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Romania

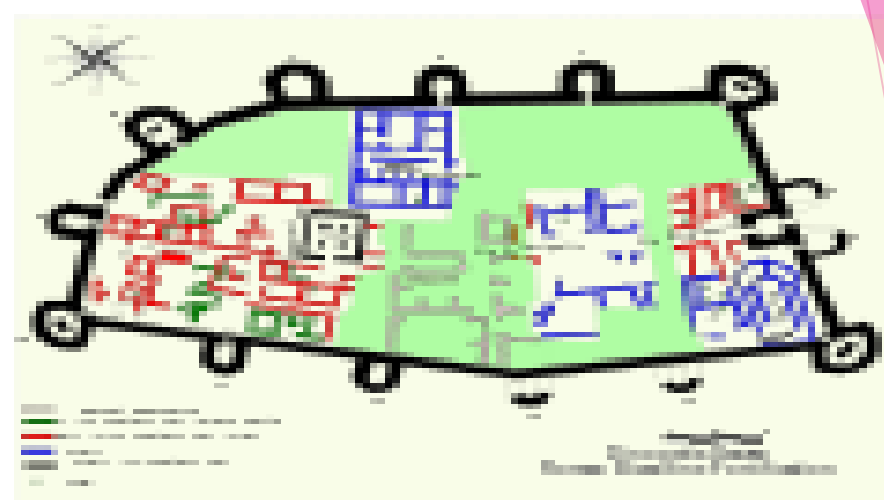


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DINOGETIA FORTRESS

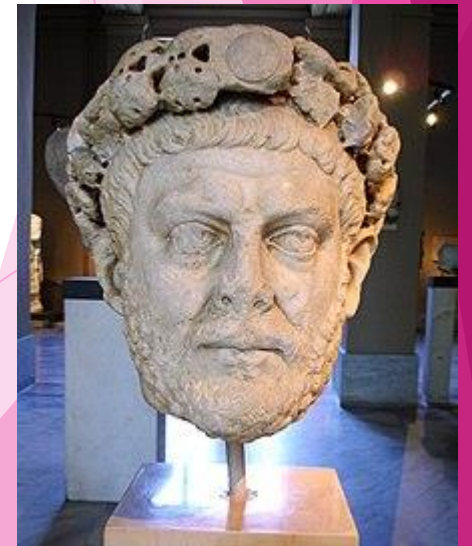




Dinogetia was a Geto-Dacian settlement, then a Roman fortress, mentioned by Ptolemy on the left bank of the Danube, at the mouth of the Siret (on the territory of Garvăn, Tulcea County, 11 km from Galati) and about 20 kilometers from the city Macin. It seems that at the beginning the Roman Dinogetia was on the left bank of the Danube, at Barboși, and from the beginning of the century. IV moved to the popina from "Bisericuța" (Garvăn), where it lasted until the end of the century. VI.

- ▶ The locality is also mentioned by Not. Dignam. (Or., XXXIX, 24) and by Geogr. Rav. (IV, 1, 17). Archaeological excavations started by Gh. Ștefan in 1939 and continued since 1949 by a collective, have discovered almost entirely the precincts of the fortress rebuilt, most likely, during the time of Diocletian.

Several bricks with the stamp of the I Iovia Scythica legion were found and near the fortress, a tile kiln dated with coins from Diocletian and Maximian. Bricks with the stamp of the 5th Macedonian legion, Cohort I Cilicum, Cohort II Mattiacorum and Classis Flavia Moesica, numerous ceramic fragments and coins from the 15th century. I - III d.C. confirms the existence of a Roman fortress at the "Church" and before Diocletian, but its ruins have not been identified.



- ▶ In sec. IV several buildings were erected inside the fortress rebuilt by Diocletian, of which the ruins of the alleged "praetorium", of a basilica, of the house ("domus") of an aristocrat, etc. were unearthed by archeological excavations, and outside, at about 100 m NE of the enclosure, on the edge of the Lățimea gorge, the ruins of some thermal baths. The fortress, along with the basilica and other buildings inside, were rebuilt during the time of Anastasius and Justinian.



