

THOSE MEN AND THEIR SHACKLES. A RARE DISCOVERY FROM ROMAN DACIA

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Ces hommes et leurs manilles. Une découverte rare de la Dacie romaine

(Abstract)

Dans la collection du Musée du Banat Montan de Reșița, il y a aussi un artefact plus spécial, découvert dans l'un des camps romains sur le territoire de Banat, ayant le numéro d'inventaire 34614. Il s'agit d'une menotte romaine, trouvée dans le camp romain de Vărădia Chiliz en 2006. Du point de vue typologique, le spécimen découvert à Vărădia-Chiliz est certainement une menotte de l'époque romaine, qui appartient au type 4 chez W. H. Manning et au type dit Kunzing chez F. H. Thompson. Elle fait partie d'une série d'artefacts assez rares dans l'Empire, illustrés en Dacie par les découvertes faites dans les camps de Călugăreni, Buciumi, Ilișua, Mehădia et Bologa ainsi que dans les recherches effectuées dans le vicus militaire de Porolissum, et aussi dans le mithraeum à Ulpia Traiana Sarmizegetusa.

Grâce au contexte, il est clair que l'artefact a été utilisé par les militaires stationnés ici pour sécuriser des prisonniers de guerre ou même des éléments non soumis à l'intérieur de l'armée et peut être daté du début du deuxième siècle, entre la conquête de Dacia et les années 117–118 après JC. En outre, sur la base du diamètre intérieur assez grand, il semble que la menotte découverte à Vărădia fixât les pieds de l'homme menotté.

Those men and their shackles. A rare discovery from Roman Dacia

(Abstract)

In the collection of the Highland Banat Museum from Reșița, we can find a special artefact with the inventory number 34614, discovered in one of the Roman forts, from Banat region. It is a Roman shackle, found in the Roman fort of Vărădia Chiliz, in 2006. From a typological point of view, the specimen found here, is certainly a shackle from the Roman period, which belongs to type 4 in W.H. Manning and to the type known as Kunzing in F. H. Thompson. It is part of a series of rather rare artefacts in the Empire, illustrated in Dacia by the discoveries made in the forts from Călugăreni, Buciumi, Ilișua, Mehădia and Bologa as well as in the research carried out in the military vicus from Porolissum, and also in the Ulpia Traiana Sarmizegetusa mithraeum. From the context, it is clear that the artifact was used by the military troops stationed here to secure prisoners of war or even non-submissive individuals from inside the military and can be dated to the beginning of the second century, between the conquest of Dacia and the years 117–118 AD. Furthermore, based on the fairly large inner diameter, it appears that the shackle found in Vărădia, fixed the feet and it is called fetter.

Introduction

The collection of the Museum of the Highland Banat from Reșița¹, includes among many other objects with heritage value, a rather special artefact, discovered in one of the Roman camps from Banat. We are referring to shackle from the Roman period discovered in the

Roman camp from Vărădia – *Chiliz* (jud. Caraș-Severin, România)(Pl. I/2), one of the forts located on the border of south-western Roman Dacia. The shackle has the inventory number 34614 and it was briefly published in 2011² under the name of *shackle for tethering animals*. Given the rarity of such discoveries in Dacia, but also in the rest of the Roman Empire, knowing the discussions from the specialised literature connected to this type of arte-

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¹ We fondly remember the specialist and the man Dumitru Țicu, who, while serving as manager of MBM Reșița, facilitated our republishing of this artefact.

² Bozu–Bozu 2011, pl. VIII/4.<http://primariavaradiacs.ro/turism>

facts, the present article aims to bring this special artefact once more into focus.

The discovery context

The Inventory Registry of the MBM Reșița records this artefact as shackle and in the details section it is mentioned: *for tethering animals*. The details regarding the place of discovery were written down as: „Vărădia-Chilii, 2006/S.XXXI, c.20, ad-0,60 m”. Thus, the artefact was discovered in 2006, in section S XXXI, square 20, at a depth of 0,60 m.

We feel the need to discuss in a few sentences the place where the artefact was found, besides the exact discovery place, which will help to further narrow the chronological frame.

The Roman camp from Vărădia-Chilii captured the interest of the researchers very early, the settlement Vărădia being located in the west of the Banat region. The Roman fortifications discovered in the settlement's territory were located on the limes of the Roman Empire since the creation of the province and at the same time on one of the main communication roads from this area³ (Pl. I/1). Field surveys have resulted in the documentation of two Roman camps. We are referring, firstly, to the point Vărădia-Pustă or Rovină, where a Roman camp with stone walls was identified. This fort has two habitation phases and was probably in use until the beginning of the 3rd century.

The Roman camp from Vărădia-Chilii was built on the hill located in close proximity to the former. The hill was named *Chilii* by the locals. This is a rectangular Roman camp, with rounded corners, with a ditch and an earth rampart and was dated at the beginning of the Roman rule in Dacia, in the years 117–118⁴. It was researched in several stages by a team lead by E. Iaroslavschi, including O. Bozu and E. Nemeth. This fortification was probably used to defend a Roman garrison during unforeseen events, as D. Benea suggested⁵. With regards to the troop that camped here, there were several controversies between the Romanian researchers, during the course of time; such controversies have not led so far to an unanimously accepted conclusion. Still, given that during the excavations, a fragmentary brick stamped with LEG IIII[...] was discovered, along with the fact that the study of the Roman military equipment and weapons that were unearthed here has revealed

that it was one mostly used by the legions⁷, we can assume that the camp was build and used by vexillations or even by the legion IV Flavia Felix while on its way to conquer Dacia.

