

## HISTRIA – A GREEK CITY IN A ROMAN PROVINCE\*

Adriana PANAITE\*\*

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**Rezumat:** O componentă esențială a cercetării arheologice o reprezintă studiul peisajului. Studiarea sistematică a acestuia a început să prindă contur în anii '70 ai secolului trecut, când se lansează conceptul de „arheologia peisajului” (landscape archaeology). În spatele acestuia se găsește, de fapt, legătura între cercetarea de teren și observarea modificărilor aduse mediului înconjurător la un moment dat, acesta încetând să mai reprezinte un simplu loc de desfășurare a activităților umane. Astfel, peisajul arheologic trebuie perceput ca fiind rezultatul interacțiunii dintre factorii naturali și antropici.

Sosirea romanilor și introducerea zonei de la Dunărea de Jos în interiorul granițelor Imperiului Roman, în forma provinciei Moesia Inferior duce la modificarea radicală a peisajului. Acest spațiu este cucerit și reorganizat, în primul rând cu ajutorul armatei romane, acțiunea fiind dublată de măsuri cu caracter civil care duc pe de o parte, la integrarea așezărilor deja existente (autohtone și orașele grecești de la malul Mării Negre) în noul organism administrativ, dar și la apariția unor noi.

Histria este singura așezare greacă pentru care s-au făcut și în trecut câteva studii legate de analiza peisajului, în special pentru epoca greacă. În lucrarea de față ne vom opri asupra elementelor constitutive ale teritoriului histrian pentru epoca romană (așezări, drumuri, fortificații, apeducte, cariere de piatră etc.) în încercarea de a identifica trăsăturile peisajului roman de aici.

**Summary:** An essential component of the archaeological research is the study of landscape. The systematic study of it began to take shape in the 70s of last century, when it was launched the concept of "landscape archeology". Behind this is actually the connection between field research and the changes of the environment at a certain moment of time. In other words the archaeological landscape should be seen as the result of the

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\*\* Adriana PANAITE: Institute of Archaeology "Vasile Pârvan", of the Romanian Academy; e-mail: panaite\_adriana92@yahoo.com.

interaction of natural and anthropogenic factors.

The arrival of the Romans and the introduction of the Lower Danube area within the borders of the Roman Empire, as the province of *Moesia Inferior*, lead to a radical change of landscape. This space is conquered and reorganized primarily by the Roman army, but this action is accompanied by civil measurements, resulting on the one hand, the integration of existing settlements (local and Greek cities of the Black Sea) in the new administrative body, but also the appearance of the new ones.

For the Greek city of Histria several studies related to landscape analysis have been made in the past, especially for Greek era. In the present paper we will focus on the components of the Roman territory of Histria (settlements, roads, fortifications, aqueducts, quarries etc) in an attempt to identify the landscape's characteristics of the area.

Archaeological landscape should be perceived as the result of changes to the environment as a consequence of social, economic and cultural opportunities or constraints caused by natural factors<sup>1</sup>.

Establishing a relationship of interdependence between man and space is determined by the existence of factors coming from both sides - natural and anthropogenic<sup>2</sup>. Archaeological approach of them from an integrative and cumulative perspective represents the essence of what has to be understood by the concept of landscape archeology<sup>3</sup>.

An attempt to recreate the provincial roman landscape at the Lower Danube should follow the next steps:

1. A comprehensive approach to value the existing literature with regard to the subject matter.
2. An interdisciplinary analysis of data from archeology and related disciplines (multiple sources - historic ancient narrative sources, epigraphy, aerial photography and cartography).

Information has to be then the subject of a combinatory analysis after which relations of relative chronology can be established between the various elements, which may provide clues to the dynamics of the landscape and the areas occupied by humans.

The arrival of the Romans at the Lower Danube and transforming this whole area into the Roman province of *Moesia Inferior* lead to a radical change of the landscape. A sprawling space is occupied and organized by the army, resulting in an imperial province located by the border. The operation is carried out gradually - an expression of policy of "small steps" practiced by the Romans - over several stages, military organization, with all necessary (fortifications, roads, *mansiones*, *mutationes*, points of customs stations), being doubled by civil measures, to integrate in the new administrative body the local communities, the Greek towns from the Black Sea Coast and the new founded roman settlements.

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<sup>1</sup> ASTON 1985, p. 11-29.

<sup>2</sup> HEILEN 2005, p. 20-21.

<sup>3</sup> HEILEN 2005, p. 30.

Implementation of Roman forms runs parallel with measures for the integration in the empire. It is a well known fact that along the borders of the Empire (*limes*) near every military fortification there is always – at least one – civil settlement depending on it and working for its benefit<sup>4</sup>. The Roman authorities will be concerned primarily of creating the infrastructure to ensure the cohesion of space, which became functional in terms of economy, administration and military.

Factors that determine the shape of space and the creation of a specific landscape have their origin in an element of necessity: water and food supply, the need for raw materials, defense and ability to respond quickly in case of attack, communication etc. Romans will impose a new system of land ownership, of making agriculture and farming and will decisively influence the organization and distribution of rural settlements. Water provisioning and the access to raw materials, primarily stone and clay, create in the landscape aqueducts and quarries. Each settlement administrates a territory whose limits are visibly marked on land. They all were well connected by a network of land routes. As time is passing next to them appear the cemeteries, flat or barrow. All this is nothing else than the basic elements of a new reality: Roman provincial landscape.

As it is known, the settlement of the Greeks in the southern area of the Romanian littoral, near by the Danube river mouth, is the proof of some favorable physical and geographical conditions offered by the territory of Dobrudja and the bordering zone of the sea. One of those settlements was Histria (**Fig. 1**). It is the oldest Greek town (second half of the 7<sup>th</sup> century BC) on the Black Sea Coast and the best preserved archeological site along the Romanian coast as no human development continued after its abandonment in the 7<sup>th</sup> century AD. It is systematically excavated since 1914<sup>5</sup>. Founded by the Milesian colonists the city benefited from a marine bay, presenting excellent conditions for a port<sup>6</sup>, to which is added an area suitable for agriculture<sup>7</sup>, and some forests nearby<sup>8</sup>, at least one good source of water and other raw materials, in short a very favorable environment.

There were in the past few attempts trying to reconstruct the antic landscape in Histria, but without any further continuations. They were mainly focused on the reconstruction of the relationship of the Greek city with the necropolis and the roads in the area noticed on an aerial photography<sup>9</sup>.

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<sup>4</sup> SOMMER 1999, p. 81-93; BENEÀ 2003; CÎRJAN 2013, p. 11-36.

<sup>5</sup> For a brief summary of the archaeological excavations carried out in Histria for over a century see ANGELESCU & AVRAM 2014, p. 35-49; AVRAM & ANGELESCU 2014, p. 5-11.

<sup>6</sup> The position of the port is still a problematic issue, different authors seeing it to the North of the city or to the South of it, see ȘTEFAN 1974, p. 41; ALEXANDRESCU 2000-2001, p. 180-182; SCURTU 2009, p. 26-35; DABÎCA 2010, p. 381-392; DABÎCA 2013, p. 157-160 and plates 1-18.

<sup>7</sup> SUCEVEANU 1977; SUCEVEANU 1998; IACOB 2013.

<sup>8</sup> ISM I 67, 68.

<sup>9</sup> ALEXANDRESCU 1970, p. 77-86; ALEXANDRESCU 1971, p. 27-36; ALEXANDRESCU 1978, p. 331-342; ALEXANDRESCU 2000-2001, p. 179-198; DORUȚIU-BOILĂ 1971, p. 37-46;

Of outmost importance for the archeologists and coastal scientists keen on tracking Histria's history is the environment reconstruction as most current scenarios relates the city's demise to coastal evolution and coastal transgression.

