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FIVE UNPUBLISHED *TITULI SEPULCRALES*

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The small marble tablets with funerary inscriptions (Pl. XIII), which, to the best of my knowledge, are still unpublished, are kept in a store-room of the Museum at Kibbutz Nir David (Israel).¹ In 1946 these tablets were delivered from Italy by Dan Lifshitz, who was a kibbutz member at that time.

No. 1

Slab of white marble. Dimensions of this marble tablet: width 21 cm., height 15 cm, thickness 2.5 cm. The upper, lower and right edges of the tablet are preserved; the left edge, however, is broken at the bottom. Plaster is evident on the lower and upper edges. The back is smooth. The letter forms are serified and well-cut. Letter heights: line 1: 1.5 cm, line 2: 1.3 cm, line 3: 1.3 cm, line 4: 1.5 cm, line 5: 1.7 cm. The punctuation marks are triangular, consistently dividing the words within the lines. The interlinear space is between 0.5 cm and 1.5 cm.

D(is) · M(anibus)
Ragoniaes · Irenes
fecit · Ragonia · Same
 4 *ramis · patronae*
suae · b(ene) · m(erenti)

The Nomen *Ragonius/a* appears frequently in or near Rome.² Many of these *Ragonii* are freedmen or have Greek *cognomina* indicating in many cases foreign or servile origin.

Ragonia Irene patrona of *Ragonia Sameramis* could also be of servile origin. Most persons with the *cognomen* Irene on Solin's list³ are *incerti*, but some of them are slaves or freedmen.⁴

Ragoniaes Irenes like *Ragoniaes Primitives* (CIL 25359) is the "Greek" *genetivus*. Lindsay suggested that the a-stem genitive in *-aes* is confined to epitaphs of people of lower social standing from the last century of the Republic to the beginning of the second century A.D.⁵ But that is also possible for a later stage.

Ragonia Sameramis liberta of *Ragonia Irene* has a very rare *cognomen*. Solin lists only three persons with the *cognomen Semiramis*, including only one *Samerami*.⁶ All three Semiramis appear during the first century A.D. and in the beginning of the second century A.D. and two of them are slaves.⁷

The character of the lettering does not provide sufficient grounds for dating this inscription. Several criteria, however, give a basis for determining an appropriate historical period. The tall *I* in line 2

* I am grateful to Professor W. Eck (Köln University) for essential comments concerning the text and Professor M. Mayer (Barcelona University) for helpful discussions. I am also grateful to Professor Gian Luca Gregori for his comments about the style and the lettering of our tablets.

¹ I wish to thank Mr. Alon Goldberg, director of the Museum of Regional and Mediterranean Archeology, for permission to publish these inscriptions and Mr. Pinchas Porad (Israel Antiquities Authority) who drew my attention to these tablets.

² Münzer, RE 25,1, 127 f.; CIL VI 7455, 7456, 25352–25359; on the nomen *Ragonius* see also W. Schulze, Zur Geschichte lateinischer Eigennamen, Berlin 1933, 367; CIL VI p. 7, fasc. 4, 1975, p. 4997.

³ H. Solin, Die griechischen Personennamen in Rom, Berlin & New York, 1982, 422–426.

⁴ H. Solin, Die stadtrömischen Sklavennamen, Stuttgart 1996, 313–314.

⁵ W. M. Lindsay, The Latin Language, Oxford 1894, 381–382.

⁶ Solin (note 3) 556.

⁷ Solin (note 4) 356.

indicates that the date may be between 50 and 200 A.D.⁸ The oval-shaped *O*'s (lines 2, 3, 4) and the gap at the bottom of the loop of the *P* (line 4) are common in lapidary letters in Rome during the period from Augustus to Nerva.⁹ The form of the *G* suggests a date in the second century A.D. The abbreviation *D. M.* suggests that the inscription is Augustan or later.¹⁰ The abbreviation *B. M.* does not appear earlier than in the late first century A.D. The date of the inscription would best suit a period during the second century A.D. and its place of origin is most likely Rome or a place nearby.

