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CHAPTER I

History of research on aristocratic houses of Dacia, 1st century B. C. – 1st A. C.

Until this moment, the subject was not directly addressed by any researcher, but a number of works have touched the issue of aristocratic houses on Dacia. Most numerous contributions have been limited at describing such buildings, from an archaeological perspective.

The overall historical writing on the topic of our work, we could identify more stages :

A. Antiquity

B. Beginnings (1803-1804)

C. Romantic Period (1806 – 1921)

D. Between positivist period (1921 – 1950)

E. 1950- 2000 period

F. New Period (2000- present)

A. Antiquity

One of the most ancient written sources on dacian architecture between 1st century B. C. – 1st century A. C., is Trajan's Column. Regarding the veracity of the representations, there were and still exists controversy. Some researchers thought that the scenes on the column as a fair representation of reality from Dacia of those times (Cichorius, Reinach, Davies, Antonescu, Christescu), in time others (Lehmann-Hartleben, Strong) thought as artistic work, that not presents the reality of those times (Antonescu 1984, p 190-191).

B. Beginnings (1803-1804)

First important archaeological research related by dacian civilization took place in Muntii Orăștiei between the years 1803 – 1804 and made by Austrian authorities with the purpose to stop the local serfs to search for treasures.

C. Romantic Period (1806 – 1921)

After what happened between years 1803-1806, since only 1838 can speak that was reopened interest for the ruins from Orăștie Mountains, once with the visit of Johann Michael Ackner, passionate researcher of archeological topography. After this visit, Ackner declare that the ruins from Grădiștea Muncelului are not of roman origin; he realised that the construction technique is more likely with the greek construction technique, which made possible a more precise dating.

D. Between positivist period (1921 - 1950)

In this period the research of Orăștiei mountains were conducted by specialized scientists in ancient history, from archaeology section of Institutului de Antichități Clasice of Universității din Cluj and from the section for Transilvania of Comisiunii Monumentelor Istorice.

In the summer of year 1921 D. M. Teodorescu, leaving from Orăștie up, on the valley Apei Orăștiei, of right side of the village Costești, he divides into three distinct groups: Costești group, the northeast; Grădiștea – Muncelului group, to south-east, Luncani group, to west. All form a triangle, that closes the superior part of the valleys.

E. 1950 - 2000 period

This period is characterized by a growing interest for study of the dacian civilization, the researches extending on a large scale in all the areas of preroman Dacia. The researches at dacian fortresses of Orăștie mountains were conducted at the beginning by Constantin Daicoviciu, between 1949-1972; then between 1973-1984 by Hadrian Daicoviciu, and then from the year 1985 until 2008 by Ioan Glodariu. To them were added over time other researchers, as members in the research team, their number ranging from year to year.

F. The Period (2000- present)

In this period had been made researches and published aristocratic houses from different centers: Meștești (Harghita county), V. Crișan, F. Costea; at Rașnov-Tipia

Ormenișului, the point La Tău, at Copăcel, in Brașov – Pietrele lui Solomon, at Breaza, at Râșnov F. Costea.

CHAPTER II

Dacian Kingdom

Regarding the relations between getae and dacians, the opinions are divided, as shown from the ranks above. One side ranks the researchers in years 1970-1980 (headed by C. Daicoviciu in Steaua- Cluj 18, 1967, 9, p 97-98), that support that the getae and dacians are the same nation, they have the same material culture, spiritual culture, language and history, the only difference been just the way they have been named by the greeks and the romans. In contradiction with these is situated Alexandru Vulpre, who in a study recently support the following: „ But appears quite clear that is 1st century B. C. in time of Burebista, getae and dacians made up two different groups not only territorial, who had acquired their own historical prestige.,,

Regarding the dacian kingdom, we could observe that was founded in 1st century B. C., under the lead of Burebista, who unified all the geto-dacian tribes around 70 B. C., some of them peacefully, others through fight; then around 60 B. C., started to north and south, then in 55 B. C. to Euxin harbor, managed to create the biggest kingdom of the geto-dacians, known under the name Dacian Kingdom.

Once with his death, around 44 B. C., the dacian kingdom crumbles into four, then into five political formations, which demonstrates that the time from unification was too short and not manage clotting fully of geto-dacian culture. This thing demonstrates that the tribes had a different culture and habits, being held united by force; once with the death of the ruler; they've returned to their initial form. Probably the kingdom lead by Burebista was composed by these five political formations in which crumbled, idea supported by Alexandru Vulpe.

