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ANCIENT HISTORY

THE *PROCURATORES PRAESIDIALES* OF DACIA POROLISSENSIS UNDER ANTONINUS PIUS AND THE QUEST FOR THE *PRAETORIUM PROCURATORIS* AT POROLISSUM

In memoriam Alexandri V. Matei

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Abstract: This paper gives an overview regarding the *procuratores praesidiales* of Dacia Porolissensis during the reign of the emperor Antoninus Pius, based on the latest research on the topic and newest data provided especially by the military diplomas. Its focus is to recreate the chronology of these governors and resume the debate concerning their main seat in the province.

Keywords: Roman provincial government; *procuratores praesidiales*; *praetorium procuratoris*, Dacia Porolissensis, Porolissum.

The Roman province of Dacia Porolissensis was created by Hadrian sometime between November AD 119 and April 14th AD 123.¹ It encompasses the territory north of the Arieş and Mureş rivers, previously part of Dacia Superior (Fig. 1).² Since no legion was to be deployed in this province, but only auxiliary units, the governorship was entrusted to a praesidial *procurator Augusti*. It has been stressed that he was of ducenary rank, just like the *procurator* from Dacia Inferior.³ Although this might be true to a certain extent, concrete evidence is lacking for this assumption, as there are few elements outlining the careers of these *procuratores* before or after they had held the position in Dacia Porolissensis. For now, the only example that one can track is that of L. Volusius [---], discussed below, who, after ending his term as the *procurator* of Dacia Porolissensis, had been appointed to the ducenary praesidial procuratorship of Mauretania Tingitana soon after.

In terms of the *fasti* of these *procuratores*, lately the first to attempt to reconstruct them for Dacia Porolissensis based on the data available at the

¹ We would like to thank Dr. Vlad-Andrei Lăzărescu (Institute of Archaeology and Art History, Cluj-Napoca, Romania) for granting us the use of Fig. 3, b in this publication, and Eric De Sena for the fruitful discussions on the *Porolissum Forum Project* archaeological excavations and granting us access to Fig. 4-5. Fig. 5, d, the image in the lower right corner, has been published before in DE SENA/WANNER 2016, 325, Fig. 6.

² See, for example, the ample discussion in ONOFREI 2013, 272-274; PISO 2013, 3, 100-103; NEMETI 2024, 110; NEMETI 2025, 139; PISO/ȚENȚEA 2025, 125-126.

³ PISO 1993, 38; PISO 2013, 3-4.

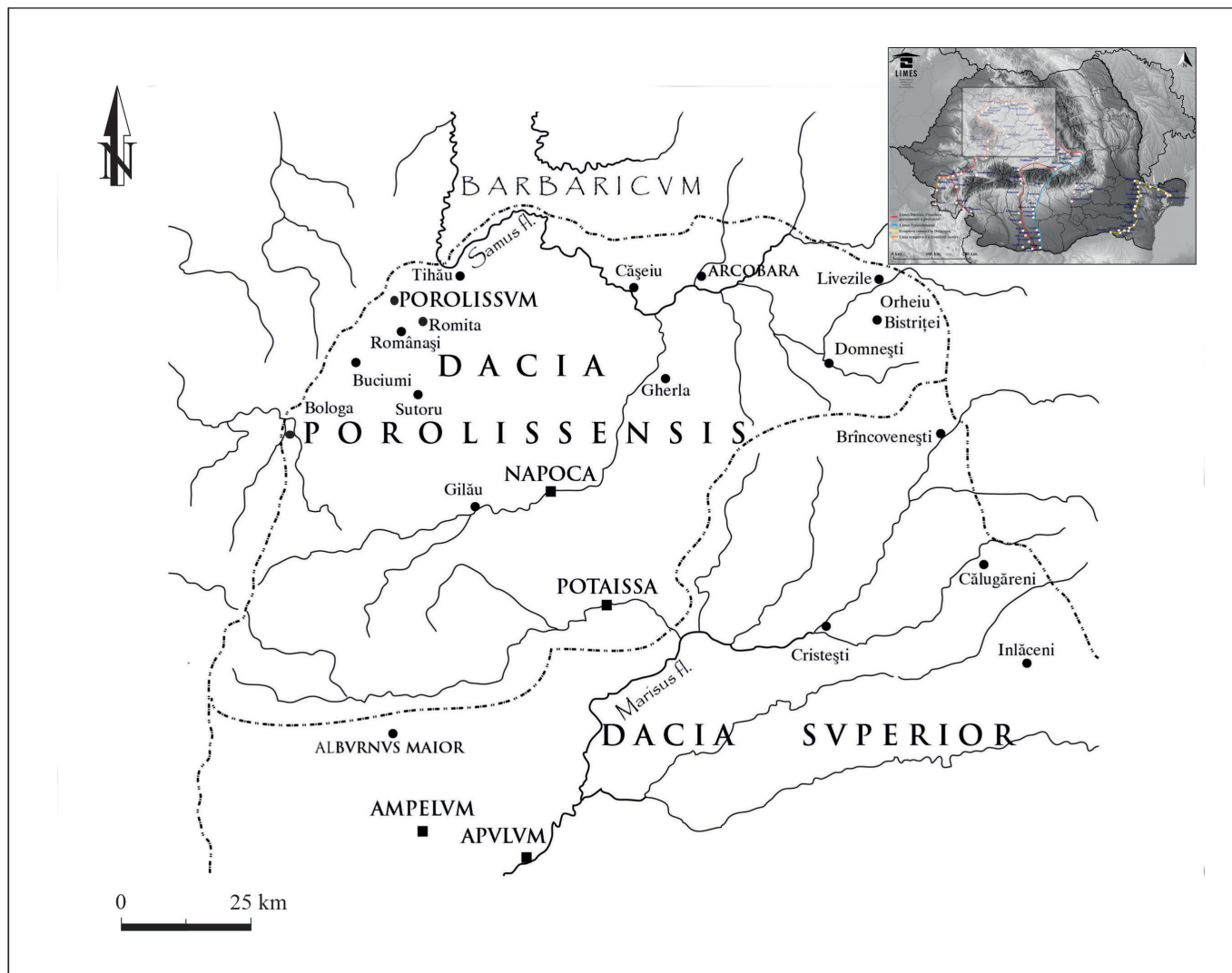


Fig. 1. Map of Dacia Porolissensis (created by Dan Dana, CNRS/HiSoMA, Lyon, France, modified by the author of this paper). In inset: map of Roman Dacia (courtesy of limesromania.ro).

