
The roman funerary *stelae* from Gherla

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An important center of Roman sculpture from Dacia Porolissensis was the one who functioned around the fort and the Roman settlement from Gherla. The most numerous and spectacular sculptural monuments preserved are related to the funerary art, some of which were recently published¹. The military unit, stationed at Gherla, was *ala II Pannoniorum*, with an important role in the Roman conquest of Dacia and with a long-term garrison in this province², until the abandonment of Dacia.

Among the wide range of Roman funerary monuments known from Gherla, the category of *stelae* is the largest and the most varied. From the findings of Gherla, come about 23 pieces of funerary *stelae*. None was preserved entire. Some of them have disappeared and only the drawing remains in one case or just their inscription reading. Our study tries to make a suitable correlated investigation of the typological, iconographical and epigraphic features, for this type of funerary monument for this local sculptural workshop.

Typologies

The monuments are typologically classified as follows³:

I. Architectural *stelae*:

- A. Architectural *stela* with arched niche and attic: (Gr. S1, Pl. V a)
- B. Architectural *stelae* with arched niche: (Gr. S2, S3, S4, Pl. V b)
- C. Architectural *stela* with medallion: (Gr. S5, Pl. V c)

II. Profiled *stelae*:

- A. Rectangular niche with coping consisting of funerary lions: (Gr. S6, S7, Pl. V d)

III. Fragments of *stelae* with a relative typology:

- A. Architectural *stelae* (Gr. S8, S9, S10, S11, S12, S13, S14)
- B. Profiled *stela* with rectangular niche (Gr. S15)
- C. Profiled *stelae* with arched niche (Gr. S16, S17, S18)
- D. Undetermined fragments (Gr. S19, S20, S21, S22, S23)

1 Zăgreanu, Meșter 2005; Zăgreanu 2007; Zăgreanu, Săsărman 2008.

2 Ardevan 2007, p. 139.

3 We followed the tipology as is best illustrated through the work of C. Ciongradi 2007, 41–59, Taf. 6–8 and Petruț, Zăgreanu 2011, p. 193–194.