The population of Colonia Sarmizegetusa

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Abstract. *This paper presents the population of Colonia Sarmizegetusa, the first city of the province of Dacia. This is a case study within the project Romans 1 by 1 (www.romans1by1.com), a database which aims to comprise the population of Dacia, Moesia Superior, and Moesia Inferior. This study presents a micro-result of the entire project, providing information to researchers not only on the people who lived in the Dacian metropolis but also on those individuals transiting through Colonia Sarmizegetusa, who got involved in the social, religious and political life of the city by erecting monuments or being dedicated to. Until this point, by compiling all existing sources, the database has recorded 495 inscriptions (the inscription records are numbered starting with 00001DS) and 706 people (each with a personal record, with a unique ID) from Colonia Sarmizegetusa. The paper's conclusions present four results in the form of statistics, consisting of: (1) the analysis of the 495 epigraphic monuments; (2) identifying and implicitly analysing all the individuals attested on the inscriptions discovered at Colonia Sarmizegetusa; (3) population mobility, and (4) various types of relationships mentioned by epigraphic sources.*

Rezumat. *În lucrarea de față prezentăm populația Coloniei Sarmizegetusa, primul oraș al provinciei Dacia. Acesta constituie un studiu de caz din cadrul proiectului Romans 1 by 1 (www.romans1by1.com), bază de date care are în vedere înregistrarea populației din Dacia, Moesia Superior și Moesia Inferior. Lucrarea constituie un micro-rezultat al întregului proiect ce va oferi informații pentru cercetători nu doar asupra oamenilor care au trăit în metropola Daciei, ci și asupra acelor persoane care erau doar în trecere în Colonia Sarmizegetusa, dar care s-au manifestat în viața social-religioasă-politică a orașului, ridicând sau ordonând înălțarea unor monumente în orașul studiat. Până în momentul de față, prin adunarea tuturor surselor existente, baza de date a înregistrat 495 de inscripții (fișele de inscripții fiind numerotate începând de la 00001DS) și 706 de persoane (fiecare având o fișă personală, un ID unic) din Colonia Sarmizegetusa. Concluziile lucrării vor avea patru rezultate—acestea vor fi prezentate sub formă de statistici—ce au în vedere: (1) analizarea celor 495 de monumente epigrafice; (2) identificarea și implicit analizarea tuturor persoanelor care apar menționate în inscripții descoperite în Colonia Sarmizegetusa; (3) mobilitatea persoanelor și (4) diferite tipuri de relații menționate în sursele epigrafice.*

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This paper will present the population of Colonia Sarmizegetusa, the first city of the province of Dacia[2]. This is a micro-result of the *Romans 1 by 1* project (www.romans1by1.com), begun in autumn 2015. A database was initiated for the purpose, in the initial phase, to record the population of Dacia, Moesia Superior, and Moesia Inferior[3].

During autumn 2017, the team[4] succeeded in achieving the project's intended goal[5] but also began expanding the database to include Pannonia Superior and Pannonia Inferior.

Each team member focused on introducing the records for a province into the database. The author's responsibility was primarily Dacia Superior, including Sarmizegetusa's population. This city was primarily chosen due to its status as Roman Dacia's first city, though the author's accumulated experience in studying this metropolis played a significant part in the decision.

The database records, as the web platform shows[6], consist of three major parts. The first part summarizes the analysis of the inscriptions themselves; the second deals with the people attested on the inscriptions and the third part focuses on the relationship between individuals. Following this process, we will begin by presenting the first part of the database, namely the analysis.

As of now, by adding all existing sources, the database has recorded 495 epigraphic monuments — the inscriptions are numbered starting with 00001DS. To avoid any confusion, we must mention that, firstly, the figure presents the current state of research, and secondly that only the inscriptions that mention the people who lived in or transited through Colonia Sarmizegetusa were introduced[7]. The monuments mentioning only emperors and/or consuls (for example, honorary inscriptions made by the entire *colonia* in the emperor's honour) were not considered for the database.

