

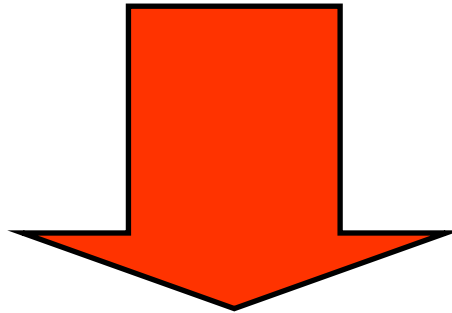
Roman Epigraphy Masterclass

prof. Lorenzo Calvelli - Ca' Foscari University of Venice

lorenzoc@unive.it

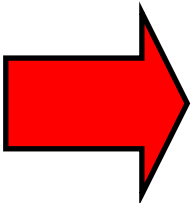


epigraphy



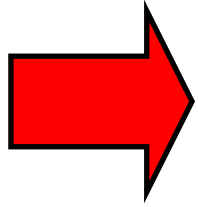
science that studies written documents which are
inscribed on different supports

- material (stone, metal, ceramics, glass etc.)
- form (all sorts of monuments and daily objects,
non-movable items such as rocks etc.)



S. Panciera, *What is an Inscription? Problems of Definition and Identity of an Historical Source*, "Zeitschrift für Papyrologie und Epigraphik" 183, 2012, pp. 1-10

inscription = «any particular type of written human communication of the sort that we would today call unidirectional, in the sense that it does not anticipate that a response will be provided to the sender»



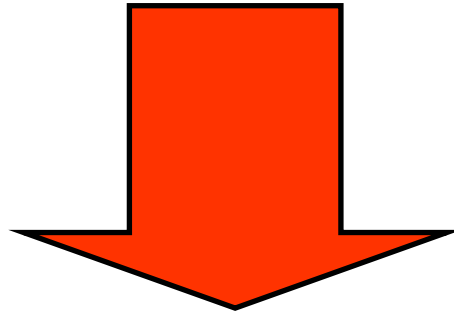
epigraphy is the science that studies
communication through written media

Some concepts developed from Michel Foucault's
philosophical thought

- epigraphic 'situations'
- epigraphic 'devices' (*dispositifs*)

M. Lamé, G. Sarullo et alii, *Technology & Tradition: A Synergic Approach to Deciphering, Analyzing and Annotating Epigraphic Writings*, «Lexis» 33, 2015, pp. 9-30.

digital epigraphy



the use of digital tools and
technologies to investigate writing
systems produced by human societies



MNAMON

ANCIENT WRITING SYSTEMS IN THE MEDITERRANEAN

A CRITICAL GUIDE TO ELECTRONIC RESOURCES

ITALIANO

ENGLISH

FRANÇAIS



Ancient Writing Systems ▾

News

Seminars

Project



Writing Systems (A-Z)

Geographic Index

Place Index

Languages (A-Z)

Origins, materials and techniques

Glossary



WRITING SYSTEMS (A-Z)

List of the writing systems in alphabetical order.

<https://mnamon.sns.it>



I N S C R I B E

INVENTION OF SCRIPTS
AND THEIR BEGINNINGS



European Research Council
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ABOUT

We investigate one of the greatest inventions in history

WRITING

INSCRIBE is a 5-year project funded by the European Commission under the ERC Consolidator grant program (2018-2023) composed by a strongly interdisciplinary team of researchers. INSCRIBE examines the factors that made the invention of writing possible, when this was done as an original creation, in different parts of the world. This question has never been approached through a comparative perspective that includes writing systems that we can read, but those whose languages are still unknown.

<https://site.unibo.it/inscribe>

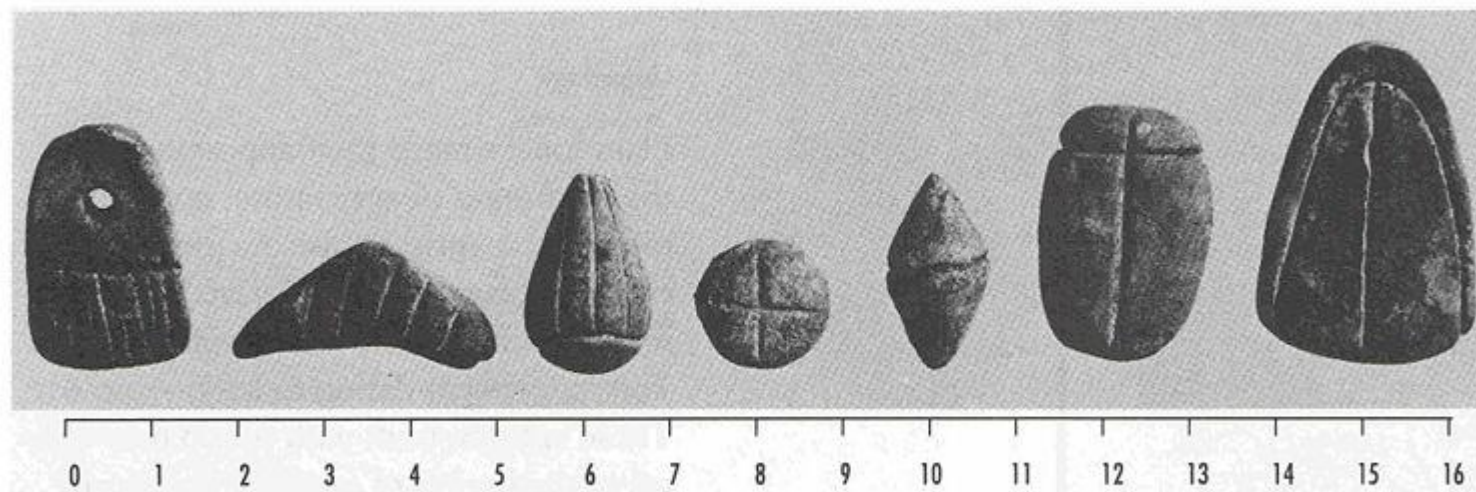
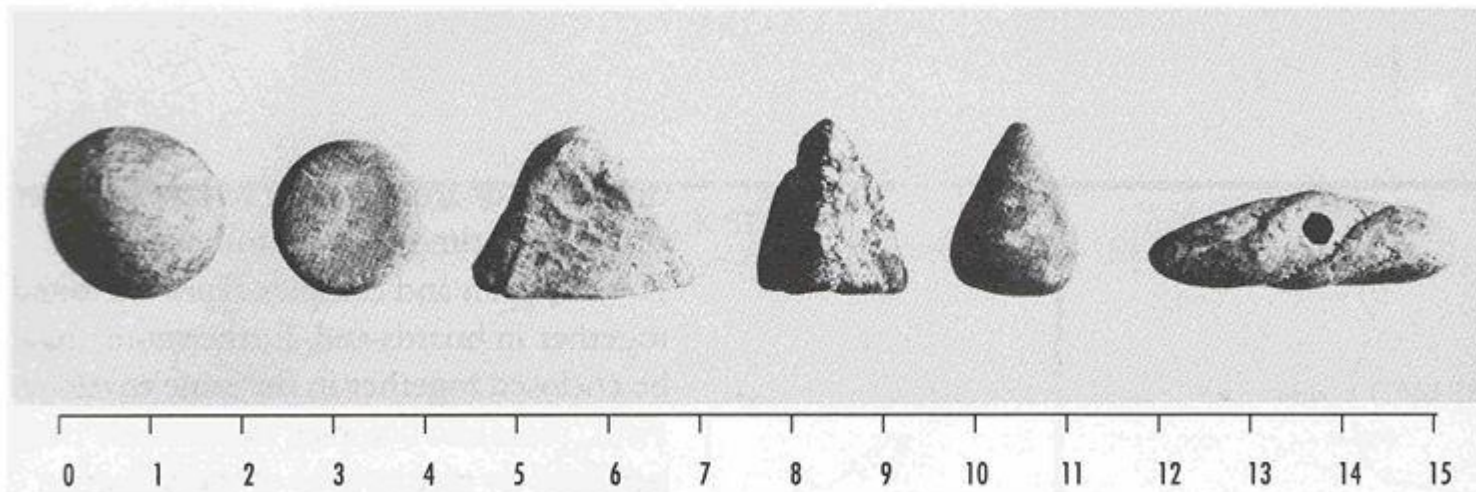


THE
GREATEST
INVENTION

A HISTORY OF THE
WORLD IN NINE
MYSTERIOUS SCRIPTS

SILVIA FERRARA

Plain and complex tokens



The evolution of writing



pictograms



ideograms



phonograms



PICTOGRAM



IDEOGRAM

HEART

PHONOGRAM

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[CDLI WIKI](#)

[PUBLICATIONS](#)

[COLLECTIONS](#)

[SUPPORT CDLI](#)



QUICK SEARCH

Publication

Collection no.

Provenience

Period

Transliteration

CDLI no.

SEARCH

[FULL SEARCH >>](#)



NEWS IN THE CDLI

- Time to test the cdli development site!
- Memorial video in honor of CDLI founder Robert K. Englund
- CDLI Newsletter 2021/2: October 2021
- CDLI Newsletter 2021/1: January 2021
- CDLI Newsletter 2020/1: June 2020
- Obituary for Robert K. Englund
- The National Museum of Iran Cuneiform Collection joins CDLI
- CDLI selected to participate in Google's 2018 Summer of Code program
- "cdli tablet" joins the Android family
- CDLI website encrypted to ensure user privacy
- CDLI core update

RELATED PROJECTS

- Mesopotamian Royal Inscriptions
- Mesopotamian Seals
- Nimrud NW Palace
- Machine Translation and Automated Analysis of Cuneiform Languages (MTAAC)
- Oracc: website; github
- ePSD
- Electronic Text Corpus of Sumerian Literature
- Database of Neo-Sumerian Texts
- The Ancient World Online
- KeiBi online
- Electronic Tools and Ancient Near Eastern Archives
- Hethitologie Portal Mainz
- CultureMATH

