# SERBIAN ACADEMY OF SCIENCES AND ARTS INSTITUTE FOR BALKAN STUDIES

# BALCANICA XLIV

ANNUAL OF THE INSTITUTE FOR BALKAN STUDIES

# Editor DUŠAN T. BATAKOVIĆ Director of the Institute for Balkan Studies SASA

Editorial Board
FRANCIS CONTE (Paris), DJORDJE S. KOSTIĆ, LJUBOMIR MAKSIMOVIĆ,
DANICA POPOVIĆ, GABRIELLA SCHUBERT (Jena), BILJANA SIKIMIĆ,
ANTHONY-EMIL TACHIAOS (Thessaloniki), NIKOLA TASIĆ,
SVETLANA M. TOLSTAJA (Moscow)

BELGRADE 2013

### Vladimir P. Petrović

Institute for Balkan Studies Serbian Academy of Sciences and Art Belgrade

# Vojislav Filipović

Archaeological Institute, Belgrade

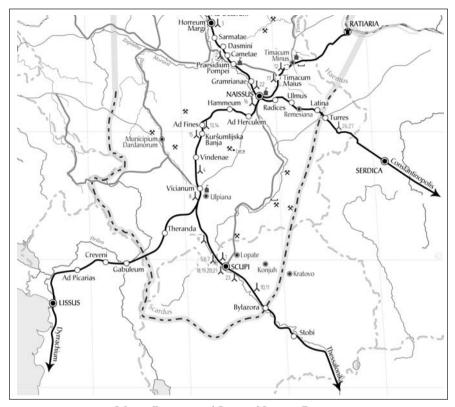
DOI: 10.2298/BALC1344035P Original scholarly work

# Epigraphic and Archaeological Evidence Contributing to Identifying the Location and Character of Timacum Maius

Abstract: Systematic archaeological excavation in the area of the village of Niševac near Svrljig, southeast Serbia, of a Roman settlement site, possibly Timacum Maius station on the main Roman road Lissus-Naissus-Ratiaria connecting the Adriatic and the Danube, has been going on for five years. Epigraphic and etymological analysis of an inscription dedicated to Hera Sonketene (dat. "Ηρα Σονκητηνῆ) provides evidence for the possible balneological character of the entire area of Timacum Maius, which was geomorphologically similar to and connected by a road network with the Thracian region of Denteletika centred on Pautalia, where the dedicant, Tiberius Claudius Theopompus served as strategos. The archaeological evidence complements the conclusions suggested by the epigraphic material. The recently discovered secondcentury Roman structure furnished with a hypocaust system using perforated circular-sectioned pebble-filled ceramic tubuli for heating the floors and outer walls of the building may have served a balneal purpose. A sizeable Roman bathhouse, with remains of two pools and two rooms with a hypocaust and ceramic tubuli, has also been partially explored. In the broader area of Svrljig Valley (near the village of Prekonoga), a luxurious Roman villa with a marble hexagon, numerous rooms and a bath, recently subjected to a rescue excavation, has been completely cleared and recorded. The first geophysical survey on the Timacum Maius site has also been undertaken.

**Keywords**: Lissus–Naissus–Ratiaria road, Timacum Maius, inscription dedicated to Hera Sonketene, Pautalia, geomorphology, newly-discovered structural remains, geophysical survey

The ancient past of the Svrljig area, southeast Serbia, has been an object of interest for many curious persons and antiquity lovers, such as famous Felix Kanitz (1986: 350), but also for renowned historians, art historians, culturologists and archaeologists. The work of Djurdje Bošković and Petar Petrović provided a solid basis for embarking on archaeological research (Bošković 1951: 221-244; Petrović 1968: 55-61, 1976: 43-56, 1992: 121-132). In the area of the village of Niševac near Svrljig, systematic archaeological excavation has been going on for five years on an ancient Roman settlement site, possibly the station Timacum Maius on the major Roman road leading from Lissus via Naissus to Ratiaria or, in other words, from the Adriatic Coast via the central Balkans to the Danube (Petrović



Map I Roman road Lissus-Naissus-Ratiaria

2007: 81–95)¹ (Map 1). Once the Romans consolidated their grip on the Balkans and the Empire's border on the Danube, this important route, built for military purposes in the first century AD, increasingly assumed economic significance, especially for transporting ores and metals from the Balkans to Italy and other parts of the Empire (Petrović 2008: 31–40). The Lissus–Naissus–Ratiaria road, the shortest link between the Adriatic ports and the Danube, is shown in the famous Roman road map, the *Tabula Peutingeriana*. On the section of the road between Naissus and the Danube through modern-day Serbia, the map records two stations and inter-station distances: Timacum Maius and Timacum Minus. Their possible locations have been a subject of much scholarly debate over the years. Since the *Ta*-

