



Histros/Histria (Antiquity)

Summary :

Greek and Roman town in Scythia Minor (Μικρά Σκυθία), situated at the present-day locality of “La Cetate”, 9 km east from Istria village, Constanța County, Romania.

Other Names

Histria, Histros, Histrus, Histropolis

Geographical Location

Constanța, Romania (modern)

Historical Region

Scythia Minor, Western Coast of the Black Sea

1. Identification of the city of Histria

1.1. Sources

The town is recorded in a considerable number of historical, geographical, and literary sources from [Herodotus](#) (5th c.), to [Constantine Porphyrogenitus](#) (10th c.).¹ The large volume of inscriptions found since 1914 were published in a single volume in 1983,² while coin circulation from the 5th c. BC to the 7th c. AD was frequently highlighted in various publications.³ Systematic archaeological excavations, carried out with short intervals since 1914, yielded a huge amount of novel information on urbanism as well as the socio-economic and cultural life of Histria.⁴

1. 2. Name and Position

Ἴστρος, Ἴστρια, Ἴστρόπολις, *Histria*, *Histros*, *Histrus*, *Histropolis* are the known names of the town.⁵ In Antiquity, Histria was situated right on the shore of the Black Sea. The north-south stream gradually blocked direct access to the sea by the formation of sandy cordons and created a large lagoon, known today as Lakes Razelm and Sinoe.⁶ The initial Archaic Greek settlement lay on a vast promontory-like sandy plain slightly protruding eastward. Today, Lake Sinoe surrounds the ruins of the ancient town from E and N, Lake Histria from W, and Lake Duingi from SW.⁷

2. History

2. 1. Prehistory

The first Greek colonists settled in an area dominated by the native [Getae](#) marked by the last phase of the Babadag III culture (MHC₂ = mid-late 7th c.). Native black polished ware was found under the Greek Archaic strata.⁸

2. 2. Archaic period

It has been securely suggested that initially there existed an [emporium](#)⁹ on which colonists from Miletus founded the 28 ha. city in 657 BC.¹⁰ The Archaic pottery (Rhodian and [Fikellura](#) styles, Corinthian, Attic-Kleinmeister cups) found at the first three layers (mid - late 6th c.) in sector “X” suggests the existence of an early occupation of commercial character.¹¹ The Archaic town had two main nuclei: *a.* the Acropolis, on the SE rocky terrain; *b.* the settlement on the large sandy plateau, ca. 600-700m to the W.¹² A mudbrick defence wall enclosed the area in mid 6th century.¹³ Roads from the W and NW merged towards the town and connected it with the



Histros/Histria (Antiquity)

surrounding rural settlements.¹⁴

The early town life reached a remarkable intensity highlighted by the layers of occupation identified in the civilian area. The age of prosperity was disrupted by [Darius' Scythian campaign](#) (514 B. C.).¹⁵

2.3. Classical Period

The town's reconstruction ensured another period of prosperity. Histria struck its first silver and bronze [coins](#),¹⁶ grew demographically, consolidated its economic wealth, and extended its trade relations with the native Getae and other Hellenic centres. Histria certainly took advantage of the protection of the Odrysian state.¹⁷ Around the middle of the 5th c. Histria had an oligarchic regime, possibly controlled by a group of rich ship-owners, merchants and possibly [Apollo](#) Ietros' priests.¹⁸ Aristotle shows that the discontent among people turned the Histrian regime into a democracy.¹⁹ The Athens-led [Delian league](#) formed in 478 BC and the strong economic and political influence it exerted in the Greek world stimulated the inclusion of Histria into the Athenian Empire.²⁰

Histria's prosperity was also the effect of high-level political organization of the neighbouring Getae and the good relations established with local authorities in the hinterland. In the first half of the 4th c. a political formation in NE Dobrudja is marked in an outstanding way through the leaders' opulent lifestyle; the princely tombs at Agighiol²¹ and the demographic density in the Enisala²² necropolis exhibit their political and economic power. One can even hypothesize a coalition between Histria and a local dynast, "Rex Histrianorum", in 339 BC against the Scythian king Atheas who had succeeded in crossing the Danube and threatened the town and the local communities.²³

2. 4. Hellenistic period

In 313 BC Histria was caught in the [Callatis](#)-led revolt of the western Pontic towns against the political and fiscal oppression of [Lysimachus](#), king of Thrace.²⁴ The town must have endured the king's retribution. The dynamic of the events involved Histria in an alliance with [Apollonia](#) and Callatis in a war, around the [Tomis](#) emporium, waged against [Byzantium](#) in 256/255 BC.²⁵ By the early 2nd c. Histria plunged into a deep economic and political crisis. A decree honouring the ambassadors sent to Zalmodegikos, king of the Getae, for the return of hostages and Histria's riches as well as two other decrees referring to the barbarian attacks against the town show the extent of the crisis.²⁶ Even so, Histria could still find material and human resources to send a naval squadron to help Apollonia in its war with [Mesembria](#) (see Apollonia).²⁷

The progress of the Black Sea basin policy of [Mithridates VI](#), [king of Pontus](#), brought Histria into an alliance with the new emerging power.²⁸ As a consequence, Histria received a garrison led by Diogenes, a strategos sent by the king as an additional measure to reinforce this flank against the Rome's advance.²⁹

The Varro Lucullus' successful campaign along the west Pontic shore detached the Greek towns from their previous alliance with Mithridates. Histria surrendered in front of the Roman forces and received a Roman garrison.³⁰

