

# FROM THERE AND BACK AGAIN. SCIENTIFIC LIFE BEFORE AND AFTER MUSEUMS (THE PERIOD BETWEEN XVIII CENTURY AND THE BEGINNING OF XXI CENTURY). WITH SPECIAL REGARD ON THE ROMANIAN DANUBE SHORE FROM DANUBE GORGE REGION (ROMANIA)

Ana Cristina Hamat\*, Ștefan Georgescu\*\*

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*Cuvinte cheie:* Clisura Dunării, castru, fortificație medievală, istoriografie, istoria arheologiei, secolele XVIII- XXI.

The Danube Gorge, in Romanian *Clisura Dunării*, it is a term that defines the Danube valley from the point where the river enters the country, from Baziaș to Orșova (Pl. 1), for a length of 140 km. The gorge is crossed by DN57, running parallel with the Danube shore from Orșova area until Moldova Veche, from which point, going across the hill, the road follows in the direction towards the mountain region of Banat-Reșița or towards the Banat of Timișoara's plain. Part of Banat, now a province of Romania, the Gorge presented interest for all the rulers of Southern Banat, be it the Roman Empire, the Hungarian Kingdom or the Austrian Empire. The economic value of the area translated in being colonised, from the Romans until the Austrians.

The Danube valley forms here a narrow defile, with tall, stone walls, in some parts wider, such as for example, Pojejena-Moldova Veche, Gornea-Liubcova-Berzeasca or Orșova. Also, geographically speaking, the narrow and rocky gorge, sometimes has large valley crossed by rivers descending towards the Danube but also some wider areas with a terraced landscape, ideal for habitation.

Before the dam at Porțile de Fier was built, the water level in the area was lower in some areas by as much as 20 meters and following the building of the

\* Arheolog, Caransebeș, e-mail: anahamat@yahoo.com

\*\* Museum of National History and Archaeology Constanța, Ovidiu square, no. 12, e-mail: viorel.stefan.g@gmail.com

dam the whole area of the Gorge became a huge accumulation lake. The waters then took over the first terrace of the Danube, along with Ada-Kale island, downstream from Orșova, but also the narrowing of the Moldova Veche isle. With the construction of the dam, numerous archaeological sites and monuments have disappeared under water, some of these researched, others anonymous and therefore unsaved, a situation with tragic consequences for Romanian historical and archaeological patrimony.

Sometimes the border, but most often a bridge, the Gorge area was the theatre of battles, invasions, or miracles that left us, to the inhabitants of today, a magical land impregnated with stories and with an archaeological richness that transcends the present borders, placing it in the area of European heritage.

In our opinion, the archaeological research of the Gorge area comprises two major periods:

- I. The period of accidental discoveries
- II. The period of archaeological research.

The period of the accidental discoveries begins very early during the medieval times, when the need for suitable places to build fortified points, forced the medieval man to choose the places long before chosen and fortified by the Dacians and after them by the Romans. In this situation is Pojejena<sup>1</sup>, on the Romanian Danube's shore, where the medieval fortress is near the Roman fort, Coronini Culă – where the medieval fortress overlaps a Roman and Dacian habitation, Berzeasca – where in the narrow part of the gorge, are mentioned three sites that overlap and span all three periods and last but not least Orșova, Orfrva, on its medieval name and none other than ancient Dierna. The erection of the line of fortifications on the southern border of the Hungarian Kingdom meant the construction or strengthening of some fortresses existing at the time, by King Sigismund of Luxembourg. The glory period of these stronghold ended with the conquest of the Hungarian Kingdom by the Turks<sup>2</sup>. After that, the time of the cartographers followed, with the conquest wars funded and carried on by the Habsburg Empire. The conquest of Banat and its entrance under imperial control meant a new era. The new rulers immediately set up a mapping system of the land and especially brought here the army and the imperial organization. Besides the Josephinian Land Survey, two very important whorks have remained from this period, namely *Danubius Pannonico – Mysicus* (1726) by Luigi F. Marsigli and *Versuch einer politischen und natürlichen Geschichte des*

<sup>1</sup> The research in the area is conducted by Călin Timoc, PhD, (MNB Timișoara), with the participation of MBM Reșița.

