

The tombstone of two town magistrates of Celeia in the region of Neviodunum

Danilo BREŠČAK and Milan LOVENJAK

Povzetek

V članku je obravnavan rimski nagrobnik odkrit leta 2008 ob prenovi fasade cerkve sv. Petra na Jezeru pri Trebnjem, ki omenja dva visoka uradnika v Celeji, Gaja Longinija Severina in njegovega sina Longinija Avita. Opisane so okoliščine odkritja tega in drugih obdelanih antičnih kamnov v cerkvenem zidu, zgodovina same cerkve, način prezentacije in zaščite spomenikov, podani so rezultati geološke analize kamnine in geofizikalnih raziskav prostora, samemu opisu nagrobnika pa sta dodana še tekstnokritični in historični komentar. Seznam mestnih funkcionarjev iz Celeje, ki so bili doslej znani predvsem z napisov iz južnega dela province Norik, se sedaj prvič dopolnjuje tudi na podlagi kakega napisa iz province Panonije.

Ključne besede: Slovenija, Dolenjska, Panonija, Nevi-
odun, antika, napisni kamni, nagrobni spomeniki, rimska
zgodovina, epigrafika

Abstract

The article deals with a Roman tombstone discovered in 2008 during the renovation of the façade of the church of St. Peter at Jezero near Trebnje, which mentioned two town magistrates of Celeia, Gaius Longinius Severinus, and his son, Longinius Avitus. The circumstances of the discovery are described, as are other worked Roman stones reused in the church wall, the history of the church, the method of presentation and conservation of the monuments, the results of the geological analysis of the stones, and the geophysical investigation of the site. The description of the monument is followed by a textual analysis and historical commentary. The list of town magistrates of Celeia, who were previously attested mostly on inscriptions from the southern part of the province of Noricum, has thus been supplemented for the first time with this newly found inscription from the province of Pannonia.

Keywords: Slovenia, Dolenjska, Pannonia, Nevi-
odunum, antiquity, inscription slabs, tombstones, Roman history,
epigraphy

INTRODUCTION

East of the village of Jezero near Trebnje, on the slight rise below the grove Lojšč, on the left of the motorway Ljubljana-Novo mesto, the church of St. Peter is situated (*fig. 1*). According to oral tradition, the church was built after a vow by a count from the castle in the nearby forest of Lojšč. He promised to build a church if the nearby lake disappeared, which apparently happened. The geography of the microlocation shows that not far away from the church, to the south of Jezero village and between Ponikve and Sveta Ana, there are the last sinkholes of the karst Temenica stream, which arises again

below Vrhpeč village, runs through the Mirna Peč plain to Dolenja Vas, becomes subterranean again and arises to the surface at Luknja, continuing to Zalog, where it flows into the Krka river. The choice of site for the church, which is mentioned in documents for the first time in 1391, (*filiialis ecclesia sancti Petri in Laypacho*) as a chapel of the Trebnje parish church, and was also mentioned (*die Kirche s. Petri zu Naiseru*) by Valvasor in his monumental work *Die Ehre des Herzogthums Crain* [The Glory of the Duchy of Carniola] in 1689, seems logical. On the one hand there was a lot of building material on the site taken from the Roman cemetery and, on the other, there were symbolic



Fig. 1: Jezero, St. Peter. View from the south-west (photo: F. Aš).

Sl. 1: Jezero, sv. Peter. Pogled z jugozahoda (foto: F. Aš).

motives in consecrating the church to St. Peter. The linking of this saint to pre-Christian sites is not unique (e.g. the parish church of St. Peter in Šempeter in the Savinjska valley, the parish church of St. Peter in Črnomelj). To symbolically conquer the “dragon” of pre-Christian beliefs, the nearby church was consecrated to St. George. A similar example could be mentioned with the church of St. George above the Roman temple dedicated to the god Mithras at Rožanec near Črnomelj, where the church is located in the forest above the temple.

HISTORY OF RESEARCH

The church of St. Peter at Jezero near Trebnje has already been known in the archaeological literature as a site of Roman tombstones and building blocks since the second half of the 19th century,

when the tombstone for Gaius Claudius Romanus¹ (fig. 2A: 2; 2B: 2) and a cuboid block with a relief of a two-handled vessel (*cantharos*) with a vine growing,² (fig. 2B: 1) were published for the first time. In the 1930s, the discovery of the badly damaged funerary inscription for Gaius Aurelius Firminus, *decurio* of Emona,³ followed (fig. 2A: 3), and towards the turn of the century also part of a milestone leaning against the northern wall,⁴ where it could still be seen up to two or three years ago, when it disappeared. All the other spolia were immured in the church below the façade surface and could not be seen until 2008.

¹ *CIL* 3, 3914 = 10785 = *ILSI* 76.

² *ILSI* 107.

³ *AIJ* 237 = *ILSI* 68.

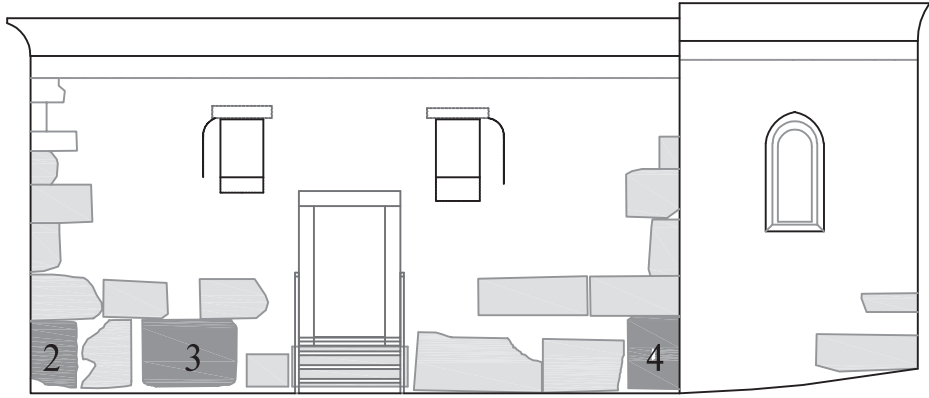
⁴ *ILSI* 184.



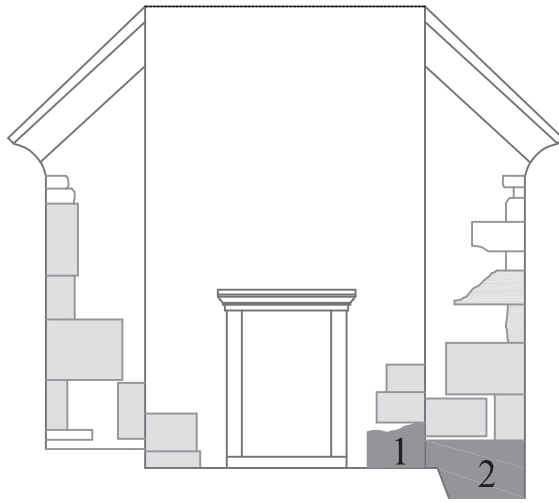
Fig. 2: Jezero, St. Peter. The position of Roman building elements: A – south, B – west, C – north, and D – east façade. The darker hatching (1, 2, 3, 4): tombstones. The lighter hatching: spolia. (Drawn by B. Zaletelj).

Sl. 2: Jezero, sv. Peter. Položaj rimskih gradbenih členov: A – južna, B – zahodna, C – severna, D – vzhodna fasada. Temnejši raster (1, 2, 3, 4): nagrobniki. Svetlejši raster: spoliije. (Risba: B. Zaletelj).

