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## NEW EPIGRAPHIC FINDS NEAR ČAČAK

*Abstract:* The seventeen fragments in Latin, that have been found on Gradina-Jelica site near Čačak, can be classified into two groups: the first one consists of an inscription of a *beneficiarius* and a dedication to Diana, and the second one includes fifteen fragments of Christian inscriptions. The monuments from the first group indicate the existence of a station of the *beneficarii consularis* in the surroundings of Čačak, and a system of roads and ancient mines in this region. The fragments of the Christian inscriptions from Basilica A, which are impossible to organize into a whole, have been dated, according to their paleographic traits, to the end of the 4th or even perhaps the 5th c. A.D.

There are seventeen epigraphic fragments in Latin, which are the subject of this paper, that were found on the site of Gradina-Jelica near Čačak during the archaeological field research in 1986, 1988 and 1994.<sup>1</sup> These could be classified into two groups: the first one containing an inscription of a *beneficiarius consularis* and a dedication to Diana from Basilica C, which had apparently been transferred to the site from some other place, and the second one including fifteen fragments from Basilica A, rightly assumed to belong to the site, to be Christian and probably connected with either the church or the surrounding early-Christian necropolis. The inscriptions originate from the area lacking in significant epigraphic finds. The nearest ancient settlements attested by relevant sources are *Municipium Malves(i)atium* near the present day Visibaba in Požega Valley on the west,<sup>2</sup> and *Municipium*

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- 1 M. Milinković is in charge of the archaeological field researches which have been carried out, with some interruptions, since 1988. I am thankful to Mr Milinković who brought my attention to these inscriptions and was kind enough to permit me to publish them.
  - 2 Cf. J. J. Wilkes, *Dalmatia*, History of the Provinces of the Roman Empire, London 1969, 283-284; G. Alföldy, *Bevölkerung und Gesellschaft in der römischen*

*Cel( )*<sup>3</sup> on the south. The area around Čačak is likely to have belonged to the territory of *Municipium Malves(i)atum*.<sup>4</sup>

## I

A part of a votive *ara*, 15,5 X 54 X 34,5 cm, was found during the excavation in the northern sector of the Gradina-Jelica site near Čačak in 1988.<sup>5</sup> According to the report of M. Milinković, the stone was discovered in the passage of the eastern wall of the north-east room of Basilica C, together with some fragments of church paraphernalia.<sup>6</sup> Having been used secondarily, it underwent certain modification, so that the left, right, as well as the upper parts are missing, and in this way the beginning of the inscription was ruined. The lower part is decorated with profiled relief borders.

- - - | [...] VL [± 4] | [b(ene)]f[iciarius] co[(n)s[ularis]] | [f]eg[ionis] XI  
[C[audiae]] | v[otum] s[olvit] [I]ibens m[erito]

The first preserved line contained the name of the beneficiarius, which is possible to reconstruct. The *nomen* may have been *Iulius* or *Ulpus*, the former one being more likely because, in this case, there would also be enough space for the *cognomen*.

On the analogy of the third line, which contains the space for seven characters, as well as the last one, in which S was followed by L and M, the number of characters in the second preserved line could be completed to the total of seven, although the possibility that the second line was somewhat shorter than the other ones should not be neglected.

Provinz Dalmatien, Budapest 1965, 153-154. Unlike the majority of researchers, I. Bojanovski, *Municipium Malvesiatium*, Arheološki radovi i rasprave VI (1968), 241-262, locates *Municipium Malves(i)atum* in Skelane on the Drina.

3 According to the majority of scholars, this municipium, whose name was conjectured as *Municipium Cel(e)gerorum*), was situated in Upper Moesia: Wilkes, *Dalmatia*, 172 and Alföldy, *Dalmatien*, 55-56 believe that *Municipium Cel(e)gerorum* was situated near the present day Ivanjica. A. Mócsy, *Gesellschaft und Romanisation in der römischen Provinz Moesia Superior*, Budapest 1970, 36 locates this municipium near Kraljevo. P. Petrović, *Rimski kameni spomenici iz Karana*, Beograd 1986, 43, n. 34, stresses the possibility of *Municipium Cel(e)gerorum* being situated near Čačak, where some significant remains of ancient agglomeration have been perceived.

4 Cf. Wilkes, *Dalmatia*, 283-284, believes that the territory of *Municipium Malves(i)atum* was stretching in the eastern direction as far as Čačak and the eastern border of Dalmatia.

5 The excavations finds are published in the paper by M. Milinković, *Arheološka istraživanja Gradine na Jelici u 1987. i 1988. godini*, Zbornik radova Narodnog muzeja u Čačku XVIII (1988), 61-80.

6 Cf. Milinković, *op. cit.*, 69.

If we accept the hypothesis that there were seven characters in the second line, the second and the third lines could be completed in the following fashion: [b(ene)]f[iciarius] co[(n)s(ularis) ex] | [l]eg[ione] XI Cl[audia]. The *ex legione* formula, which is relatively rare, was attested three times in the inscriptions of beneficiarii in Dalmatia.<sup>7</sup>