time was D. Faoro.⁴ Subsequently, two leading epigraphists have dealt with the issue. I. Piso treated the subject in his seminal work published in 2013,⁵ while an even more recent approach was carried out by C. C. Petolescu who, in comparison to the previous works mentioned above, includes Clodius Gallus in AD 142.⁶

For Hadrian's reign, only two *procuratores* of Dacia Porolissensis are known, attested in this position exclusively through military diplomas.⁷ Since Piso's *fasti Daciae*, no significant discoveries were made. The first one, Livius Gratus, is attested on different issues of military diplomas, on April 14th (RMD VI, 539) and on copies of two distinct constitutions dated on August 10th AD 123.⁸ The second one

is Flavius Italicus, who spent a long period in office, as was already outlined, from at least April 14th AD 131 to November or perhaps December AD 135,⁹ although, in theory, their terms of office must have lasted approximately three years.¹⁰ In the following, a detailed analysis of the *procuratores praesidiales* under Antoninus Pius will be discussed.

CLODIUS GALLUS

The earliest known *procurator* of Dacia Porolissensis who held this office during the reign of Antoninus Pius is Clodius Gallus. He had been known from a fragment of a military diploma, discovered in the barrack no. 2 of the Buciumi auxiliary fort, but nothing could be said about its date.¹¹ This changed in 2014, when W. Eck and A. Pangerl published a military diploma, which revealed the *cognomen* of the *procurator* and, most importantly, a date: October 6th

⁴ FAORO 2011, 294-297, nos. 1-7.

⁵ PISO 2013, 111-130, nos. 73-79. See also CIONGRADI 2014, 163, n. 13.

⁶ PETOLESCU 2021, 34-35.

⁷ For a list of the Hadrianic diplomas, see DANA/DEAC 2018, 276 and DEAC 2025, 258, n. 14.

⁸ PISO 2013, 111-114, no. 73. See also HOLDER 2018, 258-260 and DEAC 2025, 258, n. 12. Latest ECK/PANGERL 2026 for a diploma issued for five infantry units of Dacia Porolissensis, this number of units being the strongest element used by the authors to suggest that this was a copy of a constitution from August 10th AD 123 already known from 2011 (ECK/PANGERL 2011 = AE 2011, 1792 = ILD II, 815). After submitting the

manuscript a new fragment was discovered at Românași which most likely belongs to a new constitution issued on that day; see further DEAC 2026.

⁹ DEAC 2024, 235; DEAC 2025, 262, with references.

¹⁰ PISO 2013, 10, with references.

¹¹ Cf. FAORO 2011, 297, no. 7; PISO 2013, 129-130, no. 79, 1 with references.

AD 142.¹² Four years later, the same authors published a fragment of a military diploma dated to AD 142 based on the consular pair, presumably another copy of the constitution issued on the same day.¹³ Recently, it was proposed that the fragment mentioned above, from Buciumi, belonged to a military diploma of which another fragment was found in the same barrack. The latter partially reveals the name and titles of Antoninus Pius.¹⁴

Nothing certain is known about this member of the equestrian order before or after his tenure in Dacia Porolissensis. However, C. C. Petolescu identifies him with a homonym tribune of the *equites singulares Augusti*, attested on military diplomas dated to April 8th AD 133.¹⁵

Tribunus equitum singularium Augusti (?) (April AD 133).

Proc. Daciae Porolissensis (around the early AD 140s – attested on October 6th AD 142).

M. MACRINIUS VINDEX

M. Macrinus Vindex was a praesidial *procurator* of Dacia Porolissensis between at least AD 151¹⁶ and AD 154,¹⁷ as proven by the two military diplomas discovered north of the Danube.¹⁸ A recently published one reveals the first known occurrence of the formula *praeterea praestitit* issued for the armies of Dacia Porolissensis.¹⁹ The first letter of presumably the *nomen* of the *procurator* is preserved on the *intus* – the letter M. The authors convincingly argue that the diploma must belong to the period from AD 151 to AD 153, a theory accepted by other scholars.²⁰ Since Macrinus Vindex is

already mentioned as a *procurator* of Dacia Porolissensis on September 24th AD 151, it is reasonable to assume, as did previous authors, that the new diploma mentions Vindex.²¹ However, there is a slim chance that we are dealing with a predecessor of Vindex from around AD 151 and this possibility should not be completely ruled out.

As it was already outlined, some fifteen years after his office in Dacia Porolissensis, Vindex had been appointed Praetorian prefect under Marcus Aurelius, as evidenced by the inscription from Saepinum, in Apulia,²² and subsequently we are informed by Dio Cassius that he found his end in the summer of AD 172 during a battle against the Marcomanni.²³

Proc. Daciae Porolissensis (at least between September AD 151– September AD 154).

Praefectus praetorio (approx. AD 168/170 – AD 172).

TI. CLAUDIUS QUINTILIANUS

Except for the building plate attesting the reconstruction in stone of the amphitheatre from Porolissum in AD 157,²⁴ nothing else is known about Quintilianus (PIR² C 993). A fragment of a military diploma, of unknown origin, has been recently published independently by F. Matei-Popescu and P. Rothenhöfer,²⁵ and by W. Eck and A. Pangerl respectively, dated by the *tribunica potestas XVIII*, from December 10th AD 155 to December 9th AD 156.²⁶ Since the name of the *procurator* is not preserved, in both instances, the editors speculated that it might have been either Macrinus Vindex or Ti. Claudius Quintilianus. The balance favours the latter, especially given that at this point – AD 156 – Vindex's tenure would have stretched from at least September AD 151 (see above), which would theoretically make it a very long time.²⁷ However, as stated above, in the case of Flavius Italicus, his tenure was unusually long, as well.