No. 2

Slab of greyish blue marble. Dimensions: width 32.5 cm, height 18 cm (at the left edge) and 15 cm at the right edge, thickness 2.5 cm. The upper edge of the fragment is preserved. The lower left edge is chipped off and the upper right edge is broken. The lower edge is broken. The back of the tablet is smooth. Plaster is evident on the lower and upper edges. The letter forms are serified, uniform and carefully cut. The inscription consists of five lines with letter heights as follows: line 1: 2.5 cm, line 2: 2.5 cm, line 3: 2.8 cm, line 4: 3.2 cm, line 5: 1.8 cm. The interlinear space is 0.7 cm. The words and the abbreviation (line 1) are separated by a triangle. The lineation, which has been kept by the cutter, is still visible.

D(is) · M(anibus)
L(ucio) · Carvilio · Hila
ro · parenti · opti
4 *mo · fecit · Carvilia*
Hilarae · dulcissima

Line 5: *Hilarae* is obviously an error of the stone cutter; he misread *Hilara f(ilia) dulcissima*.

It is known that *Hilarus/a* was not a cognomen of the nobility. This cognomen was in favour among slaves and freedmen.¹¹ The identity of *L. Carvilius Hilarus* and his daughter *Carvilia Hilara* cannot be determined. *Carvilius* is not a rare nomen,¹² but no other *Lucius Carvilius Hilarus* is known.¹³ There is a tablet from the columbarium with the inscription *L. Carvili L. l. Andreae / Avennia C(aiae) l. Lezbia* (CIL VI 14453). *Lucius Carvilius L. l. Erotis* and *Viccia L. l. Hilara* are known from another sepulchral inscription (CIL VI 14454).

Most of the other *Carvili* are known either from sepulchral inscriptions¹⁴ or from the *Monumentum Carviliorum*.¹⁵ The majority of *Carvili* in this columbarium were *Spurii Carvili*.¹⁶ The *Monumentum* was, probably, in use from the late Republic to the early Empire.¹⁷

The abbreviation *D. M.* in the prescript indicates that this inscription cannot predate the Augustan era. The forms of the letter *P* (the loop of the *P* is closed) suggests a date in the third century. But the

⁸ J. S. & A. E. Gordon, *Contributions to the Palaeography of Latin Inscriptions*, Berkeley 1957, 216–217.

⁹ Gordon (note 8) 211.

¹⁰ *Ibid.* 116–117, 211–212.

¹¹ I. Kajanto, *The Latin Cognomina*, Helsinki 1965, 11, 13, 29, 67, 68, 134. Solin (note 4) 71–73. H. Thylander, *Étude sur l'épigraphie latine*, Lund 1952, 123.

¹² On the nomen *Carvilius* see Hübner, *RE* II 1629 f. Schulze (note 2), 139.

¹³ See the indices of CIL VI pt. 7 (1975).

¹⁴ CIL VI 14455–14467.

¹⁵ The *columbarium* near the *circus Maxentii*, which is known as the *Monumentum Carviliorum* (CIL VI 7590–7599), was found in the *vinea Randaninia* during the time of the excavation of the Jewish cemetery. The *Monumentum* was described by Visconti in *Bulletino dell' inst. arch.* 1861, 17. Visconti suggested that the *columbarium* belonged to the early Empire.

¹⁶ CIL VI 7592, 7593, 7594.

¹⁷ See note 15.

praenomen proves that the date of the inscription is not later than the early third century. The most likely place of origin is Rome.

No. 3

White marble tablet broken in three parts. The back is smooth and plaster is evident on the upper edge. Dimensions of the marble tablet: width 20.5 cm, height 17.5 cm, thickness 2 cm. Letter heights: line 1: 2.2 cm, line 2: 2 cm, line 3: 2 cm, line 4: 1.8 cm, line 5: 1.7 cm, line 6: 1.7 cm. Punctuation: the triangular marks are in the usual place. Small letters: *s* at the end of the line 4. Two ligatures, (*NT*, *ME*) in line 4 and one (*AE*) in line 5, serve to save space.