The archaeological excavation of the Chilii hill was conducted in several stages, based on the interest of the local authorities and the private investments in the area. Thus, even before systematic and salvage excavations were conducted and in accordance to the customs of his period, F. Milleker wrote a report based on the field surveys of the Roman ruins from Chilii in 1901⁸.

In a first stage, between 1974–2010, the hill area underwent a systematic research, with interruptions⁹, afterwards, starting with 2010 a contractual preventive research campaign was initiated; the result was that most of the Roman camp was cleared from the archaeological point of view and the building authorisations were released.

Very little recorded information has remained that could offer a reconstructed image of the ancient ruins from Chilii hill, despite these many years during which the research was conducted. What we know for certain, based on this research, is that here we are faced with a fortification with a ditch and earthen rampart, with the dimensions of 214x132 m, oriented north-south and that overlaps at least a habitation level characterised through complexes that are dated in the Hallstatt period¹⁰. A single issue appears in the discussion concerning the recorded information, namely that if the shackles were found at a depth of 0,60 m they, based on the preliminary report from 2003, they cannot belong to the Roman level, because it is stated that the Roman level has a maximum depth of 0,50 m¹¹. Thus, the discussion concerning the typology and analogies are even more important in order to establish the chronology of the piece.

Description. The chronological and typological classification

The inventory registry from MBM Reșița is listed as *shackle for tethering animals*, with the number 34614. They are described as having *two iron arms, twisted, mobile* and connected in a *hinge system* (Pl. II/ 1,2).

The arms form an oval inner shape, and as far as the locking mechanism is concerned, the artefact

³ Benea 2016, 131–138.

⁴ Benea 2016, 139.

⁵ Benea 2016, 139.

⁶ Benea 2016, 138.

⁷ Dinulescu–Hamat 2018, 186–187.

⁸ Iaroslavschi–Bozu 2003, 295; Nemeth–Bozu 2005, 201.

⁹ Iaroslavschi–Bozu 2003, 295; Nemeth–Bozu 2005, 201.

¹⁰ Dinulescu–Hamat 2018, 182.

¹¹ Iaroslavschi–Bozu 2003, 296.

has at its end two round slots formed by the arms, in which the padlock bar or an iron chain was inserted, as part of the activity restriction mechanism¹². The two twisted arms are joined in the middle through a nut and spring system, stapled by a double-headed rivet. The shackle was manufactured by hammered while heated and afterwards twisted for hardening and increasing the resistance of the artefact.

The conservation status is good, with the shackle completely preserved. It has a maximum length, from the hinge to the end of the shackle of 132 mm, with a maximum inner diameter of 72/80–50 mm, the thickness of the bar is 7 mm and the weight is 200 grams. Several complete artefacts discovered at Künzing (lkr. Deggendorf, Germany) have allowed researchers to discern that the two rings from the end of the arms were brought together and closed with an extra ring. Also, some items could have an extra ring on their body that allowed for an added restriction¹³. The type where the end of the arms formed loops is known even before the Roman conquest¹⁴.

The shackles were used to secure and firstly to make it more difficult for humans to move, be they slaves, war prisoners, *coloni*, or even those accused of various crimes. Another category refers to animal shackles, but in this context we do not know for sure whether they were necessarily made of metal because when it came into contact with the animal's skin, the metal caused wounds that could become infected at any time and afterwards could even lead to the animal's death. It is more logic that the iron elements, such as chains, were attached with an iron ring to a leather or textile collar or leash that would not wound the animal or would at least minimise this aspect. In the case of an iron leash, the animal might not have been immobilised in this manner the entire time; otherwise one can notice a stress wound on the skin in that area and thus the iron leash might have been rather used to immobilize animals meant for the arena or for slaughter or as a means of identification. We cannot exclude for certain that animals were not secured using iron shackles, but we believe that such situations involved rather wild animals, or those soon to be sacrificed and thus their long-term survival was no longer considered.

Because of their rarity, at least in the current stage of research, such artefacts are considered

special in the spectrum of Roman discoveries both from Dacia and the whole of the Roman Empire.

Still, we are fortunate that the Roman art has preserved several representations of shackles, connected either with the imperial propaganda, or the funerary art or even with special artistic representations or even monetary representations. It is in such representations, depicting shackled men, a certain category stands out, that of the convicted either awaiting judgement or punishment but also of the war prisoners waiting for the winners to decide their fate. Thusly we should not be surprised that the scenes depicting war prisoners are the same scenes where our shackles are present. Such monuments are either official – like the columns from Roma or the triumphal arches and honorific or votive monuments discovered inside the Roman camps or, more rarely, funerary monuments. Such representations are the ones from Septimius Severus' triumphal arch from the roman forum, depicting the chained prisoners¹⁵. There are scenes also with shackled prisoners with the help of neck straps on Trajan's column – the scenes XLI and XLIII¹⁶, but also on the column raised by Marcus Aurelius. We are referring also to scenes LXVIII and LXIX, where there are depicted several prisoners, probably from the Germanic tribes or even from the Cotini tribe; they are very poorly preserved. On their necks there can be seen rings fashioned from a twisted metal bar¹⁷. Another famous monuments is the one from Adamclisi (Constanța county, Romania), where the metopes XLVII and XLVIII show the characteristic image of shackle chains, and the fact that the hands are towards the prisoners' back, alongside the specific traces of neck straps, allow to us think about this form of restraint.

