**The tombstone of two town magistrates of Celeia in the region of Neviodunum**

Danilo BREŠČAK and Milan LOVENJAK

**INTRODUCTION**

East of the village of Jezero near Trebnje, on the slight rise below the grove Lojšč, on the left of the motorway Ljubljana - Novo mesto, the church of St. Peter is situated (fig. 1). According to oral tradition, the church was built after a vow by a count from the castle in the nearby forest of Lojšč. He promised to build a church if the nearby lake disappeared, which apparently happened. The geography of the microlocation shows that not far away from the church, to the south of Jezero village and between Ponikve and Sveta Ana, there are the last sinkholes of the karst Temenica stream, which arises again below Vrhpeč village, runs through the Mirna Peč plain to Dolenja Vas, becomes subterranean again and arises to the surface at Luknja, continuing to Zalog, where it flows into the Krka river. The choice of site for the church, which is mentioned in documents for the first time in 1391, (*filialis ecclesia sancti Petri in Laypacho*) as a chapel of the Trebnje parish church, and was also mentioned (*die Kirche s. Petri zu Naiseru*) by Valvasor in his monumental work *Die Ehre des Herzogthums Carniola* [The Glory of the Duchy of Carniola] in 1689, seems logical. On the one hand there was a lot of building material on the site taken from the Roman cemetery and, on the other, there were symbolic...
motives in consecrating the church to St. Peter. The linking of this saint to pre-Christian sites is not unique (e.g. the parish church of St. Peter in Šempeter in the Savinjska valley, the parish church of St. Peter in Črnomelj). To symbolically conquer the “dragon” of pre-Christian beliefs, the nearby church was consecrated to St. George. A similar example could be mentioned with the church of St. George above the Roman temple dedicated to the god Mithras at Rožanec near Črnomelj, where the church is located in the forest above the temple.

**HISTORY OF RESEARCH**

The church of St. Peter at Jezero near Trebnje has already been known in the archaeological literature as a site of Roman tombstones and building blocks since the second half of the 19th century, when the tombstone for Gaius Claudius Romanus (fig. 2A: 2; 2B: 2) and a cuboid block with a relief of a two-handled vessel (cantharos) with a vine growing (fig. 2B: 1) were published for the first time. In the 1930s, the discovery of the badly damaged funerary inscription for Gaius Aurelius Firminus, decurio of Emona, followed (fig. 2A: 3), and towards the turn of the century also part of a milestone leaning against the northern wall, where it could still be seen up to two or three years ago, when it disappeared. All the other spolia were immured in the church below the façade surface and could not be seen until 2008.

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**Fig. 1:** Jezero, St. Peter. View from the south-west (photo: F. Aš).
**Sl. 1:** Jezero, sv. Peter. Pogled z jugozahoda (foto: F. Aš).

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1 *CIL* 3, 3914 = 10785 = *ILSL* 76.
2 *ILSL* 107.
3 *AIJ* 237 = *ILSL* 68.
4 *ILSL* 184.
The tombstone of two town magistrates of Celeia in the region of Neviodunum
Roman cremation and inhumation graves were found in the vicinity of the church.\(^5\) In the 1960s, a grave with a house urn was found in Hrastar's field south of the church (Inv. No. NM Lj. R 8073),\(^6\) and the complete grave inventory is in the National Museum of Slovenia in Ljubljana. According to locals, mortar appears on the soil surface while ploughing in Zupančič field, where a metal part of a belt was found in the early fifties. At the end of the fifties, when the Ljubljana-Zagreb motorway was built,\(^7\) the builders came across several graves near the Jezero village crossover, but the stone monuments with inscriptions were crushed and used in the lower layer of the road. The Roman public road (\emph{via publica}), leading from Emona (Ljubljana) and Praetorium Latobicorum (Trebnje) towards Neviodunum (Drnovo near Krško),\(^8\) ran south of the church and the mentioned milestone must have been placed along it, some three Roman miles east of Praetorium Latobicorum (fig. 3). This was a \emph{mansio} and an important station of the \emph{beneficiarii consularis} near the borders between Italy and Pannonia Superior.\(^9\)

\(^7\) For discoveries at the building of the motorway through Dolenjska and the lower Sava region see Petru 1961.
\(^8\) For \emph{via publica} from Emona towards Neviodunum and the milestones along it, see \emph{ILSl}, p. 333–336 and inscriptions nos. 178–194; Lovenjak 1997; Bavec, Lovenjak 2006; Lovenjak 2006 and Breščak 2008d. For the history and epigraphy of Neviodunum and its territory see \emph{ILSl} and Lovenjak 2003a.