The name of the legion in the third line is damaged, but it must have been *XI Claudia*, since inscriptions of another two beneficiarii of this unit were found in Čačak itself, as well as in its surroundings.<sup>8</sup> The *XI Claudia* Legion was stationed in Burnum in Dalmatia from A.D. 9 to 68-69, when it fought together with Otho against Vitellius in the civil war, and only later on did it join Vespasian's army. It spent some time in Burnum again in A.D. 69/70, to where it had been sent back by Vitellius after the battle of Bedriacum. It was stationed in Upper Germania from A.D. 70 to 101, just to be transferred to the Danube region, to Pannonia in A.D. 101, from where it was sent to Lower Moesia ca. A.D. 106. As soon as the *XI Claudia* had left Dalmatia, the *IV Flavia felix* was brought to Burnum, where it stayed till A.D. 86, when it was transferred to Upper Moesia. Since that time Dalmatia had been without a permanent legionary garrison. During the Marcomannic wars, led by Marcus Aurelius (in the 170s), and at the beginning of the 3rd c., the vexillations of certain legions were stationed in Dalmatia.<sup>9</sup> It was long after the legion had left the province that the monuments of the legionaries of the *XI Claudia* transferred to different duties were found. *Beneficiarii consulares* held distinguished positions among other legionaries, and their stations were scattered all about the territory of the whole province: along the main roads, their starting point being the capital town of Salona, as well as in the mining area in the midcourse of the Drina.<sup>10</sup> One

7 Cf. E. Schallmayer, *Der römische Weihebezirk von Osterburken I, Corpus der griechischen und lateinischen Beneficiärer-Inschriften des Römischen Reiches*, Stuttgart 1990, n° 455 and 493; M. Vasić, *Novi rimski natpisi nađeni u Čačku*, Zbornik radova Narodnog muzeja u Čačku XVI (1986), p. 27, n° 4. Schallmayer, 361 in the commentary to n° 455 (the votive *ara*, dedicated to Mars by *Iulius Longinus, beneficiarius consularis* from the *V Macedonica* Legion, was found in Lješće near Skelane) emphasizes that the *ex legione* formula denotes the transfer of a beneficiarius from his original unit to the *statio* in Lješće, which is even more likely if we consider the fact that the *V Macedonica* Legion was one of the remotest units which regularly sent its beneficiarii to Dalmatia.

8 A votive and a funerary inscription: Vasić, *op. cit.*, p. 26-28, n° 3, 4.

9 Cf. Wilkes, *Dalmatia*, 95-97; on the *XI Claudia* Legion see: Ritterling, *Legio*, RE XII, 1924, 1690-1705.

10 On *beneficiarii consulares* and their stations in Dalmatia see: Wilkes, *Dalmatia*, 125-127.

of those **stations** was in Čačak or in its immediate surroundings, which is attested by our fragment, as well as the previously found inscriptions of the **beneficiarii** of the *XI Claudia* Legion. The first one is a votive *ara* dedicated to **Diana**, its place of origin being **unknown**, but it is supposed that it may have been brought to Čačak from Jelica: *[Di]anae | [. ]ul(ius) Capito | [b(ene)f(iciarius)] co(n)s(ularis) ex | [le]g(ione) XI Cl(audia) [v(otum)] s(olvit) l(ibens) m(erito)*.<sup>11</sup> The second one is a fragment of an epitaph built on one of the walls of the Church of the Virgin Mary in Čačak: *D(is) M(anibus) | [Au]rel[ius ?] [---] | b(ene)f(iciarius) c(o)n(s)ularis | [leg(ionis)] XI Cl(audiae) | [---] S[---]*.<sup>12</sup>

The existence of the station of the **beneficiarii** near Čačak gives rise to some important questions, primarily to the one referring to the place where the station was located. The places of origin of the so far known monuments of the *XI Claudia* Legion **beneficiarii** do not give grounds for **reliable** location of the station: owing to the secondary use of all of the **three** inscriptions, they were not found *in situ*.<sup>13</sup> Our inscription was found on **Jelica** mountain near Čačak, where the remnants of an early-Byzantine fortress had been found by F. Kanitz during his travels around Serbia as far back as the end of the 19th c.<sup>14</sup> Considering the fact that the stone was in secondary use, we have good grounds for assuming that it had been brought to Gradina from some other place. There are two sites near Čačak where it is possible to locate the station of the **beneficiarii**. The first one is Jezdina, where there are some remnants of an ancient settlement, and the second one is Beljina, with an agglomeration from the II-III c.<sup>15</sup> Jezdina is more likely to be the place: apart from the above-mentioned ancient settlement, the foundation walls of a rather large building, which might have been the Roman *castellum*, were found in the bed of the Jezdina river.<sup>16</sup>

11 Vasić, *op. cit.* in n. 6, p. 26-28, no 4.

12 Vasić, *op. cit.* in n. 6, p. 26, no 3.

13 On the finding spot of the two previously found monuments cf. Vasić, *op. cit.* in n. 6, p. 26.

14 F. Kanitz, *Römische Studien in Serbien*, Wien 1892, 143-144; cf. M. and D. Garašanin, *Arheološka nalazišta u Srbiji*, Beograd 1951, 162-163.

15 Cf. Vasić, *op. cit.* in n. 6, 28.

16 M. and D. Garašanin, *op. cit.* in n. 13, 162; Kanitz, *op. cit.* in n. 13, 133. The walls in the riverbed of the Jezdina stream had been mentioned before Kanitz by S. Trojanović, *Preistorijske starine iz rudničkog okruga*, Starinar IX/1 (1892), 14-15. According to him, they probably represent the remnants of a Roman settlement.

