

Siscian Villa at the site "Mrcinište" Example of an Economic Production Complex in a Roman Period Pannonian Suburb

Roman Siscia was one of the most important ancient towns in the province of Pannonia. It was a vibrant commercial centre trading in wheat, wool and other goods, but the economic context of its development is still not as researched as it should be. Understanding of economic activities is connected with research of suburban and rural areas, but unfortunately the ager of colonia Siscia is fragmentarily and insufficiently researched and only a limited research of city's suburban zones can provide some answers to questions about economic activities of ancient Siscia. By methods of interdisciplinary research and consolidation of all relevant data this paper present a thesis on economic activities associated with animal husbandry and textile processing activities in ancient Siscia through a re-evaluation of the Mrcinište site and a determination of the economic purpose of this large residential-economic complex in the suburban area of Siscia.

Introduction

Siscia was one of the most important Roman colonies in the province of Pannonia.¹ Its foundation can be traced back into the prehistoric times, several thousand years ago. The settlement's position in the far southwestern part of the Pannonian Basin played a crucial role in connecting the Danube-Pannonian region with the Dinaric region of Bosnia during the pre-Roman communication network. Its exceptional geographic and transportation position² with a possibility of connecting river and road traffic were dominant factors in its development.

¹ In the period between 35 B.C. and A.D. 25, Romans established a military camp named Siscia, located in the historical centre of present day Sisak. Siscia soon rose to the status of a municipality with significant military, transport, and administrative functions. In A.D. 297, Siscia became the capital of the province of Pannonia Savia, and approximately at the same time a seat of a bishopric, which places it among the most important ancient towns of today's continental Croatia. Cf. VUKELIĆ 2011: 12, 18; for more on this see: MÓCSY 1962: 570-571, 602; FABER 1972-1973; MÓCSY 1974: 273-274; BARKÓCZY 1980: 109-110; PÓCZY 1980: 268; ZANINOVIĆ 1981; ŠAŠEL KOS 1986: 382; HOTI 1992: 144-145; ZANINOVIĆ 1993; BUZOV 2000: 57; LOLIĆ 2003: 134; RADMAN-LIVAJA 2010: 198.

² The town was established at the confluence of river Sava and Kupa, on an elevated plateau which provided security as well as the use of the river and control over navigation on the Sava

Siscia developed into a large city built, like most Roman towns, in a plain, with an orthogonal system of city blocks and a regular grid pattern of streets with *cardo* and *decumanus*. It was assigned colonial status in the first century, which was reflected in urban planning as well as in the whole *ager* of the colony, with all the social and economic impacts.³ In the narrow communal infrastructural terms Siscia had all the architectural elements of a Roman colonial center. Even though the city was a vibrant commercial centre trading in wheat, wool and other goods, and accommodating the administration for mining⁴, as well as financial and administrative institutions, its economy is still poorly understood. Despite many researches and publications most studies are focused on specific economic activities, depending on personal affiliations of the researchers.⁵ As important and valuable as these information collected and presented so far are, they don't reveal the full economic picture of this ancient city.

As one of the most important towns in the region Siscia must have been surrounded by larger economic and production units in the immediate hinterland.

and Kupa rivers. The rivers Sava, Odra, and Kupa greatly dictated the position of this settlement and assured significant strategic importance of Siscia from its beginning. See more in: DURMAN 1992; KLEMENČIĆ 2000: 37-50; SLUKAN-ALTIĆ 2012: 10.

³ Roman settlers used the advantageous prehistoric settlement's position on the banks of the river Kupa, important for the communication network within the wider European area. Roman ability to absorb and assimilate existing social and economic relations was crucial for the foundation of Siscia, a key centre for strategic expansion towards the Danube frontiers, preservation and construction of communication network. Thanks to the urban planning legislation and its colonial status (the first time it was probably acquired in A.D. 71, the second time between A.D. 193 and 211) the city expanded territorially and administratively. It retained urban characteristics even after the demise of the Western Roman Empire; e.g. VUKELIĆ 2011.

