

MILESTONES FROM DOBRUJA IN THE COLLECTIONS OF THE MUSEUM OF NATIONAL HISTORY AND ARCHAEOLOGY CONSTANȚA

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The pieces we are going to dwell upon in this study have been included rather recently in the patrimony of MINAC, either they have been discovered accidentally in the villages Cheia and Arsa (Constanța county), or they have been found in systematical diggings in Capidava; only one milestone, found in Mangalia, is included for a longer period into the collection of Constanța museum¹.

1. Fragment of a lime milestone (inv. 43454), discovered in Cheia². Sizes: h.= 0,48 m; d. = 0,25 m, letters height = 6-7,2 cm (Fig. 1 a-b).

There are preserved partially the last three lines from the text, with letters evidently cut, but less accurate letters. On the first line, the last letter seems to be M, with short median hastae (there is poorly seen the left one in the digging)³.

Few of preserved letters on the 1st line allow us to restore the legate's name, of which we know the end of a *cognomen* in accusative, NVM, followed by a second *cognomen* beginning with M; this reading lead us to the following completion of the text:

¹ Milestones in MINAC collection, including the present unpublished ones, have been recorded in order to include them in CIL XVII, the chapter destined to Moesia Inferior; the study has been made in summer 2007, by a team led by prof. dr. Anne Kolb, from Zürich University, to whom we express our gratitude also on this occasion for the photos of the pieces 1 and 2.

² The milestone was found and donated to MINAC by teacher Anghel Bardac from Grădina village (Constanța county), who offered us the sample in order to be published; we express our gratitude on this occasion.

³ The letter M cut with short median hastae can be seen on the epigraphical monuments in the area dated in the 2nd century A.D., see ISM II, 61, 64, 65, 69, 68 (= ISM III, 198); ISM II, 196 (both forms) etc.; parallel with the median hastae, up to the bottom of the letter M, as appears on other inscriptions, too, in the 3rd century A.D. as well; it is possible that the paleographical letters on the milestone from Cheia to be dated in the 3rd century A.D., without being identified, based on the preserved letters, the name of a governor of the province Moesia Inferior, from the 3rd century A.D.

[.....res]-
 [tituerunt per M(arcum)]
 [Servilium Fabi]-
 [a]num M[aximum]
 [l]eg(atum) Aug(usti) [pr(o) pr(aetore)]
 m(ilia) p(assuum).

„..... have rebuilt (this road) by care of Marcus Servilius Fabianus Maximus, pretorian rank imperial legate, thousands of steps”.

Therefore, the work was done under the care of an well-known governor of Moesia Inferior, under Marcus Aurelius and Lucius Verus, M. Servilius Fabianus Maximus⁴.

The legate’s name is mentioned, in nominative, this time, on a milestone discovered in Sinoe, dated by the name of the two associated emperors, in 162 A.D., milestone with the distance of XIX *m.p.* on it⁵. In this case, it is a milestone placed on the coast road, in an area identified as *vicus Quintionis*⁶, marked also by two other milestones⁷; it is to be added another sample discovered in Histria, but uncertainly dated⁸.

The road on the West–Pontic coast was rebuilt near the city of Callatis, as show us few milestones discovered in 23 August (former Tatlageac), Mangalia and 2 Mai, pieces written in 163 A.D., after a rough draft written in the previous year⁹, without mentioning the name of the governor.

The constructions attested on the coast in 162 A.D. and continued in the following year were done in the same time with those on the Danube *limes*, as an evidence we have the two milestones in the NV area of the province, near Dinogetia, in 162 A.D., and the third one found as well in the North of Dobruja¹⁰, as it is known, on the same road, to the South, a milestone from *Sexaginta Prista* (Ruse)¹¹.

The milestone from Cheia could come from the coast road¹², the „travelling stone”¹³ being well-known in ancient times as well in the modern time. We can’t exclude the milestone placement on the secondary road Histria-Capidava¹⁴, which function is supposed to have existed in the 2nd century, as a consequence

⁴ THOMASSON 1984, col. 136, nr. 93: A. 162 (162/ 164?); DID II, p. 161-162, n. 194-198; p. 168, n. 230-236 (161-163 A.D.); DORUȚIU-BOILĂ 1992, p. 26-27.

⁵ ISM I, 318 (= CIL III, 12514).

⁶ BĂRBULESCU 2001, p. 35-36.

⁷ ISM I, 317 (= CIL III, 12513, 159 A.D.); 322 (CIL III, 12515, Decius).

⁸ ISM I, 319 (M. Aurelius, Caracalla or Elagabalus; uncertain dated in 162 A.D.); HOLLENSTEIN 1975, p. 31, nr. 25 (Antoninus *incertus*).

⁹ ISM III, 195-199; ȘTEFAN 1984, p. 95-107.

¹⁰ ISM V, 256-258; ARICESCU, 1977, p. 158-159.

¹¹ SEURE, RA 2 (1915), p. 181-184, nr. 137; DID, II, p. 161, n. 194; HOLLENSTEIN 1975, p. 29, nr. 8; ȘTEFAN 1984, p. 103, n. 25.

¹² The milestone from Cheia doesn’t complete the fragmentary milestones from Histria, ISM I, 316 and mostly 319, as we are tempted to say according to their writing.

¹³ PIPPIDI 1988, p. 166-172.

