

# PRELIMINARY RESULTS OF THE EXCAVATIONS AT HISTRIA, THE ACROPOLIS CENTRE-SOUTH SECTOR (2013–2014)

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**Keywords:** Histria, Late Roman period, Acropolă Centru-Sud, Late Roman domestic architecture, Later Roman urbanism, Late Roman streets.

**Abstract:** This paper focuses on the results of excavations undertaken by the team of archaeologists of the University of Bucharest in the Acropolă Centru-Sud Sector at Histria (Constanța County). The general stratigraphy so far consists of the vegetal layer, under which there are two layers of debris marking the initial moment of destruction and the moment of the final collapse after the abandon of the buildings affected by the fire. Underneath we identified the living surfaces of the last dwelling level, of which we have identified a large Late Roman building (*CR01*) S of *street c*. The latter has at least two construction phases, as well as two streets to its E and W (*ST01* and *ST02*). *ST02* also has two construction phases; the first is perpendicular to *street c*, and was probably paved with large stone slabs, while the second is oblique to it and it is made up of a highly solidified layer of stones bound with earth, covered by a highly solidified layer of yellow clay (the same structure was identified in *ST01*).

**Cuvinte-cheie:** Histria, perioada romană târzie, Acropolă Centru-Sud, arhitectură domestică romană târzie, urbanism roman târziu, străzi romane târzii.

**Rezumat:** Articolul prezintă rezultatele săpăturilor efectuate de către echipa arheologică a Universității din București în Sectorul Acropolă Centru-Sud, la Histria (jud. Constanța). Până acum, stratigrafia generală a sectorului constă în stratul vegetal, sub care au fost identificate două straturi de dărâmătură, cel inferior din momentul inițial al distrugerii ultimului nivel constructiv, iar cel superior din momentul ruinării finale a clădirilor distruse, după abandonul și, eventual, spolierea clădirilor din zonă. Dedeșubt au apărut nivelurile de călcare ale ultimului nivel constructiv de la Histria, din care am descoperit o clădire de epocă romană târzie de mari dimensiuni (*CR01*) la S de *strada c*. Aceasta din urmă are cel puțin două faze constructive și este flancată de două străzi la E și V (*ST01* și *ST02*). *ST02* are și ea două faze constructive; prima este perpendiculară pe *strada c* și era probabil pavată cu dale mari de piatră, în timp ce a doua este oblică (are o deviație către V) față de prima fază și are o substrucție puternic solidificată de pietre legate cu pământ, suprapusă de un strat puternic solidificat de lut galben (această structură a fost identificată și la *ST01*).

## THE PROJECT

In 2013 the authors of this paper obtained financing from the University of Bucharest for an initial four-year archaeological research program at Histria (Constanța County). This includes the excavation proper, as well as student training. The permanent team is formed by the authors of this paper; there are also members from other institutions, with different specialties (Late Roman pottery, architecture, numismatics etc.) who will rotate according to the historical period reached by the excavation. In 2013 three students took part in the excavation, as well as fifteen workers, and in 2014 twelve students and sixteen workers.

One of the reasons for starting this new excavation is the fact that, in spite of its important contribution in specialists and students to the research at Histria ever since the beginning of excavations, the University of Bucharest never coordinated its own sector on the site. Also, the three authors of this paper, all employed by the University, have been excavating for over 10 years at Histria, on sectors coordinated by other institutions. The University's sector will help consolidate its own research team, as well as one of practice for its undergraduate and graduate students.

## LOCATION OF THE SECTOR (Fig. 1)

The sector's location is extremely important, as it covers a surface of approximately 50×40 m (2000 m<sup>2</sup>), just S of the centre of the acropolis of Histria (and of *street c*), hence the sector's

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