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A PRAETORIAN DIPLOMA FROM ÁCS–JEGESPUZSTA

A metal locator device indicated a military diploma about 6 km south of the camp Ad Statuas (Ács–Vaspuszta) at Jegespuszta in the spring of 1990 (fig. 1). Both tabellae I and II have been found although the two bronze plates were separated, lying several metres away from each other.

The plate of tabella I was transversally slightly bent, while the surface on the right side of the extrinsecus side was gravely damaged and corroded. The original size of the plate, however, has been preserved. Both

surfaces of tabella II were covered with rust and the edge of one of the longitudinal sides was fragmentary.¹ Place of deposition: Kuny Domokos Museum, Tata, Inv. No. 91.14.1., 91.14.2.

Length of tabella I: 14,7 cm, width: 11,5 cm, thickness: 0,2 cm weight: 281 gr (figs 2–5).

Length of tabella II: 14,7 cm, width: 11,3 cm, thickness: 0,1 cm, weight: 84 gr (figs 6–9).

The text and completion of tabellae I and II are the following:

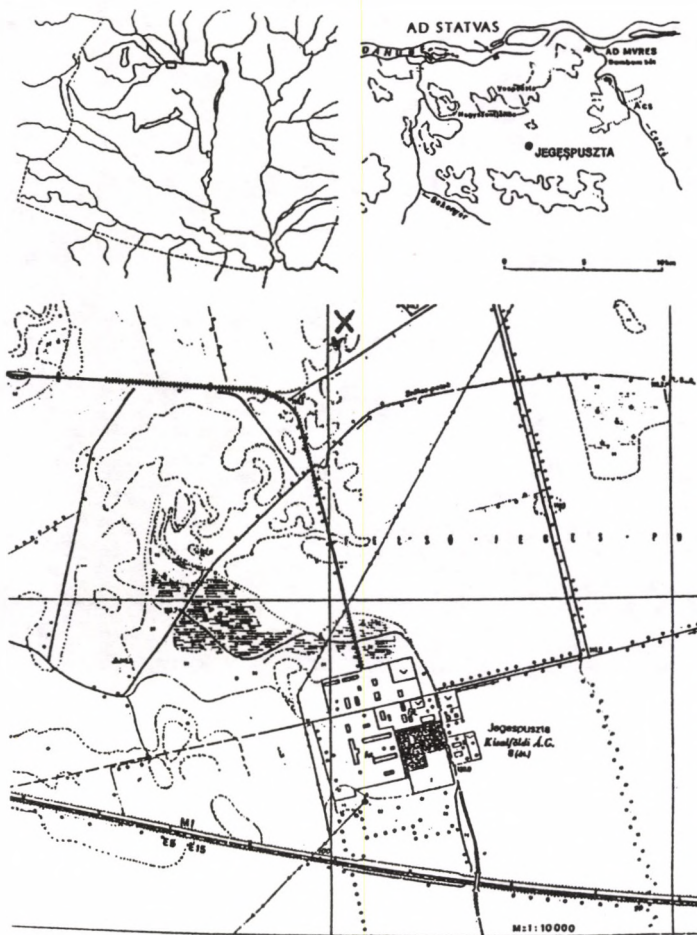


Fig. 1 Ács–Jegespuszta. The location of the diploma is indicated by an X.

