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6

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

PAPER EDITION

PIERFRANCESCO PORENA,
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GREEK INSCRIPTION IN HONOUR OF THE FORMER
PRAET. PREFECT FL. HYPATIUS FROM GORTYN,
DECREED BY THE CRETAN *KOINÒN* AND MADE
BY THE *CONSULARIS* ASCLEPIODOTUS

EDITIONS: *CIG* II 2596; Guarducci 1929, p. 166, nr. 15 (with fac-simile); *ICret.* IV 317 (with fac-simile); Bigi, Tantillo 2020, pp. 195 f., nr. 7 (relief figg. 19; 63,7; 64,7; 89; photo Tav. VI)

LINKS: *LSA* 778; *PH* 200761; *TM* 781810

PLRE: I, pp. 448 f.

PRAETORIAN PREFECTS: Flavius Hypatius

DATE OF THE INSCRIPTION: 382/383 AD

PROVENANCE AND LOCATION

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

Provenance: inside the hall with exedra of the *Praetorium* Gortyna. Current location: still in its findspot. Ancient location: public space, *Praetorium* of Gortyna.

TYPE AND MATERIAL OF THE SUPPORT AND TEXT LAYOUT

Type of support: statue base. Material: Gortynian marble.

Reuse of the inscribed field: no. Reuse of the monument: yes, probably embedded in the masonry of the Byzantine monastery built in the area of the *Praetorium*. Opisthographic: yes, the base was previously used for an inscription in honour of Q. Caecilius Rufinus *proconsul Cretae et Cyrenae* around 170 AD (below).

Dimensions of support: Height: 99 cm. Width: 62 cm. Breadth: 49 cm. Dimensions of letters: 4/4,5 cm.

Inscribed field: Two inscribed fields (*frons, retro*). The epigraphic field of the inscription in honour of the former prefect Hypatius is almost undamaged; the lower part of the base is broken, and its edges are ruined. Opisthographic: on the opposite side of the base there is a dedication of the second

half of the 2nd Century AD, *ICret.* IV 301, which is undamaged. The base was then turned and reused for the dedication to Hypatius.

Writing technique: chiselled. Language: Greek. Rhythm: prose. Palaeography: late Greek capitals with lunate sigma and epsilon (writing relief Bigi, Tantillo 2020, p. 65, n. 7).

TEXT CATEGORY: Honorary inscription for the praetorian prefect Fl. Hypatius

GREEK TEXT

((hedera)) Φλ(άβιον) Ὑπάτιον, ((hedera))
 τὸν λαμπρότατον
 ἀπὸ ὑπάτων καὶ
 ἀπὸ ἐπάρχων πραιτωρίου,
 5 δόγματι τοῦ κοινοῦ
 πάσης τῆς ἐπαρχείας,
 Οἰκουμένιος Δωσίθεος
 Ἀσκληπιόδοτος ὁ λαμ(πρότατος)
 ὑπατικός τῆς Κρητῶν
 10 ἐπαρχίας ἀνέστησα. ((hedera))

CRITICAL EDITION

Edition based on Bigi, Tantillo 2020, pp. 195 f., nr. 7.

6: ἐπαρχίας, *CIG*

7: Δωσίθεος, *CIG*

10: ἀνέστησεν, *CIG*

TRANSLATIONS

– English: «To Flavius Hypatius, of clarissimus rank, former consul and former praetorian prefect, according to the decree of the *κοινὸν* of the entire province, I, Oecumenius Dositheus Asclepiodotus, consular of clarissimus rank of the province of Crete, set up».

– French: «À Flavius Hypatius, le clarissime ancien consul et ancien préfet du prétoire, par décret du *κοινὸν* de toute la province, moi, Oecumenius Dositheus Asclepiodotus, clarissime consulaire de la province de Crète, j'ai dressé».

– Italian (Tantillo in Bigi, Tantillo 2020, p. 196): «A Flavius Hypatius, clarissimo ex console ed ex prefetto del pretorio, per decreto del concilio di tutta la provincia

[*koinòn*], Oecumenius Dositheus Asclepiodotus, clarissimo consolare della provincia di Creta, posi».