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> The archaeological investigation has been carried out by the Belgrade-based Institute for Balkan Studies and is funded by the Ministry of Culture and Information of the Republic of Serbia, the Municipality of Svrljig, and the Centre for Tourism, Culture and Sport of Svrljig. Since 2013 it has been carried out jointly by the Institute for Balkan Studies and the Bordeaux-based Ausonius Institute as part of a Serbo-French research project.

bula Peutingeriana records the distance of 27 Roman miles between Naissus and Timacum Maius, and only 10 miles between two Timacum stations, we have already proposed a correction to the map which consists in moving a tenner from the section between Naissus and Timacum Maius to the section Timacum Maius - Timacum Minus. In this way, the data from the map would tally with the situation in the field (Petrović & Filipović 2008: 29-43). It now seems quite certain that Timacum Minus was the fortified base of the 2nd Dardanian cohort near the village of Ravna not far from Knjaževac (Petrović 1995). Locating Timacum Maius, however, has been a much knottier issue. Yet, there is a growing body of evidence — e.g. the inscribed votive ara of a Thracian strategos dedicated to Hera Sonketene (Ἡρα Σονκητηνῆ) from the Svrljig fort ( $\overline{IMS}$  III/2, n° 101 =  $\overline{SEG}$  45, 953); a votive ara dedicated to Jupiter (Iuppiter Optimus Maximus) from the village of Niševac (IMS IV, n° 62); the milestone of Trebonianus Gallus from the village of Plužine (IMS IV, nº 127); visible structural remains, plentiful fortuitous finds and above all, the results of archaeological surveys and excavations — suggesting that the Roman settlement near the village of Niševac on the edge of Svrljig Valley may be identified as Timacum Maius (Petrović & Filipović 2008: 29–43; Petrović, Filipović & Milivojević 2012: 73–112).

Before presenting the results of the latest excavation campaign, it would be useful to take a more detailed look at the epigraphic evidence which may provide a clue to the character of the Roman settlement near Niševac and its contacts with neighbouring Thrace. Namely, the most illuminating of all known inscriptions from

HPAEON KHT H N H T I  $\cdot$  K A A Y  $\Delta$  I  $\langle$  KYPEINA  $\Theta$ EO  $\Gamma$  O M  $\Gamma$  O  $\Sigma$   $\Theta$ E O  $\Gamma$  O M  $\Gamma$  D FP A T H  $\Gamma$  O  $\Sigma$  A  $\Sigma$  T I K H  $\Sigma$  T P EINH  $\Sigma$  A D T I K H  $\Sigma$  O PEINH  $\Sigma$  A E P I P I O P I T I K H  $\Sigma$   $\Gamma$  D FI T I F I O P I

Fig. 1 Svrljig, altar dedicated to Hera Sonketene (dat. "Ηρφ Σονκητηνή)

the Svrljig area is the aforementioned altar dedicated to Hera bearing the extremely rare epithet Sonketene: Ἡρα Σονκητηνῆ Τι(βέριος) Κλαύδιο[ς] | Κυρείνα Θεόπομπος Θεοπόμπ[ου] | στρατηγὸς Ἀστικῆς περὶ Πέ|ρινθον Σηλητικῆς Ὀρεινῆς Δενθε | $^5$  [λ]ητικῆς Πε[δι]ασίας χαριστήριον. The epithet is of Thracian origin and, based on an etymological analysis, it is an ethnicon derived from a local toponym, \*Σονκητα (Duridanov 1989: 106; 1995: 825). The similar Thracian religious practice of attaching an ethnicon to deities has been attested in a number of various and well-known examples. The

 $<sup>^2</sup>$  Cf. e.g. the dedication IGBulg III,  $_1$  980 [θ]ε $\tilde{\alpha}$  "Ηρ $\alpha$  Αρτακηνη > from Άρτάκη (Hdt.) Artace (Plin.). (Duridanov 1989: 97); also, Apollo with the epithet Καρσηνος > IGBulg I 378; SEG 53:643,  $_1$  derived from the toponym Καρσος (Hierokl. Syn.) Καρσώ (Prok.) Carsion (Rav.) (Scyth. Minor); Κελληνος – ethnicon (IGBulg III,  $_1$  1520 Αὐρ(ήλιος) Μουκιανὸς Δινεος ... Κελληνος) and the epithet of the deity (hero): IGBulg III,  $_1$  1519 θε $\tilde{\alpha}$  "Ήρωτι Κελλων and IGBulg III 1523 "Ήρωι Κελληνώ from the toponym Κελλαι, Cillae (It. Ant. > Cillis). Duridanov 1989: 92 and 101.

