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Individual and society in the cities of the roman Dacia

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ABSTRACT

This study offers a multidisciplinary approach on the urban population of the Roman Dacia. This is, actually the precursor of a PhD thesis which tries to combine the results of the research made on historical and archaeological data with epigraphy and bioarchaeology. The given answers try to show a larger image of the debated problem.

Structured in few chapters, the text of the study is written based on concepts of urban life in Dacia and bioarchaeological study of the osteological material coming from Roman necropolises.

The cities and towns of the Roman Empire, *municipium* or *colonia*, tried to be as best they could copies of Rome, imitating administrative organization, institutions, architecture, urbanism and even the art of the capital. So, every single town of the Empire had his own territory, institutions and their own laws, on which they built a small state (*res publica*). The fundamental laws of the town, which were giving the status of it, were printed at the settlement of the town. In the imperial era the emperor was the one who could establish the urban settlements. And so, every new-given privilege or the changing of the status of the town was made just by the emperor.

We should stress upon the fact that we don't have recent analyses, using modern methods on osteologic materials coming from Roman necropolises from Dacia. Although they are some notable physical anthropological analyses made in the '50s and '60s on some so-called daco-roman populations. These analyses don't deal with the postcranial skeleton. We mention here the skeletons from Romula, which consist of 57 inhumation burials and some ten of incineration. It weren't made any osteological analyses on them. The necropolis of Locusteni presents 25.97% inhumation burials. The author of the publication affirms that, unfortunately, the osteological analyses weren't finished. The necropolis from Sopor de Campie, which is published in a monographic study is doubtful regarding the dating of the necropolis.

This study, being part of a larger investigation, offers the analyses of the osteological material from the necropolis of Colonia Dacica Sarmizegetusa, from the trajanic *castrum* from Malaiești and from a sarmatic population from the roman period found in Arad county.