

INSCRIPTION ON THE CONSTRUCTION OF DYRRAH

por

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RESUMEN

Un número considerable de inscripciones sobre diferentes soportes aparecidas en Dyrrah (Dyrrachium), aporta información acerca de los monumentos de la colonia y sus constructores. Estos epígrafes se encuentran relacionados, directa o indirectamente con las construcciones monumentales del acueducto, la vía de Egnatia, las termas públicas, los templos de Minerva y Diana, la biblioteca y el anfiteatro, y en algunos casos constituyen la única evidencia de su existencia. A través de los documentos epigráficos se conocen talleres que producen materiales destinados a la construcción, además del nombre de algunos de los magistrados responsables de su realización. Todos estos datos completan el conocimiento que se tiene de la arquitectura de la colonia a partir de las excavaciones arqueológicas.

The great number of archaeological excavations in the city of Durrës have made possible to discover such monuments as the amphitheatre¹, roman baths², aqueduct³, and other constructive objects which in some cases are ornamented with mosaics⁴. Moreover, other data taken from other inscriptions complete the level of constructive achievements of Dyrrah, which in our case belong to the first three centuries A.C.⁵.

One century before the discovery of the aqueduct in the place called «Burimi i Arapajt», the was found a marble slab with the inscription dedicated to this

1. L. MIRAJ, *L'amphitheatre de Durrës*, Iliria, 1986/2.

2. L. MIRAJ, *Roman baths in Durrës*, International Conference on Roman Baths, 30 March-4 April 1992.

3. F. MIRAJ, H. MYRTO, *L'aqueduct de Dyrrachium*, Iliria, 1982/1.

4. M. ZEÇO, *Fouilles archeologiques 1988*, Iliria, 1988/2, p. 252.

5. For providing and interpretation of inscriptions I thank F. Miraj.

monument⁶. It was the inscription itself which gave reason for the search, exactitude and print of the fifteenth meter long.

IMP.CAES
M. AVRELIVS SEVER
ALEXANDER. PIVS
FELIX. AVG. AQVAE
DVCTVM. DIVI
HADRIANI PARENTIS
SVI LIBERALITATE. DYR
RACHINIS FACTVM ET
VETVSTATE PLVRIBVS
IN LOCIS. VEXATVM RESTI
TVIT. SET. ET. VIAM. A CO
LONIA PER MII
A PASSVVM
QVATTVOR VOR AGINI BVS

IMP(erator) CAES(ar) M(arcus) AVRELIVS SEVER(us) ALEXANDER PIVS
FELIX AVG(ustus) AQVAEDVCTVM DIVI HADRIANI PARENTIS SVI LI-
BERALITATE DYRRACHINIS FACTVM ET VETVSTATE PLVRIBVS IN LO-
CIS VEXATVM RESTITVIT SET ET VIAM A COLONIA PER MI (1) IA
PASSVVM QVATTVOR VORAGINIBVS.

Emperor Caesar Marc Aureli Severi, the beseeched an lucky Alexander, res-
tored the famous aqueduct, which was constructed for the inhabitants of Dyrra-
chium due to the generosity of his grandfather Hadrian, the divine. But through
times it has been deteriorated in many places. He has restored even the road
departing from colonia and has repaired the damages caused by the torrents in a
course of 4000 steps.

Being constructed in the years 117-138, the aqueduct was repaired during
the years 222-235, thus functioning even during the 3rd century. It is said, that
Vibius Sequester (middle of the 3rd century-beginning of the 4th century) has
seen it as he mentioned *Ululeus* river, from which Dyrrah takes all the needed
water⁷.

Taking this into account consideration, we think that the utilization of the
aqueduct has continued during this time because if there would have been another
river source beside Erzeni, the author would have mentioned it.

6. The inscription was discovered from L. Henzey and now it is in Luvër. Look L. Henzey, H.
DANMET, *Mission archeologique de Macedoine*, Paris, 1876, p. 172; *CIL*, III, 709.

