The Roman legionary fortress of Novae, once the headquarters for the 1st Italic legion (Legio I Italica) in the province of Moesia inferior, lies in northern Bulgaria, not far from modern Svištov, on the right bank of the Danube. Excavations have been in progress for more than 50 years now.¹

The year 2012 (1 August – 9 November) marks the second campaign of fieldwork at the new Sector 12, in the right latus praetorii, east of the principia, south of the via principalis (Fig. 1) on the premises of the fortress.² The most important task here is to establish what sort of structure was located at Novae close to the headquarters building. According to a standard Roman fortress layout, either the praetorium, the houses of the immunes³ or legionary barracks should be located here, possibly those housing the first cohort.⁴

The excavated area (Fig. 1) reaches westwards up to the east wall of the principia, which was excavated earlier not far from here,⁵ and the adjoining street dividing the scannum from north to south. During the 2012 campaign, a surface of around 350 m² was uncovered, resulting in a total of 700 m² of excavated terrain at Sector 12. Virgin soil occurs at a depth of about 3 m here, which is far less than in the northern part of the camp, where the earliest building phases lie well more than 6 m below the surface. In effect, the density of the various phases is higher and so is unfortunately the level of destruction. Therefore, the layout of the architecture is more difficult to read. Still, a number of features can already be distinguished with fair certainty.

The way running along the eastern outer wall of the principia was uncovered in its entire width of 4 m.⁶ Through its middle runs a water pipeline. The earliest remains discovered date back to the presence of the 8th Augustan legion in Novae (ca. AD 45–69). Numerous post holes from wooden structures were found all over the trench. From this period, several amphorae with dipinti were found,
Fig. 1. Novae. Sector 12, view from the south (Photo M. Lemke).
Ryc. 1. Novae. Odcinek 12, widok z południa.

Fig. 2. Amphora with a dipinto stating the contents as raisins (Photo J. Reclaw).
Ryc. 2. Amfora z dipinto określającym zawartość jako rodzynki.
mostly in garbage pits, a regular occurrence linked with army logistics. A particularly interesting one (Fig. 2) contained raisins (uvae passae). Interestingly, the dipinto was written in Latin on an amphora of Eastern provenience. A considerable number of terra sigillata sherds was also found. Among these is a number of Italic sigillata from the first half of the 1st c. (Fig. 3), including an ink pot with remains from the actual ink.

After this “earth and timber” phase, the terrain was prepared anew and stone buildings were erected. The walls were made of limestone, sandstone and lime mortar. Two sewage channels constructed during this time and first excavated in 2011 were further explored. Both run along a N-S axis and towards the River Danube.

An interesting third water channel (Fig. 4) runs along the eastern side of the trench, passing under several walls. It was laid out with ceramic tiles, mostly with stamps of the 1st legion, but interestingly also with a number of stamps from the legio XI Claudia. Apparently, the channel was initially built after the arrival of the legio Italica during the Flavian reign and later repaired, when possibly a detachment of the 11th legion stayed at Novae, quite likely soon after arriving in the province during Trajan’s Dacian wars. The function of the principal building from the “stone phase” has yet to be established with certainty. Out of the three options mentioned above – praetorium, houses of the immunes and legionary barracks, none can be given clear preference yet. Given the somewhat elaborate waterworks traces of a small latrine and several adjoining small rooms in the northern part it is clear however, that if these should be barracks, then the structure currently excavated would be the centurion’s house, which in turn would be proof that the barracks were oriented along the N-S axis, parallel to the principia. The discovery of a number of medical tools also suggests another possibility: the scamnum in

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8 The author expresses his gratitude to Prof. A. Lajtar (Institute of Archaeology, University of Warsaw) for his comments on the dipinti.
9 T. SARNOWSKI, Zur Truppengeschichte der Dakerkriege Trajans.