The church of St. Peter, belonging to the Trebnje parish, was gradually renovated. Firstly a new roof was built, using beaver tailed tiles. The bell tower was covered with copper, and in the spring of 2008 the construction of the new façade started. Without all the necessary documents, the façade surface on the bell tower and the nave were removed, destroying a fresco of St. Christopher on the southern façade. After inspection by the Institute for the Protection of the Cultural Heritage from Novo Mesto,\(^10\) several until then unknown stone blocks were documented, some with traces of metal clamps, and an inscribed monument was found in the southeastern corner of the nave with a completely preserved inscription, mentioning Gaius Longinius Severinus and members of his family (fig. 2A: 4; 5: 4; 8; 9).\(^11\)

The church is architecturally divided into a three-sided presbytery, a longitudinal nave, and a bell tower on its northern side. The nave is medieval, while the presbytery and the bell tower were added in the 17\textsuperscript{th} century. Below the present

\(^10\) Documentation listing the appropriate procedures for the previously started renovation was issued. As the most numerous possible presentations of the newly discovered Roman slabs were a prerequisite, a small hole was cut to make it possible to see the gravestone. The step in front of the southern entrance to the church was removed and replaced with metal steps, which enable viewing the wall structure below the entrance, and thick glass protective plates were installed to prevent precipitation and icing on the stones.

\(^11\) See Breščak 2008a–c.
apse floor, the foundations of an older and smaller semi-circular apse may be hidden; the opening into the apse wall used to be narrower, as can be seen from the position of the newly found tombstone. It could be seen in full in the presbytery during the Middle Ages, but when the church was rebuilt, the whole southern wall of the enlarged church was constructed on top of it.

The slight decline of the terrain on the southern side of the church showed that the wall foundation is a little wider (10 cm) and levelled, while the wall constructed on it is up to 1 m thick. The complete southern wall is based on two rows of Roman blocks, while both corners are made of worked Roman stone almost to the top (fig. 2A). The tombstones which were higher, heavier to relocate, and statically more reliable were obviously used as support elements of both southern corners and therefore also the apse. Thus the tombstone of Gaius Claudius Romanus was placed in the southwestern corner (fig. 2A: 2; 2B: 2; 5: 2), while the newly discovered tombstone of Gaius Longinius Severinus was placed in the southeastern corner supporting the eastern wall (fig. 2A: 4; 5: 4). Due to the slightly higher level of the terrain on the northern side, the link between the wall and the wider foundation could not be traced, but presumably the worked Roman stones were used in the corners only (fig. 2C). A large stone block can be seen in the foundation of the western wall on the southern side next to the church entrance (fig. 2A), because the interior plaster had been removed due to rising damp. Obviously the Roman stone blocks were used in the second phase of building, when the semi-circular apse was replaced by a three-sided one, and the bell tower was added. Several worked Roman stones could be seen immured in different parts of the presbytery wall (fig. 2D), two of them next to the floor where the roughcast had been removed. The southwestern corner of the bell tower built next to the nave was constructed on a Roman tombstone (fig. 2B: 1; 5: 1), which only visible side is decorated with a cantharos, a vine and a bird on top. Besides the above mentioned stones, four more worked Roman blocks could be observed in the structure of the bell tower (fig. 2B). In front of the tower before the church entrance, three large stones were used as steps, with holes for iron clamps cast with lead (fig. 4). A one ton heavy block and a slab were placed in front of the main entrance to the church as well. This block has a levelled rectangular worked field with three small holes where a tombstone (a stele) was probably attached. These elements were obviously picked from among the ones that are still in rows in situ around the church: one row is in front of the southern church wall, where only three blocks could be seen in the past, but now more of them
have appeared after the lowering of the terrain, and another one is northwest of the bell tower, where a corner and part of the northern wall can be seen (fig. 4). There is an iron clamp with a lead cast between two blocks in its original position in front of the newly discovered tombstone.