7. VIBIUS SEQUESTER, *De fluminibus, fontibus, lacubus, memoribus, paludibus, gentibus, per litteras
libellus*, in B. C., Taubrier Libsiae, 1967-Remo Gelsomino.

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There are other inscriptions about aqueduct upon the leaden slabs, which served to produce the water-pipes in the city (*fistulae*)⁸. One of the water-pipes which is 0,91 m. long and diameter 0,21 m., has the following inscription:

AQVAE HADRIANI
COL.IVL.AVG.DYRR.
OFFIC.EVTYCH P. (P)

AQVAE HADRIAN(i) COL(oniae) IVL(iae) AVG(ustae) DYRR(achinis) OFFIC(inis) EVTYCH(inis) P(ecunia) (publica).

Hadrian waters for Iuliae Augustae Colony of inhabitants of Dirrah, where Eutikius is the workshop, was with public expenses.

Another water-pipe with the same measurements has the inscription:

COLIVLIAE AVG DYRRACHINI
AQ.HADRIANI
CVR.ILLI.GALI ET AVIDIO CAMVRIANO

COL(oniae) IVLIAE AVG(ustae) DYRRACHINI(s) AQ(uae) HADRIANI CVR(atores) ILLI GALI ET AVIDIO CAMVRIANO.

For Hadrian water in Iuliae Augustae Colony of Dyrrah inhabitants are protectors Gali and Avid Camuriani.

Another water-pipe (fig. 1) a little different with diameter 0,05 m., which served to spread the water to the dwelling-houses and public sources has the inscription⁹:

...EDEMTI C.I.A.D.

(r) EDEMTI C(oloniae) I(uliae) A(ugustae) D(yrrachinis).

Under the undertaking of Iuliae Augustae Colony of Dyrrah.

Another water-pipe 0,45 m. long and diameter 0,05 m. has the monogrammed inscription (fig. 2):

OFFI.PONT $\overline{\text{HERMER}}$

That is completed: OFFI. PONTI HERMER

8. All the inscriptions upon the leaden water-pipes are stored in the Archaeological Museum in Durrës and a part of them are referred to F. MIRAJ, *Inscriptions sur l'aqueduc de Durrës*, Monumentet, 1981, 2, p. 127-129. There are other aqueduct with inscriptions upon the leaden water-pipes. Ref. O. WINCKELMANN, *Hygienische Aspekte der Wasserversorgung antiker Städte*, Die Wasserversorgung antiker Städte, Band 3, Mainz, 1988, p. 184 (it is in Bolegnes Museum); H. C. LAMPRECHT, *Bau und Material technik der Antiker wasserversorgung saulagen*, Die wasserversorgung..., Mainz, 1988, p. 135, Abb 9, (water-pipes in the Arles, with diameter 0,12 m. and spesor 0,01 m.). Another inscribed water-pipe is in the Wiesbaden Museum and belong to the water pipe of the year 90 A.C.. Refer to R. GREWE, *Römische wasserleitungere nordlich der Alpen*, Die wasserversorgung..., Mainz 1988, p. 61.

9. This kind of water-pipe was found during the construction of channel about 100 m. north the black and white mosaic with marine picture and in another posterior construction placed upon this mosaic. In both cases measurements and the inscriptions are the same. Refer to M. ZEEO, *Fouilles archeologiques 1988*, Iliria, 1988/2, p. 252.

OFFI(cinis) PONTI(ci) HERMER(acles).

Pontik Hermerakli workshop.

Besides Eutyk workshop for producing the leaden water-pipes, we get acquainted with another workshop. Pontik Hermerakli is the owner of the workshop.

Some of the inscriptions upon the water-pipes which distribute the water in the town, mark the construction time of water-pipe, and the name of Dyrrah Colony Iuliae Augustae which was very powerful at the beginning of 2nd century A.C.

The water-pipe itself, as a very important engineering art (work) constructed with a high technical level gives evidence for this, it is enough to mention here the use of 16 kind of bricks or the mortar from the simple and to even the hydroisolating ones and the realisation of crossing the swamp with arches, etc.

