

NINE UNPUBLISHED LATIN INSCRIPTIONS AT COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY

The inscriptions published here are from the Olcott Collection, Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Columbia University.¹⁾ This collection, which includes coins, inscriptions, and various other antiquities, was donated to Columbia in accordance with the will of Professor George N. Olcott (1869-1912) in November, 1912.²⁾

No records survive to inform us of the provenances of the inscriptions, nor even of their place of purchase. (No. 1 presumably came from Rome, since it is a dedication by a soldier in the eleventh urban cohort.) Indications of their dates are, likewise, tenuous, but we regard a date as late as the IVth century A.D. to be unlikely for any one of them, and one between the Flavian and the Severan periods to be most probable. In no case have we attempted to estimate dates from the letter-forms.

1. Epitaph of a Soldier's Wife

1. Col. Inv. 401. prob. Rome

Marble in two pieces, broken off at the bottom. 27 (max.) x 39.7 x 2 cm. With the exception of the first two letters (which are 1.9 and 2.2 cm., respectively), the letters are remarkably uniform, few deviating even 1 mm. from a height of 2 cm. There are faint traces of guidelines throughout. The stone is presently encased in a plaster and wood frame.

D M Taf. IV
HERTORIAE . IVSTE .
C IVLIVS . LIBERALIS
MIL . COH . XI . VRB . 7 . LA
4 TINI . CON . SAN . BEN . M .
Q . M . BEN . V . ANN . X .
MES . VI . DIEB . VIII .

D(is) M(anibus). Hertoriae Iust(a)e, C(aius) Iulius Liberalis, mil(es) coh(ortis) XI urb(anae), (centuria) Latini, con(iugi) san(ctissimae) ben(e) m(erenti), q(uae) m(ecum) ben(e) v(ixit) ann(is) X, me(n)s(ibus) VI, dieb(us) VIII.

2. The name Hertoria is not attested in CIL VI.

The earliest dated attestation of the XIth urban cohort is from the last years of Nero (CIL III 14387 = ILS 9199), and the latest from the period

1) The authors gratefully thank Professor W.V. Harris and the staff of the Rare Book and Manuscript Library of Columbia University for their assistance in the preparation of this article. The Stanwood Cockey Lodge Foundation of Columbia University generously provided the funding for the photographs.

2) Ingrid E.M. Edlund, *The Iron Age and Etruscan Vases in the Olcott Collection at Columbia University*, American Philosophical Society, Transactions 70.1, Philadelphia 1980, 6-8. At *Am. Journ. Arch.* 10, 1906, 154, Olcott refers to Columbia's collection of inscriptions.

317-337 (CIL VI 11156 = ILS 722). On the urban cohorts, in general, see Helmut Freis, *Die Cohortes Urbanae*, Epigraphische Studien 2, Cologne 1967.

2-4. Three Epitaphs Mentioning the Fleet

Although the provenance of these inscriptions is not known, it may be noted that epitaphs of sailors from both Misenum and Ravenna are found at Rome (CIL VI 3092ff.).

2. Col. Inv. 423. prov. unknown.

Marble. 51.5 x 58.7 x 2.5 cm. The lower right hand corner of the stone is broken off, and the surface at the top, extending to the top of line 2 but not affecting any letters, is quite worn. The inscription is framed by an incised line 1.4 cm. from the edge of the stone; within this border, a wider groove c. 1 cm. wide also encloses all four sides of the inscription. Letters are elegant, serified, 2.3 cm. high. Traces of guidelines are visible above and below the letters.

The text presents an interesting arrangement. The first three lines are centered; then there is a blank space of one line. Line 4 begins at the margin, but the next two lines are progressively indented. Line 7 returns to the left margin, with line 8 indented slightly (or centered), and line 9 indented more.

	D [.] M	Taf.IV
	D . ANNIVS . RVFVS . MIL	
	CLA . PRAE . RAVENATIS	
4	NATIONE . DALMATI .	
	VIX . ANN . XXXV . MILI	
	ANNOS . XIII .	
	FECIT . P . CAMVRIVS . CAM	
8	PANVS . HERES . AMICO .	
	SVO . BENE . MERENTI	

D(is) M(anibus). D(ecimus) Annius Rufus, mil(es) cla(ssis) prae(toriae) Raven(n)atis, natione Dalmati(cus), vix(it) ann(os) XXXV, mili(tavit) annos XIII. Fecit P(ublius) Camurius Campanus, heres, amico suo bene merenti.

3. Col. Inv. 421. prov. unknown.

Marble, worn and discolored in places. 39.2-40.5 x 31.0-32.2 x 1.5-2.1 cm. Letter heights, 2.5-3.4 cm. Traces of guidelines are visible in places.

	D . M	Taf.V
	C [.] SILI . MAXIMI	
	MIL . CLAS . P . MISE	
4	AN . XXXX . MIL XIX	
	IVLI . PRIS	
	C	

D(is) M(anibus) C(aii) Sili(i) Maximi, mil(itis) clas(sis) p(raetoriae) MISE(nensis), (vixit) an(nis) XXXX, mil(itavit) (annis) XIX, Iuli(us) Prisc(us) (fecit).

