Notes on Governors of Roman Thrace

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Abstract: The paper presents new information on ten governors of the province of Thrace from the early second century AD to the Tetrarchic period. Examination of recently found inscriptions, revision of previous readings, and comparison of epigraphic and literary sources enable us to identify several unknown governors and to propose more precise chronology for others.

Key words: Roman Thrace, provincial governors, Hadrian, Septimius Severus, Philip the Arab, Trebonianus Gallus, Tetrarchy.

The following brief notes present some preliminary results of the author’s research on the Roman officials in the province of Thrace. Most of the new information comes from inscriptions, but there are also a few literary sources which have been forgotten or overlooked.

1. [- - -] Agrippa, ca. AD 131-132

The governor of Thrace Agrippa (Thomasson 1984, 163, # 22:17) was thought to have been attested only in a partially preserved inscription from Abdera concerning the new borders of the city’s territory (IThrAeg 79, AD 131-132): [- - -] Ἀγρίππα πρεσβευτοῦ [Σεβαστοῦ | ἀντιστρατήγου].

However, his name is probably present in a literary source as well – the life of an Early Christian martyr, Saint Theodota, who suffered in Philippopolis under a governor named Agrippa. The life was originally written in Greek, but survives only in a Syriac translation1 and is therefore largely unknown. Besides, some modern scholars mistakenly identified the city of the martyr with Philippi in Macedonia, being misled by the Syriac translation of the name Φιλιππόπολις as ὑλύψις μὴδύντ᾽, ‘Philipos-city’, and having overlooked the quite unambiguous (although somewhat pleonastic) variant ὑλύψις μὴδύντ’, ‘Philipopolis-city’, in one of the manuscripts. The governor – who organized a festival for Apollo2 on the sixth day of September – is mentioned several times as ἁγοράς ἡγεμών3. The only problem in this text is the year which is apparently wrong in both manuscripts – the Sinaiticus gives it as 742 (of the Seleucid era, i.e. AD 331), and the Vaticanus as 642 (i.e. AD 431). However, a persecution against Christians in Thrace is certainly impossible in AD 331 or 431. But if we suppose that the mistake had affected only the hundreds (which differ in the two manuscripts), then the year could be emended to 442 (AD 131)4, which perfectly coincides with the evidence about the governor Agrippa provided by the inscription from Abdera5.

1 BHO 1179; preserved in two manuscripts, Sinaicicus Syriacus 30 (AD 778) and Vaticanus Syriacus 160 (10th c. AD); for an edition of the text (with a Latin translation), see Assemanus 1748, 210-226.

2 Note that the main deity of Roman Philippopolis was Apollo Kendrissos.

3 For ἡγεμών as provincial governor, cf. the common formula for introducing the name of the governor in inscriptions ἡγεμονεύοντος τῆς Θρᾳκῶν ἐπαρχείας.

4 Since the Syriac text indicates the year in a verbal format, the mistake rather originated in a Greek source, where it was written by using numeric notation: the letters denoting 400, 600 and 700 in Greek (Y, X, and Ψ) are somewhat similar and can easily be confused. Possibly, instead of ΥΜΒ (442), the year was incorrectly given as ΨΜΒ (742) in the source used for the Syriac translation, and indeed we see that year in the earlier codex Sinaiticus. As for the year 642 appearing in the later Vatican manuscript, one could hypothesize that a scribe realized the improbability of a persecution in the year 742 (AD 441) and decided to change it to a more plausible date.

5 For further discussion on the year and the significance of this martyr’s life for the history of Philippopolis, see Шаранков 2015.
2. Cavarius Fronto, AD 135-136

Several inscriptions of AD 135-136 had preserved the cognomen of this governor, who was involved in the reorganisation of the province by Emperor Hadrian, but his nomen remained unknown except for its final letters -rius. The name was tentatively restored as [Vale]rius, although many other restorations were equally possible, so this governor was usually referred to as Valerius Fronto (Thomasson 1984, 163, # 22:14; 2009, 63, # 22:014a). A recently published inscription from Nicopolis ad Istrum (fig. 1), about a temple of Theos Hyspistos, dedicated by a settler from Prusias ad Hypium (Шаранков 2014a), finally revealed the true name of the governor – Cavarius Fronto:

