

Gladius from Dubravica

The idea to re-create this gladius came from the publication from the book "Gladii from Dubravica" from Miroslav B. Vujovic Belgrade Museum, and that is connected with my favorite Roman Augustan period. Also in relation to the IIII Scythica legion that we recreate here in province SCYTHIA MINOR present Dobrogea Bulgaria.

I made here a few quotes from the book:

https://www.academia.edu/1189962/Gladii_from_Dubravica_A_contribution_to_the_study_of_Roman_swords_on_the_territory_of_Serbia



Here are my few interpretations on this model.

This gladius Mainz model is our third which we reconstruct in our club.



Gladius from Dubravica is a typical sword from Augustan period. It is similar to several other identical model of German limis on Danube and Rhine.

The gladii was found in the 50s in the Danube River after dredging operation carried out in the river, near the city Dubravica. The location of the find is located near Viminacium and midway between Singidunum (Belgrade) and Camp Nove (Cezava).

On the plate there is scratched text with a sharp object (most likely a knife) in two rows : ANIVALVC L A IIII. On the first row was scratched KOMGOMEN to whom this sword belongs to - Anivalus, known as Hanibal. Most likely his owner was from the auxiliary troops. Probably of North African origin.

On the second row section there is a sign of regiment-legion which this soldier was a part of: I (evis) A (matura) Legionis IIII (Scythica).

Identical gladii were found in the German limes -Mainz Model gladius and many similar applications from the castrum on the Danube and the Rhine. There are over 10 such as specimens known to the archeology.

This indicates that the IIII Legion and the its auxiliary parts are maneuvering in Moesia Inferior.

The upper applications of Dubravica Gladius.



“Between 6 and 9 CE, IIII Scythica was active in the wars of Tiberius (the future emperor) against the Illyrians and Pannonians on the Middle Danube. Inscriptions dug into the cliffs of the Danube narrows at the Iron Gate (CIL III 1698 add. p. 1024 and No. 13813b; a further copy *Année épigr.* 1910 No. 176) testify to the execution of a road connection along this Danube section by IIII Scythica and V Macedonica. Obviously the same two legions already formed the occupation force of Moesia in 23 CE (Tac. ann. IV 5) and had already fought under Caecina Severus, who was operating with 5 legions in the army of Tiberius during the large Illyrian rebellion (Vell. II 112, compare above with note page 1235).

Additional information on the topic here-Great Illyrian Revolt. Erupted on 6 AD:

<http://legio-iiii-scythica.com/index.php/en/history-and-artifacts/anniversary-events/2010-yearsof-illyrian-revolt.html>

Also later, during the governments of Caligula and Claudius, IIII Scythica still remained in Moesia. Fighting was not the only activity of the legion. Several rock inscriptions prove the construction of roads and other works of engineering in the Danube area. The newly conquered country needed to be developed. Usually, IIII Scythica joined forces with V Macedonica. “

The two legions IIII Scythica and V Macedonica were located in this period in Viminacium (Kostolac in eastern Serbia), Oescus and Ratiaria Western Bulgaria.

Brackets rings are typical for this Mainz model. These are three gear rings. Those 4 that I use here are made from us from the Archaeology source.



This is a very interesting solution for handle "plugging". Which I successfully recreated (I think). I did my best to resemble almost everything from that handle stopper.



Once we contemplate on the topic for what these rings has been used. We plaited several leather straps ending with tassels. I think that was part of Legionnaires fashion of the time. Tassie straps and tassels give a unique look to this in principle lethal weapon. Do not forget that most likely the gladii owner was from the auxiliary troops. Judging by the name scratched on the scabbard plate.



The lower applications of Dubravica gladius. I tried to do the locking element below to be similar with the original.



On all the top plates I have mounted plugs tinned.

I have been careful to make sure that the plates are completely covered the scabbards from the back (as the originals). The brackets are also completely covering the scabbards (as the originals).



This is a small part of the published Mainz archeology for the upper plate and brackets with which I am familiar.



Finds from Conbustica by the archaeologist Krasimira Luke with a similar upper application.



<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JB4HKHuMUx8&feature=share>