

The Cost of Architectural Facilities in Africa, the Proconsular Africa - Epigraphical Study

تكلفة المنشآت العمرانية في افريقيا البروقنصلية –دراسة ابيغرافية-

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Abstract: The construction of public monuments in Roman cities in Proconsular Africa are generally limited to public and private financing. The first is represented by construction projects financed by the public treasury of the city and by a decision of the House of Representatives, while the second is represented by wealthy private individuals who have allocated part of their large wealth and given it to their cities. Through this research paper, we aim to know those Roman public facilities in the consulate, the cost of their completion, restoration, or even decoration, mentioned in epigraphic texts. Also, identifying the party that took the initiative, whether it was the municipal councils, nobles, , which will have a direct impact on the numerical value of the allocated cost.

Keywords: architectural, public monuments, Epigraphically study, The cost, Proconsular.

ملخص: يقتصر بناء المعالم العامة في المدن الرومانية في البروقنصلية بشكل عام على التمويل العام والخاص. الأول يتمثل في مشاريع البناء الممولة من الخزينة العامة للمدينة وبقرار من مجلس النواب، أما الثاني فيمثلته الأفراد الأثرياء من القطاع الخاص الذين خصصوا جزءا من ثرواتهم الكبيرة وأعطوها لمدينهم. و من خلال هذه الورقة البحثية سنتعرف على المرافق العامة الرومانية في البروقنصلية، وتكلفة إنجازها أو ترميمها أو حتى تزيينها المذكورة في النصوص الكتابية. وكذلك تحديد الجهة التي قامت بالمبادرة سواء كانت المجالس البلدية أو النبلاء، مما سيكون له تأثير مباشر على القيمة العددية للتكلفة المخصصة.

كلمات مفتاحية: المعماري؛ المعالم العمومية؛ تكلفة؛ البروقنصلية؛ دراسة ابيغرافية.

1. Introduction

The architectural activity witnessed by the consulate did not aim to civilize the region in itself, but rather it was considered a means to subjugate the region and make it subordinate and the service of Roman interests and goals. As a result, two different types of cities emerged, military and civil, and this was a direct result of the policies adopted by the Romans in integrating the region. In the first phase (27

BC - 100 AD), cultural centers were established to stabilize settlement and serve as bases for subsequent expansion, while in the second phase (235 - 100 AD), cultural centers were established to exploit the region's resources. If archaeological research usually relies on studying the architectural activity of Roman cities in North Africa, the importance of epigraphic texts in preserving the history and identity of these cities and their architecture is highlighted. Considering that epigraphic texts are a phenomenon of urbanization, they follow the movement of architectural activity and then reflect its movement in the cities and then the cultural development that the region as a whole witnessed during the Roman presence, in addition to extrapolating the factors that contributed to the process of architectural and urbanization. Written evidence also has the merit of highlighting or confirming the transformations observed during architectural activity as a reflection and influence of certain changes, and therefore constitutes a window that allows us to observe the economic, social and political changes that were occurring in imperial society.

Texts referring to private tenders provided important and useful information about the content of the texts. But we limit ourselves to archaeological and historical sources, we find that there are funding sources for these facilities that represent an essential part of the research. These sources are not limited to the material aspects only, but also shed light on the social identity of the groups that built these facilities, including the nobility, magistrates, clergy, military, and other collective groups. These sources also explain the motives that motivated these individuals and groups to provide these donations, and sometimes the financial value allocated to support the construction of these architectural facilities.

From this we can ask the following question:

- How did financial donations contribute to the urban development of the African proconsular?

Among the most important previous studies that have benefited us on our subject, we find a source: *Corpus inscriptionum latinarum* VIII

Which helped us in conveying the information in the proconsular district's discussions.

As for the reference of Algerian Latin writings (inscriptions latines de l'Algérie) by its owner, Stéphane Gsell provided us with information related to the costs of architectural facilities in the cities that were part of the Proconsular province.