⁴ Iron ore reached Siscia from the nearby mines by roads and rivers. In the 3rd century, a mint was established in Siscia during the reign of Emperor Gallienus which remained operational until the 5th century. It was imperative to have a mint there in order to pay soldiers' wages. Under Emperor Diocletian *Pannonia Superior* was divided into *Pannonia Prima* and *Pannonia Savia*. Siscia then became the capital of the province of *Savia* and the seat of the governor of *Pannonia Savia*, the superintendent of the provincial treasury and mint and the commander of the fleet. See more in KOŠČEVIĆ 1994-1995; KOŠČEVIĆ AND MAKJANIĆ 1995; DURMAN 2002; DURMAN 2005; BUZOV 2011: 362.

⁵ We have abundant knowledge about the development of urban Siscia (e.g. VUKOVIĆ 1994; BUZOV 2003, LOLIĆ 2014), of Siscian necropolises (e.g. NENADIĆ 1987; BURKOWSKI 1993; BUZOV 2002; MIGOTTI 2007; LELEKOVIĆ 2011; LELEKOVIĆ 2012), the city's water supply and aqueduct, however some "general" information on economic activities in Siscia are mainly lacking. Most research is focused on metallurgical activities or trade in a wider sense, for example KOŠČEVIĆ 1994-1995; KOŠČEVIĆ AND MAKJANIĆ 1995; DURMAN 2002; DURMAN 2005; BUZOV 2011; SLUKAN-ALTIĆ 2012. Crafts are also treated either very generally or very partially, and the most conclusions in this field were related to certain archaeological findings, and are extremely limited, for example, the glass manufacture production, e.g. KOŠČEVIĆ 2003; LELJAK 2012; LELJAK 2014; LELJAK AND LAZAR 2013; VUKELIĆ AND PERNJAK 2013.

Unfortunately, the ager of colonia Siscia is fragmentarily and insufficiently researched, but a limited research of the city's suburban zones could provide answers to questions about economic activities of Siscia.

Understanding of economic activities is inevitably connected with research of suburban and rural areas. Rural and suburban villas were the main carriers of Roman agriculture and the Roman way of life outside towns. Northern and central Croatia significantly lags behind in the archaeological research of rural areas,⁶ with only 53 rural sites in the Croatian part of Pannonia actually excavated out of total of 250 registered sites.⁷ The disproportion in the number of villas in the Croatian part of Pannonia compared with the rest of the province exists because research was rarely conducted outside the largest settlements, and mostly on already known positions of larger rural villas.⁸

As we can see, *villa rustica* is a relatively rare archaeological feature in central Croatia, with a very small number of them properly excavated and presented. Nonetheless, the villas situated between Drava and Sava rivers are eloquent witnesses of the important role this area played in the Roman Empire. We can justifiably assume that country estates in the Croatian part of Pannonia were more numerous than the actually researched and published sites demonstrate.

An insight into economic activities of suburban and rural areas can be provided with re-evaluation of Mrcinište, an archaeological site near the village of Odra and Odra River. A large residential-economic complex close to ancient Siscia was researched during the 1950s in the northwestern part of the area of modern Sisak. As this was a part of a suburb with a passing road which connected Siscia and Andautonia with the so-called Sava road (*via Savia*)⁹ it was most probably the position of some minor economic production unit in the area.

Research has suggested the existence of a suburban villa or *villa rustica*,¹⁰ and this paper will attempt to define the site's economic purpose by methods of interdisciplinary research in an attempt to consolidate all relevant data.

Thanks to the urban structure of Siscia we know that the area of Roman colonies *intra muros* did not allow certain forms of land usage. Activities such as agriculture and livestock farming were strictly reserved for the area *extra muros*.

⁶ In the wider Pannonian context there is a total of 152 villas as parts of rural settlements and only six of them from Croatia, see THOMAS 1964: 336-352; GABLER 2003: 235; LELEKOVIĆ AND RENDIĆ-MIOČEVIĆ 2012: 279 *passim*.

