Abstract: The early Christian basilicas and the only discovered so far dwelling-residence in Parthicopolis reveal the reusage of architectural elements from the Roman period. Being used with the same function, they formed the colonnades; they separated the naos of the Early Christian basilicas from the aisles; they were included in the atrium’s colonnade there (basilicas №№ 1 and 4), and in the colonnade of the main street, the so-called “Via sacra/Mese” (cardo maximus) of the Late Antique city. Many architectural details have been drawn out and reused with the same function from the ruins in the city: Roman Attic-Ionian bases with differently formed plinthus and profile of the base element; columns; capitals in the three orders (in Roman-Dorian, Roman-Ionian and Roman-Corinthian one); fragments of architraves; part of a ceiling with cassettes, etc. They show the chronology of building in the ancient city and the fashionable tendencies, transmitted from the metropolitan buildings. Although Parthicopolis belongs from administrative point of view to the Roman province of Macedonia, the studied architectural decoration finds parallels not only in the buildings of other city centres of the same province, but as well in Thracia. The studied architectural details are differentiated in kinds and types and their chronological limits are specified; also the time of their making is revealed; finely the quarries and the workshops for making the details. Together with this an attempt is made for defying the character and the possible function of the Roman buildings, to which these architectural details have belonged.

A short introduction to the history of the ancient city of Parthicopolis

Very few data are available from the pre-Roman period of this settlement, situated under the present day town of Sandanski in the Southwestern part of Republic of Bulgaria. Most probably it was an important Thracian tribal and religious centre at the beginning, then a Hellenistic settlement and after that it became first a Roman and then an Early Byzantine city in the province of Macedonia under the name of Parthicopolis. Its planning has been probably created under the reign of Domitian, because the dynasty of the Flavians has paid a special attention to the Balkan lands, putting the grounds of colonies and founding military camps, some of them turned later to flourishing cities. A special attention has been paid according to this policy to the studied settlement, Alexandropolis or Paroicopolis accordind to the different opinions, situated at the eastern boundary between Thracia and Macedonia (fig. 1). This city received its new name of Parthicopolis at the end of the reign of Trajan in 116-117. Probably this act should perpetuate the victory of the emperor over the Parthians or posthumously after he has been announced as „Divus Trajanus Parthicus“. The city character is proved by the epigraphical monuments, mentioning its institutions and magistratures and the typical groups of population. Its status was similar to the rest of the

1 С. Петрова, Градоустройството на римския и ранновизантийски град Паройкополис/Партикополис. – В: Паметници Реставрация Музеи, Брой 1-2, 2016, 7-32.
cities in Macedonia. In the opinion of prof. Gerov, it could not be defied as a polity before the period of Trajan (98–117), but its intensive city life began at Hadrian (117–138) and its flourishing should be related to the long period from Antoninus Pius (138–161) to Gordian III (238–244). In the Late Antiquity the city was one of the biggest and important copal centres in the valley of Middle Strymon, with established very rich church building.

The urbanization of the old Thracian and Hellenistic settlements at Trajan, continued by Hadrian and Antoninus Pius, has led to the appearance of rich buildings, decorated with marble. This was enabled by the situated near by marble quarries, exploited since the Thracian period. Analogically to Philippi,

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6 Б. Геров. Цит. съч., 193-194.


8 The Philippi quarries have been owned by Rhoemetalces, son of Kotys III, the last Thracian ruler. See Б. Геров, Земевладението в римска Тракия и Ми-
we can suppose that first they have been property of the Thracian rulers, but at the beginning of the 2nd century they became the domain of the Roman emperor, similarly to the quarries of Nicopolis ad Istrum and Nicopolis ad Nestum. That’s why we can call the deposits near Parthicopolis at that period “the marble quarries of Trajan”. They are located northwestern of the city, with different by its quality stone, colour and texture. Another stone used in the architecture of Parthicopolis was the granite, grey-greenish and porphyry-like, with feldspath mixtures. It was extracted north of the city in more than ten quarries, situated alongside the river of Sandanska Bistriza. There to the quarries existed active workshops for marble and granite extraction and for completely finished and semi-manufactured architectonic details for the representative public and private buildings.

This paper aims to study the architectonic elements, made only in the Roman period. They have been used initially in the Roman buildings of Parthicopolis and from about the middle of the 4th century on reused with the same function in the official Early Christian and from the end of the century Early Byzantine buildings of the city, mainly in its numerous basilicas and in the colonnade of Via sacra/Mese/cardo maximum. The elements created especially for the Christian architecture and its new buildings will be the subject of another research. The latter are capitals, usually plain, with ornamental decoration and imposts with crosses in the Dorian style. In our opinion the whole architectonic decoration of the baptisterium of the episcopal basilica, sculpted in exclusively white quartzite marble, is a special order made in the early period of the baptisterium.

From architectural point of view, the Roman period in Parthicopolis is less known, because usually the buildings have been occasionally and partially discovered. Most often its plans can be supposed on the base of the remains, but with many parts and elements missing. Such is the case with the enormous representative building-residence under the modern mall (GUM). Only few bases and columns of it have been unearthed, the capitals lacking. The situation with the Roman theatre is similar, with the only found base-postament of a reduced type. The discovered architectonic details from the Roman period of the city are few parts of architraves, a part of a ceiling with uncertain provenance and mainly profiled bases, plain columns and capitals in the three architectural styles (Doric, Ionian and Corinthian). The architectonic elements are made predominantly of marble, but some postaments and columns have been sculpted from granite.

I. The supported elements: architraves and ceilings

The only sure supported elements from the Roman period are the parts of the architraves found during the excavations of basilica No 1. These are two fragments of three-stepped architrave, one of them of

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11 The elements made in the Early Christian/Early Byzantine period are the subject of our separate research „The architectonic decoration of the Early Christian and Early Byzantine Parthicopolis“, in print.


13 S. Petrova. The Roman Theatre ..., 2016, 87-112.
a corner. Now they are exposed at the open (fig. 3). The architectonic elements are not published up to this moment by the researcher, therefore it is difficult to defy if the Roman architraves have been reused with the same function or they are just spoliae, included in the wall building of the same basilica. It is established that in the fist building period of the basilica the three aisles have been constructed by arcade colonnades. From this fact it follows that the fragments of the frieze-architraves should be related either to the colonnade of the atrium or that they have been reused as spoliae in the walls of the same basilica. The architraves are made of brilliant white marble in one block. They are carved together with the frieze, which is plain and forming the typical for the Roman architecture frieze-architrave. The two survived to the present day fragments demonstrate a specificity of representing the beams of the architrave, e.i. that all three of them have different height. The lowest beam is the standard for measuring the next beams. The second one is 1.5 times higher than the first one and so is the last third one in comparison to the second one. The field of the frieze is plain and that’s the reason to consider that the frieze-architraves belonged to a building in the Roman-Dorian order. This established by us correlation of the heights of the three beams is not known from other monuments on the territory of Macedonia, but we found it in some unpublished frieze-architraves of ancient Serdica. The same specifics of proportional increasing of the height of each beam having as standard the height of the lowest one can be found in Ulpia Oescus: from the southern peristyle porticus of the temple of Fortuna; from the western porticus of the forum; and from the so-called architrave of Frova in the temple of Fortuna. A building inscription is carved on the architrave blocks of the façade porticus of the same temple with the sure date of 190-192. These very strictly dated analogies, although from the province of Lower Moesia, point to the last decade of the 2nd century as the date of the unknown Roman building with these architraves from Parthicopolis. The fact that in Oescus and Parthicopolis the architectonic manner of work of the Ephesian-Pergamian school is witnessed, allows us to relate both fragments of the friezes-architraves to this school too and its work here.

Another element belongs to the soffit decoration of a representative Roman building or a Roman temple. We could work only with a part of a marble ceiling cassette with uncertain provenance, maybe also coming from Sandanski, preserved in the fund of the Archaeological museum of Sandanski. It is deco-

different height and the established by us correlation.

14 Our deepest gratitude to Dr. Iliana Borissova-Katzarova, who showed to us during our consultation to her the found architectural details at the West Gate of Serdica, including several splendid frieze-architraves with


16 Contradictive data relate the cassette either to Sandanski or to the locality Hiliadnitsa, between the villag-
rated with a rosette of six oak leafs, with three-party round stamen, inscribed in a square border. The usage of drill in its preparing is very clear (fig. 4). The oak leaf is comparatively rare in the architectural decoration, usually on the pulvinus of the Roman Ionic capitals. To the present moment we have found it in the provinces of Lower Moesia and Thracia. In Macedonia this is the first known to us example with decoration of oak leaves. It can be often met on the garlands of sarcophagi made by the workshops of Aphrodisia and Ephesos. Even more often it is used in Asia Minor on different architectural details: friezes, soffits, ceiling cassettes, sidebacks of entrances, etc. The oak leaf is part of the decoration of the ara of August in Miletus, in the soffit in the temple of Zeus in Aezanoi and in other monuments related to the 2nd -3rd century. We suppose that the ceiling cassette is a part of the decoration of a building with the two friezes-architraves on the base of their date in the last decade of the 2nd century and also the same marble from the contact zone Mura of the quarry Ermilovetz. In this way we have at disposal mainly the carrying elements of the order, which can be grouped and studied typologically. Its place in the order is followed in our research.

II. The supporting elements

The reused Roman bases in the Ionic order

The lowest carrying part of the order immediately after the stylobate, namely the base was unknown in the Doric order. In the Greek Ionic order the base is known in two variants: Asia Minor one and Attic one. The genesis of the Attic-Ionian base is formed in Attica of Hellas. Its articulation is very simple: plinth, two toruses, one trohilos between them, all separated by listels. The profile of the toruses is plain. The classical Attic-Ionian base is established in the monument of Lizikratos in Athens, while in Macedonia it appears later, in Langaza (Λαγκαδάς). In the Ionic order the base appears in the Asia Minor variant and in the Attic one. At the beginning the usage of the classical Attic-Ionian base was in the East, in Asia Minor, in Ephesos, during the time of August. From the middle of the 1st century AD the Roman Attic-Ionian base (with separate plinth and base) has been applied in the Roman colony of Corinth, in the Athenian library of Pantainos (Pl. 51 a), and in Eleusina and Olympia. From the Early Imperial period in the East and in Attica the base, made together with the plinthus from a monolithic block, has become dominant and typical after the middle of the 1st century AD.

The Attic-Ionian base is widely spread in the East in Asia Minor (Pergamon, Ephesos, the South Agora of Miletus, Aphrodisia, Mylasa, Knidos, Aizanoi).
Aizanoi/Aezani); in Phrygia, Bythinia (Myra) and in Lycia; also in Syria (Antiochia, Baalbeck, Gerasa, Palmyra, etc.); in North Africa; in the Balkans and in the West Roman provinces27. The chronology of their distribution is extremely wide and that’s the reason for the impossibility to determine strictly the chronological limits of the separate types and its variants in Parthicopolis. We shall try during our research to compare them with bases found in monuments exactly or approximately well dated in Greece, generally in the Balkans, Asia Minor and Africa from different periods.

The discovered since now Roman bases from Parthicopolis, predominantly in situ, are designed for free-standing round columns. The Roman bases are reused with the same function in the colonnades of the Early Christian basilicas №№ 1, 2, 3, 4 and 7; in the colonnades of the atriums of Early Christian basilicas №№ 1 и 4; and finely in the colonnade of the cardo maximus (Via Sacra/Mese) of the Late Roman and Early Byzantine city. Although the building of the basilicas and of Via Sacra each time has definite periods, the reused Roman bases reveal elements from quite different earlier periods and from independent Roman buildings. The bases are marble, extracted from the quarries north of the ancient city, but with different quality, colours and work.

The bases from the colonnade of the basilicas belong to the mentioned type of the Roman Attic-Ionian bases with square plinthus, two toruses, trochilus and two listels, dividing the toruses from the trochilus (fig. 2, 5 – 9, 11).

The plinthuses of the bases belong also to two types:

**Variant A)** these plinthuses have in their base legs. When the legs are about 3-5 см high, the lower part of the plinthus may be formed in two ways: in the first one the lower part among the legs is flat (fig. 6 a) and in the second way it is slightly drooping, reminding strongly the forming of the aechinus of the Ionic capital (fig. 6 b).

