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THE ROMAN ARCHITECTONIC DECORATION REUSED IN THE EARLY CHRISTIAN BUILDINGS OF PARTHICOPOLIS

Key words: *architectural decoration, bases, columns, capitals, quarries, the Roman province Macedonia, Parthicopolis.*

Abstract: *The early Christian basilicas and the only discovered so far dwelling-residence in Parthicopolis reveal the reuse of architectural elements from the Roman period. Being used with the same function, they formed the colonnades; they separated the naos of the Early Christian basilicas from the aisles; they were included in the atrium's colonnade there (basilicas №№ 1 and 4), and in the colonnade of the main street, the so-called "Via sacra/Mese" (cardo maximus) of the Late Antique city. Many architectural details have been drawn out and reused with the same function from the ruins in the city: Roman Attic-Ionian bases with differently formed plinthus and profile of the base element; columns; capitals in the three orders (in Roman-Dorian, Roman-Ionian and Roman-Corinthian one); fragments of architraves; part of a ceiling with cassettes, etc. They show the chronology of building in the ancient city and the fashionable tendencies, transmitted from the metropolitan buildings. Although Parthicopolis belongs from administrative point of view to the Roman province of Macedonia, the studied architectural decoration finds parallels not only in the buildings of other city centres of the same province, but as well in Thracia. The studied architectural details are differentiated in kinds and types and their chronological limits are specified; also the time of their making is revealed; finely the quarries and the workshops for making the details. Together with this an attempt is made for defying the character and the possible function of the Roman buildings, to which these architectural details have belonged.*

A short introduction to the history of the ancient city of Parthicopolis

Very few data are available from the pre-Roman period of this settlement, situated under the present day town of Sandanski in the Southwestern part of Republic of Bulgaria. Most probably it was an im-

portant Thracian tribal and religious centre at the beginning, then a Hellenistic settlement and after that it became first a Roman and then an Early Byzantine city in the province of Macedonia under the name of Parthicopolis¹. Its planning has been probably created under the reign of Domitian², because the dynasty of the Flavians has paid a special attention to the Balkan lands, putting the grounds of colonies and founding military camps, some of them turned later to flourishing cities. A special attention has been paid according to this policy to the studied settlement, Alexandropolis or Paroicopolis according to the different opinions, situated at the eastern boundary between Thracia and Macedonia (**fig. 1**). This city received its new name of Parthicopolis at the end of the reign of Trajan in 116-117. Probably this act should perpetuate the victory of the emperor over the Parthians or posthumously after he has been announced as „Divus Trajanus Parthicus“³. The city character is proved by the epigraphical monuments, mentioning its institutions and magistratures and the typical groups of population⁴. Its status was similar to the rest of the

¹ С. Петрова, Градоустройството на римския и ранновизантийски град Паройкополис/Партикополис. – В: Паметници Реставрация Музеи, Број 1-2, 2016, 7-32.

² S. Petrova, The Roman Theatre of Paroicopolis/Parthicopolis and its historical fortune. – In: *Niš and Byzantium*, XIV, 2016, 87-112.

³ See: S. Petrova, On Early Christianity and Early Christian Basilicas of Parthicopolis. – In: *Studi sull'Oriente Cristiano. Accademia Angelica'Constantiniana di lettere arti e scienze*. Roma 16,1, 2012, 93-96.

⁴ G. Mihailov, *Inscriptiones Graecae in Bulgaria reperiae*: Vol. IV, Serdicae 1966 = *IGBulg. IV*, №№ 2264 – 2267.

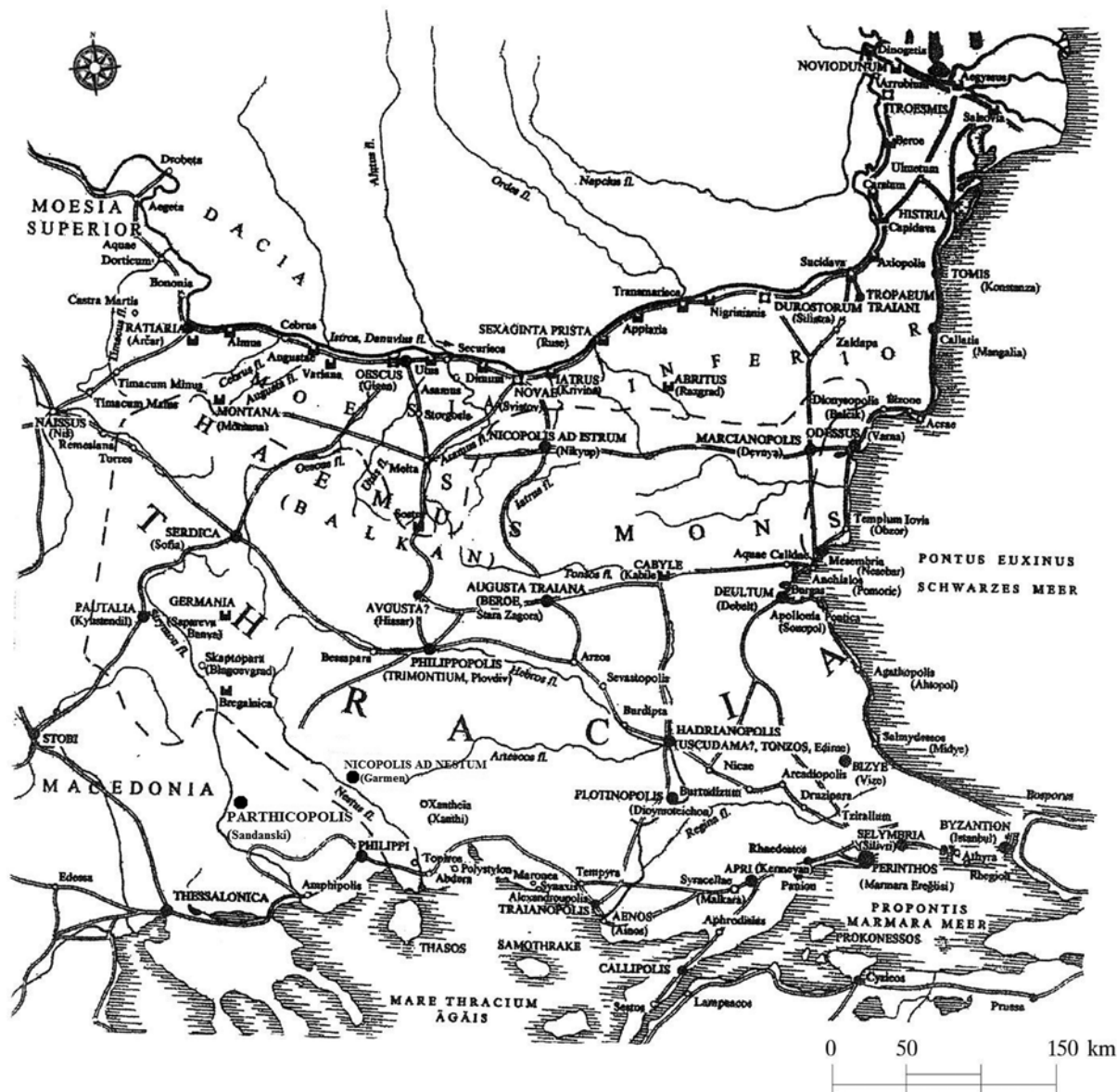


Fig. 1. Map of the Roman provinces of Lower Moesia, Thracia and the Eastern part of Macedonia during the Principate (according to R. Ivanov, with additions and corrections of S. Petrova).

Фиг. 1 Карта на римските провинции Долна Мизия, Тракия и источен дел од Македонија за време на Принципата (по Р. Иванов, дополнета и коригирана од С. Петрова)

cities in Macedonia⁵. In the opinion of prof. Gerov⁶, it could not be defined as a polytita before the period of Trajan (98 –117), but its intensive city life began at Hadrian (117-138) and its flourishing should be related to the long period from Antoninus Pius (138-161 r.) to Gordian III (238 –244). In the Late Antiquity the city was one of the biggest and important epis-

copal centres in the valley of Middle Strymon, with established very rich church building⁷.

The urbanization of the old Thracian and Hellenistic settlements at Trajan, continued by Hadrian and Antoninus Pius, has led to the appearance of rich buildings, decorated with marble. This was enabled by the situated near by marble quarries, exploited since the Thracian period. Analogically to Philippi⁸,

⁵ See *IGBulg. IV, № 2263; IGBulg. V, №5895*; Б. Геров, Проучвания върху западнотракийските земи през римско време. – Годишник на Софийския Университет, Факултет по западни филологии, 54, 3, 1961, 91-195; М. Манов, Селищният живот в долината на Средна Струма според античните епиграфски паметници. – В: Разкопки и Проучвания 38, София 2008, 23 ff.

⁶ Б. Геров. Цит. съч., 193-194.

⁷ S. Petrova, On Early Christianity ..., 2012, 93-139; S. Petrova, V. Petkov, Пароикополис/Парфикополис. – In: Roman cities in Bulgaria, vol. II – Thracian, Greek, Roman and Medieval cities, residences and fortresses in Bulgaria (ed. R. Ivanov), Sofia 2015, 410-444.

⁸ The Philippi quarries have been owned by Rhoemetalces, son of Kotys III, the last Thracian ruler. See Б. Геров, Земевладението в римска Тракия и Ми-



Fig. 2. The Roman and the Late Roman building under GUM, view from southwest (photo of V. Popova).

Фиг. 2 Античка и касноантичка зграда под ГУМ, поглед од југозапад (фото В. Попова)

we can suppose that first they have been property of the Thracian rulers, but at the beginning of the 2nd century they became the domain of the Roman emperor, similarly to the quarries of Nicopolis ad Istrum and Nicopolis ad Nestum⁹. That's why we can call the deposits near Parthicopolis at that period "the marble quarries of Trajan". They are located northwestern of the city, with different by its quality stone, colour and texture. Another stone used in the architecture of Parthicopolis was the granite, grey-greenish and porphyry-like, with feldspath mixtures. It was extracted north of the city in more than ten quarries, situated alongside the river of Sandanska Bistriza¹⁰. There to the quarries existed active workshops for marble and granite extraction and for completely finished and semi-manufactured architectonic details for the representative public and private buildings.

зия (I-III в.). – В: Годишник на Софийския Университет, Факултет Класически и Нови Филологии, т. 72, № 2, 1977, София 1980, с. 64, бел. 81.

⁹ С. Петрова, Р. Иванов, Каменоломните в Мизия и в Тракия през римската епоха и късната античност. – В: Археология на българските земи, 3, София 2009, 185–192; С. Петрова, Екозона „Белите скали“ – социализация на една антична кариера. – В: Паметници Реставрация Музеи, 1-2, 2015, 75-85.

¹⁰ For the quarries of the ancient city see S. Petrova. Quarries and Workshops in the Territory of Parthicopolis (1st – 6th c. AD). – In: *Sandanski and its Territory during Prehistory, Antiquity and Middle Ages: Current Trends in Archaeological Research. Proceedings of an International Conference at Sandanski, September 17 – 20, 2015. Papers of the American Research Center in Sofia*, vol. 3, Veliko Tarnovo 2017, 152-169.

This paper aims to study the architectonic elements, made only in the Roman period. They have been used initially in the Roman buildings of Parthicopolis and from about the middle of the 4th century on reused with the same function in the official Early Christian and from the end of the century Early Byzantine buildings of the city, mainly in its numerous basilicas and in the colonnade of *Via sacra/Mese/cardo maximum*. The elements created especially for the Christian architecture and its new buildings will be the subject of another research. The latter are capitals, usually plain, with ornamental decoration and impostos with crosses in the Dorian style. In our opinion the whole architectonic decoration of the baptisterium of the episcopal basilica, sculpted in exclusively white quartzite marble, is a special order made in the early period of the baptisterium¹¹.

From architectural point of view, the Roman period in Parthicopolis is less known, because usually the buildings have been occasionally and partially discovered. Most often its plans can be supposed on the base of the remains, but with many parts and elements missing. Such is the case with the enormous representative building-residence under the modern mall (GUM)¹². Only few bases and columns of it have been unearthed, the capitals lacking (fig. 2). The situation with the Roman theatre is similar, with the only found base-postament of a reduced type¹³. The discovered architectonic details from the Roman period of the city are few parts of architravs, a part of a ceiling with uncertain provenance and mainly profiled bases, plain columns and capitals in the three architectural styles (Doric, Ionian and Corinthian). The architectonic elements are made predominantly of marble, but some postaments and columns have been sculpted from granite.

I. The supported elements: architraves and ceilings

The only sure supported elements from the Roman period are the parts of the architraves found during the excavations of basilica No 1. These are two fragments of three-stepped architrave, one of them of

¹¹ The elements made in the Early Christian/Early Byzantine period are the subject of our separate research „The architectonic decoration of the Early Christian and Early Byzantine Parthicopolis”, in print.

¹² For more details see S. Petrova, V. Petkov, Παροικωπολις/Парθикополиς. (S. Petrova, VI/3.7. Gymnasium, Temple (?) or Public/Residential Building, 395-399. – In: *Roman cities in Bulgaria, vol. II – Thracian, Greek, Roman and Medieval cities, residences and fortresses in Bulgaria* (ed. R. Ivanov), Sofia 2015.

¹³ S. Petrova. The Roman Theatre ..., 2016, 87-112.



*Fig. 3. Marble fragments of frieze-architraves, bases and columns from basilica No 1.
Фиг. 3 Базилика № 1. Фриз-архитрави, базиси, колони, фрагменти. Мермер*

a corner. Now they are exposed at the open (**fig. 3**). The architectonic elements are not published up to this moment by the researcher, therefore it is difficult to defy if the Roman architraves have been reused with the same function or they are just spoliae, included in the wall building of the same basilica. It is established that in the first building period of the basilica the three aisles have been constructed by arcade colonnades. From this fact it follows that the fragments of the frieze-architraves should be related either to the colonnade of the atrium or that they have been reused as spoliae in the walls of the same basilica. The architraves are made of brilliant white marble in one block. They are carved together with the frieze, which is plain and forming the typical for the Roman architecture frieze-architrave. The two survived to the present day fragments demonstrate a specificity of representing the beams of the architrave, e.i. that all three of them have different height. The lowest beam is the standard for measuring the next beams. The second one is 1.5 times higher than the first one and so is the last third one in comparison to the second one. The field of the frieze is plain and that's the reason to consider that the frieze-architraves belonged to a building in the Roman-Dorian order. This established by us correlation of the heights of the three beams is not known from other monuments on the territory of Macedonia, but we found it in some unpublished frieze-architraves of ancient Serdica¹⁴. The same

¹⁴ Our deepest gratitude to Dr. Iliana Borissova-Katzarova, who showed to us during our consultation to her the found architectural details at the West Gate of Serdica, including several splendid frieze-architraves with

specifics of proportional increasing of the height of each beam having as standard the height of the lowest one can be found in Ulpia Oescus: from the southern peristyle porticus of the temple of Fortuna; from the western porticus of the forum; and from the so-called architrave of Frova in the temple of Fortuna. A building inscription is carved on the architrave blocks of the façade porticus of the same temple with the sure date of 190-192¹⁵. These very strictly dated analogies, although from the province of Lower Moesia, point to the last decade of the 2nd century as the date of the unknown Roman building with these architraves from Parthicopolis. The fact that in Oescus and Parthicopolis the architectonic manner of work of the Ephessian-Pergamian school is witnessed, allows us to relate both fragments of the friezes-architraves to this school too and its work here.

Another element belongs to the soffit decoration of a representative Roman building or a Roman temple. We could work only with a part of a marble ceiling cassette with uncertain provenance, maybe also coming from Sandanski, preserved in the fund of the Archaeological museum of Sandanski¹⁶. It is deco-

different height and the established by us correlation.

¹⁵ T. Ivanov, Der Fortuna-Tempel in der Colonia Ulpia Oescensium in Moesia Inferior (heute VR Bulgarien). – Известия на археологическия институт XXXVII, 1987, 7-60; Т. Иванов, Р. Иванов, *Улпия Ескус*, София т. I, 1998, 152 сл.; Т. Иванов, *Улпия Ескус, Римски, късноримски и ранновизантийски град*. т. II. Гражданска базилика и храм на Фортуна, София 2005.

¹⁶ Contradictive data relate the cassette either to Sandanski or to the locality Hiliadnitsata, between the villag-



Fig.4. Part of a marble ceiling with cassettes in the Archaeological Museum of Sandanski.

Фиг. 4 Дел од мермерна таванска касета

rated with a rosette of six oak leaves, with three-party round stamen, inscribed in a square border. The usage of drill in its preparing is very clear (fig. 4). The oak leaf is comparatively rare in the architectural decoration¹⁷, usually on the pulvinus of the Roman Ionic capitals. To the present moment we have found it in the provinces of Lower Moesia and Thracia. In Macedonia this is the first known to us example with decoration of oak leaves. It can be often met on the garlands of sarcophagi made by the workshops of Aphrodisia and Ephesos. Even more often it is used in Asia Minor on different architectural details: friezes, soffits, ceiling cassettes, sidebacks of entrances, etc. The oak leaf is part of the decoration of the ara of August in Miletus¹⁸, in the soffit in the temple of Zeus in Aezanoi¹⁹ and in other monuments related to the 2nd -3rd century²⁰. We suppose that the ceiling cassette is a part of the decoration of a building with

es Dolna Gradeshnitsa and Ilindentsi. The dimensions are 60x52cm, thick 15.5-17 cm. In the inventory book of the museum this element is wrongly defined as „tomb stele”, with Inv. № 13.

¹⁷ С. Петрова, *Римско-йонийски капители от Мизия и Тракия (I-IV в.)*. София 1996, 34.

¹⁸ K. Tuchelt. Buleuterion und Ara Augusti. – *Deutsches Archäologisches Institut. Ist. Mitteilungen*, 25, 1979, 136-137, Taf. 23.

¹⁹ W. Wegnwr. Soffiten von Ephesos und Asia Minor. *ÖJH*, 52, *Hauptblatt*, 1978-80, 96, fig. 9b.

²⁰ M. R. Harisson. A Constantinopolitan capital in Barcelona. – *Dumbarton Oaks Papers*, Washington, 1973, 297-300, fig. 8-9; R. Bordenache, H. Stern, *Documentar analitic. Studiul si elementelor di architectuta classica*. Bucureşti 1957, T. VII-VIII.

the two friezes-architraves on the base of their date in the last decade of the 2nd century and also the same marble from the contact zone Mura of the quarry Ermilovetz. In this way we have at disposal mainly the carrying elements of the order, which can be grouped and studied typologically. Its place in the order is followed in our research.