Nowadays, the acropolis of Histria lies far from the current shoreline, within what is today the Razelm-Sinoe lagoon system, which forms the southern compartment of the Danube Delta.

The continuous alluvial process due to the Danube, led to successive deposition of sediment and creation of a coastal belt. The result was covering with water of the northern part of the city and alluvial bay from the south. The ancient bay turned into a coastal plain, while the northern part of the plateau was covered by water. At the same time, low plains west of Plateau were also flooded and thus appeared Istria and Nuntași lakes that covered not only a part of the tumular necropolis, but also the roads coming from inland to the city.

Based on the latest research of the evolution of topography and shoreline the Greek colony was founded on an island and surrounding sandy soils, as shown by archaeological finds, and then it reaches of the continent, while slowly is losing the connection with the sea<sup>10</sup>.

Other changes in the natural environment in which the city is positioned are determined by intensive farming<sup>11</sup>, plus the regulation of water flow and construction of irrigation channels. All of them have produced important changes in the landscape. For example the regularization of the old courses of the rivers Istria and Nuntași by old and new irrigation channel; the changes of shores of lakes; the constructions in the point "Pescărie" which in 2001-2004 destroyed 87 tumuli<sup>12</sup>.

At the beginning of the Christian era the old Greek colony became part of the Roman Empire. The new political reality brought important changes on the administrative, religious and social levels<sup>13</sup>. This new era was felt to be a second foundation of the city<sup>14</sup>. Now it is built the early Roman city-wall, enclosing a larger area then the previous period. Its path is partly known and partly under the waters of Lake Sinoe<sup>15</sup>. Archaeological research in the southern part of the city have cleared up the problem of its SE end. It has long been believed that the early roman fortification is lost in the sand, but the latest research shows that it ends

ȘTEFAN 1974, p. 39-51; ȘTEFAN 1975, p. 51-62; ȘTEFAN 1976, p. 43-51.

<sup>10</sup> PREOTEASA *et alii* 2012, p. 201-223; PREOTEASA *et alii* 2013, p. 564-569. The authors present a new interpretation of the coastal morphological changes and the impact of coastal changes which in the end resulted in the city's decline and abandonment. See also [www.histria.geo.unibuc.ro](http://www.histria.geo.unibuc.ro).

<sup>11</sup> E.g. CANARACHE 1956, p. 294-296, 303.

<sup>12</sup> ANGELESCU 2009, p. 8.

<sup>13</sup> SUCEVEANU 1990, p. 233-264; SUCEVEANU 2010, p. 25-33; SUCEVEANU & BARNEA 1991.

<sup>14</sup> ISM I 191, 193.

<sup>15</sup> *Histria I*, p. 285-293; ALEXANDRESCU 2000-2001, p. 181-182: the city wall is continuing under the water to the North for about 65 m and there are some elements allowing the supposition that there is another tower in that area.



with one firmly end, that represents the place where the contact with water was, which is the ancient shoreline<sup>16</sup>.

The building of the new early-roman city wall caused a true urban restructuring. Analyzing the orientation of the streets within the city, one can see two different areas delimited by the Hellenistic city wall; East of it, the orientation is maintained, while West of it, in the new area, incorporated into the city, in the first half of the 2<sup>nd</sup> century AD, the streets are constructed according to a new schema<sup>17</sup>. Moreover, the insulae system is inherited from the Hellenistic period, which in turn, as shown by some studies, comes from the Classical period. The five streets identified by M. Coja<sup>18</sup> on the Western Plateau were used by M. Mărgineanu-Cârstoiu in a possible model of urban plotting, using insulae of about 72 x 36 m, kept in operation until the Hellenistic period, which was based on the dimensions of the Ionic foot of 29.52 cm (122 p = 36 m). In parallel, in the 6<sup>th</sup> century BC seems to exist also the urban organization of the acropolis area, because the main street routes can be discerned and they will remain in operation until at least the Hellenistic period.

Therefore, we can assume that the new street network does not fully modify the previous one, the two of them are coexisting in the early Roman period<sup>19</sup> (Fig. 2).

Although the city occupies an area greater in Roman time than before, we have well attested *extra muros* dwelling cores<sup>20</sup>.

It is possible that Histria received the *civitas libera et immunis status*<sup>21</sup> after the fall of the Thracian kingdom and the inclusion of Scythia Minor into the Roman Empire, in 46 AD. The chorothesia of the city dated in the time of Trajan<sup>22</sup> records a letter of the governor C. Terentius Tullius Geminus which granted to the city the same limits (*fines Histrianorum*) as before. A new tribe – of Romans – was settled<sup>23</sup>. Roman individuals – *cives Romani consistentes* became involved in the political and economic life of the city<sup>24</sup>.

During Roman times Histria<sup>25</sup> had a territory (Fig. 3) divided into two separate administrative units: a territory which it was embedded in a wider area, a so-called “area of influence”<sup>26</sup>. Within these limits, one should distinguish

<sup>16</sup> DABÎCA 2013, p. 161-162 and plates 19-24.

<sup>17</sup> SUCEVEANU & SION 1974, p. 5-6, 8; SUCEVEANU 1985, p. 139-146; ALEXANDRESCU 2000-2001, p. 181-182, 184-185.

<sup>18</sup> COJA 1986, p. 95-103.

<sup>19</sup> MĂRGINEANU-CÂRSTOIU 1983, p. 306, 309, 311.

<sup>20</sup> ȘTEFAN 1974, p. 51.

<sup>21</sup> PIPPIDI 1975, p. 143-145; MATEI-POPESCU 2013, p. 203-233. Against this opinion see SUCEVEANU 1998, p. 159, who argues that Histria was a *civitas stipendiaria*. Same opinion at BĂLTĂC 2011, p. 95. It is more appropriate to consider that city's juridical status was evolving from a *civitas libera et immunis* to a *civitas stipendiaria*, see SUCEVEANU & BARNEA 1991, p. 43.

<sup>22</sup> ISM I 67, 68.

<sup>23</sup> ISM I 142.

<sup>24</sup> AVRAM 1984, p. 164-168; AVRAM 2007, p. 91-109.

<sup>25</sup> MATEI-POPESCU 2013, p. 203-233.

<sup>26</sup> AVRAM 1988-1989, p. 193; AVRAM 1990, p. 9-43; AVRAM 2006, p. 59-67: one should not forget the difference between the chora stricto sensu and the chora as a *dominio*

between the territory of the city itself - *chora*, where the lands belonged to the Greeks or Romanized Greeks citizens of the city and *regio Histriae*, much wider, which from the juridical point of view depends on the city, but where the real control was belonging to the civil and military Roman authorities. In other words proper Chora were the city fields, most likely the *agri stipendiarii* and possibly those leased *agri vectigales civitatis*, while in *regio* appear veterans' *agri viritim adsignati* and *agri vectigales populi Romani*.

If during the Greek period the difference between the two of them - *chora* and *regio*<sup>27</sup> - cannot be clearly drawn, for the Roman period there are several elements that allow us to draw the boundary between them. The boundaries of the *territorium* (*regio* and *chora*) are confirmed by the chorothesia of governor Laberius Maximus, an epigraphic document, dated back to the times of Trajan<sup>28</sup>.

