

## FELIX ROMULIANA – THE RESIDENCE NEITHER ON SKY NOR ON EARTH

Felix Romuliana is the residence of the Gaius Galerius Valerius Maximianus August, the Roman emperor, who ruled at the time of Tetrarchy. It was built at the end of the third and beginning of the fourth century, possibly in Galerius's birthplace, in the east of today's Serbia, and named after his mother, Romula. The complex consists of a fortification, in which there are two temples, two palaces, terme and a barn, while in the east of a residential part, on a hill called Magura, there is a sacral-funeral complex consisting of two Mausoleums, two Tumulus, Tetrapylon and one insufficiently researched and unpublished construction, of uncertain purposes. Felix Romuliana is one of the last monuments of Roman architecture, in connection with classical Roman polytheism. Very soon after its construction, the new religion will make a radical desacralization of the sky. The Sun, Moon, Stars and Planets, which until then had the significance of Numine Divine (signs of the will of gods), will become ordinary chests of matter, which are driven only by the will of the new, only God. According to Ovide and his work *Fasti (Libri Fastorum)*, Roman holidays were determined by observing the raise and set of certain celestial bodies. Felix Romuliana is far from Rome, and it was not expected that the announcement of a high Roman clergy would arrive there on time. In addition, the Gallery was a Roman emperor, but it was not of Roman origin: his father, whose name was not preserved, was Tracian, and the mother Romula was Dacian. This leads to the following question: if someone in the Felix Romuliana was able to determine the Roman holidays by observing the Sun, the Moon and the stars, the influence of local astronomical knowledge or local traditions may be expected. This work will show that the observation of the Sun, the Moon and the stars could be systematically carried out at the site, and that it is very likely that the holidays were so determined. In addition, there is an indication that some astronomical phenomena, which were of no significance in the Roman religion, were also observed, and that there were traces of local knowledge and belief.

**Key words:** Archaeoastronomy, Felix Romuliana, Galerius, Romula, roman holydays, groma