**Variant B)** the base of the plinthus is evenly cut (fig. 7).

27 Ibidem, 189-204.

**Type I. Attic-Ionian bases with plinthus, two toruses, a trochilus and two listels, dividing the toruses from the trochilus (fig. 2, 5 – 9, 11).**

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**Variant A)** these plinthuses have in their base legs. When the legs are about 3-5 см high, the lower part of the plinthus may be formed in two ways: in the first one the lower part among the legs is flat (fig. 6 a) and in the second way it is slightly drooping, reminding strongly the forming of the aechinus of the Ionic capital (fig. 6 b).

**Variant B)** the base of the plinthus is evenly cut (fig. 7).

![Fig.5. A marble Attic-Ionian base: two toruses, trohilos and two listels from basilica No 1.](image)
bases are known from Lychnidus/Ohrid, also in Macedonia. Several examples are used in the sepulchral architecture in the provinces of Asia Minor: a base is found in Mylassa in the province of Asia, region Caria, made of white marble and dated at Hadrian; in tomb F in Patara, the Roman province of Lycia and Pamphylia, made of a local stone and dated in the late 2nd century; in the temple-tomb to a podium (X tomb) in Xanthos, in the same province and from the same time34.

The profile of the modeled according to the canon bases with plinthus on legs from Asia Minor and in the Balkans support the Hadrianic date. The canonic profile posseses a clear well expressed for that period convex and concave forms. The base constitutes 1 module, from which 1/3 of the general height represents the height of the plinthus and the rest 2/3 of the height is the profile of the base detail. The lower torus has a strongly convex form, forming together with the plinthus clearly expressed scamilla, and entirely inscribed in the square of the plinthus. The upper torus following the concave curve of the trochilus diminishes its diameter in comparison to the lower one. The round form of the lower torus fills the entire surface of the plinthus (in the width of the side) and this shapes to the base a slightly flattened form, as if it is developing more in horizontal direction, with a clear scotia (fig. 11). Usually the listels dividing the toruses from the trochilus are hardly noticable, as a very thin tenia. The height of the lower and the upper torus and of the trochilus is equal. The only difference is in the height of the listels. In the bases sculpted in the first quarter of the 2nd century, the listels are hardly visible and the scotii clearly outlined. In the later pieces the height of the listels increases, the convex curve of the lower torus diminishes, the scamilla dissappears and the curve of the tordus does not surpass ¼ of the circle.

The space among the legs of the plinthus is formed in two ways: in the first one the hanging of the plinthus’lower part reminds half a sphere, which reaches in the horizontal of legs almost their base. In the second one the horizontal hanging is weak and passes almost in a straight way (fig. 6 а, b).

The parallels for using the variant of bases on legs in buildings from the period of Hadrian and not later in the neighboring cities of Macedonia allow a dating of the marble Attic-Ionian bases from Parthicopolis namely to that period of 117-138, at the end of the 2nd c. Additional argument supporting the date is the

33 Ibidem, 369, № 2 и цит.лит, 412-313, № 3
34 S. Cormack, The space of death in Roman Asia Minor, Wien 2004, 246-248, fig.122-125; 264-265, fig. 152-155; 326-328, fig. 218-220.
marble from the quarry of Ermilovets, the first and chronologically the earliest one in the region exploit-
ded deposit in the Roman period\textsuperscript{35}.

\textbf{Bases with evenly cut plinthus, type I, variant B} are widely spread in the whole Roman period, dated among the 2\textsuperscript{nd} and the 4\textsuperscript{th} century. They represent the canonic variant of the Attic-Ionian base applied during the Roman and the Late Antique period in all the roman architectural orders (Dorian, Ionian, Corinthian and Composite). In Parthicopolis they are found in GUM, basilica № 1, the basilica of bishop Ioannes (No 2), the basilica on Partizanska str. (No 3), in some of the colonnades and the atrium of the Episcopal basilica (No 4) and in the colonnade of \textit{Via Sacra/ Mese}. The lower part of the plinthus is evenly cut and is put directly on the stylobate. This kind of bases is often used in our opinion in the Roman buildings it is easy for working and does not require additional strenthening during the installation on the stylobate.

With both variants of the type we can establish \textit{variants of representing the profile of the base detail}. With the variant A the profile is classical: two toruses with a trochilus between divided by listels. The height of the square plinthus with variant B sometimes is a little bit bigger from the bases on legs. In some pieces the profile of the base is equal to the bases on legs, which chronologically relates the bases to the 2\textsuperscript{nd} century, the latest possible date the last quarter of the century.

The lower torus of variant B also occupies the width of the square plinthus, similar to type I, variant A. The dimensions of the bases of variant B are near rather to the bases with the maximus dimensions of the plinthus over 70 cm and general height of about 28-30 cm.

Among the bases found in Parthicopolis one can notice pieces, whose convex torus over the plinthus also looks like smashed, in some examples not so smashed, but with the catenary form of \(\frac{1}{4}\) from the circle. This form dominates in the majority of bases of middle-sized dimensions. Their upper part more often looses its curve, ending with straight form, similar to a high listel like a disk (fig. 6 a, 11). This profile can be observed with the late bases, made in the last quarter – the end of the 2nd and in the first half of the 3\textsuperscript{rd} century (the Late Antonines and the Severans). The analogies can be found in the whole province, in the Balkans in generally, in its south part (Attica and Peloponessos), in North Africa, Asia Minor, Italy, Pannonia and Noricum, dated basically in the second

\begin{figure}[h]
\centering
\includegraphics[width=\textwidth]{figure7.png}
\caption{A base with plinthus evenly cut in the base. Фиг. 7. Базис со рамно отсечена во основа плинта}
\end{figure}

half of the 2nd and the first half of the 3\textsuperscript{rd} century\textsuperscript{36}. The first exact and the most early parallels of the bases with raised like a listel upper torus are to be met at the west portra of the Agora from the time of Augustus in Ephesos\textsuperscript{37}.

\textbf{Type II. Reduced Attic-Ionian bases.} Some elements of the classical Attic-Ionian base are missing in this type. They are separate bases and bases-postaments. A reduction can be observed in the details of the base instead of the two toruses with a trochil between them. It can be determined two variants (fig. 13 a, b):

\begin{description}
\item[Variant A]: square plinthus, listel, trochilus and a second listel, higher, or as high as the first listel, with which the base or the base-postament ends (fig. 13 a).
\item[Variant B]: square plinthus, torus and listel. This variant is to be met in both types of bases: bases and bases-postaments (fig. 13 b).
\end{description}

In all the buildings of Philippi, the Roman colony and Early Byzantine city in the province of Macedonia, the Attic-Ionian Roman bases with even plinthus from a monolithic block are used. The same types are applied in the theatre of Stobi, as well reused in the Early Christian basilica of Maroneia and in oth-


\textsuperscript{36} These are samples №№ 4, 7, 10, 14 (contact zone Mura-Ermilovets), 18 and 23 (S. Petrova, Quarries ...., 153 ff.).

\textsuperscript{37} Here are included the Asia Minor type as well as the Attic type of bases, with differences in the number of listels. See W. Alzinger, \textit{Op.cit.}, 1974, 66, Abb. 57-59.
er cities of that part of the same province. They can be found too everywhere in the buildings of the set-
tlements and cities in the Upper and Lower Moesia and Thracia. Analogical bases can be traced also in Asia Minor (Pergamon, Ephesos, the South Agora of Miletus, Aphrodisia, Mylasa, Knidos, Aizanoi in Phrygia, in Bythinia, Myra and Lycia), as well their wide usage in Syria (Antiochia, Baalbeck, Gerasa, Palmyra, etc.)38.

The bases of type II with some reduced elements relate chronologically to the end of the 2nd – the 3rd century. Most of the bases of variant “A” are prepared not so carefully: one can see the badly made smoothings on the torus of the profile, as well as its inaccurate carving. In their majority these are freely standing bases. They are found in the naos of basilica of bishop Ioannes (fig. 17 b), in basilicas № 1 and № 3 and in the representative building under GUM. The dimensions of the plinthus vary from 65x65x9cm up to 52x53x7cm. Their height is about 20-2cm and the diameter of the column about 37-40cm. These bas-
es look small and clumsy in comparison to the bases from the time of Hadrian with bases on legs and the ones with evenly cut plinthus from the same period and later to the middle – the third quarter of the 2nd century (Antoninus Pius - Marcus Aurelius). Analogies in clearly defied chronological complexes can be found predominantly in the neighboring and in the more remote settlements of Macedonia (Philippi and Stobi), in Thracia (Philippopolis, Serdica and Pautalia) and Moesia (Nicopolis ad Istrum, Ulpia Oescus, Marcianopolis, Odessus, etc.)39.

Variant B represents reused in profile details of the bases, with torus and listel. Some free standing bases of the type have been a part of the colonnade of the atrium in the Episcopal basilica. More often these bases are part of bases-postaments, included in repre-
sentative colonnades. The bases of this type from Parthicopolis have formed the colonnade of the side walk of cardo maximus/Via sacra/Mese in the Early Byzantine period, tanging the court (atrium) of ba-
silica № 1 from the west (fig. 14). Here bases-posta-
ment of type II, variant B are reused with the same function together with the free standing bases of type II, variant A. Several postaments have been reused in the building of the colonnade of the atrium of the Episcopal basilica. They have been dugged in the terrain in differen depth in order to equal the height of the colonnade, because of the different height of the reused granite columns and the reused marble Ro-
man Dorian capitals (fig. 15). Parallels for the bas-
es-postaments are discovered in the city centres of the Balkan provinces, in Asia Minor and Greece.

2. The reused Roman columns

The Column imposed on the base has a construc-
tive function. It is the next architectonic element of the supporting part of the order. Except the functional demands, it needs to have an esthetic and fluent transition from the supported to the supporting part (entablature) of the order, which imposed the apply-
ing of the base. The whole architectonic decoration of each building is done on the base of a modulus, the articulation of the column in the different parts in

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39 See the cited previously literature.
The Roman architectural practice. The most important thing in the canon for an elegant and beautiful column is the slenderness and the conical form of the column. The slenderness is the relation between the upper and lower diameter (Ud:Ld), and the conical form in the classical architecture most often is 5:6, in the upper part the column being more thin than in the lower one. This quality is not demanded in the Doric order, while in the Ionian and Corinthian order it should be much more, respectively more widening in the base in order the loading to be distributed over the greater part of the stylobate. The quantity of the found columns (preserved entirely or in fragments) in the Roman and the Early Byzantine Parthicopolis is significant (fig. 2, 3, 8, 14 – 18). They come from the representative building under GUM; from the basilicas № 1, 2, 3, 4, 7 and 8; from the colonnade of Via sacra/Mese (cardo maximus) (fig. 15); from the atrium of the Episcopal basilica (fig. 15); finally from the courtyard of the basilica № 1. All the discovered up to the moment columns have a smooth monolithic body, made of one marble or granite block. The marble is grey-whitish and patterned. It has a middle-grained structure and is extracted from the quarries northwesthen of Parthicopolis, over the contemporary town of Ilindentsi, in the deposits Ermilovets, Gingera, Galchovo gnezdо and Mura. Two kinds of granite are used: grey-greenish and porphyre-like granite, with the same colour, but with pink feldspar mixtures (fig. 16). It is extracted from the quarries north of Sandanski, before the village of Lilyanovo. The granite columns are reused in the colonnade of the atrium of basilica № 4, in the naos of basilica № 7 and partly in the colonnade of Via Sacra.

The height of the marble columns varies from 3.60м up to 2.97-2.60м and of the granite ones from 4.95м up to 2.30м. Its lower diameter is from 0.52м up to 0.46м and the upper one from 0.41 up to 0.36 м. The apophysis (αποφισις; eng. apophyge); the plastical end of the column’s upper end in Parthicopolis is sculpted canonically: with one or two rings, not very high. It can be met also with a convex ring in the upper part and below a listel similar to a ring. In other cases the ring is replaced by a straight listel with width between 5 and 7.5cm (fig. 17 a-c), which is more often with the granite columns.

The columns are narrowing in their upper part, equal to the diameter of the capital to be installed on the column. Because the columns in the atrium of the Episcopal basilica are reused Roman ones, most of them have a diameter in the upper part different from the diameter of the capital. Frequently the installed capital has a smaller diameter than the diameter of the column (fig. 18).

