

NEWLY FOUND ARCHITECTURAL ELEMENTS FROM THE ROMAN BATHS COMPLEXES IN *ULPIA RATIARIA*

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Abstract: The significant Roman center on the Lower Danube - *Ratiaria* - was first Roman legionary camp (first century AD), then a Roman colony (2nd – 3rd c. AD), and finally, in Late Antiquity, became the capital of the new province of *Dacia Ripensis*. The abandonment of the site by archaeologists in the last years of the 20th century led to its total plundering by treasure hunters. Since 2013 a new research team resumes systematic archaeological excavations in the vicinity of “Kaleto” (remains of *Ulpia Ratiaria*). Over the past two years have been studied new sectors of the so-called Residence (a representative building of the provincial governors of *Dacia*), totally unknown Late Roman baths, kilns for ceramic production, parts of the street system – *decumanus*, huge zones of the northern fortification wall and the few dwellings behind it. Among the most important finds are monuments of Roman architecture, which are found in large quantities after the treasure-hunter raids. Among these are monumental architectural details in Corinthian order, which were discovered in the area of the largest baths – those of so-called “Imperial type”, located at the southern end of *Ratiaria*. The most impressive new founded examples in Corinthian order are presented, providing direct evidence for the decoration of this largest (till this moment) architectural complex of the Roman colony *Ulpia Ratiaria*. The presence of bases with pedestal, parts of columns, several entire capital and parts of entablature (cornices and gable-element) allow us even a hypothetical reconstruction of the entire order scheme of the Roman Imperial baths. Beautifully carved elements and all decorative schemes of the order system directed us to a sure chronological frame of these monumental constructions – at the end of the rule of emperor Hadrian and onwards, but not later than the middle of the second century AD.

Keywords: *Ratiaria*, architectural decoration, *thermae*, *Asia minor* crafts.

The regular archaeological excavations of the important Roman centre of Lower Danube, *Ratiaria*, were resumed in 2013 after a 25 year break. Initially the town was a Roman legionary fortress (the 1st c.), afterwards it became a Roman colony (the 2nd – 3rd c.), and in Late Antiquity it was proclaimed capital of the new province of *Dacia Ripensis* (the late 3rd – 6th c.)

The abandoning of the site by the archaeologists during the recent 20 years brought to its total pillage by treasure-hunters. Three years ago a new team of archaeologists¹ started regular excavations in the “Kaleto” area, where the ruins of the antique city were localized.

The explorations of certain sectors of the Residence of the provincial governor of *Dacia* have been completed in the recent seasons: a new baths-complex from the Late Antiquity was unearthed and also kilns for ceramics, parts of the street network, sections of the north fortification wall and of the quarters behind it.

However, some of the most significant finds are Roman architectural monuments, which are found in great quantities after the treasure-hunters’ invasion. Most noteworthy among these are the monumental architectural details in the Corinthian order which were uncovered in the area of the largest *thermae* – the “Imperial *thermae*” – localized in the southern part of *Ratiaria*. Other details were found in and around the late antique baths to the north of the Residence.

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This study examines and analyzes exactly the most impressive newly found details in the Ionic and Corinthian orders, which provide direct evidence about the decoration of these important architectural complexes in the Roman colony of *Ulpia Ratiaria*. The architectural elements (bases, parts of columns, several entirely preserved capitals and parts of entablature, cornices and pediment) present opportunities not only to find out the chronology and the style of the details, but also to identify the works of the stone carving workshops in *Ratiaria* or of the travelling stone-carvers from other provinces of the Empire, because undoubtedly there were many such stone-carvers along the Lower Danube *limes*. There are grounds to offer some hypothetical reconstructions of the order schemes in the Roman Imperial *thermae*, although there is no certainty that the details belonged exactly to the *thermae*.

The archaeological site of *Ratiaria* is one of the biggest military and civil centres on the territory of the Roman Empire on the Balkans. It is a military fortress, Roman colony and provincial capital, situated along the Lower Danube. The intensified studies in the recent years resulted in resuming the regular archaeological digs of *Ratiaria*. The research is focused mainly on the analysis of data of general nature. However, archaeological materials have been published lately as well².

The *thermae* of the antique city are among the biggest complexes investigated by archaeologists in recent years. This study is focused on the analysis of the immense number of architectural details unearthed in and around the thermal complexes in *Ratiaria*.

The main problem here is that the site was abandoned for a long time, and it is therefore impossible, even under regular excavations, to ascertain whether all of these details belonged above all to the thermal complexes in the antique city. Many architectural monuments have been moved to other places after the visit of the earth-digging machines of the treasure-hunters in the early 21st century. The Corinthian capitals, which will be analyzed below, are among these problematic details, which were not found in the Large *thermae* of *Ratiaria*, but indeed they might have been dragged by the earth-diggers to the spot where they were localized. Unlike this considerably broken architectural complex, in the late antique *thermae* in G IV sector we found architectural details which had been removed from their original location, but belong definitely to the baths themselves. The entire interior decoration – details, the facing and flooring slabs, the mosaic fragments, etc. – had been taken out, but some fragments survived to this day *in situ*. A good deal of the elements of this Late Antique construction can be seen today in the Museum of Vidin.

This study dwells on all architectural details found in the area of the Large *thermae* in *Ratiaria*, which were localized along the road to the village of Darjanitsa and on those from the Late Antique baths to the north of the Residence, investigated in 2013-2014³. The study covers the entire research of the architectural elements and the relevant primary publications. Consequently the methodology applied here divides the collected information into basic – in the form of separate catalogued data, and analytical – in the form of architectural analysis even of the smallest decorative details in the ornamentation of each of the published monuments. The main point of the analysis is to date the details accurately and to identify the influences and interactions which the architectural environment of *Ratiaria* experienced during the Roman Imperial period.

