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THE INSCRIPTION OF THE STATUE OF DIVUS COMMODUS IN SOPRON

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Abstract: The collection of the Liszt Ferenc Museum Sopron, contains, among other pieces, a fragment of a marble slab. The elegantly cut letters follow the writing style of the Antonine age, with their forms close to those of *scriptura monumentalis*. The formal features of the fragment, its thickness and frame breadth as well as its elaboration suggest, excluding the possibility of funerary or building contexts, that the slab was the front side of a statue base. The letters *COM* at the beginning of the first line can be restored to give the name *Com[modus]*, while the fragmentary word *FRAT* in line 2 gives *frat[er]* or some of its inflected forms, if one considers the internal coherence of the two words and excludes similar but improbable variants.

Keywords: Roman Empire, Divus Commodus, Septimius Severus, inscription, statue basis, Pannonia, Scarbantia.

Given the peculiar line starts, the fragmentary text and thereby the slab can be most probably interpreted in one context. It has to belong to the small group of objects and texts that can be dated to the beginning of the reign of Septimius Severus. In order to consolidate his rule, the emperor joined the family of the Antonini. This way he became brother of Commodus, the son of Marcus Aurelius. Later, as his position became more consolidate, in 195 he abolished the *damnatio memoriae* of Commodus and made him consecrated. The former emperor was added to the state gods under the name Divus Commodus and as the brother of Septimius Severus (*frater Imp. Caes. L. Septimi Severi*). The number and contents of the surviving inscriptions as well as the time limits of their dedication suggest that the statues of Divus Commodus are less a token of honour to the new *Divus* than symbols of the general loyalty to the currently ruling emperor, who happened to be the ‘brother’ of the new *Divus*. On the other hand, they represented the legitimacy of the new emperor’s rule.

In the Forum Lapidary of the Liszt Ferenc Museum, Sopron, the Roman stone monuments found in the area of the forum of Scarbantia in the 19-20th centuries are displayed in an authentic environment. In addition to these, there are a few inscribed stones in the lapidary which belong to the ‘early collection’

of the museum and, on the basis of their topics, forms and material, may be part of the heritage of the ancient municipal forum. Before the first systematic excavations in 1893/1894, in the 1850s and 1860s, sewers and gas pipes were built in the centre of Sopron, including the area of the forum, the dimensions of which came to be determined only afterwards. Stones of the ‘early collection’ may stem from this period, possibly from the area of the forum.¹

This part of the collection contains, among other pieces, a fragment of a marble slab, measuring (30)x(35)x11 cm. Its back side is plain. In the left edge of the front of the fragment a part of the original tripartite concave frame can be seen, its outer edge is plain. The carefully smoothed inscribed field measures (30)x(31) cm, with an empty space on its top, which is higher than a line of the text. Under the empty space the beginning of two lines of the inscription can be seen, containing six letters and one fragment of a stroke. The elegantly cut letters follow the writing style of the Antonine age, with their forms close to those of *scriptura monumentalis* and a height of 6 cm. The last letter fragment of line 2 is the bottom of a vertical *hasta*, joining the slanted trait of another *hasta*, which can be partially seen on the line of fracture, if one restores the latter. The fragments make a letter *M*, or less probably – considering the possible contexts – an *N*. The exact place and circumstances of finding the fragment are unknown, the inventory only states that it was part of the early collection of the museum. The fragment was described by L. Barkóczy in vol. I of *Die römische Inschriften Ungarns I* and marked as unedited, without any suggestion for restoration, with the correct remark that there is an empty line above the first surviving line, i.e. a field of one line’s height.² The surviving part of the inscription can be transcribed as follows (cf. fig. 1):

[- - -]
 COM[- - -]
 FRAT[- - -]
 - - - - - .