In 61/60 BC Histria participated in the general revolt of the western Pontic towns, to which Getae, Scythians and Bastarnae rallied, against the abuses of C. Antonius Hybrida, [proconsul](#) of Macedonia. The final battle, in which the Roman forces were destroyed, took place near Histria.³¹

Nonetheless, Histria's history followed a series of unhappy events which deeply affected it during the 48/47 BC campaign of the Getic king Burebista against the western Greek Pontic towns when, as archaeological evidence indicates, it was utterly destroyed and conquered.³²

After the disaster, Histria lingered on in a difficult situation. As epigraphic evidence from other western Pontic towns suggests, the



Histros/Histria (Antiquity)

Greek colonies in this area came under direct Roman jurisdiction. Many, among which Histria, would have received the status of *civitas libera et immunis*.³³

Monuments dedicated to the Roman Emperors became a common trait, and the town's authorities considered that the new protective administration meant a second city foundation (δευτέρα κτίσις των πόλεων).³⁴

2.5. Early and Late Roman Period

Histria witnessed a period of revival during the early Roman period, although it did not reach its former splendour. First of all, a new defence wall was built which substantially enlarged the occupied area compared to that of the Hellenistic period.³⁵ The building activity within the town is significant, most of the edifices being completely rebuilt, and a new street network traced. The political regime, democratic institutions, and the self-government principles were left untouched at Histria. A fair number of inscriptions offer good evidence of a prosperous intellectual, artistic, and customary religious life in the town. The town's traditional territory, utilized in Archaic and Classical times was rendered through official decisions.³⁶ In the middle of the 3rd c. Histria experienced a deep economic and cultural crisis caused by the incessant [Gothic attacks](#). In 248 AD Histria was badly affected by a Gothic invasion³⁷ and suffered several times in the 2nd half of the 3rd c. Coin minting ceased after the era of Emperor Gordianus III and was resumed only for a short period during Probus' reign, when the erection of a new but considerably smaller enclosure wall began. The work was finished only during the [Tetrarchic epoch](#), the last period of prosperity for the town.³⁸

The history of Histria in Late Roman times remains unknown for the most part. In the 6th c., the town had still some importance and became a bishopric that entailed a new urban reorganization of the old network.³⁹ The urban decline was most evident by the end of the 6th c. and the first decades of the 7th c. Histria's buildings and defence walls lay in shambles and the town was finally completely abandoned.⁴⁰

3. Economy

3. 1. The town economy

Soon after the settling of the first colonists the structures built inside the walled area assumed a social and economic function. Histria soon attained particular significance as a commercial and production centre.

Imported pottery dating from the 2nd half of the 7th c. BC shows an active and flourishing trade with Asiatic or European Greek centres ([Miletus](#), [Samos](#), [Chios](#), Athens, and Corinth).⁴¹ Local pottery production, particularly of coarseware, reaches a remarkable intensity by mid-6th c. BC. Other artefacts, like jewels, glass beads, terracotta, wooden beams, and [metalworking](#) items were also exported to the Getae. The archaeological excavations in sector "X" yielded conclusive evidence for a remarkable economic prosperity around ca. 600 BC.⁴²

Silver coins (didrahms) struck by Histria from the mid-5th until the late 4th c. BC were a stimulus for the trade. Bronze coins continued to be issued from the mid-5th until the mid 1st c. BC.⁴³ In the 2nd c. AD, after a long interlude, Histria struck bronze coins, but the series ended during Gordianus III's reign (238-244).

The flourishing trade with other Pontic towns on the western Black Sea shore, from [Odessus](#) to Olbia and deep into the Getae hinterland (Dobrudja, the Siret, Prut, Dniester River valleys and central Moldavian plateau) is highlighted by Histrian coins and pottery found in several places.⁴⁴

3. 2. The economy in the territory

The first colonists provided for the town an initial rural territory for economic exploitation, certainly with the consent of the native



Histros/Histria (Antiquity)

Getae. Its extent is known through the excavations in several settlements and necropoleis (Corbu de Jos, Nuntasi, Sinoe, Tariverde, Vadu, Visina, Enisala, and Sarinasuf).⁴⁵ The Laberius Maximus' *horothesia* (boundary regulation) dated 25.10.100 AD constitutes a decreed guarantee and confirms the fact that the town had received during the 1st c. from former governors at least part of the traditional territory (*territorium*) of exploitation and fiscal immunity, a fact which substantially improved its economic situation.⁴⁶

The local population was involved in the economic life as shown by the Hallstadian pottery found in the villages of the Histrian territory. Due to its hinterland, Danube and Black sea Histria became in short time a prosperous exporter of [wheat](#), and particularly salted (or marinated) [fish](#) in a remarkable repertoire of species.⁴⁷ The main Histria's trade partner remained the Getae aristocracy to which weapons, adornment objects, olive oil, furniture, and a large variety of wines from the southern Aegean islands were constantly delivered. It received in change from the native Getae community cattle, slaves, honey, wax, and fur.

