

Abstract

The aim of this thesis is to make a comprehensive interpretation of Roman military river boats from the 1st – 4th century A.D. which will be mainly oriented on the direct archaeological findings of these ships. To better understand the function and the use of the boats, the first chapter will present various military units that commanded their own flotillas, whereby commentary will be predominantly focused on the river fleets. The core of this thesis will be devoted to the issue of military river boats. In the introduction of the second part of this work, we will firstly present historical sources which will help us with the study of these boats. Based on the detailed analysis of these valuable artefacts we will show the partial typological development of the boats as well as the development of Roman shipbuilding methods and techniques. In the last chapter, the interpretation of the Roman military river boats will be supplemented with the ships known only from the written and iconographical sources as well as with sea ships which could have been operated on the rivers too. The aim of the last part will be to compare sea boats with river boats and fleets stressing the importance of those operated on rivers.

Keywords

Roman river boats, Roman army, river fleets, Mainz, Oberstimm, Zwammerdam, Trajan's column