¹ Overviews on Scarbantia and the forum (a selection of literature with further references) include K. Póczy, *Die Anfänge der Urbanisation in Scarbantia*. Acta Arch. Hung. 23 (1971) 73-110; *Eadem*, *Scarbantia. A római kori Sopron [Sopron in the Roman age]*. Budapest 1977; J. Gömöri, *Scarbantia foruma – Das Forum von Scarbantia*, (A Soproni Szemle kiadványai, n. s. 14, Sopron 1985), research history at pp. 1-3; P. Kovács, *Oppidum Scarbantia Iulia, Antik Tanulmányok [Studia Antiqua]* 46 (2002) 147-191; Á. Szabó, *Pannoniciani sacerdotes. A szervezett vallási élet feliratokról ismert papi vezetői [From the inscriptions known leaders of the organized religious life]* (Specimina Nova Univ. Quinqueecclesiensis, Suppl. VI). Pécs 2006, 218-220.

² *RIU* I, 176/177 n. 210 and fig. 210, table XCV. fig. 210.



fig. 1

The formal features of the fragment, its thickness and frame breadth as well as its elaboration suggest, excluding the possibility of funerary or building contexts, that the slab was the front side of a statue base. The top of the inscribed field being empty but higher than the lines below, it seems that there was a shorter line in this area. This suggests that the inscription on the slab was centred within the field of inscription and that there was a shorter line above the surviving fragmentary lines. It is less probable that the text started in the part considerably below the top of the inscribed field. The letters *COM* at the beginning of the first line can be restored to give the name *Com[modus]*, while the fragmentary word *FRAT* in line 2 gives *frat[er]* or some of its inflected forms, if one considers the internal coherence of the two words and excludes similar but improbable variants.

Given the peculiar line starts, the fragmentary text and thereby the slab can be most probably interpreted in one context. It has to belong to the small group of objects and texts that can be dated to the beginning of the reign of Septimius Severus. In order to consolidate his rule, the emperor joined the family of the Antonini. According to the fictitious chain of adoptions, he was adopted by Marcus Aurelius. This way he became brother of Commodus, the son of Marcus Aurelius. Later, as his position became more consolidate, in 195 he abolished the *damnatio memoriae* of Commodus and made him consecrated.³ The former emperor was added to the state gods under the name *Divus Commodus* and as the brother of Septimius Severus (*frater Imp. Caes. L. Septimi Severi*).⁴ His cult was officially upheld until the reign of Macrinus, who renewed the

³ Cf. *Historia Augusta* / 'Aelius Lampridius': *vita Commodi Antonini*, capp. 17-20.

⁴ Cf. A. Birley, *Septimius Severus. The African Emperor*. London 1971, 198.

damnatio memoriae in 217/218.⁵ After the first *damnatio memoriae* between 193 and 195, the name of Commodus was erased from inscriptions all over the Empire: the *abolitio nominis* was probably carried out by the army.⁶ Following the consecration in 195, the name was restored in the inscriptions, possibly again by the army, and, according to some African examples where Caracalla is called Augustus, even after 197.⁷ In addition, statues and other inscribed monuments were dedicated to him. Magistrates⁸, military troops⁹, civil communities¹⁰ and private persons¹¹ likewise erected such monuments¹², representing

⁵ Cf. D. Kienast, *Römische Kaisertabelle. Grundzüge einer römischen Kaisergeschichte*. Darmstadt 1996, 148

⁶ Cf. P. Kovács – Á. Szabó (Eds.), *Tituli Aquincenses vol. I. Tituli operorum publicorum et honorarii et sacri*. Budapest 2009, 193-194 n. 213

Catalogue – Inscriptions dedicated to Divus Commodus:

⁷ - *IL Afr* 26 = *ILTun* 56 = AE 1928, 22 - Tripolitana / Bezeros: *Imp(erator) Caes(ares) L(ucius) Septimius Severus Pius Pertinax Aug(ustus) et M(arcus) Aurelius Antoninus [Brit(annicus) Parth(icus) Germanicus] titulum | quod divo Commod[o] fratr[is] suo a[er]asum fuerat restit[ue]runt per vexil(latio) | [[leg(ionis) III Aug(ustae)]] P(iae) V(indicis) Q(uinto) A[n]icio Fausto leg(ato) Aug(ustorum) pr(o) pr(aetori) [c(larissimo) v(iro) co(n)s(uli)] sub cura C(ai) Iu[li] Saturnini [(centurionis) [[leg(ionis)]] [eiusde]m M(arco) Arrio | Muciano e[st] Fabiano co(n)s(ulibus).*