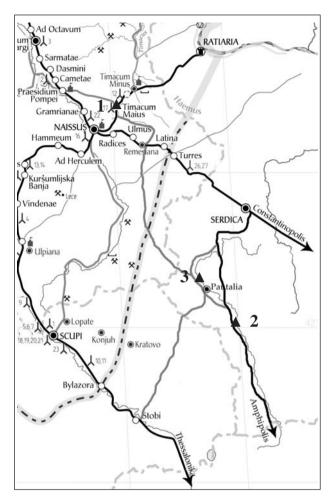
practice was adopted from the Greek tradition and was incorporated into Roman provincial culture (Ivanov 2004: 83–86). It may be interesting to try to decipher the meaning of the word \*Σονκητα. Namely, it may be related to the east-Lithuanian sunka, "liquid"; in Latin, for example, the corresponding term would be sucus, -i, "juice, moisture, sap, liquor".<sup>3</sup>

The inscription was dedicated by Tiberius Claudius Theopompus, son of a Theopompus, apparently a Thracian strategos serving in the Denteletika region, Δενθελητική Πεδιασία, a lowland area centred on Pautalia (modern Kystendil) and stretching from the upper course of the Struma river to Blagoevgrad in the west of present-day Bulgaria. This is also suggested by the honorary inscription from Topeiros, Greece, dedicated to Marcus Vettius Marcellus, governor of Thrace. The latter inscription, dated to AD 46-54, lists the names of Thracian strategoi, including Tiberius Claudius Theopompus (AE 1953/54, 235-244; SEG 16, 415). The date of the Topeiros inscription indicates the possible date of the unfortunately lost Syrljig inscription. At the time the Topeiros inscription was made Claudius had already held the office of strategos in Denteletika; therefore, the toponym \*Σονκητα contained in the goddess's epithet should be expected to have been somewhere in the area under his administration, which seems to be suggested by two other inscriptions from Thracian Denteletika dedicated to the same goddess, Hera Sonketene.

One of them, recently discovered at Kresna, a place near Blagovegrad, reads: μρα Σον[κη]|τηνῆ Διουζιης | Δημοσθένους | στρατηγὸς Δ| $^5$ ονθηλητικῆς (!) | πεδιασίας ἀνέ|θηκεν (Ivanov 2004: 83–86; SEG 54, 639). The inscription was dedicated by Διουζιης, son of Δημοσθένους and strategos of Denteletika (Δενθελητικῆ Πεδιασία). The inscription, dated to between the middle and third quarter of the first century by the system of *strategiae* established by that time and by analogy with the inscription from Svrljig, suggests the possibility that the practice of dedicating altars to Hera Sonketene continued after Tiberius Claudius Theopompus had left office (Ivanov 2004: 83–86).

The third known dedication to Hera Sonketene also comes from the ancient region of Denteletika. It was found in the Bulgarian village of Baykalsko Choklevo northeast of Kyustendil (Pautalia), where there probably was a shrine sacred to Hera. The inscription reads ( $IGBulg\ IV\ 2142$ ): Kupiq Tpq (!)  $\Sigma ovkn[\tau nvn]$ . (Map 2)

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> Duridanov 1969: 66; 1989: 106; 1985: 45 (= Duridanov 1976): "\*Sonkēta – a place name, reconstructed from Hera's epithet *Sonkētēné* (in Greek inscriptions from the Baykalsko, Radomir district and Svrljig, eastern Serbia). The name must have sounded as \*Sunkēta, formed from a word related to the eastern Lith. sunkà 'sap (of a tree); fluid'; in the Lith. village name Sunkìniai (Sunkìniu káimas)"; Georgiev 1975: 50, s.v. Σονκητηνη. Cf. Lat. sucus, "juice, moisture, sap, liquor" (cf. de Vaan 2008, 596, s.v. sucus).



