

TWO FRAGMENTS OF ROMAN MILITARY DIPLOMAS DISCOVERED ON THE TERRITORY OF THE REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA*

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Recently, from a private collection, I have had the opportunity to study two fragments of Roman military diplomas.¹ They were brought to my attention at the beginning of the year 2005 by Dr. Eugen Nicolae, head of the Numismatic Department of the Institute of Archaeology “Vasile Pârvan” of the Romanian Academy, Bucharest. He found out about them from a collector, Mihai Ciocanu, who has been living in Chişinău, the capital of the Republic of Moldova. Dr. Eugen Nicolae has requested some more data about the context of their discovering and the permission for studying and publishing from the owner. Out of the data provided by Mihai Ciocanu, completed by Dr. Eugen Nicolae himself, it seems that the two fragments are part of a collection gathered after the year 2000 by a man from the Orhei county (Republic of Moldova), in which are to be found ancient or medieval coins and small finds (brooches, rings) discovered on the territory of that county of the republic. The general aspect of the collection indicates that it has been not constituted by any selection; the collector was in fact a beginner, reason why he had requested Mihai Ciocanu’s help concerning these two diploma fragments. The owner could not provide useful information about the find spot (or find spots) of the two fragments, but it seems that the large majority of the ancient artefacts from the collection were found in the area of the Mitoc and Isacova villages from Orhei county. A slight idea about the possible context of the discovering may be provided by a group of ancient Roman coins from the 2nd-4th centuries AD: 53 *denarii* and *antoniniani* from the second century (the earliest coins are from Hadrian’s reign) and the beginning of the third century (it is possible that these coins to be part of a larger hoard); 12 fourrès *denarii*; 5 silver Roman imperial coins from the second half of the third century; 7 Roman coins made of common metal (2nd-3rd centuries); 6 bronze Greek coins from the Roman imperial period (2nd century); 4 siliquae and 11 bronze Roman coins from the fourth century².

* I wish to express my deep gratitude to my Professor Dr. Constantin C. Petolescu from the University of Bucharest, to Professor Dr. Werner Eck from The University of Cologne, and to Dr. Paul Holder from John Rylands University Library, Manchester, for all the help offered to me during the writing of this paper. I also want to thank to Professor Dr. Alexandru Avram from the University of Le Mans and to Dr. Rudolph Haensch, Second Director of the Commission for Ancient History and Epigraphy of the German Archaeological Institute, Munich, for reading the manuscript and for the valuable comments made with that occasion.

¹ I expressed my deep gratitude to Dr. Eugen Nicolae, head of the Numismatic Department of the Institute of Archaeology “Vasile Pârvan” of the Romanian Academy, Bucharest, who gave me the permission to study these two fragments.

² The preliminary data were collected by Dr. Eugen Nicolae. The study of ancient coins from the collection has been assumed by Mr. Theodor Isvoranu from the same Institute of Archaeology, who already presented some preliminary reports about it: *Monede antice descoperite în Basarabia (II)*, Al XXII-lea Simpozion de Numismatică, Braşov, 19-20 mai 2005; *Monede antice descoperite în zona Mitoc și împrejurimi, raionul Orhei*, Simpozionul “Heraldică și numismatică: cercetări interferente”, Chişinău, 27 mai 2005; *Monede romane descoperite în raionul Orhei*, Simpozionul de Numismatică organizat cu ocazia împlinirii a 80 de ani de la ridicarea scaunului arhiepiscopal și mitropolitan al Ungrovlahiei la rangul de scaun patriarhal, Chişinău, 20-22 octombrie 2005 (see *Programul și rezumatele comunicărilor*, p. 9).

As we can see from this short presentation, we have no reason to consider that these two fragments were found in sure archaeological contexts which could date from the second century and it is possible to be part, due also to their small size which could indicate a certain interest for the bronze metal itself, of a group of objects, including coins, which were taken from the neighbouring province of Moesia Inferior. Nevertheless, we can not exclude also the possibility that the two fragments could have been brought on the territory of the Republic of Moldova in the modern or contemporary times.

