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A NOTE ON IAM 809 = CIL XVI 182

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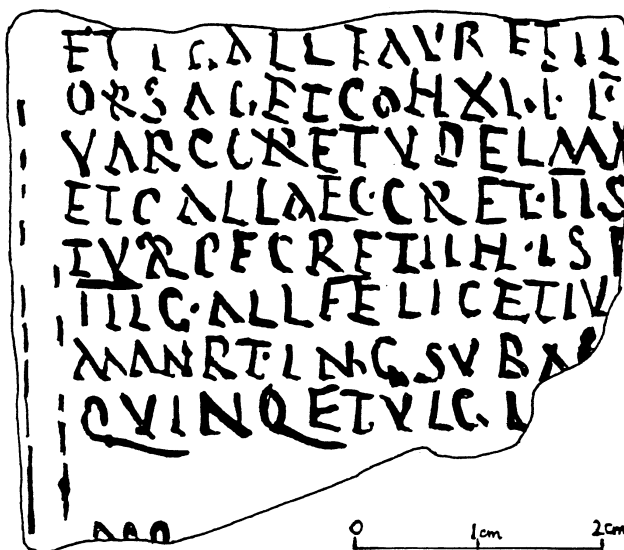
A NOTE ON IAM 809 = CIL XVI 182

A fragment of a diploma found at Volubilis in 1946 is clearly dated on the internal face to the twentieth tribunician power of Antoninus Pius and on the external names a procurator beginning with 'A'. The editor of IAM suggests with diffidence that the next letter is a 'V'.

This has led many scholars to include a Procurator-Governor of Mauretania Tingitana with a name beginning with "Au" among the list of occupants. Bengt Thomasson, for example, has the name among his "Die Statthalter Nordafrikas" (Lund 1960, 299) and as number 14 of the Procurator-Governors of Tingitana in "Laterculi Praesidium" (Goteborg 1984, 420). But in the first place, there is little or no room for such a Procurator-Governor in the chronology, and the in second, the reading is by no means certain.

Another diploma from the same tribunicia, year, IAM 242 = CIL XVI 181, names T. Varius Priscus as the Procurator of Tingitana; Maurice Lenoir points out in ZPE 82, 1990, 155-60 that the engraver of the diploma does not make a mistake with the names of the Emperor or the Procurator, so IAM 809 = CIL XVI 182 does not name Varius Priscus.

Q. Aeronius Montanus is named as Procurator in the twenty-first tribunician year of Antoninus Pius on a building inscription at Volubilis, (IAM 377 = CIL VIII 21825). While it is always possible for an appointee to die within a month of taking up an appointment it seems more likely that the governor named on IAM 809 is Aeronius Montanus as an inspection of the photograph printed in IAM (which is clearer than CIL XVI, Tab. XVI) reveals. The drawing which follows was made from the IAM photograph enlarged.



In line 1 of the drawing, the tops of the letters "AV" are separated by 3mm. while in line 4 the letters "AE" are separated by 5mm as are the letters "AN" in line 6. In line 7 the distance between "A" and the next letter is 4mm at least suggesting that the second letter of the Governor's name contains an upright stroke.

I suggest that the letter "A" in line 7 is followed by the letter "E" rather than a "V". This makes it very likely that Aeronius Montanus succeeded Varius Priscus as Procurator of Tingitana in the year 157.

Andover

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