The profiles of the apophysis, apophysis and enthasis are the most characteristic features for dating the columns. Their exact analogies from well dated buildings point to the chronological boundaries of production and the adequate including of the columns in the building of Parthicopolis. The double profiles apophasis of the type of convex end with a listel below or a lysis (throat) is found in Macedonia (the theatre of Heraclea Lyncestis42, the theatre of Stobi43, in Scupi in upper Moesia44. According to our personal observations in the province of Thracia they are found in Nicopolis ad Nestum, Philippopolis and Augusta Trajana45; in Lower Moesia in the temple of Jupiter in Ulpia Oescus46 and in the II-like porticus, in the thermiperipatos, agora and the propylaea of

40 The Module is a measure equal to the lower radius of the column. It was introduced by the Greek architects and later accepted by Vitruvius.
41 S. Petrova, Quarries ..., 157 ff.
In Ephesos in Asia Minor they are discovered in public and private buildings, principally from the time of Hadrian; in North Africa in the basilica of Seprimius Severus and the thermae in Leptis Magna; in Rome in the villa of Hadrian and in Ostia, dated mainly in the 2nd century, from Trajan up to the Early Severs. The double-finished apophysis is considered to be typical for the Eastern provinces and mostly for the architectonic decoration of Ephesos. It is accepted that similar end of the columns in Rome and Ostia are product of stonemasons from the East, invited for a special order. Such a decoration as well as other architectural elements and sepulchral settings—sarcophagi are also indebted to the great import from the East of similar details. Such an import and usage is proved too by the cargo from the shipwrecks in Cyprus, with full-length columns from Aphrodisian marble. Another shipwreck from the bay of San Pietro of Tarento includes a not so well carved sarcophagus from the same marble. One more

ship with Aphrodisian marble from the 2nd century has sunken not far from this bay; the second one, also sunken near by, has also Aphrodisian marble, not well worked. It is supposed that the found among them 5 green columns and one white are of Horestian marble from the island of Euboea (Εύβοια). A mixed cargo is found too of Dokimeion (Docimium; Δοκίμειον) and Proconessos marble.

Obviously, the columns from Parthicopolis are not import. On the opposite, they are made in the local workshops with a long story of stone extraction even from pre-Roman times. The columns are prepared in the workshops from monolithic extraction with the necessary for the ancient buildings height. Gradually the complex profile of the apophysis and aphesis is lost, similar to the development of the detail of the base convex form, receiving the form of a more or less wide listel. The entasis is also diminishing, especially of the granite columns, which become more rude, lower and clumsy in the buildings of the period of the Severs and later in the second half of the 3rd century.

All the found to the moment columns are free-standing. The found anta capital from the colonnade of the naos of the Episcopal basilica should belong to half a column, but it is not discovered since now; or this half-column on the west wall of the naos should be filled with bricks and covered with marble revetment. The reused columns are adequate to the diameters of the bases and capitals and descend from cult and public buildings (probably pagan temples, civil basilica, sta or agora) of the Roman Parthicopolis. The Roman columns have been reused in the Early Christian buildings in the colonnades of the basilicas, the atriums and the colonnade of Via Sacra/Mese intend for the Early Christian processions.


According to the investigations at the present stage of knowledge and our hypothesis the agora of Parthicopolis should be situated in the near proximity north and northeastern from the later built between the second quarter of the 4th century and the middle of the 5th century basilicas No 1, 2 and 4. They have been decorated with reused architectonic elements with the same function from these Roman buildings, see S. Petrova, The Early Christian basilicas in the urban Planning of Parthicopolis. – In: Ниви и Византия XIII, 2015, 161-184, fig. 16; S. Petrova, The Roman Theatre of Paroicopolis/Parthicopolis and its historical Fortune. – In: Ниви и Византия XIV, 2016, 187-212, fig. 1.
3. The reused Roman capitals

The capitals found in Parthicopolis reveal the usage of the three basic Roman architectural orders: the Dorian, the Ionian and the Corinthian. So far no composite capital in the decoration of the city has been unearthed. However this fact does not exclude its presence, because such capitals have been already found in Philippopolis in the province of Thrace and in the not so far located from Parthicopolis Drenovo and Stobi in the province of Macedonia.

3.1. The Roman Dorian capitals.

The reused capitals of this order are witnessed in situ in the northern, eastern and southern colonnade of the atrium of the Episcopal basilica, No 4 (fig. 18). Several more capitals of the type, but without exact provenance, are kept in the Archaeological museum of Sandanski, although it can be supposed that some of them are coming from basilica No 1 (fig. 19).

The colonnade of the atrium of the Episcopal basilica has an arcade supported by marble and granite columns. They are stepping on reused bases and bases-postaments, the latter deeply dug in such a way, that only the part of the base detail can be seen. The colonnade is crowned by Roman Dorian capitals. Five of the capitals are included in the reconstruction of the northern colonnade of the atrium, made on the base of the found in situ and fallen after an earthquake colonnade (see fig. 15 and 18). Some other examples of such capitals have been unearthed in basilica No 1 and also a number of occasional finds from Sandanski without exact provenance (fig. 19).

The capitals from the colonnade of the atrium of the Episcopal basilica, similarly to all the Roman Dorian capitals found since now in Parthicopolis, possess elongated neck decorated with flutes and related to type II: The Roman Dorian capitals, type II, with fluted neck, variant A and B according our classification (fig. 18 – 21).

The elements of this type have been developed on the base of the Hellenistic examples. Their beginning in the Roman period is established in the temple of Roma and Augustus in Ankara. The development of the type is realized by the capitals with elongated basket-like neck with decoration of laurel leaves and lower row of acanthus leaves. J. B. Ward-Perkins supposes that this type has Aegean prototypes. They are spread in Italy, North Africa and predominantly in continental Greece. Except them, it can be met a variant of capitals with fluting and acanthus leaves. For both mixed forms J. B. Ward-Perkins supposes an origin from the Hellenistic Alexandria and looks for their prototype in Asia Minor, calling them “Pergamian”.

Some authors call the capitals with mixed forms from North Africa from the Severian period also “Pergamian capitals”. They are signed with Greek letters and are considered to be produced in some Eastern workshops. They are made of Proconessian and Pentelic marbles with prototypes in Asia Minor and Syria. K. Siegler calls the capitals with mixed forms from the Trajanneum in Pergamon “Aeolian Corinthian capitals”.

The capitals in the eastern ateliers have 24 flutes while in the examples from Athens they are only 20.

Ch. Börker names such capitals decorated with lotus and acanthus leaves from the theatre of Dionysos in Athens “basket-like”. Simi-
lar capitals are present also in the villa of Hadrian in Tivoli and in Delphi\textsuperscript{67}. The capitals with fluting and acanthus leaves, typical for the Eastern provinces, the continental Greece\textsuperscript{68} and some cities of North Africa,\textsuperscript{69} show a different end of the tongue under the listel of the neck. In some cases the tongues are coming out of the general mass of the elongated neck, however in other cases this lacks and they end immediately under the echinus-listel. In our opinion this mixed type served for the creation of the type with a neck, whose decoration consists only of flutes. The abacus of this type is plain or complexly profiled.

The Roman Dorian capitals from Parthicopolis show the both variants of type II, included in the colonnade of the atrium of the Episcopal basilica. They are found\textit{ in situ}, left after the complete destruction of the basilica and its atrium by an earthquake at the end of the 6th century (fig. 28).

The echinus of the capitals of type II with elongated basket-like neck is a listel, not very wide. The abacus is with square form with two variants:

\textbf{Complex profiled abacus (fig. 20 a-c).} This variant of the three-parted abacus of the capitals of the colonnade of the atrium has not been witnessed since now in the studied area and the piece is the first one. On the canonical plinthus of the abacus there is another plinthus, widening like a pyramid in height with 10 cm on each side of the abacus. From above the widening ends with a new plinthus, equal in height with the first one, but bigger in length. A three-parted complex abacus is formed in such a way. A decoration of floral ornaments, namely differently developed and turning to the corners of the abacus rinceaux or pairs of different schemes, placed in opposite position, are sculpted in the space among both plinthuses, on the beveled almost to 45° surface in height. For instance from one side and on the opposite one the decoration consists of a low and schematic Ionian cyma, turned with the tops of the ovuli; on the other side and its opposite one there is placed an ornament with stylized leaves similar to the oak ones. In the center of this leaf composition a representation is sculpted, reminding a stylized acorn. The corner is formed as a quarter of a circle at the angle, at the place of meeting of the images from both sides of the complexly abacus, reminding very much the schematic image of the acroteria in the tomb steles with architectonic articu-
lation from the region. The height of this complex three-parted plinthus-abacus is about 15-16 cm.

**Canonic abacus.** The typical abacus has a square plinthus, thick from 7 to 10 cm (fig. 19 and 21). The canonical abacus of the Roman-Dorian capitals is a plain square plate (*plinthus*).

Both variants of the Roman Dorian capitals from Parchipolipolis are determined in dependence of the way the fluting is ending immediately under the echinus-listel. The capitals of *type II variant A* have tongues going out of the volume of the capital and turning to the outside (fig. 20). A spear-like leaf is placed among them also going out of the capital’s volume. This type of spear-like small tongues among the flutes appears for the first time in the 6th century BC in Phocis (Φωκία; ancient Greek: Φωκίς).

A lunula (*lunulae*) is depicted on the base of every flute of the pieces from Parchipolipolis, the base of the capital turning with a fluent catenary inside and under it there is a thin listel. The small tongues of the flutes, raising to the abacus, are going out of the volume similarly to the small spear-like tongues, also beginning from the capital’s basis. Together they turn in a fine way under the echinus-listel and the abacus, the tops being pointed to the base of the capital. The presence of the spear-like tongues caused the diminishing of the number of flutes from the needed according to the canon 20 to 16. The place of the remaining 4 flutes on the capital’s neck has been taken by the spear-like tongues. Their rims and those of the flutes are precisely worked out and represent a ribbon equal by width forming fluently the rim of the precisely carved flute. The depth of cutting of all kanellures is one and the same. The abacus is complexly profiled. It is made of grey-whitish middle- to coarse-grained marble, extracted from the deposit Ermilovets of the quarries of Trajan, situated north of the village of Ilindentsi.

Similar capitals with fluted necks and profiled tree-parted abacus, however not decorated, can be met also in the provinces of Upper and Lower Moesia in the therms of Odessus, in Marcianopolis and in Tomis. In their majority the capitals are considered to be import, made of Proconnesian marble. Other such pieces descend from Serdica, without exact provenance, kept now in the National Archaeological Museum; from Pliska, probably transported from Nicopolis ad Istrum; and from Philippopolis and Augusta Trajana. All they are dated in the 2nd – the beginning of the 3rd century (Late Trajanic time, the Antonines and the Early Severans). The only such capital with flutes published so far from the Republic of Macedonia, is found in Scupi in Upper Moesia. It is a capital with flutes and Ionian cyma at the base for a rectangular pillar. Instead of fluting, there is a vertical acanthus leaf at the corners. The abacus is complexly profiled, but not decorated and according to the researchers it is a part of the colonnade of the supposed Forum.

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71 For the development of the type see С. Петрова, Типология и особености..., 8-16.


73 Chronologically these are the earliest quarries from the time of Trajan – Hadrian (the end of the 1st and the first third of the 2nd century). The marble for the architectonic decoration for the first Roman buildings has been extracted namely here.

74 С. Петрова, Типология и особености..., 8-16.

75 Ibidem, 10-14 and the cited lit.; С. Петрова, Капителът през римската епоха в Мизия и Тракия, София 1988, Dissertation, 47 f.

The capitals of this variant have inherited the Hellenistic examples of Asia Minor and Attic architecture and reveal the way of their penetration in Parthicopolis. It happened through the settlers from Asia Minor and probably from Egypt, for whom we have at disposal epigraphic data. The settled in Parthicopolis veterans also have helped the “Roman import” of models for the architectonic decoration. The time of the first architecturally decorated buildings and the beginning of the Roman architectural practice in the Balkans (Attica, Thessalia, Beroia, Dion, Scupi and Parthicopolis in Macedonia, Thrace, Upper and Lower Moesia) is the end of the rule of Emperor Trajan and that of Hadrian

**Type I, variant „B“**, represents the Roman Dorian capitals with tongues, which do not come out of the flutes (fig. 19 and 21). It is established, that the variant has existed and has been developed parallel to variant A, but it is simpler. The neck of the capital is also elongated and basket-like, but the variant B differentiates from variant A by the tongues of the flutes. With variant B they are made on the same level of the listel, replacing the echinos and the abacus is not profiled. There are lunulae at the base of the flutes, but they are cut not so deeply and this is one more essential difference with variant A. Under the lunulae an Ionian cyma is sculpted, with cut points of the ovulae and as if optically continued by the lunulae at the base of the flutes. Their rim and their depth are precisely and finely carved, similarly to variant A, and from the same marble, although in some of them the colour is slightly darker. The analysed samples of capitals in variant B show coarsed-grained marble, gradding from light to more dark grey, from the Mura deposit, as well as from the contact zone with the deposit Ermilovets. The latter is the first worked out together with Mura and it is the closest one to the already non existing village of Vrabcha, today known under the name of quarries of Ilindentsi.

