

New epigraphic monument from Ulpia Oescus

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Large and long public building was found in the eastern part of the forum at Ulpia Oescus (the village of Gigen, near Pleven). It was marked by the excavators as Building №. V and has the following dimensions: length (north-south) 74 m, width 7.70 m. A large limestone pedestal of a statue (1.74 m high) was found in the south part of Chamber №. 2, close to the praefurnium. There is a Latin inscription on its front part. This pedestal is currently kept in the collection of the Museum of History in the town of Pleven, Inv. №. 3459.

The text reads:

- T(it) Flavio T(iti) * f(ilio) Pap(iria)
Valentino eq(uiti) R(omano),
flam(eni) et II viral(i)
col(oniae), praef(ecto) salt(us)
5 patron(o) colleg(ii)
fabror(um) coloni -
ar(um) Oes(censium) et Apul(ensium),
patrono col(oniae) Ulp(iae)
Oescensium
10 Bono civi et ama -
tori rei p(ublicae) ob meri -
ta eius in re publ(ica)

conlata spl(endissimus) ordo
ex suo.

The text consists of two composite parts. The first contains information about the name of the honored citizen, Titus Flavius Valentinus, who belonged to the equites and originated from the Papiria triba, followed by his rich cursus honorem. He was a priest (flamen), former head city counselor (II vir), manager of emperor's domain (praefectus saltus), patron of the associations of the craftsmen in the cities-colonies Oescus and Apulum (patronus collegium fabrorum). The second part of the text informs us who was the one to erect the pedestal of the bronze statue. It happened according to a decision and with the financial support of the City Council, defined as "the most splendid council" (splendissimus ordo). A reason for this decision was given by the services of T. Valentinus who was called 'a good citizen loving the public work'.

The following conclusion based on the text can be made: It is for the first time that an inscription from this place points out the relations between Ulpia Oescus and Apulum in Dacia.