

RESEARCH ARTICLE

The historical role of the ancient city of Thamugadi

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Abstract:

After the Romans extended their control over the ancient Maghreb, beginning in 46 BC, they began establishing a large number of coastal and inland cities similar to their counterparts in Rome, with integrated facilities and a unified architectural model. In this paper, we will highlight one of these cities, namely the city of Tamugad (present-day Timgad), which had a significant geographical and historical dimension in the ancient Maghreb.

Key words: Thamugadi, geographical dimension, historical role

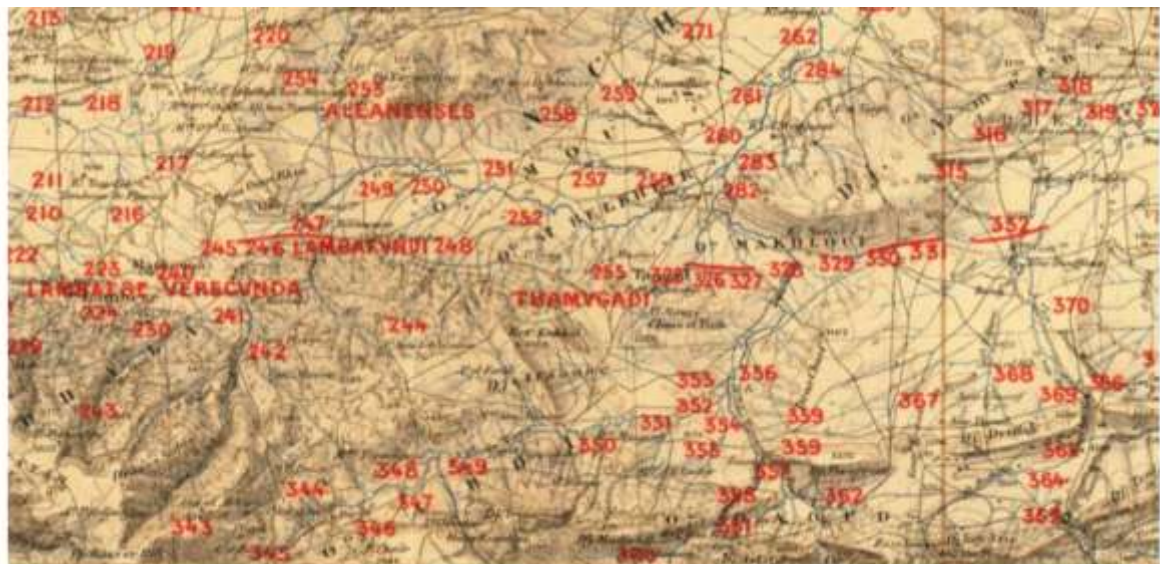
INTRODUCTION :

Urban life flourished in the ancient Maghreb and specifically in the Algerian East since ancient times, and in the Roman period many cities appeared, most notably the city of thamougadi (Moas, 2023: P8), this city built by the Roman occupation is still today preserved its ancient architectural style and a testimony to the cultural sophistication of what it contained of various approvals made it one of the most important cities in The Algerian East and the entire north of Africa (<https://cutt.us/EbFPm>), (Awadi, 2015:P130), and as the researcher mentions (Eugene Albertini Eugène).(Guerbabi. F.Z, 2015 :P259) that the military nature of the Romans is the reason for the existence of these cities that emerged in the ancient Maghreb, and in this study we will highlight the city from the geographical point of view, the origin of its name and the reasons and reasons for its construction, i.e. highlighting its historical role with a focus on the most important facilities that the city contained .