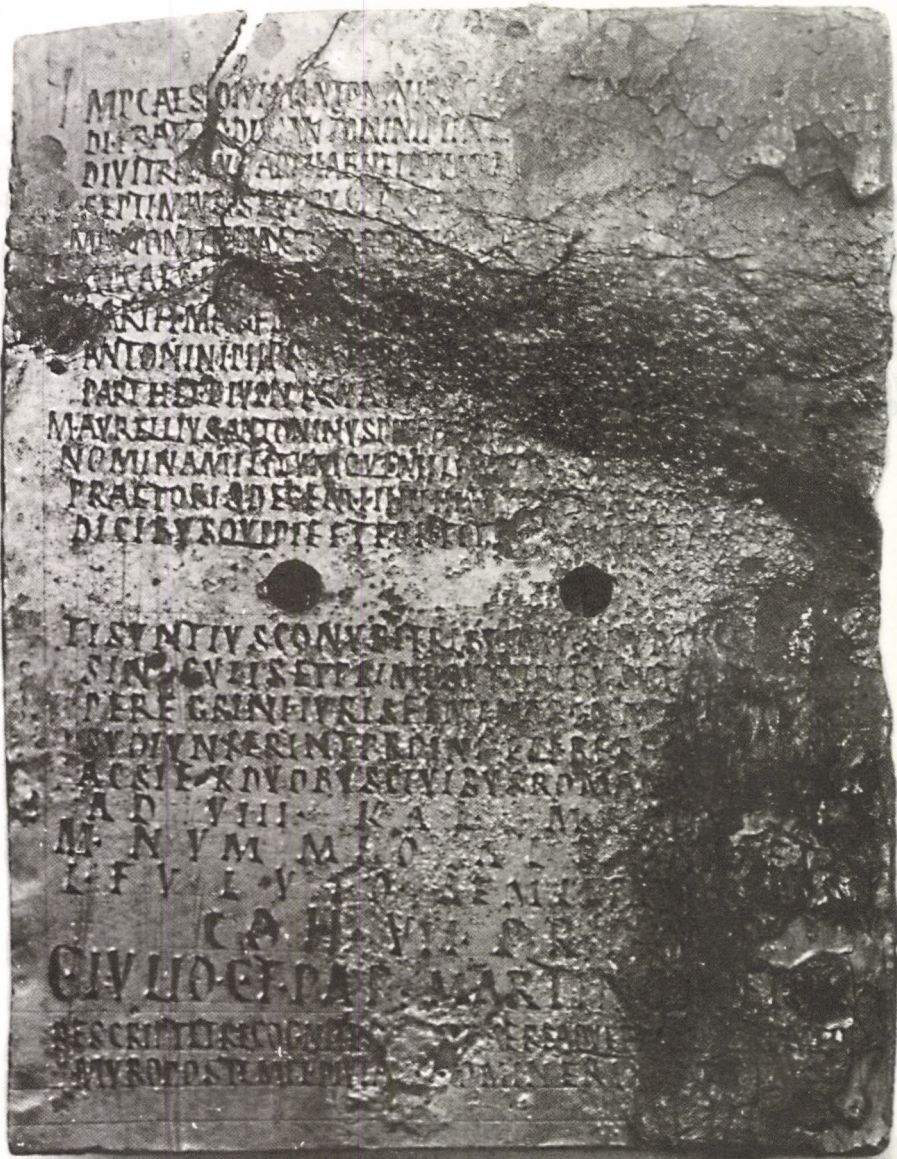


Fig. 2 Tabella I extrinsecus

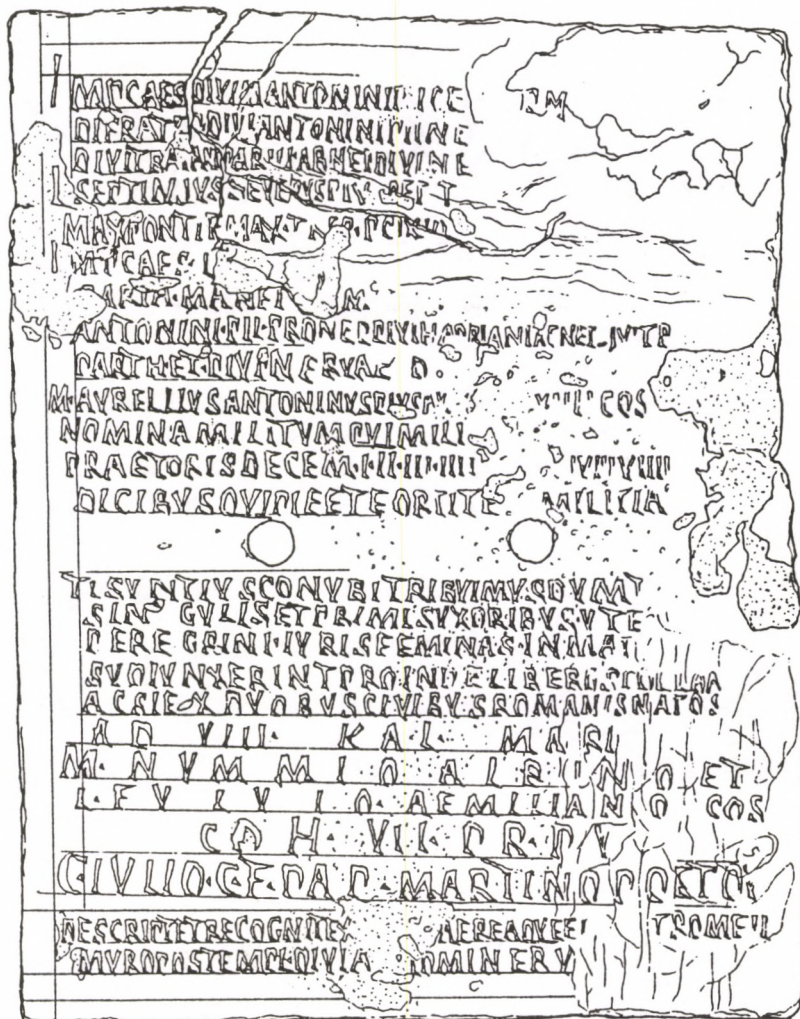


Fig. 3 Tabella I extrinsecus

TABELLA I EXTRINSECUS

IMP CAES DIVI M ANTONINI PII GE [RM SA]RM [FIL DIVI COMMO]
 DI FRATER DIVI ANTONINI PII NE[P DIVI HADRIANI PRONEP]
 DIVI TRA[I]ANI PARTH-ABNEP DIVI NE[RVAE ADNEP]
 L SEPTIMVS SEVERVS PIV[S] PERT[IN AVG ARAB ADIAB PARTH]
 MAX PONTIF MAX-TRIB-POT XIII [I IMP XIII COS III P P PROCOS]
 IMP CAES-L [SEPTIMI SEVERI PII PERTIN AVG ARAB ADIAB]
 PARTH-MAX-FIL [DIVI] M [ANTONINI PII GERM SARM NEP]
 ANTONINI-PII-PRONEP DIVI HADRIANI ABNEP DIVI TR[AIANI]
 PARTH-ET-DIVI-NERVAE AD[NEP]
 M-AVRELLIVS-ANTONINVS PIVS AV[G TR POT] VIII COS [II PROCOS]
 NOMINA MILITVM QVI MILI[TAVERVNT IN COHORTIBVS]
 PRAETORIS DECEM-I-II-III-III-V-VI V[III] VIII VIII [X PII VIN]
 DICIBVS QVI PIE ET FORTITE[R] MILITIA [FVNC]