⁷ See LELEKOVIĆ AND RENDIĆ-MIOČEVIĆ 2012: 279

⁸ Remains of larger rural settlements that could represent villages (*vici*) were found on nine of the excavated sites, as well as 21 rural villas, cf. LELEKOVIĆ AND RENDIĆ-MIOČEVIĆ 2012.

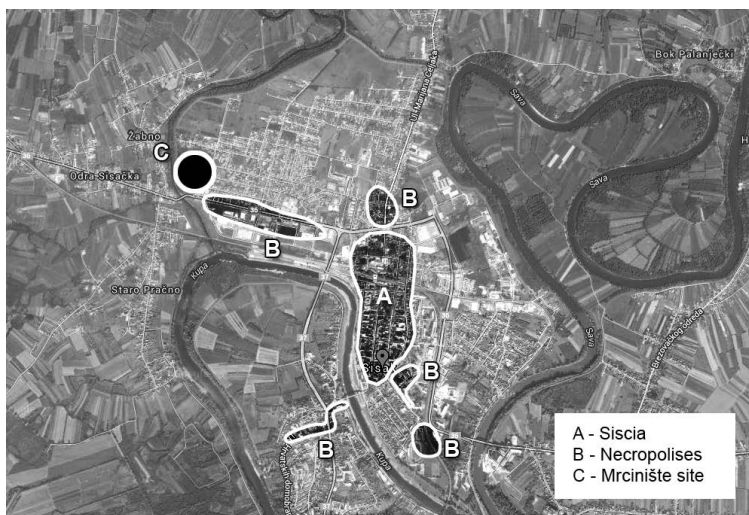
⁹ Cf. VRBANOVIĆ 1981: 191-192; BOJANOVSKI 1984: 154-155; BUZOV 1993; SLUKAN-ALTIĆ 2004: 17-18.

¹⁰ Secondary documentation S++, documents, DOK-6, Sisak City Museum.

In this sense, the main goal of this paper is to present a thesis on economic activities associated with animal husbandry (sheep farming) and textile processing activities in ancient Siscia.

„Mrcinište“ site – A Re-evaluation of a Roman Suburban Villa

„Mrcinište“¹¹ is a site in the northwestern part of today's Sisak area, near the village of Odra and Odra River (Figure 1). Archaeological investigation of the site was first conducted in 1950.¹² As expected the site was recognized as a Roman period site, belonging to the suburban area of Siscia.¹³



1) Location of the site

In 1950, the former municipality decided to build an industrial building on the site, just behind the city's dog pound. As is often the case in modern day Sisak, the builders encountered ancient remains while digging the foundations of the building.¹⁴

Archaeological team supervised by Degmedžić conducted research that revealed walls belonging to several buildings. Traces of massive walls that run in

¹¹ The term „mrcinište“ is best described as a place where hunters used to skin their prey, also the site is sometimes referred to as „živodernica“ which means a dog pound.

¹² Secondary documentation S++, documents, DOK-6, Sisak City Museum.

¹³ Secondary documentation S++, documents, DOK-6, Sisak City Museum. At that time the main thesis of an economic and residential complex on the site was formulated.

¹⁴ E.g. NENADIĆ 1987: 79

a north-south direction were discovered at a depth between 20 and 50 cm. First wall A was 1,40 m wide. At a distance of 6,10 m there was a second parallel wall B, 2 m wide.¹⁵ Both walls were built solidly out of brick and lime mortar. A perpendicular wall C, 0,4 m wide was also found, but there are no details on this finding in the documentation.

The documentation further states that the place where the dogcatcher's house stands was built in the middle of a field, implying a continuation of archaeological finds under his house, concluding that it was built on the remains of longitudinal walls.

About 50 m from the northeastern site is an animal graveyard, where fragments of marble are recorded with no detailed descriptions, either of quality or quantity.

It is also worth mentioning that the dogcatcher shared an interesting story with the archaeologists about „old walls“ that stood below the animal cemetery. Unfortunately, they were impossible to explore for hygienic reasons. Between the animal cemetery and the dogcatcher's house a well was located and archaeologists concluded that it stood on ancient foundations.¹⁶

That year, archaeologists were of the opinion that one could not clearly identify the character of these ancient buildings, so the preliminary statement was that it was probably part of a fortress from the Roman period.¹⁷

It should be noted that the archaeological research of the site was reduced only to archaeological supervision, so the complete archaeological image is missing. If we add to this the absence of movable material, it is easy to understand the state of the research and the conditions in which it was conducted.

