

## ARMATA ROMANĂ ȘI COMERTUL CU AMFORE ÎN PROVINCIA DACIA

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**Cuvinte cheie:** *amforă, comerț, armată, annona militaris*

**Key words:** *amphora, commerce, army, annona militaris*

**Abstract:** *Studies on the Roman army known so far have highlighted its economic importance, especially its role in the commercial life, by encouraging the establishment of trade routes necessary to supply the troops. The main issues covered in the literature in discussions concerning the Roman army and trade through amphorae are: the payment of soldiers, their diet and, in particular, the supply of troops. For the amphorae it is difficult to differentiate between products intended to supply the army, reaching the destination by military officers and various products that were shipped for consumption of particular soldiers. Exchange through amphorae is, according to some authors, clear evidence that the Roman economy was a monetary and market-related, and that during the imperial era private merchants controlled trade in oil and wine for the benefit of the state. Based on the type and area of origin, we can imply that the amphorae found in Roman Dacia camps came mainly from the Pontic and the Aegean regions, then Italy and Hispania. They were used for transporting olive oil and wine, without being able to determine a relevant statistical differentiation between the two categories of products. The biggest movement had the Dressel 24/Zeast 90 amphorae, respectively Kapitän type II, the latter being very common at the end of the II - III century AD for military supplies. Taking into account the context of discovery (early stages of existence of camps), we appreciate that it is possible for the earliest pieces dating II century AD (from Berzobis, Apus Flumen (?) Arcidava, Porolissum, Ilișua, Largiana, Gaganae) to be part of the initial supplies of military units, or be the result of the acquisition (particularly in the case of wine, which as was not part of the official daily ration, while olive oil was an essential element of Roman culture and a sign of Romanization). How exactly the army procured these products, if it was about an approach of the whole unit or not, unfortunately at this time we can not say. One aspect to note is concerned that most amphorae of this category are italics, whose presence did not exceed the II century AD. This might be a possible clue to the assumption that the military supply was in that time a process coordinated by imperial authority. Regarding the amphorae dating from the end of the II-III century AD (located in the camps on limes alutanus and transalutanus, Porolissum, Drobeta, Tibiscum, Cumidava, Cășei) they could be related to the supply by annona, that responded to the obvious needs of a numerous army from a border province, and especially that in the second half of the II century, especially during and after the Marcomanian wars the Severian dynasty focused a large part of commercial products to the Danubian provinces. Most of the amphorae in Roman Dacia camps are located close to major routes of communication and commerce, whether on the Danube or on roads that crossed the imperial Roman Dacia (for*

*most of the discoveries from here). Thus, even if we have no certainty on how that military units have come into possession of stored amphorae, at least we know the route followed by them.*