

COHORS I CILICUM AT SACIDAVA AND SCYTHIA MINOR

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Sacidava (Musait) lies on the right bank of the Danube in the Dobruja and a brick with the retrograde stamp *I CIL*, discovered in 1972, has already been reported.¹ During the excavations of 1979 further epigraphic evidence of the presence of *cohors I Cilicum* at Sacidava was found, and it seems worth presenting this with a minimum of comment at this stage.²

(1) Part of a limestone altar (Fig. 1), reused in Tower A which is thought to have been erected in the fourth century A.D. Height 0.48 m; breadth 0.38 m (top), 0.50 m (base). The letters are large and well formed. Words are separated by triangular points; there are no ligatures, although in the second line the O of COH was inserted into the curve of the C:

. .]PRISC P[.
AEF COH I AQ
VI ET TRIB COH
I CIL

This may be expanded as:

. . .]Prisc(us) p[r-]
aef(ectus) coh(ortis) I Aq-
ui(tanorum) et trib(unus) coh(ortis)
I Cil(icum)

The stone records an equestrian officer, Priscus, who was prefect of a *cohors I Aquitanorum* and then promoted as tribune of *cohors I Cilicum (milliaria equitata sagittariorum)*. The latter post was presumably held while the cohort was at Sacidava. This cohort is first found in undivided Moesia in 78,³ and then in Moesia superior in 93 and 100.⁴ After the Dacian Wars it is attested in Moesia inferior in 134,⁵ 157/8,⁶ and 177/9.⁷

(2) A tombstone found reused in the south-east corner of Tower E, at the West gate (Fig. 2). Height 1.60 m; breadth 0.80 m; thickness 0.64 m. The letters are well made, their height varying between 5.8 and 6 cm. The space between lines is 9–10 cm. Ivy leaf stops are present:

D.M.
VALERIE GAIE CON
IVGI SVAE VIVE
PETENTI IVLIVS IVLIA
5 NVS S C COH I CILI
CVM MEMORIAM FECIT

This may be expanded as:

D(is) M(anibus) / Valeri(a)e Gai(a)e con/iugi suae viv(a)e/ petenti Iulius Iulia/nus
s(ummus) c(urator) coh(ortis) I Cili/cum memoriam fecit.

For the expansion of S C as s(ummus) c(urator) see M. Speidel, *Guards of the Roman Armies* (1978), 70.

¹ *Actes du 1x^e Congrès international d'études sur les frontières romaines—Mamaia, 1972* (Bucharest, Cologne, Vienna, 1974), 113, pl. 27.

² Excavations at Sacidava, from 1969–79, were directed by C. Scorpan.

³ *CIL* xvi, 22, found at Mihailovgrad in north-west Bulgaria.

⁴ *CIL* xvi, 39 and 46.

⁵ *CIL* xvi, 78; W. Wagner, *Die Dislokation der römischen Auxiliarformationen in den Provinzen*

Noricum, Pannonien, Moesien und Dakien von Augustus bis Gallienus (1938), 119.

⁶ I Venedikov, 'Rimska voenna diploma ot Brestovene', *Izvestiia—Varna* 9 (1953), 61–8; *AE* 1961, no. 128; K. Kraft, *Zur Rekrutierung der Alen und Cohortes an Rhein und Donau* (1951), 173.

⁷ *CIL* III, 14437, 2; G. G. Mateescu, *BCMI* VIII, 35 (1916), no. 14, p. 38; D. Tudor, *AUB* 5 (1956), 45.

I RISC I
 AEF © H I AQ
 VIET TRIB COH
 I CIL

FIG. 1. INSCRIPTION OF PRISCUS

D M
 VALERIEGAIECON
 IVGISVAEVIVE
 PETENTIIVLIVSIVLIA
 NVSSC COHICILI
 CVM MEMORIAM FECIT

FIG. 2. INSCRIPTION OF VALERIA GAIA

MARCO
 PHILIP
 NOBILIS
 CAESAR
 IMP MAR
 PHILIPPIN
 TI AVG C
 CILICVM D
 CANTE PR
 TINAME
 LINO CO

FIG. 3. INSCRIPTION OF COH. I CILICUM

D M
 SATVRINVS
 SER BVS
 IVLIVSTINI
 TRIBVNI

FIG. 4. INSCRIPTION OF SATURNINUS

(3) An honorary inscription of limestone, with the right edge missing, built into the north-west corner of Tower D (Fig. 3). The letters are carefully formed and *c.* 6 cm high. The space between lines is 1.5 cm. In l. 9 the C of C(aius) is superimposed on a letter E:

MARCO
 PHILIP
 NOBILIS
 CAESAR
 5 IMP MAR
 PHILIPPI IN...
 TI AVG C
 CILICVM D
 CANTE PR..
 10 TINA ME...
 LINO CO

The following expansion is suggested:

Marco [Iul(io)]/ Philip[po]/ Nobilis[simo]/ Caesar[i fil(io)]/ Imp(eratoris) Mar(ci) [Iul(ii)]/ Philippi in[vic]/ti Aug(usti) c[oh(ors) I]/ Cilicum d[edi]/cante C(aio) Pr[as]/tina Me[ssa]/lino co[(n)s (ule)].

The dedication by *cohors I Cilicum* is to Marcus Iulius Philippus, son of Philip the Arab, who bore the title *Nobilissimus Caesar* A.D. 244–6. C. Prastina Messalinus is known from coins of Marcianopolis⁸ to have been governor of Moesia inferior in the period 245–7. Another inscription, found at Tomis, was dedicated ‘Genio loci’ by C. Prastina Messalinus *legatus Augusti pro praetore*.⁹ There is some debate about whether this inscription refers to the third-century governor or to an earlier homonym of the reign of Pius. The latter, C. Ulpius Pacatus Prastina Messalinus, was *consul ordinarius* in 147, and some scholars consider that he was governor of Moesia inferior within the following decade.¹⁰ J. Fitz, however, wishes to attribute all the evidence concerning C. Prastina Messalinus in Moesia inferior to the man who was governor under Philip the Arab.¹¹ The present author also subscribes to this point of view, despite some doubts expressed since 1966.¹² A further stone from Tomis recording an *eques vexillarius* of the cohort¹³ is ascribed to the reign of Philip by D. Tudor.

It is reasonable to suppose that at the time when the dedication to Philip’s son was being erected by *cohors I Cilicum* at Sacidava, a detachment of the unit had been sent to Tomis.

(4) A fourth inscription, found at Sacidava in 1978 (Fig. 4), is a tombstone set up by a tribune who was probably the commander of *cohors I Cilicum*. Again the lettering is clear, and there are no abbreviations after the initial D.M.:

D(is) M(anibus)
 SATVRININVS
 SERBVS
 IULI FAVSTINI
 TRIBVNI

Saturininus is perhaps an error for Saturninus, and in any case Serbus is a very rare cognomen,¹⁴ so that it seems probable this should be read as ‘Saturininus, slave of Iulius Faustinus, tribune’.

⁸ R. Vulpe, *Din istoria Dobrogei* 2 (1968), 241 (=Pick, 1194 and 1207–09).

⁹ *CIL* III, 7529.

¹⁰ S. E. Stout, *The Governors of Moesia* (1911), 74, thought there was a governor of this name in the reign of Pius; so also A. Stein, *Die Legaten von Moesien* (1940), 71, and R. Vulpe, *DID* 2, 147–8 and n. 130 (cautiously).

¹¹ *Die Laufbahn der Statthalter in der römischen Provinz Moesia Inferior* (1966), 16, 34–6.

¹² D. Tudor, *Materiale si cercetari arheologice* 2 (1956), 582, no. 51 (=AE 1957, no. 192).

¹³ D. Tudor, *op. cit.*, no. 52 (=AE 1957, no. 193).

¹⁴ I. Kajanto has only two examples, *The Latin Cognomina* (1965), 314.

Taken as a whole, the new evidence suggests that *cohors I Cilicum* may have built the fort at Sacidava in the second century and remained in garrison there until the middle of the third century. The other inscriptions, which mention the unit in Moesia inferior at sites such as Tomis, Dinogetia,¹⁵ Chersonesus,¹⁶ and Azarlîc (Cetatea),¹⁷ may refer to detachments of the cohort sent out on specific missions. There is no certainty that *Castellum Cilicum*, if this interpretation of an excerpt of Procopius is correct, lies anywhere other than at Sacidava itself.

Constanța

¹⁵ Gh. Stefan, 'Dinogetia I', *Dacia* 7-8 (1937-40), 410.

¹⁶ *CIL* III, 13751 (b).

¹⁷ *CIL* III, 14437, 2.