Proc. Daciae Porolissensis (AD 157).

¹² ECK/PANGERL 2014, 272–277, no. 2; AE 2014, 1640; PETOLESCU 2015, 350, no. 1766; ILD II, 823; PETOLESCU 2021, 34 (unknown provenance, **October 6th AD 142**): [et sunt in Dacia Por]ol[issensi] sub Clodio Gal[lo] [lo].

¹³ ECK/PANGERL 2018, 32–34, no. 4; PETOLESCU 2019, 254–255, no. 1998; AE 2018, 1983; PETOLESCU 2021, 252, g) (unknown provenance, **AD 142**): [et sunt in Dacia Porol[issensi] sub Clodio Gallo]. Also, a fragment of a military diploma of unknown provenance was dated between spring AD 142 and the fall of AD 144 based on Pius' third consulship and his second imperial acclamation; see further AE 2012, 1951; ILD II, 824, with references. Finally, see AE 2018, 1325, with references, for a diploma dated between AD 138/142.

¹⁴ RMD II, 109 + 128 = DEAC 2023; PETOLESCU/MATEI-POPESCU 2024, 261–262, no. 2520 (Buciumi, Dacia Porolissensis, **early AD 140s**): [et sunt in Dacia Porol[issensi] sub Clodio Gallo].

¹⁵ RMD III, 158; PETOLESCU 2015a, 98; AE 2015, 1118; HOLDER 2017, 259–262, no. 3; AE 2017, 1218; RMD VI, page xli (territory of Bulgaria, **April 8th AD 133**): quibus praestit Clodius Gallus. Another military diploma, copy of the same constitution was published in MUGNAT 2011; AE 2011, 1104 (territory of Bulgaria, perhaps region of Vidin, **April 8th AD 133** (?)): [quibus] praestit Clodius [Gallus].

¹⁶ ISAC 2001; PETOLESCU 2003–2005, 358–360, no. 986; AE 2001, 1705; ILD I, 38; RMD V, 404; FAORO 2011, 295, 3/a; PISO 2013, 117, no. 75, 1; PETOLESCU 2021, 35 (Samum, Dacia Porolissensis, **September 24th AD 151**): et sunt in Dacia Porolis[sensi] sub Macrinio Vindice proc[uratore]. See also MATEI-POPESCU/TENTE 2018, 139–140, who suggest another fragment of military diplomas to possibly belong to the same constitution (AE 2011, 1073).

¹⁷ IDR I, D17 with references; RMD I, 47; RMD II, 101; AE 1980, 760; ILD I, 7; FAORO 2011, 295, no. 3/b; PISO 2013, 117, no. 75, 2; PETOLESCU 2021, 35 (Domasnea and Ad Mediam, Dacia Superior/Apulensis, **September 27th AD 154**): et sunt [in Dacia Poroliss]en[si] sub Macrinio [Vindice proc[uratore]].

¹⁸ For a detailed discussion of these documents see, in detail, PISO 2013, 117–122, no. 75.

¹⁹ MARTÍN CHACÓN/STOPELLI 2025 (Unknown, **AD 151–153**): et sunt in D[acia] Porolis[sensi] sub M[acrinio] Vindice proc[uratore]]. See also DANA 2021; AE 2021, 1086 for a diploma with the same formula discovered at Potaissa, in Dacia Porolissensis, dated to September or October AD 142, but which does not preserve the segment where the province was mentioned nor the name of the *procurator*.

²⁰ ECK/PANGERL 2025, 264.

²¹ MARTÍN CHACÓN/STOPELLI 2025, 277. See also ECK/PANGERL 2020, 116–120, no. 15, for a diploma issued for three *alae* of Dacia Porolissensis dated between AD 154 and AD 161; AE 2020, 1703; PETOLESCU 2021a, 235, no. 2240.

²² CIL IX, 2438 = AE 1983, 331 = AE 2006, 134; FAORO 2011, 295, 3/c; PISO 2013, 118, no. 75, 3 (Saepinum, Regio IV, **AD 169–172**). (...) Cosmi Aug[usti] lib[erti] a rationibus scriptae ad Bassaeum Rufum et ad | Macrinum Vindic[em] pr[ae]fectos pr[ae]torio e[minentissimos] v[er]os. (...) et cum in eadem contumacia | perseverent, dicentes non curaturos se neque meas litteras neque si tu eis | scrips[isses] litter[as], t[em]p[or]e rogo, domine, si tibi videbitur, indices Bassaeo Rufo | et Macrinio Vindici pr[ae]fectis pr[ae]torio e[minentissimis] v[er]is, ut epistulas emittant ad eosdem magg[ist]ratos et statim onarios u[t?] quam[t?] andiu t[em]p[or]e [ir]ritum factum est.

²³ Dio, LXXI, 3,5 (**summer AD 172**); FAORO 2011, 295, no. 3/d; PISO 2013, 118, 4. For a more detailed discussion see PISO 2013, esp. 120–121.

²⁴ Selective bibliographic references: CIL III 836; PFLAUM 1960–1961 III, 1065, who wrongly considers him a *procurator* of Dacia Superior; HORSTER 2001, 409, XXXI, 4; FAORO 2011, 295, no. 4; PISO 2013, 122–123, no. 76, 1; CIONGRADI 2014, 164–165, no. 1 with references; PETOLESCU 2021, 35 (Porolissum, Dacia Porolissensis, **AD 157**): Imp[er]ator Caesar T[itus] Ael[ius] Hadri[anus] Antoninus Aug[ustus] Pi[us] p[ontifex] m[aximus] trib[unus] pot[estatis] XX imp[er]ator II co[n]s[ul] | IIII p[ater] p[at]riae amphitheatrum vetus | tate dilapsus de n[on]o vo fe | cit curante Tib[er]io Cl[audio] Quinti | liano proc[uratore] s[uo].

