

## Elite societies on display within military zones

This paper revises evidence for upper classes and civilian administration within the *canabae legionis* of the Pannonian legionary garrisons with special focus on families from the Brigetio *canabae* and civilian settlement.

Despite the apparent clear division between civilian and military life constituted by the walls of the legionary fortress it has gradually become evident that the situation was not that simple. The *canabae* was in many ways a grey area between the two spheres. In terms of formal management, the area of control of the legion reached well beyond the walls. However, inscriptions on monuments and altars as well as from funerary contexts give testimony to civilian administration within the *canabae* settlements.

From the mid 2<sup>nd</sup> century in Brigetio we get examples of soldiers obtaining positions in or maybe even establishing a local *ordo* upon emission from the legion. As both veteran families and civilian families came to take part in the running of the *canabae* and nearby civilian settlement it is compelling evidence for the close connections between men enrolled or formerly enrolled in the legion and the surrounding society. This must have created a local elite that by no means could compare to the top brass of the empire living in the officers mansions inside the fortress. Nevertheless, this was where the young men, who were to govern the empire, got their first-hand experience of the actual empire. It gives an interesting outlook of how the empire influenced and was influenced through interaction at its outermost rims.