

Publicanus Josephus Quirinius  
Ulpia Traiana Sarmizegetusa, Dacia  
XII Mai. DCCCLXVIII a.u.c.

Quintus Baebius Macer, Governor of Dacia,

In accordance with your request following the submission of the chiefs of the Scythae on the north shore of the Pontus Euxinus, I submit a plan for a city to be located at the newly-surveyed spot near the mouth of the Danaper River. As they will have no resounding personal defeat to remind future generations of the power of Rome, an architectural bastion should accomplish this end while also demonstrating the innumerable benefits of Roman rule.

The city, Traianum, is designed to hold 10000 inhabitants within the walls and will be cut out of a high (288 gradus) hill next to the river. It serves as a port connecting the arable plains upriver and the Pontus Euxinus.

Special attention was paid to the vistas of the city. Entering by land, from the northern main gate, one passes through a triumphal arch celebrating the emperor's conquest of Dacia and the Scythae's subsequent joining of the empire. Entering from the artificially expanded harbor, the colonnaded decumanus leads to tunneled approach to the sanctuary on the peak of the hill, whose height is enhanced by the forum cut out of the front of the hill.

To provide this effect the forum is off-center, and hexagonal with a third main street leading to the southeast. This street is the Propogatio, as it provides for the cities expansion. The upriver area is excellently suited for farming, Rome always needs grain, and as traffic increases the city can expand to a second harbor on the east and take up the rest of the peninsula to the south.

To encourage this expansion I located the most important buildings -the baths, the amphitheatre, the hippodrome and the theater - along the Propogatio near the center of an expanded city. Until the second harbor is deemed necessary it will be built up with publicly owned insulae to preclude any complaints when the land is reclaimed for a harbor. At that point the inhabitants can be removed to new construction.

While the vistas of the city are of profound importance I have not neglected the regularity that should be attendant in an example of Roman culture to the barbarians. The hexagonal forum is perfectly regular, and is carefully planted with shrubbery to leave a rectangular psuedoforum in open space. Even the terraced domi between the decumanus and the propagatio are precisely arranged to provide each with idea views of the city down to the river. The villa plots west of the cardo are on straight, regular roads, and the natural height of the sanctuary prevents its proportions from being marred by the necessity of making it unnaturally high to ensure visual supremacy.

Construction will be of concrete made on site from local limestone, faced with brick. I have also found upriver resources of blue-green granite for columns in the forum and along the principal roads, and remain,

Your servant,

JQP

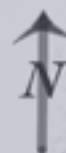
Publicanus Josephus Quirinius

# KEY

- Arch of Fama Trajan ●
- Forum ■
- Basilica ■
- Curia ■
- Baths ■
- Theater ■
- Hippodrome ■
- Amphitheatre ■
- Warehouses ■
- Lymphaeum ■
- Sanctuary ■

