Erwin POCHMARSKI

TRANSPORT OF MARBLE ON LAND OR BY RIVER IN SE-NORICUM AND WESTERN PANNONIA

The analyses of W. W. Müller on the marbles from the quarries in today’s Carinthia as well as Styria and Štajerska (Untersteiermark) combined with the investigations of B. Djurić have brought a lot of information about the marbles used in these regions in Antiquity as well as the means of transport. This contribution tries to discuss the possibilities of transport of marble from the various quarries to their final destination discerning between transport by river and transport on land.

Key words: Southeastern Noricum, Western Pannonia, Danube, quarries, costs, time, ships, transport

By the physico-chemical as well as mineralogical and petrographic analyses of H. W. Müller of the marble objects of Roman times in Carinthia¹ (fig. 1), Styria (fig. 2), Štajerska (fig. 3), especially in the territory of Poetovio² as well as in other parts of Pannonia³ and in the northern part of Noricum on the Danube⁴ the exploration of the origins of Roman marbles in these areas have been considerably advanced, although only a limited number of objects could be sampled, so that statistical statements appear limited⁵. B. Djuric has repeatedly dealt with the role of the marble from the Eastern Alps, especially the marble from Gummern and from the Pohorje (Bachem) in Noricum and Pannonia, and together with H. W. Müller he has presented a first synthesis on this subject⁶. Regarding the question of the quarries and the transport routes in Carinthia, the two theses of J. Feinig and of A. Steiner are important preparatory works⁷. On the basis of these works an attempt is made to tell something collectively about cities, quarries, land and water transport in the affected areas.

¹ From the investigations of H. W. Müller have resulted the diploma-theses of FEINIG 2001 and of STEINER 2005 as well as the contributions of STEINER 2006, STEINER 2007a and STEINER 2007b.
² DJURIĆ et al. 2004.
³ MÜLLER 2001b; MÜLLER 2002.
⁵ Cf. POCHMARSKI 2004, 437; STEINER 2006, 71.
⁶ DJURIĆ – MÜLLER 2009.
marily affected and marginally also Savaria and Scarbantia (fig. 4).

Of those quarries known to us, which have at least been partly used in ancient times, in Carinthia only the quarry of Gummern near Villach was of supraregional and even inter-provincial importance. For Virunum marble from Gummern does not only make up about half (51%) of the pieces sampled by H. W. Müller and for Teurnia even 88%, but was also transported to other city territories, thus to Flavia Solva, where the proportion of marble from Gummern amounts about 11%, in the immediate city area of Flavia Solva even about 15%. But the marble of Gummern also reached the cities of the neighbouring province of Pannonia, which are of interest for this study; to Poetovio, where - due to the small number of sampling - the not very representative percentage is 15%, but probably also to Savaria - there are however not yet any results of investigations; and for Teurnia even 88%, but was also transported to more distant cities such as Pannonian Mursa and Sirmium: they also mention percentages - 62.5% and 52% in Mursa respectively in Sirmium, but without evidence of these numbers. However, H. W. Müller speaks about marbles from Kraig in connection with the few pieces he analyzed from Aquincum, Scarbantia and the Burgenland but it concerns only a single piece in the Museum in Eisenstadt.

For Styria and its municipium Flavia Solva the investigations of H. W. Müller have shown that in the entire city territory of 144 sampled monuments - from Flavia Solva itself, but also from Eastern and Western Styria and from the environs of Graz - about half (48.6%) come from the Pohorje (Bachem). In contrast, the Kainach marble represents only 40% of the sampled items throughout the city territory, and the percentage of 80% is very high above all only in Western Styria,
while in the actual city of Flavia Solva the marble from Kainach as the marble from Gummern counts only about 15%.

