

EPIGRAPHIC HABITS IN ROMAN BRITAIN? AN OLD PROBLEM

The long-standing problem of the scarcity of inscriptions in the cities of Roman Britain is perhaps magnified by the full publication of *instrumenta*, graffiti and *dipinti*, in *RIB* II. Perhaps the slower development of civic life in Britain, aside that is from the three veteran colonies, is the explanation. By the time cities had become fully established in the provincial society the epigraphic fashion was already a thing of the past. I would like to use the occasion to suggest that recent studies of RB now rarely draw comparisons with other parts of the empire.

John Wilkes

PROCESSES IN THE MAKING OF LATIN INSCRIPTIONS, WITH PARTICULAR REFERENCE TO *RIB* 330 (CAERLEON)

Richard Grasby

CARMINA LATINA EPIGRAPHICA

THE MAKING OF A NEW EXPERIENCE (*CIL* XVIII/2)

1. Latin epigraphic poetry. The *status quaestionis*.
 - a. Collection by Bücheler & Lommatzsch (1897-1926)
 - b. Cholodniak, Engström, Zarker (1897-1958) or studies: Lier, Galletier, Lattimore, Sanders y Krummrey (1903-1964); Exegesis and edition: Massaro, Cugusi, Gamberale
 - c. KRUMMREY (1964)
 - i. *CIL* XVIII: devoted exclusively to the *CLE*
 - d. New studies from a philological perspective
 - e. *CIL* XVIII/2: Hispania:
2. *CIL* XVIII/2: edition and commentary of the *CLE* of Hispania
 - a. Chronological limits (8th century)
 - b. Objectives
 - i. Critical editions
 - ii. Commentary (philological criteria)
 - c. Results
 - i. Complete record for each *CLE*
 - ii. Graphic material of all the inscriptions
 - iii. Material removed from the catalogue, for two reasons: chronological or metrical
3. Description of the working methodology
 - a. Cataloguing, compilation of the bibliography, documentation and location of the pieces
 - b. Initial phase:
 - i. Autopsy
 1. Complete record for each *CLE*
 - c. Second phase:
 - i. The transversal exploitation of the data
 - ii. Production of computing tools:
 1. To work in a closed intranet and to disseminate our results among the international scientific community on the internet
4. The material for the edition and commentary
 - a. Quantification and classification
 - i. Material provisionally excluded from our corpus (manuscript tradition)
 - ii. Preserved *CLE* (169): distribution over *conuentus*

- b. Geographical and chronological distribution
 - i. Preserved *CLE* (1st c. BC – 7th c. AD)
 - ii. Preserved *CLE* : geographical zones in which the *CLE* of Hispania gradually concentrated
- c. Types of *CLE*, recurring themes
 - i. Funerary *CLE*
 - 1. The most frequent theme: *mors immatura*
 - a. Appeal to the reader, prohibition on profaning the tomb, threats to the living, plea from children, the grave should be looked after
 - b. *Lamentatio*
 - i. Relatives abandoned to misfortune, the prime of life, reversal of the natural; burial far from country of origin; *Criminationes*
 - c. *Consolatio*
 - i. Inexorable fate; universality of death
 - d. *Laudatio*
 - i. Praise of feminine virtues; exemplary conduct of the deceased
- d. Some metrical and linguistic considerations
 - i. 80 % in dactylic metre
 - ii. Linguistic features
 - 1. Etymological or phonetic spellings; alterations of vocalic pitch; monophthongization; omission of initial h-; betacism; omission of consonants in final position; tendency towards analytical constructions; changes of gender
 - iii. Some new linguistic features in Hispania
 - 1. Relatively early chronology of vocalic *prothesis*
 - 2. Early monophthongization of ae
 - 3. Omissions of final –s :
 - 4. Premature cases of simplification of double consonants
 - 5. Lexical innovations
- 5. Conclusions
 - a. The corpus
 - i. New readings
 - ii. New data
 - b. The edition
 - i. Task of the philologist: edition of the texts, whatever the medium by which they have been transmitted
 - c. The philological commentary
 - i. The advantages of a prosodic and metrical analysis
 - d. Significant details of language
 - e. Literature and Epigraphy: literary authors, literary genres
 - f. The epitaph tradition in the Christian *CLE*
- 6. Colophon
 - a. A complete corpus of the *CLE* of Hispania
 - b. The work discovers, rediscovers and makes these poetic compositions more widely known

Contribution towards a reconstruction

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