

M. P. SPEIDEL  
University of Hawaii

UDC 930.271 (71) (497.17)

## A SINGULARIS CONSULARIS OF UPPER MOESIA

At the village of Pobužje, not far from Scupi, a Roman soldier's gravestone was found in 1958. Used as a cover for a Late Roman burial, the slab suffered some damage, and almost all of its relief with the funerary banquet is broken off. Despite the wobbly lettering, the stone betrays a certain wealth: it was large (the remains still measure 85 × 86 × 14 cm) and it has a fine moulding<sup>1</sup>. The inscription may be read as follows: (Plate 1)

*D(is) [M(anibus).] / Val(eria) Valen(tina)  
(et) Tib(erius) Cl(audius) Her(culanus?)  
m/aritus vivo se /<sup>5</sup> Fl(avio) Turboni nepo(ti) /  
mil(iti) [coh(ortis) Sa]cor(um), sin/gulari  
co(n)s(ularis), b(ene)m(erenti) / pos(uerunt).  
H(ic) s(itus) e(st).*

„To the spirits of the dead. Valeria Valentina and Tiberius Claudius Herculanus, husband, while living, put this up for Flavius Turbo, their well-deserving nephew, soldier of *cohors Sacorum*, member of the governor's guard. Here he lies.“

Former editors read in lines six and seven *mil(iti) co(ho)r(tis) singulari(um)* and thus thought an otherwise unknown auxiliary *cohors singularium* belonged to the Upper Moesian garrison<sup>2</sup>. Of the crucial letters COS after *singulari* however, are, the C and the S quite clear, and are not in doubt. It follows that *singulari co(n)s(ularis)* is to be read, and that no *cohors singularium* is mentioned here or anywhere else in Upper Moesia.

<sup>1</sup> *IMS* VI, 58. For soldier's gravestellae of Scupi and surroundings see Á Mócsy, *Gesellschaft und Romanisation in der römischen Provinz Moesia Superior*, Budapest 1970, 62ff.

I would like to thank Professor F. Papazoglu, Beograd, for her great kindness in helping me with this paper and in providing the photograph.

<sup>2</sup> A. Keramitčiev, *Živa Antika* 13—14, 1964, 143—148, whence *AE* 1964, 217; A. and J. Šašel, *ILYUG* 522, *IMS* IV, 58. For some doubts see M. P. Speidel, *Guards of the Roman Armies*, Bonn 1978, 94.

<sup>3</sup> I have not seen the stone, but Dr. B. Dragojević-Josifovska, editor of *IMS* VI, of the Skopje Museum was kind enough to check the original again for which I am very grateful.

<sup>4</sup> S. Dušanić, *IMS* I, pp. 104 f; and nr. 119.

Not so clear is the case of *cohors Sacorum*. No other Upper Moesian cohort ending in *-corum* is known, but the letters SA in line six are not at all clear on the photograph, and inspection of the stone itself brought no conclusive results<sup>3</sup>. The point is of some consequence, for the existence of *cohors II Aurelia Nova Sacorum* has recently been called into question<sup>4</sup>, and our stone may thus play a crucial role in confirming that such a unit indeed existed. As it stands, the question must remain open. If *cohors Sacorum* is meant, the stone must date to the time of Marcus Aurelius or later<sup>5</sup>.

Flavius Turbo was buried at Pobužje near Scupi very likely because his uncle had a farm there, where he could set up a gravestone for him. His place of service, though, will have been at the provincial capital of Viminacium, regardless of where his home cohort was stationed. All provincial governors had *singulares* guards on foot and on horseback, and *equites singulares* of the Upper Moesian army have long been known<sup>6</sup>. Turbo is now the first Upper Moesian *pedes singularis consularis* known to us.

*Received 21. XI 1985.*

<sup>3</sup> W. Wagner, *Die Dislokation der römischen Auxiliarformationen*, Berlin 1938, 182.

<sup>6</sup> *CIL* III, 14513 = Dessau 9149; *CIL* VIII, 3050 cf. 18164 = Speidel, loc. cit. 93, nr. 45 with Plate 1.