TI SVNT IVS CONVBI TRIBVIMVS DVMT[AXAT CVM]
 SINGVLIS ET PRIMIS VXORIBVS VT [ETIAMS]
 PEREGRINI-IVRIS FEMINAS-IN MA[TRIMONIO]
 SVO IVNXERINT PROINDE LIBEROS TOLLAN[T]
 AC SI EX DVOBVS CIVIBVS ROMANIS NATO[S]
 A D VIII-KAL-MART
 M-NVMMIO ALBINO ET
 L-FVLVIO-AEMILIANO COS
 COH-VII-PR-P V
 C-IVLIO-C-F-PAP-MARTINO-POETOV
 DESCRIPT ET RECOGNIT EX [TABVLA] AEREA QVE FI[XA ES]T ROME IN
 MVRO POS TEMPL-DIVI A[VG] AD MINERV[AM]

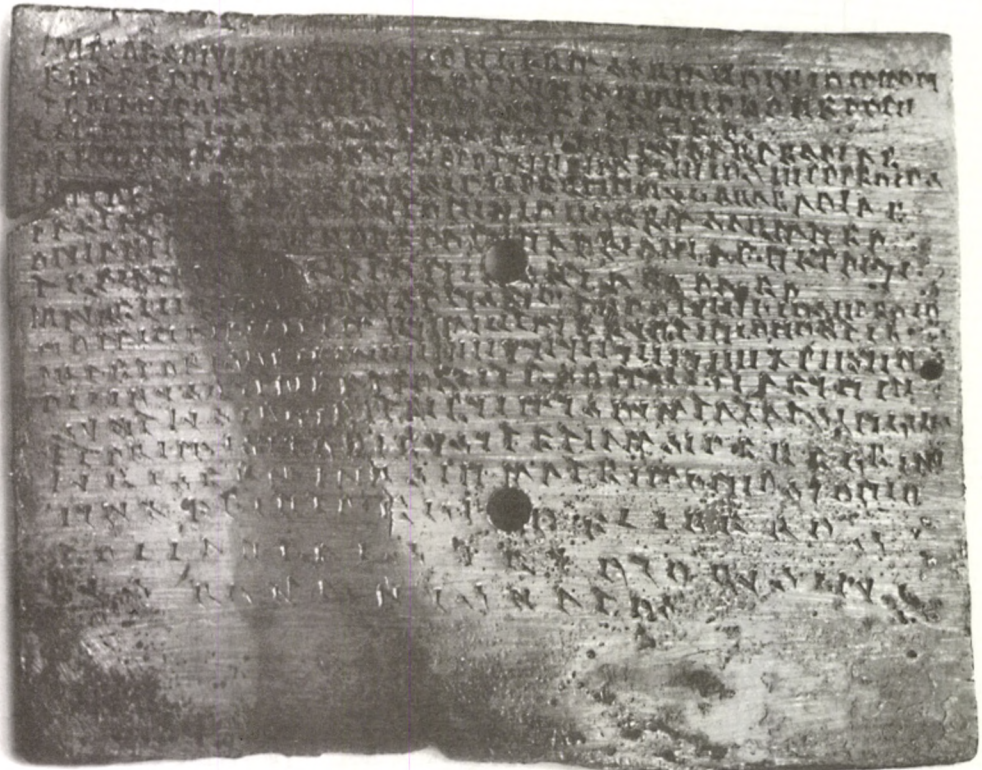


Fig. 4 Tabella I intus

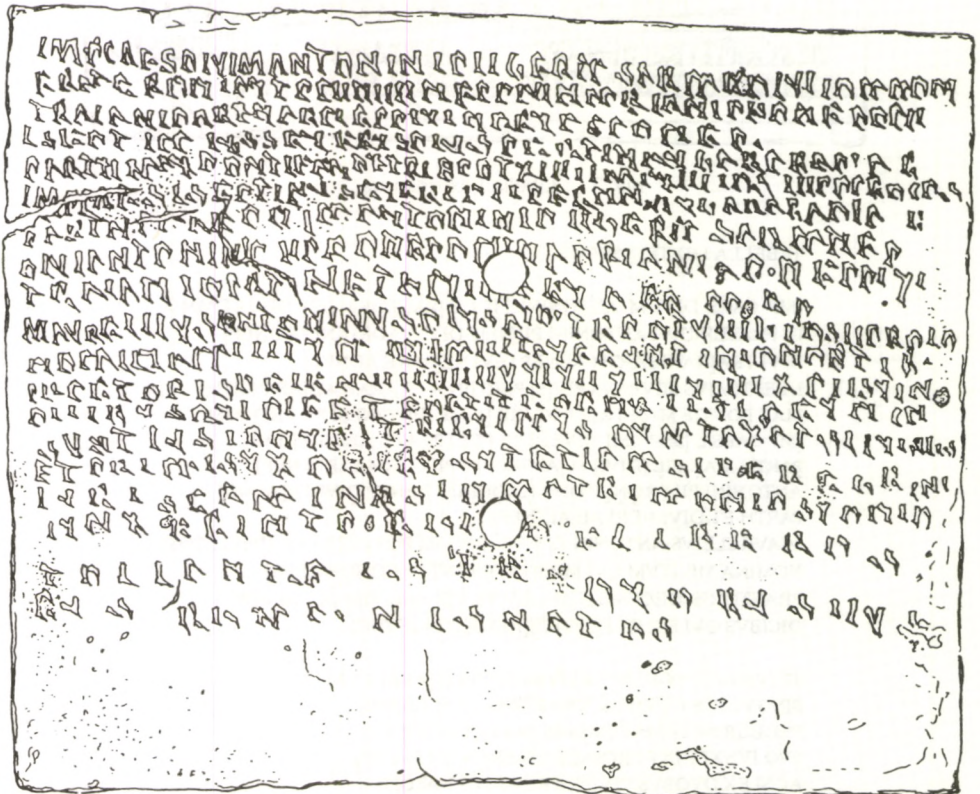


Fig. 5 Tabella I intus

TABELLA I INTUS

IMP CAES DIVI M ANTONINI PII GERM SARM F DIVI IOMMODI (!)
 FRATER DIVI ANTONINI PII NĒP DIVI HADRIANI PRONEP DIVI
 TRAIANI PARTH ABNEP DIVI NERVAE ADNEP.