- *ILTun* 58 - Tripolitana / Bezeros: *Imp(erator) Caes(ar) L(ucius) Septimius Severus Pius Pertinax Aug(ustus) | [et Imp(erator) Caes(ar) M(arcus) Aurelius Antoninus Aug(ustus) | [Brit(annicus) Parth(icus) max(imus) Germanicus] titulum quod di[vo] Commod[o] fratre suo a[er]asum fu[er]at restituerunt per vexi[ll]ationem leg(ionis) III Aug(ustae) | [P(iae) V(indicis) Q(uinto) An]icio Fausto leg(ato) Aug(ustorum) pr(o) pr(aetore) [c(larissimo) v(iro) co(n)s(ulari) sub] cura C(ai) Iu[li] Saturnini | [(centurionis) leg(ionis) eiusde]m Muciano [et] Fabiano co(n)s(ulibus)].*

- AE 1922, 53 - Tripolitana / Bezeros: *Imp(erator) Caes(ares) L(ucius) Septimius Severus Pius Pertinax Aug(ustus) et M(arcus) Aurelius Antoninus [[Brit(annicus) Parth(icus) max(imus) Germanicus] titulum | quod divo Commod[o] fratr[is] suo {a}e[er]asum fuerat restit[ue]runt per vexil(lationem) | [[leg(ionis) III Aug(ustae)]] P(iae) V(indicis) Q(uinto) A[n]icio Fausto leg(ato) Aug(ustorum) pr(o) pr(aetore) [co(n)s(ule) c(larissimo) v(iro)] sub cura C(ai) Iu[li] Saturnini [(centurionis) [[leg(ionis)]] eiusde]m M(arco) Arrio | Muciano e[st] Fabiano co(n)s(ulibus).*

⁸ *CIL* VIII, 4212 (p. 1769) – Numidia / Verecunda: *Divo Comm[odo] | M(arcus) Valerius Maximianus leg(atus) [Aug(usti) pr(o) pr(aetore)] | d(ono) d(edit) [- - - - -]*.

⁹ *CIL* VIII, 18248 = AE 1987, 1060 = AE 1992, 1865 – Numidia | Lambaesis: *[Divo Comm]odo | [Imp(eratoris) Caes(aris) L(uci) Septimi S]everi | [Pertinacis Aug(usti) Pii | [Arab(ici) Adiab(enici) Parth(ici) | [max(imus) p(ontificis) max(imus) tribunicia) p]ot(estate) VI | [imp(eratoris) XI co(n)s(ulis) I]I p(atris) p(atriciae) | [proco(n)s(ulis) fratri] coh(ors) VI [Co]m(magenorum) eq(uitata) | [fecit et dedicavit].*

¹⁰ *CIL* VIII, 22712 - Tripolitana / Gighis: *[- - - - -?] | Divo | Commo[do] Aug(usto) | Gighisenses publice.*

- *CIL* VIII, 23707 - Africa Proconsularis / Cuttilula: *Divo Com[modo] Aug(usto) | fratri | Imp(eratoris) Caes[aris] Septimi | Severi Pertinacis Aug(usti) | Arabici Adiab(enici) | Parthici p(atris) p(atriciae) | d(ecreto) d(ecurionum) p(ecunia) p(ublica).*

