

Supplementa Italica. Nuova serie. Vols. 13, 14, 15. Unione Accademica Nazionale. Edizioni Quasar, Roma 1996 (vol. 13), ISBN 88-7140-098-4. 336 p., 256 ill.; 1997 (vols. 14, 15), ISBN 88-7140-112-3, ISBN 88-7140-099-2. 237 p., 376 p. ITL 70.000 per volume.

It is with great pleasure that one observes three new volumes being added to the successful series *Supplementa Italica*. There are now altogether 15 volumes in a series which began only in 1981, a pace which I consider very good, although the editor Silvio Panciera has at several times expressed his wish to see two volumes coming out every year. Certainly that would be nice; however, perhaps that wish is a bit overoptimistic – there are problems such as finding suitable collaborators etc. –, and in any case I think that even the progress we have been witnessing up till now will be thought of by most scholars as most remarkable. I must also right at the beginning of this review stress the quality of the volumes – not for the first time. Again, the "revisione" and the "cura redazionale" are (in the case of vols. 13 and 15) due to professor Panciera, who of course is an eminent authority in epigraphical things.

As for the contents of the volumes, vol. 14 consists of the indices to vols. 8–13, following the model of vol. 7 which was reserved for the indices to vols. 1–6. Let us have a look at this volume later and start by a closer look at vols. 13 and 15 which represent the by now classic type of *Supplementum Italicum*, this meaning that the volumes include treatments of various cities (in the case of vol. 15 of only one, Ateste), the treatment consisting in each case roughly of an historical introduction, most useful addenda to the inscriptions from the city published earlier in the CIL or in some other major publication, the publication of the texts not appearing in those collections, and indices to the "new" inscriptions.

Vol. 13 (of 1996) begins, as usual, with a "presentazione" by M. Guarducci and S. Panciera. Here one finds on p. 6 interesting observations on the geographical coverage of the volumes published up till now; it appears that, whereas the *Supplementa Italica* volumes cover quite a few cities in some areas, there are some area/areas from which there is nothing (Sicily) or almost nothing (just one city from e.g. Etruria). There is a useful map illustrating this in the review of some *Suppl. It.* volumes by John Bodel in *JRA* 11 (1998) 486. Of course, this has to do something with the availability of suitable epigraphical women and men to do the job, and it is not a coincidence that Liguria and some parts of central Italy and of Bruttium fare better than other areas in Italy, these being the centres of interest of two of the most productive collaborators of the series, Giovanni Mennella and Marco Buonocore.

Vol. 13 includes the following cities: Nursia in regio IV by R. Cordella and N. Criniti, Septempeda in reg. V (Picenum) by S.M. Marengo, and three Ligurian cities (in reg. IX), Vardacate by G. Mennella and E. Zanda, Forum Germa(-) by E. Culasso Gastaldi and G. Mennella, and Pedona by the same authors. The most important city by far is Nursia covering almost 200 pages and offering 156 "new" texts (including, of course, many small fragments and 11 texts already in CIL), the other places not exceeding 20. (But it is important to remember that it is not simply the number of new texts which is important in these volumes but also the material presented in the addenda to "old" texts.) Most of the inscriptions under Nursia are of course not unknown, for they had been edited earlier by the same authors in the two most useful, but somewhat chaotic volumes *Iscrizioni latine di Norcia e dintorni* (1982) and *Nuove iscrizioni latine di Norcia, Cascia e Valnerina* (1988),

but it is good to find them all collected here and presented in an exemplary fashion. There is much of interest in the material, for example no. 16 (perhaps the father of Vespasian), no. 23 (= CIL IX 4549, the enigmatic text with *Sefitio Socurtali* and other strange things; the authors seem to agree with G. Alföldy, ZPE 77 [1989] 167ff.), and the great number of otherwise absolutely unknown nomina, e.g. *Caesiarus*, *Instadius*, *Pompuedius*, *Pulsinienus*, *Satriarius*, a good reminder for those editors of inscriptions who, facing a nomen which seems to be unattested, get nervous and start to think about possible emendations. Some minor observations: no. 42: in the commentary the authors wonder whether *Audenus* could be related to *Audenius* or whether it should be considered a "forma volgare" of *Audienus*, but in fact we have here three different forms of just one nomen; we have many examples of nomina which we find ending both in *-ienus* and *-enus* (this variation must be due to local or dialectal differences), which ending could be Romanized by adding the *i* before the *u* (for parallels, cf. for instance the series *Passenus* / *Passienus* / *Passenius* / *Passienius* and *Volusenus* / *Volusienus* / *Volusenius* / *Volusienius*). No. 67: Here we have a nomen of which the letters MENTEDIVS are visible. The authors assume that we are dealing with the otherwise unknown nomen *Mentedius*, which is quite possible. But something might be missing in the beginning, and in preparing the first edition of the Repertorium I suggested [Her]mentedius, which, as the authors observe, is also a hapax, but which at least could be regarded as a variant of *Hermentidius* (cf. *Frensedius* / *Frensidius*, *Suetedius* / *Suetidius* etc.), whereas there is no parallel which could be adduced to support the existence of *Mentedius*. No. 91: In this text, one recognizes the upper part of a nomen which is either VAIENUS or VALENUS. The authors prefer *Valenus*, adducing *Varenus* and referring to the "caratteristico interscambio L > R". However, it does not seem very useful to think about *Varenus* here, and although *Valenus* is not impossible I cannot see what could be wrong with *Vaienus* (suggested by me in the Repertorium), which could be compared to *Baienus*, *Caienus*, *Raienus*, *Graienus*, *Staienus* and further similar names; furthermore, there is not very much room for the letter between the a and the e, this, too, pointing to *Vaienus* being preferable to *Valenus*.