Ἀγαθῆι τύχηι. | Ὑπὲρ τῆς αὐτοκράτορος Τραίανοῦ Ἀδριανοῦ Καίσαρος Σεβ(αστοῦ) | νείκης καὶ αἰωνίου διαμονῆς | καὶ Σαβείνης Σεβ(αστῆς) καὶ τοῦ σύνπαντος | αὐτῶν οἰκονόμου θερμοκηρυκτοῦ | ἀντιστρ(ατήγου) ἐπαρχείας Θρᾳκῶν, βουλῆς δήμου Ὀλυμπίας | Νεκροπόλεως πρὸς Ἰστρων, | ἱστοὺς (sic) Ἀπορὸ Προπενείας ἀπὸ | ὅπιον τὸν ναὸν Θεοῦ Ὕψιστου | ἐκ τῶν ἰδίων κατεσκεύασεν.

It is worth noting that the complete nomen could have been restored 60 years ago, if an inscription had received proper attention instead of being largely forgotten. It is a fragment found in Hisarya, which was published without any attempt at restoration. Actually, it is part of a boundary stone which reads: [- - -] terminus [ - - - ] | - - -]atus a Cavario | Fronto leg(ato) [Augusti] pr(o) p(raetore) inter Au--- et ---, (erected) by Cavarius Fronto, legatus Augusti pro praetore (Шаранков 2014a, 42-44, # 4).

Some time after his office in Thrace, Cavarius Fronto was sent to Macedonia, where he is attested in a single inscription as consularis. Since it is not entirely preserved, the name was not correctly restored until recently (ΕΚΜ Βέροια 13 = Müller 2001, 417-446, # 1 = AE 2001, 1759; cf. Шаранков 2014a, 44, # 5): ... καθὼς Καυάριος Φρόντων ὑπατικὸς | ἐπέκρεινεν.

3. Q. Egnatius Proculus, AD 208

This governor (Thomasson 1984, 176, # 22:73; 2009, 67, # 22:045a) has been attested in three inscriptions. Two of them – a dedication to Apollo by the tavern-keepers in Philippopolis (IGBulg III.1 917; cf. Шаранков 2016, 314) and an invitation for venatio from Deultum (AE 2009, 1232 = Sharankov 2017, 48-49, # B2) – are fragments without date. The third one is from Cabyle – a building inscription for a temple of Dolichenus (AE 1999, 1374a = SEG 42, 646[a]; revised edition in Шаранков 2017, 208-213). This inscription contains a consular date, but it was not recognized in the first publication, which proposed only a vague date between AD 198 and AD 209 according to the imperial names (Septimius Severus and Caracalla as Augusti and Geta as Caesar). The new reading of the end of the text as Imp(eratore) An(onino) III [ et P(ublio) Se[p]ti[mio Geta] [I] [co(n)]-s(ulisbus), a(n)te d(iem) --] Kal(endas) Ferrari<a>s (!) provides an exact date in the second half of January AD 208. This confirms the suggestion of D. Boteva who assigned this governor to the period AD 207-210 (Boteva 1998, 135-136).

