M. P. Speidel, *Consularis of Upper Moesia*, ŽA 36 (1986), 37—38

**A SINGULARIS CONSULARIS OF UPPER MOESIA**

At the village of Pobužje, not far from Scupi, a Roman soldier’s gravestone was found in 1958. Used as a cover for a Late Roman burial, the slab suffered some damage, and almost all of its relief with the funerary banquet is broken off. Despite the wobbly lettering, the stone betrays a certain wealth: it was large (the remains still measure $85 \times 86 \times 14$ cm) and it has a fine moulding. The inscription may be read as follows: (Plate 1)

\[
D(is) [M(anibus).] / Val(eria) Valentin/a / (et) Tib(erius Cl(audius) Her(culanus)?) / m(aritus) vivo se / Fl(avius) Turboni nepo(ti) / mil(itii) [coh(ortis) Sa]cor(um), sin/gulari / co(n)s(ularis), b(ene)m(erenti) / pos(uerunt). \\
H(ic) s(itus) e(st).
\]

"To the spirits of the dead. Valeria Valentina and Tiberius Claudius Herculanus, husband, while living, put this up for Flavius Turbo, their well-deserving nephew, soldier of *cohors Sacorum*, member of the governor’s guard. Here he lies."

Former editors read in lines six and seven *mil(itii) co(ho)r(tis) singulari(um)* and thus thought an otherwise unknown auxiliary *cohors singularium* belonged to the Upper Moesian garrison. Of the crucial letters COS after *singulari* however, are, the C and the S quite clear, and are not in doubt. It follows that *singulari co(n)s(ularis)* is to be read, and that no *cohors singularium* is mentioned here or anywhere else in Upper Moesia.

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2. I would like to thank Professor F. Papazoglu, Beograd, for her great kindness in helping me with this paper and in providing the photograph.


4. I have not seen the stone, but Dr. B. Dragujević-Josifovska, editor of *IMS* VI, of the Skopje Museum was kind enough to check the original again for which I am very grateful.

5. S. Dušančić, *IMS I*, pp. 104 f; and nr. 119.
Not so clear is the case of *cohors Sacorum*. No other Upper Moesian cohort ending in *-corum* is known, but the letters SA in line six are not at all clear on the photograph, and inspection of the stone itself brought no conclusive results⁵. The point is of some consequence, for the existence of *cohors II Aurelia Nova Sacorum* has recently been called into question⁴, and our stone may thus play a crucial role in confirming that such a unit indeed existed. As it stands, the question must remain open. If *cohors Sacorum* is meant, the stone must date to the time of Marcus Aurelius or later⁵.

Flavius Turbo was buried at Pobužje near Scupi very likely because his uncle had a farm there, where he could set up a gravestone for him. His place of service, though, will have been at the provincial capital of Viminacium, regardless of where his home cohort was stationed. All provincial governors had *singulares* guards on foot and on horseback, and *equites singulares* of the Upper Moesian army have long been known⁶. Turbo is now the first Upper Moesian *pedes singularis consularis* known to us.

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⁵ W. Wagner, *Die Dislokation der römischen Auxiliarformationen*, Berlin 1938, 182.
⁶ *CIL III*, 14513 = Dessau 9149; *CIL VIII*, 3050 cf. 18164 = Speidel, loc. cit. 93, nr. 45 with Plate 1.