There is a similar scene to the metope XLVII from Adamclisi¹⁸, but much more dramatic, that is presented on a relief from a column based discovered in the legionary camp from Mainz: two naked captives are shown with the hands tied behind their backs and restrained with a chain that holds them together and is attached to neck straps¹⁹. The image of two chained prisoners of war is depicted on a funerary relief from Nickenich (Kr. Mayen-Koblenz, Germany)²⁰, and the image of a naked, chained slave is depicted on another funer-

¹² Manning 1985, 82–83.

¹³ Thompson 1993, 102.

¹⁴ Thompson 1993, 88–98.

¹⁵ Forgét 1996, 52.

¹⁶ Thompson 1993, 105; Droberjar 2014.

¹⁷ Čambal 2014.

¹⁸ Forgét 1996, 50.

¹⁹ Jackson 2005, fig. 4.

²⁰ Thompson 1993, 79.

ary relief from Neumagen (Kr. Mayen-Koblenz, Germany)²¹. In terms of the image typology, there is a correspondence on coins. Those who have minted coins where the reverse depicts such scenes include Marius²², Caesar²³, Augustus, Marcus Aurelius, Lucius Verus, until Constantine²⁴.

A funerary stela discovered at Amphipolis in Macedonia belongs to the so called Aulus Caprius Timotheus – *somateporus*, meaning a slave trader²⁵.

The artistic representations, small statuettes of chained slaves or war prisoners are also known across the territory of the Roman Empire. In a 2005 article R. Jackson inventoried 16 such small statuettes, made from bronze or calcedony, discovered in Vindobona, Argentorate, Carnuntum, Colonia Claudia Ara Agrippinensium and with the majority of them originating from different areas across Britannia²⁶. A special statuette representing a Sueb slave comes from Mušov-*Burgstall* (okr. Břeclav, Czech Republic)²⁷.

It is worth mentioning here the description of the incarceration of some of the most famous prisoners, the saints Peter and Paul who were imprisoned, chained probably with shackles around their wrists²⁸. In this context, the neck straps preserved at San Pietro in Vincoli are famous and according to the Christian tradition they were used to hold Saint Peter in the Tullianum prison²⁹.

As far as the publishing of such artefacts are concerned, the number of such discoveries across the Roman Empire is still very small, a consequence of both the stage of discoveries or because some of them were wrongly identified. Today, the preoccupation for the study of such small finds is on an ascending trend, also supported by the new discoveries.

With regards to the shackle typology, firstly we must mention that, based on their size, one can speculate whether they held the wrists – the smallest ones, the legs³⁰ or even the neck – the largest ones³¹.

The third type, the one for the neck, called neck

rings / neck straps was not used in pairs but several individuals could be chained together with several such rings and a single chain, facilitating the transport and better securing the prisoners³². Also there can be differentiated between several types based on the locking mechanism – with direct locking with a padlock or spring, those locked with a chain, or a bolt. Shackles can come in pairs or for just one body member. Several typologies that could help to place the artefacts in a certain category were established, among others, by P. Halbout, C. Pilet and C. Vandour in 1986³³, W. H. Manning in 1985³⁴, F. H. Thompson in 1993³⁵. At the same time E. Kunzl distinguished between two main types of shackles³⁶. The next important step in the evolution of the bibliography focused on this subject is the article of J. Henning and recently, Martin Schönfelder³⁷ has established a typology for shackles dated before the Roman conquest.

But the discoveries of such artefacts are not limited to the Roman period, slavery being widely spread even before the Roman conquest. It is due to similar typological forms, that the La Tène period shackles are difficult to distinguish from the Roman conquest period shackles but also from the medieval ones³⁸, at least in the case of the very simple ones.

With regards to the map of this type of discoveries, we will first mention the La Tène period discoveries and even older discoveries, afterwards we will present the most important discoveries dated during Roman Europe and until the 4th century.

In the context of pre-Roman Europe several artefacts are known, such as the ones from Zemplín (okr. Trebišov, Slovakia)³⁹, Piatra Roşie (jud. Hunedoara, Romania)⁴⁰, as well as the IV/89 deposit from Plavecké Podhradie-*Pohanská* (okr. Malacky, Slovakia)⁴¹, alongside those discovered at Manching (lkr. Pfaffenhofen, Germany)⁴². Martin

²¹ Thompson 1993, 105.

²² Forgét 1996, 45.

²³ Jackson 2005, fig. 5.

²⁴ Droberjar 2014, 37–38; Forgét 1996, 45–46.

²⁵ Thompson 1993, 79–80.

²⁶ Jackson 2005.

²⁷ Droberjar 2014, 37.