1. Fragment of the bottom right hand corner of *tabella I*. Dimensions: height: 2,5 cm; width: 1,7-2 cm; thickness: ca. 1 mm; weight: 3,29 g; letters: 3-4 mm high. Fig. 1.

extrinsecus
ET D
DESC
QVA
DIV

intus
ERV NEP

From the few letters preserved on this fragment, I can only assert that it comes from Hadrian's reign: *[N]eru(ae) nep(os)* and that the first letters from *extrinsecus* can be restored as a name of child of a certain Roman auxiliary soldier. Following these assumptions the text should be restored in the following way:

*[Imp(erator) Caesar divi Traiani Parthici f(ilius), diui Ne]ru(ae) nep(os),
[Traianus Hadrianus Aug(ustus), pontif(ex) max(imus), tribun(ia) potest(ate)...co(n)s(ul)...³, equitibus
et peditibus qui militauerunt in alis...et cohortibus...quae appellantur...et sunt in...sub...quinis et vicenis
pluribusue stipendis emeritis dimissis honesta missione quorum nomina subscripta sunt, ipsis liberis
posterisque eorum ciuitatem dedit et conubium cum uxoribus quas tunc habuissent cum est ciuitas iis
data, aut siqui caelibes essent cum iis quas postea duxissent dumtaxat singuli singulas.
A(nte) d(iem)? ... co(n)s(ulibus)
ala(e)/coh(ortis)... cui prae(e)st/praefuit
ex gregale?
...]
et **D**[...f(ilio) eius...]
Desc[riptum et recognitum ex tabula aenea]
qua[e fixa est Romae in muro post templum]
diu[i Augusti ad Mineruam]*

2. Fragment of middle bottom of *tabella I*. Dimensions: height: 2,9 cm ; width: 2 cm; thickness: ca. 1 mm; weight: 4,57 g; letters: 3-4 mm high. Fig. 2.

extrinsecus
ERC
uacat
EX GREGAL
ENTIS F
ET GERMANO
EIVS ET VAL

intus
I? AVG TH?
ETR SAG
MARC
IS?

³ It is impossible to tell, due to the preservation status of the diploma, if we can restore also other titles used by Hadrian during his reign, *proconsul* and *pater patriae*.

There is a too large space between the first and the second line, so we can imagine that on the second line it does not appear the name of the commander but the name of military unit. The name of the commander would have been present on the extreme left and right of the *tabella*, therefore it was not preserved, as we can see from others fully preserved diplomas.⁴ From the letters *ERC*, we can restore only the name of *ala Thracum Herculiana*, a unit that stationed on the territory of Cappadocia and Syria in the 1st and 2nd centuries.

The Governor

On *intus* it appears the name of a provincial governor. If we can admit the hypothesis that this fragment came from a diploma issued for a soldier that served into a unit stationed in Cappadocia or Syria, the only candidate that can be supplied starting from the letters *MARC* is *C. Quinctius Certus Poblicius Marcellus*, who appears on the two diplomas as *consul* only as *C. Poblicius Marcellus*.⁵ He was governor of Syria between the years 129-134.⁶ *Poblicius Marcellus* had been before *consul suffectus* in the year 120, then governor of *Germania superior* and thereafter had become governor of Syria. He received the *ornamenta triumphalia* from Hadrian for his part in the Jewish war.⁷ The name of the same governor has appeared recently on another diploma fragment on which were mentioned two units from Syria: *II Thracum Syriaca et VII Gallorum*.⁸ This diploma was copied after an imperial constitution that was issued only for three units in 132-134; it was not therefore copied from the same constitution as our fragment.

Recently there were discovered one almost complete diploma⁹ and other fragmentary diplomas for the province of Syria from the year 129.¹⁰ From the complete diploma we learn that in the year 129 were dislocated in the province of Syria at least two *alae*: *Augusta Xoitana* and *I Flauia Augusta Agrippiana*; and 11 *cohortes*: *I Ascalonitarum sagittaria*, *I Vlpia Dacorum*, *I Vlpia sagittariorum ciuium Romanorum*, *I Vlpia Petraeorum sagittariorum*, *II Classica*, *II Gemina Ligurum et Corsorum*, *II Vlpia sagittariorum ciuium Romanorum*, *II Italica ciuium Romanorum*, *III Thracum Syriaca sagittariorum*, *IIII Callaeorum Lucensium*, *V Vlpia Petraeorum sagittariorum*. All these units were under the governorship of the same *Poblicius Marcellus*. The diploma was issued *AD XI K APR*, which means the 22nd of March 129. As we can see, from the units' list, our fragment belongs to a diploma copied after a different *constitutio*. We

⁴ B. Pferdehirt, RGZM, nos. 22; 24; 30 (= RMD IV 266); 41; RMD IV 239; 247; 278.

