

During the earth works of 2013 preceding the reconstruction of the Roman legionary headquarters building (*principia*) at Novae (Bulgaria) there were found about twenty Greek and Latin inscriptions on statue bases and architectural elements dated to the 2nd - 5th century AD. Together with earlier published building inscriptions and inscribed statue pedestals and altars we have about fifty documents of various religious ceremonies and enormous activity of the legion in beautifying the centre of its camp. The main objective of the project is to complete documentation and to prepare publication of newly discovered inscriptions. Their analysis will provide a whole range of new data about time, place, circumstances, reasons of setting up statues of gods and emperors and sometimes even financing the monument, altars, building or one of its dependences, material used to create statues, their size, types of sculptural representation and sometimes even the statue's appearance, dedicator's names, origin, social status and rank, place and role of the represented deity in the camp religion and in cults practiced in Lower Moesia and in the whole lower Danube region. After adding fragmentary finds of bronze statuary the whole sculptural and epigraphic component of the building will be examined and graphically restored in an attempt at block periodization of the phenomenon. As anywhere else the centre of the legionary fortress at Novae is known to us from both the plan and computer-generated visualizations, which served as basis for full-scale architectural reconstruction, already made in the field. To verify the conclusions obtained for Novae we shall proceed with an analysis and presentation in concise tabular form of parallel material i.e. with all information, acquired through library queries, about finds of inscriptions, statues, altars and reliefs from the headquarters of the legionary bases and auxiliary forts throughout the Roman Empire. The obtained observations will be confronted with data provided by literary texts, papyrological evidence as well representations on reliefs and coins. Already now it can be said on the basis of the preliminary readings of new epigraphic texts from Novae that the results of the project will also modify to a large extent current ideas about the camp religion (*religio castrensis*), military rites, individual biographies of commissioned officers of the Roman legions and partly also of some senatorial representatives of provincial administration, transformation process from legionary fortress to civil agglomeration, and even about the supply system of Roman legions, especially in the period of Later Empire.