question may have housed the immunes, soldiers of various assignments exempt from the duties of a common soldier.\textsuperscript{11} The medics were also ranked among the immunes and accordingly may have lived in those quarters. An identification on the sole basis of the assemblage of medical tools is obviously extremely tentative, but at least the fact that the immunes’ quarters were usually located in the \textit{scannum} east of the \textit{principia}\textsuperscript{12} supports this thesis. Either way, the set of rooms running along the \textit{via principalis} appears to have been \textit{tabernae}, a usual occurrence in legionary forts.\textsuperscript{13}

Towards the end of the 3\textsuperscript{rd} c., we see traces of civilian life at Sector 12, just like at most other parts of the fortress. In this case, a glass kiln (Fig. 5) and numerous finds of slag are proof that a glass workshop existed here. A small

\setcounter{footnote}{11}
\footnote{H. von Petrikovits, \textit{Die Innenbauten...}, 43–50; A. v. Domaszewski, \textit{Die Rangordnung des Römischen Heeres}, Bonn 1908, 3–5, 45. These soldiers, however, would also fight in battles, see: J. Roth, \textit{The Logistics of the Roman Army at War (264 B.C. – A.D. 235)}, Leiden 1999, 91.}

\setcounter{footnote}{12}
\footnote{H. von Petrikovits, \textit{Die Innenbauten...}, 60.}

\setcounter{footnote}{13}
\footnote{H. von Petrikovits, \textit{Die Innenbauten...}, 96.}
Fig. 5. Late antique glass kiln (Photo J. Recław).
Ryc. 5. Późnoantyczny piec szklarski.

Fig. 6. Late antique portico (Photo M. Lemke).
Ryc. 6. Portyk późnoantyczny.
2012 r. przeprowadzono drugą kampanię wykopaliskową na odcinku 12, w prawym latus praetorii po wschodniej stronie principia, na południe od via principalis (Ryc. 1). W tym miejscu, zgodnie ze standardowym planem rzymskiego obozu wojskowego, powinno się znajdować praetorium, koszary dla immunes lub też baraki I kohorty. Do tej pory badania nie pozwalają jednak na wskazanie, jaką funkcję pełniły odsłonięte konstrukcje.

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Near the current southern edge of the fieldwork area, also lies a late antique portico (Fig. 6). Five bases for columns have been unearthed so far. Capitals and bases were used and set on square slabs of stone. This late antique portico was obviously built from material gathered in the ruins of the principia, but the exact date of construction is not known yet. The bases are quite monumental, but since both solid substructures for them as well as traces of an equally large building are lacking, one should assume that there were no columns standing on top, much less a roof, and the portico either was never finished or had a rather “flat ornamental” character.

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**Wykopaliska w Novae w 2012 r.**

W 2012 r. przeprowadzono drugą kampanię wykopaliskową na odcinku 12, w prawym latus praetorii po wschodniej stronie principia, na południe od via principalis (Ryc. 1). W tym miejscu, zgodnie ze standardowym planem rzymskiego obozu wojskowego, powinno się znajdować praetorium, koszary dla immunes lub też baraki I kohorty. Dotychczasowe badania nie pozwalają jednak na wskazanie, jaką funkcję pełniły odsłonięte konstrukcje. Odkryto obiekty należące do pozostałości architektonicznych po legionie VIII Augusta (stacjonującym tu od ok. 45 do 69 roku n.e.), jak i późniejsze, wybudowane już przez legion I Italiski, oraz w III w. przez cywili. Spośród tych ostatnich warto wymienić piec szklarski (Ryc. 5), który – wraz z licznymi fragmentami szlaki – świadczy o lokalnej produkcji szkła. Uchwycono także wschodni mur principia oraz wykonano przekrój przez ulicę rozdzielającą od wschodu komendanturę od struktur na odcinku 12. W jego południowej części kontynuowano eksplorację pięciokolumnowego portyku późnantycznego (Ryc. 6) – odkryto tu m.in. bazy i kapitele kolumn, z pewnością zebrane z ruin principia; charakter i dokładne datowanie tej konstrukcji nie są jeszcze ustalone.

Do interesujących znalezisk sezonu 2012 należą natomiast: amfora z dipinto (Ryc. 2) oraz terra sigillata ze stemplem producenta (Ryc. 3).