⁵ CIL XVI 68, 69; A. Degrassi, *I fasti consolari dell'impero romano. Dal 30 avanti Cristo al 613 dopo Cristo*, Rome, 1952, p. 35.

⁶ W. Eck, *Senatoren von Vespasian bis Hadrian. Prosopographische Untersuchungen mit Einschluß der Jahres- und Provinzialfasten der Statthalter*, Vestigia. Beiträge zur Alten Geschichte 13, Munich, 1970, p. 206. It is certain now that *C. Poblicius Marcellus* was already governor of this province in March 129, as it appears on some unpublished diploma fragments, all with the same date 22nd of March 129 (see *infra*).

⁷ His career was preserved by an inscription from Aquileia: *C. Quinctius / C. f. Vel. / Certus Poblicius / Marcellus cos. / augur legatus diui / Hadrian(i) prouinc(iarum) / Syriae et German(iae) / Superior(is) ornament(is) / triumphalibus* (Ann. ép. 1934, 213 = I. B. Brusin, *Inscriptiones Aquileiae* I, Udine, 1991, no. 499). His involvement in the Bar-Kochba war appears on two Greek inscriptions (IGR III 174 = ILS 8826; IGR III 175; see a short commentary at A. Passerini, *Legio*, in *Dizionario Epigrafico di Antichità romane* IV, Rome, 1949, p. 566) from which we learn that *legatus legionis IIII Scythicae* became a kind of vice-governor of the province because *C. Poblicius Marcellus* was in expedition: ἡγεμόνα λεγιῶνος τετάρτης Σκυθικῆς καὶ διοικήσαντα τὰ ἐν Συρίᾳ πράγματα, ἠγίκα Πουβλικίος Μάρκελλος διὰ τὴν κίνησιν τὴν Ἰουδαϊκὴν μεταβεβήκει ἀπὸ Συρίας; PIR² P 1042; W. Eck, *Die Statthalter der germanischen Provinzen von I. – 3. Jh.*, Cologne, 1985, p. 52-53; idem, JRS 89, 1999, p. 76 and 83; idem, ZPE 124, 1999, p. 225-226.

⁸ W. Eck, A. Pangerl, *Scripta Classica Israelica* 24, 2005, p. 114-116, no. 6: *ped(itibus) et eq(uitibus) q(ui) m[il(itauerunt) in coh(ortibus) III] q[uae] app(ellatur) --- et II] Thr(acum) Syr(iaca) et [VII Ga]llor(um) et sunt in [Syria sub] Poblicio Marcello quinqu[e] et uiginti sti]p[en]dis emeritis dimissi[s] honesta missio]ne*.

⁹ W. Eck, A. Pangerl, *Chiron* 36, 2006, p. 221-230, no. 4. I would like to thank Prof. Werner Eck and Mr. A. Pangerl for sending me this article before its publication.

¹⁰ Idem, p. 230-233, no. 5; p. 233-235, no. 6 (see also *Chiron* 32, 2002, p. 434-438, no. 2); p. 236-237, no. 7 (see also *Chiron* 32, 2002, p. 438-441, no. 3); p. 237-239, no. 8 (see also W. Eck, D. MacDonald, A. Pangerl, *ActaMN* 38/I, 2001, p. 42-45, no. 4); p. 240-241, no. 9 (see also W. Eck, A. Pangerl, *Scripta Classica Israelica* 24, 2005, p. 116-118, no. 6); p. 242-243, no. 10. Another fragment was published recently by D. MacDonald, *Scripta Classica Israelica* 25, 2006, p. 97-100.

are, therefore, able to date this fragment to the period 129-134, when *Poblicius Marcellus* is attested governor of Syria.

