The Defence of the Long Walls of Thrace (Μακρά Τείχη τής Θράκης) under Justinian the Great (527–565 A.D.)

The Long Walls of Thrace (Μακρά Τείχη τής Θράκης) or the Anastasian Wall (Αναστάσειο Τείχος), also called The Long Anastasian Wall or Longi Muri are situated about 65 km west of Constantinople. They stretch from Evzik Iskelesi at the Black Sea coast across the Thracian Peninsula to the coast of the Sea of Marmara 6 km west of Silivri (ancient Selymbria). Under Anastasius I (491–518) and Justin I (518–527) the wall was under command of two vicarii who had their seat there (Nov. Iust., XXVI, pr.). One of them – the military officer – was the representative of magister militum. The other, a civil officer, was possibly the representative...
of praefectus praetorio per Orientem and possibly carried out the duties of vicar of the diocese of Thrace whose existence is confirmed by constitutions of Anastasius I or, which seems to be more probable, he governed only the area close to the Anastasian Wall.

For several years, both vicars also functioned under Justinian I (527–565). In 535 the emperor replaced both ‘quarrelsome’ officers by praetor Iustinianus Thracieae, established by the 26th novel, issued May 18th (Nov. Iust., XXVI)4. The constitution, preserved in its entirety in Greek and Latin versions, is the most important written source concerning the military organization of the Long Walls of Thrace under Justinian5.

The imperial enactment describes in detail the duties of praetor Iustinianus Thracieae and quotes the arguments which had persuaded Justinian to establish it. The preface concerns the former administrative organization of the region of Thrace, based on the two vicars and mentions problems caused by their never-ending disputes. The first capitulum provides a general description of the new office of praetor Iustinianus Thracieae as the successor of both vicars, joining the reorganization with the reforms introduced in Lycaonia and Pisidia where praetores were established as well. One also explains why it was necessary to abolish the division of powers in the region of Thrace, emphasizing, among other things, that the invasions of barbarians demanded more stringent measures to ensure that the area was properly governed. The second capitulum mentions the insignia of the first praetor Thracieae as betokening military and civil magistracy, his honorary rank – spectabilis, and the nature of emperor’s instructions (mandata principis). Subsequently, the reasons why praetors were established are addressed once again, invoking the importance of the office of praetor in the Roman past and the need of ensuring justice to emperor’s subjects. The first paragraph of this chapter concerns the question of the praetor’s 100 subordinates and his ad responsum as the praetor’s deputy for military affairs, while the second discusses in detail the levy of taxes and the financial branch of his officium. The third capitulum


stresses first that it is crucial for a praetor to be incorruptible and just towards the emperor’s subjects, then orders him to take care of military affairs by exercising soldiers and conducting military operations in the appropriate manner. The following long verses state the praetor’s duties as a judge and the extent of the emperor’s control over him in this respect. The fourth capitulum describes the praetor’s responsibility for taking care of public works and stresses his autonomy in this field with regard to the office of praetorian prefect (of the East). The first paragraph defines the manner of the possible replacement of the praetor and expresses the emperor’s expectation that a highly honored praetor, member of the Senate, will be a good administrator. The second paragraph describes the praetor’s jurisdiction in the matter of abuses committed by tax collectors. Capitulum five begins with the statement concerning the nature of the emperor’s mandata and then goes on to examine the praetor’s jurisdiction in private and criminal law (but without diminishing the administratio of the province governor), the details concerning the appeals from their decisions and the position of praetor Thraciae among other officials (he was placed at the same level as comes Orientis, proconsules, comites Phrygiae and Galatiae). The first paragraph of this chapter stresses the need for the establishment of the praetor’s salary, introduces a ban on any additional remuneration for the praetor, and decrees his salary and the sum of money which should be paid by the praetor as commission for his appointment.