But in 1952 the site was opened again for research conducted by Branko Gabričević, Stjepan Vrbanović and Branko Ilaković. Archaeological documents from the Sisak City Museum state that there was a building located in the northwest suburban area.¹⁸

They concluded that this was a suburban villa, and devoted most of their attention to the apse which is clearly seen in the plan (Figure 2). They also mentioned some economic structure which is not taken in detail nor documented.¹⁹

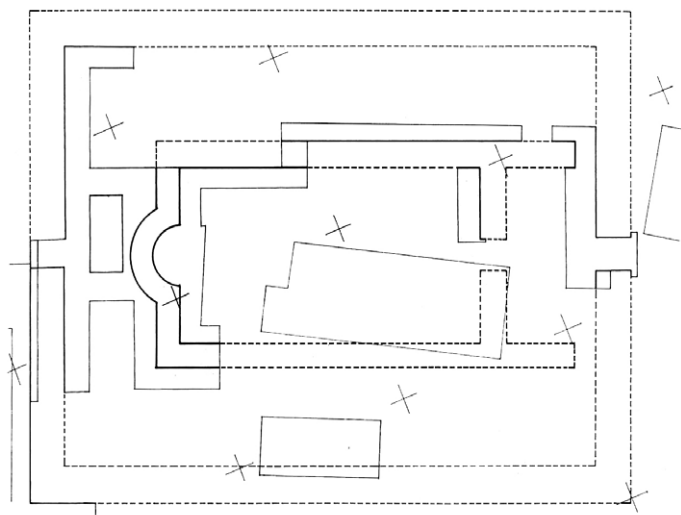
¹⁵ Report by I. Degmedžić 14th July 1950, 353/1950; Dossier Siscija, *Sisak od 1936 – 1959*, 42/26, Arheološki muzej, Zagreb.

¹⁶ Report by I. Degmedžić 14th July 1950, 353/1950; Dossier Siscija, *Sisak od 1936 – 1959*, 42/26, Arheološki muzej, Zagreb.

¹⁷ Report by I. Degmedžić 14th July 1950, 353/1950; Dossier Siscija, *Sisak od 1936 – 1959*, 42/26, Arheološki muzej, Zagreb.

¹⁸ Secondary documentation S++, documents, DOK-6, Sisak City Museum. See also LOLIĆ 2014: 24, where the author describes systematical archaeological excavations in Siscia during 1952, and mentions that of the two Roman buildings that were discovered at the site one was a suburban villa and the other an economic building, referring to V. NENADIĆ, *ibidem*.

¹⁹ Secondary documentation S++, documents, DOK-6, Sisak City Museum.



2) Archaeological sketch of the excavated structure

The site was subsequently visited in 1953 by a team of archaeologists from the Zagreb Archaeological Museum who concluded that this site „leaves a sad impression“.²⁰

The researchers concluded that the excavated walls were built using a very interesting construction technique, a combination of crushed stone in a bed of mortar which made up the core of the walls, which was surrounded with regularly laid courses of bricks. Furthermore, a fragment of an ancient wall continuing in a northwest-southeast direction was recorded in the proximity of the southern part of the site.²¹

All this suggests a possible overlapping of archaeological layers and re-use of this site, and due to insufficient exploration we can only concur with the aforementioned assumption. Whether this archaeological complex is a suburban villa or a rustic villa or even “fortress” from the Roman period is still open for debate²², however, we believe that in this case, the location of the complex and its advantages are obvious, so the one assumption does not exclude the other.

²⁰ Report by I. Degmedžić and M. Gorenc 14th December 1953, 633/1953; Dossier Siscija, *Sisak od 1936 – 1959*, 42/26, Arheološki muzej, Zagreb.