The Units

*Ala Thracum Herculiana*¹¹ appears on five inscriptions with the name written on different forms *Herculan*, *Herculana*, *Herculania*, *Herculiana*, Ἡρακλειανή. It was named after a certain commander *Herculanus*¹². The oldest inscription came from the 1st century AD, in which a commander of this unit appears. After commanding this troop, he became *praefectus ripae Euphratis*¹³. In the year 94 the unit was deployed in the province of *Galatia et Cappadocia*, as it appears on a military diploma rewarded to *Dorisa Dolentis f.* from this unit, which was written as: *ala I Thracum Herculana*¹⁴. It appears also on another still unpublished diploma for the same province in Trajan's time¹⁵ and on a short fragment from the year 100.¹⁶ In the year 157 AD it appears between the auxiliary units deployed on the territory of Syria.¹⁷ We have now the possibility to envisage a transfer of this unit on the territory of Syria from Hadrian's time, maybe in the connection with the preparation of the Jewish War from 132-135. In this case I think that it is most probable that this fragment should date from around 133-134. This unit appears afterwards on *M. Valerius Lollianus*' famous inscription from *Byllis* (Macedonia), probably from the time of Lucius Verus' Parthian War, where it was written as *Herculiana*.¹⁸ In the 3rd century AD, it was perhaps stationed in Egypt, in the nearby of Thebae, most probably at *Koptos*.

Cohors AVG ...? In the army of Syria in the 2nd century the following cohorts appear as *Augustae*: *I Augusta Thracum*, *III Augusta Thracum* and *I Augusta Pannoniorum*.¹⁹ From these three units we will have to exclude the latter one, due to the fact that from the preserved bottoms of letters after *AVG*, one can not restore its name. After the letters *AVG* on this fragment we can see a bottom of a letter that could be either *I* or *T*, followed by two bottoms as *II*, which could be either a numeral, or *TT* (*sagittariorum*), or due to the fraction right on their middle an *H*. So on this fragment one could also read *AVG TH*, respectively: *Augusta Thracum*. The cohort *I Augusta Thracum* is attested in Syria in 88.²⁰ A homonym cohort appears in Pannonia Inferior in 167, but as *ciuium Romanorum*²¹. In fact, it was the cohort *I Thracum ciuium Romanorum pia fidelis*, which it is attested by other sources also on the territory of Pannonia Inferior²² and not *I Augusta Thracum* from Syria, as J. Spaul believed.²³ Starting from the little

¹¹ C. Cichorius, RE I, col. 1894, 1263; J. Lesquier, *L'armée romaine d'Égypte d'Auguste à Dioclétien*, Cairo, 1918, p. 78-79; J. E. H. Spaul, *Ala². The Auxiliary Cavalry Units of the Pre-Diocletianic Imperial Roman Army*, Andover, 1994, p. 142-143, no. 48; M. A. Speidel, *The development of the Roman forces in northeastern Anatolia. New evidence for the history of the exercitus Cappadocicus*, in A. Lewin, *The Late Roman Army in the Near East from Diocletian to the Arab Conquest*, BAR Int. Ser. (forthcoming). I use this opportunity to thank Prof. Dr. M. A. Speidel, from the Bern University, for sending me this article well before its publication.

¹² E. Birley, *Ancient Society* 9, 1978, p. 267.

¹³ CIL XII 1357 = ILS 2709 (*Vasio*, Gallia Narbonensis); PME, S 8; P. A. Holder, *Studies in the Auxilia of the Roman Army from Augustus to Trajan*, BAR Int. Ser. 70, Oxford, 1980, p. 256, no. E 127. See also another inscription (*Tarraco*, Hispania Tarraconensis) on which another commander of this units appears (CIL II 4239; PME, P 96; P. A. Holder, *op. cit.*, p. 250, no. E 83).

¹⁴ B. Pferdehirt, RGZM, no. 7.

¹⁵ Eadem, RGZM, no. 18, note 1.

¹⁶ W. Eck, A. Pangerl, ZPE 150, 2004, p. 233-241, one of the two copies made after this strange constitution given only for an *eques* of the *ala* and for a *centurio* of the *cohors I Augusta ciuium Romanorum*.

¹⁷ CIL XVI 106: [*Thracum H*]erc(uliana).

¹⁸ CIL III 600 = ILS 2724 = IPD⁴ 755 = IDRE II 361; PME, M 17.

¹⁹ This unit it is attested in Syria in 88 (CIL XVI 35) and 156/157 (CIL XVI 106); J. Spaul, *Cohors². The Evidence for and a Short History of the Auxiliary Infantry Units of the Imperial Roman Army*, BAR International Series 841, Oxford, 2000, p. 330.