The inscription records are first assigned a code within the database, consisting of five digits and letters. This methodology was chosen to allow simultaneous work on the records of

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[2] Here we wish to mention that studies about the population of Sarmizegetusa have been made before (prior to the year 2000): PAKI 1988a, 355–368; 1988b, 149–163; PISO 1993, 315–337. Regardless, we considered that a new study was needed to not only update existing data with information uncovered during the last decades, but to also contribute with new data in the form of the project's micro-results.

[3] Several studies on the *Romans 1 by 1* database: VARGA 2017 *online*; 2017, 333–341.

[4] www.romans1by1.com/pages/pproject.

[5] A relevant study, in the form of a macro-study for the entire project, is already in print: VARGA, PÁZSINT, BODA, DEAC 2018 *under press*.

[6] www.romans1by1.com/pages/phome.

[7] We have several inscriptions we cannot say for certain originate from Sarmizegetusa, as their place of discovery is not necessarily around the city, such as the cases of 00145DS (the inscription comes from Doștat), 00502DS (the inscription comes from Călan) etc. By carefully analyzing the inscriptions introduced in the database, we notice that some of them were found in different areas – this is due to the fact that starting with the Middle Ages, inscriptions were brought from other places and often reused in the construction of new buildings. For more detail, see: KIRÁLY 1891; 1894; KUUN, TORMA, TÉGLÁS 1902; BAJUSZ 2005; 2006, 323–339; BODA 2014, 307–351; 2015a, 281–306.

all assigned provinces, each team members using codes starting with 00001. The letters in the code, as our case shows, represents the analysed province, so DS stands for Dacia Superior[8].

After assigning the record's unique code, the following fields are completed: *Type of inscription*, *Language*, *Material*, *Relevant expressions*, *Stylistic details*, *Province*, *Place of discovery*, *Place of provenience*, *Ancient name provenience*, *Timestamp/Timeframe*, *Observations* and *External links.*

Presenting all 495 inscriptions in a single article is both impossible and irrelevant, as they are available *online* and *open access* to all interested parties. Instead, we deemed it necessary to summarize these epigraphic monuments in the form of statistics and tables.

	Votive	Funerary	Plaque	Constructions	Bench	Honorific	Album	Statue	Instrumentum
Marble	208	74	15	9	2	76	2	2	
Limestone	6	15			2				
Sandstone	3	5							
Gritstone	1	2		1					
Bronze	1								
Clay									48

Figure 1. The table shows the relation between Type of inscription and Material

Regarding the 495 epigraphic monuments from Colonia Sarmizegetusa, we can mention the variety of sources, of which votive monuments are unquestionably dominant — this is interesting because votive inscriptions are the majority type of monuments for the entire Dacian province[9]. With regard to *Instrumentum* from *Type of inscription*, mortarium (6), amphora (4) and tegula (38) were observed in Sarmizegetusa.

The purpose of the above table was to convincingly show the close relation between *Type of inscription* and *Material.* The table and statistics indicate that the preferred material of Sarmizegetusa's population was marble, especially from Bucova. This preference should not be related to Sarmizegetusa's wealth in comparison with other important cities such as Apulum (headquarters of the first legion, *Legio XIII Gemina*, the only one stationed in Dacia from the beginning until its abandonment, as well as the governor's seat after 168 AD), but due to the Bucova quarry's proximity to the *metropolis* and the local craftsmen obviously specialized in working with marble[10]. This explains why most of the monuments from Apulum (as wealthy and as important as Sarmizegetusa) are made of limestone, as the city

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[8] Other examples from the database: DP – Dacia Porolissensis, DI – Dacia Inferior, MI – Moesia Inferior, MS – Moesia Superior.

[9] VARGA *et alii* 2018.