1-geographical and astronomical location and origin of the designation :

The city of Thamugadi TAMOVIADÉ (Timgad) is located in a plain at the foot of the Uras mountains, 35km east of the city of Patna (Guerbabi. F.Z, 2015 :P259), and it is about 120 km from the city of Constantine SERTA (Serta), and about 21 km from the city of tazolt NAM AMBEZ (lambez) (Ballu.A, 1925: P8), and it also connects to meskulh (muscola) through the road close to the ancient Roman Road, and for reference there are two roads dating back to the Roman period, the first connects the city of Timgad and tabsa (tevest), and the second with the city of Constantine, as the secondary roads are multiple and branched linking Timgad with neighboring municipalities and cities(Mortzot. P, 1997 :P18)

Timgad is located in the middle of the Oras mountains in the north of the desert Atlas, specifically within a narrow plain on the northern slope of the Oras mountain, whose highest peak (Chilia) exceeds 2328 m. A modern twisted mountain range, the most famous of which is Mount buarif, has arisen near it, the highest peak of which reaches 1746 m (Ras Furar), and between the Oras and buarif a narrow plain not exceeding 20 km was built on its southern edge, the city of tamugadi was built (Association, 2001: P8)



The Thamugadi website quoted : Gsell (S.), Atlas Archeologique de l'algerie, Article225, 2ème édition, Alger, 1997, P25.

*** Astronomically, the coordinates of the city are as follows:**

Q: 6 and 28 East.

10, 28, 35 :north (<https://linksshortcut.com/XXwjN>).

And its geographical coordinates:

270, 35 north-0. 638 east (<https://cutt.us/hfbu4>).

This location made Timgad characterized by its continental and semi-arid climate, humid in the Highlands and hot in summer with cold in winter, due to its high location far from the effects of the sea, the temperature ranges between 0 and 4 degrees Celsius in the daytime in winter, and 35 degrees in the daytime in summer, and the percentage of precipitation reaches (400 mm) (Coudray.M, 1987: P3).

*** The origin of the name of the city:**

The naming and dating of the city is based on the oldest inscription at the site, which was found near the North door adjacent to the old wall and dates back to between 100 AD and 103 ad, by the name (tamugadi) THAMUGADI (Siddiqi, 2008: p. 28), derived from a local compound word of three phrases: THA means this and AM means mother and GADI means prosperity By combining the three words, the meaning of the sentence is: (this is the mother of prosperity) (Violle.M, 1989: P5).

The city was also initially named SPLENDISSIMA CTVTTAS, which means the wonderful city, and then it became CALLED COLONIA VLPIA TRAIANA MARCIANA THAMVGADI, the name (marchiana) MARCIANA is after the sister of Emperor Trajan, and the name (Papiere) PAPIRIA is after the tribe of centenarians in the city (Cuttoli. Gaston. emile, 1924: P253).

2-the role of the city of Thamugadi and the purpose of its establishment:

During the reign of Julius Caesar, the state of Numidia was annexed to the Roman Empire, where he made it a military region, in which the commander of the III Corps or the Augustan division exercised authority, moving the Eastern Command Center to the city of Teveste (Teveste). Among them, the Imperial Army advanced to subjugate the regions of the northern Atlas desert in successive campaigns, and the area was occupied and the Lambese camp was built in 81 ad.

And because the orientation of the Romans and the domination of the Senate were not limited to the right of their enemies only, but went beyond it to consider their land as Roman land, whenever they occupied a province, they turned it into their property and controlled its area (Julian, 1965: P119), and the fact that Roman law considered all property to be public property (Ager Publicus) of the Roman people, and on this basis the land was named The term *arcifinales* refers to Africa, especially its fertile, pastoral and forested areas, because it was taken from its people and forcibly displaced from it (Akon, 2008: P80). This reflects the Roman colonial orientation and its exploitation of the wealth of the expansion areas

In the ancient Maghreb, Roman settlements were used to protect trade and military convoys (Loro, 2008: P13), to ensure housing for demobilized soldiers and to create jobs for the poor and unemployed inhabitants of Rome, the center of central power and the Italian peninsula It was expanded by Rome during the period from 509 BC to 265 BC, because these residents posed a threat to public security because of their claims to their civil rights, and these settlements were also used to encourage immigration and residence by granting them lands twice as large as they were granted in Italy.

It is noteworthy that the emperor Hadrianus (HADRIONUS) (117-138 AD), who visited the Roman provinces in Africa and stopped their deterioration due to poor relations between Roman agents and the population over working conditions, issued new legislation to apply to Roman property (Akon, 2008: P83). This gave the settlers the right to contact him directly if they were wronged by the Empire's financial agents or tax collectors, so he became loved and respected by the poor subjects of the Empire (Hamdan, 2016: P126).