Map 2
Inscriptions
dedicated to Hera
Sonketene (dat.
"Ηρα Σονκητηνῆ).
1) Svrljig, Serbia;
2) Kresna, near
Blagovegrad,
Bulgaria; 3)
Baykalsko
Choklevo
northeast of
Kyustendil
(Pautalia), Bulgaria

It should be noted that the areas of Kystendil (Pautalia), which was the centre of Thracian Deneteletika, and Blagoevgrad are known for a wealth of mineral and thermal springs and their beneficial healing effects. That it was so in ancient times as well is evidenced by the excavated structures at Pautalia dedicated to iatrical deities and closely associated with water, such as the temple of Asclepius, the aqueduct and the large baths, second in size in present-day Bulgaria to those at Varna on the Black Sea (TIR K-34, Naissus: 98; Sharankov & Katsarova 2004: 7–16). Pautalia, originally a village in Denteletika, was situated on the intersection of two major Roman roads: Serdica–Stobi and Philippopolis–Stobi. It was granted the status of city in the reign of Trajan (Ulpia Pautalia), flourished under the Severan dynasty, and was fortified at the time of Marcus Aurelius. Its importance is evidenced by the fact that in the second and third centuries the colonial mint at Pautalia struck several issues of high quality coins (TIR K-34, Nais-

sus: 98). The broader area exhibits yet another significant geomorphological feature. Apart from being rich in thermal springs, the valley or, more precisely, Osogovo Mountain overlooking the valley, was rich in ore deposits (iron, lead, zinc, gold, silver), which led the Romans to start mining operations in the area of present-day Kratovo, Zletovo, Bosiljgrad, Gorno Uyno and Dolno Uyno (Kazarova 2005: 9). The mining regions of Kratovo and Zletovo formed part of the province of Thrace (Dušanić 1980: 27, n. 135) rather than Moesia, but the latter possibility should not be ruled out either (Patsch 1937: 1, 227; Keramitčiev 1973: 147–154). The Romans apparently began mining operations quite early on, as soon as they established a stable order in the conquered territories.<sup>4</sup>

From Pautalia a local road (via vicinalis) led to the north, towards Moesia and the mining regions of present-day Vlasina and Bela Palanka (ancient Remesiana) in the Nišava river valley, where it ran into the high-road Naissus–Serdica (Niš–Sofia). From Remesiana, the local road ran along the Svrljiški Timok and intersected with the road Naissus–Ratiaria in Svrljig Valley, i.e. in the area of Timacum Maius (*IMS* IV, 52).

The data cited above raise not only the question why Tiberius Claudius Theopompus set up the only known altar to Hera Sonketene outside the Greek-speaking province of Thrace, i.e. outside Denteletika as the core area of the cult, but also why he did it in the area of Timacum Maius in present-day Svrljig Valley, a part of the Latin-speaking province of Moesia. The answer is not easy to work out. Obviously, for some reason Tiberius found himself on the Roman road Pautalia–Remesiana–Timacum Maius; perhaps he was using the shortcut (compendium) connecting Thracian Denteletika and the main road leading from Naissus to the Danube. Once in the area of Timacum Maius, he might have felt an urge to set up a monument to Hera Sonketene, the goddess worshipped in the region under his administration.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> That the Romans tended to start mining operations at an early stage of their rule is evidenced by a piece of information contained in the written sources: Augustus ordered the first governor of Dalmatia, Vibius Postumus, to pacify the Dalmatae by making them mine for gold (e.g. work in mines). This information is important because it shows that the Romans began mining soon after the conquest and that the forced relocation of populations could follow soon after the establishing of Roman rule. Flor. Epit. II 25 (Bellum Delmaticum): sed Augustus perdomandos (sc. Delmatas) Vibio mandat, qui efferum genus fodere terras coegit aurumque venis repurgare; quod alioquin gens omnium cupidissima eo studio, ea diligentia anquirit, ut illud in usus suos eruere videantur. In Procopius' De Aedificiis, there occurs among the names of some thirty renovated castelli in the area of Remesiana the toponym Dalmates, which suggests the presence of incomers from Dalmatia, probably miners (Dušanić 1977: 73–74, n. 137).



Fig. 2 Banjica, thermal and mineral springs

At this point, it may be useful to remember a somewhat forgotten fact about the broader area of Niševac and Svrljig, which may be of relevance to identifying the character of the Roman settlement we believe to have been Timacum Maius. Namely, Svrljig Valley was rich in thermal and mineral springs. Like Pautalia, Niševac (i.e. Svrljig) was known as a spa, which is documented in 1565 by the Ottoman Turkish toponym Isferlik Banasi (Svrljiška/Niševačka Banja; Serb. *banja*, "spa"). Its centre was near the present-day place called Banjica<sup>5</sup> (fig. 1). In the course of the eighteenth century, the spa's heyday came to a bizarre end. The cause was neither war nor an epidemic, but a whim of nature. Namely, in the early decades of that century the spring water at Banjica began to lose its natural properties, and the local Ottoman population turned to the springs at Soko Banja on the northern spurs of Ozren Mountain, which received Ottoman visitors coming from as far as Asia (Petrović, Filipović & Milivojević 2012: 129).