Another important issue connected with the post of the *beneficiarii* is its role, i.e. the question of the nature of duties entrusted to *beneficiarii consularis* stationed near Čačak. We are still not supplied with enough information dealing with the duties of the *beneficiarii consularis*, lower officers in the staffs of provincial commanders. It is supposed that their duties were not only military, but civilian as well.<sup>17</sup> Stations of the *beneficiarii* were often situated on the roads of the Roman Empire, as it was pointed out by A. Domaszewski,<sup>18</sup> therefore they are thought to have controlled the traffic and transport of goods along the roads. *Beneficiarii* seem to have been commanders of the local police,<sup>19</sup> and to have supervised tax-collecting. The duties of these officers were also connected with *annona*. They guarded and protected *mansiones* - stations with granaries, where taxes were collected in goods, later used as army provisions - forcing the population to give their wheat, in case they refused to do it.<sup>20</sup> The duties of *beneficiarii* included cooperation with the customs officials, so that the posts of the *beneficiarii* and customs stations were often in the same place.<sup>21</sup> *Beneficiarii consularis* seem to have been connected with mines as well: one of their duties was to be in charge of transport of metal from mining areas.<sup>22</sup>

Having in mind this link between stations of the *beneficiarii* and roads, and the fact that the majority of the stations in Dalmatia were on the routes of important Roman roads,<sup>23</sup> Roman roads should be looked

17 On the duties of *beneficiarii consularis*, see: R. MacMullen, *Soldier and Civilian in the Later Roman Empire*, Cambridge Mass. 1963, p. 54, 56, n. 20, p. 58. M. Mirković, *Beneficiarii consulares and the New Outpost in Sirmium*, Roman Frontier Studies 1989. Proceedings of the XVth International Congress of Roman Frontier Studies, Exeter 1989, 254-256.

18 A. von Domaszewski, *Die Beneficiärerposten und die römischen Strassennetze*, Westdeutsche Zeitschrift für Geschichte und Kunst XXI (1902), 158-211.

19 Th. Mommsen, *Vexillatio legionis XI Claudiae*, *Ephemeris Epigraphica* IV (1881), 529-530 points out that *beneficiarii consulares* may have been in command of smaller military units.

20 D. van Berchem, *L'annone militaire dans l'Empire romain au III<sup>e</sup> siècle*, Mémoires de la société nationale des antiquaires de France, Paris 1938, 182.

21 K. Patsch, *Zur Verwaltung des illyrischen Zolles*, Mitteilungen des deutschen archäologischen Instituts VIII (1893), 193 collected the inscriptions that give evidence of the concurrence of the posts of *beneficiarii* and customs stations: cf. S. J. de Laet, *Portorium*, Brugges 1949, 376. G. Webster, *The Roman Imperial Army*, London 1969, 264, is of the opinion that the connection between *beneficiarii* posts and Customs stations has been evident since the end of the 2nd c.

22 Cf. M. Mirković, *Beneficijarna stanica kod Novog Pazara*, *Živa antika* XXI/1 (1971), 265, 269; Vasić, *op. cit.* in n. 6, 27.

23 Cf. Wilkes, *Dalmatia*, 124-126; Domaszewski, *op. cit.* in n. 17, 167-174.

for in the area around Čačak. Considering the fact that roads were not marked in Roman itineraries, their existence can only be inferred from archaeological evidence. One of the roads led from *Praesidium Pompei*<sup>24</sup> towards the west via the present day Čačak, Visibaba (*Municipium Malves(i)atum*), Užice and Bajina Bašta, to the Drina and Domavia.<sup>25</sup> A section of this big Roman road might have been a road from Visibaba towards Čačak, and along the right bank of the West Morava towards Kraljevo, mentioned by M. Vasić, who corroborates the hypothesis about its existence by the fact that a route of an old road seems to have existed east of Čačak, near Zablaće village. It is possible that this road was the shortest connection between the mines of the region of Domavia and those in the Ibar Valley in Upper Moesia, situated on the road which led from Singidunum towards the east.<sup>26</sup> Vasić also marks the routes of two roads that may have been passing through Čačak: the road which, according to him, branched towards the north, connecting the mines on Kosmaj and Rudnik with the Ibar Valley,<sup>27</sup> and the road which led towards the south, via Jelica, Guča and Ivanjica, towards Novi Pazar. The direction of the latter road could be indicated by the fortified complex on the Gradina site on Jelica and the fortification found more to the south, near the village of Vučkovića, which may have defended the route of this road.<sup>28</sup> To back up this hypothesis about the existence of the above-mentioned Roman roads passing through the area near Čačak, one could mention the fact that their alleged routes partially coincided with the routes of contemporary roads. If a complex network of Roman roads did exist in the region of Čačak, it is possible to suppose that the station of the beneficiarii was at the intersection of those roads.<sup>29</sup>

24 *Praesidium Pompei*, i.e. the present day Vukasinovac and Rutevac, is one of the stations on the road from Belgrade to Constantinople: cf. K. Müller, *Itineraria Romana*, Stuttgart 1951, 531.

25 Cf. *Tabula Imperii Romani*, K34 Sofia, Naissus-Serdica-Thessalonike, Ljubljana 1976; Domaszewski, *op. cit.* in n. 17, 175, n. 117, marks the route of this road, whose direction was determined on the basis of his own observations and field research.

26 The route of this road, which he calls *via metallica*, was mentioned by S. Dušanić, *Mounted Cohorts in Moesia Superior*, Akten des XI Internationalen Limes Kongresses, Budapest, 239.

27 Cf. TIR, K34.

28 On the Roman roads in the district of Čačak cf. Vasić, *op. cit.* in n. 6, 27, 32, n. 46, 47.

29 Domaszewski has several times referred to the fact that the stations of the beneficiarii were often situated at the intersections of Roman roads: Domaszewski *op. cit.* in n. 17, 158-211.