The cities and centers embodied by the Romans south of Sirta, that is, on the southern side of Numidia, were aimed at plundering resources and agricultural products and harnessing them for the benefit of Rome by organizing a device called the *Annona*, as well as to monitor the inhabitants of the Oras and displaced from the gates of the desert plain rejecting the Roman presence (Cuttoli. Gaston emile, 1924: P253).

The Romans did not generally target all the regions of the Urals, as they focused on subjugating centers that did not cost them much while benefiting them as a strategy in their expansion, and therefore they built cities, including Timgad (matmer, 2011: P.24) for fear of the Numidians in the rugged mountains of the Urals, and therefore their purpose was to form a line of defense on fertile agricultural lands (Ballu. A, 1911: P17).

Timgad is one of the cities of the northern siege line, as it is keen on the Roman road that passes north of the Urals and connects the city of tevest to the East, maskule, lambez, Al-Qantara and tabna to the West, and monitors the mountain roads of the Urals, the White Valley Road that connects to the Roman Desert Road at teh'uda and the Wadi Abdi road, and what distinguishes this place is its availability of building materials and water (Dalil, 1982: P. 9), therefore, the Emperor Trajan trianus (177-98 ad) ordered the founding of the city of Timgad between the years 100 and 103 ad in order to receive the retired soldiers of the third Augustan Division stationed in lambez, numbering about 250 soldiers. The first works were entrusted to the same troupe under the command of the emperor's commissar (Lucius munatius galus LUCIUS MANARUS GALUS) (Ballu. Boeswilwald, 1905:P5).

The city is built on an area of 11.5 hectares. In line with the population increase, which reached 15,000 inhabitants, tamugadi expanded to an area of more than 50 hectares (directory, 1982: P9). The period of Trajan's rule since the foundation of tamogadi until the beginning of the third century AD was considered a period of security, prosperity and prosperity, which was greatly contributed to by controlling the political, economic and social aspects, as the city knew a tight urban organization that preserved the pure Roman style and Public Utilities played an important role, and one of the images of this, urban development baths From the moment it became a meeting, discussion, Social and political facilities (Qadus, 2007: p. 195), during which the city also experienced several transformations in the field of trade, urbanization, and religion, as the inhabitants of Timgad converted to Christianity as early as 256 ad, and with the emergence of the Donatist doctrine, which was embraced by some Numidians as an expression of their anger against the Romans, the city experienced a violent religious conflict (Ballu. A, 1897: P2). Its church formed a meeting Center under the guise of religion to plan coups and besiege the new faith, which led to many deaths as a result of the actions of the Roman Kings during the reign of Florian (253-260 ad) and the reign of Diocletian Diocletien(284-305 ad), becoming a Donatist pole in the entire ancient Maghreb (Fevrier. A-P, 1990: P168), and a new religious intellectual pole appeared based on the debates, where the figures emerged from the orator (godontius Gaudentius) in the middle of the fourth century AD, and Opta tamogadi, who were present with the seven lawyers who came to defend donatism at the Council of Carthage in 411 ad (Monceaux, 1906: P314).

After the Roman presence in the city of tamugadi, the vandals came in 429 ad, and because they did not want to stay in the city, they destroyed it (Ballu. A, 1897: P2), but in the Byzantine era (533-647 ad), the Byzantines built a large fortress, the ruins of which are still visible today, and by the eighth century AD, the city of Thamugadi became abandoned, topped with piles of dust, which encouraged the completion of research there after the discovery of its most important archaeological features, the arch of Trajan (Moas, 2023: P12).

One of the important historical roles of the city of thamougadi is its contribution to the scientific movement in the ancient Maghreb, through many inscriptions in which several figures are mentioned, such as the grammarian (pompeianus Pomponianus), also called (phocontius

Vocontius), and according to the inscription found in the forum of the city, phocontius lived, who was described as the source of the Together they reached a prestigious social rank, and the father of the latter was Senator Valerius MAXIMUS. Valerius Maximus, and women also had a presence and contribution in the religious aspect, such as Flavia procilla Flavia Procilla, the priestess of Flaminica in Timgad (presenter, 2018: pp. 335-336), and also famous in the religious aspect were Anya Kara Anya Cara, Anya trakolinia Anya Tranquillina, which is evidence of the development of the tamogadian society, which Assign a social status to women (Ponsart. C, 2003: P252).