4. Burials and cults

4. 1. Necropoleis

A substantial 6th c. BC to 1st c. AD tumular necropolis is situated to the SW of the extra-mural settlement forming a long axis of several km. There is another submerged necropolis at the place called "La Pod".⁴⁸ The existence of another northern tumular necropolis is perceived through some tumuli on the islands of present-day Lake Sinoe.⁴⁹ The presence of an inhumation necropolis of Greek times is testified by the significant quantity of tombstones, dated in the 5th-1st c. BC. In the area of the modern village of Istria, a 6th-1st c. BC inhumation necropolis pertaining to the rural settlement was also identified.⁵⁰ On a previously inhabited area, a plateau W of the town, a 35 ha large inhumation necropolis functioned between late 2nd and 6th c. AD. A cremation tumular necropolis that functioned in the 1st-2nd c. AD was identified to the NW periphery of the big tumular necropolis.⁵¹

4. 2. Cult

Coins and inscriptions offer good evidence concerning the deities worshipped at Histria. [Zeus](#) was referred to in inscriptions as "Πολιεύς", while [Aphrodite](#) was worshipped as "Αφροδίτη Ποντία" and protected the sea and seafarers. Each of the gods had a temple dedicated to them. Apollo Ietros ("Απόλλων Ιητρός") ("the Healer") also had a sanctuary dedicated to him and he seems to have been Histria's main patron god.⁵² Apollo, the Dioscuri as river deities, Istros God, [Dionysos](#), [Helios](#), [Demetra](#), and [Hermes](#) are often invoked or represented on inscriptions and coins.

5. Monuments and finds

The intense archaeological activity of more than 90 years yielded an immense archaeological material and a considerable number of important monuments. Among the most important are: two temples, one dedicated to Aphrodite and the other to Zeus;⁵³ two [bathhouses](#): Thermae I and II;⁵⁴ a number of Christian [basilicas](#), among which predominates the great Episcopal basilica,⁵⁵ a big number of [houses](#) and public buildings.⁵⁶

6. History of investigation

V. Pârvan inaugurated archaeological investigations between 1914 and 1927. The Lambrino's team continued the project in several sectors. After WW II E. Condurachi, D. M. Pippidi, P. Alexandrescu, and Al. Suceveanu expanded the excavations E, SE, NE (the "Sector X" "The Sacred Zone", "Domus sector", the Archaic, Hellenistic, Early and Late Roman defence walls, the sector on the plateau west of the town, some portions of the tumular necropolis, and recently the Episcopal basilica).⁵⁷

In parallel, in the last 60 years, Greek or Greek-indigenous or Roman rural settlements in the territory of Histria were investigated (Nuntasi II, Tariverde, Fantanele, Sinoe). Efforts have been made by joint international teams to identify the ancient harbour of the



Histros/Histria (Antiquity)

town or to assess environmental conditions in Antiquity.⁵⁸

1. Hdt. 2. 3; 4. 78; Arist. *Pol.* 8.5.1; Diod. Sic. 19. 73. 2; 4; Strab. 7.6. 1; Plin. *HN* 4. 11. 41; 12. 78; 79; Pomp. Mel. *Chor.* 2. 2. 22; Ptol. *Geogr.* 3. 10. 3; Arrian. *Perip. Pont. Eux.* 24. 2; Appian. *Illyr.* 30. 85; Claud. Ael. *De Anim.* 14. 25; Dio Cass. *Hist. Rom.* 51. 26. 5; Dexip. *Chron. Fr.* 20 (14) ad SHA 19. 3; *Itin. Ant.* 227. 2; Euseb. *Chron.* 95. 4, b Helm; Eutrop. *Brev.* 6. 10; Fest. *Brev.* 9; SHA *v. Max. et Balb.* 70; Steph. Byz. s. v. 'Istroß'; Hierocl. *Synecd.* 637. 5; Iord. *Rom.* 221; Rav. *Cosmogr.* 4. 6. 47; Georg, Sync. *Ecl. Chron.* 402; Const. Porphy. *De them.* 47. 1. 58-60.
2. *Inscriptiones Scythiae minoris graecae et Latinae* vol. I. *Inscriptiones Histriae et Vicinae*, D. M. Pippidi (ed) Bucuresti (1983) (further on *ISM* 1); Avram, A., "Le corpus des inscriptions d'Istros rivisité", *Dacia N. S.* 51 (2007) p. 79-132.
3. Dimitriu, S., "Descoperiri monetare", in: *Histria. Monografie arheologică*, I (1951), p. 464-471; Nubar, H., "Aspetti della circolazione monetaria di Histria nell'epoca romana", *Dacia N. S.* 7 (1963) p. 241-256; Preda, C. Nubar, H., Pippidi, D. M., *Histria III. Descoperiri monetare 1914-1970* (Bucureşti 1970). This complete volume was followed by yearly reports on coins discoveries (B. Mitrea in *SCIV* since 1958 and A. Vertan, G. Custurea in *Pontica* since 1979).
4. Condurachi, Em. *Histria I. Monografie arheologică* (Bucureşti 1951) p. 63-162; (excavations between 1914-1943); p. 163-363 (excavations between 1949-1952). Up to date bibliography in 1990: Avram, A., Alexandrescu, P., Mărgineanu-Cârstoiu, M., Zimmermann, K., Alexandrescu-Vianu, M. Suceveanu, A., Domăneanţu, C., in: P Alexandrescu, W. Schuler (eds), *Histria. Eine Griechenstadt an der rumänischen Schwarzmeerküste*, (*Xenia* 25, 1990); for 1990-2007 see note 57.
5. The etymology of the place name: Bratu, I., *Lokale Ortsnamen in den auf dem Gebiet Rumäniens gefundenen Inschriften* (Bochum 1992) p. 97-102
6. The process seems to have begun since the 3rd c. BC; Polyb. *Hist.* 4. 41; cf. Strab. 1.3.4; Condurachi, Em., "Scurt istoric al cetăţii Histria", in: *Histria I* p. 9-10; Cotet, P., "Ţărmul Mării Negre şi evoluţia lui in timpurile istorice (cu privire specială asupra regiunii Histria)", in: *Histria II* (Bucureşti 1966) p. 327-352; Pippidi, D. M. "Cadrul geographic. Prolegomena geografica", in: *ISM* 1 p. 14-22.
7. Canarache, V., "Observaţii noi cu privire la topografia Histriei", *SCIV* 7: 3-4 (1956) p.289-318; Alexandrescu, P., "Peisajul Histrian în antichitate", *Pontica* 3 (1970), p. 77-86; Coja, M. "Les phases d'habitat du plateau ouest de la cité d'Histria à l'époque greco-romaine", *Dacia N.S.* 14 (1970) p. 99-117; Alexandrescu, P., "Notes de topographie histrienne", *Dacia N.S.* 22 (1972) p. 331-342.
8. Berciu, D., Pippidi D.M., *op. cit.* p.90; Avram, A., "Beziehungen zwischen Griechen und Geten im archaischen Histria", *Studii Clasice* 27 (1991) p. 19-30.
9. Dimitriu, S., Coja, M., "La céramique archaïque et les débuts de la cité pontique d'Histria", *Materiale şi Cercetări Arheologice* 8 (1962) p. 90-92
10. The traditional date is given by Euseb. *Chron.* 95. 4, b Helm; cf. Ps. Scymnos 767-772; a commentary on the passage: Vulpe, A., "En marge de Ps. Scymnos 766-770", in: *Premier âge du Fer aux bouches du Danube et dans les regions autour de la Mer Noire. Actes du colloque International* (Tulcea 1997) p. 181-185; Condurachi, Em. *op. cit.*, in: *Histria I* p. 16-17; Alexandrescu, P., "Autour de la date de fondation d'Histria", *Studii Clasice* 4 (1962) p. 49-69; Berciu, D., Pippidi, D. M., *Din istoria Dobrogei. Greci şi Geţi la Dunărea de jos*, (Bucuresti 1965) p. 150-151; Alexandrescu, P., "Histria in archaischer Zeit", in: *Xenia* 25 (1990) p. 233-264; for a later date of foundation: Dimitriu, S., "Tot despre data întemeierii Histriei", *SCIV* 15: 2 (1964) p. 251-256; eadem, "Poziţia Histriei în cadrul cronologiilor secolelor VII-VI î. e. n.", *SCIV* 16: 4 (1965) p. 663-674; eadem, "Despre <temeliile olbiene> de la Histria", *SCIV* 17: 3 (1966) p.473-488; Dimitriu, S., Coja, M., *op. cit.* p. 69-92; Avram, A., Poenaru Bordea, Gh., "Coloniile greceşti din Dobrogea", in: *Istoria Românilor*, vol I. *Moştenirea timpurilor îndepărtate*, (Bucureşti 2001) p. 535-538.
11. Dimitriu, S. Coja, M. *La céramique d'époque archaïque et classique (VII^e -IV^e s.)* (Bucuresti 1978); Coja, M., Dupont, P., *Histria V. Ateliers*