¹⁴ DID II, the map II; SUCEVEANU 1977, fig. 3; PANAITE 2006, p.60.

of a an important *vicus* on its route, *Ulmetum* (Pantelimonul de Sus)¹⁵, without being aware to what extent the road attracted the attention of the imperial authorities at that moment¹⁶.

2. The second milestone holding our attention was discovered in Arsa, near the cemetery in 1994^{*}; the piece, included recently into the MINAC collection (inv. 43455) has a rectangular large sizes basis, the inscription being cut on the upper part of the milestone, which general sizes are: h.=2,31 m; d.=0,36 m; height of the letters = 5-6 cm (Fig 2 a-c).

The lime milestone is a palimpsest, including an older inscription (a) and an newer one (b). The text is erased at the beginning and most at the end of the lines^{**}. There were used again or transformed certain letters on the second inscription, and partially the stone was hammered to be written again; on the 2nd line, the letter S was changed in L; N is smaller in size and inscribed inside O, on the 6th line; M has a different aspect compared to the same letter from the 1st line, on the 7th line, because some previous medial hastae were used again.

a. We can distinguish (sometimes unclearly) from the first inscription the following letters:

the 2nd line, IVS;
 the 4th l, AVR, linked;
 the 5th l, ANT, linked;
 the 6th l, E.O;
 the 7th l, TV(L)L, linked?
 the 8th l, EGA (the last two letters used in text b).
 the 9th l, M (unclearly written).

The letters parts lead us an inscription from Severi time; the text size and the arrangement on lines of the preserved letters don't allow a restoration of it, according to the formula seen on the milestones from Septimius Severus time¹⁷, suggesting us a shorter imperial name, possibly of Caracalla or Elagabalus^{***}.

¹⁵ ISM V, p. 78-116, nr. 57-91. As regarding the Roman epoch discoveries from Cheia, mainly coins, see BĂRBULESCU 2001, p. 44, n. 136 and p. 292, nr. 26; TALMAȚCHI, BARDAC 2006, p. 377-380.

¹⁶ OPRÎȘ, POPESCU 1986, p. 190, n. 3; on the milestone from Capidava it is mentioned III *m.p.* and the initial placement is unknown; the authors suppose a connection between this milestone and the secondary road through Băltăgești to Tomis or Histria.

^{*} The discovery of the piece was reported to us by our departed colleague N. Cheluță-Georgescu, with whom we went to Arsa in 1994.

^{**} The milestone - fallen down on the ground- was preserving the text better on this side.

¹⁷ The letters identified on the 7th line of the first inscription don't ensure a clear reading of the name of the legate of Moesia Inferior, C. Ovinius Tertullus (198-201 A.D.); for the milestones raised by his care, see HOLLENSTEIN 1975, p. 30-31. BĂRBULESCU-MUNTEANU, RĂDULESCU 1980, p. 140-148, nr. 1-3; IIDEM 1991, p. 123-126, nr. 1; BĂRBULESCU, CÂTEIA 1998, p. 123-124, n. 41-52.

^{***} There are not known in the region certain milestones from these emperors periods, the pieces being rather dated during Marcus Aurelius time, see ISM I, 319; ISM III, 196; but see in the following the notes 21 and 22.

b. On the other hand, the second inscription can be completed as follows:

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1 | Imp(eratori) Caes(ari)
[M(arco)] Iul(io) Phi-
lippo Pio [Fe-
lici invic(to)] |
| 5 | Aug(usto) et M(arco) I[ul(io)]
[P]hilippo no-
bilissimo
Caes(ari). |

„To the emperor Caesar Marcus Iulius Phillipus, Pius, Felix, unvanquished August and to Marcus Iulius Philippus the noblest Caesar”.

The text could allow us the identification of a fragmentary milestone from Capidava, uncertainly dated under the common rule of Philip the Arab and his son¹⁸, piece on which, similar as here, there isn't mentioned the name of the governor who ordered the restoration of the road¹⁹.

As regarding a hammered milestone found in Topalu, on the same Danube road, after the initial reading *Phililippo*, it was assumed that the legate who ordered the milestone to be built, Sallius Aristaenetus, functioned in Moesia Inferior during Philip the Arab²⁰.

As the identification of the above mentioned governor with a famous person attested by literary, epigraphical and numismatic sources, during Caracalla it is more real²¹, the legation of C.Sallius Aristaenetus in Moesia Inferior was dated during Elagabalus period²².

M. Iulius Philippus is mentioned together with his son, on the Northern area of the province Moesia Inferior, two times in *regio Histriae*²³, then on the Danube *limes*, possibly at Troesmis²⁴, as we have seen, the same at Capidava. Farther on, to the South, at Sacidava (Muzait-Dunăreni), a dedication is addressed to the Caesar M. Iulius Philippus by *cohors I Cilicum* in the name of the governor C. Prastina Messalinus²⁵.

The Carpi attack against Dacia in 245-247 A.D.²⁶, had consequences in

¹⁸ ISM V, 9 (also to be dated: Maximin the Thracian and his son Verus).

¹⁹ For the governors between 244-247, see THOMASSON 1984, col. 145, nr. 137 (Severianus-A 244) and nr. 138 (Prast(in)a Messallinus, 244-247A. D.).

²⁰ BĂRBULESCU, RĂDULESCU 1993, p. 197-206, fig. 1-3; BĂRBULESCU, CÂTEIA 1998, p. 125-126, n. 70.

²¹ PETOLESCU, Ann.Ép., 1994, 1532; Idem 1996, p. 409-410, nr. 691.

