

## AUXILIARIA (II)<sup>1</sup>

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### Auxiliaria (II)

#### 1. Ala Flavia în Dacia

Pornind de la lectura lui I. Piso a inscripției de construcție a castrului de la Boroșneul Mare, în care apare o *ALA·FLA[...]*, identificată succesiv cu *ala I Flavia Gaetulorum*, *ala I Flavia Augusta Britannica milliaria*, *ala Gallorum Flaviana* sau *ala Flavia Numidica*, încerc să demonstreze că este vorba despre o *ala Flavia*, despre care avem mai multe informații epigrafice. Această unitate, probabil recrutată de Vespasian, este atestată în Siria (la începutul domniei lui Domitian) și apoi în zona Dunării de Jos, în provincia Moesia inferior (ștampile de tip *AL FL*, descoperite la Carsium). După expedițiile dacice ale lui Traian, ea apare în Dacia inferior, conform inscripției de la Boroșneul Mare și apoi, din nou pe baza unei noi lecturi a lui I. Piso, la Cășei, în Dacia Porolissensis. Dacă această unitate se poate identifica cu *ala milliaria* ce apare pe două inscripții, la Sutor și Apulum, rămâne în continuare o problemă deschisă. În urma acestor observații propun întregirea ultimului rând al inscripției de la Boroșneul Mare în felul următor: *ala Flavia ·ala Asturum*. Această întregire este susținută și de existența unei ștampile comune de tipul: *AL F· AL· AS (ala Flavia, ala Asturum)*

#### 2. Ala Gallorum Aectorigiana în Dacia inferior

Această unitate, parte a armatei din Moesia inferior, este atestată de o diplomă militară din 17 iulie 122 în provincia Dacia inferior. Unitatea se va întoarce la sudul Dunării după cum demonstrează o diplomă militară din anul 127. Având în vedere că până de curând, staționarea acestei unități în Dacia nu era cunoscută, ștampile tegulare de tipul *ALA GAL*, descoperite la Boroșneul Mare și Reci, au fost atribuite fie alei *I Claudia Gallorum Capitoniana*, fie alei *Gallorum Flaviana*. Totuși, prima unitate pare a fi folosit ștampile de tipul *AL CL*, după cum arată descoperirile de la Slăveni, iar despre a doua unitate nu se poate afirma cu siguranță că a staționat în Dacia, înainte de transferul ei în Moesia superior, probabil la începutul domniei lui Hadrian. În aceste condiții, ștampile în discuție aparțin, cel mai probabil, alei *Gallorum Aectorigiana*.

#### 3. Un nou ofițer evestru de la Philippi

O nouă lectură a unei inscripții descoperite la Simvoli Serron, în teritoriul coloniei *Iulia Augusta Philippinensis*, datorată lui C. Brélaz, a permis identificarea unui cavaler, originar din această colonie. Cariera sa este legată de istoria foarte timpurie a provinciei Dacia, acesta fiind *praefectus cohortis II Hispanorum* și apoi *tribunus legionis XIII Geminae*. Această nouă inscripție redeschide discuția asupra zonei de acțiune a cohortei pe teritoriul Daciei. Pe baza descoperirilor epigrafice mai vechi, s-a presupus că zona sa de acțiune se afla în SV Daciei. Această inscripție, alături de descoperirea unui fragment de diplomă militară la Apulum, acordată unui component al acestei unități, ne permite să ne gândim că zona sa de acțiune s-a schimbat în jurul anului 110. În aceste condiții, unitatea a fost probabil mutată din SV Daciei spre N, ocupând încă din acel moment castrul de la Bologa, aflat în aria de acțiune a legiunii XIII Gemina.

**Key words:** ala Flavia, ala Gallorum Aectorigiana, cohors II Hispanorum, legio XIII Gemina, Dacia.

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<sup>1</sup> See also Matei–Popescu 2008, 105–111.