In the light of the novel, praetor Thraciae was responsible solely for the area close to The Long Walls of Thrace, the eastern part of the province of Europa, despite of the broader meaning of Thracia in antiquity and in the early Middle Ages. At the time Thracia would denote four territories: 1. the southern part of the Roman Balkans, which was more or less the same as the territory of the province of Thrace under the Principate (i.e. the area between the coasts of the Black Sea, the Sea of Marmara and the Aegean Sea, bounded in the north by the Balkan Mountains and extended west to the Mesta River); 2. diocese of Thrace (diocesis Thraciarum) established at the turn of the 4th cent. (i.e. the area of the province of Thrace under principate expanded by the provinces of Moesia Secunda and Scythia Minor, situated on the Lower Danube); 3. the province of Thracia prima, alternatively and more fre-

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6 See A. Γκουτζιουκώστας, Η διοίκηση Θράκης..., p. 114sq; J. Wiewiorowski, Zakres terytorialny..., passim – with references to views expressed in previous studies.

quently known as *Haemimontus*, incorporated into the diocese of Thrace (i.e. middle Marica, near modern Stara Zagora and Plovdiv); 4. *thema* of Thrace, created in the last decades of the 7th cent.

*Nov. Iust.*, XXVI uses the noun *Thracia* only in *singularis*. In *praefatio* there is a statement about τὴν Ὀρθᾶν ὦμάσεω χώραν – *Thracum nominaverit regionem*, or the word *Thracia* is used only as the part of the praetor’s title (title of the novel: Πραιτωρ Ὀρθᾶς – *Praetor Thraciae*; cap. 2: (...) πραιτωρ οὔτος Ἰουστινιανός ἐπὶ Ὀρθᾶς (...) – (...) *praetor iste Iustinianus in Thracia* (...); *post subscriptio* (about his salary): (...) τῷ πραιτωρι Ὀρθᾶς – (...) *praetori Thraciae*. On the face of it, it may be inferred that the novel uses it as the equivalent for the province of *Thracia prima*. But the Long *Walls of Thrace* were situated on the territory of province Europa, in the vicinity of Constantinople. It raises the question why *praetor Thraciae* was not therefore called simply *praetor Europae*. This resulted from the fact that at the time there existed a separate civil governor, which is also emphasized in the text of the discussed imperial enactment, where the administrator of the province is mentioned twice in *singularis* as [ὁ] ἡγεμὼν/ ἄρχων τῆς ἐπαρχίας – *iudex provinciae*9. On a separate occasion the province is also mentioned in *singularis* ([ἡ] ἐπαρχία – *provincia*) under the jurisdiction of the *praetor Thraciae*. The provinces in the Balkans are mentioned directly around 535, for instance by Hierocles in *Synecdemus*10 and their governors by the *Nov. Iust.*, VIII (a. 535).

When describing the necessity of establishing the praetor cap. 1 states that: ὁ μὲν γὰρ τῆς ἐπαρχίας ἡγούμενος ἐν ἑτέροις τισιν ἕστι τότοις, μόλις ἐκείνος ἄρχων (...) (Provinciae namque iudex in aliis quibusdam locis positus vix illis sufficient – Governor of the province in other places is invested with insufficient authority)11. Thus the sentence underlines the weakness of the common civil governor.

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8 So H. Ditten, *op. cit.*, esp. p. 161, 162.


The Defence of the Long Walls of Thrace

The most important reference to the governor is made in *Capitulum* 5:

> οὐδὲν τούδε ἡμῶν τοῦ νόμου τῇ τοῦ λαμπροτάτου τῆς ἐπαρχίας ἁρχόντων ἀλλ᾽ ἐκείνου τε ἐν τοῖς άλλοις τῆς ἐπαρχίας τόποις πράττοντος, ἀπερ ἰδιὰ τῶν νόμων ἔστι, τούτου τε, ἐν αἷς ἱδρυται μέρεσι, τέν ἐπιτεταγμένην αὐτῷ παρ᾽ ἡμῶν πληροῦντος φροντίδα.

*nihil hac nostra lege clarissimi provinciae iudicis minuente administrationem, sed illo in alius provinciae locis agente quae propria legum sunt, hoc autem in quibus commoratur partibus commissam sibi a nobis implente sollicitudinem.*

Our law does not diminish the importance of the *clarissimus* governor, but as the praetor acts in other places in the province, which is proper according to the laws, the governor shall perform the duties assigned to him by us in the places in which he is located.

It seems that according to Justinian’s novel XXVI *praetor Thraciae* carried out certain duties in the province of Europa separately from its governor, who was responsible for other tasks in other places. As a matter of fact, in the Nov. *Iust.*, XXVI *praetor Thraciae* is not called ‘governor’ even once.

When comparing the part of the novel concerning the praetor’s military duties with the civil ones, it may be observed that Justinian was interested chiefly in the proper and just administration of the area while military issues seemed to be of secondary importance.