Stone blocks in the form of slabs 15–20 cm thick and 49–66 cm wide, of different lengths probably depending on the geological conditions in the relevant layer in the quarry are difficult to interpret without further analyses. The most probable explanation seems to be that they were used as a fence structure of worked blocks for a family grave or graves inside a Roman cemetery. A recent analogy was discovered at the Roman cemetery at Draga near Bela Cerkev. The boundaries of the grave plot were made of slightly thicker stones than here and they were placed on a levelled sand foundation and connected with iron clamps cast with lead.

When the old plaster of the church was completely removed, detailed documentation could be carried out and pictures of the Roman worked stones were taken. It can be claimed that four of them are Roman tombstones, and it can be assumed with great probability due to the measurements that there are more of them built into the wall, at least three or four. The total number of immured stones amounted to 54; five were repositioned and used in front of the entrance: three at the western side, two at the southern one, one of which was transported to the entrance hall of Grm Castle, Novo Mesto, the location of the Institute for the Protection of the Cultural Heritage. The other one (fig. 2A), kept in its secondary position, can be seen below the new metal stairs; the number of stones presumably used as grave borders has increased from four to eleven. Of course, the immured spolia can no longer be seen after the roughcast was applied.

Geophysical investigation of the immediate vicinity of the church, as well as its interior, was

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13 A compromise with the local church community was reached, so that all the blocks of worked stones in the corners and two rows of re-used spolia in the southern wall of the nave can still be seen. After the walls had been covered with roughcast and whitewashed, all the visible stones were cleaned. Since the inscription areas of the tombstones are in poor condition, especially the one belonging to Gaius Aurelius Firminus, the tombstones were covered with safety glass and covers were built above them, so that they would not be damaged too much by leakage. Walking surfaces of safety glass were also used for the flooring inside the presbytery next to the vaulted wall, where the wall and the floor were opened next to the newly discovered inscription.

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12 Križ 2003, 30.
carried out by Brane Mušič and his team using the geo-radar method. The data show a strong concentration of high amplitudes of radar reflection typical for stone structures. No evidence was gained for the assumption that the Roman itinerary road continued through the meadows south of the church. This may be supported by the claims of local inhabitants that the so-called Roman road is the rut among fields leading to the southeast from the motorway towards the village of Jezero. Due to the frequency and structure of the radar reflection, it can be claimed that the church was built directly on Roman ruins.

In the framework of the conservation activities, a preliminary study of the origin of the stone blocks was carried out by Tomaž Verbič. Macroscopic analysis confirmed the hypothesis that the original quarry was at Dolenja Nemška vas near Trebnje, only two km away. Field survey showed that Lower Jurassic carbonate rock was intensively extracted from the forest covered hill of Brnek.

At the foothills of Brnek there are at least four abandoned quarries (fig. 3; 6) whose layers, macroscopic similarity, and post-sedimentation processes correspond greatly, especially due to the fact that there is no similar limestone in the vicinity. The visible layers of the abandoned quarry opposite the fire brigade house are evident (fig. 7): the rock is arranged in strata, which enabled, with clever extraction, relatively simple formatting and working of the final products. Trebnje and its surroundings have both old and recent stone finds. It would be interesting to carry out a wider geologic-petrographic investigation, which would include the stone monuments from this area kept in the National Museum of Slovenia in Ljubljana, in the Museum of Dolenjska at Novo mesto, as well as three recently discovered milestones, two from Karteljevo and one from Trebnje.

The analysis of stone blocks from the above mentioned burial place at Draga near Bela Cerkev has shown that the stones originated from the same quarry. The problem of transportation, beyond the possibility of using water for transport, should be investigated and it is clear that the archaeological site of Jezero near Trebnje deserves systematic interdisciplinary research in the future.