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7 Tsontchev 1958, 530, # 4, pl. X/4, who gives the text as follows: - - - ER - - - | - - - atus ACAV - - - | - - - ITONELEG - - - | - - - r inter a - - -.
4. [- - -] Severianus, AD 244 (?)  
A partially preserved inscription from Philippopolis (fig. 2) contains only the cognomen of a governor of Thrace Severianus (PIR² S 623; Thomasson 1984, 176, # 22:74): ... ἠγεμονεύοντος | [τής Ὁρα]-κὼν ἐπαρχείας | [- - o]υ Σεουηριανοῦ, πρεσβευ-[τοῦ Σεβ(αστοῦ) ἀν]-τιστρατήγου. G. Mihailov (IGBulg III.1 882 = V 5398) was inclined to identify him with the consul suffectus and governor of Arabia from the reign of Septimius Severus P. Aelius Severianus, who was believed by some scholars to have been governor of Thrace as well, and therefore dated the inscription to ca. AD 195. However, both the lettering and the text undoubtedly point to a much later date, ca. AD 240-250, and find closest parallels in inscriptions from the time of Emperor Philip the Arab. If the inscription is indeed from the reign of Philip, I suppose (cf. Sharankov 2016, 312-313) that the governor Severianus could be identical with the emperor’s relative (κηδεστής) Severianus, apparently his father-in-law or brother-in-law, i.e. father or brother of Otacilia Severa, with probable full name (Marcius Otacilius?) Severianus (PIR² S 624; Körner 2002, 63-64, # 2.2.5, 354, # S37)³⁰. According to the History of Zosimus, Severianus was put in charge of the armies in Moesia and Macedonia at the beginning of Philip’s rule (‘as soon as the emperor reached Rome’), while Philip’s brother Iulius Priscus was given control over the eastern provinces (Zos. 1.19.2): Σεβηριανῷ δὲ τῷ κηδεστῆ τάς ἐν Μυσίᾳ καὶ Μακεδονίᾳ δυνάμεις ἐπίστευσεν.

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³⁰ The lacuna in the inscription from Philippopolis could have contained only the shorter Marcius: [Μαρκίο]υ Σεουηριανοῦ.
I found that I was wrong and the inscriptions actually honoured M. Iulius Priscus, whom the literary evidence connects with Macedonia (see below # 6). If the proposed identification is correct, we could place the governorship of Severianus in AD 244, and possibly for a short period, when the position of the new emperor was probably still uncertain and he wanted to have greater control over the Balkan provinces (cf. his visit there on his road to Rome in AD 244)\textsuperscript{11}.

5. C. VIBIUS GALLUS, CA. AD 247-248

The name of this governor is to be seen on two similar and obviously simultaneously erected statue-bases for an emperor and his son, both with worn inscriptions and damnatio memoriae, and possibly also on one small fragment, all from Philippopolis (fig. 3/1-3). When I published the two statue-bases a decade ago, I was misled by the nomen Iulius and a few letters which I believed to be the end of the name Maximinus, and erroneously identified the emperors as C. Iulius Verus Maximinus (Maximinus the Thracian) and his son C. Iulius Verus Maximinus (Шаранков 2006, 237-240, # 3-4 = Sharankov 2007, 526-530, # 9-10 = AE 2006, 1249-1250 = SEG 57, 628-629; cf. PIR\textsuperscript{2} V 549). However, after re-examining the stones under better conditions, I found that I was wrong and the inscriptions actually honoured M. Iulius Philippus (Philip the Arab) and his son of the same name\textsuperscript{12}.

In the first inscription (fig. 3/1)\textsuperscript{13}, the erasure of the emperor’s names in one place goes above and below the line, therefore there was a letter which went beyond the line. Such letter could have been only Φ, the initial letter of the cognomen of Philip the Arab, and indeed the erasure in this place clearly has the shape of a Φ. The revised text of the inscription should read as follows:


In the second inscription (fig. 3/2)\textsuperscript{14}, the letters, which I initially read as part of the name [ΜΑΞΙΜΕΙΟΝ, are actually part of the title [ΝΕ]ΩΝΗΑΙΟΝ, Νέον, 'the Young Sun', which is known to have been given to Philip the Younger in Thrace (cf. IGBulg III.1 1511; revised reading in Sharankov 2016, 328)\textsuperscript{15}. The text should therefore read as follows:


The third inscription possibly mentioning this governor is a small fragment (fig. 3/3) from the agora of Philippopolis\textsuperscript{16}, which could have contained the name of C. Vibia Gallus in its third line: [- - - - -] ἐπο[- - - - -] - - - - - - - - Δ[νθ]ράποτες (vel [-o] νυς (?) - - - - - - - - -) ἡγεμονεύοντος τῆς (Θρακῶν) ἐπαρχείας (?) ΕΥΤΥΧΙΟΥ ΓΑΛΛΟΥ (?) - - - - - - .

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\textsuperscript{11} On Philip’s attitude towards Lower Moesia and Thrace, see the recent study of L. Grozdanova (2017).

