

Epigraphic habit in second century AD Dacia Superior.

Altar – statue base doublets study

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- abstract -

The present paper demonstrates, by means of a dual shape-content analysis of several epigraphic monuments, the presence of an epigraphic habit emerging by mid second century in certain areas from Dacia Superior. Specifically, it discusses doublet altar – statue base, which exhibit identical or quasi-identical inscriptions, dedicated by various individuals or communities. Collective dedicators are represented by the provincial assembly, which devotes an altar and a statue to the Concordia of the two emperors, Marcus Aurelius and Lucius Verus, yet the governor *P. Furius Saturninus* is in fact honoured, respectively *cohors II Flavia Commagenorum* from *Micia*, with a doublet conferred to IOM. An interesting case is represented by the combination of honorific statue-*ara pro salutae* from *Germisara*, dedicated by a decurio from *Ulpia Traiana Sarmizegetusa* to the same governor *P. Furius Saturninus*, whose prototype was most probably the doublet erected by the provincial assembly. The remaining monuments are votive doublets belonging to individuals from *Sarmizegetusa*, *Apulum*, *Micia* and *Alburnus Maior*, whose function was most probably to publicly display the wealth and status of the dedicator, therefore being a distinctive style of public self representation.