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THE IMPERIAL TITULATURE OF IGRR IV.635

aus: Zeitschrift für Papyrologie und Epigraphik 91 (1992) 99–100

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Probably towards the end of A.D. 247 Philippus Arabs and his son and co-ruler, Marcus Iulius Philippus (iunior), assumed the “Siegestitulatur” *Carpici maximi, Germanici maximi*.¹ These titles appear - always in combination - on the medallion cited in footnote 1 and on Greek papyri² but are conspicuously absent from inscriptions.³

Officially neither Philippus senior nor Philippus iunior ever had another “Siegestitulatur”. True, some inscriptions⁴ - probably from early in the reign of Philippus senior - give him the titles *Parthicus maximus* (several times) and *Persicus maximus* (once) but these titles were never officially assumed (Philippus Arabs did not have reason to be proud of the peace he had to conclude with Sapor in A.D. 244!).

IGRR IV.635 attests, according to several scholars, the “Siegestitulatur” *Germanicus* for Philippus senior in year 330 of the Sullan era = A.D. 245/6. There can be no doubt that Philippus’ generals had to face serious trouble in the lower Danube area in A.D. 244 and the following years. Even the emperor himself came to this area in A.D. 245 and took command of the military operations there.⁵ However, the emperor neither took nor was given the title *Germanicus*.

¹ These titles appear for the first time on the reverse of a medallion dated III ET II COS = A.D. 248 (F. Gnechchi, *I medaglioni romani II*, Milano 1912, 97, no. 4 [cf. pl. 109, fig. 1]. A. Alföldi, *Die Ausgestaltung des monarchischen Zeremoniells*, *Röm. Mittl* 49, 1934, 96 and fig. 6 = *Die monarchische Repräsentation im römischen Kaiserreich*, Darmstadt 1970, 96 assumes that this medallion was issued to commemorate the *processus consularis* of January 1, A.D. 248). They are still absent from the military diploma CIL XVI 153, dated to January 7, A.D. 248. P.Oxy. X 1276, dated to May/June, A.D. 249, is the earliest papyrus with these titles (this circumstance must be due to deficiency of the material. Although the communication-speed between Egypt and any other place in the imperium romanum could be slow [cf. R. Duncan-Jones, *Structure and Scale in the Roman Economy*, Cambridge 1990, Chapter 1 “Communication-speed and contact by sea in the Roman empire, 1ff.] about 18 months is an impossible long period).

Cf. X. Lorient, “Chronologie du règne de Philippus l’Arabe”, *ANRW II.2*, Berlin-NewYork 1975, 795f.; D. Kienast, *Römische Kaisertabelle*, Darmstadt 1990, 198; P. Kneissl, *Die Siegestitulatur der römischen Kaiser*, Göttingen 1969, 175f. (this study does not treat *in extenso* any emperor after Alexander Severus).

² Cf. P. Bureth, *Les titulatures impériales*, *Papyrologica Bruxellensia* 2, Bruxelles 1964, 115 (add P.Goth. 76). J.Cl. Grenier, *Les titulatures des empereurs romains dans les documents en langue égyptienne*, *Papyrologica Bruxellensia* 22, Bruxelles 1989 does not list an example from demotic texts.

³ Cf. M. Peachin, *Roman Imperial Titulature and Chronology, A.D. 235-284* (= *Stud. Amstel. XXIX*), Amsterdam 1990, 198ff.

⁴ CIL III 4634, 10619 = ILS 507, 14354; VI 1097 = ILS 506 = IMS VI 198; AE 194, no. 758 (*Persicus maximus*. Cf. also AE 1935, no. 27: *Per(sicus?)*). P. Bureth, *op. cit.*, 115 wrongly states that in P.Rend.Harr. I 80,39-41 the papyrus has Παρθικῶν instead of the normal Καρπικῶν (this mistake is taken over by M. Peachin, *op. cit.*, 238, no. 277).

Even stranger is the titulature Μάρκος Ἰούλιος Φίλιππος ὁ Αὐτοκράτωρ Παρθικὸς Ἀδιαβηνικὸς Σεβαστός {Σεβαστός} (AE 1975, no. 765), since with the exception of Septimius Severus no other emperor before Philippus Arabs officially bore the title *Adiabenicus* although this title appears on several inscriptions from the reign of Caracalla (cf. P. Kneissl, *op.cit.*, 230 f. For P.Bon. I 15, see J.C. Shelton, *ZPE* 39, 1980, 179ff.).

⁵ Cf. X. Lorient, *loc. cit.* [footnote 1], 792f.

IGRR IV.635 was originally published by W.M. Ramsay in JHS 4, 1883, 415, no. 29 (= idem, *Cities and Bishoprics of Phrygia I*, Oxford 1895, 608, no. 498 where - more carefully - he prints: “Αὐτοκράτορι [Philip erased καὶ τῷ σύμ]-παντι οἴκῳ κτλ.”) and there one can see that the major part of the imperial titulature (the end of line 1, lines 2 and 3) has been erased on the inscription. The restoration of the imperial titulature, based on ἔτους τλ’ in line 5, is the work of W.M. Ramsay himself and he wrongly supplemented Γερμανικῷ in line 3.⁶ Philippus senior never bore the title Germanicus and IGRR IV.635 cannot be used to base a campaign against and a victory over tribes in the Lower Danube region upon.⁷

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⁶ Ramsay wrote (JHS 4, 1883, 414): “It (the inscription) is engraved on poor marble, and the surface is in a very bad condition; I spent more than an hour without being able to satisfy myself as to the reading.” The title Αὐτοκράτωρ Καῖσαρ Μάρκος Ἰούλιος Φίλιππος Γερμανικός (cf. P. Kneissl, *op.cit.*, 117f.) has to be deleted in M. Peachin, *op. cit.*, 212, no. 87. It is impossible to establish how the first three lines of IGRR IV.635 originally ran but the following is a reasonable reconstruction:

Αὐτοκράτορι [Καίσαρι]
 [Μάρκῳ Ἰουλίῳ Φιλίππῳ]
 [Εὐσ(εβεί) Εὐτ(υχεῖ) Σεβ(αστῷ) καὶ τῷ σύμ-]
 παντι οἴκῳ κτλ.

⁷ As is done, e.g., by D.S. Potter on page 233 (note on line 35) of his marvellous and stimulating book *Prophecy and History in the Crisis of the Roman Empire. A Historical Commentary on the Thirteenth Sibylline Oracle*, Oxford 1990.