

DE L'ARCHÉOLOGIE À L'HISTOIRE

Mégarika

Nouvelles recherches sur Mégare,
les cités de la Propontide et du Pont-Euxin



ÉDITIONS DE BOCCARD

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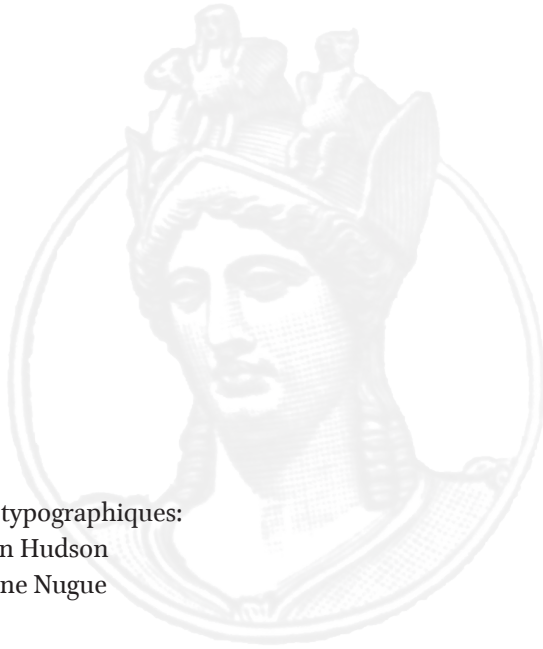
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avec le concours de Denis Knoepfler et Alexandru Avram

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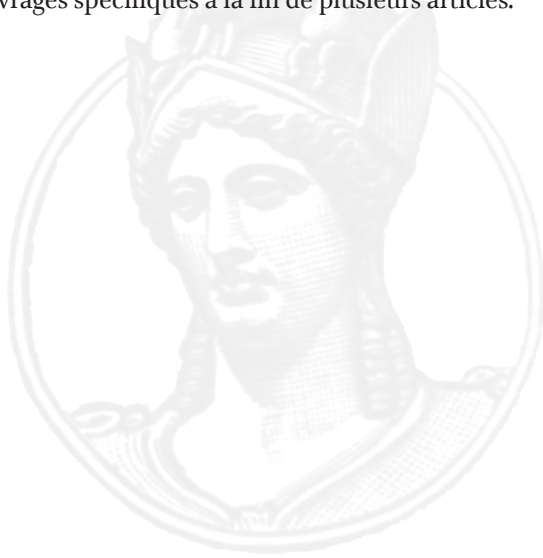
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Abréviations

Les abréviations de l'*Année philologique* sont utilisées pour les périodiques cités dans le volume. Les sigles des corpus épigraphiques sont ceux que propose le *Guide de l'épigraphiste*. On trouvera aussi une liste d'abréviations pour quelques ouvrages spécifiques à la fin de plusieurs articles.





Fortified Settlements in the Territory of Callatis (4th-3rd Centuries B.C.)

Nicolae ALEXANDRU*

The agricultural character of the Callatian economy was noted in the early 20th century¹. The main arguments invoked by researchers were the presence of the ear of wheat on the city's coins² and the fact that Demeter was one of the main deities of Callatis³. As was common in the Greek world, and especially in the Pontic area, the exploitation of the *chora* was not possible without defense and protection measures against Greek or Barbarian attacks. We propose in this study to examine the creation of fortified settlements in the territory of Callatis during the 4th and the 3th centuries B.C. The research is based on personal examination and study of all building structures still visible today. I plan to produce here the important points of a future archaeological map of the region, noting the role of the fortified settlements in the Callatian territory. The archaeological research confirms that the organization of the *chora* by the Greeks began in the early 4th century B.C.⁴ Indeed, the finds from Albești have shown that this fortified settlement was built in the first quarter of the 4th

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1 V. PÂRVAN, *Gerusia din Callatis* [*Callatis' Gerusia*], Bucharest, 1920, p. 5.