TOOLS & RESOURCES

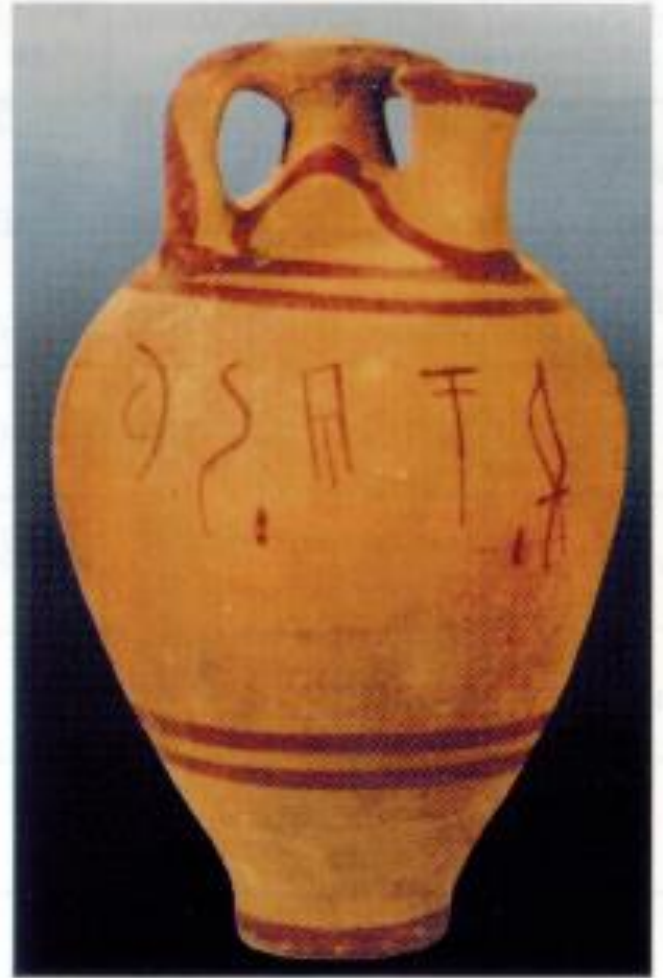
- CDLI user information
- Download CDLI files
- List of abbreviations
- Who's who in earlier cuneiform studies?
- Sign lists
- Preferred sign readings
- Oracc sign list
- CDLI scores
- Digitization and processing guidelines
- Mesopotamian year names
- Ur III month names
- Gelb library
- cdli tablet
- Utilities



Egyptian hieroglyphs



Linear A



Linear B

Phoenician	Phoenician name	Modern symbol	Early Greek	Classical Greek	Greek name	Early Latin	Classical Latin
𐤀	'aleph	'	Α	Α	alpha	Α	A
𐤁	beth	b	Β	Β	beta		B
𐤂	gimel	g	Γ	Γ	gamma		C
𐤃	daleth	d	Δ	Δ	delta	Ο	D
𐤄	he	h	Ε	Ε	epsilon	Ϝ	E
𐤅	waw	w	Ϝ		digamma	ϝ	F
𐤆	zayin	z	Ζ	Ζ	zeta		G
𐤇	het	h	Η	Η	eta	Ϟ	H
𐤈	teth	t	Θ	Θ	theta		I
𐤉	yod	y	Ι	Ι	iota	Ι	I (J)
𐤊	kaph	k	Κ	Κ	kappa	Ϙ	K
𐤋	lamed	l	Λ	Λ	lambda		L
𐤌	mem	m	Μ	Μ	mu	Ϡ	M
𐤍	nun	n	Ν	Ν	nu	ϡ	N
𐤎	samek	s			xi		
𐤏	ayin	'	Ο	Ο	omicron	Ο	O
𐤐	pe	p	Π	Π	pi		P
𐤑	sade	s			san		
𐤒	qoph	o	Ρ	Ρ	qoppa		Q
𐤓	resh	r	Σ	Σ	rho		R
𐤔	sin	sh/s	Τ	Τ	sigma	Ϛ	S
𐤕	taw	t	Χ	Υ	tau	Ϝ	T
				Χ	upsilon	Ϟ	V
				Ω	chi		X
					omega		Y
							Z

**Alphabetic
writing:
Phoenician and
Greek**



⊗	⊖	ℓ	ʃ	ɛ	∩)	⊖	⊖
θ	h	z	v	e	d	g	b	a
[t ^h]	[h]	[ts]	[v]	[e]	[r/d]	[k]	[b]	[a]
M	ʃ	o	⊖	ʃ	ʃ	ʃ	ʃ	ʃ
ś	p	o	ɛ	n	m	l	k	i
[ʃ]	[p]	[o]	[s]	[n]	[m]	[l]	[k]	[i/j]
ψ	φ	x	γ	τ	ζ	ρ	ϙ	
ψ	φ	x	γ	τ	ς	ρ	ϙ	
[k ^h]	[p ^h]	[z]	[u/w]	[t]	[s]	[r]	[q]	

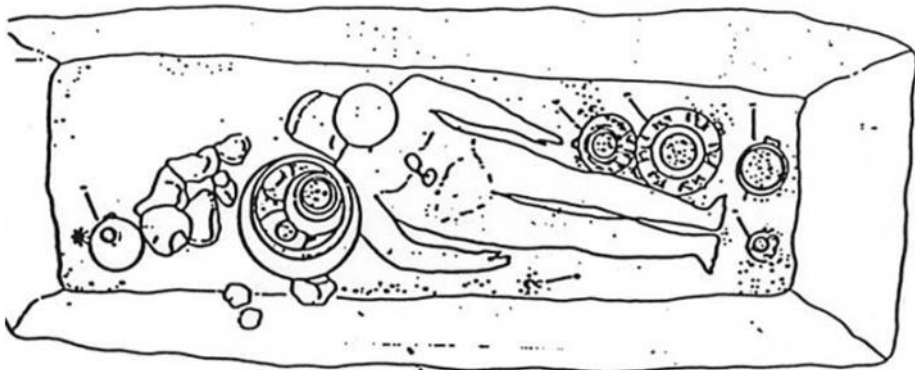
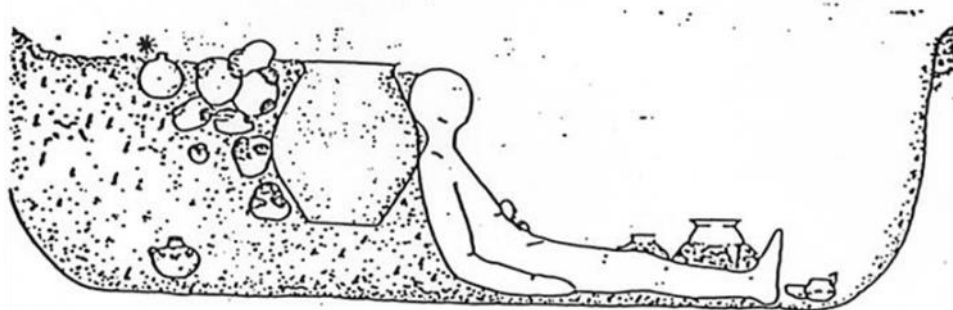
The Etruscan civilization and alphabet

The beginnings of writing in Italy:

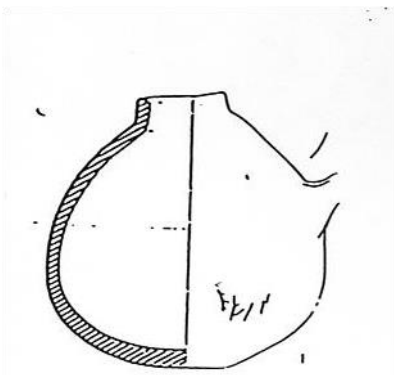
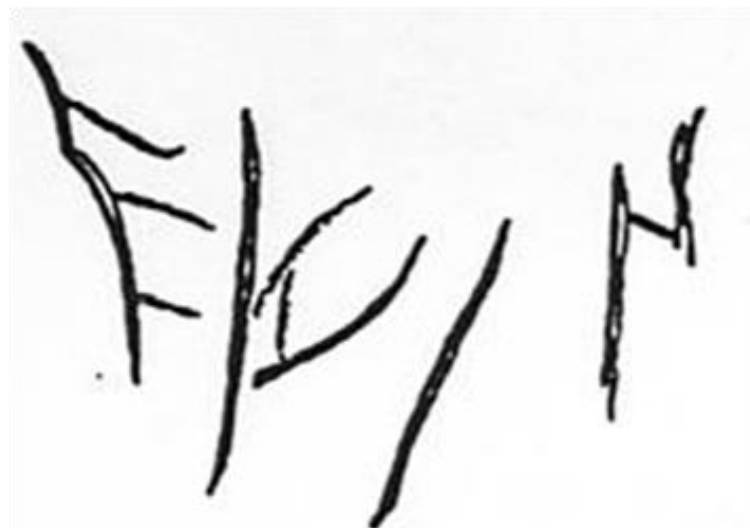
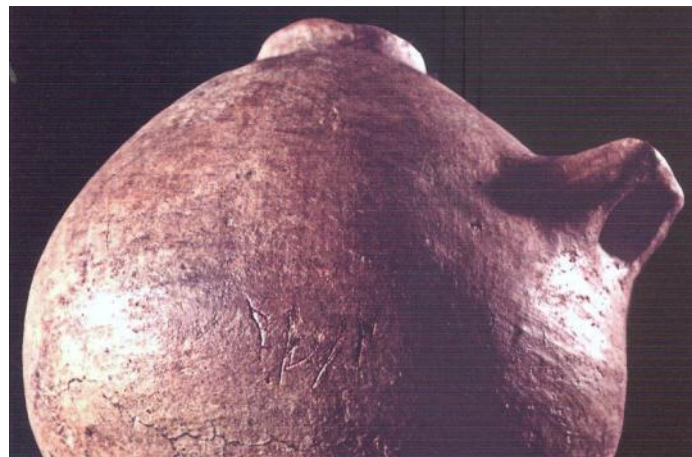
8th century BCE



The oldest inscribed document from Italy



Osteria dell'Osa. Sezione e pianta ricostruttive della seconda fase di deposizione (inumazione 183 sollevata e appoggiata al dolio dell'incinerazione 182). 770 a. C. circa.



The role of *Gabii* in ancient literature

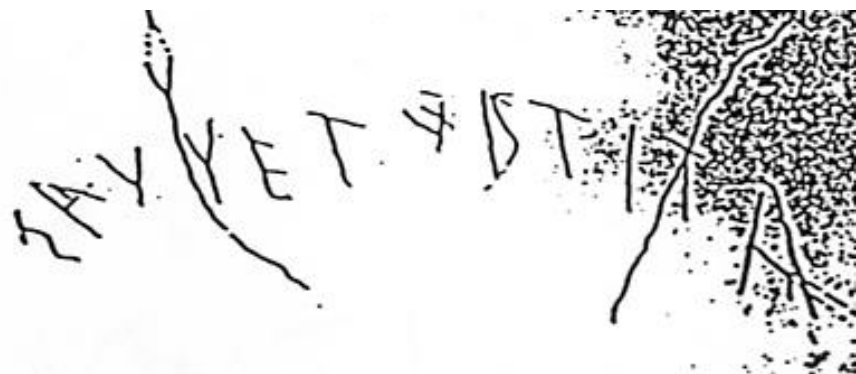
After the children [Romulus and Remus] were weaned, they were sent by those who were rearing them to Gabii, a town not far from the Palatine hill, to be instructed in Greek learning; and there they were brought up by some personal friends of Faustulus, being taught letters, music, and the use of Greek arms until they grew to manhood.

Dionysius of Halicarnassus, *Roman Antiquities*, 1, 84, 5

The oldest inscription in Latin

Salvetod Tita.

Greetings, Tita!



SALVETOD TITA

A high-contrast, black and white image showing a close-up of the inscription on the pottery fragment. The text 'SALVETOD TITA' is clearly visible, with the letters appearing as dark, slightly irregular shapes against a lighter, textured background. The fragment is broken, and the text is partially obscured by the jagged edges of the pottery.