Histros/Histria (Antiquity)

- céramiques* (București 1979); see particularly Dimitriu, S., "Câteva precizări asupra ceramicii de stil Fikellura din orașele pontice", *SCIV* 9: 1 (1958) p.113-118; Dimitriu, S., Alexandrescu, P., "Importul ceramicii atice în bazinul Mării Negre pâna la războaiele medice", *SCIV* 23: 3 (1972) p. 361-374.
12. For the Acropolis see: Alexandrescu, P., *op. cit.*, in: *Xenia* 25 (1990) p. 51-52; for the west plateau: Coja M., *op. cit.* p. 99-117;
 13. Alexandrescu, P., *op. cit.*, in: *Xenia* 25 (1990) p. 50-51.
 14. Doruțiu Boilă, Em. *op. cit.* p. 37-46; Alexandrescu, P., *op. cit.* *Pontica* 3 (1970) p. 77-86.
 15. Histria in the Archaic period: Berciu, D., Pippidi, D. M. *op. cit.* p. 149-156; Dimitriu S., "Fizionomia cartierului de locuințe extra-muros de la Histria în perioada arhaică", *SCIV* 21: 2 (1970) p. 225-234; Dimitriu S., Alexandrescu, P., *op. cit.* p. 361-374; Dimitriu, S. Coja, M., *op. cit.* p. 82. On Histria, in relation with Darius' expedition: Alexandrescu, P., "Izvoarele grecești despre retragerea lui Darius din expediția scitică", *SCIV* 7: 3-4 (1956) p. 319-343; Berciu, D., Pippidi, D. M., *op. cit.* p. 162-163; Alexandrescu, P., *op. cit.*, in: *Xenia* 25 (1990) p. 66-68.
 16. Preda, C., "Monedele histriene cu roata și legenda IST", *Studii și Cercetări de Numismatică* 3 (1960) p. 21-35 (especialy p. 319-321); Mitrea, B., "Descoperirile monetare și legăturile de schimb ale Histriei cu populațiile locale în sec. V-IV î. e. n.", *Studii Clasice* 7 (1965) p. 143-166; Canarache, V., "Sistemul ponderal și tipologia drahmelor histriene de argint", *Pontice* 1 (1968), 107-192. Preda, C., "Über die Silbermünzen der Stadt Istros", *Dacia N. S.* 19 (1975) p. 77-85; Preda, C. Nubar, H., Pippidi, D. M. *op. cit.* p. 17-45.
 17. Relations with Mediterranean centres: Condurachi, Em., *op. cit.*, in *Histria I* p. 17-20; Alexandrescu, P., *Histria IV. La céramique d'époque archaïque et classique VII^e-IV^e s. (avec la collaboration de S. Dimitriu, M. Coja)*, (Bucarest 1978), 19-33; protection of the Odrysian kingdom: Condurachi, Em. *op. cit.*, in: *Histria I* p. 23-24; Berciu, D., Pippidi, D. M. *op. cit.* 166-167; Alexandrescu, P., *op. cit.*, in: *Xenia* 25 (1990) p. 68-70.
 18. *ISM* 1, 114, 169, 170 (Hegesagoras, Hyppolochos). Those who dedicated statues to Apollo Ietros (Xenocles and Theoxenos) must have also belonged to the aristocracy of the town.
 19. Arist. *Pol.* 8. 5. 2.; Condurachi, Em., *op. cit.*, in *Histria I* p. 24-28.
 20. Berciu, D., Pippidi, D. M. *op. cit.* p. 181-182.
 21. Berciu, D. *Arta traco-getica* (București 1969) p. 33-76; Alexandrescu, P., "Le groupe des trésors thraces du Nord de Balkans", *Dacia N. S.* 27 (1983) p. 45-65; 28 (1984) p. 85-98.
 22. Simion, G., "Cultura traco-getică în lumina izvoarelor arheologice descoperite în necropola de la Enisala", *Peuce* 2 (1971) p. 63-130; idem, "Les Gètes de la Dobroudja septentrionale du VI^e au I^{er} siècles av. n. e. in: *Thracodacica. Recueil d'études à l'occasion du II^e Congrès International de Thracologie*, (Bucharest 1976) p. 148-151.
 23. Trog. *Pomp. Hist. Philip.* 9. 2. 1-16. The analysis of the forces involved in the conflict: Pippidi, D. M., "Les Macédoniens sur le Bas-Danube de Philipp II à Lysimaque", in: *Parerga* (Bucharest 1984) p. 151-163; Vulpe, Al., "Istoria și civilizația spațiului carpato-dunărean între mijlocul secolului al VII-lea și începutul secolului al III-lea a. Chr", in: *Istoria Românilor* I p. 456-457.
 24. Diod. Sic. *Bibl. Hist.* 19. 73. 4; Coja, M. "Zidul de apărare al cetății Histria și împrejurările istorice ale distrugerii lui în secolul al IV-lea", *SCIV* 15: 3 (1964) p. 383-400; Berciu, D., Pippidi, D. M. *op. cit.* 217-218; Avram, A., Poenaru Bordea, Gh., *op. cit.* p. 597-598.
 25. On the Histria-Apollonia alliance see *ISM* 1, 112; the war between Callatis and Histria on one side and Byzantium on the other: Memnon frg. 21 (FHG 3 p. 537=FGHist 3 B 434 frg. 13; Pippidi, D. M., "Histria și Callatis în secolele III-II î.e.n. Cu prilejul unei inscripții inedite", *SCIV* 4 (1953) 3-4 p. 487-514; ibidem, in: *Contribuții la istoria veche a României*², (București 1967) p. 32-67; Avram, A., Poenaru Bordea, Gh., *op. cit.* p. 599-600.



Histros/Histria (Antiquity)