²² PETOLESCU 1994 and 1996 suggests Elagabalus period. To be added PUECH 2002, p. 137-138, n. 39, cf. AVRAM, *Prosopographia* nr. 609; see as well the nr. 833 bis.

²³ ISM I, 349 (*Vicus Secundini*, 246 A.D.); ISM V, 124 (years 244-246 A.D.).

²⁴ ISM V, 152 (years 244-245 A.D.; possible completion); 153 (inscription from the middle of the 3rd century A.D. with hammered imperial names).

²⁵ SCORPAN 1980, p. 204-205, nr. 3, fig. 5-6. Ann.Ép. 1981, 743; PETOLESCU 2001-2002, p. 287, nr. 892.

²⁶ RUSCU 2002, p. 150-158 (the subject bibliography).

Moesia Inferior²⁷, even they didn't aim directly this province, as the inscriptions dedicated the two regents prove as well.

If in Thracia, the effort of building roads in the years mentioned before is more obvious²⁸, in Moesia Inferior this effort seems to be diminished (maybe precisely because of the Carpi danger), activity attested now by the milestone from Arsa and uncertainly by that from Capidava.

The milestone from Arsa could come from the coast road, rebuilt in different stages around Callatis, as we had the opportunity to mention²⁹.

It is possible that the ancient road route to go to the West, rounding the existent lagoons at that time, that meaning a common route with the *semita* Callatis-Tropaeum Traiani³⁰, situation when the milestone from Arsa³¹ could be important for both roads³².

The few milestones built at Tomis between the rule of Gordian the 3rd and Claudius the 2nd Gothic³³, during the empire crisis, of that long *bellum Scythicum*, beginning in 238 A.D. ³⁴, shows us, beside other discoveries in the province, that there were enough the rebuilding moments, now confirmed as well by the milestone from Arsa. This one was placed between 244-247, when Philippus II had only the title of Caesar³⁵, together with other monuments in Moesia Inferior³⁶.

3. Fragmentary lime milestone discovered in Capidava, in 1999, in the diggings situated in the Eastern *intra muros* area inside one of C10 building walls³⁷. In order to used again, the piece back side was cut, so it had the aspect of 0,20 m thick plate. The milestone preserved height reaches 0,67 –0,70 m, d= 0,33 m; the letters height= 3,5-5 cm (inv. 43459). (Fig. 3 a-b).

The text, set on nine lines is fragmentary preserved, on the left side, and some lines-3,4-6-are totally or partially erased. Some letters are poorly printed (or they were erased later on). The milestone is a palimpsest with an inscription from the Tetrarchy period, *a*, written uncertain on an older text, *a'*, the stone was

²⁷ DID II, p. 240; POENARU BORDEA 1971, p. 91-103; PETOLESCU 1987, p. 57; MITREA, RĂDULESCU 1975, p. 125-148 ; see also GEROV 1963, p. 127-146.

²⁸ HOLLENSTEIN 1975, p. 35-36, nr 43-46, the milestones don't include the name of the young Philippus; GERASIMOVA TOMOVA, HOLLENSTEIN 1978, p. 102 (nine milestones dated 244-247).

²⁹ *Supra*, n. 9. For Callatis see *infra*, n. 54 and 55 (Vama Veche).

³⁰ For *semita* Callatis - Tropaeum Traiani-Durostorum, see BĂRBULESCU - MUNTEANU, RĂDULESCU 1980, p. 146-148, nr. 3, fig. 3 a-b. Add PANAITE 2006, p. 60-68; PANAITE, ALEXANDRESCU 2008. We express our gratitude to our colleagues A. Panaite and Cr. G. Alexandrescu for the information offered.

³¹ For Arsa see BĂRBULESCU 2001, p. 67, 160 and the table from p. 296, nr. 110.

³² In this way, IONESCU, PAPUC 2005, p. 91, n. 569.

³³ BĂRBULESCU, RĂDULESCU 1991, p. 126-141; BĂRBULESCU, CÂTEIA 1998, p. 125-127.

³⁴ SHA, *Vita Maximini et Balbini*, 16, 3. DORUȚIU-BOILĂ 1975, p. 635-642; BOUNEGRU 2003, p. 98-102.

³⁵ Philippus Iunior is named *Augustus* in the summer of 247, see, PIR², IV, 3 I 461-462 (L. PETERSEN); LORIOT 1975, p. 792-793; TUDOR 1976, p. 90.

³⁶ DID II, p. 239-241; SUCEVEANU, BARNEA 1991, p. 33-34.

³⁷ The milestone appeared at 1,5 m from the entrance in C10, near the NV wall of the room, used again as basis for a partition wall. As regarding the archaeological context, see COVACEF 2000, p. 26, nr. 31.

used again later on during Constantine the Great and Licinius, the inscription *b*.

As regarding text *a*, it was assigned to Diocletian based on the paleographical letters, on the general aspect, as well as on the recognition of the imperial name „[Au/re]l(io) Val[(erio)”, with the letters RE erased on the 2nd line, to copy the *praenomen* C on the inscription *b*, and the same, L changed in FL linked.

It is- also- added, the identification at the beginning of the 7th line of the letter A with a middle broken hasta (as in the entire text, and that brings the text unity)* and after two erased letters, there can be partially seen R and I (the latter was changed further on), this aspect allows us to read [G]a[le]ri[o]**, mentioning the last letters of the 7th line are uncertain, they were written again on inscription *b*.

