



**Roma Tre**

DIPARTIMENTO DI  
STUDI UMANISTICI

**RES PUBLICA LITTERARUM**  
STUDIES IN THE CLASSICAL TRADITION

QUADERNI

6

---

*In re publica litterarum liberi nos sumus*

---



Roma TrE-Press

2025

## RES PUBLICA LITTERARUM • QUADERNI

La terza serie di «Res publica litterarum - Studies in Classical Tradition», edita dalla Roma TrE-Press sotto gli auspici del Dipartimento di Studi Umanistici del medesimo Ateneo, torna a essere affiancata da una collana di studi e ricerche, come l'aveva concepita il suo fondatore Sesto Prete quando insegnava all'Università del Kansas.

I *Quaderni* intendono coprire tutti gli ambiti di interesse di «Res publica litterarum» con interventi piú ampi e approfonditi di quanto non consentano i limiti di un articolo su rivista, ma con il medesimo rigore metodologico assicurato dalla *peer review*: gli autori e le opere della classicità greco-romana e i continuatori medievali e umanistici, spesso legati gli uni agli altri da espliciti rapporti di derivazione, da puntuali riprese formali e contenutistiche o semplicemente da sottili trame allusive e giochi emulativi; i monumenti e le testimonianze storiche, epigrafiche e documentarie di carattere giuridico, socio-politico o artistico, necessari per ricostruire e comprendere, insieme alle vicende dei popoli, le trasformazioni linguistiche e gli orizzonti letterari; la tradizione grammaticale in età ellenistica e a Roma e il suo contributo all'evoluzione della scuola e dell'insegnamento; il rapporto dialettico tra letteratura e produzione tecnico-scientifica; le mutevoli sorti di sopravvivenza o fortuna, trasmissione e ricezione dei testi nel corso dei secoli; la storia della filologia e degli studi greco-latini; la presenza e l'attualità dell'antico nel mondo contemporaneo.

Aperta a collaboratori e a lettori di tutto il mondo, plurilingue e *open access*, garantita da un comitato scientifico internazionale di altissimo livello, la collana accoglie edizioni critiche, monografie e miscellanee, atti di convegno e relazioni di scavo: tipologie librarie orientate in vario modo alla costruzione di una condivisa e transdisciplinare *res publica* della cultura.

# RES PUBLICA LITTERARUM

STUDIES IN THE CLASSICAL TRADITION

Founded by Sesto Prete

QUADERNI

---

ADVISORY BOARD - COMITATO SCIENTIFICO

Francis Cairns  
*The Florida State University*

José Carlos Miralles Maldonado  
*Universidad de Murcia*

Jean-Louis Charlet  
*Université de Provence*

Sergio Pagano  
*Archivio Apostolico Vaticano*

Alessandro Fusi  
*Università della Tuscia*

Costas Panayotakis  
*University of Glasgow*

Philippe Guérin  
*Sorbonne Nouvelle (Paris 3)*

Hermann Walter  
*Universität Mannheim*

Heinz Hofmann  
*Universität Tübingen*

Arnaud Zucker  
*Université Côte d'Azur*

---

EDITOR IN CHIEF - DIRETTORE RESPONSABILE

PIERGIORGIO PARRONI, *Sapienza Università di Roma*

CO-EDITORS - COMITATO DIRETTIVO

GUIDO ARBIZZONI, *Università di Urbino Carlo Bo* • ANTONIO CARLINI,  
*Università di Pisa* • PAOLO D'ALESSANDRO, *Università Roma Tre* • MARIO DE NONNO,  
*Università Roma Tre* • LOUIS GODART, *Università di Napoli Federico II*  
ENRICO MALATO, *Università di Napoli Federico II* • GIORGIO PIRAS,  
*Sapienza Università di Roma* • CECILIA PRETE, *Università di Urbino Carlo Bo*

ASSISTANT TO THE EDITOR - VICEDIRETTORE

ANGELO LUCERI, *Università Roma Tre*

EDITORIAL BOARD - REDAZIONE

ANDREA BRAMANTI, *Università Roma Tre* • ORAZIO CAMAIONI, *Università Roma Tre*  
JESSICA FELICI, *Scuola Normale Superiore di Pisa* • MARCO FRESSURA, *Università*  
*Roma Tre* • ALESSANDRO GELSUMINI, *Università di Chieti-Pescara G. d'Annunzio*  
ANDREA MURACE, *Università Roma Tre* • ALESSANDRA PERI, *Università di Cassino*  
*e del Lazio meridionale*

# PPRET INSCRIPTIONS

INSCRIPTIONS PERTAINING TO THE PRAETORIAN  
PREFECTS FROM 284 TO 395 AD.  
PAPER EDITION

PIERFRANCESCO PORENA,  
ELEONORA ANGIUS, ANDREA BERNIER,  
GIORDANA FRANCESCHINI, IRENE VAGIONAKIS

---

IN RE PUBLICA LITTERARUM  
LIBERI NOS SUMUS

---



*Roma TriE-Press*

2025

*Coordinamento editoriale:*  
Gruppo di Lavoro *Roma TrE-Press*

*Elaborazione grafica della copertina:* **MOSQUITO**, [mosquitoroma.it](http://mosquitoroma.it)

*Caratteri tipografici utilizzati:*  
Ahellya, Baskerville, Linux Libertine, Romanus (copertina e frontespizio)  
Bembo, Times New Roman (testo)

*Impaginazione e cura editoriale:* Grafica Elettronica [www.graficaelettronica.it](http://www.graficaelettronica.it)

Edizioni: *Roma TrE-Press*\*  
Roma, dicembre 2025  
ISBN: 979-12-5977-565-8  
<http://romatrepress.uniroma3.it>

Quest'opera è assoggettata alla disciplina Creative Commons attribution 4.0 International License (CC BY-NC-ND 4.0) che impone l'attribuzione della paternità dell'opera, proibisce di alterarla, trasformarla o usarla per produrre un'altra opera, e ne esclude l'uso per ricavarne un profitto commerciale.