²⁰ RMD I 3.

²¹ CIL XVI 123 and not RMD II 123 as it was quoted by J. Spaul, *Cohors²*, p. 355-356.

²² B. Lőrincz, *Die römischen Hilfstruppen in Pannonien während der Prinzipatszeit*. Teil I: *Die Inschriften*, Vienna, 2001, p. 42, no. 43.

²³ J. Spaul, *Cohors²*, p. 355-356.

information that we have, it seems likely that this unit was transferred to Arabia, maybe already in the time of Trajan.²⁴ Therefore it is not possible that the name of this cohort should appear on this fragment from the time of *C. Quinctius Certus Poblicius Marcellus*. Regarding also the place of this unit on the fragment, between the latest units, one could think of *III Augusta Thracum*.²⁵ This unit is attested on the diploma from 88²⁶, on a diploma from 153²⁷ and on the diploma from 156/157.²⁸ Thus, it is very likely that the name of this latter unit to be present on this fragment.

Cohors ETR SAG. From the preserved letters the only possible restoration is *Petraeorum sagittariorum*. There are known six cohorts with the name *Vlpliae Petraeorum*²⁹, all had been recruited by Trajan, following his creation of the province Arabia. Until the discovering of the new diploma from 129, which attests the cohorts *I* and *V Vlpliae Petraeorum sagittariorum* there were no sources to attest that these units were *sagittariae*. The cohorts *IV* and *VI Petraeorum* stationed on the territory of Syria Palaestina and from the cohorts *II* and *III Vlpliae Petraeorum milliariae*, we have only few inscriptions which attest some commanders, therefore the only units which could come into the discussion to be restored on a diploma for Syria from Hadrian's time are *I* and *V Vlpliae Petraeorum sagittariorum*. Due to its position on the fragment, the only possible restoration is *V Vlpliae Petraeorum sagittariorum*.³⁰ This unit appears now for the first time on the territory of Syria on the diplomas copied after the constitution from the 22nd of March 129³¹, on the fragment published here and on the diploma from 157.³²

Between these two cohorts, due to their place on the *tabella*, we must envisage the presence of another unit. If this unit would have been *IIII Callaeorum Lucensium*³³ as in the unpublished diploma from 129, or another unit with the numeral *III* as *III Thracum Syriaca*³⁴, or *III Vlpliae Paphlagonum*³⁵, it is impossible to say, but having as a model the diploma from 129, we can try to reconstruct the missing part of the lines with these units on the *intus* in the following way:

ca. 10/12 ... ET II]I AVG TH[R ET IIII CALL 30/32
LVCENS ET V VLP P]ETR SAG [ET VII GALL ET SVNT IN 30
SYRIA SVB POBLICIO] MARC[ELLO QVIN ET VICEN 32
PLVR STIP EM DIM HON M]IS QV[ORVM NOM 28
[SVBSCRIP SVNT IPSIS LIBER POSTER EOR] 29

If the presence of a certain unit, most probably *IIII Callaeorum Lucensium*, between the preserved names of the two cohorts on the *intus* is almost certain, the presence of *VII Gallorum* after *V Vlpliae Petraeorum sagittariorum* is more hypothetic, but possible. In the front of the cohort *III Augusta Thracum*, we can presume that it had been enough space for at least two or three units, but it is very difficult to say which these units were.

²⁴ M. P. Speidel, in ANRW II 8, 1977, p. 710-711 and p. 719.

²⁵ J. Spaul, *Cohors*², p. 374.

²⁶ CIL XVI 35.

²⁷ P. Weiss, *Chiron* 36, 2006, p. 265-289 (especially p. 280 for a short history of the unit). See also P. Holder, in J. J. Wilkes (ed.), *Documenting the Roman Army. Essays in the Honour of Margaret Roxan*, London, 2003, p. 141, table 15 and 115 with the note 48.

²⁸ CIL XVI 106.

²⁹ J. Spaul, *Cohors*², p. 449-451. See also a short discussion at M. P. Speidel, in ANRW II 8, 1977, p. 719-720. See also D. F. Graf, in E. Dabrowa (ed.), *The Roman and Byzantine Army in the East*, Krakow, 1994, p. 297-299, with short histories of the six units.

³⁰ J. Spaul, *Cohors*², p. 450; D. F. Graf, *op. cit.*, p. 298-299.