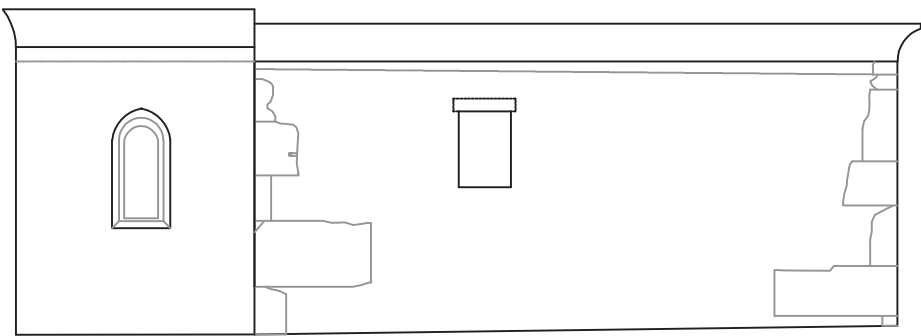
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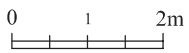
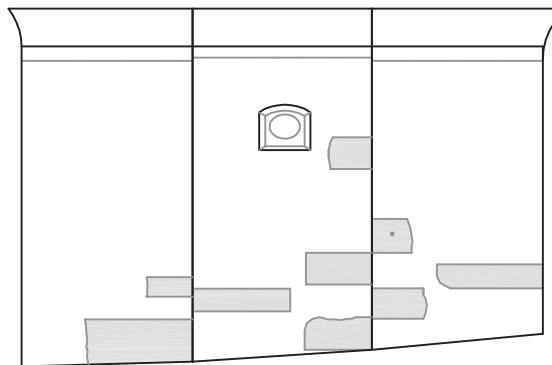
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D



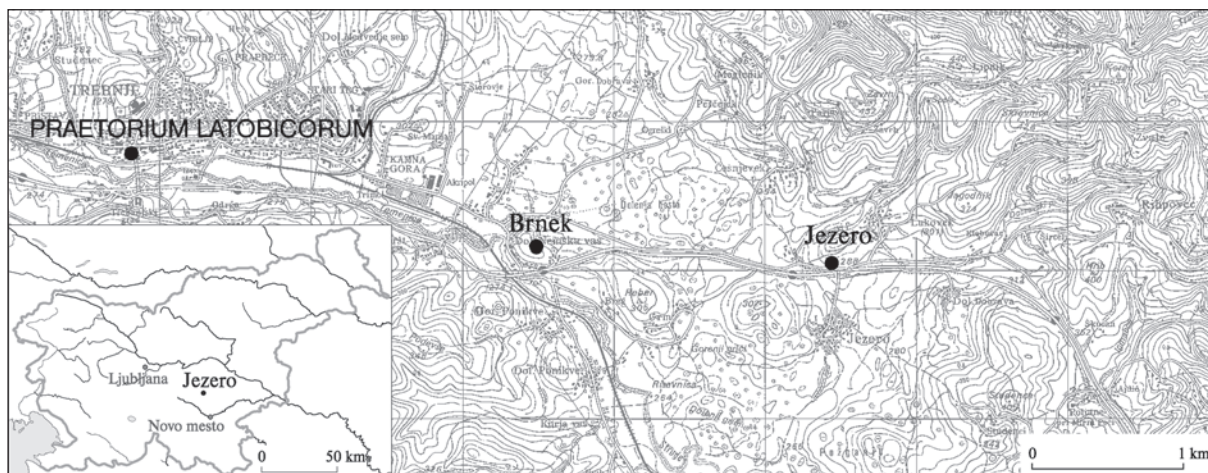


Fig. 3: Location of the Brnek hill with traces of at least four Roman quarries (source: DTK 25, Velika Loka © Geodetska uprava RS, reduced to 50 %).

Sl. 3: Lega hriba Brnek s sledovi vsaj štirih antičnih kamnolomov (vir: DTK 25, Velika Loka © Geodetska uprava RS, pomanjšano na 50 %).

Roman cremation and inhumation graves were found in the vicinity of the church.⁵ In the 1960s, a grave with a house urn was found in Hrastar's field south of the church (Inv. No. NM Lj. R 8073),⁶ and the complete grave inventory is in the National Museum of Slovenia in Ljubljana. According to locals, mortar appears on the soil surface while ploughing in Zupančič field, where a metal part of a belt was found in the early fifties. At the end of the fifties, when the Ljubljana-Zagreb motorway was built,⁷ the builders came across several graves near the Jezero village crossover, but the stone monuments with inscriptions were crushed and used in the lower layer of the road. The Roman public road (*via publica*), leading from Emona (Ljubljana) and Praetorium Latobicorum (Trebnje) towards Neviodunum (Drnovo near Krško),⁸ ran south of the church and the mentioned milestone must have been placed along it, some three Roman miles east of Praetorium Latobicorum (fig. 3). This was a *mansio* and an important station of the *beneficarii consularis* near the borders between Italy and Pannonia Superior.⁹

The church of St. Peter, belonging to the Trebnje parish, was gradually renovated. Firstly a new roof was built, using beaver tailed tiles. The bell tower was covered with copper, and in the spring of 2008 the construction of the new façade started. Without all the necessary documents, the façade surface on the bell tower and the nave were removed, destroying a fresco of St. Christopher on the southern façade. After inspection by the Institute for the Protection of the Cultural Heritage from Novo Mesto,¹⁰ several until then unknown stone blocks were documented, some with traces of metal clamps, and an inscribed monument was found in the southeastern corner of the nave with a completely preserved inscription, mentioning Gaius Longinius Severinus and members of his family (fig. 2A: 4; 5: 4; 8; 9).¹¹

The church is architecturally divided into a three-sided presbytery, a longitudinal nave, and a bell tower on its northern side. The nave is medieval, while the presbytery and the bell tower were added in the 17th century. Below the present

⁵ Knez 1975, 230; Petru 1971, 47–48.

⁶ Petru 1960–1961, 208; Petru 1962–1963, 500.

⁷ For discoveries at the building of the motorway through Dolenjska and the lower Sava region see Petru 1961.

⁸ For *via publica* from Emona towards Neviodunum and the milestones along it, see *ILSI*, p. 333–336 and inscriptions nos. 178–194; Lovenjak 1997; Bavec, Lovenjak 2006; Lovenjak 2006 and Breščak 2008d. For the history and epigraphy of Neviodunum and its territory see *ILSI* and Lovenjak 2003a.

⁹ For *Praetorium Latobicorum* see Saria 1954; Šašel Kos 1995; Šašel Kos 1997, 419 and inscriptions nos. 152–174 and *ILSI*, p. 223–225 and inscriptions nos. 115–147.

¹⁰ Documentation listing the appropriate procedures for the previously started renovation was issued. As the most numerous possible presentations of the newly discovered Roman slabs were a prerequisite, a small hole was cut to make it possible to see the gravestone. The step in front of the southern entrance to the church was removed and replaced with metal steps, which enable viewing the wall structure below the entrance, and thick glass protective plates were installed to prevent precipitation and icing on the stones.

¹¹ See Breščak 2008a–c.

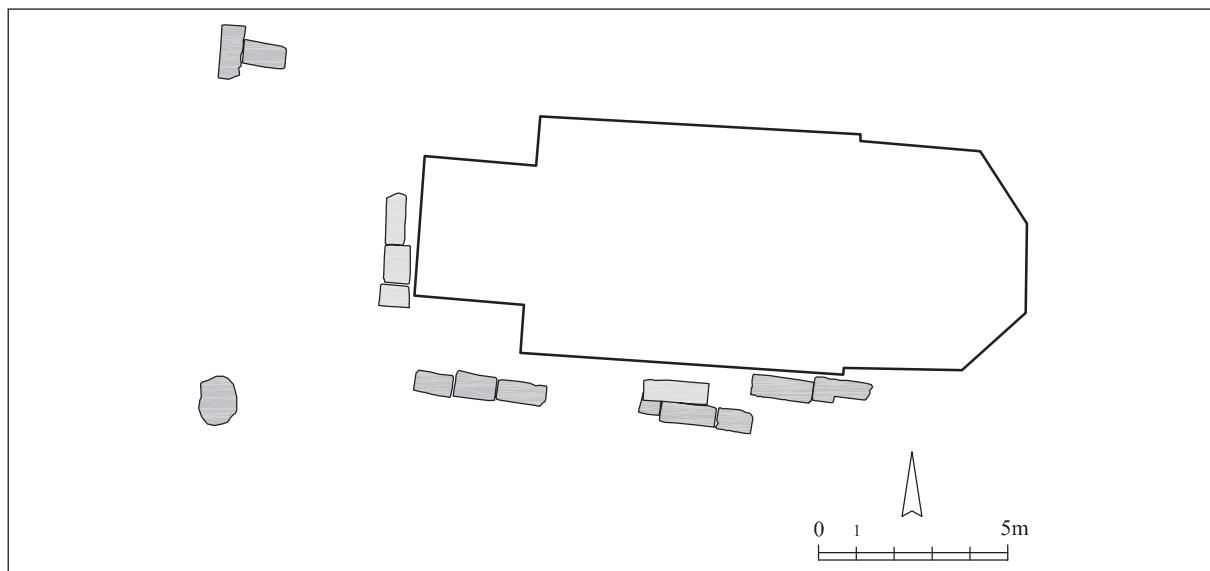


Fig. 4: Jezero, St. Peter. The ground plan of the church and the position of stone blocks. The darker hatching represents the stones in their original position – *in situ*, the lighter ones have been moved and used as steps at both entrances (F. Aš and B. Zaletelj).