II. The supporting elements

The reused Roman bases in the Ionic order

The lowest carrying part of the order immediately after the stylobate, namely the base was unknown in the Doric order²¹. In the Greek Ionic order the base is known in two variants: Asia Minor one and Attic one. The genesis of the Attic-Ionian base is formed in Attica of Hellas. Its articulation is very simple: plinthus, two toruses, one trohilos between them, all separated by listels. The profile of the toruses is plain. The classical Attic-Ionian base is established in the monument of Lizikratos in Athens²², while in Macedonia it appears later, in Langaza (Λαγκαδάς)²³.

In the Ionic order the base appears in the Asia Minor variant and in the Attic one²⁴. At the beginning the usage of the classical Attic-Ionian base was in the East, in Asia Minor, in Ephesos, during the time of August²⁵. From the middle of the 1st century AD the Roman Attic-Ionian base (with separate plinthus and base) has been applied in the Roman colony of Corinth, in the Athenian library of Pantainos (Pl. 51 a), and in Eleusina and Olympia²⁶. From the Early Imperial period in the East and in Attica the base, made together with the plinthus from a monolithic block, has become dominant and typical after the middle of the 1st century AD.

The Attic-Ionian base is widely spread in the East in Asia Minor (Pergamon, Ephesos, the South Agora of Miletus, Aphrodisia, Mylasa, Knidos, Aizanoi/

²¹ See С. Петрова, *Римско-йонийски капители от Мизия и Тракия (I-IV в.)*. София 1996, 5 и сл.

²² K. Kotratschek, *Die Säulenordnungen der Antike und Renaissance*, Wien 1948, 11; F. E. Winter, *Studies in Hellenistic Architecture*, Toronto University Press, Toronto 2006, 75.

²³ F. E. Winter, *Ibid.*, 82.

²⁴ Ionic bases from the Attic version of the Ionic base (the so called Attic-Ionic bases). For details of the both variants see: L. S. Merit, Geographical distribution of Greek and Roman Ionic Bases. – In: *Hesperia: The Journal of the American School of Classical Studies at Athens*, Vol. 38, No. 2 (Apr. - Jun., 1969), 186-204, Pl. 49-53.

²⁵ W. Alzinger, *Augusteische Architektur in Ephesos*. – In: *Österreichische Archäologisches Institut, Sonder-schriften XVI*, Wien 1974, 66-67.

²⁶ See: L. S. Merit, *Op. cit.*, 186-204, Pl. 49-53.

Aiζανοί/Aezani); in Phrygia, Bythinia (Myra) and in Lycia; also in Syria (Antiochia, Baalbeck, Gerasa, Palmyra, etc.); in North Africa; in the Balkans and in the West Roman provinces²⁷. The chronology of their distribution is extremely wide and that's the reason for the impossibility to determine strictly the chronological limits of the separate types and its variants in Parthicopolis. We shall try during our research to compare them with bases found in monuments exactly or approximately well dated in Greece, generally in the Balkans, Asia Minor and Africa from different periods.

The discovered since now Roman bases from Parthicopolis, predominantly *in situ*, are designed for free-standing round columns. The Roman bases are reused with the same function in the colonnades of the Early Christian basilicas №№ 1, 2, 3, 4 and 7; in the colonnades of the atriums of Early Christian basilicas №№ 1 и 4; and finely in the colonnade of the *cardo maximus* (*Via Sacra/Mese*) of the Late Roman and Early Byzantine city. Although the building of the basilicas and of *Via Sacra* each time has definite periods, the reused Roman bases reveal elements from quite different earlier periods and from independent Roman buildings. The bases are marble, extracted from the quarries north of the ancient city, but with different quality, colours and work.

The bases from the colonnade of the basilicas belong to the mentioned type of the Roman Attic-Ionian bases with square plinthus, two toruses, trochilus and two listels, the plinthus and the base detail is monolithic. The curve of the upper torus is not concave with some of the monuments. The torus looks like rather a ring (high listel, disk). With other monuments some elements of the base detail have been reduced. Generally the unearthed since now bases belong to two basic types.

Type I. Attic-Ionian bases with plinthus, two toruses, a trochilus and two listels, dividing the toruses from the trochilus (fig. 2, 5 – 9, 11).

The plinthuses of the bases belong also to two types:

Variant A) these plinthuses have in their base legs. When the legs are about 3-5cm high, the lower part of the plinthus may be formed in two ways: in the first one the lower part among the legs is flat (**fig. 6 a**) and in the second way it is slightly drooping, reminding strongly the forming of the aechinus of the Ionian capital (**fig. 6 b**).

Variant B) the base of the plinthus is evenly cut (**fig. 7**).



Fig.5. A marble Attic-Ionian base: two toruses, trochilos and two listels from basilica No 1.

Фиг. 5. Атичко-јонски базис: два торуса, трохиλος и два листела. Базилика № 1, мермер

The bases of *type I variant A* (ending with legs) have been discovered in the colonnade of the façade of the residence under GUM (**fig. 2**); in the colonnade of the naos of basilica № 1 (**fig. 8**) and in the colonnade of the naos of the Episcopal basilica (**fig. 9**). It impresses that the great amount of bases with plinthuses on legs are found (*in situ*) in the colonnades, dividing the Episcopal basilica into three aisles. The number of Attic-Ionian bases (wholly and partly preserved) with evenly cut plinthus is smaller and there dominate the bases with the plinthus on legs. They are made of sparkling white coarse-grained to middle-grained marble, extracted in the deposit Ermilovets, located not far northwestern of the ancient city. Chronologically this deposit has been exploited first and served to the Thracian settlements in the Hellenistic period and later to the Roman ones in the Middle Strymon territory. There are examples among the bases made of grey-whitish middle-grained also sparkling marble, extracted in the deposit Mura-West. It is in the contact zone with the deposit of Ermilovets and demonstrates a great activity at the end of the 1st-beginning of the 2nd century. Now the remnants of the mentioned Thracian-Roman quarries, called by us “the quarries of Trajan”, are part of the modern quarries at the village of Ilindentsi²⁸.

Parallels: Since now no Roman Attic-Ionian bases on plinthus with legs have been published in Bulgarian literature and according to our knowledge such are not discovered in the country. Only in Parthicopolis a postament with plinthus on legs has been unearthed *in situ*, reused and placed in the space between the northwestern corner of the entrance to the atrium and the entrance to the south aisle of the Episcopal basilica (**fig. 10**). But marble bases with plinthus on legs are known from some cities in the prov-

²⁷ Ibidem, 189-204.

²⁸ See: S. Petrova, Quarries ..., 2017, 152 ff.



Fig.6. Marble bases with plinthus on legs: a/ with evenly cut base among the legs; b/ with hanging base among the legs.

Фиг. 6. Базиси со плинта на ногарките: а) со рамно отсечена основа меѓу ногарките; б) со висната основа меѓу ногарките. Мермер. Епископска базилика.

ince of Macedonia. Such bases-postaments are used in the porticus of the time of Hadrian in Heraclea Lynkestis (Bitola)²⁹. The same type of bases which should be also related to the time of Hadrian were found in Lychnidus (Ohrid) and belonged probably to the architectonic marble decoration of the initial building period of the theatre³⁰. Similar postaments on legs have been excavated in the province of Upper Moesia in the civil basilica of Scupi³¹, several Early Roman monuments-postaments come from Karposh in Scopje and the northern necropolis of the same ancient city³². A half-base of Attic-Ionian type with plinthus on legs is found in Prilepets and several other

²⁹ В. Лилчиќ, Македонскиот камен за боговите, христијаните и за животот по животот, Скопје 2001, I, 210-212 и цит. лит., 362 – 2.

³⁰ Ibidem, 369 – 2.

³¹ Виж: Д. Коракевиќ, *SKUPI – градска територија*. Музей на град Скопје 2002, 76-82, сл. 42, 45.

³² В. Лилчиќ, *Op. cit.*, 141-144.

bases are known from Lychnidus/Ohrid, also in Macedonia³³. Several examples are used in the sepulchral architecture in the provinces of Asia Minor: a base is found in Mylassa in the province of Asia, region Caria, made of white marble and dated at Hadrian; in tomb F in Patara, the Roman province of Lycia and Pamphylia, made of a local stone and dated in the late 2nd century; in the temple-tomb to a podium (X tomb) in Xanthos, in the same province and from the same time³⁴.

The profile of the modeled according to the canon bases with plinthus on legs from Asia Minor and in the Balkans support the Hadrianic date. The canonic profile possesses a clear well expressed for that period convex and concave forms. The base constitutes 1 module, from which 1/3 of the general height represents the height of the plinthus and the rest 2/3 of the height is the profile of the base detail. The lower torus has a strongly convex form, forming together with the plinthus clearly expressed scamila, and entirely inscribed in the square of the plinthus. The upper torus following the concave curve of the trochilus diminishes its diameter in comparison to the lower one. The round form of the lower torus fills the entire surface of the plinthus (in the width of the side) and this shapes to the base a slightly flattened form, as if it is developing more in horizontal direction, with a clear *scotia* (fig. 11). Usually the listels dividing the toruses from the trochilus are hardly noticeable, as a very thin tenia. The height of the lower and the upper torus and of the trochilus is equal. The only difference is in the height of the listels. In the bases sculpted in the first quarter of the 2nd century, the listels are hardly visible and the *scotii* clearly outlined. In the later pieces the height of the listels increases, the convex curve of the lower torus diminishes, the scamila disappears and the curve of the torus does not surpass 1/4 of the circle.

The space among the legs of the plinthus is formed in two ways: in the first one the hanging of the plinthus' lower part reminds half a sphere, which reaches in the horizontal of legs almost their base. In the second one the horizontal hanging is weak and passes almost in a straight way (fig. 6 a, b).

The parallels for using the variant of bases on legs in buildings from the period of Hadrian and not later in the neighboring cities of Macedonia allow a dating of the marble Attic-Ionian bases from Parthicopolis namely to that period of 117-138, at the end of the 2nd c. Additional argument supporting the date is the

³³ Ibidem, 369, № 2 и цит. лит., 412-313, № 3

³⁴ S. Cormack, *The space of death in Roman Asia Minor*, Wien 2004, 246-248, fig.122-125; 264-265, fig. 152-155; 326-328, fig. 218-220.

marble from the quarry of Ermilovets, the first and chronologically the earliest one in the region exploited deposit in the Roman period³⁵.

Bases with evenly cut plinthus, type I, variant B are widely spread in the whole Roman period, dated among the 2nd and the 4th century. They represent the canonic variant of the Attic-Ionian base applied during the Roman and the Late Antique period in all the roman architectural orders (Dorian, Ionian, Corinthian and Composite). In Parthicopolis they are found in GUM, basilica № 1, the basilica of bishop Ioannes (No 2), the basilica on Partizanska str. (No 3), in some of the colonnades and the atrium of the Episcopal basilica (No 4) and in the colonnade of *Via Sacra/Mese*. The lower part of the plinthus is evenly cut and is put directly on the stylobate. This kind of bases is often used in our opinion in the Roman buildings it is easy for working and does not require additional strengthening during the installation on the stylobate.

With both variants of the type we can establish **variants of representing the profile of the base detail**. With the variant A the profile is classical: two toruses with a trochilus between divided by listels. The height of the square plinthus with variant B sometimes is a little bit bigger from the bases on legs. In some pieces the profile of the base is equal to the bases on legs, which chronologically relates the bases to the 2nd century, the latest possible date the last quarter of the century.

The lower torus of variant B also occupies the width of the square plinthus, similar to type I, variant A. The dimensions of the bases of variant B are near rather to the bases with the maximus dimentions of the plinthus over 70 cm and general height of about 28-30 cm.

Among the bases found in Parthicopolis one can notice pieces, whose convex torus over the plinthus also looks like smashed, in some examples not so smashed, but with the catenary form of $\frac{1}{4}$ from the circle. This form dominates in the majority of bases of middle-sized dimensions. Their upper part more often looses its curve, ending with straight form, similar to a high listel like a disk (**fig. 6 a, 11**). This profile can be observed with the late bases, made in the last quarter – the end of the 2nd and in the first half of the 3rd century (the Late Antonines and the Severs). The analogies can be found in the whole province, in the Balkans in generally, in its south part (Attica and Peloponessos), in North Africa, Asia Minor, Italy, Pannonia and Noricum, dated basically in the second

³⁵ These are samples №№ 4, 7, 10, 14 (contact zone Mura-Ermilovets), 18 and 23 (S. Petrova, Quarries, 153 ff.).



Fig.7. A base with plinthus evenly cut in the base.

Фиг.7. Базис со рамно отсечена во основа плинта

half of the 2nd and the first half of the 3rd century³⁶. The first exact and the most early parallels of the bases with raised like a listel upper torus are to be met at the west porta of the Agora from the time of Augustus in Ephesos³⁷.

Type II. Reduced Attic-Ionian bases. Some elements of the classical Attic-Ionian base are missing in this type. They are separate bases and bases-postaments. A reduction can be observed in the details of the base instead of the two toruses with a trochilus between them. It can be determined two variants (**fig. 13 a, b**):

Variant A: square plinthus, listel, trochilus and a second listel, higher, or as high as the first listel, with which the base or the base-postament ends (**fig. 13 a**).

Variant B: square plinthus, torus and listel. This variant is to be met in both types of bases: bases and bases-postaments (**fig. 13 b**).

In all the buildings of Philippi, the Roman colony and Early Byzantine city in the province of Macedonia, the Attic-Ionian Roman bases with even plinthus from a monolythic block are used. The same types are applied in the theatre of Stobi, as well reused in the Early Christian basilica of Maroneia and in oth-

³⁶ For Moesia see T. Ivanov, Der Fortuna-Tempel in der Colonia Ulpia Oescensium in Moesia Inferior (heute VR Bulgarien). – In: *Известия на археологическия институт*, XXXVII, 1987, 18; T. Иванов, Р. Иванов, *Никополис ад Иструм*, I, София 1994, 145; for Thracia see Д. Цончев, Приноси към проучването на римската архитектура в България. – В: *Годишник на музеите в Пловдивски окръг*, II, 1956, 141-175; for Pannonia see Ak. Kiss, *Pannonische Architekturelemente und Ornamentik in Ungarn*, Budapest 1987, 31-46; Chr. Ertel, *Römische Architektur in Carnuntum* (Römische Limes in Österreich, 38). Wien 1991, Taf. 6 No 2.1.12. For more parallels see also З. Димитров, *Архитектурна декорация в провинция Долна Мизия*. Дисертация т. 2, София 2007, 26 ff. and cit.lit.

³⁷ Here are included the Asia Minor type as well as the Attic type of bases, with differences in the number of listels. See W. Alzinger, *Op.cit.*, 1974, 66, Abb. 57-59.



Fig.8. A base; fragments of columns, marble and granite. The colonnade of the naos of basilica No 1.
 Фиг. 8. Базис; фрагменти од колони. Мермер и гранит. Колонада на наосот, Базилика № 1

er cities of that part of the same province. They can be found too everywhere in the buildings of the settlements and cities in the Upper and Lower Moesia and Thracia. Analogical bases can be traced also in Asia Minor (Pergamon, Ephesos, the South Agora of Miletus, Aphrodisia, Mylasa, Knidos, Aizanoi in Phrygia, in Bythinia, Myra and Lycia), as well their wide usage in Syria (Antiochia, Baalbeck, Gerasa, Palmyra, etc.)³⁸.

The bases of *type* II with some reduced elements relate chronologically to the end of the 2nd – the 3rd century. Most of the bases of variant “A” are prepared not so carefully: one can see the badly made smoothings on the torus of the profile, as well as its inaccurate carving. In their majority these are freely standing bases. They are found in the naos of basilica of bishop Ioannes (fig. 17 b), in basilicas № 1 and № 3 and in the representative building under GUM. The dimensions of the plinthus vary from 65x65x9cm up to 52x53x7cm. Their height is about 20-2cm and the diameter of the column about 37-40cm. These bases look small and clumsy in comparison to the bases from the time of Hadrian with bases on legs and the ones with evenly cut plinthus from the same period and later to the middle – the third quarter of the 2nd century (Antoninus Pius - Marcus Aurelius). Analogies in clearly defied chronological complexes can be found predominantly in the neighboring and in the more remote settlements of Macedonia (Philippi and Stobi), in Thracia (Philippopolis, Serdica and Pautalia) and Moesia (Nicopolis ad Istrum, Ulpia Oescus, Marcianopolis, Odessus, etc.)³⁹.

³⁸ See details in L.S. Merit, *Op. cit.*, 196-198 and cit.lit.

³⁹ See the cited previously literature.

Variant B represents reused in profile details of the bases, with torus and listel. Some free standing bases of the type have been a part of the colonnade of the atrium in the Episcopal basilica. More often these bases are part of bases-postaments, included in representative colonnades. The bases of this type from Parthicopolis have formed the colonnade of the side walk of *cardo maximus/Via sacra/Mese* in the Early Byzantine period, tanging the court (*atrium*) of basilica № 1 from the west (fig. 14). Here bases-postament of type II, variant B are reused with the same function together with the free standing bases of type II, variant A. Several postaments have been reused in the building of the colonnade of the atrium of the Episcopal basilica. They have been dugged in the terrain in differen depth in order to equal the height of the colonnade, because of the different height of the colonnade, because of the different height of the reused granite columns and the reused marble Roman Dorian capitals (fig. 15). Parallels for the bases-postaments are discovered in the city centres of the Balkan provinces, in Asia Minor and Greece.

2. The reused Roman columns

The Column imposed on the base has a constructive function. It is the next architectonic element of the supporting part of the order. Except the functional demands, it needs to have an esthetic and fluent transition from the supported to the supporting part (entablature) of the order, which imposed the applying of the base. The whole architectonic decoration of each building is done on the base of a modulus, the articulation of the column in the different parts in

the Roman architectural practice⁴⁰. The most important thing in the canon for an elegant and beautiful column is the slenderness and the conical form of the column. The slenderness is the relation between the upper and lower diameter (Ud:Ld), and the conical form in the classical architecture most often is 5:6, in the upper part the column being more thin than in the lower one. This quality is not demanded in the Dorian order, while in the Ionian and Corinthian order it should be much more, respectively more widening in the base in order the loading to be distributed over the greater part of the stylobate. The quantity of the found columns (preserved entirely or in fragments) in the Roman and the Early Byzantine Parthicopolis is significant (**fig. 2, 3, 8, 14 – 18**). They come from the representative building under GUM; from the basilicas № 1, 2, 3, 4, 7 and 8; from the colonnade of *Via sacra/Mese (cardo maximus)* (**fig. 15**); from the atrium of the Episcopal basilica (**fig. 15**); finally from the courtyard of the basilica № 1. All the discovered up to the moment columns have a smooth monolithic body, made of one marble or granite block. The marble is grey-whitish and patterned. It has a middle-grained structure and is extracted from the quarries northwestern of Parthicopolis, over the contemporary town of Ilindentsi, in the deposits Ermilovets, Gingera, Galchovo гнездо and Mura. Two kinds of granite are used: grey-greenish and porpyre-like granite, with the same colour, but with pink feldspar mixtures (**fig. 16**). It is extracted from the quarries north of Sandanski, before the village of Lilyanovo⁴¹. The granite columns are reused in the colonnade of the atrium of basilica № 4, in the naos of basilica № 7 and partly in the colonnade of *Via Sacra*.

