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A MILESTONE FROM THE VIA TRAIANA NOVA NEAR ORVIETO
(AÉ 1969/1970, 186A AND B)

aus: Zeitschrift für Papyrologie und Epigraphik 85 (1991) 186–188

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In PBSR 33 (1965), 113-133, I published the results of a study of the Via Cassia and the Via Traiana Nova between Volsinii and Clusium. Included in the article was an account of two inscriptions on a fourth-century milestone which we discovered at Monte Regole during the course of our labours.¹

Mea culpa. By a regrettable slip, my account of the first of these inscriptions omitted the penultimate line, as can easily be seen from the published photograph. Now, having inspected the stone again, I can give a somewhat better text of the two inscriptions than I gave before, and a decidedly better one than B.Klakowicz gave in 1978.² The first text runs as follows:³

| | |
|---|-----------------|
| | DDD NNN |
| | CONSTANTIVS ET |
| | MAXIMIANVS |
| | AVGG ET |
| 5 | DIOCLETIANVS ET |
| | MAXIMIANVS |
| | SENN AVGG ET |
| | SEVERVS ET |
| | MAXIMINVS |

¹ "The Via Cassia and the Via Traiana Nova between Bolsena and Chiusi", with photo (pl.XXXVI, a). On Trajan's road-building in Italy cf. G.Uggeri, *La viabilità romana nel Salento*, Mesagne, 1983, 232-236 (what happened to the roads in late antiquity: 331-332).

² I saw the inscriptions again on 26 July 1990, in the magazzino of the Museo Claudio Faina at Orvieto. I thank Simonetta Stopponi (University of Perugia) and Sheila Dillon (Institute of Fine Arts, New York University) for their kind help on that occasion. I have not made squeezes of these inscriptions, and would not be willing to do so, since the stone is very friable. The late Dr. Klakowicz republished these texts in her study *Il contado orvietano, II. I Terreni a Nord*, Rome, 1978, 36. Unfortunately, at some date between 1964 and 1990, a person with access to the magazzino has traced most of the letters in both inscriptions with a sharp instrument, a vandalistic act which might have made it harder to be sure of the original reading; in practice the consequences are mainly aesthetic.

³ Unaware of the conventions of epigraphical publication, Klakowicz omitted all the doublings and treblings of letters; she also read FLAV before SEVERVS in line 8 (the space was probably blank, but the stone is so badly damaged at this point that one cannot be certain), and read the last line as MIL XV. This final V is not there, and there is very little doubt that XIII was the original reading, since that is the figure on CIL XI, 8104 = ILS 9496, a Trajanic milestone from the same location, and since XVII appears on another milestone, contemporary with the one reprinted here, which was found four Roman miles to the north (AÉ 1926, no.113; a corrected version was given in PBSR 33, 123). After XII there is damaged space where another I may have been inscribed.

10 NOBB C[A]ESS
 MIL XII[I]

The Julianic inscription on the other side of the milestone reads thus:

 BONO REIP
 NATO D N
 FL CL IVLIANO
 P F VICTORI AC
5 [TRIV]MFATORI
 SEMP AVG
 M LXXXV

This version supersedes the one I originally published.⁴

It is clear incidentally that this milestone, the other (Trajanic) one found earlier at the same site, and also the originally Trajanic milestone from Polvento (four Roman miles to the north) were all found at or near their original locations.⁵ The two sites are about 3.6 Roman miles apart in a direct line,⁶ which for topographical reasons the road cannot quite have followed. The milestones already known gave the distances XIII and XVII (counting from Volsinii). Both sites, Monte Regole and Polvento, are situated on an eminently credible line for the Via Traiana Nova, which was an ambitious short-cut on the Via Cassia.

Yet another milestone from this area was set up during the reign of Jovian.⁷ It was found in the locality Campo della Madonna near the village of Bardano (see the map in PBSR 33,1965,125, fig.4). Topographically speaking, it is possible that a Roman road passed by this site,⁸ but it is hard to imagine that engineers who could not keep up the Via Traiana would have been able to organize a completely new road here, over quite difficult terrain. More probably the Jovianic milestone is a pierre errante, which came from mile 86 on the Via Traiana Nova (or conceivably on the Via Cassia) to a long-since destroyed church at Campo della Madonna.⁹ With the correct reading of the Julianic inscription from Monte Regole, we can see that if the Jovianic milestone belonged (as is likely) to the same road, it came from a spot one mile north of the Monte Regole site. This location would correspond approximately

⁴ PBSR 33,1965,123, reprinted as AÉ 1969/1970, no.186b. I originally read NA[TO]. Klakowicz l.c. read TRIVMPHATORI (line 5) and MIL XV (line 7). The distance of 85 miles makes good sense, unlike 15 (see PBSR l.c.). In any case the reading given above is clear. The horizontal line beneath LXXXV extends as far right as the mid-point of the second X. Klakowicz's resolution of P F in line 4 as "P(ublii) f(ilio)" would have surprised the emperor. Understand of course "pio felici" (not "pio fideli", as in AÉ).

⁵ Klakowicz's speculations on this subject (ibid. 35) are confused.

⁶ Not "un tre chilometri", as Klakowicz states (l.c.); see PBSR 33, fig.3. If she has read PBSR 33,123, she would have found a precise description of the Monte Regole find-spot (with a photograph, pl.XXXII, b).

⁷ E.Moretti, *La Via Cassia e La Via Traiana Nova a Volsinis ad Fines Clusinorum* (Orvieto, 1925), 10; E.Martinori, *Via Cassia (antica e moderna) e sue deviazioni, ecc.* (Rome, 1930), 91; Harris, PBSR 33,128. Hence not unpublished prior to 1978, as Klakowicz 18 appears to believe. The text is as follows: BONO REIP / NATO D N FL / IOVIANO P F / VICTORI AC TRI / VMFATORI SEMP / AVG MIL / LXXXVI.

⁸ See PBSR 33,127-128.

⁹ So Klakowicz 19. Admittedly the quoted evidence for the existence of this church is sketchy.

to the grid reference 565461 (north of the farm called Armata: see PBSR 33,121, fig.3). The stone will have been transported some eight kilometres to be found at Campo della Madonna.

These are some of the latest Roman milestones that survive from central Italy. They could thus contribute to a discussion of various subjects which will not be pursued here: one is the function of milestone inscriptions as declarations of the emperor's authority - construction work was probably going on near Armata in the late summer of 363 when the news of Jovian's accession arrived, if the above account is correct. Another is the government's declining ability to maintain public works. The concentration of milestones along the Via Traiana suggests that something was still being done in the period 361-364, but was there ever again a serious attempt to refurbish the Via Traiana? Such an effort would not necessarily have left any epigraphic record, and the question could only be answered, if at all, by further archaeological work.

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ADDENDUM. The oddity that four Augusti (or six rulers) are referred to in the first of these inscriptions as DDD NNN has no exact parallel, as far as I know, except in AÉ 1926 no.113 (see above n.3).