Given the proposed etymology of the epithet Sonketene referring to a liquid, water, and the indubitable presence of thermal and mineral springs in the area of Niševac/Timacum Maius even in Roman times, it may be

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> The Roman road crossed the Svrljiški Timok at Banjica, where the remains of a bridge, probably of an Ottoman date, are still visible. There are at Banjica the remains of four churches, of which the one dedicated to St Stephen reliably dates from late antiquity (Bošković 1951: 54). Banjica also yielded an honorary inscription for an early-third-century emperor (*IMS* III/2, n° 100).

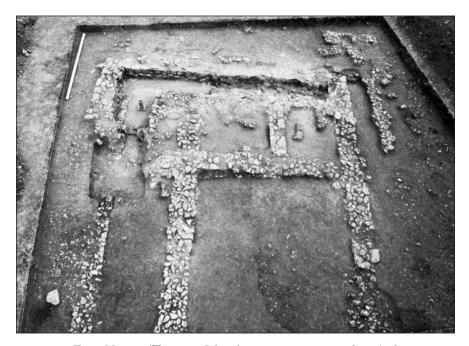


Fig. 3 Niševac (Timacum Maius), two-room structure furnished with a hypocaust system

assumed that what prompted Theopompus to set up a monument to Hera Sonketene in the Syrljig area was its obvious geomorphological and balneological similarity to Pautalia and Denteletika, even more so as the basin of the Timok river, like the broader Pautalia area, was a busy mining region, apparently activated shortly after the Roman conquest. It was organised as a district of the Dardanian mines (metalli dardanici) within the province of Moesia, i.e. as a fiscal domain administered by the prefect seated at Timacum Minus, the military base of the 2nd Dardanian cohort (present-day Ravna near Knjaževac). The mining territory of Timacum Minus has not been identified with precision. It probably encompassed the south parts of the Svrljiški Timok, Trgoviški Timok and Beli Timok river valleys, Stara Planina (Balkan Mountain) in the east, and stretched to the Crni Timok valley in the north, including Bor Basin (Dušanić 1977: 75 ff; IMS III/2, 37). Thus, yet another context in which the Svrljig area, i.e. Roman Timacum Maius, may be looked at is the context of mining operations in the Timok region.

Perhaps Theopompus fell ill somewhere between Naissus and Ratiaria, was cured by the water from the local thermo-mineral springs, and, in gratitude for being restored to health, set up an altar to Hera Sonketene. The latest archaeological discoveries corroborate the hypothesis of the balneological aspect of the Roman settlement of Timacum Maius.



Fig. 4 Niševac (Timacum Maius), two-room structure, ceramic tubuli

The 2010 and 2011 excavations fully exposed a Roman two-room structure, which is unique in many respects. It was furnished with a hypocaust system for heating the floors and walls (fig. 2).

A total of twenty-six intermittently perforated ceramic *tubuli* — circular-sectioned pipes filled with pebbles were found. The tubuli flanked the flue that conveyed the hot air into the under-floor chamber and the walls (fig. 3). The furnace, praefurnium, was also discovered. The system of floor and wall heating functioned in the following way: the ceramic tubuli with perforations which could be blocked with ceramic stoppers, were filled with small pebbles which kept and slowly emitted heat. Through the perforations the hot air entered the *tubuli* sealed on the upper and lower sides with massive bipedal tiles, rose upwards and heated the under-floor chamber of the building. Some tubuli, as a rule those abutting the inner side of the outer walls, were not sealed on the upper side, but ceramic pipes of the same diameter were fixed onto them to convey the hot air to the upper wall zones. The pipes were fixed to the wall with T-shaped iron fasteners. This type of floor heating ensured a more efficient use of thermal energy and prevented condensation at a great temperature difference between the inside and the outside (Bouet 1999: 39-66).

The massive floor tiles laid over the *tubuli* showed significant remains of a thick and dense layer of waterproof plaster, apparently spread over a larger surface. It seems reasonable to assume that such a powerful plaster coating covered the bottom of the pool in the hot room, *caldarium*, the floor of which could have been overlaid with lavish materials such as marble

or decorated with mosaics. Unfortunately, the uppermost floor level of the structure has not survived due to the shallow stratigraphy of this section of the Roman settlement site. The assumption that this was a *caldarium* seems to be corroborated by a large amount of melted lead arranged in a line, possibly leaden pipes misshaped by the fire which destroyed the building.