The major tasks in this study are as follows:

- to identify the principles in the architectural decoration of *Ratiaria*;
- to determine the origin of the architectural models used in this city;
- to outline the works of individual stone-carving schools and artists;
- to date accurately some complexes on the basis of their architecture;

² Dintchev 2015b, 173-196; Dimitrov 2013-2014, 105-119; Dimitrov 2014, 497-506; Dimitrov 2015b, 185-196; Dimitrov 2015a, 563-579; Dimitrov, Rusev, forthcoming; Dimitrov, Topalilov, Tsvetkov 2015, 394-398.

³ For details about the location of the two baths complexes see Giorgetti 1987, tav. A.

- and – above all – to offer certain options as to the reconstruction of the order complexes in the lack any surviving façades *in situ*, either destroyed or non-existent (this option definitely opens opportunities for new investigations of the issue in the future).

BASE DETAILS FROM THERMAL COMPLEXES IN RATIARIA (Plate I).

During the recent excavations three different types of base details have been unearthed and kept – two from the Late Antique bath to the north of the Residence and one from the area of the Large *thermae*. All the details are kept in the collection in front of the police building in the village of Archar.

The first base detail that is analysed here is a semi-base from the interior of the Late Antique baths (Plate I /1.1 and 1.2). This is a detail in the Ionic order, made of *tori*, a *trochilus* between them and quite a high plinth. An important element in the work is the small listel in the upper surface of the detail above the *torus*. This is not typical for bases in the Ionic style in Roman Thrace, nonetheless, the listel here was added purposefully to soften and smooth the connection with the pillar which was placed on the base. It is interesting that this architectural detail follows the principles of the architectural decoration of the bases from the period of the Principate. Similar profiles can be seen in the small bases from the buildings to the south of the agora in *Nicopolis ad Istrum* (which are probably from the Severan period). The basic distinction that comes out in the analysis is the difference in the dimensions of the individual elements in the set. The *trochilus* and the *tori* are not much different either in height or in prominence horizontally one above the other, *i.e.* as seen in the profile of the base. Another “late” chronological feature is the high and remarkably massive plinth. Perhaps this semi-base dates to the 3rd century AD and was used in the interior decoration of the Late Antique *thermae* during the Late Roman and Early Byzantine periods (4th – 5th century). Judging by the craftsmanship of the semi-base *Ratiaria* must have had notable traditions in producing copious architectural ornamentation. During this relatively late period (3rd c.) for these impeccably proportioned and profiled architectural elements one can notice perfect replicas of existing patterns of the Ionic order, only that the length of the elements was shortened while their profile was more pronounced. An important point is that this base detail was made of marble as were many slabs in the interior of these Late Antique *thermae*.

Another base, localised immediately to the south of the Late Antique *thermae* (again in G IV sector) displays an absolutely different decorative scheme (Plate I/1.3).

This is a detail from the *insula* to the south of the *thermae* and was most likely part of a portico flanking the baths complex from the south. In terms of decoration this detail is rather simplified, made in the stylized fashion. It consists of a large plinth, an utterly formalized conic *torus* and a thin cylindrical listel on top which connected the monument to the column. It's a free-standing detail, which was not connected to the colonnade of the portico, flanking the *decumanus* south of the bath.

The style of decoration here is the style typical for the Late Antique architecture in the whole Northern Bulgaria – *Dacia Ripensis*, *Moesia inferior* and *Scythia*. This detail is made of travertine. Its forms suggest the pattern of the whole porticos to the south of the bath complex during the Late Antique and early Byzantine periods (the 4th – 5th century). Information about the existence of these Late Antique porticos, running along the streets to the north of the Residence, was obtained also from the stylobates in the structures of newly unearthed buildings in 2014-2015⁴.

The third base detail from the *thermae* in *Ratiaria* is the most problematic one as to establishing its belonging to this type of complexes (Plate I/1.4-1.7). It was localized in the area of the Large *thermae*

⁴ Dimitrov, Topalilov, Tsvetkov 2015, 394-398.

in *Ratiaria* in 2011; however, there are no grounds to assume that this was its original location. As I already mentioned in my previous papers, this element may belong either to the *thermae* or to any other big public complex, e.g. to a temple⁵. Yet, the base is crucial as decoration. Along these lines it's less problematic. This detail is a typical Ionic base in its Attic version. It has perfect proportions – following precisely the standard of the order attested in the proper adhering to the dimensions of the *tori*, *trochilus*, the listels and the plinth. The individual elements are as a rule abundantly ornamented when they belong to base details from *Asia minor*, Greece and Southern Thrace in the early Antonine period – most probably during the reign of Hadrian. There were similar base details in the temples of the Capitoline Triad and especially in the civil basilica in the adjacent Roman colony of *Ulpia Oescus*⁶. Besides the data concerning the architectural decoration, the detail provides invaluable information about the structure supporting the monument as well. This base is an engaged-column-pillar structure, i.e. engaged column structure ending in the façade as a decorative engaged column. Splendid Corinthian capitals, which have been unearthed and stored, were placed on bases of this order too.

Surely this was a big public complex with sumptuous architectural decoration from the early years of the colony of *Ulpia Traiana Ratiaria* – not later than the mid-second century, most probably from the reign of Hadrian. There are great chances that these are details from the structures in the Large *thermae* of *Ratiaria*, which are supposed to be of the so call Imperial type⁷, though one should not rule out other options as to eventual reconstructions⁸.

CAPITAL DETAILS FROM THE BATHS-COMPLEXES OF *RATIARIA* (Plates II-V).