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

The inscription was found and still lies inside the rectangular apsidal hall in the *Praetorium* of Gortyna in Crete (Bigi, Tantillo 2020, p. 4, figg. 4-5). The inscribed base may have been reused in the walls of the hall rebuilt by the emperor Heraclius (610-641 AD). Equally, it may have been inserted into the houses of craftsmen and farmers or incorporated into the small Byzantine monastery (late 7th Century AD), which was built upon the ancient *Praetorium* (Di Vita 2000, pp. LVII-LXXIV, 341-76, 775-800). In later centuries, the collapse of these poor, abandoned buildings and the use of the area as a quarry in the Ottoman era led to the discovery of the base (on the present location of the base with the inscription for Probus cf. Bigi, Tantillo 2016, p. 217, fig. 17.1, nr. 779; Bigi, Tantillo 2020, p. 16, fig. 12, nr. 6). Gortyna was the seat of the *proconsul* of praetorian rank of Crete and Cyrenaica; since Diocletian the city was the seat of the *praeses* then *consularis* of the province of Crete, now separated from Cyrenaica (cf. Di Vita 2010; Lippolis 2016). The hall with an exedra was probably the governor's court. In fact, this part of the *Praetorium* has preserved numerous inscriptions which were executed between the mid-4th and mid-5th Centuries AD. They were placed perhaps inside and certainly in front of the entrance to the building (on the late *Praetorium* of Gortyna, the excavation evidences and reconstructions cf. Di Vita 2010, pp. 81-91 e 171-205; above all Di Vita 2000, pp. 341-48; the reconstruction of architectures and the location of the inscriptions is different in Lippolis, Calì, Giatti 2019, in part. pp. 205 f., 375 f., 408, 419; and in Bigi, Tantillo 2016, with fig. 17.1; Bigi, Tantillo 2020, pp. 1-14).

The area of the *Praetorium* in Gortyna has yielded five inscriptions in honour of late antique praetorian prefects: an inscription for the praetorian prefect Antonius Marcellinus, made in 340/342 AD and reused 40 years later (see PPRET 21); two inscriptions to the praetorian prefect Petronius Probus, one recalling him as praetorian prefect without iterations (371/376 AD, see PPRET 58), one that commemorates him as a former praetorian prefect for the third time and is part of the statuary cycle made by the *consularis* Asclepiodotus (382/383 AD, see PPRET 61); our inscription in honour of the prefect Hypatius, which is part of the cycle of the *consularis* Asclepiodotus (382/383 AD); an inscription in honour of the praetorian prefect of

Illyricum in 412/413 AD Leontius (*PLRE* II, p. 668; see *ICret.* IV 325 = *LSA* 787 = Bigi, Tantillo 2020, pp. 26 f., figg. 29-31; photo Bigi, Tantillo 2020, p. 27, figg. 29-31). On the inscription for the ὑπαρχος Aphthonius, found in 2005 on the North side of 'North Street' in the so-called 'Hellenistic building' in front of the vestibule of the apsidal hall of the *Praetorium*, recently published by Vallarino 2012, see PPRET 76. This inscription in honour of Aphthonius is the only one engraved on a columnar base. It should be noted, in fact, that in the 4th Century the honorary inscriptions in the area of the apsidal hall of the *Praetorium* in honour of the praetorian prefects were chiselled on statue bases (reused): Marcellinus, Hypatius, twice Petronius Probus, then Leontius.

The inscription in honour of the former praetorian prefect Hypatius is part of the great statuary cycle made at Gortyna by the *consularis* of Crete Oecumenius Dositheus Asclepiodotus (*PLRE* I, p. 115; Bigi, Tantillo 2020, pp. 72 f.) on the occasion of the restoration of the *Praetorium* (explicit evidence of the reconstruction of the governor's seat by the *consularis* Asclepiodotus can be found in the inscriptions re-examined in Bigi, Tantillo 2020, pp. 196-200, nr. 9-11). The series of statues is lost, but the series of statue bases is well preserved. They were made by the governor by decree of the κοινὸν of the province of Crete or the βουλή of Gortyna between late 382 AD and mid-383 AD (on the chronology see Bigi, Tantillo 2020, pp. 78-81; see this study for an examination of the statue bases and its topographical context). The cycle is completely homogeneous and was made by the same workshop of stone cutters. It consists of three statues for the emperors Gratian, Valentinian II and Theodosius I Augusti (the above-mentioned inscriptions are re-examined in Bigi, Tantillo 2020, pp. 196-200, nr. 9-11); a statue of Asclepiodotus himself (Bigi, Tantillo 2020, p. 196, nr. 8); sixteen statues in honour of Roman aristocrats (a list of personalities, their titles and data from their inscriptions can be found in Bigi, Tantillo 2016, fig. 17,2, and in Bigi, Tantillo 2020, pp. 10 and 70 f., Tab. 1; a palaeographical comparison of the sixteen inscriptions is in Bigi, Tantillo 2020, pp. 64 f., fig. 63; a comparison of the epigraphic supports of the sixteen inscriptions can be found in *ibid.*, pp. 65 f., fig. 64; for critical editions of the sixteen inscriptions, see *ibid.* pp. 191-200). The inscriptions of the Asclepiodotus' cycle were found over a long period of time. The inscriptions re-examined by Bigi, Tantillo 2020, nr. 1 (*ICret.* IV 315), 2 (*ICret.* IV 314), 3 (*ICret.* IV 316), 6 (*ICret.* IV 318), 7 (*ICret.* IV 317) have been known since the 16th Century. The inscriptions re-examined by Bigi, Tantillo 2020, nr. 4 (*ICret.* IV 320); 5 (*ICret.* IV 319); 8 (*ICret.* IV 313); 9 (*ICret.* IV 284b); 10 (*ICret.* IV 284a); 12 (*ICret.* IV 448); 13 (*ICret.* IV 322);