As far as the praetor’s military tasks are concerned, the novel stresses only preserving proper military discipline, training soldiers and conducting military campaigns (Nov. *Iust.*, XXVI, 1 and 3 pr.). His military deputy was an officer called *ad responsum* (Nov. *Iust.*, XXVI, 2, 2). Last but not least, the praetor of Thrace was responsible for taking care of public facilities which were situated there (including military installations: harbours, walls and bridges – Nov. *Iust.*, XXVI, 4 pr).

However, military dilemmas are always connected with the particular local circumstances and events, which cannot be inferred from a legal text of general nature, as in the case of the Justinian’s novel XXVI. Therefore the conclusion that in the light of the novel the praetor of Thrace was first of all a civil administrator and his military duties were secondary is not correct. On the contrary, Justinian was primarily concerned with stable army command and only secondarily with civil administration in the region more or less confined to the *Longi Muri*. Therefore Nov. *Iust.*, XXVI, 1, 1 starts with the sentence:

> ἡ δὲ τῶν τειχῶν φυλακὴ καὶ ἡ περὶ τοὺς τόπους διοκίησις καὶ ἐύταξία τε καὶ στρατηγία δεῖται τινὸς ἀνδρὸς ἀγαθοῦ καὶ πρὸς ἑκάτερον ἐχοντος ἐπιτηδείνος, στρατιώτας τε κοσμεῖν καὶ νόμων ἐξάρχειν (...).

*murorum vero horum custodia et circa loca illa gubernatio et disciplina atque ducatus egent aliquo viro bono et qui ad utrumque opportunus existat, milites ordinare et legibus praeserv (…).*

The care of walls [the Long Walls], the management and order of that region, as well as the keeping order of the army require the service of a good man, who is not only fit to command the soldiers, but also to issue orders in conformity with the laws (…).

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12 According to A.E. Γκουτζιουκώστας, Ξ.Μ. Μονιάρος, *op. cit.*, p. 44, it was the western part of the province *Europa*. 
In the first sentence of *Nov. Iust.*, XXVI, 2 preserved in the *Basilica*, there is even a direct statement that the emperor established the seat of praetor Thraciae in the *Longi Muri* (VI, 1, 1). It raises the question why his headquarters was there while the seat of the Roman provincial governor's was usually situated in the town\(^\text{13}\). When discussing the praetor's responsibilities one should remember too that besides praetor Thraciae there still existed the separate post of governor of province Europa. The latter officer was the civil governor in the province where the *Anastasian Wall* was situated, therefore the duties of the praetor of Thrace seem to be focused on military needs.

Praetor Thraciae was granted both civil and military powers as other regional officers established by Justinian in 535 and the following years, with the most important *Nov. Iust.*, VIII (a. 535) at the forefront\(^\text{14}\). The goal of Justinian's reforms was, first of all, to simplify the administration and to curtail the never-ending disputes between military and civil officials. Besides, the emperor wanted to reduce corruption among provincial civil governors and to centralize administration in the eastern provinces. The centralizing policy suited praetorian prefecture in the East as well. Therefore some of the discussed reforms may have been suggested by John the Cappadocian, praefectus praetorio per Orientem between 532 and 541, who was the addressee of most novels establishing the new administrative order\(^\text{15}\). The

\(^{13}\) Cf. e.g. R. Haensch, *Capita provinciarum. Stathaltsitze und Provinzialverwaltung in der römischen Kaiserzeit*, Mainz 1997.


titles of the new officers also suited Justinian's propaganda, which described him as the *renovator imperii* and at the same time an efficient ruler of the empire.\(^{16}\)

The position of *praetor Thraciae* in Justinian's novel XXVI is compared with other Justinian's praetors – those of Pisidia and Lycaonia in Asia Minor, established respectively on May 15\(^{th}\) and 18\(^{th}\), 535 (Nov. Iust., XXIV–XXV)\(^{17}\).