2 D.M. PIPPIDI, "Străinii de peste mări" ["The Foreigners Overseas"], in D.M. PIPPIDI, *Din istoria Dobrogei. Geți și greci la Dunărea de jos* [*History of Dobruđa. Getae and Greeks at the Lower Danube*], vol. I, Bucharest, 1965, p. 179.

3 V. PÂRVAN, *o.c.* (n. 1), p. 5.

4 A. AVRAM, "Untersuchungen zur Geschichte des Territoriums von Kallatis in griechischer Zeit", *Dacia* NS 35 (1991), p. 103-137; *id.*, "Les territoires d'Istros et de Callatis", in *Problemi della « chora » coloniale dall'Occidente al Mar Nero. Atti del quarantesimo convegno di studi sulla Magna Grecia (Taranto, 29 settembre-3 ottobre 2000)*, Taranto, 2001, p. 593-633; *id.*, "The Territories of Istros and Kallatis", in P. GULDAGER BILDE, V. STOLBA (eds.), *Surveying the Greek Chora. The Black Sea Region in a Comparative Perspective*, Aarhus, 2006, p. 59-80; *id.*, "Kallatis", in D.V. GRAMMENOS, E.K. PETROPOULOS (eds.), *Ancient Greek Colonies in the Black Sea 2*, vol. 1, Oxford, 2007 (*BAR International Series*, 1675), p. 239-286; *id.*, in *IScM* III, p. 11-22.

century B.C.⁵. During the Classical and Hellenistic periods the territory of Callatis was bordered to the north by Tuzla and Techirghiol lake, to the west by the settlements of Comana, Cotu-Văii, Vâlcele, Coroana, Tvărdica, Goričane, and on the seaside by Costinești, 23 August, 2 Mai, Vama-Veche and Șabla Cape.

There are 61 sites, from Prehistory up to the Middle ages, recorded until now ; 32 are of Classic and Hellenistic ages, from which 8 continued into the Roman time and 2 overlap the same area, but with a break between the 2nd and the 1st centuries B.C.⁶. Among these 32 archaeological sites identified, only three could have been fortified : Hagieni, Albești-Cetate and Coroana⁷. All three sites are located on the valley that goes down to the east into Mangalia Lake, continues to the west along the settlements Vârtop, Cotu-Văii, and to the south, along Coroana and Tvărdica (fig. 1).

In the forest of Hagieni, on the site named « Cascaia », research has identified an enclosure wall, which probably belonged to a settlement located in the natural amphitheater on the south shore of Mangalia Lake. The material found on the site dates the settlement between the 4th and 3rd centuries B.C. The northeastern corner is the only visible part of the fortification, and therefore the only one that could be recorded (figs. 2.1, 3.1). The wall has a width of 1.20 m. on the north side and 1.60 m. on the east side. It is built of massive limestone, blocks overlapping one on top of the other, without any binder or clamping systems. The existence of two L-shaped blocks has been noted in the wall composition, perhaps for stability. The blocks have the dimensions of the wall width. On the eastern side was recorded only the first block, now broken into three pieces, with dimensions of 1.60 m. x 1.20 m. x 0.55 m. The north side of the wall is visible on ca. 10 m., and the blocks have the same dimensions as the width of the fortified wall, namely 1.20 m.

The corner of the settlement defended by this wall was located right on the edge of a natural trench carved by water. This natural spring still flows into the present Mangalia Lake, and was probably the source of water supply for Callatis during Roman times.

- 5 Namely an amphora stamp from Heraclea Pontica 1st group : L. BUZOIANU, M. BĂRBULESCU, *Albești. Monografie arheologică [Albești. Archaeological Monograph]*, vol. I, Constanța, 2008, p. 140-143.
- 6 The inventory was done in 2007, thanks to the financial support of the Ministry of Culture and Cults from Romania. The research team consisted of N. Alexandru (chief scientist), M. Ionescu, R. Constantin and A. Alexiu. This remark is made only as regards the gathered archaeological material ; at this point no archaeological research has been carried out.
- 7 Two other fortifications are known from field survey, but about which we have no information, one at Coroana, NE from the modern village, identified by V. Georgescu. See : L. BUZOIANU, M. BĂRBULESCU, "Materiale arheologice elenistice recent descoperite în teritoriul callatian" ["Hellenistic Archaeological Material Recently found in the Callatian Territory"], *Peuce* 9 (2011), p. 460, and another one near the modern village of Moșneni, identified by M. Ionescu.