<sup>2</sup> Moisi 1938, 231; Matei, Uzum, 1973, 154; Matei 1979, 259; Feneșan, 2015, 122; Magina 2016, 143, 146.

*temeswarer Banats in Briefen an Standespersonen und Gelehrte, Erster Theil*, published in Vienna in 1780 by Francesco Grisellini.

For example, the fortification from Orsova appears in the work of L. F. Marsigli<sup>3</sup>, along with the ruins of Trajan's bridge from Drobeta-Pontes<sup>4</sup> and Ulpia Traiana<sup>5</sup>.

F. Grisellini also published information on the sites and monuments of Dacia in letter IX<sup>6</sup>, among which he also mentions inscriptions discovered in Moldova Veche on the side of Mount Bezedin<sup>7</sup>. He embarks on a journey on the Danube from Belgrade to Orșova in 1775, recalling that many of Marsigli's observations are incorrect<sup>8</sup>, mentioning also the *Tabula Traiana* and the Roman roads on both sides of the Danube.

One of the great achievements of these period is Josephinian map of Banat (1769–1772), on which we can easily notice the place of the Pojejena roman fort, the medieval fortress located here, as well as the fortress from Coronini, the roman fort from Căunița de Jos-Gornea and the one from Orșova<sup>9</sup>. A much better situation is presented in the second mapping of the area, from 1819–1869<sup>10</sup>. In contrast to the previous map, the remains of the Roman fortifications (Orșova, Gornea) and of the medieval fortifications (Drenkova, Trikulé, Coronini) are noted with a greater care. The third mapping (1869–1887) keeps many more details, mentions fewer sites such as Ostrovul Moldova Veche-Humcă, Gornea, Drencova, or Trikulé<sup>11</sup>.

To the cartographic documentation one can add personal writings, in the form of travel journals, such as that of Johann Kaspar Steube, who published in 1791 *Wanderschaften und Schicksale – Hiking and Destinations*, and in 1793 of *Briefe aus dem Banat – Letters from Banat*. The books were published in Gotha – the author's birthplace and Eisenach and in both of them Steube speaks of the Banat area, recalling for the reader fragments of its known history. Mainly, he describes the area Mehadia- Herculane- Orșova, making a connection with another work appreciated at the time, that of Caryophilus about the area of the Herculane Baths,

<sup>3</sup> Marsigli 1726, 15, fig. XXV-XXVI.

<sup>4</sup> Marsigli 1726, 26, 33.

<sup>5</sup> Marsigli 1726, 63 65–66, fig. 33.

<sup>6</sup> Grisellini 1984, 204–228.

<sup>7</sup> Grisellini 1984, 216.

<sup>8</sup> Grisellini 1984, 217.

<sup>9</sup> Mapire, <https://mapire.eu/en/map/firstsurveybanat/?layers=137&bbox=2488650.6775730597%2C5574258.046894264%2C2501539.871467647%2C5578079.898308524>

<sup>10</sup> Mapire, <https://mapire.eu/en/map/secondsurveyhungary/?layers=5&bbox=2492654.932519387%2C5574550.38178384%2C2499099.5294666807%2C5576461.30749097>

<sup>11</sup> Mapire, <https://mapire.eu/en/map/thirdsurvey25000/?layers=129&bbox=2429562.9321538405%2C5567611.268565993%2C2432785.2306274874%2C5568566.731419557>

published in 1739<sup>12</sup>. As proof that the term “Clisura” was used on a usual basis, our author uses it in the form of Klissura<sup>13</sup>, he mentioned in passing the mountain range of South Banat and the fossils that are often found in the area, along with the discoveries made here. Of all the archaeological sites, Steube mentions Peștera Veterani, also called Tamantică, but also the Roman earth ramparts that reach up to Palanca Mare-Uipalanca and Cuvin, near the Danube<sup>14</sup>.