Sl. 4: Jezero, sv. Peter. Tloris cerkve in položaj kamnitih blokov. V temnejšem rastru so prikazani kamni v prvotni legi – *in situ*, lažji kamni so bili odstranjeni in uporabljeni kot stopnice pri obeh vhodih (F. Aš in B. Zaletelj).

apse floor, the foundations of an older and smaller semi-circular apse may be hidden; the opening into the apse wall used to be narrower, as can be seen from the position of the newly found tombstone. It could be seen in full in the presbytery during the Middle Ages, but when the church was rebuilt, the whole southern wall of the enlarged church was constructed on top of it.

The slight decline of the terrain on the southern side of the church showed that the wall foundation is a little wider (10 cm) and levelled, while the wall constructed on it is up to 1 m thick. The complete southern wall is based on two rows of Roman blocks, while both corners are made of worked Roman stone almost to the top (fig. 2A). The tombstones which were higher, heavier to relocate, and statically more reliable were obviously used as support elements of both southern corners and therefore also the apse. Thus the tombstone of Gaius Claudius Romanus was placed in the southwestern corner (fig. 2A: 2; 2B: 2; 5: 2), while the newly discovered tombstone of Gaius Longinius Severinus was placed in the southeastern corner supporting the eastern wall (fig. 2A: 4; 5: 4). Due to the slightly higher level of the terrain on the northern side, the link between the wall and the wider foundation could not be traced, but presumably the worked Roman stones were used in the corners only (fig. 2C). A large stone block can be

seen in the foundation of the western wall on the southern side next to the church entrance (fig. 2A), because the interior plaster had been removed due to rising damp. Obviously the Roman stone blocks were used in the second phase of building, when the semi-circular apse was replaced by a three-sided one, and the bell tower was added. Several worked Roman stones could be seen immured in different parts of the presbytery wall (fig. 2D), two of them next to the floor where the roughcast had been removed. The southwestern corner of the bell tower built next to the nave was constructed on a Roman tombstone (fig. 2B: 1; 5: 1), which only visible side is decorated with a cantharos, a vine and a bird on top. Besides the above mentioned stones, four more worked Roman blocks could be observed in the structure of the bell tower (fig. 2B). In front of the tower before the church entrance, three large stones were used as steps, with holes for iron clamps cast with lead (fig. 4). A one ton heavy block and a slab were placed in front of the main entrance to the church as well. This block has a levelled rectangular worked field with three small holes where a tombstone (a stele) was probably attached. These elements were obviously picked from among the ones that are still in rows *in situ* around the church: one row is in front of the southern church wall, where only three blocks could be seen in the past, but now more of them



Fig. 5: Jezero, St. Peter. The restored south façade from the southeast. 1-4: tombstones. (Photo: J. Grobovšek).
Sl. 5: Jezero, sv. Peter. Obnovljena južna fasada z jugovzhoda. 1–4: nagrobniki. (Foto: J. Grobovšek).

have appeared after the lowering of the terrain, and another one is northwest of the bell tower, where a corner and part of the northern wall can be seen (fig. 4). There is an iron clamp with a lead cast between two blocks in its original position in front of the newly discovered tombstone.

Stone blocks in the form of slabs 15–20 cm thick and 49–66 cm wide, of different lengths probably depending on the geological conditions in the relevant layer in the quarry are difficult to interpret without further analyses. The most probable explanation seems to be that they were used as a fence structure of worked blocks for a family grave or graves inside a Roman cemetery. A recent analogy was discovered at the Roman cemetery at Draga near Bela Cerkev.¹² There the boundaries of the grave plot were made of slightly thicker stones than here and they were placed on a levelled sand foundation and connected with iron clamps cast with lead.

When the old plaster of the church was completely removed, detailed documentation could be carried out and pictures of the Roman worked stones were taken. It can be claimed that four of them are Roman tombstones, and it can be assumed with great probability due to the measurements that there are more of them built into the wall, at

least three or four. The total number of immured stones amounted to 54; five were repositioned and used in front of the entrance: three at the western side, two at the southern one, one of which was transported to the entrance hall of Grm Castle, Novo Mesto, the location of the Institute for the Protection of the Cultural Heritage. The other one (fig. 2A), kept in its secondary position, can be seen below the new metal stairs; the number of stones presumably used as grave borders has increased from four to eleven. Of course, the immured spolia can no longer be seen after the roughcast was applied.¹³

Geophysical investigation of the immediate vicinity of the church, as well as its interior, was

¹³ A compromise with the local church community was reached, so that all the blocks of worked stones in the corners and two rows of re-used spolia in the southern wall of the nave can still be seen. After the walls had been covered with roughcast and whitewashed, all the visible stones were cleaned. Since the inscription areas of the tombstones are in poor condition, especially the one belonging to Gaius Aurelius Firminus, the tombstones were covered with safety glass and covers were built above them, so that they would not be damaged too much by leakage. Walking surfaces of safety glass were also used for the flooring inside the presbytery next to the vaulted wall, where the wall and the floor were opened next to the newly discovered inscription.

¹² Križ 2003, 30.



Fig. 8: Jezero, St. Peter. The position of the immured tombstone of Gaius Longinius Severinus at the southeastern nave corner during the investigations (photo: F. Aš).

Sl. 8: Jezero, sv. Peter. Položaj nagrobnika Gaja Longinija Severina v jugovzhodnem vogalu cerkve med raziskavami (foto: F. Aš).

an additional part of the grave architecture. In the earlier phase of the church, when the nave ended in a semi-circular apse, the whole inscription field could be seen, while later, when the apse was reconstructed into a three-sided shape, the inscription was hidden and therefore well preserved. It cannot be checked whether both side surfaces were ornamented. Minor damage can be noticed in the middle of the lower edge of the stone.

The inscription field (fig. 9) is 95.5 cm high, 73.5 cm wide and is framed by a three-profile moulding with the total width of 10.5 cm. The upper part of the inscription field is in the shape of two symmetric volutes, which spread in a widened form from both sides almost to the inscription margin. The inscription is divided into nine lines; there was not enough space for the last two letters in the eighth line, so they are carved on the profiled edge. Triangular punctuation marks appear between the individual words, but not systematically between all of them.

The geological analysis of the material showed that the rock belongs to Lower Jurassic limestone from the Brnek near Dolenja Nemška vas quarry, which lies approximately two km towards the west (municipality of Trebnje).¹⁸

¹⁸ Verbič 2008.

The dimensions of the monument: 134 × 95 × 63 cm. Height of the letters: from 7.7 cm in the first to 4.7 cm in the last line.

The inscription runs as follows:

D(is) M(anibus).
C(aius) Longinius
Severinus an(norum) LX,
dec(urio) II vir iur(is)
 5 *dicundi Cl(audiae)*
Celeia(e), vi(v)us fec(it)
sib(i) e(t) Acut(iae) Matronae coni(ugi)
et Long(inio) Avito fil(io) an(norum) XXXVII,
dec(urioni) II vir(i) i(uris) d(icundi)
Cl(audiae) Cel(eiae).

Translation:

To the Spirits of the Departed. Gaius Longinius Severinus, 60 years old, *decurio* (member of the city council) and a joint mayor of Claudia Celeia had erected (the tombstone) while still living, for himself and for his wife Acutia Matrona and for his son Longinius Avitus, 37 years old, *decurio* and a joint mayor of Claudia Celeia.

Ligatures: 7 VT, AE; 8 ET, AV.

2: The fourth letter in the *nomen gentile* is carved as C with an additional rounded stroke above the lower end. – 4 and 9: Above the vertical strokes of the numeral II (*duo*) there is a horizontal line. – 6: The middle V is missing in the word *vivus*. – 7: The conjunction ET is not in the ligature, as it would be expected, because the upper horizontal stroke is not lengthened towards the left. The horizontal strokes of both Ts are not straight, but form slight semicircles on both sides, which seems to be the carver's peculiarity.¹⁹ The last O is carved into C and diminished, it measures 2.3 cm. – 8: The horizontal strokes of both Ts are formed similarly as in the previous line. The fourth letter in *Longinius* is without the rounded addition as in the second line. The last two vertical strokes in the numeral are carved into the margin and are smaller than the previous letters in this line.

The tombstone, which is walled into the church at Gatina near Grosuplje, ca. 30 km to the west

¹⁹ The similar form of T can be found e.g. also on the votive altar for Diana in Emona, from the 1st or 2nd centuries AD, erected in honour of Titus Vellius Onesimus. He was a *sevir* and *Augustalis* of Emona, *sevir* of Aquileia and *Augustalis* of Parentium (*CIL* 3, 3836 + p. 1734 = Šašel Kos 1997, No. 9).