As for the literature, Paul monsopaul Monceau reported that godontius wrote three works mentioned by St. Augustine in his works (Monceaux, 1906: P314), and the writings of delictius Dulcitius, who was commissioned after the Carthage Conference of 411, to implement laws against dissidents in Timgad, one was sent to Augustine in response to his first book, which prompted Augustine In general, the latter formed one of the Centers of cultural radiation in ancient Algeria through its schools and sermons, as well as parents pushing their children to education similar to other cities such as madroush, Sirta and others(moqaddam, 2018: P326)

3- City planning and its most important architectural facilities:

The city of Timgad in the eighth century (8 ad) ad became a pile of dust until 1765 ad, the English traveler. James Preece (J.Bres) with the discovery of the upper part of the landmark called the arch of Trajan that caught his attention (manual, 1982: P9).

Interest in this archaeological city began during the French occupation, through the appearance of the first expedition in 1851 by (L.).Ronnie L.Renier). Her task was the Latin writings (Courtois. CH, 1951: P21) and then the excavations began at the end of 1880 by the Department of antiquities and historical monuments, under the leadership of Dutoit Dutoit, and then Ballu Ballu, the latter, who was able to discover several archaeological sites, including the theater, the public square, markets, baths and houses.

A large number of wells were also discovered inside the houses and a number of public fountains, two of them on the northern facade of the public square, one in the Sirtis market, and another in the Eastern Market. These discoveries were made between the years 1880 and 1905. In 1897, he discovered a number of large canals for water drainage, as well as a number of basins, reservoirs and a water channel from the western side of the city at a distance of 400 m. Another one is in poor condition south of Timgad at a distance of more than 01 km during the years 1903-1910 (Ballu. A, 1911: P19).

The researcher Christofle Christofle resumed the work of Ballu, so that he framed several excavations, as the researcher Godet Godet discovered in 1954 a reservoir supplying the city with water southeast of the city (Godet. R, 1954: P65).

With the continuation of excavation, restoration and cleaning works until 1957, when turane took over the management of the Timgad excavations, an estimated area of 60 hectares was uncovered and is now surrounded by a fence (Dalil, 1982: P10).

The focus on the study of Roman archaeological remains has prompted French researchers to explore villages, cities and countryside in an effort to study and restore a defunct French colonial structure, the purpose of which is to find a link connecting our history with its history, on the basis that they are the heirs of the Roman Empire (boucharb, 2016: P402).

In the same context, the historian "Mohamed Hadi Harish" believes that the reality of historical and archaeological studies in Algeria after almost half a century of independence,

compared to what we published during this period with what the French published during the 132 years of their presence in Algeria, we find there is no room for comparison in quantity and quality, regardless of their ideas, because no matter what, they, in turn, were serving Our efforts and pens should remain focused only on the works of this school, but they should be an incentive for us to investigate and research, without this we will not give anything to our history and the works of these people cannot be shaken as long as the weakness is in US (Harish, 2013:P180).

The base layout of the city of Timgad shows that it exceeded its narrow boundaries, and the first wall probably disappeared at the beginning of the third century. the city was designed on a sloping land that reached 1200 feet (365.76 m) divided into four (4) squares separated by two main roads. The first road is called CARDO maximus (CARDO MAXIMUS) from North to South and the second is called docmanus Maximus (DOCUMANUS MAXIMUS) from East to West, and each square was divided by small roads (CARDO and DOCUMANI) into 36 square parts measuring 21 m, called Insulae (INSULAE) but most of the measurements were not respected in the plan, as it was completed On the western side, there are only five (05) Insulae parts instead of six (06) on the one hand, and for the completion of public buildings, it was required to collect Insulae or three in some cases per building on the other (Jean. L. P3).