1. Architectural activity and epigraphic documents:

Recent studies focus on the great architectural activity that North Africa witnessed in general, and the proconsular region of Africa in particular

(FEVRIER, 1990, p. 42), which was founded by the Romans, and which contributed to the emergence of cities in a unique way that combined military and civil elements. It was considered a general vessel for urban organization and development. Thanks to the settlement policy that began with Emperor Augustus in the Roman provinces, the region witnessed a major urban movement that included the coastal strip and expanded during the second century to include the interior region as well. The aim of this movement was to promote settlement and provide housing for Roman citizens and retired soldiers. With the advent of the Severian family to the imperial throne, the region witnessed great economic development that it had never witnessed before, which contributed positively to the development of the cities in terms of engineering and art (Mahfoud (KHALED), 2013, pp. 86-99). These urban centers played an important role in supplying Rome with basic foodstuffs such as wheat and oil, which prompted the emperors to upgrade and develop them by creating an advanced infrastructure of roads, bridges, and water-carrying canals. The bourgeois class and municipal bodies were competing to contribute to the development of the cities to which they belonged, by financing projects that were considered a token of municipal honor (GASCOU, 1972, p. 147). These projects varied from building theatres, baths, libraries, and markets. The cities experienced widespread development and spread during the Roman occupation. Some of them counted more than five hundred cities inhabited by a third of the population, which numbers between six or seven million citizens.

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2.The concept of financial gift:

Financial gift (*évergétisme*) is a new term, coined by André Boulanger in 1923 in his book on Aelius Aristide and Henri-I. Marrou. This word is derived from the Greek words *evergétéo* benefactor or benefactor. and *euergésia* benevolence, which was mentioned in the Hellenistic executive decrees honoring donors and their gifts, whereby cities honored people who had contributed benevolence to the city via their financial donations or public services. The use of this term has become common among historians. French researcher Paul Vein offers a set of definitions for financial donations: Donation is considered a pleasure that the donor feels in expressing himself, and it is the motivation through which he understands the gap in the distribution of power in social life. In addition. vein

Paul considers donation to be the act that society expects from wealthy people who contribute their money to public expenses, whether it is from a pure heart or on the occasion of their election to a public honor (- JACQUES, 1975, p. 125). Finn Paul stresses that donation is the embodiment of hopes through moral and social motives. Professor Jigsmark Domingo defines financial gifting as a phenomenon with multiple meanings, embodying not only giving and service, but also the honor given in return. The community rewards the donor with the honor of formal recognition, and without this recognition, the donor does not have donor status. In other words, there must be a donor and official recognition from the city to talk about the phenomenon of donation. Researcher Sipiak Mirai classified donations into two basic categories: ephemeral donations and sustainable donations. Ephemeral donations are those that fall within the realm of consumption, and include meals, toys, and the distribution of money. It is often characterized by an exceptional feast, and in many cases it is served without a special feast in the case of games. Therefore, there is no documentation to immortalize it. As for sustainable donations, they are the opposite of consumable donations, as they sometimes leave architectural traces (civil, religious, defensive, etc.) that remain as evidence to this day, and have contributed significantly to changing the shape of many cities in terms of structure and general form (Andreau (J.), 1978, pp. 33-47).

3. Types of financial donations (donations):

3.1. Imperial donations:

Certainly, as the emperor was primarily responsible for Roman cities, he was considered the main benefactor of his empire. The donations made by these emperors vary in different forms, including the distribution of food products for free or at low prices, and including donations represented in building monuments, whether through strengthening, restoration, or expansion operations. Or decorating public buildings that were destroyed due to wars, conflicts, or the effects of time. African provinces have particularly benefited from this last type of donation, in various fields, especially with regard to buildings of a defensive nature.

3.2 Private donations (donations of nobles...):

In addition to the Emperor, free and wealthy members of the nobility appear in society, who hold various positions in the Sina, Knights, and Municipal Council, and who make donations more heavily than others ((Amar), 2015-2016, pp. 55-57). This was not only because of their wealth, but because they considered themselves role models for the public, and had a special sensitivity towards their

society. This behavior reflects a desire for pride and loyalty to the country, and a desire to beautify their cities so that they exceed the wealth of neighboring cities. From these incentives, a kind of competition arises between them, and it appears clearly in discussions about donations, where donation is characterized by competition among themselves to enhance stability and personal greatness. This is evident through the efforts of wealthy citizens to make notable donations to their cities, in innovative ways such as putting on public performances in squares or theaters, or by building magnificent buildings. In return, they receive respect and appreciation from their fellow citizens.