Yet after the death of Burebista the Dacian Kingdom continued to survive, but on an restrained area – South-West of Transylvania, with the center in Orăștiei mountains. This thing is proven by a series of new discoveries made in south-east Transylvania, in Defileul Oltului, Perșani mountains, where it was discovered a new dacian power center,

at least the same, especially from religious point of view, with the one from Orăștie mountains, on Sarmizegetusa Regia.

All this time were raised and strengthened main fortress from Orăștie mountains area and developed a new material culture superior to the previous one. Dacian Kingdom controlled iron from Poiana Ruscă mountains and gold from Apuseni mountains, knowing a superior development to the extracarpathian formations.

Thanks to the ascent and the riches, the dacian kingdom is threatened by the Roman Empire; that's why, around 90 A. C. with the coming to the throne of king Decebal, political formations reunite under his command," great" dacian kingdom forming again, but their dimension much reduced in compare with the one from the 1st century B. C., the one ruled by king Burebista. The new kingdom included just Transylvania, Oltenia, Muntenia, Moldova and had power center in Orăștie mountains. But this one had a short life, surviving until roman conquest from 106 A. C. After this event dacian kingdom disappears from ancient world maps, in his place appears Roman Provincion Dacia.

Chapter III

Dacian aristocracy

Starting from ancient sources and after archaeological researches, the opinions about the social dacian structure are divided. So, if some researchers support the idea that dacian society was bipartite, some others, headed by I. H. Crișan, claim that is tripartite, inserting, beside social classes of nobles and common people and the class of knights (actually capillati), respectively a middle class situated between these ones; in his opinion from this class were chose the priests, from the higher class only leaders and high priest beeing chosen. This idea is rejected with vehemence by I. Glodariu, that support the existency of a nobles class, from which was chosen leaders and priests and a class of common people.

Regarding the transition from a lower social class to a superior one, the opinions are divided. Some researchers support the idea of traditional nobility, therefore the blood (you were born noble, you'll die noble and you were born poor, you'll die poor). Instead, others support the idea that the transition from a lower class to a superior one could be

done either by merit, either by devotion to the leader, either by dedication on the battlefield.

After the archeological researches has been shown that at the end of IInd century and the beginning of the Ist century B. C. traditional aristocracy, the one of blood, is removed and replaced with military aristocracy, warlike, which is born in south and reaches Transylvania at the beginnig of the Ist century B. C., once or a little earlier before coming to power of Burebista and the creation of dacian kingdom.

About the existence of slaves in dacian kingdom, speaks Hadrian Daicoviciu which supports the idea that Dacia was a “ beginner slave-owner state “. In his opinion slavery wasn't developed and it was met just around noble palaces, slaves being used just in house. The existence of the slaves is proven archaeological through the discovery of cartridges within the warehouse from Piatra Roşie.

Aristocracy distinguish in the framework of the dacian society through diferrent forms of manifestation; relevant are those which are in mind the manner in which they are buried (revealed through inventory and funerary moment), the manner in which they dressed (rendered through ornaments and art objects, discovered in thesauruses) and at last the manner in which they lived, way revealed by aristocratic houses within which they have spent their lifes together with their families.

CHAPTER IV

Aristocracy houses in dacian world

Present work aims to analize the houses of the dacian nobles, major forms of expression of the prestige in the framework of the society.

Studying the military and civilian arhitecture of the dacians, Ioan Glodariu distinguished two tipes of buildings whom he calls them palaces and that the author considers that these were inhabited by the elites. Meantime, tower- houses are found most frequently in discoveries, while rectangular houses, with apse deambulator, are more rare.

By aristocratic house we understand the space inhabited by the leaders of the fortifications alongside their families and their relatives, with their help leading the respective fortifications. Of these we remember the priests and the most brave warrios.

Aristocratic houses are different from common houses through the place where they are placed in the framework of the fortifications, through the manner in which they are built, from the architectural point of view and through the discovered inventory inside and their proximity.

In the framework of the fortifications and dacian fortresses have been discovered large size houses, usually one of a kind from the architectural point of view compared with other houses and placed in their center.

A. The repertoire of tower houses

In the assembly of this chapter I followed the next subsections:

- A) The locality, village, county
- B) Point, toponym
- C) Short description of the fortification
- D) Description of the tower-house
- E) Tower house characteristics
- F) Datation of the tower house
- G) Bibliography

1.

Ardeu, village ~~Bal~~ county Hunedoara, “Cetățeauă”, “Cetăuă”, “Cetățuie”, “Cetățuie”.

In the highest point of the plateau, situated in south-west part of the plateau, there have been identified traces of a tower house.

