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THE FORUM AUGUSTI OF *CIL* XIII, 6958

aus: *Zeitschrift für Papyrologie und Epigraphik* 112 (1996) 243–244

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SIIX(TUS) CARIIIIUS / SIIX(TI) F(ILIIUS)
 VOL(TINIA) / FLORUS FORO XG(USTI?) /
 MILIIS LEG(IONIS) XXII / PR(IMIGENEIAE)
 AN(NOS) XXIX / SIP(ENDIA) IX H(IC) S(ITUS)
 E(ST) / H(OC) EX T(ESTAMENTO)

The above inscription from Mainz, dated by Ritterling to the time of either Claudius or Nero (*RE* 24, 1800), summarizes the life of one Sextus Careius Florus¹, a soldier belonging to the Voltinia tribe who had completed nine years of military service in Legion XXII Primigeneia before dying at age 29. The vital information recorded here attracts little attention except for the reference to the young man's hometown, presented as *Forum XG*. The editors of *CIL* XIII suggest that the abbreviation of the second word, whose first two letters overlap, may be either *Aug.*, in which case a shortened form of either Augustum or more likely Augusti², or *Vag*, which could conceivably represent Vagienni (sometimes Bagienni), a tribe inhabiting the region around Eoredia in Cisalpine Gaul. Assuming we discount the possible Forum Vagiennorum on the grounds that the tribe to which the Vagienni were assigned was not Voltinia but Camilia (cf. *CIL* V 7666f), we are still left with Forum Augusti, a town which is nowhere else attested. Hensen, according to the editors, identified the site with the Tarraconese town of Libisosa, (Lezuza), the cognomen of which was Foroaugustana (Pliny, *HN* 3,25)³. His proposal, however, was rejected both because Galeria was the tribe to which the Libisosans were enrolled and because Foroaugustana was simply a byname, not what Libisosa was normally called.

Evidence from the distribution of the name *Careius* helps to confirm the editors' suggestion about Forum Augusti, *fortasse locus est Galliarum aliunde ignotus*. The nomen is attested in sixteen inscriptions, eight of which are found in Narbonensis⁴, two in Tres Galliae⁵, one in Germany⁶, one at Velitiae⁷, one in Africa but whose cognomen is Celtic⁸ and three in Rome⁹, one of which is a dedication to Arausio (Orange). That thirteen of these examples have some connection with Gaul assures the idea that *Careius* was a Romanized Celtic name¹⁰ while the predominance of Narbonese examples and Sextus Careius Florus' enrolment in the Voltinia tribe, to which most non-colonial Roman citizens of Narbonensis belonged, narrows the location of Forum Augusti to that province. In pinpointing its whereabouts even more precisely, one observes that of the nine examples of *Careius* which have some relation to

¹ The Latin vowel /ɛ/ is consistently rendered by the archaic, or at least non-standard, <II>.

² Towns called Forum are usually followed by a genitive.

³ Cf. *CIL* II p. 434.

⁴ (1) *CIL* XII 983 Kareia Karei•f• Patercla between Arelate (Arles) and Tarusco (Tarascon). (2) *CIL* XII 1608 Careius Dionysius libertus and Sextus Carei(us) near Dea Augusta (Die). (3) *CIL* XII 1702 L. Careius Severianus in the western territory of the Vocontii. (4) *CIL* XII 3692 Kareia Victorina and L. Kareius Secundinus at Nemausus (Nîmes). (5) *CIL* XII 5888 Careia Felicissima, territory of the Volcae. (6) *AE* 1984, 632 Titus Careius Ianuaris at Augusta Tricastinorum (St. Paul Trois Chateaux). (7) *AE* 1965, 172 Careia at Die (8) *AE* 1929, 185 M. Careius Carus of Reii.

⁵ (1) *AE* 1908, 186 M. Careius M. l. Asisabisio at Alise. (2) *AE* 1919, 98 C. Careius Certius at Avenches.