To the south and west, in an area of ca. 70 x 70 m., one can still observe massive limestone blocks with similar dimensions of those recorded in the enclosure wall. The researched area is located in a forest, and no archaeological material other than building structures has been found on the site. The dating of the settlement is based on the results of the survey led by Valeriu Georgescu in the 1980's.

To the east, on the edge of the naturally carved trench, one can notice an access way dug in natural rock, east-west oriented. It is possible that this was part of a road that connected the southern shore of Mangalia Lake to the Black Sea coast, or with other settlements from the south. This road might have connected this fortified location with other settlements surveyed by this *phourion*.

Another settlement discovered in the territory of Callatis is located at Coroana, about 2 km west of the village (fig. 3.2). The archeological surveys uncovered a wall with a width of 1.40 m, enclosing an area of ca. 50 x 50 m. The wall is built of massive blocks, of large dimensions on the outside and smaller ones on the inside. The size of the fortification and the type of masonry are similar to those of Albești. The ceramic material discovered at Coroana dates the site to the Hellenic period.

Otherwise, Albești is the only fortified rural settlement of Classical period in the territory of Callatis that has been systematically researched⁸. It is located 15 km west of Mangalia, on the south side of the valley that connects Mangalia Lake to the hinterland. Scholars have established three construction phases dating between the 4th century and the end of the 3rd century B.C.⁹. One of them was about 40 x 60 m.; the other two 40 x 40 m., with a 9 x 9 m. tower in the south-west corner¹⁰.

At Albești, the orientation of dwellings that have been investigated over the entire hill plateau differs in dependence from the fortified point or the valley orientation, such as : to the south of the fortification, there is either a north-south or east-west orientation, namely either perpendicular or parallel to the fortification ; to the west of the hill the dwelling's orientation was made following the valley, either SE-NW or SW-NE (fig. 4). Their dimensions were dif-

8 N. GEORGESCU, M. BĂRBULESCU, "Fazele de construcție ale fortificației de la Albești (jud. Constanța)" ["The Construction Phases of the fortress from Albești (Constanța Country)"], *Symposia Thracologica* 3 (1985), p. 78-80; A. RĂDULESCU, M. BĂRBULESCU, L. BUZOIANU, N. CHELUȚĂ-GEORGESCU, "Observații asupra sitului greco-autohton de la Albești (jud. Constanța)" ["Remarks on the Greco-Native Settlement from Albești (Constanța Country)"], *Pontica* 23 (1990), p. 23-28; L. BUZOIANU, M. BĂRBULESCU, o.c. (n. 5), *passim*. The entire plateau of the hill occupied by the Greek settlement has been divided into five sectors : A, B, C, D, E; and the archaeological research has been done by digging squares of 4 x 4 m. with a border of 1 m. between them, see : L. BUZOIANU, M. BĂRBULESCU, o.c. (n. 5), folder II.

9 L. BUZOIANU, M. BĂRBULESCU, o.c. (n. 5), p. 35-79.

10 The evolution of enclosures in Albești after new investigations is still debated : a new monographic volume is in preparation.

ferent : near the fortification they measure 6 x 13 m.¹¹, while on the west side of the plateau the dwellings are larger, 9 x 13 m., or even 9 x 20 m. On the western border of the plateau one can notice a 1.20 m wide wall built on the rock. In the southeastern corner this wall seems to bind to another one 1 m wide, in an east-west orientation. Since the thickness of the wall on this side corresponds to that of the eastern side, we might have in this part of the plateau another part of the fortification system, protected to the west and north by the ravine valley. A similar situation was found in the territory of the Tauric Chersonesos¹².

