

THE RECENT DISCOVERY OF THREE ROMAN INSCRIPTIONS IN BARANJA AND THEIR INTERPRETATION

SUMMARY

Due to the establishment of several museums in the city of Osijek – namely the specialized Archaeological Museum Osijek and the Museum of Fine Arts Osijek during the course of the 21st and 20th century, in addition to the already existent national Museum of Slavonia whose roots lie in the 19th century – the systematic research, study, and communication of experts with members of regional or local communities were greatly improved throughout the Osijek-Baranja County, Croatia. The existence of three stone monuments with inscriptions dated to the Roman era, which were discovered or reported to the authorities mainly by local population, indicates a certain level of reliance as well as visibility of the said heritage institutions in the mentioned environment. These objects are milestone that was found near Bilje and the altar that was excavated in Kopačevo. Today, they are deposited in the Archaeological museum Osijek. Meanwhile, part of a Roman funerary monument

was, and still is kept in Elementary school in Popovac, near the place where it probably originally descends from. Apart from the milestone, discovered at its original location with the exact period of its construction carved, i.e. during the era of the Roman emperor Alexander Severus before the end of the first third of the 3rd century, the remaining two items should tentatively be dated to end of the 2nd or first third of the 3rd century, and also the 2nd century, respectively. Hence, every monument which is described in this paper was set up during the course of the Severan dynasty (193-235 AD), at the latest. The exact places of the discovery of a described altar and a stele are known solely in their broader context.

Keywords: Pannonia, limes, Republic of Croatia, Baranja, epigraphic monuments.