

Ioan Carol Opreș  
Alexandru Rațiu

---

**CAPIDAVA II**  
**Building C1 – Contributions to**  
**the history of *annona militaris***  
**in the 6<sup>th</sup> century**

Ioan Carol Opreș

Alexandru Rațiu

# CAPIDAVA II

Building C1 – Contributions to  
the history of *annona militaris*  
in the 6<sup>th</sup> century



With contributions by:

Andrei Gândilă, Tomasz Ważny, Peter I. Kuniholm,  
Charlotte L. Pearson, Adriana Rizzo and Choi Mak

MEGA PUBLISHING HOUSE

Cluj-Napoca

2017

# CONTENTS

---

LIST OF FIGURES.....	9
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS.....	11
1. INTRODUCTION.....	13
2. BUILDING C1. THE EXCAVATION: ARCHITECTURE, STRATIGRAPHY AND FINDS.....	25
2.1. <i>General information</i> .....	25
2.2. <i>Perimetral walls; the upper structure and the roof</i> .....	27
2.3. <i>Archaeological Contexts and Stratigraphy</i> .....	29
2.4. <i>Archaeological context of the finds</i> .....	30
2.5. <i>The sondages in Room III (2011, 2014)</i> .....	36
3. CHRONOLOGY ISSUES. COINS, POTTERY ASSEMBLAGE, DENDROCHRONOLOGY..	41
4. FUNCTIONAL ANALYSIS OF BUILDING C1. COMMERCIAL BUILDINGS IN <i>SCYTHIA AND MOESIA SECUNDA</i> .....	45
5. THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL OBJECTS.....	53
5.1. <i>Structural remains</i> .....	53
5.2. <i>The pottery</i> .....	63
5.3. <i>Ceramic lamps</i> .....	106
5.4. <i>Glass objects</i> .....	113
5.5. <i>Bronze vessel</i> .....	117
5.6. <i>Militaria and other fittings</i> .....	119
5.7. <i>Household utensils</i> .....	124
5.8. <i>Tools and implements</i> .....	137
5.9. <i>Miscellanea</i> .....	146
5.10. <i>Epigraphic finds</i> .....	148
5.11. <i>The pottery from the medieval context (9<sup>th</sup>–11<sup>th</sup> c. AD)</i> .....	157
ANNEX I. A HOARD OF SIXTH-CENTURY COPPERS AND THE END OF ROMAN <i>CAPIDAVA</i> (BY ANDREI GÂNDILĂ).....	161
ANNEX II. DENDROCHRONOLOGY OF THE EARLY BYZANTINE FORT AT <i>CAPIDAVA</i> (BY TOMASZ WAŻNY, PETER I. KUNIHOLM AND CHARLOTTE L. PEARSON).....	175
ANNEX III. EXAMINATION AND ANALYSIS REPORT (BY ADRIANA RIZZO AND CHOI MAK).....	183
ABBREVIATIONS OF PERIODICALS AND SERIES.....	189
BIBLIOGRAPHY.....	191

## LIST OF FIGURES

---

- Fig. 1. Lower Danube provinces during the Dominate (4<sup>th</sup>–6<sup>th</sup> c.)
- Fig. 2. Aerial photograph (2015)
- Fig. 3. *Notitia Dignitatum imperii romani* (Basel?, circa 1436): Paris, Bibliothèque Nationale de France. Manuscripts. Latin 9661 (fol. 101 verso)
- Fig. 4. General Plan (FLORESCU, FLORESCU, DIACONU 1958, Pl. I)
- Fig. 5. General Plan (2017)
- Fig. 6. Southern quarter (6<sup>th</sup> – early 7<sup>th</sup> c.)
- Fig. 7. First excavations of the *Horreum* and identification of Building C1 (FLORESCU 1945–1947, Pl. I)
- Fig. 8. The *Horreum* from *Capidava* (4<sup>th</sup>–6<sup>th</sup> c.)
- Fig. 9. Eastern Sector (Sectors II, IV, V – 2017)
- Fig. 10. 1–2. Ditch of the Late Roman Fort (end of the 6<sup>th</sup> – early 7<sup>th</sup> c.) cut through contexts from Room I and II of Building C1
- Fig. 11. The province of *Scythia*, 4<sup>th</sup>–6<sup>th</sup> centuries (after SUCEVEANU, BARNEA 1991, 291)
- Fig. 12. Plan of Building C1 with *Horreum*, the Main Gate and the Gate Tower No. 7 (6<sup>th</sup> c.) by Anișoara Sion (2009)
- Fig. 13. Plan of Building C1
- Fig. 14. Room III. Levelling course of bricks at top of Z3 wall (detail)
- Fig. 15. Room III. Limestone blocks from the facing of Gate Tower No. 7 (?) next to Z6 interior wall (detail)
- Fig. 16. Adobe bricks blocking the passage between Room I and III
- Fig. 17. North-East – South-West profile through Building C1 illustrating the archaeological contexts
- Fig. 18. 1–2. Collapsed roof in Room III (details)
- Fig. 19. Charred roof beam in Room III
- Fig. 20. 1. Group of amphorae discovered in 2007 next to Z4 wall (from right to left Cat. No. 37, 66, 62, 63 and unnumbered LRA 2). Underneath the vessels one can observe a charred wooden board; 20.2. A group of amphorae discovered in 2008 next to Z2 wall. The group was covered in a thick layer of burned debris and ashes (from left to right Cat. No. 60, 61, 36, 46 and 51)
- Fig. 21. Hoard of copper coins in a wooden box on threshold between Room III and I (2008/ 2009)
- Fig. 22. Felting mill from Room III
- Fig. 23. Early-byzantine vertical loom (reconstruction)
- Fig. 24.1–2. Floor-screed in Room II (up left and right); floor screed in Room III (marked down left)
- Fig. 25. Sondages in Room III (1/2011 and 2/2014)
- Fig. 26.1–5. Sondage 1 (2011)
- Fig. 27.1–5. Sondage 2 (2014)
- Fig. 28. Middle Byzantine Sunken dwelling (No. 342) superposing Room III and Z6 wall (1993). Drawing by A. Sion
- Fig. 29. 1–2. Distribution of *spatheia*, LRA 1 and LRA 2 amphorae in the *Horreum*, portico and Building C1
- Fig. 30. 1–2. Distribution of Oriental amphorae (LRA 3, LRA 4, Cretan TRC 4 and Riley LR 14) in the *Horreum*, portico and Building C1; distribution of Pontic amphorae Antonova V/ Kuzmanov XVI and Kuzmanov XIV in the *Horreum*, portico and Building C1
- Fig. 31.1–2. Aerial photograph (2014) with *Principia*, *Horreum*, Building C1, Gate Tower No. 7 and Main Gate on the right-hand side; Building C1 and the main street (2010)

## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

---

This volume was published within the framework of LIMES National Research Programme, supported by the Romanian Ministry of Culture and National Identity. Therefore we would like to thank our friends and colleagues Ovidiu Țentea and Felix Marcu for their support in publishing this work. Special thanks go to: Constantin Băjenaru (MINAC); Sebastian Corneanu (Lucian Blaga University in Sibiu); Mihai Duca (Bucharest); + Arch. Cătălin Georgescu (Bucharest); Iulia Iliescu (University of Bucharest); Marian Mocanu (ICEM, Tulcea); Andrei Opaț (Toronto); Dorel Paraschiv (ICEM, Tulcea); Prof. Constantin C. Petolescu (Bucharest); Mihai Popescu (CNRS, Paris); Raluca Popescu (Muzeul Municipiului București, Bucharest); Tiberiu Potârniche (MINAC); Arch. Anișoara Sion (Bucharest); Gabriel Stoian (Bucharest); Valeriu Toma (Bucharest); Mihai Vasile (MNIR Bucharest); Dan Vasilescu (MINAC); Florica Zaharia (former Conservator in Charge of the Department of Textile Conservation, The Metropolitan Museum of Art). For the topographic measurements, we owe thanks to Mihai Florea (MNIR Bucharest); some of the drawings have been made by Jeni Efimov (ICEM, Tulcea), Cătălina Petolescu (Bucharest) and Ingrid Petcu (MINAC).

Prof. Florin Curta (University of Florida), Olga Karagiorgou (Research Centre for Byzantine and Post-Byzantine Art of the Academy of Athens – AA-KEBMT), Andrei Opaț (Toronto), Prof. Dominique Pieri (Université Paris 1, Panthéon-Sorbonne), Efthymios Rizos (University of Oxford) offered key contributions in the last two decades tackling the history of the Balkans in the 6<sup>th</sup> c., Late Roman and Early Byzantine pottery or precisely *quaestura Iustiniana exercitus* and *horrea*. They have been all inspiring and surely of great help to our approach.

Andrei Gandilă (University of Alabama in Huntsville) provided us with the numismatic analysis; Adriana Rizzo (Asso c. Research Scientist, Dept. of Scientific Research, The Metropolitan Museum of Art) and Choi Mak (former Dept. of Scientific Research, The Metropolitan Museum of Art, now Barnard College, University of Columbia) took charge of the examination and drafting the analysis report for a sample that showed pine tar as main content of a Pontic amphora found inside our Building C1; last, but not least, Prof. Tomasz Ważny (Laboratory of Tree-Ring Research, University of Arizona, Tucson, Arizona and Institute for the Study, Conservation and Restoration, Nicolaus Copernicus University, Toruń, Poland), with Prof. Peter I. Kuniholm and Charlotte L. Pearson (Laboratory of Tree-Ring Research, University of Arizona, Tucson, Arizona) offered the dendrochronology analysis of the samples taken from the charred roof timbers. All of them are contributors to this volume and deserve our deepest gratitude.

It is appropriate to mention the names of our former students who took part at the excavations of Building C1 from 1993–1996 and 2006–2010: Radu Bălănescu, Dan Bogăție, Alessandro Flavio Dumitrașcu, Ingrid Enache, Iulian Ganciu, Luciana Ghindă, Ioana Iulia Manea, Flori Marin, Luciana Moisescu, Peter Osip, Alexandra Ion, Claudia Miler, Alexandru Robea etc.

Last, but not least, we are thankful to Alina Rațiu for the English translation of most parts of this volume.

This book became possible due to the institutional support from the National Museum of Romanian History in Bucharest (MNIR), from former Romanian Institute of Thracology (now Thracology Department within the Vasile Pârvan Institute of Archaeology of the Romanian Academy) and from the University of Bucharest (UB), either by financing the archaeological campaigns or by sustaining the summer fieldwork with students.

Ioan C. Opreș  
Alexandru Rațiu