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Cover: The column shaft with low-relief, depicting god Mercury, discovered on the western part of the Roman town at Napoca (10 Episcop Ioan Bob St.).

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FOREWORD

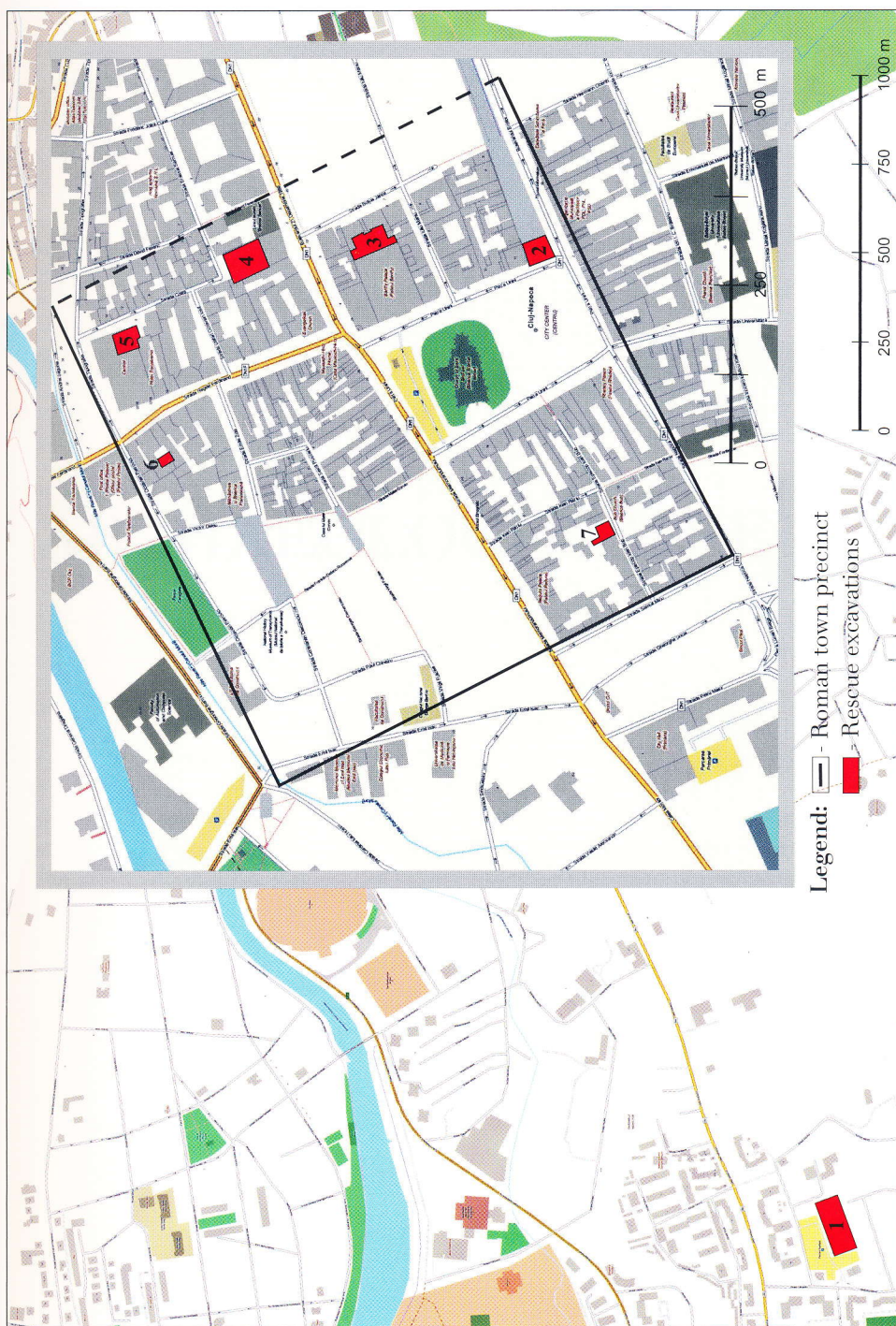
According to the ICOM statute, the museum is the owner of the collections which it acquires, administers based on recognized methods, *studies*, preserves and exhibits based on a well established schedule (ICOM, statute of 14.06.1974, see C. Lapaire, *Kleines Handbuch für Museumskunde*, Bern 1983). The National History Museum of Transylvania counts on 22 archaeologists, the majority expert archaeologists, while a significant part of the museum's research activity is represented by archaeological excavations, both systematic and preventive. The Museum is the institution conducting archaeological research, coordinating the excavations carried out on the systematic archaeological sites at *Colonia Dacica Sarmizegetusa*, *Sarmizegetusa Regia*, Costești-Blidaru (Huneodara county), *Apulum*-Alba Iulia (Alba county), *Samum*-Cășeu, Țaga, Bologa, Luna (Cluj county), Cetatea Zânelor, Covasna (Covasna county) and having specialists involved in the teams working on other large archaeological sites like those at *Histria* (Constanța county) and *Potaissa*-Turda (Cluj county). The institution is provided with the necessary logistics and specialists to conduct and coordinate systematic archaeological sites, but also rescue excavations, which are also a significant part of the archaeological research. For instance, only in 2013, the Museum has carried no less than 28 such preventive archaeological investigations on the territory of Cluj-Napoca city and in Cluj county.

This volume is the result of such research carried out by the specialists of our Museum in Cluj-Napoca city over the last two decades. The editorial team decided to print a separate number of the journal *Acta Musei Napocensis*, seria *Archaeologica*, comprising the results of such excavations only, owing to the major scientific interest enjoyed by any research designed to bring forward new data on *Colonia Aurelia Napoca*, the Roman town overlapped almost entirely by medieval and modern buildings, as well as the prehistory of this area. If excavations inside or the immediate vicinity of the Roman town are predictable from the results' point of view, those performed outside may be spectacular and have unexpected results, like those on street Câmpului no. 9-19 (on the current location of "Kaufland" supermarket), revealing a new Hallstatt settlement, of which nothing was known prior the commencement of the archaeological works. On the other hand, most of the articles in this volume scientifically use the results of the preventive archaeological investigations performed inside the Roman town at Napoca. Thus, they are focused on the north-eastern side of the ancient settlement (Regele Ferdinand St. no. 29; "Central" Store - extension on the southern side; B-dul 21 Decembrie 1989 no. 5 - extension of "Sora" store), in the central part (the research in the Museum of Art courtyard), on the south-eastern side (B-dul Eroilor no. 1, no. 9-11) and nearby its western side (Episcop Ioan Bob St. no. 10). Each of these archaeological excavations presented herein will undoubtedly contribute in the improvement of the image on the urban evolution of the Roman town at Napoca, which may be reconstructed with the aid of archaeology only.

Concurrently, the heritage of the National History Museum of Transylvania has been constantly enriched with artifacts yielded by such archaeological research, of either *small finds* type or with stone monuments, like the god Mercury's depiction on a votive column found following the excavations performed on street Episcop Ioan Bob no. 10.

This journal number is novel and initiates the series of numbers dedicated to the publication of the results of the archaeological research carried out by the specialists of our Museum.

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Pl. I*. The plan of the city Cluj-Napoca, with the location of the rescue excavations: 1. Câmpului St. nos. 9-19; 2. Eroilor Blvd., nos. 9-11, 11; 3. Art Museum courtyard; 4. 21 Decembrie 1989 Blvd., no. 5 ("Sora" supermarket extension); 5. "Central" store extension; 6. Regele Ferdinand St., no. 29; 7. Episcop Ioan Bob St., no. 10.