

# DISSERTATIONES ARCHAEOLOGICAE

ex Instituto Archaeologico Universitatis de Rolando Eötvös nominatae



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# Constitution for the auxiliary units of an uncertain province issued 2 July (?) 133 on a new military diploma

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## **Abstract**

*The constitution on an unpublished fragmentary military diploma was issued by Hadrian during the consular period of Q. Flavius Tertullus és Q. Iulius Rusticus in May/August 133. It is presumably another copy of the 2 July 133 constitution relating to the auxiliary units of an uncertain province. The recipient was likely to serve in one of the cohortes Raetorum or in the ala I praetoria singularium c. R.*

---

The published inscribed bronze plate is a fragment of a military diploma, from – looking from the outer side of the plate – the bottom of *tabella II* near the left corner (height: 36.3 mm; width: 32.4 mm; thickness: 1 mm) (*Fig. 1*). Its find-spot is unknown; its owner had bought it several decades ago in Niš, in the former Yugoslavia.

## ***intus: tabella II***

The edge of the plate is visible above the first line. The first line on the inner side seems to be centred, while lines 2 and 3 seem to be adjusted to the left. The height of the letters is widely varying even in the same line: 3–7 mm. The first preserved letter of line 2 is highly uncertain, only a transverse line can be identified, in case it belonged to the letter. The engraver consistently omitted the lower curves of letter O's. The second stroke of letter V is vertical; this is a common phenomenon even on inscriptions carved in stone.<sup>1</sup>

A · D · [- -]

[- -]+IO TERTV[- -]

[- -]AETO[- -]

[- -]++[- -]

- - - - -

1 See MRÁV 2008–2010, 173; and the commentary of AE 2010, 1273.



*extrinsecus: tabella II*

The letters are 4–5 mm high.

-----  
 [- -]TIENI [- -].

