

Universitatea „Alexandru Ioan Cuza” din Iași  
Facultatea de Istorie • Centrul de Studii Clasice și Creștine

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**Atti del XIII Convegno romeno-italiano *Tradizione e innovazione tra antichità classica e medioevo: forme, strumenti e modelli di comunicazione letteraria e artistica*  
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## SUMAR / INDICE / CONTENTS

### SIGLE ȘI ABREVIERI – SIGLE E ABBREVIAZIONI / 361

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### Atti del XIII Convegno romeno-italiano *Tradizione e innovazione tra antichità classica e medioevo: forme, strumenti e modelli di comunicazione letteraria e artistica*

(Iași, 26-28 settembre 2023)

Programma del Convegno / 363

Maria AMBROSETTI, Forme della narrazione drammatica in Ammiano Marcellino [Forms of dramatic narrative in Ammianus Marcellinus] / 369  
Florica BOHÎLTEA-MIHUȚ, Classical authors in Sidonius Apollinaris' letters / 387

Antonella BRUZZONE, Paradossal, metamorfosi, spettacolo. Suggestioni ovidiane nella *Gigantomachia* latina di Claudio [Paradox, metamorphosis, spectacle. Ovidian suggestions in Claudian's Latin *Gigantomachy*] / 401

Federica CALABRESE, San Barbato di Benevento, “l’apostolo del Sannio”, uccisore di vipere d’oro ed estirpatore di alberi sacri [St. Barbato of Benevento, “the Apostle of Sannio”, golden snakes’ killer and holy trees eradicator] / 431

Emanuel GROSU, Da *refrigerium* al suo contrario. Alcune sfumature del concetto nelle *visiones animarum* medievali [From *refrigerium* to its opposite. Some nuances of the concept in occidental *visiones animarum*] / 447

Simona NICOLAE, Quand l’amour chrétien revêt le péplos d’Aphrodite (*Anthologia Palatina*, liber V) [When Christian love puts on the peplos of Aphrodite (*Palatine Anthology, Book V*)] / 463

Daniel NIȚĂ-DANIELESCU, The *Prefaces* of Metropolitan Veniamin Costachi – role and significance in the age of “national regeneration” and “European sentiment” / 477

Dan RUSCU, The Paternus Plate and its Symbolism / 495

Nelu ZUGRAVU, Continuità lessicali, continuità e discontinuità semantiche e simboliche nelle *Historiae abbreviatae* di Aurelio Vittore [Lexical continuities, semantic and symbolic continuities and discontinuities in the *Historiae abbreviatae* of Aurelius Victor] / 511

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## **STUDII – STUDI / 531**

Maria Carolina CAMPONE, *Aeternitas imperii. L’Arco di Costantino, la mens imperiale e l’evocatio cristiana* [Aeternitas imperii. *The Arch of Constantine, the imperial mens and the Cristian evocatio*] / 531

Juan Ramón CARBÓ GARCÍA, The Emperor Marcus Aurelius Antoninus Elagabalus and the triad of Emesa: Azizos and Monimos, companions of Sol Invictus Elagabal / 565

Elisa DELLA CALCE, Defending Sulla... to condemn the Catilinarians once again? Some moral and political concepts from Cicero’s *Pro Sulla* / 581

Valentino D’URSO, *Fabula mendax. Religiosità e concezione del mito nel Bellum civile* di Lucano [Fabula mendax. *Myth and religiosity in Lucan’s Bellum civile*] / 609

M.<sup>a</sup> Pilar GONZÁLEZ-CONDE PUENTE, La présence épigraphique d’*Elagabalus* en Hispanie [Epigraphic evidences from the reign of *Elagabalus* in Hispania] / 639

Martijn ICKS, The crimes and vices of Elagabalus. Building blocks for a character assassination / 659

Carmela LAUDANI, La tomba di Decio Magio (Sil. 11, 377-384) [The tomb of Decius Magius (Sil. 11, 377-384)] / 677