In the area of the Large *thermae*, localized along the road to the village of Darjanitsa, three big Corinthian capitals were uncovered (Plates II-V). They have already been published⁹. The finds are of special interest for the preserved decoration and for the building to which they belonged. It is uncertain whether they belonged to the *thermae* or were dragged there by the treasure-hunters. These Corinthian capitals belonged exactly to the architectural complex to which the Ionic base, cat. no. 3, belonged. From a decorative point of view these are capitals with incomplete set of elements. It is of interest that they contain all the elements of a Corinthian capital – acanthus leaves, caulis, cup (chalice), volutes, helices, abacus flowers and stems, profiled abacus slabs and visible calathos zones. Nonetheless the only deviation from the complete set of elements lies in the fact that they have only one acanthus row and a limited number of acanthus flowers – five instead of eight. The reason for this deviation is that they were made for the engaged columns. This fact, mentioned for the first time in the analysis of the Ionic base, attests the elaborate architectural structures in *Ratiaria*. Besides, these diverse complexes had remarkably opulent ornamentation. It won't be an overstatement to point out that both the acanthus decoration and the motifs in the abacus zones are among the most extravagant in the whole of *Moesia* falling nowadays within the territory of Bulgaria. In terms of lavishness and splendour only the Corinthian capitals from *Ulpia Oescus* can be compared to these details.

We shall point out only certain essential aspects of the details because the architectural and decorative scheme of the three capitals from *Ratiaria* is described in detail in the catalogue (cat. no. 4-

⁵ Dimitrov 2014, 500, fig. 3; Dimitrov 2015a, 569, pl. 1/2-3; pl. 6/1-2.

⁶ Ivanov, Ivanov 1998, 122, nr. 51, 124, nr. 78; today on the terrain in *Oescus*, without illustration in the first publication.

⁷ Giorgetti 1987, tab. A.

⁸ Dimitrov 2015a, possible temple reconstructions; see: fig. 8-10.

⁹ Dimitrov 2015a, 571-572, pl. 3/6-8, 4/1-4; Dimitrov 2014, 500-501, fig. 4 a-b.

6). The three Corinthian capitals are unmistakably details made by the Anatolian stone-carving artists. Similar details are found ever more often in Roman Thrace and they call for a much more profound separate study. Here the Ephesus-Pergamon scheme is easy to observe in the craftsmanship of the acanthus leaves and their overall positioning in the calathos¹⁰. The stems of the calathos and its nodes are rendered in the same Anatolian fashion – *i.e.* solely in one profiled vertical line, no flutes or listel ornaments (as is the case in Italy or Greece for instance). The listel cups, the chalices are ornately developed. They consist of three leaves each. Again these are features typical of the Anatolian stone works. The most important and least disputable motifs in terms of their origin are the following: the free and open scrolls of the volutes (without any central “eye” as a starting point for the spiral) and the replacement of the classic helices with floral helices or the so called helices with interwoven stems.

Apart from these decorative patterns definitely characteristic of the western coast of Asia Minor, one is impressed with the typical Anatolian craftsmanship. Huge areas of the stone surface were taken out. Thus for example, vast space was “opened” behind some of the leaves to the connection with the calathos. The leaves themselves are almost three-dimensional in some zones. The acanthi are heavily indented and the resulting figures between their tips are very diverse.

The chronology of the Corinthian capitals found at the Large *thermae* in Ratiaria goes back to the late Hadrian period. Dating after the mid-second century can be considered impossible. Likewise the base under cat. no. 3, which belongs to the same order structure, displays unequivocally features dating it to the same period of the Antonine time.

The main importance of these three magnificent architectural elements is that they can be treated as a reliable piece of evidence that there were works of Anatolian stone carving artists in this area of ancient Thrace too. Travelling stone carving artists have been registered in many places in present day Bulgaria and not only. They appeared mainly in the 30s of the second century and it seems they were invited to perform works commissioned both privately – by rich land-owners or affluent persons (as is the case with *Villa Armira*, from the complex near the village of Kasnakovo, also in the towns of *Odessos*, *Marcianopolis* and *Anchialo*) – and publicly for a number of public complexes (the *thermae* in *Odessos*, the complexes in *Tomi*, *Ulpia Oescus*, *Nicopolis ad Istrum* and particularly *Philippopolis*)¹¹.

CORINTHIAN CORNICE FOUND AT THE LARGE THERMAE IN RATIARIA (Plates VI-IX).

A whole Corinthian cornice was unearthed during the 2014 regular excavations and it is actually among the most significant finds in Ratiaria. This is a corner element of a structure slightly protruding sideways from the overall order façade of the building. It is presumably an avant-corps, made of pediments and free-standing colonnades crowned with capitals and an entablature in the Corinthian order. The piece was found in the zone of the Large *thermae*. This time we can be more categorical. Avant-corps, especially in the structuring of the façade, are common in big baths-complexes.

¹⁰ Rohmann 1998, 11-38, 71-81, Abb. 3, 5-7, Taf. 1-20, 37, 42-46; Heilmeyer 1970, 93-97, Taf. 25-28.

¹¹ The works of the Aphrodisians in *Villa Armira* have been known for a long time and were commented upon (Mladenova 1979, 91-94). Similar are the interior works from *Odessos*, *Nicopolis ad Istrum* and *Marcianopolis* (Ward-Perkins 1980, Nr. 14, pl. XVIII b, pl. XV), however, details made by Anatolian artists have been recently unearthed also near the sanctuary of the Nymphs in the village of Kasnakovo (I am grateful to V. Katsarova, scholar). Fresh data has been obtained as well from sculpture monuments in the collection of the Museum in Komotini. Anatolian works in the decoration of public complexes in Roman Thrace were described in detail in the studies of Prof. Ward-Perkins (quoted above) – *e.g.* the agora in *Nicopolis ad Istrum*, the *thermae* in *Odessos*, buildings at the agora in *Philippopolis* and the forum in *Ulpia Oescus*. There are two newly published typically Anatolian significant monuments, which seem to be made by Aphrodisian artists: an *acroterion* from *Oescus* (Dimitrov 2007, 218-234) and a frieze from a funerary complex in *Anchialo* (Dimitrov 2005, 408-423).

In view of the ornamented and indented façade this is the most splendidly decorated Corinthian cornice in Bulgaria. The only almost comparable “rivals” are the cornices from the temple of Fortuna in *Oescus* and the eastern gate of *Philippopolis*.

