

PROJECT I: ROMAN FUNERARY INSCRIPTIONS

Due: Tuesday, March 20

Introduction: *Funerary inscriptions add breadth, depth, and texture to the corpus of literary sources from Rome. They are composed by people from all walks of life, women as well as men. In Latin, they come from all areas of the Roman world, record the great and the powerless, and encompass hundreds of years of Republican and Imperial history. They offer an opportunity to “see” and “hear” the otherwise silent many who are on the margins of Roman society, particularly women. However, it is important to remember that funerary commemorations tend to reflect the most conservative sentiments and expectations in a culture and are thus often couched in formulaic terms and standardized phrases.*

Objective: This project is designed to give you an opportunity to

- explore this genre independently (having already viewed and translated some examples in class), consulting on your own secondary and primary sources in print and on line,
- experiment with writing a commentary to short, complete texts for intermediate-level Latin student like yourselves.

Your work, approved and edited, will be added to the text-images on the *Companion* site.

Instructions:

1. Select two inscriptions, one shorter and one longer, from the options offered (see attached images of the artifacts)
2. Consult print and Internet sources (see attached Bibliography) to familiarize yourself with the conventions of the genre, especially inscriptional abbreviations and formulas.
3. Transcribe each inscription separately (consulting the attached CIL excerpts) into its own Word document, and describe each funerary artifact (design of stone, lettering, sculpture, date, origin) in as much detail as the image and your research can provide (see Kleiner and Harvey texts for examples of descriptive analysis and transcription).
4. Translate each inscription into the same Word document as its transcription.
5. Write a lexical and interpretive commentary to each inscription targeted to the intermediate-level Latin student (for models consult class texts: Raia *et al.* *The Worlds of Roman Women* and Cirolao's *Pro Caelio*). Place each commentary in its individual Word document, together with its transcription and translation.
6. Make an oral and written presentation of your research in class on Tuesday, March 20.

Bibliography

Print books (except CIL) will be placed on Gill library reserve

Barrow, R.H. 1934.

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A Selection of Latin Inscriptions. Oxford: Clarendon Press.

Corpus Inscriptionum Latinarum (CIL). 1869-.

Berlin: G. Reimerum, de Gruyter.

Egbert, J.C. 1896

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Introduction to the Study of Latin Inscriptions. New York, Cincinnati, Chicago: American Book Company.

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Illustrated Introduction to Latin Epigraphy. Berkeley, Los Angeles, London: University of California Press.

Gordon, Arthur E., Joyce S. Gordon. 1958.

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Album of Dated Latin Inscriptions: Rome and the Neighborhood, Augustus to Nerva. Berkeley, Los Angeles: University of California Press.

Harvey, Brian K. 2004.

A. Raia

Roman Lives: Ancient Roman Life as Illustrated by Latin Inscriptions. Newburyport, MA: Focus.

Keppie, Lawrence. 1991.

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Understanding Roman Inscriptions. Baltimore: The Johns Hopkins University Press.

Kleiner, D. E. E., Susan B. Matheson. 1996.

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I, Claudia: women in ancient Rome, vols. I-II. New Haven: Yale University Art Gallery.
Distributed by the University of Texas Press, Austin.

Raia, A, C. Luschnig, J. Sebesta. 2005

The Worlds of Roman Women. Newburyport, MA: Focus

Raia, A, J. Sebesta. 2006

Companion to Worlds of Roman Women <http://www.cnr.edu/home/sas/araia/companion.html>

Shore, Paul. 1997

CN 528.E6/R47/1997

Rest Lightly: An Anthology of Latin and Greek Tomb Inscriptions. Wauconda, Illinois: Bolchazy-Carducci Publishers, inc.

Inscriptions: #1 a, b: (CIL) <http://www.cnr.edu/home/araia/inscriptions/inscr1a.jpg>
<http://www.cnr.edu/home/araia/inscriptions/inscr1b.jpg> **Funerary Altar**

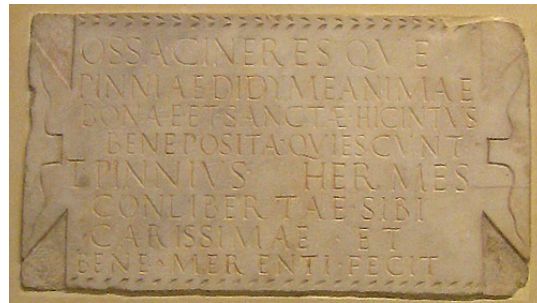


Inscriptions #2 a, b, c: CIL VI. 8769 <http://www.cnr.edu/home/araia/inscriptions/inscr2A.jpg>
<http://www.cnr.edu/home/araia/inscriptions/inscr2b.jpg>
<http://www.cnr.edu/home/araia/inscriptions/inscr2c.jpg> **Cinerary Urn**



Inscription #3: *CIL* VI. 7580 <http://www.cnr.edu/home/araia/inscriptions/inscr3.jpg>

Plaque: taken from a niche in a columbarium on the Appian way outside Rome where the bones and ashes of Pinnia Didyma were placed by her former fellow slave T. Pinnia Hermes.

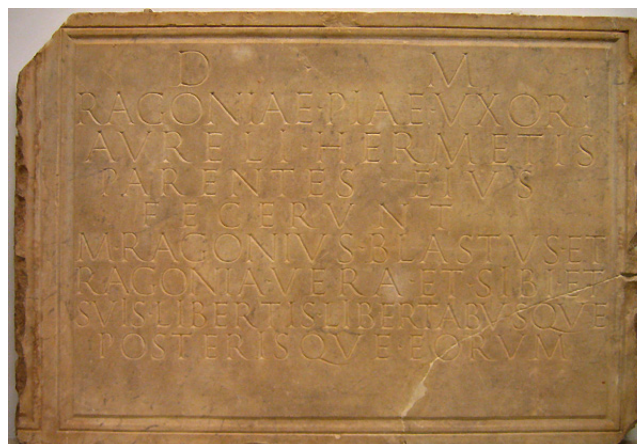


Inscription #4: *CIL* VI. 24185 <http://www.cnr.edu/home/araia/inscriptions/inscr4.jpg>

Cinerary Urn



Inscription #5: *CIL* VI. 25358 <http://www.cnr.edu/home/araia/inscriptions/inscr5.jpg> **Plaque**



Inscription #6: (CIL 3.6077) <http://www.cnr.edu/home/araia/inscriptions/inscr6.jpg> Plaque



Inscription #7: (CIL) <http://www.cnr.edu/home/araia/inscriptions/inscr7.jpg> : Cinerary Urn



Inscription #8: CIL VI. 29080 <http://www.cnr.edu/home/araia/inscriptions/inscr8.jpg> Plaque