⁶ *CIL* XIII 7566 Careius Saturninus at Aquae Mattiacorum (Bingen).

⁷ *AE* 1984, 165 L. Careius C.f. Ste(latina tribu).

⁸ *AE* 1912, 179 L. Careius Atrectus Sedatianus. For *Atrectus*, see Ellis Evans, *Gaulish Personal Names*, Oxford, 1967, 144 and Karl Horst Schmidt, *Die Komposition in gallischen Personennamen*, Tübingen, 1957, 140.

⁹ (1) *CIL* VI, 17505 Careia Sabina (2) *CIL* VI 22372 Careia Tyche (3) *CIL* VI 30850 L. Kareius Vitalis Arausioni.

¹⁰ Evans, above n. 8, 164.

Narbonensis, seven are found east of the Rhone and south of the Drome¹¹, an area comparatively rich in such “Augustan” place-names as Augusta (Aouste-en-Diois), Augusta Tricastinorum (St. Paul-Trois-Châteaux), Dea Augusta (Die) and Lucus Augusti (Luc-en-Diois). As one possibility, Forum Augusti may have been located in this quarter of Narbonensis. Since its name is otherwise unattested and the territory of the Vocontii covered much of the area in question, one might argue that Forum Augusti was one of the so-called *oppida ignobilia* which were governed by the twin capitals of the Vocontii, Lucus Augusti or Vasio (Pliny, *HN* 3.37).

A second possibility, however, one which supports the location of Forum Augusti in this same area but which counters the idea that it was an *oppidum ignobile*, may look slightly more convincing (or at least appealing) in light of the evidence of the *praenomina* which the Careii used. While we have more examples of Careii called Lucius than any other *praenomen*, we have only one other example of Sextus, this person’s inscription found near the above-mentioned town of Dea Augusta (Die). A Vocontian town situated about twelve miles north of Lucus Augusti and on the main route between the Rhone Valley and Italy¹², Dea Augusta has a fairly extensive record of Roman remains, few of which can be dated earlier than the late third century A.D.¹³ Coincidentally, the name Dea Augusta is only first attested in the Antoninian Itinerary of the same period¹⁴. It seems peculiar, however, that a location as commercially strategic was not utilized before this late period. When one considers five points, namely (1) the only reference to Forum Augusti appears to be early Imperial, (2) the place-name, Dea Augusta, is not attested before the later Empire, (3) except for Sextus Careius Florus of Forum Augusti (*CIL* XIII 6958), the only other reference to a Sextus Careius is found in the environs of Dea Augusta (*CIL* XII 1608), (4) Dea Augusta was recognized as an excellent location for commerce and transportation and (5) there is no record of a forum at Lucus Augusti¹⁵, one might infer that Forum Augusti and Dea Augusta were simply different names for the same place or, to put it another way, that Forum Augusti was the original name but that it was changed at any unspecified later time to Dea Augusta, perhaps in honour of Dea Andarta¹⁶. If this second possibility is correct, one may conclude that Forum Augusti/Dea Augusta was originally a fairly insignificant market-town but that it gradually attracted more notice and development because of its strategic location. By the end of the third century, this infiltration of new settlers and capital had allowed the town, once subject to Lucus Augusti, to overtake its capital city in both prestige and importance.¹⁷

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¹¹ The other two (*CIL* XII 3692 and 5888) are located just on the west bank of the Rhone in the territory of the Volcae Arecomici.

¹² A. L. F. Rivet, *Gallia Narbonensis – Southern Gaul in Roman Times*, London 1988, 292.

¹³ Rivet, above n. 12, 292.

¹⁴ G. Ihm, “Dea Augusta Vocontiorum”, *RE* 8, 2236.

¹⁵ Rivet, above n. 12, 291.

¹⁶ Rivet, above n. 12, 292.

¹⁷ According to the text of *CIL* XII 690, found at Arelate (Arles), Dea Augusta may have been raised to the status of *colonia*. Rivet and others (above n. 12, 191 and 298) are hesitant to concur with this.