

TEHNICI DE APROVIZIONARE/ DISTRIBUȚIE CU APĂ ÎN DACIA ROMANĂ

Gică Băeștean

Cuvinte cheie: *thermae*, apeduct

Key words: *thermae*, aqueduct, water supply

Abstract: *The number of archaeological discoveries in Dacia may not reflect the actual field status. They outline the overall picture, but there are many missing links that could make the most of this kind of artifacts. Any Roman settlement should have water supply, any thermae should have at least one aqueduct, but such details do not always result from the publication of such a research.*

In this respect, Colonia Sarmisegetusa is such an example. It is here that different types of supply mains were discovered, some of them during the period between the two world wars, but no study on this matter has been published and the material has never been mentioned anywhere. And this may not be the only case.

Another problem is that of the accurate identification of the artifacts. In many cases they use the ambiguity of terms as „pipes” or „clay pipes” which are of no help for us. To these shortcomings we add the scarcity of information, only in few cases images are used and most of the descriptions resort to their being mentioned. In such conditions a comparative study is very difficult to make.

From this point of view the comparison with the rest of the Empire is welcome, but at the same time not enough. Some of the gaps may be filled in if we take into consideration similar aspects. But, when discussing the problem of water, we should take into account the natural factors and the peculiarities of the place that play an important part, maybe more important than in other fields of Roman history research.

That's why we should be very careful when applying well known situations to Dacia.

If technique can still be studied thoroughly starting from archaeological discoveries, the legislation on water or judicial, social and economic problems is not very clear. The inscriptions and written sources should normally fill in the gaps. Unfortunately, in most of the cases there isn't such evidence. Lack of information leads us back to Frontius, Rome or other better studied cases, but which cannot always be applied as a rule.

Vitruvius described three types of water supply/distribution: masonry channel, ceramic tubes and lead pipes. Archaeologically, there were two more types: high pressure stone-blocks and wooden pipes which seem to have been widely spread in the northern provinces of the Empire.