 L SEPTIMIUS SEVERUS PIVS PERTIN AVG ARAB ADIAB
 PARTH MAX PONTIF MAX TRIB POT XIII IMP XIII COS III P P PROCOS
 IMP CAES L SEPTIMI SEVERI PII PERTIN AVG ARAB ADIAB
 PARTH MAX F DIVI M ANTONINI PII GERM SARM NEP
 DIVI ANTONINI PII PRONEP DIVI HADRIANI AB-NEP DIVI
 TRAIANI PARTH ET DIVI NERVAE ADNEP
 M AVRELLIVS ANTONINVS PIVS AVG TR POT VIII COS II PROCO (!)
 NOMINA MILITVM QVI MILITAVERVNT IN COHORTIB.
 PRAETORIS DECEM I II III IIII V VI VII VIII VIII X PIIS VIN
 DICIBVS QVI PIE ET FORTITEOR MILITIA FVNCTI (!)
 SVNT IVS IONVBI TRIBVIMVS DVMTAXAT SINGVLIS (!)
 ET PRIMIS VXORIBVS VT ETIAMSI PEREGRINI
 IVRIS FEMINAS IN MATRIMONIO SVO NIO (!)
 IVNXERINT PROI[N]DE LIBEROS
 TOLLANT AI SI EX DVOBVS IIVI (!)
 BVS ROMANIS NATOS