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14 Mušič 2008.
15 Verbič 2008.
16 Bavec, Lovenjak 2006; Breščak 2008d.
17 Verbič 2002.
Fig. 8: Jezero, St. Peter. The position of the immured tombstone of Gaius Longinius Severinus at the southeastern nave corner during the investigations (photo: F. Aš).

The geological analysis of the material showed that the rock belongs to Lower Jurassic limestone from the Brnek near Dolenja Nemška vas quarry, which lies approximately two km towards the west (municipality of Trebnje).18

The dimensions of the monument: 134 × 95 × 63 cm. Height of the letters: from 7.7 cm in the first to 4.7 cm in the last line.

The inscription runs as follows:

D(is) M(anibus).
C(aius) Longinius
Severinus an(norum) LX,
dec(urio) II vir iur(is)
5 dicundi Cl(audiae)
Celeiae(e), vi(v)us fec(it)
sib(i) Acutiae Matronae con(i)
et Long(inio) Avito fil(io) an(norum) XXXVII,
dec(urioni) II vir(i) t(uris) d(icundi)
Cl(audiae) Ce(liae).

Translation:
To the Spirits of the Departed. Gaius Longinius Severinus, 60 years old, decurio (member of the city council) and a joint mayor of Claudia Celeia had erected (the tombstone) while still living, for himself and for his wife Acutia Matrona and for his son Longinius Avitus, 37 years old, decurio and a joint mayor of Claudia Celeia.

Ligatures: 7 VT, AE; 8 ET, AV.
2: The fourth letter in the nomen gentile is carved as C with an additional rounded stroke above the lower end. – 4 and 9: Above the vertical strokes of the numeral II (duo) there is a horizontal line. – 6: The middle V is missing in the word vivus. – 7: The conjunction ET is not in the ligature, as it would be expected, because the upper horizontal stroke is not lengthened towards the left. The horizontal strokes of both Ts are not straight, but form slight semicircles on both sides, which seems to be the carver’s peculiarity.19 The last O is carved into C and diminished, it measures 2.3 cm. – 8: The horizontal strokes of both Ts are formed similarly as in the previous line. The fourth letter in Longinius is without the rounded addition as in the second line. The last two vertical strokes in the numeral are carved into the margin and are smaller than the previous letters in this line.

The tombstone, which is walled into the church at Gatina near Grosuplje, ca. 30 km to the west

18 Verbič 2008.

19 The similar form of T can be found e.g. also on the votive altar for Diana in Emona, from the 1st or 2nd centuries AD, erected in honour of Titus Vellius Onesimus. He was a sevir and Augustalis of Emona, sevir of Aquileia and Augustalis of Parentium (CIL 3, 3836 + p. 1734 = Šašel Kos 1997, No. 9).
The tombstone of two town magistrates of Celeia in the region of Neviodunum

Fig. 9: Jezero, St. Peter. The inscription field of the tombstone of Gaius Longinius Severinus (drawn by A. Fortuna-Saje).

(already in the ager of Emona), has a similar volute ornament finishing the upper edge of the inscription field, the only difference being that the intermediate space is somewhat narrower, and the letters D(is) M(anibus) are carved above the volutes.

The reason for the erection of the family tombstone seems to have been the death of Longinius Avitus, who died at age 37. His father Gaius Longinius Severinus was 60 at the time, while the age of his mother, Acutia Matrona, is not mentioned. All three were Roman citizens. Longinius Avitus has no praenomen. This might indicate a later dating for the monument, i.e. in the period after AD 212, when citizenship was given to almost all free inhabitants of the Roman Empire and the praenomen was often omitted.