According to this important epigraphical source the limits of the territory are: St. George's arm (*Peuce*) - Lake Razim (*Halmyris*) - chain of hills (*iugum summum*) between Enisala and Slava Rusă - Slava Rusă brook from the confluence with Slava Cercheză until spring - Beidaud brook - Râmnic brook, from spring to its inflow into Casimcea - River Casimcea by its inflow to the lake Taşaul. It is important to stress here the use of forms of relief in defining the boundaries: rivers (whose names are either Getae/Thracian origin - *Gabranus*, *Sanpaeus*, *Calabaeus* or pure Roman - *Picusculus*, *Turgiculus*), hills, and lakes. Identification of ancient rivers mentioned in this document with modern ones spawned several assumptions concerning the extent and the limits of Histria territory<sup>29</sup>. The limit between *regio* and *chora* was probably on a line which included the settlements from Sinoe, Fântânele, Cogeaş and Vadu<sup>30</sup>.

The establishing of the visibility limits of the boundaries of this territory is of particular importance for the study of the Histrian territory. To the North and West these limits largely included the real boundaries of the Histrian territory (*chora*), which explains to a great extent the direct control Histria had over the resources of the area and confirms the relation between the town and its territory<sup>31</sup>.

Most of the settlements in the territory are epigraphically attested<sup>32</sup>, but still few of them were investigated by the archaeologists<sup>33</sup>, for example Fântânele<sup>34</sup>.

The attested settlements are (Fig. 4 and table from the annex):

a) in *regio Histriae*: Sinoe (*vicus Quintionis*), Râmnicu de Jos - *vicus V....* (?) (could be also a *statio*), Neatârnaea (*vicus*), Mihai Viteazu - *vicus Buteridavensis*

*di influenza* of a city. It is the probable sense of the word *proschoros* mentioned in a fragmentary decree from Histria ISM I 18.

<sup>27</sup> MATEI-POPESCU 2013, p. 218-219; MATEI-POPESCU 2014, p. 186-191.

<sup>28</sup> ISM I 67, 68.

<sup>29</sup> PANAIT 2010, p. 373-374.

<sup>30</sup> BĂRBULESCU 2001, p. 39.

<sup>31</sup> ANGELESCU 2003-2005, p. 56; SUCEVEANU 1998, p. 154. See also the results of the Project „Histrichora”, analyzing the chora of the city of Histria, on the Internet site: <http://histrichora.uaic.ro>

<sup>32</sup> BĂRBULESCU 2001, p. 31-47; BĂLTĂC 2011, p. 95-98, 142, 144, 145, 147, 150, 246-254.

<sup>33</sup> BĂLTĂC 2011, p. 168, 438, 440, 448-449.

<sup>34</sup> SUCEVEANU 1998.

(*Buteridava*) (settlement and a *villa rustica*), Ceamurlia de Sus, Casimcea (settlement and three *villae rusticae*), Sibioara (? *vicus Arcidava*), Fântânele (three settlements), Vadu, Baia, Beidaud, Panduri;

b) in *chora*: Cogevalac, Istria (1) on the same place with the existing village there is a Greek settlement whose name we do not know – “*Kome*”; (2) on Istria Hill there is a Roman settlement 2 km SW of the village Istria; (3) Roman rural settlement 1.5 km SSE from the Istria village conventionally called Histria β; (4) Histria α – a Roman period settlement 1.5 km NNW from point Histria Pod; Histria γ – sporadic Hellenistic and Roman dwellings bordering the northern part of the Histrian barrow cemetery, on Lake Sinoe; Băile Nuntași, Nuntași (SW of the village), Tariverde, Nistorești, Grădina, Cheia, Casian (sanctuary or *vicus*), Gura Dobrogei, Palazu Mic, Piatra, Săcele, Traian, Corbu.

While in *chora* there is only one Greek village, led by officials who likened Roman magistrate<sup>35</sup>, in the *regio Histriae* there are several Roman villages (*vici*), led by magistrates and *quaestores* and populated by Roman citizens and veterans. These *vici* are *Quintionis*<sup>36</sup>, *V ...*<sup>37</sup>, *Secundini*<sup>38</sup> and *Celeris*<sup>39</sup>, bearing the names of their founders.

Inside the *regio* elements of Roman colonization are predominant, while the Greek ones are concentrated in the *chora*. The *regio* is separated from the city and administered by its own magistrates<sup>40</sup>. *Regio Histriae* is under the direct control of the Roman state, represented by the governor of the province and its financial procurator. Besides the rural settlements already mentioned, in the *regio* there are typical roman sites: *villae rusticae*<sup>41</sup> and a *statio* for *beneficarii consulares*<sup>42</sup>.

It was generally assumed that during the Roman period, in the territory of Histria the small property and the territories of the rural communities are the main forms of ownership. The division of the land according to the old tribes was altered by the Roman settlers, especially veterans, who receive land in possession, after finishing the military service. The emergence of new rural settlements has also contributed to the reshaping of the territory; there is attested a boundary between rural settlements without knowing if they can be found in the *chora* or *regio Histriae*<sup>43</sup>. Despite this epigraphical information, the organization and the limits of plots still remain unknown.

Today the agricultural area measures approximately 60000-80000 ha from the territory of the city and cultivated cereals are the same as in antiquity: wheat, barley, millet, flax and hemp, but then there were some meadows and forests, much diminished today<sup>44</sup>.

Even if the surface of arable soil was considerable and sufficient (valued at

<sup>35</sup> ISM I 363.

<sup>36</sup> ISM I 324, 326–328, 330, 332.

<sup>37</sup> CIL III 14442.

<sup>38</sup> ISM I 343–349.

<sup>39</sup> ISM I 351–352.

<sup>40</sup> ISM I 329, 343, 373; ISM V 123, 124.

<sup>41</sup> Nistorești: ISM I 373; Unknown: ISM I 359–360.

<sup>42</sup> Râmnicu de Jos : CIL III 14442.

<sup>43</sup> ISM I 350; BĂRBULESCU 2001, p. 150, 215.

<sup>44</sup> SUCEVEANU 1998, p. 154.

about 30,000 to 40,000 ha<sup>45</sup>) and epigraphic evidence from the previous period are attesting a concern for agriculture<sup>46</sup>, we can not yet conclude that the city would have focused mainly on this activity. We can thus explain why governors mentioned in chorothesia worrying so intense about granting of rights to ensure "the only income of the city", fish, independently of the extent of the Histria's territory<sup>47</sup>. It seems that since the 4<sup>th</sup>-3<sup>rd</sup> centuries BC, during the existence of power centers of *Getae*, from Beştepe and Beidaud, the access of the Histrians to the mouth of Danube became more a goal than a reality<sup>48</sup>.

Although the city maintains its traditional form of organization and probably has, for a short period of time, the privileged status of *civitas libera et immunis*, gradually by transforming social relations and by changing nature of doing agriculture, one can see that it becomes a fully integrated community in the Roman world. Part of the traditional Histrian aristocracy will gradually get Roman citizenship. Next to them there is attested a growing number of Roman citizens who are settling themselves in the territory and fulfill administrative functions in the city.

According to the latest interpretation *chora* represents the proper territory of the city, while *regio* is a part of the older Odrysian kingdom, later included in the Roman Empire. This type of duality - certainly attested only from the time of Trajan - was due to the juridical status of the city during the Roman administration when Histria was supposed to be a *civitas libera et immunis*<sup>49</sup>.