The station of the beneficiarii near Čačak could indicate the existence of some mines in this area, which is going to be dealt with later on in this paper. At the present moment, it should be pointed out that one of the stations of the beneficiarii in Dalmatia was in Skelane on the Drina, near the big silver mines in Domavia and Argentaria.<sup>30</sup> The similar position of a station is also found in Upper Moesia, near Pljevlja, in the region of Novi Pazar, where copper, lead and silver mines used to be.<sup>31</sup>

Finally, the existence of the station of the beneficiarii near Čačak can represent a starting-point for assuming that a *mansio* could have been situated in the same area, but there are no reliable data concerning this issue.

2. The base of a pillar, 42,5 X 52,5 X 30 cm, found in 1994 on the site of Gradina-Jelica in the rubble, east of the altar place of Basilica C, i.e. the basilica with baptistery.<sup>32</sup> Its upper part contains a fragment of a votive inscription cut out during the construction of the base.

*Dianae* [- - -] | | . *Çl(audius) Nige[r ?]* | | [±3] | *ITQ* [- - -]

The name of the dedicator in the second line cannot be precisely reconstructed. *Nomen* was undoubtedly *Claudius*, and *cognomen* might have been *Niger*, *Nigellio*, or something similar.<sup>33</sup> The most frequent epigraphic form in Dalmatia is *Niger*. *Nigellio* has been attested only once, and the other forms have not been attested at all.<sup>34</sup>

Several dedications to Diana have already been found in the town of Čačak and its surroundings.<sup>35</sup> All of these monuments indicate the fact that there used to be a sanctuary dedicated to Diana in this area.<sup>36</sup>

30 Wilkes, *Dalmatia*, 125. Wilkes emphasizes the uncertainty of any connection between the station in Skelane and the mines in Domavia.

31 M. Mirković, *op. cit.* in n. 21, 269, points out that there was not any significant intersection of Roman roads in that district, so the existence of the station is justified by the proximity of the mines and the necessity of metal transport.

32 The data supplied by M. Milinković.

33 Cf. I. Kajanto, *The Latin Cognomina*, Helsinki 1965, 228; A. Mócsy, *Nomenclator provinciarum Europae Latinarum et Galliae Cisalpiniae cum indice inverso*, Dissertationes Pannonicae III/1, Budapest 1983, 201.

34 G. Altöldy, *Die Personennamen in der römischen Provinz Dalmatia*, Heidelberg 1969, 253. In the period of the early Empire the cognomen *Niger* was attested five times in Dalmatia, and in the period of the later Empire three times.

35 CIL III 6320 (= 8335); Vasić, *op. cit.* in n. 6, p. 26-28, n° 4; p. 29.

36 There may have been a holy grove on the very mountain of Jelica since three monuments were found here: they include, apart from our fragment, an *ara* erected by *T. Staius Crispinus, decurio equestris coh. II Delnatarum* (CIL III 6320), and an *ara* dedicated by Aurelius Victor, Memor and Paulinus (Vasić, *l.c.*).



it is known that the cult of this goddess was widespread in the province of Dalmatia.<sup>37</sup>

Diana may have been respected as a patroness of nature, flora and fauna,<sup>38</sup> as well as the goddess whose cult is also associated with mining. Miners used to regard Diana as a goddess rather close to *Terra Mater*, the patroness of earth, so dedications to Diana, as well as temples and reliefs dedicated to this goddess, were very common in the mining centres on the territory of the Roman Empire. Owing to the connection between Diana and the moon, the cult of this goddess was particularly widespread in silver mines all over the provinces of the empire: ancient alchemists regarded Diana as a symbol of silver.<sup>39</sup> Therefore, the votive *aras* that were found near Čačak may indicate the existence of ancient mines in this area.<sup>40</sup> It is not certain whether there was actually any mine on Jelica, where three dedications to Diana were found, but some old mining constructions are evident at the foot of the mountain, in the village of Goračić.<sup>41</sup> Apart from this, in the regions which in Roman times, according to Vasić, might have been connected with Čačak - in Takovo, on Golija and Čemerno - we come across some traces of the old mining activities.<sup>42</sup> The surroundings of Čačak may also be connected with the ancient silver-containing galena mines in the region of Rudnik.<sup>43</sup>

## II

3. Fifteen inscription fragments of different sorts and shapes were found on the site of Gradina-Jelica in 1986.<sup>44</sup> The fragments were scat-

37 On how widespread the cult of Diana was in Dalmatia, see: R. Marić, *Antički kultovi u našoj zemlji*, Beograd 1933, 57-58.

38 Cf. W. H. Roscher, *Ausführliches Lexicon der griechischen und römischen Mythologie I/1*, Leipzig 1884, 1002-1011.

39 S. Dušanić, *Aspects of Roman mining in Noricum, Pannonia, Dalmatia and Moesia Superior*, Aufstieg und Niedergang der römischen Welt II/6, Berlin 1977, 58, n 12; S. Dušanić, *Inscriptions de la Mésie Supérieure I: Singidunum et le Nord-Ouest de la province*, Beograd 1976, 121, n° 89.

40 Vasić, *op. cit.* in n. 6, 29 thinks that this is indicated not only by the above-mentioned monuments, but also by the existence of the beneficiary station and *cohors equitata* stationed near Čačak in the middle of the 3rd c.

41 V. Simić, *Nekadašnje rudarstvo gvoždja u Šumadiji*, Rudarski glasnik XV/1 (1976), 99. Today, there is a limonite mine in Goračić.

42 On the mines in this region, see: Vasić, *op. cit.* in n. 6, 29-30; V. Simić, *Istorijski razvoj našeg rudarstva*, Beograd, 1951, 34, 225, 303.