Capitals of the variant B have been unearthed in the neighboring ancient settlement at the town of Melnik, as well as in Nicopolis ad Nestum. They are to be met comparatively frequently in the province of Thracia. This is probably due to the fact that the western and southern parts of present day Bulgaria is more influenced by Greece and Asia Minor than by Rome. Really the capitals with mixed forms (with the lotus-acanthus and fluting-acanthus leaves) are spread predominantly in Attica, the Aegeian coastline and Asia Minor. That’s the reason to consider that this simple variant of the type is preferred by the stone cutters, especially by those with a low qualification. In Asia Minor they can be met in Dydima77, Cumbaba78 and Ankara79 and are related to the 2nd-3rd century. R. Kautsch also offers examples of capitals with flutes from Athens, Chalki, Aegina and Chaeronea80, although dated by him later.

The parallel usage of both variants of the type in the architectural decoration of Parthicopolis is in the chronological limits between the beginning of the 2nd – the first half of the 3rd century. We assume that the reused capitals in the colonnade of the atrium come from buildings, erected at the time between of Hadrian and the middle of the 2nd century, because they have been reused together with the bases on legs, the slender high columns and the capitals of variant A, descending from a building erected in these chronological limits (Hadrian-the middle of the 2nd c.). The capitals of variant B date from the Late Antonines and the Early Severans. In our opinion both variants

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have been a part of the decoration of buildings, situated near to the agora of the Roman city, which was at that time in the immediate proximity to the later built Episcopal complex.

3.2. The capitals in the Roman Ionic order.

This type of capitals found in Parthicopolis, have been also reused with the same function in basilica No 1 and in the Episcopal basilica. The colonnade divided basilica No 1 into three aisles. In the first building period it is an arcade on columns in the Roman Ionic order according to the archaeological data. Two entirely preserved capitals come from here. Four of the discovered Roman Ionic capitals are kept in the Archaeological museum of Sandanski, two of them unearthed during the investigations of basilica No 1.

In their composition and decorative schemes these pieces belong to the usual Roman Ionic capitals. They are made from a whole block together with the abacus. The echinus is decorated with an Ionic palmette, flanked from both sides; with differently represented palmettes. The coiled volutes end with a round eye.

The front part of the capitals can be related to an independent Group I, with two types in dependence of the peculiarities in making the canalis, the echinus and its decoration with Ionic cyma and the number of the coiled volutes around the round eye and finely on the representation of the palmettes on both sides of the echinus.

Group I type I is represented by capitals whose front has a strongly or not so strongly drooping downwards canalis, non-decorated abacus decorated echinus (fig. 22-a and 26-a). The non-decorated canalis is separated from the abacus by concave “stab” (a horizontal concave edge) and the canalis is more or less hanging over the middle part of the echinus. A capital found in the Episcopal basilica has a width of hanging equal to the height of the forehead of the

81 For the terminology, classification and typology of the Roman-Ionian capitals from the Roman period in Bulgaria see С. Петрова. Римско-йонийски капители от Мизия и Тракия (I-IV в.). София 1996, 22 сл.

82 The “stab” is concave or convex well made rim, dividing the separate elements.
capital\footnote{The forehead is the plain or the decorated space between the abacus and the pulvinus of the usual Roman-Ionian capitals.} (fig. 23-a and 35-a). The echinus’ height is small because of the hanging over it canalis. The volutes are coiling from 2 ½ up to 1 ½ times around the round and flat eye (fig. 22-a and 26-a). In one of the capitals wide channels of the volute motif can be observed, which diminishes the number of the volute’s coiling.

The strongly hanging over the echinus’ canalis is a typical feature for the Attic variant of the Ionian capitals. The hanging palmettes together with the hanging canalis reminding eyebrows can be observed since the Hellenism in continental Greece and in Pergamon in West Asia Minor (the altar of Zeus dated in 197-195 BC). For such monuments from the Roman period the date is usually the 2nd- the 3rd century or the Hadrianic period\footnote{O. Bingöl, Das ionische Kapitelle. Berlin 1887, 41 ff., Abb. 32, 33; O. Bingöl, Op.cit., Taf. 2-299.}. The capitals are produced of white or grey-whitish coarse-grained marble, extracted from the Trajan’s marble quarries Ermilovets and Mura-West.

The Ionian cyma on the echinus consists of three ovuli in egg-shells, parted by spear-like or egg-and-dart motif or stick-like ornament, and of small arrows with differently formed top. The palmettes flanking both ends of the echinus are plastically sculpted at the volutes and cover almost half of the back ovuli. They are three-leaved and in some of the capitals the leaves are exceeding over the top (fig. 22-a). The palmettes of the capitals from the Asembleion in Aphrodisia and from Perge from the 2nd century and from the period of Hadrian reveal identical to Parthicopolis overlapping of the palmettes’ leaves\footnote{Ibidem, Kat. No No 74, 76, 248.}. The palmettes are going out of differently formed calyces. One of the capitals is exception, with echinus decorated with one only ovulo on behalf of the palmette represented like a scroll of five sprouts. It is not traditional and covers the space intended for the back ovuli of the Ionian cyma on the echinus (fig. 26-a). Capitals with a similar decorative scheme can be met predominantly in Asia Minor: in the museum of Manissa and Aydn (Tralles/Caesarea) from Pergamon, dated in the 2nd-3rd century\footnote{O. Bingöl, Op.cit., 214, Taf. 15-203; Taf. 1-78; 25, Taf. 2-221.}; in Heraclea Pontica from the second half of the 2nd century\footnote{O. Bingöl, Op.cit., Taf. 41-142.}; in the temple of Dionysos in Theos from the period of Hadrian\footnote{O. Puchstein, Das ionische Kapitelle. Berlin 1887, 39, tav. IX-112.}; and in Ostia from the first decades of the 2nd century\footnote{P. Pensabene, Scavi di Ostia, VII, Roma 1973, 39, tav. IX-112.}. The strongly hanging over the echinus’ canalis is a typical feature for the Attic variant of the Ionian capitals. The hanging palmettes together with the hanging canalis reminding eyebrows can be observed since the Hellenism in continental Greece and in Pergamon in West Asia Minor (the altar of Zeus dated in 197-195 BC). For such monuments from the Roman period the date is usually the 2nd- the 3rd century or the Hadrianic period\footnote{O. Bingöl, Das ionische Normalkapitelle in hellenistischer und römischer Zeit in Kleinasien. – In: DAI, Ist. Mitteilungen, Beiheft 20, 1980, 24, Taf. 1-224, Taf. 2-297, Taf. 877, Taf. 14-249.}. The capitals are produced of white or grey-whitish coarse-grained marble, extracted from the Trajan’s marble quarries Ermilovets and Mura-West.

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are kept in the Archaeological museum of Sandanski. They are made of grey and grey-whitish coarse-grained marble from the deposit of Mura and contact zone of Mura West/Ermilovets. This type of capitals, generally dated from the end of the 1st to the end of the 4th century, are spread in Rome, Asia Minor and in many city centres in the Balkans. The ones from Claudiopolis are dated in the period of Hadrian; those from Aphrodisia and Heraclea Pontica are related to the period between Hadrian and Septimius Severus. One of the capitals from Parthicopolis (fig. 23-a) has a parallel with the capital from the museum in Yalvaç (near to Antiochia in Lycaonia). It is accepted that such a constructive-decorative scheme of the Roman Ionic capital is near to the Asia Minor variant of the Ionic capitals.

The echinus of the capitals has a decoration of Ionic cyma from ovuli, incised in egg-shells and parted by small arrows with differently formed top: triangular, thick and massive or by small arrows with short top and pointed ends. The two-leaves palmette, coming out of the foot of the volute, covers almost the half of the back ovuli. The volute is coiling twice around a round and flat eye. Five dots can be observed on the eye’s surface, situated in a way similar to the dots standing for the digit five in the modern die (fig. 25-a). This technology applied with the purpose of exact drawing, forming and sculpting of the volutes, is proved as typical for the workshops in the quarries of Aliki on the island of Thassos. Such models are found in the Roman agora of Thessaloniki, in basilica C of Amphipolis, in Aegina, Italy and Syria. Although the pieces are produced by the local ateliers in and around Parthicopolis, some of them reveal the same technological scheme created by the workshops of the quarry Aliki on Thassos.

The capitals according to the articulation of the pulvinus can be related to the ones with classically articulated pulvinus and to the group with Roman

91 Ibidem, Taf. 3-81.
93 Ibidem, Taf. 11 and 26, Kat. No 310.
pulvinus. The first group - classic articulation of the pulvinus is a variant 1 (according to my classification)\textsuperscript{97}, with balteus (bandage) with borders (fig. 25-b and 26-b). The second group so-called Roman variant is a variant 3 (according to the same classification), with different representations decorative motifs on the place of the balteus. Such is the capital from basilica No 1 and the one from the episcopal basilica with raised leaf (fig. 24-b). The borders of the balteus of the pulvinus are the following: plain „U“-like convex rim (fig. 25-b); convex twisted ribbon in the form of a roap ornament – fig. 26-b; or balteus without borders (fig. 22-b and 23-b).

The decorative motives over the balteus are: a row of raised leaves (fig. 22-b, 23-b and 24-b), appearing for the first time in the practice in Asia Minor at the end of the 1st and the beginning of the 2nd century; and sprout turned “S”-like (fig. 25-b and 26-b), their beginning witnessed initially in Moesia already at the end of the 1st century\textsuperscript{98}.

According to the decoration of the pulvinus the Roman Ionian capitals belong to types Ι, III, ΙΙΙ, IV, V and X\textsuperscript{99} (fig. 22-b – 26-b).

With \textbf{type I} the decoration consists of horizontally placed leaves in two layers (fig. 22-b). The leaves of the upper layer are connected or not connected at their base with a slightly rounded, almost spear-like point with a central rib. The lower layer of leaves has a spear-like form, evident well from their base on. The curb of the pulvinus is plain and wide 2.5 см. As the leaves of the pulvinus, the ones in the vertical direction form a balteus, reminding scale ornament, and then pass to the forehead of the capital. The analogies for it can be found mainly in capitals from Asia Minor (Aphrodisias, Pergamon, the museum in Ankara, Alanya and the Marble street in Ephesos), all dated in the 2nd century till the Severs (193-235). A capital from Marvints in Macedonia from a well dated temple in 181 is an exact parallel for the capital from Parthicopolis\textsuperscript{100}. Two more parallels descend from Macedonia: the first reused capital is found in the church of Dolno Chichevo, the disytrict of Gradsko\textsuperscript{101} (the ancient Stobi relates to Gradsko as well); the second similar capital comes from Heraclea\textsuperscript{102}. Its technological and decorative scheme points that it a product of the workshops in the quarry of Aliki on Thassos, having in mind the five dots on the surface of the volute’s eye, with the help of which it has been drawn and made. Two capi-

\textsuperscript{97} С. Петрова, Римско-йонийски ..., 1996, 25 ff.
\textsuperscript{98} С. Петрова, Римско-йонийски капители от Мисия. Археология, 1985, 3, 15-25.

\textsuperscript{100} В. Личичк, Op.cit., 238.
\textsuperscript{101} Ibidem, 278-279.
tals from Lichnidus (Ohrid)\textsuperscript{103} have the same scheme with the five dots. The first one, probably from the theatre decoration, reveals a thin short stick, connecting the ovulo with the egg-shell. This technological manner, established during the period of Antoninus Pius (138-161), has been applied not later than the co-ruling of Marcus Aurelius with Lucius Verus in 169\textsuperscript{104}. The second parallel is the capital from Sirkovo, district Rossoman, from the first half of the 3rd century\textsuperscript{105}. In our opinion this date should be specified precisely in accordance to the composition, the clearness of carving, the representation of the Ionic cyma (in well formed egg-shells, separated by spear-like ornament), of the palmette with many leaves and most of all on the base of the \textit{balteus} with borders and \textit{S}-like ornament, documented in the example from Marvintsi from 181. These are the reasons to relate the capital to the last quarter of the 2\textsuperscript{nd} century.