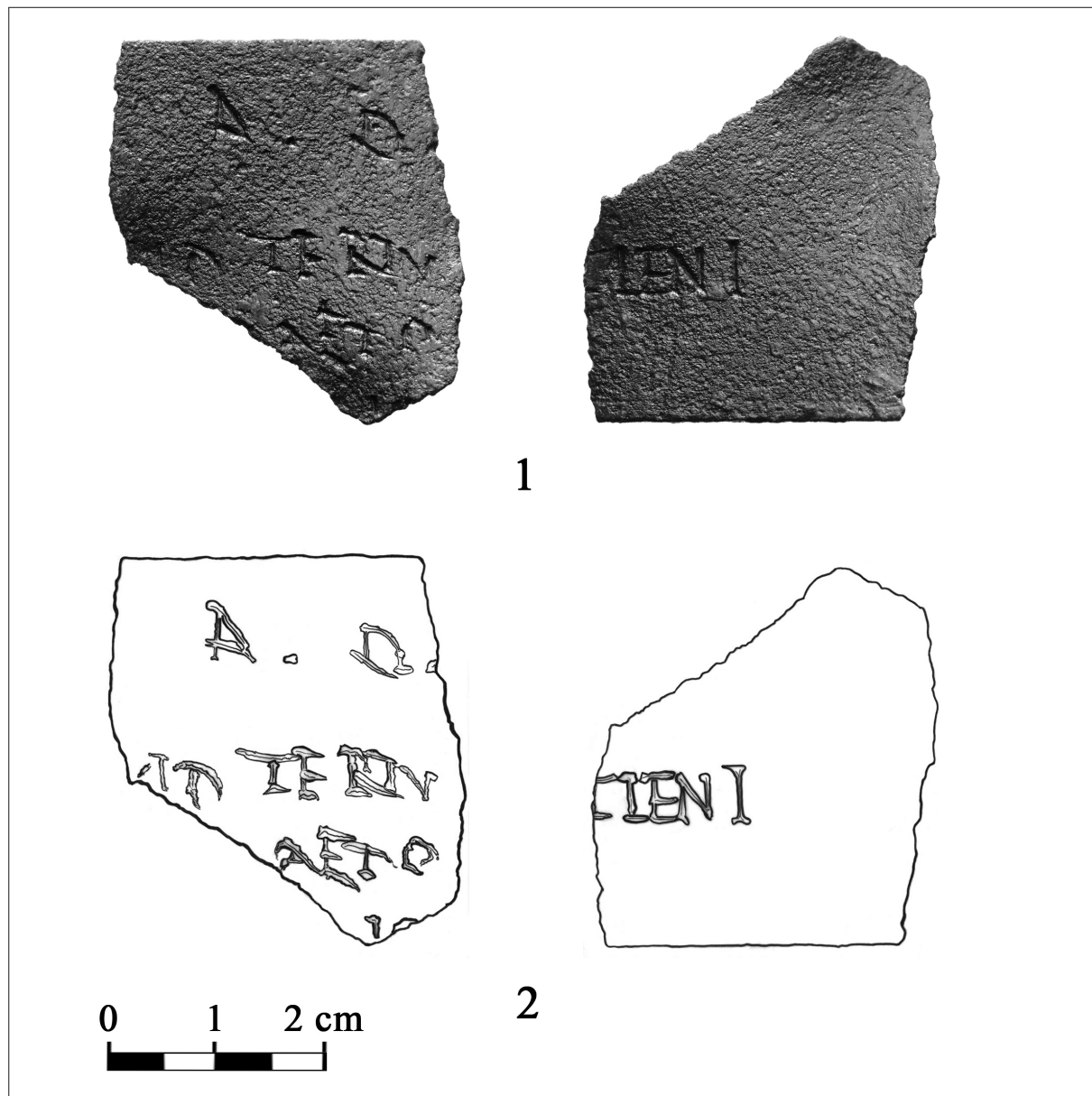


Fig. 1. The photo and drawing of the new military diploma (Photo: Csaba Gedai; drawing: Tamás Szabadváry).

**Commentary**

At the time of issuing the constitution the *consul prior* was - -]ius Tertullus, who can be identified as one of the following persons:<sup>2</sup>

2 The *ordinarius* of 195, P. Iulius Scapula Tertullus Priscus (PIR 2, I 557) cannot be taken into account, as at that time of the constitution on the inner side of military diplomas the full name of the consuls were not written, but only the cognomen was used consistently.

Constitution for the auxiliary units of an uncertain province...

C. Iulius Cornutus Tertullus (PIR 2, I 273)	cos. suff. Sept. – Oct. 100	no constitution is known from the time of his office
Q. Flavius Tertullus (PIR 2, F 376)	cos. suff. 133	CIL XVI 76 and 77; RMD I 35; AE 2005, 1717; AE 2009, 1832.
Sex. Sulpicius Tertullus (PIR 2, S 1022)	cos. ord. 158	AE 2006, 1835, cf. AE 2007, 1767; AE 2007, 1766; RMD V 420

The *gentilicium* of the seventh witness signing the document is - *-]tienus*. No such *gentilicium* is known amongst the witnesses of military diplomas issued during the reign of Antoninus Pius,<sup>3</sup> thus the Tertullus on the fragment of the diploma cannot be the *ordinarius* of 158.

Between 100 and 134 two witnesses are attested having the *gentilicium* Vettienus. C. Vettienus Modestus signed military diplomas between 100 and 129.<sup>4</sup> He was in the fifth place amongst the witnesses of the military diploma containing the constitution of 8 May 100.<sup>5</sup> However, the seventh member from 129 to 134 was C. Vettienus Hermes<sup>6</sup> who is known to have signed between 112 and 134<sup>7</sup> (mayhap 135<sup>8</sup>). This means that the constitution of the new diploma belongs to the period between 129 and 134, more precisely to 133, to the tenure of *consules suffecti* Q. Flavius Tertullus and Q. Iulius Rusticus. In 133 (and also in 131, 134 and 135) the *ordinarii* are attested in April,<sup>9</sup> which might suggest a four month period of office for each pair of consuls including *suffecti*.<sup>10</sup> In 133 three pairs are known which indicate that the duration of their consulates was four months. All this points to the conclusion that the consular period of Q. Flavius Tertullus and Q. Iulius Rusticus can be dated to the period May/August 133. During their consulship, on 2 July 133 Hadrian issued a constitution known from several military diplomas relating to the auxiliary units of the provinces Pannonia superior,<sup>11</sup> Dacia inferior,<sup>12</sup> and Dacia Porolissensis.<sup>13</sup> It is highly probable that this new military diploma belongs to this constitution, though we do not know which province was this specimen issued for.

The text of the diploma suggests a constitution for auxiliary soldiers.<sup>14</sup> Letters --]AETO[-- were preserved from the name of the recipient's unit, which may be restored to the plur. gen.

3 SCHEUERBRANDT 2009, 276–284.

4 MORRIS – ROXAN 1977, 325; LÓRINCZ 1999, 198–200; SCHEUERBRANDT 2009, 267.

5 CIL XVI 46. He is attested in the seventh place only on one military diploma dated 30 July 100: CIL XVI 55.

6 CIL XVI 74 (129.2.18); CIL XVI 75 (129.3.22); RMD 34 (129.4.30); RMD 158 (133.4.8); CIL XVI 76 (133.7.2); CIL XVI 79 (134.9.15) – cf. SCHEUERBRANDT 2009, 267.

7 MORRIS – ROXAN 1977, 325; SCHEUERBRANDT 2009, 267.

8 ECK – HOLDER – PANGERL 2010, 196 n. 36.

9 RMD III 158; AE 2005, 1716.

10 ECK – HOLDER – PANGERL 2010, 194.

11 CIL XVI 76 = CIL III, p. 1978 (p. 2328, 64); CIL XVI 77.

12 AE 2009, 1832.

13 RMD I, 35.

14 The constitution of the military diploma is not related to the soldiers of the praetorian fleets, as the consular dating is followed by the rank of the soldier, not the appellation of the fleet (listing coeval diplomas only: CIL XVI, 74 [129.2.18]; AE 2005, 1717 [133]; CIL XVI 79 [15.09.134]). The document cannot be a praetorian diploma either, as the *praetoria* adjective in the name of the praetorian cohorts is consistently abbreviated PR at this particular point (see: CIL XVI 95 [29.2.148]; CIL XVI 98 [18.2.150]; PFERDEHIRT 2004, 97–99 Nr. 33 [1.3.152]). Furthermore no praetorian diploma is known in the reign of Hadrian, the nearest ones were issued in the reign of Vespasian (76 and 85) and Antoninus Pius (148, 150 and 152) – cf. SCHEUERBRANDT 2009, 51–52.