²¹ Report by I. Degmedžić and M. Gorenc 14th December 1953, 633/1953; Dossier Siscija, *Sisak od 1936 – 1959*, 42/26, Arheološki muzej, Zagreb.

²² Some authors believe that this was a part of a memorial architectural complex, which is due to the absence of movable archaeological material less likely, but not out of the question (VUKOVIĆ 1994). We are aware of the archaeological robbery of ancient sites and it is quite possible that archaeological movable material was removed from the site. Since the first explorers of ancient Siscia (pioneers of archeology) do not mention this site (cf. BRUNŠMID 1901) it means that in the 16th century it was completely covered with vegetation and was unrecognizable as an archaeological site. Such conditions could have preserved the site, especially movable memorial archaeological remains, if indeed this complex was used for this purpose (cf. VUKELIĆ 2011).

This structure could have been a villa built exclusively as a luxurious residence (*villa suburbana*) accompanied by a manufactural or agricultural component as part of a larger complex; i.e. a rustic villa in a broader sense.²³

We could undoubtedly claim that this was indeed a *villa rustica* with a separate residential and commercial parts, but the proximity of the structure to the city and the excavated apse architectural element²⁴ both cast some doubt on this conclusion. Inconclusive excavations of the site and a lack of comprehensive documentation make constructing a viable thesis of the usage of this site a problematic task, but we hope that future research could provide more answers.

Due to the topographic specificity of the terrain, we propose that the agricultural production aspect of the „Mrcinište“ site was relatively important. It should be noted that the proximity of the site to the necropolis and the main roads doesn't suggest a type of residential environment a wealthy home owner would aspire to *extra muros*. On the other hand, the absence of commercial processing facilities suggests that activities other than agricultural production took place in this area, namely the raising of livestock.

Based on the material provided (or the lack of it) it is our opinion that a large agricultural estate was situated on this site. If it was a part of *villa rustica* in a broader sense, we would like to propose a thesis of a possible type of its production activities.

Sheep Farming on „Mrcinište“ site

The vicinity of the Odra field, as a special protected area that has historically been a marsh subject to periodic flooding together with the traditional extensive practice of livestock husbandry fits well in the proposed thesis of production activities. Consequently, we have immediately ruled out crop production, because a large part of the potential crops would continually be seriously threatened by floods, which presented a risk so large that it was economically unjustifiable.

The advantage of sheep husbandry lies in its highly valuable products: meat, milk, wool, etc.²⁵ Sheep are one of the most widespread domesticated animals in

²³ In the period of late antiquity, there could easily have arisen a spontaneous ancient refuge on this site, a frequent occurrence in the period which could confirm the theory of a *villa rustica* complex.

²⁴ Some authors consider the appearance of an apse to be a confusing element, however, some examples confirm that similar architectural elements do exist as part of a *villa rustica*. Very similar architectural complexes are found in the area of Kozara that was part of the southeastern border of Siscia, where it is clearly defined as a *villa rustica*. There is a similar example at the Osekovo site near Kutina, which was a part of the *ager* of Siscia. Donja Glavnica, Šemovec-Kupinje, Moravče-Drašćica also confirm the presence of an apse structure; cf. SOKOL 1981; SOKOL 1996.

²⁵ GARIBOVIĆ et al. 2006: 512.

the world today. Its dietary habits consist of grass, roots, various leaves and in winter period moss, dried grass, dried leaves, etc.²⁶

It is a well known fact that the best fodder for sheep is grazing because it provides the most nutritious and balanced diet.²⁷ A larger area provided for fodder makes production costs lower. The parcelisation of the ager of Siscia offered the possibility of creating larger agricultural estates which were capable of satisfying the owner's needs in meat and milk, while providing agricultural surpluses in the form of readily tradeable and profitable products such as wool and meat.²⁸

Siscian tesserae

To substantiate our thesis we need to mention the purpose and use of ancient *tesserae* which were found in the area of ancient Siscia. The Archaeological Museum in Zagreb's Greek and Roman Collection holds what is probably the world's largest collection of Roman lead *tesserae*.²⁹ The collection contains more than 1100 pieces of *tesserae* found in Sisak, mostly during the dredging of the Kupa River in 1912 and 1913.³⁰ It is regularly mentioned in scholarly publications dealing with objects of that type but also with research problems regarding the Roman economy and history of Siscia.³¹