The Corinthian cornice is divided into a *simā*, *geison* and a *dentils*. The *simā* is formed by the typical seven-leaf attached palmettes and there is nothing else of special interest, however, the richness of the *geison* is stunning. This middle section of the cornice is divided into consoles and fields. The fields along one of the sides are ornamented with beautiful five-leaf classic rosettes and along the other side – there are heavily indented overlapping acanthus leaves. The consoles are richly decorated. Their lower part is covered with spread acanthus. The acanthus leaf on the corner console is particularly long and deeply indented. All the walls of the consoles are decorated also with spiralling motifs. The profiled strips, separating the consoles from the fields, are smooth and ornament-free, although they are carved in the Lesbian cyma curves.

The *geison* is separated from the dentil cornice by a splendid row of Ionic cyma. It is of the “*ovulae* with arrows type”. Particularly impressive is the choice of decorative motifs in the bands separating the elements. Thus for instance the Ionic cyma was used, however, the Lesbian cyma was not, neither is there any astragal. Yet the stone carving artists had outstanding skills.

We would like to point out a crucial fact, namely the rare but very reliable evidence of painting the architectural detail in red. Traces of red are noticeable on the corner dentils of the cornice and the adjacent Ionic cyma.

In this Corinthian cornice, similarly to the Corinthian capitals analysed above, we find new data about the Anatolian stone carving techniques. These are the relief sticks connecting the dentils of the dentil cornice. They are at the corner blocks decorated in red.

Nonetheless the chronology of the Corinthian cornice from the *thermae* of *Ratiaria* is slightly later than the chronology of the Corinthian capitals under cat. no. 4-6. The ornamentation of the palmettes, the simple scheme in the bottom of the consoles and the fields, the absence of any Lesbian cyma and astragal there (characteristic of the splendid Hadrian decoration in *Philippopolis* and *Nicopolis ad Istrum* for instance) rather suggest dating to the late Antonine period: the second half of the second century.

PEDIMENT (Plate X).

There is one gable detail from a pediment among the finds unearthed in 2014 in the area of the Large *thermae* of *Ratiaria*. For the first time we come across the gable detail of an entire multi-section pediment complex. Two sections from pediments, uncovered during previous digs, are displayed in the town park of Vidin nowadays¹². They are from the corner zones though, moreover, both in terms of style and of dating they differ from the newly found architectural element.

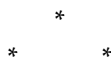
The pediment was made for the Corinthian order. It is among the many details (together with the Corinthian capitals and the base, for instance) which might have been part of a temple, but might as well have belonged to the Imperial *thermae* themselves.

The monument is perfectly preserved. The two slopes are intact, and the gable section and the especially interesting pedestal for a free-standing statue which is placed on top are also preserved.

The most important point in terms of decoration is that the cornice section of the pediment is unmistakably divided into consoles and fields (*i.e.* the Corinthian order). However, the cyma, which actually frames the individual elements, is the so called ‘Blattkymation’ – *i.e.* cyma with the form of

¹² Dimitrov 2014, 502-503, fig. 5.

little flower leave¹³. This is a version of the Lesbian cyma, but this is the first Lesbian cyma to be encountered on the territory of present-day Bulgaria. It's typical for the Hadrian period and has been registered in several monuments in northern Dobrouja, e.g. the frieze-architrave in the monument of Servilius Fabianus in *Tomi* from the mid-second century¹⁴.



Summarizing the examination of the architecture and decoration of the monuments uncovered during the recent archaeological excavations of the Roman colony of *Ulpia Ratiaria*, we can state that the architectural environment of this important Roman centre along Lower Danube was gorgeous and exceptionally diverse.

Baths-complexes existed as early as the second century and lasted till the 4th – 5th century AD. They contain details in the Corinthian and Ionic orders. As construction these complexes exhibit great diversity. There are free-standing details from colonnades but also engaged columns with front semi-column part, corner elements from protruding avant-corps and many others. Certainly, the origin of the details, localized in the present area of the Large *thermae*, is still difficult to pinpoint – whether they belonged to the baths or a temple complex nearby. Our purpose is to shed light on this issue in our next excavations in the following years.

One of the most precious results of the study is the possibility to accurately date almost all of the elements. The most numerous chronological group is the group of details from the late Hadrianic period – bases, capitals, whole pediment. Moreover, it clearly reveals the decoration schemes and processing methods, which are typical for the Anatolian artists.

Thus we can safely place Roman *Ratiaria* among the antique cities on the territory of present-day Bulgaria for which there is direct architectural evidence that some of the complexes were built and decorated by travelling stone-carving artists from *Asia minor*.

¹³ Ganzert 1983, 196-200, Abb. 152-159.

¹⁴ Ward-Perkins 1980, 23-69.

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CATALOGUE OF THE ARCHITECTURAL ELEMENTS

No 1

- Localized at:** *Ratiaria*. Late Antique baths, unearthed in 2013. According to the grid-plan of the site – section G IV, qu. 64; PIN 587 / 2013.
- Description:** Base. Ionic order. Separated vertically into two main zones – plinth and base. The plinth is massive, cut vertically, no decoration, no division in sections. The corpus of the base is also divided into two main zones. The lower part is a typical Ionic base – with a profiled curve of the *tori* and a *trochilus* between them. The upper part is in the form of a small listel connecting the base with the pillar above.
- Material:** Marble. Colour – greyish-white with distinct dark grey streaks. Density – hard material, fine grain structure. Unclear origin of the stone material, i.e. could be extracted in the vicinity of *Ratiaria*, but could as well be imported material. There is an opening for a locking finger on the upper surface of the base, connecting the detail to the pillar that was on top of it.
- Present condition:** Whole architectural detail. It is preserved, it is chipped on all of the walls, but the elements of the decorating pattern are distinctly visible.
- Parameters:** Plinth dimensions: 0.60 x 0.60 m; dimensions of the upper surface (i.e. of the pillar on top): 0.52 x 0.52 m; height – 0.27 m; listel – 0.08 m; torus – 0.07 m; plinth – 0.13 m.
- Position in the complex:** Base from an engaged column. Not part of the wall structure, however, tightly attached to it. This accounts why the back side is rough and is not divided vertically, which is the case with the other three sides.
- Location:** Currently the base is in the lapidarium in the central park of the village of Archar, Dimovo municipality; right in front of the police station building.
- Published in:** Dimitrov 2015b, 191, fig. 7
- Dating:** The detail was not dated when it published for the first time. Judging by the style of the architectural decoration it might be dated to the 3rd – 4th c. AD. The archaeological context of the *thermae* suggests that this detail was probably used later on as well at least until the mid-5th c.
- Illustration:** Plate I/ 1.1 and 1.2.