This type of donation, in turn, is divided into several forms:

A. Free donations:

Free donations are defined as those donations made by nobles willingly or spontaneously, without any legal obligation. Paul vein refers to this type of donation as “free giving.” t can be more precisely defined as “a system of contributions paid willingly or without formal obligation by persons who have a material or spiritual interest in achieving a goal.” This type of donation reflects the donors' love for their countries. This type of donation is referred to in some of the discussions of my study, as donors consider that their architectural gifts to their cities are an expression of their love for their homelands. This is evident through the formulas referred to, such as “for the love of the country” (“Ob amorem civitatis”) or “for the sake of the country” (“patria sua”). Among the free gifts whose owner was not seeking advancement is Naqsha Madawrush (Souk Ahras), which concerns the construction of gates thanks to the gift of a nobleman.

Epégraphiy:

[---] consulari / [prouin]ciae Cypri, / [pontifi]ci in Urbe / [sanct]issima dei / [Solis, a]luguri popu/[li Roma]ni Quiritiu[m], / [ob in]/signia eius m[e]/[rit]a et factae porticu[s] / [n]ouae proprio sum/[t]u ab arcu ad foru[m / ac]tus eius comm[e/m]orationem pa[tron]/o co[l]oniae [---] / [---] / [---].

Translation:

From the consular jurisdiction of the province of Cyprus, a priest in the city of the Most Holy Sun God, and the head of the Roman Quirite people, for his distinguished works and new appearances at his own expense from the arch to the forum to commemorate his great memory as head of the colony.

Analysis:

It is an honorary statement expressing a free gift from a noble person (a priest), who gave a certain sum (the value is not mentioned) to build gates, and does not carry any reference to a forced act.

B- Honorary donations:

Donations made in celebration of a person's appointment to a public honorary position (such as magistrate, priest, or municipal office). According to what s says, Stephene Gsell price of promotion to Dumvir ruler was set at 38,000 sesterces in the city of Carthage, and to eternal priest at 12,000 sesterces in the city of Doga. Among the honorary financial donations provided for the construction, ThubursicuNumid, Khemissa (Souk Ahras).

Epégraphiy:

Imp(eratori) Caes(ari) divi M(arci) [Antonini Pii
G]erm[anici] Sarmatici f[ilio divi] Commodi fratri
divi [Antonini] / Pii nepoti divi Had[riani
pronepoti] divi Traiani Parthici abnepoti [divi
Ne]rvae adnepoti / L(ucio) Septimio Severo Pio
[Pertinaci Au]g(usto) Arabico Adiabenico Parthico
p[ontifi]ci maximo trib(unicia) pot(estate) VI

Translation:

To Emperor Caesar Marcus Antonius, son of the Germanic god Marcus Antonius, brother of Commodus, grandson of Marcus Antonius Pius, grandson of Hadrian, grandsons of the Persian god Traian, Nerva's god Nerva, grandsons of Lucio Septimio Severus, the Augustan democrat, the Persian Arab Udaybene, and the greatest prince. Priests, with the authority of the sixth power.

Analysis:

It is an honorary commemorative on the occasion of the appointment of Tertullus as a permanent priest. He donated the sum of 77 thousand sesterces to build a single-bay arch, a gift to Emperor Septimius Severus. It dates back to the end of 197 and the beginning of 198 AD, when Emperor Septimius Severus took power.

C. Gift by will:

Another type of expense is bequest donations. These financial donations take many forms and touch on a variety of areas. Many public monuments in Roman African provinces were built thanks to bequest donations. As historian François Jacques points out: "It appears that all or part of the temples and theaters were built thanks to bequests in Africa."

