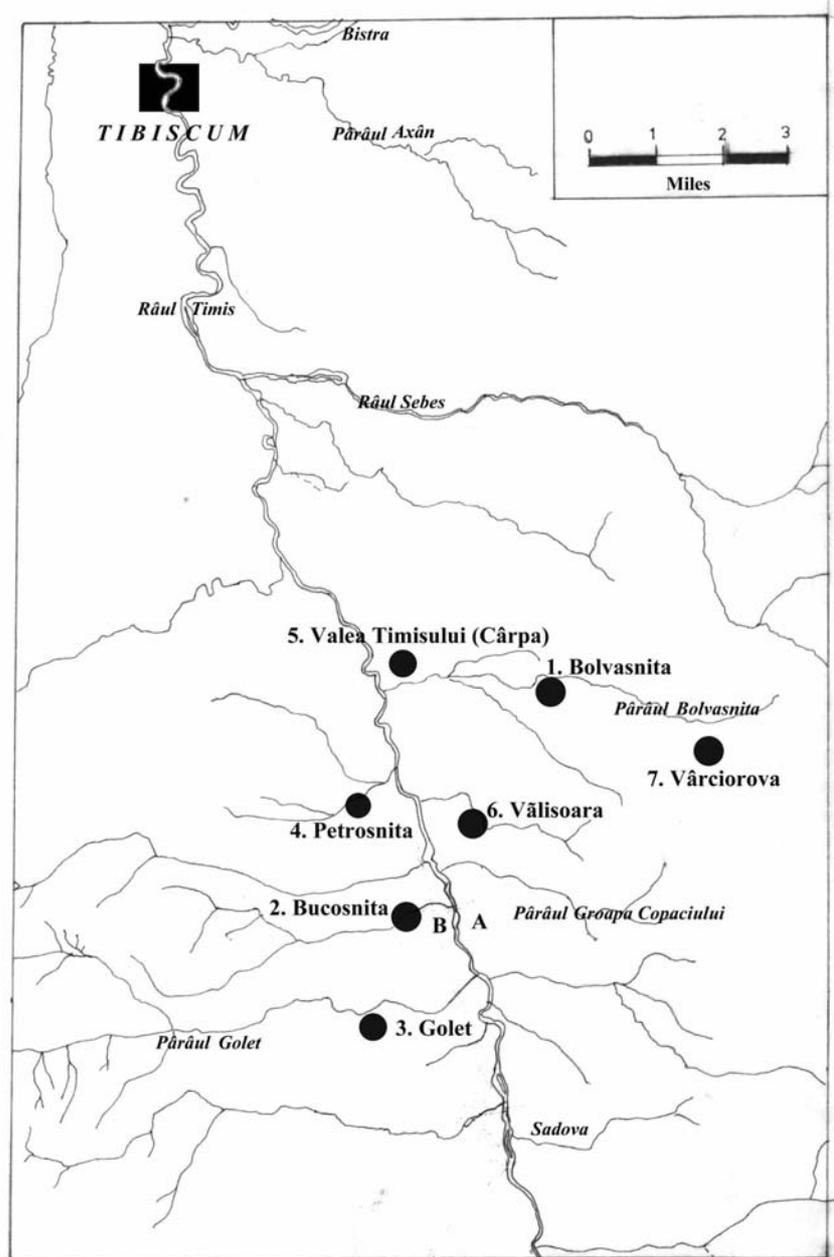
The archeological researches made in Bucoşniţa at the point called *La Numere* represent a big step in knowing the area, even if they were not exhausted and the archeological discovers were not very rich. These researches together with the one from Petroşniţa and Timiş Valley inscribe in a larger area that will be further studied. We say that this is very probably the Roman settlement of *Mascliane*, which lies at a distance of 14 miles from *Tibiscum*. In this stage of the research we suppose we have a *villa rustica*.

¹² IDR III/1, 263.

¹³ IDR III/1, 261.

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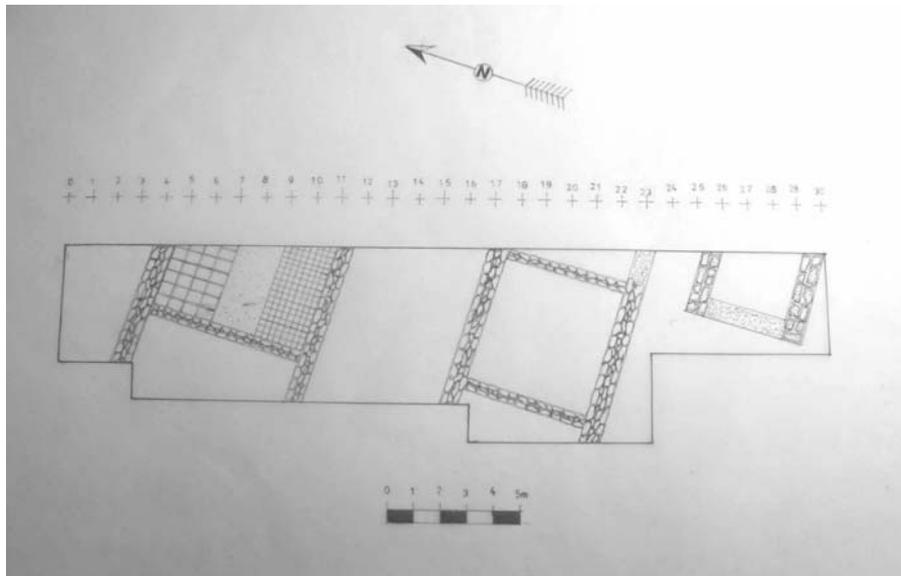
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Pl. I. Map of Caransebeș Depression.



Fig. 1. Bucsoșița “La Numere”. Archeological researches 2006.



Pl. II. Bucoșnița "La Numere". Plan of archeological researches 2006.



Fig. 2. Bucoșnița "La Numere". The Bath



Fig. 3. Bucsoșița "La Numere". The Stamp *MID*



Fig. 4. Bucsoșița "La Numere". The Stamp *GTI*