- CIL VIII, 4826 (p. 1801) = ILAlg II.2, 6097 – Numidia / Nattabutes: *Divo Com[modo] divi] / M(arci) Antonini Pii G[erman(ici)] / Sarmat(ici) filio fr[at]ri] / Imp(eratoris) Caes(aris) L(uci) Septi[mi] Seve[r]i Pii Pertinacis [Aug(usti) Ara]bici Adiab(enici) Parth(ici) m[ax(imi) pont(ificis)] / max(imi) trib(uniciae) pot(estate) XV[II] imp(eratoris) XI] / co(n)s(ulis) III proco(n)s(ulis) pro[paga]tor(is) imp(erii) fortissimi [feli]ciss[im]ique prin[cipis] [patruo] / Imp(eratoris) Caes(aris) [M(arci) Au]reli [An]tonini Pi[i] Fe[l]icis Aug(usti)] pon[t(ificis)] / max(imi) tri(buniciae) pot(estate) XII co(n)s(ulis) [III] / proco(n)s(ulis) fortissimi [fe]licissim[is] PR <<prin[cip(is)]>> | <<et super omnes p[rin]c[ip]es>> | <<cipes nobi(li)ssimi>> c[iv]itas] / Nattabutum.*

- CIL VIII, 27569 - Africa proconsularis / Sicca Veneria: *D[iv]o [M(arco) Aurelio Com]m[od]o Antonino di]vi] / [M(arci) Aureli Ant]oni]ni filio fratri Im]p(eratoris) Caes(aris) / L(uci) Septimi [Sev]er[i] Pii Pe[r]tinacis Aug(usti) Arabi]ci Adiab(enici) Parthi]ci maximi patris Imp(eratoris) / Caes(aris) M(arci) Aureli Ant[oni]ni Aug(usti) [- - -] / [- - - -] / d(ecreto) d(ecurionum) p(ecunia) p(ublica).*

- CIL VIII, 23707 - Africa proconsularis / Cuttillula: *Divo Com[modo] Aug(usto) / fratri] / Imp(eratoris) Caesa]ris Septimi / Severi Pertinacis Aug(usti) / Arabici Adiab(enici) / Parthici p(atris) p(atriciae) / d(ecreto) d(ecurionum) p(ecunia) p(ublica).*

- CIL VIII, 14695 - Africa proconsularis / Thuburnica: *Divo M(arco) Aurelio / Commodo Ant[oni]no divi M(arci) Aureli / Antonini filio frat(ri) / Imp(eratoris) Caesaris L(uci) Sep]t[im]i Severi Pii Per]tinacis Aug(usti) Ara]bici Adiab(enici) / Parthici maximi / patris Imp(eratoris) Caes(aris) / M(arci) Aureli Ant[oni]ni Aug(usti) [[et P(ubli) Septimi]] / [[Getae] Caesaris]] / d(ecreto) d(ecurionum) p(ecunia) p(ublica).*

- CIL X, 1116 – Italia Reg. I, Latium et Campania / Abellinum: *Divo Commodo / Aug(usto) / pont(ifici) max(imo) trib(unicia) / pot(estate) co(n)s(uli) p(ublice) d(ecreto) d(ecurionum).*

- CIL X, 7342 – Sicilia / Thermae Himeraeae: *Divo / Commodo / Aug(usto) / d(ecreto) d(ecurionum) / p(ecunia) p(ublica).*

- CIL III, 4000 - Pannonia Superior / Aquae Balisae: *Divo / Commodo res pu]blica Ia]soru(m).*

¹¹ CIL VI, 1025 – Roma: *Divo Commodo / fratri] / Imp(eratoris) Caes(aris) L(uci) Septimi / Severi Pii / Pertinacis Aug(usti) / praepositus Crescens / scribae Fortunatianus / Felicianus Quintio / Eutyches Philumenus.*

- CIL VIII, 4482 = CIL VIII, 18634 – Numidia / Tubunae: *Divo Commodo / Imp(eratoris) Caes(aris) L(uci) [Sep]t[im]i Severi P[er]tinacis / Aug(usti) Arabici / Adiab(enici) [fra]tri Q[ui]ntus Cal[purni]us Q[ui]nti fil(ius) Pap[ir]ia . . .]cus [. . .] sta]tua[m] ob] hon(orem) / Ilvir(atu)s quam ex] sua liberali]tate promi]sit posuit i]demq(ue) ded[ic]avit].*