To sum up, the settlement that occupied the whole plateau was protected to the east and probably to the west by a wall enclosure, to the north by the ravine, while the access was made from the south, the only open side, on which the gates of the fortification were built (in all its construction phases). On the same side, at about 100 m. south of the valley edge, one can still notice a "vallum" oriented east-west, preserved to a height of 0.70 m. This probably protected the settlement area. Unfortunately, the modern roads hamper reliable research of the "vallum" (figs. 4 and 5.1).

This type of fortified settlement is well-known in the ancient Greek world¹³. In the management of colonies these settlements were part of a defensive strategy, while occupying new agricultural lands. The role of these fortifications was to survey and defend the agricultural territory and the trade roads connections.

In the case of the Albești fortification, where there is a 1.20-1.40 m wide wall, with a *pyrgos* in the southwestern corner, we are dealing probably with a *teichos* belonging to a *phrourodomos*, a garrison of the rural settlement. The existence of a *phourarchos* in the 3rd century B.C. in charge of defending the territory has also been assumed¹⁴. Therefore, these settlements were both fortified farms and military garrisons¹⁵. They bordered the *chora*, which was probably parceled on most of its surface, according to some inscriptions from the Roman period¹⁶. If we accept that the founding of Callatis took place at the end of the 5th century B.C., and the fortified settlement from Albești was already built in the first quarter of the 4th century B.C., we may assume that the territory was occupied and organized in this form from the very beginning of its existence.

11 In accordance with the plans published, see : L. BUZOIANU, M. BĂRBULESCU, *o.c.* (n. 5), folders II and XIX.

12 A. N. ŠČEGLOV, « Un établissement rural en Crimée : Panskoje I (fouilles de 1969-1985) », *DHA* 13, 1 (1987), p. 239 – 273.

13 S.P. MORRIS, J.K. PAPADOPOULOS, "Greek Towers and Slaves : An Archaeology of Exploitation", *AJA* 109, 2 (2005), p. 155-225 ; F. PESANDO, "La Casa dei Greci", *Biblioteca di Archeologia* 11 (2006), p. 151-160.

14 A. AVRAM, in *IScM* III, p. 438.

15 V.D. HANSON, *The Other Greeks*, Berkeley-Los Angeles-London, 1999, p. 403-404.

16 *IScM* III, 51-55, with bibliography.

The economic development of Callatis was at its high from the second half of the 4th century B.C. and during the 3rd century B.C., when its citizens played a central role in the political and military actions of the cities in Scythia Minor.

Otherwise, we should note that in the town of Callatis, the typical Greek houses of the 4th-3rd centuries B.C. consist of a courtyard, storerooms and basement. The ones built in the territory are smaller (ca. 6 x 13 m), and usually have only two rooms¹⁷. In the territory, archeological research has revealed dwellings inside fortifications, but also storerooms and dwellings inside the towers¹⁸.

The large number of dwellings of late Classical and Hellenistic ages would have been farm-type dwellings. One can note the wide spread of amphora finds, as well as of ceramics attributed to the Getae, in settlements on the coast and inside the territory at Albești-“Cetate”, Arsa and Pecineaga, probably all three villages (*komai*) of the Callatian *chora*. The rural dwellings of late Classic and Hellenistic ages are concentrated on the shores of the Mangalia Lake, and on the valley of a small river flowing into the lake, now dried up (fig. 5.3). The dwellings around the above-mentioned valley were similar to those reported in Cyrene, where the valleys were the main agricultural lands due to their high fertility¹⁹. During the medieval age, the villages located in all these valleys also depended on the water supply. Therefore water sources together with a high concentration of fertile lands made the valleys an excellent location for the settlements both in antiquity and the Middle Ages.