On the territory belonging to the city the following types of resource exploitation<sup>50</sup> sites were identified as being used during the Roman times: stone quarries (Sinoe, Gura Dobrogei)<sup>51</sup>, copper (Baia-Altîn-Tepe area)<sup>52</sup> and iron mines (vicus Quintionis, the southern shore of Zmeica Lake)<sup>53</sup>, some traces of clay exploitations, and a few Roman aqueducts that supplied water to the town (Fântânele, Cogeaalac, Istria)<sup>54</sup>. All of them are situated mostly in the *chora*, in the vicinity of the city.

The large number of the settlements attested in the territory of Histria (**Fig. 2** and table from the annex) proves an intense economic development during the Roman time, including an increase of the population, mostly by the massive colonization of the veterans settled in the region after the Dacian war. Next to them there are colonists from the near province of Thrace (Laii and Bessi, specialized in mining activities), or from across the Black Sea<sup>55</sup>. This is also demonstrated by the larger surface of the city. Most of the settlements are rural,

<sup>45</sup> SUCEVEANU 1977, p. 87.

<sup>46</sup> SUCEVEANU 1998, p. 155.

<sup>47</sup> SUCEVEANU 1977, p. 80; MATEI-POPESCU 2013, p. 212-213.

<sup>48</sup> MATEI-POPESCU 2013, p. 215.

<sup>49</sup> MATEI-POPESCU 2013, p. 207-208.

<sup>50</sup> AVRAM 1990, p. 16-17.

<sup>51</sup> MURARU & AVRAM 1983, 189-217.

<sup>52</sup> ISM I, p. 21 (with the older literature); AVRAM 2006, p. 67. The mining activities on the Altîn Tepe region have probably continued during the Roman period.

<sup>53</sup> ZAH 1971, p. 204-206; ZAH & SUCEVEANU 1971, p. 567-578.

<sup>54</sup> BOTZAN 1980, p. 303-305; PAPUC 1997, p. 237-250; PAPUC 2002-2003, p. 123-132.

<sup>55</sup> BÎRLIBA 2012, p. 91-98.

but, as we have already seen above, there are also some specialized in extracting and processing raw materials. In the same time one can notice that, with a few exceptions, Greek settlements from the previous time continue to be active as it proves by the systematic excavations or field survey.

Placed on the seacoast road, *Histria* was linked with each settlement from the territory through a series of secondary roads (*semitae*)<sup>56</sup>.

Examining the aerial photographs ancient roads were identified<sup>57</sup>; some of them comes from the N (Sinoe) and NW (Mihai Viteazu) and stopped at Lake Sinoe; others from the W (Fântânele and Istria) reached the shores of Lake Istria, and all of them are leading to the ancient city. Not all of them were functional in the same period of time. Few were certainly constructed or repaired during Roman times. At least three roads are entering into the city through the gates of the early Roman wall<sup>58</sup> (**Fig. 5**). All roads that come to the city make their entrance to the Western plateau only on the west side of it, which provides additional information regarding the configuration of land in antiquity<sup>59</sup>. Based on some recent geomagnetic research on the Western plateau there are two interrelated streets systems, connected one with the archaic precinct, and the other with the Hellenistic one<sup>60</sup>. (At least as a working hypothesis those have to be correlated with the observations<sup>61</sup> of spatial organization of the necropolis made by Adameşteanu<sup>62</sup> and Alexandrescu<sup>63</sup> who saw, based on aerial photographs, two systems of plots without being able to accurately date them<sup>64</sup>). A single road seems to go to the early Roman precinct<sup>65</sup>. This structure was identified on the geomagnetic maps and verified by an archaeological research<sup>66</sup>. The excavation led very likely to the discovery of a Roman road. This is the only road archaeologically investigated at Histria. The geomagnetic research on buildings and streets systems identified on the plateau leads to conclusions that contradict the older observations – based actually only on the interpretation of aerial photographs - taken by Simion Ştefan<sup>67</sup>.

Additionally, from Histria there are 12 milestones. Four of them were discovered in the fortress and the rest come from Sinoe (*Vicus Quintionis*), Mihai Viteazu, Săcele and Corbu<sup>68</sup>. All these localities are situated on the seacoast road, undoubtedly the most important and oldest in the area.

<sup>56</sup> PANAITE 2010, p. 373-380.

<sup>57</sup> ALEXANDRESCU 1970, p. 77-86; ALEXANDRESCU 1971, p. 27-36; ALEXANDRESCU 1978, p. 331-342; DORUȚIU-BOILĂ 1971, p. 37-43; ŞTEFAN 1974, p. 39-51; ŞTEFAN 1975, p. 51-52; ŞTEFAN 1976, p. 43-51.

<sup>58</sup> ŞTEFAN 1974, p. 40-41.

<sup>59</sup> ŞTEFAN 1974, p. 44.

<sup>60</sup> SCURTU 2009.

<sup>61</sup> See below the discussion about the necropolis and its relation with the city.

<sup>62</sup> ADAMEŞTEANU 1967, p. 374-380.

<sup>63</sup> ALEXANDRESCU 1971, p. 27-35.

<sup>64</sup> ALEXANDRESCU 2000-2001, p. 184-185, maybe during the Roman time.

<sup>65</sup> SCURTU 2009, p. 24-25, 35-36 and fig. 35, 37, 37a.

<sup>66</sup> BĂJENARU 2004.

<sup>67</sup> ŞTEFAN 1974, p. 44.

<sup>68</sup> PANAITE 2010, p. 373-380.

Two roads were crossing the territory from East to West, and their traces can be observed on aerial photos. A role in local communication must have been played by small brooks: Casimcea, Slava Rusă, Slava Cercheză, Beidaud, Poturi, Cogealac, as long as they are listed in the inscription as important geographical elements to mark the boundaries of the territory, as we already mentioned above. Most probably along their paths were roads of secondary importance.

During Greek period the necropolis<sup>69</sup> is situated between the city and the chora. Space disposal of ancient tumuli indicates land area and its topography, which can also lead to some very interesting conclusions on the evolution of the relief at Histria. Some of the burial mounds are in the present covert by the Lake Sinoe. During the Roman period the Greek necropolis maintains the same position, some of the tumuli being used for secondary burials. The flat necropolis from the Roman time was never the subject of a systematic investigation<sup>70</sup>. Roman borrows were investigated (11 Roman tumuli)<sup>71</sup> not only in the area of Greek necropolis but also closer to the Roman wall; even so, most of them are still to be investigated. The presence of the tumuli from the early centuries of the Roman time provides information about the expansion dynamics of the necropolis. They stop on a line between the necropolis and the *extra-muros* habitation<sup>72</sup>, leaving apart an empty space, for a better surveillance of the territory. According to the newest researches there are 1275 identified tumuli in the necropolis of the city<sup>73</sup>. Analyzing the aerial photos it was stated that from the very beginning a funerary area was established in direct correlation with streets, roads and plots<sup>74</sup>. There were also noticed two road systems, the first of roads oriented NS-EW, and the second of roads oriented NNW-SSE / ENE-WSW. Inside the necropolis those roads represent the limits of the burial plots<sup>75</sup>. A wall in the NW marks the limit between the necropolis and the field for agriculture<sup>76</sup>. The two superimposed roads systems could represent a second parceling of the necropolis, without being able to specify when exactly was done<sup>77</sup> (Fig. 6).

The elements presented above allow us a first attempt to reconstruct the ancient Histrian landscape in Roman time. Histria proves itself, a prevailing Greek city in which Roman elements were identified at different levels: administrative, military, economic, social and so on. During this period Histria keeps its previous organization but gets a number of new features which are defining a new reality. The Romans preserved much of the existing planning elements of the city and territory and added to them new ones; new settlements and forms of organization and as an integrative element have developed a network of roads.