L'attività della *Roma TrE-Press* è svolta nell'ambito della Fondazione Roma Tre- Education, piazza della Repubblica 10, 00185 Roma

DOI: [10.13134/979-12-5977-565-8](https://doi.org/10.13134/979-12-5977-565-8)

## CONTENTS

PIERFRANCESCO PORENA, <i>Introduction</i>	1
ABBREVIATIONS	8
1. <i>Inscription in honour of Diocletian Aug. from Oescus by the praet. prefects Hannibalianus and Asclepiodotus (289/291 AD) - E. ANGIUS</i>	11
2. <i>Inscription in honour of Constantius I Caes. from Brixia by the praet. prefects Asclepiodotus and Hermogenianus (296/298 AD) - E. ANGIUS</i>	16
3. <i>Fragmentary inscription in honour of Maximian Aug. from the Roman Forum by two praet. prefects (298/305 AD) - P. PORENA</i>	21
4. <i>Inscription (1) in honour of Maxentius from the Roman Forum by his praet. prefect Rusticianus (310/311 AD) - E. ANGIUS</i>	27
5. <i>Inscription (2) in honour of Maxentius from the Roman Forum by his praet. prefect Rusticianus (310/311 AD) - E. ANGIUS</i>	31
6. <i>Fragmentary inscription in honour of a tetrarchic Caesar (Maximinus Daia?) from Perinthus Heraclea by a praet. prefect (307/308 AD) - P. PORENA</i>	35
7. <i>Constantine's 'Quinquennalia' medallion possibly engraved by his praet. prefect Vitalianus (310 AD) - P. PORENA</i>	42
8. <i>Inscription for Constantine and Licinius celebrating the reconstruction of Tropaeum Traiani supervised by the praet. prefects Petronius Annianus and Iulius Iulianus (314/315 AD) - E. ANGIUS</i>	46
9. <i>Inscription in honour of Crispus Caes. from Ephesus by the praet. prefects Petronius Annianus and Iulius Iulianus (317, 326 AD) - E. ANGIUS</i>	51
10. <i>Inscription in honour of Iunius Bassus Theotecnius from Aqua Viva (Falerii Novi) mentioning his father's praet. prefecture (364 AD) - P. PORENA</i>	55
11. <i>Fragment of inscription mentioning probably Iunius Bassus praet. prefect from Tarracina (318/334 AD) - P. PORENA</i>	64
12. <i>Inscription (1) in honour of Constantine Aug. from Ancyra by his praet. prefect Fl. Constantius (324/327 AD) - E. ANGIUS</i>	68
13. <i>Inscription (2) in honour of Constantine Aug. from Ancyra by his praet. prefect Fl. Constantius (324/327 AD) - E. ANGIUS</i>	73
14. <i>Building inscription celebrating a construction in the Aila harbour (Palae-stina), undertaken by Constantine and supervised by his praet. prefect Fl. Constantius (324/326 AD) - E. ANGIUS</i>	76
15. <i>Greek dedicatory epigram of the Great Church of Antioch built by Con-</i>	

CONTENTS

<i>stantine under the supervision of his praet. prefect Fl. Constantius (325/327 AD) - E. ANGIUS</i>	80
16. <i>Building inscription of the Ain Rchine arch (Proconsularis) under the supervision of the collegium of five praet. prefects (332 AD) - E. ANGIUS</i>	85
17. <i>Inscription in honour of Constantine II Caes. (in Latin) from Tubernuc by the collegium of five praet. prefects (Antioch's twin inscr.) (336 AD) - E. ANGIUS</i>	90
18. <i>Inscription in honour of Constantine II Caes. (in Greek) from Antioch by the collegium of five praet. prefects (Tubernuc's twin inscr.) (336 AD) - E. ANGIUS</i>	94
19. <i>Inscription in honour of the praet. prefect C. Caelius Saturninus 'signo' Dogmatius from Rome by his son C. Caelius Urbanus (334/336 AD) - E. ANGIUS</i>	99
20. <i>Inscription in honour of Fabia Aconia Paulina from Rome, mentioning her father, the former praet. prefect Catullinus, and her husband, the praet. prefect Praetextatus (384/387 AD) - P. PORENA</i>	103
21. <i>Greek inscription in elegiac distichs honouring the praet. prefect Antonius Marcellinus by the 'boule' of Gortyn (340/342 AD) - E. ANGIUS</i>	117
22. <i>Inscription in honour of Constans Aug. from Augusta Traiana by the collegium of three praet. prefects (341/342 AD) - E. ANGIUS</i>	122
23. <i>Two fragments of prefectural letters (in Greek) from Delphi addressed to the Apollo's priest Felicianus by the collegium of three praet. prefects (342/344 AD) - E. ANGIUS</i>	127
24. <i>Bronze statue base in honour of the praet. prefect Domitius Leontius decreed by the Council of Phoenicia and made by the 'ordo' of Berytus with imperial permission (344 AD) - E. ANGIUS</i>	133
25. <i>Inscription in honour of the praet. prefect Furius Baburius Caecilianus Placidus from Puteoli by the 'Regio Palatina' (343/346 AD) - E. ANGIUS</i>	138
26. <i>Bilingual epitaph in Latin (a) and Greek (b) hexameters of the praet. prefect Maiorinus from Buṣr al-Hariri (Syria) by his nephew (346/365 AD) - E. ANGIUS</i>	144
27. <i>Gilded statue base from Chytri (Cyprus) in honour of the praet. prefect Fl. Philippus by Constantius II Aug. and Gallus Caes. (352 AD) - E. ANGIUS</i>	153
28. <i>Copy of a letter by Constantius II Aug. to Marinus ('vicarius Asiae?') from Ephesus ordering that a series of gilded statues be erected in honour of the praet. prefect Fl. Philippus (352 AD) - E. ANGIUS</i>	161
29. <i>Greek inscription in honour of the praet. prefect Fl. Philippus by the 'boule' of Perge (352 AD) - E. ANGIUS</i>	171