D(is) · M(anibus)
Volusiae · L(ucii) · f(iliae)
Hermione
 4 *fecerunt · Hermes*
et · Heuresis · filiae
dulcissimae

The freeborn *Volusia Hermione*¹⁸ was the daughter of freedmen *L. Volusius Hermes*¹⁹ and *Volusia Heuresis*.²⁰ The *cognomen Hermione* was widely used among freedwomen and freeborn in the first century A.D.²¹ It is difficult to say whether *L. Volusius Hermes* and *Volusia Heuresis* were freedmen of the *Volusii Saturnini*.²² In the inscriptions from the columbarium of the *Volusii* there are stylistic features, a specific ornament and a palaeography.²³

Even taking into account details of our tablet such as size and shape, the triangular marks, the small letter *s* (at the end of line 4), ligatures, the sepulchral formula,²⁴ and, finally, *gentilicium Volusius/a* and *praenomen Lucius*, it is impossible to conclude that our tablet may come from the columbarium on Via Appia.

The form of the letters excludes the possibility of dating this inscription earlier than the late first century A.D. The most likely time of this inscription is the late second century A.D.

No. 4

Tablet of greyish marble. Dimensions: width 14 cm, height 13 cm, thickness 1.3 cm. All the edges of the inscription face are intact. The edges of the back are cut so as to enable it to fit into a niche and plaster is evident on the upper edge. The back of the tablet is smooth. The style of the letters is irregular and the engraving is crude. The few letters vary in size. The lineation is visible. In line 1 the letter *I* in *Char(i)toni* is omitted. The letter heights: line 1: 1.5 cm, line 2: 1.5 cm, line 3: 1.3 cm, line 4: 1.2 cm, line 5: 1.5 cm, line 6: 1.3 cm, line 7: 1.6 cm.

¹⁸ *Hermione* is a Greek name; in mythology *Hermione* was the daughter of Menelaus and Helen.

¹⁹ *Hermes* is the most widely used of the theophoric names, it was a common name for slaves and freedmen. Solin (note 3), pp. 342–351. J. Baumgart, *Die römischen Sklavennamen*, Breslau 1936, 5, 47. Solin (note 4) 291.

²⁰ For an explanation of the name *Heuresis* see G. Wissowa, *Religion und Kultus der Römer*, München 1912, 353. The *cognomen Heuresis* is frequently found in inscriptions among slaves and freedmen (Solin [note 3] 1225 and 1365. [note 4].559).

²¹ Solin (note 3). 542–543. (note 4) 353.

²² On *Volusii* see CIL VI 7281–7393; W. Eck, *Die Familie der Volusii Saturnini in neuen Inschriften aus Lucus Feroniae*, in *Hermes* 100, 1972, 461–484; S. Treggiari, *Family Life among the Staff of the Volusii*, in *Trans. Am. Phil. Ass.* 105, 1975, 393–401; D. Manacorda, *Un'officina lapidaria sulla Via Appia*, Roma 1979; M. Buonocore, *Schiavi e liberti dei Volusii Saturnini*, Roma 1984.

²³ Manacorda (note 22), *Elenco delle tavole* pp. 117 ff.; Buonocore (note 22), *tavole I–XLIV*.

²⁴ On the triangular marks, the small letters, the ligatures, and the sepulchral formula see Buonocore (note 22) 214–224.

D(is) M(anibus)
Char(i)toni
Hedylo
 4 *filio dul*
cissimo
vixit an(nis) VIII
men(sibus) VIII d(iebus) VIII

Line 2: The *cognomen Charito* (with the omission of the letter *I*) is in the *dativus*. Solin lists 101 persons with the *cognomen Charitho*, among whom 40 are slaves or freedmen and 58 *incerti*.²⁵ Line 3: *Hedylo* is the name of *Charito*'s mother in the *nominativus*. The *cognomen Hedylo* appears only once in the list of Solin²⁶, namely *Galia*²⁷ *M. l. Hedylo* (first century B.C.).