<sup>69</sup> ALEXANDRESCU 1966; ALEXANDRESCU 1971, p. 28.

<sup>70</sup> OȚA & DOMĂNEANȚU 2010, p. 393-400 ; OȚA 2013, p. 293-294.

<sup>71</sup> ALEXANDRESCU 1966, p. 197-215, 138.

<sup>72</sup> ȘTEFAN 1974, p. 44. One can notice how the necropolis „is coming” towards the city; see also ANGELESCU 2003-2005, p. 55-84, especially fig. 4-5.

<sup>73</sup> ANGELESCU 2009, p. 1-17.

<sup>74</sup> DORUȚIU-BOILĂ 1971, p. 45.

<sup>75</sup> ALEXANDRESCU 1971, p. 31-32.

<sup>76</sup> ALEXANDRESCU 1971, p. 30.

<sup>77</sup> ALEXANDRESCU 1971, p. 31-32; ALEXANDRESCU 1978, p. 341.



**ANNEX**  
**SETTLEMENTS FROM THE TERRITORY OF HISTRIA**  
**(ARCHAEOLOGICALLY AND EPIGRAPHICALLY ATTESTED)**

<b>REGIO HISTRIAE</b>						
No.	Settlement	Archaic	Classic	Hellenistic	Roman	Late Roman
1	Sinoe – <i>vicus Quintionis</i> ISM I 324–341	X (Sinoe–Zmeica, Sinoe-Insula Lupilor, AVRAM 2006, p. 62)	x	x	located 3 km from Sinoe, on the shore of the lake of the same name and seems to be in fact a large settlement with Early Roman pottery – AVRAM <i>et alii</i> 1985, 119, no. 25. BÂLTĂC 2011, p. 144, 248-250	located 2 km SE of the village, was investigated in a campaign in 1952, when traces of habitation were discovered there, dated mostly to the 5 <sup>th</sup> –6 <sup>th</sup> centuries (CANARACHE 1953, p. 136–8).
2	Râmnicu de Jos – <i>vicus V...</i> (?); CIL III 14442				could be also a <i>statio</i>	
3	Neatârnairea ( <i>vicus</i> ) ISM I 368				Large Roman rural settlement south of the village: BAUMANN 1984, p. 232–3, no. 24 and 629, Pl. 75; 217, no. 2 and 610, Pl. 27.	
4	Mihai Viteazu – <i>vicus Buteridavensis</i> ( <i>Buteridava</i> )					
	Settlement ISM I 359, 360;				RUSSU 1955, p. 75–86; PIPPIDI 1962, p. 553; DORUȚIU-BOILĂ 1964, p. 132, no. 1; SUCEVEANU 1971, p. 155–66; BÂLTĂC 2011, p. 147, 254.	
	<i>villa rustica</i> ISM I 359, 360.					

5	Ceamurlia de Sus				Roman rural settlement with two levels dated to the 3 <sup>rd</sup> and 4 <sup>th</sup> centuries AD, archaeological excavations made by Al. Avram and M. Ciucă – cf. BARNEA 1989, p. 298, no. 16.
6	Casimcea settlement ISM V 131, 132				the point “Dealul Saxonului”: settlement NE of Casimcea – ALEXANDRESCU <i>et alii</i> 1986, p. 247, no. 19
	<i>villa rustica</i>				SE of Casimcea – possibly a <i>villa rustica</i> and a mound
	<i>villa rustica</i>				point “Bulbenci”, 1 km north of the village and 2.5 km from the previous, also a <i>villa rustica</i> and a mound nearby – OPAIȚ 1977, p. 187–9, no. 1; BAUMANN 1984, p. 211, no. 11; p. 217, no. 1, Pl. 26; p. 221, no. 17 and 619, Pl. 52
	<i>villa rustica</i>				point “La Vie”, SW of the settlement: fragments of funerary monuments – BAUMANN 1983, p. 77–9, Pl. 26; p. 141, n. 254 and Pl. XLVI, 1,3; BAUMANN 1984, p. 213, no. 4 and 605, Pl. 16; p. 214, no. 6 and 606, Pl. 18
7	Sarighiol de Deal		x	x	TIR L 35, 26 and 63.
8	Sibioara (? vicus <i>Arcidava</i> )	X (AVRAM 2006, p. 62)	x	x	SUCEVEANU 1975, p. 111–8; VULPE 1976, p. 69–79; RĂDULESCU 1977, p. 65–8; ISM I 358; SUCEVEANU 1983, p. 45–8.
9	Fântânele				
	settlement				Three roman settlements on the territory of the village, partially investigated; the site is important also for the aqueduct supplying water for the city; SUCEVEANU 1998.
	settlement				
	settlement				
10	Vadu	X (AVRAM 2006, p. 62)	x	x	vicus Parsal?, vicus C...cos?, vicus Celeris: TIR L 35, 76; ISM I 463–469, 350–356; BĂRBULESCU 2001, p. 45, 46 and n. 167; BĂLTĂC 2011, p. 145, 147.
11	Baia				MOISIL 1909, p. 114; CANARACHE 1953, p. 127–8, Pl. 15.
12	Beidaud				Fortified settlement of the <i>Getae</i> ; coins: OBERLÄNDER-TÂRNOVEANU 1980, p. 501, no. 3, 4.
13	Panduri				ISM I 367; TIR L 35, 56.

CHORA					
14	Cogealac ISM I, 371		X (AVRAM 2006, p. 65– 66)	x	MOISIL 1910, p. 141–3; PÂRVAN 1912, p. 432, 581, n. 3;
	settlement				point “Bent”, approx. 400 m NE of the settlement on a small promontory of brook Cogealac, founded in the second half of the 2 <sup>nd</sup> century, with two phases of habitation: the second half of the 2 <sup>nd</sup> century – first half of the 3 <sup>rd</sup> century and the end of the 3 <sup>rd</sup> century – half of the 4 <sup>th</sup> century – CCA 1996, p. 47–48;
	settlement				point “Vila lui Ciurea” dated in the first half of the 4 <sup>th</sup> century; near the edge of the site mentioned above, at the point “La Moară” was investigated a small portion of an aqueduct that supplied <i>Histria</i> , made of ceramic tubes.
	settlement				Recent research – LUNGU 2002–2003, p. 341–348 – in the setting of a gas pipeline leading to the identification of two new settlements in the same area: on the point “La stânci” located 2.5 km west of the village Cogealac, dating between mid 2 <sup>nd</sup> century and mid 3 <sup>rd</sup> century
	settlement				Research – LUNGU 2002–2003, p. 341–348 – in the setting of a gas pipeline: 8 km northwest of the village, with Roman habitation traces, which covers an area of almost two hectares.
15	Istria	X (settlement and necropolis, AVRAM 2006, p. 59, 62)	X (necropolis, AVRAM 2006, p. 64)	x	
	Istria - <i>kome</i>				ISM I 363, 365; AVRAM <i>et alii</i> 1985, p. 113–24, no. 1
	Istria Hill Roman settlement 2 km SW of the village Istria				CANARACHE 1951a, p. 156, Pl. VI; CANARACHE 1951b, p. 64, 71–2; PAPUC 1997, p. 239 (aqueduct).



