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Auxilia Moesiae Superioris

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INTRODUCTION



1. State of research

The history of the Roman *auxilia* was for the first time closely examined by C. Cichorius¹. An early attempt to discuss various topics and aspects related to the place and role of the auxiliary units in the Roman army belongs to G. L. Cheesman². For the study herein, of great significance are the studies of W. Wagner³ and K. Kraft⁴, who tackle, others also the units active on the territory of Moesia Superior. J. Beneš approaches the issue of auxiliaries from the two Moesiae and the Dacian provinces, initially in a 1970-study and then in a monograph issued in 1978⁵.

In 1980, P. A. Holder also contributed an article to the basic reference work on the topic of Roman *auxilia* and their history in the Roman empire during the 1st century AD at a time when the evidence was limited (to some degree represented by military diplomas) and difficult to interpret together with our knowledge on the history auxiliary units known later to be stationed in the mentioned provinces⁶. The special importance of the study consists in the attempt to equate the units recorded in the 1st century with those attested with certainty through 2nd century-military diplomas. The approach has been recently furthered by the publication of two overviews on the displacement of the auxiliaries under Trajan and Hadrian⁷.

As of late the history of the Roman *auxilia* was discussed by J. E. H. Spaul⁸. His efforts were embodied in two works, seeking to be the second edition of C. Cichorius's articles, but alas are full of inaccuracies and confusions, at least in what the auxiliaries from the Lower Danube are concerned, which we have detailed in a broader review⁹.

In 2001, N. Gudea published a synthetic presentation of the defensive system of Moesia Superior, in which the issue of auxiliary units is discussed also from the viewpoint of the possible forts where certain military units must have been accommodated¹⁰.

Furthermore, one shouldn't fail to mention the works of K. Strobel on the Dacian wars under Domitian and Trajan, which debate in detail the history of the auxiliaries involved in the military operations¹¹.

¹ Cichorius 1894; Cichorius 1901.

² Cheesman 1914.

³ Wagner 1938.

⁴ Kraft 1951.

⁵ Beneš 1970; Beneš 1978.

⁶ Holder 1980.

⁷ Holder 2006; Holder 2003.

⁸ Spaul 1994; Spaul 2000.

⁹ Țentea, Matei-Popescu 2004.

¹⁰ Gudea 1997.

¹¹ Strobel 1984; Strobel 1988.