

THE *HISTRIA SUD* SECTOR. RECENT ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESEARCH ON AN ‘IMPOSING’ EARLY ROMAN PUBLIC BUILDING

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Abstract: In 1961, Nubar Hamparțumian resumed the archaeological research in the *Basilica extra muros* Sector at Histria. Among the discoveries made between 1961–1964 were the ruins of an ‘imposing’ Early Roman public building dated to the 3rd c. AD. The ruins were three 1.95m-wide wall segments, discovered in three different parts of the sector.

In 2010 the author of the present paper extended northwards the research in the *Histria Sud* Sector where, in collaboration with the neighbouring sector (the *Basilica extra muros* Sector, coordinated by dr. Viorica Rusu-Bolindeț), three new main trenches were excavated on a N–S orientation, spanning from the southern limit of the archaeological site up to the early Christian basilica. In 2012–2013 we discovered seven segments of the same Early Roman building in sections S3b, S5, S6 and S7. When measured on a plan, all these segments belong to the same building discovered in the 1960s. By corroborating all the construction elements discovered up to the present moment, we obtain a public building of 90 × 20m. Future archaeological research will clarify the plan and function of this impressive building.

Cuvinte-cheie: Histria, Sector Sud, edificiu public, perioada romană timpurie, necropole.

Rezumat: În anul 1961, Nubar Hamparțumian relua săpăturile arheologice din sectorul *Basilica extra muros* de la Histria. Printre descoperirile făcute de acesta între anii 1961–1964 se numără și vestigiile unui „impunător edificiu” roman timpuriu, cu un caracter public, databil în secolul al III-lea p. Chr. Aceste vestigii erau reprezentate de trei segmente de ziduri cu lățimea de 1,95 m, descoperite în trei puncte diferite ale sectorului.

În anul 2010, cercetarea arheologică din Sectorul Sud de la Histria s-a extins spre nord, unde în colaborare cu sectorul vecin (*Basilica extra muros*, condus de Viorica Rusu-Bolindeț) au fost efectuate trei secțiuni magistrale pe direcția nord-sud, de la limita sudică a sitului arheologic și până la monumentul creștin timpuriu. În campaniile arheologice din anii 2012–2013 au fost descoperite șapte segmente ale aceluiași edificiu roman timpuriu, în secțiunile S3b, S5, S6 și S7. Planimetric, toate aceste tronsoane de ziduri aparțin aceleași clădiri descoperite

în anii '60. Prin coroborarea tuturor elementelor constructive dezvelite până în acest moment, s-ar contura un edificiu public cu dimensiunile de 90×20m, cercetările arheologice viitoare urmând să contribuie la clarificarea planului și a funcționalității acestei clădiri impresionante.

I. PREVIOUS ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESEARCH

In 1961 Nubar Hamparțumian resumed the research in the *Basilica extra muros* Sector at Histria (Pl. 1. 1). The first excavations in this sector were undertaken by Vasile Pârvan, who started to uncover in 1914 the only Christian monument located outside the Late Roman defence wall.¹ Between 1950 and 1953 the ditch of the Late Roman Rampart no. III was excavated and as a result the western front of the Hellenistic defence wall was uncovered, superposed by Early and Late Roman layers. Between 1955 and 1956 the archaeological research extended westwards in the perimeter bordered by the Hellenistic defence wall to the east and by the *Basilica extra muros* to the west. Several Late Roman buildings were discovered, as well as Late Roman graves while the *Basilica extra muros* was completely uncovered.²

Another research team active in the *extra muros* area was led by Nubar Hamparțumian between 1961 and 1964. The objectives set by the above-mentioned archaeologist when resuming the research in this sector were: establishing the stratigraphy in the area outside the Late Roman defence wall, in order to understand Histria's

¹ Pârvan 1915, p. 118–119.

² Nubar 1970, p. 193, n. 23.

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