## 1. Ala Flavia in Dacia

Recently, I. Piso has argued that the name of an *ALA·FLA[...]* should be read on the inscription discovered at the Boroşneul Mare Roman fort<sup>2</sup>. I. I. Russu had considered that the unit on the inscription should have been the *ala I Lat[obicorum]*, otherwise unattested, changing thereafter his reading in *ala I Bat[favorum]*, regiment attested in Dacia superior province. However, I. Piso's new reading is doubtless. Next he tried to identify the unit with *ala (I) Fla[via Gaetulorum]*, attested in Moesia inferior<sup>3</sup>, before 114 when it appears on the military diplomas in Pannonia inferior<sup>4</sup>. Thereafter, the unit was back in Moesia inferior around 120<sup>5</sup>. Moreover, I. Piso identifies another *ala Flavia* on an inscription discovered in Cășel<sup>6</sup>. The previous reading of the inscription assumed an enigmatic *ala elec(torum)*<sup>7</sup>. Taking into account the dating in the third century, I. Piso suggested the unit should be equated with *ala I Flavia Augusta Britannica milliaria*, from Pannonia inferior<sup>8</sup>.

The new readings, especially the one of the inscription from Boroşneul Mare, raised new debates on the identification of the unit. C. C. Petolescu supports the idea of a possible presence of the *ala I Flavia Augusta Britannica milliaria civium Romanorum*, from Pannonia inferior, which stationed for a while in Dacia after its return from Parthian campaigns<sup>9</sup>. F. Marcu, following a P. Holder's idea and bringing into discussion two brick stamps of *ALA GAL* and *ALA GALL* type, discovered also at Boroşneul Mare<sup>10</sup>, argued the unit should be identified with *ala Gallorum Flaviana*<sup>11</sup>. This unit, attested also in Moesia inferior, was transferred at the beginning of Hadrian's reign in Moesia superior. Unfortunately, there are no traces of the unit in Dacia inferior, the same argument being also valid for *ala I Flavia Gaetulorum* and for *ala I Flavia Augusta Britannica milliaria civium Romanorum*. Moreover, the brick stamps, identical with the one discovered at Reci<sup>12</sup>, could be assigned to other unit, attested in Dacia inferior, in 122–126, namely *ala Gallorum Aectorigiana*, from Moesia inferior (*vide infra*)<sup>13</sup>.

Very recently, C. Opreanu sustained the possible identification of this *ala Flavia* with *ala I Flavia Numidica* from Numidia, attested also only as *ala Flavia*<sup>14</sup>. This unit would have been part of an African vexillation in Dacia, composed also by *ala Pannionorum* and *cohors II Hispanorum milliaria equitata*. Leaving aside the latter two units, for which there are not traces at all in Dacia<sup>15</sup>, I shall focus in the following lines on the arguments about the supposed

<sup>2</sup> AE 1974, 564 (=Székely 1975, 344–345) = AE 1978, 696 (=Russu 1978, 559–561) = IDR III/4 325; Piso 1999, 81–89 (=Piso 2005, 363–373); Piso 2000, 235–236 Petolescu 2004, no. 868 = ILD 433). For the archaeological excavations and the plan of the fort see the summary in Marcu 2009, 188–189, 191, no. 41, who asserts the fort was designed to retain only *vexillationes* within.

<sup>3</sup> Matei–Popescu 2004, 179–183, no. 3.

<sup>4</sup> Lörincz 2001, 19, no. 10 and p. 81.

<sup>5</sup> Piso 1999, 86, thinks that *Egnatio Q? [...]* could be one of the very first procurators of Dacia inferior province. Moreover, he identifies him with *L. Egnatius L. f. Terentina Quartus* (PME, E 3).

<sup>6</sup> Piso 1999, 86–89 = AE 1999, 1285.

<sup>7</sup> Russu 1967, 90; AE 1957, 331 = Petolescu 2004, no. 870 = ILD 783.

<sup>8</sup> Lörincz 2001, 16, no. 4.

<sup>9</sup> Petolescu 2002a, 67–71, Petolescu 2002, 67–68; for the history of the unit in that time see Lörincz 2001, 81.

<sup>10</sup> IDR III/4 326, 327; Marcu 2009, 190.

<sup>11</sup> Marcu 2007, 73–80; Marcu 2009, 190–191; Holder 2003, 105, note 14.

<sup>12</sup> IDR III/4 315.

<sup>13</sup> Matei–Popescu 2004, 183–185, no. 4.

<sup>14</sup> Opreanu 2009, 213–218. For the north–African unit see Le Bohec 1989, 28–33; Spaul 1994, 107–110.

