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***Militaries from Pannonia in the Roman
Army (first-third centuries AD). A
Prosopographical Study***

Abstract of the doctoral thesis

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INTRODUCTION

The introductory part of the doctoral thesis comprises a brief history of the research on the Roman army and mainly of the four units analyzed: legions, the Praetorian Guard, the troops of *equites singulares*, and the praetorian fleets of *Misenum* and *Ravenna*. Thus, I have included a selection of studies which analyzed the formation, evolution, organization, and role of the legions¹, of the Praetorian Guard², of the troops of *equites singulares* and *numeri*³, or of the fleets of *Misenum* and *Ravenna*⁴ during the Principate. The introduction also comprises several research that focused on the prosopography of the militaries within the Roman Army during the Principate⁵, usually the legions, the best represented epigraphically⁶, as well as essential works which analyzed the ethnic, social, or provincial origin of the militaries within all four aforementioned units⁷.

In this section of the work, I have included the methodology, the “spine” of the doctoral thesis. Hence, I identified the characters from Pannonia in the Roman army by five criteria mentioned in the epigraphic sources: 1. the ethnic-provincial origin, expressed by the phrase *natione Pannonius*; 2. the administrative origin, attested strictly by the phrase *oriundus/natus Pannonia/Pannonia Superiore/Inferiore*; 3. the urban origin, by the phrase *domo Savaria, Poetovio, Sirmium*, etc; 4. the tribal origin, confirmed by the fact that the military in question belongs to one of the Pannonian tribes: the Eravisci, Varciani, Boii, Scordisci, or Cotini; 5. the onomastic Pannonian origin, reflected by a *cognomen* specific to that area: *Das(s)ius, Dasianus, Dasimius, Dasmenus, Pusinnio*, etc. After identifying these militaries, I have analyzed the units by the order of their importance: I. Legions; II. The Praetorian Guard; III. The troops of *equites singulares* and *numeri*; IV. The fleets of *Misenum* and *Ravenna*.

¹ Ritterling 1925; Passerini 1985, 549-607; Le Bohec, Wolff 2000; Farnum 2005.

² Durry 1938; Passerini 1939; Rankov 1994.

³ Bartoccini 1961, 2144-2153; Speidel 1978; Southern 1989, 81-140; Speidel 1994a; Speidel 1994b.

⁴ Starr 1941; Chapot 1967; Reddé 1986; Spaul 2002.

⁵ I include here my research on the prosopography of the militaries from Pannonia in the Roman army in the first-third centuries AD: Acrudoae 2012b, 165-192; Acrudoae 2012c, 127-160; Acrudoae 2013, 377-393.

⁶ Benea 1983; Moga 1985; Le Bohec 1989b; Dabrowa 1993; Malone 2006; Matei-Popescu 2010.

⁷ Passerini 1939, 141-189; Starr 1941, 75; Ferrero 1961, 276; Mann 1983; Reddé 1986, 532; Forni 1992, 84-109; Speidel 1994a, 83; Speidel 1994b, 15-16; Derks 2009, 239-276.

Furthermore, the militaries within each unit are presented in descending hierarchical order (higher military ranks – lower military ranks – *milites/equites* - veterans) and in ascending chronological order, by their mention in the epigraphic sources (funerary, votive, honorary, or collective inscriptions and military diplomas; these are the primary sources I have focused on throughout the thesis). The characters of the aforementioned troops each have a prosopographical sheet, which contains the following elements: full name (filiation and tribe, when available), the troop where he served and the function occupied, origin of the character, place where the epigraphic source was discovered, age, military service, recruitment age, recruitment duration, career of the character (when necessary), and his commemorators.

CHAPTER I: REFERENCE POINTS ON THE POLITICAL AND MILITARY HISTORY OF PANNONIA DURING THE PRINCIPATE

The first chapter of the doctoral thesis dealt with several aspects regarding the formation of the Roman province of Pannonia, its administration in the first-third centuries AD, the constitution of the cities within the respective space, and the mobility of the legions where militaries coming from this space are attested. This section is strictly for information purposes, a general *excursus* on the population of Pannonia, on where it was located in the period preceding the constitution of the Roman province, the constitution and division of Pannonia in the first-second centuries AD and the constitution of the cities (*municipia* and *colonia*) within that space, a genuine recruitment core of the militaries in legions and in the Praetorian Guard during the Principate. In the same chapter, I analyzed the mobility of the units from the province of Pannonia in the first-third centuries AD, especially the stationing and dislocation of the troops, as well as the most epigraphically representative troops in the aforementioned period.

CHAPTER II: MILITARIES FROM PANNONIA IN THE LEGIONS OF THE ROMAN ARMY

This chapter focuses on the prosopography of the militaries from Pannonia in the legions during the first-third centuries AD. For an efficient analysis of the characters in question, I took into account three coordinates:

1. The legions in the Roman Empire: brief history and structure – an introduction with several aspects regarding the epigraphic and literary sources that mentioned the Roman army during the Principate, mainly the legions. Afterwards, I presented the constitution, structure, number and name of these legions, payment of the legion members, and the hierarchical order, from the highest rank (*legatus legionis*), to the higher military ranks (*primus pilus*, centurions, etc), to non-commissioned officers (*principales* and *immunes*), and regular militaries (*milites*).