\textsuperscript{12} As already mentioned in Sharankov 2016, 349, note 94.


\textsuperscript{14} Шаранков 2006, 238-239, # 4 = Sharankov 2007, 527, # 10 = AE 2006, 1250 = SEG 57, 629.

\textsuperscript{15} See the relevant part of the text in note 25 below. This epithet is known for other emperors, but has not been attested for Philip outside of Thrace. Besides praising the young emperor, it was probably used to distinguish him from his father (since both had identical names) in a more solemn manner than to just name the son M. Iulius Philippus Νέος, ‘the Younger’.

\textsuperscript{16} I thank E. kesyakova for providing information about the provenance of the fragment, which is now kept at the restoration workshop of the Regional Archaeological Museum in Plovdiv.
I identify the governor C. Vibius Gallus with the future emperor C. Vibius Trebonianus Gallus. We know almost nothing about the early life and career of Trebonianus, before he became governor of (Lower?) Moesia in AD 250 (Thomasson 1984, 145, # 20:142), except that he must have had a more or less ordinary senatorial career and had been consul suffectus before AD 251 (PIR2 V 579; Hanslik 1958, 1985-1986; Kienast et al. 2017, 200). Therefore a governorship in Thrace, when he was about 40 years old, apparently before the consulship, would not be unexpected. Since the two inscriptions from Philippopolis show C. Vibius Gallus as legatus of two Augusti, their date – and the date of his governorship in Thrace – cannot be earlier than July/August AD 247, when Philip the Younger became Augustus. As governor of Thrace, C. Vibius Gallus was probably immediate successor of Sex. Furnius Publianus, who is mentioned as governor in the only other inscription where Philip the Younger is honoured as Νέος Ἥλιος.  

6. T. IULIUS PRISCUS, AD 248/249-251

T. Iulius Priscus, attested as governor of Thrace under Decius (PIR2 I 489; Thomasson 1984, 175, # 22:63; 2009, 69, # 22:063), and apparently identical with the usurper Priscus (PIR2 P 971; Kienast et al. 2017, 199), is now shown to have been appointed to the office under the previous emperor Philip the Arab. A statue-base from Philippopolis for an empress
whose name is erased, and with Iulius Priscus as governor of the province (fig. 4), was wrongly connected by previous editors, including myself, with Herennia Etruscilla, the wife of Decius Trajan (Gerassimova-Tomova 2005, 278-279 = Sharankov 2007, 530 = AE 2005, 1378 = SEG 55, 761). However, a closer examination of the traces on the stone clearly shows that the erased name was that of Otacilia Severa (fig. 4/2):

\[ \text{Ἀγαθὴ ἡ τύχη. Ἡ τὴν θεοφιλεστάτην Ἀὐγοῦσταν [Μαρκίαν] Ὑτακιλλίαν Σευήραν Σεβαστὴν ἅ ὅ κοινὸς τῆς λαμπροτάτης Θράκας ἐπαρχείας, ἡγεμόνον τῆς Θράκας ἐπαρχείας Ἱουλίου Πρεῖσκου, πρεσβεύτου | Σεβέβαστον | ἡγεμόνον τῆς Θράκας ἐπαρχείας Ἐυστοχίου | Κέλερος Θράκαρχου.} \]

Iulius Priscus therefore became governor of Thrace under Philip the Arab and remained on this post under the following emperor Decius. This would make more plausible the suggestion that the governor T. Iulius Priscus was relative of the emperor M. Iulius Philippus \(^1\), whose brother was named (C.? Iulius Priscus (PIR2 I 488; Körner 2002, 54-63, # 2.2.4, 366-367, # P18). It is not impossible that the governor was even the same person as the emperor’s brother, since the latter’s praenomen Gaius is far from certain: it is believed that it is attested in a single inscription from the Arabian Philippopolis (modern Shaba), where, according to some editions, a letter C, written above (!) the main text (which starts with Iul(io) Prisco), is considered an abbreviation for C(aio) \(^2\).