More analogies can be discovered among the capitals from Scupi in Upper Moesia, dated mainly in the 2\textsuperscript{nd} century or in the boundaries of the 2\textsuperscript{nd}-3\textsuperscript{rd} century\textsuperscript{106}. Following the chronology of the type, represented by the examples from Upper and Lower Moesia, Thracia and Macedonia with their typical Roman elements of decoration and articulation, we date the capital from Parthicopolis to the last quarter of the 2\textsuperscript{nd} century (Late Antonines – Early Severs).

\textbf{Type III} is represented by another capital from basilica No 1 (fig. 23-b). The horizontally placed leaves have a central rib, beginning from the \textit{balteus} without borders and reaching to the curb of the volute. The articulation of the \textit{pulvinus} belongs to the Roman variant. The decoration consists of a raised row with leaves, reminding scales, with decorated forehead. Leaves with double rib are inherent to the older decorative practice during the Hellenistic period, whose prototype can be observed in the Rodossian peristyle in Ephesos from the 1st century\textsuperscript{107}. The origin of the horizontally placed leaves on the \textit{pulvinus}, are to be met in Western Asia Minor, in the examples from the museums of Aydın and Bordur\textsuperscript{108}, in Laodicea ad Ly-

\begin{itemize}
  \item \textsuperscript{103} Ibidem, 368 – 1, 371 – 1, 372 – 2, 373.
  \item \textsuperscript{104} This technological manner is established during the study of the Roman Dorian and Roman Ionian capitals in the provinces of Thracia and from Oescus in Lower Moesia, see С. Петрова, Типология и особенности на римско-дорийския капител, Археология 1990, 3, 8-16. This leads to the re-dating of the capital from the 3\textsuperscript{rd} century to the second-third quarter of the 2\textsuperscript{nd} century.
  \item \textsuperscript{105} Ibidem, 304-305.
  \item \textsuperscript{106} Ibidem, 173-174.
  \item \textsuperscript{107} O. Bingöl, Op.cit., Kat. No 128.
  \item \textsuperscript{108} Ibidem, 82-86, Taf. 25, NoNo 77, 78, 82, 83.
\end{itemize}
Parthicopolis is a local product from the last quarter of the 2nd century and the beginning of the 3rd century (Late Antonines – Early Severs).

**Type IV** is represented by a capital from the Episcopal basilica in Parthicopolis, with a *balteus* with horizontally placed scale-like leaves on the *pulvinus* ([fig. 24-b](#)). The leaves are in several rows with convex central rib with rounded and spear-like form. The curb of the volute is plain. This kind of decoration repeats an earlier scheme created during the Late Hellenism and applied in the capitals of the temple of Artemis and in the south side of the Agora of Magnesia\(^{113}\). The final decorative scheme has been completed in the period of Augustus in the 1st century BC in the capitals of the temple of Aphrodite in Aphrodisia\(^{114}\). The motif is widely used in the Eastern (Asia Minor) provinces. The apogee of the scale motif on the pulvinus of the Roman Ionian capitals is in Pergamon\(^{115}\). In our opinion this city was the place of spreading the type to the Balkan provinces too by the help of itinerant stone-cutters or settlers from the Pergomonian-Ephesian school, created at the end of the Trajan’s ruling and especially during the building program of Hadrian\(^{116}\). This is namely the time of development of the ornamental motifs in the Roman architecture. The scale motif then has been widely spread in the decoration of all the Roman provinces, especially from the Late Hadrianic period up to the period of Severs, when also the decoration with combination of scrolls is used on the forehead of the capital. The closest parallels to the Roman Ionian capital are the pieces from Nicopolis ad Istrum, Heraclea Pontica and Hierapolis, related to the Early Severs\(^{117}\). The motif of leaves represented as scales is also on the pulvinus of a capital from Scupi from the 2nd century (“dating in the boundaries of the 2nd-3rd century” according to В. Лилчиќ)\(^{118}\). The scale motif can be observed too on a capital from the peristyle

\(^{113}\) W. Hӧpfner, Zum Ionischen Kapitell bei Hermogennes und Vitruv. – In: A.A, 83, 1968, Taf. 78-1, 2; Taf. 79-1.


\(^{115}\) Ibidem, 100-101, NoNo 56, 58-63, 65, 66, Taf. 32, 39.

\(^{116}\) For the schools in the quarries on the Balkans and their activity see С. Петрова, Цит. съч., София 1996, 40 и следвания.

\(^{117}\) O. Bingöl, *Op.cit.*, 89-91, NoNo 139 and 146, Taf. 28.

west of the Odeion in Nicopolis ad Istrom, product of Asia Minor masters from the 2nd century.119

Type V of decoration on the pulvinus of the Roman Ionian capitals from Parthicopolis is represented by a capital found during the excavations of basilica № 1 (fig. 25-b). The decoration is antemion on the both sides of the balteus, with borders and S-like ornament. The curb of the volute is plain and wide 2 см. The decorative scheme consists of two pairs of leaves placed horizontally with depicted leaf of reed with clearly shown central rib. The leaves of the antemion with equal length go out of the balteus and reach to the curb of the volute. There are two back leaves of the antemion with coiled inside tops, similarly to the eye. The pairs of leaves are divided by a reed leaf with concave central rib, placed horizontally in the whole length from the balteus to the curb of the volute. The Ionian cyma on the echinus is divided by small arrows with short point and the enclosing from both sides palmette is with two leaves.

The Late Hellenistic period demonstrates examples of decoration with antemion on the pulvinus of the Ionian capitals. The antemion is many times repeated on the Ionian capitals and other elements, mainly friezes, in the Asia Minor architecture.120 The capital from Marvintsi, dated in 181, is analogical to the capital from Parthicopolis, its balteus and the representation of the reed leaf; another parallel is the one from Milassa from the time of Hadrian and the one from the Asclepion of Aphrodisia with a general date in the 2nd century.121 This scheme can be met in the Asia Minor provinces predominantly in the cities of the created by Vespasian provinces of Lycia and Pamphydia, and most of all in Side. In the Balkan provinces of Moesia and Thracia this decoration (antemion or palmette) is also frequently met. A capital, extremely well modelled, with similar articulation and decoration of the forehead and the neck (the echinus and the pulvinus) comes from the ancient settlement of the Golyamo Gradishте at Konyuh, the locality Kshla, district Kratovo in the Roman province of Thracia.

The examples similar to Parthicopolis from Macedonia are numerous: a capital from Chashka, similar to Konyuh, dated in the 3rd century (however, in our opinion the date may be specified as not later than the dynasty of Severs); the capitals from Marvintsi and Chepigovo (Stybera); two capitals from Heraclea Lyncestis with the same decoration as in Parthicopolis on the forehead and decorated pulvinus, but more plastically modeled and with the 5 dots for designing and sculpting the volute as a sign of the Thassian workshop; and capitals from Corinth in roman province of Achaea. One of the capitals from Heraclea has 5 dots on the eye of the volute, serving for designing the motif of the volute, which is

120 W. Filarska, Studia nad dekoracjiami architektoniczymi Palmyry, Studia Palmeryńskie, II, Warszawa 1967, 16-17, fig. 45-47; 28, 135, fig. 175.
129 Corinth 1941, 67, fig. 45.
Their prototypes are established predominantly in Asia Minor: from the time of Augustus in the basilica in Ephesos and the museum in Bergama, most possibly originating from Pergamon. The majority of the discovered Roman Ionian capitals of the type are related to the time of Hadrian. Such a date in the middle-second half of the 2nd century and not later than the 70es-80es of it for the capital from Parthicopolis is quite acceptable for us, having in mind the clear chronology of the S-like ornament in Macedonia (181) and the applying of the decorative motif on the pulvinus in the period from Hadrian to the Late Antonines.

**The last Type X.** It has a pulvinus with fluting (fig. 26-b). We don’t know any other example among the Roman Ionian capital with such a decoration from the Balkan provinces. Until now the capital from Parthicopolis is the only one, representative of an independent type of capital decoration. It is made by grey-whitish coarse-grained marble from the contact zone of the deposits Ermilovets and Mura in the quarries of Trajan. The flutes are arched curvet, in direction to the volute’ curb and the forehead of the capital. The pulvinus is articulated in a classical way, with a balteus with borders. The forehead is very big and fusing to the abacus. The pulvinus is very narrow at the balteus. The decoration of the balteus is S-like ornament similar to that of the capital from Marvintsi from 181.

Such fluted decoration, more typical for the friezes and capitals in the Roman Dorian order with elongated neck, is established too with a Roman Ionian capital from Side from the period of Antonines and with the Roman Ionian capitals in the basilica in Ephesos. The difference between the fluting in the capital from Side and Parthicopolis is that in the first case it is twisted: in the one half of the pulvinus the flutes are directed to the forehead of the capital and in the other one their direction is pointed to the base of the capital. The date of the capitals from Asia Minor in the same model and scheme in the time of the Antonines allows placing the capital from Parthicopolis in the same time.

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130 С. Петрова, Типология и особености на римско-дорийския капител, Археология 1990, 3, 8-16.


The Roman Ionian capitals from Parthicopolis reveal their production in the period from Hadrian to the end of the dynasty of the Antonines/the Early Severs, which means during almost the whole 2nd century, coinciding with the economic boom of the city. On the base of the construction and the decoration of the capitals we can establish the influence of several architectural schools. When constructing and carving the volutes and the outlining of the echinus some capitals reveal the repertoire of the schools and stone-cutters of Thassos, mainly from the quarries at Aliki. In the decoration of the pulvinus and its articulation the influence predominantly of Asia Minor models and schools can be felt. Most probably their production and the closeness of Parthicopolis to the boundary with Thracia, where masters from the East worked, all this have influenced the decorative models of the Roman Ionian capitals in the city. We can establish according to the decorative schemes the probable participation of itinerant groups of stone-cutters or in the centers of production created at the quarries, coming from Phrygia, Caria, Pisidia, Lycia and Pamphylia. The cities which have created the best centers and stone schools in the Roman period are Ephesos, Pergamon, Aphrodisias, Dokimeion, Hierapolis, Perge, Sagalassos and Side. The wide spread of the models of these schools in Macedonia and Thracia is due to the great number of Eastern settlers, also due to the trade connections for the extraction and the reworking of marble from the Trajan quarries north of the city. We suggest that in it, or rather in the quarries of the city, there existed workshops including also the participation of Eastern itinerant masters. Probably the leading masters of these ateliers and the heads of the schools have been at the same time merchants of the architectonic elements. The variety of decorative models on the pulvinus and on the front part of the Ionian capitals from Parthicopolis demonstrates the total use of the order, concurrent to the monuments from the Corinthian order, applied in the buildings of the city.

3.3. The reused capitals of the Roman Corinthian order

They are found as spoliae in the ruins of the Late Antique and Early Christian city, namely in the basilica № 2, № 4 (the Episcopal one) and in No 7. The capitals are made of the local marble in the local workshops working under the influence of different schools. The marble has been supplied from the mentioned many times Trajan quarries and concretely from the deposits Ermilovets, Gingera, Mura and Mura-West.

From the Episcopal basilica descend six entirely preserved capitals for columns, one anta Roman-Corinthian capital and a plenty of fragments\textsuperscript{134}. It is established that during the erecting of the colonnade in the naos of the Episcopal basilica the different height of the column shafts and of the bases has been compensated with the different height of the reused marble capitals. The same is probably valid with the colonnade in the other basilicas with reused architectonic capitals, bases and columns. Several column capitals with four leaves are found as spoliae in basilica № 2 and one in basilica № 7\textsuperscript{135}. Several more

\textsuperscript{134} С. Петрова, Коринтски капители от Епископската базилика в Сандански. Археология 1-4, 2007, 122-131.

\textsuperscript{135} The archaeological investigations under the head of
fragments of Roman Corinthian capitals are kept in the Archaeological museum of Sandanski.

The variety of types of the Corinthian capital belongs however to the Western and the Eastern architectural practice. Initially the prototypes have been created and spread predominantly in the Asia Minor stone workshops. Practically the Corinthian capital conquers the Roman architectonic sculpture in the 2nd century, being the base for creating the later types during the Late Roman and Early Byzantine period.

The acanthus leaf is the main feature for determination of the Roman Corinthian capitals to the different regional schools and groups. The representation and the form of the leaf in the Greek and Hellenistic period, is with the so-called “sharp acanthus” (*acanthus spinosus*). E. Weigand and the researchers after him defy the form of the acanthus leaf and its cutting as “eastern” (*acanthus spinosus*) and “western” (*acanthus mollis*), the latter with a mild, rounded spoon-like form.