For Poetovio the investigations of H. W. Müller have showed that of the sampled specimens there - primarily grave stelai, sarcophagi and urns - there are about 84% of Pohorje marble and the remaining 16% of marble from Gummern. According to the considerations of B. Djuric and H. W. Müller the marble of Pohorje (Bachern) would also prevail in Savaria, but in addition there would also occur marble from Gummern and from Kainach, for Scarbantia it would be also possible to demonstrate that beside the marble from Gummern also marble from Pohorje (Bachern) was present. Finally, the two authors also stated that in Mursa 37%, and in Sirmium 48% of the marble objects were made of Pohorje marble.

Before discussing the specific transportation means in the Southeast of Noricum and western Pannonia, a couple of general comments on the transport of marble in the Roman period must be made. Basically, the inland waterway transport was preferred to the transport on land because of the possibility of larger transport volumes and the higher speed. As inland
waterways not only the big rivers like the Danube, the Rhine and the Rhône, but certainly also smaller rivers such as the Mosel, the Inn, the Sava, the Drava (Drau) and the Mur (Mura) were used. About the ship types used for the heavy transport in Noricum and Pannonia we are only very incompletely informed. Therefore we have to rely on visual representations and archaeologi-cal finds from the Rhine and the Gaulish provinces or from Rome.

The situation on the Rhine can be explained by a re-lief from Mainz and one from Cologne which show a seemingly Mediterranean-influenced type of ship with a flat cargo floor and pulled up astern. The crew on the relief from Mainz is formed by a helmsman at the central control in the rear, a second mate with a side rudder in the bow and four rowers - two on each side -; in the front of the ship there is a low mast for towing, which the rowers at the ascent can use for towing. Similarly, on the Cologne fragmentary relief the flat bottom and the raised stern can be seen, besides the helmsman and four or five rowers. These barges with the rowers are suitable for use on larger rivers. They represent the type of the so-called prahm (barge) in a slightly modified form.

Riverboats in pre-Roman Celtic or originally Illyr-ian tradition are found again in the type of the prahm (barge), which is characterized by a flat bottom, without a keel and without stern or stern; bow and rear are formed as flat ramps. These ramp barges are thought to be developed from dugouts, which were halved by the length and enlarged by intervening bottom and side planks. With these box-shaped barges no oars were found.

However equivalents of the caudicaria characteristic for the Tiber, which is curved with a rounded hull and keel and has a strongly curved tail and a long extended nose have not been found north of the Alps. The proposition of W. Böcking equating caudicaria with prahm (barge) has hardly been appreciated. The capacity of a barge might have amounted to a maximum of 30 tons; but according to W. Boppert the relief of the nauta Blussus which shows a ship called by her a prahm (barge) has a stress loading capacity of about 7 tons, and also Ch. Hemmers and St. Traxler are of the opinion that for smaller rivers like the River Drava (Drau) vessels with a smaller cargo capacity were used. On one of the base reliefs on the N-side of the tomb of the Secundinii in Igel a scene is shown, in which two tridellknechte draw a boat which is loaded with two bales of goods and...
is steered by a third man with the rudder or a paddle; the boat will may well be described as a prahm (barge). Researchers take unanimously the view that sailing was hardly used on inland waterways50; for rowing smaller rivers were too narrow; besides there is the fact that the rivers are likely to have had strong meanders51. The movement upstream was done by poling or using single paddles52, but especially by towing53; pulling the boat by ropes with the exception of the route Ostia – Rome, was exclusively done by people54. As far as the sea transport is concerned are canoes are the primarily used and simplest form55. The load carrying capacity of a dugout fluctuated between 0.2 to 1 tons56.