Tesserae had a circular perforation in one corner. As they were commercial labels, this small hole was used for attaching the wire or string with which the label was tied to the commodity.³² Judging by the available data, the inscriptions on the *tesserae* from Sisak are generally connected to the trade and manufacture

²⁶ Croatian autochthonous sheep breed is "pramenka", which is successfully bred even in harsh conditions. Its main characteristic is its resilience and flexibility to environmental conditions. This breed of sheep is economically equally productive in milk, meat and wool; cf. ZEREMSKI 1970: 421.

²⁷ Fodder is also economically efficient, because it doesn't require special preparation or additional labor; cf. GARIBOVIĆ et al. 2006: 513.

²⁸ Inscriptions on *tesserae* mainly mention low prices and small quantities of goods, so it seems likely that they represent a local trade mark, valid in the surrounding areas and within the city of Siscia; cf. RADMAN-LIVAJA 2007.

²⁹ Cf. RADMAN-LIVAJA 2007: 153; RADMAN-LIVAJA 2014: 23-25.

³⁰ *Tesserae* from Sisak can be approximately dated from Augustus' period until the middle of the 1st century, if not somewhat later; cf. RADMAN-LIVAJA 2007: 168.

³¹ BRUNŠMID 1901: 124-125; MÓCSY 1956: 97-104; ŠAŠEL 1974: 729; FITZ 1980: 325; FREI-STOLBA 1984: 134-135; RÖMER-MARTIJNSE 1990: 232-233; HOTI 1992: 144; FEUGÈRE 1993: 304; SCHWINDEN 1993: 216; PACI 1995: 33; BASSI 1996: 207, 216; RÖMER-MARTIJNSE 1996-1997: 5; KOŠČEVIĆ 2000: 96; LOVENJAK 2005: 43.

³² RADMAN-LIVAJA 2007: 154

of textile products. According to Radman-Livaja the *teserrae* were commodity stamps that were used for labeling wool or wool textiles, which were delivered to textile workshops, either for processing or dyeing.³³

Naturally, such processes require the existence of larger textile manufacture capacities which is precisely the point of our proposal. We place our focus on the problem of material, i.e. wool. In the case of Siscia wool can be considered the main raw material for the production of cloth.³⁴ The freshly spun wool that was delivered to workshops for processing or dyeing, necessarily points to its local production. This assumption immediately rules out imports of wool as raw material for processing, because it is doubtful that such an enterprise would be economically viable.

In this context, we consider the "Mrcinište" site and its *villa rustica* complex as an excellent breeding ground for animal husbandry, in this specific case: sheep.

Conclusion

Mrcinište site represents a possible example of a *villa rustica* in the vicinity of one of the most important Pannonian cities. Although archaeological documentation is modest and the character of the research was mostly supervisory, the sum of the findings suggest the presence of such a complex. The aim of this paper has not only been to suggest a purpose of this site, but to substantiate this idea by discussing a possible role of this estate in the economic production systems of the period. Several reasons point to our conclusion: first of all, the location of this complex on the main road which connected Siscia and Andautonia and onwards. Since the entire area is bounded by rivers, the northern and western borders of the estate could possibly lie on the Odra and Sava rivers, which would provide convenient river transportation possibilities coupled with road access. Secondly, the parcelisation of the ager of Siscia offered the possibility of creating larger agricultural estates capable of producing significant agricultural surpluses which indicates that large scale production was possible and probable on the site. Thirdly, the water source was more than adequate for both human consumption and sheep farming, while the environmental impact of the waste products of such an agricultural enterprise is relatively small and manageable. Unlike cattle, intensive sheep farming produces less polluting waste products, which enables the location of such activities in the immediate proximity of larger population centres. In this manner the owners of such facilities could integrate several economic activities, i.e. sheep farming and textile processing geared towards sale at the local and regional markets. Such estates benefited from the established road network, the

³³ E.g. RADMAN-LIVAJA 2007: 155, RADMAN-LIVAJA 2014: 99.