	Roman rural settlement 1.5 km SSE from the Istria village conventionally called <i>Histria B</i>				Two levels dated to the first half of the 2 <sup>nd</sup> century and the 3 <sup>rd</sup> century; according to the destruction level through fire that was identified there, the settlement was probably destroyed during the Gothic invasions from the mid 3 <sup>rd</sup> century. Habitation restarted there by the end of that century, and continued until the middle of the next century – LUNGU <i>et alii</i> 1984, p. 85–100.
	<i>Histria α</i> – a Roman period settlement 1.5 km NNW from point <i>Histria Pod</i>	X (AVRAM 2006, p. 59)	X (AVRAM 2006, p. 64)		Roman habitation at the point “Cioculeasa” – AVRAM <i>et alii</i> 1985, p. 113–124, no. 3.
	<i>Histria γ</i> – sporadic Hellenistic and Roman dwellings bordering the northern part of the Histrian barrow cemetery, on Lake Sinoe				AVRAM <i>et alii</i> 1985, p. 113–124, no. 5
16	Băile Nuntași				AVRAM <i>et alii</i> 1985, p. 113–124, no. 7–9.
	Nuntași (SW of the village)	X (AVRAM 2006, p. 60)	X (AVRAM 2006, p. 64)	X (AVRAM 2006, p. 64)	An Early Roman settlement, observed on a small height with a large concentration of Roman pottery and glass (2 <sup>nd</sup> –3 <sup>rd</sup> century), tiles and stones, from within the locality being known imperial and Byzantine coins and traces of the aqueduct of <i>Histria</i> fortress – TIR L 35, 54; AVRAM <i>et alii</i> 1985, p. 113–24, no. 10–11.
17	Tariverde	X (two settlements AVRAM 2006, p. 61; BÎRZESCU 2012, p. 77–89)	X (AVRAM 2006, p. 64)	x	TIR L 35, 70, 71; PREDA 1972, p. 77–88; Greek – indigenous settlement and sporadic Roman elements – it may not have been a permanent settlement – SUCEVEANU 1998, p. 163 – a level dated to the 1 <sup>st</sup> century AD; two other dwelling areas identified by field surveys area: (1) 100 m NE of the national road bridge Constanța–Tulcea near Tariverde (2) 800 meters from the bridge already mentioned on the right bank of the brook Duingi (Nuntași) – AVRAM <i>et alii</i> 1985, p. 113–124, no. 12–13.

18	Nistorești <i>Villa rustica</i>  Two settlements				A <i>villa rustica</i> documented by the inscription of L. Pompeius Valens – ISM I 373 –, based on which it was assumed that the <i>villa</i> must have been part of the <i>regio Histriae</i> ; two other settlements were found 200 m north of the village, dated between 1 <sup>st</sup> –4 <sup>th</sup> centuries – ALEXANDRESCU <i>et alii</i> 1986, p. 247, no. 17 and 1.5 to 1.7 km north of the village and dated during the 3 <sup>rd</sup> –4 <sup>th</sup> centuries – ALEXANDRESCU <i>et alii</i> 1986, p. 247, no. 16.
19	Grădina				For the already detected Roman traces in the area see PÂRVAN 1912, p. 582; NICOLĂESCU-PLOPȘOR 1959, p. 49, BĂRBULESCU 2001, p. 44 – we have to add new coin finds and also a Late Roman settlement identified 500 m SW of the village – ALEXANDRESCU <i>et alii</i> 1986, p. 247, no. 13.
20	Cheia		X( a local settlement nearby)		Coin discoveries, sporadic dwelling during the Roman period in caves Baba and Soci. NICOLĂESCU-PLOPȘOR 1959, p. 22, 48
21	Casian (sanctuary or <i>vicus</i> )				Sanctuary – or settlement, according to SUCEVEANU 1977, p. 45; ISM I 369, 370, with all bibliography; inscriptions were found 1.5 km SW of the village of Cassian; the two inscriptions have been interpreted either as boundary stones of a <i>vicus</i> – see PÂRVAN 1913, p. 532–538, 549–550 and Pl. XI–XIV, as limits of the sanctuary where <i>Zeus Casios</i> was adored (VULPE 1977, p. 113–130), or as stones marking the boundary of <i>Kasiana</i> and <i>Speloucha</i> – BĂRBULESCU 1978, p. 132–135; GOSTAR 1980, p. 311–314; SUCEVEANU 1998, p. 168. Roman settlement – 2 km NW, BĂRBULESCU 2001, p. 44, n. 143.
22	Gura Dobrogei		x and a local settlement nearby		NICOLĂESCU-PLOPȘOR 1959, p. 20; ALEXANDRESCU <i>et alii</i> 1986, p. 244 – settlement located on the left bank of the Gura Dobrogei brook at its confluence with the brook Casimcea; another Early Roman settlement between Gura Dobrogei and Tariverde, on both sides of the road.
23	Palazu Mic				TIR L 35, 56; ALEXANDRESCU <i>et alii</i> 1986, p. 243, no. 2 –1.5 km N – settlement in the point “Valea Seacă”; ALEXANDRESCU <i>et alii</i> 1986, p. 243, no. 1 – the point “La pământul galben”, 1 km NW of the bridge on Constanța – Tulcea road, settlement dated between the 1 <sup>st</sup> –3 <sup>rd</sup> centuries. Milestones found in the area (BĂRBULESCU <i>et alii</i> 2009, p. 414–417) prove that these settlements were located



					along the road which apparently surrounded the shores of Lake Taşaul on the N–NW – SUCEVEANU 1977, Pl. 3, map no. 2, against this view ARICESCU 1975. p. 321. note 46.
24	Piatra		x	x	Located on the shore of Lake Taşaul and also on the seacoast road: TIR L 35, 58; MUNTEANU 1975, p. 391–394; on the same road was also the point “Răţărie”, MATEI 1986, p. 253–66; BĂRBULESCU 2001. p. 45.
25	Săcele				CIL III 14461; ISM I 357; ICONOMU 1967, p. 118, no. 625; a second Early Roman settlement was identified during a field research, 300 m SE of Săcele. AVRAM <i>et alii</i> 1987. p. 331–332.
26	Traian				Over a large area, approximately 400 m west of Traian, pottery fragments were found, as well as an Early Roman dwelling area – 1.5 km to the S – where Getic pottery was discovered, AVRAM <i>et alii</i> 1987. p. 331–332.
27	Corbu	X (necropolis), AVRAM 2006, p. 62			Important coastal settlement on the seacoast road where sculptural pieces (some brought from <i>Histria</i> , see PIPPIDI 1967, p. 230–232; ISM I 366) and inscriptions were found (three milestones – IGLR 82; ISM I 321; BĂRBULESCU & CÂTEIA 1997, p. 183–198 – showing the reconstruction of the road near the settlement during the Late Roman period); sites with Roman traces within the locality: (1) 500 m W of Corbu de Sus – Early Roman period settlement; (2) 2.5 km NW – Late Roman settlement; (3) two sites with Roman traces – IRIMIA 1980, p. 89; AVRAM <i>et alii</i> 1987, p. 333–336. in the village perimeter mounds.
28	Tres Protomae				Not localized settlement whose name is mentioned on a milestone discovered at <i>Tomis</i> , which indicates the distance from <i>Tres Protomae XXVII m(ilia) v(assum)</i> . ISM II 53 (19).
29	Caraburun	X (AVRAM 2006. p. 62)			
30	Capul Midia	X (AVRAM 2006. p. 62)			



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Fig. 1 – Histria: aerial view (Google Maps image).