The names of the deceased are Italic and do not include any indigenous Celtic elements. The nomen gentile Longinius, derived from the well-attested cognomen Longinus, has been fairly rarely

\[\text{CIL} \ 3, \ 13402 + \ p. \ 2328 = \text{AIF} \ 221.\]
discovered so far. The feminine form of this name appeared as a cognomen on an inscription from Zgornja Pohanca in the Lower Posavje (Sava basin) region. The cognomen Severinus is more frequent and has already been attested in fifteen cases in Pannonia. The nomen gentile Acutius, which appears here in the feminine form, is rather sporadic outside Italy, where it is quite frequent. It is attested only on one inscription in Noricum (in the form [A]cutius), and has not yet been known from Pannonia. The cognomen Matrona is also rather rare in Noricum, while it has been documented in seven cases in Pannonia. Avitus was a very popular cognomen in both provinces, and has already been known from five inscriptions in Neviodunum and its ager. It is also attested on four inscriptions from Celeia.

Gaius Longinius Severinus and his son Longinius Avitus carried out duumviral duties in Celeia, where they were also members of the city council, a local senate. It is possible that they were joint mayors in Celeia at the same time, although this cannot be concluded from the inscription itself.

Thanks to Roman jurists and other sources (see Corpus juris civilis), the general conditions for membership in the city council, for the duumvirate and other functions in autonomous towns, as well as their special competences and duties, are well known. The lowest age for membership in the council, and also for the duumvirate, was 25. As a rule, the city council had 100 members, but the number varied according to the size of the city. Certain preliminary qualifications were necessary for membership in the council, such as possession of property amounting to some prescribed sum, free status, and membership as citizens of a town. The members of the city council were called decuriones or curiales, because their sessions took place in the curia. Resolutions of the curia were called decreta (sing. decretum), i.e. decreto decurionum in inscriptions.

The council sessions were announced and led by the duumviri ("two men"), who belonged, together with the aediles, to a class of higher ranking town magistrates (magistratus maiores) and were elected from the members of city council for a period of one year. Their further duties were also the organization of the people’s assembly, of the elective assembly every five years (s.c. duumviri quinquennales), and of cult rites in the city. They were further involved with the administration of justice, wielded power as the local police force, supervised the jobs of lower ranking officials (magistratus minores), managed city finances, and represented the local community to outsiders. After their mandate had expired, they were members of the city council until their death or, from the point of view of legal formality, until the next election (lectio senatus), which took place every fifth year. The functions were not reimbursed, but they held certain honors (honores). Occasionally, honorific inscriptions and statues for former magistrates were erected by local inhabitants in response to their special concerns for the community. Eventually, and especially from the 3rd century onwards, the offices became a burden (onus) and hereditary, which made them unpopular.

Members of the urban aristocracy of Celeia are attested – outside Celeia, from where the majority of the inscriptions come – in different parts of southern Noricum as well, for example at Vranje near Sevnica, Rimske Toplice, Šempeter, Vojnik, Trbovlje, Črešnjevec, and Slovenske Konjice. The recent inscription from Jezero is the first example from the area of Neviodunum in the province of Pannonia.

Out of the fifteen inscriptions mentioning the mayors of Celeia which have been attested so far, the following names are more or less preserved: (- -) Maximus, L. Appuleiu(s- -), C. Bellicius Ingenuus, Bellicius Victor, (P . Mat?)t. P . fil. (Belli?) cinus, P . Mattius L. f. Bellicus, M. Mess., Cn. Pomp. Iustinus, C. Spectatius Finitus, C. Spectatius C. fil. Cla. Priscianus, and (- T)erentius Procu(lus?).
In addition to these, Metilius Maximianus must also have been a duumvir in Celeia in the 3rd century, since the inscription on his tombstone from Šentjanž near Rečica ob Savinji\(^{35}\) states that he was a nobleman (vir egregius) and that he performed all the functions in an autonomous city (omnibus muneribus functus). His function as mayor is implicitly reflected in the cognomen of his son Dumviranus, who was probably born in that year.\(^{36}\)

All the above-mentioned officials were members of the city council as well, which is explicitly stressed in one example only, in the inscription for Cn. Pomp. Iustinus. Other officials attested as decuriones in Celeia are D. Castricius Verus Antonius Avitus, T. Iulius Bellicus, Maronius Marcellinus, L. Mattius P. f. Cla. Probus, Secundius Verinus and two persons whose names are not attested in inscriptions, but according to the context, it can be concluded that in both cases their nomen gentile was Terentius.\(^{37}\)

C. Spectatius Finitus and C. Spectatius C. fil. Cla. Priscianus, father and his son, attested on a Šemper tombstone,\(^ {38}\) were both mayors in Celeia, similarly to the two Longini in the inscription from Jezerro. Certain other officials with the same nomen gentile, such as Bellicius, Mattius or Terentius (attested on two or more inscriptions), were probably also relatives.