The names recorded in our inscription probably belong to persons of servile origin. The palaeography of the inscription (the form of the letter *F*) suggests a date in the third century A.D.

No. 5

Tablet of white marble. The upper, lower and left edges are intact. The right edge is broken. Dimensions of the tablet: width 21 cm, height 15 cm, thickness 3 cm at the upper edge and 1 cm at the lower edge. The bottom of the back side is cut. The height of the cut is 3 cm. The rest of the back is smooth. The height of the letters is 2 cm. Plaster is evident on the lower edge. The foliages with the stem decorate the upper and the left edge of the face. The letter forms are serified, uniform and carefully cut.

A(ulus) Ogulnius
Epagathus
patronus

The size, shape and specific ornament²⁸ of the fragment indicate that the tablet was, probably, an epitaph from a columbarium in the area of Rome. The identity of the deceased man – *Aulus Ogulnius Epagathus* – cannot be determined. The *gentilicium Ogulnius*²⁹ is not rare, however no other *A. Ogulnius Epagathus* is known.³⁰ Persons with the nomen *Ogulnius* appear in sepulchral of Rome usually with *praenomen N(umerius)* or *M(arcus)*.³¹ There are only three persons with the nomen *Ogulnius* and the *praenomen A(ulus)*.³² The *cognomen Epagathus* was common among slaves and freedmen.³³ *A. Ogulnius Epagathus* was probably a descendant of freedmen, but he himself was also owner of slaves, some of whom he had freed. Since he is named *patronus* we can suppose there were other loculi where freedmen of *Epagathus* were buried.

The form of the letters (the gap at the bottom of the loop of the *P*) suggests a date in the second half of the first century A.D.

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²⁵ Solin (note 3) 451–453. (note 4) 321.

²⁶ (note 3) 878.

²⁷ On the nomen *Galia* see Schulze (note 2) 307. CIL I 1062 = VI 21470: *Galiae M. l. Hedylo*.

²⁸ Manacorda (note 22), Tav. XXI (1,2), XXIII (1), XXXI (2). Arthur E. Gordon, *Album of Dated Latin inscriptions*, Los Angeles 1958, 81–82, Tav. 75, 76.

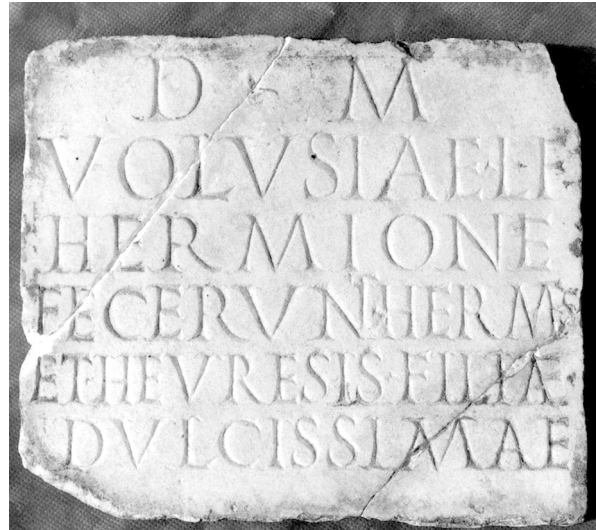
²⁹ On the *gentilicium Ogulnius* see Schulze (note 2) 150.

³⁰ The indices of CIL VI pt. 7 fasc. 5 (1975).

³¹ *Ogulnius/a* (23405–23432). *Numerius*: 23410, 23411, 23412, 23416, 23418, 23419, 23422, 23430; *Marcus*: 23405, 23406, 23407, 23413, 23414, 23415, 23420, 23423.

³² CIL VI 23409: *A. Ogulnius Atimetus*; CIL VI 4996: *A. Ogulnius Epaphra* and *A. Ogulnius Auctus*.

³³ Solin (note 3) 47–49; (note 4) 200.



No. 3

No. 1



No. 4



No. 5

No. 2

Five Unpublished *tituli sepulcrales* from Italy (Museum at Kibbutz Nir David, Israel); R. Last, pp. 249–252