The architects made changes in the course of the axis of the ducanus Maximus at the forum. So that the axis of the North Road deviated from the axis of the South Road by a distance of 80 m towards the West. The researchers attributed this change to the exploitation of the southern plateau for the completion of the amphitheater next to the forum. However, the city maintained the regularity of its parallel roads. The two main roads were made of blue calcareous, and the secondary roads were made of sand calcareous (Jean. L. P3).

Beginning from the late second century AD, the city underwent a major expansion from an area of 12 hectares during the reign of Trajan, it reached more than 50 hectares bypassing the original Southern and western borders towards (lampaz), and buildings became built randomly without their previous organization and layout, and the roads also did not follow the same first layout (Saumagne. C, 1931: PP100-103).

In general, the layout of the city seems to be square to the eye, but in fact its dimensions were x358 322 m, approximately 11 hectares at first (taghliciya, 1982: P12).

Over time, the population increased and new more luxurious neighborhoods were built, especially on the eastern side, and Timgad is the only archaeological city of the Roman cities that has preserved its typical identity in Africa and is now registered as a World Heritage site (Gsell. ST, 1918: P145).

The high artistic taste of the Romans was manifested in the fact that they did not neglect the construction of all the important facilities in their lives, which reflects their enjoyment of the enormous wealth they accumulated from their colonization of other peoples. It is their trade and investments in mines. They built palaces, stadiums, theaters, baths, public squares, large buildings, shops, markets, temples, courts (mutammar, 2011: P9).

The Roman civilization has known great technical progress in the field of architecture and construction, and in particular paid great attention to water installations because of their great importance in daily life (belaibod, 2008: p. 201), and the following summarizes the most prominent facilities of the city as follows:

Bathrooms :

The baths are considered one of the buildings that the Romans excelled in (Qadus, P. 190), and they are considered one of the huge Roman buildings, excavations have revealed the existence of more than ten (10) baths in Timgad (bushnaki, 1982: p. 79), and other studies mention that the number of baths in the city reaches 29 baths, including 15 private and 14 bathrooms Public, spread out in the city, which is considered the first cities in North Africa to contain such a number of bathrooms, whose purpose went beyond cleanliness only to being a place to spend time and a space for entertainment and meetings Guerbabi. F.Z, 2015 :P270)), bathing places for exercise, cultural forums, places for relaxation and a space for spending some leisure time were also considered(harsh, 1995: P217). It is worth mentioning that the Baths of Timgad are considered one of the great baths in the Empire and can be compared to the Baths of Caracalla in Rome, as they contain at their entrance spacious chambers that were used as a library (Qadus, 2007: P355)

Public toilets:

Many modern researchers consider the construction of toilets to be a picture of civilized behavior in the technical aspect, and the Roman toilets consist of a set of benches connected to each other and their bases rest on the heels of the foundation of the back wall, called (SALLAE), as they are mounted on levers mounted in the wall or in iron rods, which are above the These bases or in their lower tiles ensure a continuous flow of clear water, Roman public toilets are divided into three types:

- ***First:** linear toilets: what distinguishes these toilets is that their seats are in one row.

- ***The second:** the Bristol toilets: characterized by placing their seats on the perimeter of the walls of the central base .

- ***Third: platform toilets:** they are characterized by their seats built on a platform accessed by a staircase, and these toilets are usually decorated with mosaics, in addition to dolphins that are used as cushions in stone seats (Courtois. CH, 1951: P27).

As for the toilets of the baths in Timgad, the number of toilets in the northern Great baths is 19 with a semicircular shape, 04 toilets in the eastern Great baths with a rectangular shape, 26 bathrooms with the same shape in the northeast corner, 32 semi-circular toilets north of the liberales fountain, and 28 semi-circular toilets in the Southern Great baths (Guerbabi. F.Z, 2015 :P270).

*** Fountains:**

Its name is derived from the Latin word FONS (Fons) and the fountain is also used for aesthetic and symbolic purpose within the city (Petri. S, 2015 :P6).