The massive colonization, sponsored by the Austrian Empire, that took place especially in the eighteenth century but with echoes in the next, brought with it the creation of a class formed by local intelligentsia, which will manifest itself in the second half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. For the most part, when it comes to Banat, especially the Southern Banat, this intelligentsia is of German origin. In the second part of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, her crystallized voice become distinct in the research landscape at the provincial level and marked the second period- the one of archaeological research of the area. The name that deserves first place in the discussions is that of Leonard Böhm (1833–1924). Born in Banat, he studied in Vienna and Budapest and became a pillar of the historical research from Banat. His main work, *Geschichte des Temeser Banats* is published in 1861, followed by the monograph of the city Bela Crkva and numerous studies concerning the history of the communities from Southern Banat<sup>15</sup>. His work, published in German by prestigious printing houses from the Empire will represent material for the historiography of the second wave, with well-known historians such as Theodor Ortway-Orthmayr (1843–1914) and Felix Milleker (1858–1942). Of the two, the latter will be strongly influenced in the writing of the repertoire of Banat by the works of Leonard Böhm, taking from it numerous references concerning the archaeological sites in the Clisura area. The importance of Bohm, transcends the national misconceptions, quite acute at the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, when his work is fully translated into Romanian but without the author even being quoted<sup>16</sup>.

The end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, is the period in which archeology and history are institutionalized by establishing in Timișoara the – Society of History and Archaeology, its leadership being elected in the assembly of September 7, 1872. It brought together the province intellectuals, from Ormond Szigismond to L. Böhm, or F. Mileker<sup>17</sup>. The society’s magazine appeared quarterly between

<sup>12</sup> Many of the monuments mentioned by Steube have been noted by Caryophilus or by Grisellini (Steube 2008, 40–44).

<sup>13</sup> Steube 2003, 88.

<sup>14</sup> Steube 2003, 88.

<sup>15</sup> Bohm 1861; Țicu 2013, 9.

<sup>16</sup> Broșteanu 1890, 1–3; Broșteanu 1890a, 1–2.

<sup>17</sup> Medeleț 1992; Toma 1997; Țicu 2013, 10–11.

1875–1917, in it were published scientific studies of history and archaeology, not only concerning historical monuments but also about the field researches occasioned by the land improvements and therefore, at that time Banat had an active and very modern research. Due to political changes, the magazine was published in Hungarian, making the transition between the historiography of German and Hungarian languages. F. Milleker, becomes a member of the society on the recommendation of L. Bohm, the two sharing the nostalgia for the common origin from the south of Banat, but also the interest for the contact area, Clisura. Originally a teacher, librarian because of his need of money, and finally custodian of the Vârșet Museum, Milleker will write the Banat repertoire, laying the foundations for a modern research method with extraordinary results<sup>18</sup>. With a vast work, due to a good knowledge of the terrain, but also to the contacts with the European academic world, especially the Hungarian one, Milleker is the one who brings to the discussion Coronini, Cozla, Pojejena, Vatina, Zidovar, Vrsac, Old Moldova sites, that he himself visited by foot. Since 1893, the Society has been actively involved in financing archaeological research and therefore this is the beginning of Banat archaeology<sup>19</sup>.

Among the first museum institutions is the Vrsac Museum established between 1882–1894. It currently houses extensive collections that reflect the history of this areas, published since its inception.

As seen above, at the initiative of Ormós Zsigmond, the prefect of Timiș County and of a group of intellectuals, on July 25, 1872, the first scientific society in Banat was founded, named the Society of History and Archaeology, which aimed at establishing a museum of history-archaeology in Timișoara. The establishment of the Banat History and Archaeology Society in 1872 actually marks the beginning of another museum institution, that of the Banat Museum in Timișoara. The importance of the city for the region determined the coagulation of intelligentsia in the association with the stated purpose of recording and researching the historical past and with the concrete purpose of establishing a museum of history and archaeology and initiating archaeological digs that were to be published in the society's magazine and thus to place the Banat region on the map of the Austrian Empire and why not... of Europe from a research point of view. The enthusiasm of those first years is also noticeable in that the first museum objects come from donations, archaeological discoveries, but also acquisitions made with the society's money. Thus, we recall the great donation of antiques from 1873 made by General Anton Scudier consisting of several Roman and feudal epigraphic and sculptural monuments, coming from Titel

<sup>18</sup> This are times also for the the first archaeological excavations, see Milleker 1937 and Medeleț 1997.

<sup>19</sup> Medeleț, Toma 1997, 53.