26. *ISM* 1, 8. The Getae king seems to have disposed of the Histria's revenues, as long as the envoys convinced him to render "the people's incomes". Another episode of the dependence of Histria from the local dynasts unfolded around Rhemaxos who was solicited to intervene militarily in order to defend the town from the Zoltes-led Thracian marauding bands; *ISM* 1, 15.
27. *ISM* 1. 64=IGB 1² 388.
28. Salomone-Gaggero, E. "Relations politiques et militaires de Mithridate VI Eupator avec les populations et les cités de la Thrace et avec les colonies grecques de la Mer Noire occidentale", *Pulpuveva* 2 (1978) p. 294-305.
29. Avram, A., Bounegru, O., "Mithridates al VI-lea Eupator și coasta de vest a Pontului Euxin. În jurul unui decret inedit de la Histria", *Pontica* 30 (1997) p. 155-164.
30. Eutop. *Brev.* 6. 10; Fest. *Brev.* 9; Iord. *Rom.* 221. There is no clear indication of a garrison at Histria at that time, but the authors' texts are inducing to its existence; however, cf. IGB 1² 314, where C. Cornelius appears as Lucullus' lieutenant on the Black Sea shore.
31. Dio Cass. 38. 10. 3.
32. The Histria's destruction is clearly revealed by *ISM* 1. 54, a decree given in the honour of Aristagoras the Apatourios' son, which shows that "the town did not have defence walls anymore" and "the barbarians were in control of the region".
33. The event seems to have happened towards the end of the 1st c. BC as the general historical (Vell. 2. 101. 3) and epigraphic context show (*ISM* 3, 40-42, 44, 45); Avram, A., Poenaru Bordea, Gh., *op. cit.* p. 613-615.
34. *ISM* 1, 191, 193.
35. Preda, C., "Doicescu, A., Zidul de apărare din epoca elenistică", in: *Histria II* p. 133-294; Pippidi, D. M. "Histria aux I^{er} - III^e siècles", *Dacia N. S.* 19 (1975) p. 141-182; Suceveanu, A. "Das römische Histria", in: *Xenia* 25 (1990) p. 234-235.
36. *ISM* 1, 67, 68. The boundary regulation of 25 October 100 A. D. records the names of the previous 1st c. governors who successively granted fiscal and economic privileges to Histria; Pippidi, D. M. "Das Stadtgebiet von Histria in römischer Zeit auf Grund der *οροθεσία* des Laberius Maximus (SEG I 329)", *Dacia N. S.* 2 (1958) p. 227-248; idem, "Hotărnicia consularului Laberius Maximus", in: *Contribuții la istoria veche a României*², (București 1967) p. 349-385.
37. Doruțiu-Boilă, Em., "Zur Frage der Zerstörung Histrias im 3 Jhd. u. Z"., *Studii Clasice* 6 (1964) p.247-259; Poenaru Bordea, Gh., "Numismatica și distrugerea Histriei în secolul al III-lea" *Studii și Cercetări Numismatice* 5 (1971) p. 91-113; Doruțiu-Boilă, Em., "Histriae excidium", *Dacia N. S.* 29 (1985) p. 133-134.
38. Domăneanțu, C., Sion, A., "Incinta romană târzie de la Histria. Incercare de cronologie", *SCIV* 33: 4 (1982) p. 377-394; Chiriac, C. "O inscripție de la Dioclețian descoperită la Histria", *SCIVA* 38: 3 (1987) 3 p. 281-284; Domăneanțu, C., Die Spätromische Festungsmauer, in: *Xenia* 25 (1990) p.265-284; Suceveanu, A. *op. cit.*, p. 243;.
39. In the 4th c. Histria was not included in the list of *celebriora* towns of the province of Scythia (Amm. Marc. 27. 4. 12). It still knew certain prosperity in the relatively peaceful first quarters of the 4th c. as results from inscriptions, art monuments and public buildings; Suceveanu, A., *op. cit.* p. 245-246. A last age of moderate prosperity occurred in the 6th century during Anastasius' and Justinian's reigns; Condurachi, Em. "Histria à l'époque du Bas-Empire d'après les derniers fouilles archéologiques", *Dacia N. S.* 1 (1957) p. 245-263; Nubar, H., "Contribuții la topografia cetății Histria în epoca romano-bizantină. Considerații generale asupra necropolei din sectorul bazilicii <extra muros>", *SCIV* 22: 2 (1971) p. 199-215; Suceveanu, A. *op. cit.* p. 249-250; Bounegru, O., "Date stratigrafice recente privind rețeaua stradală din cartierul 'Domus' de la Histria", *Pontica* 33-34 (2000-2001) p. 397-413; Bounegru, O., Lungu, V., "Histria. Cercetări recente în cartierul <Domus>", *SCIVA* 54-55 (2003-2005) p. 167-178.