Some general characteristics suggest that the inscription from Jezerro cannot be dated very early, especially the form of the letters and the omission of the praenomen in the name of Longinius Avitus. It can be dated to the end of the 2nd, or in the first half of the 3rd century.

\(^{35}\) CIL 3, 5111 (see Wedenig 1997, 109–111).

\(^{36}\) The cognomen is attested in this inscription only (see Onomasticon 2, 111).


\(^{38}\) II.1ug 372.
Nagrobnik dveh mestnih veljakov iz Celje na območju Neviduna

UVOD


NAJDIŠČA RIMSKIH NAGROBNIKOV

Zgodovina raziskav


ZGODOVINA RAZISKAV


1 CIL III 3914 = 10785 = ILSI 76.
2 ILSI 107.
3 AIJ 237 = ILSI 68.
4 ILSI 184.

Šašel Kos 1997, 419, in napise št. 152–174 in Pretorij Latobikov (Trebnje) proti Neviodunu (Drnovo pri Južno od cerkve je tekla rimska državna cesta iz Emone in nepremične znamke z plinoloma, ki je bil v izvirnem položaju (slo. 3). To je bilo obcena postaja poštne službe (mansio) in pomembna beneficiarska postojanka bližu meje med Italijo in Zgornjo Panonijo.9 Krajani vasi Jezero so se lotili postopne prenove cerkve in najprej prekriti steho in zvonik z bakreno pločevino, v letu 2008 pa so bili ob zunanji strani tudi fresko sv. Krištofa začeli z deli na fasadi in odbili vse stare omete na zvoniku, ter napise št. 115–147. 


10 Za že začeto obnovo fasad so bili izdani kulturno-varstveni pogoji, v katerih je bilo upoštevano ugotovljeno stanje. Zakletna je bila predstavljena v IPv. v obliki plošč, katerih debelina je 15 cm) in izravnano, nanje pa so zgradili steno, debelo 10 cm) in izravnano, nanje pa so zgradili steno, debelo

11 Gl. Breščak 2008a–c.

8 Za rimsko državno cesto iz Emone proti Neviodunu in njegovega območja gl. Šašel Kos 1995; 9 Za T. Zarija a. o. o. o. o. o. o. o. o. o.

10 cm) in izravnano, nanje pa so zgradili steno, debelo

11 Gl. Breščak 2008a–c.
Dragi pri Beli Cerkvi.12 Tu je bila ograja grobnega polja zložena iz še nekoliko debelejših obdelanih blokov, ki so bili položeni na izrazovano peščeno podlagu in med seboj prav tako povezani z železnimi, s svincem zalitimi sponami. Ko so bili stari ometi s cerkve v celoti odstranjeni, je bilo mogoče opraviti podrobnou dokumentiranje in fotografiranje vzdanih obdelanih rimskih kamnov. Za zdaj lahko trdimo, da so štirje od teh zagotovo rimske nagrobniki, za nekatere (vsaj tri ali štiri) pa to na podlagi merjenj njihovih dimenzij z veliko verjetnostjo lahko dobrovorno. Skupno število vzdanih kamnov se je povzelo na 54; pet njegovih dimenzij z veliko verjetnostjo lahko domnevamo.