16 (*ICret.* IV 321) were found in the excavations of the Italian Archaeological team between 1890 and 1928. The inscriptions re-examined by Bigi, Tantillo 2020, nr. 14 and 15 are unpublished and were found on the road West of the *Praetorium* in 1983; nr. 11 (*SEG XLV* (1995), 1292) was found in 1991 in a wall of the Byzantine houses in the north side of the 'North Street'.

The layout of the Asclepiodotus' cycle in the *Praetorium* of Gortyna, as proposed by De Tommaso 2000b on the basis of the structure of the epigraphic supports, was accepted by Baldini 2010, pp. 124 f., and by Baldini, Vallarino 2013, pp. 106-12; it has been thoroughly revised by Bigi, Tantillo 2016 and by Bigi, Tantillo 2020, pp. 15-61, especially pp. 17, 49-52, which we follow here. Both the *κοινὸν* of Crete and the *βουλή* of Gortyna decreed the construction of the statuary cycle with the Greek inscriptions in 382/383 AD. The cycle portrayed the three Augusti, the *consularis* Asclepiodotus and numerous senators of Rome, perhaps because the island had received economic and fiscal benefits during the long Gothic crisis (376/382 AD), see Tantillo, in Bigi, Tantillo 2020, pp. 167-89.

The inscription in honour of the former praetorian prefect Hypatius in Gortyna was initially seen and copied by Francesco Barozzi (1537-1604), a nobleman from Candia, who may have copied it around 1577. The epigraphic text was later copied by Onorio Belli (1550-1604). In 1583, Belli came to Crete to serve as the physician of the island's *Provveditore Generale*, Alvise Antonio Grimani, and remained there until 1599 (cf. Beschi 2000, pp. XV-XXXIX). During his sixteen year sojourn on the island he collected an epigraphic corpus, which included the inscription of Hypatius. And it was from Belli's corpus that the inscription entered the larger corpus of J. Gruter (cf. Gruterus 1707, p. MXCIIII, nr. 4). Between the 17th and 19th Centuries, the inscription was seen by travellers, until it was finally re-examined by the Italian Archaeological Mission led by F. Halbherr in 1912-1913 (cf. Guarducci in *ICret.* pp. 2 f. and 346 f.; on the Italian Archaeological Mission cf. Di Vita, La Rosa, Rizzo 1984; Di Vita 2010, pp. 5-14; Lippolis, Calì, Giatti 2019, pp. 13-21).

The statue base in honour of the former prefect Hypatius in the Asclepiodotus' cycle was tripartite (cymatium, body, plinth) but only the central body remains. It is also an opisthographic support. The 'twin' base in honour of the former praetorian prefect «for the third time» Petronius Probus from the same *Praetorium* has the same characteristics as Hypatius' base (see PPRET 61; a similar support in the same cycle is used for the base in honour of Anicius Bassus, *proconsul Campaniae*, cf. *ICret.* IV 314 = *LSA* 775 = Bigi, Tantillo 2020, p. 192, nr. 2. This inscription is also opisthographic and on the