Histros/Histria (Antiquity)

40. Suceveanu, A. *op. cit.*, p. 250.
41. Lambrino, M., "Les vases archaïques d'Histria", (Bucarest 1938); Alexandrescu, P., *Histria IV. La céramique d'époque archaïque et classique VII^e - IV^e s.*, (avec la collaboration de Dimitriu, S., Coja, M.) (Bucarest 1978) p. 19-33; Avram, A. *Histria VIII. Les timbres amphoriques 1. Thasos* (Bucarest 1996); Conovici, N., *Histria VIII. Les timbres amphoriques 2. Sinope* (Bucharest 1998); Alexandrescu, P., *Histria VII. La zone sacrée d'époque grecque* (Bucarest 2005) p. 329-384.
42. Lambrino, M., *op. cit.* p. 24; Coja, M., "Activitatea meştesugărească la Histria", *SCIV* 13: 1 (1962) p. 19-46; Alexandrescu, P., "Un groupe céramique fabriquée à Istros", *Dacia N. S.* 16 (1972) p. 113-131; Dimitriu, S. Iliescu, O., Comănescu, S., "Poids archaïques découvert à Histria", *Dacia N. S.* 18 (1974) 265-271; Zimmermann, K., Alexandrescu, P., "Steingerate Griechischer Zeit aus Histria", *Dacia N. S.* 24 (1980) 267-282; Alexandrescu, P., "Histria in archaischer Zeit", in: *Xenia* 25 (1990), 47-102, especially 50-56.
43. Preda, C., Nubar, H. *op. cit.*, p. 17-45; 57-85; Preda, C. "Über die Silbermünzen der Stadt Istros", *Dacia N. S.* 19 (1975) p. 77-85; Poenaru Bordea, Gh., "Monede recent descoperite și unele probleme de circulație monetară în Dobrogea antică", *Pontica* 4 (1971) p. 319-337; Panait Bârzescu, F., "Histria. Cele mai timpurii monede histriene de argint. Consideratii stilistice și iconografice", *SCIVA* 54-55 (2003-2005) p. 211-221.
44. Berciu, D., Pippidi, D. M., *op.cit.* p. 165-166; Coja, M., "Ceramica autohtonă de la Histria. Secolele V-I î.e.n.", *Pontica* 3 (1970) p. 99-124; Alexandrescu, P., *op. cit.* p.63-66; Simion, G., *op. cit.* p. 145-147; Conovici, N. "Contribuții numismatice privind legăturile Histriei cu geții de la Dunăre în secolele VI-II î. e. n.", *SCIVA* 30 (1979) 1 p. 87-94; Babeș, M., "Spațiul carpato-dunărean în secolele III-II a. Chr.", in: *Istoria Românilor*, I p. 504-507; see also notes 21 and 22.
45. Stoian, I., "In legatură cu vechimea teritoriului rural al Histriei", *SCIV* 8: 1-4 (1957) p. 183-205; Ștefan, A., "Probleme ale strategiei Histriei și ale organizării teritoriului sau rural în epoca pre-romana", *SCIVA* 33: 2 (1982) p.199-208; Berciu, D., Pippidi, D. M., *op. cit.*, 198-200.
46. See n. 36.
47. Berciu, D., Pippidi, D. M., *op. cit.*, 165.
48. Histria's necropolises: Alexandrescu, P., *Histria II. Necropola tumulară. Săpături 1955-1961* (București 1966) p. 133-294; Zimmermann, K., Avram, A., "Archäologische Ausgrabungen in Histria Pod, SR Rumänien. Zwischenbericht über die vorläufigen Ergebnisse der Kampagne 1980-1985", *Klio* 69 (1987) p. 6-27.
49. Alexandrescu, P., "Peisajul histrian în antichitate", *Pontica* 3 (1970) p. 80-81.
50. Teleagă, E., Zirra, V., (with the collaboration of Botezatu, D.) *Die Nekropole des 6-1Jhs.v. Chr. Von Istria Bent bei Histria. Archäologische Untersuchungen zur Bevölkerung in der westlichen Schwarzmeerregion* (2003).
51. Coja, M., "Un mormânt de incinerare de epocă romană de la Histria", *SCIVA* 25: 1 (1974) p. 44.
52. Alexandrescu, P., *Histria VII* p. 80-82; 88-89 (Zeus); 75-79; 86-88 (Aphrodite); 83-85; 89-93 (Apollo Ietros).
53. See note 52; also Berciu, D., Pippidi, D. M., *op. cit.* p.168-173; Pippidi, D. M, Bordenache, G., Eftimie, V., "Sectorul templului grec", *Materiale și Cercetări Arheologice* 8 (1962) p. 383-389; Bordenache, G., Eftimie, V., Dimitriu, S., "Sectorul T", *Materiale și Cercetări Arheologice* 9 (1963) p. 178-186.
54. Suceveanu, A., *Histria VI. Les Thermes romains (avec la collaboration de Sion, A., Poenaru Bordea, Gh., Vecerde, Gh.)* (Bucarest-Paris 1982) p. 13-28 (Thermae I); 29-39 (Thermae II).
55. Suceveanu, A. *Histria XIII. La basilique episcopale (avec la collaboration de Milosević, G., Bounegru, O., Mușeteanu, C., Poenaru Bordea, Gh.)*



