

Orpheus



22

2015

**JOURNAL
OF INDO-EUROPEAN
AND THRACIAN
STUDIES**

CONTENTS

Articles

Svetlana Yanakieva

Thracian Toponymy until the End of the First Millennium BC 5

Rumyana Georgieva

The Environment and Palaeogeographic Changes
in Ancient Thrace (First Millennium BC) 29

Kalin Stoev

The Roman Conquest and the Beginning of Roman Rule
in the Thracian Lands. II. Livius, Periochae 134-142
and the Campaign of Lentulus against the Dacians 65

Valeria Fol

The Treasure from the Golyama Brestnitsa Village and the Relation:
Sacred Object – Rite – Faith 72

Lyuba Radulova

IGBULG III, 2, 1581 – una fonte per le pratiche amministrative
nella provincia di Tracia in età Severiana 80

Kamen D. Dimitrov

The Silver Currency at Novae (Moesia Inferior) AD 193-253 92

Review

Albena Mircheva

Biliana Mihaylova. An Essay on Indo-European Phonetics.
Publishing House Kom Foundation, Sofia 2014 123

THRACIAN TOPONYMY UNTIL THE END OF THE FIRST MILLENNIUM BC

Svetlana Yanakjeva

The study of Thracian toponymy with a view to chronology has different aspects. The history of each source gives a more precise picture of the chronology of the attesting of the data. Tracing the chronology of emergence is of greater significance both in linguistic and in historical plan.

Owing to the areal positioning of toponymic isoglosses or isoglosses of toponymic elements, the conclusion reached in the study concerns the chronology of the emergence of groups of toponyms united by common characteristics. Tracing their propagation leads to the conclusion that the oldest layer of Thracian toponymy has lexical and word-forming parallels with the pre-Greek toponymy in the southern and western parts of the Balkan Peninsula and in Asia Minor.

There is a newer layer that demonstrates lexical parallels only within the Thracian linguistic space. It comprises the settlement names with two roots and with second components recurring repeatedly, whose dissemination occurred successively throughout the first millennium BC. On the whole, the models for the formation of the Thracian toponymy were completed by the end of the first millennium BC.

Aspects of the Concept of Chronology in Toponymy

Thracian toponymy was attested over a very long period – from Homer until the end of the Antiquity, some names even during the Middle Ages as well, which necessitates a careful approach to the data when we wish to reach chronological conclusions. It is necessary to mention also a certain probability that Thracian toponyms are present in Linear B tablets. In spite of the uncertain identification resulting from the syllabic character of the script, there exists a possibility for *pe-ri-te-u* and *o-ro-ti-jo* in tablets from Pylos to be perceived as names of inhabitants, derived from the settlement names Πέρινθος and Ὀλυνθος (Soesbergen 1979: 33; Duridanov 1984: 114-115; 1985: 10). It is obvious that the names occurring in literary texts and inscriptions from the 8th until the end of the 1st century BC, or earlier, fall within the scope of the concept of Thracian toponymy by the end of the

THE ENVIRONMENT AND PALAEOGEOGRAPHIC CHANGES IN ANCIENT THRACE (FIRST MILLENNIUM BC)

Rumyana Georgieva

The reconstruction of the palaeo-environment of the lands inhabited by the Thracians in this study is based on comparative analysis of currently existing written, archaeobotanical, archaeozoological, palynological, archaeological and physico-geographic evidence. It presents the natural conditions, the resources and the registered palaeogeographic changes, while at the same time taking into account the specificity and the importance of the environment for the development of Thracian society and culture during the first millennium BC. Hence the territorial scope of the study comprises mainly the lands to the south of the Danube.

Modern definitions define the environment most frequently as an aggregate of natural and anthropogenic components that are in permanent interdependence. Both today and in the past, it was formed under the influence of different abiotic factors (climate, geology and geomorphology) and biotic factors (flora, fauna and human activities).

Research on the environment during the antiquity is aimed at proposing a truthful reconstruction of the geographic characteristics in a certain chronological period, and at studying the interactions of man with Nature around him. This interest in palaeo-ecological issues in the ancient world dates a long time back and has behind it numerous research stages and theoretical models, as well as various and debatable terminological and conceptual constructs (Hughes 2006; Hughes 2012; Sallares 2008; Thommen 2012). Therefore, the hypotheses on the nature of the environment and on the character of the changes in it from a historical perspective are often in conflict, in spite of the current prevalence of the opinion that there is no radical difference between the natural conditions and the landscape in Southeastern Europe and especially in the Mediterranean during the first millennium BC and today (Papanastasis, Arianoutsou and Papanastasis 2010: 123, 132).