2.

Brașov, municipality, county Brașov, “Pietrele lui Solomon“, “Între Chietri“.

The tower house, situated on plateau near rock A, has a patroler form. Of it kept just foundation made of local limestone, very well wrought, unbonded with mortar between them. Has one facing, at his corners being place much more large blocks than in the rest of the rows. This large blocks had the role to ensure the link between the two sides.

3.

Breaza, village Lisa, county Brașov, “Dealul Cetății“, “Cetățeaua“

The presence of a tower house here is demonstrated by the presence of large stone blocks, in which they have inside cutted gutterings for the heads of the wood beams which linked the two facings between them. This blocks were reused at the medieval fortification.

4.

Căpâlna, village Săsciori, county Alba, “Dealul Cetate“, “Cetate“.

The tower house has been raised on a cutted platform in the rock of the massive for the most part of it, at a distance of 4,50 m backwards of the palisade. The north-west half part of the platform was directly on the leveld rock, and the south-west half on a layer of filling composed from big degris of rock, mixed with earth.

5.

Costești, village Orăștioara de Sus, Hunedoara county, Dealul “Blidaru”,

After the researches it was discovered a tower house placed in Cetatea I, on the highest point of the plateau, in the south part of this one.

6.

Costești, village Orăștioara de Sus, Hunedoara county, “Cetățuia”, “Cetățuie”, or “Cetate”.

Within dacian fortress situated on the hill *Cetățuie* it has been found two tower houses. One is placed on the north side of the superior plateau noted tower house number 1 and the second is situated on the south part of the plateau – tower house number 1.

7.

Divici, village Pojejena, Caraș- Severin county, “Grad“.

Within rhis fortification have been discoverd two tower houses, dated to two diferrent phases. Tower-house 1 is dated to the middle and second half of the 1st century A. C., and tower house 2 between second half of 1st century B. C. and the beginnigs of the 1st century A.C.

8.

Tilișca, Sibiu county, Hill „Cățanaș”.

On the plateau of the fortress have been build two tower houses, one at the estic extremity and the other near the gate of the wave.

9.

Râșnov, city, Brașov county, „Dealul Cetății”, „Cetate”.

A tower house seems like it was on the place where now is the medieval fortress, but it was destroyed once with the construction of this one. In the walls of medieval fortress were discovered molded calcar rocks and molded blocks from gray sandstone, located in the construction of the gate of entrance from the medieval fortress time.

B.The repertoire of apse, circular and rectangular houses

In the content of this subchapter I followed next points:

- A) The locality, village, county
- B) Point, toponym
- C) Short description of the fortification
- D) Description of the tower-house
- E) Tower house characteristics
- F) Datation of the tower house
- G) Bibliography

10.

Bănița, village, Hunedoara county, Dealul „Piatra Cetăii” , „Dealul Bolii”.

In the center of the premises on the 2nd terrace it has been discovered a rectangular house with foundation from shaped blocks of rocks, above situated horizontal wood beams in which they caught the pillars with the same material, through place and place, tied between them with beams or thick planks. The walls were glued with a thick layer of clay, the fireplace was arranged from beaten ground colored yellowish red, and the rooftop was constructed probably from shingles. Thanks to the central position, dominants, the dimension and the attention granted to construction, it's suppose that belonged to the leader of the fortress.

11.

Brad, village Negri, Bacău county, „La Stâncă”.

On the acropolis was discovered o large dimension house, with nine rooms, that stretched on a surface about 140 m². The respective structure, having in total a surface of 430 m², it could have 24 rooms.

12.

Grădiștea Muncelului, village Orăștioara de Sus, Hunedoara county, „Fețele Albe”, „Fața Albă”, „Terasa Șesul cu Brânză”.

After research it has been discovered on terrace I a circular house, with the diameter of 15 m. In this civil settlement have been discovered two houses the same type as the previous one. One was researched on XII terrace, the other one on the terrace X.

„Sarmizegetusa (Zermizegetusa) Regia „; „Grădiștea Muncelului „; ; “Dealul Grădiștii “; “Dealul Grădiștei” sau „Lunca Grădiștei „.

In the center of terrace II on the *Platoul cu șase terase*, it was discovered a large round house, with the diameter of 12,5 m. Being build from pillars, it couldn't receive the cylindrical form, but the form of polygon with 20 sides, each one having the length of 2 m.

On the terrace V of the remembered had been discovered a house placed in the center of it, round form, with the diameter of 6 m.