The height of the marble columns varies from 3.60m up to 2.97-2.60m and of the granite ones from 4.95m up to 2.30m. Its lower diameter is from 0.52m up to 0.46m and the upper one from 0.41 up to 0.36 m. The aphasis (αφεσις) the lower end of the column together with the entasis lightenes visually the building in relation with the high crepidome of the ancient buildings. The aphasis supplies with a fluent connection the upper torus of the base and the lower part – the base of the column. The aphasis has different profiles, often non-canonic. The majority of marble columns from Parthicopolis have a slightly protruded ring in relief, similar to torus, for connection with the base. The entasis of the marble columns is almost unnoticed, but more expressed in the granite columns. The apophysis (αποφύσις; eng. apophyge); the plastical end of the column's upper end in Parthico-



Fig.9. Bases in situ of the colonnade in the naos of the Episcopal basilica.

Фиг. 9. Базиси од колонадата на наосот на Епископската базилика in situ

polis is sculpted canonically: with one or two rings, not very high. It can be met also with a convex ring in the upper part and below a listel similar to a ring. In other cases the ring is replaced by a straight listel with width between 5 and 7.5cm (**fig. 17 a-c**), which is more often with the granite columns.

The columns are narrowing in their upper part, equal to the diameter of the capital to be installed on the column. Because the columns in the atrium of the Episcopal basilica are reused Roman ones, most of them have a diameter in the upper part different from the diameter of the capital. Frequently the installed capital has a smaller diameter than the diameter of the column (**fig. 18**).

The profiles of the aphasis, apophysis and entasis are the most characteristic features for dating the columns. Their exact analogies from well dated buildings point to the chronological boundaries of production and the adequate including of the columns in the building of Parthicopolis. The double profiles apophysis of the type of convex end with a listel below or a lysis (throat) is found in Macedonia (the theatre of Heraclea Lyncestis⁴², the theatre of Stobi⁴³, in Scupi in Upper Moesia⁴⁴. According to our personal observations in the province of Thracia they are found in Nicopolis ad Nestum, Philippopolis and Augusta Trajana⁴⁵; in Lower Moesia in the temple of Jupiter in Ulpia Oescus⁴⁶ and in the Π-like porticus, in the thermiperipatos, agora and the propylaea of

⁴² В. Лилчиќ, *Op. cit.*, 210.

⁴³ Ibidem, 263, 270-273

⁴⁴ Ibidem, 150

⁴⁵ С. Петрова, За приложението на дорийскиот ред в Тракија. – *Сборник в памет на проф. Велизар Велков*, Софија 2009, 283-293, обр. 1, 2, 5, 9.

⁴⁶ Т. Иванов, Р. Иванов, *Улпия Ескус*, т. I, Софија 1998, 97 ff.

⁴⁰ The Module is a measure equal to the lower radius of the column. It was introduced by the Greek architects and later accepted by Vitruvius.

⁴¹ S. Petrova, *Quarries ...*, 157 ff.



Fig. 10. Pedestal with a plinth on legs. The northwestern corner at the entrance of the atrium porticus in the Episcopal basilica.

Фиг. 10. Постамент со плинта на ногарки, Епископска базилика. Северозападен агол на влезот на портикот на атриумот

Nicopolis ad Istrum⁴⁷. In Ephesos in Asia Minor they are discovered in public and private buildings, principally from the time of Hadrian⁴⁸; in North Africa in the basilica of Seprimius Severus and the thermen in Leptis Magna⁴⁹; in Rome in the villa of Hadrian⁵⁰ and in Ostia⁵¹, dated mainly in the 2nd century, from Trajan up to the Early Severs. The double-finished apophysis is considered to be typical for the Eastern provinces and mostly for the architectonic decoration of Ephesos⁵². It is accepted that similar end of the columns in Rome and Ostia are product of stonemasons from the East, invited for a special order. Such a decoration as well as other architectural elements and sepulchral settings-sarcophagi are also indebt to the great import from the East of similar details. Such an import and usage is proved too by the cargo from the shipwrecks in Cyprus, with full-length columns from Aphrodisian marble. Another shipwreck from the bay of San Pietro of Tarento includes a not so well carved sarcophagus from the same marble. One more

⁴⁷ Т. Иванов, Р. Иванов, *Никополис ад Иструм*, т. I, София 1994, 127 ff.

⁴⁸ G. Wiplinger, G. Wlach, *Ephesos. 100 Jahre österreichische Forschungen*. Wien-Köln-Weimar, 2 Auglage, 1996, 73q 134-135; W. Wilberg, Die Fassade der Bibliothek in Ephesos. – In: *Österreichische Jahreshefte*, 11, 1908, 118-135.

⁴⁹ P. Romanelli. *Lepcis Magna*, Roma 1927, Tav. III, fig. 64.

⁵⁰ F. Sear, *Roman Architecture*. London 2000, 174, fig. 101.

⁵¹ Ibidem, 127, fig. 71.

⁵² Ibidem, 244.

ship with Aphrodisian marble from the 2nd century has sunken not far from this bay; the second one, also sunken near by, has also Aphrodisian marble, not well worked. It is supposed that the found among them 5 green columns and one white are of Horestian marble from the island of Euboea (Εύβοια). A mixed cargo is found too of Dokimeion (Docimium; Δοκίμειον) and Proconessos marble⁵³.

Obviously, the columns from Parthicopolis are not import. On the opposite, they are made in the local workshops with a long story of stone extraction even from pre-Roman times. The columns are prepared in the workshops from monolithic blocks with the necessary for the ancient buildings height. Gradually the complex profile of the apophysis and athesis is lost, similar to the development of the detail of the base convex form, receiving the form of a more or less wide listel. The entasis is also diminishing, especially of the granite columns, which become more rude, lower and clumsy in the buildings of the period of the Severs and later in the second half of the 3rd century.

All the found to the moment columns are free-standing. The found anta capital from the colonnade of the naos of the Episcopal basilica should belong to half a column, but it is not discovered since now; or this half-column on the west wall of the naos should be filled with bricks and covered with marble revetment. The reused columns are adequate to the diameters of the bases and capitals and descent from cult and public buildings (probably pagan temples, civil basilica, stoa or agora) of the Roman Parthicopolis⁵⁴. The Roman columns have been reused in the Early Christian buildings in the colonnades of the basilicas, the atriums and the colonnade of *Via Sacra/Mese* intend for the Early Christian processions.

⁵³ A. Dworakowska, *Quarries in Roman Provinces*. Instytut Historii Kultury Materialnej (Polska Akademia Nauk), Warszawa 1983, 67. За транспорт виж и: K. Fitzler, *Steinbrüche und Bergwerke im ptolemäischen und römischen Ägypten*, Leipzig 1910, 104.

⁵⁴ According to the investigations at the present stage of knowledge and our hypothesis the agora of Parthicopolis should be situated in the near proximity north and northeastern from the later built between the second quarter of the 4th century and the middle of the 5th century basilicas No 1, 2 and 4. They have been decorated with reused architectonic elements with the same function from these Roman buildings, see S. Petrova, The Early Christian basilicas in the urban Planning of Parthicopolis. – In: *Нии и Византија XIII*, 2015, 161-184, fig. 16; S. Petrova, The Roman Theatre of Paroicopolis/Parthicopolis and its historical Fortune. – In: *Нии и Византија XIV*, 2016, 187-212, fig. 1.

3. The reused Roman capitals

The capitals found in Parthicopolis reveal the usage of the three basic Roman architectural orders: the Dorian, the Ionian and the Corinthian. So far no composite capital in the decoration of the city has been unearthed. However this fact does not exclude its presence, because such capitals have been already found in Philippopolis⁵⁵ in the province of Thracia and in the not so far located from Parthicopolis Drenovo and Stobi in the province of Macedonia⁵⁶.

3.1. The Roman Dorian capitals.

The reused capitals of this order are witnessed *in situ* in the northern, eastern and southern colonnade of the atrium of the Episcopal basilica, No 4 (**fig. 18**). Several more capitals of the type, but without exact provenance, are kept in the Archaeological museum of Sandanski, although it can be supposed that some of them are coming from basilica No 1 (**fig. 19**).

The colonnade of the atrium of the Episcopal basilica has an arcade supported by marble and granite columns⁵⁷. They are stepping on reused bases and bases-postaments, the latter deeply digged in such a way, that only the part of the base detail can be seen. The colonnade is crowned by Roman Dorian capitals⁵⁸. Five of the capitals are included in the reconstruction of the north colonnade of the atrium, made on the base of the found *in situ* and fallen after an earthquake colonnade (see **fig. 15 and 18**). Some other examples of such capitals have been unearthed in basilica No 1 and also a number of occasional finds from Sandanski without exact provenance (**fig. 19**). The capitals from the colonnade of the atrium of the Episcopal basilica, similarly to all the Roman Dorian capitals found since now in Parthicopolis, possess elongated neck decorated with flutes and related to **type II: The Roman Dorian capitals, type II, with fluted neck, variant A and B** according our classification (**fig. 18 – 21**)⁵⁹.

The elements of this type have been developed on the base of the Hellenistic examples. Their beginning in the Roman period is established in the temple of



Fig. 11. A marble base on legs with clearly expressed scotia from the Episcopal basilica.

Фиг. 11. Базис на краевите со јасно изразена scotia. Епископска базилика, мермер

Roma and Augustus in Ankara⁶⁰. The development of the type is realized by the capitals with elongated basket-like neck with decoration of laurel leaves and lower row of acanthus leaves. J. B. Ward-Perkins supposes that this type has Aegean prototypes. They are spread in Italy, North Africa and predominantly in continental Greece⁶¹. Except them, it can be met a variant of capitals with fluting and acanthus leaves. For both mixed forms J. B. Ward-Perkins supposes an origin from the Hellenistic Alexandria and looks for their prototype in Asia Minor, calling them “Pergamian”⁶². These capitals in the eastern ateliers have 24 flutes while in the examples from Athens they are only 20⁶³.

Some authors call the capitals with mixed forms from North Africa from the Severian period also “Pergamian capitals”. They are signed with Greek letters and are considered to be produced in some Eastern workshops⁶⁴. They are made of Proconessian and Pentelicon marbles with prototypes in Asia Minor and Syria. K. Siegler calls the capitals with mixed forms from the Trajaneum in Pergamon “Aeolian Corinthian capitals”⁶⁵. Ch. Börker names such capitals decorated with lotus and acanthus leaves from the theatre of Dionysos in Athens “basket-like”⁶⁶. Simi-

⁶⁰ D. Krencker, M. Schede, *Der Tempel in Ankara*. Berlin-Leipzig 1936, 5 ff, Taf. 14.

⁶¹ J. B. Ward-Perkins, Severan art and Architecture at Leptis Magna. *Journal of Roman Studies*, 38, 1948, 66.

⁶² J. B. Ward-Perkins, *Op. cit.*, 69.

⁶³ J. J. Coulton, *The Architectural development of the Greek Stoa*. Oxford 1976, 121-122, fig. 31.

⁶⁴ P. Romanelli, Topografia e archeologia dell’Africa romana. – In: *Enciclopedia classica*. Sezione III, vol. X, tomo VII, Torino 1970, 284-286, tav. 21; В. Канарак, *Археологически музей в Констанце*, Бухарест 1967, 33.

⁶⁵ K. G. Siegler, Die einzelnen Grabungsobjekte Trajaneum. – In: *Archäologischer Anzeiger, DAI*, Berlin, 84, 4, 1966, 433-434, Abb. 16 a, b, 17

⁶⁶ Ch. Börker, Zwei vergessene Gabel in Athen. – In: AA, 1976, 273, Abb. 11.

⁵⁵ С. Петрова, Композитният капител в Мизия и Тракия, *Археология*, 1, 1990, 44-48 and cit. lit.

⁵⁶ В. Лилчиќ, *Op. cit.*, Скопје 2002, 51

⁵⁷ The granite collums are made of granite and porphyry-like granite, extracted from the local quarries.

⁵⁸ Досега са отрити 11 броя цели и множество фрагменти от капители в римско-дорийски стил.

⁵⁹ С. Петрова, *Капителът през римската епоха в Мизия и Тракия (I-IV)*. София 1988, Автореферат на дисертационни труд, 9-10; С. Петрова, Типологија и особености на римско-дорийски капител в Мизия и в Тракия. *Археология*, 3, 1990, 8-16.



Fig. 12. A base of type II, variant A, from basilica №1.

Фиг. 12. Базис, тип 2, варијанта А. Базилика № 1

lar capitals are present also in the villa of Hadrian in Tivoli and in Delphi⁶⁷. The capitals with fluting and acanthus leaves, typical for the Eastern provinces, the continental Greece⁶⁸ and some cities of North Africa,⁶⁹ show a different end of the tongue under the listel of the neck. In some cases the tongues are coming out of the general mass of the elongated neck, however in other cases this lacks and they end immediately under the echinus-listel. In our opinion this mixed type served for the creation of the type with a neck, whose decoration consists only of flutes. The abacus of this type is plain or complexly profiled.

The Roman Dorian capitals from Parthicopolis show the both variants of type II, included in the colonnade of the atrium of the Episcopal basilica. They are found *in situ*, left after the complete destruction of the basilica and its atrium by an earthquake at the end of the 6th century (fig. 28).

The echinus of the capitals of type II with elongated basket-like neck is a listel, not very wide. **The abacus** is with square form with **two variants**:

Complex profiled abacus (fig. 20 a-c). This variant of the three-parted abacus of the capitals of the colonnade of the atrium has not been witnessed since now in the studied area and the piece is the first one. On the canonical plinthus of the abacus there is another plinthus, widening like a pyramide in height with 10 cm on each side of the abacus. From above the widening ends with a new plinthus, equal in height with the first one, but bigger in length. A three-parted complex abacus is formed in such a way. A decoration of floral ornaments, namely differently developed and turning to the corners of the abacus rinceaux or pairs of different schemes, placed in opposite position, are sculpted in the space among both plinthuses, on the beveled almost to 45° surface in height. For instance from one side and on the opposite one the decoration consists of a low and schematic Ionian cyma, turned with the tops of the ovuli; on the other side and its opposite one there is placed an ornament with stylized leaves similar to the oak ones. In the center of this leaf composition a representation is sculpted, reminding a stylized acorn. The corner is formed as a quarter of a circle at the angle, at the place of meeting of the images from both sides of the complexly abacus, reminding very much the schematic image of the acroteria in the tomb steles with architectonic articu-

⁶⁷ C. Петрова, *Op. cit.*, 1990, 10 and cit.lit.; E. Goffinet, *L'église Saint Georges à Delphes*. – In: *BCH* 1962, 86, I, 251, fig. 13.

⁶⁸ R. Martin, *Problème des origines des orders à volutes*. – In: *Etudes d'archéologie classique*, I, 1955-56, Paris 1958, 19 ff.

⁶⁹ J. B. Ward-Perkins, *Op. cit.*, 1948, 68, fig. 11.

lation from the region⁷⁰. The height of this complex three-parted plinth-abacus is about 15-16 cm.

Canonic abacus. The typical abacus has a square plinthus, thick from 7 to 10 cm (fig. 19 and 21). The canonical abacus of the Roman-Dorian capitals is a plain square plate (*plinthus*).

Both variants of the Roman Dorian capitals from Parthicopolis are determined in dependence of the way the fluting is ending immediately under the echinus-listel. The capitals of *type II variant A* have tongues going out of the volume of the capital and turning to the outside⁷¹ (fig. 20). A spear-like leaf is placed among them also going out of the capital's volume. This type of spear-like small tongues among the flutes appears for the first time in the 6th century BC in Phocis (Φωκίδα; ancient Greek: Φωκίς)⁷².

A lunula (*lunulae*) is depicted on the base of every flute of the pieces from Parthicopolis, the base of the capital turning with a fluent catenary inside and under it there is a thin listel. The small tongues of the flutes, raising to the abacus, are going out of the volume similarly to the small spear-like tongues, also beginning from the capital's basis. Together they turn in a fine way under the echinus-listel and the abacus, the tops being pointed to the base of the capital. The presence of the spear-like tongues caused the diminishing of the number of flutes from the needed according to the canon 20 to 16. The place of the remaining 4 flutes on the capital's neck has been taken by the spear-like tongues. Their rims and of those of the flutes are precisely worked out and represent a ribbon equal by width forming fluently the rim of the precisely carved flute. The depth of cutting of all kannelures is one and the same. The abacus is complexly profiled. It is made of grey-whitish middle - to coarse-grained marble, extracted from the deposit Ermilovets of the quarries of Trajan⁷³, situated north of the village of Ilindentsi.

Similar capitals with fluted necks and profiled tree-parted abacus, however not decorated, can be met also in the provinces of Upper and Lower Moesia

⁷⁰ С. Петрова, Архитектоничната декорация на римските надгробни паметници от района на Сандански. – В: *Известия на Историческия музей Кюстендил*, XIII, 2007, 287-312.

⁷¹ For the development of the type see С. Петрова, Типология и особености ... 8-16.

⁷² E. Akurgal, Vom äolischen zum ionischen Kapitell. – In: *Anatolia*, V, 1960, 1-7, Taf. II-b.

⁷³ Chronologically these are the earliest quarries from the time of Trajan – Hadrian (the end of the 1st and the first third of the 2nd century). The marble for the architectonic decoration for the first Roman buildings has been extracted namely here.



Fig. 13. A marble base of type II, variant B, from the Episcopal basilica; a granite base-postament in situ of type II, variant B, from the remains of the Roman theatre.