The configurations made during the neighboring cutouts, called “eyes”, have different forms in the East and the West. During the Republic the “eyes” of the eastern variant are almost round, probably under the influence of its Hellenistic prototype at the beginning. Such are the capitals from Largo Argentina, the Forum in Rome, etc. Later the form is changed and the “eye” becomes elongated and obtains drop-like form (of a tear). In the 3rd and the 4th century on behalf of the “eyes” there are introduced trapezoidal-shape and rhomboidal elements, as two and more pairs from the neighboring cutouts can form a combined touch.

On the base of the stylistic analyses of the Roman-Corinthian capitals, all they initially have been used in buildings from the end of the 1st, the 2nd and the beginning of the 3rd century. In Parthicopolis there exist two main types of the Roman Corinthian capitals: 1. Capitals with incomplete apparatus; 2. Four-leaf capitals in dependence of the represented on the capitals elements. The development and the changes of the acanthus leaf helps in establishing the chronology and the territorial borrowing. Another classification in literature of the capitals is made in dependence of the separate regional standards for the definite types and also on the base of the acanthus leaf: normal Corinthian capital and Asia Minor Corinthian capital.

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139 So far in Parthicopolis no capital of the type with full apparatus has been found.

**The normal type** is represented by pieces with two rows of leaves which take more than the half of the capital’s height (fig. 27-30). They usually have 5 palms with 4-5 cutouts in a palm, and 3 cutouts in a palm at the base of the capital. When, it has all the essential elements by the canon that means capital with full apparatus, than the helices have leaves with a three palms. The volutes and the helices are slightly convex and with the form of bands. The stem of the profiled abacus flower grows out of the insides of the helices. This kind is called also canonical. Its spreading begins already in the 2nd century BC (the capitals of the round temple on Forum Boarium). They are widely applied in the period of Augustus and all along the imperial period. In the 3rd and the 4th century there is established a constant tendency of its simplifying and schematism.

For the Asia Minor type of the Corinthian capital the sharp acanthus is typical, divided in 5 palms with more narrow and long cutouts with sharp points (fig. 31 – 33). They illustrate the influence of the traditional Hellenistic form with deep rib of the leaves, precisely cutted and modeled with triangle form, gathering together consequently up down in two parallel ribs. The stem of the caul is protruded from the surface of the calathus and the volutes and the helices are smooth. In the West Roman provinces this type is spread during the Severan period and in the whole 3rd and 4th century. Its components and especially the form of the acanthus leaf are influenced by the normal Corinthian capital. Later some of its elements are simplified and reduced. Naturally the type has appeared in the Eastern and the Balkan provinces quite earlier, developing on the base of the Hellenistic prototypes. After the 1st century AD it spreads also in Rome, where it gains dominancy and establishes for any length of time as a result of the influence of the Eastern stone-cutters schools. Its constructive elements are influenced by the normal capital, but there are many essential differences in the decorative ones.

The capitals from the naos of the Episcopal basilica belong to two main types, typical for the Eastern and the Roman Balkan provinces: to the normal and to the Asia Minor Corinthian capitals. Relating the elements they are compound, they have an incomplete apparatus. The lip of the calathus is clearly visible and designated. Two rows with leaves take almost the half of the whole height of the capital, in some cases even overcoming it a little bit. The acanthus leaves are eight in each row. The leaves in the lower row have 5 palms with 3 cutouts in the lower palms and three (fig. 27, 28, 30) or 4 cutouts in the rest ones (fig. 29, 31, 32 and 33). In all the cited cases they touch each other and form an “eye” like a tear. The acanthus leaves of the second row, possesses visible in the basis of a double rib even from between the leaves of the lower row, which is gathering together all the palms with their cutouts. This is a feature especially characteristic for the Asia Minor models and stonemason ateliers. The leaves are sharp, realistically and extremely well sculpted. Their ribs have a concave triangle rib and the touching of the leaves from the cutouts is mainly to those from the

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145 Ibidem, 257.
146 С. Петрова, *Капителът ....*, София 1988, 121.
upper cutouts and not to the cutouts from the palms of the next acanthus leaf, which is an obvious sign of their early production.

The basis of the upper row with leaves is visible already among the set apart leaves of the lower row. The caulis is too schematic (fig. 29 и 32). A similar way of making has a capital from basilica No 1 in the situated not far Scupi in Upper Moesia147 and from Stobi in Macedonia148. A calyx is established only in one capital, where the internal leaves play the role of helices (fig. 29). Its abacus flower is richly decorated, which except as a stalk growing out among the inner leaves of the helices, has two symmetrical leaves, modeled extremely realistically. Some of the capitals have band-like concave helices, with ends coined in the form of an “eye” and with marked concave center. Similar coiling of the eye can be observed also with the capitals in the Ionian order in Sandanski, products of the local workshops149. The double profiled helices, whose ribs support the horns of the abacus (fig. 27, 28 и 30), may be found also in the capitals from the first row on the façade of the scaene of the theatre in Stobi150 and in the capitals from the locality Topelets in Nov Doiran, dated in the first half of the 2nd century151. Only with the anta capital (fig. 30) the ribbon-like helices don’t coil spirally, but represent a parted into two stem of the abacus flower. Similar scheme of the helices like a stem of the abacus flower can be found with the reused capitals of columns in the Roman Corinthian style of the colonnade of the street at the Eastern gate of Philippopolis152.

The bands of the helices are presented in two manners: as a smooth (even) band or slightly convex. It is established that the slightly convex form of the helices and of the diagonal volutes, supporting the four horns of the abacus, are a characteristic feature for the normal Corinthian capital, while the smooth band of the helices and the gathering of the ribs of the eyelets and the palms of the acanthus leaf in one mutual rib is typical for the Asia Minor capital. In our case we have a symbiosis of both most frequently carved capitals.

The height of the capitals in the naos of the basilica varies from 43 cm to 56 cm. The diameter of the column shaft can be also different, from 36 cm up to 48 cm. The height of the profiled abacus is between 7.5 cm and 10 cm. The capitals are equally slender, because the relation of the height to the deameter is comparatively the 1.1-1.2. The capitals possess the general compositional scheme of the incomplete apparatus, with underlined influence of Asia Minor type.

The development of the scheme of the Corinthian capitals with incomplete apparatus begins in Asia Minor from the end of the 1st – the middle of the 2nd century153. Their genesis is looked for by the researchers mainly in Antiochia154. The Corinthian

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152 С. Петрова, Капителът ..., София 1988, Catalog of the Roma Corinthian capitals, кат. № 3, табл. 41, dated in the second half of the 2nd century. The difference here is in the fact that the ribbon of the helices is doubled and reminds very much of the helices of the column capitals of the basilica No 4 in Sandanski. See also Е. Кесикова, Philippopolis. Филиппопол през римската епоха, София 1999, 96, обр. 119.
154 R. Delbrueck, Hellenistische Bauten in Latium, Strassburg, 1907-12, 163.
capitals from the Episcopal basilica in Parthicopolis lack in the majority caulis and calyx. There are only two exceptions: the first one is the fragment of capital for a column with two preserved rows of acanthus leaves, in which the basis of the calyx (fig. 31) can be observed; the second one is the anta capital, in which the double stem of the abacus flower replaces the helices (fig. 30). With another capital the two rows of acanthus leaves do not possess the necessary by the canon height, therefore they look shortened and clumsy (fig. 29). The cutouts in the palms of the acanthus leaves in some capitals are fluently broken like arcs, whereas the touching of two neighbouring cutouts form a tear-like form or turn almost horizontally, configurating geometric figures (fig. 29 and 33).

When touching the following figures are formed in the lower acanthus row: triangle, rectangle, lozenge (placed horizontally by its width). Similar geometric figures outlined in the same way of placing, carving and touching can be observed also in the examples of the more remote or near by Roman provinces155: in the capitals from Scupi from the Severan period up to the middle of the 3rd century156; and in the Rotunda in Thessaloniki from the 4th century157. In our opinion the latter capitals are reused and taken from an earlier building, not later than the middle of the 3rd century, because they do not reveal the chronological features of capitals which should be related to 306, the possible initial date of the building of the Rotunda. Their decorative features are nearer to that from the period of Severs than to the period of Constantine the Great. The leaves palms are most of all five, and in each palm the cutouts can be from 3 to 5. The curves of the cutouts of the palms are formed in a different way as a result two touching each other neighboring cutouts form a tear-like space. They are typical for the decorative practice of the 1st-2nd century in the provinces of Asia Minor, Italy and the Iberian peninsula, with the latter examples influenced by the presence of masters from the Asia Minor schools.

The practice to represent the acanthus leaves of the column capitals with slightly curly forms and mild curving of the cutouts, which are touching each other and forming a tear-like configuration, emerges in the workshops of Asia Minor already at the end of the 2nd century BC158, continuing the initial manner of the earliest representations of the acanthus cutouts in the Classical Greek and the Hellenistic period. The prototypes of this practice with developed non-broken cutouts of the leaf gingers have been created at the time of Augustus, in the workshops of Ephesus, and can be seen in the monuments of his early building period there. In the second floor of the basilica of Ephesos from the same time there are created new forms of representation of the acanthus leaf, which became canonical for the Roman architectonic dec-

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The workshops of Asia Minor use a similar way of representation of the acanthus leaf during the Early Empire, the Julio-Claudian dynasty under the Hellenistic influence. The deep carving of the ribs of the acanthus cutouts, the non-touching of the two neighboring palms of the acanthus leaves and the comparatively big space among them, allowing the watching of its growth in the second row with bases in the first row, all these features constitute the decorative-constructive practice of the workshops in Moesia, Thracia and the eastern part of Macedonia, to which administration Parthicopolis belongs. Similar artistic manner, as it has been already stated, is typical for the Eastern schools and can be observed in a lot of monuments produced by the Ephesian stone-cutter school.

At the end of the 1st century during the reign of the Flavians, the school is influenced in its development by the new fashion trends and the way of representing of the acanthus leaf and its carving. The large scale of building in Pergamon during the time of Trajan helps too for the establishing of these forms in the decorative practice. A common school has been created, which reasonably can be named Ephesian-Pergamian and which is mighty challenging to the Aphrodisian one, and probably to that of Dokimeion in the struggle for the decoration of maximum buildings. Later the Aphrodisian School gives way and in the most cases its masters are making the decoration with imported marble from Dokimeion, but based on the models of the Pergamian-Ephesian school. The architectonic details and the mensa sacra found in Novae on the Danube are made from Dokimeion marble, probably imported through the harbour of Odessus and brought to Novae by the river. The rest of architectonic elements from the same basilica are made of Proconnesian marble. Probably again through the harbour of Osessus has been imported the mensa sacra of the basilica on the cap Sv. Atanasius at the town of Byala, carved by the workshops of Dokimeions.

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165 A. B. Biernacki, V. Yotov, A. Minčev, The Origin of the Marble of the Architectural Elements and Details from the Early-Christian Church at Cape Sveti Atanas near Byala (Bulgaria). – Ad fines imperii Romani. Studia Thaddaeo Sarnowski septuagenario ab amicis, collegis discipulisque dedicata. Varsaviae, 2015, p. 417–435. The marble from the buildings of Hieropolis is also imported from Dokimeion and not from the near by Aphrodisia because of its low cost (according to the data given to me by Gracia Sem-
The geometric forms generated by the touching of the neighboring cutouts are established in the practice of the ateliers at the end of the 2nd – the beginning and the whole 3rd century. Similar touching of the cutouts of the palms can be seen only with two capitals from the Episcopal basilica (fig. 29 and 33). Analogies for these capitals can be found in Athens and North Greece\textsuperscript{166}; in the north basilica of Stobi in Macedonia\textsuperscript{167}; in Thracia in the colonnade of the street at the Eastern gate of Philippopolis and in Serdica, now in the covered colonnade of the National Archaeological museum in Sofia; in Oescus in Moesia\textsuperscript{168} and in the numerous production of the Asia Minor centers\textsuperscript{169}. The acanthus leaf on the capitals from the naos of the Episcopal basilica has a variety of representations. It depends on the way of carving and directly on the workshop, preparing the capitals. The too different capitals demonstrate a lot of influences in the upper third of the calathus, namely in shortening the apparatus, because the caulis, the calyx, the helices, etc. are omitted.