In the point called “Terasa cu oale pictate“, name that comes from the great number of ceramic fragments painted discovered on the terrace six constructions (A, B, C, D, E, F) including what seems like three houses that belonged to the higher class to a dacian society. This are constructions numbered with D, E and F.

13.

Luncani, village Boșorod, Hunedoara county, “Dealul Piatra Roșie”.

On the superior plateau it was discovered a house placed between walls inside. It's about a rectangular house composed of two rooms, numbered by the author of the discoveries with letters **a**, respectively **b**, surrounded from three sides by an deambulator, numbered **c**, at nordic side is easy apse and the estic side broken in the middle, together forming an angle or a curve towards inside.

Another house discovered in the framework of the fortress from Piatra Roșie and could belonged to the one of the leaders, is the house discovered on the big premises on terrace I.

14.

Merești, village, Hargita county, ”Dâmbul Pipașilor”.

On the superior plateau, of reduced sizes, it's mentioned a construction, house or tower house which contour couldn't be seized fully, the dimension being aproximate 3x5 m.

15.

Miercurea Sibiului, city, Sibiu county, Miercurea Sibiului IV, „Mălăiești”.

On the acropolis of the settlement is a house area of large size, with five rooms, having rectangular form, that we suppose that belonged to the leader of the fortification.

16.

Ocnița, Ocnele Mari city, Vâlcea county, „Cosota”.

On the acropolis of the Cetatea I from Ocnița had been discovered, at the IIIrd level, a building rectangular shape with four rooms, it's a palace house, similar to the house discovered on the plateau of the fortress from Piața Roșie.

17.

Piatra Neamț, Neamț county, „Dealul Bâtca Doamnei”.

On the plateau of the fortress had been discovered a large size house, that which could belong to the leader of the fortress, considering the location and the dimensions. The house seemed to have more rooms, if we consider some strings of rocks, related to a certain direction.

18.

Popești, village Novaci, Giurgiu county, „Nucet”.

In the fortified settlement from Popești had been discovered a true aristocratic “palace”, placed in south-east part of the acropolis.

19.

Racoșul de Jos, Racoș village, Brașov county, “Tipia Ormenișului”.

Within the fortress had been discovered a house placed in the south-east extremity, occupying almost all the width. The plan and the subdivision are almost the same with the house from the plateau of the fortress from Lunca-Piatra Roșie.

On Tipia Ormenișului had been discovered another two houses, placed on terrace I, whom the authors of the researches support that belonged to some important characters, with a raised social life. In their statement, the researchers are basing on the dimensions of the construction and the discovered inventory from inside.

CHAPTER V

Power centers in Dacia

Since the VIth century B. C., in eastern Carpathian they've been raised a series of fortifications as permanent settlements; this reaching it's climax in extracarpatic Dacia in IVth century B. C., but their evolution keep on going during the next century. A prove of the apparition of these fortified centers, interpreted as teritorial formations, still are the aristocratic cemeteries, respectively the thesauruses.

In this context, in Transilvania we can't talk about power centers just like the extracarpatic area, in terms of coming back to the fortified areas, surrounded by much more open settlements, being, more or less, a different type of occupation and gestion of the territory, different from the one in the extracarpatic area (Florea 2011, p 36).

Starting with the IInd century B. C., appear a series of fortified settlement of type ram crossed through, place on higher headlands, in extracarpatic area of Dacia, in Muntenia, Oltenia and Moldavia .

A. Power centers from Muntenia

A. 1. Popești power center

In Muntenia, the most important power center is the fortified settlement from Popești , placed on a headland having a triangle form with the lenght of 1200 m, width at base approximately 600 m and height of 15 m, on the river Arge , affluent of the Danube. On the middle of the IInd century B. C., this settlement was at his climax, was divided in three sectors (knows today conventionaly as A, B, C), separated between them by a ditch.

B. Power centers from Oltenia

B.1 Očnița power center

In Oltenia, the most representative fortified settlement had been discovered at Očnița , near the exit of the river Olt from the mountains, in the carpathian hills area (Carpathian mountains in Vâlcea) near the valley Pârâul Sărat (Berciu, 1981, p11). In this center had been identified three levels of habitation: I, dated in IInd century B. C., II, dated in Ist century B. C. and the III, dated in the Ist century A. C.

Within the fortified settlement it is remarked Cetatea I, named by the author of the research acropolis, which is presented as a fortified plateau with the dimension of 100x50 m – today eroded in part – at the altitude of 500 m. On the neighboring crests are found other two fortresses (Cetatea II and Cetatea III), alongside it is carrying a civil settlement, placed on the base of those three hills, in the point named *Fundătura Cosotei*.

