

A „semi-centenary” of Dacia in the years 157-158?

(Summary)

A few inscriptions stand witness for the great construction works that took place between 157-158 A.D.: the reconstruction of the amphitheatre from Porolissum, in 157 (CIL, III, 836), the reconstruction in stone (or only the repair) of the amphitheatre from Sarmizegetusa and some of the thermae in the same city, in 158 AD (a stamp mentioning the names of the consuls, IDR III/2, 558) the inauguration of an aqueduct in Apulum in the same year (IDR, III/5, 185).

An explanation for this amount of work could be the recovery of the province after a presumed war against the free Dacians and the Iazygi, between 157-158, during the government of M. Staius Priscus. But there are few clues for the existence of that war.

Our hypothesis sees in this constructive fever of the years 157-158 the 50 year anniversary of the victory of Traianus against the Dacians and of the foundation of the Roman province of Dacia. The local Roman calendars mention the commemoration of the founding of cities, and the religious calendars of the army mentioned the armed victories, near the commemoration of the founding of Rome or the birthday of emperors. The *Ludi seculares* and *decennalia* prove that the Romans marked their anniversaries at „round figures”. Staius Priscus, the governor during the „semi-centenary” and Claudius Gallus, governor during the centenary of Traian’s victory, are the dedicators of some votive monuments of public character *pro salute imp.*, the last with two dedications from the years 205-207 for military deities (Hercules and Mars).