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## THE MUNICIPIUM D(ROBETA?) AND AN INSCRIPTION FOUND AT AQUAE (PRAHOVO)

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[ - ]  
MO vet(erano) v(ixit) a(nnis) LXXX  
Cl(audia) Herete coniu-  
gi pientissimo et si-  
bi faciendum et  
5 Iul(ius) Martinus fil(ius)  
dec(urio) sacerdotia-  
les (!) mun(icipii) D(robetae?) cur-  
averunt.

An unedited fragmentary grave stone was found in the 1960's in Aquae, Moesia Superior (present day Prahovo) (Fig. 1). The stele was transferred to Belgrade (The National Museum) but its present whereabouts is not known<sup>1</sup>.

**Line 2.** Claudia's Greek cognomen Herete perhaps indicates the origin from a hellenized part of Thrace, where Claudii, as expected, are well attested<sup>2</sup>. On the other hand, Claudii are no rarity in Dacia / Moesia Superior either<sup>3</sup>. As far as I know, this particular name is not attested so far; it is quite possible that it reproduces an αἰρετή, meaning «that may be taken or conquered»<sup>4</sup>.

**Line 5.** Iulius is quite a common gentile in Drobeta<sup>5</sup>.

**Line 6-7.** Decurio sacerdotalis (the vulgar form sacerdotales) is the most interesting element of the text of the inscription. It probably shows that Iulius Martinus was Drobeta's sacerdos during his service as a municipal dignitary<sup>6</sup>.

**Line 7.** If the expansion D(robetae?) is correct, which seems quite probable, the

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<sup>1</sup> This inscription was briefly mentioned by Mirković, *Gradovi*, 129, note 127 (with different readings of lines 6-7).

<sup>2</sup> *IGBR*, III, 1851 (Dabovo) 1714 (Kasnakovo); 1603 (Augusta Traiana).

<sup>3</sup> see e.g. *IDR*, II, 43, 85 (Drobeta), 350 (Romula); *IDR*, III/3, 352 (Ampelum), *IDR*, III/1, 62 (Ad Mediam?), 164 (Tibiscum)) (*IMS*, III/2, 30, 36, 72 (Timacum Minus?).

<sup>4</sup> *Hdt.*, 4.201, cf. Liddell – Scott, s.v. αἰρετέος

<sup>5</sup> cf. e.g. *IDR*, II, 34, 43, 61, 62

<sup>6</sup> Cf. Deininger, *Provinziallandtage*, 113-115

inscription dates from the period between Hadrian and Septimius Severus when Drobeta was a municipium<sup>7</sup>. The expansion D(iernae) would be hard to envisage, because of the distance between Dierna and Prahovo / Aquae, and the difficulties of transport along the corresponding part of the Danube (both in ancient and modern times).

The find-place of the inscription is of manifold interest. It is unlikely that the *ager* of Drobeta extended as far as Prahovo / Aquae; it seems probable that the stone was transferred from Drobeta or the southern part of its territory to Prahovo (*pierre errante*), as an ancient or later *spolium*. Of course, we are still unable to fix precisely the course of the Moesian / Dacian boundary in the area of Drobeta, though situated to the North of the Danube, that city may have belonged to Moesia Superior.



Fig. 1

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<sup>7</sup> cf. IDR, II, 1-5.