1

Schedae numerus: EDR020776 **TM numerus:** [251974](#)**Regio antiqua:** LaC**Regio nostrae aetatis:** I**Urbs antiqua:** Gabii [TMGEO](#)**Urbs nostrae aetatis:** Roma, Pantano Borghese**Locus inventionis:** Roma, loc. Castiglione, necropoli dell'**Osteria dell'Osa**, tomba 115 (fase IV B), scavo a. 1977**Locus adservationis:** Roma, Museo Nazionale Romano - Terme di Diocleziano. Inv. 379929**Rerum inscriptarum distributio:** vas, mensa olla**Rei materia:** creta impasto rosso**Mensurae:** Alt.: 27.3 Lat.: ? Crass./Diam.: 30 litt. alt.: 1,2-1,8**Status tituli:** tit. integer**Scriptura:** litt. scariph.**Lingua:** latina**Religio:** Pagana**Titulorum distributio:** cetera**Virorum distributio:** cet.**Editiones:** Archeologia Laziale, 3 (Quad. Centro Stud. Arch. Etr. It., 4), Roma 1980, pp. 51-55, con fotografia e facsimile (G. Colonna) = G. Colonna, Italia ante romanum imperium. Scritti di antichità etrusche, italiche e romane AE 1991, 0396 (2)

A. De Santis in A.M. Bietti Sestieri (a cura di), La necropoli laziale di Osteria dell'Osa, Roma, 1992, p. 843, n. 115, 1, con fig. 3c.54 (3)

cfr. M. Kajava, Roman Female Praenomina. Studies in the Nomenclature of Roman Women, Roma 1994, p. 83 (4)

M. Hartmann, Die frülateinischen Inschriften und ihre Datierung, Bremen 2005, pp. 34-35, 2.1.12, con fotografie e facsimile (5)

cfr. P. Poccetti, in L'Umbro e le altre lingue dell'Italia mediana antica, Perugia 2009, p. 194 (uso dell'imperativo futuro) (6)

La grande Roma dei Tarquini (Atti del XVII Convegno Internazionale di Studi sulla Storia e l'Archeologia dell'Etruria), Roma 2010, pp. 374-376, 1.2.1 (A.L. Prodocimi) (7)

Terme di Diocleziano. La collezione epigrafica, Milano 2012, pp. 102-103, II,4 cum imagine photographica et alia bibliographia (D.F. Maras) (8)

cfr. Colons et colonies dans le monde romain, Rome 2012, p. 370 nt. 25 (S. Panciera) (9)

cfr. Bull. Inst. Class. Stud., 58-1, 2015, p. 15 (R. Janko) (10)

cfr. M. Muscariello, in Genres épigraphiques et langages d'attestation fragmentaire dans l'espace méditerranéen, Rouen 2015, p. 52 con facsimile a fig. 2 (aspetti grafici e linguistici) (11)

A. Morandi, Epigrafia Italica 2, Roma 2017, p. 82 nr. 71 (12)

Textus:

Salvetod Tita.

[Mostra Correzioni/Normalizzazioni](#)**Apparatus:** Textus secundum (1)-(8), (10)-(11); contulit ad imaginem D. Nonnis (a. 2015)

Iscrizione graffita (da sinistra verso destra, in scriptio continua) sulla fascia inferiore di un'olla d'impasto rosso, pertinente al corredo della tomba 115 di Osteria dell'Osa.

Una cronologia più risalente (ca. 670 a.C.) è proposta da (10).

Tempus: 630 a.C. / 600 a.C. (lingua; archaeologia; palaeographia)**Schedae scriptor:** DAVID NONNIS (GIOVANNA DI GIACOMO / DAVID NO) **Tempus schedae:** 16-02-2016 (14-08-2020)

The *fibula Praenestina*



MANIOS MED FHEFHAKED NUMASIOI

Manios med fhefhaked Numasioi.
= *Manius me fecit Numerio.*

Schedae numerus: EDR111721 **TM numerus:** 256173

Regio antiqua: LaC

Regio nostrae aetatis: I

Urbs antiqua: Praeneste **TMGEO**

Urbs nostrae aetatis: Palestrina (Roma)

Locus inventionis: Palestrina (Roma), voc. San Rocco, tomba Bernardini (?) (a. 1876)

Locus adservationis: Roma, Museo Nazionale Preistorico Etnografico L. Pigorini. Inv. 152294

Rerum inscriptarum distributio: monile, fibula

Rei materia: aurum

Mensurae: Alt.: 2.5 Lat.: 10.7 Crass./Diam.: ? litt. alt.: 0.13-0,4

Status tituli: tit. integer

Scriptura: caelo

Lingua: latina

Religio: Pagana

Titulorum distributio: cetera, donum

Virorum distributio: cet.

Editiones: CIL 14, 04123, con facsimile (1)

ILS 8561 (2)

CIL 01 (2 ed.), 0003 (3), cfr. pp. 717 (4), 855 (cum alia bibliographia) (5)

ILLRP 0001 (6)

Daidalos, 5, 2004, pp. 1-34 (M. Mancini), con ampia bibliografia (7)

SupplIt Images - Latium 01, 0800, cum alia bibliographia (8)

A. Franchi de Bellis, La fibula di Numasio e la coppa dei Veturii (Quad. Ist. Ling. Univ. Urbino, 12), Alessandria 2007, pp. 68-123, con fotografie (tavv. I-II) e ampia bibliografia precedente (9)

Wolfgang Helbig e la scienza dell'antichità del suo tempo, Roma 2011, pp. 181-215, cum imagine photographica (A. Franchi De Bellis) (10)

Wolfgang Helbig e la scienza dell'antichità del suo tempo, Roma 2011, pp. 217-227 (H. Solin) (sulla storia degli studi e sul problema dell'autenticità) (11)

cfr. Wolfgang Helbig e la scienza dell'antichità del suo tempo, Roma 2011, pp. 229-235 (C. De Simone) (sugli aspetti linguistici) (12)

Oltre Roma. Nei Colli Albani e Prenestini al tempo del Grand Tour, Roma 2012, pp. 368-370, P. 2.36 c con fotografia (E. Mangani) (13)

Terme di Diocleziano. La collezione epigrafica, Milano 2012, pp. 92-94, II,1 cum imagine photographica (P. Poccetti) (14)

Bollettino di Paletnologia Italiana, 99, 2011-2014, pp. 1-41 (E. Mangani) (15)

cfr. Bollettino di Paletnologia Italiana, 99, 2011-2014, pp. 43-72 (D. Ferri - E. Formigli) (analisi archeometriche) (16)

cfr. Bollettino di Paletnologia Italiana, 99, 2011-2014, pp. 43-72 (M. Buonocore) (storia degli studi) (17)

cfr. Bollettino di Paletnologia Italiana, 99, 2011-2014, pp. 83-93 (G.L. Carancini) (aspetti tipologici della fibula) (18)

Bollettino di Paletnologia Italiana, 99, 2011-2014, pp. 95-100 (G. Colonna) (19)

cfr. Bollettino di Paletnologia Italiana, 99, 2011-2014, pp. 101-102 (C. De Simone) (20)

cfr. Bollettino di Paletnologia Italiana, 99, 2011-2014, pp. 103-112 (A. Franchi de Bellis) (21)

Bollettino di Paletnologia Italiana, 99, 2011-2014, pp. 113-122 (D.F. Maras) (22)

cfr. Bollettino di Paletnologia Italiana, 99, 2011-2014, pp. 123-146 (P. Poccetti) (storia degli studi e analisi linguistica) (23)

cfr. Bollettino di Paletnologia Italiana, 99, 2011-2014, pp. 147-153 (M. Sannibale) (24)

cfr. Aurum. Funzioni e simbologie dell'oro nelle culture del Mediterraneo antico, Roma 2014, pp. 364-372 (P. Poccetti) (interpretazione del testo) (25)

Epigraphica, 77, 2015, pp. 85-101 (M. Limón Belén) (sull'autenticità della fibula) (26)

cfr. Omnia mutantur, II, Barcelona 2016, pp. 29-38 (I. Adiego Lajara) (sull'autenticità della fibula e della sua iscrizione) (27)

A. Morandi, Epigrafia Italica 2, Roma 2017, pp. 77-78 nr. 62, cum imaginibus photographicis (Tav. XIII,2-3) et apographo (28)

Rivista Italiana di Linguistica e di Dialettologia, 22, 2020, pp. 9-46 (B.M. Prosper) (29)

Journal of Latin Linguistics, 20,1, 2021, pp. 75-108 (M. Mancini) (30)

Textus:

Manios med vhevvhaked Numasioi.

Mostra Correzioni/Normalizzazioni

Apparatus: Textus secundum (1)-(10) e (14)-(15) e (20); contulit ad imaginem D. Nonnis a. 2011.

Iscrizione incisa, da destra verso sinistra, sulla staffa

interpunzione tra le parole resa mediante coppia di punti (:); interpunzione sillabica (resa mediante fila di tre punti) in vhe.vhaked (sillaba raddoppiata).

Per l'ipotesi di una redazione originaria del testo incisa sulla staffa (Manios med vhe:vhe:ked), con forma verbale forse derivante da diplografia cfr. (22)

Tempus: 670 a.C. / 630 a.C. (archaeologia; lingua; palaeographia)

Schedae scriptor: David NONNIS **Tempus schedae:** 02-01-2013 (07-11-2021)



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 > A K P O S S A
 E D S O B D

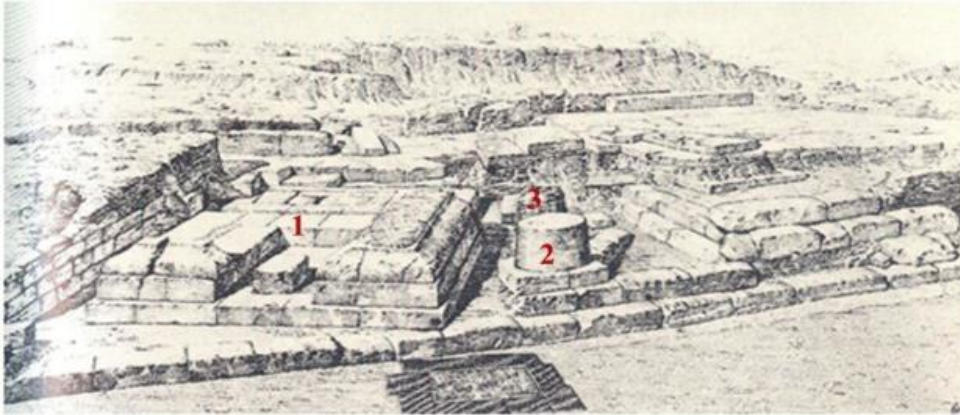
 > A T A S
 P E C R I I I C
 M A Y E
 ϕ Y O S I B L