A fairly large number of bricks, some discovered in the upper pavement of the basilica, bear the stamp with the name of Emperor Anastasius, sometimes accompanied by the name Altina, from where they were most likely brought. On a bronze scale is inscribed the name of Flavios Gerontios, prefect of Constantinople during the time of Justinian (name that was also found on a general from Sucidava, Celei).



- ▶ The fortress was destroyed by fire during the great invasion of Zabergan's kutriguri (559), after which it recovered with difficulty, ceasing to exist in the last decade of the century. VI, under Mauriciu Tiberiu. The precinct of the Roman fortress, abandoned in the 15th century. VII, was reused starting with the end of the century. X, with the restoration of some walls during the return of the Byzantine authority to the Danube.



- ▶ After the victory at Dorostolon (971), of John Tzimiskes over Sviatoslav, the prince of Kiev, an early feudal settlement was established which lasted until the second half of the century. XII. Today "Bisericuța", Garvăn, Tulcea County. Gh. Ștefan et al., *Dinogetia, I*, Bucharest, 1967 (with older bibl.); I. Barnea, *Dinogetia*, Bucharest, 1969.



ENISALA FORTRESS

The ruins of the medieval fortress Yeni Sale (Enisala, Enişala, Eraclea or Herakleia, taking us away in time) are located 2 km from Enisala, on a limestone hill overlooking the Razim and Babadag lakes.

The Yeni-Sale fortress has an irregular polygonal plan, which follows the sinuosities mountain of chalk Jurassic on which it is located. Archaeological research were started in 1939 and continued, with small interruptions, during the years 1970-1998. Materials discovered following archaeological research and especially Byzantine, Genoese, Tatar, Moldavian, Wallachian or Turkish coins attests to the role military, political, administrative and economic that the fortress fulfilled



The Dacian tombs discovered here, from the 4th century BC, as well as the axes of polished stone, pottery and mammoth bones show a continuity of popular since prehistory. The Middle Ages correspond to two levels of housing. The first, prior to the construction of the fortification, was dated based on archaeological material in the late thirteenth century - early fourteenth century.

The second level corresponds to the period of the erection of the walls, as the ancient town of Herakleia, ruined by the Avars and Slavs in the sixth century, while the fortress, built for defense and surveillance of roads on water and land from the mouth of the Danube, it was rebuilt in the twelfth and fourteenth centuries.



The second level corresponds to the period of the erection of the walls, because the ancient locality Herakleia, ruined by the Avars and Slavs in the sixth century, while the fortress, built for defensive purposes and to guard the water and land roads at the mouth of the Danube, it was rebuilt in the 12th and 14th centuries. Based on construction techniques, archaeological material and historical realities, It has been hypothesized that the powers interested in building a fortress located within the system of fortifications in northern Dobrogea, facing the sea, to control naval traffic, it was first the Byzantines, then in the second half of the fourteenth century the Genoese, who had large sums of money earned from trade and were the holders of the monopoly of navigation on the Black Sea.



Similar cities, with polygonal towers, were also further south, along the Black Sea coasts in present-day Bulgaria and Turkey, where the Byzantines and Genoese ruled ports and cities.

Enclosure walls, the towers and bastions of the fortress, partially preserved and restored, it is mostly kept at a height of 5 - 10 m.

Draws attention, as a special architectural element, the main gate bastion, of oriental origin, with double arch, frequently encountered in the Middle Ages and used by Byzantine builders in various buildings in the Balkan Peninsula, but also in the Romanian Lands at the Neamț Fortress, the church of St. Nicolae Domnesc from Curtea de Argeș and the Moldovan churches founded by Ștefan cel Mare.



After studying the portulans from the 13th - 14th centuries, the locality, which appears as Bambola or Pampolo, was identified with the fortress of Enisala. The fortress was first mentioned as Yeni-Sale in the 15th century in the chronicle of Sükrüllah. After belonging for a time to the Dobrogean despot, and after that, to the Muntenian voivode Mircea cel Bătrân, the fortress fell into Turkish hands in 1421.