Фиг. 13. Базис и постамент на базис од тип 2, варијанта Б од Епископската базилика и од театарот (in situ). Мермер, гранит

in the thermen of Odessus, in Marcianopolis and in Tomis⁷⁴. In their majority the capitals are considered to be import, made of Proconnesian marble. Other such pieces descend from Serdica, without exact provenance, kept now in the National Archaeological Museum; from Pliska, probably transported from Nicopolis ad Istrum; and from Philippopolis and Augusta Trajana. All they are dated in the 2nd – the beginning of the 3rd century (Late Trajanic time, the Antonines and the Early Severans)⁷⁵. The only such capital with flutes published so far from the Republic of Macedonia, is found in Scupi in Upper Moesia. It is a capital with flutes and Ionian cyma at the base for a rectangular pillar. Instead of fluting, there is a vertical acanthus leaf at the corners. The abacus is complexly profiled, but not decorated and according to the researchers it is a part of the colonnade of the supposed Forum⁷⁶.

⁷⁴ С. Петрова, Типология и особености..., 8-16.

⁷⁵ Ibidem, 10-14 and the cited lit.; С. Петрова, *Капителът през римската епоха в Мизия и Тракия*, София 1988, Dissertation, 47 f.

⁷⁶ Д. Коракевиќ, *Op. cit.*, 2002, 151, сл. 105; Лилчиќ, *Op. cit.*, 173, 175, сл. 4.



Fig. 14. Anastylis of the Eastern colonnade on Via Sacra / Mese. Marble and granite bases, bases-postaments and columns.

Фиг. 14. Источна колонада на Via Sacra/Mese. Базис, базис-постаменти, колони. Мермер

The capitals of this variant have inherited the Hellenistic examples of Asia Minor and Attic architecture and reveal the way of their penetration in Parthicopolis. It happened through the settlers from Asia Minor and probably from Egypt, for whom we have at disposal epigraphic data. The settled in Parthicopolis veterans also have helped the “Roman import” of models for the architectonic decoration. The time of the first architecturally decorated buildings and the beginning of the Roman architectural practice in the Balkans (Attica, Thessalia, Beroia, Dion, Scupi and Parthicopolis in Macedonia, Thrace, Upper and Lower Moesia) is the end of the rule of Emperor Trajan and that of Hadrian

Type II, variant „B“, represents the Roman Dorian capitals with tongues, which do not come out of the flutes (**fig. 19 and 21**). It is established, that the variant has existed and has been developed parallel to *variant A*, but it is simpler. The neck of the capital is also elongated and basket-like, but the *variant B* differentiates from *variant A* by the tongues of the flutes. With variant B they are made on the same level of the listel, replacing the echinos and the abacus is not profiled. There are lunulae at the base of the flutes, but they are cut not so deeply and this is one

more essential difference with *variant A*. Under the *lunulae* an Ionian cyma is sculpted, with cut points of the ovulae and as if optically continued by the *lunulae* at the base of the flutes. Their rim and their depth are precisely and finely carved, similarly to *variant A*, and from the same marble, although in some of them the colour is slightly darker. The analysed samples of capitals in *variant B* show coarsened-grained marble, gradating from light to more dark grey, from the Mura deposit, as well as from the contact zone with the deposit Ermilovets. The latter is the first worked out together with Mura and it is the closest one to the already non existing village of Vrabcha, today known under the name of quarries of Ilindentsi.

Capitals of the *variant B* have been unearthed in the neighboring ancient settlement at the town of Melnik, as well as in Nicopolis ad Nestum. They are to be met comparatively frequently in the province of Thracia. This is probably due to the fact that the western and southern parts of present day Bulgaria is more influenced by Greece and Asia Minor than by Rome. Really the capitals with mixed forms (with the lotus-acanthus and fluting-acanthus leaves) are spread predominantly in Attica, the Aegeian coastline and Asia Minor. That’s the reason to consider that this simple variant of the type is preferred by the stone cutters, especially by those with a low qualification. In Asia Minor they can be met in Dydimia⁷⁷, Cumbaba⁷⁸ and Ankara⁷⁹ and are related to the 2nd-3rd century. R. Kautsch also offers examples of capitals with flutes from Athens, Chalki, Aegina and Chaeronea⁸⁰, although dated by him later.

The parallel usage of both variants of the type in the architectural decoration of Parthicopolis is in the chronological limits between the beginning of the 2nd – the first half of the 3rd century. We assume that the reused capitals in the colonnade of the atrium come from buildings, erected at the time between of Hadrian and the middle of the 2nd century, because they have been reused together with the bases on legs, the slender high columns and the capitals of *variant A*, descending from a building erected in these chronological limits (Hadrian-the middle of the 2nd c.). The capitals of *variant B* date from the Late Antonines and the Early Severans. In our opinion both variants

⁷⁷ U. Peschiov, Byzantinische Plastik in Didima. – In: *Ist. Mitteilungen*, 25, 1975, Taf. 38-4.

⁷⁸ M. Baran, G. Petzi. Beobachtungen aus den Nordöstliche Hinterland von Theo.- In: *Ist. Mitteilungen*, 27/28, 1977/78, Teil. 1, 2, Taf. 120-3, 2.

⁷⁹ D. Krencker, M. Schede. *Der Temple in Ankara*. Berlin-Leipzig 1936, 15 ff.

⁸⁰ R. Kautsch, *Kapitellstudien*. Berlin-Leipzig 1936, Taf. 14..



Fig.15. Postaments, bases, columns and capitals in situ from the atrium of the Episcopal basilica.
 Фиг 15. Епископска базилика, атриум. Постаменти, бази, колони и капители (in situ)

have been a part of the decoration of buildings, situated near to the agora of the Roman city, which was at that time in the immediate proximity to the later built Episcopal complex.

3.2. The capitals in the Roman Ionian order.

This type of capitals found in Parthicopolis, have been also reused with the same function in basilica No 1 and in the Episcopal basilica. The colonnade divided basilica No 1 into three aisles. In the first building period it is an arcade on columns in the Roman Ionian order according to the archaeological data. Two entirely preserved capitals come from here. Four of the discovered Roman Ionian capitals are kept in the Archaeological museum of Sandanski, two of them unearthed during the investigations of basilica No 1.

In their composition and decorative schemes these pieces belong to the usual Roman Ionian capitals⁸¹. They are made from a whole block together

with the abacus. The echinus is decorated with an Ionian palmette, flanked from both sides; with differently represented palmettes. The coiled volutes end with a round eye.

The front part of the capitals can be related to an independent **Group I**, with two types in dependence of the peculiarities in making the canalis, the echinus and its decoration with Ionian cyma and the number of the coiled volutes around the round eye and finely on the representation of the palmettes on both sides of the aechinus.

Group I type I is represented by capitals whose front has a strongly or not so strongly drooping downwards canalis, non-decorated abacus decorated echinus (**fig. 22-a and 26-a**). The non-decorated canalis is separated from the abacus by concave “stab” (a horizontal concave edge)⁸² and the canalis is more or less hanging over the middle part of the echinus. A capital found in the Episcopal basilica has a width of hanging equal to the height of the forehead of the

⁸¹ For the terminology, classification and typology of the Roman-Ionian capitals from the Roman period in Bulgaria see С. Петрова. *Римско-йонийски капители от мизия и Тракия (I-IV в.)*. София 1996, 22 сл.

⁸² The “stab” is concave or convex well made rim, dividing the separate elements.



Fig. 16. Granite and porphyry-like granite columns from basilica No 1.
 Фиг. 16. Базилика № 1. Колони од гранит и од порфиرويدен гранит

capital⁸³ (fig. 23-a and 35-a). The echinus' height is small because of the hanging over it canalis. The volutes are coiling from 2 ½ up to 1 ½ times around the round and flat eye (fig. 22-a and 26-a). In one of the capitals wide channels of the volute motif can be observed, which diminishes the number of the volute's coiling.

The strongly hanging over the echinus' canalis is a typical feature for the Attic variant of the Ionian capitals. The hanging palmettes together with the hanging canalis reminding eyebrows can be observed since the Hellenism in continental Greece and in Pergamon in West Asia Minor (the altar of Zeus dated in 197-195 BC). For such monuments from the Roman period the date is usually the 2nd- the 3rd century or the Hadrianic period⁸⁴. The capitals are produced of white or grey-whitish coarse-grained marble, extracted from the Trajan's marble quarries Ermilovets and Mura-West.

The Ionian cyma on the echinus consists of three ovuli in egg-shells, parted by spear-like or egg-and-dart motif or stick-like ornament, and of small arrows with differently formed top. The palmettes flanking both ends of the echinus are plastically sculpted at the volutes and cover almost half of the back ovuli. They

are three-leaved and in some of the capitals the leaves are exceeding over the top (fig. 22-a). The palmettes of the capitals from the Asclepeion in Aphrodisia and from Perge from the 2nd century and from the period of Hadrian reveal identical to Parthicopolis overlapping of the palmettes' leaves⁸⁵. The palmettes are going out of differently formed calyces. One of the capitals is exception, with echinus decorated with one only ovulo on behalf of the palmette represented like a scroll of five sprouts. It is not traditional and covers the space intended for the back ovuli of the Ionian cyma on the echinus (fig. 26-a). Capitals with a similar decorative scheme can be met predominantly in Asia Minor: in the museum of Manissa and Aydın (Tralles/Caesarea) from Pergamon, dated in the 2nd-3rd century⁸⁶; in Heraclea Pontica from the second half of the 2nd century⁸⁷; in the temple of Dionysos in Theos from the period of Hadrian⁸⁸; and in Ostia from the first decades of the 2nd century⁸⁹.

Group I Type II. To this group are related the Roman Ionian capitals with non-decorated abacus and evenly cut canalis and echinus. They have been discovered during the excavations of basilica No 1 in Parthicopolis in the 70^{es} of the 20th century and

⁸³ The forehead is the plain or the decorated space between the abacus and the *pulvinus* of the usual Roman-Ionian capitals.

⁸⁴ O. Bingöl, *Das ionische Normalkapitelle in hellenistischer und römischer Zeit in Kleinasien*. – In: DAI, *Ist. Mitteilungen*, Beiheft 20, 1980, 24, Taf. 1-224, Taf. 2-297, Taf. 877, Taf. 14-249.

⁸⁵ *Ibidem*, Kat. NoNo 74, 76, 248.

⁸⁶ O. Bingöl, *Op.cit.*, 214, Taf. 15-203; Taf. 1-78; 25, Taf. 2-221.

⁸⁷ O. Bingöl, *Op.cit.*, Taf. 41-142.

⁸⁸ O. Puchstein, *Das ionische Kapitelle*. Berlin 1887, 41 ff., Abb. 32, 33; O. Bingöl, *Op.cit.*, Taf. 2-299.

⁸⁹ P. Pensabene, *Scavi di Ostia*, VII, Roma 1973, 39, tav. IX-112.



Fig. 17. Marble and granite columns and bases from basilica № 1 (down) and basilica № 2 (up).
 Фиг. 17. Колони, базиси од Базилика № 1 (долу) и базилика Но 2 (горе). Мермер и гранит

are kept in the Archaeological museum of Sandanski. They are made of grey and grey-whitish coarse-grained marble from the deposit of Mura and contact zone of Mura West/Ermilovets. This type of capitals, generally dated from the end of the 1st to the end of the 4th century, are spread in Rome, Asia Minor and in many city centres in the Balkans⁹⁰. The ones from Claudiopolis are dated in the period of Hadrian⁹¹; those from Aphrodisia and Heraclea Pontica are related to the period between Hadrian and Septimius Severus⁹². One of the capitals from Parthicopolis (**fig. 23-a**) has a parallel with the capital from the museum in Yalvaç (near to Antiochia in Lycaonia)⁹³. It is accepted that such a constructive-decorative scheme of the Roman Ionian capital is near to the Asia Minor variant of the Ionian capitals⁹⁴.

The echinus of the capitals has a decoration of Ionian cyma from ovuli, incised in egg-shells and parted by small arrows with differently formed top:

triangular, thick and massive or by small arrows with short top and pointed ends. The two - leaves palmette, coming out of the foot of the volute, covers almost the half of the back ovuli. The volute is coiling twice around a round and flat eye. Five dots can be observed on the eye's surface, situated in a way similar to the dots standing for the digit five in the modern die (**fig. 25-a**). This technology applied with the purpose of exact drawing, forming and sculpting of the volutes, is proved as typical for the workshops in the quarries of Aliko on the island of Thassos⁹⁵. Such models are found in the Roman agora of Thessaloniki, in basilica C of Amphipolis, in Aegina, Italia and Syria⁹⁶. Although the pieces are produced by the local ateliers in and around Parthicopolis, some of them reveal the same technological scheme created by the workshops of the quarry Aliko on Thassos.

The capitals according to the articulation of the *pulvinus* can be related to **the ones with classically articulated pulvinus and to the group with Roman**

⁹⁰ O. Bingöl, *Op.cit.*, 36-38, Taf. 14, 17, 18, 19.

⁹¹ Ibidem, Taf. 3-81.

⁹² Ibidem, Taf. 8, Taf. 32. Kat. No61, Taf. 33, Kat. No 40.

⁹³ Ibidem, Taf. 11 and 26, Kat. No 310.

⁹⁴ С. Петрова, Цит. съч., София 1996, 31.

⁹⁵ For the details see J. J. Hermann, J.-P. Sodini, Exportations de marbre Thasien à l'époque paléochrétienne : le cas des chapiteaux ioniques. – In: *BCH*, 101, 1977, 473-474, fig. 1-11.

⁹⁶ J. J. Hermann, J.-P. Sodini, *Op. cit.*, 482-493.



Fig.18. The Northern colonnade in the atrium of the Episcopal basilica. Marble and granite.
 Фиг. 18. Северна колонада на атриумот на Епископската базилика. Мермер, гранит.

pulvinus. The first group - classic articulation of the pulvinus is a *variant 1* (according to my classification)⁹⁷, with *balteus* (bandage) with borders (fig. 25-b and 26-b). The second group so-called Roman variant is a *variant 3* (according to the same classification), with different representations decorative motifs on the place of the *balteus*. Such is the capital from basilica No 1 and the one from the episcopal basilica with raised leaf (fig. 24-b). The borders of the *pulvinus* are the following: plain „U“-like convex rim (fig. 25-b); convex twisted ribbon in the form of a roap ornament – fig. 26-b; or *balteus* without borders (fig. 22-b and 23-b).

The decorative motives over the *balteus* are: a row of raised leaves (fig. 22-b, 23-b and 24-b), appearing for the first time in the practice in Asia Minor at the end of the 1st and the beginning of the 2nd century; and sprout turned “S“-like (fig. 25-b and 26-b), their beginning witnessed initially in Moesia already at the end of the 1st century⁹⁸.

According to the decoration of the *pulvinus* the Roman Ionian capitals belong to types I, III, IV, V and X⁹⁹ (fig. 22-b – 26-b).

With *type I* the decoration consists of horizontally placed leaves in two layers (fig. 22-b). The leaves of the upper layer are connected or not connected at their base with a slightly rounded, almost spear-like point with a central rib. The lower layer of leaves has a spear-like form, evident well from their base on. The curb of the *pulvinus* is plain and wide 2.5 cm. As the leaves of the *pulvinus*, the ones in the vertical direction form a *balteus*, reminding scale ornament, and then pass to the forehead of the capital. The analogies for it can be found mainly in capitals from Asia Minor (Aphrodisias, Pergamon, the museum in Ankara, Alanya and the Marble street in Ephesos), all dated in the 2nd century till the Severus (193-235). A capital from Marvintsi in Macedonia from a well dated temple in 181 is an exact parallel for the capital from Parthicopolis¹⁰⁰. Two more parallels descend from Macedonia: the first reused capital is found in the church of Dolno Chichevo, the disytrict of Gradsko¹⁰¹ (the ancient Stobi relates to Gradsko as well); the second similar capital comes from Heraclea¹⁰². Its technological and decorative scheme points that it a product of the workshops in the quarry of Aliko on Thassos, having in mind the five dots on the surface of the volute’s eye, with the help of which it has been drawn and made. Two capi-

⁹⁷ С. Петрова, *Римско-йонийски ...*, 1996, 25 ff.

⁹⁸ С. Петрова, *Римско-йонийски капители от Мизия. Археология*, 1985, 3, 15-25.

⁹⁹ According our typology in С. Петрова, *Op. cit.*, София 1996.

¹⁰⁰ В. Лилчиќ, *Op.cit.*, 238.

¹⁰¹ Ibidem, 278-279.

¹⁰² В. Лилчиќ, *Op.cit.*, 208-209, № 5.

tals from Lichnidus (Ohrid)¹⁰³ have the same scheme with the five dots. The first one, probably from the theatre decoration, reveals a thin short stick, connecting the ovulo with the egg-shell. This technological manner, established during the period of Antoninus Pius (138-161), has been applied not later than the co-ruling of Marcus Aurelius with Lucius Verus in 169¹⁰⁴. The second parallel is the capital from Sirkovo, district Rossoman, from the first half of the 3rd century¹⁰⁵. In our opinion this date should be specified precisely in accordance to the composition, the clearness of carving, the representation of the Ionian cyma (in well formed egg-shells, separated by spear-like ornament), of the palmette with many leaves and most of all on the base of the *balteus* with borders and S-like ornament, documented in the example from Marvintsi from 181. These are the reasons to relate the capital to the last quarter of the 2nd century. More analogies can be discovered among the capitals from Scupi in Upper Moesia, dated mainly in the 2nd century or in the boundaries of the 2nd- 3rd century¹⁰⁶. Following the chronology of the type, represented by the examples from Upper and Lower Moesia, Thracia and Macedonia with their typical Roman elements of decoration and articulation, we date the capital from Parthicopolis to the last quarter of the 2nd century (Late Antonines – Early Severus).

Type III is represented by another capital from basilica No 1 (**fig. 23-b**). The horizontally placed leaves have a central rib, beginning from the *balteus* without borders and reaching to the curb of the volute. The articulation of the *pulvinus* belongs to the Roman variant. The decoration consists of a raised row with leaves, reminding scales, with decorated forehead. Leaves with double rib are inherent to the older decorative practice during the Hellenistic period, whose prototype can be observed in the Rodossian peristyle in Ephesos from the 1st century¹⁰⁷. The origin of the horizontally placed leaves on the *pulvinus*, are to be met in Western Asia Minor, in the examples from the museums of Aydın and Bordur¹⁰⁸, in Laodicea ad Ly-



Fig. 19. A marble Roman-Dorian capital in the Archaeological museum of Sandanski.

