

Histria. The Basilica “Pârvan” Sector. (I). The Sector Archaeological Topography

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Abstract

Resumed excavations in Basilica “Pârvan” Sector made it possible to complete information from previous excavations, data synthesis, as well as profiling scientific conclusions regarding discovered complexes and materials. The present paper is the first in a series by which we intend to update publication of the new discoveries and eliminate some still unclear questions about function, succession and dating of some complexes in this area. Basilica “Pârvan” Sector, as it is conventionally named, is situated in the SE part of the late Roman city. First excavations by V. Pârvan and continued by M. Lambrino were made according to the pioneer period spirit of Romanian archaeology. As a consequence, a good part of the area stratigraphy was damaged and historical information regarding destroyed layers impossible to be recovered. But there are still areas not affected by old trenches.

The “new” excavations began in 2001 and had as main objectives: clear up problems linked to the late Roman defensive wall; a more intricate analysis of the ecclesiastic complex; the uprightness of M. Lambrino’s theory according to which this Christian edifice covers a pagan sanctuary; clearing the situation of Greek monuments in the area.

The objectives envisaged by researches are: a *bothros*, to which the presence of a temple in this area could be linked; a wall fragment (Z29) built of green shale blocks bound with dirt, uncovered on a length of 10 m, dated between the end of the 6th century – beginning of the 5th century BC; five Greek buildings (CG1-5); the late Roman ecclesiastic complex, composed of the Christian basilica (5th-6th cent. AD); the street uncovered along its northern side and the civilian building North of the street; the southern sector of the late Roman precincts. Recent archaeological excavations have proved that “Pârvan” Basilica (noted by us as basilica 2) covers another Christian building (basilica 1), functional in the 5th cent AD.