

Roman fortification elements – wall and ditch- discovered in *barbaricum* at Supurul de Sus (Satu-Mare county). A possible frontier of Roman Dacia during the emperor Traian? (summary)

Coming out of the hills, towards the West Plain of the Crasna Valley, in the area of the village Supurul de Sus (Satu Mare county), there was discovered an earthen wall with a ditch in front, that blocked the access to the Crasna (Zalău) valley, to the East, to Transylvania and Meseş, towards the Meseş Gate to Porolissum and Roman Dacia. This earthen wall was sectioned in 6 places, on 5 km. The archaeological research showed that the wall has the ditch on the north-western side, defending the territory behind the wall, to the east, in other words Crasna and Zalău valleys, blocking the access towards Porolissum, through the Meseş Gate, that is situated at 45 km distance.

The ditch is about 2-2,5 m depth, and the wall was very flattened by the repeated agricultural working, being 4-5 m wide at the basis, where this is still preserved. The dimensions of the ditch and the construction technique of the wall and ditch have analogies in the Roman fortification system. The presence of the ditch on the north-west side of the wall, defending Dacia from an enemy coming from this direction distinguishes this construction (fortification system) from the same type of fortification – wall and ditch – known in Panonnia as belonging to the Sarmats and dating much later. The wall from Supur is against the Vandals, of the lazygs or other barbarians that might have wanted to get to Dacia, at Porolissum. This fortification system protects the territory of Dacia situated behind the wall.

The discovery of the Roman wall and ditch from Supurul de Sus - Săldubița - Beltiug (Satu Mare county), (more recently - see note 12 – a Roman earthen fortification was discovered here, against the wall), that are situated in *barbaricum*, 45 km west-north-west from the defence line of Porolissum (the Meseş Gate), represents a very important element in understanding the complexity of the defence system of the Roman Empire in this area (unless future investigations will not prove that what we have here is in fact the first frontier of Roman Dacia, established here in 106 AD by the emperor Traian).