CONTENTS

30. *Monumental Greek inscription on the architrave of the Theatre of Hierapolis (Phrygia) commemorating its restoration supervised by the praet. prefect Fl. Philippus (352 AD) - E. ANGIUS* 174
31. *Speech of Constantius II Aug. to the Senate of Constantinople containing a request to erect a series of gilded statues in honour of the praet. prefect Fl. Philippus (fr. from Perge) (352 AD) - P. PORENA* 181
32. *Inscription in honour of the praet. prefect Vulcaci Rufinus set up in the vestibule of his 'domus' in Rome by the people of Ravenna (347/352 AD) - E. ANGIUS* 204
33. *Inscription celebrating the enlargement of the 'horrea' in Savaria by the praet. prefect Vulcaci Rufinus (346/350 AD) - E. ANGIUS* 212
34. *Fragmentary inscription relating to building works in Portus (Ostia) probably made by the praet. and urban prefect Ulpius Limenius (347/349 AD) - P. PORENA* 217
35. *Greek Inscription in honour of a praet. prefect of Constantius II Aug. and Julian Caes. by the region of Batanea (Phoenices Libanensis) (358/360 AD) - P. PORENA* 223
36. *Dedication of an altar for the Magna Mater and Attis in Rome by the son of the praet. prefect C. Ceionius Rufius Volusianus 'signo' Lampadius (390 AD) - E. ANGIUS* 229
37. *Inscription commemorating the restoration of the Baths of Caracalla supervised by the former praet. prefect C. Ceionius Rufius Volusianus 'signo' Lampadius (365 AD) - E. ANGIUS* 237
38. *Inscription from the Baths of Caracalla in honour of the emperor Valentinian I by the former praet. prefect C. Ceionius Rufius Volusianus 'signo' Lampadius (365 AD) - E. ANGIUS* 242
39. *Inscription commemorating the restoration of the 'Castellum Aquae Claudiae' in Rome by the former praet. prefect C. Ceionius Rufius Volusianus 'signo' Lampadius (365 AD) - E. ANGIUS* 247
40. *Dionysus' statue base from 'Attideum' at Ostia (Rome) by the former praet. prefect C. Ceionius Rufius Volusianus 'signo' Lampadius (365/377 AD) - E. ANGIUS* 252
41. *Inscription from Ostia (Rome) commemorating the restoration of thirteen bridges by the former praet. prefect C. Ceionius Rufius Volusianus 'signo' Lampadius (365 AD) - E. ANGIUS* 258
42. *Inscription of a public building burned down in Paphos (Cyprus) then restored by the praet. prefect Strategius Musonianus (354/358 AD) - E. ANGIUS* 264
43. *Greek inscription in honour of the praet. prefect Strategius Musonianus*

CONTENTS

	<i>by the 'boulè' and the 'dèmos' of Hierapolis (Phrygia) (354/358 AD) - E. ANGIUS</i>	271
44.	<i>Greek inscription on the architrave of the 'Dodekatheon' of Hierapolis (Phrygia) commemorating a restoration supervised by the praet. prefect Strategius Musonianus (354/355 AD) - E. ANGIUS</i>	275
45.	<i>Inscription in honour of the praet. prefect Q. Fl. Maesius Egnatius Lollianus 'signo' Mavortius by his son Placidus Severus and his daughter-in-law Antonia Marcianilla from his 'domus' on the Aventine hill (Rome) (355/356 AD) - E. ANGIUS</i>	281
46.	<i>Gilded statue base from Trajan's Forum (Rome) in honour of the praet. prefect Fl. Taurus rehabilitated by the emperors Valentinian I and Valens (364/367 AD) - E. ANGIUS</i>	288
47.	<i>Greek inscription in honour of Hilarion, wife of the praet. prefect Vindaeonius Anatolius, by the 'boulè' of Perge (357/360 AD) - E. ANGIUS</i>	295
48.	<i>Gilded statue base from Trajan's Forum (Rome) in honour of the former praet. prefect Fl. Eugenius rehabilitated by Constantius II Aug. and Julian Caes. (355/360 AD) - P. PORENA</i>	302
49.	<i>Inscription of the emperor Julian on the 'cursus publicus' from Iulia Concordia made by the praet. prefect Claudius Mamertinus (362/363 AD) - A. BERNIER</i>	313
50.	<i>Inscription in honour of the emperor Julian from Ancyra by the praet. prefect Secundus Salutius (362 AD) - A. BERNIER</i>	319
51.	<i>Gilded statue base from Trajan's Forum (Rome) in honour of the praet. prefect Secundus Salutius by Valentinian I and Valens (366/367 AD) - A. BERNIER</i>	323
52.	<i>Greek inscription in honour of the praet. prefect Secundus Salutius by the 'boulè' of Pisidian Antioch (367/368 AD) - A. BERNIER</i>	328
53.	<i>Julian's constitution (CTh I 16, 8) addressed to the praet. prefect Secundus Salutius and fragments of the prefectorial edict from Amorgos (362 AD) - A. BERNIER</i>	332
54.	<i>Inscription in honour of the praet. prefect Fl. Sallustius from Trajan's Forum (Rome) by the provincials of Hispaniae (364 AD) - A. BERNIER</i>	341
55.	<i>Burial inscription for Maximilla from Rome made by Luceia, daughter of the praet. prefect Viventius (389 AD) - A. BERNIER</i>	346
56.	<i>Fragmentary constitution of Valentinian I addressed to the praet. prefect Probus from Trinitapoli (Apulia, Italy) (368/375 AD) - P. PORENA</i>	353
57.	<i>Greek inscription in elegiac distichs honouring the praet. prefect Probus from Athens by the 'proconsul' An(a)tolius (368/382 AD) - P. PORENA</i>	372