No 2

- Localized at:** *Ratiaria*. The base detail was unearthed during the 2014 excavations. It was localized in the *insula* between the Late Antique *thermae* from section G IV and the Residence.
- Description:** Base. Stylized detail. Difficult to place in a particular order. It is divided vertically in three parts: plinth, *torus* and listel. The plinth is quite massive, of exceptional height as compared to the other elements of the detail. It is cut vertically, no ornamentation, no profiling. The *torus* above it is highly stylized, but there are clearly visible remains of the initial convex shape of this element. There is a great difference in the transition from this element to the listel above it. The listel itself is not particularly high, vertical and ornament-free.
- Material:** Limestone. Grey in colour. Very soft, porous and spongy. The material is definitely of local origin, from quarries near *Ratiaria*.
- Present condition:** Whole detail. Perfectly preserved. Distinct ornaments. The major problem is that the soft limestone is heavily eroded and the surface is chipped.
- Parameters:** Plinth dimensions: 0.60 x 0.60 m; Height – 0.42 m; Column diameter – 0.40 m; plinth – 0.30 m; torus – 0.07 m; listel – 0.04 m.
- Position in** Free-standing base for column. This colonnade is presumably from the porticos to

- the complex:** the south of the Late Antique *thermae*. It was unearthed in the destructions to the south of the *thermae*.
- Location:** Currently the detail is in the lapidarium in the central park of the village of Archar, Dimovo municipality; right in front of the police station building.
- Published in:** Unpublished.
- Dating:** Late Antiquity: the 4th – 5th c. AD.
- Illustration:** Plate I/1.3.

No 3

- Localised at:** *Ratiaria*. Found in the area of the Large *thermae* in *Ratiaria*, i.e. close to the road to the village of Darjanitsa, which runs across the site. Registered on 21.08.2011 under No Δ M A/17 (the number is stamped on the stone). Found during a field study of the team led by Krassimira Luka Todorova in 2011.
- Description:** Base. Ionic order. Of the Attic type of bases in the Ionic order. A typical Attic-Ionic base from the Roman Imperial period. Divided into two main parts. Plinth and corpus of the base. The plinth is properly proportioned. Vertically cut, ornament-free, not profiled. The corpus of the base is divided into two *tori*, *trochilus* in between and two thin listels. The *tori* are perfectly carved, of prominent convex shape. The *trochilus* is concave; similarly to the *tori* the curves of these elements are smooth and even. The listels are deeply carved with distinct cuts contrasting against the *tori* and the *trochilus* and accentuating their forms and curves. Pillar sections are formed in the side ends of the base.
- Material:** Limestone. Colour – pale white, almost yellowish. Hard material. Structure – porous and spongy. Presumably of local origin.
- Present condition:** Whole detail. Perfectly preserved. Distinctly visible ornaments. Small chips in the upper *torus* and the two front corners of the plinth.
- Parameters:** Height: 0.62-0.63 m; length of lower side (back): 1.56 m; Radius of the engaged column: 0.45 m; pillar width: 0.30 m (bottom) and 0.24 m (top).
- Position in the complex:** The base is a complex combined detail. Intended to support an engaged column attached to a wall. However, not connected to the wall behind it – i.e. it is not meant to be a pilaster, but an engaged column with decoration on the front side.
- Location:** Currently the detail is in the lapidarium in the central park of the village of Archar, Dimovo municipality; right in front of the police station building.
- Published in:** Dimitrov 2015a, 569, pl. 1/2-3; pl. 6/1-2
- Dating:** Definitely from the 2nd c. AD: the Hadrian period. The latest feasible chronology is up to the mid-2nd c. AD.
- Illustration:** Plate I/1.4 – 1.7.

No 4

- Localised at:** *Ratiaria*. Just like the previous item. Now there is a stamp on the stone Δ M A/16.
- Description:** Corinthian capital. Certain elements are not to be seen in the decorative scheme – i.e. a detail with an incomplete set of elements. The Corinthian acanthus band consists of only one row of leaves. There are five instead of the typical eight leaves. All the other elements are carved in the upper part of the calathos. There are: caulis, leaf cup (a.k.a. chalice), volutes, helices, abacus flowers and stems, abacus slab. Thus the capital follows the whole scheme of the regular Corinthian capitals with a complete set of elements – Korinthische Normalkapitelle, whereas the set of elements is

reduced only in terms the shorter height which presumably has to do with the structural characteristics of the complex to which the details belonged. So only the leaf band is reduced. The acanthus leaves are properly developed according to the canon of the Corinthian order. They are carved in large palms with heavily indented smaller tips. The central ribs of the leaves are important elements. They are deeply cut into the stone. They can be seen both in the centre of the leaves and in the indentations as well. The smallest indentations of the palms touch each other and form various figures – ovals, triangles, irregular figures. The tips of the indentations are not very pointed and do not touch the tips of the adjacent leaf. Thus there are large empty spaces between the leaves on the calathos. The corpuses of the caules are positioned in these empty spaces – displayed only in the form of a vertical elongated strip. The caulis is wide in its upper part; however, no distinct node of the caulis can be noticed. The leaf cups “spring” from the caulis. A whole cup (chalice) is preserved from this capital. It consists of three leaves which are heavily indented and have deep carvings on the surface as well. The stems of the helices and volutes come out of these pronounced cups. The volutes in this monument are completely chopped off. Unlike them the helices are preserved and deliver abundant information. They represent a version of the standard helices. The typical helices as internal volutes, i.e. with spiralling scrolls, are replaced by the so called “floral helices” of Anatolian type. Here there are double spiralling scrolls imitating acanthus tendrils or vine sprouts, but on the other hand they look like the typical spiralling scroll of the helices. The abacus motifs are likewise important. Though the abacus slab itself is rather fragmented and does not yield to comments, the abacus stems are easily noticeable. They are in the shape of a leaf stalk running among the helices and finishing in a small leaf right above the tip of the last acanthus leaf.