²⁵ MATEI-POPESCU/ROTHENHÖFER 2025.

²⁶ ECK/PANGERL 2025, 263–265, no. 2.

²⁷ ECK/PANGERL 2025, 265; MATEI-POPESCU/ROTHENHÖFER 2025, 53. See also ECK 2022; AE 2022, 950 for a military diploma discovered at Arcobara (modern-day Ilişua), in Dacia Porolissensis, dated between AD 154 and AD 156, based on the witnesses.

-RUS

A very fragmentary limestone altar, broken into several pieces, was consecrated to the goddess Nemesis *Victrix*. It was found at Porolissum, in the sanctuary dedicated to Nemesis (compartment R), which was located to the west of the northern gate of the amphitheatre. The text mentions the person who initiated and performed the religious communication with the deity, whose name in dative is preserved through only the last two letters – R and O; this –rus – i.e. [Ca]rus *sive* [Flo]rus *sive* [Ve]rus (to name just a few possibilities) – must have been none other than a praesidial *procurator* of Dacia Porolissensis, as it has been already stressed out.²⁸ The dating of the altar spans between the moment the amphitheatre was rebuilt in stone, and implicitly the consecration of the Nemesis sanctuary which took place in AD 157 under Quintilianus or thereafter, but not later than March 7th AD 161 when Antoninus Pius passed away, since the text mentions this emperor.²⁹ The next *procurator*, Volu[sius], is attested on a military diploma discovered at Gilău, in Dacia Porolissensis, on October 24th AD 161,³⁰ so –rus’ office could have stretched until early in the joint rule of Marcus Aurelius and Lucius Verus. So far, this *procurator*, –rus, has never been included in the *fasti provinciae Daciae Porolissensis*. However, one cannot completely disregard the possibility that we are dealing with one individual, for instance: Volu[sius] –rus.

Proc. Daciae Porolissensis (between AD 157 - AD 161).

Depending solely on the military diploma discussed above, attesting Volu[sius] as a *procurator Daciae Porolissensis* on October 24th AD 161, one might include the beginning of his office during the reign of Antoninus Pius (see above). I. Piso suggests that he could have been the same person as the *tribunus* of the *cohors II Augusta Nerviana Pacensis milliaria Brittonum* attested now on two military diplomas of unknown provenance, dated to AD 139/140, under the name L. Volusius [---] and L. Vō[---].³¹ Thus, according to this theory, Volusius held the procuratorship of Dacia Porolissensis a little more than two decades after commanding a military unit stationed in this province; shortly after, Volusius was appointed to the command of Mauretania Tingitana.³² This situation would not be unprecedented because, for example, Aurelius Atilianus took command of the *ala Siliana*, garrisoned in the auxiliary fort at Gilău, in Dacia Porolissensis, and later potentially served as a financial *procurator* of Dacia Porolissensis.³³

The latest recorded praesidial *procurator* of Dacia Porolissensis is L. Sempronius Ingenus, attested under the joint rule of Marcus Aurelius and Lucius Verus, on a series of military diplomas dated on July 21st AD 164.³⁴

There is also a long debate regarding the seat of the praesidial *procurator* of Dacia Porolissensis.³⁵ The hypotheses relied heavily on one hand on the attestation of Ti. Claudius Quintilianus at Porolissum (see above) and the fact that the



Fig. 2. Presumed epigraphic attestation of an anonymous *procurator* discovered in the *principia* of the Pomiet hill auxiliary fort (photo and drawing by the author of this paper).

²⁸ PISO/DEAC/ZĂGREANU 2015, 215-217, no. 1, Fig. 1 a-c; PETOLESCU 2016, 360, no. 1844; AE 2015, 1126; ZĂGREANU 2016, 209 (Porolissum, Dacia Porolissensis, between AD 157 and AD 161): frag. a-b: [- - -]X(?) | [- - -]I Nem[esi vict?][rici] [- - -] | [- - -]Au[?]g(usti) Pii et [- - -]M T [- - -]; frag. c: [- - -]amp[hi]theatri? [- - -]ro proc[uratore] | [oper]e peracto.

²⁹ PISO/DEAC/ZĂGREANU 2015, 216-217.

³⁰ Latest: ILD I, 39; RMD V, page 704; PISO 2013, 123-124, no. 77, 2, with references.

³¹ PISO 2013, 123, no. 77, 1, with references; RMD VI, 574; AE 2020, 1705 and, for the second fragment, see ECK/PANGERL 2020, 107-111, no. 11, Fig. 21-22; PETOLESCU 2021a, 235, no. 2239; AE 2020, 1699.

³² PISO 2013, 9-10, 125-126, with references. The same opinion, regarded with caution by the author, is encountered in FAORO 2011, 296, with references.

³³ PISO 2013, 260-262, no. 112. See also CIONGRADI 2014, 165-166, no. 2.

³⁴ PISO 2013, 127-129, no. 78.