C. Power centers from Moldavia

C.1 Brad power center

At east of Carpathians, in Moldavia, the most important dacian centers from second age of iron are those from Brad, Răcățău and Poiana.

The center from Brad is situated in the south-west part of the village, on the left terrace of the Siret river, at half the distance between Bacău and Roman. Here is founded the terrace known by the locals *La stâncă*, raised up above the course of Siret, this enters much on the inside of the floodplain, forming a plateau with a great visibility on the surrounding territory.

D. Power centers from Banat

D.1 Divici power center

Divici power center, situated on the Danube shore in the point *Grad*, between fluvial kilometers 1065-1066, on a rocky highland having triangle form, has the dimensions 130 m x 90 m, long axis oriented south – south – east – north – north – west and the peak from south – south – east headed toward Danube. Absolute altitude is 189, 5 m with a difference of the level compared to Danube course of 110 m. Here were surprised three levels of fortification and habitation of the superior plateau.

E. Power centers from Transilvania

In the south of Transilvania are found more aristocratic centers, the majority placed on the heights that varies from 700 to 1083 m altitude. Some part of them are starting their activity since the IInd century B. C., being fortified tribal centers, of local tradition, that affirms after the disappearance of celtic authority from Transilvania.

E.1 Miercurea Sibiului IV power center

The power center is situated near the course of the river Secaş (at north of this one) on a terrace of this river raised up by approximately 10 m by the course of the river, respectively at approximately 1 km north – north – east by city Miercurea Sibiului from Sibiu county.

E.2 Tilişca power center

Dacian power center from here is found on the hill *Căţănaş*, on a bowed plateau on ridge and with terraces in slopes. At 400 m to west it was a saddle, after that the hills rises again until the quota 712 (on eastern versant). The hill was fortified with land walls and moats placed on the eastern, northern and western slopes, on this the settlement developing, build on terraces and divided into two areas, one superior (superior plateau) and the other one, the inferior one, build in its turn from the 23 terraces.

E.3 Căpâlna power center

Căpâlna fortress, build on *dealul Cetății* or *Cetățuie*, is situated on the Sebeș valley at a altitude of 400 m, respectively at 20 km of Sebeș . The acces road from Sebeș to Căpâlna carries throughout the valley formed by Sebeș river, narrowing gradually as rises to the spring.

E.4 Cugir power center

Cugir power center is situated on *Dealul Cetății*, at south of the city, between the river Râul Mic and the creek Dăii, outlining initially as aristocratic residence and tribal fortified center, between centuries III-II B. C.; then it evolved to second phase of fortification, dated between Ist century B. C. – Ist century A. C.

E.5 Piatra Craivii power center

Piatra Craivii, situated approximately at 20 km from Alba Iulia, is placed between the secondary valleys of the Muș river , at the entrance of the auriferous basin of the Western Carpathians. This settlement appears in IInd century B. C. The settlement it shows under the form of an agglomeration and is situated on terraces that are on the base of the rock, eleven at number. Those (terraces) are backed up by walls that are build from stone rock, with a thickness approximately 2,50 m. One of the terraces with the dimensions 10x8 m, is situated on the south versant, known as *terrace balcony*. The settlement developed gradually, becoming the command center to a local community, in the second part of Ist century A. C., when a fortification is build up on the plateau of the rock, at the altitude of 1083 m and with the dimensions of 67x36 m; here could have been the residency to the leader of this settlement.

E.6 Bănița power center

Bănița power center is situated on *Dealul Cetății* or *Dealul Bolii*, at 4 km at east of the center of the village, isolated by the Sebeș mountains positioned at north and by the Retezat mountains, at south- west, respectively at the western limit of the basin Valea Jiului. The altitude that is situated is on 904 m, the hill that is positioned having more terraces, among which three are on the superior plateau. At the foot of these, at west, north and north – east, flows Bănița river.

F. Power centers from Eastern Transilvania

In eastern Transilvania exists a series of fortification that appears at the end of the IInd century B. C. and lasts until the roman conquest from the middle of the Ist century B. C., integrated in the defensive system of Transilvania. Among those we remember the ones from

Racoşul de Jos, Covasna and Miercurea Ciuc (with establishments on the highlands Jigodin I, II and III, neighboring fortifications, that works in parallel).

F.1 Racoşul de Jos power center

Racoşul de Jos power center is situated in ~~Bov~~ , exactly in the point named Tipia Ormenişului (that is presenting the form of a crest, with the south-western side almost vertical), at the height of 755.9, being positioned on the left shore of the river Olt, at north of the village. The superior plateau has a length of 93/94 m and a width between 22 and 33 m.

