

Universitatea „Alexandru Ioan Cuza“ din Iași  
Facultatea de Istorie • Centrul de Studii Clasice și Creștine

Nr. 7-2/2012

# CLASSICA & CHRISTIANA



Editura Universității „Alexandru Ioan Cuza“ Iași



***Classica et Christiana***

Revista Centrului de Studii Clasice și Creștine

Fondator: Nelu ZUGRAVU

**7/2, 2012**

***Classica et Christiana***

Periodico del Centro di Studi Classici e Cristiani

Fondatore: Nelu ZUGRAVU

**7/2, 2012**

**ISSN: 1842 - 3043**

**Comitetul științific / Comitato scientifico**

- Ovidiu ALBERT (Ostkirchliches Institut der Bayerisch-Deutschen Augustinerprovinz an der Universität Würzburg)  
Livia BUZOIANU (Muzeul Național de Istorie și Arheologie Constanța)  
Marija BUZOV (Istituto di Archeologia, Zagreb)  
Victor COJOCARU (Institutul de Arheologie Iași)  
Ioana COSTA (Universitatea din București)  
Dan DANA (C.N.R.S. – ANHIMA, Paris)  
Mario GIRARDI (Università di Bari)  
Attila JAKAB (Università Eötvös, Budapest)  
Domenico LASSANDRO (Università di Bari Aldo Moro)  
Sorin NEMETI (Universitatea Babeș-Bolyai, Cluj-Napoca)  
Eduard NEMETH (Universitatea Babeș-Bolyai, Cluj-Napoca)  
Cristian OLARIU (Universitatea București)  
Evalda PACI (Centro di Studi di Albanologia, Tirana)  
Marcin PAWLAK (Università di Torun)  
Vladimir P. PETROVIĆ (Accademia Serba delle Scienze e delle Arti, Belgrad)  
Luigi PIACENTE (Università di Bari)  
Mihai POPESCU (C.N.R.S. – USR 710 L'Année Épigraphique, Paris)  
Viorica RUSU BOLINDEȚ (Muzeul Național de Istorie a Transilvaniei, Cluj-Napoca)  
Heather WHITE (Classics Research Centre, London)

**Comitetul de redacție / Comitato di redazione**

- Roxana-Gabriela CURCĂ (Universitatea „Al. I. Cuza” din Iași)  
Mihaela PARASCHIV (Universitatea „Al. I. Cuza” din Iași)  
Claudia TĂRNĂUCEANU (Universitatea „Al. I. Cuza” din Iași)  
Nelu ZUGRAVU, director al Centrului de Studii Clasice și Creștine al Facultății de Istorie a Universității „Alexandru I. Cuza” din Iași  
(*director responsabil / direttore responsabile*)

*Correspondența / Corrispondenza:*

- Prof. univ. dr. Nelu ZUGRAVU  
Facultatea de Istorie, Centrul de Studii Clasice și Creștine  
Bd. Carol I, nr 11, 700506 – Iași, România  
Tel. ++40 232 201634 / ++ 40 742119015, Fax ++ 40 232 201156  
e-mail: nelu@uaic.ro; z\_nelu@hotmail.com

UNIVERSITATEA „ALEXANDRU IOAN CUZA” DIN IAȘI  
FACULTATEA DE ISTORIE  
CENTRUL DE STUDII CLASICE ȘI CREȘTINE

***Classica et Christiana***

***7/2***

**2012**

Tehnoredactor: Nelu ZUGRAVU  
Coperta: Manuela OBOROCEANU

**ISSN: 1842 - 3043**  
Editura Universității „Alexandru Ioan Cuza”  
700511 - Iași, tel./fax ++ 40 0232 314947

## EPIGRAPHIC NOTE ON THE CULT OF JUPPITER DOLICHENUS IN THE IRON GATES\*

Dragana GRBIĆ\*\*  
(Institute for Balkan Studies,  
Serbian Academy of Sciences and Arts, Belgrade)

