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IN MAVRETANIA TINGITANA, SVB VOLUSIO MARTIALE?

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A fragment of the first leaf of a diploma (Inv. VOL 15158) was described by Maurice Lenoir in an article "Diplômes Militaires Inédits de Volubilis" (Bulletin d'Archéologie Marocaine, tome XV p. 219 = AE 1985, 992). The diploma records some of the names of the five cavalry and eleven infantry units of Tingitana after 157, but unfortunately only gives the nomen of the Governor - "in Mauret]ania Tingitana sub Volusio".

The most important equestrian member of the Volusii during the mid-Second Century is undoubtedly Volusius Maecianus, whose career can be studied in the standard works. He was basically a jurist and as such a trusted official of Antoninus Pius. In 160 he was in his final year as Prefect of the grain-supply and was honoured as such at Ostia with inscriptions. One of these (AE 1955, 179) was erected by L. Volusius Mar----- . It would seem reasonable to infer from this that Maecianus was being honoured by a relative, a younger brother, or nephew, who was also pursuing an equestrian career. No doubt the position which Maecianus held, enabled him to secure the post of procurator of Tingitana for his relative, and this dedication was his relative's "thankyou".

If the relative's name was Martialis, it might prove also to be on an inscription from Tangier, often published, but definitively as no. 9 in "Inscriptions Antiques du Maroc, tome 2". This reads:

[- - - -] N I V S . D E X
 [- - -] S E S Q V A E +
 [- - - -] A R I V S . A L A
 [- - -] M I . N A T I O N E
 [- - - -] V T E N V S . A N . L
 [- - -] E . S . T . T . L .
 [- - - - -] S I V S M A R T I A
 [- - - -] F . C .

The editor commented l.7: peut-être [Volu?]sius Martia/[lis?]

The stone is carefully designed and engraved which seems unusual for a mere sesquipedarius of the First Hamian Cavalry. The formula employed in line 6 and the general style suggests an early date or an antiquarian taste in epitaphs. But, if this man, was closely attached to an important person whom he had made his heir, the latter would naturally make himself responsible for the memorial to his benefactor. Perhaps Dexter was Volusius' personal servant, who had accompanied him to his new post in Tingitana. Fifty years old when he died, he might have been staying on as a favour and his rank might indicate his pay

rather than his duties. In this scenario the servant of L. Volusius Martialis died at Tingis. Naturally, Volusius oversaw the making of the memorial before he departed from Tingitana.

Ihsan izaka Lisesi, Bursa

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