The terminus post quem for the erection of the building is the date when ceramic *tubuli* began to be widely used for the hypocaust systems in the Roman Empire, which is the period between AD 70 and AD 80 (Forbes 1966: 54). As the discovered coins suggest the age of Trajan and Antoninus Pius, the building may have been constructed in the first half of the second century, remaining in use until the Gothic invasions in the late fourth century. Given that the Lissus-Naissus-Ratiaria road was built at the time of the Roman conquest in the first century (Petrović 2008), it seems reasonable to assume that the Roman settlement with the excavated building grew immediately after the Danube border was consolidated, at a period following the construction of and in close connection with the road. Structures showing similar technological features and the cylindrical tubuli as a distinctive element of the hypocaust system are rarely found in the central Balkans. Analogies occur in the neighbouring countries, such as the sites of Bansko-Strumica in Macedonia (Taseva & Sekulov 2003: 261), Bargala in Bulgaria (Beldedoski 2003: 57), and Varaždinske Toplice in Croatia (Belančić & Gorenc 1961: 203). The distinctive hypocaust system with which our building was furnished was directly related to its purpose. Namely, the abovementioned analogies suggest that the building was a therapeutical balneum within the settlement that was a station on a Roman road. As for its owner, it might have been an affluent official of the local imperial administration.

During the 2012 campaign a portion of a larger Roman bathhouse was discovered (fig. 4). The explored northeast portion is about 11m × 9m in size. Discovered so far are two pools and two rooms with the hypocaust heating system. Since the pools were damaged by machinery during recent soil amelioration works on the left bank of the Svrljiški Timok, at this point nothing can be said of one of them, while the other is 7m × 3m. Since the latter was not heated, it was probably a cold bath (*frigidarium*). Embedded in the external and internal walls of the two rooms were circular-sectioned *tubuli* connected to the hollow space under the floor. The floor, which had collapsed into the subfloor chamber, was coated with a layer of hydrostatic plaster about 30cm thick. The chamber contained collapsed parts of the ceiling and remains of massive rectangular-sectioned ceramic flues. The small finds recovered from the two rooms (ceramics, animal bones, metal artefacts and coins) suggest that the building lost its original function as a bath in the first half of the fourth century and was probably used as a dwelling.

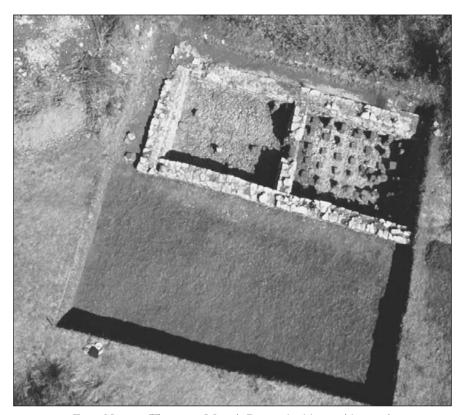


Fig. 5 Niševac (Timacum Maius), Roman bathhouse (thermae)

In parallel with the excavation of the bathhouse at Timacum Maius, the luxurious Roman villa at the site of Rumenjak in the village of Prekonoga was cleared in cooperation with the regional, Niš-based, Institute for the Protection of Cultural Monuments<sup>6</sup> (fig. 5). It is a large structure built on the site of one of the strongest springs in the Svrljig area.<sup>7</sup> The estate, sheltered by the northern slopes of Svrljig Mountain, is situated about 3km east of Gramada Pass and the Naissus–Ratiaria road. The villa was more than 200m² in area and, apart from a small private bath decorated with marble slabs, contained a number of rooms arranged around the atrium. The excavation of the complex being still under way, the date of construction

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup> The rescue excavation carried out in 1997 did not cover the entire complex. The structure at Rumenjak will be published once its remains are fully exposed and the site systematically investigated.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>7</sup> Presently, the spring at Rumenjak supplies water to a part of Svriljig and the entire village of Prekonoga.

and the purpose of individual rooms cannot yet be specified, but its close connection with the rich spring is unquestionable.

During the 2011 campaign an area of about one hectare on the site of Niševac/Timacum Maius was geophysically surveyed for the first time. The survey grid was laid around the test pits explored in the previous campaigns in order to see if it was possible to reconstruct the presumed urban blocks formed by the already explored structures. Larger-sized features recorded to the south and east of the main pits clearly indicated the extension of the archaeological features and urban blocks in this zone. Even though the surveyed area was limited, the readings showed numerous magnetic anomalies. The main structures and blocks of archaeological interest are large, primarily rectangular positive anomalies indicative of pits or burnt surfaces within structures. Three survey lines in the eastern portion of the site showed a series of rectangular anomalies, while those in the central and western portions of the surveyed area could not be related to any one archaeological structure. These suggest that this portion of the site may contain larger structures built to alignment, as can be expected on a Roman urban site. The orientation of these anomalies is parallel with virtually all other positive anomalies, which suggests a degree of planning in the entire surveyed area.