 O T A V A K I W
 P E M I B A D
 N E M X Y O I D O I
 T A K A I A D I P H I A T

 W I T E P I V
 A B I O Y O V
 Y E L O D M E P I
 I O D I O Y A S T O D

 L O K P O V I O D P O

**The so-called
*Lapis niger***



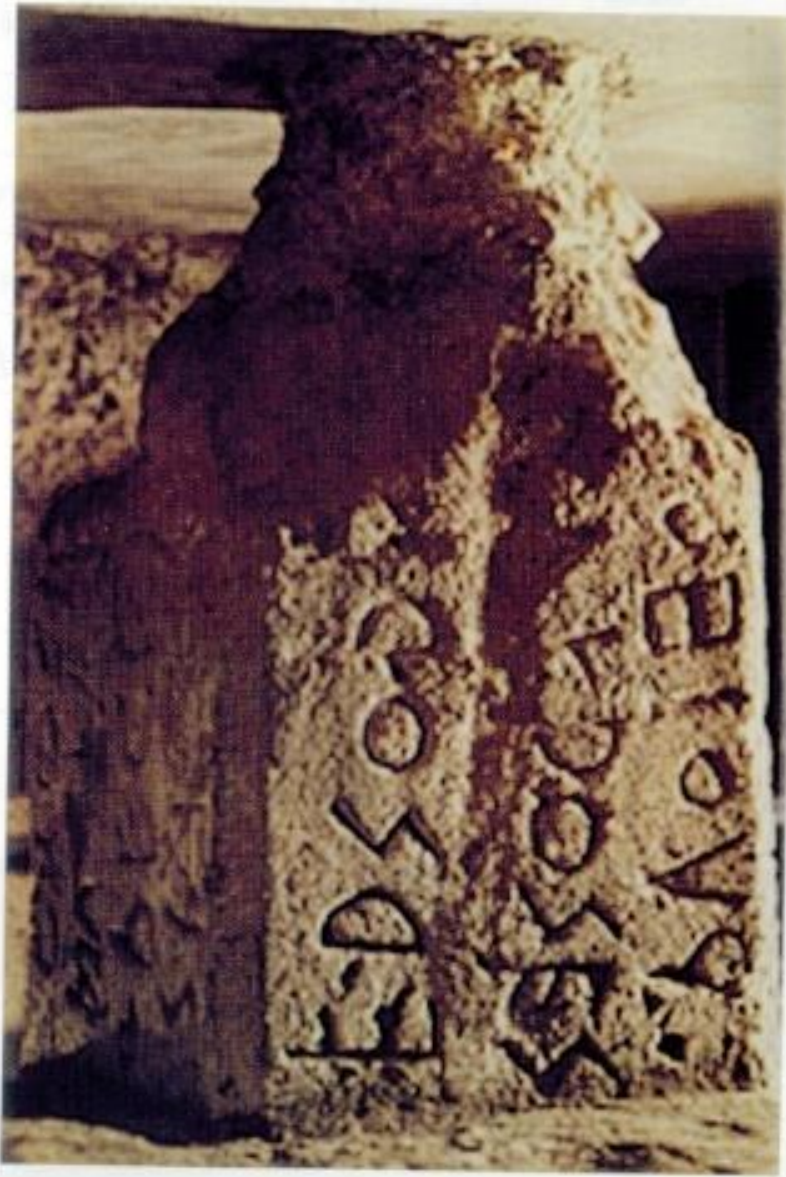


Fig. 10 *Lapis niger*, cippo del Foro di Roma, recante una delle più antiche iscrizioni latine.

The so-called
Lapis niger

*Quoi hou[ke stloqom
violased Manibos s]akros
esed*

*Qui hunc locum violaverit
Manibus sacer sit*

Schedae numerus: EDR071720 **TM numerus:** [263149](#)

Regio antiqua: Roma

Regio nostrae aetatis: I

Urbs antiqua: Roma [TMGEO](#)

Urbs nostrae aetatis: Roma

Locus inventionis: Roma, Foro Romano, area del Comitium, complesso sacro coperto dal Lapis Niger

Locus adservationis: Roma, Foro Romano, area del Comitium, complesso sacro coperto dal Lapis Niger

Rerum inscriptarum distributio: cippus

Rei materia: lapis tophus

Mensurae: Alt.: 90 Lat.: 47.9 Crass./Diam.: 52 litt. alt.: 3,5-12,4

Status tituli: tit. fragmentum

Scriptura: scalpro

Lingua: latina

Religio: Pagana

Titulorum distributio: fasti, leges, acta

Virorum distributio: reges, viri notab. exter. gent.; offic. magg., Augg., mun.?

Editiones: CIL 06, 36840 (1)

CIL 01 (2 ed.), 0001 (2), cfr. pp. 717 (3), 739 (4), 831 (5), 853-854 (6)

ILS 4913 (7)

ILLRP 0003 (8)

Degrassi, *Imagines*, 0378a-d (9)

A.E. Gordon, *Illustrated Introduction to Latin Epigraphy*, Berkeley-Los Angeles - London 1983, pp. 78-80, nr. 4, con bibliografia e foto (Pl. 3) (10)

F. Coarelli, *Il Foro Romano. I. Il periodo arcaico*, Roma 1983, pp. 178-188 (11)

R. Wachter, *Altlateinische Inschriften. Sprachlichen und epigraphischen Untersuchungen zu den Dokumenten bis etwa 150 v.Chr.*, Bern 1987, pp. 66-69, §25-26 (12)

La grande Roma dei Tarquini (catalogo della mostra), Roma 1990, pp. 58-59, 3.13, con facsimile (M. Cristofani) (13)

Cfr. P. Carafa, *Il comizio di Roma dalle origini all'età di Augusto*, Roma 1998, pp. 128-131 (14)

Stud. Rom., 49, 2001, pp. 6-14, nr. 1, con foto, facsimili e disegni ricostruttivi (Tavv. I-V) (A. Morandi) (15)

O. Licandro, *Il diritto inciso. Lineamenti di epigrafia giuridica romana*, Catania 2002, pp. 108-117 (16)

Cfr. *Acme*, 58, fasc. 3, 2005, pp. 79-106 (A. Porretta) - AE 2005 (17)

AE 2005, 0195 (18)

M. Hartmann, *Die frühlateinischen Inschriften und ihre Datierung*, Bremen 2005, pp. 122-130 (2.2.5), 192-197 (3.1.4), 211-212 (3.2.1), 217-218 (3.3.2.), 252-256 (3.4.2.6), con foto, facsimili, ricostruzione grafica e ampia bibliografia (19)

La grande Roma dei Tarquini (Atti del XVII Convegno Internazionale di Studi sulla Storia e l'Archeologia dell'Etruria), Roma 2010, pp. 387-397, §2, con ricostruzione grafica (Tav. 3) (A.L. Prodocimi) (20)

cfr. *AION* (ling.), 30, 2008 [2010], pp. 235-237 (M. Mancini) (21)

Alessandria, 5, 2011, pp. 439-451 (G. Sarullo) (22) (riesame critico della storia degli studi)

Terme di Diocleziano. La collezione epigrafica, Milano 2012, pp. 95-99, nr. II,2, con foto (F. Coarelli) (23)

[HD016204](#) (B. Ruck) (24)

cfr. *Genres épigraphiques et langues d'attestation fragmentaire dans l'espace méditerranéen* (Cahiers d'ERAC, 9), Rouen 2015, pp. 69-72, con facsimili (G. Sarullo) (25)

cfr. *Incontri Linguistici*, 38, 2015, pp. 139-157 (G. Rocca) (sull'incipit dell'iscrizione) (26)

Index, 44, 2016, pp. 73-90 (E. Tassi Scandone) (27)

A. Morandi, *Epigrafia Italica 2*, Roma 2017, pp. 70-74 nr. 60, con foto (Tav. XI, 1-3), apografi (fig. 16) e ricostruzione grafica del monumento (fig. 15) (28)

Med. Ant., 21, 2018, pp. 634-635 (E. Bianchi) (29)

O. Licandro, *Ius scriptum. Lineamenti di Epigrafia e Papirologia*, Rome - Bristol 2020, pp. 152-161 (30)

<http://www.epigraphica-romana.fr/notice/detail?notice=22357> (31)

Center for Epigraphical and Paleographical Studies - Ohio State University; <https://kb.osu.edu/handle/1811/99479> (con foto) (32)

Textus:

Textus:

<:in latere A>
 Quoi hon[---]
 [---] sakros es=
 ed sord[---]

<:in latere B>
 [---]sa+ias
 recei io[---]
 [---]evam
 quos re[---]

<:in latere C>
 [---]m kalato=
 rem ha+[---]
 [---]tod iouxmen=
 ta kapia dotav[---]

<:in latere D>
 miteri +[---]
 [---]m quoi ha=
 velod nequ[---]
 [---]tod iovestod

<:in latere E>
 loiquiod qo[---].

Apparatus: Textus secundum (15) et (23), contulit, ut potuit, ad imagines photographicas et ad apographos Nonnis a. 2015.

De loco inventionis cfr. [EDR140721](#).

Un calco del cippo è esposto nel Museo Nazionale Romano - Terme di Diocleziano. (23)

Cippo di forma parallelepipedica a pianta poligonale.

Misure: 47 x 52 (parte bassa), 43 x 45 parte alta, alt. conservata 90 (15).

Inscrizione incisa sulle diverse facce del cippo (A-E), con righe disposte in verticale, alternativamente dal basso verso l'alto e viceversa (ad eccezione della 1

Interpunzione circolare ad incavo (in genere terna di punti disposti in verticale): cfr. Misc. Gr. Rom. 18, 1994, p. 131 (R. Zucca).

Tempus: 580 a.C. / 551 a.C. (archaeologia; palaeographia; lingua)

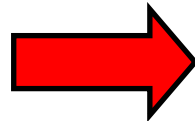
Schedae scriptor: DAVID2 NONNIS (RUCK) **Tempus schedae:** 02-07-2019 (04-12-2022)

Valore fonetico	Modello greco occid.	Etrusco arcaico	Etrusco classico	Latino arcaico	Latino classico	Valore fonetico
a	A	A	A	A	A	a
b	B	B		[B]	B	b
g	<C	<C	>> [k]	> [k, g]	C [k]	k
d	ΔD	D		∅	D	d
e	Ƒ	F	Ƒ	Ƒ	E	e
v	F[F		Ƒ	F [f]	f
z	I	I	I ≠	[I]	[G]	g
h	⊞H	⊞	⊞H	⊞	H	h
r	⊕	⊕ ⊙	⊗ ⊙			-
i	I	I	I	I	I	i
k	K	K	χ	χ	K	k
l	↳	↳	∇	∇	L	l
m	∩	∩	∩	∩	M	m
n	∩	N	∩	∩	N	n
s		⊞				-
o	O	⊙ ⊙		O	O	o
p	Γ	P	1	1Γ	P	p
s		∩M	∩			-
k	Q	∅Q	∅∅	∅Q	Q	k
r	PR	P	∅Q	Q	R	r
s	ξξ	ξ	4}	ξξ	S	s
t	T	T	† [s?]	T	T	t
u	ΥV	ΥΥ	ΥVΥ	V	V	v
ks	X+	+		X	X	ks
ph	∅∅	∅	∅			-
kh	Υ↓	Υ	Υ↓			-
f			881			-
						ū
						i

The Latin alphabet

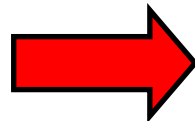
The figures of the epigraphic cultures of the Roman world