³⁵ In this regard, it must be stated early on that the tile and brick stamps with *Ex(ercitus) D(aciae) P(orolissensis)*, discovered in different locations of

name of the province was taken from this settlement, and, on the other hand, on the idea that Napoca was the only urban centre of the province in that period – *municipium Aelium Hadrianum*.³⁶ It is difficult to reconcile with the idea that Napoca was elevated to the rank of *municipium* at the same time as the establishment of Dacia Porolissensis.³⁷ Thus, there is no concrete evidence that, right at the beginning of the province of Dacia Porolissensis, there was an urban centre in the province. Building on previous scholarship, I. Piso considers both locations, one in which the *procurator* exercised his military duties (Porolissum), and one in which he exercised his judicial and administrative duties (Napoca), to be valid options. He draws a parallel in this regard with Tingi and Volubilis in Mauretania Tingitana, where the same problem occurs in terms of advancing a definitive answer.³⁸ However, the attestation of -rus on the fragmentary altar discovered in the Nemesis sanctuary attached to the amphitheatre of Porolissum (discussed above), and another epigraphic monument discovered in the *principia* of the Pomēt hill auxiliary fort from Porolissum, previously overlooked, might balance the situation in favour of Porolissum.³⁹ The reading should be: [---] | [---] Poro(lissensis, -ium) | [---] M sive A P | [---] *proc(urator?)* | [---] (Fig. 2).⁴⁰

It must be emphasized that, given the increasing attestations of the praesidial *procuratores Daciae Porolissensis* on public monuments exclusively thus far at Porolissum, one should consider it as a strong candidate for the seat of the praesidial *procurator*.⁴¹ Just like senatorial governors, we are aware, however, that praesidial procurators who exercised supreme judicial⁴² and military powers (*imperium*)⁴³ in the confinements of their *provincia*, also travelled a lot.⁴⁴ As was outlined above, praesidial *procuratores* must have temporarily resided at Napoca in an unknown location when duty called, for instance presiding over trials and other activities of this sort.⁴⁵ Naturally, at Porolissum, the *procurator* exercised his

military command from the auxiliary fort of the Pomēt hill.⁴⁶ However, exercising his authority and judicial powers upon the civilians from Porolissum, and the larger area from this section of north-western Dacia at least, had to be performed in another location, not the auxiliary fort to which civilian access was denied. For the latter, its exact location at Porolissum is not yet revealed.

A. V. Matei, joined later by E. de Sena through the *Porolissum Forum Project*, uncovered a large area to the south of the Pomēt hill auxiliary fort at Porolissum, which seemed to display a U-shaped building complex layout with an open courtyard, 40 m long by 26 m wide (Fig. 3-4). It had porticos and impressive colonnades (peristyle), *opus incertum* perimeter walls, 90 cm thick (Fig. 5), which had been built sometime during the reign of Hadrian or Antoninus Pius (Fig. 6, a).⁴⁷ Its main structures are divided in three sections. “Basilica I” – MSP002 is located to the west of the courtyard, but its exact dimensions archaeologists failed to deliver. “Basilica II” – MSP003 is opposite to it, located to the east of the courtyard in a parallel layout to “Basilica I” – MSP002.⁴⁸ Again, no exact dimensions are known for this structure. Finally, “Area 22” to the north of courtyard, part of the north-western longer section which apparently was “connecting” the two basilica-type buildings.⁴⁹ However, although we are dealing with a *domus*-type public building complex, its functionality was not fully understood. The latter stages of this public edifice were believed by archaeologists to represent the Severan phase namely the potential *forum* of the *municipium Septimium Porolissense*. There is no argument to doubt the interpretation regarding the overall chronology. This phase, which indeed is contemporaneous with the establishment of *municipium*, largely preserves the Hadrianic-Antonine layout, although, all kinds of interventions of various scales could be detected by the archaeological excavations. New buildings were erected from scratch as well during the Severan period, as in the case of the bath complex (MSP004) to the south of the courtyard, which almost sealed off completely the latter (Fig. 4). Whatever the true nature of this compound, one sure thing is that the *forum* and the *basilica forensis* are located elsewhere (MSP001) (Fig. 3, a-b).⁵⁰

Dacia Porolissensis are not relevant for the discussion here; see IDR App. I, page 35 with references.

³⁶ See esp. latest: PISO 1993, 38 with references; HAENSCH 1997, 347-348, in his view, since Porolissum had not been elevated to the rank of *municipium*, a *sine qua non* condition to identify the seat of a provincial governor there, the only option left would be Napoca; the same opinion is embraced by C. Ciongradi (CIONGRADI 2014, 162); *contra* the theory of R. Haensch, see PISO 2013, 123, n. 4.

³⁷ On an overview of the status of Napoca and the historiography related to its elevation to the rank of *municipium*, see NEMETI 2025, 137-139 with references.

³⁸ PISO 1993, 38.

³⁹ History and Art County Museum of Zalău, inv. 1819. Dimensions: 20 x 20 x 26 cm. Height of the letters: between 2 and 6 cm. Bibliography: ILD I, 676 with references. The location where it was found was mentioned as the *praetorium*, which was the designation used by Romanian scholars for the headquarters at the time; further about this topic, see MARCU 2025, 20-22.

⁴⁰ Our reading, based on a personal examination of the monument.

⁴¹ For the attestations of members of potential *singulares* of the *procuratores* (*praesidiales*) *Daciae Porolissensis*, only one occurrence is known, but its dating is doubtful (IDR IV/1, 216).

⁴² On senatorial governors and their “administrative” duties, including the deliverance of justice, see, for example: BURTON 1975; MEYER 2006; ECK 2021, *passim*; BÉRENGER 2023.

⁴³ See latest on senatorial governors and their attributes in commanding the armies in the provinces that they governed in SPEIDEL 2024.

⁴⁴ PFLAUM 1960-1961, *passim*. For the senatorial governor’s travels see, for example: MARSHALL 1966; BÉRENGER-BADEL 2003.

⁴⁵ Although, again, it must be stressed that no *procuratores praesidiales* are attested epigraphically at Napoca; e.g. NEMETI 2025, 140.

⁴⁶ OPREANU/LĂZĂRESCU 2020, 237 who conclude, while publishing the partial results of the *praetorium* located in the *latus praetorii sinistrum*, as follows: “The high density of structures identified in the *latus sinistrum* of the Roman fort at Porolissum does not represent a standard for the regular auxiliary fort, suggesting a genuine concept unknown in any other fort of the province of Dacia. (...) we can argue that the main purpose of this fort was that of a command and logistics support base for the entire *limes* area of Dacia Porolissensis.”