From these inscriptions we learn the names of the construction undertakers as Gai and Avid Kamuriani, Eutyk workshop, Pontik Hermerakli workshop, which produce materials for aqueduct.

Being short of sources of water, the aqueduct was a necessity since early times. Before the construction of aqueduct the town was supplied from the mountain sources on the northern part (Boreas Dyrrachi)¹⁰. There have been discovered ceramic-pipes which served to gather the spring waters into the water main up to the city.

In the inscription there was mentioned even the repaired road that connected the colony of Dyrrah with other countries. The road passed by the aqueduct and it is supposed to be Egnatia road, which entered the town somewhere near the aqueduct¹¹. An inscription upon the stone found in Sallmonaj village gives evidence for the existence of this road¹².

DIIS GENITIS ET DEORVM CREATORIBVS
D.D.N.N. DIOCLETIANO ET... IS AVGG.

VIII.

DIIS GENITIS ET DEORVM CREATORIBVS D(ominus) N(ostris) DIO-
CLETIANO ET (Maximiliano) (invict)IS AVGG(ustis) VIII.

10. VIBIUS SEQUESTER, *De fluminibus...*, nr. 238.

11. There are two opinions concerning the entering gate of the town, whose name is connected with the bronze statue of the Cavalier, which ornamented it. The first is from Ana KOMNENA, *The map used by Boemundi for the conquest of Durrës*, VII, Book XIII, 2, 3, p. 179-185, that calls it «the eastern gate». The next opinion is from K. ANCONITANUS, *Epigramata per Illyricum reperta*, p. 21, that calls «the northern gate».

This gate of Egnatia road (Millan SUFFLAY, *Städte und Burgen Albaniens hauptsächlich während des Mittelalters*, Wien, 1924, p. 21, writes in this form) was the main one which connected town with the lands behind. This orientation must be north east, which corresponds with the direction of aqueduct entrance, though it is qualified eastern from Ana Komena or northern from Kiriaku Anconitanus.

12. L. HENZLEY, M. DANMET, *Mission...*, p. 389, nr 174. According to Sestieri who has printed it himself the inscription is lost to P. C. SESTIERI, *Iscrizioni latini dal' Albania*, Tirana, 1943, nr 87.

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In both cases it refers to the same road, but the miliar stone is placed in the time of Diocletian (284-305), 8 miles from Dyrrah. This gives evidence for the existence in time of the road and the repairing that were carried out in different times during the 3rd century, as during the years of Alexander Severius as well as later in that of Diocletina.

In the period connected with these latin inscriptions, Dyrrah has been greatly constructed. This is evident from the great monuments discovered or different architecture parts brought to light from different excavations. This great constructive rhythm, is reflected even on the inscription of Luc Flav Telur Getulicu¹³.

L.FL.T.F.AEM.TELLV
GAETVLICO.EQ.P.HON
AB. IMP.CAES.TRAIANO.AV
PRAEF.CO.H.II EQVITAT.HISP.GERM
SVP.IIVIR.Q.Q.PONTIF.PATR.COL.QVI. IN
COMPARAT.SOLI.OPER.BYBLIOS S. CLXXI
REM.P.IMPEND.LEVAVIT.ET OB...IVS
GLADIATOR P. XII EDI... MC

L(ucio) FL(avio) TELLV(ri) GAETVLICO AEM(ilia) EQ(uo) P(ublico) HO-
N(orato) AB IMP(eratore) CAES(are) TRAIANO AV(gusto) PRAEF(ecto) CO-
H(ortis) II EQVITAT(ae) HISP(anorum) GERM(ania) SVP(eriore) IIVIR(o) Q(uin)
Q(uennali) PONTIF(ici) PATR(ono) COL(oniae) QVI IN COMPARAT(ione) SOLI
OPER(is) BYBLIOS(thecae) S. CLXXI REMP(ublicam) IMPEND(io) LEVAVIT
ET OB (f)IVS (ludos) (de) S(ua) P(ecuniae) GLADIATOR(ibus) XII P(aribus)
EDI(dit)...

