

THE AURA OF WEALTH in the palace was increased by the frescos painted on its walls. The patterns that were used followed the imperial fashions of the day. The first masters to work there probably came from Italy, while later it was usually local painters from Aquincum who were charged with decorating the palace.



*A fresco, depicting the interior of a building, ornamented one wall of a representative room in the governor's palace*



*Detail from a reconstructed ceiling fresco*

SCENES FROM THE OFFICIAL RELIGION were played out in the two shrines brought to light in the palace. Based on altar stones discovered in the southern wing of the main building, the governors raised altars to the deities of the Capitoline triad. The podium temple in the courtyard contained a monumental statue of the emperor in it as part of the emperor cult, which was proclaimed an established religion. The fact that several emperors from Domitian to Valentinian I also visited Aquincum demonstrates Aquincum's significance. Septimus Severus certainly visited the palace with his retinue. In AD 202, he celebrated the tenth anniversary of his rule with visits to major settlements in Pannonia.



*Statue of an emperor from the shrine of the courtyard in the governor's palace*



*Bronze statuette of a dancing satyr*



*Inscribed glass beaker from the governor's palace*

THE GOVERNOR'S PALACE in Aquincum was an outstanding example of Pannonian decorative architecture. Nevertheless, only a few marble fragments, bronze statues and glass vessels were recovered during archaeological excavations. These few pieces attest to the magnificent interior design of the building and the private luxury enjoyed by its inhabitants.

THE GOVERNOR'S PALACE on the island was abandoned in an organized manner during the last third of the AD 3rd century, an occurrence that may also have been hastened by rising water levels of the Danube.

From this time on, only the military direction of the freshly established Valeria province remained in Aquincum. The palace of the dux, the military leader, was transferred from the Danube island to the area of the former legionary fortress. ■



*A parade helmet, its owner must have been a high-ranking military commander in the Late Roman army*



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# ROME IN AQUINCUM



*On the cover: a statue of Fortuna Nemesis from the governor's palace*

Permanent exhibition at the Aquincum Museum

## Aquincum, the provincial seat

AQUINCUM, located within the territory of modern Budapest (Óbuda) became part of the Roman Empire and Pannonia province in the AD 1st century. Emperor Trajan divided Pannonia, until then a single unit, into two parts in AD 106. Aquincum was designated the capital of Pannonia Inferior, the eastern part of the province. The military and administrative significance of the settlement and its central role in the economic and commercial life of the province also influenced the development of the town. ■



*The territory and provinces of the Roman Empire at its largest extent in the AD 2nd century*

*Gold ring with a portrait of the Emperor Caracalla*



*A bird's eye view of Aquincum (theoretical reconstruction by M. Schaub)*



*The first display of the organ in the 1930s. Nearly 400 elements from the organ were recovered during the excavation*

## The Aquincum organ

ROMAN CIVILISATION took the form of town planning and the introduction of a uniform language, Roman customs, a legal system, art and culture to the peoples living along the Danube. The exquisite archaeological finds from Aquincum, however, offer us a glimpse into local cultivation of these branches of the arts, especially music. Only a few archaeological finds from the territory of the Roman Empire attest to the existence of this popular musical instrument of Antiquity. The unique find from Aquincum, which came to light in 1931 among the ruins of the headquarters of the firemen's society in the Civil Town, is pre-eminent among them. The inscription on it tells us that Gaius Iulius Viatorinus donated the portable musical instrument to the firemen's society (collegium fabrum et centonariorum) in AD 228. ■



*The archeological excavations on the find-location of the organ*

*The first sound producing model was manufactured a few years after its discovery by the organ-making firm of Angster in Pécs in 1935*

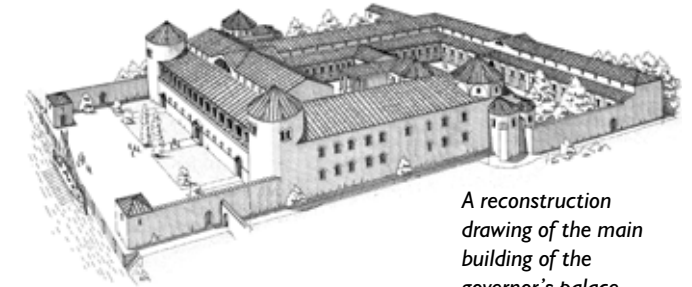


## The governor's palace

BECOMING THE SEAT of Pannonia Inferior gave significant impetus to Aquincum's development (AD 106). Hadrian, a later emperor, was the most famous governor of Pannonia Inferior (AD 106–108). Within its characteristic triple settlement structure, the northeastern part of the Military Town enclosing the legionary fortress served administrative purposes. The pomp and circumstance of the governor's palace was meant to stand out since it represented the power of Rome in the center of the province.



*A depiction of Emperor Hadrian on a silver coin*



*A reconstruction drawing of the main building of the governor's palace (after Gy. Hajnóczi)*

THE GOVERNOR'S PALACE had a captivating exterior appearance and a luxurious interior design. In addition to simple bevelled brick and terrazzo pavements, certain rooms, in fact even the toilet, were paved with mosaics.



*Detail of a mosaic depicting a sea scape from the central hall of the palace bath wing*