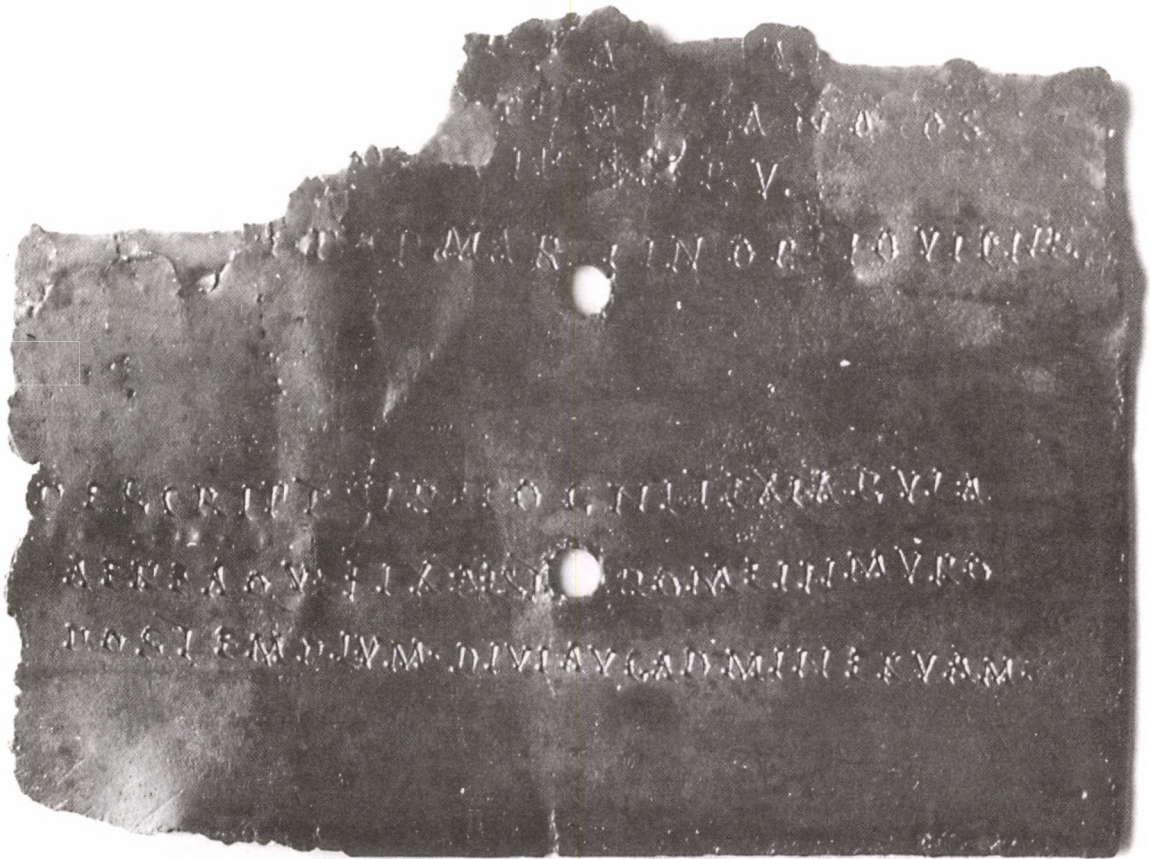


Fig. 6 Tabella II. Intus

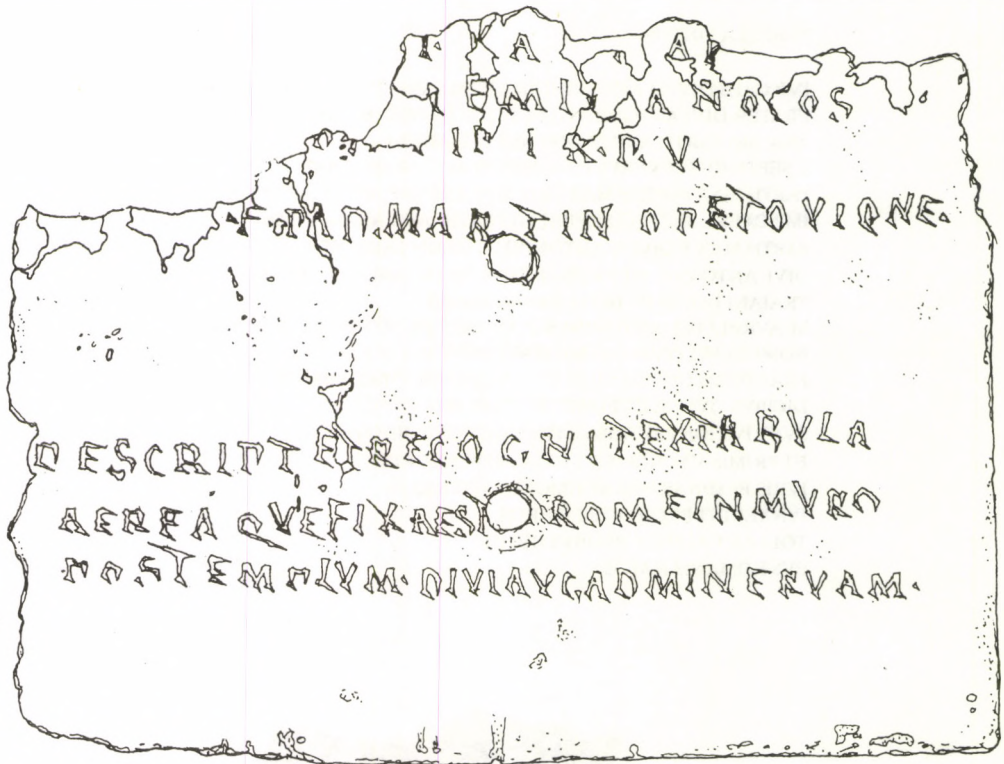


Fig. 7 Tabella II. Intus

TABELLA II INTUS

I·KA[L]·MAR[
 I·AEMILIANO COS
 I·VII·PR·P·V
 I·F·PAP MARTINO PETOVIONE (!)
 DESCRIT ET RECOGNIT EX TABVLA
 AEREA QVE FIXA EST ROME IN MVRO
 POS·TEMPLVM·DIVI AVG·AD MINERVAM