³⁴ FORBES 1956:2-12; WILD 1970:4; GLEBA 2008: 72-75; RADMAN-LIVAJA 2014: 104.

proximity of the Roman *limes* and other advantages which enabled their relative prosperity. The broader area of ancient Siscia was most certainly focused on such production activities, while the city itself represented a kind of textile processing center. The ager of Siscia, at least according to southern Pannonian standards could have been surrounded by a dense network of as yet poorly explored larger rural estates such as the sheep breeding complex at Mrcinište, which played a key role in the economy of the wider area of the Roman period Pannonia.

In this paper we have tried to present evidence substantiating the existence of an economic activity, neglected by current research of the site, which nevertheless correlates with our current understanding of the economy of the wider area of Siscia. While there are significant difficulties in establishing Roman period manufacture processes, the extent of trade and the various processes in the economy of Siscia, we believe that our interdisciplinary approach, combining archaeological evidence with insights from other disciplines such as agriculture and economy represents a promising research direction.

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Siscijanska villa suburbana na lokalitetu „Mrcinište“ Primjer gospodarsko-proizvodnog kompleksa u panonskom suburbiju

Grad Siscija bio je jedna od najvažnijih i najznačajnijih rimskih kolonija na području rimske provincije Panonije. U užem komunalno-infrastrukturnom pogledu Siscija je posjedovala sve arhitektonske elemente rimskog kolonijalnog središta, a uz to je svakako morala biti okružena većim gospodarsko-proizvodnim jedinicama u neposrednom zaleđu. Značajno trgovačko središte zasigurno je temeljeno na

razvijenim gospodarskim djelatnostima i mnogobrojnim proizvodnim kompleksima. Nažalost, ager kolonije Siscije je tek fragmentarno istražen, no istraživanja gradskih suburbanih zona mogu ponuditi odgovore na neka pitanja o gospodarstvu i ekonomskim aktivnostima grada i regije. Arheološka istraživanja provedena 50-ih godina prošloga stoljeća na sjeverozapadnom dijelu današnjeg gradskog areala, u blizini sela Odra i nadomak istoimene rijeke, upućuju na postojanje objekta za koji možemo pretpostaviti da je bio siscijanska *villa suburbana* ili *villa rustica*, te gospodarski objekt kao dio istog kompleksa. Ovim radom želi se definirati namjena tog lokaliteta usporedbom arhivske građe svih institucija koje su provodile arheološka istraživanja i nadzore nad ovim nalazištem sa rezultatima istraživanja sisačkih tesera u svrhu prezentiranja mogućeg gospodarsko-proizvodnog kompleksa na lokalitetu i osvjetljavanja jednog aspekta sisačkog gospodarstva. Unatoč specifičnosti arhitektonskog sklopa koji je otkriven na lokalitetu "Mrcinište" može se pretpostaviti postojanje *villae suburbane*, a komparacijom topografskih specifičnosti terena te samog položaja lokaliteta skloni smo vjerovati da je ovdje važan bio i proizvodni aspekt kompleksa. U tom kontekstu važan izvor pružaju nam podaci na sisačkim tesarama koji se mogu povezati s trgovinom i izradom tekstilnih proizvoda, odnosno za označavanje vune ili tekstila, koji je predavan u radionice, bilo na preradu, bilo na bojanje. Vuna koja je korištena u te svrhe ukazuje na mogućnost lokalne proizvodnje, čija je ekonomska profitabilnost opravdana relativnom blizinom limesa i velikom potražnjom za otkupom vune, odnosno već gotovih proizvoda. Zasad je još uvijek teško jasno definirati proizvodne procese, oblik i razmjere trgovine tekstilnim proizvodima u Sisciji no izloženi primjer uzgoja ovaca na "Mrciništu" predstavlja gospodarsku djelatnost, koja je svakako bila segment ako ne i osnova antičke ekonomske djelatnosti.

Gljučne riječi: Mrcinište, *villa suburbana*, *villa rustica*, proizvodnja, ekonomija, stočarstvo
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