**Keywords:** *epigraphy, Juppiter Dolichenus, Iron Gates*

**Abstract:** *The paper deals with the unpublished text of the inscription on a bronze plaque dedicated to Juppiter Dolichenus, that was discovered in the room of principia at a military camp Novae (modern Čezava) in the Iron Gates gorge.*

**Cuvinte-cheie:** *epigrafie, Iuppiter Dolichenus, Porțile de Fier*

**Rezumat:** *Articolul prezintă textul unei inscripții inedite aflate pe o placă de bronz dedicată lui Iuppiter Dolichenus în castrul de la Novae (azi, Čezava) din regiunea Porților de Fier.*

During the archaeological excavations in 1965-1970<sup>1</sup>, an inscription dedicated to Juppiter Dolichenus was discovered in the *principia* of Roman fort *Novae*<sup>2</sup> (modern Čezava) in the Iron Gates. It is a small bronze plaque<sup>3</sup> in shape of *tabula ansata*, found together with the base of a statue it was fixed to<sup>4</sup>. Lower sides of both *ansae* are damaged. The objects were placed in a room that served, perhaps, as a *sacellum* inside the *castrum*.

The text of the inscription has never, to my knowledge, been published and passed completely unnoticed. It is only mentioned in

---

\* The article results from the project of the Institute for Balkan Studies SASA: *Society, spiritual and material culture and communications in the prehistory and early history of the Balkans* (no. 177012), funded by the Ministry of Education and Science of the Republic of Serbia.

\*\* ddgrbic@f.bg.ac.rs

<sup>1</sup> D. Pribaković, in *Anciennes cultures* 1969, 88-89; Васић 1982-1983, 91.

<sup>2</sup> On *castrum Novae*: Васић 1982-1983.

<sup>3</sup> Dimensions of the plaque are not indicated, but its size probably did not differ from that of *Egeta* (*AE*1958, 453), *infra*.

<sup>4</sup> Васић 1982-1983, 99.

M. Vasić's article on *castrum Novae* (Васић 1982-1983, 99, 118, f. 22, 11). Fortunately, the author issued a drawing of the inscribed plaque (**Fig. 1**). According to the drawing, text runs as follows:

*I(ovi) O(ptimo) Dolicin(o) (!) / M. Cocceius Zeu/xius v(otum) s(olvit)  
I(ibens) m(erito).*

The quality of the inscription seems poor. Text is arranged in uneven lines; letters are punctured negligently and vary in size and form. In l. 2, and perhaps at the end of l. 4, letter *M* is stretched.

*Dolicino* is corrupt for *Dolicheno* (cf. *CIL* III 14503, *Pincum: [I]ob(i) (!) Opt(imo) M(aximo) Dulceno; Dulicino* (*CCID* 305); *Dolceno*, etc.). The epithet *M(aximus)* is omitted, for parallels see e.g. *CIL* VI 414; *CCID* 343, 386, 630.

The name formula with *praenomen M. Cocceius* and palaeographic characteristics would suggest a dating in the 2<sup>nd</sup> century<sup>5</sup>. The *cognomen* of the dedicant is Greek *Zeuxius* (Ζεύξιος), which implies origin from a Hellenophone province<sup>6</sup>. It is important to notice that the same name is attested in an inscription from nearby Drobeta (*IDR* II 13, gen. *Zeuxī*). Based on the context in which the inscription was discovered, military connection is apparent. The dedicant from Drobeta was probably a soldier, stationed at the *castrum*.

Dolichenian monuments, epigraphic and anepigraphic, have so far been discovered in nine locations in the Iron Gates region (see **Fig. 2**)<sup>8</sup>: *Pincum* (Veliko Gradište), Pojejena de Sus, *Novae* (Čezava), *Diana* (Karataš), *Drobeta*, Rtkovo, *Egeta* (Brza Palanka), *Aquae* (Prahovo). To these must be added the important Dolichenian inscription from village Kličevac – a place sited between *Viminacium* and *Lederata* (Ram)<sup>9</sup>. Although they are all published, it seems opportune to record the inscriptions here:

<sup>5</sup> Петровић 1975, 47-47.

<sup>6</sup> *LGNVa*, s.v.