²⁸ *Fapte* 12:6, 7 şi 16: 26; 21: 33, 22: 29, 26:29, 28: 20.

²⁹ Thompson 1993, 78.

³⁰ Mustăţă-Nyulas 2018, 113; Manning 1985, 82; Thompson 1993, 58–59.

³¹ Čambal 2014, 25; Thompson 1993, 59.

³² Mustăţă-Nyulas 2018, 113; Manning 1985, p. 82; Thompson 1993, 59.

³³ Halbout *et alii* 1986, 108.

³⁴ Manning 1985.

³⁵ Thompson 1993, 58–59.

³⁶ Kunzl 1993.

³⁷ Schönfelder 2015.

³⁸ See an artefact from the BM collection, BM, no. 1985, 1101.703, https://www.britishmuseum.org/collection/object/H_1985-1101-703 (accessed 23.05.2021)

³⁹ Lamiová 1993, 14 – 15, Obr. 8. Mustăţă-Nyulas 2018, 113

⁴⁰ Sirbu *et alii* 2005, 25, 83; fig. 12, 100; fig. 29. Mustăţă-Nyulas 2018, 114.

⁴¹ Čambal 2014, 25.

⁴² Dannheimer-Gebhard 1993, 268.

Schönfelder wrote a study in 2015 where he inventoried around 24 places where such discoveries were made, especially in Western Europe, dated in the La Tène C-D, falling in the three main categories, for hands (manacles), feet (fettors) and neck (neck straps). Thus in pre-Roman France 14 artefacts were discovered in 10 locations, in Switzerland there are four discoveries in just as many locations, in Italy there are six discoveries from one location and across the territory of Germany there were five artefacts discovered in five areas, among them are included the ones from Manching. We add to this list of discoveries four more artefacts coming from the two already mentioned areas from Slovakia and five artefacts from two locations in Great Britain⁴³. This article aims to complete the information that exists at F. H. Thompson, who also made an inventory of such discoveries⁴⁴. Their presence is connected to the existence of slavery and especially the slave commerce, both of them documented for the La Tène period, particularly in the relations between communities and kingdoms with Rome as the shackles were used to restrain slaves obtained through different means and afterwards sold further on.

The slavery and the situation of the slaves are much better documented after the Roman conquest, both through archaeological discoveries and the descriptions that exist in the Latin literature. Many sources recall or describe in great detail the image of the unfortunate majority of persons from this category⁴⁵. Outside of Dacia, the highest number of such discoveries is in the Empire's western provinces, both in military and civilian locations⁴⁶; this is due first of all to the research stage of this category. Thus, such artefacts were discovered at Künzing⁴⁷, Neupotz (lkr. Gernersheim, Germany) and Heidenheim (lkr. Heidenheim, Germany), typologically placed in the 3rd century⁴⁸ but also in the Roman forts from Zugmantel (lkr. Rheingau-

Taunus, Germany) and Pfünz (lkr. Eichstätt, Germany), as well as Butzbach (lkr. Wetteraukreis, Germany)⁴⁹. At Cologne and Mainz they were dated in a later context, from the 4th century⁵⁰. In the Roman fort from Strasbourg – Argentoratum a pair of shackles later dated in the first half of the 3rd century was discovered. Also we have such discoveries in the Roman forts from Niderbieber, at Straubing (lkr. Straubing-Bogen, Germany) and Munzingen (lkr. Donau-Ries, Germany)⁵¹.

Other artefacts were discovered in Raetia at Oberhausen- Augusta Vindelicorum (Augsburg, Germany)⁵², but also in a location near Bratislava⁵³. They were discovered also in what is present-day France, in the Roman theatre from Lillebonne-Iuliobona (dep. Seine-Maritime, France) in Gallia Lugdunensis⁵⁴, but also in Giséy-sous-Flavigny-*Maison Lebreau* (dep. Côte-d'Or, France), Arceau (dep. Côte-d'Or, France), Caudebec-lès-Elbeuf (dep. Seine-Maritime, France), Malemort-sur-Corrèze (dep. Corrèze, France), Millau-*La Graufesenque* (dep. Aveyron, France), Saintes (dep. Charente-Maritime, France), Sombornon (dep. Côte-d'Or, France), Les Cras, Ymonville (dep. Eure-et-Loir, France), Les Petites Vallées and La Chapelle-Saint-Mesmin-*Placeau-Chesnats-Patrie* (dep. Loiret, France)⁵⁵, at Aulnay-de-Saintonge-*Aunedonnacum* (dep. Loiret, France), in the Roman camp from Rocherou⁵⁶, Caen (dep. Calvados, France)⁵⁷ and Louviers (dep. Eure, France)⁵⁸, Sainte-Colombe, le Bourg, Tours-*Palais des Congrès* (dep. Centre-Val de Loire, France)⁵⁹. In Hispania shackles were discovered near Emporiae, the modern settlement of Ampurias in L'Escala (prov. Gerona, Spain)⁶⁰. In England, shackles were

⁴³ Schönfelder 2015, 84–85.

⁴⁴ Thompson 1993, 60–74, 88–97.

⁴⁵ Ulpianus mentions that run-away slaves were chained (*Digest* 11, 4.1); also see Columella, *De Re Rustica*, I. VI. 3; I III. 12; I. VIII. 16; Plinius, *Epist.* III, 19.