CONTENTS

58. Greek inscription in honour of the praet. prefect Probus from Gortyn decreed by the Cretan 'koinòn' and made by the 'consularis' Aristides (372/375 AD) - P. PORENA 381
59. Inscription in honour of the praet. prefect Probus from Rome (Pincio) made by the Council of Venetia and Histria (378 AD) - P. PORENA 391
60. Inscription in honour of the praet. prefect Probus from Capua made by the city 'regiones' and 'collegia' (381/383 AD) - P. PORENA 413
61. Greek inscription in honour of the former praet. prefect Probus from Gortyn decreed by the 'boulè' and made by the 'consularis' Asclepiodotus (382/383 AD) - P. PORENA 426
62. Fragmentary inscription in honour of the praet. prefect Probus from Trajan's Forum in Rome (384/390 AD) - P. PORENA 438
63. Inscription in honour of the praet. prefect Probus from Verona (385/390 AD) - P. PORENA 448
64. Burial verse inscription of the praet. prefect Probus from Rome (St. Peter's basilica) (390/394 AD) - P. PORENA 465
65. Inscription in honour of the praet. prefect Probus from Rome by his sons Anicius Probinus and Anicius Probus (395/405 AD) - P. PORENA 484
66. Inscription in honour of the praet. prefect Probus from Rome by his son Anicius Hermogenianus Olybrius and by his daughter-in-law Anicia Iuliana (395/405 AD) - P. PORENA 492
67. Inscription in honour of Valentinian I, Valens and Gratian from Cherson by the praet. prefect Domitius Modestus (370/375 AD) - A. BERNIER 500
68. Greek inscription relating to building works in Nakida (Niğde, Cappadocia) made by the praet. prefect Domitius Modestus (370/377 AD) - A. BERNIER 506
69. Fragmentary inscription commemorating a restoration in Aquileia supervised by a praet. prefect, likely Decimius Hilarianus Hesperius (379 AD) - A. BERNIER 510
70. Inscription in honour of Tyrrania Anicia Iuliana, wife of the praet. prefect Q. Clodius Hermogenianus Olybrius, from Rome (379/395 AD) - A. BERNIER 521
71. Opisthographic collar of a slave of the praet. prefect Q. Clodius Hermogenianus Olybrius from one of his properties in Rome (377/378 AD) - A. BERNIER 530
72. Another opisthographic collar of a slave of the praet. prefect Q. Clodius Hermogenianus Olybrius from one of his properties in Rome (377/378 AD) - A. BERNIER 536
73. Greek inscription in honour of the former praet. prefect Fl. Hypatius from

CONTENTS

<i>Gortyn, decreed by the Cretan 'koinòn' and made by the 'consularis' Asclepiodotus (382/383 AD) - P. PORENA</i>	542
74. <i>'Tabella immunitatis' of the former praet. prefect Postumianus from Rome (384/400 AD) - A. BERNIER</i>	552
75. <i>Inscription in honour of the praet. prefect Maternus Cynegius from Alexandria (Aegyptus) by Theodosius and Arcadius (384/387 AD) - A. BERNIER</i>	558
76. <i>Greek inscription in elegiac distichs honouring the praet. prefect or the 'vicarius' Aphthionius decreed by the 'boulè' of Gortyn and made by (the 'consularis?') Aristides (376/377 AD) - P. PORENA</i>	564
77. <i>Funerary altar of the praet. prefect Vettius Agorius Praetextatus and of his wife Aconia Paulina, from Rome (384/385 AD) - P. PORENA</i>	571
78. <i>Fragmentary inscription in honour of the praet. prefect Vettius Agorius Praetextatus from the Roman Forum (384/385 AD) - P. PORENA</i>	597
79. <i>Inscription in honour of the deceased praet. prefect Vettius Agorius Praetextatus from Rome (Pal. Altemps) (387 AD) - P. PORENA</i>	606
80. <i>Inscription in honour of the deceased praet. prefect Vettius Agorius Praetextatus from Rome (Pal. Massimo alle Colonne) (384/450 AD) - P. PORENA</i>	619
81. <i>Greek translation of a constitution of Valentinian II addressed to the praet. prefect Principius from Anaia (Asia) (386/450 AD) - A. BERNIER</i>	642
82. <i>Greek inscription in honour of Honorius from Aphrodisias by the praet. prefect Fl. Eutolmius Tatianus (388/392 AD) - G. FRANCESCHINI</i>	653
83. <i>Greek inscription in honour of Arcadius from Aphrodisias by the praet. prefect Fl. Eutolmius Tatianus (388/392 AD) - G. FRANCESCHINI</i>	660
84. <i>Greek inscription in honour of Valentinian II from Aphrodisias by the praet. prefect Fl. Eutolmius Tatianus (388/392 AD) - G. FRANCESCHINI</i>	666
85. <i>Greek inscription in honour of Valentinian II, Theodosius I, Arcadius, Honorius from Side by the praet. prefect Fl. Eutolmius Tatianus (388/392 AD) - G. FRANCESCHINI</i>	672
86. <i>Greek inscription in honour of Valentinian II, Theodosius I, Arcadius, Honorius from Antinoupolis by the praet. prefect Fl. Eutolmius Tatianus (388/392 AD) - G. FRANCESCHINI</i>	677
87. <i>Greek (verse?) inscription in honour of the praet. prefect Fl. Eutolmius Tatianus from Sidyma (391/400 AD) - G. FRANCESCHINI</i>	683
88. <i>Greek inscription from Myra (Lycia) on (weights and) measures on the model established by the praet. prefect Fl. Eutolmius Tatianus (388/392 AD) - G. FRANCESCHINI</i>	699
89. <i>Greek verse inscription in honour of Proculus, son of the praet. prefect Fl. Eutolmius Tatianus, at the mouth of the River Lycus (Phoenicia) (382/383 AD) - G. FRANCESCHINI</i>	712