3. For P, cf. CIL VI 3129, for the more usual PR or PRAE (as in no.2, line 3, above).

MISE(nensis) or MISE(natium).

5-6. The first letter of line 5 is indented the same as line 1. It, too, probably was intended to be centered, for symmetry; but if so, the stone-cutter did not reckon the length of the name, which spills over onto line 6. (Cf. no.5, line 10, below.)

4. Col. Inv. 413. prov. unknown. late II-early III A.D.

Marble. 46 x 24 x 3.2 cm., once broken in two at upper right corner, but now re-attached. Letter heights, average 2-2.8 cm.; max. 3 cm. (line 1) and min. 1.5 cm. (line 7). The inscription is encompassed within a rectangular triple incised border. A triangular pediment is inscribed at the top, which contains decorative elements, an acanthus flanked on each side by a bunch of grapes (for a similar acanthus, cf. CIL VI 7379 (II A.D.) and W.Altmann, *Die römischen Grabaltäre der Kaiserzeit*, Berlin 1905, 53, fig.44). In the lower left corner of the stone is a rather sketchy palm-tree (4.7 x 3.8 cm.) (cf. CIL VI 16399 and W.Altmann, *op.cit.*, 23, fig.17, and 122, fig.98), which might be a symbol of victory (cf. F.Cumont, *Recherches sur le symbolisme funéraire des Romains*, Paris 1942, 481, n.1). In the lower right corner is a knot or fillet (4.7 x 7.5 cm.), similar to the one that appears at the bottom of the tombstone of the discharged sailor C. Anarius Felix (I A.D.; cf. M.Bollini, *Antichità Classiarie*, Ravenna 1968, 140-141, fig.39 and n.645).

D . M		Taf.V
IV . LIO . E .		
RO . TI . VIX .		
4 AN . NIS . VI .		
T . F . GI . ME .		
L . LVS . MIL .		
CL . PR . MIS .		
8 B . M . FECIT		

D(is) M(anibus). Iulio Eroti, vix(it) annis VI, T(itus) F(lavius) Gimellus [sic], mil(es) cl(assis) pr(aetoriae) Mis(enensis), b(ene) m(erenti) fecit.

5. Flavius abbreviated as FL or F may be as early as the second half of the IInd century A.D., but most occurrences are IIIrd century (Thylander, *Étude sur l'épigraphie Latine*, Lund 1952, 52-3).

5-6. Gimellus for Gemellus. Most sailors of the Misenum fleet came from the Greek-speaking East and were given the Roman tria nomina upon enlistment (H.Thylander, *op.cit.*, 170-177).

7. See no.3, note to line 3, above.

5-6. Two Alumnae Inscriptions

The following two inscriptions are epitaphs of alumnae. The alumna in no. 5, Caecilia Ianuaria, takes her nomen from her foster-father, and her cognomen from her foster-mother. (It is rare for an alumnus/a to take a cognomen from either foster-parent; only 2.8% of all alumni do so: see B.Rawson, "Children in the Roman Familia", in B.Rawson, ed., *The Family in Ancient Rome: New Perspectives*, London and Ithaca, N.Y.1986, 184.) Aphrodite, in no.6, has a simple Greek slave-type name. (The categories of alumnae and alumni names are listed in G.N.Olcott, *Thesaurus Linguae Latinae Epigraphicae I*, Rome 1904, 262-4 and 265-8, respectively.)

5. Col. Inv. 411. prov. unknown.

Marble. 29 x 18.5 cm. (max.). Rectangular stone, rounded at the top, originally with two knobs projecting up c. 1.5 cm. on either side; the left one now broken off. The stone is now in three pieces, with horizontal and vertical cracks through line 8, but restored. It is broken off at the bottom, and the whole encased in a plaster and wood frame.

An incised border runs 0.7 cm. from the sides and (rounded) top, and 5.2 cm. (max.) from the preserved bottom. Letter heights are erratic, within 1.0-2.7 cm., generally decreasing in height except for the last line. Within the same line, individual letters are sometimes taller than others, but randomly. Guidelines are visible above and beneath the letters; letters sometimes exceed them in height, and sometimes additional guidelines run through letters near their bottoms.

D . M.
 CAECILIAE
 IANVARIAE
 4 VIX . AN . VIII
 M . X . FECI . M .
 CAECILIUS .
 MESSALA . ET .
 8 GARGILIA . IANV
 ARIA . ALUMN
 AE SVE

Taf.V

D(is) M(anibus). Caeciliae Ianuariae, vix(it) an(nis) VIII, m(ensibus) X, feci(t) [sic] M(arcus) Caecilius Messala et Gargilia Ianuaria alumnae su(a)e.