According to Dexippus, Priscus was put in charge of more than one province (Thrace and Macedonia) \(^3\); if he was indeed Philip’s relative, this could find a good parallel in the events described by Zosimus (1.19.2) about Philip’s early rule, when the emperor’s father- or brother-in-law Severianus was sent to oversee the armies in Moesia and Macedonia (see above # 4), and his brother Priscus was appointed to control the East \(^4\). Or, as Zosimus sums it up, ‘[Philip] thought it advisable to give the most important posts to his closest relatives’ \(^5\).

The appointment of Priscus as governor by Philip the Arab (and his possible relation to that emperor) could explain why the name of Otacilia Severa – which is usually not subjected to damnatio memoriae – was so carefully erased in the inscription on the statue-base (while the name of Priscus himself was left intact): one could suppose that Priscus, who at that period resided in Philippopolis, might have ordered the erasure himself, in order to assert his loyalty to the new emperor and to clear himself of any connections with the previous ruler. Priscus’ kinship with a former emperor could also provide one of the possible reasons for his claims to the throne in the turbulent times of the Gothic invasions which led to the utter destruction and devastation of Philippopolis.

After assigning three new governors to the reign of Philip the Arab, it appears useful to make an attempt to clarify the chronology of all five governors of Thrace under this emperor:

- [Marcius?] Severianus – AD 244;
- Coresnius Marcellus – ca. AD 244/245;
- Sex. Furnius Publianus – ca. AD 245 – (shortly) after July/August AD 247;
- C. Vibius Gallus – ca. late AD 247 – 248;
- C. Vibius Gallus – ca. late AD 247 – 248;

\(^{19}\) Cf. the comments of G. Mihailov to IGBylg IV 2009 (p. 83).


\(^{21}\) For the latter, cf Priscus’ title rect(orientis) in the inscription from Philippopolis mentioned in note 20 (CIL III 14149 = Prentice 1908, 308-309, # 393: rect(o)riq(u)e Orientis). According to Zosimus, Priscus’ rule in the East was not accepted well and provoked the revolt of Iotapianus (Zos. 1.20.2); later, Iotapianus was defeated, as was Marinus (Pacatianus) in Moesia/Pannonia, but Philip was still afraid, because ‘he was aware of the soldiers’ hatred towards the commanders and governors in those regions’, so he put Decius in charge of the armies in Moesia and Pannonia (Zos. 1.21.2). Although there is no explicit mention of the eastern provinces, this could imply that Priscus had been released from his posts in the East.

\(^{22}\) Transl. by R. T. Ridley (Zosimus 1982, 7).

[Marcius?] Severianus, if identical with Otacilia’s father or brother of the same name, must be placed at the beginning of Philip’s reign, since Zosimus explicitly says that he was put in charge of the armies in Moesia and Macedonia immediately after Philip reached Rome (possibly in the early summer of AD 244, cf. Kienast et al. 2017, 190).

Coresnius Marcellus should also be assigned to the early reign of Philip the Arab, since his name appears in an inscription (IGBulg V 5257) where Philip is named Parthicus Adiabenicus. This honorary surname has not been attested elsewhere, but can be compared to the equally non-official Parthicus maximus which was used only in Philip’s early inscriptions (Kienast et al. 2017, 190)\(^2\). However, it remains unclear if Coresnius Marcellus succeeded or preceded Severianus.

Sextus Furnius Publianus probably had the longest term among the governors of Thrace under Philip the Arab, or at least he was the most active among them, for his inscriptions are by far the most numerous. Many of them are on milestones, and a reconstruction of the roads would have required a more peaceful time and a longer period. As I already said (cf. note 18 above), only one of Publianus’ inscriptions mentions Philip the Younger as Augustus (and gives him the surname Neos Helios)\(^2\), so he was certainly still governor of the province in July/August AD 247, when Philip the Younger became Augustus. However, since we have two more governors for the two-year period when Philip the Younger was Augustus, we can suggest that Publianus’ governorship ended shortly after July/August AD 247\(^3\).