<sup>7</sup> In *OPEL* IV, 190 s.v; the name is listed under *Zeuxis*. More frequently, it occurs as dental *Zeuxis*, *-idos*, or vocal stem: *Zeuxis*, *-is*.

<sup>8</sup> Also, recently, a religious complex dedicated to Dolichenus has been identified in military *vicus* at *Praetorium* (Mehadia). D. Benea, *Edificiul de cult roman de la Praetorium (Mehadia)*, Timișoara, 2008.

<sup>9</sup> Petrović 2003-2004, 217-224.



**Kličevac:**

V. Petrović 2003-2004, 217-224; *AE* 2005, 1313:

*I(ovi) O(ptimo) M(aximo) D(olicheno) | Aur(elius) Iulianus | Iuliani sac(erdos) | eiusdem dei | ex pr(ovincia) Syr(ia) Coel(e) | reg(ione) Cyrr(h)ens(i) | vico Capersin(a?) | [---*

**Pincum (Veliko Gradište):**

Ladek, Premerstein, Vulić 1901, 77-78 (drawing); *AE* 1902, 20; *CIL* III 14503; *CCID* 86:

*[I]ob(i) (!) Opt(imo) M(aximo) Dulceno (!) e/x vot(o) Ael(i) Silvanus | {h}et Leonides LEG SIG | EN MIR[---*

**Pojejena de Sus:**

*IDR* III/1, 11; *CCID* 172; Popa, Berciu 1978, 27-28, no. 26:

*I(ovi) [O(ptimo) M(aximo)] | Doli[cheno] | Q(uintus) Petro[nius] | Novatus [praef(ectus)] | coh(ortis) V Gal[l(orum) v(oto) p(osuit)].*

**Diana (Karataš):**

Mirković 1977, 443-448; *CCID* 87; *AE* 2003, 1532:

*I(ovi) O(ptimo) M(aximo) D(olicheno) [pro salute] | M. Aur(elii) Anto/nini Pii Aug(usti) et Iul(iae) Domne (!) Aug(ustae) ma/tri (!) Aug(usti) et castro<sup>5</sup>rum dedicante L. | Mario Perpetuo | c(onsulari) per Restutum (!) | m(agistrum) c(ivium) R(omanorum) D(ianae) sacerdo/tes eiusdem loci | p(osuerunt).*

**Drobeta (Drobeta-Turnu Severin):**

Petolescu 2004, 38-47; *AE* 2004, 1222; *ILD* 53:

*I(ovi) O(ptimo) M(aximo) [D(olicheno)] | pro sal(ute) Im/pp(eratorum) et c(o)hor/tis pri(mae) Sag(ittariorum) <sup>5</sup> Silvanus, Flavius et A/tenais (!) sa/cer(dotes) c(o)ho(rtis) s(upra) s(criptae) | ex v(oto) p(osuerunt).*

**Rtkovo:**

Ladek, Premerstein, Vulić 1901, Bbl. 77 sq., 1; *ILJug* 466; Mirković 1977, 444 sq. 30; Gabričević 1987, 143-144:

*D(is) M(anibus) / in memoria(m) / Iul(ii) Apollina/ris sacerdo/tis I(ovis) Dol(icheni) et Deae Syriae / [---]XXI / [---]*.

**Egeta (Brza Palanka):**

Вучковић-Тодоровић 1964-1965, 176-177. 192, n. 1, fig. 12 *AE* 1968, 453. *AE* 1966, 336; *ILJug* 466; *CCID* 95, tab. 25:

*I(ovi) O(ptimo) M(aximo) Doli/cheni (!) c(o)hor(s) / I Cretu(m)*.

Вучковић-Тодоровић 1964-1965, 175, 182, n. 3, fig. 6. Zotović 1966, 91-92; *AE* 1966, 335; *ILJug* 465; *AE* 1968, 454. *CCID* 91, tab. 24:

*I(ovi) O(ptimo) M(aximo) D(olicheno) Pompeius / Isauricus ex / votu (!) posuit*.

