

- <sup>71</sup> Brunšmid, Col. Ael. Mursa, VHAD IV str. 27
- <sup>72</sup> Pinterović, Novi rim. kam. spom. s terena Murse, Osj. Zbornik VI, str. 49/50
- <sup>73</sup> J. Fitz, Der Besuch des Sept. Sev. str. 248, opaska 91; usporedi i J. Fitz, Hercules-Kultusz Eraviszkus Területen, Istvan Kiraly Muzeum Közleményei, Szekesfehervar, 1957 str. 17—27. — Većinu Heraklovih kipova iz Osijeka publicirao je Brunšmid u VHAD IV, str. 31/32
- <sup>74</sup> Brunšmid, Col. Ael. Mursa, VHAD IV str. 31
- <sup>75</sup> Osim Katančićevog, već spomenutog miljokaza, nadenog kod Osijeka iz vremena cara Maksimina, upozoravam na još dva spomenika, koja vjerojatno također spadaju u 3. st., u doba neposredno nakon vladanja dinastije Severa, a to je mramorna ženska glava s frizurom 3. stoljeća i fragmenat sarkofaga s natpisom o mladom konjaniku 3. pretorijanske kohorte (v. Pinterović, Novi i neobjavljeni rim. kam. spom. Osj. Zbornik VI, 1958 str. 30—32 i 51). Osim toga napominjem, da nam je već Katančić u svojoj Disertaciji zapisao (str. 103, 104, 121) da su se u njegovo doba u Osijeku našli među mnogobrojnim rimskim novcima i nekoliko, 11 komada, iz vremena Severa i to 1 Septimija Severa, 2 Marka Aurelija Antonina, 1 Julije Domne, 1 Septimija Gete, 1 Julije Soemias, 4 Severa Aleksandra i 1 Julije Mameje. — Muzejska numizmatička zbirke ima oveću količinu novaca toga vremena, no bez podataka o nalazištu. Među onima koji ipak imaju podataka, da su nadeni u Osijeku jesu: 6 kom. Septimija Severa, 8 Karakale, 3 Gete, 8 Julije Domne i 1 Plautile, prema podacima kustosa zbirke prof. E. Spajića. Kako su to sve pojedinačni slučajni nalazi, oni za historiju Murse ne daju nikakvih informacija, iako su za monetarnu historiju onoga vremena, kao i za numizmatičara od nekog značaja.

#### MURSA AT THE TIME OF THE SEVERI

In the first part of this treatise the epoch of the dynasty of the Severi is described and the special significance which both Pannonias (Superior and Inferior), the Danubian legions and the Danubian limes had at that time. Although Septimius Severus was of African origin, he was proclaimed emperor at Carnuntum in 193 by the Danubian legions and remained very popular with them till the end of his reign. He realized that both provinces of Pannonia were a considerable reservoir of people available for fighting the barbarians and defending the frontiers of the Empire. The restless barbarian tribes always tried to invade these provinces and thus continually endangered the frontiers on the Danube so that from that time on the importance of the Danubian legions for the defense of the Empire was ever growing. Septimius Severus and his successors were only making a dramatic introduction to the time which would follow in the course of the 3rd and 4th century when the Illyrian emperors will rule and will be opposed to the authority of the Senate and its glorious old traditions but will, with efficiency, defend the Empire when it will be shaken in its very fundamentals.

In the second part of this dissertation the author gives the newest results which dr. Fitz in Hungary attained in his research of the history of Pannonia at the time of the Severi. According to dr. Fitz's assertions, the emperors of this dynasty took great care of both Pannonias so that, especially when the founder of this dynasty ruled, we may speak of a flourishing time and a real revival in these provinces. No one Roman emperor had ever been remembered by so many inscriptions in Pannonia as Septimius Severus, and later even his successors, though in a far lesser degree which only proves how great a popularity they enjoyed there. A lot of work had been carried out on the fortifications along the Danubian limes, the net of roads repaired, new temples erected or old ones restored and so on. But an especially great and feverish building activity had taken place in 202, when Septimius Severus on his victorious return from the Orient visited Pannonia along the Danubian limes. Therefore special importance is given to the results of one of dr. Fitz's treatises which bears the title »Der Besuch des Septimius Severus in Pannonien im Jahre 202 U. Z.« There he could, with the help of numerous epigraphic