C. Vibius Gallus must have been successor of Furnius Publianus, because he was governor after Philip the Younger became Augustus, and one of the inscriptions with his name gives the young emperor the epithet Neos Helios which is attested only in one more inscription from the time of Publianus (see note 25 above). The term of Vibius Gallus in Thrace was probably short, since there are only two or three inscriptions with his name, and, moreover, two of them were erected simultaneously. Gallus could have been transferred to some other place in order to be used as a military commander, or even sent to Rome to become consul suffectus (the consulship should have taken place in the period AD 248-250, after his stay in Thrace, but before the governorship in Moesia).

The last governor of Thrace in Philip’s reign was undoubtedly T. Iulius Priscus, who kept his post under the following emperor Decius Trajan.

The last four governors discussed here belong to the time of the Tetrarchy. After the reorganization of the Roman Empire in the late third – early fourth century AD, the former province of Thrace was divided into several smaller provinces, and, together with territories of the
former Lower Moesia, formed the new diocese of Thrace. However, the exact date when all this happened is rather unclear. Moreover, the inscriptions continued to use the traditional and rather vague terminology for provincial governors (praeses and ἡγεμών), so we are often unable to understand if an official was governor of a smaller province or ruled the entire diocese. Another problem is the date of the actual division of the former Thrace into four small provinces, because the names of some of these provinces, although present in the Verona List, do not appear in inscriptions or literary sources before the reign of Constantine or even the mid-fourth century AD. However, since these problems go far beyond the scope of the present notes and cannot be solved easily (or even at all), I will abstain from further discussion on this topic.

7. Domitius Domninus, vir perfectissimus, AD 297

Domitius Domninus (PLRE I, 266: Domninus 6) was hitherto known from four statue-bases for the members of the First Tetrarchy, found in the theatre of Perinthus-Herakleia (IPerinthos 14-17; ἡγεμονεύοντος τοῦ διασημοτάτου Δομιτίου Δομνείνου). I was able to recognize his name in a badly preserved inscription from Cabyle, which was only partially read by previous editors and erroneously assigned to the first half of the third century AD (SEG 42, 645; now published in Шаранков 2017, 228-231). Its full text, besides the name of Domninus, contains a consular date and thus enables us to give a precise date for his governorship:


The inscription informs us about the building of fortification walls for the city during the consulship of Maximianus Augustus for the fifth time and (Galerius) Maximianus Caesar for the second time, i.e. in AD 297. However, there arises another question. When we knew only about the four statue-bases from Perinthus-Herakleia, Domninus was thought to have been governor of the province of Europa; now he appears at Cabyle, which could not have belonged to that province, but was part either of Haemimontus or Thracia. Several solutions could be proposed for this problem. The first one – which seems the least probable – is to think that Domninus consecutively governed two different provinces. The second one would be to regard him as governing the entire diocese, but it is rather uncertain if the dioceses existed at such an early date. The third possible solution is that the division of the older province of Thrace into four smaller provinces (Europa, Rhodope, Thracia, Haemimontus) did not occur until a later time, and, at least during the first years or even decades after the reforms of Diocletian, the territory still could be governed by one person. The name of this larger entity could have been Europa et Thracia, as suggested by two inscriptions from Rome honouring L. Aradius Valerius Proculus as consularis provinciae Europae et Thraciae (CIL VI 1690-1691). I should note that one of these inscriptions (CIL VI 1690) lists each of his posts on a separate line, which seems to confirm that the governorship of Europa and Thracia was considered a single position. There is also an inscription from Augusta Traiana, mentioning one M. Aurelius Fronto as ‘thracarch and europarch’ (Bujukliev 2000 = AE 2001, 1743 = SEG 20  Cabyle was apparently raised to a polis soon before that date, cf. τὰ κάσταρα Καβύλης in an earlier inscription honouring emperor Aurelian (IGBulg V 5637, AD 270-275). The building of the fortification walls in AD 297 could have been one of the first activities marking the new status of the settlement.

27 The new administrative division is attested in the so-called Verona List or Laterculus Veronensis, seemingly compiled in the early decades of the fourth century AD. The part describing the eastern provinces is usually attributed to the period AD 314-324 (Barnes 1982, 201-208). The scholarly opinion is divided, especially concerning the date of the establishment of dioceses: some scholars opt for an early date under Diocletian (e.g., Jones 1964, 46-47, 373-374; Barnes 1982, 224-225: AD 293; Lo Cascio 2005, 180-181: AD 297), while others are more inclined towards the time of Constantine (Noethlichs 1982; Zuckerman 2002, 620-624, 636-637: AD 313/314).
31 If he was a thracarch before the division of the older Thrace into smaller provinces, it is possible that his title was changed in order to conform to the new reality. For further discussion on this topic, see Шаранков 2014b, 280-281.