On the 8th line there can be seen four vertical hastae on the stone, followed by the well-known abbreviation COS. The hastae could indicate the number IV*** from an older inscription *a'*, where there were mentioned, according to the frequent order, *trib.pot//IV, cos.[...]*; the imperial salutation appear often on milestones until to the middle of the 3rd century, without being mentioned usually later on³⁸.

The letters COS seem to be also more accurated comparing to those on the previous line (or this is to be own that on this line probably there were copied less words), without excluding the letters belonging to the inscription *a*, as we 'll mention further on.

Based on this analysis and on the samples from the Tetrarchy period (293-305 A.D.) in Scythia, the inscription *a***** can be completed as follows:

- 1 Imp(eratoribus) C[aes(aribus) C(aio) Au]-
[re]l(io) Val[(erio) Diocletiano]
e[ti]a M(arco) Aur(elio) Val(erio) Maximiano]
P(iis) F(elicibus) inv[ic(tis) Aug(ustis)]
- 5 [et M(arco) Fl(avio) Valerio]
[Constantio et C(aio)]
[G]a[le]ri[o] Val(erio) Maximiano]
III con(n)s(ulibus) [nob(ilissimis)]
Caes(aribus).

* Thus the letter A appears on the lines 2, 7 and 9.

** The end of the name *Galerius* is not preserved, and its completion in dative was done as consequence of the majority of the known samples, though there are written texts in nominative in the same period, see IGLR, 84=ISM III, 196 b; IGLR, 230 and some Tetrarchic inscriptions (*infra*, n. 48-50).

*** The consulate appears more rarely mentioned on milestones, though see *supra*, n. 5 and 9; ISM V, 1 (160 A.D.); 96 (200 A.D.); 223 (237 A.D.), 250 bis (236 A.D.) and other samples.

³⁸ IGLR, *passim*. For the milestones, see more recently CIL XVII/2 and XVII/4, *passim*.

**** Due to the different length of the names, we must admit a variable number of letters on lines, the different use of the abbreviations and probably some links.

Inscription *b*.

- 1 Imp(eratores) C[ae(s)ares]
 C(aius) Fl(avius) Val[(erius) Constantinus]
 e[ti] Val(erius) Licin(ianus) Licinius]
 P(ii) F(elices) inv[ic(t)i Aug(usti) et Fl(avius)]
 5 [Val(erius) Crispus et Lici]-
 [nia]nus [Licinius Iun(ior) et
 Fl(avius) C[la]udius Constantinus]
 [nob(ilissimi)]
 Caes[(ares)].

As regarding the inscription *b*^{****}, there were used again in the text the common parts: there can be seen poorly on the 1st line the letter P linked with the median vertical left hasta inside the letter M; C was written again in an angular manner. The same letter C can be seen as well on the 2nd line, written again on a part previously erased, and FL appears linked. On the 4th line, the first P hardly can be distinguished, and inside the broken part after the second P, only the basis of some vertical median hasta of an F letter can be clearly seen. At the beginning of the 6th line, the letter is unclear (F or P or only marks on the stone), but, there can be seen after 2-3 erased letters, N (poorly) and VS clearly, that showing us that the text *b* was written in nominative, offering as well an evidence to complete the text. The letters at the end of the 7th line are unclear, their interpretation is still a hypothesis: FLC? On the 8th line it can be seen after COS, the basis of a vertical median hasta slightly inclined, probably from N, and on the 9th line it can be seen inside the broken area the upper part of the letters ES (the last one maybe double).

Thus, we notice, that in the text *b* there were used parts of the old inscription and there were preserved sometimes its scraps, situation frequently seen on the milestones in the province³⁹.

The inscription *a* from Capidava belonged to an ample series of a milestones if the first Tetrarchy period, illustrated on the road to the Scythian *limes* by the milestones found in Rasova,⁴⁰ Carsium⁴¹, Arrubium⁴² and Dinogetia⁴³, but also placed on the coast road, on the central-Dobrujan route, and more recently on the secondary roads, too⁴⁴.

**** It is possible the imperial names to be written abbreviated and not complete written here, mentioned similarly on some milestones.

³⁹ We mention only some examples, IGLR, 82, 84, 167, 190, 276 etc.

⁴⁰ IGLR, 190: a) 293-305; b) 367-375 A.D.

⁴¹ IGLR, 230: a) 200 (= ISM V, 95); b) 293-305; IGLR, 231: a) Gordianus III (= ISM V, 98); b) 293-305; 232: a) 293-305; b - not dated; c) 323-337 A.D.

⁴² IGLR, 239: 293-305 A.D.

⁴³ IGLR, 240: 293-305 A.D.

⁴⁴ BĂRBULESCU, CÂTEIA 1997, p. 193-197; ZAHARIADE 2006, p. 43-49. About the two milliaris from the Tetrarchic period, discovered in M. Kogălniceanu (Constanța county), see Pontica 42(2009) (forthcoming). To be added the milestone near Crângu (former Caramat): Gr. Tocilescu, Mss 5312, p. 178-179 and 194; see now PANAITE, ALEXANDRESCU 2008 (which date the milestone during the Tetrarchic period; the presentation of the milestones of this period in the same article).

As regarding the same inscription, we add the median hastae at the beginning of the 8th line could mention the IVth consulate⁴⁵ of the two *Caesares*-M. Flavius Constantius and C. Galerius Valerius Maximianus, previously mentioned in the text, owned by both in 302 A.D.⁴⁶; it is possible that their common consulate determined this mention, thus we are meeting an exacte dating of the text *a*, with the caution already expressed of the lack of analogies in the province Scythia for the discussed period⁴⁷.