- CIL VIII, 4596 = CIL VIII, 18650 - Numidia / Diana: *Divo / Commodo fratri] / Imp(eratoris) Caes(aris) L(uci) Septimi / Severi Pii Pertinacis Aug(usti) Arabi]ci Adiab(enici) Part(hici) / maximi trib(unicia) pot(estate) VIII / imp(eratoris) XI co(n)s(ulis) II p(atris) p(atriciae) proco(n)s(ulis) / M(arcus) Iulius C(ai) fil(ius) Papir(ia) / Rufus Montania]nus aedil(is) Ilvir Ilvir / quinq(uennalis) fl(amen) p(er)p(etuus) ex HS III / mil(ia) n(ummum) inlati]s rei pub(licae) / summi]s honorari]s / et fl(amen) p(er)p(etuus) ex HS X mil(ia) n(ummum) / ampliata pecunia / de]dit idemq(ue) dedi]cavit.*

- CIL VIII, 4597 - Numidia / Diana: *Divo / Commodo fratri] / Imp(eratoris) Caes(aris) L(uci) Septimi Seve]ri Pii Pertinacis Aug(usti) / Part(hici) Germ(anici) max(imi) Arab(ici) / VIII imp(eratoris) XI co(n)s(ulis) III p(atris) p(atriciae) L(ucius) Mucius / L(uci) fil(ius) Pap(iria) Mu]cianus q(uaestor) aed(ilis) / Ilvir praef]ectus i]ure] d(icundo) pro Ilviris / q(uin)q(uennalibus)*

fl(amen) p(er)p(etuus) statuam quam | [ob] honorem flamonii p(er)p(etui) | [praet]er legitimam polli[citus] est restituit idem/[que] dedicavit.

- CIL VIII, 6994 (p. 1847) = IALg II.1, 559 - Numidia / Cirta: Divo Comm[odo] / [d]ivi M(arci) Anton[ini] Pii | Germanici S[armatici] | filio fr[at]ri | Imperatori[s] Caesaris L(uci) Sep[ti]mi Severi [Pii] Pertinacis | Aug(usti) Arabici [Adiabeni] Parthici | propagato[ris] imperii | pontif[icis] max(im)i [trib(unicia) pot(estate) V] imp(eratoris) X co(n)s(ulis) II p(atris) p(atriae) [proco(n)s(ulis) patruo] | M(arci) Aureli Ant[on]ini Caesaris | Imp(eratoris) destinati [- - -] Marcius | Verus statuam quam in | aedilitate sua pollicitus | est cum editione ludor(um) | L(ucius) Iulius Martialis | nepos et | M(arcus) Sempronius Risticinus | heredes posuerunt | l(ocus) d(atus) d(ecreto) d(ecurionum).

- IALg II.3, 7813 = AE 1989, 900 - Numidia / Cuicul: Divo Co[m]m[odo] | divi M(arci) Antonini Pii Germ(anici) | Sarm(at)ici filio fratri | Imp(eratoris) Caes(aris) L(uci) Septimi Severi Pii | Pertinacis Aug(usti) Arab(ici) Adiab(en)ici Parth(ici) max(im)i | propagatoris imperi(i) pont(ificis) max(im)i trib(unicia) | pot(estate) XI imp(eratoris) XI co(n)s(ulis) III p(atris) p(atriae) proco(n)s(ulis) patris | Imp(eratoris) Caes(aris) M(arci) Aureli Antonini Aug(usti) Pii Felicis | trib(unicia) pot(estate) VI co(n)s(ulis) I e(t) proco(n)s(ulis) [[et]] | [[P(ubli) [Se]pti[mi] Geta[e] n[o]biliss[im]i Ca[es]aris]] | M(arcus) Tullius M(arci) f(ilius) Quir(ina) qui et Papir(ia) Pu[bl]dens statuam quam sup(er) leg(it)imam ho[n]oris aed(ilitatis) suae promiserat de/dit curante Scribonio Scribo[n]iano sororis fil(io).