32 The inscription is not on a column/milestone, as incorrectly stated in the publications, but on a statue-base. In 2018, another inscription on a statue-base for Diocletian erected by Aemilius Alexander was found in Philippopolis.

33 The martyrs are said to have been executed on 19 February, so the earliest possible date for this event is 19 February AD 305 (Galerius became possible date for this event is 19 February, so the earliest possible date for this event is 19 February AD 305). Cf. also # 10 below, about Augustus in AD 306 (Galerius became possible date for this event is 19 February, so the earliest possible date for this event is 19 February AD 305).

34 Some scholars wrongly considered this life of the martyrs too unreliable, and therefore Teres was often excluded from the list of provincial councils.

8. AEMILIUS ALEXANDER, VIR PERFECTISSIMUS, AD 303

Aemilius Alexander (PR² I 332; Stein 1920, 71-72, # 49; Thomasson 1984, 175, # 22.68) was hitherto attested in a single incomplete inscription and was dated vaguely to the second half or the end of the third century AD. The excavations of a temple of the imperial cult in Augusta Traiana-Beroe in 2015 (Камишева / Атанасов 2016; Шаранков 2016, 971-972, # 1) revealed two statue-bases, erected in honour of the two Caesares of the First Tetrarchy (Constantius and Galerius) and placed at the front corners of the temple. The inscription for Constantius is only partially preserved, but the one for Galerius (fig. 5) shows that the statues were dedicated by the governor Aemilius Alexander:

Principi iuventutis | Gal(ero) Val(ero) Maximiano | nobilissimo Caesari | Aem(ilius) Alexander v(ir) p(erfectissimus) [p] | praes(es) prov(inciae) Thraciae | d(evotus) n(umini) m(aiestatis) cius.

This inscription places Alexander’s governorship in the period of the First Tetrarchy, between AD 293 and AD 305. It also allows us to propose a better restoration for the other inscription attesting him as praes of Thrace (CIL III 14408, from Gorni Voden):

[Imp(eratori) Caes(ari) C. Val(ero) Diocletiano (vel M. Aur(elio) Val(ero) Maximiano)] | P(rio) F(elici) Invict[o Aug(usto)] | Aemilius Alexander v(ir) p(erfectissimus) p[raes(es)] | prov(inciae) Thraciae | d(evotus) n(umini) m(aiestatis)<q>(ue) eius | Feliciter.

A more exact date for Aemilius Alexander’s governorship in Thrace can be proposed, if we identify him with Alexander, apparently a provincial governor (PRLE I, 39: Alexander 1), addressee of a rescript by Diocletian and Maximian written at Durostorum on 8 June AD 303 (Cod. Just. 5.73.4).

9. [- - -] TERES, VIR PERFECTISSIMUS, CA. AD 305-311

Teres was governor of Thrace under Galerius (possibly at the beginning of his rule), and his Thracian name clearly indicates that he belonged to the local aristocracy. Our main source for his activity in Thrace is the Passio of three martyrs from Marcianopolis – Maximus, Asclepiodota and Theodotus (BHG II, 108, # 1239-1240b). He appears to have had jurisdiction over a territory larger than the (Late Roman) province of Thrace, because the texts show him active in Marcianopolis, Hadrianopolis and Philippopolis – cities which belonged to three different provinces (Moesia inferior, Haemimontus, Thracia), and some of the later versions of the martyrs’ life (BHG 1239 and 1240b), as already mentioned above (note 28), explicitly name him vicarius (βικάριος). One of the unpublished versions of the text (BHG 1240a) apparently assigns the events to the beginning of Galerius’ rule, so the governorship of Teres could be dated ca. AD 305-306. Some scholars wrongly considered this life of the martyrs too unreliable, and therefore Teres was often excluded from the list of the governors of Thrace. However, the life contains numerous details, of which only a contemporary living in Thrace could have been aware, so its reliability is beyond any doubt (Velkov 1980; Шаранков 2014b, 282-283, 285-286). It is worth mentioning one such piece of
information preserved in the earliest version of the text. After describing the death of Teres (which occurred soon after the execution of the martyrs), the author comments upon the large burial mound over his grave, which was made as high as a mountain (εἰς ὅρους μέγεθος τὸ χῶμα ἀπεκορύφωσαν). He adds that this ‘mountain’ should serve as an eternal monument to remind present and future generations of God’s wrath against the ‘tyrant’ (AASS 1755, 36). A large tumulus was certainly suitable for a nobleman of Thracian origin like Teres, and this seems to be the latest literary source to describe this practice.