CONTENTS

90. Greek inscription commemorating the works on the Canopus canal (Aegyptus) carried out by the will of the praet. prefect Fl. Eutolmius Tatianus (388/390 AD) - G. FRANCESCHINI	722
91. Greek verse inscription in honour of the praet. prefect Fl. Eutolmius Tatianus from Aphrodisias by a descendant of the same name (rehabilitation) (430/450 AD) - G. FRANCESCHINI	731
92. Posthumous inscription in honour of Virius Nicomachus Flavianus senior former praet. prefect from Rome by Q. Fabius Memmius Symmachus (402 AD) - G. FRANCESCHINI	744
93. Posthumous inscription rehabilitating the praet. prefect Virius Nicomachus Flavianus senior from Trajan's Forum (Rome) by Appius Nicomachus Dexter (431 AD) - G. FRANCESCHINI	754
94. 'Locum' in the Flavian Amphitheatre in Rome reserved to the praet. prefect Virius Nicomachus Flavianus senior (380/394 AD) - G. FRANCESCHINI	774
95. Burial inscription of Saturninus, 'centenarius' in the office of the praet. prefecture of Illyricum, from Concordia Sagittaria (376/450 AD) - A. BERNIER	778
96. Fragmentary inscription in honour of a praet. prefect from the Roman Forum (400/450 AD) - A. BERNIER	783
97. Inscription in honour of a praet. prefect decreed by the 'ordo' and people of Leptis Magna (330/400 AD) - A. BERNIER	793
98. Fragmentary inscription in honour of a praet. prefect from Trajan's Forum in Rome (340/450 AD) - A. BERNIER	799
99. Fragments of a monumental inscription in honour of a ruler by a praet. prefect, found in the Roman Forum (312/337 AD?) - A. BERNIER	805
100. Fragmentary inscription in honour of a ruler from Berytus by a praet. prefect (340/345?) - A. BERNIER	811
101. Fragmentary Greek inscription in honour of a praet. prefect by the 'boulè' and the 'dèmos' of Laodicea on the Lycos (284/450 AD) - A. BERNIER	818

BIBLIOGRAPHY	823
--------------	-----

PROSOPOGRAPHICAL INDEX, by ANDREA BERNIER

I. Praetorian Prefects mentioned in the Greek or Latin text of PPRET inscriptions	939
II. Praetorian Prefects not mentioned in the Greek or Latin text of PPRET inscriptions	941
III. Other civil, military and ecclesiastical dignitaries	942

GREEK INSCRIPTION IN ELEGIAC DISTICHS  
HONOURING THE PRAET. PREFECT OR THE *VICARIUS*  
APHTHONIUS DECREED BY THE *BOULÈ* OF GORTYN  
AND MADE BY (THE *CONSULARIS?*) ARISTIDES

EDITIONS: Vallarino 2012, p. 59 (with photo and fac-simile, p. 61, fig. 2) (= *AE* 2012, 1785; *SEG LXII* (2012), 636; *BE* 2013, 513)

PHOTOS: Lippolis, Caliò, Giatti 2019, p. 55, fig. 16; p. 432, fig. 15

PLRE: NEW - inscription unknown to the *PLRE*

PRAETORIAN PREFECTS: Aphthonius?

DATE OF THE INSCRIPTION: 376/377 AD

PROVENANCE AND LOCATION

Ancient city: Gortyna. Modern city: Gortyna, Crete (Greece). Province: Creta. Diocese: Macedonia. Regional prefecture: Italia Illyricum Africa.

Provenance: beneath the porch of the building opposite the entrance to the *Praetorium* of Gortyna from the North Street (see inscr. l. 1). Current location: element was left where it was found. Ancient location: public space, probably in front of the *Praetorium* of Gortyna.

TYPE AND MATERIAL OF THE SUPPORT AND TEXT LAYOUT

Type of support: columnar base. Material: local grey marble.

Reuse of the inscribed field: no. Reuse of the monument: yes. Opisthographic: no.

Dimensions of support: Height: 175 cm. Diameter: 50 cm. Dimensions of letters: 3,5/4,7 cm.

Inscribed field: One epigraphic field. It lies on the convex surface of the columnar base (ca. 42,8 × 40 cm.). Lines 2, 4, 6, 8 lines are indented on the left alignment. Undamaged.

Writing technique: chiselled. Language: Greek. Rhythm: poetry (two elegiac distichs). Palaeography: lunate elongated letters, with traces of rubrication.

