

THE CHEST GAZETTE

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Monumentum Ancyranum

Ankara and the central Anatolia were occupied by the Celtic speaking Galatians in 278 BC. They made the city a tribal center known as Ancyra. In 25 BC, the city was conquered by the Roman Emperor Augustus and it became the capital of the Roman province of Galatia.

In this city, a marble temple was built between 25-20 BC. This temple is supposed to have been built over an earlier temple dedicated to Kybele and Men. It faces the west and it is planned in pseudodipteros with 8 ionic pillars on the short side and 15 pillars on the long side. The internal complexes (Naos) consisted of three parts with two chorinthian pillars in the pear section (Antea) and four more in the antae on the gateway (Aronaos) [1].

This temple, the Monumentum Ancyranum (Temple of Augustus and Rome), is of great importance with the inscriptions referring to the Acts of Augustus, known as "Res Gestae Divi Augusti". The inscription was cut in marble on the walls.

On the walls, the speeches delivered by Augustus himself were inscribed bilingually, in Greek and Latin. The inscriptions in Latin on the internal surface of the Pronaos while the Greek on the southwest external surface of the Naos. In the early Christian era, the temple was changed into a basilica and three windows were annexed on the south wall of the Cella with cryptos beyond the Naos [1].

According to the text, it was written just before Augustus' death in 14 AD. The original was engraved on a pair of bronze pillars and placed in front of Augustus' mausoleum in Rome. But, it did not survive. Many copies of the text were made in provinces. One of them is on the walls of the Monumentum Ancyranum, well protected and can be seen.



North side wall



North side interior



Res Gestae Divi Augusti
Reporter, H. Bilgen, 19.01.2021

[1] Ministry of Culture, <https://www.ktb.gov.tr/EN-113892/the-augustus-temple-of-ankara.html>, accessed on 19.01.2021