Вучковић-Тодоровић 1964-1965, 174; Zotović 1966, 90-91, tab. 8, 2; *AE* 1966, 334; *ILJug* 467, *CCID* 90, tab. 23:

Ἀγαθῆ τύχη | Κάστωρ Κοίντου κυρίῳ Δολιχίνῳ | εὐξάμενος ἀνέθηκα.

Вучковић-Тодоровић 1964-1965, 177, n. 2 (without inscription); Pop-Lazić 1977, 41-44; *AE* 1981, 737; *CCID* 95:

*Aur(elius) Caius cen(turio) c(o)hor(tis) I Cretum // Aur(elius) Caius cen(turio) c(o)hor(tis) I Cretum*.

**Aquae (Prahovo):**

An inscription dedicated to Dolichenus is mentioned in: Mirković 1968, 88 (unpublished, lost?).

The best preserved Dolichenian site is the small round temple (3,8 x 3,5 m) discovered in 1962 in Brza Palanka (*Egeta*)<sup>10</sup>, positively

<sup>10</sup> Вучковић-Тодоровић 1964-1965, 173-180; D. Vučković-Todorović, in *Anticennes cultures* 1969, 168-169, tab. LXIV-LXV; *CCID* 73-80. The complex is dated

identified thanks to the preserved inventory that consists of several inscribed statues of the deity and his pantheon<sup>11</sup>, a marble head<sup>12</sup>, a votive bronze lamp<sup>13</sup>, and other cultic objects. Considering the diffusion of the cult in this, predominantly, military zone, with large influx of traders, mostly Orientals<sup>14</sup>, it may be assumed that more Dolichenus' sanctuaries must have existed in the area. C. Petolescu rightly argues that there was a temple of Dolichenus in Drobeta<sup>15</sup>. The presence of the cult is attested by the inscription dedicated by three *sacerdotes* of the *cohors I sagittariorum*<sup>16</sup>; also, by a marble head (h. 30 cm) belonging to a large statue of Dolichenus, found at the military camp<sup>17</sup>. According to M. Mirković, the epigraphic monument from *Diana* (Karataš) was found in a niche of a cultic building in the vicinity of military camp, that probably served as *dolichenaem*<sup>18</sup>. The inscription mentions *sacerdotes eiusdem loci*, indicating that *statio Diana* had its own civilian priests of the cult<sup>19</sup>. Such might have been the case of *Iulius Apollinaris*, *sacerdos* of *Dolichenus* and *Dea Syria*, commemorated in the inscription from Rtkovo, and the priest from Kličevac, whose Syrian origin is mentioned *expressis verbis*.

Seemingly, all the Dolichenian monuments from this region could be attributed to local shrines, whether they were placed outside the camps, or, as the evidence of the inscription from *Novae* suggest, to *sacella* that existed within military buildings.

---

in II–III cent. Coins of Geta and Elagabalus were found on the site: Вучковић-Тодоровић 1964–1965, 177–178.

<sup>11</sup> *Iuno Dolichena* (Вучковић-Тодоровић 1964–1965, 173, *CCID* 89).

<sup>12</sup> Вучковић-Тодоровић 1964–1965, 175–176, n. 5; *CCID* 93.

<sup>13</sup> Вучковић-Тодоровић 1964–1965, 177; cf. Црнобрња 2006, 144.

<sup>14</sup> Large part of population was of eastern origin cf. e.g. *IDR* II 56: ... *Laudice (!) / Syrae Col/lina, Phila/delphia...*

<sup>15</sup> Petolescu 2004, 44.

<sup>16</sup> The unit was recruited in Syria (*CIL* XVI 35). Its presence in Drobeta is confirmed by several epigraphic monuments: *IDR* II 10, 23, 106, 107, 135; Petolescu 2004, 39–40 (with bibl. references); cf. D. Benea, *SCIVA*, 27, 1976, 77–84.

<sup>17</sup> Berciu, Petolescu 9, 36–37, n. 21; Popa, Berciu 1978, 22–23, n. 20; *CCID* 173. The head resembles that of *Egeta*. Perhaps some of the Juppiter bronze figurines found at the spot can be attributed to *Dolichenus*?