⁴⁶ Mustață-Nyulas 2018, 113. According to J. Henning, many of the iron artefacts inventories of the villas from the 2nd–4th centuries included also shackles; also there are discoveries, including funerary ones, of slaves/ prisoners buried with iron rings. In a later period the Codex Theodosianus mentioned that such shackles could also be used for the coloni who tried to run away from their fields, see Henning 2008, 36–37 and Thompson 1993, 97.

⁴⁷ Herrmann 1969, 139 – 141; Manning 1985, 82.

⁴⁸ Schiavone 2011, 234.

⁴⁹ Manning 1985, 82–83.

⁵⁰ Henning 2008, 36, see footnote 11.

⁵¹ Thompson 1993, 103.

⁵² Droberjar 2014, 35; Čambal 2014, 25.

⁵³ Turčan 1999.

⁵⁴ Halbout *et alii* 1986, 108.

⁵⁵ <https://artefacts.mom.fr/en/result.php?id=ENT-4001&find=shackle&pagenum=1&affmode=vign>. (accessed 23.05.2021)

⁵⁶ <https://artefacts.mom.fr/en/result.php?id=ENT-4020&find=shackle&pagenum=1&affmode=vign>. (accessed 23.05.2021)

⁵⁷ <https://artefacts.mom.fr/en/result.php?id=ENT-4014&find=shackle&pagenum=1&affmode=vign>. (accessed 23.05.2021)

⁵⁸ <https://artefacts.mom.fr/en/result.php?id=ENT-4015&find=shackle&pagenum=1&affmode=vign>. (accessed 23.05.2021)

⁵⁹ <https://artefacts.mom.fr/en/result.php?id=ANS-4004&find=shackle&pagenum=1&affmode=vign>. (accessed 23.05.2021)

⁶⁰ <https://artefacts.mom.fr/en/result>.

discovered in London⁶¹, at Bigbury Camp (Kent county, England) and from the possible *ergastulum* from Chalk (Kent county, England)⁶² as well as in the deposit layer from the 4th century from the so-called mithraeum from Colchester (Essex county, England) – others believe that this was in fact a public prison (*carcer*) or a slave prison (*ergastulum*)⁶³. Neck rings / neck straps were discovered at Llyn Cerrig Bach in Wales (Gwynedd county, Wales)⁶⁴ and at Bigbury Camp⁶⁵. In Italy, the most famous artefacts come from Pompeii, many of them used for the household slaves⁶⁶. Also related to the household slavery is the famous discovery of the Zoninus necklace, located in Rome but also the ring belonging to the prostitute slave from Bulla Regia⁶⁷.

In 2008, J. Henning who processed F. H. Thompson's information had identified approximately 400 pieces across Europe, dated from the Iron Age until 1500⁶⁸. Given Henning's curve we can conclude that most of the iron shackle finds belong to Roman period, the 1st – 4th centuries, in Europe⁶⁹.

The number of such discoveries across Romania's territory is very small and includes shackles dated before and after the Roman conquest. Such an artifact was recently published by S. Mustață and D. Nyulas, discovered in the Roman camp from Călugăreni (jud. Mureș, Romania)⁷⁰; it is the discovery that probably benefits from the best documented context. It refers to the interior of the *principia* and is related to one of the objects used in conducting military trials, inside the tribunal. The latter was presumed to be in the place where the shackles were discovered, based both on the inventory and the plan for this part of the *principia*⁷¹. Another specimen, wrongly identified, comes from barrack no. 5 from the Roman auxiliary camp from

Buciumi (jud. Sălaj, Romania)⁷². Chains for shackles were found during the research conducted in the military vicus from Porolissum but also in the Roman auxiliary camps from Ilișua (jud. Bistrița-Năsăud, Romania) and Mehădia (jud. Caraș-Severin, Romania) as well as the mithraeum from Ulpia Traiana Sarmizegetusa⁷³, while a shackle key was identified in the Roman auxiliary camp from Bologa (jud. Cluj, Romania)⁷⁴. As one can notice, the discoveries of this type of artefacts from Roman Dacia made up to this period have been associated with the army, being discovered in Roman camps or *vicos*, with the only exception being the location from Sarmizegetusa.

From the typological point of view, the artefact discovered at Vărădia-*Chilii* is certainly a Roman period shackle, falling in the type four at W. H. Manning⁷⁵ and in the so-called type Kunzing at F. H. Thompson.

The two artefacts discovered at Caen and Saintes⁷⁶ as well as the one from Saintes- 10 rue Port-Larousselle⁷⁷ are good analogies for our artefact. While the first two are dated from the 1st century until the half of the 5th century, the last one was chronologically dated between the end of the 2nd century and the 4th century. Another analogy comes from the deposit layer dated in the 4th century of the Colchester mithraeum⁷⁸, as well as from Kunzing – dated in the first half of the 3rd century but also in the Roman camp from Zugmantel and Pfünz, as well as at Butzbach⁷⁹. Good analogies are found also at Augsburg- *Oberhausen*⁸⁰. We must also acknowledge the fact that there are several Republican artefacts and especially dated before the Roman conquest and that might represent the starting point for this type⁸¹.