noun *Raetorum* or to the adjective *praetoria*. The identification of the auxiliary unit is not possible because of the great number of possibilities. The recipient could have been discharged from one of the following units: either of *cohortes Raetorum* numbered from I to VIII,<sup>15</sup> or *ala I praetoria singularium c. R.*<sup>16</sup> The latter mounted auxiliary unit was part of the military forces of Pannonia inferior in the 2nd century following the Dacian wars of Trajan. Its fort was at Tetoburgium (present day Dalj, Croatia).<sup>17</sup> In 133 the governor of Pannonia inferior was L. Attius Macro (*cos. suff.* 134).<sup>18</sup>

The names and the order of the witnesses can be completed on the basis of the witnesses of the diploma from the constitution issued 2 July 133 found at Arrabona (Győr, county Győr-Moson-Sopron, Hungary).<sup>19</sup>

Considering the aforementioned arguments the text of the inner side of the new diploma and the list of witnesses can be restored in the following ways:

[*Imp(erator) Caes(ar) divi Traiani Parthici f(i)lius divi Nerv(ae) nepos Traianus Hadrianus Aug(ustus) pont(ifex) max(imus) tr(ibunicia) pot(estate) XVII co(n)s(ul) III p(ater) p(atriciae) equitib(us) et peditib(us) qui militaver(unt) in alis - - et in coh(ortibus) - - quae appell(antur) - - et - - Raetor(um)? et - - et sunt in - - sub - - quinis et vicenis pluribusve stipendi(i)s emeritis dimissis honesta missione*

*quorum nomina subscrip(ta) sunt ipsis liberis posterisq(ue) eorum civitatem dedit et conubium cum uxoribus quas tunc habuissent cum est civitas iis data aut si qui caelibes essent cum iis quas postea duxissent dumtaxat singuli singulas.*

*A(n)te d(iem) [ VI non(as) Iul(ias)? Q(uito) Fla]vio Tertu[llo, Q(uito) Iulio Rustico co(n)s(ulibus).]*

*[Coh(ortis) - - R]aeto[rum ? - -, cui prae(e)st - -]++[- - ex - -]*

*[Ti. Claudi Menandri; P. Atti Severi; L. Pulli Daphni; P. Atti Festi; T. Flavi Lauri; Q. Lolli Festi; C. Vet]tieni [Hermetis].*

or

[*Imp(erator) Caes(ar) divi Traiani Parthici f(i)lius divi Nerv(ae) nepos Traianus Hadrianus Aug(ustus) pont(ifex) max(imus) tr(ibunicia) pot(estate) XVII co(n)s(ul) III p(ater) p(atriciae) equitib(us) et peditib(us) qui militaver(unt) in alis - - et in coh(ortibus) - - quae appell(antur) - - I pr(aetoria) c(ivium) R(omanorum)? et - - et sunt in Pannonia inferiore? sub Attio Macrone? quinis et vicenis pluribusve stipendi(i)s emeritis dimissis honesta missione*

*quorum nomina subscrip(ta) sunt ipsis liberis posterisq(ue) eorum civitatem dedit et conubium cum uxoribus quas tunc habuissent cum est civitas iis data aut si qui caelibes essent cum iis quas postea duxissent dumtaxat singuli singulas.*

15 For the *cohortes Raetorum*: SPAUL 2000, 276–287. The *cohors III Raetorum* is unrecorded (yet?). On this problem the latest: FARKAS 2015, 160.

16 The *cohors VI praetoria Hispanorum* (SPAUL 2000, 136) stationed in Bythunia in the 2nd century or the *cohors I Augusta praetoria Lusitanorum equitata* (SPAUL 2000, 56–58) belonging to the army of Aegyptus from 105 are highly improbable possibilities considering the possible find-spot, though they cannot be completely ruled out.

17 LŐRINCZ 2001, 23.

18 The date of his governorship in Pannonia inferior: 130/131–133: FITZ 1993, 521; LŐRINCZ 2004, 40.

19 CIL XVI 76 = CIL III, p. 1978 (p. 2328,64).

*A(nte) d(iem) [ VI non(as) Iul(ias)? Q(uinto) Fla]vio Tertu[llo, Q(uinto) Iulio Rustico co(n)s(ulibus).]*

*[Alae I pr]aeto[ri]ae c(ivium) R(omanorum)?, cui prae(e)st - -][+ +[- - ex - -]*

*[Ti. Claudi Menandri; P. Atti Severi; L. Pulli Daphni; P. Atti Festi; T. Flavi Lauri; Q. Lolli Festi; C. Vet]tieni [Hermetis].*

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