Material:	Limestone. White to yellowish in colour. Absolutely identical with the previous item cat. no. 3 as structure and colour.
Present condition:	Whole Corinthian capital. Badly damaged. All volutes have been chopped off. The acanthus leaves are severely broken. Altogether only parts of the elements, but the whole detail, can be described.
Parameters:	Height – 0.78 m; Radius of the column – 0.61-0.62 m; acanthus leaves – 0.43 m.
Position in the complex:	This capital was used in the same order and structure as base cat. no. 4. This is a capital for an engaged column attached to the wall.
Location:	In the lapidarium of the village of Archar. Next to detail cat. no. 3.
Published in:	Dimitrov 2015a, 571, pl. 3/6-7.
Dating:	See cat. no. 3: Hadrian's period
Illustration:	Plate II/2.1-2.3.

No 5

Localised at:	<i>Ratiaria</i> . Unearthed in the same place as the previous items cat. no. 3 and 4. The stone is stamped with ΔΜ Α/15.
Description:	Corinthian capital. Belonging to the same architectural order as the previous item cat. no. 4. However, there are some differences in the decorative elements. The acanthus leaves are more pronouncedly elongated. They consist of seven palms with four or five palms each. The ribs of the leaves are more prominent, especially their deep cuts, the shaping of the figures and the bend of some of the most protruding

leaf tips. The three leaves of the leaf cups are quite prominent, as well as the stalk of the caulis and its leaves forming its upper part. The volutes scrolls are preserved. They are wide open – also in line with the so called “Anatolian pattern”. The huge openings carved into the stone surface behind the acanthus leaves are an important component of the capital decoration. Besides there are no helices in the main façade. Instead there is a big abacus figure – the head of Medusa. Most impressive is the stone carving technique. The leaves are almost three-dimensional. They do not touch the stone surface. Due not only to the overall pronounced relief, but to the deeply carved openings behind the leaves and between their tips.

Material:	Limestone. See cat. no. 3 and 4
Present condition:	Whole Corinthian capital. There are chopped bits, but by far less than in the previous item cat. no. 4. The ornaments are most distinct among the whole group of Corinthian capitals from <i>Ratiaria</i> .
Parameters:	Height – 0.84 m; Radius of the column – 0.66 m; acanthus leaves – 0.51 m; abacus slab (height) – 0.085 m; volutes (diameter) – 0.13 m
Position in the complex:	See cat. no. 4
Location:	See cat. no. 4 (next to it in the lapidarium)
Published in:	Dimitrov 2015a, 571, pl. 3/8, 4/1-4.
Dating:	See cat. no. 3: Hadrian's period
Illustration:	Plate III/3.1-3.6; Plate IV/4.1-4.7.

No 6

Localised at:	<i>Ratiaria</i> . Found in the same place as the previous items cat. no. 3-5. ΔM A/14 stamped on the stone.
Description:	Corinthian capital. The details of this capital are the same as the details of capitals cat. no. 4 and 5 (the previous two), there are two substantial differences though, which provide new information about the whole complex of Corinthian monuments. The helices on the facade exhibit different craftsmanship. These are interwoven helices (the stems of this element are interwoven). Besides, the element of the abacus slab is clearly seen. It has a complex profile, consists of three sections, but is not decorated.
Material:	Limestone. The same as in details cat. no. 3-5.
Present condition:	Whole detail. Quite chipped (for instance, all volutes, some acanthus leaves, parts of the soffit). Nonetheless, as a whole it is not broken and the preserved elements are easily recognizable.
Parameters:	Height – 0.80 m; Radius of the column – 0.64 m; height of the acanthus: 0.42-0.43 m; height of the profiled abacus slab: 0.085-0.09 m.
Position in the complex:	See cat. no. 4 and 5
Location:	See cat. no. 4 and 5
Published in:	Dimitrov 2015a, 571-572, no illustration. This detail is published for the first time as photo!
Dating:	Hadrian' period
Illustration:	Plate V.