370.000



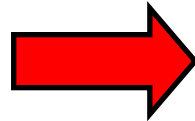
Latin inscriptions

50.000



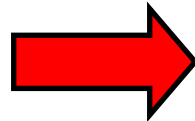
inscriptions in other
languages

c. 95% of texts



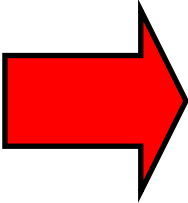
inscriptions on stone

c. 90% of texts

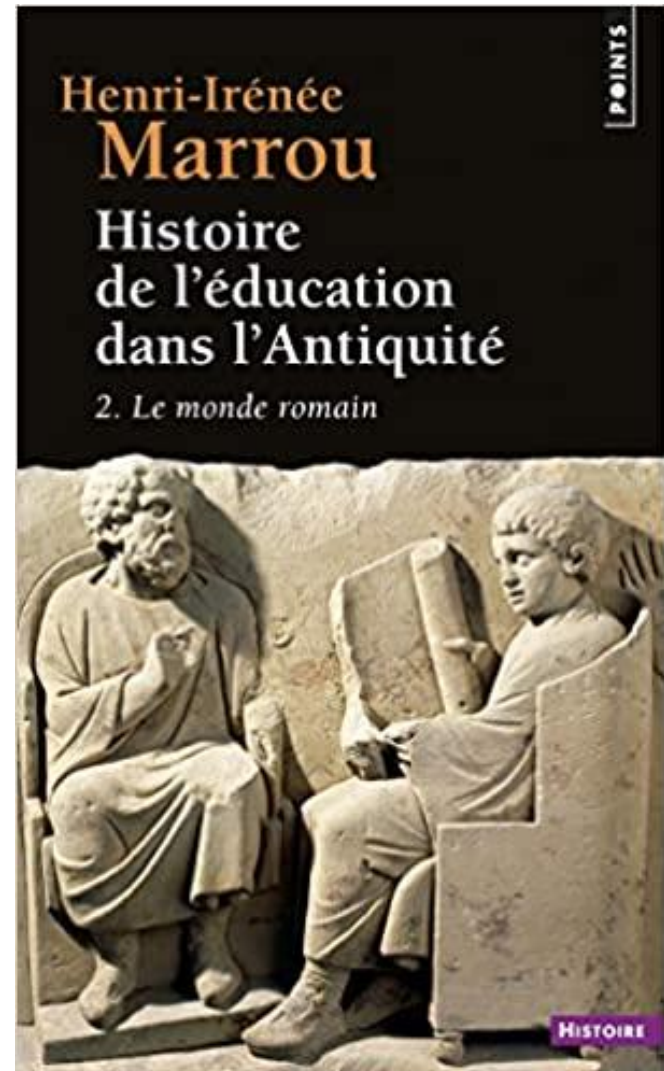


funerary inscriptions

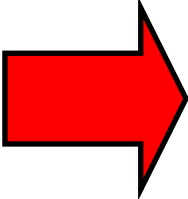
The scientific debate on literacy rates in the
Roman world: the traditional option



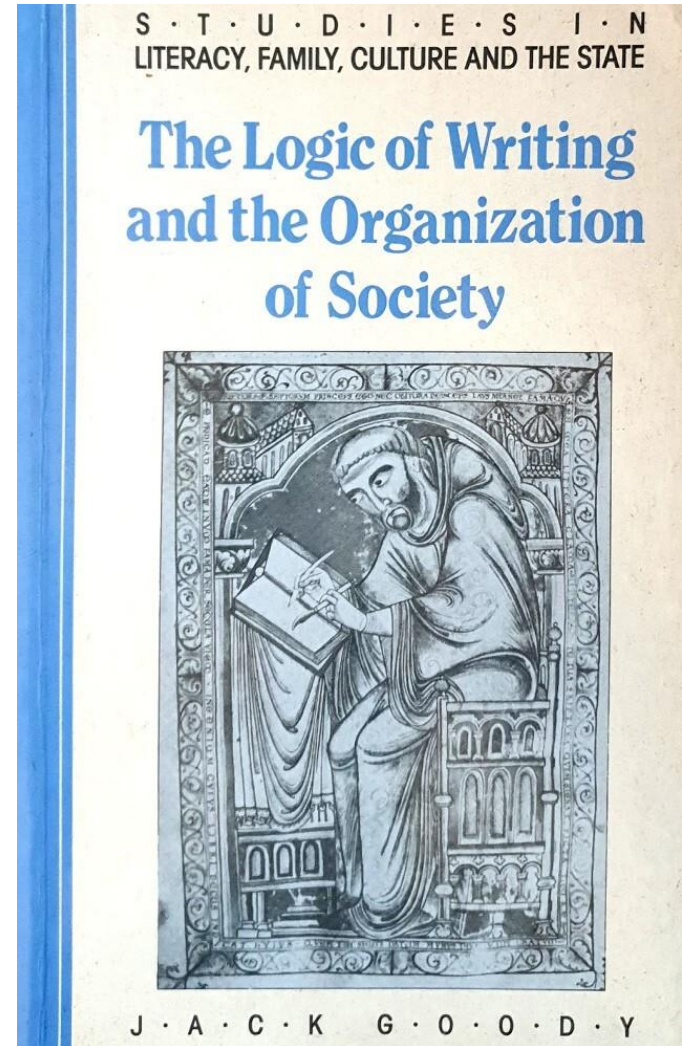
H.-I. Marrou, *Histoire de
l'éducation dans
l'antiquité*, Paris 1948



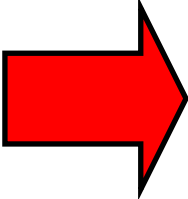
The scientific debate on literacy rates in the
Roman world: the anthropological approach



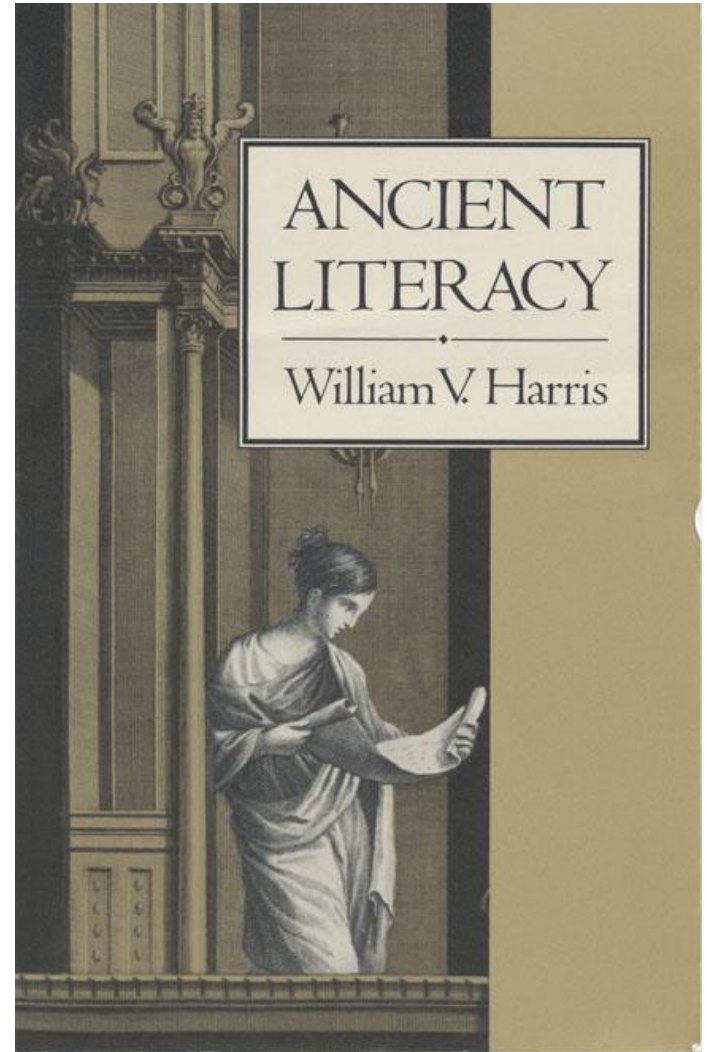
J. Goody, *The Logic of
Writing and the
Organization of Society*,
Cambridge 1986



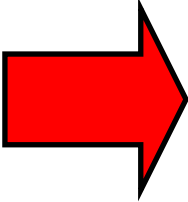
The scientific debate on literacy rates in the
Roman world: the minimalist option



W.V. Harris, *Ancient
Literacy*, Cambridge Mass.
- London 1989



The scientific debate on literacy rates in the
Roman world: more recent reactions



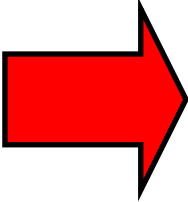
*Literacy in the Roman
World*, ed. J.H. Humphrey,
Ann Arbor 1991 (= Journal
of Roman Archaeology.
Supplementary Series, 3)

*Literacy
in the Roman world*

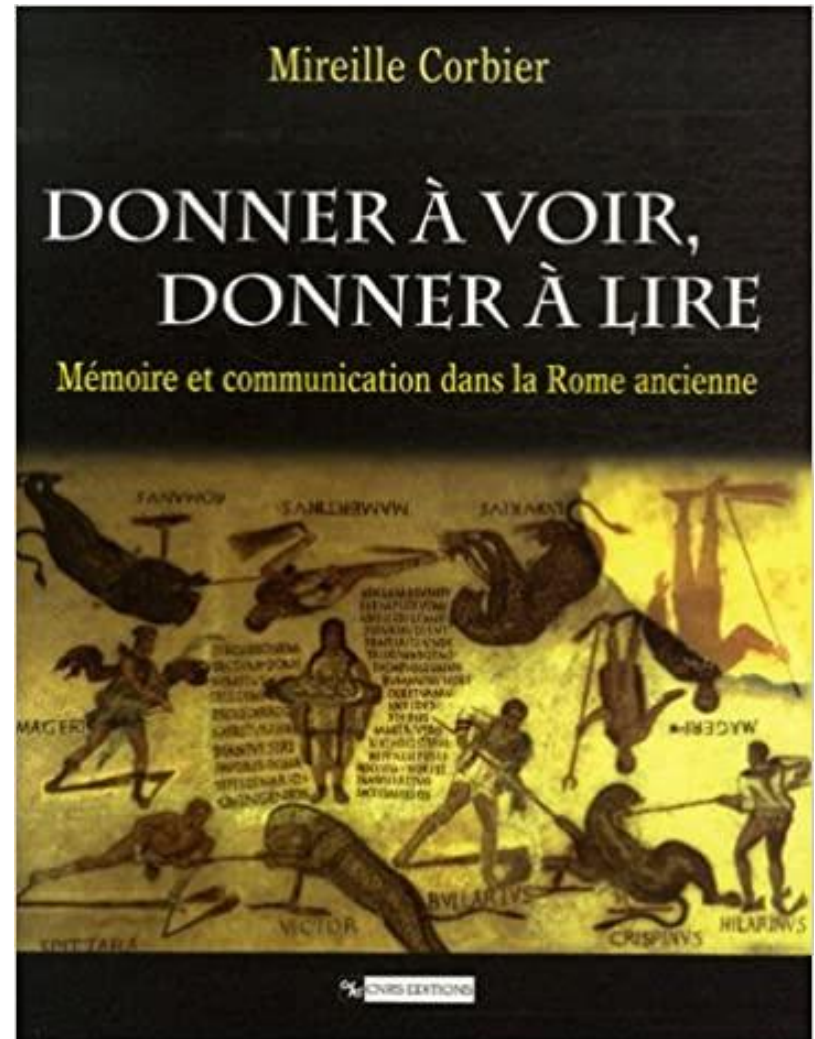
Mary Beard
Alan K. Bowman
Mireille Corbier
Tim Cornell
James L. Franklin, Jr.
Ann Hanson
Keith Hopkins
Nicholas Horsfall