Recently, the reliability of the information about Teres as governor of Thrace was utterly confirmed by a building inscription in the theatre of Philippopolis (fig. 6). It concerns a restoration of the entire building, which took place during his governorship:

Τάδιος Αἰ[θαντης?] ἡγεμονεύοντας τῆς Θρᾴκης, ὃς καὶ ἐωνίου δ[ιαμοίρατος] καὶ τῆς δεσποτείας ἐπαρχείας (?), Ἐπὶ δεσπότου ἡμῶν Γαλερίου Ὀυαλερίου Μαξιμιανοῦ Βασιλεὸς = filii Augustorum (Kienast et al. 2017, 276, 287). This is the first hitherto known inscription about the construction of a gynaecium followed by the phrase ἡγεμόνια τῆς Θρᾴκης, which is standard in Greek inscriptions from Thrace (and corresponds to the title ἡγεμῶν given to Teres in the literary sources).

10. Tadium Al[exander?], AD 309-310

This governor of Thrace from the period of the Fourth Tetrarchy is attested in a building inscription from Cabyle (SEG 42, 646 [b] = SEG 54, 638; completely revised text in Шаранков 2017, 231-237). It refers to the construction of a gynaecium (state textile workshop) by the governor, a vir perfectissimus, whose name is only partially preserved:

Ἀγαθὴν τύχην. Ἡγεμονεύοντας τῆς Θρᾳκῆς τὸ πᾶν ἐργὸν ἀνενεώθη (?), ἡγεμονεύοντος τῆς Ἱερᾶς Τάδιου (Kienast et al. 2017, 276, 287). This is the second known building inscription in Thrace for the diocese of Thrace after the one in Perinthus-Herakleia, which is attested in a funerary inscription (IPerinthos 179). Note that the fabricae in Thrace were also two – in Hadrianopolis and Marcianopolis (Not. dign. Or. XI).
we see the abbreviated *nomen* Tadius, and the beginning of the *cognomen* Al-, probably Alexander (but other names as e.g. Albinus, Alypius, etc., are also possible). His exact position – governor only of the small province to which Cabyle belonged (Haemimontus, if the latter already existed, or Thracia), or of a larger territory (*Thracia et Europa*, or the entire diocese) – remains unknown, but the latter possibility seems more probable, if we concern that the *gynaeceum* was a building of state importance. If he had the same position as Teres, he could well have been his immediate successor.

The new evidence about the four Tetrarchic governors of Thrace may be summed up as follows:

**Domitius Domninus**, *vir perfectissimus*, ‘ἡγεμόνεύων’, attested in Perinthus-Herakleia and Cabyle – AD 297;

**Aemilius Alexander**, *vir perfectissimus*, ‘praeses provinciae Thraciae’, active in Philippopolis (territory) and Augusta Traiana-Beroe – AD 303;

[- - -] **Teres**, *vir perfectissimus*, ‘ἡγεμών/ἡγεμονεύων τῆς Θρᾴκης’, active in Marcianopolis, Hadrianopolis, Philippopolis – ca. AD 305-306 (?);

**Tadius Al[exander?]**, *vir perfectissimus*, ‘ἡγεμών’, active in Cabyle – AD 309-310.

**Fig. 6.** Right end of a building inscription mentioning the governor Teres. Philippopolis, AD 305-311 (photo: N. Sharankov)

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