V bližini oklici in notranjosti cerkve je Brane Mušič iz bližega opravil obsežne geofizikalne raziskave z georadarjem.14

12 Križ 2003, 30.
13 Ob usklajevanju želja župljanov in zahteve strokovne službe je bil sklenjen kompromis, vidni so ostali več bloki v šivanih vogalih ladje ter dve vrsti spolij v južni steni cerkve. Po nanosu ometov in beležev je bilo izvedeno tudi čiščenje skrivanih vogalih ladje ter dve vrsti spolij v južni steni ladje. V bližini oklici v celoti zamenjali drugi pa je ohranjen v svoji sekundarni legi (sl. 2A), vendar viden pod novimi kovinskim montažnim stopnicama. Število vzdanih kamnov v domnevni funkciji omejitev grobne parcele se je z zasedanjem štirih spolij povzelo na enajst. Seveda vse vzdane spolije po obnovi ometov omejitev grobnice iz Drage pri Beli Cerkvi je pokazala, da gre za iztiskovni kamnolom.15 Ob tem puščamo problematiko transporta zunaj možnosti uporabe vodnih poti ob strani. Vsekakor pa sedaj nekoliko poglebli podoba o arheološkem najdišču Jezero pri Trebnjem kaže, da gre za lokacijo, ki bi bila vredna sistematičnega raziskovanja v okviru študijskega projekta z interdisciplinarno obravnavo.

**NAGROBNIK GAJA LONGINIJA SEVERINA, AKUTIJE MATRONE IN LONGINIJA AVITA**

Nagrobnik je vzdavan v jugovzhodni vogal cerkvene ladje (sl. 8) na nekoliko razširjenem temeljnem zidu. Leži na desni bočni strani, nanj pa so šivano postavljeni drugi rimski kamni, ki so proti vrhu vedno manjši. Na južni fasadi cerkve je vidna vrhnja stranica nagrobnika s proti dnu razširjenje vdolbino, transportno-režo ali utorom za pritrditev dodatnega člena nagrobne arhitekture. Celotno napisno polje je bilo v starejši gradbeni fazi cerkve, ko se je ladja končevala s polkrožno apsidino, vidno, kasneje, po prizidavi tristranskog izključenega preziberija, pa v celoti skrito. To dejstvo je pripomoglo k dobri ohranjenosti napisnih polj.17 Ali sta ornamentirani obe bočni strani spomenika, ni bilo mogoče preveriti, leži na ladji, ki je bila v celoti zamenjana ob preudarnem izkoriščanju dopolnil. V bližini oklici je bilo zdravljeno tudi čiščenje skrivanih vogalih ladje ter dve vrsti spolij v južni steni cerkve. V bližini oklici in notranjosti cerkve je Brane Mušič iz bližega opravil obsežne geofizikalne raziskave z georadarjem.14

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14 Križ 2003, 30. 
16 Verbič 2008. 
17 Verbič 2002.
Severinus an(norum) LX, dec(urionis) II vir iur(is) 5 dicipendi Cl(audiae)
Cæleia(e), viv(us) fec(it)
sib(i) et (t) Acutiae Matronae coni(i)gii et Long(inio) Avito fil(io) an(norum) XXXVII, dec(urionis) II vir(i) (iur(is)) d(icipendi) Cl(audiae) Cæleia(e).

Prevod:

Ligature: 7 VT, AE; 8 ET, AV.
2: Četrta črka v gentilnem imenu Longinium je vklesana kot C z dodatno ovalno vijugo nad spodnjim zaključkom. – 4 in 9: Nad navpičnimi hastami števnika kot C z dodatno ovalno vijugo nad spodnjim zaključkom.

S podobnim volutnim ornamentom kot tu je zaslišana, kot je v Emoni, sevira v Akvileji in avgustala v Parentiju Diani posvečeni votivni ari iz Emon. 19

Izpeljanka iz precej razširjenega kognomena domačih keltskih elementov. Rodovno ime je bilo znano. 22 Pogosteje je na napisih izpričan kot kognomen Severin, ki je v Panoniji znan s 15, v Noriku pa z 10 napisov. 23 Rodovno ime Acutius, ki tu nastopa v ženski obliki, je znan v Italiji, kjer je izpričano na več kot tridesetih napisih, znano le posamično, v Noriku samo na enem napisu ([A]cutius, v Panoniji pa doslej sploh še ni bilo znano. 24 Tudi kognomen Matrona je bil precej Redek, le v Panoniji s sedmi primeri najvišje. Zastop na zemlji, nekoliko manj v Noriku. 25 Kognomen Avitus je bil v Panoniji in Noriku zelo priljubljen 26 in je doslej na področju Neviodun na znan se z petih napisov. 27 Nastopa tudi na štirih napisih iz Cela. 28

Gaj Longinij Severin in njegov sin Longinij Avit sta v Ceje 29 opravljala duumvirat, kolegialno najvišjo funkcijo v rimskih avtonomnih mesti, in bila tudi člana mestnega sveta. Morda sta bila na čelu mestne uprave kot župana celo sočasno, vendar na to s samega napa ne moremo sklepati.