Between 1397 - 1418, during the reign of Mircea the Elder, the fortress was part of the defensive system of Wallachia. After the conquest of Dobrogea by the Turks in 1419 - 1420, an Ottoman garrison was installed here.



Subsequently, due to the advance of Turkish rule beyond the mouth of the Danube, to the White Fortress and Chilia (1484) and as a result of the formation of sandbanks separating Lake Razim from the Black Sea, the fortress was abandoned.

In the 16th century, it no longer corresponded to Turkish (Ottoman) strategic and economic interests.

The last Ottoman commander of the fortress is Evli Çelebi, mentioned in 1651. Later the fortress fell into ruins. In 1741, about 1,600 families of Lipovans settled in the localities around the fortress, adding to the Greeks, Romanians, Bulgarians, Tartars, Turks and Circassians who already lived in the area.



Argamum Fortress



Argamum Fortress (after the Latin name; in the ancient Greek Orgamè, in the Byzantine sources Argamon, in Genoese sources Orgame) is an archeological site located in the eastern part of Tulcea county, on the territory of Jurilovca commune, in the place called Capul Doloşman, located at the contact between the Babadag Plateau and the Razim Range which, in antiquity, it was an open bay of the Black Sea (Argamon Bay)



The archeological site covers about 100 hectares.

It is identified by the presence of some ruins and some architectural elements: a gate, the defensive wall, a few streets

Paleo-Christian basilicas and earth waves. Most of the fortress was still underground, unsearched, but not infrequently dug superficially by tourists and locals, archeological site having a total area of almost one hundred hectares.



- ▶ Argamon is the oldest settlement on Romanian territory attested in an ancient spring, dating from the beginning of the sixth century: Hecate of Miletus.
- ▶ It was founded by Greek settlers from Asia Minor, in the middle of the century.
- ▶ In the first century after Christ, the fortress came under Roman rule, henceforth called Argamum and being a port of call for sailors on the Byzantine-Tyras route. For five centuries, the fortress continued to prosper and grow.
- ▶ Legend has it that it was one of the places where the Argonauts stopped on their way home, after finding the golden wool, when they were pursued by the fleet of King Aetes (Olius), the father of Medea.



- ▶ The research began in 1926, under the leadership of historian Paul Nicorescu, and was later continued by other historians and archaeologists.
- ▶ Archaeological excavations have resulted in the discovery of remains belonging to different historical periods.
- ▶ An impressive necropolis of the fortress dates from the archaic period, traces of housing in the eastern part of the cliff and handmade ceramic ovens.
- ▶ A segment of the enclosure wall dates from the classical period, buildings and other furnaces located towards the promontory and groups of burial mounds.
- ▶ Late Hellenistic eras and early Roman are represented through some vestiges preserved beyond the defense system of the Roman-Byzantine fortress.
- ▶ The latter had an area of about 2.6 ha, an apparently triangular shape with eight towers, six buttresses (bastions), two main gates - on the west and south sides - and a small gate on the south side.



- ▶ Other unique remains have been discovered, without identifying the period from which they come: coins, arrowheads made of bronze, Olbia dolphins, bronze ingots in the form of marine mammals ... The Olbia dolphins were made of bronze, used as currency: they were beaten for the first time in the Pontic fortress of Olbia.
- ▶ These, just like the arrowheads, they did not play only an economic role, but they also included a magical-religious meaning, being offerings.



- ▶ Argamum ceased to exist in the century V of our era for two reasons: on the one hand the insecurity due to the invasions of the Goths, Huns, Avars and Slavs, on the other hand the closure of the Gulf of Argamon by the coastal cordon called Wolf Island and its transformation into a harbor unsuitable for the navigation of larger ships. It is assumed that the inhabitants moved further south, to Histria, Tomis, Callatis or Constantinople.



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