10. AE is centered; cf. no.3, note to lines 5-6, above.

6. Col. Inv. 405. prov. unknown.

Marble. 48.2 x 31.7 x 2.5-4.1 cm. Now warped in middle, so as to be concave. Otherwise well preserved, except for discoloring of the stone; its edges are intact. Inscribed within an incised rectangular border, 4.5 cm. in width, which is cut 1.8 cm. (average) from the outer edge of the stone. Faded traces of red paint survive in the border, letters and interpuncts. The lines are centered, but approach close to the right border. Letter heights decrease from 2.7 cm. (line 1), 3.0-3.2 cm. (line 2), to 2.5-6 (line 5), and 1.5-1.6 (line 8).

D . M	Taf.VI
SAMIARIAE	
CHRYSOGONE	
4 VXORIKARISSIM	
CORNELIVS . PHILO	
MARITVS . ET . CHRYSOGO	
NVS . FILIVS . ITEM . APHRO	
8 DITE ALVMNAE	

D(is) M(anibus). Samiariae Chrysogone, uxori karissim(ae), Cornelius Philo maritus et Chrysogonus filius, item Aphrodite alumnae (fecerunt).

Upon the death of the alumna, Aphrodite, her name was added to the inscription. The IT of ITEM form an awkward ligature. The I is the same height as the preceding letters, but the T is taller, as are the letters following it.

The line-spacing deteriorates after line 5. The space between lines 6-7 maintains that between lines 5-6, but lines 7 and 8 are tightly spaced, even though there is a substantial blank space after the inscription. The letter E contains serifs in lines 1-5, but none in lines 6-8, beginning with ET.

4. karissim(ae): "The incidence of k in this word has not been thoroughly investigated, but first-century examples are certainly very few." (W.V. Harris, ZPE 27, 1977, 287.)

7-9. Three Epitaphs

7. Col. Inv. 417. prov. unknown.

Marble. 50.5 x 32.5 x 6.5 cm. A gap in most of the upper part of the stone has obliterated all but the lower left serif of the D of D.M. The bottom of the stone is broken off. Below the final line of text, the marble has not been smoothed; in this rough section, there is evidence of the letters T, V, and N having been scratched (after a one-letter space from the left margin). The inscription is framed by a raised border (5 cm. from the top, 3.0 cm. wide left and right). From the top of line 2 to the preserved

bottom of the stone, an inscribed line and a groove run within the raised border. The top of this line is connected to the edge of the raised border by a line drawn at a right angle. Letters are well formed, deeply cut, c. 3.5 cm. high; the interpuncts are long, comma-shaped. Guidelines occur above and below the letters.

Taf.VI

D [. M]
 L PVBLICIVS
 EPITYNCHANVS
 4 PERENNIO
 FILIO . DVLC
 ISSIMO . VIX
 AN . VIII . ET . SVIS
 8 FEC

D(is) M(anibus). L(ucius) Publicius Epitynchanus Perennio, filio dulcissimo, vix(it) an(nis) VIII, et suis fec(it).

4. The name Perennius is rather rare; at Rome, it occurs as a slave name (CIL VI 23927), and twice as a nomen (CIL VI 23926(a) and 23926 (Perenius)).

8. Col. Inv. 409. prov. unknown.

27.9 x 28.5 x 3.5 cm. The right edge is intact, but the left is broken off, and the upper and lower edges are damaged. Letters are crudely formed, with heights of 3.4 cm. consistently in lines 1-5, but then become progressively smaller and more crowded in the final three lines.

Taf.VII

. D .. M .
 SILICIANVS
 QVI VIXIT .
 4 ANNIS . LXVIII
 MENSES . III . D . XI
 FECIT . HILARITAS .
 COIVGI . SVO BENE . MEREN
 TI

D(is) M(anibus). Silicianus, qui vixit annis LXVIII, menses [sic] III, d(iebus) XI. Fecit Hilaritas co(n)iugi suo bene merenti.

2. The cognomen Silicianus is not attested at Rome. I.Kajanto (The Latin Cognomina, Helsinki 1965, p.155) knew only five occurrences of the name; three are from Africa.

9. Col. Inv. 402. prov. unknown.

Marble. 41 x 25 x 3.5 cm. Letter heights decrease from 2 to 1.6 cm. Guidelines are slightly visible. Qs have very long tails (1.4 cm.).

D . M
 SEX . CORNELIVS . FIRMVS
 FECIT . CORNELIAE . ONESIME
 4 LIBERTAE . ET COIVGI . B . M . ET
 SIBI . ET . C . SVTORIO . PRIMO .
 LIBERTIS . LIBERTABVSQUEPO
 STERISQUE . EORVM

Taf.VII

D(is) M(anibus). Sex(tus) Cornelius Firmus fecit Corneliae Onesim(a)e,
 libertae et co(n)iugi b(ene) m(erenti), et sibi et C(aio) Sutorio Primo,
 libertis libertabusque posterisque eorum.

The first two letters of po/sterisque are awkwardly squeezed onto line
 6, even though line 7 is noticeably shorter than the rest. The stone-cutter
 may have thought that he was running out of space.

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