Фиг. 19. Римско-дорски капител. Мермер. Археолошки музеј, изложба.

cum¹⁰⁹, in Perge¹¹⁰ and Pergamon¹¹¹. The latter two supply us with numerous monuments from the Late Hadrianic period, which reveals that the apogee of this type of capital is in the middle of the 2nd century. A similar capital, however without the central rib because of its producing from travertine, has been found in the village of Mateiche, disytrict Kumanovo, in the locality Ribnik in the province of Upper Moesia. It is demonstrating the Roman articulation of the *pulvinus* with a *balteus* with leaves, arranged like scales. Parallels for it can be found mainly in Heraclea Lyncestis, dated in the 2nd century or “in the boundaries of the 2nd century” or “dated in the boundaries of the 2nd-3rd century”¹¹². This date should be specified, having in mind the articulation of the capitals, the representation of the echinus (one of them with 5 ovulae in egg-shells, well sculpted and divided in the lower part with spear-like ornament). The palmettes with *calyx* are extremely well sculpted. The five dots, whose traces are clearly visible in the eye of the volute, relate them to the Thassian workshops. This thesis is supported as well by the representation of the echinus, without parallels in the East, but connected rather with the Aegeian seashore and Thassos. Two capitals from Heraclea Lyncestis demonstrate a double profiled rib, very plastically made, following the coiling of the volute. When compared by their style and decoration, the capitals from Moesia and mainly from Thracia, with the ones from Heraclea Lyncestis, the ones made by the Thassian and Asia Minor ateliers, we can conclude, that the capital from

¹⁰³ Ibidem, 368 – 1, 371 – 1, 372 – 2, 373.

¹⁰⁴ This technological manner is established during the study of the Roman Dorian and Roman Ionian capitals in the provinces of Thracia and from Oescus in Lower Moesia, see С. Петрова, Типология и особености на римско-дорийския капител, *Археология* 1990, 3, 8-16. This leads to the re-dating of the capital from the 3rd century to the second-third quarter of the 2nd century.

¹⁰⁵ Ibidem, 304-305.

¹⁰⁶ Ibidem, 173-174.

¹⁰⁷ O. Bingöl, *Op.cit.*, Kat. No 128.

¹⁰⁸ Ibidem, 82-86, Taf. 25, NoNo 77, 78, 82, 83.

¹⁰⁹ Ibidem, Taf. 25, No 178, Taf. 37, No 180.

¹¹⁰ Ibidem, Taf. 38, No 233-235, 237

¹¹¹ Ibidem, Taf. 37, No 76.

¹¹² В. Лилчиќ, *Op.cit.*, 206, № 3, 208-209 и цит.лит.



Fig.20. Marble Roman-Dorian capitals of type II, variant A, with compound profiled abacus. The Northern colonnade in the atrium of the Episcopal basilica.

Фиг. 20. Римско-дорски капители тип 2, варијанта А, со сложено профилиран абак. Мермер. Северна колонада на атриумот на Епископската базилика.

Parthicopolis is a local product from the last quarter of the 2nd century and the beginning of the 3rd century (Late Antonines – Early Severs).

Type IV is represented by a capital from the Episcopal basilica in Parthicopolis, with a *balteus* with horizontally placed scale-like leaves on the pulvinus (**fig. 24-b**). The leaves are in several rows with convex central rib with rounded and spear-like form. The curb of the volute is plain. This kind of decoration repeats an earlier scheme created during the Late Hellenism and applied in the capitals of the temple of Artemis and in the south side of the Agora of Magnesia¹¹³. The final decorative scheme has been completed in the period of Augustus in the 1st century BC in the capitals of the temple of Aphrodite in Aphrodisia¹¹⁴. The motif is widely used in the Eastern (Asia Minor) provinces. The apogee of the scale motif on the pulvinus of the Roman Ionian capitals is in Pergamon¹¹⁵. In our opinion this city was the place of spreading the type to the Balkan provinces too by

the help of itinerant stone-cutters or settlers from the Pergamonian-Ephessian school, created at the end of the Trajan's ruling and especially during the building program of Hadrian¹¹⁶. This is namely the time of development of the ornamental motifs in the Roman architecture. The scale motif then has been widely spread in the decoration of all the Roman provinces, especially from the Late Hadrianic period up to the period of Severs, when also the decoration with combination of scrolls is used on the forehead of the capital. The closest parallels to the Roman Ionian capital are the pieces from Nicopolis ad Istrum, Heraclea Pontica and Hierapolis, related to the Early Severs¹¹⁷. The motif of leaves represented as scales is also on the pulvinus of a capital from Scupi from the 2nd century ("dating in the boundaries of the 2nd-3rd century" according to В. Лилчиќ)¹¹⁸. The scale motif can be observed too on a capital from the peristyle

¹¹³ W. Höpfer, Zum Ionischen Kapitell bei Hermogenes und Vitruv. – In: *AA*, 83, 1968, Taf. 78-1, 2; Taf. 79-1.

¹¹⁴ O. Bingöl, *Op. cit.*, 90.

¹¹⁵ *Ibidem*, 100-101, NoNo 56, 58-63, 65, 66, Taf. 32, 39.

¹¹⁶ For the schools in the quarries on the Balkans and their activity see С. Петрова, Цит. съч., София 1996, 40 и следващи.

¹¹⁷ O. Bingöl, *Op. cit.*, 89-91, NoNo 139 and 146, Taf. 28.

¹¹⁸ В. Лилчиќ, *Op. cit.*, 175.

west of the Odeion in Nicopolis ad Istrum, product of Asia Minor masters from the 2nd century¹¹⁹.

Type V of decoration on the pulvinus of the Roman Ionian capitals from Parthicopolis is represented by a capital found during the excavations of basilica № 1 (**fig. 25-b**). The decoration is antemion on the both sides of the *balteus*, with borders and S-like ornament. The curb of the volute is plain and wide 2 cm. The decorative scheme consists of two pairs of leaves placed horizontally with depicted leaf of reed with clearly shown central rib. The leaves of the antemion with equal length go out of the *balteus* and reach to the curb of the volute. There are two back leaves of the antemion with coiled inside tops, similarly to the eye. The pairs of leaves are divided by a reed leaf with concave central rib, placed horizontally in the whole length from the *balteus* to the curb of the volute. The Ionian cyma on the echinus is divided by small arrows with short point and the enclosing from both sides palmette is with two leaves.

The Late Hellenistic period demonstrates examples of decoration with antemion on the pulvinus of the Ionian capitals. The antemion is many times repeated on the Ionian capitals and other elements, mainly friezes, in the Asia Minor architecture¹²⁰. The capital from Marvintsi, dated in 181¹²¹, is analogical to the capital from Parthicopolis, its *balteus* and the representation of the reed leaf; another parallel is the one from Milassa from the time of Hadrian and the one from the Asclepion of Aphrodisia with a general date in the 2nd century¹²². This scheme can be met in the Asia Minor provinces¹²³ predominantly in the cities of the created by Vespasian provinces of Lycia and Pamphylia, and most of all in Side. In the Balkan provinces of Moesia and Thracia¹²⁴ this decoration (antemion or palmette) is also frequently met. A capital, extremely well modelled, with similar articulation and decoration of the forehead and the neck (the echinus and the pulvinus) comes from the ancient settlement of the Golyamo Gradishte at Konyuh¹²⁵, the locality Kshla, district Kratovo in the



Fig. 21. Marble Roman-Dorian capitals, type II, variant B. The Northern colonnade in the atrium of the Episcopal basilica.

Фиг. 21. Римско-дорски капители тип 2, варијанта Б, со сложено профилиран абак. Мермер. Северна колонада на атриумот на Епископската базилика.

Roman province of Thracia. The examples similar to Parthicopolis from Macedonia are numerous: a capital from Chashka¹²⁶, similar to Konyuh, dated in the 3rd century (however, in our opinion the date may be specified as not later than the dynasty of Severus); the capitals from Marvintsi and Chepigovo (Stybera)¹²⁷; two capitals from Heraclea Lyncestis¹²⁸ with the same decoration as in Parthicopolis on the forehead with Ionian cyma on the echinus and decorated *pulvinus*, but more plastically modeled and with the 5 dots for designing and sculpting the volute as a sign of the Thassian workshop; and capitals from Corinth in roman province of Achaea¹²⁹. One of the capitals from Heraclea has 5 dots on the eye of the volute, serving for designing the motif of the volute, which is

¹¹⁹ С. Петрова, Цит. съч., София 1996, 61.

¹²⁰ В. Filarska, *Studia nad dekoracjami architektonicznymi Palmyry*, Studia Palmyrenskie, II, Warszawa 1967, 16-17, fig. 45-47; 28, 135, fig. 175.

¹²¹ В. Лилчиќ, *Op.cit.*, 2001, 238.

¹²² О. Bingöl, *Op.cit.*, No 207, 74.

¹²³ W. Alzinger, *Op. cit.*, 1974, Taf. 39 and Taf. 61-63, Abb. 99 a-c; О. Bingöl, *Op.cit.*, Taf. 34-36; NoNo 23, 55, 74, 75, 114, 115, 162, 240, 247, 249, 251, 254, 256, 259, 261, 289.

¹²⁴ С. Петрова, Цит. съч., 1996, 26-28.

¹²⁵ В. Лилчиќ, *Op.cit.*, 308-309, dated at the end of the 2nd and probably in the first half of the 3rd century.

¹²⁶ *Ibidem*, 493-494.

¹²⁷ *Ibidem*, 237-238, 428-431.

¹²⁸ П. Мачкиќ, И. Микулчиќ, Каталог на античките предмети од Хераклеја (камена пластика). *Хераклеја I*. Битола 1961, 55, бр. 50, сл. 50, бр. 51, сл. 51; В. Лилчиќ, *Op.cit.*, 206, бр. 1 и 2, dated in the 2nd century.

¹²⁹ Corinth 1941, 67, fig. 45.



Fig.22. A marble Roman-Ionian capital from basilica No 1: a/ echinus and volute; b/ pulvinus.

Фиг. 22. Римско-јонски капител. Мермер. Базилика № 1 А) ехин и волути Б) перница.

a technical manner proved for the Thassian ateliers. The precisely made volute motif, the extremely plastic palmette hanging like “eyebrows”, together with the decoration of the echinus, the decoration of the pulvinus, the form of the canalis and echinus allow to suggest a more precise dating in the 2nd century, not later than the end of the first quarter and the middle of the century (Late Hadrian – early Antoninus Pius). This date is supported as well by the Ionian cyma with finely modeled ovuli on the echinus and egg-shells, divided by an also fine small arrow. The thin stick is gathering together the ovuli, its points and also the egg-shells of the ovuli and the shoulders of the small arrows, which is a technological manner typical for the monuments of the period of Antoninus Pius in Thracia and Moesia¹³⁰. The marble of the capital also points to the material used by the workshops in Aliko on the island of Thassos and to the import from there of this piece.

The representation together of the antemion, palmette or differently made acanthus leaf is witnessed in the period of Late Hadrian – Early Antonines.

¹³⁰ С. Петрова, Типология и особености на римско-дорийския капител, *Археология* 1990, 3, 8-16.

Their prototypes are established predominantly in Asia Minor: from the time of Augustus in the basilica in Ephesos and the museum in Bergama, most possibly originating from Pergamon¹³¹. The majority of the discovered Roman Ionian capitals of the type are related to the time of Hadrian¹³². Such a date in the middle-second half of the 2nd century and not later than the 70es-80es of it for the capital from Parthiopolis is quite acceptable for us, having in mind the clear chronology of the S-like ornament in Macedonia (181) and the applying of the decorative motif on the *pulvinus* in the period from Hadrian to the Late Antonines.

The last Type X. It has a *pulvinus* with fluting (fig. 26-b). We don't know any other example among the Roman Ionian capital with such a decoration from the Balkan provinces. Until now the capital from Parthiopolis is the only one, representative of an independent type of capital decoration. It is made by grey-whitish coarse-grained marble from the contact zone of the deposits Ermilovets and Mura in the quarries of Trajan. The flutes are arched curvet, in direction to the volute' curb and the forehead of the capital. The *pulvinus* is articulated in a classical way, with a *balteus* with borders. The forehead is very big and fusing to the abacus. The *pulvinus* is very narrow at the *balteus*. The decoration of the *balteus* is S-like ornament similar to that of the capital from Marvintsi from 181.

Such fluted decoration, more typical for the friezes and capitals in the Roman Dorian order with elongated neck, is established too with a Roman Ionian capital from Side from the period of Antonines and with the Roman Ionian capitals in the basilica in Ephesos¹³³. The difference between the fluting in the capital from Side and Parthiopolis is that in the first case it is twisted: in the one half of the *pulvinus* the flutes are directed to the forehead of the capital and in the other one their direction is pointed to the base of the capital. The date of the capitals from Asia Minor in the same model and scheme in the time of the Antonines allows placing the capital from Parthiopolis in the same time.

¹³¹ O. Bingöl, *Op.cit.*, Kat. NoNo 100 and 215.

¹³² O. Bingöl, *Op.cit.*, 100.

¹³³ O. Bingöl, *Op.cit.*, 133, Taf. 41-290 and note 123; Ph. Stinson, Imitation and Adaptation in Architectural Design: Two Roman Basilicas at Ephesus and Aphrodisias. – In: *Neue Zeiten – Neue Sitten. Zu Rezeption und Integration römischen und italischen Kulturguts in Kleinasien* (ed. M. Meyer), Wien 2007, 91-99; Ph. Stinson, The Civil Basilica: urban context, design, significance. Aphrodisias Papers 4. New research on the city and its monuments (ed. by Ch. Ratté and R. R. R. Smith) – In: *Journal of roman archaeology, Supplementary series number 70*, 2008, 79-106.

The Roman Ionian capitals from Parthicopolis reveal their production in the period from Hadrian to the end of the dynasty of the Antonines/the Early Severs, which means during almost the whole 2nd century, coinciding with the economic boom of the city. On the base of the construction and the decoration of the capitals we can establish the influence of several architectural schools. When constructing and carving the volutes and the outlining of the echinus some capitals reveal the repertoire of the schools and stone-cutters of Thassos, mainly from the quarries at Aliki. In the decoration of the pulvinus and its articulation the influence predominantly of Asia Minor models and schools can be felt. Most probably their production and the closeness of Parthicopolis to the boundary with Thracia, where masters from the East worked, all this have influenced the decorative models of the Roman Ionian capitals in the city. We can establish according to the decorative schemes the probable participation of itinerant groups of stone-cutters or in the centers of production created at the quarries, coming from Phrygia, Caria, Pisidia, Lycia and Pamphylia. The cities which have created the best centers and stone schools in the Roman period are Ephesos, Pergamon, Aphrodisias, Dokimeion, Hierapolis, Perge, Sagalassos and Side. The wide spread of the models of these schools in Macedonia and Thracia is due to the great number of Eastern settlers, also due to the veterans settled in or near Parthicopolis, as well due to the trade connections for the extraction and the reworking of marble from the Trajan quarries north of the city. We suggest that in it, or rather in the quarries of the city, there existed workshops including also the participation of Eastern itinerant masters. Probably the leading masters of these ateliers and the heads of the schools have been at the same time merchants of the architectonic elements. The variety of decorative models on the pulvinus and on the front part of the Ionian capitals from Parthicopolis demonstrates the total use of the order, concurrent to the monuments from the Corinthian order, applied in the buildings of the city.



Fig.23. A marble Roman-Ionian capital from unknown provenance, now in the Archaeological museum of Sandanski: a/echinus and volutes;b/ pulvinus; c/pulvinus and soffit to the column.

Фиг. 23. Римско-јонски капител. Мермер. Непознато наоѓалиште, Археолошки музеј. А) ехин и волути; Б) перница; С) перници и софит кон колоните.

3.3. The reused capitals of the Roman Corinthian order

They are found as *spoliae* in the ruins of the Late Antique and Early Christian city, namely in the basilica № 2, № 4 (the Episcopal one) and in No 7. The capitals are made of the local marble in the local workshops working under the influence of different schools. The marble has been supplied from the mentioned many times Trajan quarries and concretely from the deposits Ermilovets, Gingera, Mura and Mura-West.

From the Episcopal basilica descend six entirely preserved capitals for columns, one anta Roman-Corinthian capital and a plenty of fragments¹³⁴. It is established that during the erecting of the colonnade in the naos of the Episcopal basilica the different height of the column shafts and of the bases has been compensated with the different height of the reused marble capitals. The same is probably valid with the colonnade in the other basilicas with reused architectonic capitals, bases and columns. Several *column capitals with four leaves* are found as *spoliae* in basilica No 2 and one in basilica No 7¹³⁵. Several more

¹³⁴ С. Петрова, Коринтски капители от Епископската базилика в Сандански. *Археология* 1-4, 2007, 122-131.

¹³⁵ The archaeological investigations under the head of



Fig. 24. A marble Roman-Ionian capital from the colonnade on the second floor of the naos. The Episcopal basilica; a/echinus and volutes; b/pulvinus.

Фиг. 24. Римско-јонски капител. Мермер. Епископска базилика, колонада од втори кат на наосот.

fragments of Roman Corinthian capitals are kept in the Archaeological museum of Sandanski.

The variety of types of the Corinthian capital belongs however to the Western and the Eastern architectural practice. Initially the prototypes have been created and spread predominantly in the Asia Minor stone workshops. Practically the Corinthian capital conquers the Roman architectonic sculpture in the 2nd century, being the base for creating the later types during the Late Roman and Early Byzantine period.

The acanthus leaf is the main feature for determination of the Roman Corinthian capitals to the different regional schools and groups. The representation and the form of the leaf in the Greek and Hellenistic

S. Petrova. With similar capitals is the colonnade of the round (?) piazza, east of the atrium and the south aisle of the Episcopal basilica (investigations under the head of V. Petkov). For more details of the plan and the chronology see S. Petrova, *The Early Christian basilicas in the urban planning of Parthicopolis*. – In: *Нии и Византија XIII* (ed. M. Rakocija), 2015, 161-184, fig. 16; S. Petrova, *The Roman Theatre of Parthicopolis/Parthicopolis and its historical fortune*. – In: *Нии и Византија XIV* (ed. M. Rakocija), 2016, 187-212, fig. 1.

period, is with the so-called “sharp acanthis” (*acanthus spinosus*). E. Weigand and the researchers after him defy the form of the acanthus leaf and its cutting as “eastern” (*acanthus spinosus*) and “western” (*acanthus mollis*), the latter with a mild, rounded spoon-like form¹³⁶. The configurations made during the neighboring cutouts, called “eyes”, have different forms in the East and the West. During the Republic the “eyes” of the eastern variant are almost round, probably under the influence of its Hellenistic prototype at the beginning. Such are the capitals from Largo Argentina, the Forum in Rome, etc.¹³⁷. Later the form is changed and the “eye” becomes elongated and obtains drop-like form (of a tear). In the 3rd and the 4th century on behalf of the “eyes” there are introduced trapezoidal-shape and rhomboidal elements, as two and more pairs from the neighboring cutouts can form a combined touch¹³⁸.