No 7

- Localised at:** *Ratiaria*. Same place as the previous item.
- Description:** Corinthian cornice. The detail is divided into the three sections typical for Corinthian cornices: dentils, geison and sima. As an overall structure the cornice has two adjacent ornamented sides because it is a corner element. The dentil is rather large: the dentils are twice as wide as the free space in between them. This element stands out with its considerable height in comparison with the remaining zones of the cornice. An Ionic cyma is positioned between the dentils and the geison. This is a cyma with “*ovulae* separated by arrows”. The *ovulae* are markedly elongated with a pointed tip. The arrows are very thin, there is a considerably large space between the stems and the shells of the *ovulae*. The Anatolian features visible in the carving of the dentils should be noted, namely the relief ribs which are separated from the common stone surface. These are pronounced three-dimensional elements connecting the individual dentils of the cornice above the empty space in between the modules close to the corner of the cornice, and they connect the tips of the *ovulae* in the Ionic cyma with the shell. We can see five spaces and five consoles now. One of the consoles is a corner console, positioned diagonally across the whole decoration pattern of the detail. The common areas of this part of the cornice are divided by profiled strips. They were made in the Lesbian cyma profile, but the strip itself, framing the fields and the foundations of the consoles, is smooth, without the ornamentation modules of the cyma. The fields are decorated with floral motifs which exhibit great diversity. There are two magnificent five-leaf rosettes along one of the sides of the cornice. There are acanthus leaves in these fields along the other side – in combinations of two or three respectively, facing each other and made with a chisel thus forming small holes in the stone. The bottom consoles are covered with acanthus. The acanthus leaves are remarkably elaborate. They are heavily indented. The ones covering the consoles on the two sides consist of five palms each having four indentations. There are central and side ribs and there are figures between the leaves in spite of the limited space. The leaf in the corner diagonally positioned console stands out. It consists of seven palms of 4-5 indentations each. Very fine spiralling ornaments cover the sides of the consoles themselves. The corner console has four double spiral ornaments, as this console has four sides. There are two smooth leaves on the front of the console on each side. The sima of the Corinthian cornice is covered with seven-leaf palmettes with leaves tied at the bottom. The module of this element, running over the entire sima, consists of palmettes whose leaves are orderly curved – in one palmette they are curved inward and in the next palmette they are curved outward. The sima ends in a vertically cut and ornament-free front. An important point, rarely preserved so well in the monuments from the Roman period, is the paint on the cornice. Traces of red paint are easy to notice in the corner elements of the dentils and the Ionic cyma. The soffit of the Corinthian cornice is somewhat rough.
- Material:** Limestone. Light grey to beige in colour. Density – very hard material, no porous zones so typical of the spongy limestone material.
- Present condition:** Whole detail. Perfectly preserved. The ornaments are reasonably distinct. This cornice is one of the best preserved Corinthian details from the Roman period in Bulgaria, which provides good grounds for analysis and interpretation.
- Parameters:** Cornice dimensions of the soffit projection: 1.40 x 1.40 m; Cornice dimensions of the upper surface: 1.60 x 1.60 m; Height – 0.50 m; dentils of cornice – 0.06 m in height;

	geison – 0.14 m; ionic cyma – 0.10 m; sima – 0.20 m; figural fields of the geison – 0.23 x 0.23 m; consoles of the geison – 0.27 x 0.27 m; dentils in front dimensions – 0.07 x 0.035 m (and 0.06 m. In height)
Position in the complex:	Corner cornice from a complex in the Corinthian order.
Location:	The lapidarium in village of Archar; right in front of the police station building
Published in:	Dimitrov 2013-2014, 107, fig. 12.
Dating:	Late Antonine period: the second half of the 2 nd c.
Illustration:	Plate VI-IX.

No 8

Localised at:	<i>Ratiaria</i> . Same place as the previous item.
Description:	Pediment. An element from the upper part of a pediment complex. The detail was the gable of the triangular complex. It is divided into a facade section with the elements of the tympanum and the pediment frame, and an upper section representing a pedestal for a statue on the gable of the building. The pediment has no ornamentation at the back. The pediment was also visible from three sides. The front of the detail is in a frame, which is shaped as a Corinthian cornice. A console with an acanthus leaf was placed in the internal corner of the gable with fields containing floral motifs on both sides. The consoles and the fields are framed by a Lesbian cyma of the so called floral type: <i>Blattkyma typus</i> (Ganzert 1983, 196-200). Below this part of the Corinthian cornice, which is indeed the geison, there is an Ionic cyma of the type with " <i>ovulae</i> , separated by arrows", an astragal row synchronized tightly and perfectly with the cyma and a dentil cornice.
Material:	Limestone. Light grey in colour. Density – hard material, not porous or spongy like the other limestones.
Present condition:	Whole detail, but chipped in several places. The ornaments are distinctly visible.
Parameters:	Height of the slope – 0.65 m; Dimensions of the pedestal part – 0.55 x 0.55 m; Height of the pedestal part – 0.75 m; Console with the acanthus leaf – 0.30 x 0.30 m; decorative elements in height: ionic cyma – 0.06 m; astragalus – 0.03 m; dentils – 0.08 m; ionic cyma (second row) – 0.08 m.
Position in the complex:	The top part of a whole pediment complex; from a temple or another public building. Hardly likely to have belonged to the Large <i>thermae</i> , but it is mentioned here as it was found in this zone.
Location:	The lapidarium in village of Archar; right in front of the police station building.
Published in:	Dimitrov 2013-2014, 107, fig. 11.
Dating:	Presumably from the Hadrian period. Chances are it was connected with the capitals and the base (see cat. no. 3-6) in terms of chronology, style, materials and overall decorative pattern.
Illustration:	Plate X-XI.

No 9

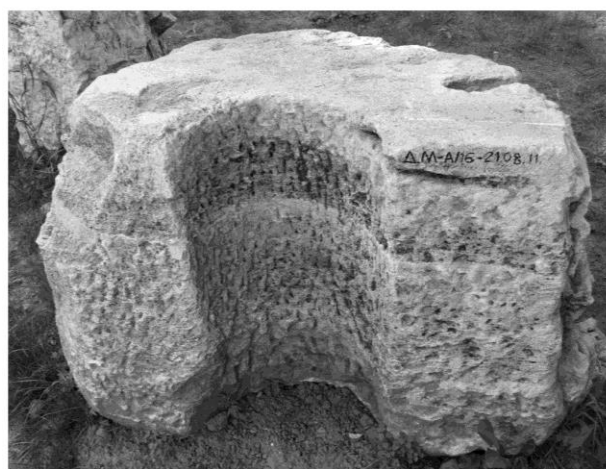
Localised at:	<i>Ratiaria</i> . Found in front of premises No 3 in the Late Antique bath in the city in section G IV / qu 43. During the 2014 excavations.
Description:	Interior facing. Profiled strips of a cornice detail. No ornamentation.
Material:	Limestone.
Present condition:	Cornice fragment from the facing of the wall. The preserved detail is in a good condition and the profiles are prominent and easily recognizable.
Parameters:	Little fragment (without dimensions in Inventory RHM)
Position in the complex:	Wall facing in the interior of the Late Antique bath in section G IV
Location:	Regional Museum of History-Vidin, Depot – PIN 192 / 2014.
Published in:	unpublished
Dating:	Roman Imperial period
Illustration:	Plate XII.