⁴⁷ This feature largely overlapped a turf and timber Trajanic fort; see, further, on this fort, MATEI 2003. For the archaeological excavations directed by A. V. Matei in the larger area south of the Pomēt hill auxiliary fort, from 1999 to 2010, consult also the brief archaeological reports published in the *Cronica Cercetărilor Arheologice din România* published from 2000 to 2011.

⁴⁸ We have used the initial labelling made by the archaeologists in charge now of the excavations, to which we have added the MS002 and MS003 designations for the two basilica type structures, for the sake of uniformity.

⁴⁹ See further for the results of this excavated area in DE SENA WANNER 2016; cf. OPREANU/LĂZĂRESCU 2016. This area had at least one chamber with a *hypocaust* heating installation system.

⁵⁰ OPREANU/LĂZĂRESCU 2019.

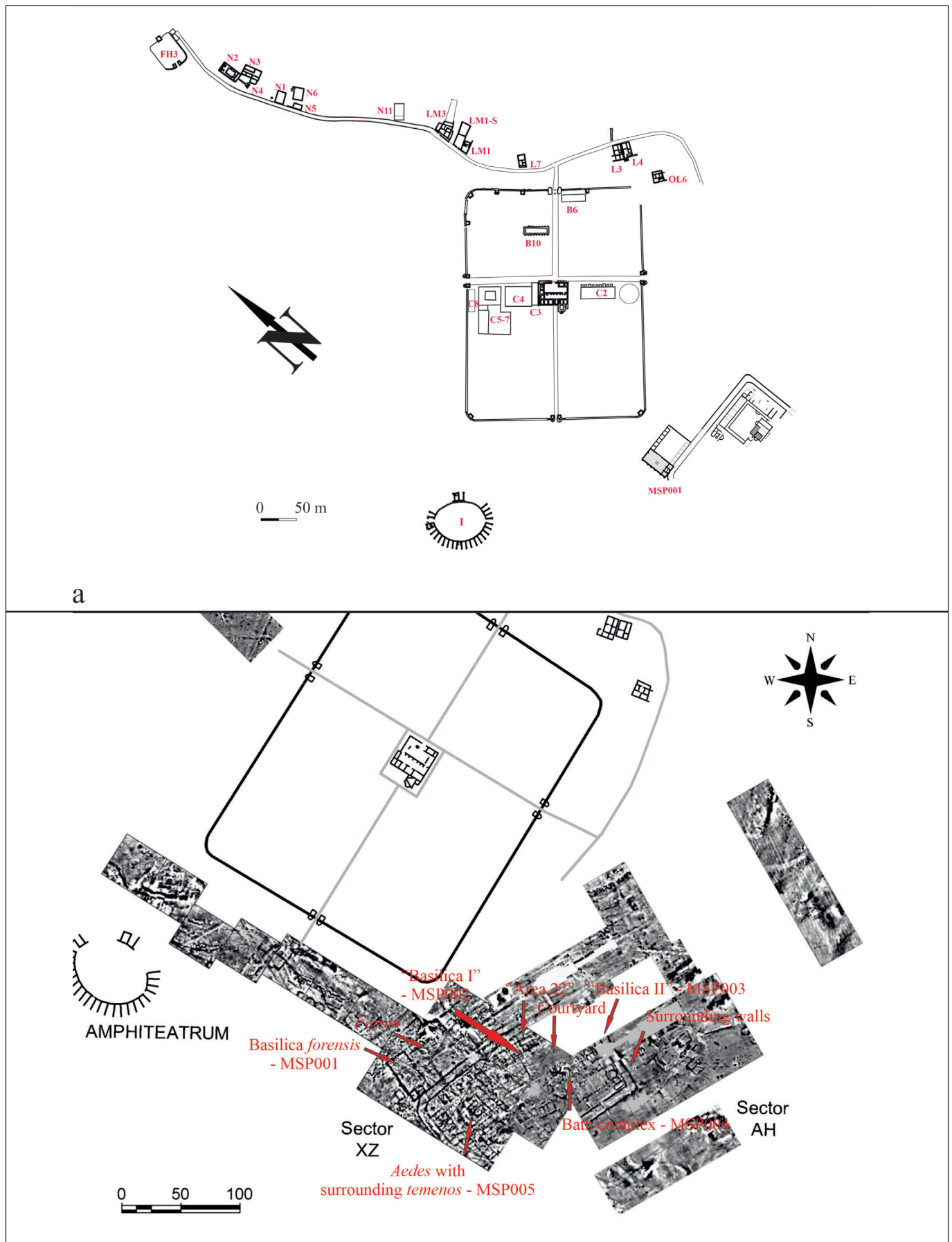


Fig. 3. a. Layout plan of the main archaeologically investigated features at Porolissum with the location of the area discussed in this paper (created by the author of this paper); b. The geophysical measurements in the main area of the *municipium* (courtesy of Vlad-Andrei Lăzărescu, Institute of Archaeology and Art History, Cluj-Napoca, Romania, with the building functionality interpretations by the author of this paper).