Some of the rivers that might have been in the area have now vanished. However, maps and travelling notes for the XVth-XVIIIth centuries mention a river with two or maybe three subsidiaries, which may have established the valleys that today run from the Mangalia Lake to the south and west²⁰. All ancient settlements have been discovered along these valleys; therefore, it would be safe to assume that at one point these were existing rivers. The rivers would have been used both as water resources and navigation routes to and from Callatis.

In conclusion, the archeological research proves that the Greeks of Callatis built a solid system of defense and administration of the territory. The fortified settlements in the *chora* served as shields in the defense structures against the local tribes as well as trading centers. The last purpose is proven by the large quantity of amphorae discovered at Albești²¹. Consequently, these settlements can be considered as trade points.

17 N. ALEXANDRU, R. CONSTANTIN, M. IONESCU, “Callatis : stratigrafie, topografie și urbanism” [“Callatis : Stratigraphy, Topography, and Town Planning”], *Pontica* 45 (2012), p. 444-445, and pl. 7-8.

18 L. BUZOIANU, M. BĂRBULESCU, o.c. (n. 5), folder II.

19 A. LARONDE, “Greeks and Libyans in Cyrenaica”, in J.-P. DESCŒUDRES (ed.), *Greek Colonists and Native Populations*, Canberra-Oxford, 1990, p. 169-180.

20 L. RADU, “Toponimie dobrogeană, Callatis-Pangalia-Mangalia” [“Toponymy of Dobruđa, Callatis-Pangalia-Mangalia”], *Peuce* II (2013), p. 232-236, see figs. 1-4.

21 L. BUZOIANU, M. BĂRBULESCU, o.c. (n. 5), p. 125-384.

The settlements in the Callatian territory were built and administered by the city-specific institutions created especially for this purpose. It is very possible that the settlements also hosted a military garrison. Moreover, the size of the Albesti fortification let us believe that in the case of a military conflict, the residents in the both settlement and the territory could have been accommodated between the walls (see the **fig. 1** for the limits of the Callatian territory). The position of the fortifications clearly indicates their defensive role. Their location on the riverbeds places them in strategic points possibly on the roads that enter the territory, and allowed the city to maintain tight control—not only military, but also commercial—over the *chora*.