Luc Flav Telur Getulic, public knight, honored by the Emperor Caesar Trajan August, major of the second cohort of Spaniards whitt the title of knight in the upper Germany, five years duumvir head priest defender of the colony, gathered 170.000 sesterces for the library construction, so as to facilitate the republic expenses, on the inauguration games with 12 couples of gladiators were performed at his own expenses.

The library (nowadays still undiscovered) was constructed in Dyrrah before the aqueduct during the years 98-117. The patron of colony himself had invested 170.000 sesterce facilitating the Republic expenses.

This inscription has influenced a lot of the opinions concerning the date of amphitheatre¹⁴. The inscription itself does not underline or exclude the existence of the amphitheatre.

13. L. HENZLEY, H. DANMET, *Mission...*, nr 157; *CIL*, 607.

14. M. GERVASIO, *L'Albania antica*, Bari, 1940, p. 272, was the first to put the idea of the amphitheatre existing in the time of the Library inauguration. Later it was Sestieri, who repeated this idea (Refer to P. C. SESTIERI, *Iscrizioni...*, p. 22-23). Another idea is that the amphitheatre construction was made side by side, with the inauguration of Library (Refer to V. TOCI, *L'amphitheatre de Durrës*, 1970, p. 40).

If the amphitheatre existed at that time, this competition might have been done there, but it is not clear if the 12 gladiator couples might have fought in the theatre or in another place.

Anyhow, regarding this inscription we can not suppose the construction of library and amphitheatre at the same time. Regarding the technique of construction and the constructive material used. Anyway me believe that the amphitheatre might have been constructed before the aqueduct. The coming archeological excavations will bring to light new data concerning this.

The other inscription regarding the gladiator's games is carved upon a grave pillar¹⁵. Though it is broken, it is stored in 0,29 m. long. It has got an intersection with diameter 0,145 m. in the bottom part while in the upper part it ends in elliptical form with axis 0,125 m. and 0,110 m.

L.ETEREIVS
MAGISTER
LVDEI
HAVE

L(ucius) ETEREIVS MAGISTER LVDEI HAVE.

Luc Etereius, magistrate of the games with gladiators farewell.

The games with gladiators were very popular in Dyrrah. The amphitheatre as one of biggest of the antique world, gives proof of this. Throught such inscriptions we conclude that they were afforded by the private funds and that Luc Etereius is one the magistrates of these games.

The inscription dedicated to Sysr Epidamni is read upon an ornamented marble slab¹⁶.

...

EPIDAMNO SY
EQR.AEDI IIVIRQ
FLAMINI AVGV...
PATRONO. COL DY...
FABRI TIGNVARI PR...
PECTO SVO PERPET...
OB MERITA EIVS QU...
IN SE SAEPIVS LIBIE...
CONTVLIT POSVERV...
L.D.D.

EPIDAMNO SY(ro) EQ(uiti) R(omano) AED(ili) IIVIR(o) Q(uinquennali)
FLAMINI AVGV(sti) PATRONO COL(oniae) DY(rrachinorum) FABRI TIGNVA-

15. The inscription is in the Archaeological Museum of Durrës and still it is not known the exact place in the town when it was discovered (it is published for the first time).

16. The inscription is in Luver and is published from L. HENZEY, *Mission...*, nr 152; *CIL*, 611.

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RI PR(ae)FECTO SVO PERPET(ua) OB MERITA EIVS QU(ae) IN SE SAEPIVS LIBIE(nter) CONTVLIT POSVERV(nt) L(ocus) D(atus) D(ecurionum) D(ecreto).

Syr Epidami roman knight, five years edil and duumvir, Flamin Augusti defender of the colony of Dyrrah. The carpenter masters on the honour of their permanent prefect, due to the goodness that has bestowed all the time, have put this monument place allowed (free) with the decret of decurions.