The evidence for the use of the Kunzing type resides in a bone fragment that was still preserved

php?id=ENT-4001&find=shackle&pagenum=1&affmode=vign. (accessed 23.05.2021)

⁶¹ BM, no. 1934, 1210.88, see https://www.britishmuseum.org/collection/object/H_1934-1210-88 (accessed 23.05.2021); Manning 1985, 83.

⁶² <https://museum.maidstone.gov.uk/staff-pick-slave-chains/> (accessed 23.05.2021); Manning 1972, 230; Thompson 2003, 225; Bates 2017, 398; Thompson 1993, 75.

⁶³ Manning 1989, 82; Thompson 1993, 74–76.

⁶⁴ https://museum.wales/iron_age_teachers/artefacts/gang_chain/ (accessed 23.05.2021); Thompson 1993, 68.

⁶⁵ Bates 2017, 398.

⁶⁶ Henning 2008, 35.

⁶⁷ Trimble 2016, 447–448, 457.

⁶⁸ Henning 2008, 35, see footnote 6.

⁶⁹ Henning 2008, 46, fig. 2.5.

⁷⁰ Mustață- Nyulas 2018, 111–118.

⁷¹ Mustață- Nyulas 2018, 115.

⁷² Chirilă *et alii* 1972, 79, no. 14, Pl. CVI/2. Mustață- Nyulas 2018, 113.

⁷³ Tamba 2008, 134, Fig. VI.2.5; Protase *et alii* 1997, Pl. LXXI/17; Macrea *et alii* 1993, 104, Pl. XXII/5; Szabó 2014, 141, no. 14, Fig. 8; Mustață- Nyulas 2018, 114.

⁷⁴ Gudea 1973, 124, Fig. 17/2; Mustață- Nyulas 2018, 114.

⁷⁵ Manning 1985, 82.

⁷⁶ <https://artefacts.mom.fr/en/result.php?id=ENT-4014&find=shackle&pagenum=1&affmode=vign;> Halbout *et alii* 1986, 109, no. 201; Feugère *et alii* 1992, 52, no. 103.

⁷⁷ <https://artefacts.mom.fr/en/result.php?id=ENT-4019&find=shackle&pagenum=1&affmode=vign;> Feugère, Thauré, Vienne *et alii* 1992, 50, n°97.

⁷⁸ Manning 1985, 82; Thompson 1993, 78–79.

⁷⁹ Manning 1985, 82–83; Thompson 1993, 98–100.

⁸⁰ Thompson 1993, 105.

⁸¹ Thompson 1993, 105.

in a shackle discovered in the *praetorium* of the Roman camp from Pfunz- Raetia, dated in the 3rd century. The discoveries from the so-called Colchester mithraeum were also accompanied by human bones⁸².

The distribution of this type is reflected particularly in the discoveries located around the limes, for the year 1993⁸³, the situation remaining the same also in the present-day.

Conclusions

Slavery in the ancient world is today a field that is very well documented. The restraining and punishment of persons that belonged to this social stratum required proper instruments, among them are the shackles. One must take great care when considering their typology, in order to distinguish between the animal restraints and the shackles used for people⁸⁴. Regarding the restriction of freedom of movement, the shackles secured with chain and padlock offered a greater freedom of movement than, for example, those with spring or those with bar. Also, the double or even triple restraint, for hands, feet and neck was used based on the degree of danger represented by the prisoner and several prisoners could easily be transported and handled with the help of chains.

Our shackle was discovered in one of the best-known Roman camps, located on what will become Roman Dacia's western limes, in a Roman camp connected to the conquest wars and probably used by the legion IV Flavia Felix. With regards to the location of the discovery we must mention several aspects. Firstly, based on analogies, it is clear that we are dealing with shackles meant to restrain people and not animals.

Secondly, we are dealing with a discovery located in a Roman camp. But, keeping in mind, that sites dated in the Early Iron Age were located on Chiliz hill⁸⁵, and it is not certain if the La Tène period⁸⁶ is represented⁸⁷ here.

Based on context of finding, our artefact is certainly connected with the Roman camp built

on this hill. Thus, these were used in the military environment, by the army located in Roman Dacia, which should come as a surprise, given the discovery from military environment, illustrated by specimens found at the forts from Călugăreni, Buciumi, Ilișua, Mehadia and Bologa as well as in the research carried out in the military vicus from Porolissum. We also mention the fact that many such finds were discovered in the Empire, also inside of Roman camps⁸⁸. This can be explained away through the laws that applied to soldier. Although according to them soldiers could not be sentenced to work in the mines and could not be tortured, unlike the superior officers and the veterans, they could still be sentenced to death, death by facing wild animals in the arena or could be subjected to very brutal physical punishments or even fall in disgrace⁸⁹. Many punishments involved the restraining of the soldier until he was judged by the commander and we must not forget that at least as far as the auxiliary troops are concerned, we are not dealing with Roman citizens, in most cases. Also, shackles were needed to restrain and subdue war prisoners who, thusly, became slaves. It was also the army who handled them, at least initially.

It is thus certain that the artefact discovered at Vărădia-*Chiliz* was used by soldiers camped here, to restrain prisoners of war or even unruly elements from the army.