[10] MÜLLER *et alii* 2012; BARBU 2014.

lacked a nearby a marble quarry and transportation costs were quite high during Antiquity, therefore the local craftsmen specialized in available materials, in this case, limestone[11].
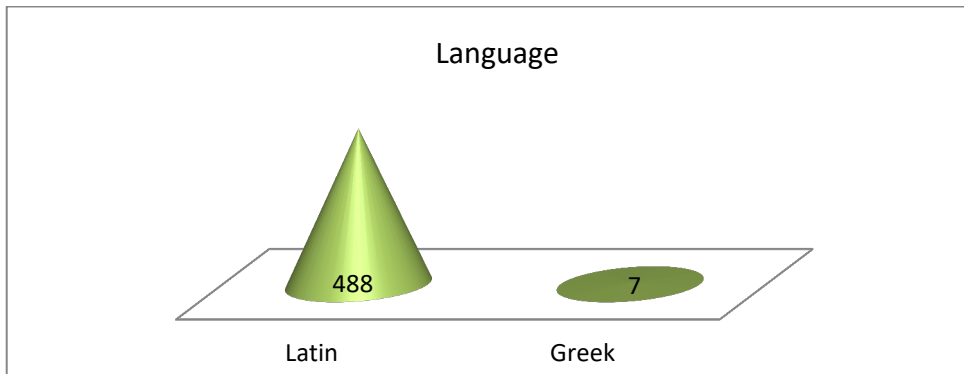

Figure 2. Language of the monuments

Regarding the language used in the inscriptions recorded in the database, the vast majority are written in Latin, with Greek only used in 7 cases. Three of these monuments were votive, and one each was funeral, *album*, plaque, and *instrumentum* (*mortarium*). Except for the *mortarium*, all 6 monuments were made of marble. We would like to again make a comparison with Apulum, where 9 out of 710 inscriptions were written in Greek (all votive) and 3 bilingual Greek-Latin (1 votive and 2 *instrumenta*). For the whole of Dacia we have the following statistics: 43 epigraphs were written in Greek (mainly votive, but also funerary and *instrumenta*, especially on *amphorae*) and 8 are bilingual: 5 written in Greek and Latin and 3 in Palmyrene and Latin (these three were funerary inscriptions discovered at Tibiscum)[12].

It is interesting to note that, to date, no inscription written in Palmyrene have been discovered at Sarmizegetusa and Porolissum, although this population is known to have been present there.

Inscription records also contain other information not included in the statistics because they were supplemented with more in-depth research (where possible) over the years, such as discovery circumstances or monument stylistic details, etc.

In the following lines, we will move to the database's second category, namely the analysis of individuals appearing on epigraphic documents. As for the inscriptions, the 706 people will not be presented in detail, already available for study to those interested with *open access*, but we will try to present a statistical summary.

Before the actual statistics, we would like to point out how a record sheet actually looks like in the database. First of all, each individual has a unique ID (same as inscriptions), after

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[11] epdb.romans1by1.com/rinscriptions: searching *Apulum* at *Ancient name provenience.*

[12] VARGA *et alii* 2018.

which all available information appearing on the inscriptions is recorded. The record has a section called *Observations* for information that does not necessarily appear on the inscriptions, but available if more in-depth research was done on the individual. At the same time, each record sheet contains the inscription (or inscriptions — an individual can appear on several of them) code, and accessing it brings up the inscription/s corresponding to the individual.