TEXT CATEGORY: Honorary inscription for Aphthonius

## GREEK TEXT

1-2 (Verse 1)	Ἀντίον ἀχράντοιο Δίκης   τὸν ἄχραντον ὑπαρχον
3-4 (Verse 2)	δοῖος Ἀριστείδης   ἴδρυσεν Ἀφθόνιον,
5-6 (Verse 3)	πειθόμενος ψήφῳ λογάδων   καὶ δόγματι βουλῆς,
7-8 (Verse 4)	πολλῶν ἀντ' ἀγαθῶν   μικρὰ χαριζόμενος.

## CRITICAL EDITION

Edition based on Vallarino 2012.

## TRANSLATIONS

– English: «In the face of pure Justice the illustrious Aristides erected (the statue of) the pure *hyparchos* Aphthonios, fulfilling the vow of the notables and the decision of the city-council, rewarding with a small gratitude in exchange for so many meritorious achievements».

– French: «Face à la Justice pure, l'illustre Aristides a érigé (la statue de) l'*hyparchos* le pur Aphthonios, accomplissant le vœu des notables et la décision de la curie, lui rendant par une petite gratitude tant de mérites».

– Italian (Vallarino 2012, p. 59): «Di fronte alla pura Giustizia l'illustre Aristides ha eretto (la statua del) puro *hyparchos* Aphthonios, adempiendo al voto dei notabili e alla decisione della curia, rendendo ben poca riconoscenza a fronte di tante benemerenze».

## THE INSCRIPTION AND ITS PREFECTS: CRITICAL COMMENTARY, UPDATING, OVERVIEWS

In 2005, a team of archaeologists from 'La Sapienza' University of Rome, Bari Polytechnic University and the University of Bologna, coordinated by the Scuola Archeologica Italiana di Atene and led by the Italian archaeologist E. Lippolis (1956-2018), found the inscribed column drum in the 'Hellenistic building' in front of the entrance and vestibule of the apsidal hall of the *Praetorium* of Gortyna, on the North side of the North Street (see Baldini, Lippolis, Livadiotti, Rocco 2005, p. 639; Vallarino 2012, p. 60, fig. 1; Baldini, Vallarino 2013, p. 106, fig. 4, p. 109, fig. 5; Vallarino, Cosentino, Dal Basso 2019, pp. 55 f.; Baldini, Interdonato, Borlenghi, Lamanna 2019, p. 435). The inscribed column drum was reused as a bench, but the text of the inscription states that it supported the statue of the ὑπαρχος Aphthonios «in the face of pure Justice» (l. 1). The use of the noun Δίκη to indicate the seat of the gov-

ernor (*Praetorium*) and his court is widespread in late antique Greek epigraphy (see e.g. the epigram from Gortyna for the praetorian prefect Marcellinus, PPRET 21, ll. 9-10). Thus the columnar base must have been originally located in the *porticus* of the building opposite the entrance to the *Praetorium* of Gortyna from the North Street (Vallarino 2012, p. 60, fig. 1). It still stands at the site of its discovery. Vallarino (2012, p. 61, n. 6), the editor of our inscription, believes that the 175 cm. high column was behind the base that supported the statue of Aphthonius, because the inscription was engraved quite high and must have emerged above the statue. In our opinion, the column would have supported a statue that was slightly smaller than life size.

The inscription consists of 4 verses, i.e. two elegiac distichs, distributed along 8 lines to facilitate the reading of words engraved on a convex surface, where a reduced number of letters per line would be more comprehensible. For a detailed commentary on the Greek text of the epigram, see Vallarino 2012. The βουλῆ of Gortyna decreed the monument to Aphthonius; it was solicited by the notables of the city (λογῶδες, Lat. *principales*, see ll. 5-6), and was made by Aristides, whose assignment or rank are not specified.

According to the hypothesis of Vallarino (2012), accepted by Feissel (*BE* 2013, 513), the recipient of the honorary monument, Aphthonius, may have been a praetorian prefect of Illyricum in the years 375/377 AD, or a *vicarius* of Macedonia in the years 370/375, 375/379, 381/382 AD. The uncertainty is because the noun ὑπαρχος, in honorary Greek epigrams can indicate both positions (see discussion in PPRET 57). With some caution, the honoured man might be identifiable with Fl. Ovidius Aphthonius, *consularis* of Numidia around 344/361 AD (Benseddick 2005, pp. 249-52 = *AE* 2005, 1695). This identification is hypothetical, and no known Aphthonius can be attributed with certainty to our ὑπαρχος of Gortyna (see Vallarino 2012, pp. 64 f.). The chronology of Aphthonius' possible prefectorial office is linked to the identification of the dedicator, Aristides: according to Vallarino, he could be Fl. Fursidius Aristides, *consularis Cretae* in 372/376 AD (*PLRE* I, p. 105). The latter would have dedicated the monument to the praetorian prefect Petronius Probus once it had been decreed by the κοινὸν of Crete and the emperor's permission given. This monument is dated after January 372 AD (Probus styled as former consul) and before or at the end of his prefectural office in Italia-Illyricum-Africa in 375/376 AD (the need for an imperial permission, see PPRET 58).