Dacian habitation is attested in three phases: first, dated between V-II centuries B. C., is divided in two subphases (Vth-IIIrd century B. C., respectively IIIrd century B. C. – first decades of IInd century B. C.); second phase takes place during first half of the Ist century B. C., and the third phase between second half of the Ist century B. C. and the beginning of the IInd century A.C.

F.2 Covasna power center

Situated on *Dealul Cetății*, at a altitude of 930 m (*Valea Zânelor* point), the power center from Covasna dates between the middle of the Ist century B. C. and the beginnings of the IInd century A. C. (during the daco-roman wars). Inside it's clearly delimited a plateau and three artificial terraces.

F.3 Jigodin power centers

Today, the village Jigodin is included in the Miercurea Ciuc municipiy, in a place where the Olt valley is suddenly narrowing; exactly here had been discovered three dacian fortifications placed on three teats which in fact are ramifications from the Olt river to the same massive.

A) Jigodin I is situated to the south of the town, on the right shore of the Olt, above Jigodin Baths, on a spur with altitude of 709 m. Western and northern slopes are abrupt, and those from east and south gentle. The plateau, with an elongate form and the dimensions of 65x45 m, is easy tilted to east and tied, through a saddle, by the surrounding heights. The acces road started from south, after it did detour the northern and eastern foothills of the hill.

B) Jigodin II Fortification of this point is located on the height of 904 m on *Dealul Cetății*, his conic form and the slopes abrupt. Flanked at south, west and north by the Harom mountain (1080 m) and her crests, respectively by the center / Jigodin III fortress at north-west and by the center / Jigodin I at east, from this centre, from this centre it could watch over the entire Ciuc depression, from Sîndomic until Tuşna d.

C) Jigodin III The fortifications is situated on the peak *Cetățuia*, at the altitude of 726 m; south, north and nord-west slopes are steep, then at south-south-west is tied with a saddle by the bigger plateau, which links with Harghita mountains. The plateau has a circular almost form, is easy tilted to south – south –west, with the long axis (east- west orientation) measuring 100 m and the short one (north- south orientation) 40 m.

G. Power centers from north-western Transilvania

In this area is observing a agglomeration of settlements in Șimleul Depression, which are dated from the second half of the IInd century B. C., and those who are occupying the actual Șimleul Silvanei city, gravitates around the heights Cetate and Observator, these two fortifications beeing the expression of the topographic separation for a dominant position of a part of the aristocracy.

G.1 Șimleul Silvanei – Observator power center

One of the most important dacian discoveries from this area is placed on the higher plateau of Măgurii Șimleului, in the point *Observator*, the main headquarters for the laic and ecclesiastical aristocracy to a tribal union, in the period included between the end of the IInd century B. C. and the beginning of the Ist century A. C.

G.2 Șimleul Silvanei – Cetate power center

Still in this area, pretty important is the center situated on *Dealul Cetate*, at the altitude of 372 m, the difference on the level compared to this one, beeing on 170 meters. The height under the form of conical teat, dominate the Crasnei valley and it is ties with the rest of Măgura through a long saddle with the lenght of 100 metres and wide of 30 m. The superior plateau has a circular form, the diametres 30x40 m and is fortified in two areas.

H. Power centers in south-west Transilvania

H.1 Hunedoara power center

The dacian fortification that is brought in discussion is found out on Dealul Sânpetru, positionated at the bifurcation of the roads that follows the valleys of water courses Cerna and Zlăști, very important thanks to the direct acces towards areas with iron ore. It's presented under the form of a extended and narrow crest, with an tilted profile; northern, southern and western sides are steep, and the east and south-eastern sides are more gentle, thanks to the linking saddle with Dealul Căpruța . This way Dealul Sânpetru has the aspect of a massive boulder, that dominates the whole depression of Hunedoara.

I. Power center from Hunedoara

The center from Orăștie mountains, situated in south-west of Transilvania, is placed on a rough and forested relief, pretty far from the main axes of communication, found on Mures Valley.

I. 1 Costești power center

The center from Costești- Cetățuia, placed on the teat Cetățuia at the altitude of 561 m, is situated at the Costești village, in the left of Apei Grădștii and occupied a important position regarding the surveillance of the fertile zone of the Mureș Valley and the acces to Sarmizegetusa Regia. Regarding the aristocratic residency, this is underlined through the presence of the inside from calcar blocks and the two tower houses situated on the plateau, on the highest place, delimited by a double palisade, with stairs of acces and were had been discovered numerous import pieces. Restrained area from the inside the fortification suggest the fact that sheltered a noble surrounded by his appropriates and a small number of small combatants, that is explaining the aspect of fortified castle than the fortress with character exclusively military.