The punctuation marks are substituted with the leaves (*hedera*) and the inscription might belong to Hadrian time.

Syr Epidami, the defender of the colony is augustal, five years duumvir, edil and permanent prefect of the carpenters masters. He is native, that proves the increasing and strengthemy of this element up to the multifunction high duties (obligations) of that period.

The inscription is dedicated to the prefect from the carperter masters. They are a class of constructor masters of wood working whose work in part of the all great constructions of the town, during this time, these constructions needed so much this art.

We get known with the existence of the Minerva Temple, throught the inscription carved upon an altar which has been placed on this temple¹⁷. (The temple we are speaking is still undiscovered).

L.PAPIO L.L.
FORTVNAT
AVG.PERPETIO
BISELLI EX D.D.HONO
OC TEMPLVM MINERV
SAB REP DATO SI
...RIAMI AT...

L(ucio) PAPIO L(uci) L(iberto) FORTVNAT(o) AVG(ustali) PERPETIO BISELLI(o) EX D(ecurionum) D(ecreto) HONO(rate) (h)OC TEMPLVM MINERV(ae) S(olo) AB REP(ublica) DATO SI(ne) ... RIAMI AT...

Luc Papi, libert of the fortunate Luci, honoured as augustal with decret of the decurion, for the construction of the temple of Minerva the ground of which has given from the Republic itself.

Minerva, goddess of erudition and arts, culture and political¹⁸, thought this town was (called) «very important»¹⁹.

The ground of construction was given from the republic of Luc Papi, who might have been even the responsible architect. He is honoured with decret of Decurions for the construction of Temple. Sestier thinks that the traces if this

17. C. PRASCHNIKER, SCHOBER, *Archeologische Forschungen in Albanien und Montenegro*, Wien, 1916, p. 40; P. C. SESTIERI, *Iscrizioni...*, nr 66.

18. L. MUMFORD, *La cité à travers l'histoire*, Paris, 1964, p. 721.

19. DION CASII, *Historia romana*, L. XLI, 49.

temple are connected with the ruins discovered on the eastern part of the hill of Stoni during the years 1914-1918, which consist of some monolit columns, a corinthic capital an some stratum marble slabs²⁰. Considering the type of letters, he thinks that the inscription is dated at the begining of the empire.

From an inscription fragment in the corner of a column, found on the osman wall, Henzey presents to us the Daiana Temple (Artemis)²¹.

DIA...
DIA(nae).

Regarding the temple speaking we get known from the Appian's writings²². According to the agreement it is written them, Jul Caesar started with a few men and arrived by the gates of Artemis temple at night. The temple was near the gates of Artemis temple at night. The temple was near the gates inside or outside the city enclosure, but it was the first to be presented to the arrivals and it is not by chace that it is mentioned by this antique author as a fact of the town.

The Venera Temple is mentioned on the Catul writings²³. Praschmiker thinks that this temple has been near the place of tobacco fermentation plant (mill) today, where there have been discovered many architectonic fragments²⁴.

Another inscription is dedicated to Luc Valer²⁵:

L.VALERIO M
FELICI...SPI
AEDILI.AVGVRI
ITEM.II.VIR Q
XXX...

L(ucio) VALERIO M(arci) (filio) FELICI SPI(rarchi) AEDILI AVGVRI (Flamini) ITEM DVVMVIR(o) Q(uinquennali) XXX...

Luc Valeri Marci, son of the Felix Spirarchi, edil augur, Flamin and five years duumvir.

The inscription introduces us with another protector of constructions, who is Luc Valeri.

There is an inscription written with stilos upon brick in one of the columns of the hypocaust in the caldarium of Roman public Bath. (It was dicovered by F. Miraj, during the restauration and documentation and is in the Institute of Cultural Monuments in Tirana) (fig. 3).