The above mentioned date corresponds to a very intense building stage on the Scythian *limes*, at the end of the 3rd century-the beginning of the 4th century A.D., illustrated archaeologically and epigraphically, for the second situation, as we can see the Tetrachic inscriptions on the occasion of some cities rebuilding, discovered at Sexaginta Prista⁴⁸, Transmarisca⁴⁹, Durostorum⁵⁰ and Halmyris, the last dated between 301-305 A.D.⁵¹.

The inscription *b* from Capidava doesn't have added, as usually, the formula *Domini nostri*, if it wasn't possible to have been written on the broken part of the stone.

The text *b*, written in nominative is similar to a milestone, unknown source, dated between 313-323 A.D.⁵².

To the period when the born nr 4 from Capidava was supposed to have been written, meaning the 1st of March 317, the date when there were proclaimed the three *Caesares* - Crispus, Licinius *filius* and Constantinus II, until the moment when Licinius *pater* was eliminated, in 324⁵³, it is known a milestone discovered in Mangalia⁵⁴; we add to this one another milestone discovered on the same coast road, in Vama Veche⁵⁵, where the name of Licinus who suffered *damnatio memoriae* was erased (as well as on the previous piece).

The names of Licinus (r.3) together with Crispus and Licinius Iunior (r. 5-6) are erased (the last one partially) on the milestone discovered in Capidava; in the same time, probably, the double letters referring to the two *Augusti* (l. 4) are reduced to one.

The milestone from Capidava, together with the fragmentary one from

⁴⁵ Usually, the numbers are placed according the indicated function-COS; there are also situations when the numbers of the archaeological context are situated before or there are used both methods, see ISM V, 8 landmark from Capidava and 57, identical sample from Ulmetum etc.

⁴⁶ CAGNAT 1914, p. 236; DEGRASSI 1952, p. 77, nr. 1055.

⁴⁷ IGLR, *passim*; though, see the notice COS on the milestones in other areas, CIL XVII/2, 613, 368, 186 (the period of the 1st Tetrarchy).

⁴⁸ Ann.Ép. 1966, 357 (298-299 A.D.).

⁴⁹ ILS, 641 (294-299 A.D.).

⁵⁰ Ann.Ép. 1936, 10 (292-299 A.D.).

⁵¹ ZAHARIADE 1994, p. 173-186; ZAHARIADE 1997, p. 228-236 (= Ann.Ép. 1997, 318).

⁵² IGLR, 274.

⁵³ CAGNAT 1914, p. 239, 242 (307-323); LIEBENAM 1909, p. 120 (308-324). For the imperial cognomen Licinianus written completely, see IGLR 237; add also 170 (the erased name); see also CIL XVII/2, 608, 610, 293 and 183 a (Licinianus Iunior).

⁵⁴ BĂRBULESCU-MUNTEANU, RĂDULESCU 1980, p. 151-155, nr. 5 (317-324).

⁵⁵ IGLR, 108 (307-323 A.D.); *supra* n. 54; the name of Licinius is erased also on other monuments, see mostly IGLR, 170 (Tropaeum Traiani).

Troesmis, dated between 308-323⁵⁶ indicate the reconstruction of the road on the *limes*, otherwise known in the whole province of Scythia and continued during the Constantinian period⁵⁷.

The milestones discovered in Capidava until now, dated in 159 A.D., then a sample from the middle of the 3rd century (as we have mentioned, probably from Philip the Arab⁵⁸) and now the milestone from the first Tetrarchy and the Constantinian period, underline the well-known importance of this centre on the Danube *limes*⁵⁹, centre situated on a trade and strategic, route constantly repaired in the 2nd-4th century; Capidava was, in the same period, a connection, by the secondary roads⁶⁰, with the West-Pontic cities Tomis and Histria.

4. The milestone discovered occasionally in Mangalia (Callatis), included for a long time in MINAC collection, inv nr. 47*. Both the upper part and the lower parts of the milestone are broken, the actual sizes are: h.= 0,37 **; d. = 0,28 m; the letters height = 4,5-5 cm (Fig. 4 a-c).

The stone is eaten away considerably, some poor carved letters hardly can be distinguished, others, on the 2nd-3rd line, were carved deeper, probably when the inscription was written again.

The milestone is a palimpsest, with a fragmentary text preserved on six lines, still having between few letters to 10-11 letters. Thus, on 1st line there can be seen the letter M, followed by A; on the 2nd line F was transformed in P, L has the lower line inclined, and C is rectangular in shape with opened hastae; the 2nd line final is unclear, B (or S?) can be seen and hastae traces. In the end of the 3rd line, AVG can be distinguished, as well as an A inclined to the left, V better carved and G as well. On the 4th line, the first preserved letter could be T, then a broken part, it is to be seen M, probably linked with A^{***}. On the 5th line, the letters NS have a special shape, probably a consequence of using the old hastae; then letters traces are to be seen and on the end of the line there are two vertical hastae. On the 6th line, only the upper part of some letters is still preserved, among which there are to be distinguished unclearly ET GA... and letters traces.

⁵⁶ IGLR, 237 (308-323 A.D.).

⁵⁷ HOLLENSTEIN 1975, p. 39-40; BĂRBULESCU, CÂTEIA 1997, p. 195.