Po zašljini rimskih pravnih piscev in drugih virov (gl. Corpus iuris civilis) poznamo zahteve, ki jim je moral zadostiti posameznik za članstvo v mestnih svetih, za opravljanje duumvirata in drugih funkcij v avtonomnih mestih, tako kot tudi njihove pristojnosti in dolžnosti. Najnižja starostna meja za članstvo v mestnem svetu je bila 25 let. Svet je imel pravljico. 30 Tudi kognomen se članov, vendar je bilo to število lahko tudi večje ali manjše, odvisno od velikosti mesta. V tem svetu je bilo treba izpolniti tudi nekatere druge pogoje kot npr. imeti premoženje v predpisani vrednosti, svobodni status ob rojstvu in polnoprvstne državljanske pravice v tem mestu. Člani sveta so imenovali dekuri (edn. decretum), na napisih v obliki decreto decurionum. 30

Seje mestnega sveta so sklicevali in vodili duumvir ali duoviri ("dva moža"), ki so skupaj z edili (aediles) spadali v razred višjih mestnih uradnikov (magistratus maiores) in so jih izvolili iz med članov mestnega sveta za obdobje enega leta. Njihove druge dolžnosti so bile sklicati skupščine, sklicati volilne skupščine vsakih pet let (t.i. duumvir quinquennales) 31 in skrb za izvajanje javnih kultnih obredov v mestu. V njihovo pristojnost je sodilo tudi sodstvo, ali kuriali (curiales), ker so zasedali v kuriji (curia). Njihovi sklepi so bili imenovani decreta (edn. decretum), na napisih v obliki decreto decurionum. 30

Podrobna oblika črke T nastopa na primer tudi na Diani posvečeni votivni ari iz Emon. 1 ali 2. stoletja. Postavljena je bila v čast Tita Velija Onesima, sevira in avgustala v Emoni, sevira v Akvileji in avgustala v Parentiju (CIL 3, 3836 + p. 1734 = Sašel Kos 1997, No. 9).


20 CIL 3, 13402 + p. 2328 = AJf 221.
senatus), ki je bil izveden vsakih pet let. Funkcije niso bile plačane, prinašale so le določene časti (honores). Posebej zaslužnim uradnikom so včasih v mestih postavljali častne napise in kipe za njihove zasluge za skupnost. Sčasoma, posebej od 3.stoletja dalje, so javne službe postale dedne in vedno večje breme (onus), s tem posledično tudi vedno bolj nepriljubljene.  

Člani celejske mestne aristokracije so razen v Celju, koder je znanih največ njihovih napisov, izpričani tudi v različnih delih nekdanjega južnega Norika, tako na primer na napisih z Vranja pri Sevnici, iz Rimskih Toplic, Šempe - tre, Trbovelj, Črešnjevce in Slovenskih Konjic.  

Novi napis iz Jezera je prvi primer s področja Nevioduna v provinci Panoniji.


Podobno kot na novem napisu iz Jezera sta župansko funkcijo v Celje kot oče in sin opravljala tudi Gaj Spektatij Priscijan in Gaj Spektatij Finit, ki ju poznamo iz ene od šempeterskih grobnic, so pa sorodstvene vezi zagotovo obstajale tudi med drugimi, katerih rodovna imena nastopajo na dveh ali več napisih (npr. Belikij, Matij ali Terentij).

Glede na obliko črk in opuščanje prenomena pri imenu Longinija Avita napis lahko okvirno datiramo v konec 2. ali prvo polovico 3.stoletja.