other side there is the inscription in honour of Marcellinus, praetorian prefect in 340/342 AD, which was engraved on a reused surface, see PPRET 21). The two inscriptions under the statues erected by Asclepiodotus in honour of the two former praetorian prefects Hypatius and Petronius Probus, were engraved by the same stonemasons on the back faces of bases that had already been used in a similar way before. Prior to this, in the second half of the 2nd Century AD, the bases had been used to carry dedications to a *proconsul* and a *quaestor* who had presided in Crete at the same time (respectively *ICret.* IV 301 = *IGR* I 968 for Q. Caecilius Rufinus; and *ICret.* IV 302 = *IGR* I 970 for P. Septimius Geta; cf. Guarducci 1929, pp. 146-51; photo in Bigi, Tantillo 2020, p. 268, Tav. VI). Hypatius' inscription was inscribed on the epigraphic field opposite the inscription for Q. Caecilius Rufinus *proconsul Cretae et Cyrenaicae* sometime around 170 AD (cf. *PIR*² C 75; Eck 1972/73, pp. 248 f.; Rémy 1999, pp. 182 f., 185; Pautasso 1994/95, pp. 89 f., 101, nr. 56, with a later date; Struffolino 2014, p. 353, n. 16). Neither the inscription for Rufinus nor the inscription for Geta were erased. The base of the *quaestor* Geta was overturned and the inscription for Probus was engraved in the opposite direction to that for Geta; our base of the *proconsul* Rufinus was only turned 180° and the inscription for Hypatius was engraved in the same orientation as the previous inscription.

Although the statue for Hypatius was decreed by the κοινὸν of Crete and that for Probus by the βουλή of Gortyna, the characteristics of the two bases and of the two inscriptions show that they belong to the same celebratory project built by the *consularis* Asclepiodotus.

Flavius Hypatius was a Roman aristocrat from Macedonia, who was probably born in Thessalonica. Thanks, no doubt, to his relationship with the imperial family, he led an exceptional career (concerning this senator and his career, cf. Chastagnol 1962, pp. 203-6; *PLRE* I, pp. 448 f.; Petit 1994, pp. 132 f.; Tantillo in Bigi, Tantillo 2020, pp. 76-79; Porena 2020a, pp. 104, 107; 2023a, pp. 165 f., 172 f.; Porena 2020b, pp. 154 f.; 2023a, pp. 112-115). In 353 AD the emperor Constantius II married Eusebia (she was his second wife; *PLRE* I, pp. 300 f.; Tougher 2000), who was the sister of Fl. Eusebius (*PLRE* I, pp. 308 f.) and of our Fl. Hypatius, all probably sons of Eusebius (*PLRE* I, pp. 307 f.), the most loyal *magister militum* of the East and consul of 347 AD under Constantius II (*CLRE*, pp. 228 f.). In 359 AD the two brothers Eusebius and Hypatius became together – a very rare case – ordinary consuls (cf. *CLRE*, pp. 252 f.), and Hypatius was also *patricius*. Hypatius' inscription in Gortyna also recalls that he had been ordinary consul (ἀπὸ ὑπάτων, l. 3; similarly in the two Gortyna inscriptions in honour of the praetorian pre-

fect Petronius Probus, ordinary consul in 371 AD, see PPRET 58, l. 6, and PPRET 61, l. 3).

The Gortyna inscription celebrates the praetorian prefecture held by Hypatius. Although it also celebrates his ordinary consulship, it is silent about any other position in the senator's career. Probably the editors had decided to be selective. According to a characteristic of epigraphy for praetorian prefects in Greek-speaking regions, it is highly likely that the praetorian prefecture of Hypatius included Crete, i.e. Illyricum, because the provincial κοινὸν of Crete decreed the monument (ll. 5-6) and no regional district is declared. According to scholars Hypatius was praetorian prefect of Italia-Illyricum-Africa (the evidence is the *propositum* of *CTh* XI 16, 13). Hypatius was praetorian prefect between the beginning of December 382 AD and the end of May 383 AD, as attested by a consistent series of nine constitutions (*CTh* XI 16, 15, on December 9th 382 AD; *CTh* VI 26, 3, on December 15th 382; *CTh* VI 2, 13, on January 10th 383 AD; *CTh* XI 16, 13, on April 13th, but the consular year must be corrected from 382 to 383 AD; *CTh* XII 1, 99, on April 18th; *CTh* XII 1, 100, on April 19th; *CTh* III 1, 4, on May 2nd; *CTh* XVI 7, 3, on May 21st; *CTh* II 19, 5, on May 28th 383 AD). The last constitution addressed to the prefect Hypatius on May 28th 383 AD is the *terminus post quem* of our Gortyna inscription (and of the whole statuary cycle of the renewed *Praetorium*, restored by the *consularis* Asclepiodotus).