43 On the Roman mines in the district of Rudnik, see: S. Dušanić, *IMS I*, 95 sqq; O. Davies, *Roman Mines in Europe*, Oxford 1935, 216-217.

44 The finds of the excavations were published by M. Milinković, *Gradina na Jelici*, Zbornik radova Narodnog muzeja u Čačku XVI (1986), 47-60.

tered in the rubble in the northern part of the presbytery of Basilica A, above the substructure of the floor.<sup>45</sup> According to the finding place, i.e. the Christian basilica, as well as some paleographic traits, which will be discussed later on, these are quite likely to be fragments of Christian inscriptions. Unfortunately, they cannot be organized into a coherent whole because they do not represent parts of one monument: they differ in the type and thickness of the stone, as well as in the height and depth of the letters. Although it is not possible to ascertain to which type of monuments they belong, it is supposed that they are actually tombstones.

Fr. 1, dimensions: 13,5 X 11 X 4 cm; character heights: 3,2 cm. The height of the letter M in the third line is somewhat bigger than that of the other ones - 3,5 cm (Fig. 1)

IC  
STRVITA  
NOMINE

The characters are rather elongated, of regular shape and equal height. The traces of justification lines, between which the letters were carved into the stone, are evident. There are incisions, i.e. the ends of vertical *hastae* in front of the letter I in the first line, and in front of S in the second. There is the remaining part of the letter coming after C in the first line, which might be L or E. There is a remaining part of a letter under the third line, which would most probably be O.

The letters that can be stated with certainty in the second line are as follows: S, R and VITA. If we assume that only one word was in question, one of the possible reconstructions of the second and third line would be: [con]struita(?) [in] nomine [d]o[mini] ?].<sup>46</sup> On the other hand, if we suppose that there are parts of two words in the second line, the second and the third lines could be completed in the following way: [aede]m struit a [fundamentis] | [in] nomine [d]o[mini] ?. This fragment may be a part of an inscription connected with the erection of Basilica A on Jelica.

Apart from the above-mentioned ones, two other possible reconstructions of the second line could be suggested as follows: [p]r(e)s(by)t(e)r vita[m] aeternam ?] or: [p]r(e)s(by)t(e)r Vita[is] ?. Abbreviation *prstr*, a shortened form of the clerical title *presbyter*, was

<sup>45</sup> Milinkovic, *op. cit.*, 52

<sup>46</sup> The verb *construo* is very common in Christian inscriptions: cf. E. Diehl, *Inscriptiones Latinae Christianae Veteres III*, Berlin 1956, Index VII.

attested in an inscription from Baudobriga in Upper Germania.<sup>47</sup> *Vitalis* and other similar forms of this name (*Vitallianus*, *Vitalio* etc.) are frequently encountered in Christian inscriptions.<sup>48</sup>

Fr. 2, dimensions: 9,3 X 9,7 X 2,4 cm; character heights: 3,6 - 3,8 cm (Fig. I)

GIV  
LEBIS

The letter B in the second line is damaged, its second stroke being almost erased.

There might have been a name ending in *-gius* in the first line.<sup>49</sup>

The second line could be reconstructed as *[p]lebis*. *Plebs* is a relatively frequent word in Christian inscriptions, meaning "believers, Christians".<sup>50</sup>

Fr. 3, dimensions: 7,8 X 10,7 X 3,7 cm; character heights: 3,7 cm (Fig. II)

ES  
ERNE

I

The letters N and E in the second line are in ligature. There is a vertical stroke under the first stroke of the letter E in the second line, which is most probably the letter I. It is possible to assume that it could have been an abbreviation or a number.

The first line is impossible to complete, whereas, when the completion of the words in the second line is concerned, the following options should be considered: *[aet]erne*, *[inf]erne*, *[pat]erne*, *[sempit]erne*, *[sup]erne*. All of these words were attested in Christian inscriptions.<sup>51</sup> Unfortunately, it is impossible to conclude which of the reconstructions is the most appropriate. It is also important to consider the possibility that the word in the second line might be in the genitive case, but that the ending *-ae* was replaced with *-e*, which was, starting from the 1st c. B.C., the usual practice in Latin inscriptions.<sup>52</sup>

47 Diehl, *op. cit.*, 1171 A: *hic requiliscit in | pace Nonnus prstr |<sup>5</sup> oviit qulinto dean(te ?) klds | Septembris*.

48 Cf. Diehl, *op. cit.*, Index I, 171.

49 Cf. Mócsy, *op. cit.* in n. 32, 355.

50 Cf. Diehl, *op. cit.* in n. 45, 975a, 978, 1786, 1788A: *plebs dei*; *ibid.*, 997: *plebs Christi*; *ibid.*, 1774: *domini plebs*.

51 See: Diehl, *op. cit.* in n. 45, Index VII.

52 On the widespread phenomenon of *-ae* changing into *-e*, see: H. Mihaescu, *La langue latine dans le sud-est de l'Europe*, București-Paris 1978, § 131, p. 184.

Fr. 4, dimensions: 14 X 8,3 X 8,2 cm; character heights: 3,4 cm (Fig. II)

EMIL  
RTA

The first line contains a remnant of a letter that can possibly be I following the letter L. In the second line, under the letter A, there is a point of a vertical *hasta*. It is not possible to find out which letter it belonged to.