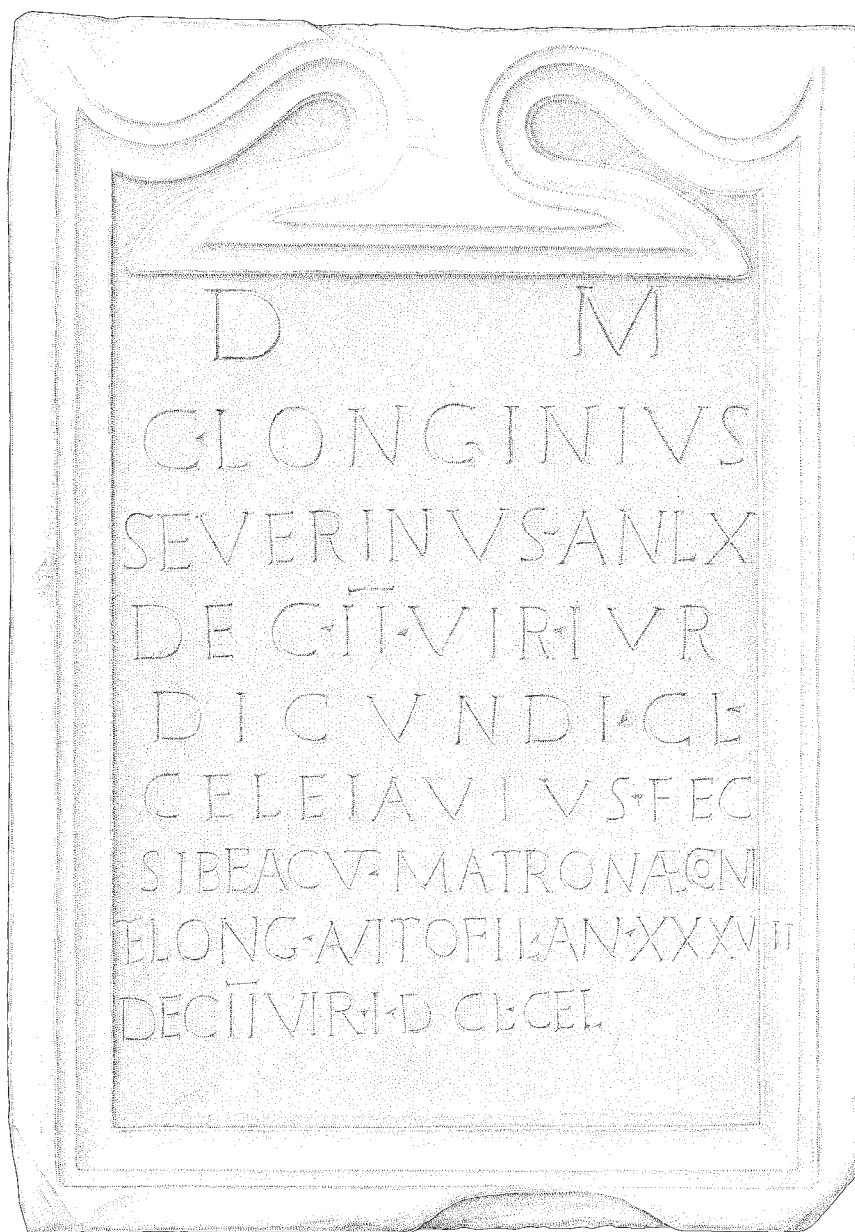


Fig. 9: Jezero, St. Peter. The inscription field of the tombstone of Gaius Longinius Severinus (drawn by A. Fortuna-Saje).
Sl. 9: Jezero, sv. Peter. Napisno polje nagrobnika Gaja Longinija Severina (risba: A. Fortuna-Saje).

(already in the ager of Emona),²⁰ has a similar volute ornament finishing the upper edge of the inscription field, the only difference being that the intermediate space is somewhat narrower, and the letters *D(is) M(anibus)* are carved above the volutes.

The reason for the erection of the family tombstone seems to have been the death of Longinius Avitus, who died at age 37. His father Gaius Longinius Severinus was 60 at the time, while the

age of his mother, Acutia Matrona, is not mentioned. All three were Roman citizens. Longinius Avitus has no *praenomen*. This might indicate a later dating for the monument, i.e. in the period after AD 212, when citizenship was given to almost all free inhabitants of the Roman Empire and the *praenomen* was often omitted.

The names of the deceased are Italic and do not include any indigenous Celtic elements. The *nomen gentile* Longinius, derived from the well-attested *cognomen* Longinus, has been fairly rarely

²⁰ CIL 3, 13402 + p. 2328²⁷ = AIJ 221.

discovered so far.²¹ The feminine form of this name appeared as a *cognomen* on an inscription from Zgornja Pohanca in the Lower Posavje (Sava basin) region.²² The *cognomen* Severinus is more frequent and has already been attested in fifteen cases in Pannonia.²³ The *nomen gentile* Acutius, which appears here in the feminine form, is rather sporadic outside Italy, where it is quite frequent. It is attested only on one inscription in Noricum (in the form [A]cutius), and has not yet been known from Pannonia.²⁴ The *cognomen* Matriona is also rather rare in Noricum, while it has been documented in seven cases in Pannonia.²⁵ Avitus was a very popular *cognomen* in both provinces,²⁶ and has already been known from five inscriptions in Nevioudunum and its ager.²⁷ It is also attested on four inscriptions from Celeia.²⁸

Gaius Longinius Severinus and his son Longinius Avitus carried out duumviral duties in Celeia,²⁹ where they were also members of the city council, a local senate. It is possible that they were joint mayors in Celeia at the same time, although this cannot be concluded from the inscription itself.

Thanks to Roman jurists and other sources (see *Corpus iuris civilis*), the general conditions for membership in the city council, for the duumvirate and other functions in autonomous towns, as well as their special competences and duties, are well known. The lowest age for membership in the council, and also for the duumvirate, was 25. As a rule, the city council had 100 members, but the number varied according to the size of the city. Certain preliminary qualifications were necessary for membership in the council, such as possession of property amounting to some prescribed sum, free status, and membership as citizens of a town. The members of the city council were called *decuriones* or *curiales*, because their sessions took place in the *curia*. Resolutions of the *curia* were called *decreta* (sing. *decretum*), i.e. *decreto decurionum* in inscriptions.³⁰

The council sessions were announced and led by the *duumviri* ("two men"), who belonged, to-

gether with the *aediles*, to a class of higher ranking town magistrates (*magistratus maiores*) and were elected from the members of city council for a period of one year. Their further duties were also the organization of the people's assembly, of the elective assembly every five years (s.c. *duumviri quinquennales*³¹), and of cult rites in the city. They were further involved with the administration of justice, wielded power as the local police force, supervised the jobs of lower ranking officials (*magistratus minores*), managed city finances, and represented the local community to outsiders. After their mandate had expired, they were members of the city council until their death or, from the point of view of legal formality, until the next election (*lectio senatus*), which took place every fifth year. The functions were not reimbursed, but they held certain honors (*honores*). Occasionally, honorific inscriptions and statues for former magistrates were erected by local inhabitants in response to their special concerns for the community. Eventually, and especially from the 3rd century onwards, the offices became a burden (*onus*) and hereditary, which made them unpopular.³²

Members of the urban aristocracy of Celeia are attested – outside Celeia, from where the majority of the inscriptions come – in different parts of southern Noricum as well, for example at Vranje near Sevnica, Rimske Toplice, Šempeter, Vojnik, Trbovlje, Črešnjevce, and Slovenske Konjice.³³ The recent inscription from Jezero is the first example from the area of Nevioudunum in the province of Pannonia.

Out of the fifteen inscriptions mentioning the mayors of Celeia which have been attested so far, the following names are more or less preserved: (---) Maximus, L. Appuleiu(s---), C. Bellicius Ingenuus, Bellicius Victor, (P. Mat?)t. P. fil. (Belli?) cinus, P. Mattius L. f. Bellicus, M. Mess., Cn. Pomp. Iustinus, C. Spectatius Finitus, C. Spectatius C. fil. Cla. Priscianus, and (- T)erentius Procu(lus?).³⁴

²¹ *Onomasticon* 3, 31.

²² *ILSI* 90: C[[*audia*] ?] Longinia.

²³ *Onomasticon* 4, 76.

²⁴ See *Onomasticon* 1, 20–21.

²⁵ *Onomasticon* 3, 44.

²⁶ See *Onomasticon* 1, 97–98.

²⁷ *ILSI* 7, 9, 31, 70 and 155.

²⁸ *CIL* 3, 5196, 5226, 5256 and 11699.

²⁹ On the history of Celeia see Šašel 1970 and Lazar 2002.

³⁰ For *decuriones* see Langhammer 1973, 188–278 and Rainer 2006, 273–277.