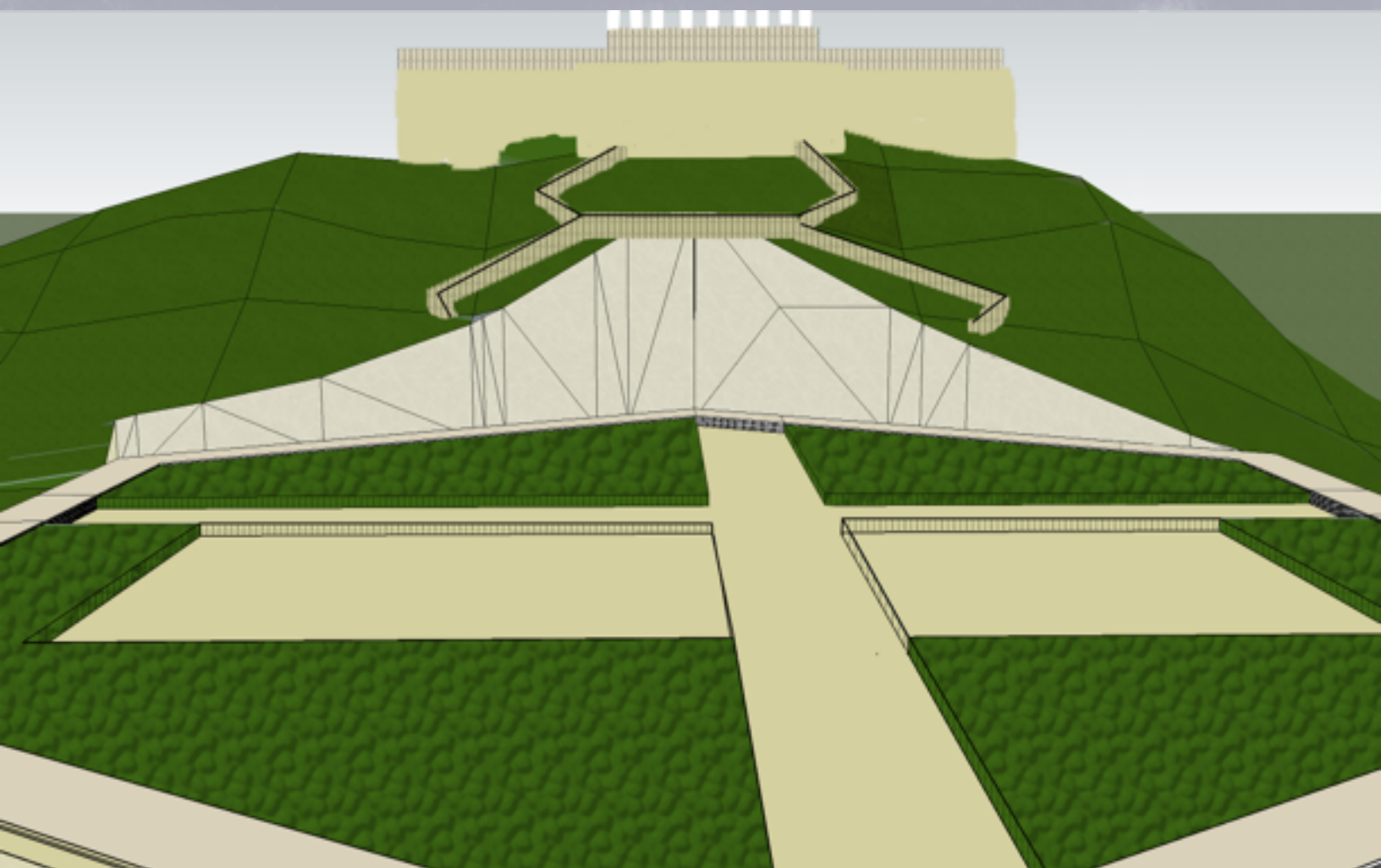


## TRAIANUM



← Pontus  
Euxinus

## DANAPER



Q Baebius Macer  
Ulpia Traiana Sarmizegetusa, Dacia  
XV Mai. DCCCLXVIII a.u.c.

Imperator Caesar Nerva Trajanus, Emperor of Rome,

May your fame increase forever!

I rejoice to inform you that due to the fame of your conquest of Dacia the chiefs of the Scythae on the north shore of the Pontus Euxinus have voluntarily sent to submit to the power of Rome. I sent my architect Josephus Quirinius Publicanus with their emissaries and on his recommendation I propose that a city be built near the mouth of the Danaper and respectfully submit his plan to you for approval. A bastion of the architectural power of Rome would serve as a constant reminder of Rome's might, while the memory of the defeat of a neighbor might be forgotten by a later generation, therefore this reminder would help them to, like me, remain

CAESAR  
Domus Augustana, Roma  
I Iun. DCCCLXVIII a.u.c

Your loyal servant,  
Baebius Macer, Governor of Dacia

Q. Baebius Macer, Governor of Dacia,

Excellent idea, I always love to see the expansion of Rome's glorious rule, even if we cannot gain additional glory by conquest of a worthy foe. That you propose another port is interesting; as you no doubt are aware I just remodeled Ostia here on the Tiber. I hope the new province yields plenty of shipping, as there is nothing so lonely as an idle port. Puts one in mind of fitting out an army for conquest!

It pains me that I cannot send Apollodorus of Damascus to carry out this work, but I already have him greatly busy in Rome working on my forum and markets. I did refer the plan to him and he suggests the following improvements, and I quote:

A hexagonal forum? Interesting. Do Not under any circumstances let Hadrian talk you into making it an octagon and putting a pumpkin on top of that. He made some ridiculous suggestions over your plan. Lucky you provincials, you could never get away with that in Rome.

Cut away part of hill and build up on the rest: copycat...Imitation is the sincerest form of flattery. But that will surely show the Might of Rome.

Add an arch commemorating Trajan's conquest of Dacia along the decumanus, as you enter the city from the west. That will help the Scythae remember why they submitted.

Always a character, my Apollodorus! And a genius, you see why I cannot possibly spare him to you.

Trajan

Publicanus Josephus Quirinius  
Ulpia Traiana Sarmizegetusa, Dacia  
XVI Iun. DCCCLXVIII a.u.c

Imperator Caesar Nerva Trajanus, Emperor of Rome,

A thousand thanks for your consideration! The favor of your Highness upon this project will do well for the success of Traianum. Please convey my deepest thanks to Apollodorus for his improvements, which are exceedingly beneficial. I remain,

Your humble servant,

JQP

Publicanus Josephus Quirinius