(present-day Serbian territory). Representing the region from the beginning, objects from all over the area, from Orșova to Timișoara, were brought to the museum in Timișoara. Over time, important donations entered the museum's patrimony, such as those of Ormós, Pongracz, Cesnola, etc., donated by members of the historical society or even by personalities from the Banat cultural life, with the purpose to increase the value of the new institution. Under these conditions, the official opening of the museum for the public takes place in 1877. The number of archaeological pieces increases year by year, mainly due to the launching of systematic archaeological excavations (1893), reaching in 1916 over 17,000 objects. Emanuil Ungureanu played as the important role in reorganizing the museum, in the inter-war period he served the cultural inspector for the city of Timișoara. The museum was confronted throughout the inter-war period with a lack of space, in 1937 being assigned a part of the Cultural Palace of the city. In spite of all these difficulties, its collections increased, an important role in the institution's existence being played by Joachim Miloia, Dionisie Linția, Aurel Ciupe, Marius Moga. The wooden churches from Banat were investigated, archaeological excavations were organized scientifically (coordinated by the reputed historian Constantin Daicoviciu), the collections of natural sciences and art were enriched by very rare pieces entering in their patrimony. While making the inventory of the Roman fortifications in Banat, C-tin Daicoviciu, together with I. Miloia, also arrive in Clisură, at Berzeasca, Pojejena and Gornea<sup>20</sup>. Unfortunately, the interest for the Clisură area shown initially, will be reiterated only in the 70s, with the researches occasioned by the construction of the Iron Gates dam, among those who are interested in this area we mention Professor D. Tudor, who manages to identify Pojejena and proposes the existence here of a late Roman garrison, of late 3<sup>rd</sup> century. – beginning of the 4<sup>th</sup> century AD, pointing out that this bridgehead was most likely to last until the time of Emperor Justinian<sup>21</sup>.

Established later, after the middle of the last century, the museum in Reșița is a relatively young institution in the Romanian museum landscape. It was also established at the initiative of the local civil society. Thus, in 1957 a "Committee for the establishment of the museum" was set up, within Uzina Constructoare de Mașini din Reșița, a trust that brought together steel producing and machine building units. As in the case of Timișoara, donations of private collections were the basis of the new museum construction in Reșița, inaugurated in the winter of 1959. The museum of the city of Reșița was recognized as such by an act of March 1962 by the Ministry of Education and Culture of Romania, and

<sup>20</sup> Daicoviciu, Miloia 1930.

<sup>21</sup> Timoc 2017, 1025; Tudor 1958, 376–377.



the first director of the Museum was professor Octavian Răuț, who initiated the first excavations and the first archaeological digs in the Barzavei valley, at the Roman camp from Berzovia and at the Roman farm in Ramna. Then followed the interest for the Danube valley, in the same context, mentioned above.

After the administrative reorganization based on counties of Romania, in 1968 the museum became the History Museum of the Caraș-Severin county, with the declared purpose of researching and protecting the county's area, one of the counties with the greatest number of pinpointed archaeological sites. The scientific and museological activity has been supported with very good performances by a group of young historians and archaeologists since 1976 and consolidated in the following years by names such as D. Țicu, S. A. Luca, D. Bălănescu, Gh. Lazarovici, W. Wolmann, G. El Susi, O. Bozu, A. Radu, M. Gumă. Since 1997 the standard name of the museum has been changed, becoming the Museum of the Highland Banat, and the permanent exhibition organized based on its own collections was only reopened in 2000<sup>22</sup>. In the deposits of MBM Reșița there are currently over 70,000 artifacts with inventory numbers, here being hosted most of the materials from the researches made on Clisura, the notable exception is the material from Orșova, located in the MRPF, MNB deposits Timișoara and in institutions in Bucharest. This area benefit also by a repertory created by one of the leading archaeologist of the region, namely S. A Luca after 90<sup>23</sup>.

During this time, the museum from Reșița became the leading institution for the archaeological researches on the Danube-Clisura valley, to this purpose it associated with researchers from the museum in Timișoara, from the university center in Cluj – prof. Gh. Lazarovici, N Gudea or Șt. Matei and from the center from Bucharest – V. Boroneanț. Moreover, the names of some of them are related to extensive and important research for the history of Romanian archeology, which is why we will continue to illustrate the most important archaeological sites and the history of their research.