The usual arguments are also used in the imperial enactments to explain the necessity to establish officers called praetors in all three separate regions. Their responsibilities as well as their civil and military powers were described similarly. The pattern of issues covered in all three novels is likewise analogous. Also certain points concerning trials they conducted were stipulated in a corresponding manner while their jurisdiction is stated in identical wording. All three *preatores* were paid 300 *solidi* as a salary, paying the same commissions for the appointments. Their *officia* consisted of 100 clerks who were paid 2 pounds of gold a year; also their *assessores* had the same salary – 72 solidi a year.\(^{18}\) The next praetor established that year – *praetor Paphlagoniae* – had a similar status as well.\(^{19}\) In contrast, *praetor Siciliae*, an office created not much later was solely a civil official and merely collected revenues for the army.\(^{20}\) It seems that Justinian – or actually his *quaestor sacri palatii* Tribonian – gave similar justifications for the foundation of three *praeturae* (i.e. *Thraciae, Pisidiae and Lycaoniae*).\(^{21}\) But there is one significant difference: unlike

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\(^{16}\) M. Mass, *Roman History...*, passim; idem, *John Lydus...*, p. 38sq with amendments by Ch. Roueché, *op. cit.*, passim. For general information on the novels as the mirror of personal attitude of Justinian toward different social and ethical questions see H. Jones, *Justiniani novellae as the autoportrait d’un législateur*, RIDA 35, 1988, p. 149–208.


\(^{18}\) They were also mentioned together in *Nov. Iust.*, XXVII, 2 (May 18, a 535); XXX, 1, 1; XXXI, 3 (March 18, a. 536). Cf. T. C. Lounghis, B. BlysidUser, St. Lampakes, *op. cit.*, p. 266 (reg. 1067), 277–278 (reg. 1110–1111).


praetor Thraciae, the praetors of Pisidia and Lycaonia were directly called governors. Probably, when Justinian decided to establish the post of praetor Thraciae, the same pattern which had been used in the case of praetor Pisidiae and praetor Lycaoniae was followed in Justinian’s novel XXVI. But the praetors of Pisidia and Lycaonia were the sole civil and military governors of provinces, while the praetor of Thrace, whose office combined civil and military powers, was accompanied by the civil governor of the province Europa. Nevertheless, the praetor of Thrace had the same position and salary as the praetors of Pisidia and Lycaonia. As observed before, the usage of the term Thracia in the title of the praetor of Thrace was not commensurate with its meaning. Still, coupled with his special status when compared to the other aforementioned praetors of Justinian, it highlights the significance the emperor attached to the post of praetor Iustinianus Thraciae with regard to the defence of the region, especially the defence from external threats and probably also the water supply of Constantinople itself (see further). A similar concept was put into practice by establishing the higher post of quaestor Iustinianus exercitus in 536, which is rightly described as Justinian’s desperate attempt to protect the northern flank of Constantinople and the Balkan peninsula.

In conclusion, it seems that for Justinian the most vital among the praetor’s duties consisted in the personal presence of praetor Thraciae in the region close to the Anastasian Wall, taking care of it and its garrison, and commanding the army troops.

Apart from discussed above Justinian’s novel XXVI the there is no other written direct data about the army command and the detachments in the Longi Muri area under Justinian. However, some information may be deduced from the intensive archaeological excavations conducted there in the last two decades and by comparison with other sources.

22 Nov. Iust., XXIV: 1, 2, 4; XXV: pr., 1, 3, 5: ὁ ἄρχων/iudex. In XXVI, 1 they are respectively called praetor Pisidiae – ὁ ἐξάρχων/iudex; praetor Lycaoniae – ὁ ἐξάρχης/praesul.

The Long Walls of Thrace were originally approximately 56 km long and according to Procopius of Caesarea it took two days to travel from one side to the other.\(^{24}\) The Anastasian Wall was the last of the group of long walls built or rebuilt in the Balkans in the 5th and 6th centuries, such as e.g. the Isthmian wall in Corinth and Thermopylae.\(^{25}\) The Longi Muri had a thickness of 3.30 m and a height of over 5 m. Probably, it was built complete with large pentagonal towers projecting 11.5 m (they were amongst the largest towers known from any fortification in Late Antiquity), wide rectangular towers – there were approximately as many as 340 towers along the entire length of the wall, with gates, forts and ditches. It was constructed as the outer defence of Constantinople, although it was also probably intended to protect a part of the long-distance water supply of Constantinople which ran for more than 250 km from Bizye to the city.\(^{26}\)

The complement of basic units of the late Roman infantry in the 6th century – *numerus*, *tagma* – is estimated at 100–500 people, while the cavalry unit *turma* numbered about a half of that number.\(^{27}\) Bearing in mind the size of Justinian fortresses in the Balkans and estimating population at the military sites it follows that the whole line of the Danube was protected at the time only by several thousand soldiers.\(^{28}\) Given the above and the size of the Anastasian Wall it is hardly likely that


the garrison under praetor of Thrace was greater than approximately three–four thousand soldiers²⁹.