The first line may have contained a form of the name *Aemilius* - [A]emilius, [A]emil[iamus], [A]emilia, Emil[ius](!), Emil[ianus](!), Emil[ia](!)<sup>53</sup> - provided that the rest of the letters are considered to be a part of one word. If we assume that there were two words in the first line, the first preserved letter in the line - E - could represent the end of one word, while the MIL group would be the beginning of the following one, which could be completed in several ways: mil[es], mil[itia], mil[itavit], mil[itans].<sup>54</sup>

We have found only two possibilities concerning the reconstruction of the second line: [libe]rta and [se]rta.<sup>55</sup>

In the case of the other fragments, the letters do not give grounds for reconstruction of the words (Fig. III, frs. 5-15)

Fr. 5, dimensions: 9,1 X 9,3 X 3,3 cm; character height: 3,6 cm.

Fr. 6, dimensions: 10,8 X 12,8 X 1,3 cm; character height: 3,7 cm.

Fr. 7, dimensions: 6,3 X 4 X 3,1 cm; character height: 3,2 cm.

Fr. 8, dimensions: 6,5 X 15,4 X 2,9 cm; character height: 3,7 cm.

Fr. 9, dimensions: 1,8 X 5,2 X 4,3 cm; character height: 2,8 cm.

Fr. 10, dimensions: 5,5 X 9,7 X 3,9 cm; character height: 3,3 cm.

Fr. 11, dimensions: 3,9 X 7,3 X 3 cm; character height: 2-2,8 cm.

Fr. 12, dimensions: 2,6 X 4,4 X 2,6 cm; character height: 3,4 cm.

Fr. 13, dimensions: 4,3 X 12,5 X 3,9 cm; character height: 2-3,9 cm.

Fr. 14, dimensions: 4,4 X 2,2 X 3,2 cm; character height: 0,6-1,5 cm.

Fr. 15, dimensions: 4,3 X 3,8 X 3,8 cm; character height: 2,5 cm.

Judging by the shape of some letters - A, G, M, N, O, R, T, V - it is possible to assume with certain likelihood that the above-mentioned fragments are parts of Christian inscriptions. When referring to fr. 1,

53 All of these forms were found in Christian inscriptions: cf. Diehl, *op. cit.* in n. 45, Index I.

54 All the above-mentioned words were found in Christian inscriptions: cf. Diehl, *op. cit.* in n. 45, Index VII and X.

55 Both of the words were found in Christian inscriptions: cf. Diehl, *op. cit.* in n. 45, Index VII.

the word *nomine* could support this hypothesis. We will briefly consider the letters characteristic of Christian inscriptions:<sup>56</sup>

- A with a broken transversal stroke;
- G with its second stroke slanting downwards;
- M with its first and the forth strokes being vertical, and the second and the third a little bent, converging above the lower space of the line;
- N with its second stroke starting under the top of the first one, ending above the third one;
- O which is elongated and irregular in shape;
- R whose second stroke is closed in the upper third of the vertical *hasta*, and the third stroke slanting a long way downwards.
- T has a short transversal stroke, with its ends accentuated with longer vertical serifs;
- V with its slanting strokes converging near the foot, above the lower space of the line, and its ends accentuated with horizontal serifs.<sup>57</sup>

It is not possible to provide an accurate dating of the fragments. Basilica A, in which they were found, was dated to the 6th c.,<sup>58</sup> but judging by the paleographic traits, as well as the shape of the letters, it can be assumed that the fragments date earlier than the 6th c. There are three dated Christian inscriptions from the area beyond the surroundings of Čačak that could be helpful in dating the above-mentioned fragments.<sup>59</sup> The first one is a funerary inscription of Flavius Sanctus from Sirmium. According to its paleographic traits, and relying on the reference to the military title of *protector*,<sup>60</sup> it was dated to the 4th c.<sup>61</sup>

56 On the shapes of the letters, together with the examples, cf. P. Petrović, *Paleografija rimskih natpisa u Gornjoj Meziji*, Beograd 1975, 109-120. See the alphabet charts of the early-Christian inscriptions in K. M. Kauffman, *Handbuch der altchristlichen Epigraphik*, Freiburg 1917, 455.

57 The above-mentioned shapes of the letters are evident in the following Christian inscriptions: F. Ladek, A. von Premerstein, N. Vulić, *Antike Denkmäler in Serbien*, Jahreshefte des österreichischen archaologischen Instituts IV (1901), Beiblatt, 140, no 45 (A, N, V); N. Vulić, *Antički spomenici naše zemlje*, Spomenik SAN XLVII (1909), no 4 (N), N. Vulić, *Antički spomenici naše zemlje*, Spomenik SAN LXXVII (1934), no 38, 39 (G, M, N, O, V); V. Beševliev, *Spätgriechische und spätlateinische Inschriften aus Bulgarien*, Berlin, 1964, no 3 and 206 (A, G, M, N); P. Petrović, *Paleografija*, no 25 (M, O, V).

58 M. Milinković, *op. cit.* in n. 43, 55.

59 No early-Christian inscriptions have been found in the vicinity of Čačak up to now. The ancient stratum has not yet been found on the site of Gradina-Jelica.

60 On *protectores*, see: H. J. Diesner, *RE Suppl. XI*, 1968, 1113-1123

61 J. Brunšmid, *Kameni spomenici Hrvatskoga narodnoga muzeja u Zagrebu*, *Vjesnik Hrvatskog arheološkog društva X* (1908/9), no 393.

