

## ***Siscia – Sisak (Roman City)***

Country or territory:  
Republic of CROATIA

Name of organization  
compiling the information:  
Ministry of Culture,  
Conservation Department in Zagreb

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Name and address of building or site:

SISCIA – SISAK, Sisačko-moslavačka  
County

Inventory reference number:

397

Building(s) type:

Roman city

Main date(s):

1-4 century

Current use(s):

In its greatest part the site has not been uncovered. The uncovered parts have been presented "in situ", archaeological park

Significance:

The Flavia Siscia colony was established after Octavian occupied these parts of the Pannonian territory in 35 BC- Due to its strategic significance connected with the navigable Kupa and Sava rivers, Siscia became in the course of the I century the most important military outpost, a starting point for conquering the East. It gained the status of an autonomous city (colony) in the year 71 during the Flavian reign. During the emperor Gallienus, in 230 the royal mint was established. Diocletian reformed the province of Pannonia dividing it into four part and giving Siscia the status of capital of the Pannonia Savia. It became a bishopship in the III century.

The urban agglomeration of Siscia is located on the left bank of the River Kupa on a surface of 40 ha inside the city walls. Outside of the walls are the necropolises located round the approaching roads. The orthogonal street plan deviates from the usual North-South direction. Research in the last 50 years discovered the existence of representative public architecture: horreum, thermae, a port, north forum, great spans of city walls; a representative residential architecture - domus, more modest residential architecture - insulae; parts of urban infrastructure - streets and a city sewerage system.

Archaeological research has been undertaken from the mid XX century to the present day. In the last 20 years or so more intensively. The research is exclusively protective due to the circumstances of the site location. Numerous movable archaeological finds (stone plastic, ceramics, coins) from Sisak are stored in the Archaeological Museum in Zagreb and in the Sisak Municipal Museum.

- archaeological, architectural, historical and cultural significance of the site.

Categories of Significance:

National importance

Categories of ownership or interest:

The site is specific by its location; the present day modern city of Sisak and its historical centre completely overlap the position of Roman Siscia. The new city developed on the site of the historic one completely closing it plan-wise by layers of planning and ground levelling. The intention of the competent conservation service is to present parts of the Roman city and blend the past into the present urban substance. Within the entire city of Sisak there are a number of large undeveloped zones that have been established through conservation studies and physical planning documentation as future archaeological park zones.

Ownership of lots: state, municipal, church, private

Ownership of finds: state

Documentation and bibliographic references:

The archaeologically examined parts of the Siscija site are documented with standard archaeological documentation: field journals, lists of stratigraphic units, architectural surveys, geodesic documentation and photo documentation.

Reference sources on Roman Siscia are abundant. Bibliographic references: L.F. Marsigli Danubius Pannonico-Mysicus, Amstelodami, 1726; J. Brunšmid, Stone Monuments of the Croatian National Museum in Zagreb, Zagreb, 1907; Maroević, Sisak, the City and Built Heritage, Sisak, 1970; A. Faber, Supplements for a Topography of Ancient Sisak, Zagreb, 1972-73; J. Šašel, Siscia, RE, 1974; The Archaeology of Roman Pannonia, University Press of Kentucky and Akademia Kiado, Budapest 1980; M. Zaninović, Siscija in its Inscriptions, Zagreb, 1981; R. Košćević, Ancient Fibulae from the Sisak Region, Zagreb, 1980; S. Vrbanić, A Contribution to the Study of the Topography of Sisak, Zagreb, 1981; M. Zaninović, Classic Flavia Pannonica, Slavonski Brod, 1993; M. Hoti, Sisak in Ancient Sources, Zagreb, 1993; D. Vuković, Siscija, a Vision of a Roman City in Pannonia, Sisak, 1994; R. Maklanić, Sisak terra sigillata - research 1990, OA, Zagreb, 1996; M. Zaninović, Andautonia and Siscia in the Reflection of Flavian Politics, Zagreb, 1996; T. Lolić, Colonia Flavia Siscia, Ljubljana, 2003; Z. Wiewegh, The South-East Necropolis of Siscija, Sisak, 2003.

Condition:

The whole site is preserved exclusively on the archaeological level. Archaeological finds are damaged primarily due to the already mentioned specific location of the Roman structure which is situated directly below the newly established city and its infrastructure. The remaining structure is mainly the basic architectural zone, level of Roman stone linings and streets and preservation of walls at an average height of 1-1.5 m. It is in good condition although there is a need to conserve and repair as well as partly reconstruct it for "in situ" presentation.

Risk:

Due to Siscia's specific position below the present day city of Sisak the site is permanently severely threatened by modern day construction and renovation or development of new infrastructure. The risk is manifested in the collision between the contents required for the

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normal functioning of the present day city and the historic site which is located in the same place, but on the archaeological level of existence.

Condition risk:

Immediate risk of continued accelerated degradation or loss of material; there is a solution but also difficulties in its realisation.

Technical assessment and costings:

Given that the site remains unexamined to a considerable extent, an overall cost estimate is not possible. Estimates can be made for each phase of research and for each planned intervention on the site.

Ownership:

Ownership of the lots: state, municipal, church, private

Ownership of the site: state

Occupation:

The entire surface of the Roman site Siscia, except for a few undeveloped spaces, is covered by the present day city of Sisak.

Management:

Management responsibility - the City of Sisak

Financial responsibility: the City of Sisak

Supervision: Ministry of Culture, Conservation Department in Zagreb

Summary:

The Flavia Siscia colony was one of the key cities of the Roman empire in the Pannonia province. In an area of approximately 40 ha enclosed by monumental city walls whole complexes of Roman urban architecture extend; representative public buildings of the city granary, remains of a port, remains of public baths, the north forum, representative residential architecture, insulae. The site is preserved on the archaeological level, mainly the basic zone of Roman architecture, the paving, roads, walls preserved to a height of 1-1,5 meters. The position of the site is specific because it is directly under the present day city of Sisak so that facilities required for the functioning of the city directly threaten the remains of the Roman urban structure.

Sign and date:

Tatjana Lolić dipl. arheolog,  
22. 03. 2004.