I. 1. B Costești-Blidaru power center

Costești-Blidaru power center, plasat on the teat called by the local men Blidaru (705 m) is found out on the surface on the left side of Apei Grădștii, in a place where narrows suddenly. The fortification, that allows the surveillance of the acces road to Sarmizegetusa Regia, composed from two insides with defense towers, raised through calcar blocks, then aproximately in the center of the inside area was found a tower house. Near by have been discovered the amprens of a patrulater sanctuary of the alinament column type with calcar plinths.

I. 2 Sarmizegetusa Regia group

The elements that composed, in first phase, the nucleus of the civilian settlement from Sarmizegetusa Regia area, were probably the conducted works to rise the sanctuary zone from sacred area, through the arrangement of the teraces, through the transport to the great appreciable distances of the stone blocks, works that started in the second half of the Ist century B. C. The importance of this sacred space is proven by the continously rearrangement of the few temples, as the great andezit sanctuary on the terrace X, succeded by the limestone.

The development of Sarmizegetusa Regia, after the opinion of the researcher Gelu Florea, could had been thanks to strong linking between political, strategical and economical factori.

Sarmizegetusa Regia complex is divided by the end of the 1st century B. C. in three functional distinctive sections: sacred area, which includes sanctuaries and amenities of cult, placed in central position compared to the other two; then, the main fortress surrounded by huge walls, and finally, civil settlement, placed on stretched terraces to south and east of the piedmont.

I.3 Piatra Roşie – Luncani group

Power from Piatra Roşie -Luncani sheltered in the first precinct, raised through limestone stone blocks, one construction of large dimension and pretentious aspect, to whom which belonged to the leader.

Chapter VI

Conclusions

Through aristocratic house we understand the space in which lived the leaders of the fortifications together with their families and their relatives, to whom help ruled the respective fortifications. Among them we recall the priests and the most brave warriors.

Aristocratic house are different from common houses through the place where are placed in the main framework of the fortification, through the manner in which they are build and through the manner in which the inventory inside and outside of the house.

This are found in fortresses but rarely in fortified settlements (as it happens in the case concerning the houses from Popoşti, Brad and Miercurea Sibiului); those are more early , dating between end of IInd century B. C.– the beginning of the Ist century B. C., before the creation of dacian kingdom by Burebista.

In the main framework of the dacian fortresses have been discovered large houses, usually unique from arhitectural point of view compared with the other houses. Usually these are placed in the center of the settlement and present under the form of tower houses, most frequently, like rectangular houses, with apse deambulator (rare).

Fortress acropolis belonged exclusiv to the aristocracy, beeing truth fortified backyards with walls of limestone blocks, palisades, ditches and land waves.

From the total number of identified houses and studied by us, 40% are represented by the tower houses, 26% rectangular houses, 20 % apse houses and 14 % circular houses.

The tower houses, the most demanding type of buildings, are found in the area of the dacian capital (Sarmizegetusa Regia), generally in the south of Transilvania, with little exceptions, that are represented by the tower houses from Divici fortress.

These were build relatively unitary (these distinguish between them just through the dimension or some particularities, that are at the level of the ground that were placed) having two facings from limestone, molded, with emplecton between them, and on the superior part weakly burned bricks or a wooden structure; the covering was made of shingles or tile. All had two levels of habitation, separated between them through a wooden floor. From these reasons, we thought that the tower house from Ardeu fortress is more a patrolater house, not a tower house.

After detailed research of this houses we could observe two groups, one represented by tower houses in Orăștie mountains area and the other one re presented by those from Tisic, Căpâlna, Divici and those from south-east of Transilvania. Orăștie mountains group houses has the principal feature that the tower houses were placed in the center of the fortification, in exchange the other ones are placed on the lineament of the fortifications, that have beyond the household role and a defensive role in the fortifications.

Only tower houses belonging to the first group have the covering from greek type tile, with one exception (tower house from Breaza, but this example is unsure, that is why our opinion is that they were build around 50 B. C., immediatly after the conquest of Euxin harbor, by the greek craftsmen . The other ones, though constructed with the same technique had been raised up by the local craftsmen, at the end of the Ist century B. C. and the beginning of the next century.