Concluding the mentioned statistics, we first want to draw attention to the sex of those making, or mentioned on, the inscriptions — as we can clearly see for Colonia Sarmizegetusa, men form the majority of individuals present on epigraphs. This is the case for the whole province; by comparison, in Moesia Superior women are much more numerous on epigraphic documents. There is a *gender* category called *unknown* which for Sarmizegetusa (but also in general) signifies that the inscription is very fragmented, with a few letters surviving from names or information, but unfortunately far too incomplete to clearly indicate whether the individual's gender. The team considered the inclusion of these inscriptions necessary, as they can provide data about the age at which the individuals died, or indicate their origin, which deities they prayed to, etc.
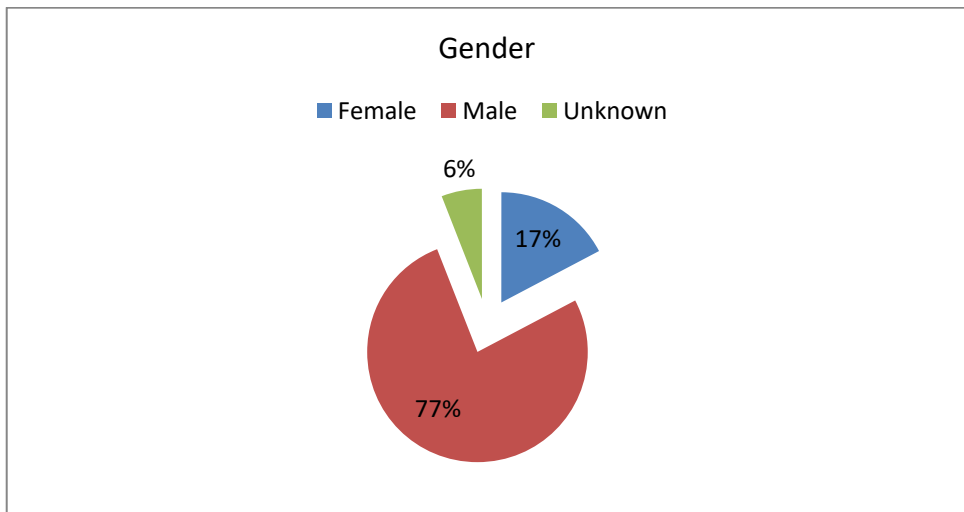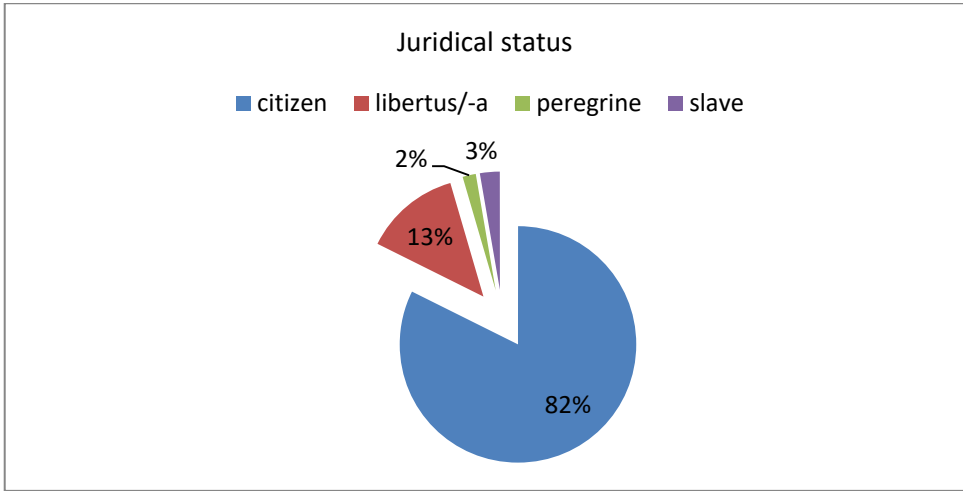

Figure 3. Gender

Figure 4. The juridical status of persons

Regarding the legal status of the 706 individuals, the vast majority was Roman citizens, but we obviously also have peregrines, slaves, and freedmen. Considering the small number of women appearing on the inscriptions, we found it interesting to analyse their legal status separately. The statistic indicates the structure was roughly the same: most of them were citizens, followed by freedwomen and much fewer peregrine or slaves. In approximately 90% of cases, these women appear on inscriptions alongside a man (husband, patron, son), which leads us to conclude that their work relates mainly to domestic activities[13].
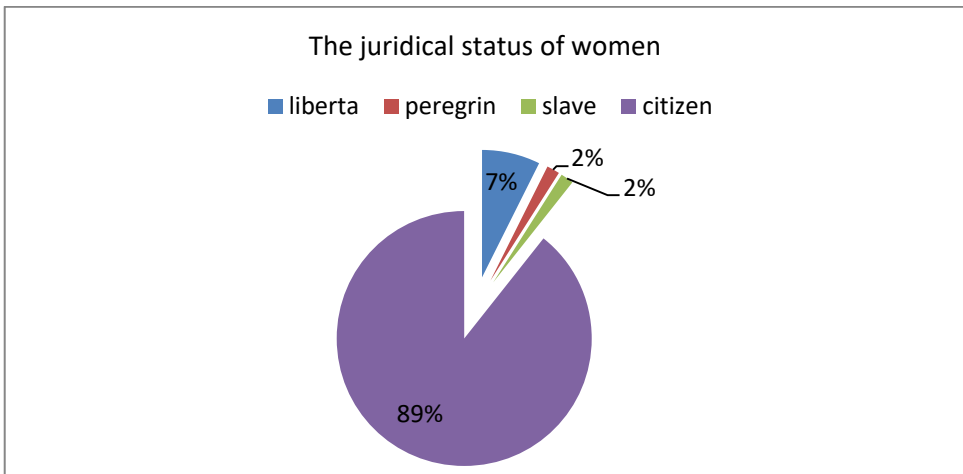