<sup>15</sup> An *ala I Pannionorum* appears on the Dacian military diploma from 17 Dec. 113/2–3 May 114, but if there is no mistake for *ala II Pannionorum*, is the unit attested in Moesia inferior (Matei–Popescu 2004, 191–192, no. 10, 241–242). The *cohors II Hispanorum (scutata Cyrenaica)* stationed also in Dacia and in Dacia Porolissensis, being previously attested in Moesia superior, Petolescu 2002, 113–114, no. 46 (*vide infra* no. 3). As for the *vexillarii Africæ et Mauretaniae Caesarensis*, also brought into discussion by C. Opreanu, attested together with *Mauri gentiles*

presence of *ala I Flavia Numidica* in Dacia. Following Y. Le Bohec<sup>16</sup>, Opreanu considers the unit is attested in Balkan area, as it appears between the units mentioned on *M. Valerius Lolianus'* inscription from Byllis<sup>17</sup>. In fact, the mounted vexillation commanded by this officer was composed only from auxiliary units from the Syria province, as he was *praefectus alae I Flaviae Agrippiana*e, attested in the province by the second century<sup>18</sup>. Moreover, I doubt that an *eques alae Flaviae, adiutor*, had a Dacian origin, as his hometown was constructed using only two letters: *N(a)p(oca)*, in an inscription from Messaad, *castellum Dimmidi*<sup>19</sup>. In the meantime, the inscription from Scupi is missing from Opreanu's arguments and the brick stamps from *Carsium* are considered an argument in favour of a presence of the same unit, with another occasion, in Moesia inferior. To sum up, instead of putting together the information, Opreanu tried to identify various moments when *ala I Flavia Numidica*, or parts from it, would have been sent in Dacia and at the Lower Danube. Not rejecting totally such a possibility, I prefer to sustain the very existence of another unit, which has nothing to do with the African one.

In the above quoted inscription from Boroșneul Mare, the unit is recorded without numeral, but it is impossible to tell if an ethnic name followed, as the stone is broken. However on the entirely preserved inscription from Căsei only *AL FL* appears. Therefore, we should envisage the presence in Dacia inferior and thereafter, in the third century, in Dacia Porolissensis of an *ala Flavia*. Unfortunately, the name of such unit is not attested on the military diplomas, also in Dacia inferior and Dacia Porolissensis. Nevertheless, this could be only the stage of research, as we can no longer claim to have the entire list of units from one province attested by military diplomas, as by chance there were no men eligible for discharge precisely in that year. I mentioned here, only as an example, the case of the cohorts *Flavia* and *III Augusta Nerviana Pacensis Brittonum*, both attested by the military diplomas only recently in Moesia superior at the beginning of Trajan's reign<sup>20</sup>. The same argument can be also valid for an enigmatic *cohors Afrorum in Daciam*, attested only by an inscription from Rome, but unattested by imperial constitutions<sup>21</sup>. Still, are there other documents to be brought into discussion, besides the two inscriptions, which could back my idea of a new and until now unknown *ala Flavia* at the Lower Danube and in Dacia inferior and perhaps Porolissensis?

1. An *ala Flavia milliaria* is attested in an inscription in Rome, which records the career of an equestrian officer, *Ti. Claudius Pollio*<sup>22</sup>. Probably the same person has to be identified into a Plinius Secundus' letter, where his tenure of an *ala milliaria* is mentioned<sup>23</sup>. This unit, probably attested in Syria at the beginning of Domitian reign, when *Ti. Claudius Pollio* had the chance to meet Plinius Secundus, while the second was serving as *tribunus legionis III Gallicae*<sup>24</sup>, seems to have been disappeared thereafter. E. Birley, followed by P. Holder, suggested the unit was renamed and transferred to Mauretania Caesarensis, where an *ala I Nerviana Augusta*

(CIL XVI 108 = IDR I 16), it impossible to identify the origin units, probably too many to be mentioned in the imperial constitution. See also Hamdoune 1999, 151–152.

<sup>16</sup> Le Bohec 2007, 430–442 (= Lybia Antiqua 15–16, 1978–1979, 139–151).

<sup>17</sup> CIL III 600 = ILS 2724 = AE 1997, 1352 = IDRE II 361.

<sup>18</sup> Eck, Pangerl, 2006, 221–230, no. 4; RMD V 372.

<sup>19</sup> Le Bohec 1989, 32; Opreanu 2009, 214.

<sup>20</sup> Eck, Pangerl 2008, 355–363, nos. II, 8–9, copies of the same imperial constitution and p. 363–370, no. II, 10, military diploma of 115.