On the base of the stylistic analyses of the Roman-Corinthian capitals, all they initially have been used in buildings from the end of the 1st, the 2nd and the beginning of the 3rd century. In Parthicopolis there exist **two main types** of the Roman Corinthian capitals: 1. Capitals with incomplete apparatus¹³⁹; 2. Four-leaf capitals in dependence of the represented on the capitals elements. The development and the changes of the acanthus leaf helps in establishing the chronology and the territorial borrowing. Another classification in literature of the capitals is made in dependence of the separate regional standards for the definite types and also on the base of the acanthus leaf: normal Corinthian capital and Asia Minor Corinthian capital¹⁴⁰.

¹³⁶ E. Weigand, *Vorgeschichte des Korinthischen Kapitells*, Würzburg 1920, 5 sqq; E. Weigand, Baalbek und Rom. Die Römische Reichskunst in ihrer Entwicklung und Differenzierung. – In: *Jahrbuch DAI* 29, 1914, 37-91; P. Pensabene, *Scavi di Ostia. I capitelli*. VII, Roma 1973, 201 sqq; Ma G. Behemerid, Sobre la sistematización del capitel corintio en la península Iberica, *BSAA*, XLVIII, 1982, 25 sqq.

¹³⁷ H. v. Hesberg, Lo sviluppo dell'ordine corinzio in età tardorepublicana. – In: *L'art decoratif a Rome. Ecole Française de Rome*, 55, 1981, 35, fig. 2; 43, fig. 20; 41-42, fig. 14, 17.

¹³⁸ С. Н. Бобчев, Римско-коринтски капители от Югозападна и Северна България и мястото им в развитието на римско-коринтския капител, *Известия на Археологическия Институт*, 1970, 95 и пос. там лит.

¹³⁹ So far in Parthicopolis no capital of the type with full apparatus has been found.

¹⁴⁰ С. Петрова, *Капителът*. ..., дисертация, София 1988, 119-121; E. Weigand, *Vorgeschichte des Korinthischen Kapitells*, Würzburg 1920; F. D. Heilmayer, *Korinthische Normalkapitelle. Studien zur geschichte der römischen Architekturdécoration*. Heidelberg, 1970; С. Н.

The normal type is represented by pieces with two rows of leaves which take more than the half of the capital's height (fig. 27-30). They usually have 5 palms with 4-5 cutouts in a palm, and 3 cutouts in a palm at the base of the capital. When, it has all the essential elements by the canon that means capital with full apparatus, than the helices have leaves with a three palms. The volutes and the helices are slightly convex and with the form of bands. The stem of the profiled abacus flower grows out of the innerside of the helices. This kind is called also canonical¹⁴¹. Its spreading begins already in the 2nd century BC (the capitals of the round temple on Forum Boarium¹⁴²). They are widely applied in the period of Augustus and all along the imperial period. In the 3rd and the 4th century there is established a constant tendency of its simplifying and schematism¹⁴³.

For *the Asia Minor type of the Corinthian capital* the sharp acanthus is typical, divided in 5 palms with more narrow and long cutouts with sharp points (fig. 31 – 33). They illustrate the influence of the traditional Hellenistic form with deep rib of the leaves, precisely cutted and modeled with triangle form, gathering together consequently up down in two parallel ribs. The stem of the caulis is protruded from the surface of the calathus and the volutes and the helices are smooth¹⁴⁴. In the West Roman provinces this type is spread during the Severan period and in the whole 3rd and 4th century¹⁴⁵. Its components and especially the form of the acanthus leaf are influenced by the normal Corinthian capital. Later some of its elements are simplyfied and reduced. Naturally the type has appeared in the Eastern and the Balkan provinces quite earlier, developing on the base of the Hellenistic prototypes. After the 1st century AD it spreads also in Rome, where it gains dominancy and establishes for any length of time as a result of the influence of the Eastern stone-cutters schools. Its constructive elements are influenced by the normal



Fig.25. Marble Roman-Ionian capital with unknown provenance, now in the Archaeological museum of Sandanski.: a/echinus and volutes; b/pulvinae.

Фиг. 25. Римско-јонски капител. Мермер. Непознато наоѓалиште, Археолошки музеј. А) ехин и волути; Б) перница.

capital, but there are many essential differences in the decorative ones¹⁴⁶.

The capitals from the naos of the Episcopal basilica belong to two main types, typical for the Eastern and the Roman Balkan provinces: to the normal and to the Asia Minor Corinthian capitals. Relating the elements they are compound, they have an incomplete apparatus. The lip of the calathus is clearly visible and designated. Two rows with leaves take almost the half of the whole height of the capital, in some cases even overcoming it a little bit. The acanthus leaves are eight in each row. The leaves in the lower row have 5 palms with 3 cutouts in the lower palms and three (fig. 27, 28, 30) or 4 cutouts in the rest ones (fig. 29, 31, 32 и 33). In all the cited cases they touch each other and form an “eye” like a tear. The acanthus leaves of the second row, possesses visible in the basis of a double rib even from between the leaves of the lower row, which is gathering together all the palms with their cutouts. This is a feature especially characteristic for the Asia Minor models and stonemason ateliers. The leaves are sharp, realistically and extremely well sculpted. Their ribs have a concave triangle rib and the touching of the leaves from the cutouts is mainly to those from the

Бобчев, Римско-коринтски капители от Югозападна и Северна България и мястото им в развитието на римско-коринтския капител, *Известия на Археологическия Институт*, 1970; P. Pensabene, *Scavi di Ostia. I capitelli*. VII, Roma 1973; H. v. Hesberg, Lo sviluppo dell'ordine corinzio in eta tardorepublicana. – In: *L'art decoratif a Rome. Ecole Francaise de Rome*, 55, 1981; Ma G. Behemerid, Sobre la sistematizacion del capitel corintio en la peninsula Iberica, *BSAA*, XLVIII, 1982 и др.

¹⁴¹ P. Pensabene, *Op.cit.*, 203

¹⁴² H. v. Hesberg, *Op.cit.*, 21.

¹⁴³ F. D. Heilmayer, *Korinthische Normalkapitelle. Studien zur geschichte der römischen Architekturdekoration*. Heidelberg, 1970, 12-13

¹⁴⁴ P. Pensabene, *Op.cit.*, № 347, 256, 361, 364

¹⁴⁵ *Ibidem*, 257.

¹⁴⁶ С. Петрова, *Капителът* ..., София 1988, 121.



Fig.26. A marble Roman-Ionian capital with unknown provenance, now in the Archaeological museum of Sandanski: a/echinus and volutes; b/ pulvillus.

Фиг. 26. Римско-јонски капител. Мермер. Непознато наоѓалиште, Археолошки музеј. А) ехин и волути; Б) перница.

upper cutouts and not to the cutouts from the palms of the next acanthus leaf, which is an obvious sign of their early production.

The basis of the upper row with leaves is visible already among the set apart leaves of the lower row. The caulis is too schematic (fig. 29 и 32). A similar way of making has a capital from basilica No 1 in the situated not far Scupi in Upper Moesia¹⁴⁷ and from Stobi in Macedonia¹⁴⁸. A calyx is established only in one capital, where the internal leaves play the role of helices (fig. 29). Its abacus flower is richly decorated, which except as a stalk growing out among the inner leaves of the helices, has two symmetrical leaves, modeled extremely realistically. Some of the capitals have band-like concave helices, with ends coined in the form of an “eye” and with marked concave center. Similar coiling of the eye can be observed also with the capitals in the Ionian order in Sandanski, products of the local workshops¹⁴⁹. The double profiled helices, whose ribbons support the horns of the abacus (fig. 27, 28 и 30), may be found also in the capitals

¹⁴⁷ В. Лилчиќ, *Op.cit.*, 165 ff.

¹⁴⁸ В. Лилчиќ, *Op.cit.*, 260.

¹⁴⁹ С.Петрова, *Римско-јонийски*, София 1996, Табл. II – 24 и Табл. IV – 40.

from the first row on the façade of the scaene of the theatre in Stobi¹⁵⁰ and in the capitals from the locality Topelets in Nov Doiran, dated in the first half of the 2nd century¹⁵¹. Only with the anta capital (fig. 30) the ribbon-like helices don't coil spirally, but represent a parted into two stem of the abacus flower. Similar scheme of the helices like a stem of the abacus flower can be found with the reused capitals of columns in the Roman Corinthian style of the colonnade of the street at the Eastern gate of Philippopolis¹⁵².

The bands of the helices are presented in two manners: as a smooth (even) band or slightly convex. It is established that the slightly convex form of the helices and of the diagonal volutes, supporting the four horns of the abacus, are a characteristic feature for the normal Corinthian capital, while the smooth band of the helices and the gathering of the ribs of the eyelets and the palms of the acanthus leaf in one mutual rib is typical for the Asia Minor capital. In our case we have a symbiosis of both most frequently carved capitals.

The height of the capitals in the naos of the basilica varies from 43 cm to 56 cm. The diameter of the column shaft can be also different, from 36 cm up to 48 cm. The height of the profiled abacus is between 7.5cm and 10cm. The capitals are equally slender, because the relation of the height to the deameter is comparatively the 1.1-1.2. The capitals possess the general compositional scheme of the incomplete apparatus, with underlined influence of Asia Minor type.

The development of the scheme of the Corinthian capitals with incomplete apparatus begins in Asia Minor from the end of the 1st – the middle of the 2nd century¹⁵³. Their genesis is looked for by the researchers mainly in Antiochia¹⁵⁴. The Corinthian

¹⁵⁰ Б. Сария, Позориште у Стобима, *Годишњак музеја Јужне Србије* 1, 1937, 33, сл. 39; В. Лилчиќ, *Op.cit.*, 257-259, № 3.

¹⁵¹ В. Лилчиќ, *Op.cit.*, 284-285.

¹⁵² С. Петрова, *Капителът ...* София 1988, Catalog of the Roma Corinthian capitals, кат. № 3, табл. 41, dated in the second half of the 2nd century. The difference here is in the fact that the ribbon of the helices is doubled and reminds very much of the helices of the column capitals of the basilica No 4 in Sandanski. See also Е. Кесякова, *Philippopolis. Филипопол през римската епоха*, София 1999, 96, обр. 119.

¹⁵³ R. Kautzsch, *Kapitellstudien. Beiträge zu einer Geschichte des Spätantiken in Osten vom IV bis VII Jah.* Berlin-Leipzig, 1936; Heilmayer, *Op.cit.*, 172; С. Н. Бобчев, Цит.съч., 93; С. Петрова, Четирилистни колонни римско-коринтски капители от фонда на НАМ-София, *Археология*, 4, 1992, 42-46.

¹⁵⁴ R. Delbrueck, *Hellenistische Bauten in Latium.* Strassburg, 1907-12, 163.



Fig.27. A marble Roman-Corinthian column capital.
The colonnade at the entrance of the naos in the
Episcopal basilica, first floor.

Фиг. 27. Римско-коринтски колонаден капител.
Мермер. Колонада на наосот на Епископската
базилика – први кат.



Fig.28. A marble Roman-Corinthian column capital.
The colonnade at the entrance of the naos in the
Episcopal basilica, first floor.

Фиг. 28. Римско-коринтски колонаден капител.
Мермер. Колонада на наосот на Епископската
базилика – први кат.

capitals from the Episcopal basilica in Parthicopolis lack in the majority caulis and calyx. There are only two exceptions: the first one is the fragment of capital for a column with two preserved rows of acanthus leaves, in which the basis of the calyx (**fig. 31**) can be observed; the second one is the anta capital, in which the double stem of the abacus flower replaces the helices (**fig. 30**). With another capital the two rows of acanthus leaves do not possess the necessary by the canon height, therefore they look shortened and clumsy (**fig. 29**). The cutouts in the palms of the acanthus leaves in some capitals are fluently broken like arcs, whereas the touching of two neighbouring cutouts form a tear-like form or turn almost horizontally, configurating geometric figures (**fig. 29 and 33**). When touching the following figures are formed in the lower acanthus row: triangle, rectangle, lozenge (placed horizontally by its width). Similar geometric figures outlined in the same way of placing, carving and touching can be observed also in the examples of the more remote or near by Roman provinces¹⁵⁵: in the capitals from Scupi from the Severan period up to the middle of the 3rd century¹⁵⁶; and in the Rotunda in Thessaloniki from the 4th century¹⁵⁷. In our opinion

¹⁵⁵ M. L. Fischer, *Das Korinthische Kapitell im Alten Israel in der hellenistischen un römischen Periode*, Mainz am Rhein 1990, 50-51, Typ VEa(1), No 181-185, Typ VEa(2), No 186-189; K. S. Freyberger, *Stadtrömische Kapitele aus der Zeit von Domitian bis Alexander Severus*, Mainz am Rhein 1990, 126-127, Taf. 46, No 308-a.

¹⁵⁶ В. Лилчиќ, *Op. cit.*, 168, № 6.

¹⁵⁷ X. Τσιουμη, Δ. Πρακτιτζη, *Κιονοκρανατης συλλογης της Ροτοντας Θεσσαλονικης*. Μακεδονικα 1973, 24-26, Πιν. 1-2.

the latter capitals are reused and taken from an earlier building, not later than the middle of the 3rd century, because they do not reveal the chronological features of capitals which should be related to 306, the possible initial date of the building of the Rotunda. Their decorative features are nearer to that from the period of Severus than to the period of Constantine the Great. The leaves palms are most of all five, and in each palm the cutouts can be from 3 to 5. The curves of the cutouts of the palms are formed in a different way as a result two touching each other neighboring cutouts form a tear-like space. They are typical for the decorative practice of the 1st-2nd century in the provinces of Asia Minor, Italy and the Iberian peninsula, with the latter examples influenced by the presence of masters from the Asia Minor schools.

The practice to represent the acanthus leaves of the column capitals with slightly curly forms and mild curving of the cutouts, which are touching each other and forming a tear-like configuration, emerges in the ateliers of Asia Minor already at the end of the 2nd century BC¹⁵⁸, continuing the initial manner of the earliest representations of the acanthus cutouts in the Classical Greek and the Hellenistic period. The prototypes of this practice with developed non-broken cutouts of the leaf gingers have been created at the time of Augustus, in the workshops of Ephesus, and can be seen in the monuments of his early building period there. In the second floor of the basilica of Ephesus from the same time there are created new forms of representation of the acanthus leaf, which became canonical for the Roman architectonic dec-

¹⁵⁸ Heilmeyer, *Op. cit.*, 87, Taf. 25, 3.4.



Fig.29. A marble Roman-Corinthian column capital. The colonnade of the naos in the Episcopal basilica, first floor.

Фиг. 29. Римско-коринтски колонаден капител. Мермер. Колонада на наосот на Епископската базилика – први кат.



Fig.30. A marble anta Roman-Corinthian capital. The colonnade of the naos in the Episcopal basilica, first floor.

Фиг. 30. Римско-коринтски колонаден капител. Мермер. Колонада на наосот на Епископската базилика – први кат.

oration¹⁵⁹. The workshops of Asia Minor use a similar way of representation of the acanthus leaf during the Early Empire, the Julio-Claudian dynasty under the Hellenistic influence. The deep carving of the ribs of the acanthus cutouts, the non-touching of the two neighboring palms of the acanthus leaves and the comparatively big space among them, allowing the watching of its growth in the second row with bases in the first row, all these features constitute the decorative-constructive practice of the workshops in Moesia, Thracia and the eastern part of Macedonia, to which administration Parthicopolis belongs. Similar artistic manner, as it has been already stated, is typical for the Eastern schools and can be observed in a lot of monuments produced by the Ephessian stone-cutter school¹⁶⁰. At the end of the 1st century during the reign of the Flavians, the school is influenced in its development by the new fashion trends and the way of representing of the acanthus leaf and its carving¹⁶¹. The large scale of building in Pergamon during the time of Trajan helps too for the establishing of these forms in the decorative practice¹⁶². A common school has been created, which reasonably can be named Ephessian-Pergamian and which is mighty challenging to the Aphrodisian one, and probably to that of Dokimeion in the struggle for the decoration of max-

imum buildings. Later the Aphrodisian School gives way and in the most cases its masters are making the decoration with imported marble from Docimeion, but based on the models of the Pergamian-Ephessian school. The architectonic details and the *mensa sacra* found in Novae on the Danube are made from Dokimeion marble, probably imported through the harbour of Odessus and brought to Novae by the river¹⁶³. The rest of architectonic elements from the same basilica are made of Proconnesian marble¹⁶⁴. Probably again through the harbour of Osessus has been imported the *mensa sacra* of the basilica on the cap Sv. Atanasius at the town of Byala, carved by the workshops of Dokimeions¹⁶⁵.

¹⁵⁹ W. Alzinger, *Op. cit.*, 1974, 89-92, Taf. 74, Abb. 117.

¹⁶⁰ E. Wiegand, Zweiter Bericht über die Ausgrabungen in Pergamon 1928-1932. Das Asklepieion. *Akad. der Wiss.*, 1932, phil.-hist. Klasse №5, 1932, 157; F. D. Heilmeyer, *Op.cit.*, 1970, 87-92; K. S. Freyberger, *Op.cit.*, 1990, 7-10.

¹⁶¹ W. Alzinger, *Op.cit.*, 1974, 90, Taf. 76, Abb. 121.

¹⁶² F. D. Heilmeyer, *Op.cit.*, 1970, 88-93.

¹⁶³ A. Biernacki, J. Skoczylas, The Classification of Rock Material in Juxtaposition with the Typology of Capitals in Novae. – In: *Novaensia*, 14, 2003, 197-210; A. Biernacki, A marble sigma-shaped mensa from Novae. In: *Der Limes an der Unteren Donau von Diokletian bis Heraclios. Vortr. Der Int. Konf. Svishtov (1. – 5. Sept. 1998)*, Sofia, 1999, 75-86.

¹⁶⁴ A. Biernacki, Remarks on early Christian architectural details made of proconnesian marble and found in Novae (Moesia Inferior). – In: *Late roman and early Byzantine cities on the Lower Danube, Int. conf., Poznan 15-17 nov. 1995*. Poznan, 1997, 71 – 80.

¹⁶⁵ A. B. Biernacki, V. Yotov, A. Minčev, The Origin of the Marble of the Architectural Elements and Details from the Early-Christian Church at Cape Sveti Atanas near Bjala (Bulgaria). – *Ad fines imperii Romani. Studia Thaddaeo Sarnowski septuagenario ab amicis, collegis discipulisque dedicata*. Varsaviae, 2015, p. 417–435. The marble from the buildings of Hieropolis is also imported from Docimeion and not from the near by Aphrodisia because of its low cost (according to the data given to me by Gracia Sem-



Fig.31. A marble Roman-Corinthian column capital. The colonnade of the naos in the Episcopal basilica, first floor.