In addition to the vital role of the fountain inside the city, as it supplies the city's residents with fresh water, the fountains were also used as a drinking water for horses, and it also played another role that contributed to decorating the city and its beauty through its many forms and decorations that it carries, which reflects the degree of development of the city and its. N, 1996 :P1228).

According to the researcher Pierre Aubert pierre aupert, the fountain facility in North Africa has several types to the following:

- * Fountains contain an internal room, these rooms are tightly built below the floor level and the room forms a reservoir that supplies the fountain with water.

* Wall fountains with other installations, this type is closer to the Greek classical fountains, as they share one of their walls with another facility or building, or are built in one of the corners of the main city buildings.

* Simple-shaped fountains, which do not contain decorations in all their parts, and with pavilions on their right and left sides characterized by semicircular basins.

* Fountains with carved or protruding decorations in the form of a protrusion with the walls of their small basins.

* Pentagonal or hexagonal fountains, this type is most often inside houses, which have semicircular shaped walls.

* Octagonal fountains, the basins of which are circular in shape, sometimes they are double basins with columns and ceilings (Pierre. A, 1974 :P90).

*** Markets and shops:**

If we pass under the triumphal arch "Trajan" and to the left of it, we meet a rectangular landmark and a fabric market with a rectangular hall tiled with pink stone tiles (Tbilisi, 1982: p. 45), this form is usually for basilicas, but at least it is for a market known as one of the wealthy (plotios Certius), who commanded the Roman cavalry and the wings of the Auxiliary Army and was honored with a Roman knighthood. To recognize this honor, he created this market (Courtois. CH, 1951: P2). And to the East is the Eastern Market, leaning on its northern wall are six shops. The market is two courtyards in the form of a semicircle, surrounded by colonnaded and roofed arcades and under them are shops. This market with the shops of the public square was the first commercial center of the city of Timgad (directory, 1982: P35), where it maintained its position until the certius market and the neighboring shops were built (landfill, PP75-76).

*** Timgad theater:**

During the reign of Emperor Marcus Aurelius (161-180 ad), the Timgad theater was built in 168 ad, as it is considered one of the most distinctive and important buildings, and the columns and engraved stones found indicate that it was very beautiful, and it is mentioned that the Byzantine army took a lot of theater stones to build its castle (bushnaki, 1982:P 88), and generally The Roman theater I quote its appearance from the Greek Theater (gadás, 2007: P176).

This theater was erected on a knoll facing west behind the public square on the Southeast Side, where the Timgad theater consists of three sections:

- The first section-the position of the stands of La Cavea: it is in the form of a semicircle and is occupied by stands intended for spectators.

The second section-the L'orchestra orchestra: it is in the form of a semicircle, dedicated to high-ranking, dignitaries and invitees. They and the general public are separated by a wall.

The third section-the stage La Scene: dedicated to the actors, separated from the orchestra by a wall called (PULPITUM), in which compartments are carved in the form of a semicircle and usually decorated with friezes and statues of gods are placed. This theater can seat between 3,500 and 4,500 spectators, and its dimensions may be comparable to a beautiful theater (bushnaki, 1982: P88).

• Public Library:

The Timgad library was discovered in 1901, it is a reading room and a book depository. Like most other facilities, the completion of the library is due to the contribution of the rich