Figure 5. The juridical status of women

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[13] JUCAN 2007, 198–206; 2009; CARBÓ GARCÍA 2012, 245–279.

The database for Colonia Sarmizegetusa shows information for 26 individuals (all men) with the professional status registered. These people are citizens, slaves, freedmen or imperial slaves or freedmen[14]. If we search the database by craft (ticked box) and area of interests (in this case Sarmizegetusa) we get all the occupations documented for that area[15] along with known individuals practicing a craft. Returning to occupations, we have the following: 9 individuals are mentioned as *adiutor tabularii*, 3 were *negotians*, 2 were *nummularius* and one of each for *librarius*, *scriba colonia*, *dispensatoris vikarius*, *tabularius*, *defensor*, *vilikus*, *dispensator*, *pecumarius*, *sculptor*, and *actor*.
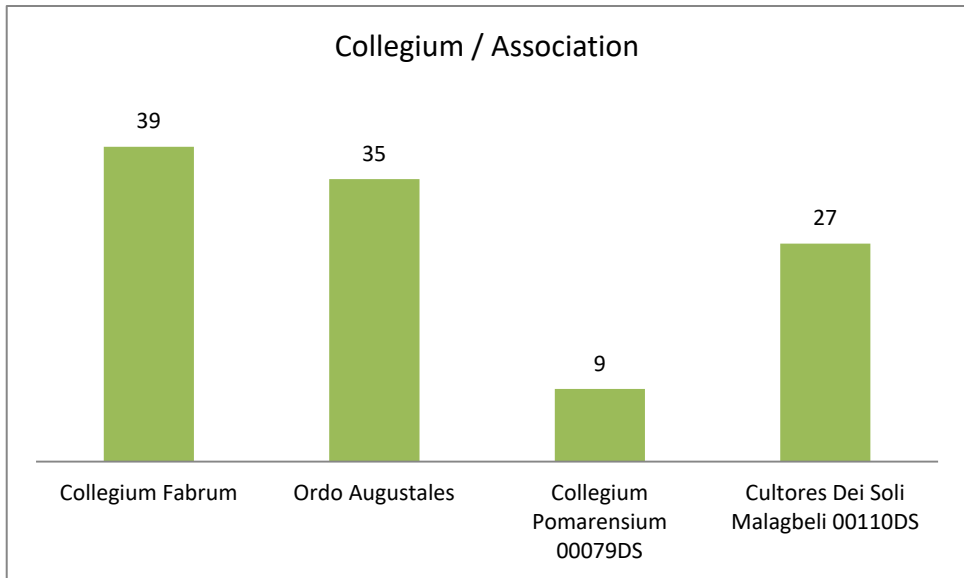

Figure 6. Collegium/Association types from Sarmizegetusa

To date, 110 collegia/association members from Sarmizegetusa were recorded[16]. Four collegia types from the city are known: *collegium fabrum* (39 individuals), *ordo Augustales* (35 individuals), *collegium Pomarensium / cultores Iovis* (9 individuals) and *Cultores Dei Soli Malagbeli* (27 individuals). Here we would like to point out that only a single inscription mentions the

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[14] www.romans1by1.com/rpeople: searching for *Occupation true*, at *Inscriptions* type *DS*, and at *Insc. provenience place* type: *Sarmizegetusa* and the database shows 26 records.

[15] Searching can be done by specific area, an entire province, however by leaving these boxes unchecked and checking only *Occupation true* has the database show all individuals recorded up to this moment by the project's team members.

