

# On the Origin of the Tradesmen from Dacia Province after Epigraphic Sources (Abstract)

In this short article, I try to make a review of the problem of the origin of the tradesmen attested by the inscriptions in Dacia, or by others inscriptions from the Empire as conducting trades activities on the territory of the Dacian provinces. The main conclusion is that the trade activities from Dacia were in the hands of the oriental tradesmen. The main exceptions are the possible attested tradesmen from *Augusta Treverorum* and the trade's routes attested between Dacia and *Aquileia* and the Dalmatia province.

The trade's activities were concentrated in the area of the gold mines from *Apulum-Ampelum-Alburnus Maior*, one of the most important welfare sources of the province. The trade from this area was also into the hands of the oriental tradesmen, especially from Asia Minor and Syria. Also important trades markets are attested at *Ulpia Traiana Sarmizegetusa*, *Drobeta* and *Potaissa*.

The new epigraphic discoveries from *Porolissum* show also there a concentration of the trade's activities, probably part of the commercial route between Pannonia and Dacia. The commercial importance of this place emerges also from an inscription in which the emperor Commodus is praised as *restitutor commerciorum* (ILD 667).

We must also emphasize the lack of information from the inscriptions about the trade from Dacia Inferior. It is possible to be a stage of the discoveries, but we must also not forget that the urban life of this province was not so developed as in Dacia Superior, in fact there were attested only two or three cities.

In Dacia province, as in the other parts of the Empire, we see that the tradesmen were very implicated in the life of the cities, most of them being attested as magistrates or priests, becoming part of the elite of the province. Taking into account the nature of their activities they became almost ambassadors of their cities into different corners of the Empire.

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<sup>46</sup> La Sucidava este atestată în timpul domniei lui Commodus o *statio portorii*, în care își desfășurau activitatea *vilici*, *Zoticus* și *Salvianus*, în timpul procuratorului *Ti. Claudius Xenophon* (CIL III 8042 = IDR II 188).