According to a widely held view, Justinian was not consistent and his attitude towards the model of administrative organisation would vary: after the fall of John the Cappadocian in 541 some of the reforms connected with him were revoked³⁰.

The constant threat of incursions of different barbarian tribes, which began on the northern bank of the Danube (the river limiting the direct power of the Roman state³¹), combined with the lack of greater army forces in the Balkans³², persuaded Justinian to embark on a programme of building military installations, praised


The necessity of developing defensive structures in the Balkans may have caused the abolition of praetor Thraciae around the mid-6th century and the reestablishment of the more suitable βικιριος Θρᾴκης – vicarius Thraciae, who was most probably the civil supervisor of the provinces: Europa, Haemimontus (i.e. Thracia secunda), Rhodopa, Thracia (i.e. Thracia prima). According to J.F. Haldon the post seems to have been abolished later, in the late 6th and 7th centuries, probably as a result of the presence of a large number of troops under magistri militum during the reigns of Mauricius, Phocas and Heraclius. In his opinion, Now the Vicar of Thrace (or Praetor) was responsible for the area between the Long Walls and Constantinople, and commanded also a military force, at least in theory. But the civil nature of the ‘new’ vicarius of Thrace and his broader jurisdiction is well attested in sources dating from the late 6th century; in actual fact therefore the vicarius Thraciae was possibly mainly involved in building activities.

The constant presence of the civil governor of Europa, the vicinity of Constantinople and its prefect (ὁ ἔπαρχος τῆς πόλεως), and the presence of magister militum praesentalis may also have demonstrated that the separate post of praetor Thraciae was useless. Justinian's administration of Pisidia represents a similar case; in 553

with exaggeration by Procopius in de Aedificiis (who also describes the works conducted as part of the Long Walls of Thrace)
the division of powers was established there once again because it was better appreciated by the inhabitants (Nov. Iust., CXLV)\textsuperscript{36}. The novel limited the jurisdiction of the new officer \textit{dux et biokolytes} in Pisidia and Phrygia to civil matters whereas in Lycaonia and Lidia he held both military and civil powers.

A possible reason for the abolishment of \textit{praetor Thraciae} may lie in the incapacity of this officer to improve the condition of the \textit{Long Walls of Thrace}, as the written sources suggest\textsuperscript{37}.

They were crossed easily in Spring 559 during the raid of the Cutrigurs under Zabergan (perhaps also earlier by the Slavs in 550)\textsuperscript{38}. According to a rhetorical statement of Agathias Scholasticus, in those days

Age and neglect had in fact caused the structure of the great wall to crumble and collapse in many places. (...) Some parts of it the barbarians themselves knocked down, setting about task with the nonchalant air of man demolishing their own property. There was nothing to stop them, no sentries, no engines of defence, nobody to man them. There was not even the sound of a dog barking, as would at least have been the case with a pig-sty or a sheep-cot.\textsuperscript{39}

The historian fails to mention that the destruction of the wall may have been caused earlier by the great earthquake in December 557\textsuperscript{40}. Theophanes the Confessor, who described the latter disaster in detail, also wrote about Justinian’ personal restoration of the \textit{Anastasian Wall} in 559, stating with emphasis that before it took place \textit{Likewise barbarians wandered about outside the city until August}\textsuperscript{41}. Nonetheless, Theophanes’s chronicle becomes valuable only with the reign of Justin II (565 A.D.); thanks to Constantine VII Porphyrogenitus we also know about the triumphant return of Justinian to Constantinople that year, probably after having completed those works\textsuperscript{42}. The personal involvement of Justinian in the restoration

\textsuperscript{36} Cf. T.C. Lounghis, B. Blysidu, St. Lampakes, \textit{op. cit.}, p. 333 (reg. 1387).

\textsuperscript{37} Similarly B. Croke, \textit{op. cit.}, p. 77.