\textsuperscript{168} С. Н. Бобчев, \textit{Op.cit.}, 100-105, обр. 10-11


The closest parallels of the studied seven capitals from the Episcopal basilica can be found among the examples made by the Eastern workshops which established their decorative scheme from the Flavians till the Severs. Although in fragments and strongly battered, the capital from fig. 31 shows two rows of perfectly modeled acanthus leaves with a convex central rib. The deeply and plastically carved acanthus leaves have cutouts, which do not touch each other. The central ribs are also deeply carved and their points are turning gracefully, reminding the mild form of the earlier acanthus leaf. The caulis in the form of a triangle with convex central rib and with end to the direction of the second row can be
seen among the leaves of the upper acanthus row. In spite of its state of preservation, this capital may be related to the group with full apparatus, because after the caulis can be observed elements of the calyx: the basis of the leaves forming it. Having in mind the cutouts of the leaves, this fragment demonstrates too an early form of the Corinthian capital, brought to the Balkan lands from the West, mainly from Rome. The parallels of this form can be found in the buildings during the Flavians, for instance in the fourth row of the Colosseum.

Like the other studied capitals, with this one there is a tear-like form among the lower and middle rows of touching. All the capitals have helices like bands, decoratively coiled in a tight spiral with eye at the end. They have parallels in the capitals of Oescus, dated in the period 191–192 – the third quarter – end of the 2nd century; in the closed colonnade of the National Archaeological museum, the piece without provenance, in Athens too. Other parallels are to be found in the Small market of Ostia, in the Colosseum, in the Grand thermen of Cyrena, where the presence of Asia Minor stone cutters and the usage of eastern models are proved. The analogies relating the way of representation of the acanthus leaf include those from the Eastern gate of Philippopolis, the Roman termen and in the Archaeological museum of Odessus, where some of the capitals are made of Proconnesian marble; the touching of the leaf carving cutouts and the forming of geometric figures (lozenges, triangles) is known from Cyrena from the end of the 2nd century. All the listed examples can be related to the 2nd century and particularly to the period after Hadrian – the second half of the same century – the first third of the 3rd century.

The reused capitals in the Roman Corinthian order in the 4th century for erecting the Episcopal basilica (fig. 27, 28, 31 and 32) are made at the end of the 1st to the middle of the 2nd century. They reveal all the features of the Asia Minor Corinthian capital with the typical acanthus leaf: with mild spoon-like form and the specific curving turning of the palms of the leaves, a characteristic for the Pergamian architectonic sculpture from the time of Trajan (the capitals of the Trajaneum in Pergamon and those of the forum of Trajan in Rome, from the announcement of Apollodorus). The capitals on fig. 29, 30 and 33 demonstrate their closeness to the scheme during the Severans. Very interesting is the anta capital, which has a parallel with a similar one from Philippopolis, also related to the second half of the 2nd century and by

Fig. 35. The Episcopal basilica: a/ anastylosis of the colonnade of the south aisle of the naos; 
b/ anastylosis of the colonnade of the north aisle of the naos, the first and second floor.

Фиг. 35. Епископска базилика. а) колонада на првиот кат на наосот - јужен кораб. Анастилоза; б) Колонада на првиот и на вториот кат на наосот-северен кораб. Анастилоза
its scheme and manner belonging to the production of the Ephesian-Pergamian decorative school. The quantity of Roman Corinthian capitals found in the naos of the Episcopal basilica of Parthicopolis give the opportunity for a graphic reconstruction (fig. 34) and display (anastylosis) of the order during the second building period at the end of the 4th – beginning of the 5th century (fig. 35-a, b).

The type of four-leaf Roman Corinthian column capitals. In Parthicopolis this type is represented by examples from the basilicas № 2 and 7 (fig. 36 – 39) and demonstrates the development of the Roman Corinthian capital with incomplete apparatus. Its chronology may be traced mainly in the representation of the acanthus leaf, the form of its cutouts, as well as in the decoration on the field free of the reduced elements. This type of simplified and with totally incomplete apparatus capital has its beginning in the Late Hadrianic period – after the middle of the 2nd century, and becomes ubiquitous in the time of the Earlier Severs (end of the 2nd – the beginning of the 3rd century). It continues to be exploited also in the Early Byzantine period and whole Early Christian complexes have been built with such type of capitals, a fact making difficult the determination of its upper chronological boundary. Its exact chronology may be followed in the development of the acanthus cutouts (like the Corinthian capitals with two rows of acanthus leaves) and in the analysis of the development of the motif in the field between the pairs with the acanthus leaf.

Th reducing of the lower acanthus row from 8 to 4 leaves also sets free the place for decoration, occupied most frequently by the Ionian cyma with 3 ovuli. This type of capitals (with four leaves with Ionian cyma among them with 1 or 3 ovuli, with differently modeled egg-shells, divided by spear-like ornament or a small arrow) has parallels in the capitals already in the first half of the 2nd century. They are found mainly in the East: in the Asclepeion of Pergamon, determined as a product of the Aphrodisian School and dated between the time of late Hadrian and the early rule of Antoninus Pius; in a pilaster capital from Perinthos, dated in the Antonine period. The avoiding of the caulis, helices and the calyces, as well as of the second (upper) acanthus row created a space for decoration with different, predominantly plant motives. Most frequently its decoration is the so-called by us “lyre form”, outlined by the connected in the basis of the capital volutes, typical also for the capital pilasters from the Early Antonines. The free from the leaves field in the later capitals, made in the second half of the 3rd century, is with V-form and possesses different plant decoration or another representation, most often of eagle, like in a capital from the village of Riben, Pleven district.

Although the column’s form of the capitals, their scheme of composition is near most of all to the one of the pilaster capitals. Some pieces from Heraclea Lyncestis in Macedonia demonstrate the type in the form of a pillar. However the analogical examples of pilaster capitals point to the most exact chronological parallels and boundaries of the type.

The capitals from Parthicopolis are made of grey-white coarse-grained marble, extracted mainly from the deposits Mura and Gingera-Galchovo gnezdo of Ilindenzi. The four acanthus leaves of the row have 7 palms with 4 cutouts in a palm. The form of the acanthus is more elongated in such a way that the leaves from the middle cutout to reach under the volutes and

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177 К. Рончевский, Цит. съч., 51 ff.
180 С. Петрова, Цит. съч., 43 -45.
181 Ibidem, 42-45, обр. 1 а, б.
to climb under their lower part. Because of the omitted second row with acanthus leaves, the height of the capitals is diminished together with their slender-ness, reaching up to 1.4. The abacus is three-parted and profiled.

At the basis of the capitals, between each pair of acanthus leaves there is Ionian cyma, whose ovuli are placed in deferently formed egg-shells. There are placed different plant motives in the triangle and the widening to the lip of the calathus space: two symmetrical and articulated leaves, between them the raising up stem of the abacus flower; or a button, opening to the direction of the lip of the calathus and from which in some capitals the stem of the abacus flower is coming out.

Only one capital, now on the wall of the south aisle of basilica No 2, supplies us with a different from the usual for the type decoration (fig. 36). It is only a fragment with dimensions rather of the normal Roman Corinthian capital. This supposes its usage probably in a pair with a similar capital, or because of its height together with the Corinthian capitals with two rows of acanthus leaves in some of the colonnades. Interesting in the case is the decoration with a multiple palmette. The analogy for the latter is the palmette of a pilaster capital from Oes- sus from the time of the Severs (193-235)184. Another parallel is the pilaster capital of the Composite order from the Roman thermen in Odessus from the second half of the 2nd century. In the richly decorated piece

with plastically made palmette can be revealed the influence of the Aphrodisian school and the model for a capital, typical for the Ephesian-Pergamenian school185. It is attested in the pilaster capitals made in the workshops of Proconessos, in Side and Perge186 and in Aphrodisia187.

The so-called by us “lyre form” (or called by Y. Mladenova “double S-form”188), outlined from the pairs of volutes connected in their lower part, is an extremely widely spread decorative scheme mainly in the pilaster capitals in the Roman period. There are S-like volutes among the acanthus leaves of Parthicopolis (fig. 39), also connected in the lower part at the base and reminding the form of the lyre. The difference between both forms is in the base of the volutes with double S, not always vertically placed, which are coiled and connected with the help of a relief mould band. The lyre and the double S are applied in the 1st and the 2nd century. Later their form becomes very much stylized, shown in capitals from Ostia189 and in capitals from all the parts of the empire, studied by K. Ronchevski190. The motif is very old in its origin from the time of the classical Hellas191. As a decorative motif together with the palmette in the free space, it is known from the Tuscan house in Her-

183 С. Петрова, Четирилистен римско-коринтски колонски капител. Мермер. Базилика № 2.
185 С. Петрова, Композитият капител в Мизия и Тракия. Археология 1990, № 1, 47, обр. 5.
186 Ibidem, 44-47.
187 К. Т. Ерим, The School of Aphrodisias. – In: Ar- chaology, 20, 1, 1967, 18-26, fig. 16.
189 Р. Pensabene, Scavi ..., XIX 645, 648, 649.
190 К. Рончевский, Варианты римских капителей. Пер. с французского, Москва, 1936, р. 46.
191 К. Рончевский, Цит. съч., 49.
culaneum\textsuperscript{192}, from Pompeii at the time of Augustus\textsuperscript{193}, from Aquileia\textsuperscript{194} and in the whole 2nd century\textsuperscript{195}. Its latest appearance is witnessed in Ostia at the period of the Severs\textsuperscript{196}.

The discovered in Parthicopolis capitals with four leaves demonstrate a common decorative scheme, one and the same manner of carving of the detail and close dimensions. This facts directs at the hypothesis, that they have been made in a specialized atelier, probably also trading with that type of capitals. The fragment kept now on the walls of basilica No 2 is the only piece to show a new and up to now unknown for the region decorative scheme of the palmette, where the middle leaf is continuing up playing the role of a stem for the abacus (fig. 36). Similar composition has a capital from the lapidarium of the National Archaeological Museum in Sofia\textsuperscript{197}.

The decorative scheme of the capitals with four leaves from Parthicopolis is similar to the capitals from Asia Minor. The type is present in Thracia and Macedonia. Therefore in our opinion the roots for its penetration should be realized by the Aegean seashores and the mouth of Strymon (the so-called Strymon road); by the mouths of the rivers Hebros (Maritsa) and Nestos (Mesta), north to the inserside of Thracia. We consider that in the province of Lower Moesia the type has penetrated through the sea trade route from Asia Minor to the West Pontic littoral.

Only the future discovery of more capitals with analogical scheme and composition (especially of that with the palmette) could supply us with information about the penetration of the decorative scheme with four leaves. In such a way the route of penetration from the ateliers of Asia Minor to the province of Macedonia and particularly to Parthicopolis will become clear, from East to West and rather through the workshops of Thessalia under the eastern influence; then to the north from Via Egnatia and by the Strymon route. A concrete answer can be given only by some new finds.

\textbf{Conclusions}

The architectural details used in the representative public and private buildings of Parthicopolis are made mainly by marble. The granite was also in usage although in a little bit later building period of the city, from the middle of the 2nd century on. This is shown by the columns made of the same stone and by the numerous inscriptions, related predominantly to the middle – the second half of the 2nd century.

The studied completely preserved pieces and fragments of bases, columns and capitals from the Roman period reveal by their composition and decorative form the inheritance of the traditional Hellenistic form and of those from the early period of August, also from the Nerva-Antonine dynasty and from the period of the Early Severs. Parallels for the details from Parthicopolis can be found in Athens, in Northern Greece, in the Northern basilica of Stobi in Republic of Macedonia, in Nicopolis ad Nestum; in Serdica and Philippopolis in Thracia, in Nicopolis ad Istrum, Novae, Odessus and Marcianopolis in Moesia, and in the production of the Asia Minor stonemaking centres of Ephesus, Pergamon, Aphrodisias, etc.

The varied presentation of the details on the architectural elements in dependence of the way of carving directs to the models of the popular for the Roman period stone-making workshops (fig. 40). It is also obvious that the local production of architectural details in the city is under the influence mainly of the models and masters of the Ephesian-Pergamian school and of that of Dokimeion. We have found out too that the capitals re-used in the building of basilica № 1 and other buildings have been made by the technology typical only for the ateliers in the quarry of Aliki on the island of Thassos (the outlining of the coiling of the volutes).