- IALg II.3, 7811 - Numidia / Cuicul: Divo Commodo | divi M(arci) Antonini Pii Germ(anici) Sarm(at)ici | filio fratri | Imp(eratoris) Caes(aris) L(uci) Septimi Severi Pii Pertinacis Aug(usti) Arab(ici) Adiab(en)ici | Parthici maximi propagatoris imperii pont(ificis) | max(im)i trib(unicia) pot(estate) X imp(eratoris) | XI co(n)s(ulis) III p(atris) p(atriae) | Imp(eratoris) Caes(aris) M(arci) Aureli Ant[on]ini Aug(usti) Pii Felicis tri[b(unicia) potest(ate) V] co(n)s(ulis) proco(n)s(ulis) et | [[P(ubli) Septimii Getae nobilissimi Caesaris principis iuventutis]] | Q(uintus) Caecilius [- - -]P[- - -]SICI[- - -] statuam quam promiserat super legitimam posuit | [et] ampliata [pecunia] numini d(edicavit).

- CIL VIII, 27374 = ILPBardo 228 = AE 1951, 75 = AE 1997, s.n. 1649: Africa proconsularis / Thugga: [Divo C]ommodo fratr[is] Imp(eratoris) | [Caesaris] L(uci) S[ep]t[im]i Severi Pii Per[tinacis] | [Augusti] A[r]abici Adiab(en)ici Par[th]ici numi[[ni] eius con]sacrat[i] decurione[s] utriusque | [ordinis et c]uratores pagi Thugg[ensis] | [curatoribus] T(ito) Magistro Q(uinto) Mora[sio]? - - -]OSI[- - -]F Cassiano | ex pollicitatione sua fecerunt d(ecreto) d(ecurionum).

- CIL VIII, 6994 (p. 1847) = IALg II.1, 559 - Numidia / Cirta: Divo Comm[odo] / [d]ivi M(arci) Anton[ini] Pii | Germanici S[armatici] | filio fr[at]ri | Imperatori[s] Caesaris L(uci) Sep[ti]mi Severi [Pii] Pertinacis | Aug(usti) Arabici [Adiabeni] Parthici | propagato[ris] imperii | pontif[icis] max(im)i [trib(unicia) pot(estate) V] imp(eratoris) X co(n)s(ulis) II p(atris) p(atriae) [proco(n)s(ulis) patruo] | M(arci) Aureli Ant[on]ini Caesaris | Imp(eratoris) destinati [- - -] Marcius | Verus statuam quam in | aedilitate sua pollicitus | est cum editione ludor(um) | L(ucius) Iulius Martialis | nepos et | M(arcus) Sempronius Risticinus | heredes posuerunt | l(ocus) d(atus) d(ecreto) d(ecurionum).

¹² CIL II, 1725a = IRPCadiz 121a - Baetica / Gades: Divo Commodo [Imp(eratoris) Caes(aris) L(uci)] Sep[ti]mi Severi Pertinacis | Aug(usti) [fratri - - -] | [- - - - -] | [- - -]INDIAN[- - -].

- IALg II.3, 7807 - Numidia | Cuicul: Divo Co[m]m[odo] | divi M(arci) [Antonini] Pii Germanici Sarmatici] filio frat[ri] Imp(eratoris) Caes(aris) L(uci) Septimii Severi Pii Pertinacis Aug(usti) Arab(ici) Adiab(en)ici Parthici maximi pont(ificis) max(im)i trib(unicia) pot(estate) - - - imp(eratoris) - - - co(n)s(ulis) - - - p(atris) p(atriae) proco(n)s(ulis) patris [Imp(eratoris) Caes(aris) M(arci) Aureli] Se[veri] An[ton]ini Aug(usti) Pii - - - - -.

almost all social classes. It should be noted, however, that most of these objects were found in African provinces, i.e. the region from which Septimius Severus came. Monuments belonging to this group were also found in the provinces supporting his efforts towards the imperial rule, like Pannonia, Roma and Italia, but also from the Hispanian province of Baetica.