4. Contribution of architectural gifts to architectural development:

Urban development in Roman cities was mostly the work of the municipal communities themselves, but the voluntary contribution of wealthy citizens also played a role. The construction -, expansion, or repair - of public buildings was

indeed one of the distinctive areas of donations. Because equipping the city was considered a major requirement in the imperial period, and because constructions, aimed at sustainability, ensured the perpetuation of the benefactor's memory more than games or the distribution of money or food. However, we are ill-placed to evaluate the importance of donations as a factor of development in comparison with other factors: imperial initiatives and municipal policies of the cities themselves. With rare exceptions, this type of initiative is known only from inscriptions; The opportunities for this are unequal: projects undertaken by the city had less reason to be documented by an inscription than did imperial projects or donations. The latter usually contained text placed by the benefactor on the monument he financed, recalling his action, and one or more inscriptions expressing the gratitude of the beneficiaries, such as the base of a statue raised to the benefactor. The importance of developing cities under the High Roman Empire in its provinces is attested by the abundance of archaeological finds as well as literary texts and inscriptions. But it is often difficult to know who took the initiative to build, decorate, extend or repair. I will discuss a group of inscriptions that attest to the construction of a building or the placement of decorations of a public nature and/or the person or group that took the initiative, generally referring to the beneficiaries, whether human or divine, of this initiative, and sometimes to the amount of money that was allocated to it and I will provide more examples in my research.

5. The cost of architectural facilities at the consulate - a study of archaeological inscriptions:

The cost of the architectural facilities of the proconsular district is an important focus that deserves study and attention. It consists of two main components, starting with the cost of civil facilities and ending with the cost of recreational facilities.

5.1. Cost of civil facilities:

Roman architecture is characterized by many prominent aspects that appear clearly in different parts of that civilization, which possessed an amazing architectural group, and paid great attention to worldly facilities and buildings more than religious buildings, which gave Roman civilization its distinctive character. The Romans strived to enhance these urban structures throughout the lands under their rule, building a building in their home capital and then creating similar models throughout the empire. Although construction skills and construction quality differ from one country to another, the general form of construction remains close to what is found in the capital. When we talk about

civil facilities, we mean temples, basilicas, markets, and libraries.

Below I have included a table in which I collected the inscriptions included in the epigraphic catalog of some areas of the consulate, which indicate the financial value of the civil facilities:

-Galma (Calama):

Epigraphic formula	The donor, the nature of the building	the date	Financial value	Source
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- thageste (Souk Ahras):

Epigraphic formula	The donor, the nature of the building	the date	Financial value	Source
M(arcus) Amulli[us //]r [q]uod ob meri[// aed]ificio etiam []uisset pro specta[culo // po]rticum additis HS CC milibus nummum patriae suae ex HS CCC mil(ibus) n(ummum) Marcus Amulius, because with his own construction it would have been an offering of sorts, with the sum of 200,000 sesterces of his own money added to the 300,000 sesterces of public funds	Marcus Amulius Special construction	250-260 AD	300 thousand sesterces	CIL 08, 05147 = ILAlg-01, = 00877briand- PonsarC,1955, P 457-8

Theveste (tbessa):

Epigraphic formula	The donor, the nature of the building	the date	Financial value	Source
[Saturno Aug(usto) s]acr(um) pro salu[t]e / [Imp(eratoris) Caes(aris) M(arci) Aureli Antonini Armeniaci]) Aug(usti) / [Q(uintus) Titinius Q(uinti) fil(ius) Pap(iria) Securus pont]if(ex) ex HS XXXV m(ilibus) quae Q(uintus) Titinius Sabinianus pater / [testamento dari iusserat s]ummam quam praesentemrei p(ublicae) intulit et ex HS XVmil(ibus) / [quae ipse ob honorem 3 adiecit sum]mam quam praesentem reip(ublicae) intulit ut ex HSLmil(ibus) id opus / [perficereturadditis etiam HS XIII Dedicated to Saturn for safety] /	Titani family Father: Quintostetinius Sabinianus Son: Quintus Titinius Sicurus (monk) -Building and decorating the temple of God Saturn, and inauguration A statue of this god	164-165 AD	35 thousand Sisters And 28 thousand Sisters Added	Saturne-01, p = 334 LBIRNA = 00214AE 00233 ,1933 = Briand-Ponsart (C.), 1995, P.494-5= Jouffroy (H,(. ,1986P. 212 = Djouini (s) P. 179