material of that time which in Hungary still exists up to this day, reconstruct the whole route Septimius Severus undertook on his way from Asia Minor through Moesia and Pannonia and back to Rome after he had defeated his enemies in the Orient. In Moesia and Pannonia he chose the way along the limes and the epigraphic material indicated where he made a stay on this route. He stayed at Sirmium, Lugio, Intercisa, Gorsium, Aquincum, Brigetio, Arrabona, Carnuntum, Vin-dobona, Savaria, Poetovio, Celeia, Siscia and from there he travelled to Salona and across the Adriatic Sea towards Rome. On the ground of dr. Fitz's conclusions the emperor could have arrived at the end of May or at the beginning of June in 202, and he also could have been earlier at Carnuntum, in April 13th, to celebrate the 10th anniversary of his proclamation as emperor, whereas the celebration of these decennalia could have taken place in Rome on the 9th of June, the day when he first as emperor arrived in Rome. The fact is that no inscription is known to exist in the inner territory of Pannonia which could reasonably be connected either with the imperial visit or celebrations of the decennalia in 202 and therefore dr. Fitz came to the feasible conclusion that the epigraphic monuments were all erected along the stations at which the imperial court stayed on the route through the Pannonias and that they mostly were erected by the Danubian armies themselves in celebration of their emperor's anniversary. For this occasion statues of the emperors (Septimius Severus and Caracalla) were erected of which only bases with the inscriptions are now preserved; altars dedicated to Fortuna, Jupiter Dolichenus, Mithras etc., »pro salute et victoria« of the emperors; temples were built or restored, even one triumphal arch was probably erected at Carnuntum (»Heidenthor«). The preserved milestones are also connected with this imperial inspection of the limes, although it must be assumed that all this building activity had started according to previously fixed plans some time earlier.

Dr. Fitz dare not claim that Septimius Severus and his suite (in which both his sons, his wife and his elder son's fiancée took part) touched Mursa on the way from Sirmium to Lugio, because only one inscription (CIL III 10269, here fig. 2) excavated at Mursa, he thinks, might be connected with this visit, were it not difficult to prove that either of the cohortes: coh(ors) I alp(inorum) eq(uitata) or coh(ors) I alp(inorum) ped(it)ata, were at that time stationed at Mursa. Dr. Fitz is rather inclined to date this inscription to a later time, i. e. to the year 208 or 209 when the coh. I. alp. eq. could have been stationed at Mursa and when Castinus (whose name is also mentioned) was governor of Pannonia Inferior (see notes 46—52).

In the 3rd part the author points out that there exists another inscription from Mursa which could possibly be connected with the imperial visit to Mursa in 202. There (fig. 1) Septimius Severus is called Pertinax and there one may read the end of the inscription as follows »a vetustate collapsum (collapsam) a solo restituit«. It means then that somebody (whose name ended with — ndus) rebuilt an old ruined object from the ground (by the non-Roman fragment of the word - sevcham judging it may be some oriental object). On this stone there are two erased lines and we know that the names of Caracalla and Geta had been carved in and later erased because of their »damnatio memoriae«. It is highly probable that this inscription was erected for the occasion of the imperial visit to Mursa in 202.

As regards the second inscription (fig. 2), already mentioned, we must assume with dr. Fitz that it belonged to a later period when Castinus, a devoted friend of the emperors, governed Pannonia Inferior who probably in 208 or 209 carried out or erected some work or building in honor to the emperors and Geta (whose name had been erased) with the help of the coh. I. alp. eq.

The third inscription found at Mursa (fig. 3) is the lower part of a pedestal or of an ara which bears only the last words of a vowing formula (donum dedit) and the date, July the 15th 209 (idibus iuliis Pompeiano et Avito consulibus). Pompeianus is known as having dedicated an altar at Lugdunum for the health (pro salute) of the emperor Septimius Severus and his whole family. The stone was, as we guess, either a pedestal serving for the emperor's statue or else an ara dedicated to some deity but »pro salute« of the emperor or emperors.