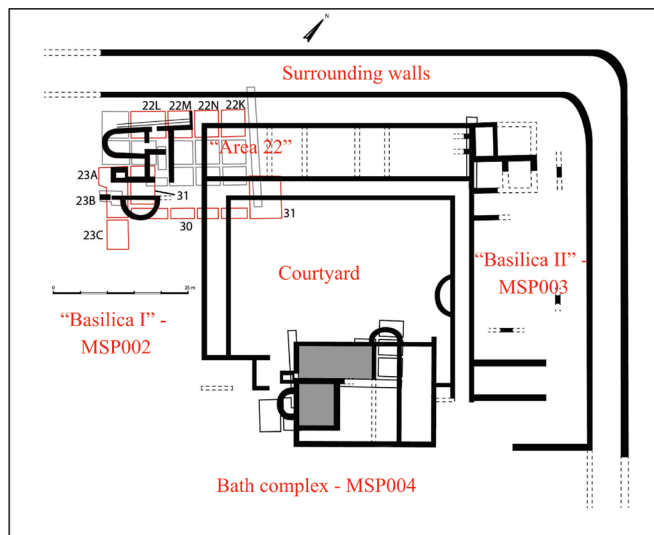


Fig. 4. Plan of the area discussed in this paper during the Severan period; with a focus on “Area 22” (archive of the County Museum of History and Art, Zalău and *Porolissum Forum Project*— courtesy of Eric De Sena – redrawn by author of this paper).

was, at the time, unparalleled in size at the provincial scale of Dacia Porolissensis. In comparison, at Porolissum itself, at this point in time, only the perimeter walls of the Pomet hill auxiliary fort, its headquarters (*principia*), as well as other buildings inside,⁵¹ and partially the Citera hill fort, were built in stone,⁵² while the *vicus militaris* was at this stage made of turf and timber.⁵³ Even further, at this point in the provincial history, some of the forts began the partial transition from turf and timber to stone.⁵⁴ When the reorganisation of Dacia under a consular ranked governor occurred in AD 168/170, and the movement of the financial *procuratores* took place further south, to Napoca,⁵⁵ the building complex lost its significance,

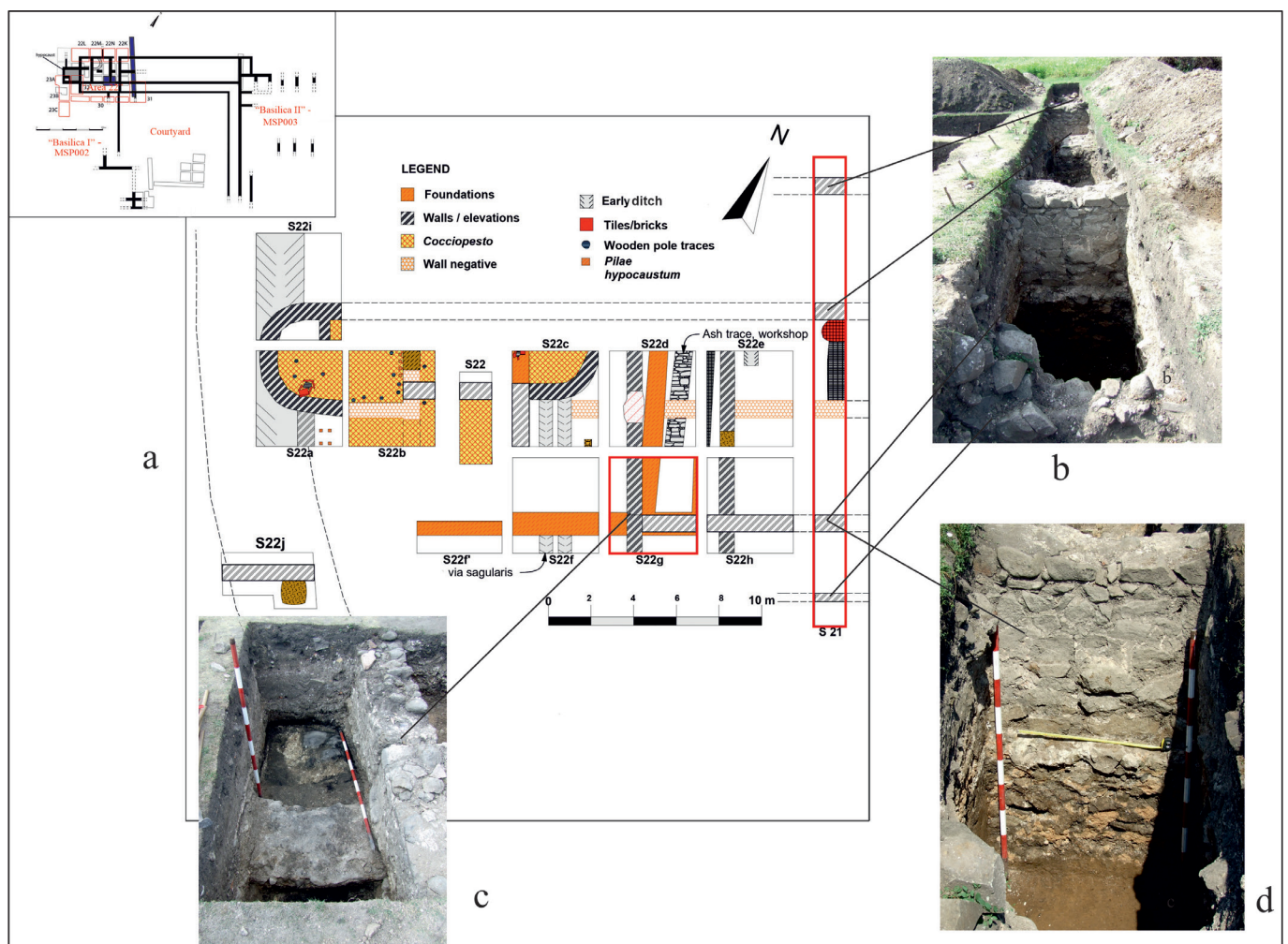


Fig. 5. Detailed plan of the excavations of “Area 22” (archive of the County Museum of History and Art, Zalău and *Porolissum Forum Project*— courtesy of Eric De Sena – redrawn by author of this paper).

The *procuratores* had to address the military and the civilians alike. The compound discussed above was erected and functioned as a monumental public building complex exactly during the period when the *procuratores praesidiales* acted as governors of Dacia Porolissensis. Accordingly, one cannot exclude that this could have been the governor’s *praetorium* or *officium*, or even both. Such a building complex

⁵¹ MARCU 2009; MARCU 2025, *passim*.