³¹ For Emona such a joint mayor in charge of the census is represented by C. Bassidius Secundus, known from one inscription found in Ig (*CIL* 3, 10738 + p. 2328²⁶ = *AIJ* 127 = Šašel Kos 1997, Nr. 79).

³² For *duumviri* or *duoviri* see Langhammer 1973, 62–149 and Rainer 2006, 271–272.

³³ On magistrates from Celeia see in general Šašel 1970, 140–143 and Šašel Kos 1984. All the known material was compiled by Wedenig 1997, 109–152 and pl. 16, 65–66; see also Lovenjak 2003b, 340–341, no. 9 for *duumvir* P. Mattius Bellicinus.

³⁴ See Wedenig 1997, pl. 16 on p. 65–66.

In addition to these, Metilius Maximianus must also have been a *duumvir* in Celeia in the 3rd century, since the inscription on his tombstone from Šentjanž near Rečica ob Savinji³⁵ states that he was a nobleman (*vir egregius*) and that he performed all the functions in an autonomous city (*omnibus muneribus functus*). His function as mayor is implicitly reflected in the *cognomen* of his son Dumviranus, who was probably born in that year.³⁶

All the above mentioned officials were members of the city council as well, which is explicitly stressed in one example only, in the inscription for Cn. Pomp. Iustinus. Other officials attested as *decuriones* in Celeia are D. Castricius Verus Antonius Avitus, T. Iulius Bellicus, Maronius Marcellinus, L. Mattius P. f. Cla. Probus, Secundius Verinus and two persons whose names are not attested in inscriptions, but according to the context, it

can be concluded that in both cases their *nomen gentile* was Terentius.³⁷

C. Spectatius Finitus and C. Spectatius C. fil. Cla. Priscianus, father and his son, attested on a Šempeter tombstone,³⁸ were both mayors in Celeia, similarly to the two Longinii in the inscription from Jezero. Certain other officials with the same *nomen gentile*, such as Bellicius, Mattius or Terentius (attested on two or more inscriptions), were probably also relatives.

Some general characteristics suggest that the inscription from Jezero cannot be dated very early, especially the form of the letters and the omission of the *praenomen* in the name of Longinius Avitus. It can be dated to the end of the 2nd, or in the first half of the 3rd century.

Translation: Dragica Breščak

³⁵ CIL 3, 5111 (see Wedenig 1997, 109–111).

³⁶ The cognomen is attested in this inscription only (see *Onomasticon* 2, 111).

³⁷ See Wedenig 1997, T. 16, 65–66.

³⁸ *ILLug* 372.

Abbreviations

AIJ = V. Hoffiller, B. Saria, *Antike Inschriften aus Jugoslawien 1: Noricum und Pannonia Superior*, Zagreb 1938.

CIL = *Corpus inscriptionum Latinarum*.

ILLug = A. et J. Šašel, *Inscriptiones Latinae quae in Iugoslavia inter annos MCMXL et MCMLX repertae et editae sunt* (Situla 5), Ljubljana 1963.

ILSI = M. Lovenjak, *Inscriptiones Latinae Sloveniae 1: Neviodunum* (Situla 37), Ljubljana 1998.

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Nagrobnik dveh mestnih veljakov iz Celeje na območju Nevioduna

UVOD

Vzhodno od vasi Jezero pri Trebnjem, na rahli vzpetini pod gozdičem Lojšč in levo od magistralne ceste proti Novemu mestu, leži cerkva sv. Petra (*sl. 1*). Po ljudskem izročilu naj bi jo dal zgraditi graščak z gradu v gozdiču Lojšč, ki naj bi tako izpolnil zaobljubo, da bo postavil cerkev, če odteče jezero v bližini. Geografija mikroprostora pokaže, da so južno od vasi Jezero med Ponikvami in Sv. Ano zadnji ponori kraške reke Temenice, ki zopet privre na dan pod vasjo Vrhpeč, teče po Mirnopoškem polju do Dolenje vasi, ponovno ponikne in od Luknje nadaljuje svojo pot do Zaloga pri Novem mestu, kjer se izliva v Krko. Izbira lokacije za gradnjo cerkve, ki je v listinah prvič omenjena leta 1391 (*filialis ecclesia sancti Petri in Laypacho*) kot podružnica župnije v Trebnjem in jo omenja (*die Kirche s. Petri zu Naiseru*) tudi Valvazor v Slavi vojvodine Kranjske iz leta 1689, se zdi logična. Na eni strani jo je vodilo praktično dejstvo, da je bilo na rimskem grobišču z razgradnjo grobov, grobnih parcel in nagrobnikov na voljo veliko uporabnega gradbenega materiala, na drugi pa povsem simbolni vzgibi v posvetitvi sv. Petru. Ni namreč osamljen primer posvetitve krščanskih cerkva, postavljenih neposredno na predkrščanska grobišča, temu patronu (npr. župna cerkev sv. Petra v Šempetru v Savinjski dolini, župna cerkev sv. Petra v Črnomlju). Da bi uspešno premagali "zmaja" predkrščanskih verovanj, so bližnjo cerkvico v Lukovku posvetili sv. Juriju. Tudi to ni osamljen primer, saj poznamo podobno simbolno prevlado

nad antičnim templjem, v tem primeru posvečenem bogu Mitri, v Rožancu pri Črnomlju, kjer cerkev sv. Jurija stoji sredi gozda nad vasjo, v pobočju nad mitrejem.

ZGODOVINA RAZISKAV

V arheološki literaturi je bila cerkev sv. Petra znana kot lokacija vzdanih rimskih nagrobnikov in gradbenih blokov od druge polovice 19. stoletja, ko sta bila prvič objavljena zapisa o nagrobniku Gaja Klavdija Romana¹ (*sl. 2A: 2; 2B: 2*) in kvadru z reliefom dvoročajne posode, iz katere raste vinska trta² (*sl. 2B: 1*). V tridesetih letih 20. stoletja je bil prvič objavljen tudi zapis o zelo poškodovanem nagrobnem napisu Gaja Avrelija Firmina,³ člana emonskega mestnega sveta (*sl. 2A: 3*), konec prejšnjega stoletja pa še odlomek miljnika, prislonjen ob severno fasado cerkve,⁴ kjer je po izjavah domačinov stal še do pred dvema ali tremi leti, ko je izginel neznano kam. Vsi drugi kamni so bili do obnove cerkve leta 2008 skriti pod ometom.

V okolici cerkve so bili v preteklosti odkriti rimski žgani in skeletni grobovi.⁵ V šestdesetih letih 20. stoletja

¹ *CIL* III 3914 = 10785 = *ILSI* 76.

² *ILSI* 107.

³ *AIJ* 237 = *ILSI* 68.

⁴ *ILSI* 184.

⁵ Knez 1975, 230; Petru 1971, 47–48.

je bil na Hrastarjevi njivi južno od cerkve najden grob s hišasto žaro (inv. št. NM Lj. R 8073),⁶ katerega inventar je shranjen v Narodnem muzeju v Ljubljani. Domačini vedo povedati, da se pri oranju na Zupančičevi njivi na površini pojavi malta, na isti njivi pa so v zgodnjih petdesetih letih našli kovinsko "šnolo", verjetno pasno spono. Na grobove naj bi naleteli tudi ob gradnji stare magistralne ceste Ljubljana–Zagreb⁷ tik pred nadvozom pri vasi Jezero, a so jih brigadirji v udarniški vnemi baje uničili, "kamnite spomenike z napisi" pa zdrobili in vgradili v spodnji ustroj ceste. Južno od cerkve je tekla rimska državna cesta iz Emone in Pretorija Latobikov (Trebnje) proti Neviodunu (Drnovo pri Krškem),⁸ ob kateri je stal prvotno tudi omenjeni miljnik, približno tri rimske milje vzhodno od Pretorija Latobikov (sl. 3). To je bila obcestna postaja poštna službe (*mansio*) in pomembna beneficiarijska postojanka blizu meje med Italijo in Zgornjo Panonijo.⁹

Krajani vasi Jezero so se lotili postopne prenove cerkve in najprej prekrili streho in zvonik z bakreno pločevino, v letu 2008 pa so brez ustreznega konservatorskega soglasja začeli z deli na fasadi in odbili vse stare omete na zvoniku in zunanji steni ladje, med drugim tudi fresko sv. Krištofa na južni fasadi. Spomladi tega leta je sledil konservatorski nadzor Zavoda za varstvo kulturne dediščine območne enote Novo mesto¹⁰ ob katerem je bila v zidovih cerkve dokumentirana cela vrsta doslej neznanih obdelanih kamnitih blokov s sledovi namestitve železnih spon, v jugovzhodnem vogalu cerkvene ladje pa reliefno obdelano napisno polje z v celoti ohranjenim napisom, ki omenja Gaja Longinija Severina in člane njegove družine (sl. 2A: 4; 5: 4; 8; 9).¹¹

Cerkveno arhitekturo sestavljajo tristrano zaključen prezbiterij, podolžna ladja in ob njeno vhodno fasado prislonjen zvonik. Ladja je v osnovi še srednjeveška, prezbiterij in zvonik sta iz prvih desetletij 17. stoletja. Pod tlaki današnjega prezbiterija se verjetno skrivajo temelji

prvotno manjše polkrožne apside, pa tudi odprtina v slavočni steni je bila prvotno ožja. Na to kaže prav na novo odkriti rimski nagrobnik, ki je bil v srednjem veku v celoti viden zunaj prezbiterija, ob prezidavi pa so nanj naslonili novo južno steno povečane in tristrano zaključene gradnje.