In our inscription from the *Praetorium* of Gortyna, Hypatius is defined as a former praetorian prefect (ἀπὸ ἐπάρχων πραιτωρίου, l. 4). This Greek formula can be found in the inscription in honour of the praetorian prefect Salutius from Pisidian Antioch (PPRET 52), and in the inscription in honour of Petronius Probus, «former praetorian prefect for the third time» within the same statuary cycle of the *consularis* Asclepiodotus from the *Praetorium* of Gortyna (PPRET 61; on the formula «*ex praefecto praetorio*» in Latin epigraphy, see PPRET 48). However, in the inscription in honour of the praetorian prefect Petronius Probus, decreed by the κοινὸν of Crete and made by the *consularis* Fursidius Aristides in the ancient *Praetorium* of Gortyna (PPRET 58) the great senator is defined as a prefect in office (ἐπαρχὸν τοῦ πραιτωρίου, l. 7). The monument was conceived with the emperor's permission (θεῖῳ θεσπίσματι, l. 1), since imperial dispensation was required to publicly honour a praetorian prefect within his administrative district, while he was still in office. Probably the κοινὸν of Gortyna waited until the end of the praetorian prefecture of Hypatius to erect the monument to the former prefect in the new *Praetorium*. Let us examine this aspect.

Recently Vallarino (Baldini, Vallarino 2013, pp. 111 f.) has attributed two

praetorian prefectures to Hypatius. The first one would be attested by *CTh* XI 16, 13, on April 13th 382 AD (as in the manuscripts); at the end of this first prefecture, in the Summer of 382 AD, Asclepiodotus would have made the monument to Hypatius with its inscription in the *Praetorium* of Gortyna (according to Vallarino, the statuary cycle could have been executed in «a single intervention, concluded between April and July 382» p. 112). Then, Hypatius would have gone on to hold between December 382 AD and May 383 AD, a second praetorian prefecture, and both the prefectures covered Italia-Illyricum-Africa. This double office allows us to identify Hypatius as the praetorian prefect who administered Crete (for the first time), when the statuary cycle was created and would also explain a reference by Ammianus Marcellinus to the ‘double prefecture’ (*gemina praefectura*) of his friend Hypatius (Amm. XXIX 2, 16): *inter quos omnes adulescentia et virtutum pulchritudine commendabilis noster Hypatius praeminebat, vir quieti placidique consilii, honestatem lenium morum velut ad perpendicularum librans, qui et maiorum claritudini gloriae fuit et ipse posteritatem mirandis actibus praefecturae geminae decoravit* (transl. Rolfe 1939, p. 225: «Conspicuous among all these was our Hypatius, a man recommended from his youth by noble virtues, of quiet and calm discretion, and of a nobility and gentleness measured as it were by the plumb-line; he conferred honour on the fame of his ancestors and himself gave glory to posterity by the admirable acts of his two prefectures»).

However, this hypothesis is not without its problems. The constitution *CTh* XI 36, 26 mentions Hypatius as prefect of Rome on April 5th 379 AD (the year is more likely to be 378 AD, because the law was issued in Trier). The *gemina praefectura* of Hypatius mentioned by Ammianus may allude to the urban prefecture of 378[?]/379 AD and the praetorian prefecture of 382/383 AD. Moreover, the appointment and dismissal of Hypatius in the first half of 382 followed by a new appointment to the same prefecture in late 382 AD is an anomaly for late antique administration, especially in the year in which the conflict with the Goths in Southern Illyricum was ending (on the praetorian prefects to be expunged from the list of *PLRE I* in 382/384 AD, see Porena 2020b, p. 150; 2023a, pp. 99 f.). Finally Vallarino’s hypothesis that the statuary cycle in the *Praetorium* of Gortyna, renewed by Asclepiodotus, may have been constructed between April and July 382 AD, is weakened by the inscription in honour of Valerius Severus within the same cycle of inscribed monuments. In Gortyna Severus is referred to as a former prefect of Rome (*ICret.* IV 315; *LSA* 776; Bigi, Tantillo 2020, pp. 191 f., nr. 1, cf. *ibid.* p. 74; see *PLRE I*, p. 837; Chastagnol 1962, pp. 209-11): our urban prefect was in office in Rome on August 1st 382 AD (*CTh* VIII 9, 2) and only stood

down before November 22nd 382 AD (*CTh* I 6, 8, to the following urban prefect, Anicius Auchenius Bassus). The arrival in Crete of the news of Severus' dismissal from the prefecture of Rome, certainly after the beginning of August 382 AD, would have easily coincided with the supposed second praetorian prefecture of Hypatius in the second half of 382 AD.