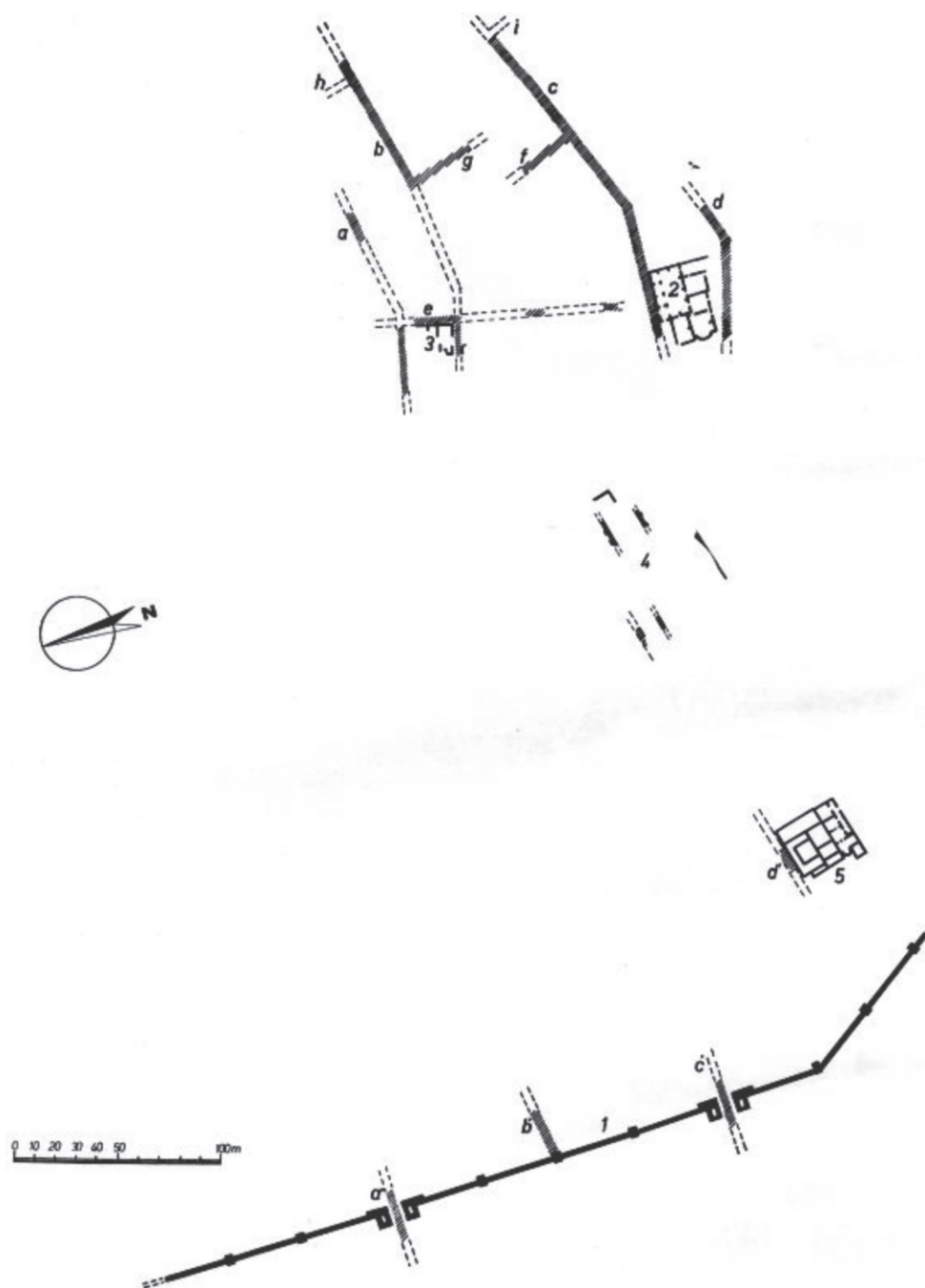


Fig. 2 - Histria in the 2<sup>nd</sup> century AD (apud Suceveanu & Sion 1974).



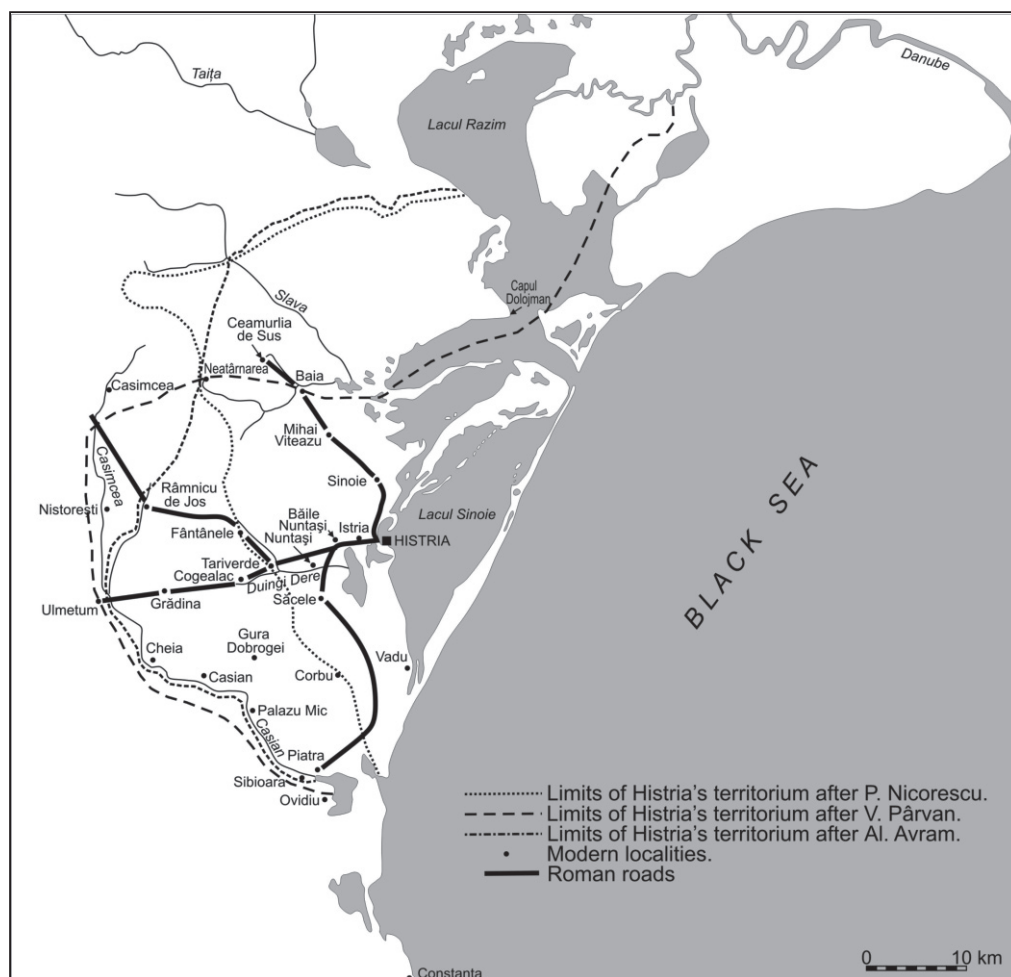


Fig. 3 - The limits of the territory of Histria (apud Panaite 2010).



Fig. 4 - The settlements in the territory of Histria (Panaite Adriana).