<sup>21</sup> CIL VI 3529 = IPD<sup>4</sup> 698 = IDRE I 22; PME, P 64; Petolescu 2002, 80–81, no. 16.

<sup>22</sup> CIL VI 31032 = ILS 1418: *Soli, Lunae, Apollini, Diana, Ti. Claudius Pollio, proc(urator) Aug(usti) XX hereditatium, proc(urator) Alpium Graiarum, flamen Carmentalis, praefectus gentium in Africa, praefectus alae Flaviae milliari[ae]*.

<sup>23</sup> Plinius Secundus, *Ep.*, VII, 31, 1–3: *Claudius Pollio...Praeerat alae milliariae;...Postea promotus ad amplissimas procurationes*; Pflaum 1960, 124–126, no. 54; PME, C 170.

<sup>24</sup> Dabrowa 1979, 234; Pflaum 1960, 124.

*fidelis milliaria* appeared<sup>25</sup>. Unfortunately, there are no elements at all to back up this assumption, as probably the ala from Mauretania is more likely to be Nerva's new creation. In the meanwhile, it would have been hard to sustain that the unit was lost before Nerva's reign.

2. In the nearby of the Roman colonia from Scupi, Moesia superior, the following inscription was discovered: *Iulius Vanno / missicius / ex ala Flavia / milit(avit) annis XXIII / vixit annis XXXXV / h. s. e. / Flavius Antiochus / h. f. c.*<sup>26</sup> P. Holder assigns the inscription to *ala Gallorum Flaviana*<sup>27</sup>, although the name seems to be fully preserved. As *ala Gallorum Flaviana* was named after its first commander, a certain *Flavius*<sup>28</sup>, the name *Flavia* would look very strange. N. Gostar thinks, based on hypothetic Germanic origin of the name, that the regiment could be *ala I Flavia Gemina*<sup>29</sup>. Though, the Illyrian origin of the name *Vanno* is doubtless, therefore any connection with *ala I Flavia Gemina* needs more elements to be taking into consideration. This inscription, which could be also dated in the time of Domitian, attested the existence of an *ala Flavia*, probably stationed somewhere on the territory of Moesia, or in the nearby provinces of Dalmatia or Pannonia. The name of the *missicius* would suggest an earlier recruitment, but, as its military rank implies, he could have been also transferred from other unit in the newly created *ala Flavia*. It is in the meantime possible, as he did not serve twenty five years or more, to have had the citizenship while entering the army.

3. An important number of brick and tile stamps were discovered at Carsium, bearing the inscription *AL FL*<sup>30</sup>. The stamps were assigned to *ala Gallorum Flaviana* or *I Flavia Gaetulorum*<sup>31</sup>. They could also belong to the *ala Flavia*, attested by the inscriptions from Rome and Scupi.

4. In the collections of the Sf. Gheorghe County Museum some brick stamps are to be found, bearing the inscription *AL·F·AL·AS*. The inscription has been read as *al(a) F(lavia) al(a) As(turum)*<sup>32</sup>.

To sum up, it seems that an *ala Flavia*, probably *milliaria*, recruited by Vespasian, was sent in Syria and thereafter on the Moesian frontier. After Domitian's administrative reforms this unit could have been part of the Lower Moesian army, as probably the tile and brick stamps discovered at *Carsium* proof (however not attested by imperial constitutions). It took probably part to Trajan's Dacian expeditions and remained in the newly conquered territory. After Hadrian's administrative reforms it became part of the Lower Dacian army. Sometime in the second or, perhaps, in the third century it could have been moved once again in Dacia Porolissensis<sup>33</sup>. The assumption the unit, or at least part of it, not have stationed in the Căsei Roman fort, being attested only by a funerary inscription, should be rejected as the inscription was raised in the memory of the wife and father in law of the Thracian origin soldier, *Aurelius Cotes*<sup>34</sup>.

If this unit should be equated with the attested *ala milliaria* from Dacia Porolissensis (*Aurelius Masinus, duplicitarius alae*  $\infty$ , Sutoru, Dacia Porolissensis<sup>35</sup>; *C. Iulius Corinthianus, praefectus alae Campagonum idem*  $\infty$ , Apulum, Dacia superior<sup>36</sup>), it is indeed very difficult to

<sup>25</sup> CIL XVI 56; Birley 1988, 351, note 4; Holder 1980, 15; Spaul 1994, 160–162, no. 56, many times attested only as *ala milliaria*.