Histros/Histria (Antiquity)

(Bucarest 2007) (the Episcopal basilica); Bajenaru, C., "Histria. Basilica C. rezultate preliminare", *SCIVA* 54-56 (2003-2005) p. 149-166; Achim, I., "Histria. Basilica <Florescu>. Noi cercetări (2002-2004)", *SCIVA* 54-56 (2003-2005) p. 179-194.

56. Condurachi, Em., *op. cit.* p. 251-260; Bounegru, Lungu, V. "Histria. Cercetări recente în cartierul <Domus>", *SCIVA* 54-55 (2003-2005) p. 167-178(with previous bibliography); Suceveanu, A., Scorpan, C., "Stratigrafia Histriei romane târzii în lumina săpăturilor din 1969 și 1970 în sectorul central", *Pontica* 4 (1971) p. 155-172.

57. Condurachi, Em., *op. cit.* p. 251-260; Bounegru, Lungu, V. "Histria. Cercetări recente în cartierul <Domus>", *SCIVA* 54-55 (2003-2005) p. 167-178(with previous bibliography); Suceveanu, A., Scorpan, C., "Stratigrafia Histriei romane târzii în lumina săpăturilor din 1969 și 1970 în sectorul central", *Pontica* 4 (1971) p. 155-172.

58. Alexandrescu, P., "Notes de topographie histrienne", *Dacia N. S.* 22(1978) p. 331-342; Höckmann, O., Muller, U., Peschel, G., Woehl, A., "Histria an der Küste des Schwarzen Meeres. Prospektionsarbeiten im antiken Stadtgebiet", *Antike Welt* 3 (1997) p.209-216; Höckmann, O. "Der Hafen der griechischen kolonie Histria in Rumänien", *Nürnbergerblätter zur Archäologie* 18 (2001-2002) p. 169-184. A recent general presentation of Histria: Oppermann, M., *Thraker, Griechen und Römer an der Küste des Schwarzes Meeres*, Mainz (2007) p. 10-15; 24-25; 43-47; 72-75; 101-105.

Bibliography :