- Marcello MARIN, Leggere i testi cristiani oggi: ragioni, metodi e finalità  
[Reading Christian texts today: reasons, methods and purposes] / 693
- Lucrețiu MIHAILESCU-BÎRLIBA, Le dossier épigraphique du règne d'Héliogabale en Mésie Inférieure [The epigraphic file of Heliogabalus' reign in Moesia Inferior] / 707
- Eleonora S. MURONI, Persistenze e suggestioni: *Sol Invictus* nell'età di Costantino [Persistence and suggestions: *Sol Invictus* in the Constantinian age] / 713
- Eduard NEMETH, Dacia during the reign of emperor Elagabalus / 753
- Miguel P. SANCHO GÓMEZ, Los *primani* y la batalla de Estrasburgo (357): algunas consideraciones sobre la infantería pesada tardía y el generalato del César Juliano [The *Primani* and the battle of Strasbourg (357): some considerations on the Late Roman heavy infantry and the generalship of the Caesar Julian] / 757
- Semíramis Corsi SILVA, The emperor and the historian: an analysis of Elagabalus' image considering Cassius Dio's trajectory and point of view / 789
- Francesca SIVO, Donne fragili come brocche. Lezioni di didattica spirituale e sociale nel Medioevo [Fragile women as pitchers. Lessons of spiritual and social didactics in the Middle Ages] / 813



## SIGLE ȘI ABREVIERI / SIGLE E ABBREVIAZIONI\*

<i>ACO</i>	<i>Acta Conciliorum Oecumenicorum</i> , ed. E. Schwartz, Berlin, 1914 sqq.
<i>ANRW</i>	<i>Ausftieg und Niedergang der römischen Welt. Geschichte und Kultur Roms im Spiegel der neueren Forschung</i> , II, <i>Prinzipat</i> , Berlin-New York.
<i>BOR</i>	<i>Biserica Ortodoxă Română</i> , București.
<i>CCL</i>	<i>Corpus Christianorum. Series Latina</i> , Turnhout, 1953 sqq.
<i>CSEL</i>	<i>Corpus Scriptorum Ecclesiasticorum Latinorum</i> , Vienna-Leipzig, 1860 sqq.
<i>EAC</i>	A. Di Berardino (ed.), <i>Encyclopedia of Ancient Christianity</i> , vols. 1-3, Downers Grove, 2014.
<i>LCI</i>	E. Kirschbaum (ed.), <i>Lexikon der christlichen Ikonographie</i> , vols. 1-4, Rome-Freiburg-Basel-Vienna, 1994.
<i>LIMC</i>	<i>Lexicon Iconographicum Mythologiae Classicae</i> , I-VIII, Zürich-München-Düsseldorf, 1981-1997.
<i>MMS</i>	<i>Mitropolia Moldovei și Sucevei</i> , Iași.
<i>PG</i>	<i>Patrologiae cursus completus. Series Graeca</i> , Paris.
<i>PL</i>	<i>Patrologiae cursus completus. Series Latina</i> , Paris.
<i>PLRE, I</i>	<i>The Prosopography of the Later Roman Empire</i> , I, A. D. 260-395, by A. H. M. Jones, J. R. Martindale, J. Morris, Cambridge, 1981.
<i>RIC</i>	<i>Roman Imperial Coinage</i> .
<i>RE</i>	<i>Realencyclopädie der classischen Altertumswissenschaft</i> (Pauly-Wissowa-Kroll), Stuttgart-München.
<i>RGZM</i>	<i>Römische Militärdiplome und Entlassungsurkunden in der Sammlung des Römisch-Germanischen Zentralmuseums</i> , Mainz.
<i>RLBK</i>	K. Wessel (ed.), <i>Reallexikon zur Byzantinischen Kunst</i> , Bd. I, Stuttgart, 1966 sqq.
<i>SC</i>	<i>Sources Chrétiennes</i> , Paris-Lyon.
<i>ThLL (ThLL)</i>	<i>Thesaurus linguae Latinae</i> .