The name of Gh. Lazarovici is connected with the research of the Neolithic age from Gornea with its particular aspects, but also with the connection for the first time to the European space and especially with the connection to the space of present-day Serbia<sup>24</sup>. The caves, with all their treasures, were mapped, studied and published by V. Boroneanț, numerous points with important discoveries belonging to all eras were for the first time brought to the attention of the specialists through his research<sup>25</sup>. Also, Schela Cladovei, with the Roman

<sup>22</sup> Muzeul Banatului Montan, <http://www.muzeulbanatuluiimontan.ro/index.php/istoric-o-ro>.

<sup>23</sup> The last one was publish in 2010, see Luca 2010.

<sup>24</sup> Lazarovici 1979; Lazarovici 1983.

<sup>25</sup> Boroneanț 1968; Boroneanț 1975; Boroneanț 2000; Boroneanț 2000a.

fort and the Mesolithic period discoveries<sup>26</sup>, comparable to what is researched on the Serbian bank of the Danube.

The medieval era was investigated in the years 70–80s by Șt. Matei and O. Răuț through a large excavations in the fortress of Coronini. Also the fortress of Tricule was excavated<sup>27</sup>. D. Țeicu also excavated in Gornea after the 90s<sup>28</sup> through extensive research and publish the medieval fortifications and places of worship on the territory of Banat<sup>29</sup>. Currently, the medieval fortress of Coronini-Culă is the subject of a restoration project, which aims to highlight the fortification area from a touristic point of view. These extensive works are prefaced by archaeological research, from which in fact continues and completes the research of from the 1970s, of Șt. Matei and I. Uzum, as well as those conducted by M. Gumă in the 90's<sup>30</sup>.

The Roman period on the Clisura was extensively researched at Gornea – the building with apse and the Roman quadriburium and at Pojejena – Roman camp, by N. Gudea. The Roman Dierna, present-day Orșova was investigated in great haste by a large group made from of several researchers, among which we mention E. Bujor from Bucharest or D. Benea from the museum in Severin. Unfortunately, the research was not published as they should have been, the documentation and the material taking the path of Bucharest and are currently missing. Fragments from the documentation were published by D. Benea – what remained, with additions made by C. Timoc<sup>31</sup>, in the last years. The tragedy of Orșova is that we will never know precisely how one of the most important cities of the Roman Dacia, port on the Danube and at the same time a very important medieval fortress on the borders of the Hungarian Kingdom, look like. Separate pieces of information from memories or fragments of documentation are adding up to artefacts whose discovery context is not clear, currently located in the MRPF collection from Severin or in the National Museum of History from București<sup>32</sup>; from here truly extraordinary artefacts keep appearing.

With regards to the site of Pojejena, the Roman fort and the medieval fortress were first reported by the Italian humanist Luigi Ferdinando de Marsigli, at the end of the 17<sup>th</sup> century, in the context of the Holy League War (1684–'99),

<sup>26</sup> Boroneanț 1973.

<sup>27</sup> Corvătescu, Rădulescu 1979.

<sup>28</sup> Matei 1979, Matei, Uzum, 1973; Țeicu 1993; Țeicu, Lazarovici 1996.

<sup>29</sup> Matei 1979, Matei, Uzum, 1973; Țeicu, Lazarovici 1996; Rusu, 2005; Țeicu 2007; Țeicu 2009, 114–115.

<sup>30</sup> Matei, Uzum, 1973; Medeleț 1971.

<sup>31</sup> Benea, Șchiopu 1974; Benea 1975; Timoc 2009; Benea 2016, 143; Timoc 2019.

<sup>32</sup> Hamat 2019; Hamat 2020.



then mapped by Felix Milleker. The archaeological “excursion” of 1880 undertaken by Torma Károly and Leonhard Böhm correctly traces the ruins of the medieval fortress, close to the banks of the Danube, made of reused Roman stone and brick, but distinct from the ruins on the plateau on which the Roman fort is. The stamped Roman bricks that they identify on the spot are mostly legion VII Claudia and to a lesser extent II legion Flavia Felix, along with those of the V Gallorum cohort, military units of which today we know for sure that they were stationed at a certain time in the Pojejena camp and were probably represented by a detachment or even entirely – as is the case with the auxiliary unit. The archaeological researches of the 70s, conducted by N. Gudea and O. Bozu, focus on the planimetry of the camp, publishing it for the first time<sup>33</sup>. The exquisite materials from the fort were also published on several occasions, emphasizing once again, the importance and the extended dating of the habitation of the Roman fortification and vicus that existed here<sup>34</sup>. The research has been resumed at present by a group headed by. C. Timoc, PhD, from the MNB Timișoara, some of the staff from MBM Reșița, together with a group of researchers from the University of Warsaw are also part of the collective. The complex planimetry of the site and the Roman settlement were established, with the help of non-invasive methods, project implemented from 2015 and in progress<sup>35</sup>.