	Coja M. , "L'artisanat à Histria du VIe au Ier siècle avant notre ère", <i>Dacia</i> , 6, 1962, 115-138
	Avram A. , "Le corpus des inscriptions d'Istros rivisité", <i>Dacia N.S.</i> , 51, 2007, 79-132
	Dimitriu S. , <i>Descoperirile monetare</i> , Editura Academiei Socialiste România , București 1951, Histria I
	Nubar H. , "Aspetti della circolazione monetaria di Histria nell'epoca romana", <i>Dacia N.S.</i> , 7, 1963, 241-256
	Pipidi D., Preda C., Nubar H. , <i>Descoperirile monetare 1914-1970</i> , Editura Academiei Socialiste România , București 1973, Histria III
	Bratu I. , <i>Lokale Ortsnamen in den auf dem Gebiet Rumäniens gefundenen Inschriften</i> , Bochum 1992
	Canarache V. , "Observații noi cu privire la topografia Histriei", <i>SCIV</i> , 7: 3-4, 1956, 289-318
	Alexandrescu P. , "Peisajul Histrian în antichitate", <i>Pontica</i> , 3, 1970, 77-86
	Coja M. , "Les phases d'habitat du plateau ouest de la cité d'Histria à l'époque greco-romaine", <i>Dacia N.S.</i> , 14, 1970, 99-117
	Avram A. , "Beziehungen zwischen Griechen und Geten im archaischen Histria", <i>Studii Clasice</i> , 27, 1991, 19-30
	Coja M., Dimitriu S. , "La céramique archaïque et les débuts de la cité pontique d'Histria", <i>Dacia</i> , 2, 1958, 69-82
	Vulpe A. , "En marge de Ps. Scymnos 766-770", <i>Premier âge du Fer aux bouches du Danube et dans les regions autour de la Mer Noire. Actes du colloque International</i> , Tulcea 1997, 181-185
	Alexandrescu P. , "Autour de la date de fondation d' Histria", <i>Studii Clasice</i> , 4, 1962, 49-69
	Alexandrescu P. , "Histria in archaischer Zeit", <i>Xenia</i> , 25, 1990, 233-264



Histros/Histria (Antiquity)

	Avram A., Poenaru Bordea Gh. , "Coloniile grecești din Dobrogea", M. Petrescu-Dîmbovița, A. Vulpe (eds.), <i>Istoria Românilor, vol I. Moștenirea timpurilor îndepărtate</i> , București 2001, 535-538
	M. Coja, Dupont, P. (eds.) , <i>Histria V. Ateliers céramiques.</i> , București 1979
	Dimitriu S. , "Câteva precizări asupra ceramicii de stil Fikellura din orașele pontice", <i>SCIV</i> , 9/1, 1958, 113-118
	Alexandrescu P. , "Izvoarele grecești despre retragerea lui Darius din expediția scitică", <i>SCIV</i> , 7/3-4, 1956, 319-343
	Alexandrescu P. , "Le groupe des trésors thraces du Nord de Balkans", <i>Dacia N. S.</i> , 27-28, 1983-1984, 45-65, 85-98
	Berciu D. , <i>Arta traco-getica</i> , București 1969
	Simion G. , "Cultura traco-getică în lumina izvoarelor arheologice descoperite în necropola de la Enisala", <i>Peuce</i> , 2, 1971, 63-130
	C. Preda (ed.) , <i>Thraco-Dacia: recueil d'études à l'occasion du IIe Congrès International de Thracologie ; (Bucarest, 4 - 10 septembre 1976)</i> , Bucuresti 1976, Ed. Acad. Republicii Socialiste Romania.
	D. Pippidi (ed.) , <i>Parerga: Ecrits de Philologie, d'epigraphie et d'histoire ancienne.</i> , Bucuresti 1984
	Salomone-Gaggero E. , "Relations politiques et militaires de Mithridate VI Eupator avec les populations et les cités de la Thrace et avec les colonies grecques de la Mer Noire occidentale", <i>Pulpudeva</i> , 2, 1978, 294-305
	Avram A., Bounegru O. , "Mithridates al VI-lea Eupator și coasta de vest a Pontului Euxin. În jurul unui decret inedit de la Histria.", <i>Pontica</i> , 30, 1997, 155-164
	Suceveanu A. , "Das römische Histria", <i>Xenia</i> , 25, 1990, 234-235

Webliography :

	Histria http://www.cimec.ro/Arheologie/web-histria/index_eng.htm
	Istros http://www.pontos.dk/publications/books/bbs4-files/BSS4_04_Avram.pdf

Glossary :

	basilica In ancient Roman architecture a large oblong type building used as hall of justice and public meeting place. The roman basilica served as a model for early Christian churches.
	emporion, the Places where trade was conducted, usually small settlements of urban character on the borders or along the coasts and the commercial routes. With the same term are characterized the trade districts, the markets outside the walls of a city and/or settlements being themselves trade centers.
	proconsul, -lis A quite high ranking official, vir spectabilis according to the rank of the senate, who was inequable only to the Domestikos of the Scholae and to the Magister Militum per Orientem. The proconsul usually served as a governor of the Imperial provinces (i.e. in Asia Minor the provinces of Asia and Cappadocia). The office was demoted from the 9th century onwards and the term was in use until the 12th century meaning a dignity.
	thermae



Histros/Histria (Antiquity)

Building complexes dated in the Roman Period housing the public baths. Within the building there were three rooms, the frigitarium, the tepidarium and the caldarium and several other facilities rooms. The Roman bath-houses were also used as meting places and they often included a palaestra and a gymnasium.

Sources

Herodotus, *Histories*, 2.3, 4.78

Diodorus Siculus, *Bibliotheca Historica*, 19.73.2-4

Strabo, *Geography*, 7.6.1

Aristotle, *Politics*, 8.5.1

Plinius Secundus, *Naturalis Historia*, 4.11.41, 12.78-79

Pomponius Mela, *De situ orbis libri*, II.2.22

Flavius Arrianus, *Periplous*, 24.2

Ptolemy, *Geography*, 3.10.3

Dio Cassius, *Roman History*, 38.10.3, 51.26.5

Eusebius, *Chronicles*, 95.4

Constantinos Porphyrogenitus, *De thematibus*, 47. 1. 58-60

Inscriptiones Scythiae minoris graecae et Latinae vol. I. Inscriptiones Histriae et Vicinae, D. M. Pippidi (ed), Bucuresti 1983