⁵⁸ OPRİȘ, POPESCU 1986, p. 189-190; ISM V, 9 and *supra* n. 18.

⁵⁹ FLORESCU 1958, *passim*; ISM V, p. 30-76; IGLR, p. 230-236; SUCEVEANU 1977, *passim*. ZAHARIADE 1988, p.123-125 ; ZAHARIADE, GUDEA, 1997, p.79; ZAHARIADE 2006, *passim*.

⁶⁰ A recent discussion about the categories of roads at FODORAN 2006, p. 17-50; PANAIȚE 2006, p. 57-70.

* The piece evidence card was made on the 5th December 1960 by Adrian Rădulescu, indicating also older inventory numbers of the piece (191; 33177), evidence the milestone was included in the collection of Constanța museum for a long time; the date when the piece entered in the collections, 1956, corresponds to the museum reorganisation.

** The same source defines that the „both the upper and the lower parts of the milestone are broken”. As the card has enclosed a photo identical with the actual stone situation, we believe the indicated height of 0,940 m is not real. As far as we know, the piece doesn't complete neither of the already published milestones in the area, though, according to the fragmentary aspect of the inscription, this is not to be excluded for the future.

*** The left hasta of the letter M is deeper, being probably a letter not mentioned, written at the beginning as CA.

The milestone from Mangalia offers us some hints to include the last text among those of the first Tetrarchy (293-305 A.D.):

.....
 Ma[ximiano]
 Piis Felici[(bus)]
 invictis Aug(ustis)
 [e]t M(arco) [Fl(avio) Val(erio)]
 [C]ons[tantio]
 et Ga[lerio Val(erio)]
 [Maximiano]
 [nob(ilissimis) Caes(aribus)].

According to the letters and the name position in the text, this one seems to belong to the *Caesar* M. Flavius Valerius Constantius, mentioned both with *praenomen* on a milestone of the same period****; mentioning again the present milliary, the name of the other *Caesar*, Galerius, on the 6th line is not enough clear.

We are also interested by the imperial epitheticals-*pii felices* (in dative), written almost *in extenso*, as there can be seen on some samples in the 3rd century A.D.⁶¹, maybe an evidence of the fact that we are in front of an inscription of this period, partially used, without having enough elements to date it exactly.

We mentioned previously the milestone discovered in an unknown area, on which there was identified an inscription (*a*) dated during Marcus Aurelius time (163 A.D.) (found also on some milestones in the area of the city of Callatis) and another text (*b*) dated during Diocletian's period, with a more accurate writing than the present one and with the imperial names written in nominative, evidence the work was done by imperial command⁶².

The milestone above mentioned has some paleographical similarities with the inscription on the milestone found in Dorobanțu⁶³ and, of course with other inscriptions of the same period.

The part of the road in the neighbourhood of the city of Callatis attracted the attention of the imperial authorities in a first stage of Marcus Aurelius period, when the building efforts aimed a section of about 14 km, along the coast (between the villages 23 August and 2 Mai)⁶⁴ and less in the 3rd century A.D. (Philip the Arab), as the milestone of Arsa shows us, consequences of very well

**** Studying the rests of the letters on the 1st row indicating Maximianus and the two *Augusti* mentioned in the text (on the 2nd and the 3rd row), it is less probably to speak about another *Caesar* with a similar name: Constantinus the IInd, Constans or Constantius II, the sons of Constantine the Great, see as well *infra* n. 62.

⁶¹ BĂRBULESCU-MUNTEANU, RĂDULESCU 1980, p. 148-151, nr. 4; IIDEM 1991, p. 132-136, nr. 3: two milestones from Tomis, during Valerianus and Gallienus period, on which the written words are similar: „piis felic[is] sic invictis Aug(ustis)”.

⁶² IGLR, 84= ISM III, 196; ȘTEFAN 1984, p. 95-100, nr. 1, fig. 1-5; Ann.Ép. 1985, 757: „et M(arcus) / [Fla(vius) Val(erius) Constant]iu[s...]”

⁶³ IGLR, 83 (293-305).

⁶⁴ *Supra* n. 9; ȘTEFAN 1984, p. 105.

known causes; new works to restore the coast road are better done during the first Tetrarchy, by the two milestones from Mangalia previously mentioned; these works were continued during Constantine's period on the section between Callatis-Vama Veche, where also come from other two milestones⁶⁵.

The four milestones above discussed as well as other samples⁶⁶, complete a well-known description of the itineraries of the ancient roads and their restoring stages in the area, from the Mouths of the Danube and in the West-Pontic area⁶⁷.

The discovery of numerous *milliaria* in the last decades in the North area of Moesia Inferior, later on Scythia leads to a more ample discussion (taking into consideration all the categories of sources), on the Roman communication ways in the province and in a larger region⁶⁸.

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⁶⁵ BĂRBULESCU-MUNTEANU, RĂDULESCU 1980, p. 151-155, nr. 5; IGLR, 108 (307-323).

⁶⁶ To be added other milestones already published: two samples from Carsium, cf. NICOLAE 1995-1996, p. 143, n. 76, pl. 5, 1A and B; pl. 5, 2; NICOLAE, NICOLAE 2004-2005, p. 393-394 and p. 402, pl. VII. For some unpublished pieces, see BĂRBULESCU, CÂTEIA 1998, p. 127, n. 89 and *supra* n. 44 (Mihail Kogălniceanu).