The geophysical survey results suggest typically Roman urban planning, the presence of structures and the arrangement of residential areas, thereby providing guidance for further archaeological investigation.

\* \* \*

The interpretation of the dedicatory inscription to Hera Sonketene based on a more detailed analysis of the epithet of the goddess, the origin of the dedicant and the date of the inscription, suggests that apart of the already ascertained and discussed mining character of the broader area of Timiacum Maius, its balneaological character should also be reckoned with. The Roman Lissus-Naissus-Ratiaria road, as evidenced by the date of Theopompus' inscription, was in use as early as the mid-first century, immediately after the consolidation of Roman power in the conquered area. Almost at the same time, the growth began of a settlement which came into existence as a result of the road. The presence of Tiberius Claudius Theopompus in the area of Timacum Maius indicates its contact with neighbouring Thrace and Denteletika, but there is no doubt that this busy route and other local roads opened up the entire Timok valley to other parts of the Empire as well. The discoveries made in five successive archaeological campaigns, notably the remains of several structures and a section of a well-preserved Roman road, as well as the geophysical survey results, complement the epigraphic evidence and suggest a considerable importance, extent and distinc-



Fig. 6 Site of Rumenjak, village of Prekonoga, luxurious Roman villa

tiveness of the Roman settlement which we are inclined to identify with growing certainty as Timacum Maius, built on the former settlement site of a palaeo-Balkan tribe, the Triballi (Petrović & Filipović 2009: 25–30). Further excavations, especially within the joint project of the Institute for Balkan Studies, Belgrade, and the Ausonius Institute, Bordeaux, will fully expose the bathhouse as well as the other parts of the Roman settlement and, hopefully, provide new clues to defining the importance and character of the settlement with precision.

UDC 003.071=14'02 904(398) 911.37 Timacum Maius

#### **Abbreviations**

#### Literature

AE Année épigraphique, Paris.

ANRW Aufstieg und Niedergang der römischen Welt, Berlin – New York.

IMS Inscriptions de la Mésie Supérieure, Belgrade.

IGBulg Inscriptiones Graecae in Bulgaria repertae, Sofia.

 $SEG \hspace{1cm} \textit{Supplementum Epigraphicum Graecum}, \hspace{0.5cm} \text{Leiden-Amsterdam}.$ 

TIR, K-34, Naissus Tabula Imperii Romani, Naissus - Dyrrachion - Scupi - Serdica -

*Thessalonice*, Ljubljana 1968.

#### Sources

Flor. Epit.Lucii Annaei Flori Epitomae Historiae Romanae.

It. Ant. Itinerarium Antonini.
Hierokl. Syn. Hieroclis Synecdemos.

Prok. Procopii Caesariensis De aedificiis.
Rav. Ravennatis anonymi cosmographia.

## **Bibliography**

Bouet, A. 1999. Les materiaux de construction en terre cuite dans les thermes de la Gaule Narbonnaise. Bordeaux: Ausonius.

Belančić, B. & M. Gorenc. 1961. "Istraživanja antiknog kupališta u Varaždinskim Toplicama 1956–59". *Vjesnik Arheološkog muzeja u Zagrebu* III: 203–206.

Beldedoski, Z. 2003. "Docnoantichka banya". Zbornik 9–10: 57–69.

Bošković, Dj. 1951. "Srednjovekovni spomenici istočne Srbije". Starinar II: 221–244.

Duridanov, I. 1969. *Die Thrakisch- und Dakisch-Baltischen Sprachbeziehungen*. Sofia: Verlag der Bulgarischen Akademie der Wissenschaften.