THE ROMAN CONQUEST AND THE BEGINNING
OF ROMAN RULE IN THE THRACIAN LANDS.
II. LIVIUS, *PERIOCHAE* 134-142 AND
THE CAMPAIGN OF LENTULUS AGAINST
THE DACIANS

Kalin Stoev

The military action of Cornelius Lentulus against the Dacians is mentioned in the *Epitoma de Tito Livio* of the 2nd century historian Florus, but is missing in the *Periochae* of Titus Livius. The article opens the notion that the reason for this is that Florus neglects Tiberius' victories in the Danube lands. Most probably Cornelius Lentulus was commander under the high command of Tiberius and as such he conducted punitive expeditions against the Dacians around 10 BC. Considering the fact that the last decade of Livius has been very briefly described in the *Periochae*, we might conclude that the campaign of Lentulus had been mentioned in the summary of the deeds of Tiberius in Book 141 of Livius' *History*.

The actions of Lentulus against the Dacians,¹ the historian Florus being the principal source on them, are difficult for dating due to the absence of references in some other sources that are of key importance to the age of Augustus. Their absence in Titus Livius is interesting, as his monumental work has been preserved for the period of interest to us only with *periochae*, i.e., tables of content of chapters of his *History* that have not survived to

¹ Flor. 2, 28: *Daci montibus inhaerent. Inde Cotisonis regis imperio, quotiens concretus gelu Danuvius iunxerat ripas, decurrere solebant et vicina populari. Visum est Caesari Augusto gentem aditu difficilem summovere. Misso igitur Lentulo ultra ulteriorem perpulit ripam; citra praesidia constituta. Sic tum Dacia non victa, sed summota atque dilata est.* The evidence of Tacitus is believed to refer to the same Lentulus (Tac. Ann. 4, 44): *Obiere eo anno viri nobiles Cn. Lentulus et L. Domitius. Lentulo super consulatum et triumphalia de Getis (degetes codd., Med.: de Getis edd.) gloriae fuerat bene tolerata paupertas, dein magnae opes innocenter partae et modeste habitae.* On attempts at identification of Lentulus, see above all in Syme 1986: 284 sq., with literature.

THE TREASURE FROM THE GOLYAMA BRETNITSA VILLAGE AND THE RELATION: SACRED OBJECT – RITE – FAITH

Valeria Fol

The treasure from the Golyama Brestnitsa village in North-Central Bulgaria consists of one cylindrical vessel and five dippers with total weight of 1.650 kg highest grade silver. The dippers are not identical in size and ornamentation. An inscription is incised on the bowl and on one of the dippers, which reads: Κυρω Ηρωι Πυρουμηρουλα Φλ(αβιος) Μεστριανος β(ενε)φ(ικιαριος) ευχαριστηριον (“To master Heros Purumerulas from Flavius Mestrianos beneficiarius, as a sign of gratitude”). The prevalent opinion in the literature is in favour of the meaning “big/brilliant fire” for the epithet Πυρουμηρουλας, and for the name of the beneficiarius Μεστριανος – that it is a Latinised Thracian name.

The making of the vessels is dated to the end of the 1st or the beginning of the 2nd century, and its burying is associated with the barbarian incursions and more specifically with the late 3rd century. The paper interprets for the first time the treasure and the inscription from a functional and a ritual point of view in the context of the Romanisation to the north of the Balkan Range.

Inscriptions with the epithet Πυρ(ου)μηρουλας, Pirmerulas occur to the south of the Balkan Range and along the Struma valley. An assumption is given in the paper that the donor of the treasure with a dedication to a god-horseman (and hunter) with fiery-solar characteristics may originate from these regions. Another possibility is the epithet to have been carried to the north by Thracians who settled in the region after their military service.

The treasure from Golyama Brestnitsa supports the theory that two types of transformations took place during the first two centuries of the first millennium AD between the Balkan Range and the Danube as a result of the inclusion of the Thracian lands within the Roman Empire, namely: visible, **formal Romanisation** of urban and communication infrastructure and the emergence of multicultural enclaves, name system and formation of a shared trade space, and **actual Romanisation** – of the lifestyle, faith and ritual.