The 4th witness of this epoch was found or excavated a long time ago near Mursa on the right bank very near the place where the river Drava flows into the Danube. It is a big-sized ara dedicated to the river deities Danuvius and Dravus for the health and safety of the emperor Elagabalus and erected by the governor of Pannonia Inferior (CIL III 10263, here fig. 4). Here again the emperor's name was erased already in ancient times, but except for the clearly legible names of the river gods, some of the erased lines are still readable and therefore the emperor's name could still be deciphered. The last words »legatus augusti pro praetore« are also legible and it should be assumed that this ara had been erected on the initiative of a governor of Pannonia Inferior. This governor could have been Pontius Pontianus (rather than his successor Aelius Tricillianus) who ruled the province during Elagabalus's short reign (see note 62). Although Danuvius and Dravus are autochthonous names of the two rivers which join not far from old Mursa, in this inscription they mean much more than only river gods — they mean to stress, not only symbolically by the size of the ara, the greatest actuality of both rivers in the complex of the Danubian limes and its greatest significance in the defense of the empire.

There existed a 5th monument from that time, a milestone, that bore the name of Severus Alexander. It is known that Septimius Severus began and his successors continued to repair the net of roads along the Danubian limes. The milestone, just mentioned, bears witness of the repairs during the reign of Severus Alexander. The milestone disappeared, but the record of it remained (CIL III 10650, see note 66).

There are some other monuments in our museum which could be attributed to the time of the Severi. A stone inscription exists with fragments of only two words in two lines: CONSVMP and REST. Because this stone was found in the river Drava near the remnants of the Roman stone bridge it suggests that the inscription was related to »... pontem vetustate consumptum.... restituit«. There too a name was erased and it might have been Caracalla's or Elagabalus's. Septimius Severus's successors continued improving this territory, for they considered these two provinces as very important for the defense of the empire and so we assume together with the net of roads also bridges had been rebuilt at that time. — In this volume Mr M. Bulat describes and explains a stone inscription recently found north of Osijek at an exposed place on the old limes. It contains words such as »Martij et Victoriae pro salute augusti nostri« or »augustorum nostrorum« and could have been dedicated to emperors at that time. (See page 15).

According to dr. Fitz's researches, during the reign of the Severi, many cults of Oriental and Syriac gods were spread in Pannonia, such as of Jupiter Dolichenus, Sol Elagabalus, Mithras and so on. The empress Julia Domna and the rest of the empresses of this dynasty, being of Syriac origin, exercised a great influence in this regard, although Septimius Severus himself remained faithful to the African god Hercules-Melkart. Dr. Fitz draws our attention to numerous statues found at Mursa (Osijek) which represent Hercules. Dr. Brunšmid in one of his treatises, some 60 years ago, also mentioned that there must have been a sanctuary dedicated to Hercules at old Mursa (see notes 38—40, 73, 74). Whether this cult had started at the time of Septimius Severus or earlier remains to be proved. In fact the Mithras cult existed there as it was demonstrated in this volume in the treatise of Mr M. Bulat (page 10—11). Some other objects found at Mursa indicate the cult of Sabazius, the Kabiri and Osiris. All this must naturally be thoroughly investigated before it can be determined when they actually appeared at Mursa.

Thus from the evidence of dr. Fitz's and dr. Brunšmid's researches and on the basis of 4 stone inscriptions dating undoubtedly from the time of the Severi and of some others which could presumably be attributed to the same period, it could be decided upon that Mursa, a fortress situated in a crucial position close to the Danubian limes, had been visited by Septimius Severus and his imperial court in 202 and that on this occasion probably a sanctuary had been rebuilt; later, may be in 208 or 209, something important must have been done by the governor of Pannonia Inferior with the help of the coh. I. alp. eq.; in 209 an ara or a statue

on a base was probably erected for the health of the emperors. The large ara dedicated to the rivergods from Elagabalus's time is also an extraordinary witness of the importance of the rivers Danuvius and Dravus in this section of the limes. A milestone from the time of Severus Alexander speaks of repairing activities on roads whereas the restored bridge at Mursa was surely part of the general restoration at that time. In case it could be proved that cults of Syriac and Oriental gods and especially of Hercules-Melkart had been flourishing over this area at that time, we could easily imagine how Mursa greatly partook in the general revival in Pannonia Inferior at the time of the Severi.