<sup>26</sup> ILJug I 37 = IMS VI 59.

<sup>27</sup> Holder 1980, 272, no. 371.

<sup>28</sup> Birley 1978, 266–267, brought into discussion the name of Emperor Vespasian's father, *T. Flavius Petro*.

<sup>29</sup> Gostar 2008, 104, no. 5 (the manuscript of the book dates back from the years 1977–1978, before the death of this Romanian scholar). For the two *ala Flaviae Geminae* see Birley 1988, 362.

<sup>30</sup> AE 1998, 1145 = Petolescu 2004, no. 907.

<sup>31</sup> See the entire discussion in Matei–Popescu 2004, 181.

<sup>32</sup> AE 1974, 565b = IDR III/4 328; Piso 1999, 83, fig. 2–3 = AE 1999, 1287 = Petolescu 2004, no. 869 = ILD 434.

<sup>33</sup> Opreanu 2009, 215, brings into discussion a brick stamp *AL F* from the Ilișua Roman fort. I preferred here to stick to the old opinion that it goes back to *ala I Tungrorum Frontoniana*, attested there (C. C. Petolescu, *Auxilia*, p. 78–80, no. 15).

<sup>34</sup> Opreanu 2009, 215. See the valid arguments in Piso 1999, 89.

<sup>35</sup> CIL III 7644; Petolescu 2002, 61–62, no. 2.

<sup>36</sup> CIL III 1193 = ILS 2746 = IDR III/5 542; PME, I 49 (referring to *ala Batavorum milliaria*, attested at Războieni/Ocna Mureş, Dacia superior).

sustain<sup>37</sup>. If we admit this *ala milliaria* stationed in Dacia Porolissensis<sup>38</sup>, then, as already E. Birley drew attention, any referring in the inscriptions by the ethnic name could have been also seen superfluous, as it was the only *ala milliaria* from the province<sup>39</sup>.

The very absence of *ala Flavia*, possible *milliaria*, from the military diplomas should not be a surprise. The latest evidences show that it is possible for a unit not to have any trace on the imperial constitutions known so far. The only problem with this identification is the fact that it is indeed very unlikely for an *ala milliaria*, if it always was brought up to strength also starting with Trajan's reign, to have been so discreet. Nevertheless, in this moment is the only possible identification.

For the last line of the inscription from Boroșneul Mare, I sustain here a simple solution: *ala Flavia ·ala Asturum*. This solution change in fact almost nothing in Piso's disposal of the letters<sup>40</sup>, as *Gaetulorum* and *ala Asturum* have the same number of letters, with the exception of the possible existence of an *interpunctio* between the *ala Flavia* and *ala Asturum*. This solution is strongly defended by the existence of the tile and brick stamps of the type: *AL· F· AL· AS*, belonged to a possible common *vexillatio*.

## 2. Ala Gallorum Aectorigiana in Dacia inferior

This cavalry unit is attested in Moesia inferior province in the year 92, under the name *ala Gallorum Aectorigiana*<sup>41</sup>. Another *ala I GAL[...]* appears on the military diploma fragment dating back from 75 or 78<sup>42</sup>. It is possible to identify the same unit and not *ala I Claudia Gallorum*, attested in Flavian times, and even earlier by the name *ala Capitoniana*. *Ala Gallorum Aectorigiana* appears thereafter on the military diploma from the year 97<sup>43</sup> and on the fragmentary military diploma from 116<sup>44</sup>. The next appearance on the military diplomas of Moesia inferior dates to 127<sup>45</sup>. At the beginning of Hadrian's reign, the unit was part of the newly created army of Dacia inferior as the diploma from 17 July 122 confirm<sup>46</sup>. This attestation confirms that the unit took part in Trajan's Dacian expeditions<sup>47</sup>. After 106, it continued to be accommodated within one of the Roman forts at the North of the Danube, territory which also belonged to Moesia inferior. W. Eck and A. Pangerl assert that the presence of the unit in that territory should be connected with *Q. Marcius Turbo*'s military actions in the beginning of Hadrian's reign<sup>48</sup>.