[16] www.romans1by1.com/rpeople: searching for *Collegium true*, at *Inscriptions* type *DS*, and at *Insc. provenience place* type: *Sarmizegetusa* and the database shows 110 records.

collegium Pomarensium (00079DS) and the collegia of Malagbel's followers (00110DS). We mentioned above that very few women are present on epigraphs. Also reflecting this is the fact that of the 110 members of some associations we know only one woman: Flavia Crescentina, *mater* of the *collegium Pomarensium*[17].
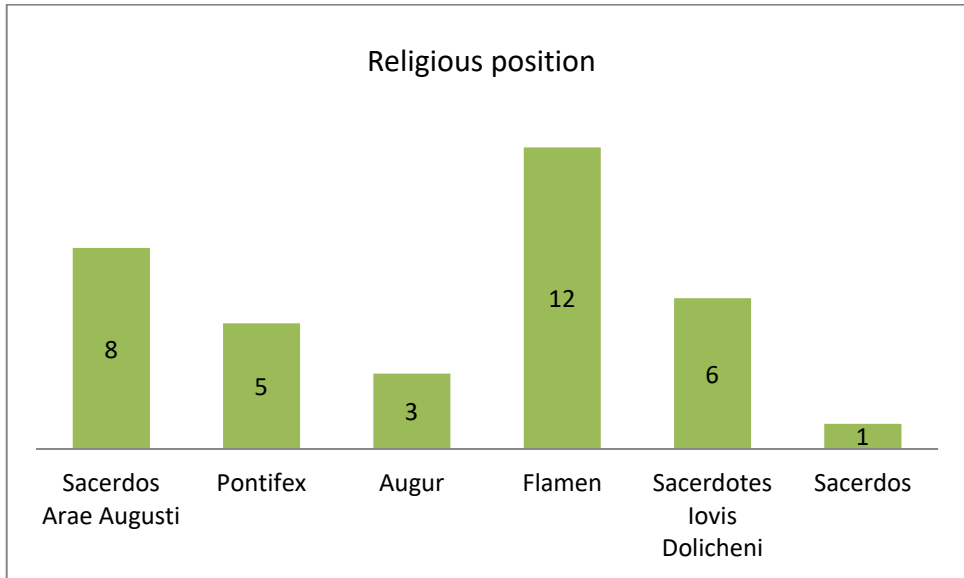

Figure 7. Religious position in Sarmizegetusa

From Sarmizegetusa, 35 people are known to have performed one or two priestly duties. First of all, outranking a mere municipal priest, the *sacerdos provincia / sacerdos Dacia / sacerdos Arae Augusti / sacerdos Arae Augusti nostri coronatus Daciarum III* was of provincial rank. The title changed over the years, though the responsibility remained the same throughout the Roman period such as, among other things, to tend to the altar in Sarmizegetusa dedicated to the reigning emperor[18]. We also have at the municipal level: *pontifex, augur, flamen* who were exercising their duties inside or around the Capitolio, or sanctifying new sacred buildings, the founding of new cities, etc.[19]. Apart from these duties, one inscription mentions 6 *sacerdotes Iovis Dolicheni* who met on the inauguration of the Dolichenian sanctuary built in the

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[17] www.romans1by1.com/rpeople/669
[18] DAICOVICIU 1966, 153–171; PISO 1972, 463–471; SZABÓ 2004, 83–119.
[19] For Roman Dacia priests see: SZABÓ 2007. For a detailed analysis of Colonia Sarmizegetusa priests see: BODA 2015b, 233–265.

southwestern corner of the enclosure (00093DS)[20]. An inscription in the database (found in the temple of the Palmyrene gods) mentions a *sacerdos* of the god Malagbel (00083DS)[21].