Malenkostno znižanje zemljišča ob južni steni ladje je pokazalo, da so temelji zidu nekoliko širši (za okoli 10 cm) in izravnani, nanje pa so zgradili steno, debelo do enega metra. Celotna južna stena stoji na dveh vrstah rimskih blokov, oba južna vogala ladje sta šivano pozidana skoraj do vrha (sl. 2A). Pri gradnji so nagrobnike, ki so večji in težji za prestavljanje in dvigovanje, pa tudi statično zanesljivejši, očitno uporabili kot nosilne elemente obeh južnih vogalov in posredno tudi slavočne stene. Tako je nagrobnik Gaja Klavdija Romana položen v jugozahodni vogal in nosi zahodno steno (sl. 2A: 2; 2B: 2; 5: 2), na novo odkriti nagrobnik Gaja Longinija Severina pa v jugovzhodni vogal in nosi vzhodno steno ladje (sl. 2A: 4; 5: 4). Pri severni steni zaradi nekoliko višjega terena ni bilo mogoče videti stika med steno in razširjenim temeljem, kaže pa, da so bili tu bloki šivano zloženi zgolj v oba vogala (sl. 2C). Velik kamnit blok je videti tudi v temeljih zahodne stene na južni strani ob vhodu v cerkev (sl. 2A), saj so v notranjosti ometi pri tleh zaradi vlage odluščeni. Očitno so antične nagrobnike in obdelane bloke uporabili tudi v drugi fazi gradnje, ko je bila odstranjena polkrožna apside in nadomeščena s tristrano zaključenim prezbiterijem na vzhodni strani ladje ter prizidan zvonik na zahodni. V stenah prezbiterija je bilo videti več masivnih blokov, vzdanih na stikih posameznih pol (sl. 2D), dva sta vidna v delu zidov pri tleh, kjer so stene brez ometa. Jugozahodni vogal k ladji prislonjenega zvonika stoji na rimskem nagrobniku (sl. 2B: 1; 5: 1), katerega bočno polje, ki je edino dostopno, je okrašeno s kantarosom, vinsko trto in ptico na vrhu. V strukturi gradnje zvonika je bilo videti poleg opisane bloka še štiri obdelane, ki so bili umeščeni v oba zunanja vogala (sl. 2B). Pred zvonik so bili kot stopnica pred vhodom prestavljeni trije večji kamniti bloki z vklesanimi vdolbinami za namestitev železnih, s svinčnem zalitih spon (sl. 4). Iz večjega, okoli tona težkega bloka, in kamnite plošče je bil oblikovan tudi dostop do južnih vrat v cerkev. Na omenjenem bloku je videti poravnano pravokotno klesano polje s tremi manjšimi vdolbinami. Nanj je bila prvotno verjetno postavljena stela. Očitno so bili tudi ti elementi pobrani izmed ostalih, ki še vedno v originalnem položaju (*in situ*) ležijo v vrstah okoli cerkve: ena pred njeno južno fasado, kjer so bili doslej vidni trije bloki v vrsti, po zniževanju terena pa se jih je pokazalo še več, druga pa severozahodno od zvonika, kjer je videti vogal in del severne vrste (sl. 4). Med dvema blokoma v tleh pred novoodkritim nagrobnikom je še ohranjena železna spona s svinčeno zalivko na prvotnem mestu.

Kamnite bloke v obliki plošč, katerih debelina je 15 do 20 cm, širina od 49 do 66 cm, dolžina pa je različna, odvisna verjetno tudi od geoloških danosti v plasti pri pridobivanju v kamnolomu, je brez podrobnejših raziskav težko zanesljivo opredeliti. Še najverjetneje gre za kamnito, med sabo povezano zložbo plošč obrobe družinske grobne parcele (ali več parcel) znotraj antičnega grobišča. Analogija iz zadnjih let je bila odkrita na rimskem grobišču v

⁶ Petru 1960–1961, 208; Petru 1962–1963, 500.

⁷ Za odkritja ob gradnji magistralne ceste skozi Dolenjsko in spodnje Posavje gl. Petru 1961.

⁸ Za rimsko državno cesto iz Emone proti Neviodunu in miljnik na tej trasi gl. *ILSI*, str. 333–336, in napise št. 178–194; Lovenjak 1997; Bavec, Lovenjak 2006; Lovenjak 2006 in Breščak 2008d. Za zgodovino in epigrafske spomenike Nevioduna in njegovega območja gl. *ILSI* in Lovenjak 2003a.

⁹ Za Pretorij Latobikov gl. Saria 1954; Šašel Kos 1995; Šašel Kos 1997, 419, in napise št. 152–174 in *ILSI*, str. 223–225, ter napise št. 115–147.

¹⁰ Za že začeto obnovo fasad so bili izdani kulturno-varstveni pogoji, v katerih je bilo upoštevano ugotovljeno stanje. Zahtevana je bila predstavitev čim večjega števila vzdanih antičnih blokov, v temeljih zidu prezbiterija pa je bila prebita svetlobna lina, ki omogoča vsaj informativen ogled novoodkritega nagrobnika. Odstranjena je bila stopnica pred južnim vhodom v cerkev in nadomeščena s kovinskimi stopnicami, ki omogočajo nemoten vpogled v strukturo zidu pod vhodom, pred vse štiri nagrobnike so bile nameščene kaljene steklene zaščitne plošče, ki bodo preprečevale vpliv podnebnih sprememb in zmrzali na kamnih.

¹¹ Gl. Breščak 2008a–c.

Dragi pri Beli Cerkvi.¹² Tu je bila ograja grobnega polja zložena iz še nekoliko debelejših obdelanih blokov, ki so bili položeni na izravnano peščeno podlago in med seboj prav tako povezani z železnimi, s svinčevimi zalitimi sponami.

Ko so bili stari ometi s cerkve v celoti odstranjeni, je bilo mogoče opraviti podrobno dokumentiranje in fotografiranje vzdanih obdelanih rimskih kamnov. Za zdaj lahko trdimo, da so štirje od teh zagotovo rimski nagrobniki, za nekatere (vsaj tri ali štiri) pa to na podlagi merjenj njihovih dimenzij z veliko verjetnostjo lahko domnevamo. Skupno število vzdanih kamnov se je povzpelo na 54; pet jih je bilo prestavljenih in so v uporabi kot stopnice pred vhodoma: trije z zahodne, dva z južne strani cerkve, od katerih je bil eden prepeljan v vhodno avlo gradu Grm v Novem mestu – na sedež Zavoda za varstvo kulturne dediščine, drugi pa je ohranjen v svoji sekundarni legi (sl. 2A), vendar viden pod novimi kovinskimi montažnimi stopnicami. Število vidnih kamnov v domnevni funkciji omejitve grobne parcele se je z dosedanjih štirih povzpelo na enajst. Seveda vse vzdane spolije po obnovi ometov niso več vidne.¹³

V bližnji okolici in notranjosti cerkve je Brane Mušič z ekipo opravil obsežne geofizikalne raziskave z georadarjem.¹⁴ Tako pridobljeni podatki kažejo na veliko koncentracijo visokih amplitud radarskih odbojev, ki so značilne za kamnite strukture. Domneva, da bo na travniških površinah južno od cerkve ugotovljena trasa rimske itinerarske ceste, se ni potrdila. To morda potrjuje izjavo domačinov, ki pod imenom Rimska cesta poznajo kolovoz med njivami, ki vodi od trase magistralne ceste na jugovzhod proti vasi Jezero. Glede na množino in strukturo odbojev lahko trdimo, da je bila cerkev zgrajena neposredno na antičnih ostalinah.

V okviru konservatorskih del je bila opravljena tudi predhodna študija o izvoru kamnitih blokov kot uporabljenega materiala, ki jo je opravil Tomaž Verbič.¹⁵ Makroskopska analiza je potrdila domnevo, da je izvorni kamnolom vzdanih blokov v Dolnji Nemški vasi pri Trebnjem, le slaba 2 km zahodno od Jezera. Terensko opazovanje je pokazalo, da je kamnit in z gozdom poraščen osamelec Brnek v preteklosti doživel obsežno lomljenje spodnjejevske karbonatne kamnine.