<i>Frs. from Basilica A</i>	<i>Sirmium Nos 384 &amp; 393</i>	<i>Izbičanj</i>
Ā	A A	A
G	/ /	G
M	/ M	M
N	N N	N
O	/ O	O
R	/ R	R
T	T T	T
V	V V	V

The other one is an epitaph from Sirmium, which, according to the shape of its letters, was dated to the 4th c.<sup>62</sup> The third one is an inscription from Izbičanj near Prijepolje that, thanks to the reference to Justinian's name, was dated to the 6th c.<sup>63</sup> Compared to the letters of the three above-mentioned inscriptions, the letters of our fragments differ from those of the Izbičanj monument, while the comparison to the Sirmium inscriptions shows some similarities - the letters A, M, N, T, V (refer to the table at the end of the paper).

On the basis of the letter comparison we may reach the conclusion that the fragments from Basilica A date earlier than the 6th c.; perhaps they should be dated to the 4th c., although the possibility that they may belong to the 5th c. should also be taken into consideration.

The first two inscriptions referred to in this paper - the inscription of a *beneficiarius consularis*, and the dedication to Diana, which had probably been brought to Gradina on Jelica from some other place - back up the hypothesis that Čačak, together with its surroundings, was an important military centre on the border between Dalmatia and Upper Moesia, at the intersection of important roads and perhaps in the vicinity of mines.<sup>64</sup>

The text of the fragments from Basilica A is so incomplete that it is impossible to determine either their significance or the type of monument they belonged to. Nevertheless, it should be emphasized

62 J. Brunšmid, *op. cit.*, n° 384.

63 N. Vulić, *Antički spomenici naše zemlje*, Spomenik SAN XCVIII (1941-1948), n° 330.

64 Vasić, *op. cit.*, in n. 6, 30.

that they have been found on the site where an entire complex of early-Christian basilicas was discovered. A further systematic research into the finds on Gradina-Jelica site will undoubtedly contribute to the elucidation of this issue.

*Translated by Aleksandra Todorović*

## НОВИ ЕПИГРАФСКИ НАЛАЗИ ИЗ ОКОЛИНЕ ЧАЧКА

### Резиме

Током археолошких истраживања локалитета Градина на Јелици у околини Чачка 1986, 1988. и 1994. године откривено је седам фрагмената латинских натписа, који се могу сврстати у две групе: прву чине натпис конзуларног бенефицијара и посвета Дијани, а другу пет одломака ранохришћанских натписа. Ови фрагменти покрећу нека питања значајна за проучавање античке историје области око данашњег Чачка, која је у римско доба улазила у састав провинције Далмације.

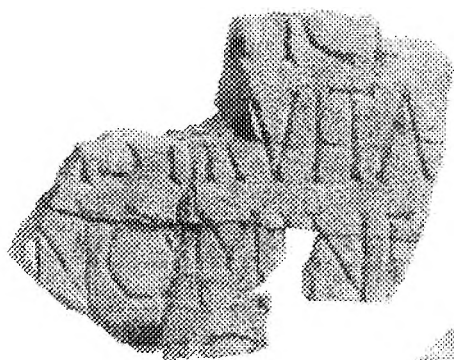
Део вотивне аре конзуларног бенефицијара из базилике С, нађен 1988. уз два раније откривена бенефицијарна натписа сведочи да је у околини Чачка постојала бенефицијарна станица. Будући да ниједан од поменутих бенефицијарних споменика није нађен *in situ*, локацију није могуће прецизно одредити, али се на основу археолошких индиција може претпоставити да се она налазила у Јездини или Бељини у близини Чачка.

Постојање бенефицијарне станице код Чачка упућује на хипотезу да је у овим крајевима постојала разграната мрежа римских путева. Нажалост, путеви нису посведочени у римским итинерарима, па се стога њихове трасе могу претпоставити само на основу археолошких индиција. *Beneficarii consulares* стационирани у близини Чачка указују и на могућност да би у овој области требало тражити и руднике из римског доба. На ову претпоставку упућује и део вотивног натписа посвећеног богињи Дијани, нађен у базилици С 1994. године. Познато је да је Дијана била поштована у рударским центрима широм римског царства и да се њен култ нарочито везује за руднике сребра.

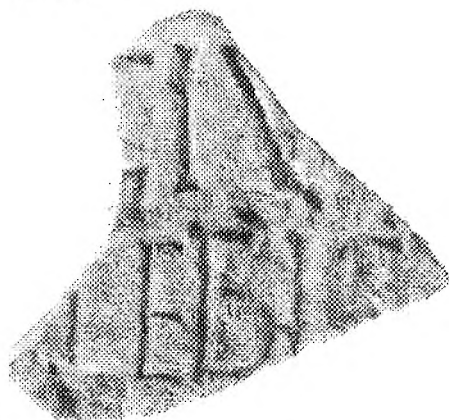
Фрагменти натписа из базилике А, нађени 1986. године, вероватно су ранохришћански. Ова хипотеза се заснива на палеографској анализи облика појединих слова која су карактеристична за хришћанске натписе. Садржај фрагмената је веома оскудан, тако да није могућа њихова потпуна реконструкција, нити се може утврдити којој врсти натписа су припадали.

Базилка у којој су откривени датована је у VI век, али се на основу палеографске анализе фрагмената и њиховог упоређивања с датованим ранохришћанским натписима из шире области може с великом вероватноћом закључити да су они настали у времену пре VI века и да их можда треба датовати у IV век.