Moving on to another sub-topic, for those who study decurions, these can be searched in the database, which holds records for 92 individuals[22] (of which 40 held one, two or more local offices). Of the 92, 11 individuals were decurions in several cities: C. Valerius Valerianus (Sarmizegetusa and Apulum)[23], T. Varenius Pudens (Sarmizegetusa and Apulum)[24], P. Aelius Strenuus (Sarmizegetusa and Drobeta)[25], C. Iulius Diocletianus (Apulum and Sarmizegetusa)[26], P. Aelius Fabianus (Sarmizegetusa, Napoca and Apulum)[27], C. Iulius Metrobianus (Apulum and Sarmizegetusa)[28], T. Flavius Longinus (Napoca, Apulum and Sarmizegetusa)[29], C. Cervonius Sabinus (Apulum and Sarmizegetusa)[30], T. Varenius Sabinianus (Apulum and Sarmizegetusa)[31], P. Aelius Maximus (Napoca and Sarmizegetusa)[32] along another individual, whose name is unknown due to the monument's poor state, who we know was a decurion in two cities [33].

When talking about Colonia Sarmizegetusa's population, it is necessary to distinguish between the stable population and various imperial officials who only temporarily reside in the city. The latter, although having a great influence, do not actually belong to the local population. Soldiers also belong to this category, as they were noted to be in the city by their epigraphic monuments, but they only transit through Dacia's *metropolis*. Those interested in this topic can search the database for procurators[34], governors[35] or soldiers[36].

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[20] BODA 2015a, 281–306.

[21] PISO, ȚENTEA 2011, 111–121.

[22] www.romans1by1.com/rpeople: searching for *Decurion*, at *Inscriptions* type *DS*, and at *Insc. provenience place* type: *Sarmizegetusa* and the database shows 92 records.

[23] www.romans1by1.com/rpeople/2069

[24] www.romans1by1.com/rpeople/2076

[25] www.romans1by1.com/rpeople/2091

[26] www.romans1by1.com/rpeople/8984

[27] www.romans1by1.com/rpeople/5647

[28] www.romans1by1.com/rpeople/8945

[29] www.romans1by1.com/rpeople/9747

[30] www.romans1by1.com/rpeople/11093

[31] www.romans1by1.com/rpeople/11464

[32] www.romans1by1.com/rpeople/15299

[33] www.romans1by1.com/rpeople/2165

[34] www.romans1by1.com/rpeople: searching for *Procurator yes*, at *Inscriptions* type *DS*, and at *Insc. provenience place* scris: *Sarmizegetusa*.

[35] www.romans1by1.com/rpeople: searching for *Provincial governor*, at *Inscriptions* type *DS*, and at *Insc. provenience place* scris: *Sarmizegetusa*.

[36] www.romans1by1.com/rpeople: searching for *Military personnel*, at *Inscriptions* type *DS*, and at *Insc. provenience place* scris: *Sarmizegetusa*.

We would like to mention that following the itinerary of population mobility cannot be accomplished in the database by ticking a box and then receiving a list of individuals attested in several cities. It was mentioned at the beginning of the study that each person can appear on several epigraphic monuments. Each team member introduces the records of a single with a unique code. If the individual on an inscription is already in the database, no new form will be created, but the code of the new inscription will be entered in the existing record sheet. As such, unfortunately, we cannot search for a specific individual that we know appears in other areas (for example, governors). Another possibility is to analyse a city's population so we can cross reference which people appear in multiple cities.

Studying Sarmizegetusa's population reveals that, in terms of mobility, we have two subcategories: inter-provincial and extra-provincial mobility. In the subcategory of inter-provisory mobility, we mention P. Furius Saturninus[37], Tib. Iulius Flaccinus[38], Q. Marcius Turbo[39], C. Sempronius Urbanus[40], M. Opellius Adiutor[41], and Hermadio[42], whose presence was recorded in Sarmizegetusa as well as in other cities of Roman Dacia.

The extra-provincial mobility subcategory contains people that transit towards other provinces. Thus, we have people who come to Sarmizegetusa from Beneventum[43], Pergamon[44], Viminacium[45], Khara[46], Arretio[47] and two individuals from Palmyra[48]. They specifically mention their origin on epigraphic monuments. Obviously, for more people, we can suggest other corners of the Empire as their origin. An example is the case of procurator Αἴλιος Ἀπολλινάριος[49] and his wife Μάζιμα[50] (probably from one of the Empire's Greek regions) or another well-known case, that of P. Aelius Theimes[51] from Palmyra. Even if we are certain Theimes originates from the desert city, the database did not record it as such if he did not mention it on the inscription. Obviously, this certainty can be mentioned in the *observations* box, along with the rationale behind it.