2.1.



2.2.



2.3.

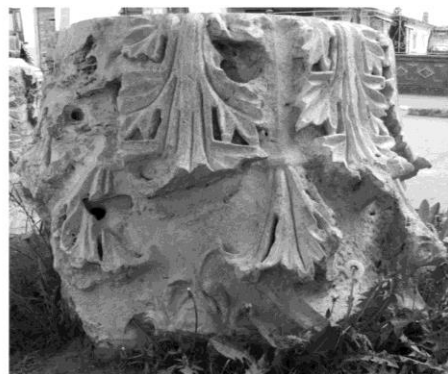
Plate II: Column capitals in Corinthian order, found in the area of the Large *thermae*.

Capital cat. no. 4 (the capital with the floral helices)

2.1. General view; 2.2. Detail of the helices; 2.3. Back side.



3.1.



3.2.



3.3.



3.4.



3.5.



3.6.

Plate III: Column capitals in the Corinthian order, found in the area of the Large *thermae*.

Capital cat. no. 5 (the capital decorated with the image of Medusa)

3.1. General view of the acanthuses; 3.2. Decorative tracery of the acanthus band; 3.3. Figure of Medusa; 3.4. The caulis from capital cat. no. 5, together with the decoration of the openings between the acanthuses and the calathos; 3.5. Complete detail of the best preserved acanthus leaf from *Ratiaria*; 3.6. Acanthus band, volutes, helices, calyx (calyx) and caulis of the capitals – the best preserved area.



4.1.



4.2.



4.3.



4.4.



4.5.



4.6.



4.7.

Plate IV: Column capitals in the Corinthian order, found in the area of the Large *thermae*. Capital cat. no. 5 (the capital decorated with the image of Medusa). Details of the elements.

- 4.1. The node of the caulis; 4.2. General view of the cup (calyx); 4.3. The scroll of the volutes;
4.4. Acanthus decoration; 4.5. Anatolian style carving, taking out of large areas from the stone surface at the calathos; 4.6. Bending of the acanthus leaf and figures between the tips;
4.7. The central ribs of the leaf.



Plate V: Column capitals in the Corinthian order, found in the area of the Large *thermae*.
Capital cat. no. 6 – general view and helices with interwoven stalks



6.1.



6.2.



6.3.



6.4.



6.5.

Plate VI: Corinthian cornice (cat. no. 7) from the area of the Large *thermae*.

General data and division of the monument.

6.1. The side with the rosettes in the fields of geison; 6.2. The side with the acanthus leaves in the fields of geison; 6.3. View to the corner sector; 6.4. Corner console; 6.5. Console in the row.



7.1.



7.2.



7.3.



7.4.

Plate VII: Corinthian cornice from the area of the Large *thermae*. Ornamentation of the geison – sections.

7.1. Section decorated with three acanthus leaves; 7.2. Section decorated with two acanthus leaves;

7.3. Section decorated with a five-leaf rosette; 7.4. Section decorated with a five-leaf rosette and corner console.



8.1.



8.2.



8.3.



8.4.



8.5.



8.6.

Plate VIII: Corinthian cornice from the area of the Large *thermae*.

Ornamentation of the geison – consoles. Sima.

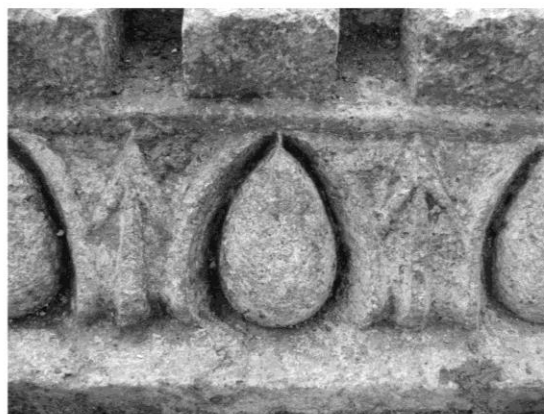
8.1. Console, decorated with an acanthus leaf and profiled strips – front; 8.2. Console – side wall, decorated with a spiralling ornament; 8.3. The corner console of the geison; 8.4. The corner console of the geison – side wall ornamented with two spirals; 8.5. Detail at the end of the corner console; 8.6. Sima on the cornice – palmette decoration.



9.1.



9.2.



9.3.



9.4.



9.5.

Plate IX: Corinthian cornice from the area of the Large *thermae*.

Analysis of the secondary ornaments dividing the facade – dentils, Ionic cyma, ornament-free strips.

9.1. Ionic cyma and dentils; 9.2. Dentils – a sector painted in red; 9.3. Complete detail of the Ionic cyma – a stick at the top of the *ovulae*; 9.4. The corner cross point of the dentils – stone-carving marking of the geometrical forms;

9.5. The corner cross point of the corner console in the end section.



10.1.



10.2.



10.3.



10.4.

Plate X: Pediment (cat. no. 8) in the Corinthian order, found in the area of the Large *thermae* in *Ratiaria*.

Pedestal at the gable

10.1. The back side of the pediment; 10.2. View to the pedestal from the pediment – three of the walls are profiled;
10.3. Side wall of the pedestal; 10.4. The facade of the pedestal – front wall of the entire pediment.



11.1.



11.2.



11.3.



11.4.

Plate XI: Pediment – the cornice section

11.1. Corinthian cornice part – general view; 11.2. Detail of the acanthus leaf from the main console;
11.3. Ionic cyma, synchronized with the astragal; 11.4. Lesbian cyma of the so called floral type.



Plate XII: Cornice (cat. no. 9) from the interior of the Late Antique baths, ornament-free detail from the facing, but having distinctly profiles strips