20. P. C. SESTIERI, *Iscrizioni...*, p. 40-41.

21. L. HENZEY, *Mission...*, nr 160.

22. APPIAN, *Bella civilia*, II, 60.

23. Catuli, 36, 15.

24. C. PRASCHMIKER, *Archeologische...*, p. 42.

25. H. CEKA, S. ANAMALDI, *Unpublished latin inscriptions of Albania*, B.U.SH.T., Tirana, 1961/1, nr 5.

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The brick is small, 22,2 x 22,2 cm.

L.TVTILI
V.RVFVS
ARC

L(ucius) TVTILI V(enerus) RVFVS ARC(?)²⁶.

So, the name of Luc Tutili is connected with the construction of another monument in Dyrrah in the 1st century A.C. as were e.g. the public bath.

From more than 100 latin inscriptions discovered in Durrës, 13 are connected with the constructions, concretly they belong to aqueduct, public bath, library, Minerva temple, Dajana temple, and indirectly the amphitheatre.

Throught these inscriptions we learn that Luc Flav Getulic and Syr Epidamni were protectors of the Juliae Augustae Colony of Dyrrah. They were edils of constructions and were members of the college of Augustals. Even Luc Papi was a member of this college decorated with *Bissellio* price, from the decurions decrete for the construction of Minerva Temple. Meanwhile Luc Valer is not only edil but, five year duumvir too. Other protectors for the construction of aqueduct are Gai and Avid Kamuriani, merely Luc Tutili seemed to be an architect (?) of Baths. The inscriptions belong to the end of the 1st century and the beginning of 2nd century A.C. (excluding that of Alexander Sever on miliar stone of the Diocletian era). This period corresponds with a general flourishing, and with the increase of the constructive level of Dyrrah. To face them there are: 1. Republic funds, 2. Public funds and 3. Private ones.

So, Luc Flav Getulic has private funds that deposits for construction and inauguration of library, facilitating the Republic funds, which seemed to be essential for its construction. The Eutykus workshop, which produces leadenpipes, has public funds, but at the same time there are even workshop owneres as e.g. Pontic Hermeracles, who can work with private funds. The carpenters are connected among them and their master is the prefect of colony, Syr Epidamni himself.

Another data from the inscription of Luc Papi is that the place for the construction of the Temple was given from the Republic, which had the ownership over land.

The monuments of this period give evidence of a high constructive projecting and applicative level for that time. The leaden-pipes of the aqueduct were produced in the town. The wide pipes of the water-main seemed to have been produced by

26. The completion of the word «ARC» might be ARC(arius) or ARC(himinius). We think to define, may be ARC(hitectus) as more suitable meaning regarding the inscription because *archiminius*, chief imitator in theatre is not the very completion regarding, the inscription on the brick of bath. Another possible completion is *arcarius*, a person who preserves the clothings, outfits, etc., very often a devoted slave in the bath. Anyhow there was no reason why to carve during construction upon the bricks of pilasters the name of a person, whose function would be performed after putting into use the Bath.

the Eutyc workshop, while the Pontic Hermeracles workshop produced family pipes that served to connect the secondary arteries.

There have existed other powerful workshops for production of other constructive materials. The bricks workshop must have been one of them. The quality of bricks reached a perfection and they were used in the aqueduct. They were used in a great quantity in all constructions discovered at this time, which show a high organization and exact calculation, depending on the object they were used for.

The vestiges of work done by carpenter masters is evident in the lintels of the amphitheatre galleries, vestiges left after removing the framework (served) for *opus caementicium*. The construction of about 30 types of arches with bricks or cylindrical crossed vestiges in the amphitheatre is a proof of the work of these masters²⁷.

The supposition for the parallel direction of the Egnatia road with aqueduct locates the searching place of the gate, the so called «The knight gate», which has played a decisive role in the urbanistic formulation of the town itself, as a gate connected with the direction of the aqueduct.

All these data regarding the construction and constructor of Dyrrah on the latin inscription, complete the history of the antique architecture of this town.

27. L. MIRAJ, *L'amphitheatre...*, Iliria 1986/2.

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Fig. 1.



Fig. 2.



Fig. 3.