Near Pojejena, Moldova Nouă with the fort, roman mine an also different sites with habitation layers were excavated between 1970–1990<sup>36</sup>.

For the Gornea site, identified on the Austrian maps, published by L.Bohm, resumed by F. Milleker who cites Böhm’s work<sup>37</sup>, things are simpler. The information was presented by P. Broșteanu in two articles published in the local newspaper Foaia Diecezană from June-July 1890<sup>38</sup>. The archaeological investigations took place during the years 1968–1969, undoubtedly under threat of the construction of the new hydroelectric power station at the Porțile de Fier, and in 1970 the ruins at Căunița de Jos were already under water<sup>39</sup>. At present the research can continue in the area of Căunița de sus, the whole hill being a site with complex stratigraphy, ranging from the Paleolithic to the medieval era. After almost half a century, in Căunița de Sus, preventive research is required

<sup>33</sup> Gudea 1975; Gudea, Uzum 1973; Gudea, Bozu 1979.

<sup>34</sup> Gudea 1971.

<sup>35</sup> Timoc 2018; Timoc 2018a, Timoc 2019; Jęczmienowski 2019.

<sup>36</sup> Bozu 1996; Bozu 1996b; Benea 2016, 154.

<sup>37</sup> Milleker 1897, 76.

<sup>38</sup> Broșteanu 1890, 1–3; Broșteanu 1890a, 1–2.

<sup>39</sup> Uzum *et alii* 1973, 405, 407; Gudea 1977, 38. Gudea 1978; Gudea 1982, 98, 104; Gudea, Dragomir 1975; Bozu 1993, 206, 208; Bozu, El Susi 1987.

once again, the site being in great danger due to the construction activity taking place in the area, due to a boom of tourism.

An important site is the Dacian fortress from Divici-Colonie, researched by M. Gumă in the 90's<sup>40</sup>. His untimely death has stopped the research here, but lately, the materials from the excavations have begun to be published or discussed in such a way that Divici is in the spotlight of the Romanian research<sup>41</sup> even though no excavations are conducted here for the time being.

It is worth mentioning that, due to the fact that in this area, the Roman and medieval fortifications were preserved very well and are therefore visible until the first half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, they attracted not only the researchers, but also the treasure hunters. The situation of the treasure hunters is attested within Banat since medieval times, also for the 19<sup>th</sup> century and especially for Tibiscum. The ancient remains are endangered by the inhabitants, since the walls of Tibiscum were 1 m above ground, makes us believe that the ruins from Gornea, that Böhm has researched and described, mentioning that the walls 3–4 m in height were washed by the Danube in 1878<sup>42</sup>, probably also attracted unwarranted attention.

Although we have no mention of a systematic robbery, we know that in the area, there were quite important private collections that attracted the attention of the specialized personnel, and after the regulation of the legislation, even that of the police. This is the case of the collection of G. Georgescu, captain of the port of Moldova Veche, which attracted the interest of C-tin Daicoviciu<sup>43</sup>, but also of the Simici collection in the same area<sup>44</sup>. Both have attracted the attention of researchers and are illustrative for the Pojejena-Moldova Veche area. The problem with these artefacts is that for the purpose of dating and discussion, their context is completely lost.

The removal of the visible stone from the masonry is a phenomenon present in the Middle Ages – for the Roman sites, but especially since the 19<sup>th</sup> century this happened to all the monuments in the area. The visible difference between the ruins of the fortress from Coronini-Culă- destroyed to the foundations and the fortress Golubac, which has recently entered in the tourist circuit and where you can climb the upper floors of the towers or on the walls, is painful.