IGBULG III, 2, 1581 – UNA FONTE PER LE PRATICHE AMMINISTRATIVE NELLA PROVINCIA DI TRACIA IN ETÀ SEVERIANA

Lyuba Radulova

The paper focuses on a fragmentary inscription from Augusta Traiana which attests a complicated exchange of letters between three persons: an anonymous inhabitant of the city, the Emperor and the governor of Thrace Atrius Clonius. Though some unclear points still remain, this correspondence makes it possible to reconstruct the following dynamics of events:

A local conflict seems to have started in Augusta Traiana, regarding the way distributions of money were provided to the community. The problem appears to have been a rather delicate one, as it stood on the boundary between local independence and the control exercised by the Roman authorities. The anonymous provincial who started the correspondence seems to have been actively involved in the conflict, supporting, in all probability, the status quo. In order to strengthen his position, he addressed the Emperor directly, asking him for support. The Emperor refrained from taking sides and shifted the matter back to the local authorities. However, by means of a series of indirect non-verbal indications in his response, he demonstrated his positive attitude to the local individual, thus consolidating considerably his position in the conflict. The man in question perceived the Emperor's answer as a social success and a status symbol, and therefore provided for its publication, commissioning its inscription on a particularly sumptuous monument.

Oggetto del presente lavoro è un' epigrafe assai lacunosa di Augusta Traiana, databile tra il 211 e il 217 d.C. (*IGBulg.* III/2, 1581; *AE* 1966 342). Essa è iscritta su una lastra di marmo, parzialmente ricomposta da tre frammenti (226 x 83 x 10 cm), scoperta reimpiegata in una tomba paleocristiana¹. Sulla lastra sono presenti due documenti, di cui il primo (rr. 1–16)

¹ La lastra è stata rinvenuta all'incrocio tra le strade G. Dimitrov e V. I. Lenin. Al momento della prima pubblicazione si trova nel museo locale, senza che sia inclusa nell'inventario. Nel 2015 l'iscrizione è esposta nella cosiddetta "strada antica" che porta al foro e alla porta occidentale della città.

THE SILVER CURRENCY AT NOVAE (MOESIA INFERIOR) AD 193-253

Kamen D. Dimitrov

The present study is based on the material from Novae, the camp of legio I Italica. A total of more than 300 pieces belonging to five hoards and single finds are considered. The investigation results in the following conclusions:

After the reform of Septimius Severus in AD 194, debased imperial *denarii* penetrated in Novae until AD 238, no doubt as financing for the troops. They were widely used on the local market side by side with the Roman provincial issues. During the same period huge local production of white bronze cast *denarii* is to be noticed. Most of the finds were located in or nearby the *principia legionis*, suggesting the involvement of the military in their output intended for the local market as well. The penetration of the *denarii* in Novae ceased by the very beginning of the rule of Gordian III (AD 238). Compromised both by the imperial issues of poor silver and the local imitations of white bronze, the silver currency of *denarii* had to be substituted by the *antoniniani* in a desperate attempt to avoid the financial crisis in the decades to come.

The ancient site of Novae was located 4 km east of Svishtov, Bulgaria. It was founded as a Roman legionary fortress of *legio VIII Augusta* on the lower-Danubian *limes* by Claudius I (ca. AD 45), in the proximity of older Thracian settlements. From AD 69 to the mid-5th century AD *legio I Italica* stayed there. After ca. AD 250 until the 610s, the fortress developed into a Late Roman and Early Byzantine city. Since 1960 Novae has been regularly explored by Bulgarian and Polish archaeologists from the National Archaeological Institute at BAS-Sofia, the Museum of History in Veliko Tarnovo, the University of Warsaw and the Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznan. The fortifications, which were extended to encircle the civilian settlement east of the camp (Novae II) either under Aurelian (Чичикова 1975: 38) or Diocletian (Press, Sarnowski 1990: 240), the headquarters building (the *Principia*) of *Legio I Italica*, the *Thermae legionis*, the Episcopal complex, the *Valetudinarium*, the *Scamnun tribunorum*, a large villa *extra muros* (part of the *cana-*