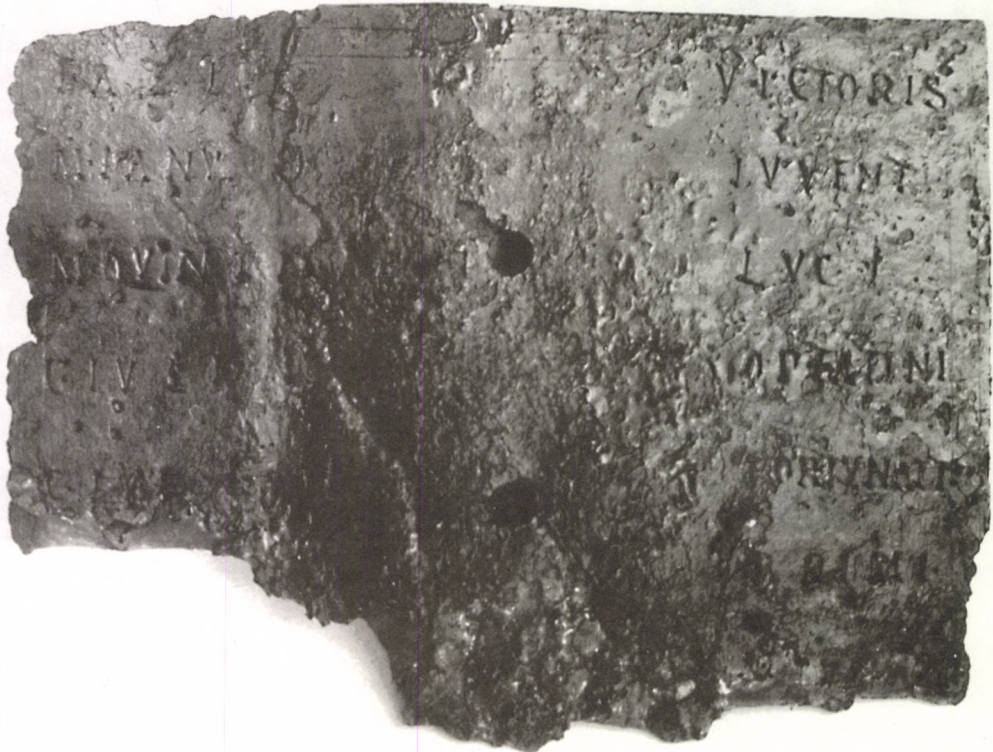


Fig. 8 Tabella II. Extrinsecus

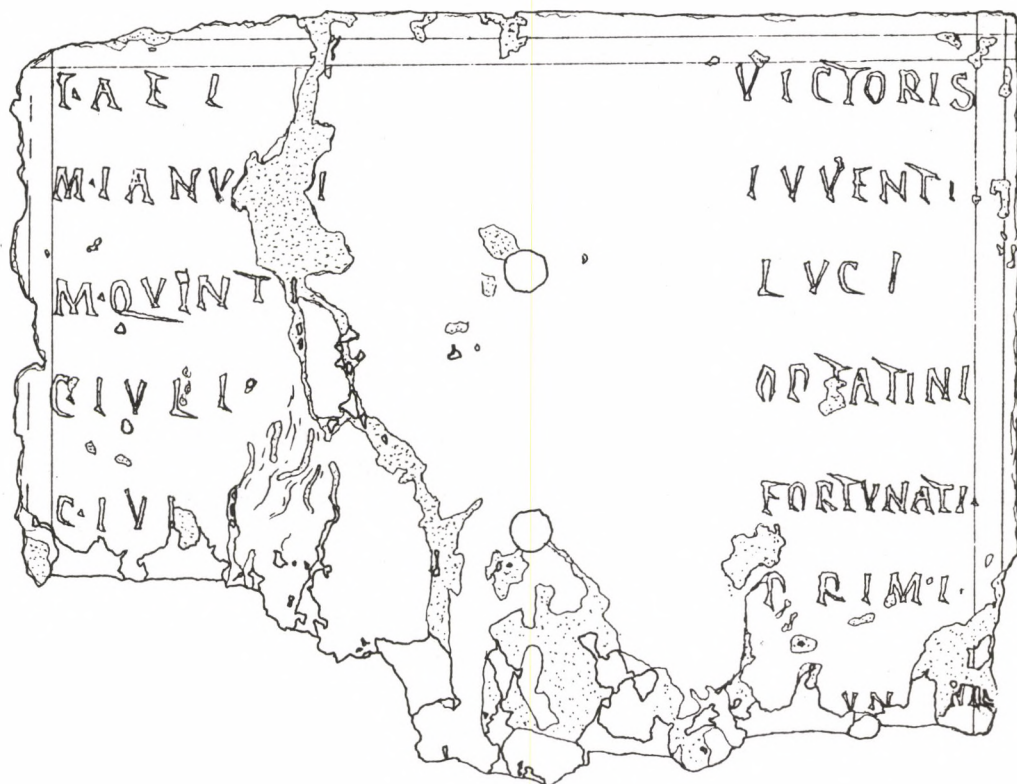


Fig. 9 Tabella II. Extrinsicus

TABELLA II. EXTRINSECUS

P·AEL [I]	VICTORIS
M·IANV[AR]I	IVVENTI
M·QVINTI	LVC I
C·IVLI	OPTATINI
C·IVLI	FORTVNATI
[—]	PRIMI
[—]	[I] VN [IA] NI

Tabella I extrinsicus

Imp(erator) Caes(ar), divi M. Antonini Pii Ge[r(m)anici] Sa[r(m)atici] [fil(ius), divi Commo] /di frater, divi Antonini Pii nep[os], divi Hadriani pronep[os], /divi Tra[i]ani Parth(ici) abnep[os], divi Ne[r]vae adnep[os], /L. Septimius Severus Piu[s] Pert[in(ax) Aug(ustus) Arab(icus) Aiab(enicus) Parth(icus)]⁵ max(imus), pontif(ex) max(imus), trib(unicia) pot(estate) XIII[I, imp(erator) XIII, co(n)s(ul) III, p(ater) p(atriciae), proco(n)s(ul),] /Imp(erator) Caes(ar), L. [Septimi(i) Severi Pii Pertin(acis) Aug(usti) Arab(ici) Adiab(enici)] / Parth(ici) max(imus) fil(ius), [divi] M. [Antonini Pii Germ(anici)] Sarm(atici) nep[os], /Antonini Pii pronep[os], divi Hadriani abnep[os], divi Tra[i]ani / Parth(ici) et divi Nerva[e] adnep[os],¹⁰ M. Aurelius Antoninus Pius Aug(ustus), trib(unicia) pot(estate) VIII, co(n)s(ul) [II, proco(n)s(ul),] / nomina militum, qui mili[taverunt in cohortibus] / praetoris decem I. II. III.

