

Roman Milestones from Karteljevski klanec

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The Romans marked the distances to nearby local town centres by erecting stone obelisks – milestones, which were only put up along public (state) roads. Apart from the distance, measured in Roman miles (1,481.5 m), the milestones were typically inscribed with the names and titles of the emperor and information on the work carried out on the road. Milestones represent an invaluable historical source for determining the locations of roads, the timeline of their renovations and possible changes in the course of a particular public road. During the construction of a new section of the motorway in Dolenjska in 2005, two milestones were discovered at the top of the

Karteljevski klanec pass near the village of Dolenje Kamenje. They marked the top of the last pass of the Roman public road which connected Ljubljana (*Emona*) with Sisak (*Siscia*). From here on, the road only sloped downwards towards the inland port on the Sava River at Drnovo (*Neviodunum*).

The milestones were discovered along the old highway on the edge of a sinkhole by road workers who had been working on a 12-metre sand fill for the construction of the new motorway. The workers moved the milestones to the side and reported their find to the Institute for the Protection of Cultural Heritage of Slovenia (ZVKDS), thus saving the milestones from being filled in or possibly destroyed.

Milestone of Antoninus Pius



Bust of Antoninus Pius (86–161 AD)

The inscription on the well-preserved milestone states that it was erected by the Roman emperor Antoninus Pius in his third year of holding tribunician power (140 AD) on the site marking 21 miles (roughly 31 kilometres) from the Roman municipium of *Neviodunum* (Drnovo).



Imp(eratoris) Caes(aris) T(iti) Ael(i) Hadriani Antonini Aug(usti) [Pi(i), p(ontificis) m(aximi)], p(atris) p(atriciae), co(n)s(ulis) II, [des(ignati) III], trib(unicia) pot(estate) III. Nevioduni m(ilia) p(assuum) XXI.

For the emperor Caesar Titus Aelius Hadrianus Antoninus Augustus Pius, chief priest, father of his country, consul for the second time, named consul for the third time, with tribunician power for the third time. From Neviodunum 21 miles.

Milestone of Septimius Severus



Bust of Septimius Severus (145–211 AD)

The inscription on the second milestone is of lesser quality and badly damaged. It states that in his ninth year of holding tribunician power (201 AD), the emperor Septimius Severus, together with his sons and co-emperors Caracalla and Geta, restored roads and bridges that had been damaged by age, which was done under the supervision of the emperor's legate (deputy), Fabius Cilo. A milestone with a similar inscription was also found in Mačkovec near Novo mesto, roughly one Roman mile away. Eight more milestones from this period are known to have been found along the route from Ljubljana to Obrežje.

The milestones were cleaned at the Restoration Centre of the Institute for the Protection of Cultural Heritage of Slovenia in Ljubljana. The second one, which was found broken in two, was reassembled. After being fixed to metal frames, the milestones were brought to Grm Castle, where they are now on public display.



[Imp(erator) C]aes(ar) L(ucius) Se-[ptim]ius Seve-[rus] Pius] Perti-[nax Aug(ustus), A]rab(icus), [Adiab(enicus), Part] h(icus) m(aximus), [pont(ificis) m] ax(imus), tr(ibunicia) [potest(ate) VII]II, imp(erator) XI, [co(n)s(ul) II, proc]o(n)s(ul), p(ater) p(atriciae), [et Imp(erator) Cae(sar) M(arcus)] Aure-[lius] Antonin]us [Pius Aug(ustus) Felix] trib(unicia) [potes(tate) IIIII, proc]o(n)s(ul) [[et P(ublius) Septimius Geta Caesar]] [vias et p]ontes [vetustate] con[r]iuptas [restitu]erunt] cur-[ante Fabio Cilone, leg(ato) Aug(usti) pr(o)] pr(aetore).

The emperor Caesar Lucius Septimius Severus Pius Pertinax Augustus, conqueror of Arabia, conqueror of Adiabene, greatest conqueror of Parthia, chief priest, with tribunician power for the ninth time, eleven times acclaimed emperor, consul for the second time, proconsul, father of his country, and emperor Caesar Marcus Aurelius Antoninus Pius Augustus Felix, with tribunician power for the fourth time, proconsul, and Publius Septimius Geta Caesar, restored the roads and bridges ruined by age, under the charge of Fabius Cilo, the emperor's propraetorian legate.



Discovery of the milestones on the Karteljevski klanec pass



Transportation of the milestones to the Restoration Centre of the Institute for the Protection of Cultural Heritage of Slovenia



Installation of the milestones in the entrance hall of Grm Castle