In our opinion the workshops in stone of Parthicopolis should be located on the territory of the quarries close to the deposits for extraction of marble and granite. These workshops likely have inherited the ones existing in the time before the quarries became property of the emperor Trajan. We don’t exclude too

\textsuperscript{192} P. Pensabene, \textit{Scavi ...}, tav. D-8.
\textsuperscript{193} К. Рончевский, \textit{Цит.съч}, рис. 28-31.
\textsuperscript{194} V. Scrinari, \textit{I capitelli romani di Aquileia}, Padova 1952, 46.
\textsuperscript{195} P. Pensabene, \textit{Op.cit.}, No 555-564, tav. LIII, LIV.
\textsuperscript{196} Ibidem, No 554.
\textsuperscript{197} For the moment the place of finding the capital is unknown, but it is supposed that it comes from Balchik, the ancient Dionysopolis. National Archaeological Museum Sofia, Inv. № 1198, 3A 215.
the possibility of existing of ateliers in the immediate
neighbor of the city for smaller architectural details
or final work of such ones in situ (of the building).
We are inclined to think rather of votives, tomb mon-
uments and other smaller in size monuments. In our
opinion there is no economic or logical base for the
existence of the stone workshops in the city itself
having in mind the high degree of labour consump-
tion and the waste left after the hammering out and
forming the architectural details. It can’t be neglected
also the possibility certain details to be left non-fin-
ished because of cracks or other defects of the stone
and the possible place of piling up of all these de-
fect stones and waste – should it be inside the city?
Therefore it was not possible the existence of work-
shops in the city. We are rather inclined to presume
the possibility of existence of trade shops-ateliers,
where to order one or another kind of architectural
detail, or ateliers of masters or trade agents, receiving
the orders for the complete erecting of the public or
private building. Proved epigraphically, also masters
settlers from Asia Minor have worked in the local
workshops. Other masters have passed training in the
ateliers of the quarry Aliki on the island of Thassos.

The found in Parthicopolis Roman-Dorian, -Ion-
inan and -Corinthian capitals demonstrated of the best
achievements in the development of the local stone
production in Antiquity. They impress with the excel-
lent forms, precise execution and composition. Some
of the bases, of the columns and the Roman-Dorian,
-Ionian and -Corinthian capitals are made between
the end of the 1st and the first quarter of the 2nd cen-
tury and demonstrate the building activity which has
begun in the period of Trajan and was continuing in
the period of Hadrian. Having in mind the just re-dis-
covered and interpreted inscription about the earlier
building of the theatre of Philippopolis at the time
of Domitian and the his construction activity during
his period in the Roman Balkan provinces, it is pos-
sible, as already has been supposed, that the creation
of the plan and the beginning of the new Roman city
building in Parthicopolis, including the theatre, also
in the time of Domitian, continued on a large scope
by Trajan and Hadrian.

The architectural decoration of Parthicopolis in
this period reveals the features of the Asia Minor
manner of work and of compositional scheme, the
quality of details not inferior of the contemporary
ones in Asia Minor, Athens and Corinth. We can ob-
serve it in the typical representation of the acanthus
leaf – the mild spoon-like form, also the specific turn-
ing of leafs in the дланите, specific for the Per-
gamin stonemason sculpture from the time of Trajan
(the capitals of the Trajaneum in Pergamon and of

Fig. 40. Bases: figures 6-a, b and 7. Roman-Ionian capitals: figures 22 - 26. Graphically represented
(author S. Petrova).

Графично претставени (автор С. Петрова).
that on the Trajan forum in Rome, whose building is known from the information of Apollodorus). The capitals from Episcopal basilica show closeness with the decorative scheme of the capitals of the period of Severs (fig. 29, 30 and 33). The anta capital illustrating the scheme and the manner of the Ephesian-Pergamian decorative school for this kind of capitals has an excellent parallel with a capital from Philippiopolis, dated from the second half of the 2nd century. The carving of the re-used Roman capitals in the Episcopal basilica (No 4) show a good craftsmanship in the forming of the acanthus leaf, in bending and touching of their cutouts, the latter forming specific forms (tear, geometric ones, etc.), also demonstrating the variety of decorative kinds, types and schools, taking part in the architectural decoration of the city.

That’s the reason for arising of the question for the place of carving of these capitals, for the schools and the masters, i.e. for the centres of production. Specialized ateliers for stone production in the Roman period have been created mainly in the period of Trajan, Hadrian and Antoninus Pius, proved by the high quality of the re-used Roman architectural details. The discovered capitals, marble and granite columns are demonstrating among the best achievements in the development of the local stone-cutting and carving during the Antiquity. This difficult and responsible task to carve artistically the marble blocks most frequently has been fulfilled in situ by local masters with specific style of work. Their salary was bounded very tightly with their narrow specialization. The tariffs of Diocletian as official documents treats the making of the architectural details as a definite level of craftsmanship, confirmed later by the legislation of Constantine, assigning a definite place in the empire to craftsmen. The contacts and the close proximity of the stonemason workshops of Northern Greece and the island of Thassos influenced positively the development of the local stone-cutting. This fact does not exclude the participation in of itinerant masters (marmorarii) in making of the architectural details, shown in some Roman- Ioninan and Roman-Corinthian capitals.

The applying mainly of local white and grey-bluish marbles in capitals with decorative schemes, directing to the ateliers in the workshops of the quarries of Aliki on Thassos, is due to the collaboration and the highly developed trade with marble. The trade with marble and probably with marble architectural details has been perfomed by Thassos. Also it is sure the trade with the cities alongside the course of Lower and Middle Strymon with decorative schemes and models of Asia Minor and the Aegean shore, which reveal the tight connection among the local ateliers with those with long established traditions such as on Thassos, Northern Greece and Asia Minor (with the Ephesian, Pergamian, Dokimeian and partly the Aphrodian schools). All this cumulative evidence of manners and peculiarities, the usages of drill (in carving of some of the Corinthian capitals and in other decorative motives on other elements) can be connected with the influence of the Dokimeion-Aphrodian school, but mainly the Dokimeion, developed and established itself in the production and spread of ready architectural details as well as in the compositional and decorative scheme during the period of Hadrian.

The Ephesian and Pergamian School are the first centres of production of architectural-decorative sculpture in the period of Trajan. At the end of the 1st – the first quarter of the 2nd century their models are imposed in a mass, together with the compositional schemes of the Aphrodiasian school in Corinth (the temple “E”), in Athens (the library of Hadrian), and from there they are spread to the north and to the course of Strymon, reaching even Serdica. Because of the geographic proximity of Pergamon to Ephesus, as well because of the common manner of work, both schools can be united under one name, “The Pergamian-Ephesian School”. Its peculiarity is the specialization in making of architectural-decorative details in Corinthian order, where the leaves of the acanthus have the form of “Asia Minor leaf fan”. The manner of detailed drawing in the acanthus cutouts with this school demonstrates its important role to stand out from the shared stone mass without being fretwork (open-work).

The established re-usage of the Roman architectural decoration in the Early Christian period raises the problem of the place and the function of the Roman buildings, from where the pieces have been taken. As already announced, these should be buildings located not far from the agora, the ancient centre of the city. Probably from the agora the columns have been taken and re-used in the Early Christian, Early Byzantine Main Street – Via sacra, and also from the colonnade of the stoa.

The architectural decoration of the Episcopal basilica is illustrating most luridly the usage but with the same function of the Roman architectural details in Late Antiquity in the Early Christian buildings. The pieces reveal that the building of the Episcopal basilica destructed another earlier building on that place from the period of Hadrian. Bases with plinthus on legs, columns and several Corinthian capitals have been re-used: more than 10 bases survived to our time and several complete and several Corinthian capitals.

We could follow that the bases with plinthus on legs are known from the cities of Macedonia and Upper Moesia (Scupi), but as a whole they are spread
in the East, mainly in the sepulchral architecture. That’s why we consider that their form has been imposed in the region through the sepulchral architecture of Caria (part of the province Asia at Trajan and Hadrian); of Lycia and Pamphilia, whose influence is established in Macedonia. During the prospecting under the naos, the south aisle and the apse of the basilica a large-scale building has been discovered oriented north-south. The artefacts unearthed during the research allow the supposition that namely from it have been taken and adjusted the Roman architectural details for the new building and the new Episcopal basilica. The second part of the re-used Corinthian capitals in the colonnade of the Episcopal basilica descends probably from another Roman building under the basilica, next to the first Roman building. This second Roman building should be located also in close proximity to the Agora, probably one of the public or cult buildings around, at the place of the future basilica. The closely located basilicas (№№ 1, 2 and 4, the Episcopal one) to the administrative Roman city administrative centre supposes the easy carrying and re-use of details from it and the Roman buildings around. In our opinion part of the capitals in Roman Dorian and Ionian style are taken from the theatre, destructed and covered with sterile earth in the last decade of the 4th century.

The old pagan city centre and the building around have been demolished and their architectural decoration re-used for the new buildings: the residence of the city governor, the Early Christian basilicas and baptisteryium and the main street for processions. The new Early Christian city centre has been created in this way, being both cult and administrative one. The rich architectural decoration with elements specific for the Eastern ateliers show the economic possibilities of Parthicopolis and its connections with the Asia Minor and Greek city centres (Northern Greece, Thasos, Corinth and Athens) in the Roman imperial period. The re-used pieces reveal the monumental Roman building of Parthicopolis in the 2nd – 3th century, developed very intensively maybe even at Domitian, with stronger speed to the end of Trajan and Hadrian and apogee in the period between Antoninus Pius and Gordian III. This activity was possible not only through the good economic possibilities, but with the help of good builders, stone-cutters, due to the existing quarry near to the city. All these components promoted the possibility of further building and decorative activity in the Early Christian period with a new building activity and in special cases of making new parts and elements of the architectural decoration for a definite types, for instance for the baptisteryium. So the old Roman pieces were in combination in the Early Christian complexes with the new elements.
Ранохристијанските базилики, како и едниствената досега откривена градба-резиденција од доцноатичката епоха во Партикополис, покажуваат преупотреба на архитектонски елементи од римската епоха. Преупотребени со цел, тие ги оформувале фасадните колонади-насосот на ранохристијанските базилики; на нивните дворови како и на главната градска рановизантиска улица, т.н ViaSacra/Mese (cardomaximus).

Од руините на римските градби се земени и преупотребени по значај различни архитектонски детали: фриз-архитрави; таванска касета; римски јонско-атички базиси; колони; капители во римско-дорски стил; римско-јонски и римско-коринтски редови. Откриените архитектонски детали ја кажуваат хронологијата на градителството во античкиот град и модните стремежи, пренесени од метрополитските градби. Затоа што градовите административно припаѓаат на римската провинција Македонија, неговите украси наоѓаат паралелови со други архитектонски детали од градските центри на провинцијата; од провинцијата Македонија, веројатно под влијанието на архитектите и мајсторите-каменорежачи од источните школи, претежно од Пергам и Ефес, като открениите „базиси со плинтуси на ногарки“ се искучително популарни во градбите на градовите во време на Хадријан и Антониј Пиј.

Колоните, претставени сообрано нивниот хронолошки развој се изработени од мермер, од гранит или од порфироиден гранит. Дорските капители исто така се употребувани во архитектурата на римскиот град; претежно типот на дорските капители со канелиран издолжен врат и со неизлезени јазичници на канелурите. Востановивме локална особеност при оформување на абакусот, кој еложен со стилизирана Јонска кима; а подобно му се оформени како акротерии.

Јонските капители исто така покажуваат особености. И покрај општо познатите декоративни шеми, востановивме технологско влијание на атељејата на островот Тасос, карактеристични за други Балкански провинции, која се состои во различната висина на секоја од трите архитравни греди, која висина е правопропорционална на секоја следна греда.
начинот на оформување на волутниот мотив: преку пет особено расположени на око на волутата точкички. Коринтските капители покажуваат неколку типови, преовладуваат капители со неполн апарат за колони; и само еден коринтски антов капител. Воспоставува се и преупотребата на четирилисни колонски капители, во чии декоративни шеми се преплетуваат мотиви од Ефеско-Пергамската и Докимејон-Афродизијската каменорезачка школа.

Проучувањето на архитектонските украси, преупотребени во ранохристијанските градби на Партикополис ни дозволува да разјасниме редица прашања, поврзани со местото на нивната изработка, школите, мајсторите, како и оспособувањето на т.н центри за производство. Го воспоставиме и создавањето на специјализирани атеље за обработка на каменот, создадени во времето на императорите Трајан, Хадријан и Антониј Пиј и сите сврзани со таканаречените од нас „Трајанови мермерни рудници”, расположени северно од градот. Преупотребените архитектонски детали во ранохристијанските архитектонски градби покажуваат едно од највисоките дострели во развојот на локалното каменоделство во време на антиката, претставувајќи ја архитектурата на античкиот градски центар, а станал непотребен со прифаќањето на новата религија-христијанството, искажувајќи потреба од ново градско планирање и ново архитектонско оформување.