³¹ W. Eck, A. Pangerl, *Chiron* 36, 2006, p. 221-243, nos. 4-10.

³² CIL XVI 106.

³³ J. Spaul, *Cohors*², p. 86.

³⁴ *Ibidem*, p. 377.

³⁵ *Ibidem*, p. 394.

*Cohors III Callaecorum Lucensium*³⁶ is attested on the territory of Syria in 88³⁷, 91³⁸, 129³⁹, 127/136⁴⁰ and probably on the diploma from 157.⁴¹ It appears also the units from Syria in *Lollianus'* inscription, already quoted above.⁴² After that moment we have no information regarding this unit.

*Cohors VII Gallorum*⁴³ stationed on the territory of Moesia and then on the territory of Moesia Inferior⁴⁴, being afterwards transferred, probably by Trajan, to Syria. Here it appears for the first time on the diploma dated 132-134, copy after a constitution given for only three units.⁴⁵ It appears also on the diplomas from 127/136 and 157.⁴⁶

The recipient

Unfortunately, the name of the recipient was not preserved entirely. We know only that he was a *gregalis* (a simple horseman) and that he was the son of a *-lentis*. Taking into account the fact that the name of the one of his children was *VAL[ens]*, we can assume that the name of his father was also *Valens*. It was also preserved the name of one of his children, a boy called *Germanus* and the first part of the name of another child, most probably a boy called *Valens*. All these names were typical Roman names. On the *tabella*, due to the presence of the boy *Germanus* right under his father name, it seems that the name of his wife was not written. Probably in the moment of his discharge she was already dead. Also it seems that there is still enough space for at least three or four names of children to be written, as follows:

EX GREGAL[E]

[...VAL]ENTIS F [*origo*]

[ET ... F EIVS] ET GERMANO [F EIVS ET ...F EIVS]

[ET ... F] EIVS ET VAL[ENTI F EIVS].

The presence of a former soldier from Syrian auxiliary units on the Lower Danube is not something very strange; especially if we admit that he served into a unit composed, at least at its beginning, from Thracian horsemen. As we can see from the following table, it seems that in the first century and at the beginning of the 2nd century Thracian soldiers were recruited and sent to Syria:⁴⁷

Soldier's name	Unit's name	Find spot	Date and bibliography
<i>Romesta Rescenti f., Spiurus</i>	<i>ala Gallorum et Thracum Antiana</i>	Sarsânlar, Bulgaria (Moesia Inferior)	18. 06. 54; CIL XVI 3
<i>Bithus Seuthi f., Bessus</i>	<i>Cohors Musulamiorum</i>	Muhovo, Bulgaria (Thracia)	7. 11. 88; CIL XVI 35
<i>Quelse Dolae f., Thrax</i>	<i>ala III Thracum Augusta</i>	Suhoz, Bulgaria (Thracia)	12. 05. 91; RMD 4
<i>Seuthes, ...-is f., Scaen.</i>	<i>ala ueterana Gallica</i>	Gradište, Bulgaria (Moesia Inferior)	12. 05. 91; RMD 5

³⁶ *Ibidem*, p. 86.

³⁷ CIL XVI 35.

³⁸ RMD IV 214; W. Eck, A. Pangerl, *Chiron* 36, 2006, p. 205-214, no. 1.

³⁹ W. Eck, A. Pangerl, *Chiron* 36, 2006, p. 221-230, no. 4.

⁴⁰ CIL XVI 103. About the date of this fragment see now P. Holder, RMD V, p. 702, Further Notes on the Chronology, no. 18: "On present evidence CIL XVI 103 can be identified as an issue for Syria of 127/136." I would like to thank Dr. Paul Holder for sending me this note from RMD V before its publication.

⁴¹ CIL XVI 106; M. M. Roxan, *Epigraphische Studien* 9, 1972, p. 246-247.

⁴² CIL III 600 = ILS 2724 = IPD⁴ 755 = IDRE II 361; PME, M 17.

⁴³ J. Spaul, *Cohors*², p. 171.

⁴⁴ Fl. Matei-Popescu, SCIVA 52-53, 2001-2002, p. 210-211, no. 24; O. Țentea, Fl. Matei-Popescu, *ActaMN* 39-40/I, 2002-2003 (2004), p. 284.