- 1976. Ezikat na trakite. Sofia: DI Nauka i izkustvo.
- 1985. "Die Sprache der Thraker". In Bulgarische Sammlung. Vol. 5. Neuried: Hieronymus Verlag.
- 1989. "Probleme der thrakische Sprache III". Balkansko ezikoznanie / Linguistique balkanique 32/2: 85–112.
- 1995. "VIII. Historische Entwicklung der Namen: 120. Thrakische und Dakische Namen". In E. Eichler et al., eds. Namensforschung: ein internationales Handbuch zur Onomastik / Name Studies: International Handbook of Onomastics. Berlin / New York: Walter de Gruyter.
- Dušanić, S. 1977. "Aspects of Roman Mining in Noricum, Pannonia, Dalmatia and Moesia Superior". *ANRW* II/6: 52–94.
- 1980. "Organizacija rimskog rudarstva u Noriku, Panoniji i Gornjoj Meziji". Istorijski glasnik 1–2: 7–56.
- Forbes, R. J. 1966. Studies in Ancient Technology. Vol. VI. 2nd rev. ed. Leiden: E. J. Brill.
- Georgiev, V. 1975. "Die thrakischen Götternamen, ein Beitrag zur Religion der alten Thraker". *Balkansko ezikoznanie / Linguistique Balkanique* XVIII/1: 5–56.
- Ivanov, M. 2004. "The inscription of strategus  $\Delta iov \zeta i\eta \varsigma \Delta \eta \mu o\sigma \theta \acute{\epsilon} vov \varsigma$ ". Arheologia 45/1–2: 83–86.
- Kazarova, V. 2005. *Pautalia und ihr Territorium im 1.-6. Jh.* Veliko Turnovo: Bulgarian Academy of Science Regional Historical Museum of Kyustendil.
- Kanitz, F. 1986 (1909). Srbija, zemlja i stanovništvo. Belgrade: Srpska književna zadruga (=Das Königreich Serbien und das serben Volk, Leipzig 1909).

- Keramitčiev, A. 1973. "Novootkriveni epigrafski spomenici vo Kratovsko". *Żiva antika* / *Antiquité vivante*: 147–154.
- Patsch, C. 1937. Der Kampf um den Donauraum unter Domitian und Trajan. Vienna: Akademie der Wissenschaften.
- Petrović, P. 1968. "Novi miljokaz Filipa Arabljanina prilog topografiji antičkog Naisa". *Starinar* XVIII: 55–61.
- 1976. "Stanice Timacum na putu Naissus-Ratiaria i antičko naselje kod sela Ravna". Starinar XXVI: 43-56.
- 1979. Inscriptions de la Mésie Supérieure, vol. IV: Naissus Remesiana Horreum Margi. Belgrade: Centre d'études épigraphiques et numismatiques.
- 1995. Inscriptions de la Mésie Supérieure. Vol. III/2: Timacum Minus et la vallé de Timok. Belgrade: Centre d'études épigraphiques et numismatiques.
- 1992. "Antički Svrljig". In *Kulturna istorija Svrljiga*. Vol. II: *Jezik, kultura i civilizacija*, ed. Sreten Petrović, 121–132. Niš–Svrljig.
- Petrović, V. 2007. Dardanie dans les itinéraires romaines: les villes et les agglomérations. Belgrade: Institute for Balkan Studies, SASA.
- 2008. "The Roman Road Naissus-Lissus: The Shortest Connection between Rome and the Danubian Limes". Archaeologia Bulgarica XII/1: 31–40.
- Petrović, V. P. & V. Filipović. 2008. "Newly-discovered Traces of the Roman Naissus–Ratiaria Road and the Problem of Locating Two Timacum Stations". *Balcanica* XXXVIII: 29–43.
- 2009. "The Roman Station Timacum Maius (?): Evidence of Urbanization and Communications". *Balcanica* XL: 25–30.
- Petrović, V. P., V. Filipović & S. Milivojević. 2012. La région de Svrljig en Serbie orientale préhistoire, antiquité et moyen âge / Svrljiska oblast u praistoriji, antici, srednjem veku. Belgrade: Institut des études balkaniques de l'Académie serbe des Sciences et des Arts Centre Culturel de Svrljig.
- Rummel Ch., V. P. Petrović & V. Filipović 2012. "First Geophysical Survey of the Roman Settlement at Niševac (Timacum Maius)". *Glasnik Srpskog arheološkog društva* 26: 303–313.
- Sharankov, N. & V. Katsarova 2004. "New Data on the Water Supply of the Pautalia Thermae". *Arheologia* 45/3-4: 7–16.
- Taseva, S. & V. Sekulov. 2003. "Docnoantičkoto termalno lečilište vo s. Bansko kaj Strumica". *Kulturno nasledstvo* 28/29: 261–272.
- Vaan, M. de. 2008. Etymological Dictionary of Latin and the other Italic Languages. Leiden / Boston: Brill.

This paper results from the projects of the Institute for Balkan Studies *Society, spiritual* and material culture and communications in prehistory and early history of the Balkans (no. 177012), funded by the Ministry of Education, Science and Technological Development of the Republic of Serbia, and *Archaeological investigation of sites and communications in the Svrljig area from the proto- and early-historical periods*, funded by the Ministry of Culture and Information of the Republic of Serbia.