FIGURES

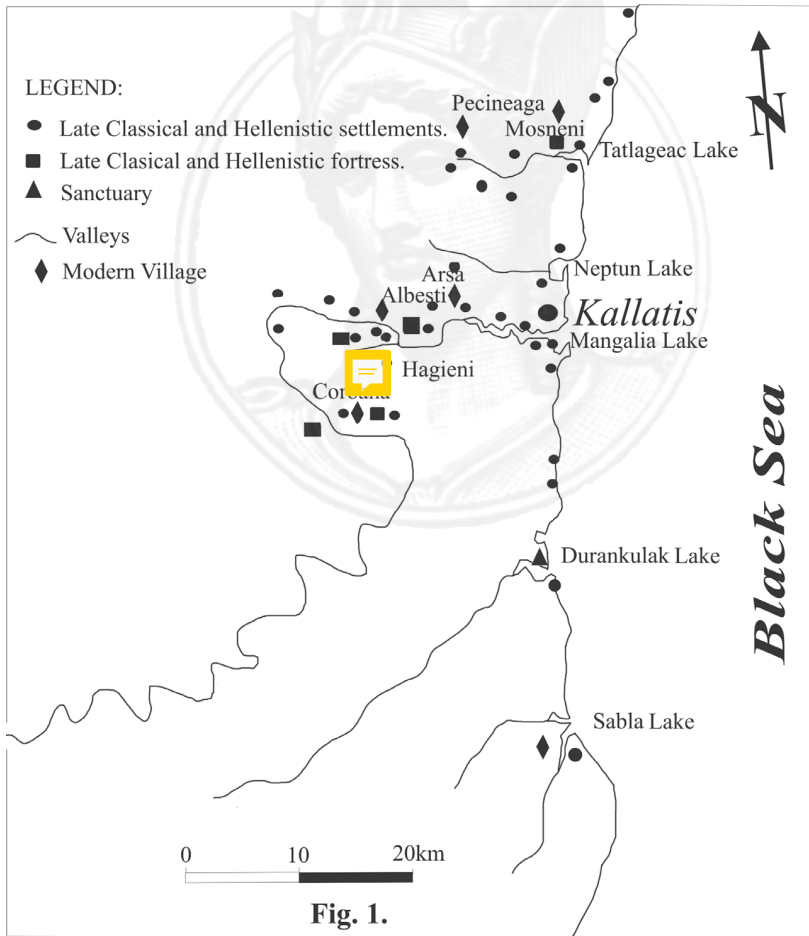


Fig. 1: Territory of Callatis.

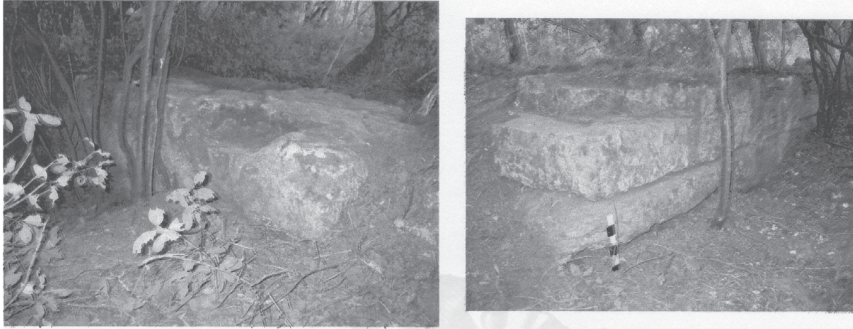
**Fig. 3.1****Fig. 3.2**

Fig. 3.1 : Hagieni fortification. Photograph N. Alexandru.
Fig. 3.2 : Coroana fortification. Photograph N. Alexandru.