2. The prosopography of the militaries from Pannonia in the legions of the Roman army – it contains the prosopographical investigation per se of the militaries mentioned in epigraphs within legions during the Principate. First, I identified the militaries from Pannonia starting from the five criteria mentioned in the introduction (the ethnic-geographic origin, the administrative origin, the urban origin, the tribal Pannonian origin, and the onomastic Pannonian origin – the *cognomen* specific to the space in question). The prosopographical research concerned the legions, analyzed in ascending numerical and alphabetical order, and the militaries in question were mentioned in descending order of the hierarchy (higher military ranks – lower military ranks – *milites* – veterans) and in ascending hierarchical order, attested in the epigraphic sources. The prosopographical sheet includes all the details regarding the elements of origin, military career, recruitment, mobility, and legal or social status, in an attempt to use all the information regarding each military: full name, the unit where he served, origin of the character, the place where the epigraphic source was discovered, the age, the military service, the recruitment age, the recruitment duration, the career of the character, and his commemorators.

3. General considerations regarding the militaries from Pannonia in the legions of the Roman army – several conclusions that resulted after the prosopographical analysis of this chapter. Hence, I elaborated a statistics of the legion members, meaning the percentage of superior officers, non-commissioned officers, *milites*, and veterans, their origin starting from the five aforementioned aspects, the legal and social status of the militaries in legions, analogies with the epigraphic attestation of the legion members from all the provinces of the Empire in the first-third centuries AD, the recruitment of these characters, the mobility of the militaries (focused on three

factors: the space of origin, the camp and unit where they activated, and the place where the epigraphic source was discovered), and their commemorators.

CHAPTER III: MILITARIES FROM PANNONIA IN THE PRAETORIAN GUARD

The third section of the doctoral thesis studies the prosopography of the militaries from Pannonia in the praetorian cohorts in the first-third centuries AD. This chapter is divided into three segments, just like the previous chapter:

1. The Praetorian Guard in the Roman Empire: brief history and structure – a succinct introduction to the history of the praetorian cohorts, from their constitution and evolution to their disappearance. I have also presented the role of this guard in the agitated history of the Principate, its status, the payment received by the praetorians (besides the military pay, these militaries were granted *donativa* and other material rewards for various occasions), the structure of these units, and the stages of the hierarchy.

2. The prosopography of the militaries from Pannonia in the Praetorian Guard – within this section, I have followed the same stages as for the previous chapter: the prosopographical analysis for each military of the praetorian cohorts in descending hierarchical order (higher military ranks – lower military ranks – *milites* – veterans) and in ascending chronological order, by their mention in the epigraphic sources. At the same time, the five criteria for the identification of the militaries from Pannonia within these units and the nine elements of the prosopographical sheet are also applicable to this situation.

3. General considerations regarding the militaries from Pannonia in the Praetorian Guard – the conclusions of this chapter generally contain the same elements as the second chapter. Thus, I determined the percentage of the militaries from Pannonia in the praetorian cohorts, for both the hierarchy per se and the origin of these characters. I included an analogy with the militaries within the Praetorian Guard, who came from all the provinces of the Empire, by establishing the relevance of this analogy and the motivation of recruiting the praetorians from a certain province within a certain period. I reconstituted the recruitment period of the praetorians from Pannonia, by determining the

interval when the provincials dominated the praetorian cohorts numerically. At the same time, I followed the mobility of the militaries within these units, by formulating various hypotheses regarding their stationing and dislocation, as well as the attestation of commemorators (family or colleagues) and their connection with the military mentioned in the epigraphic source.

CHAPTER IV: MILITARIES FROM PANNONIA IN THE TROOPS OF *EQUITES SINGULARES* AND *NUMERI*

This chapter studied the prosopography of the militaries from Pannonia in the units of *equites singulares* and *numeri* in the first-third centuries AD. This part of the thesis is divided into three sections, as follows:

1. The troops of *equites singulares* and *numeri* in the Roman Empire: brief history and structure – in the introductory part of this chapter, I included several details on the constitution and structure of the units of *equites singulares Augusti*, *singulares consularis*, and *numeri* in the first-third centuries AD.

2. The prosopography of the militaries from Pannonia in the troops of *equites singulares* and *numeri* – in this subdivision, I elaborated the prosopography of the characters within the troops of *equites singulares Augusti*, as they record the most mentions in epigraphs. The number of the militaries from Pannonia in the guard of a provincial governor (*equites* or *pedites singulares consularis*) or in the units of *numeri* is significantly lower than that of the members of the imperial guard, which explains the reduced number of inscriptions that mention them. This section followed the same stages: identifying the characters from Pannonia within those units, investigating them in the descending order of military ranks and in ascending chronological order of the mention in epigraphs, and outlining the prosopographical sheets starting from the nine aforementioned aspects.

