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ABSTRACTS

Inscriptions and stamps on Roman weapons and military equipment from the Serbian part of Limes

Jelena Lj. Cvijetić, Ivana D. Kosanović

The presentation is dedicated to the rare examples of the inscribed and stamped weapons and military equipment from the Serbian part of Limes, i.e. provinces of Pannonia Inferior and Moesia Superior or later Pannonia Secunda and Moesia Prima.

We are familiar with circa twenty finds of helmets, swords, spears, slights, parts of military equipment and horse gear, but also with an extraordinary specimen of parade armour, which belonged to the troops stationed on the Roman Limes in Serbia during the Principate and early Dominate. Analyses of the rare seals, that is, of their inscriptions, provide important data on the character of *fabricae* (state *fabricae*, military camp's *officinae*, *fabricae privatae*). On the other hand, punctured and engraved inscriptions on weapons and military equipment are more common and contain more information about the owner, such as personal name, name of the unit (*centuria*, *cohors*), name of the superior officer, and in some cases name of the armourer, which could indicate his possible origin and indirectly the place of manufacture.

Stamps and inscriptions on arms and military equipment from the Serbian part of Limes could provide significant facts important for the study of Roman weapon production and distribution of the units settled in this part of the Roman Empire.

Considerations on the formation and location of military equipment find concentrations in Roman forts stimulated by an armour assemblage from Brigantium/Bregenz (Austria)

Julia Kopf

In 1908, ten iron military equipment items were discovered together in Brigantium/Bregenz (Austria). The functional composition of this assemblage is exceptional, since eight of the pieces appertain to the category of armour, representing parts of shields and helmets. Among them are fragments of four or five shield bosses of rectangular *scuta*. This is the largest ensemble of this archaeologically rare type of *umbo* hitherto known: in his catalogue work on Roman shields, A. Nabbefeld listed no more than 14 examples of this shield boss type (excluding the parade bosses with attached bust), restricted to the curved rectangular *scutum*. The majority of the objects concerned with known provenance derives from legionary fortresses (Carnuntum, Vindonissa, Aquincum) and from forts or garrison towns, in which the presence of legionaries is presumed or at least quite likely (Iža, Dura Europos and new Bregenz). The presented objects from Bregenz are probably preserved because they were burnt and therefore the material could not be recycled. The typological dating of the shield bosses indicates that they were buried during the dismantling of the fort in Brigantium in the early Claudian Period or shortly before. Owing to their discovery in the early 20th century, both the kind of feature and the building context, from which the finds derive, are obscure. Due to the location within the fort, it seems most likely that a barrack or a magazine building situated along the *via principalis* can be located at the findspot. This raises the question about the kind of buildings, in which the military equipment usually was stored. As part of the individual equipment, the weapons and armour in use normally were kept in the *arma* of the barrack buildings. Otherwise special armouries (*armamentaria*) probably functioned as repositories of those pieces of military equipment which were in general ownership by the troops (not of the individual soldier), and of reserve material or disused weapons destined for recycling. The paper aims to present and discuss the military equipment assemblage from Bregenz in comparison with similar find complexes from other forts and fortresses (e. g. Köln-Alteburg, Künzing, Carnuntum and Valkenburg) in order to illustrate the current state of knowledge concerning the formation and location of military equipment find concentrations in Roman forts.

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