F.H. Thompson has named the type of shackle, the Künzing type and the shackle from Vărădia-*Chiliz* also falls in this category; it is dated between the 1st century and the middle of the 3rd but it is still in use afterwards. As far as the one from Vărădia is concerned it is clear that the possible dating is the beginning of the 2nd century, because of the Roman camp where it was found. But if we were to date it based strictly on the typology, we could note that the joining of the two arms in the nut and spring system, stapled by a double-headed rivet corresponds also to earlier artefact, just like the one from Renieblas or even from the La Tène period⁹⁰.

Furthermore, if we are to consider the size put forward by F. H. Thompson who states that the diameter for the manacle should be 65 mm and for fetters 80 mm⁹¹, there is the possibility that we are dealing with fetters.

⁸² Thompson 1993, 141.

⁸³ Thompson 1993, 146- 147.

⁸⁴ Thompson 1993, 146- 147.

⁸⁵ Bozu 2011.

⁸⁶ <http://ran.cimec.ro/sel.asp?descript=varadia-varadia-caras-severin-situl-arheologic-de-la-varadia-dealul-chiliz-cod-sit-ran-54519.02> (accessed 17.05.2021).

⁸⁷ There are very few La Tène materials that were discovered during the excavation of the Roman fort thus we consider that we are dealing with Dacian ceramic that was used right after the Roman conquest, see <http://cronica.cimec.ro/detaliiu.asp?k=1735>.

⁸⁸ <https://artefacts.mom.fr/en/result.php?id=ENT-4020&find=shackle&pagenum=1&affmode=vign> Thompson 1993, 105.

⁸⁹ Phang 2008, 131.

⁹⁰ Thompson 1993, 85-89.

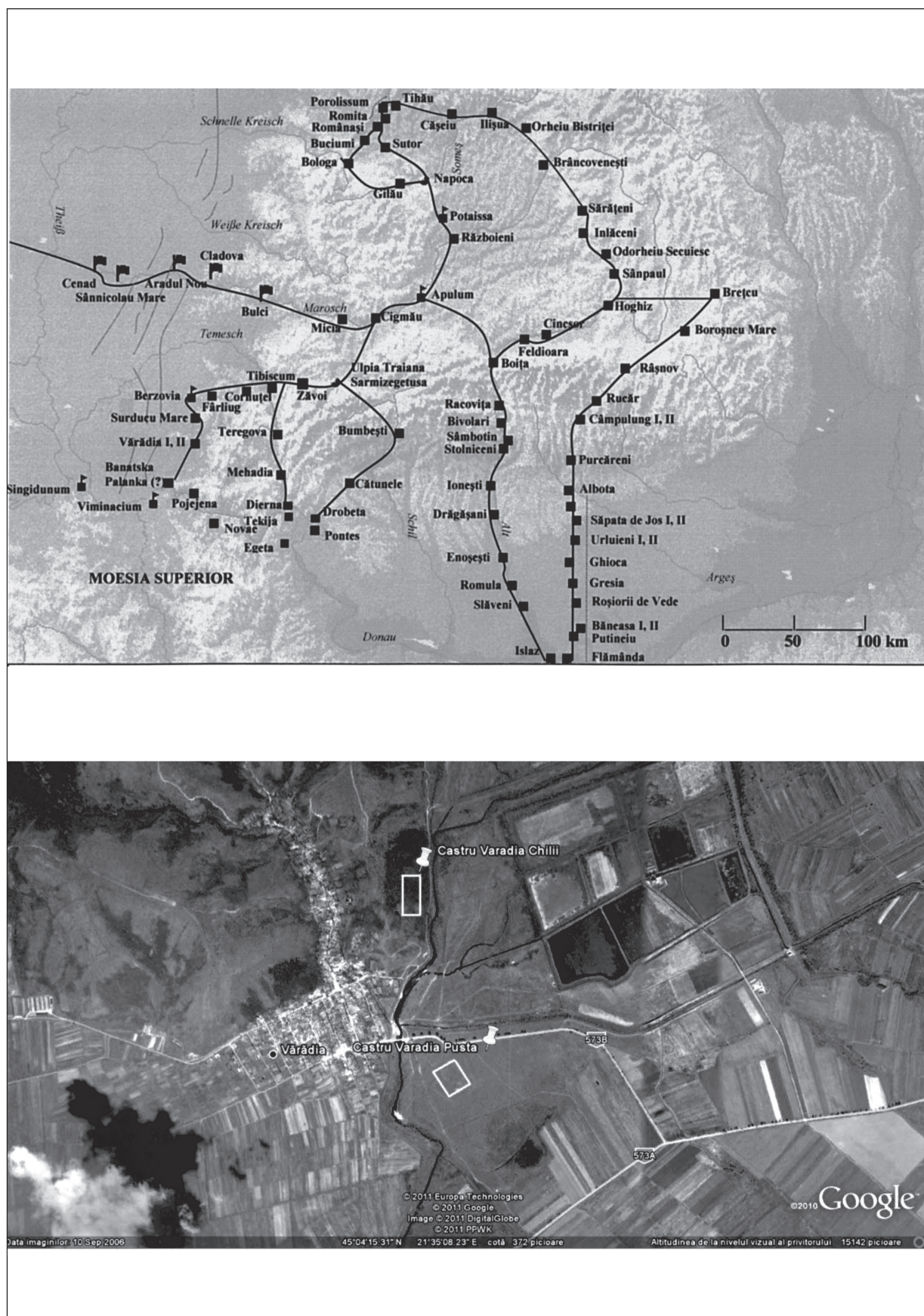
⁹¹ Thompson 1993, 59.

