

Funerary inscription for Varius Sudicentis

Editor

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Type of monument

stele

Material

limestone

Find place

found among ruins from the Late antique period to the northeast of Novi Pazar or, according to another report, in the ruins of mediaeval Pliska, then brought to a private house in Novi Pazar, and in 1900 transferred to the National Museum in Sofia

Observed in**Origin**

near Novi Pazar or Pliska

Dimensions

height 132 cm, width 33.5 cm, depth 22 cm

Institution and inventory

[National Archaeological Institute with Museum](#)

No 2220

Hand description**Letter size**

height 3-5.5 cm

Layout description

Stele divided in three parts. The upper part is with a relief of a rider, the middle part contains the inscription field, surrounded by a frame.

Inscription field

height 77 cm, width 24 cm

Decoration description

In the upper part, an acroterion with a rosette. In the field below, a rider to the left, holding a sword in his raised right hand, and a shield in his left.

Text**Category of inscription**

funerary inscription - prose

Date

late 3rd - first half of 4th c. AD

Dating criteria

lettering

Images



Photoarchive NAIM



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Text

- Interpretive
 - Diplomatic
-

R(esta), viator,
et lege. Var(ius)
Sudicen-
tis mile^rs¹

5vixit a-
nnis XL,
qui mili-
tavit in nu-
mero Scu-
10tariorum,
cuius cara
mater Sus-
a eregi{t} ti-
{t}tulo,
15viator.

Text

- Translation
 - Coded
 - Xml
-

Stop, traveller, and read! Varius Sudicentis, a soldier, lived 40 years; he served in the numerus of the Scutarii. His dear mother Susa erected this inscription, o, traveller.

Apparatus

Apparatus:

The text of the existing editions is revised and improved after a comparison through personal observation by N. Sharankov.

1-2) In the abbreviated words "r(esta)" (l. 1) and "Var(ius)" (l. 2), the letter R is crossed with a line in the middle.

1) CIL: RVLATOR ~ [Vi]ator; Loeper: Rulator; Dobruský: R(esta) viator

2) CIL: ITLICI ~ It[a]lici; CIL(add.): ET LEG T; Loeper: It(alicae) l(e)g(ionis) l; Dobruský: et leg(e) t(itulum)

2-4) CIL, Loeper: Varsudicintis; Dobruský: Var. Sudicintis

4) Loeper: mili(tavit) X or mil(itavit) IX

12-13) CIL: MATE SVS|A ~ mate[r Ur]sa; CIL(add.): MATER SVSA

13) CIL: FREGII ~ f[ecit]; CIL(add.), Dobruský: FECIT; Loeper: ereg(x)it

14) CIL: TTVCO ~ [ti]tu[l]o; TTVLO corrected from TTVCO

Commentary

Historical commentary:

Prosopographic commentary:

The soldier bears a Roman gentilicium and a Thracian cognomen (attested in several variants, e.g. Sudicentus, Σουδικενθος). The name of the mother is Thracian as well.

Linguistic commentary:

The text shows peculiarities of vulgar Latin language. The spelling of "milex" with an X instead of "miles" is a hypercorrection caused by the change of the pronunciation of "x" from [ks] to [ss]/[s] and the inability of poorly educated people to choose which of the two letters X and S to use. The form "tittulo" (instead of "titulum") contains an incorrect gemination of the intervocal T and a mistaken case ending. The perfect "eregiit" instead of "erexit" is also typical of late Latin inscriptions, cf. "eregerunt" and "erigerunt" for "erexerunt" in AE 2005, 1329 and 1330 from Novae (dated to AD 431 and 432).