Fursidius Aristides' office in the seventies of the 4th Century AD is confirmed by the Gortyna inscription that was made in honour of the *consularis*

*Cretae* Asclepiodotus in 382/383 AD, by an Ulpus Fursidius Panhellenius and decreed by the Cretan κοινὸν (see *ICret.* IV 313; *LSA* 774; Bigi, Tantillo 2020, p. 196, nr. 8; the inscription belongs to the ‘cycle of Asclepiodotus’ in the *Praetorium* of Gortyna, see PPRET 61). Fursidius Panhellenius was a notable (πρωτεύων) of Gortyna, delegated by the κοινὸν, while Fursidius Aristides was probably a governor and related to him; this important family might belong to the Cretan aristocracy. The universally accepted series of praetorian prefects of Italia-Illyricum-Africa which follows the reconstruction of *PLRE* I (pp. 1050 f.) leaves a small time span, between 376 and 377 AD, for the possible prefecture of Aphthonius, after Petronius Probus in 376 AD (*PLRE* I, pp. 736-40; see PPRET 57 and 59) and before Iulius Ausonius (*PLRE* I, p. 139) in the second half of 377 AD. Whether the dedicator of our epigram for Aphthonius from Gortyna was the Fursidius Aristides *consularis*, who honoured the praetorian prefect Probus at Gortyna in 372/376 AD (PPRET 58), and if the noun ὑπαρχος indicates a praetorian prefect already in the 4th Century – although the only possible 4th Century attestation is in Probus’ Athenian epigram PPRET 57 – Aphthonius could be a praetorian prefect of Italia-Illyricum-Africa in 376/377 AD. In this case, the *consularis Cretae* Fursidius Aristides would have dedicated two monuments to two praetorian prefects one after the other in the period 371/377 AD, probably between 376 AD, the last possible year of the praetorian prefecture of Probus before the inscription in the statuary cycle of Asclepiodotus in the *Praetorium* (PPRET 61), and 377 AD, the year after which there would be no more room for a prefectorial office of Aphthonius.

Vallarino was cautious in his reconstruction (2012, p. 64: «Né il contesto di scavo, né il dato paleografico ostano a questa datazione, che tuttavia va necessariamente presa con il beneficio del dubbio data l’estrema concisione della formula onomastica, che non consente un’identificazione certa del dedicante»). We propose some observations on this reconstruction by examining the characteristics of Aristides’ epigram in honour of Aphthonius.

The dedicator Aristides does not indicate his office. Both the single name of the dedicator, Aristides, without office, the rhythm of the Greek text (an epigram), the shape of the base (columnar) and the palaeography of the inscription categorically exclude any proximity to the cycle of the *consularis* Asclepiodotus, author of the restoration of the *Praetorium* of Gortyna in 382/383 AD (see Bigi, Tantillo 2020; see also PPRET 58, 61, 73). The inscription for Aphthonius is an epigram and the office is indicated by the noun ὑπαρχος, not ἑπαρχος, which in seven out of eight inscriptions of the Asclepiodotus cycle, would indicate instead the praetorian and urban prefects

(see Bigi, Tantillo 2020, pp. 191-95, nr. 1; 3; 4; 5; 6; 7). The cycle of Asclepiodotus, dated to 382/383 AD is written in prose not verse, and this choice could explain the difference. However, the use of the noun ὑπαρχος in verse sets Aphthonius' inscription apart from contemporary epigraphic practice in Gortyna. On the first monument in honour of Probus, made in Gortyna by Fursidius Aristides (PPRET 58) in ll. 4-7, the prefect is declared to be: τὸν λαμπρ(ότατον) | κ(αί) ἐξοχώτατον | ἀπὸ ὑπάτων, | ἔπαρχον τοῦ πραιτωρίου; on the monument in honour of Probus praetorian prefect for the third time within the cycle of Asclepiodotus (PPRET 61), the prefect is cited as being (ll. 2-5): τὸν λαμπρότατον | ἀπὸ ὑπάτων καὶ | ἀπὸ ἐπάρχων πραιτωρίων | γ' (= τὸ τρίτον). Only in Aphthonius' epigram is the term ὑπαρχος used in 4th Century Crete, while in the same period, the office of praetorian prefect is indicated in the Greek language by the noun ἔπαρχος 20 times out of 22.

The authority that decreed the monument for Aphthonius is not the κοινὸν of the province of Crete, but the βουλή of the city of Gortyna. In the epigram in honour of the praetorian prefect Marcellinus (PPRET 21) the decision of the βουλή of Gortyna was concretely executed (in the form of an honorary statue) by Pyrrhus, who was probably an important private citizen (ll. 11-12; *PLRE I*, p. 756 Pyrrhus 2). In fact, towards the end of the 4th Century, a homonymous descendant was honoured as governor of Creta by the erection of a statue in Gortyna; no doubt he was a member of a prominent Cretan family (*PLRE I*, p. 756 Pyrrhus 3; see *ICret. IV 324*; *LSA 786*). In 382/383 AD, it was probably the same Pyrrhus who honoured the *consularis* Asclepiodotus together with Ulpius Fursidius Panhellenius, when he was still Πύρρος ὁ σοφιστής (*ICret. IV 313*, etc., l. 5, see above). So one can assume that the untitled Pyrrhus who dedicated an inscription in verse to the praetorian prefect Marcellinus, on the Gortyna βουλή monument, was almost certainly a very high level citizen, but not a governor.