The importance of the discovery is all the greater since until the present-day only two such artefacts from pre-Roman and Roman Dacia have been published properly. All of these artefacts serve to remind us that the conquest of Dacia was followed by the period of the conquerors and put forward both the dark face of the Roman Empire – the slavery – and also, the all-mighty Roman law.

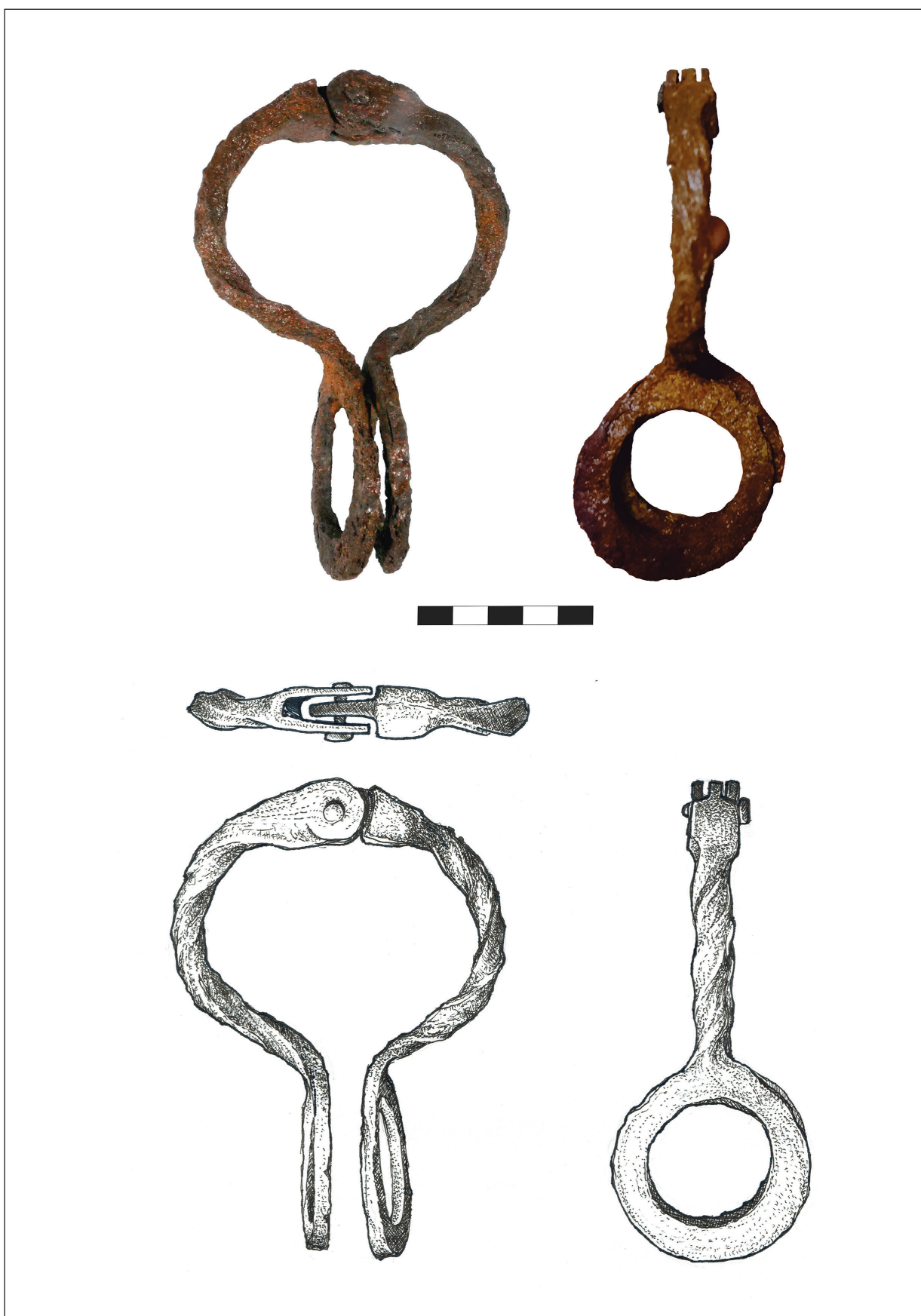
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Pl. I. 1 Vărădia on the map of Roman Dacia, after Nemeth et alii 2011, 334, Abb. 3; 2 Roman forts from Vărădia Chilia and Vărădia Pustă, after Nemeth et alii 2011, 337, Abb. 6;



Pl. II. 1 Roman shackle discovered at Vărădia Chilii, photos from personal archive, for which we thank Dumitru Țicu, former manager of MBM Reșița, who facilitated our republishing of this artefact; 2 Roman shackle discovered at Vărădia Chilii, drawings of G. Văcuță, for which we thank Dumitru Țicu, former manager of MBM Reșița, who facilitated our republishing of this artefact.