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\* Cu excepția celor din *L'Année Philologique* și *L'Année Épigraphique* / Escluse quelle segnalate da *L'Année Philologique* e *L'Année Épigraphique*.



## DACIA DURING THE REIGN OF EMPEROR ELAGABALUS\*

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**Keywords:** *Elagabalus, Roman Dacia, inscriptions from Apulum.*

**Abstract:** *The information about the province of Dacia during the time of the emperor Elagabalus is extremely scarce, apart from one inscription (possibly two inscriptions) we know nothing specific, not even the name of the governor of the province between the years 218-222 appears in any preserved ancient literary or epigraphical source.*

**Cuvinte-cheie:** *Elagabal, Dacia romană, inscripții din Apulum.*

**Rezumat:** *Dacia în timpul domniei împăratului Elagabal. Informațiile despre provincia Dacia în timpul împăratului Elagabal sunt extrem de puține, în afara unei inscripții (posibil două inscripții) nu știm nimic specific, nici măcar numele guvernatorului provinciei dintre anii 218-222 nu apare în nicio sursă antică literară sau epigrafică păstrată.*

The information that we have about the province of Dacia in the relatively short reigning time of emperor Elagabalus (AD 218-222) is quite scarce. We do not even know the name of the provincial governor for this period. The predecessor of this to us unknown governor was Marcius Claudius Agrippa, who had been instated by Macrinus and only lasted as governor till the death of this emperor's short-lived reign (April 217-June 218).<sup>1</sup> After the (presumably one) unknown governor that has been instated by Elagabalus we have Ti. Iulius Pollienus

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\* This article represents a paper presented at the *Symposium Internationale «Varius Antoninus Tiberinus»*. Millesimo octingentesimo anno a nece Marci Aurelii Antonini (Heliogabali) (in civitate Iassensi, IV Kal. Decembris A.D. MMXXII). International Symposium «Varius Antoninus Tiberinus». 1800 years since the murder of Marcus Aurelius Antoninus (Elagabalus) (Iași, November 28<sup>th</sup>, 2022).

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<sup>1</sup> Piso 1993, 182-186, nr. 40; Nemeth 2007, 47, nr. 19.

Auspex as the probably first governor sent by Severus Alexander (governed around 222-225).<sup>2</sup> There is a possibility that Marcus Veracilius Verus might have been this unknown governor. His name is only known from one inscription found in Gherla,<sup>3</sup> where there was the fort of the ala II Gallorum et Pannonicorum.<sup>4</sup> I. Piso dates the governorship of Veracilius Severus hypothetically either in the second half of Commodus' reign or after 218 (although he prefers the reigns of Severus Alexander or Gordianus III).<sup>5</sup>

As what the other epigraphical sources are concerned, we have only one inscription that can be dated with certainty in the reign of Elagabalus.<sup>6</sup> The inscription has been found in Apulum, during excavations at the *porta principalis dextra* of the legionary fortress belonging to the legio XIII Gemina<sup>7</sup> and reads:

[*Imp(eratori) Caes(ari) M(arco) A[ur]el(io) [[[[Anto]]]] / [[[nino]] Pio*  
*Fel(ici) Aug(usto) pon[t(ifici)] / [max(imo) t]rib(unicia) pot(estate) II*  
*co(n)s(uli) [II? p(atri) p(atriae)] / [pro]c[on]s(uli) divi Antonini*  
*f(ilio)] / [divi S]everi nepoti [---] / [leg(ionis) X]III g(eminae) [[[Anto-*  
*ninianaee]]] / [-----]*

There is a possibility that another fragmented inscription, found at the same spot as the one above, was initially part of this one.<sup>8</sup> It contains a list of names of petty officers from the legion mentioned above, who might have participated to the dedication to Elagabalus:

-----] / *Ulp(ius) [---] / [----- // -----] / Clau(dius) [---] / be(ne)ficiar-ius*  
*tr<i=T>b(uni) Pul[l(ius)? ---] / Au[r(elius) ---] / [-----] / [-----] /*  
*READSB[---] / Clau(dius) Flor[us ---] / str(ator) leg(ati) Ter(tiis)*  
*Iust[---] / Aur(elius) Secc[---] / spec(u)la(tor) Stat(ius) Alex[ander ---]*  
*] / tu<b=R>(icen) Aur(elius) Licin[ius] / o{i}p(tio) fab(riciae?)*  
*co(n)s(ularis) Aeli(us) Proc[---] / Aur(elius) Val[---] / str(ator) leg(ati)*  
*Aeli(us) Ma[---] / Aur(elius) Pri[---] / c(ustos) a(rmorum) Ulp(ius)*  
*Bu[---] / imm(unis) Pere(---) M[---] / Aeli(us) Cl[---] / tess(erarius)*

<sup>2</sup> Piso 1993, 186-192, nr. 41.

<sup>3</sup> CIL III, 832: *Herculi sancto / Marc(us) Veraciliu[s] / Verus leg(atus) Au-g(usti) / pro p(raetore) curant(e) / Pannon(io) Maxi[mo] / pr(a)e[f(ecto)] eq[ui-tum]*

<sup>4</sup> For the fort see Protase *et al.* 2008.

<sup>5</sup> Piso 1993, 207-208, nr. 47.

<sup>6</sup> AE 2007, 1197 (Apulum).

<sup>7</sup> Moga, Drâmbărean 2007, 178-179, nr.2.

<sup>8</sup> AE 2007, 1198.

*Lab(erius) S[--] / b(ene)f(iciarius) co(n)s(ularis) Helv(ius) Iu(?)[--] /  
 [--] co(n)s(ularis) Aur(elius) V[--] / [--]n(--) T[--] / [--]m(--) (?)  
 [--] / ----- // ----- / [Ul?]p(ius?) Bassinus dup(liarius) / [--] Vale-  
 rianus dup(licarius) / [--] Florus dup(licarius) / ----- // ----- / [--]  
 JI(?)nus / [--] Modestus / [--] VJalerianus dup(licarius) COI(?) /  
 Jato dup(licarius) / --- Gjenialis dup(licarius) / [--] Valentinus  
 dup(licarius) / ---er(?) / ----- // ----- / [---] Val<en?=IV>[s? ---] /  
 [---] Ingenu[us ---] / [---] Maxim[us? ---] / [---] <I=L>ucund[us ---] /  
 [---] Iul(ius) Aelian[us ---] / [---] Te<r?=I>(tius?) Marti[---] / ----- //  
 ----- / [---] JI(?)an[---] / ----- // ----- / [--- d?]up(larius?) [---](?) /  
 ----- // ----- / [---] Pu[---] / [---] Licin[i---] / -----*

If the two inscriptions indeed belong together, then we might have here one of the collective dedications from members of military units (especially legions) as a sign of loyalty to the respective emperors. A similar inscription has been erected by centurions of the legio V Macedonica in Potaissa as a sign of loyalty to the emperor Caracalla, probably on the occasion of his visit to Dacia (among other Danube provinces) in the year AD 214.<sup>9</sup> Sorin Nemeti connects the inscription from Apulum and several other epigraphs collectively dedicated by military units to emperors with the practices of *vota annua pro salute imperatoris* or with the *vota extraordinaria*, the latter being held on the occasions when the emperor was about to start a major military expedition.<sup>10</sup>

Unfortunately, we have no further information connected to Dacia during Elagabalus' time, which was – to be fair – quite a short reigning time.

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- Nemeti 2015 = S. Nemeti, *Vota pro salute imperatoris*, C&C, 10, 251-262.

<sup>9</sup> AE 2012, 1207.

<sup>10</sup> Nemeti 2015, 260.

Piso 1993 = I. Piso, *Fasti provinciae Daciae I. Die senatorischen Amtsträger*, Bonn.

Protase *et al.* 2008 = D. Protase, N. Gudea, R. Ardevan, *Din istoria militară a Daciei romane. Castrul roman de interior de la Gherla /Aus der Militärgeschichte des römischen Dakien. Das römische Binnenkastell von Gherla*, Timișoara.



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