⁴⁵ W. Eck, A. Pangerl, *Scripta Classica Israelica* 24, 2005, p. 114-116, no. 6.

⁴⁶ CIL XVI 103 (P. Holder, RMD V, Further Notes on the Chronology, no. 18); 106.

⁴⁷ To this table we must also add two other diplomas from 12. 05. 91, unfortunately with unknown find spots, but which were given to Thracian soldiers (W. Eck, A. Pangerl, *Chiron* 36, 2006, p. 205-221, nos. 1-3).

<i>...Genimoli f., Thrax</i>	<i>cohors III/IV Thracum Syriaca</i>	Lower Danube (probably Bulgaria, Moesia Inferior)	12. 05. 91; RMD 214 = Pferdehirt, RGZM, 6
Unknown	<i>ala I Vl pia singularium</i>	Kazanlak, Bulgaria (Thracia)	157; CIL XVI 106

Our soldier was recruited in the period 104-109, probably from Moesia Inferior, where he returned after he finished his service. The discovering of this fragment in the centre of the Republic of Moldova is very curious (see above the discussion about the possible find spot). It is possible that the diploma to have been carried on in fact from the southern part of this country. This region, at the North of the Danube's mouths, was part of Moesia Inferior and Roman material culture was found in sites such as: Orlovka (possible the ancient *Aliobrix*)⁴⁸, Novosel'skoe or Izmail⁴⁹. The archaeologists have claimed that the presence of a so called *uallum* starting from the river Prut (the contemporary border between Romania and the Republic of Moldova) to the lake Sasac, a lagoon of the Black Sea, has something to do with the protection of this region controlled by the Romans.⁵⁰ Even that we do not have still enough proves that this *uallum* was raised by the Romans, we have to stretch out that in someway or another, the Romans must have defended the Danube's mouths. This defence line continued on the North Black Sea region, all the Greek cities from that region being defended by the Roman Army from Moesia Inferior.⁵¹

In the final part of my paper, I propose the following restoration of the text for this little fragment of diploma:

[Imp(erator) Caesar diui Traiani Parthici f(ilius), diui Neru(ae) nep(os), Traianus Hadrianus Aug(ustus), pontif(ex) max(imus), tribun(ia) potest(ate)..., co(n)s(ul) III, p(ater) p(atriciae), equitibus et peditibus qui militauerunt in alis ... et cohortibus ... quae appellantur...I Thrac(um) Herc(uliana) et... II]I Aug(usta) Th[rac(um) et IIII Callaecorum Lucensium et V Vl pia P]etr(aeorum) sag(ittariorum)[et VII Gallorum et sunt in Syria sub Poblicio] Marc[ello quin(ia) et uicenis pluribusue stipendis emeritis honesta m]is(sione) qu[orum nomina subscripta sunt, ipsis liberis posterisque eorum ciuitatem dedit et conubium cum uxoribus quas tunc habuissent cum est ciuitas iis data aut siqui caelibes essent, cum iis quas postea duxissent dumtaxat singuli singulas.

A(nte) d(iem)? ... ? co(n)s(ulibus)]

[Ala(e) Thracum H]erc[uliana(e) cui prae(e)st / praefuit]

[...]

ex gregal[e]

[...Val]entis f(ilio) [origo?]

[et...f(ilio) eius] et Germano [f(ilio) eius et ...f(ilio) eius]

[et ...f(ilio)] eius et Val[enti f(ilio) eius]

[Descriptum et recognitum ex tabula aenea, quae fixa est Romae in muro post templum diui Augusti ad Mineruam].

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⁴⁸ TIR L 35, 22, IX f.

⁴⁹ TIR L 35, 47, X f. For an archaeological survey of this region see V. Bârcă, V. Sîrbu, ActaMN 37/I, 2000, p. 69-97.

⁵⁰ V. Bârcă, V. Sîrbu, ActaMN 37/I, 2000, p. 87: “...élévation d’un *limes* entre le Prout et le lac Sasac destiné à fermer tout le Sud du Budgeac, avec les principales sources d’eau, et constituer un barrage pour protéger la Dobroudja et rendre le couloir venant de la Plaine du Danube inaccessible”; see also the map p. 97.

⁵¹ T. Sarnowski, ArchWarszawa 38, 1988, p. 62-95.