Фиг.31. Римско-коринтски колонаден капител. Мермер. Колонида на наосот на Епископската базилика – први кат



Fig.32. A marble Roman-Corinthian column capital. The colonnade of the naos in the Episcopal basilica, first floor.

Фиг. 32. Римско-коринтски колонаден капител. Мермер. Колонида на наосот на Епископската базилика – први кат.

The geometric forms generated by the touching of the neighboring cutouts are established in the practice of the ateliers at the end of the 2nd – the beginning and the whole 3rd century. Similar touching of the cutouts of the palms can be seen only with two capitals from the Episcopal basilica (fig. 29 and 33). Analogies for these capitals can be found in Athens and North Greece¹⁶⁶; in the north basilica of Stobi in Macedonia¹⁶⁷; in Thracia in the colonnade of the street at the Eastern gate of Philippopolis and in Serdica, now in the covered colonnade of the National Archaeological museum in Sofia; in Oescus in Moesia¹⁶⁸ and in the numerous production of the Asia Minor centers¹⁶⁹. The acanthus leaf on the capitals from the naos of the Episcopal basilica has a variety of representations. It depends on the way of carving and directly on the workshop, preparing the capitals. The too different capitals demonstrate a lot of influences in the upper third of the calathus, namely in shortening the apparatus, because the caulis, the calyx, the helices, etc. are omitted.



Fig.33. A marble Roman-Corinthian column capital. The colonnade of the naos in the Episcopal basilica, first floor.

Фиг. 33. Римско-коринтски колонаден капител. Мермер. Колонида на наосот на Епископската базилика – први кат.

eraro, from the team of prof. Francesco D'Andria from the University of Lecce in Italia, investigating Hieropolis, to whom I express my cordial gratitude for the information).

¹⁶⁶ F. D. Heilmeyer, *Op.cit.*, 69.

¹⁶⁷ Лилчиќ, *Op.cit.*, 168.

¹⁶⁸ С. Н. Бобчев, *Op.cit.*, 100-105, обр. 10-11

¹⁶⁹ F. D. Heilmeyer, *Op.cit.*; P. Pensabene, *Op.cit.*, 342; S. Stucchi, *L'Agora di Cirene. I lati Nord e Sud della platea inferiore*. Roma 1965, 270; K. S. Freyberger, *Stadtrömische Kapitelle aus der Zeit von Domitian bis Alexander Severus*, Mainz am Rhein 1990

The closest parallels of the studied seven capitals from the Episcopal basilica can be found among the examples made by the Eastern workshops which established their decorative scheme from the Flavians till the Severs. Although in fragments and strongly battered, the capital from fig. 31 shows two rows of perfectly modeled acanthus leaves with a convex central rib. The deeply and plastically carved acanthus leaves have cutouts, which do not touch each other. The central ribs are also deeply carved and their points are turning gracefully, reminding the mild form of the earlier acanthus leaf. The caulis in the form of a triangle with convex central rib and with end to the direction of the second row can be

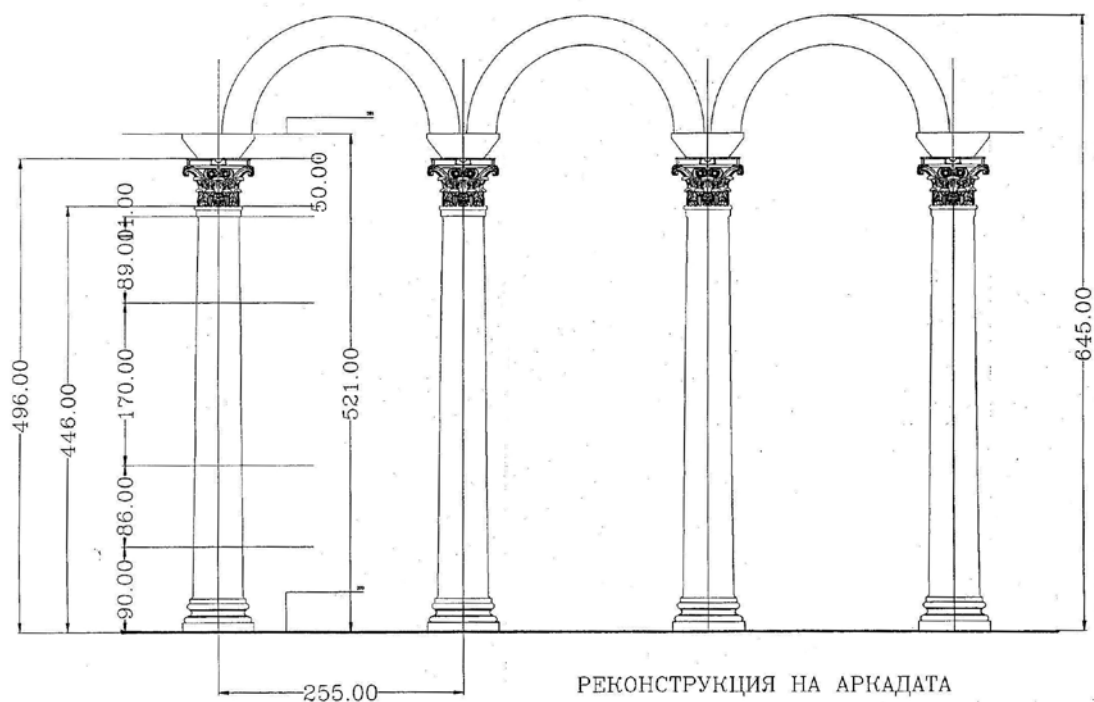


Fig. 34. The colonnade of the first floor of the naos of the Episcopal basilica. Graphic reconstruction of architect P. Vutkov.
 Фиг. 34. Епископска базилика. Колоната на први кат на наосот. Графичка реконструкција на арх. П. Втков.

seen among the leaves of the upper acanthus row. In spite of its state of preservation, this capital may be related to the group with full apparatus, because after the caulis can be observed elements of the calyx: the basis of the leaves forming it. Having in mind the cutouts of the leaves, this fragment demonstrates too an early form of the Corinthian capital, brought to the Balkan lands from the West, mainly from Rome. The parallels of this form can be found in the buildings during the Flavians, for instance in the fourth row of the Colosseum.

Like the other studied capitals, with this one there is a tear-like form among the lower and middle rows of touching. All the capitals have helices like bands, decoratively coiled in a tight spiral with eye at the end. They have parallels in the capitals of Oescus, dated in the period 191-192 – the third quarter – end of the 2nd century¹⁷⁰; in the closed colonnade of the National Archaeological museum, the piece without provenance¹⁷¹, in Athens too¹⁷². Other parallels are to be found in the Small market of Ostia, in the Colosseum, in the Grand thermen of Cyrena, where the presence of Asia Minor stone cutters and the usage of eastern models are proved¹⁷³. The analogies relating

the way of representation of the acanthus leaf include those from the Eastern gate of Philippopolis¹⁷⁴, the Roman termen and in the Archaeological museum of Odessus, where some of the capitals are made of Proconnesian marble; the touching of the leaf carving cutouts and the forming of geometric figures (lozenges, triangles) is known from Cyrena from the end of the 2nd century¹⁷⁵. All the listed examples can be related to the 2nd century and particularly to the period after Hadrian – the second half of the same century – the first third of the 3rd century.

The reused capitals in the Roman Corinthian order in the 4th century for erecting the Episcopal basilica (fig. 27, 28, 31 and 32) are made at the end of the 1st to the middle of the 2nd century. They reveal all the features of the Asia Minor Corinthian capital with the typical acanthus leaf: with mild spoon-like form and the specific curving turning of the palms of the leaves, a characteristic for the Pergamian architectural sculpture from the time of Trajan (the capitals of the Trajaneum in Pergamon and those of the forum of Trajan in Rome, from the announcement of Apollodoros¹⁷⁶). The capitals on fig. 29, 30 and 33 demonstrate their closeness to the scheme during the Severi. Very interesting is the anta capital, which has a parallel with a similar one from Philippopolis, also related to the second half of the 2nd century and by

¹⁷⁰ С. Н. Бобчев, *Op. cit.*, 100-105, табл. V, обр. 10 и 11.

¹⁷¹ С. Петрова, *Op. cit.*, София 1988, Catalog, the Corinthian capital № 11.

¹⁷² F. D. Heilmayer, *Op. cit.*, 69, taf. 14-3.

¹⁷³ P. Pensabene, *Op. cit.*, tav. XXXIV-342, C 3, 7; XXXIV-346.

¹⁷⁴ С. Петрова, *Op. cit.*, София 1988, кат. № 3, 4, 6-9.

¹⁷⁵ S. Stucchi, *Op. cit.*, 270 sqq.

¹⁷⁶ F. D. Heilmayer, *Op. cit.*, 16; 35; 44-48.



*Fig.35.The Episcopal basilica: a/ anastylosis of the colonnade of the south aisle of the naos;
 b/ anastylosis of the colonnade of the north aisle of the naos, the first and second floor.*
 Фиг. 35. Епископска базилика. а) колонада на првиот кат на наосот - јужен кораб. Анастилоза;
 б) Колонада на првиот и на вториот кат на наосот-северен кораб. Анастилоза

its scheme and manner belonging to the production of the Ephessian-Pergamian decorative school. The quantity of Roman Corinthian capitals found in the naos of the Episcopal basilica of Parthicopolis give the opportunity for a graphic reconstruction (fig. 34) and display (anastylosis) of the order during the second building period at the end of the 4th – beginning of the 5th century (fig. 35-a, b).

The type of four-leaf Roman Corinthian column capitals. In Parthicopolis this type is represented by examples from the basilicas № 2 and 7 (fig. 36 – 39) and demonstrates the development of the Roman Corinthian capital with incomplete apparatus. Its chronology may be traced mainly in the representation of the acanthus leaf, the form of its cutouts, as well as in the decoration on the field free of the reduced elements. This type of simplified and with totally incomplete apparatus capital has its beginning in the Late Hadrianic period – after the middle of the 2nd century, and becomes ubiquitous in the time of the Earlier Severs (end of the 2nd – the beginning of the 3rd century). It continues to be exploited also in the Early Byzantine period and whole Early Christian complexes have been built with such type of capitals, a fact making difficult the determination of its upper chronological boundary. Its exact chronology may be followed in the development of the acanthus cutouts (like the Corinthian capitals with two rows of acanthus leaves) and in the analysis of the development of the motif in the field between the pairs with the acanthus leaf.

Th reducing of the lower acanthus row from 8 to 4 leaves also sets free the place for decoration, occupied most frequently by the Ionian cyma with 3 ovuli. This type of capitals (with four leaves with Ionian cyma among them with 1 or 3 ovuli, with differently modeled egg-shells, divided by spear-like ornament or a small arrow) has parallels in the capitals already in the first half of the 2nd century¹⁷⁷. They are found mainly in the East: in the Asclepeion of Pergamon, determined as a product of the Aphrodisian School and dated between the time of late Hadrian and the early rule of Antoninus Pius¹⁷⁸; in a pilaster capital from Perinthos, dated in the Antonine period¹⁷⁹. The avoiding of the caulis, helices and the calyces, as well as of the second (upper) acanthus row created a space for decoration with different, predominantly plant



Fig.36. A marble four-leaf Roman-Corinthian column capital with palmette decoration from basilica No 2.

Фиг. 36. Четирилистен римско-коринтски колонски капител со украс-палмета. Мермер. Базилика № 2

motives. Most frequently its decoration is the so-called by us “lyre form”¹⁸⁰, outlined by the connected in the basis of the capital volutes, typical also for the capital pilasters from the Early Antonines. The free from the leaves field in the later capitals, made in the second half of the 3rd century, is with V-form and possesses different plant decoration or another representation, most often of eagle, like in a capital from the village of Riben, Pleven district¹⁸¹.

Although the column’s form of the capitals, their scheme of composition is near most of all to the one of the pilaster capitals. Some pieces from Heraclea Lyncestis in Macedonia¹⁸² demonstrate the type in the form of a pillar. However the analogical examples of pilaster capitals point to the most exact chronological parallels and boundaries of the type.

The capitals from Parthicopolis are made of grey-white coarse-grained marble, extracted mainly from the deposits Mura and Gingera-Galchovo gnezdo of Ilindenzi. The four acanthus leaves of the row have 7 palms with 4 cutouts in a palm. The form of the acanthus is more elongated in such a way that the leaves from the middle cutout to reach under the volutes and

¹⁷⁷ К. Рончевский, *Цит. съч.*, 51 ff.

¹⁷⁸ W. D. Heilmayer, *Op.cit.*, 103 ff, Taf. 371; J. B. Ward-Perkins, *Nicomedia and the Marble Trade.* – In: *PBSR*, 48, 1980, 55, pl. XVIII-a.

¹⁷⁹ G. Mendel, *Catalogue des sculptures grecques, romaines et byzantines*, III, Constantinople, 1914, 552-553, No 1346 (2711); J. B. Ward-Perkins, *Op.cit.*, 50.

¹⁸⁰ С. Петрова, *Цит. съч.*, 43 -45.

¹⁸¹ Ibidem, 42-45, обр. 1 а, б.

¹⁸² Лилчиќ, *Op.cit.*, 216 ff.



Fig.37. A marble four-leaf Roman-Corinthian column capital from basilica No 2.

Фиг. 37. Четирилистен римско-коринтски колонски капител. Мермер. Базилика № 2.

to climb under their lower part. Because of the omitted second row with acanthus leaves, the height of the capitals is diminished together with their slenderness, reaching up to 1.4¹⁸³. The abacus is three-parted and profiled.

At the basis of the capitals, between each pair of acanthus leaves there is Ionian cyma, whose ovuli are placed in deferently formed egg-shells. There are placed different plant motives in the triangle and the widening to the lip of the calathus space: two symmetrical and articulated leaves, between them the raising up stem of the abacus flower; or a button, opening to the direction of the lip of the calathus and from which in some capitals the stem of the abacus flower is coming out.

Only one capital, now on the wall of the south aisle of basilica No 2, supplies us with a different from the usual for the type decoration (fig. 36). It is only a fragment with dimensions rather of the normal Roman Corinthian capital. This supposes its usage probably in a pair with a similar capital, or because of its height together with the Corinthian capitals with two rows of acanthus leaves in some of the colonnades. Interesting in the case is the decoration with a multiple palmette. The analogy for the latter is the palmette of a pilaster capital from Oescus from the time of the Severus (193-235)¹⁸⁴. Another parallel is the pilaster capital of the Composite order from the Roman thermen in Odessus from the second half of the 2nd century. In the richly decorated piece

¹⁸³ С. Петрова, Четирилистни римско-коринтски колонски капители от фонда на НАМ, София. – В: *Археология* 1992, 4, 42-25.

¹⁸⁴ С. Н. Бобчев. Римско-коринтски капители от Югозападна и северна България и мястото им в развитието на римско-коринтския капител. – В: *Известия на археологическия институт*. XXXII, 1970, 91-128, табл. XIII обл. 29.



Fig.38. A marble four-leaf Roman-Corinthian column capital from basilica No 7.

Фиг. 38. Четирилистен римско-коринтски колонски капител. Мермер. Базилика № 7.

with plastically made palmette can be revealed the influence of the Aphrodisian school and the model for a capital, typical for the Ephessian-Pergamenian school¹⁸⁵. It is attested in the pilaster capitals made in the workshops of Proconessos, in Side and Perge¹⁸⁶ and in Aphrodisia¹⁸⁷.

The so-called by us “lyre form” (or called by Y. Mladenova “double S-form”¹⁸⁸), outlined from the pairs of volutes connected in their lower part, is an extremely widely spread decorative scheme mainly in the pilaster capitals in the Roman period. There are S-like volutes among the acanthus leaves of Parthopolis (fig. 39), also connected in the lower part at the base and reminding the form of the lyre. The difference between both forms is in the base of the volutes with double S, not always vertically placed, which are coiled and connected with the help of a relief mould band. The lyre and the double S are applied in the 1st and the 2nd century. Later their form becomes very much stylized, shown in capitals from Ostia¹⁸⁹ and in capitals from all the parts of the empire, studied by K. Ronchevski¹⁹⁰. The motif is very old in its origin from the time of the classical Hellas¹⁹¹. As a decorative motif together with the palmette in the free space, it is known from the Tuscan house in Her-

¹⁸⁵ С. Петрова, Композитният капител в Мизия и Тракия. *Археология* 1990, № 1, 47, обр. 5.

¹⁸⁶ Ibidem, 44-47.

¹⁸⁷ К. Т. Ерим, The School of Aphrodisias. – In: *Archaeology*, 20, I, 1967, 18-26, fig. 16.

¹⁸⁸ Я. Младенова, Облицовъчните капители от вилата при Ивайловград. – В: ИАИ, XXXII, 1970, 127-147.

¹⁸⁹ P. Pensabene, *Scavi ...*, X0 645, 648, 649.

¹⁹⁰ К. Рончевский, *Варианты римских капителей*. Пер. с французского, Москва, 1936, p. 46.

¹⁹¹ К. Рончевский, *Цит. съч.*, 49.



Фиг. 39. Четирилистен римско-коринтски колонски капител со S-овидни волути. Мермер. Базилика № 2.

Fig. 39. Мермерен четирилистен римско-коринтски колонен капител со S-овидни волути. Базилика № 2.

culaneum¹⁹², from Pompeii at the time of Augustus¹⁹³, from Aquileia¹⁹⁴ and in the whole 2nd century¹⁹⁵. Its latest appearance is witnessed in Ostia at the period of the Severi¹⁹⁶.

The discovered in Parthicopolis capitals with four leaves demonstrate a common decorative scheme, one and the same manner of carving of the detail and close dimensions. This facts directs at the hypothesis, that they have been made in a specialized atelier, probably also trading with that type of capitals. The fragment kept now on the walls of basilica No 2 is the only piece to show a new and up to now unknown for the region decorative scheme of the palmette, where the middle leaf is continuing up playing the role of a stem for the abacus (fig. 36). Similar composition has a capital from the lapidarium of the National Archaeological Museum in Sofia¹⁹⁷.

The decorative scheme of the capitals with four leaves from Parthicopolis is similar to the capitals from Asia Minor. The type is present in Thracia and Macedonia. Therefore in our opinion the roots for its penetration should be realized by the Aegean seashores and the mouth of Strymon (the so-called Strymon road); by the mouths of the rivers Hebros (Maritsa) and Nestos (Mesta), north to the innerside of Thracia. We consider that in the province of Lower Moesia the type has penetrated through the sea trade route from Asia Minor to the West Pontic littoral.

¹⁹² P. Pensabene, *Scavi ...*, tav. D-8.