The disastrous situation of many sites and monuments in the area could at least be improved by promoting the tourism, an activity that until recently was

<sup>40</sup> Gumă *et alii* 1995; Gumă *et alii* 1996.

<sup>41</sup> Rustoiu 2002; Rustoiu 2006–2007; Drăgan 2013; Săcărin *et alii* 2013; Rustoiu *et alii* 2017.

<sup>42</sup> Böhm 1880, 179.

<sup>43</sup> Daicoviciu, Miloia 1930, 21.

<sup>44</sup> In the collections of the Highland Banat Museum from Reșița there are many objects coming from donations made by Simici family.

unknown in the area. Poverty, lack of jobs, the beauty of the area, the increase number of tourists has determined many mayors and many locals to invest in this activity. Unfortunately, in the absence of authority and coordinates projects, the situation of the archaeological sites is a disastrous one, as is the case in Căunița de Sus- Gornea. Another case, this time a happier one, is that of the medieval fortress of Coronini-Culă, a project promoted by the local authority and which has managed to mobilize the entire community<sup>45</sup>. The project is seen as a last chance for improving the settlement life, for jobs that bring home those who work abroad.

Thus, we can say, that from a certain point of view we went back to the 18<sup>th</sup> century when these riches were mapped and studied, following that in the near future they will be properly highlighted.

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<sup>45</sup> Coronini Culă 2019, archaeological campaign, <http://cronica.cimec.ro/detaliu.asp?k=6349&d=Coronini-Caras-Severin-Cetatea-Sf-Ladislau-2019>.

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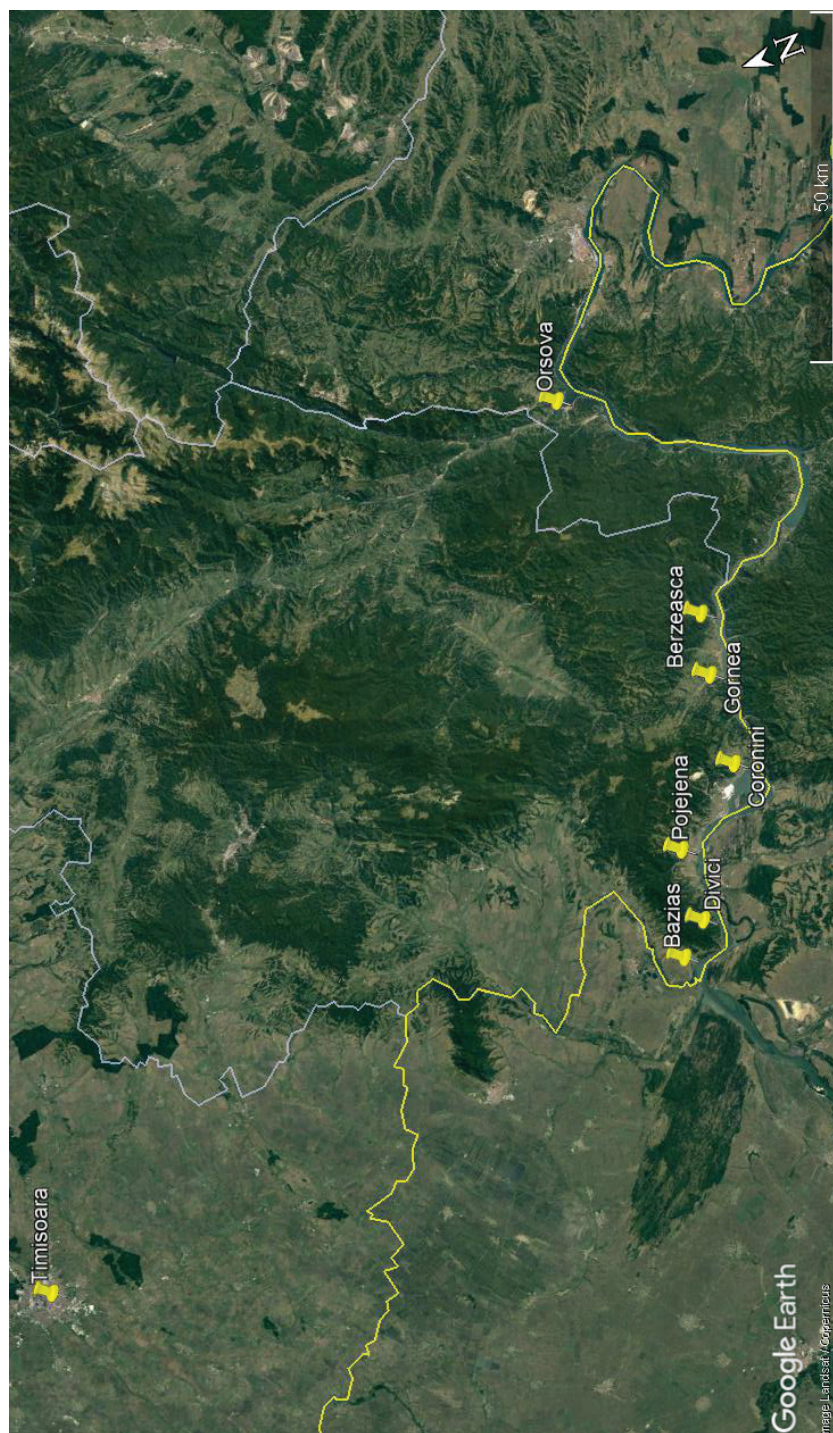
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ÎNTR-ACOLO ȘI ÎNAPOI. VIAȚA ȘTIINȚIFICĂ ÎNAINTE  
ȘI DUPĂ CREAREA MUZEELOR (PERIOADA CUPRINSĂ  
ÎNȚRE SECOLUL XVIII ȘI ÎNCEPUTUL SECOLULUI XXI). CU  
REFERIRE SPECIALĂ LA ȚĂRMUL ROMÂNESC AL DUNĂRII  
DIN REGIUNEA CLISURA DUNĂRII (ROMÂNIA)