JOURNAL OF ROMAN ARCHAEOLOGY
SUPPLEMENTARY SERIES, no. 3

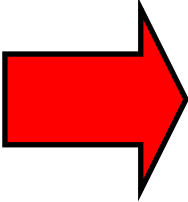
The scientific debate on literacy rates in the Roman world: more recent reactions



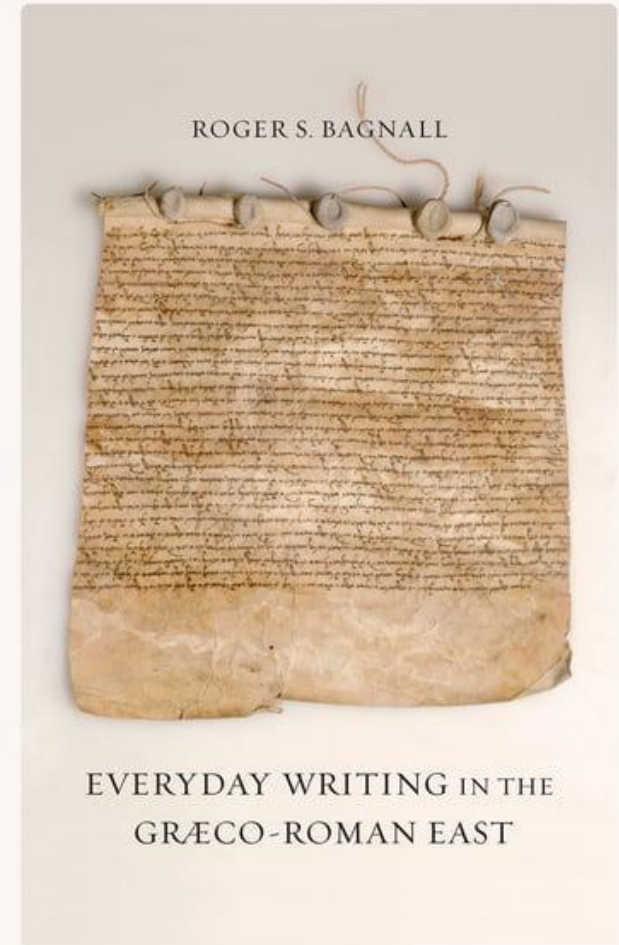
M. Corbier, *Donner à voir, donner à lire.*
Mémoire et communication dans la Rome ancienne,
Paris 2006



The scientific debate on literacy rates in the
Roman world: more recent reactions

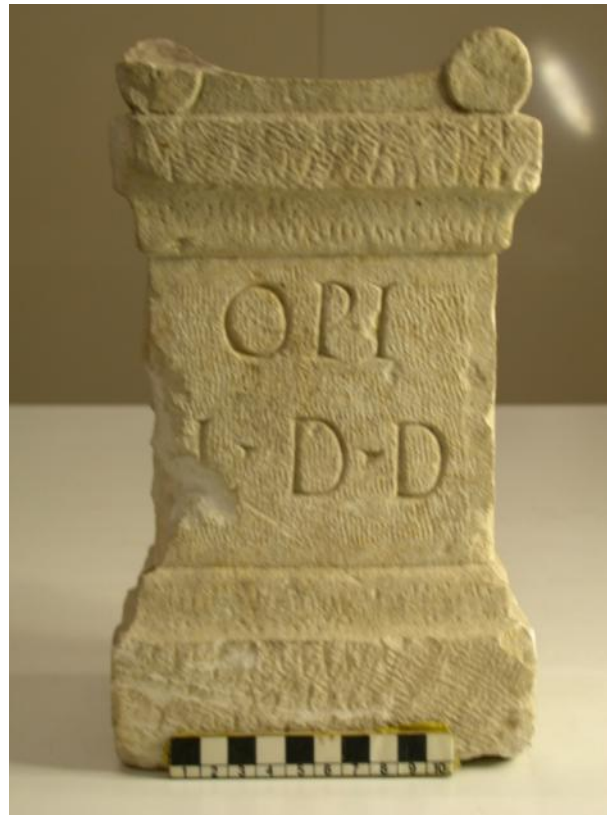


R. Bagnall, *Everyday Writing
in the Graeco-Roman East*,
Berkeley - Los Angeles -
London 2011



Why did the Romans write?

To communicate with deities (sacred contexts)



Why did the Romans write?

To commemorate and remember (public contexts)





Why did the Romans write?

To publish laws and juridical regulations (public contexts)



[Home Page]

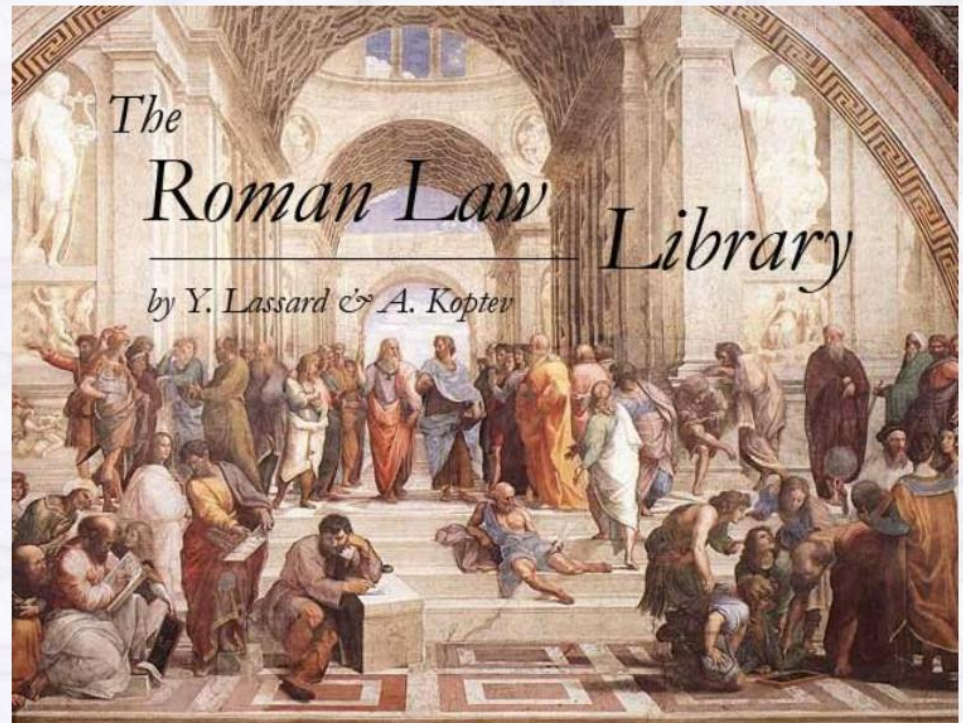
1. **Leges regiae, rogatae, dat.**
2. **Senatus consulta**
3. **Constitutiones principis**
4. **Responsa prudentium**
5. **Acta magistratum**
6. **Foedera et arbitria**
7. **Privilegia veteranorum**
8. **Ius iurandum**
9. **Negotia I • II**
10. **Codex Theodosianus**
11. **Theodosiani Novellae**
12. **Corpus Iuris Civilis**
13. **Leges Rom. Barbarorum**
14. **Varia**
15. **Auctores veteres Latini**
16. **Lingua Etrusca et Italica**
17. **Lingua Francogallica I • II**
18. **Lingua Anglica**
19. **Lingua Hispanica**
20. **Libraria numerica**

[What's new ?]

[Bibliography]

[Resources]

•



Site optimized for Google Chrome 31 or higher in 1920 * 1080 

Search

Exact word

25 ▾

Results by page

<https://droitromain.univ-grenoble-alpes.fr>



Why did the Romans write?

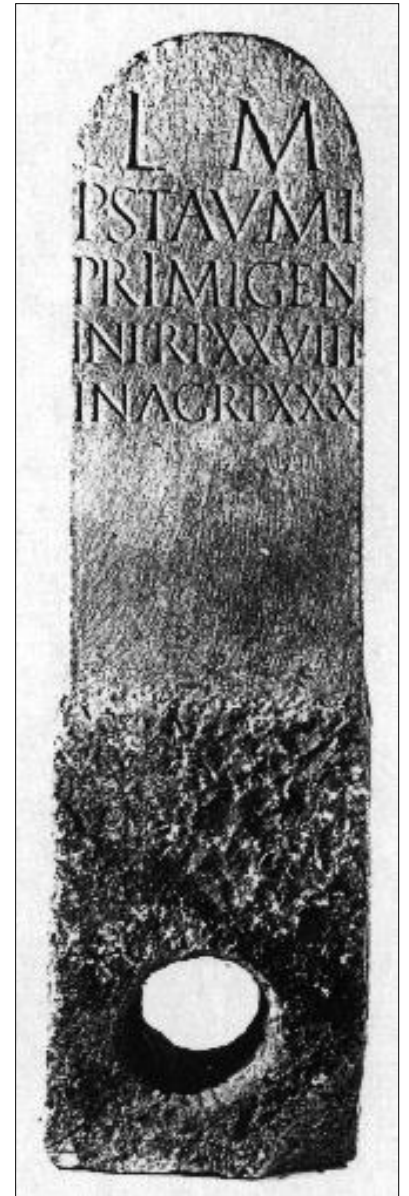
To reproduce serial
messages

(private contexts)



Why did the Romans write?

**To commemorate the dead
and remember their names
(private contexts)**





Why did the Romans write?

To label merchandise

(private contexts)



Why did the Romans write?

To communicate personal messages
(private contexts)



<http://vindolanda.csad.ox.ac.uk>

Vindolanda Tablets Online

Search database

View tablet number (118-573):

 go**General search**

(Excluding Tablets database)

Text:**Images:**

This online edition of the Vindolanda writing tablets, excavated from the Roman fort at Vindolanda in northern England, includes the following elements:

Tablets - a searchable online edition of the tablets (volumes I and II)

Exhibition - an introduction to the tablets and their context

Reference - a guide to aspects of the tablets' content

Help - navigation and using the site

Also available are [highlights from the tablets](#).

The website is part of the [Script, Image and the Culture of Writing in the Ancient World](#) programme, supported by the [Andrew W. Mellon Foundation](#). It is a collaborative project between the [Centre for the Study of Ancient Documents](#) and the [Academic Computing Development Team](#), Oxford University.

Scholarly publications should refer to this site as:

Vindolanda Tablets Online <http://vindolanda.csad.ox.ac.uk/>

Editions of individual tablets may be cited in the form <http://vindolanda.csad.ox.ac.uk/TVII-291> (*Tab. Vindol. II 291*)

Feedback: if you are using Vindolanda Tablets Online for teaching, research or general interest, please send us your [comments](#) on the site.