¹⁹³ К. Рончевский, *Цит. съч.*, рис. 28-31.

¹⁹⁴ V. Scrinari, *I capitelli romani di Aquileia*, Padova 1952, 46.

¹⁹⁵ P. Pensabene, *Op.cit.*, No 555-564, tav. LIII, LIV.

¹⁹⁶ *Ibidem*, No 554.

¹⁹⁷ For the moment the place of finding the capital is unknown, but it is supposed that it comes from Balchik, the ancient Dionysopolis. National Archaeological Museum Sofia, Inv. № 1198, 3A 215.

Only the future discovery of more capitals with analogical scheme and composition (especially of that with the palmette) could supply us with information about the penetration of the decorative scheme with four leaves. In such a way the route of penetration from the ateliers of Asia Minor to the province of Macedonia and particularly to Parthicopolis will become clear, from East to West and rather through the workshops of Thessalia under the eastern influence; then to the north from Via Egnatia and by the Strymon route. A concrete answer can be given only by some new finds.

Conclusions

The architectural details used in the representative public and private buildings of Parthicopolis are made mainly by marble. The granite was also in usage although in a little bit later building period of the city, from the middle of the 2nd century on. This is shown by the columns made of the same stone and by the numerous inscriptions, related predominantly to the middle – the second half of the 2nd century.

The studied completely preserved pieces and fragments of bases, columns and capitals from the Roman period reveal by their composition and decorative form the inheritance of the traditional Hellenistic form and of those from the early period of August, also from the Nerva-Antonine dynasty and from the period of the Early Severi. Parallels for the details from Parthicopolis can be found in Athens, in Northern Greece, in the Northern basilica of Stobi in Republic of Macedonia, in Nicopolis ad Nestum; in Serdica and Philippopolis in Thracia, in Nicopolis ad Istrum, Novae, Odessus and Marcianopolis in Moesia, and in the production of the Asia Minor stonemaking centres of Ephesus, Pergamon, Aphrodisias, etc.

The varied presentation of the details on the architectural elements in dependence of the way of carving directs to the models of the popular for the Roman period stone-making workshops (fig. 40). It is also obvious that the local production of architectural details in the city is under the influence mainly of the models and masters of the Ephesian-Pergamian school and of that of Dokimeion. We have found out too that the capitals re-used in the building of basilica № 1 and other buildings have been made by the technology typical only for the ateliers in the quarry of Aliko on the island of Thassos (the outlining of the coiling of the volutes).

In our opinion the workshops in stone of Parthicopolis should be located on the territory of the quarries close to the deposits for extraction of marble and granite. These workshops likely have inherited the ones existing in the time before the quarries became property of the emperor Trajan. We don't exclude too

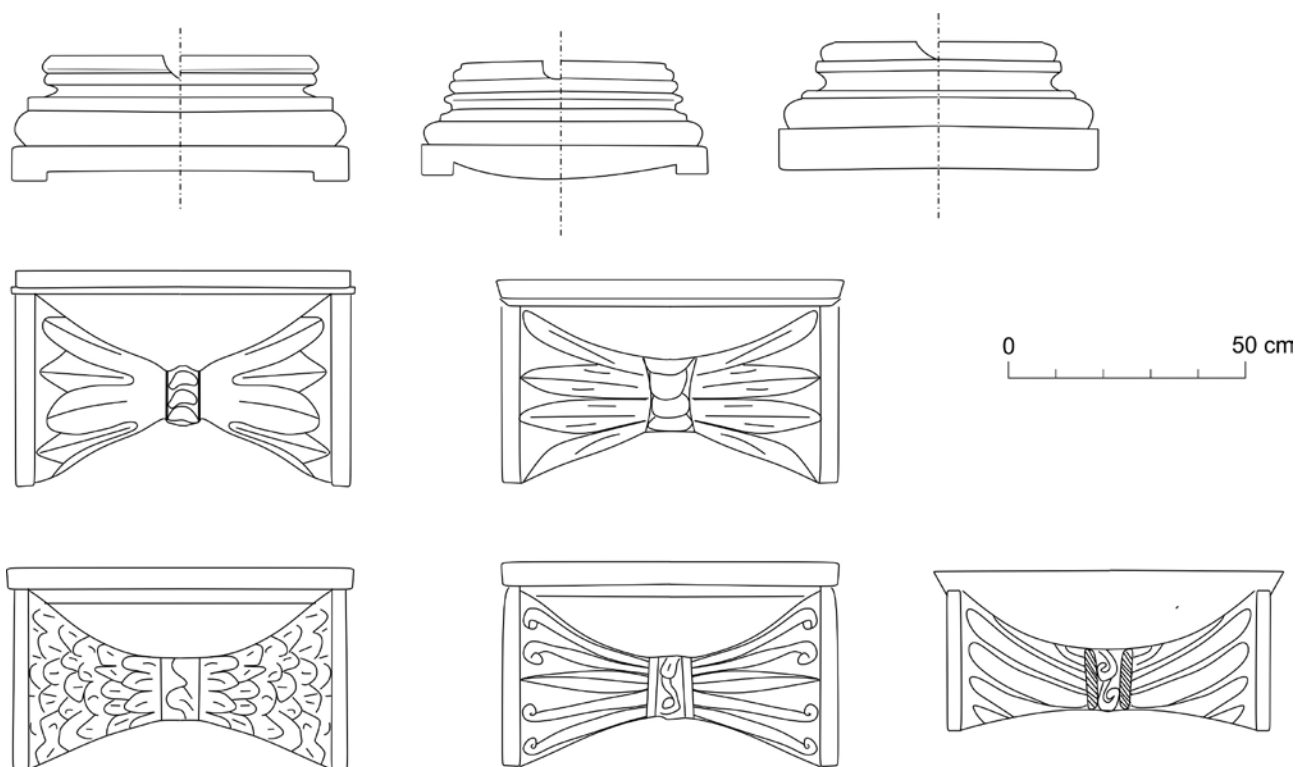


Fig. 40. Bases: figures 6-a, b and 7. Roman-Ionian capitals: figures 22 - 26. Graphically represented (author S. Petrova).

Фиг. 40. Базиси: фигури 6а, б и 7. Римско-јонски капители: фигури 22-26. Графичко претставени (автор С. Петрова).

the possibility of existing of ateliers in the immediate neighbor of the city for smaller architectural details or final work of such ones in situ (of the building). We are inclined to think rather of votives, tomb monuments and other smaller in size monuments. In our opinion there is no economic or logical base for the existence of the stone workshops in the city itself having in mind the high degree of labour consumption and the waste left after the hammering out and forming the architectural details. It can't be neglected also the possibility certain details to be left non-finished because of cracks or other defects of the stone and the possible place of piling up of all these defect stones and waste – should it be inside the city? Therefore it was not possible the existence of workshops in the city. We are rather inclined to presume the possibility of existence of trade shops-ateliers, where to order one or another kind of architectural detail, or ateliers of masters or trade agents, receiving the orders for the complete erecting of the public or private building. Proved epigraphically, also masters settlers from Asia Minor have worked in the local workshops. Other masters have passed training in the ateliers of the quarry Aliko on the island of Thassos.

The found in Parthicopolis Roman-Dorian, -Ionian and -Corinthian capitals demonstrated of the best achievements in the development of the local stone

production in Antiquity. They impress with the excellent forms, precise execution and composition. Some of the bases, of the columns and the Roman-Dorian, -Ionian and -Corinthian capitals are made between the end of the 1st and the first quarter of the 2nd century and demonstrate the building activity which has begun in the period of Trajan and was continuing in the period of Hadrian. Having in mind the just re-discovered and interpreted inscription about the earlier building of the theatre of Philippopolis at the time of Domitian and the his construction activity during his period in the Roman Balkan provinces, it is possible, as already has been supposed, that the creation of the plan and the beginning of the new Roman city building in Parthicopolis, including the theatre, also in the time of Domitian, continued on a large scope by Trajan and Hadrian.

The architectural decoration of Parthicopolis in this period reveals the features of the Asia Minor manner of work and of compositional scheme, the quality of details not inferior of the contemporary ones in Asia Minor, Athens and Corinth. We can observe it in the typical representation of the acanthus leaf – the mild spoon-like form, also the specific turning of leafs in the в дланите, specific for the Pergamian stonemason sculpture from the time of Trajan (the capitals of the Trajaneum in Pergamon and of

that on the Trajan forum in Rome, whose building is known from the information of Apollodorus). The capitals from Episcopal basilica show closeness with the decorative scheme of the capitals of the period of Severs (fig. 29, 30 and 33). The anta capital illustrating the scheme and the manner of the Ephesian-Pergamian decorative school for this kind of capitals has an excellent parallel with a capital from Philippopolis, dated from the second half of the 2nd century. The carving of the re-used Roman capitals in the Episcopal basilica (No 4) show a good craftsmanship in the forming of the acanthus leaf, in bending and touching of their cutouts, the latter forming specific forms (tear, geometric ones, etc.), also demonstrating the variety of decorative kinds, types and schools, taking part in the architectural decoration of the city.

That's the reason for arising of the question for the place of carving of these capitals, for the schools and the masters, i.e. for the centres of production. Specialized ateliers for stone production in the Roman period have been created mainly in the period of Trajan, Hadrian and Antoninus Pius, proved by the high quality of the re-used Roman architectural details. The discovered capitals, marble and granite columns are demonstrating among the best achievements in the development of the local stone-cutting and carving during the Antiquity. This difficult and responsible task to carve artistically the marble blocks most frequently has been fulfilled in situ by local masters with specific style of work. Their salary was bounded very tightly with their narrow specialization. The tariffs of Diocletian as official documents treats the making of the architectural details as a definite level of craftsmanship, confirmed later by the legislation of Constantine, assigning a definite place in the empire to craftsmen. The contacts and the close proximity of the stonemason workshops of Northern Greece and the island of Thassos influenced positively the development of the local stone-cutting. This fact does not exclude the participation in of itinerant masters (*marmorarii*) in making of the architectural details, shown in some Roman- Ioninan and Roman-Corinthian capitals.

The applying mainly of local white and grey-bluish marbles in capitals with decorative schemes, directing to the ateliers in the workshops of the quarries of Aliko on Thassos, is due to the collaboration and the highly developed trade with marble. The trade with marble and probably with marble architectural details has been performed by Thassos. Also it is sure the trade with the cities alongside the course of Lower and Middle Strymon with decorative schemes and models of Asia Minor and the Aegean shore, which reveal the tight connection among the local ateliers with those with long established traditions such as on Thassos, Northern Greece and Asia Minor (with

the Ephesian, Pergamian, Dokimeian and partly the Aphrodisian schools). All this cumulative evidence of manners and peculiarities, the usages of drill (in carving of some of the Corinthian capitals and in other decorative motives on other elements) can be connected with the influence of the Dokimeion-Aphrodisian school, but mainly the Dokimeion, developed and established itself in the production and spread of ready architectural details as well as in the compositional and decorative scheme during the period of Hadrian.

The Ephesian and Pergamian School are the first centres of production of architectural-decorative sculpture in the period of Trajan. At the end of the 1st – the first quarter of the 2nd century their models are imposed in a mass, together with the compositional schemes of the Aphrodisian school in Corinth (the temple "E"), in Athens (the library of Hadrian), and from there they are spread to the north and to the course of Strymon, reaching even Serdica. Because of the geographic proximity of Pergamon to Ephesus, as well because of the common manner of work, both schools can be united under one name, "The Pergamian-Ephesian School". Its peculiarity is the specialization in making of architectural-decorative details in Corinthian order, where the leaves of the acanthus have the form of "Asia Minor leaf fan". The manner of detailed drawing in the acanthus cutouts with this school demonstrates its important role to stand out from the shared stone mass without being fretwork (open-work).

The established re-usage of the Roman architectural decoration in the Early Christian period raises the problem of the place and the function of the Roman buildings, from where the pieces have been taken. As already announced, these should be buildings located not far from the agora, the ancient centre of the city. Probably from the agora the columns have been taken and re-used in the Early Christian, Early Byzantine Main Street – *Via sacra*, and also from the colonnade of the stoa.

The architectural decoration of the Episcopal basilica is illustrating most luridly the usage but with the same function of the Roman architectural details in Late Antiquity in the Early Christian buildings. The pieces reveal that the building of the Episcopal basilica destructed another earlier building on that place from the period of Hadrian. Bases with plinthus on legs, columns and several Corinthian capitals have been re-used: more than 10 bases survived to our time and several complete and several Corinthian capitals.

We could follow that the bases with plinthus on legs are known from the cities of Macedonia and Upper Moesia (Scupi), but as a whole they are spread

in the East, mainly in the sepulchral architecture. That's why we consider that their form has been imposed in the region through the sepulchral architecture of Caria (part of the province Asia at Trajan and Hadrian); of Lycia and Pamphilia, whose influence is established in Macedonia. During the prospecting under the naos, the south aisle and the apse of the basilica a large-scale building has been discovered oriented north-south. The artefacts unearthed during the research allow the supposition that namely from it have been taken and adjusted the Roman architectural details for the new building and the new Episcopal basilica. The second part of the re-used Corinthian capitals in the colonnade of the Episcopal basilica descends probably from another Roman building under the basilica, next to the first Roman building. This second Roman building should be located also in close proximity to the Agora, probably one of the public or cult buildings around, at the place of the future basilica. The closely located basilicas (№№ 1, 2 and 4, the Episcopal one) to the administrative Roman city administrative centre supposes the easy carrying and re-use of details from it and the Roman buildings around. In our opinion part of the capitals in Roman Dorian and Ionian style are taken from the theatre, destructed and covered with sterile earth in the last decade of the 4th century.

The old pagan city centre and the building around have been demolished and their architectural decoration re-used for the new buildings: the residence of the city governor, the Early Christian basilicas and baptysterium and the main street for processions. The new Early Christian city centre has been created in this way, being both cult and administrative one. The rich architectural decoration with elements specific for the Eastern ateliers show the economic possibilities of Parthicopolis and its connections with the Asia Minor and Greek city centres (Northern Greece, Thasos, Corinth and Athens) in the Roman imperial period. The re-used pieces reveal the monumental Roman building of Parthicopolis in the 2nd – 3th century, developed very intensively maybe even at Domitian, with stronger speed to the end of Trajan and Hadrian and apogee in the period between Antoninus Pius and Gordian III. This activity was possible not only through the good economic possibilities, but with the help of good builders, stone-cutters, due to the existing quarry near to the city. All these components promoted the possibility of further building and decorative activity in the Early Christian period with a new building activity and in special cases of making new parts and elements of the architectural decoration for a definite types, for instance for the baptysterium. So the old Roman pieces were in combination in the Early Christian complexes with the new elements.

Светла ПЕТРОВА

РИМСКИТЕ АРХИТЕКТОНСКИ УКРАСИ ПРЕУПОТРЕБЕНИ ВО РАНОХРИСТИЈАНСКИТЕ ГРАДБИ НА ПАРТИКОПОЛИС

Резиме

Ранохристијанските базилики, како и еднинствената досега откриена градба-резиденција од доцноантичката епоха во Партикополис, покажуваат преупотреба на архитектонски елементи од римската епоха. Преупотребени со цел, тие ги оформувале фасадните колони-наосот на ранохристијанските базилики; на нивните дворови како и на главната градска рановизантиска улица, т.н. Via Sacra/Mese (cardo maximus).

Од руините на римските градби се земени и преупотребени по значај различни архитектонски детали: фриз-архитрави; таванска касета; римски јонско-атички базиси; колони; капители во римско-дорски стил; римско-јонски и римско-коринтски редови. Откриените архитектонски детали ја кажуваат хронологијата на градителството во античкиот град и модните стремежи, пренесени од метрополитските градби. Затоа што градовите административно припаѓаат на римската провинција Македонија, неговите украси наоѓаат паралели со други архитектонски детали од градските центри на провинцијата; од провинцијата Тракија, од Малоазиските провинции.

Проучените архитектонски детали се класифицирани по видови, видовите се типологирани со хронолошко определението и граници; рудниците (мајданите) и атељеата.

Досега од постојните елементи од архитектонскиот ред, откриени се само два фрагменти од фриз-архитрав, чии што архитравни греди покажуваат особеност, востановена кај нас и во

други Балкански провинции, која се состои во различната висина на секоја од трите архитравни греди, која висина е право пропорционална на секоја следна во височина греда.

При анализа на базисите исто така има особеност, востановена кај нас и во архитектонските детали од малоазијските провинции-изгледот на краевите на плинтусот кај некои од атничко-јонските базиси. Такви базиси се прикажани во архитектурата и на други градови и селишта од провинцијата Македонија, веројатно под влијанието на архитектите и мајсторите-каменорезачи од источните школи, претежно од Пергам и Ефес, како откриените „базиси со плинтуси на ногарки“ се исклучително популарни во градбите на градовите во време на Хадријан и Антониј Пиј.

Колоните, претствени сообразно нивниот хронолошки развој се изработени од мермер, од гранит или од порфиرويدен гранит. Дорските капители исто така се употребувани во архитектурата на римскиот град; претежно типот на дорските капители со канелиран издолжен врат и со неизлезени јазичиња на канелурите.

Востановивме локална особеност при оформување на абакусот, кој е сложено составен, со украси од филизи; од стилизирана јонска кима; а аглите му се оформени како акротерии.

Јонските капители исто така покажуваат особености. И покрај општо познатите декоративни шеми, востановивме технолошко влијание на атељејата на островот Тасос, карактеристични за

начинот на оформување на волутниот мотив: преку пет особено расположени на окото на волутата точкички. Коринтските капители покажуваат неколку типови, преовладуваат капители со неполн апарат за колони; и само еден коринтски антов капител. Воспоставува се и преупотребата на четирилисни колонски капители, во чии декоративни шеми се преплетуваат мотиви од Ефеско-Пергамската и Докимејон-Афродизијската каменорезачка школа.

Проучувањето на архитектонските украси, преупотребени во ранохристијанските градби на Партикополис ни дозволува да разјасниме редица прашања, поврзани со местото на нивната изработка, школите, мајсторите, како и оспосувањето

на т.н центри за производство. Го воспоставме и создавањето на специјализираните атељеја за обработка на каменот, создадени во времето на императорите Трајан, Хадријан и Антониј Пиј и сите сврзани со таканаречените од нас „Трајанови мермерни рудници“, расположени северно од градот. Преупотребените архитектонски детали во ранохристијанските архитектонски градби ни покажуваат едно од највисоките дострели во развојот на локалното каменоделство во време на антиката, претставувајќи ја архитектурата на античкиот градски центар, а станал непотребен со прифаќањето на новата религија-христијанството, искажувајќи потреба од ново градско планирање и ново архитектонско оформување.