III. V. VI V[II] VIII VIII [X piis vin] /dicibus, qui pie et fortite[r] militia [func]ti sunt, ius conubi(i) tribuimus dumt[axat cum]¹⁵ singulis et primis uxoribus, ut, [etiamsi] / peregrini iuris feminas in ma[trimonio] / suo iunxerint, proinde liber[os] tollan[t] / ac si ex duobus civibus Romanis nato[s]. / a(n)te d(iem) VIII Kal(endas) Mart(ias) /²⁰ M. Nummio Albino et / L. Fulvio Aemiliano co(n)s(ulibus). / coh(ors) VII pr(aetoria) p(ia) v(index). / C. Iulio C. f(ilio) Pap(iria tribu) Martino, Poetoy(ione). / Descript(um) et recognit(um) ex [tabula] aerea qu(a) e[st] fi[xa] es[st] Rom(a)e in²⁵ muro pos(t) templ(um) divi A[ug(usti)] ad Minerv[am].

Tabella I intus

Imp(erator) Caes(ar), divi M. Antonini Pii Germ(anici) Sarm(atici) f(ilius), divi <C>ommodi / frater, divi Antonini Pii nep[os], divi Hadriani pronep[os], divi / Traiani Parth(ici) abnep[os], divi

Nervae adnep(os), / L. Septimius Severus Pius Pertin(ax) Aug(ustus) Arab(icus) Adiab(enicus) ⁵ Parth(icus) max(imus), pontif(ex) max(imus), trib(unicia) pot(estate) XIII, imp(erator) XIII, co(n)s(ul) III, p(ater) p(atriciae), proco(n)s(ul), / Imp(erator) Caes(ar), L. Septimi(i) Severi Pii Pertin(acis) Aug(usti) Arab(ici) Adiab(enici) / Parth(ici) max(imus) f(ilius), divi M. Antonini Pii Germ(anici) Sarm(atici) nep(os), / divi Antonini Pii pronep(os), divi Hadriani abnep(os), divi / Traiani Parth(ici) et divi Nervae adnep(os), /¹⁰ M. Aurelius Antoninus Pius Aug(ustus), tr(ibunicia) pot(estate) VIII, co(n)s(ul) II, proco(n)s(ul), / nomina militum, qui militaverunt in cohortib(us) / praetoris decem I II III IIII V VI VII VIII VIII X piis vin/dicibus, qui pie et fortite{o}r militia functi / sunt, ius <c>onubi(i) tribuimus dumtaxat (cum) singulis /¹⁵ et primis uxoribus, ut, etiamsi peregrini / iuris feminas in matrimonio suo {nio} / iunxerint, proi[n]de liberos / tollant a<c> si ex duobus <c>ivi/bus Romanis natos.

Tabella II intus

[a(n)te d(iem) VII]I Ka[l](endas) Mar[t](ias) / Albino et] Aemiliano co(n)s(ulibus). / [coh(ors)] VII pr(aetoria p(ia) v(index)). / [C. Iulio C.] f(ilio) Pap(iria tribu) Martino, P(o)etovione. ⁵ Descript(um) et recognit(um) ex tabula / aerea, qu(a)e fixa est Rom(a)e in muro / pos(t) temlum divi Aug(usti) ad Minervam.

Tabella II extrinsecus

P. Ael[i] Victoris / M. Ianu[ar]i Iuventi / M. Quinti Luci / C. Iulii Optatini ⁵ C. Iulii Fortunati / [-----] Primi / ----- [I]un[ia]ni.

The detailed list of titles of the emperors on the intus side of tabella I and the *consules ordinarii* date the diploma to 206 (DEGRASSI 1952, 58; recently LEUNISSEN 1989, 136). The exact data of emission was the 22nd of February in accordance with the cus-