The base of molded limestone is featured for 93% of the tower houses; just 7 % (maybe Ardeu tower) has at the foundation unmolded local stone.

Base of two facings of molded limestone, is featured for 86 % for the tower houses, just 7 % (tower house from Brezo) having at the foundation a single facing and 7% (Ardeu tower house?) local unmolded stone.

In what concerns about the material that was build the floor, predominant is the brick, with a percentage of 79 %, the wood appears in a percentage of 21 %.

The covering is made of two types of materials represented this way:

The shingle covering – 57 %

The greek type tile covering – 43 %

In what concerns the useful surfaces of the ground floors, the great percentage have the surface includes between 30 to 40 m² (37 %); the ones with surfaces between 40 and 50 m² appear in a percentage of 27 %, the ones with surface between 20 and 30 m² appear in a percentage of 9 %, as same with those with the surface under 20 m².

Total occupied surfaces by the ground floors of the tower houses, in which are included and the walls, offers us the next statistic: between 90 and 100 m² and between 130 and 140 m² – 25 %; between 110 and 120 m² and over 200 m² – 17 %; between 60 and 70 m² and between 170 and 180 m².

All tower houses were destroyed through after the war fought between the dacians and romans, at the beginning of the IInd century B. C.

All rectangular houses are specific to dacian civilization (those being met on the whole occupied area), being chronology framed since the Ist century – Ist century A. C. and considered belonging just those on the acropolis of the fortifications.

Rectangular houses with apse deambulator are met in the fortresses from Piatra Roșie and from Racășul de Jos, as in the fortified settlement of Popești, and these one dates since Ist century B. C.– Ist century A. C., being thought houses that belonged to the elites (thanks to the space were have been placed, the manner in which were build – with northern side apsed, very likely with the great interior room of the great circular sanctuary from Sarmizegetusa Regia – and the discovered materials, inside and around it).

A special place occupies circular houses discovered in the capital of the dacian kingdom (Sarmizegetusa Regia), but still in her arounds, respectively Alba Iulia, through special inventory (painted pottery with zoomorphic and antropomorphic reasons), thought to be a fashion of that times for the local elites, are, implicitly, thought houses that belonged to some elites.

Tower houses are specific south-west Transylvania, with a high density in Orăștie mountains area, namely the dacian kingdom capital, exception being those from Divici, rectangular houses and with apse deambulator are rare, but are present in Orăștie mountains (Piatra Roșie), as well as in south-east Transylvania (Racășul de Jos), in Muntenia (Popești) and Moldavia (on Siret, on Brad), it is fair, the last two being early (Ist century B. C.).

All of this shows that in the intracarpethian area aristocratic house is represented especially by tower house. The apparition of this one is contemporane with those of the fortresses from the heights and represents a fashion launched, most probably, in the nucleus zone from

south-east Transilvania and may in Banat (Divici). One exception is the house from Piatra Roşie, with good analogies at south of Carpathians, at Popeşti.

Through comparison, the constructions from Siret are looking different, as well the inventory (as an example, here we find numerous fragments of amphorai, as well as other greek products). In this area, on the acropolis, are concentrated more buildings, but these are not remarked through monumentality, as is the case of those placed on the heights. This fact may be the consequence of two social structures that are affirming differently in each of these two areas. Therefore, Ioan Glodariu was right then when he name tower houses and rectangular houses with apse deambulator palaces, which represents one of the form of manifestation of dacian aristocracy in the society that he lead it.

Houses belonging to the aristocracy existed in the whole dacian kingdom, but because of such little researches, or the quick distruction of these ones and because of the population that came over these, are remaining in good percentage, still unknown.

After studying topographic plans of the fortresses and fortifications, it coulbe be noticed that the majority arev placed in sudic submountain levels of the carpathian mountain chain. This way, the fortresses from south-east Transilvania blocked the acces in the intracarpatic area from south-east (from Muntenia), through Cheile Buzăului which connects the villages Întorsura Buzăului and Buzău, but from east (from Moldavia), through Pasul Oituz. The fortresses from south of Transilvania blocked the entrance in the intracarpatic area on realm paths, which started from south, from Oltenia area (Horezu, Rânca, Novaci) and the center from Divici, situated in south of Banat, blocking the acces from the Transilvania Poştile de Fier.

Also, the fortresses from south-west Transilvania protected the rich area in iron ore (very important for that time) from the area Săreanu mountains and Poiana Ruscă mountains, meanwhile Piatra Craivii and Ardeu (the fortresses from there) protected the area in gold minings of Apuseni mountains, the area with the biggest deposit of precious metal on this time.