V vzhodju hriba Brnek so vsaj štirje opuščeni kamnolomi (sl. 3; 6), v katerih so plastovitost, makroskopska podobnost in postsedimentacijski procesi zelo veliki. Pogled v razgaljene plasti opuščene kamnoloma nasproti gasilskega doma v zahodnem vzhodju hriba je zelo nazoren: kamnina je na-

ložena v plasteh (sl. 7), ki so ob preudarnem izkoriščanju omogočale razmeroma enostavno formatiranje in dodelavo končnih izdelkov. Glede na dejstvo, da v širšem okolju ni nahajališča podobne apnenčaste kamnine, iz Trebnjega in njegove okolice pa poznamo vrsto starih in sedaj tudi novih najdb, bi bilo zanimivo izpeljati širšo geološko petrografsko raziskavo, ki bi vključila vse kamnito gradivo, ki ga hranita Narodni muzej Slovenije in Ljubljani in Dolenjski muzej v Novem mestu, pa tudi vse tri novoodkrite miljnike, dva s Karteljevega in enega iz Trebnjega.¹⁶

Analiza kamnitih blokov iz že omenjenega rimskega grobišča iz Drage pri Beli Cerkvi je pokazala, da gre za isti izvorni kamnolom.¹⁷ Ob tem puščamo problematiko transporta zunaj možnosti uporabe vodnih poti ob strani. Vsekakor pa sedaj nekoliko poglobljena podoba o arheološkem najdišču Jezero pri Trebnjem kaže, da gre za lokacijo, ki bi bila vredna sistematičnega raziskovanja v okviru študijskega projekta z interdisciplinarno obravnavo.

NAGROBNIK GAJA LONGINIJA SEVERINA, AKUTIJE MATRONE IN LONGINIJA AVITA

Nagrobnik je vzdian v jugovzhodni vogal cerkvene ladje (sl. 8) na nekoliko razširjenem temeljnem zidu. Leži na desni bočni stranici, nanj pa so šivano postavljeni drugi rimski kamni, ki so proti vrhu vedno manjši. Na južni fasadi cerkve je vidna vrhna stranica nagrobnika s proti dnu razširjeno vdolbino, transportno režo ali utorom za pritrditev dodatnega člena nagrobne arhitekture. Celotno napisno polje je bilo v starejši gradbeni fazi cerkve, ko se je ladja končevala s polkrožno apsido, vidno, kasneje, po prizidavi tristransko zaključenega prezbiterija, pa v celoti skrito. To dejstvo je pripomoglo k dobri ohranjenosti napisu. Ali sta ornamentirani obe bočni strani spomenika, ni bilo mogoče preveriti. Manjša poškodba kamna je vidna v sredini spodnjega roba.

Napisno polje (sl. 9) je visoko 95,3 cm in široko 73,5 cm ter obrobjeno s trojno profilirano obrobo skupne širine 10,5 cm. Zgornji rob napisnega polja ima obliko dveh simetričnih volut, ki se proti sredini iztekata v široko, z obeh strani skoraj do roba napisnega polja segajočo razširitev. Besedilo je razdeljeno v devet vrstic s skupno sto enajstimi znaki. Za zadnja dva znaka v osmi vrstici je zmanjkalo prostora znotraj napisnega polja in sta vklesana na profiliranem robu. Med posameznimi besedami so vklesana trikotna ločilna znamenja, vendar ne dosledno med vsemi.

Geološka analiza kamnine je pokazala, da gre za zgodnjejevske apnenec iz kamnoloma Brnek pri Dolnji Nemški vasi, ki leži približno 2 km zahodneje.¹⁸

Spomenik meri v višino 134 cm, v širino 95 cm in v globino 63 cm. Črke so velike od 7,7 cm v prvi do 4,7 cm v zadnji vrstici.

Besedilo napisu se glasi:

*D(is) M(anibus).
C(aius) Longinius*

¹² Križ 2003, 30.

¹³ Ob usklajevanju želja župljanov in zahtev strokovne službe je bil sklenjen kompromis, vidni so ostali vsi bloki v šivanih vogalih ladje ter dve vrsti spolij v južni steni ladje. Po nanosu ometov in beležev je bilo izvedeno tudi čiščenje vseh vidnih kamnov, nagrobniki pa so bili zaščiteni z varovalnim kaljenim steklom in vzdanim odkapnim profilom, da ne bi bili več izpostavljeni izpiranju, saj je zlasti stanje napisnega polja nagrobnika Gaja Avrelija Firmina zelo slabo. Kaljeno pohodno steklo je bilo položeno tudi v notranjosti cerkve v prezbiteriju tik za slavoločno steno, kjer je bil opravljen preboj stene in tlakov ob novoodkritem napisu.

¹⁴ Mušič 2008.

¹⁵ Verbič 2008.

¹⁶ Bavec, Lovenjak 2006; Breščak 2008d.

¹⁷ Verbič 2002.

¹⁸ Verbič 2008.

*Severinus an(norum) LX,
dec(urio) II vir iur(is)
5 dicundi Cl(audiae)
Celeia(e), vi(v)us fec(it)
sib(i) e(t) Acut(iae) Matronae coni(ugi)
et Long(inio) Avito fil(io) an(norum) XXXVII,
dec(urioni) II vir(i) i(uris) d(icundi) Cl(audiae)
Cel(eiae).*

Prevod:

Bogovom Manom. Gaj Longinij Severin, star 60 let, mestni svetnik in župan Klavdije Celeje, je dal napraviti za življenja (spomenik) sebi, svoji ženi Akutiji Matroni in sinu Longiniju Avitu, staremu 37 let, mestnemu svetniku in županu Klavdije Celeje.

Ligature: 7 VT, AE; 8 ET, AV.

2: Četrta črka v gentilnem imenu *Longinius* je vklesana kot C z dodatno ovalno vijugo nad spodnjim zaključkom. – 4 in 9: Nad navpičnima hastama števnik *II (duo)* je prečna črta. – 6: V besedi *vivus* manjka srednji V. – 7: Veznik ET ni v ligaturi, kot bi pričakovali, saj zgornja prečna črta ni podaljšana v levo. Prečna črta T-ja je v obeh primerih sestavljena iz dveh lokov, kar je bila, kot kaže, kamnosekova posebnost.¹⁹ Zadnji O je vklesan pomanjšano znotraj C-ja in meri 2,3 cm. – 8: Prečna črta T-ja je v obeh primerih oblikovana iz dveh lokov, podobno kot v prejšnji vrstici. Četrta črka v gentilnem imenu je brez podobnega ovalnega dodatka kot v drugi vrstici. Zadnji dve navpični črti v števniku sta vklesani na obrobo in manjši od ostalih črk.

S podobnim volutnim ornamentom kot tu je zaključen tudi zgornji rob napisnega polja na nagrobniku, vzidanem v cerkvi v Gatini pri Grosupljem (ager Emone),²⁰ le da je tam vmesna razširitev precej ožja, črki posvetila *D(is) M(anibus)* pa sta vklesani nad volutama.

Vzrok za postavitev družinskega nagrobnika je bila, kot kaže, smrt Longinija Avita, ki je umrl v starosti 37 let. Njegov oče Gaj Longinij Severin je bil takrat star 60 let, medtem ko starost matere Akutije Matrone ni navedena. Vse tri osebe so imele rimsko državljanstvo. Prenomen, prvo ime v trojni imenski formuli rimskih državljanov, je pri Longiniju Avitu izpuščen, kar bi morda kazalo na poznejšo datacijo spomenika, tj. na obdobje po letu 212, ko se je s podelitvijo državljanstva vsem svobodnim prebivalcem imperija vedno bolj opuščal.