⁶⁷ BARNEA 1997, p. 29-43; BĂRBULESCU, CÂTEIA 1997, p. 183-198; Eadem 1998, p. 119-129.

⁶⁸ *Supra*, n. 1; ZAHARIADE 2006, p. 43-49; PANAITE 2006, p. 57-70; PANAITE, ALEXANDRESCU 2008; see also MROZEWICZ [2004], p. 345-359.

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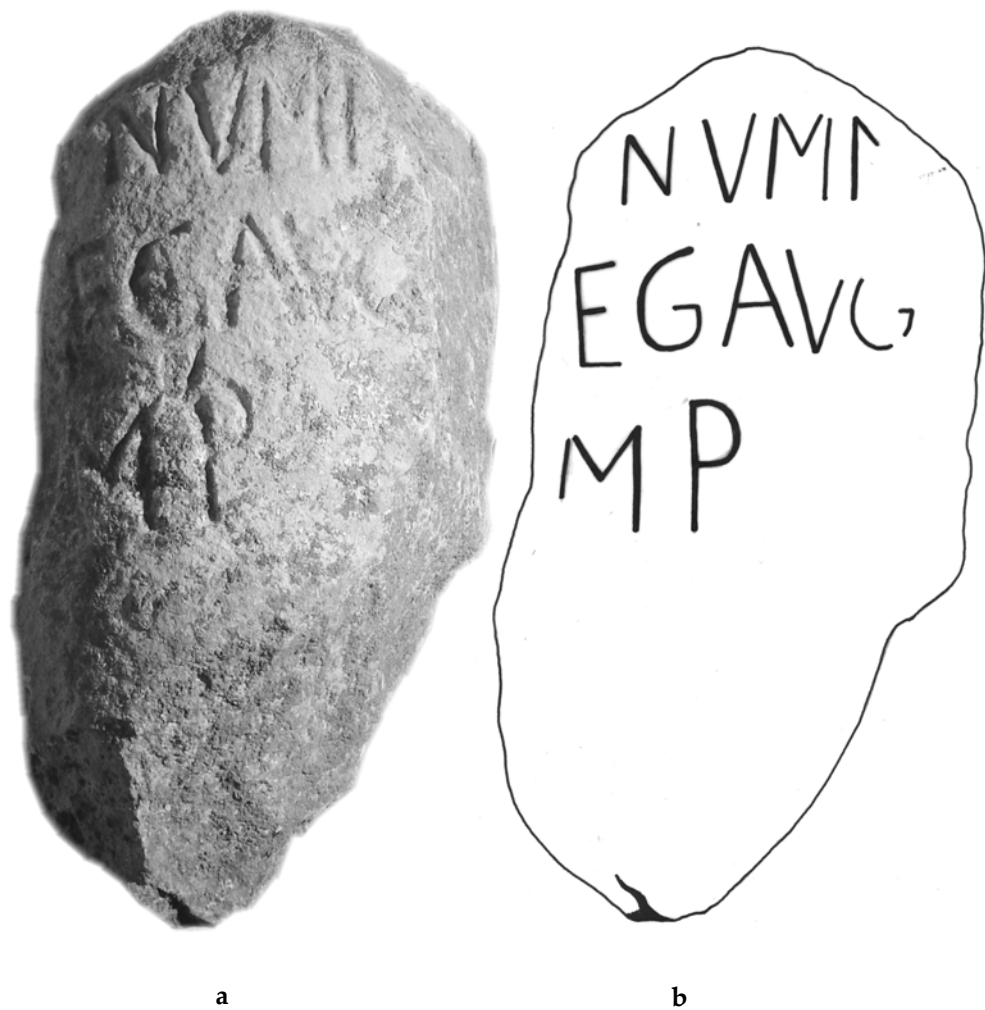
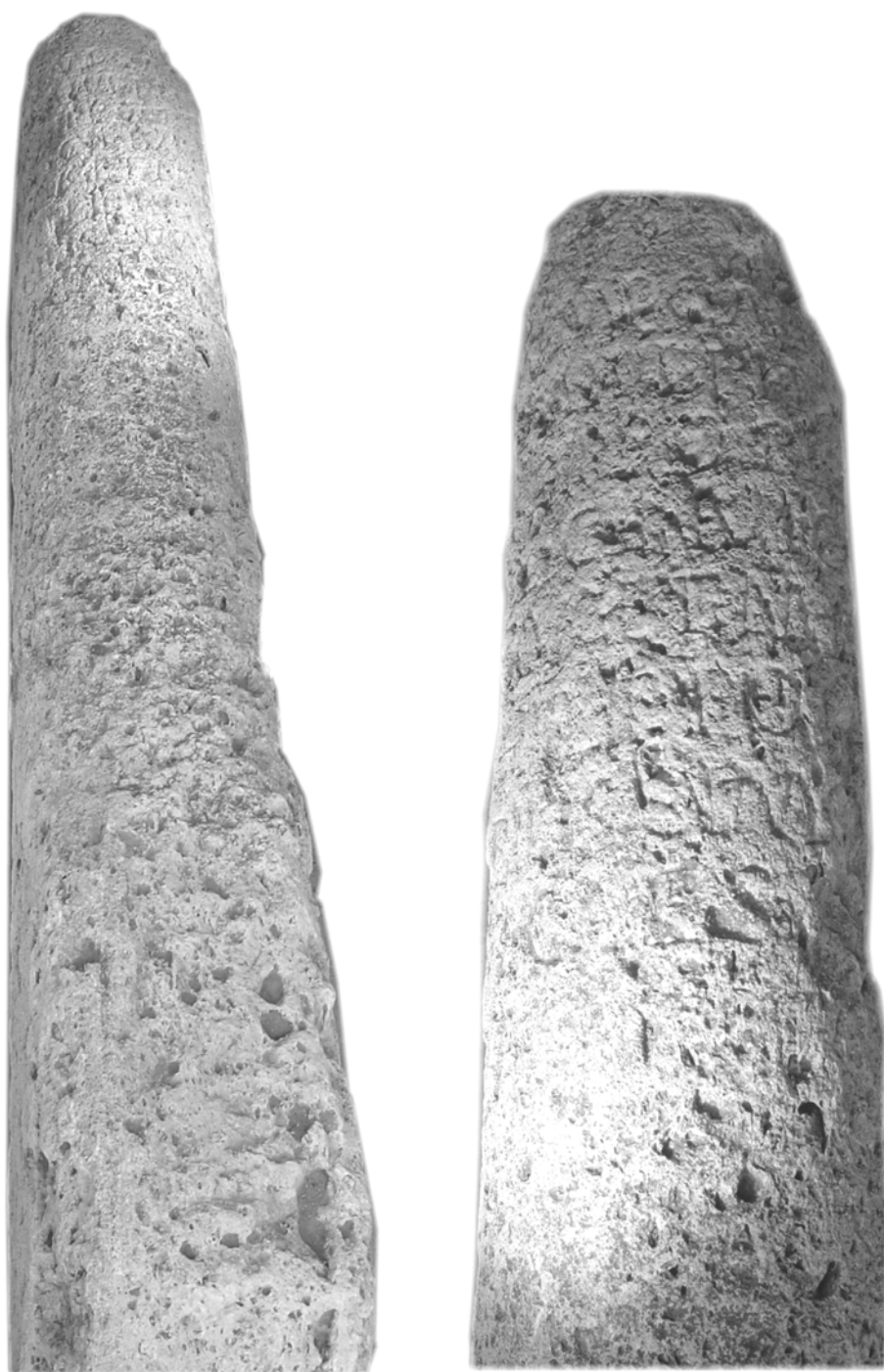