The road transport was characterized by high costs and low speed, because it was dominated by the slow oxen-drawn carts57. Basically, the work-pieces had to be fluctuated between 0.2 to 1 tons56. From Celeia to Poetovio was the primarily transport on road, where the blocks were processed into semi-finished products; at least traces of a settlement with raw marble blocks and mounds were found in this area62. From there probably to the Drava (Drau) River as well as to Virunum but, what is more important, it is right on the River Drava (Drau) at Ferlach71. For the two quarries of Tiffen72 and Töschling73 the road from Villach to Teurnia as well as to Virunum but, what is more important, it is right on the River Drava (Drau) at Ferlach71. For the two quarries of Tiffen72 and Töschling73 from there probably to the Drava (Drau) River at Ferlach71. For the two quarries of Tiffen72 and Töschling73 the road transport was characterized by high costs and low speed, because it was dominated by the slow oxen-drawn carts57. Basically, the work-pieces had to be fluctuated between 0.2 to 1 tons56.
Drava on barges, passing Lavamünd, Maribor (Marburg) to Poetovio or farther to Muria and Sirmium or upriver to Aquincum.

For the municipia of Flavia Solva and Poetovio, but also for Celeia, the marble from the Pohorje (Bachern) was the most important (fig. 3). According to the studies of B. Djurić, this marble was brought from the complex Šmartno na Pohorju (St. Martin am Bachern) to the via publica Celeia - Poetovio or from the complex Hudinja overland to Celeia. The further transport of material from the SE-foot of the Pohorje to Poetovio was either entirely by land or by land as far as Maribor (Marburg) and continued from there by boat to Poetovio on the Drava (Drau) River. At Maribor (Marburg) the Drava River could also be crossed on a road and thus Spielfeld at the Mur (Mura) could be reached. From there the transport of the Pohorje marble to Flavia Solva could take place on the river or on the road, the River Mur (Mura) being certainly preferred. The marble from Gummern on its way to Flavia Solva could be transported downstream to Maribor too, where it was loaded onto ox carts and from Spielfeld onwards it could be moved on the Mur (Mura) or on the road. The opinion which was repeatedly expressed by B. Djurić that the marble was transported on the Drava (Drau) to Poetovio and afterwards to the confluence of the Drava (Drau) and Mur (Mura) in Donja Dubrava in Croatia, only to be towed back upstream on the River Mur (Mura), cannot be maintained. Similarly, one will have to proceed cautiously as far as the question of the transport of marble from the quarries in the northern West Styria, from Salla and Kainach is concerned (fig. 2). While in the case of the marble of Salla only transportation on the road to the upper valley of the Mur (Mura) seems possible, it has been thought that the marble from Kainach could have been transported down the River Kainach until it flows into the Mur (Mura) at Wildon south of Graz from where further transport upstream or downstream could be managed. The opinion which is held by H. W. Müller quite emphatically that the preference must be given to the transport by water even in the case of long detours - such as Drava (Drau) River downstream until it flows into the Danube and then the Danube upstream to Aquincum and finally as far as Lauriacum - must be treated with great caution. For the Pohorje (Bachern) marble and the marble from Gummern it may be assumed that transport on the River Mur (Mura) could be continued from Flavia Solva upriver to St. Michael i. d. Obersteiermark. The question is whether the Liesing - Palten valley was still navigable until the Enns, through which the Danube could be reached.

---

81 DJURIĆ et al. 2004, p. 409.
82 DJURIĆ et al. 2004, p. 409.
84 DJURIĆ et al. 2004, pp. 369-370.
BIBLIOGRAPHY


PRIJEVOZ MRAMORA KOPNOM ILIRIJEKAMA
U NORIKU I ZAPADNOJ PANONIJI

Erwin POCHMARSKI

Istraživanjima H. Mullera i ostalih provedenih na mramoru s lokaliteta Virunum, Flavia Solva, Celeia u Noriku i Poetoviju u zapadnoj Panoniji razjašnjeno je da je mramor iz Gummerna na Pohorju i ostalih kamenoloma bio prevežen rijekama, osobito rijekom Dravom, uzvodno i nizvodno, do odredišta. Tako su municipije Flavia Solva, Poetovio i Celeia velikim dijelom upotrebljavali mramor s Pohorja koji je većim dijelom bio prevožen brodovima.