

## New Data on the Water Supply of the Pautalia Thermae

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The paper presents the results from the archaeological excavation of a large public building situated next to the *thermae* of ancient Pautalia (present day town of Kyustendil). The published newly found inscription in Greek is presents for the first time a written evidence for the city baths (βαλανειον) and the construction of two water mains and two aqueducts providing water for them.

The excavations at the *insula* to the East of the Pautalia *thermae* yielded the remains of a large building, which was constructed in the first half of the 2nd century AD. Four massive walls were unearthed, forming parallel vaulted galleries 3,00 m wide. Judging from the already excavated building with similar architectural plans the building can be defined as a cistern. The building was destroyed about mid 3rd century and was reconstructed after that by erecting brick pilasters and cross-shaped columns supporting the upper floor. The final reconstructions date back to the 4th century and at the end of the century the building was abandoned. Houses were constructed on top of its remains in the 5th century using all available construction materials from the demolition. The debris of one of these Early Byzantine houses yielded a stela with inscription in Greek consisting of 6 lines and dated back to about 120-155 AD:

„..., when Marcus (?) Ulpus was governor of the province of Thrace ..., *legatus Augusti pro praetore*, during the joint rule with the archons ..., ... and Aelius Antiochus, under the supervision of the „miner“ ... the spring of Roemetalcus and three more springs were piped ... and [were made] two

water mains towards the bath and two „bridges“ from the city funds“.

The comparisons with Greek and Latin inscriptions reveal that the word „bridge“ in this case means „water main placed on arcade“. The delegation of the control over the construction work to a „miner“ could be explained by the close relation between the mining and the search for water sources as well as by the need of building water carrying facilities necessary for the metal extraction from ores.

The name M. (?) *Ulpus* I regard as an unknown till now *legatus Augusti pro praetore* of the province of Thrace during the reign of the emperors Hadrian or Antoninus Pius. The archon Aelius Antiochus, mentioned by the inscription, is known also from an inscription dedicated to Asclepius and Hygieia in the Temple of Asclepius in Pautalia. His *gentilicium* attests that he received a Roman citizenship during the reign of Hadrian or Antoninus Pius, and the cognomen reveals an Asia Minor origin.

The mentioning of four springs and two water mains shows that the Pautalia *thermae* were supplied with both hot and cold spring water.

Previous research on the Pautalia *thermae* has dated the baths to various periods of time - from the early 2nd century to the late 3rd - the early 4th century AD. The newly found inscription is contemporary to the construction of the *thermae* therefore providing for the first time a more precise date - about 120-155 AD, during the reign of the emperors Hadrian and Antoninus Pius.