Why did the Romans write?

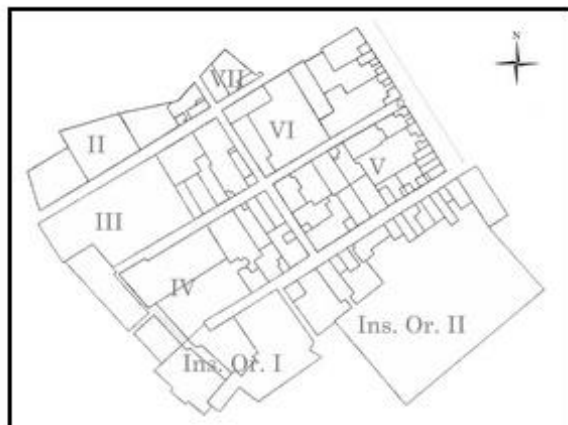
To communicate political and ideological messages
(semi-public contexts)



The Ancient Graffiti Project

A digital resource for studying the graffiti of Herculaneum and Pompeii

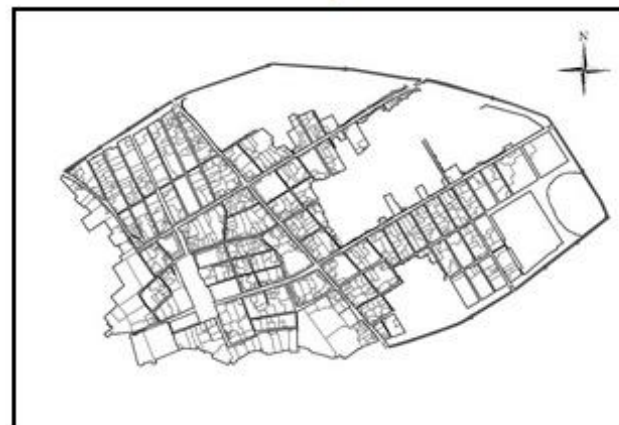
Herculaneum



Ancient Graffiti

Welcome to The Ancient Graffiti Project, a digital resource for locating and studying handwritten inscriptions of the early Roman empire. These ancient messages and sketches offer a window into the daily life and interests of the people who lived in the ancient world, especially in Herculaneum and Pompeii. They provide perspectives on Roman society, the ancient economy, religion, spoken language, literacy, and activities within the ancient city.

Pompeii



Welcome

The aim of AGP is to allow scholars and the public to explore ancient handwritten wall-inscriptions and to understand them in context. We have designed AGP to be a **user-friendly resource**. We provide maps to help viewers understand where graffiti appeared in the ancient city and we offer our own translations and brief summaries of the graffiti. Try out the [maps](#) above, [browse](#) around, or begin a [search](#).

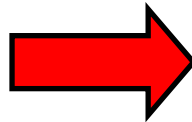
Scholarly Editions

The inscriptions presented here are our critical editions of the ancient texts, many of which offer updates to the *Corpus Inscriptionum Latinarum*. We provide information on how to cite our editions in each entry. We have compiled up-to-date bibliography, a critical apparatus, and links to further information, and we include photographs from our fieldwork as well as the enhanced photographs and line-drawings we have created in order to accurately represent the inscriptions and make them legible

<http://agp.wlu.edu>

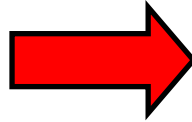
The authenticity of inscribed objects

epigraphical
sources



direct transmission
(no mediation)

literary sources
(Greek and Latin
authors)



indirect transmission
(mediation of medieval
copyists = *amanuenses*)

The *Corpus inscriptionum*
Latinarum (CIL)

2225 Venetiis in fundamentis S. Petri de Castello in campanili ANTIQUI; prope eius ostium uul. MAN.; in turri sacra Ollivoleni MANOR. Ibidem adhuc MOSCHINI 1819. Nunc ablata ex ea turri extat in museo Salutis.

in latere navis, ENNIA · P · L · VENERIA
cuius in velo SIBI ET
cruz est; gubernator nim- T · TROSIO · T · F · SECVNDO
bum habet T · SAVFEO · STEIPANI · L sic
5 M A G I R O · V

Contuli. Antiquus habet, scilicet Marcanova cod. Bern. n. 425, cod. Mut. f. 177' n. 8; Felicianus n. 10; Ferrarinus cod. Trai. f. 52, cod. Reg. n. 10; Redianus f. 51 n. 6; Gammarus f. 82'; Lilius f. 58; Iucundus f. 191 (inde male per Gorium Mur. 1632, 1); Sanutus f. 50'; Apianus 324, 5 (inde Grut. 973, 3); Trivisan *lagune* ed. 2 p. 67 (a quo videntur pendere Rocco Curti f. 603 et chron. Anonymi in cod. Cicognas 2979) item ex codice simili opinor. Denuo ex lapide Manutius cod. Vat. 5248 p. 1 (ibidem p. 8 legitur ex Marcanova descripta, emendata ad lapidem); Moschini *itin. de la ville de Venise* (1819) p. 4, *chiesa della Salute* (1842) p. 93.
5 V · F pro V priores.

CORPVS
INSCRIPTIONVM LATINARVM

CONSILIO ET AVCTORITATE

ACADEMIAE LITTERARVM REGIAE
BORVSSICAE

EDITVM

VOLVMINIS QVINTI PARS PRIOR

BEROLINI APVD GEORGIVM REIMERVM

MDCCLXXXII

The figures of the *CIL*



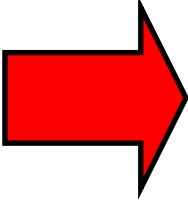
'open' corpus



17 volumes, more than 70 tomes

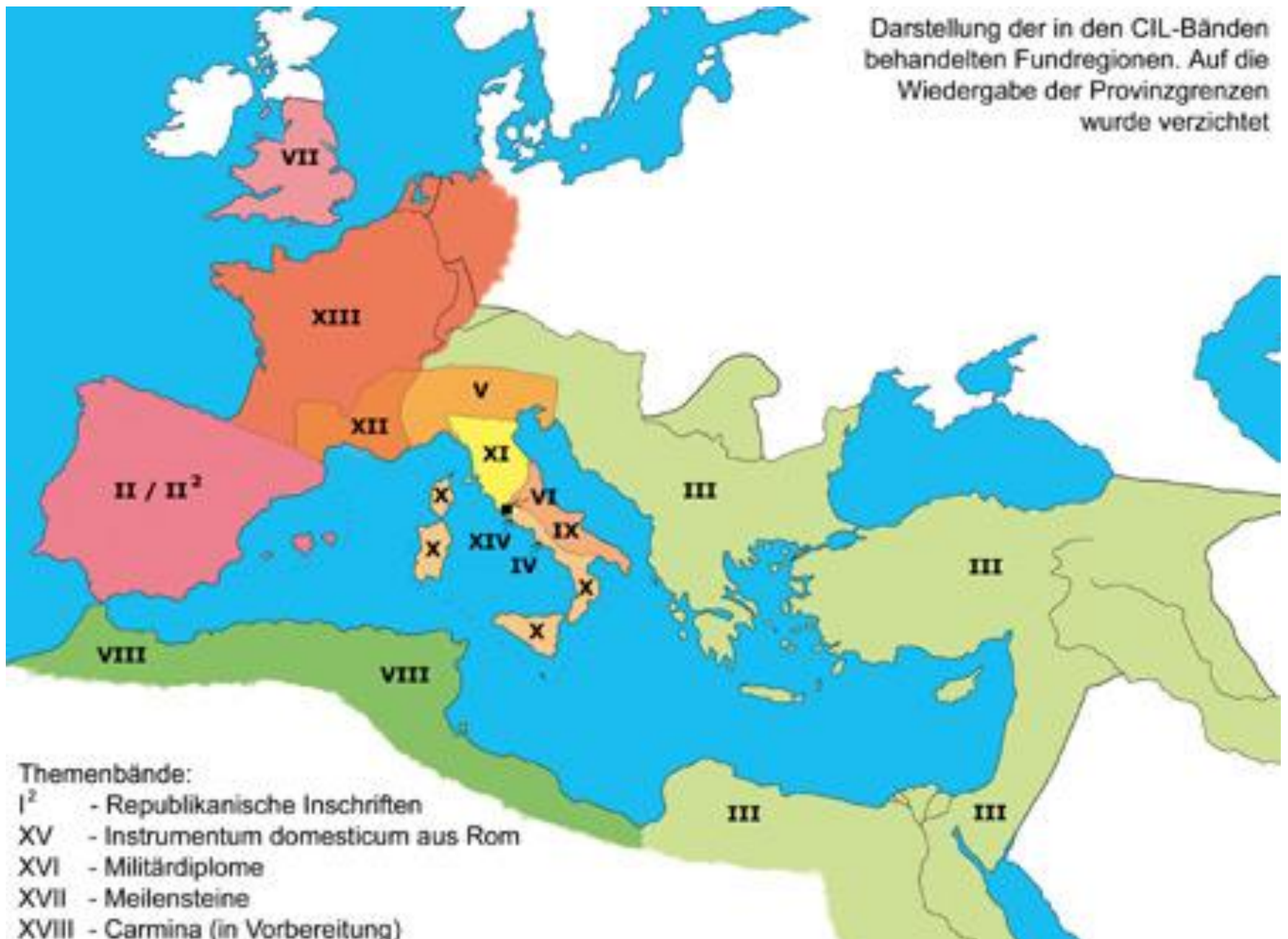


more than 200,000 inscriptions



geographical order, philological approach,
sight-checking (autopsy)