The number and contents of the surviving inscriptions as well as the time limits of their dedication suggest that the statues of Divus Commodus are less a token of honour to the new *Divus* than symbols of the general loyalty to the currently ruling emperor, who happened to be the ‘brother’ of the new *Divus*. On the other hand, they represented the legitimacy of the new emperor’s rule. On the basis of the above, the following suggestion can be made as to the restoration of the slab and its fragmentary text (cf. fig. 2):

[Divo]
 Com[modo]
 frat[ri Imp(eratoris)]
 [Caes(aris) L(uci) Septimi]
 [Severi Pii F(elicis) Aug(usti)]



fig. 2

- CIL VIII, 19679 = ILaI 11.1, 3393 – Numidia / Tournier: *Divo Commodo | divi M(arci) Antonini Germanici | Sarm(atici) fil(io) fratri Imp(eratoris) | Caes(aris) L(uci) Septimi Severi | Pii Pertinacis Aug(usti) Ara(bici) Adiab(enici) propagatori | imperi(i) pont(ifici) max(imo) trib(unicia) | pot(estate) V imp(eratori) [---] co(n)s(uli) II | [-----]*

- CIL VIII, 15855 – Africa proconsularis / Sicca Veneria: *Divo M(arco) Au[relio] | Commodo [Anto]nino divi M(arci) A[ureli] | [Antoni]n<i=T> f<i=E>l(io) [fratri] | [Imp(eratoris) Caes(aris) L(uci)] Sept[imi] Severi | Pii Pertinacis [Aug(usti) Ara]bici Adiab(enici) Parthi]ci maximi pat[ris] Imp(eratorum) Caes(arum) | M(arci) Aureli Ant[onini] Aug(usti) | [[[et L(uci) Septimi Getae nobi]]] [[[lissimi] Caesaris]*

The lost parts of the text could contain further elements of the emperor's title and some of his offices in abbreviated form, with the name of the *statutor* at the bottom. This could be a magistrate as well as the community of the town Scarbantia.

Given its topic, the statue may well have stood in the forum of Scarbantia. In the forum, also Hercules Augustus had a temple,¹³ and the statue of Divus Commodus may have been placed in its vicinity. Throughout his life, Commodus showed particular reverence to Hercules, he even identified himself with the god; according to the *Historia Augusta*, the priestly office devoted to him after his consecration was named *flamen Herculaneus Commodianus*.¹⁴

Inscribed monuments of his cult are all dated to the reign of Septimius Severus. As yet, there are no relevant inscriptions from the period of the monarchy of Caracalla. Macrinus officially abolished the cult in 217/218 renewing the *damnatio memoriae*. From the period after his reign, no authors or inscriptions attest to a re-establishment of the cult under the two Severan emperors or their heirs.

Abbreviations

Acta Arch. Hung. = Acta Archaeologica Academiae Scientiarum Hungaricae, Budapest;

AE = L'Année Epigraphique, Paris 1888-;

CIL = Corpus Inscriptionum Latinarum, Berlin 1853-;

IL Afr = Inscriptions latines d'Afrique (Tripolitaine, Tunisie, Maroc), Paris 1923;

IL Alg = Inscriptions latines d'Algérie, Paris 1922-;

IL PBardo = Z. Benzina ben Abdallah, Catalogue des Inscriptions Latines Paiennes du musée du Bardo, Rom 1986;

ILTun = Inscriptions Latines de la Tunisie, Paris 1944;

IRPCadiz = J. Gonzalez, Inscripciones Romanas de la Provincia de Cadiz, Cadiz 1982;

RIU = Die Römischen Inschriften Ungarns, Budapest 1972-.

¹³ Cf. Szabó Á., Hercules-szobor posztamensének felirata Scarbantia forumáról, [The inscription of an Hercules statue-postament from the forum of Scarbantia]. *Specimina Nova Univ. Quinqueecclesiensis* 18 (2004) 121-138.

¹⁴ *Historia Augusta* / 'Aelius Lampridius': vita Commodi Antonini, cap. 17: „Hunc tamen Severus, imperator gravis et vir nominis sui, odio, quam videtur, senatus inter deos rettulit flamine addito, quem ipse vivus sibi paraverat, Herculaneo Commodiano.”