Fig. 1 a-b



a

b

Fig. 2 a-b



Fig. 2c



a



b

Fig. 3 a-b



Fig. 4 a-b

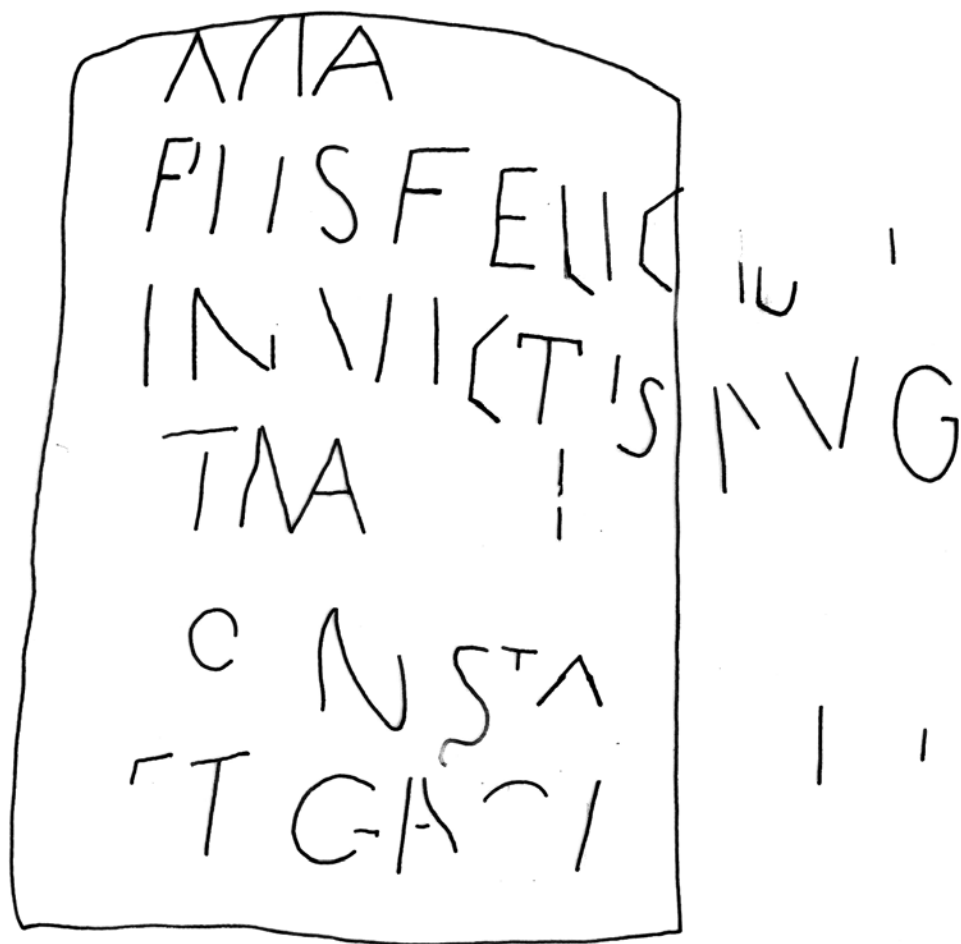


Fig. 4c