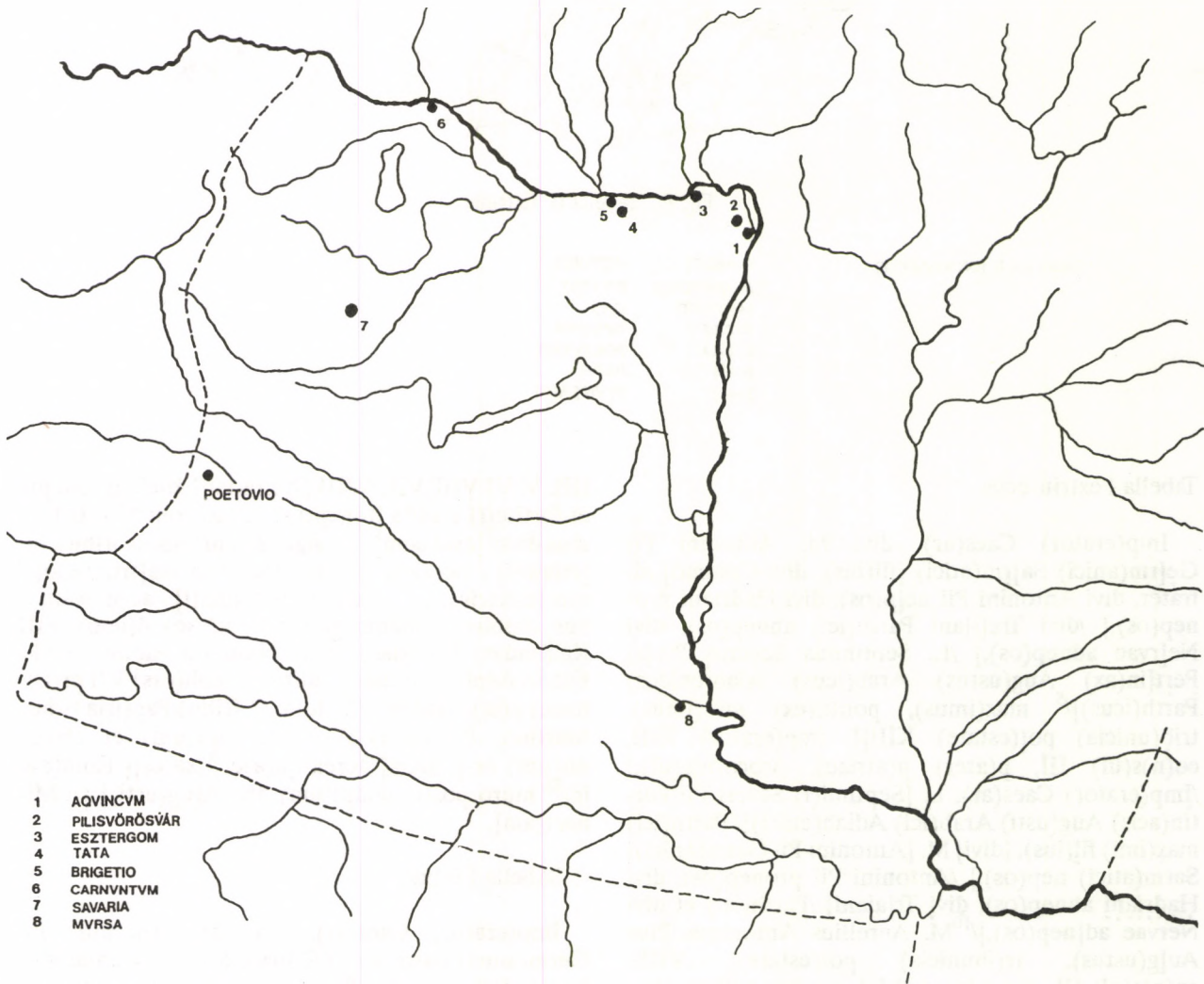


Fig. 10 Distribution of the name Martinus in Pannonia

tom started in 148 and interrupted just once. According to it the soldiers of Rome were dismissed in February (recently LIEB 1986, 329).

From the two consuls one was Albinus. His whole name, according to a cursus inscription found at Beneventum, was M. Nummius Umbrius Primus M. f. Gal. Senecio Albinus (see CAMODECA 1982, 143–144) – Aemilianus's whole name was L. Fulvius Gavius (Numisius) Petronius Aemilianus (ALFÖLDY 1982, 352).

The diploma was written to C. Iulius Martinus, member of the praetorian guards, indicating Poetovio as the *origo*. The naming fits the custom applied in diplomas of the praetorians (recently. MÓCSY 1986, 438–439, 446–447). To date, more than 100 names of praetorians or their *origo* have been identified in Pannonia, which, as compared to other provinces, is well above average (FELDMANN 1980, 47). The official inscriptions reveal that more than half of the praetorians designate a *colonia* as their place of origin, suggesting that soldiers of the guards were enrolled mostly from the romanized parts of the province (FELDMANN 1980, 50). On the other hand, Cassius Dio wrote about the crude behaviour and poor Latin knowledge of the praetorians staying in Rome (LXXV, 2, 6) and the private inscriptions attest to a lower level social background what is characteristic not only of the vicinity of towns with *colonia* rank (FELDMANN 1980, 50).

The most uniformly accepted solution to the cont-

radiction is that the *origo* of the praetorians in the official inscriptions – so also in diplomas – was a fictive one (FELDMANN 1980, 50–55; recently MÓCSY 1986, 446–447). Accordingly, it is not certain that C. Iulius Martinus was really born where his *origo* suggests.

The distribution of the name Martinus in Pannonia is the following (fig.10):² Aquincum, (CIL III 3524, 3560, 3564, 6457, 10499, 10523), Esztergom (RIU 788), Tata (RIU 685), Brigetio (RIU 588), Carnuntum (CIL III 11121, 14356²), Savaria (RIU 54), Mursa (ILJ 286, 3095), Pilisvörösvár (CIL III 10569) and an unknown site (CIL III 3680). Four of them were soldiers (CIL III 3524, 6457, 11121, 14356²).

Concerning the names of the witnesses it has already been stated that, unlike the diplomas of the auxiliary troops and of the *classes*, the *cohortes praetoriae* always contains seven new witnesses (see MORRIS–ROXAN 1977, 299–331; recently LIEB 1986, 330–333). Thus, it is not astonishing that none of the names on praetorian diplomas are known from any other witness list (cf. RMD I p. 104–109, RMD II p. 223; recently WACHTEL 1991, 187–189). On the praetorian diploma, which was the closest to it in time, written in 212 and found in Aquincum, the names are also totally different (CIL XVI 136 + RMD II p. 135).

Finally, it can be mentioned concerning the name of the troop, that this is the earliest diploma where the *cohortes praetoriae* got the epithets *piae vindices* (of. LIEB 1986, 327).

Notes

¹ Here I would like to express my gratitude to István Rolkó who offered the diploma to the Kuny Domokos Museum and to Éva Somlósi, restorer (Archeological Institute of the HAS) for the careful restoration.

² Barnabás Lőrincz helped with the list of names, for which and for whose manifold assistance I am very thankful.

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