*Rezumat*

Clisura Dunării este una dintre regiunile geografice cele mai bogate din România din punct de vedere al descoperirilor arheologice. Malul Dunării se întinde pe 140 km, de la Baziaș până la Orșova, în regiunea de astăzi numită Banat. Numele românesc este Clisură, iar așezările contemporane sunt situate la poalele dealurilor sau în văile create de munții Locvei și Munții Almăjului. De la începutul secolului al XVIII-lea Imperiul Habsburgic s-a interesat de această regiune datorită războaielor avute cu Imperiul Otoman. Cartografierea terenului a dat posibilitatea inginerilor cartografi să înregistreze și siturile arheologice precum cetatea de la Coronini-Culă sau *quadriburgium*-ul roman de la Gornea. Cel mai important vizitator austriac este Luigi F. Marsigli (1658–1730), care scrie în prefața cărții sale *Danubius Pannonico-Mysicus* (1726): „Am fost primul care a făcut lumină asupra acestei lumi îndepărtate și secrete ascunse în obscuritatea barbară”. O parte importantă a documentației pentru valea Dunării, și cu siguranță cea mai frumoasă, se află în desenele diferiților călători din secolele XVIII-XIX. În secolul al XIX-lea malurile fluviului primesc vizitele de studiu a doi mari savanți: F. Milleker și L. Böhm. Acestea sunt începuturile pentru repertoriul arheologic al Banatului, mai ales datorate operei lui F. Milleker, dar și pentru primele studii științifice despre istoria și arheologia zonei sau pentru marile colecții, precum și pentru societatea arheologică *Történeti és Regeszeti Társulat* și pentru primul muzeu, înființat la Timișoara.

Secolul al XX-lea a venit cu mari schimbări pentru monumentele și siturile arheologice de pe malul Dunării, între ele cele două războaie mondiale și construcția barajului Porțile de Fier. În a doua jumătate a secolului a luat ființă muzeul de istorie din Reșița. Din păcate, după 1989 cercetările arheologice de la Clisură încetinesc, iar astăzi, toate speranțele noastre stau în banii pentru restaurarea cetăților medievale din zonă sau în arheologia contractuală.



Pl. 1. Map of the Danube Gorge with the most important archaeological excavations included in the article, apud Google Earth accessed in 31.10.2021. / Harta celor mai importante puncte cu cercetări arheologice din Clisura Dunării, incluse în articol apud Google Earth accesat în 31.10.2021.