

## Portrait statue of Emperor Septimius Severus (Abstract) Rumyana Milcheva

The paper discusses a portrait statue from Durostorum that was already published in the 1980s. The careful analysis offered here (Figs. 1-6) identifies the statue as belonging to Emperor Septimius Severus (AD 193-211).

There is a detailed discussion of the main features – the oval face, the hair style, the execution of the hair and the beard, for which the chisel was the main tool with only rare use of a borer. The Princeps has a hairdo of snail-like curls that is characteristic for his first portrait type and a slightly elongated face with a calm and amiable facial expression typical of his second portrait type. The first portrait type appeared in AD 193 and relates to his ascension to power – the so called *Regierungsantrittstypus*. The type presents a realistic image of a warrior with a short curly hair and a short beard.

The shift to the second portrait type, known as *Adoptionstypus*, took place in AD 196. This new portrait type of the Emperor, who proclaimed himself an adopted son of Marcus Aurelius, has more voluminous hair and a longer beard, in the manner of his “adoptive father”. The mixture of elements from the two portrait schemes suggests that we are dealing with a variant (*Typenklitterung*), established in the period AD 196-202.

The statue under consideration is of poor artistic quality. The limestone that was used and the manner of execution suggest that most probably the statue was made in a local workshop or by a travelling sculptor from the East. Presumably, its creation was related to the passing of the Emperor’s family through Lower Moesia in AD 202.