[Emperor Caesar Marcus Aurelius Antoninus who was victorious in Armenia] known as the "Great Physician Parthicus Augustus" and [Emperor Caesar Lucius Aurelius Verus who was victorious in Armenia] known as the "Great Physician Parthicus Augustus" / [Quintus) Titinius) Son of Papiria Sicurus (priest), for 35,000 sesterces.				
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To provide a comprehensive deductive analysis of the Roman monumental inscriptions we have discussed, we will summarize the main points and draw general conclusions regarding Roman society, administration, devotion, and cultural and religious influences during the period. Each of the texts reflects different aspects of Roman life in the period of the emperors. The analysis consists of:

- Key individuals: The texts showed how prominent individuals contributed to supporting public projects through donations and financing.
- Public projects: Facilities and projects such as temples and canals were of great importance in fostering a sense of loyalty and connection to the emperors.
- Funding and dedication: The texts show how private resources are allocated to support public projects, with different forms of appreciation being given to the work.

5.2 Cost of recreational facilities :

When we talk about entertainment facilities, we mean theaters, baths, coliseums... and they are used for entertainment and party purposes.

Below we have included a table in which we collected the writings included in the epigraphic catalog of some of the consulate's areas, which indicate the financial value of the entertainment facilities:

Ammaedara: (Hydra):

Epigraphic formula	The donor, the nature of the building	the date	Financial value	Source
[---] saeculo dddd(ominorum) nnnn(ostrorum) [[Dio[cletiani ---]] / [--- A]ugg(ustorum) et Constanti et Maximia[ni ---] / [--- canc]elli per orchestra (sic) ambitum et casam [---] / [---] die ludorum suorum propriis HS [---]. In the era of our emperor masters (who were) Diocletian [and] Augustus, The orchestra was equipped across the stage (or amphitheater) and the annexes (or adjacent	Citizens donated to equip the theater and organize games in it	305-293 AD	44 thousand Sisters	ILPBardo, 35 – ILTun, 461

spaces) thanks to the special money allocated during the games days.				
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These inscriptions provide valuable insights into how the Romans used entertainment facilities in proconsular Africa and how to integrate these facilities into their cultural and administrative strategies. Below is an analysis of these inscriptions:

Financing and maintaining facilities:

Inscriptions such as those of "M (arcus) Gabinius Sabinus" and "Magnilianorum" show how high-ranking or wealthy individuals contributed significantly to the construction and maintenance of recreational facilities with their own money. Some inscriptions indicate how individuals who contributed to creating or improving the facilities were honored. This suggests that providing financial support or building facilities was seen as a noble act that contributed to enhancing the public image of the beneficiaries.

Example: "Anniae Aeliae Restitutae flam(inicae) perp(etuae)" refers to honoring the figure who contributed to the building of the theatre, reflecting the social appreciation that was given to those who were supporting public projects.

Continuation of projects over time:

Inscriptions that talk about projects that lasted for many years show that some facilities were built and restored over a long period, which indicates the importance of continued maintenance and modernization to ensure sustainable benefit. Example: "Pro salute dd(ominorum) nn(ostorum) Imp(eratoris) Caes(aris) C. Aureli Valeri Diocletiani..." shows the extent to which the Roman authorities paid attention to maintenance and renovation to ensure the continued effectiveness of the facilities.

6. Conclusion:

Summarizing the above, in this paper we conclude the following:

- Religious and social consecration: Temples and public projects were a way to honor emperors and goddesses, reflecting the importance of religion and ceremonies in Roman life.
- Individual and financial role: Donations from prominent individuals were necessary to implement major projects and reflected their wealth and ability to influence society.
- Institutional management: Government officials such as public affairs

supervisors played a key role in organizing and implementing projects. Individual financial contribution. The inscriptions show that prominent and wealthy individuals contributed significantly to financing construction and dedication projects. An example of this is the donation of Papirius to Pius Huno[rattus] and Marcus Fabius Laitus, whose contributions reflected great wealth and financial ability. These contributions were not only to meet the needs of society, but were also a way to show loyalty and appreciation to the emperors. These architectural works were a way for elites to demonstrate their wealth and influence, and at the same time, they were considered an expression of their loyalty to the empire. Architectural gifts were an effective tool for strengthening social and identity affiliation in Roman cities.

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