\textsuperscript{38} \textit{Agathiae Myrinai Historiarum libri quinque}, V, 13–19, ed. R. Keydell, Berlin 1967 (cetera: Agathias); the translations are quoted from the English translation of J.D. Frendo, Berlin–New York 1975. Justinian had to ask the retired general Belisarius to lead an improvised force against the Cutrigurs. Cf. e.g. E. Stein, \textit{Histoire...}, p. 539sq.

\textsuperscript{39} Agathias, V, 13, 5–6.


of the Anastasian Wall might also have been engendered by the weakness of its administration under praetor Thraciae or the earlier abolition of the post. The Long Walls of Thrace were probably in poor condition already before 550; the securing of the towers of the Anastasian Wall described by Procopius and referred to in Agathias, probably took place already around the middle of the 6th century. In all likelihood, the length of the fortifications made them difficult to defend and the lack of resources did not allow maintaining them in proper condition. Agathias Scholasticus mentioned that the Roman armies had not in fact remained at the desired level attained by the earlier Emperors but had dwindled to a fraction of what they had been and were no longer adequate to the requirements of a vast empire (concerning the raid of Cutrigurs in 559). Therefore, as T.E. Gregory stated: From the sixth century on, the defenders [i.e. Romans] apparently put their hope in superior technology and massive towering walls, while the barbarians simple bade their time and crossed the fortifications when and where they were poorly manned. Yet regardless of the above limitations, the fortifications built in the Balkans by Justinian in general – together with the diplomacy and subsidies for the northern barbarians – allowed him to keep a delicate balance along the Danube frontier. The system worked more or less properly, as may be inferred from the lack of monetary treasure between 550–565 in the Balkans. From then on, it gradually declined in consequence of the arrival of the Avars in the 560s and the subsequent establishment of their hegemony among the northern barbarian tribes after Justinian’s death in 565. His failure to sustain a consistent administration of Longi Muri did not affect it.


Cf. e.g. recently L. M. Whitby, The Emperor Maurice and his Historian: Theophylact Simocatta on
Abstract: The paper discusses the question of the defence of the Long Walls of Thrace (Μακρά Τείχη τῆς Θρᾴκης) or the Anastasian Wall (Αναστάσειο Τείχος) under Justinian the Great (527–565 A.D.). Emperor Anastasius I (491–518 A.D.) probably put an end to the vicarius Thraciarum, the head of administration of the late Roman Diocese of Thrace, establishing two vicars instead. One of them was responsible for the defence of the Long Walls of Thrace while the other was a purely civil officer. Both vicars governed the area of the Anastasian Wall also in the first years of Justinian’s reign. This administrative framework was useful for the defence of Constantinople itself but it also gave rise to certain problems. When Justinian reformed the provincial administration and abolished all vicariates in 535 A.D., he replaced the vicars of the Anastasian Wall with praetor Iustinianus Thraciae (Nov. Iust., XXVI – a. 535). Next year, the emperor created the peculiar post of quaestor Iustinianus exercitus (Nov. Iust., XLI). The territory of the quaestura contained the provinces Moesia Secunda and Scythia Minor, located in the lower Danube region, as well as the provinces of Cyprus, Caria and the Aegean Islands. In turn, the responsibilities of the Praetor of Thrace were confined to the region of the Anastasian Wall. The new post combined the functions of military officer and head of civil administration. The nature of praetor Thraciae is discussed in the light of Nov. Iust., XXVI and compared with analogous praetors established in the provinces of Paphlagonia and Pisidia (Nov. Iust., XXIV–XXV), as well as other data. After the fall of John of Cappadocia in 541, Justinian revoked some administrative reforms, restoring the vicariate of Pontica and restoring former powers to the comes Orientis who played the same role as a vicar in the Diocese of Oriens. In the Balkans, Justinian left the post of quaestor Iustinianus exercitus intact. Meanwhile, the function of the praetor Thraciae, which proved to be inefficient, as the incursions of the Slavs (ca. 550) and the Kutrigur Bulgars in 559 had shown, was possibly abolished. The repairs of the Anastasian Wall needed to be conducted after the great earthquake in 557 A.D. by Justinian himself, which indirectly demonstrates the weakness of administration under praetor Thraciae or the earlier abolishment of the post. It is likely that instead Justinian reinstated the post of the vicar of Thrace, who became a civil administrator over the part of the former Diocese of Thrace limited to the provinces of Europa, Haemimontus, Rhodopa and Thracia, a function which was probably more suited to overseeing construction undertakings conducted at the time in the Balkans.

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