In the same Roman fort of Boroșneul Mare brick and tile stamps of the type *ALA GAL* were found<sup>49</sup>. The same stamps were also discovered within the civil settlement of Reci, in the nearby of the mentioned Roman fort<sup>50</sup>. These brick and tile stamps were assigned to *ala I Claudia Gallorum Capitoniana*, or to *ala Gallorum Flaviana*<sup>51</sup>. Brick and tile stamps of the first unit, dating from the first half of the second century were discovered in the Roman fort of

<sup>37</sup> Ptoleescu 2002, 62, note 1, by bringing into discussion the above quoted inscription of *Ti. Claudius Pollio*.

<sup>38</sup> As Russu 1985, 137–141, clearly defended.

<sup>39</sup> Birley 1988, 353, no. 2. He mentioned *ala I Batavorum milliaria* as *C. Julius Corinthianus' quarta militia*. I. Piso, IDR III/5 542, assess the *quarta militia* only as an honour and not a proper command.

<sup>40</sup> Piso 1999, 85: “La symétrie exige dans la seconde moitié de la l. 6 l'ethnonyme [*Gaetulorum*]”. See also p. 86, fig. 4.

<sup>41</sup> 14 June 92, Ptoleescu, Popescu 2004, 269–276.

<sup>42</sup> RMD IV 209.

<sup>43</sup> MacDonald, Mihaylovich 2002, 225–228.

<sup>44</sup> Eck, Pangerl 2006, 99–102, no. 3.

<sup>45</sup> Roxan 1997, 287–295 (290–291) = RMD IV 241.

<sup>46</sup> Pferdehirt 2004, no. 20

<sup>47</sup> Matei–Popescu, Tentea 2006a, 82.

<sup>48</sup> Eck, Pangerl 2006a, 101: „Möglichlicherweise gehörte die Einheit zu einer Einsatztruppe, die *Marcius Turbo* zu Beginn der hadrianischen Regierungszeit in Dacia zur Verfügung stand, und die bald danach wieder nach Moesia inferior zurückging”.

<sup>49</sup> IDR III/4 326–327.

<sup>50</sup> IDR III/4 315.

<sup>51</sup> Marcu 2007, 75–77.

Slăveni. It seems that the unit used the stamp *AL CL*<sup>52</sup>. The second possibility can be also dismissed, as *ala Gallorum Flaviana* it is not attested in Dacia inferior at the beginning of Hadrian's reign (*vide supra*). The brick and tile stamps should belong to a *Gallorum* cavalry unit and I sustain here the possibility to identify such a unit with *ala Gallorum Aectorigiana*.

Starting with 127, the unit was sent back in Moesia inferior where it is attested also in 145, 146 and 157<sup>53</sup>. In the year 156 soldiers from this unit were deployed in Mauretania Tingitana, as an imperial constitution attests<sup>54</sup>. It is also possible that *vexillationes* from the unit were in place even earlier. Recently P. Holder tried to demonstrate that the name of an *ala Gallorum* appeared on a mixed constitution for the units from Mauretania Caesarensis, Moesia inferior and Moesia superior, dating back to 24 September 151<sup>55</sup>. Taking into account the military diploma from 156, it is possible that the mysterious *ala Gallorum* from 151 to be the one and the same with *ala Gallorum Aectorigiana*.

As the later history of the unit also proofs, *ala Gallorum Aectorigiana* was one of the units always sent for short periods of time in other parts of the Empire, if needed it. Therefore, for identifying the unit of the brick and tile stamps *ALA GAL*, in Dacia inferior, this unit seems to be the likeliest candidate.

### 3. A new equestrian officer from Philippi

Recently the following funerary inscription was found in the territory of the *colonia Iulia Augusta Philippinensis*, at Simvoli Serron: [...] *Cassio C. f. Volt(inia tribu) Ve[...] / [...] mil(it) coh(ortis) II Hispanor(um), trib(uno) leg(ionis) XIII Ge[minae...] / honoribus Thessalonic(ae) functo N[...]*<sup>56</sup>. The first reading was very much improved by C. Brélaz: [...] *C. Cassio C. f. Volt (inia tribu) Ve[...] / [...] praef(ecto) coh(ortis) II Hispanor(um), trib(uno) leg(ionis) XIII Ge[minae...] / omnib(us) honorib(us) Thessalonic(ae) functo N[...]*<sup>57</sup>. This new reading excluded the odd possibility for a soldier of an auxiliary unit to be promoted as *tribunus legionis*. Moreover the new reading allows new historical commentaries. The two regiments, a cohort and a legion, were both part of the army of the Roman province of Dacia, immediately after its creation. The cohort *II Hispanorum* (later known as *II Hispanorum scutata Cyrenaica*) was previously attested in Pannonia until 85 and in Moesia superior afterwards<sup>58</sup>. The XIII Gemina legion was previously also part of the Pannonian army, being thereafter attested in Dacia, at Apulum<sup>59</sup>. The equestrian officer began his career as *praefectus cohortis II Hispanorum*. As the cohort was sent in the Parthian expedition, we can date this inscription in 106–114. A possible earlier dating, in Domitian's time, when the two units were part of the Roman province of Pannonia, can be completely ruled out.