In the 4th Century, whenever the honorary decree is concretely transformed into an inscribed monument made by a governor, either by decision of the κοινὸν, or by decision of the βουλή, the governor indicates his office. In the verse inscription from Athens for the prefect Probus, the *proconsul Achaiae* Anatolius indicates his office (PPRET 57, l. 3); in the inscription for an anonymous praetorian prefect of the East in Batanea (Syria), the *ducenarius* in charge of the imperial *saltus*, indicates his office (PPRET 35, l. 6); in the inscription decreed by the βουλή of Gortyna in honour of the praetorian prefect Petronius Probus, the *consularis* Fursidius Aristides indicates his office (PPRET 58, ll. 10-11); in the inscription decreed by the βουλή of Gortyna in honour of the praetorian prefect (for the third time) Petronius Pro-

bus the *consularis* Asclepiodotus indicates his office (PPRET 61, ll. 9-10); in the inscription decreed by the βουλή of Gortyna in honour of the praetorian prefect Fl. Hypatius the *consularis* Asclepiodotus indicates his office (PPRET 73, ll. 9-10); in the inscription decreed by the βουλή of Gortyna in honour of the urban prefect of Rome Vettius Agorius Praetextatus the *consularis* Asclepiodotus indicates his office (*ICret.* IV 316; *LSA* 777; Bigi, Tantillo 2020, p. 193, nr. 3, l. 6). Only Aristides, who has the monument of the βουλή of Gortyna built for Aphthonius is silent about his office. One may suspect that Aristides was not a dignitary, but a local notable (the epithet δῖος does not seem exclusive to officials).

The monument for Aphthonius was commissioned by the leading notables of Gortyna (λογάδες, the «chosen ones», see ll. 5-6; cf. Lat. *principales*). The use of the term λογάδες in epigraphy, very late, underlines the urban environment in which it matured into a decree. Indeed, together with the use of a high base and the word ὑπαρχος, it pushes our gortynian text towards the 5th Century, not the 4th Century (on Greek terms defining city notables, cf. Laniado 2002, pp. 177-79, cf. p. 178 concerning the word λογάδες: «le premier exemple que nous ayons trouvé remonte au V<sup>e</sup> siècle [...] en 447 ou 448»; Liebeschuetz 2001, pp. 104-24).

But there is another element which pleads against Aphthonius being a praetorian prefect of Italia-Illyricum-Africa: in the years 376-387 AD Crete and Macedonia were in the *pars* of the emperors Gratian and Valentinian II (only in the period 379/381 AD they were in the *pars* of Theodosius). The sequence of known praetorian prefects in the period from 368 to 387 AD shows that the holders were all noble Roman senators (at least until 385 AD; cf. *PLRE* I, pp. 1050 f.; *idem* for the statuary cycle of Asclepiodotus at Gortyna, cf. scheme in Bigi, Tantillo 2020, pp. 70 f.). After Vulcacius Rufinus in 368 AD, we encounter Sex. Petronius Probus, Claudius Antonius, Iulius Ausonius, Q. Clodius Hermogenianus Olybrius, Decimius Hilarianus Hesperius, Fl. Hypatius, Vettius Agorius Praetextatus (we think that Afranius Syagrius was praetorian prefect in Gauls, and that Nonius Atticus and Valerius Severus, both Roman aristocrats, were never praetorian prefects); Principius, Eusignius had western careers; Neoterius began his career as a *notarius* of Valentinian I (concerning these prefects see the entries in Porena 2023a, pp. 98-128). Aphthonius is certainly a dignitary of lower social origin, with onomastics from a Greek-speaking area, which is very rare in the West. It seems extremely unlikely that Aphthonius could have been chosen by the emperor Gratian as praetorian prefect of Italia-Illyricum-Africa during the Gothic crisis that began in 376 AD.

Still in the city of Gortyna, a comparison with the base of Aphthonius can be found in the monument in honour of Leontius (*PLRE* II, p. 668) the praetorian prefect of Illyricum in 412-413 AD, found in front of the entrance to the *Praetorium* of Gortyna from the North Street (Bigi, Tantillo 2016, p. 217, fig. 17.1; Bigi, Tantillo 2020, p. 16, fig. 12). As in the case of the inscription for Aphthonius, the Greek text is a poem (three elegiac distichs); the monument was set up next to the doors of the governor's Court, and the office of the honoree is defined as ὑπαρχος, but in this case the monument was made by decree of the κοινὸν of Crete (*ICret.* IV 325; *LSA* 787):

Εἰκόνα τήνδ' ἐσάθρει με Λεοντίου ἀγνοῦ ὑπάρχου,  
 ὃς Κρήτην πολὴν μοῦνος ἔθηκα νέην.  
 Ἀγχιθύρος δ' ἔστηκα Δίκης, κριντῆρσι γάρ εἰμι  
 ἥπιος εἰθυδίκους τοῖδ' ἀδίκουσι δέος.  
 5 Στήσε δὲ Καλλεῖνικος ἐνηεὶ δόγματι νήσσου,  
 γέης Ἰλλυρίδος δεῦτερον ἥελιον.

«Consider me, statue of the worthy prefect Leontius, who alone made the Cretan city young again. I was set up by the portals of Dike; for I am mild to just judges, but terrible to the unjust. Callinicus set me up, on the benevolent behest of the island, me, the second sun of Illyricum» (transl. by U. Gehn).

It is possible that Callinicus was the provincial governor of Crete (*PLRE* II, p. 251), but this is not certain. Similar to the case of the monument decreed by the βουλή of Gortyna in honour of the praetorian prefect Marcellinus, at the Court of justice of the *Praetorium* in 340/341AD (*PPRET* 21), Callinicus' name is not linked to any office. We hypothesise that the monument with the epigram in honour of Aphthonius, decreed by the βουλή of Gortyna at the behest of the *principales* of the city may honour a praetorian prefect of Illyricum (the eastern Illyricum) in the 5th Century AD, and that it was made by Aristides, a city notable. If we could identify the maker as the *consularis Cretae* Fursidius Aristides, then it could be argued that monument perhaps honoured a *vicarius Macedoniae* of the late 4th Century AD, but it seems unlikely that in 376/377 AD Aphthonius was a praetorian prefect.

PIERFRANCESCO PORENA