If, as it seems, the statuary cycle in the *Praetorium* of Gortyna was decreed and carried out between mid-382 and mid-383 AD, the former praetorian prefects Hypatius and Probus (PPRET 61) could be the last two prefects who had Crete included in their administrative district. In our opinion, Hypatius was the serving praetorian prefect in 382/383 AD when the κοινὸν met in Gortyna and decreed the creation of the monuments for the senators portrayed in the cycle of the *consularis* Asclepiodotus. Since the *Praetorium* was still under restoration, the delegates could not see the point in asking the emperor Gratian for permission, particularly when communications were difficult and the latter was far away in northern Italy (see Barnes 1999, p. 168). By the time permission would have been granted, the prefect Hypatius could already have been replaced. In all probability the κοινὸν decreed that the monument to Hypatius be made as soon as he stepped down (this is shown by the formula ἀπὸ ἐπάρχων πραιτωρίου). This hypothesis is supported by Asclepiodotus' statuary cycle in the *Praetorium*, since it contains two monuments decreed by the βουλῆ of Gortyna for Petronius Probus, former praetorian prefect (for the third time, PPRET 61), who was the predecessor of Hypatius in the praetorian prefecture in 381/382 AD, and for Vettius Agorius Praetextatus, who was the successor of Hypatius, in the praetorian prefecture in 383/384 AD (*ICret.* IV 316; *LSA* 777; Bigi, Tantillo 2020, pp. 192 f., nr. 3; concerning his praetorian prefecture see PPRET 77, 79, 80). When the news of Praetextatus' appointment to the praetorian prefecture reached Crete in 383 AD, it is probable that the provincial notables decided to add the monuments of the former prefect Probus and his successor Praetextatus to the cycle already decreed by the κοινὸν of Crete. At that time it was easier to unite the βουλῆ than the κοινὸν. Thus the monument to Petronius Probus ἀπὸ ἐπάρχων πραιτωρίων γ' (PRET 61, ll. 4-5) was decreed by the βουλῆ. Also decreed was the monument to Praetextatus, remembered not as praetorian prefect, but as a former prefect of Rome (*ICret.* IV 316, etc., see above, ll. 2-3), either because he had not yet entered service, or because the Cretans could not honour a prefect during his term of office without imperial authorisation. As mentioned, the inscriptions in honour of Hypatius (decreed by the κοινὸν of Crete) and Probus (decreed by the βουλῆ of Gortyna) were engraved on a pair of 'twin' supports by the

same workshop, which was also responsible for the inscription (decreed by the βουλή of Gortyna) on a different support for Praetextatus. This proves that the statues and dedications were all made together, although they were decreed at different times (for this reconstruction see Tantillo in Bigi, Tantillo 2020, pp. 68 f.; Porena 2020a, pp. 103-5). It therefore seems likely that Hypatius held only one praetorian prefecture in 382/383 AD.

Recently, Porena (2020a, pp. 107 f.; 2020b, pp. 151 f., 154 f.; 2023a, pp. 164-68, 100-04, 112-15) has cautiously proposed to interpret the ‘double prefecture’ (*gemina praefectura*) of Hypatius as it was styled by Ammianus Marcellinus (Amm. XXIX 2, 16, see above), as a single appointment on two autonomous but joint prefectorial seats (Italia-[Illyricum]-Africa and autonomous Illyricum, a *gemina sedes*). A mandate on two prefectorial seats may have characterised the prefectorial appointments of Petronius Probus (see PPRET 59, 60, 61) and Vettius Agorius Praetextatus as well (PPRET 77 and 79). Otherwise it is possible that the first ‘phantom’ praetorian prefecture of Virius Nicomachus Flavianus senior (382/383 AD) may have been held by the senator on Italy-Africa, while Hypatius was praetorian prefect of Illyricum only (see PPRET 93).

PIERFRANCESCO PORENA