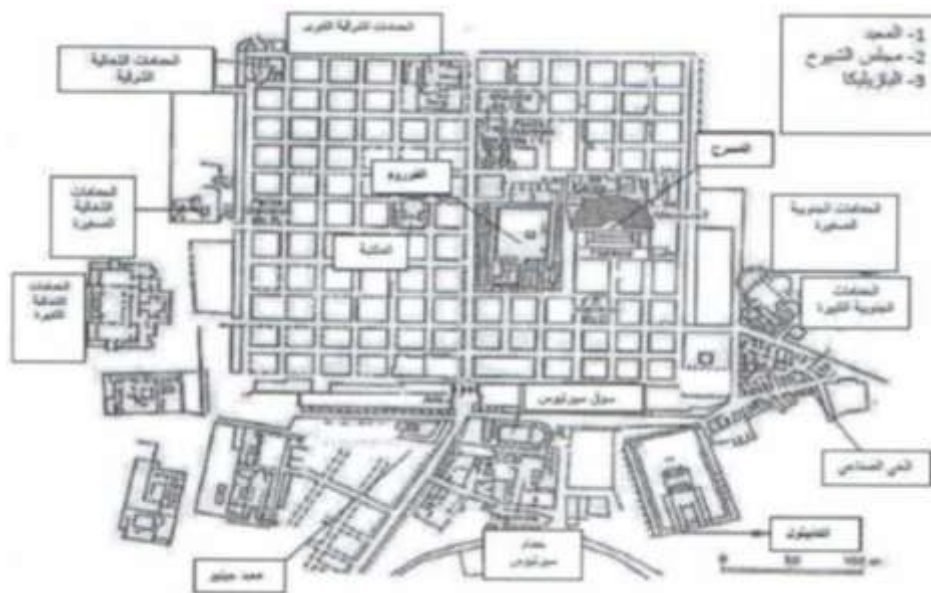
(Cagnat, 1927: P103), its existence is only evidence of the vitality of cultural activity in the city (bushnaki, 1982: P98), the library includes three small rooms that may have been used as reserve halls or as work halls, the largest rooms as a book store, it is enough to make a simple multiplication between The number of shelves and drawers to find that he put in them a huge number of books. In the inner hall, 6800 manuscripts were found, and in the second Hall, 16,200 manuscripts were found, with a total of 23,000 manuscripts, which is of course an approximate number, and according to our first glance, we cannot imagine that these stands embraced all this scientific quantity (Cagnat, 1927: P106).

The library was built in the fifth Square on the left, on the ruins of a folk House, and the geometric mosaic of this house under the door still testifies to this, and it is entered by means of the steps of a small staircase through which a courtyard surrounded by a vaulted portico is reached on three sides, and from here we reach the Great Hall of Researchers believe that the library dates back to the fourth century AD (bushnaki, 1982: P97).

*** Temple of Timgad (Capitol):**

It is a temple of the trinity of the Roman gods Jupiter, Juno, and Minerva, and in Timgad raised its capitol, like other Roman cities, on a hill overlooking the entire city (Cagnat, 1927: P76).

The temple was built in a rectangular courtyard with a length of 90 M and a width ranging from 62 M to 68 m, surrounded by a portico followed from the outside by external columns restored during the reign of Emperor Valentinian Valentinien (365 – 367 M), who renovated this building, and his name was mentioned in the inscription below the crown, and nothing remains of this temple today except the foundations of the hall, which It appears divided by three, in addition to the base with two half columns and two full columns, and there were six columns in this facade And eight columns in the other facades. The height of the columns of the Capitol exceeds 14 M, and the four columns that exist today were restored by the Department of ancient antiquities in 1907 ad, the crowns of these columns are 1.85 m high Corinthian columns (Cristien, 1951: P5), and the main goal of the construction of the Capitol temple is to dedicate to the Roman gods a huge temple befitting the Empire, and they succeeded in this, as revealed by the excavations Three temples on the knoll on which the Capitol was built (manual, 1982: pp. 48-49).



Public facilities of Thamugadi city See the link: <https://2u.pw/SH7CRhC> ,
browsing date 25/06/2025, The clock 22: 45.

Conclusion:

Although the idea of building a city with all its facilities on the land of Morocco was a Roman idea, but its implementation on the ground was with the help of Moorish Numidians, and the city in North Africa is not a foreign invention, as some tendentious theses put forward, and if the city in ancient Africa opened up to successive civilizations, one followed the other, its nucleus is What we do not deny is that the Romans were famous for building roads, which is the factor that contributed to the reconstruction of those cities that they conquered, or that they built and tried to print them on the Roman technical approach and make them This momentum has made it one of the models that had several historical roles, whether from a social, political, religious, economic or military point of view, such as thamougadi, which for many centuries has a pivotal role in the region, and was considered the only model city in Africa and Europe that contains all the facilities On the one hand, it was a strategic area for the protection of Roman property and a line of Defense to prevent the creeping expansion of the Numidian tribes in the Urals, which threatened the security of the Romans and their cities, on the other hand.

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