Imena pokojnikov so italska in ne vsebujejo nobenih domačih keltskih elementov. Rodovno ime *Longinius*, izpeljanka iz precej razširjenega kognomena *Longinus*, je bilo glede na doslej znana pričevanja precej redko.²¹ Na napisu iz Zgornje Pohance v spodnjem Posavju, v mestnem teritoriju Nevioduna, nastopa ženska oblika tega

imena kot kognomen.²² Pogosteje je na napisih izpričan kognomen Severin, ki je v Panoniji znan s 15, v Noriku pa z 10 napisov.²³ Rodovno ime *Acutius*, ki tu nastopa v ženski obliki, je zunaj Italije, kjer je izpričano na več kot tridesetih napisih, znano le posamično, v Noriku samo na enem napisu (*[A]cutius*), v Panoniji pa doslej sploh še ni bilo znano.²⁴ Tudi kognomen *Matrona* je bil precej redek, je pa v Panoniji s sedmimi primeri najštevilneje zastopan prav v tej provinci, nekoliko manj v Noriku.²⁵ Kognomen *Avitus* je bil v Panoniji in Noriku zelo priljubljen²⁶ in je doslej na področju Nevioduna znan že s petih napisov.²⁷ Nastopa tudi na štirih napisih iz Celja.²⁸

Gaj Longinij Severin in njegov sin Longinij Avit sta v Celeji²⁹ opravljala duumvirat, kolegialno najvišjo funkcijo v rimskih avtonomnih mestih, in bila tudi člana mestnega sveta. Morda sta bila na čelu mestne uprave kot župana celo sočasno, vendar na to s samega napisa ne moremo sklepati.

Po zaslugi rimskih pravnih piscev in drugih virov (gl. *Corpus iuris civilis*) poznamo zahteve, ki jim je moral zadostiti posameznik za članstvo v mestnih svetih, za opravljanje duumvirata in drugih funkcij v avtonomnih mestih, tako kot tudi njihove pristojnosti in dolžnosti. Najnižja starostna meja za članstvo v mestnem svetu je bila 25 let. Svet je imel praviloma sto članov, vendar je bilo to število lahko tudi večje ali manjše, odvisno od velikosti mesta. Za vstop v svet je bilo treba izpolniti tudi nekatere druge pogoje kot npr. imeti premoženje v predpisani vrednosti, svobodni status ob rojstvu in polnopravne državljanske pravice v tem mestu. Člani sveta so se imenovali dekurioni (*decuriones*) ali kuriali (*curiales*), ker so zasedali v kuriji (*curia*). Njihovi sklepi so bili imenovani *decreta* (edn. *decretum*), na napisih v obliki *decreto decurionum*.³⁰

Seje mestnega sveta so sklicevali in vodili *duumviri* ali *duoviri* ("dva moža"), ki so skupaj z edili (*aediles*) spadali v razred višjih mestnih uradnikov (*magistratus maiores*) in so jih izvolili izmed članov mestnega sveta za obdobje enega leta. Njihove druge dolžnosti so bile sklic ljudske skupščine, sklic volilne skupščine vsakih pet let (t. i. *duumviri quinquenales*)³¹ in skrb za izvajanje javnih kulturnih obredov v mestu. V njihovo pristojnost je sodilo tudi sodstvo, imeli so lokalno policijsko oblast, opravljali so nadzor nad delom nižjih magistratov (*magistratus minores*), upravljali z mestnimi financami in zastopali mestno skupnost navzven. Po izteku mandata so ostali člani mestnega sveta do konca življenja oz. formalnopravno do ponovnega izbora (*lectio*

²² ILSl 90: C[[*audia*?] Longinia.

²³ *Onomasticon* 4, 76.

²⁴ *Onomasticon* 1, 20–21.

²⁵ *Onomasticon* 3, 44.

²⁶ *Onomasticon* 1, 97–98.

²⁷ ILSl 7, 9, 31, 70 in 155.

²⁸ CIL 3, 5196, 5226, 5256 in 11699.

²⁹ Za zgodovino Celeje gl. Šašel 1970 in Lazar 2002.

³⁰ Za dekurione gl. Langhammer 1973, 188–278 in Rainer 2006, 273–277.

³¹ V Emoni je bil tak župan, zadolžen za izvedbo cenusa, Gaj Basidij Sekund, ki ga poznamo z napisa, najdenega na Igu (CIL 3, 10738 + p. 2328²⁶ = AIJ 127 = Šašel Kos 1997, Nr. 79).

¹⁹ Podobna oblika črke T nastopa na primer tudi na Diani posvečeni votivni ari iz Emone iz 1. ali 2. stoletja. Postavljena je bila v čast Tita Velija Onesima, sevira in avgustala v Emoni, sevira v Akvileji in avgustala v Parentiju (CIL 3, 3836 + p. 1734 = Šašel Kos 1997, No. 9).

²⁰ CIL 3, 13402 + p. 2328²⁷ = AIJ 221.

²¹ Cf. *Onomasticon* 3, 31.

senatus), ki je bil izveden vsakih pet let. Funkcije niso bile plačane, prinašale so le določene časti (*honores*). Posebej zaslužnim uradnikom so včasih v mestih postavljali častne napise in kipe za njihove zasluge za skupnost. Sčasoma, posebej od 3. stoletja dalje, so javne službe postale dedne in vedno večje breme (*onus*), s tem posledično tudi vedno bolj neprijetljive.³²

Člani celejske mestne aristokracije so razen v Celju, od koder je znanih največ njihovih napisov, izpričani tudi v različnih delih nekdanjega južnega Norika, tako na primer na napisih z Vranja pri Sevnici, iz Rimskih Toplic, Šempetra, Vojnika, Trbovelj, Črešnjevca in Slovenskih Konjic.³³ Novi napis iz Jezera je prvi primer s področja Nevioduna v provinci Panoniji.

Na petnajstih doslej znanih napisih, ki omenjajo celejske župane, so bolj ali manj v celoti ohranjena imena naslednjih: (---) *Maximus*, *L. Appuleiu(s---*), *C. Bellicius Ingenuus*, *Bellicius Victor*, (*P. Mat?*)*t. P. fil. (Belli?)cinus*, *P. Mattius L. f. Bellicus*, *M. Mess.*, *Cn. Pomp. Iustinus*, *C. Spectatius Finitus*, *C. Spectatius C. fil. Cla. Priscianus* in (*- T*)*erentius Procu(lus?)*.³⁴ Poleg teh je duumvirat v Celeji nekje v 3. stoletju opravljal tudi *Metilius Maximianus*; na njegovem

nagrobniku, odkritem v Šentjanžu pri Rečici ob Savinji,³⁵ je navedeno, da je bil viteškega stanu (*vir egregius*) in da je opravil vsa bremena (*omnibus muneribus functus*), tj. vse funkcije v nekem avtonomnem mestu. Da je opravljal tudi župansko funkcijo, posredno priča tudi kognomen enega od njegovih sinov Dumvirana (*Dumviranus*), ki je bil, kot kaže, rojen ravno v tistem letu.³⁶

Vsi navedeni uradniki so bili tudi člani mestnega sveta, kar pa je izrecno poudarjeno le na napisu za Gneja Pompeja Justina. Kot člani mestnega sveta v Celeji so na napisih izpričani še *D. Castricius Verus Antonius Avitus*, *T. Iulius Bellicus*, *Maronius Marcellinus*, *L. Mattius P. f. Cla. Probus*, *Secundius Verinus* in dve osebi, katerih imeni na napisih nista ohranjena, na podlagi preostalega besedila pa lahko sklepamo, da gre obakrat za rodovno ime *Terentius*.³⁷

Podobno kot na novem napisu iz Jezera sta župansko funkcijo v Celeji kot oče in sin opravljala tudi Gaj Spektatij Priscijan in Gaj Spektatij Finit, ki ju poznamo iz ene od šempeterskih grobnic,³⁸ so pa sorodstvene vezi zagotovo obstajale tudi med drugimi, katerih rodovna imena nastopajo na dveh ali več napisih (npr. Belikij, Matij ali Terentij).

Glede na obliko črk in opuščanje prenomena pri imenu Longinija Avita napis lahko okvirno datiramo v konec 2. ali prvo polovico 3. stoletja.

³² Za duumvire ali duovire gl. Langhammer 1973, 62–149 in Rainer 2006, 273–277.

³³ Za magistrate iz Celeje na splošno gl. Šašel 1970, st. 140–143, in Šašel Kos 1984. Vse dotlej znano gradivo je zbral Wedenig 1997, 109–152 in t. 16 na str. 65–66; gl. tudi Lovenjak 2003b, 340–341, št. 9 za župana P. Matija Belikina.

³⁴ Gl. Wedenig 1997, t. 16 na str. 65–66.

³⁵ *CIL* 3, 5111 (gl. Wedenig 1997, 109–111).

³⁶ Kognomen je izpričan samo na tem napisu (gl. *Onomasticon* 2, 111).

³⁷ Gl. Wedenig 1997, t. 16 na str. 65–66.

³⁸ *ILJug* 372.

Danilo Breščak
Zavod za varstvo kulturne dediščine Slovenije
Območna enota Novo mesto
Skalickega 1
SI-8000 Novo mesto
danilo.brescak@zvkd.si

Milan Lovenjak
Univerza v Ljubljani
Filozofska fakulteta
Osrednja humanistična knjižnica
Aškerčeva 2
SI-1000 Ljubljana
milan.lovenjak@ff.uni-lj.si