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[37] www.romans1by1.com/rpeople/1746

[38] www.romans1by1.com/rpeople/1747

[39] www.romans1by1.com/rpeople/1748

[40] www.romans1by1.com/rpeople/536

[41] www.romans1by1.com/rpeople/1844

[42] www.romans1by1.com/rpeople/6966

[43] www.romans1by1.com/rpeople/1364

[44] www.romans1by1.com/rpeople/1157

[45] www.romans1by1.com/rpeople/1258

[46] www.romans1by1.com/rpeople/1027

[47] www.romans1by1.com/rpeople/2726

[48] www.romans1by1.com/rpeople/1025; www.romans1by1.com/rpeople/1118

[49] www.romans1by1.com/rpeople/1013

[50] www.romans1by1.com/rpeople/1014

[51] www.romans1by1.com/rpeople/482

Also included in the subcategory of extra-provincial mobility are M. Claudius Fronto[52], M. Statius Priscus[53], and M. Sedatius Severianus[54] , who appear in several provinces according to already registered epigraphic documents.
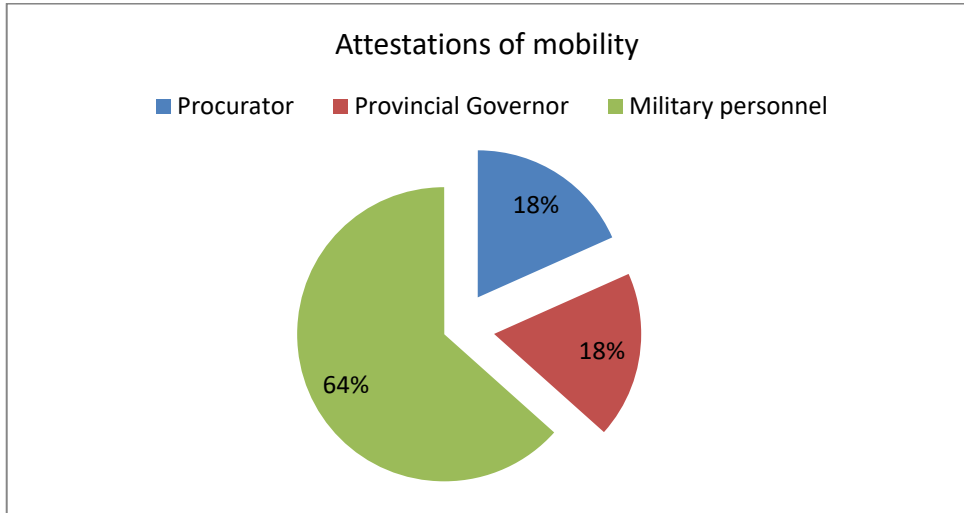

Figure 8. Attestations of mobility

Finally, we want to present the relationships between individuals. Relationships, on a case-by-case basis, appear on each individual's inscription record. By accessing *Personal Relations* on the database, various searches can be conducted according to relationship types, such as neighbour, employer, estate executor, tutor, cousin, etc. Thus, after filling in the *Relation* field, the database will show all cases (from the province records already accessible *online*). Obviously, as more province records are made available on the database, more and more relationship types become available or clarify existing ones.

By analysing epigraphs from Sarmizegetusa, we notice that most monuments were dedicated by family members or people sharing the same dwelling: spouse (with or without children), freedmen or slaves dedicating inscriptions to their patron, etc.

These are, essentially, the results of this study, which also serves as a micro-result of the *Romans 1 by 1* project. Further details on inscriptions and individuals in Sarmizegetusa, but also the whole of Dacia, Moesia Superior or Moesia Inferior can be found in the database through *open access*.

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[52] www.romans1by1.com/rpeople/1742

[53] www.romans1by1.com/rpeople/596

[54] www.romans1by1.com/rpeople/1769

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