

# Introduction

The purpose of this volume is to contribute to the cartographic calculations for the *poleis* which appear in Ptolemy regarding Dacia, in the effort to reach a better representation of Dacia, in general, and of the Roman province of Dacia, in particular.<sup>1</sup> The calculations done by others and the studies that I am aware of will be included in the volume.

As a member of the Balkan History Association, and author of several articles in its *Hiperborea Journal*, I was honoured to receive the support to pursue this subject from the Association. The main purpose of this study is not to argue on any historical or archaeological grounds, but rather to estimate positions and do the calculations and only afterwards find possible archaeological matches.

Some of the *poleis* will be taken as references, since they are already clearly established. This is the case of Porolissum, for instance, for the northern array of the Ptolemaic *poleis* in Dacia.

I consider this study preliminary because the Ptolemaic values need much further attention, more than I can propose here. This book represents a necessary starting point for possible future debates, which will strengthen or, on the contrary, will question some paths opened here.

Mapping a region of the Ptolemaic map in modern coordinates is a difficult task. The local patterns can suffer secondary alterations, as already acknowledged by other studies.<sup>2</sup> The map of Ptolemy gathers

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<sup>1</sup> Csaba Szabó, “The Map of Roman Dacia in the Recent Studies,” *Journal of Ancient History and Archeology* 1 (2014): 44-51.

<sup>2</sup> A. Stückelberger et al., *Claudius Ptolemaeus' Handbook of Geography* (Basel: Schwabe Verlag, 2009). Evangelos Livieratos, Angeliki Tsorlini, and Chryssoula Boutoura, “Coordinate analysis of Ptolemy’s Geographia Europe Tabula X with respect to geographic graticule and point positioning in a Ptolemaic late 15<sup>th</sup> century map,” *e-Perimetron*, Vol. 2, No. 2, Spring, 2007, 80-91, accessed May 7, 2018, [https://www.researchgate.net/publication/266242744\\_Coordinate\\_analysis\\_of\\_Ptolemy's\\_Geographia\\_Europe\\_Tabula\\_X\\_with\\_respect\\_to\\_geographic\\_graticule\\_and\\_point\\_positioning\\_in\\_a\\_Ptolemaic\\_late\\_15\\_th\\_century\\_map](https://www.researchgate.net/publication/266242744_Coordinate_analysis_of_Ptolemy's_Geographia_Europe_Tabula_X_with_respect_to_geographic_graticule_and_point_positioning_in_a_Ptolemaic_late_15_th_century_map). C.

regional “patches,”<sup>3</sup> so we need to approximate a suitable framework for Dacia, and find reasonable solutions. This is what I am trying to do in this study, for Dacia, in conjunction with some relevant neighbouring areas, such as the southern bank of the Danube, and some locations east of Dacia proper. This study will not reject, but invite further discussions. The strongest results in the study include, however, some remarkable matches with the archaeological evidences.

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<sup>3</sup> J. Lennart Berggren and Alexander Jones, *Ptolemy's Geography: An Annotated Translation of the Theoretical Chapters* (Princeton and Oxford: Princeton University Press, 2000). R. Darcy and W. Flynn, “Ptolemy's map of Ireland: a modern decoding,” *Irish Geography* 41(1) (2008): 49-69, doi: 10.1080/00750770801909375, [https://www.researchgate.net/publication/233191569\\_Ptolemy's\\_map\\_of\\_Ireland\\_A\\_modern\\_decoding](https://www.researchgate.net/publication/233191569_Ptolemy's_map_of_Ireland_A_modern_decoding). Abshire Corey et al., “Ptolemy's Britain and Ireland: A New Digital Reconstruction,” in *Proceedings of the 2017 International Cartographic Conference*, Washington D.C., 2017, accessed 07.03.2019, 2:42 p.m., <http://pervokarta.ru/wash.pdf>. C. Marx and F. Neitzel. “Deformation analysis and regional adaptation of a historical geodata inventory,” in *Entwicklerforum Geoinformationstechnik*, Junge Wissenschaftler forschen (Aachen: Shaker Verlag, 2007), 243-255.