⁵² The stone phase of the Citera hill fort was built during the Hadrianic-Antonine period and measures 66.65 × 101 m; see OPREANU *et alii* 2014; OPREANU/LĂZĂRESCU 2016a, 80-82.

⁵³ E.g. TAMBA 2008.

⁵⁴ Cf. MARCU 2025, *passim*.

⁵⁵ See latest NEMETI 2025, 140-142 with references.

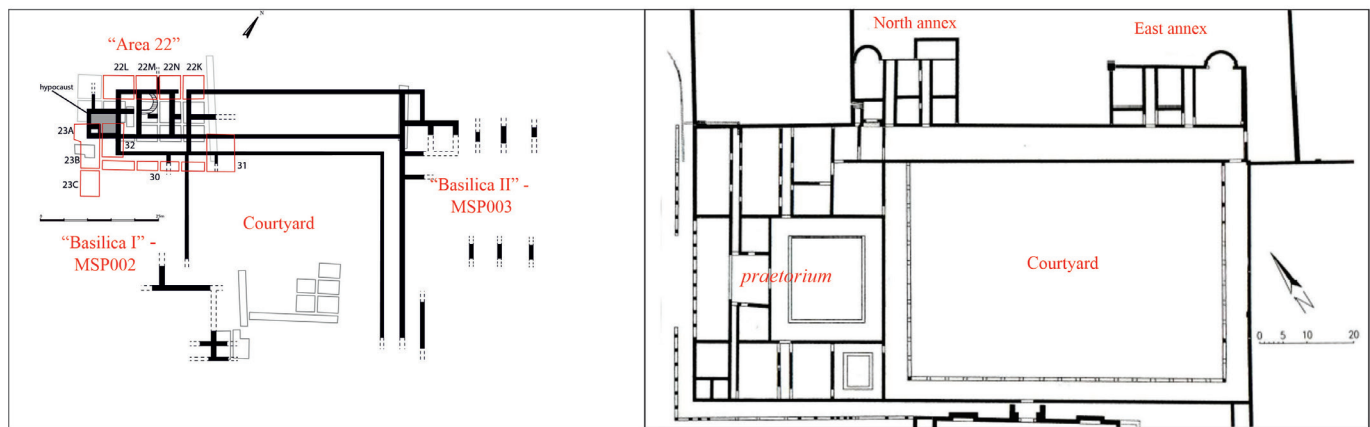


Fig. 6. Compared layout plans of the compounds discussed in this paper (same scale): a. Layout plan of the area in question during the middle of the 2nd century AD (archive of the County Museum of History and Art, Zalău – courtesy of Eric De Sena – redrawn by the author of this paper); b. Layout plan of the possible *praetorium* from Cambodunum (Raetia) (after Weber 2000, 58, fig. 90, redrawn by the author of this paper).

being subsequently put into a sort of a “restoration” program, as revealed by the archaeological investigations. This would explain the lack of monumental instantiations, bearing inscriptions, or any other pieces of evidence connecting this complex of edifices discussed above with the provincial government, as these must have been long gone when the municipal phase was established under Septimius Severus.

At Cambodunum, in Raetia, a public building complex erected in the 1st century AD, has been interpreted by some scholars as the *praetorium* of the Raetian praesidial *procurator*, functioning as such until the early 2nd century AD.⁵⁶ Interestingly, the layout, as well as the dimensions of the complex are similar (Fig. 6, b).⁵⁷

In a frontier milieu, at the outskirts of the newly born province of Dacia Porolissensis, in a world where almost everything had been still built from turf and timber, at Porolissum, one building was standing among the rest as it was made of stone. It has a U-shape form and was built around a generous courtyard, being lavishly decorated with an impressive peristyle. In total, the surface of this compound was roughly equal in size with the Citera hill auxiliary fort. When the *principia* of the Pomet hill auxiliary fort was built in stone during Hadrian’s reign, it covered a surface much smaller than that of the compound discussed above.⁵⁸ During all this time, the government of Dacia Porolissensis, represented by the praesidial *procurator*, had its main seat at Porolissum. The question remains to be answered: was there really a link between the *procuratores praesidiales* and the compound discussed above?

ABBREVIATIONS

- IDR I = I. I. Russu, *Inscriptiones Daciae Romanae I*, Bucharest 1975.
 IDR IV/1 = I. Piso, *Inscriptiones Daciae Romanae. Volumen IV/1: Dacia Porolissensis. Potaissa et vicinia (IDR IV/1)*, Paris 2024.
 IDR App. I = I. Piso, D. Deac, *Inscriptiones Daciae Romanae. Appendix I. Inscriptiones laterum Musei Zilahensis*, Cluj-Napoca 2016.
 ILD I = C. C. Petolescu, *Inscripții latine din Dacia (ILD)*, Bucharest 2005.
 ILD II = C. C. Petolescu, *Inscripții latine din Dacia II*, Bucharest 2016.
 PIR² C = E. Groag and A. Stein, *Prosopographia Imperii Romani*, Berlin and Leipzig 1936.
 RMD I = M. Roxan, *Roman Military Diplomas 1954-1977*, London and New York 1978.
 RMD II = M. Roxan, *Roman Military Diplomas 1978-1984*, London 1985.
 RMD III = M. Roxan, *Roman Military Diplomas 1985-1993*, London 1994.
 RMD V = P. Holder, *Roman Military Diplomas V*, London 2006.
 RMD VI = P. Holder, *Roman Military Diplomas VI*, London 2024.

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⁵⁶ WEBER 2000, 58-59 with references. Cf. HAENSCH 1997, 146-149; PISO 2003, 288-290; ROLLINGER 2004 with references. It must be stated that the debate regarding the seat of the *procurator* of Raetia at Cambodunum or Augusta Vindelicum remains open.

⁵⁷ See also for the *praetorium* of the financial *procurator* of Judea, located at Caesarea Maritima, PATRICH 2010, *passim*.

⁵⁸ Cf. MARCU 2025, 340-347, no. 20 with references.

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