ROSA LAST

FIVE UNPUBLISHED *TITULI SEPULCRALES*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 XIII), which, to the best of my knowledge, are still unpublished, are kept in a store-room of the Museum at Kibbutz Nir David (Israel). 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 serifed 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.

\[
D(is) \cdot M(anibus) \\
Ragoniaes \cdot Irenes \\
\text{4 ramis} \cdot \text{patronae} \\
suae \cdot b(ene) \cdot m(erenti)
\]

The Nomen Ragonius/a appears frequently in or near Rome. 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 list are incerti, but some of them are slaves or freedmen.

Ragoniaes Irene like Ragoniaes Primitives (CIL 25359) is the “Greek” genetivus. Lindsay suggested that the a-stem genetive 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. 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. 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.

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

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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.


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.\textsuperscript{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.\textsuperscript{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.\textsuperscript{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.

\[ D(is) \cdot M(anibus) \\
L(uscia) \cdot Carvilio \cdot Hila \\
ro \cdot parenti \cdot opti \\
4 \quad mo \cdot fecit \cdot Carvilia \\
Hilarae \cdot dulcissima \]

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

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

Most of the other \textit{Carvili}i are known either from sepulchral inscriptions\textsuperscript{14} or from the \textit{Monumentum Carviliorum}.\textsuperscript{15} The majority of \textit{Carvili}i in this columbarium were \textit{Spurii Carvili}.\textsuperscript{16} The \textit{Monumentum} was, probably, in use from the late Republic to the early Empire.\textsuperscript{17}

The abbreviation \textit{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

\textsuperscript{9} Gordon (note 8) 211.
\textsuperscript{10} Ibid. 116–117, 211–212.
\textsuperscript{12} On the nomen Carvilius see Hübner, RE II 1629 f. Schulze (note 2), 139.
\textsuperscript{13} See the indices of CIL VI pt. 7 (1975).
\textsuperscript{14} CIL VI 14455–14467.
\textsuperscript{15} The \textit{columbarium} near the \textit{circuit Maxentii}, which is known as the \textit{Monumentum Carviliorum} (CIL VI 7590–7599), was found in the \textit{vinea Randaninia} during the time of the excavation of the Jewish cemetery. The \textit{Monumentum} was described by Visconti in Bulletino dell’ inst. arch. 1861, 17. Visconti suggested that the columbarium belonged to the early Empire.
\textsuperscript{16} CIL VI 7592, 7593, 7594.
\textsuperscript{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.

\[
D(is) \cdot M(anibus) \\
Volusiae \cdot L(ucii) \cdot f(iliae) \\
Hermione \\
4 \\
\textit{fecerunt} \cdot Hermes \\
et \cdot \textit{Heuresis} \cdot filiae \\
\textit{dulcissimae}
\]

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, \textit{gentilicium Volusius/a} and \textit{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 
\textit{Char(istani)} 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.


\(^{23}\) 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
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. Line 3: Hedylo is the name of Charito’s mother in the nominativus. The cognomen Hedylo appears only once in the list of Solin, namely Galia 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 serifed, uniform and carefully cut.

A(ulus) Ogulnius
Epagathus
patronus

The size, shape and specific ornament 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 gentilicum Ogulnius is not rare, however no other A. Ogulnius Epagathus is known. Persons with the nomen Ogulnius appear in sepulchrals of Rome usually with praenomen Numerius or Marcus. There are only three persons with the nomen Ogulnius and the praenomen Aulus. The cognomen Epagathus was common among slaves and freedmen. 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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26 (note 3) 878.
27 On the nomen Galia see Schulze (note 2) 307. CIL I 1062 = VI 21470: Galiae M. l. Hedylo.
29 On the gentilicum 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.
33 Solin (note 3) 47–49; (note 4) 200.
Five Unpublished *tituli sepulcrales* from Italy (Museum at Kibbutz Nir David, Israel); R. Last, pp. 249–252