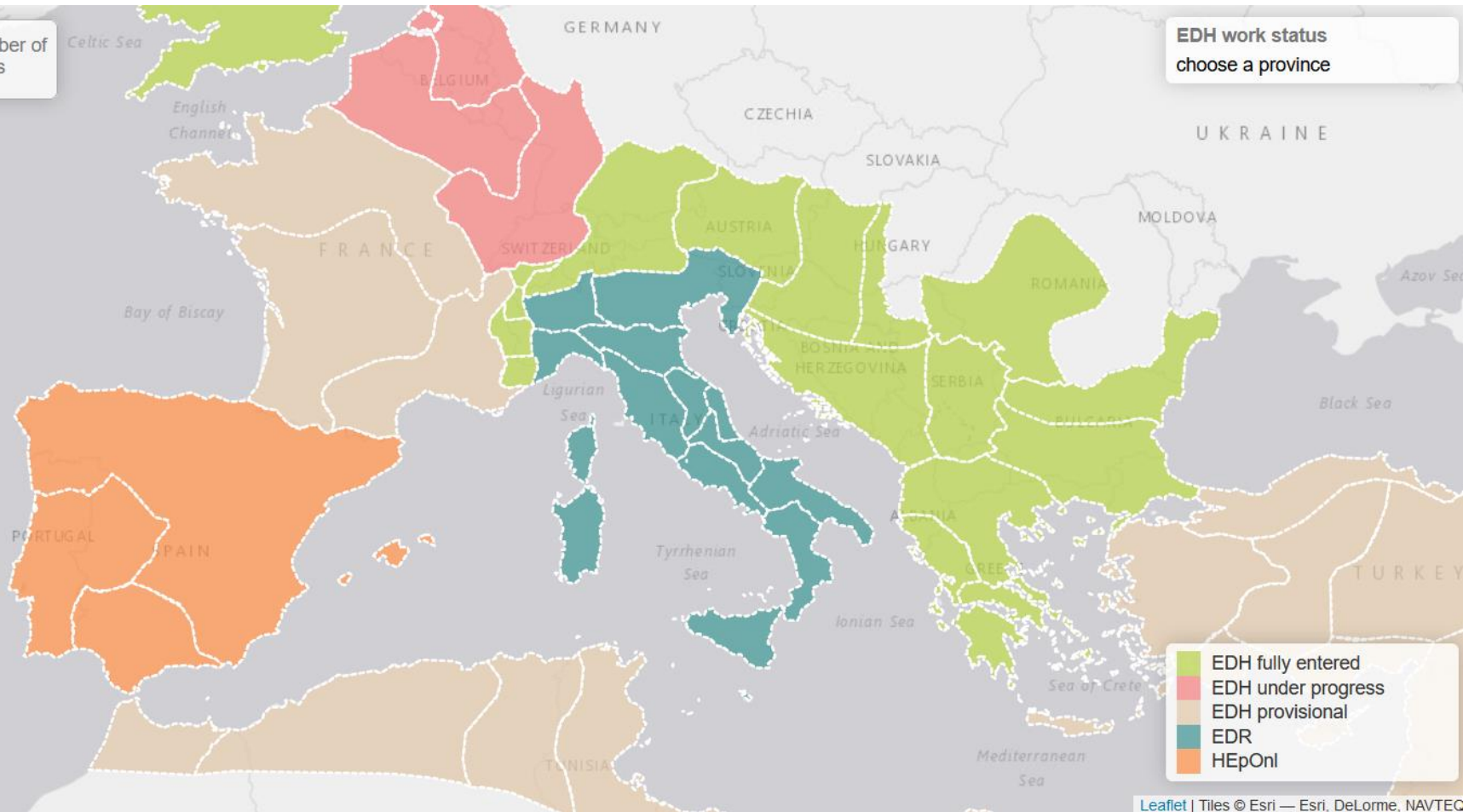
Darstellung der in den CIL-Bänden
behandelten Fundregionen. Auf die
Wiedergabe der Provinzgrenzen
wurde verzichtet



The volumes of the *CIL*

open EDH number of inscriptions

EDH work status
choose a province



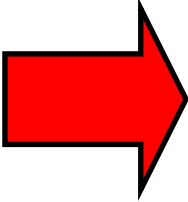
The epigraphic databases of the EAGLE federation

The epigraphic databases of the EAGLE federation



EDR (Epigraphic Database Roma)

www.edr-edr.it



all Greek and Latin inscriptions before the 7th century CE from Italy, according to their best existing edition, including a rich set of metadata and images



official language of the database: Latin



+100,000 entries, +70,000 images

The Roman onomastic system for free-born men (so-called *tria nomina*)

A • CAESILIVS • A • F • VEL • ACASTIVS

A(ulus) Caesilius A(uli) f(ilius) Vel(ina tribu) Acastinus

<i>praenomen</i>	<i>nomen</i>	patronymic	<i>tribus</i>	<i>cognomen</i>
	<i>gentilicium</i>			

individual name	family name	father's ind. name	voting tribe	nickname (real ind. name)
--------------------	----------------	-----------------------	-----------------	------------------------------

The Roman onomastic system for free-born women

SEPTIMIA • L • F • GEMINA

Septimia L(uci) f(ilia) Gemina

nomen

patronymic

cognomen

gentilicium

family

father's

nickname

name

individual name

(real ind. name)

The Roman onomastic system for slaves

CINNAMVS • SEX • CAESI • MARCELLI • S

Cinnamus Sex(t)i Caesi Marcelli s(ervus)

simplex master's *tria nomina*

nomen

The Roman onomastic system for freedmen

SEX • CAESIUS • SEX • L • CINNAMVS

Sex(tus) Caesius Sex(ti) l(ibertus) Cinnamus

praenomen nomen patronate cognomen

gentilicium

individual family master's nickname

name

name

ind. name

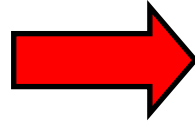
(real ind. name)

Main diacritics used in epigraphy and papyrology

Sign	Explanation
[abc]	letters missing from the original text due to lacuna, restored by the editor
a(bc)	abbreviation in the text, expanded by the editor
<ab>	characters erroneously omitted by the ancient scribe, restored or corrected by the editor
{ab}	letters in the text considered erroneous and superfluous by the editor
ḁḃ	characters damaged or otherwise unclear in the text, ambiguous outside of their context
<u>ab</u>	letters read by previous editors, but now disappeared
+++	traces of letters on the surface, insufficient for restoration by the editor
ABC	clear but incomprehensible letters
[[abc]]	deleted letters

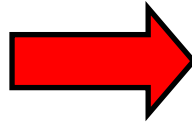
The main difficulty about Latin inscriptions:
abbreviations!

coded message
('cryptography')



community shared
approach to writing

main shorthand
method: truncation
(wrongly referred
to as punctuation)



no clues on how to
expand abbreviations

Abbreviations in Latin inscriptions

EX. CON. C. ex consensu civitatis, vel consulum.

EX. CONS. ORD. PAT. ex consul ordinarius patritius.

EXCORRECT. excorrector.

EX. COS. ex consul.

EX. D. ex decreto. ex decuriâ. ex domo.

EX. D. A. vel EX. D. AUG. ex domo Augustâ, vel Augusti.

EX. D. D. ex decreto decurionum. P. P. posuere. PROMAG. L. D. ex decreto decurionum promagistro locus datus.

EX. DEC. AL. ex decreto alæ. ex decurionibus alæ.

EX. DEC. DEC. MUN. MAL. ex decreto decurionum municipii Malacitani.

EX. DISP. POS. ex dispositione posuit.

EX. DO. A. EX. DO. AUG. vel EX. DO. AUG. ex domo Augustâ, vel Augusti.

S. P. P. S. sacris publicis præstò sunt. sui pecuniâ posuit sibi.

S. P. P. S. F. sui pecuniâ ponere sibi fecit. sumptu proprio sic procuravit fieri.

S. P. Q. E. sibi posterisque ejus.

S. P. Q. L. senatus populusque Lanvinus.

S. P. Q. NOLAN. D. D. senatus populusque Nolanus dono dedit, vel dedicavit.

S. P. Q. R. CL. V. senatus populusque Romanus clypeum vovit.

S. P. Q. R. IMP. CAES. senatus populusque Romanus imperatori Caesari. OB. CIV. SER. ob cives servatos. OP. I RIN. senatus populusque Romanus ontimo principis. PAREN.

F.

F FACIUNDUM. factum. familia. famula. fastus dies. Februarius. fecit. feliciter. felix. femina. fides. fieri. filia. filius. finis. flamen. forum. frater. frons. fuit. fulvo.

F. filia.

F. A. filice amantissimæ. filio amantissimo.

FA. familia. femina. filia.

FAB. faber. Fabia. Fabius. fabrûm.

F. AB. HEREDIS. TEST. FIE. JUS. factum ab heredibus testamentum fieri iussit.

FABR. fabrûm. fabrorum. Fabricius.

FABROR. NAVAL. UTRICLAR. fabrorum navalium utriculariorum.

FABR. TIG. faber tignarius.

FAC. faciundum. factum.

FAC. B. factum bene.

FAC. C. faciundum curavit.

FERAL. F. feriales feriae.

FER. L. C. feriarum Latinarum causâ.

F. E. S. fecit è suo. fecit et sibi.

F. ET. S. fecit et sacravit. fecit et sibi.

F. F. fabricaverunt. fieri fecit. filia fecit, vel filius. filius familiae. filii duo. stando feriundo. fidem fecit.

FF. FF. fabricaverunt. fecerunt. fratres. fundaverunt.

F. FA. F. FAM. vel F. FAM. filius familiae. FFB. fabricaverunt.

F. F. C. filio faciundum curavit.

FF. C. ferme centum.

F. F. C. C. Flaviorum duorum conliberta.

FFD. fundaverunt.

F. FE. fortunæ felici.

F. F. E. fiat fides ejus.

F. F. F. ferro, flamma, fame. Flavius, filius, fecit.

F. FF. fabricare fecerunt.

ST. SN. sententiâ senatûs.

S. T. T. L. sit tibi terra levis.

STUPED. stipendiorum, U pro I.

ST. XXXV. stipendiûs triginta quinque.

S. V. sepulcrum voluit. sibi vivens. Volvit votum.

SU. sua. sua.

SUA, PEC. DD. suâ pecuniâ dedicavit.

SUB. Suburrana, tribus.

SUB. A. D. vel S. A. D. sub aediâ dedicavit.

S. V. B. E. E. V. si vales bene est ego valeo.

SUBPRAEF. CLASS. PR. MIS. subpraefectus classis praetoriae Misenenis.

TER. Terentina, tribus. (tercenarius. Terminalia. tertiz. tertiam.

TEREN. Terentina, tribus.

TEN. N. P. Terminalia nefastus primo.

TERT. tertium.

TES. OB. Testoriae obsignatura.

TESE. tesseraarius.

TEST. P. C. testamento ponendum curavit.

T. F. testamento fieri, Titi filius.

T. F. A. N. Titi filius Avli nepos.

T. F. CN. N. Titi filius Coxi nepos.

T. F. F. S. testamento fieri fecit sibi, vel filium.

T. F. I. EX. H. V. testamento fieri iussit ex

INTERNET SLANG ABBREVIATION

Acronym - Meaning

Acronym - Meaning

Acronym - Meaning

AFAIK	As far as I know	ICYMI	In case you missed it	POV	Point of view
AKA	Also known as	IDC	I don't care	PPL	People
AMA	Ask me anything	IDK	I don't know	SCNR	Sorry could not resist
BRB	Be right back	IKR	I know right	SMH	Shaking my head
BTW	By the way	ILY	I love you	SPOC	Single point of contact
CU	See you	IMHO	In my humble opinion	TBA	To be announced
CYS	Check your settings	IMO	In my opinion	TBH	To be honest
EOBD	End of Business Day	JK	Just kidding	TGIF	Thank God is Friday
FACK	Full acknowledge	LMK	Let me know	THX	Thanks God is Friday
FAQ	Frequently asked questions	LOL	Laugh out loud	TMI	Too much information
FKA	Formerly known as	NM	Not much	TTYL	Talk to you later
FYI	For you information	NRN	No reply necessary	TTYL	Talk to you soon
HBD	Happy birthday	NVM	Never mind	TYVM	Thank you very much
HMB	Hit me back	OMG	Oh my God	WFM	Works for me
HMU	Hit me up	OMW	On my way	WRT	With regard to
HTH	Hope this helps	OTOH	On the other hand	YAM	Yet another meeting

Like