The new inscription reopened the discussion on the possible area of action of the *II Hispanorum* cohort in Dacia. Previously all the documents pointed out the south-western Dacia,

<sup>52</sup> IDR II 525; Petolescu 2002, 69, no. 8.

<sup>53</sup> Matei–Popescu 2004, 183–185, no. 4.

<sup>54</sup> Chiriac, Mihăilescu–Bîrliba, Matei 2006, 383–389.

<sup>55</sup> Dušanić 1998, 219–228 = AE 1998, 1116; Holder 2006, 255–260, no. 1: [equit(ibus) qui mil(itaverunt) i]n alis [—quaе app(ellantur) — et] Gall(orum) [—quaе sunt in Moes(ia) infer(iore)?] sub Egrfilio Plariano ? legat(o) item ala —] quae est [in Moes(ia) super(iore) ? sub Sisenna Rutilia]no ? legat(o) [quinis et vicenis plurib(us)ve stipen]dis emeri[tis dimissis honest(a) mission(e) per] Varium C[lementem proc(uratorem) cum essent in expedit[i]t(ione) ? Maur(etaniae) Caesar(ensis)].

<sup>56</sup> Nigdelis 2006, 464–465, T 44; AE 2006, 1338. See also Pilhofer 2009, 531b.

<sup>57</sup> Brélaz 2008, 304 (review of the book quoted in the previous footnote); Brélaz, Zannis (forthcoming). I thank C. Brélaz for having me sent the entry from the catalogue long before its publication.

<sup>58</sup> Lőrincz 2001, 36, no. 26; Petolescu 2002, 113–114, no. 46; Matei–Popescu, Tentea 2006, 138–139.

<sup>59</sup> The XIII Gemina legion was accommodated in 45/46–92/93 within the fortress of *Poetovio*, Moga 1985, 17–18; Strobel 1984, 95–96; Piso 2005, 422–424. Unfortunately there is no information at all on the possible fort of the *cohors II Hispanorum* in Pannonia.

as the brick stamps from Banatska Palanka (IDR III/1, 7a) and the Drobeta bridge (IDR II 104), and also the inscription from Vršac, in the year 108, (IDR III/1, 106) attests it. Now, taking into consideration the new inscription and a fragmentary military diploma, from 14<sup>th</sup> of August 99, given to a former soldier of the unit, discovered at Apulum<sup>60</sup>, the fort is probably to be found in the area of action of the XIII Gemina legion. The likeliest candidate seems to be the Bologa Roman fort, where an important number of brick and tile stamps were discovered. The second phase of the turf and timber fort (the so called larger turf and timber fort of Bologa) was dated by a coin from 108–110 and by brooches, all found in the forts ramparts, in the beginning of the second century<sup>61</sup>. It is therefore possible that *cohors II Hispanorum*, attested until 108 in the south-western Dacia, the area of IIII Flavia Felix legion, to have been dispatched in northern part of the province, the area of the XIII Gemina legion. Thus, it would have been much easier for the equestrian officer *C. Cassius Vol. Ve[...]. praefectus cohortis II Hispanorum*, to become a proper candidate for *tribunus angusticlavius legionis XIII Geminae*. In the meantime, or some time after his *militiae equestris*, he accomplished different *honores* in the city of Thessaloniki, the capital of the Macedonia province.

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<sup>60</sup> RMD I 7 = IDR I 26 = IDR III/5 693.

<sup>61</sup> Gudea 1997, 39–42, no. 21; Marcu 2009, 26–27, 35, where the author consider that the unit was not accommodated within the fort before the end of Hadrian's reign.

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