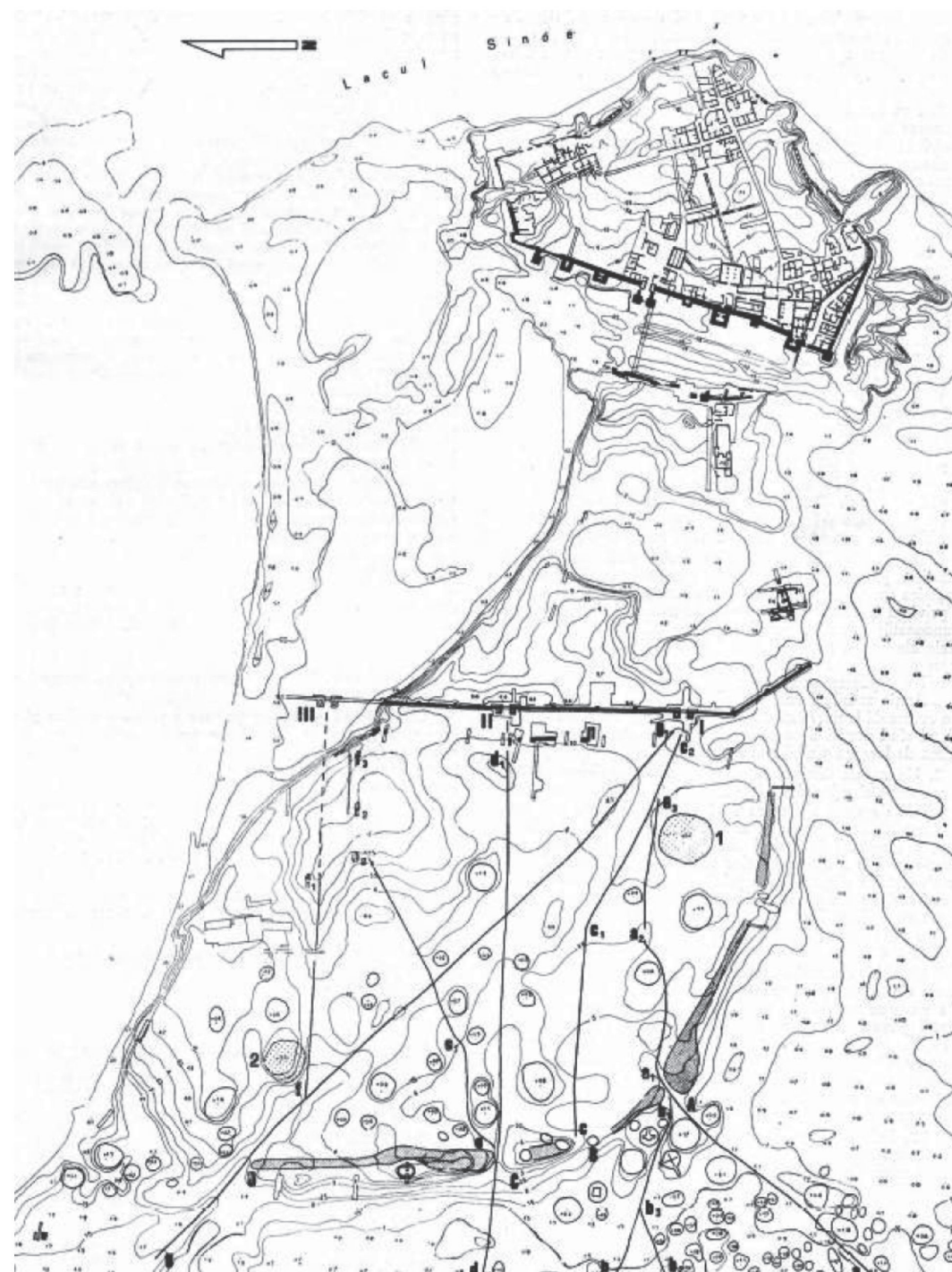


Fig. 5 - Aerial photo and restitution of roads (apud Ștefan 1974).



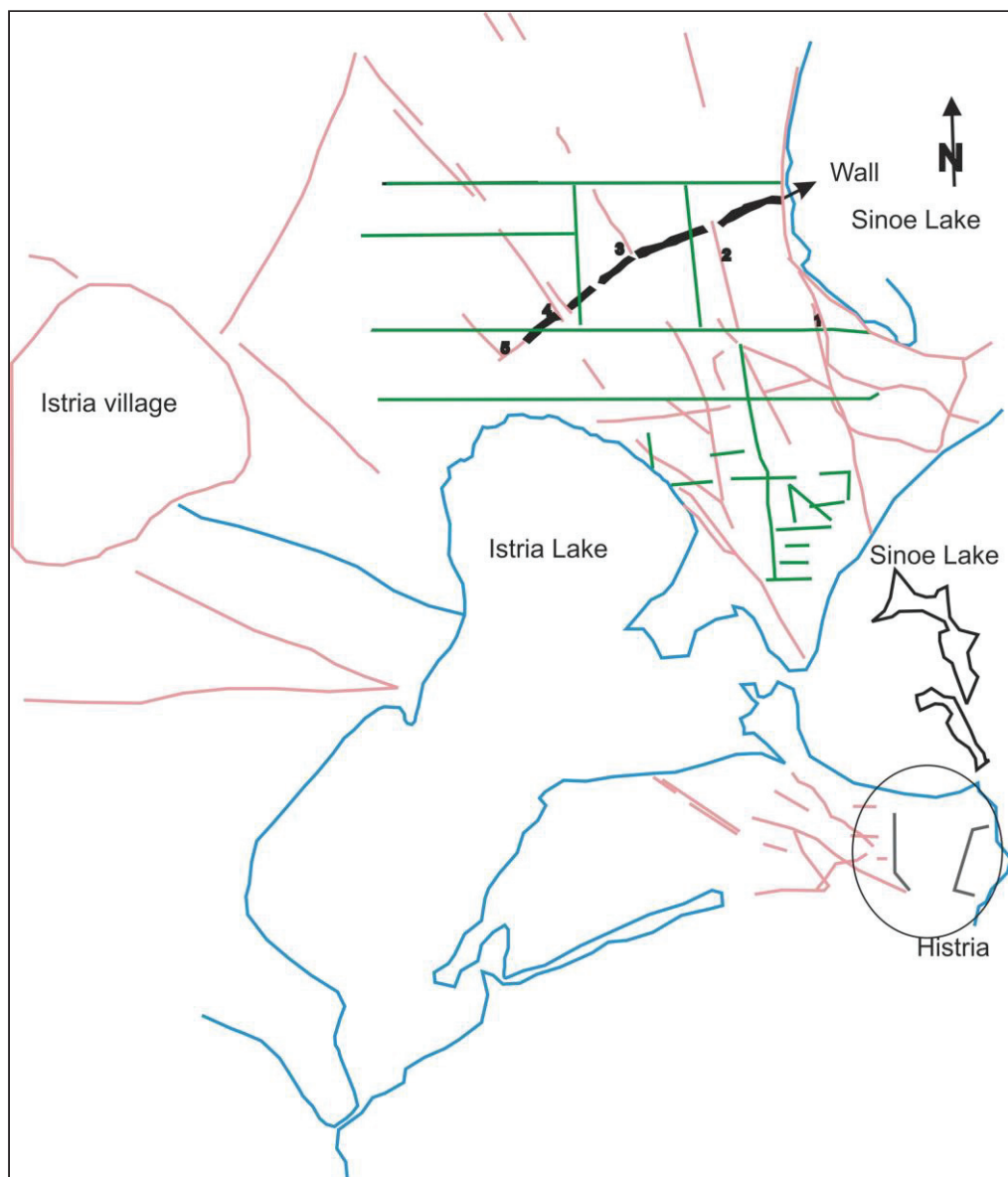


Fig. 6 - Roads and burial plot in the necropolis (after Alexandrescu 1971).