3. General considerations regarding the militaries from Pannonia in the troops of *equites singulares* and *numeri* – I formulated several final observations referring to the persons within these troops. Hence, I underlined the statistic side of my research (the number of the militaries and the percentage of their origin); I made analogies with the militaries from other provinces in the units of *equites singulares*

Augusti during the Principate. I also explained the reason behind the massive presence of *equites* from the Danubian provinces during a certain period; I noted the recruitment and the mobility of the militaries within the imperial guard and the causes of their attestation in a province far from the camp they were stationed in. I also noted the commemorators of the characters in question and the mention of the family or colleagues of the militaries within these troops.

CHAPTER V: MILITARIES FROM PANNONIA IN THE FLEETS OF *MISENUM* AND *RAVENNA*

The last chapter of the doctoral thesis focused on the militaries from Pannonia in the praetorian fleets of *Misenum* and *Ravenna* in the first-third centuries AD. This part of the doctoral thesis was divided just like the previous chapters:

1. The praetorian fleets of *Misenum* and *Ravenna* in the Roman Empire: brief history and structure – I presented several details on the constitution of the fleets of *Misenum* and *Ravenna*, on the origin of the militaries within these units, on their military pay, and on the hierarchical organisation during the Principate.

2. The prosopography of the militaries from Pannonia in the fleets of *Misenum* and *Ravenna* – this subchapter comprises the prosopography of the persons within these units, starting from the same premises as in the previous chapter: identifying the militaries from Pannonia, analyzing the sailors of each fleet in descending hierarchical order (higher military ranks – lower military ranks – *milites* – veterans), with the nine elements of a prosopographical sheet: full name, fleet where he served, origin, place where the epigraphic source was discovered, age, military service, recruitment period, career of the character, and his commemorators.

3. General considerations regarding the militaries from Pannonia in the fleets of *Misenum* and *Ravenna* – I studied several aspects resulted from the prosopographical analysis. More precisely, I analyzed the percentage of the militaries from Pannonia in the two praetorian fleets, their origin, legal status, and the variables regarding this issue. I also made analogies with the sailors from all the provinces of the Empire within the two units and I confirmed the number of Pannonians in the epigraphic

sources; I studied the mobility of the fleets and of the militaries in the first-third centuries AD, the families and colleagues of these characters and their connection.

FINAL CONSIDERATIONS

Within the doctoral thesis, I have investigated 372 militaries from Pannonia in the Roman army in the first-third centuries AD. My research is far from exhaustive, as I may not have discovered all the persons from Pannonia within the four units analyzed. This concern regards mostly the second half of the second century, when the militaries from Pannonia are less likely to mention their origin in the epigraphic sources. Nonetheless, the prosopographical analysis and the corresponding analogies have provided precious details regarding the origin, military career, the recruitment period, and the mobility of these militaries during the Principate.

The conclusions of the study reflect the final observations of each chapter. Hence, regarding the origin of the militaries from Pannonia, I confirmed the urban origin of most legion members (83%) and praetorians (70%), which can be explained by the early recruitment and citizenship of these persons, their significantly higher pay compared to other units, and their colonisation in the Pannonian cities starting with the second part of the first century AD. As for the troops of *equites singulares* and *numeri* and for the fleets of *Misenum* and *Ravenna*, their uncertain legal status requires further discussions. Thus, the term *natione Pannonius* reflects an ethnic and geographic origin, which confirms that most militaries within the two units were *peregrini*; the moment they were enlisted, they received or they took a Roman name and they were granted the Latin right; they received citizenship the moment of their demobilisation.

Through analogies with the militaries from all Roman provinces, mentioned in the epigraphic sources within the four troops during the first-third centuries AD, I discovered that the persons from Pannonia were well represented in legions (5.2%, third position), in the Praetorian Guard (the second position after AD 193, following the militaries from Thrace), and in the *equites singulares Augusti* (22% in the second century, 35% starting with the reign of Septimius Severus). However, they were less represented in the fleets of *Misenum* and *Ravenna* (23 persons, which is insignificant, compared to the persons from other provinces and with the assertions within certain literary sources). I also outlined

several details regarding the mobility of the militaries, starting from three coordinates: the space of origin, the camp or province where they served, and the place where the epigraphic source was discovered. Hence, though most persons were attested in the camp of the unit where they activated (*Vindobona*, Pannonia Superior – the legion X Gemina; *Carnuntum*, Pannonia Superior – the legion XIII Gemina; *Brigetio*, Pannonia Superior/Inferior – the legion I Adiutrix; *Aquincum*, Pannonia Inferior – the legion II Adiutrix; Roma – the praetorian cohorts, the troops of *equites singulares Augusti*, and the sailors of the *castra Misena* and *castra Ravennatis*; *Misenum*, *Ostia* – the militaries within the fleet of *Misenum* and *Ravenna* – the sailors within the respective fleet), there were also exceptions. I refer here to people mentioned in other provinces, for various reasons, which I have detailed within each chapter. However, the recruitment and the mobility of the militaries from Pannonia surprised a specific pattern, dependent on the political decisions from the centre and on the transfer of the power core from the Italic Peninsula to the provinces, starting with the second half of the first century AD.

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