<sup>18</sup> Mirković 1977, 444; cf. *CCID* 87.

<sup>19</sup> Cf. Speidel 1978, 46–54.

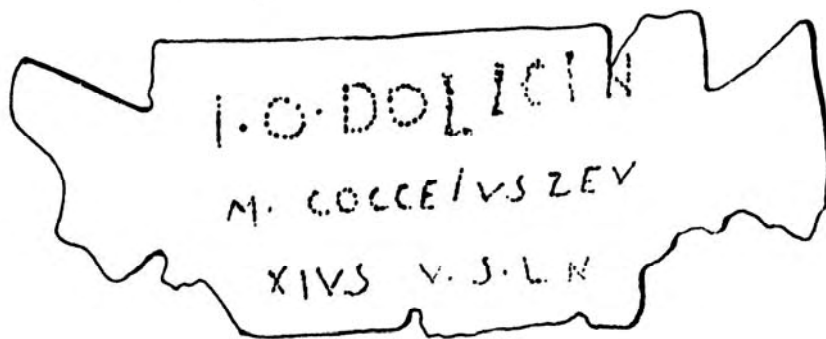
## Bibliography

- Anciennes cultures* 1969 Ђ. Бошковић, *Старе културе у Ђердану / Anciennes cultures du Djerdap*, Београд, 1969.
- Berciu, I. Berciu, C. C. Petolescu, *Les cultes orientaux dans la Dacie Méridionale*, Leiden, 1976.
- Петробрња 2006 А. Н. Црнобрња, *Култна намена римских жижака у Горњој Мезији*, Београд, 2006.
- Gabričević 1986 М. Gabričević, *Rtkovo-Glamija I – une forteresse de la basse époque, fouilles de 1980-1982, Đerdapske sveske*, III, Beograd, 1986, 72.
- Ladek, F. Ladek, A. v. Premerstein, N. Vulić, *Antike Denkmäler in Serbien, JÖAI* 4, 1901, Bbl. 73-87.
- Premerstein, N. Vulić 1901
- Mirković 1968 М. Mirković, *Rimski gradovi na Dunavu u Gornjoj Meziji*, Beograd, 1968.
- Mirković 1977 М. Mirković, *L. Marius Perpetuus, consularis, ŽA*, 27, 1977, 443-448.
- Petolescu 2004 С. С. Petolescu, *Sacerdotes cohortis I sagittariorum, Drobeta*, 14, 2004, 38-45.
- Petrović 2003-2004 Petrović V., *Sacerdos of Jupiter Dolichenus from an inscription recently discovered in the vicinity of Viminacium, Старинар*, LIII-LIV, 2003-2004, 217-224.
- Pop-Lazić 1977 Р. Поп-Лazić, *A votive plate of Jupiter Dolichenus, ArchJug*, 18, 1977, 41-44.
- Петровић 1975 П. Петровић, *Палеографија римских натписа у Горњој Мезији*, Београд, 1975.
- Рора, Berciu 1978 А. Рора, I. Berciu, *Le culte de Jupiter Dolichenus dans la Dacie romaine*, Leiden, 1978.
- Speidel 1987 М. Р. Speidel, *The Religion of Iuppiter Dolichenus in the Roman Army*, Leiden, 1978.
- Васић 1982-1983 М. Васић, *Чезава – Castrum Novae, Старинар*, 1982-1983, 91-122.
- Вучковић-Тодоровић 1964-1965 Д. Вучковић-Тодоровић, *Светилиште Јупитера Долихена у Брзој Паланци, Старинар*, XV-XVI, 1964-1965, 173-181.
- Zotović 1966 Lj. Zotović, *Les cultes orientaux sur le territoire de la Mésie supérieure*, Leiden, 1966.

### Illustrations

**Fig. 1** Drawing of the inscription from Novae, from: М. Васић, *Старинар*, 1982-1983, 118, fig. 22/11.

**Fig. 2** Map of Dolichenian sites in the Iron Gates.



**Fig. 1**



**Fig. 2**