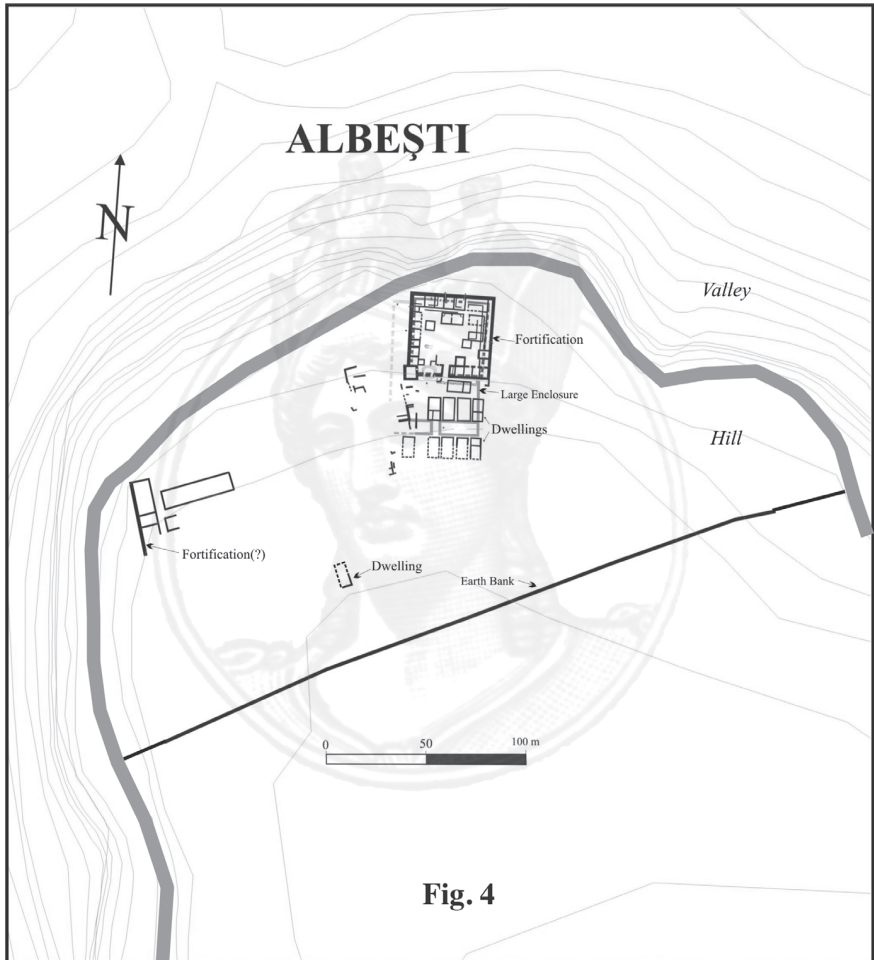


Fig. 4

Fig. 4 : Albești. Plan of the settlement.

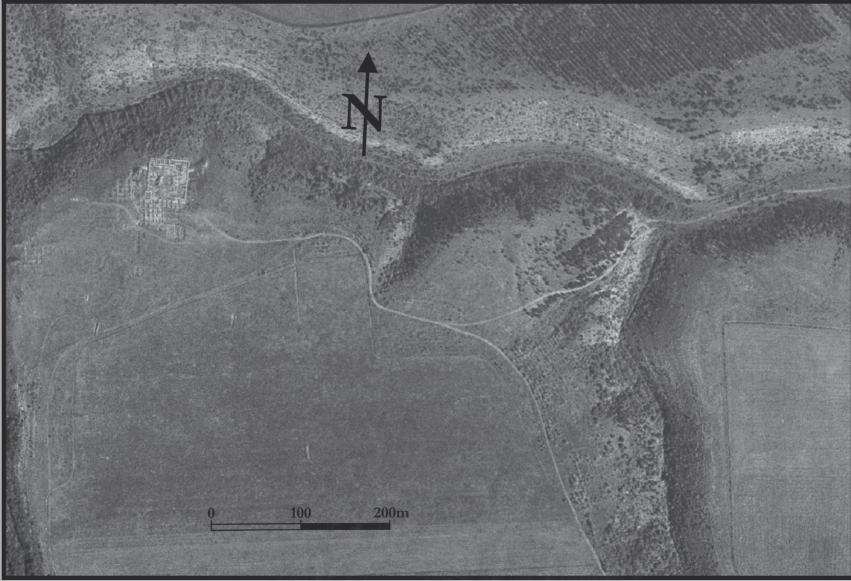
**Fig. 5.1****Fig. 5.2****Fig. 5.3**

Fig. 5.1 : Albești orthophotomap.

Fig. 5.2 : Albești fortification.

Fig. 5.3 : Valley in the territory of Callatis.

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Mégarika réunit les actes d'un colloque international qui s'est tenu en 2012 à Mangalia, l'antique Callatis. Il vise à faire connaître les résultats des recherches récentes menées sur Mégare et les établissements mégariens de la Propontide et du Pont-Euxin. Ce sont en effet des cités pour lesquelles la documentation archéologique reste maigre, notamment parce qu'elles n'ont pas cessé d'être occupées depuis l'Antiquité. Néanmoins, les fouilles récentes ont livré des données nouvelles sur l'urbanisme, les institutions, les pratiques funéraires et épigraphiques des Mégariens. Les documents exhumés méritent d'être examinés dans le cadre plus large de la colonisation mégarienne, afin de mieux comprendre les échanges et transferts culturels entre métropole et colonies. Quant aux recherches sur le monde colonial, l'enquête porte en particulier sur Callatis, cité qui conserve un important héritage mégarien et dont les ressortissants furent très actifs à l'étranger. Plusieurs articles du volume enrichissent nos connaissances sur l'histoire, le territoire, les cultes et le monnayage de Callatis ; des inscriptions inédites et de nouvelles statues sont également publiées.

Illustration de couverture : stèle anépigraphie en marbre de Mégare.
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