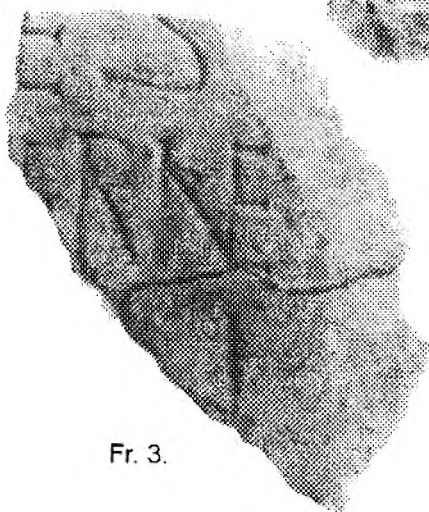




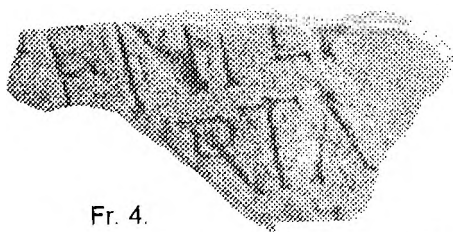
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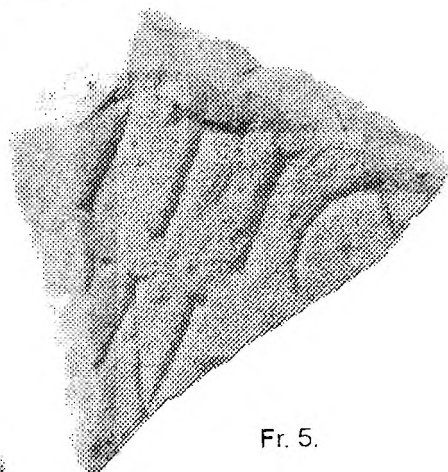
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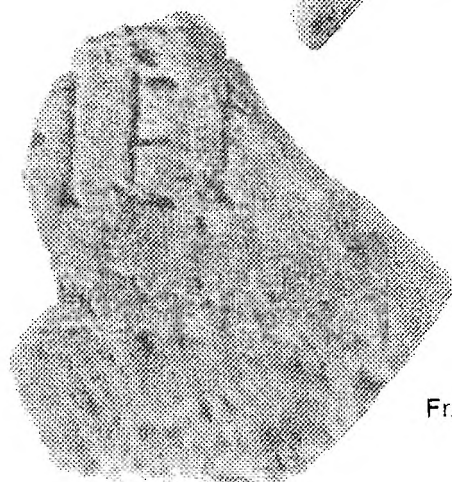
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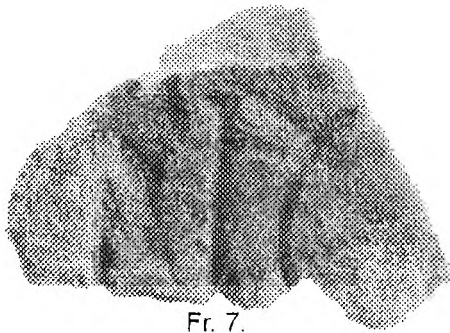
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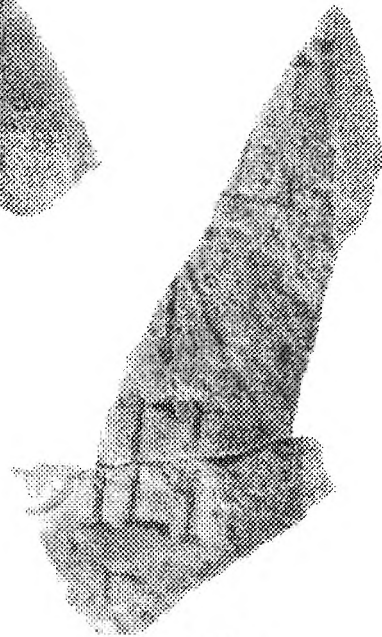
Fr. 5.



Fr. 6



Fr. 7.



Fr. 8.



Fr. 9.



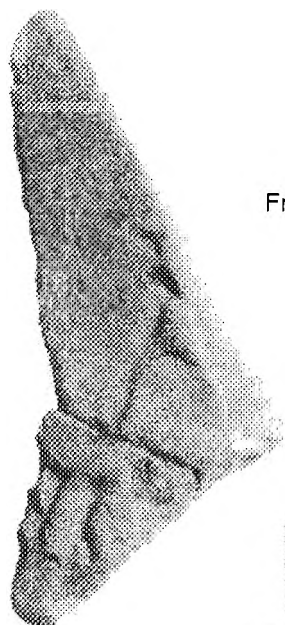
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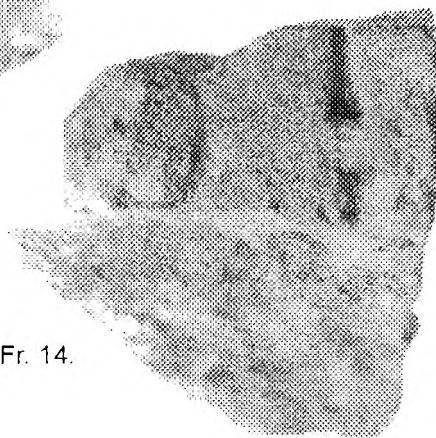
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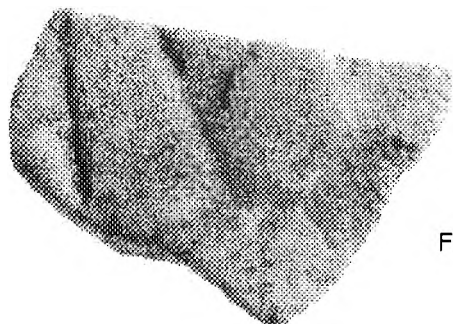
Fr. 12.



Fr. 13.



Fr. 14.



Fr. 15.