As for the other cities, these chapters are much less substantial than the one on Nursia, this fact no doubt in some way reflecting the importance of Nursia in comparison to the other, minor, centres. But of course there are interesting things; under Vardacate no. 1 one finds the "rescritto di Vardacate" (AE 1947, 44; 1949, 24), and as for Forum Germa(-), this place can now be located NW of Cuneo (see p. 258f.), and its name ("Forum Ger(-)" in CIL) has gained two new letters (Germa(norum) is perhaps the most likely, but not certain, restoration: p. 259f.). In no. 14, *filiae* (not *filie*) seems to be the correct reading. In the case of Pedona, one might note that some texts previously attributed to Pollentia have now been assigned to this city on the basis of a new study of the centuriation of its territory.

Vol. 15 (1997) on Ateste, by M.S. Bassignano, is the first of Supplementa Italica series which is devoted to one city only, the reason being that that were 299 texts (including of course small fragments) to be presented, the total number of texts from Ateste now being more than 600. This is a remarkable number, especially if one considers that (as observed by Guarducci and Panciera on p. 7) the inscriptions seem to run out at the turn of the first and the second century (but at least no. 5 is from AD 178 or 182 [cf. below], and no. 27 from the second century). The territory of the city seems to have been redefined at

places, as the list of inscriptions in CIL V now attributed to Ateste on p. 11 includes many numbers not presented under Ateste in CIL V. (For a reconstruction of the borders of the territory see the map on p. 33.) The whole volume is of a very high quality, and the publication of the book is a major event in epigraphical studies, in spite – or perhaps because – of the fact that Ateste is a somewhat peculiar place where one does not find much of the usual type of "interesting" inscriptions (inscriptions honouring senators and knights, municipal decrees etc.), the stress of the epigraphical material being on veterans and people of similar status. And of course there is the early material illustrating the Romanization of the place. On individual texts, I have the following observations. No. 5, with the date --- *et Ru]ffo cos.*: from AD 182, according to A. Buonopane, the first editor; however, noting that Rufus was the name of many consuls, Bassignano prefers to leave the date open, although she agrees that the text is from the second century. Now it is true that there were many consuls called Rufus, but when we limit ourselves to ordinary consuls (the only possibility here), to consuls who are named only after their consular colleagues, and finally to the second (and to the early third) century, we find that only the years 178 or 182 can come into question. – No. 63 *M'. Baebius / L. f. Rom. PARENS / M'. Baebius M'. f. / Rom. Celer*: Bassignano argues that *Parens* is a cognomen, but it seems clear to me that we have here a father a his son, and that *parens* means 'father' (thus also J. Zajac and D. Pupillo). This would then be another instance of a family in which only the son has a cognomen, so often attested in the early imperial period in N. Italy. (Note that *Celer* was a common cognomen among those who represent the first generation using a cognomen.) – No. 83 (CIL I² 3406) *M'. Critoni(us) P. f., / Alenia M'. f. Tertia, / M'. Critoni M'. f. / Clementis (uxor), / L. Critoni(us) M'. f. / Secundus* etc.: thus Bassignano, according to whom we have here two Critonii and a woman who was the wife of a third man of the same name. These people could then be a father, his daughter-in-law (married to a son already deceased), and either another son or a grandson, son of the deceased son. But would this interpretation be credible? Now the problem is that inscriptions of this type use a stereotyped structure in which different persons are enumerated according to certain rules, and to someone familiar with the genre there can be no doubt that we have a family here, the father, the mother, and two sons. We have thus another example of a family in which the sons represent the first generation using a cognomen. Note how everything is as expected: the son who is mentioned first, obviously the elder son, has the praenomen of his father, and the other son has another praenomen and the cognomen *Secundus*. Of course, in order to restore to Alenia her status as the mother of the younger Critonii, one has to do something about *Clementis* in line 4. Is this the correct reading at all? Certainly one can see nothing on the photo after the *n* in *Clemen*; but if this is indeed the correct reading I think that one has to assume that this is a mistake of the stonecutter, no doubt influenced by the abbreviated nominative ending in *-i(us)*. – No. 162: the nomen of the mother appears in the transcription as *Querennia*, but the reading of the stone is clearly *Querrenia*.

As mentioned above, vol. 14 (1997), by Claudia Lega, contains, in addition to a section with addenda and corrigenda (there is quite a lot e.g. on Amiternum) and to a section with "conguagli bibliografici", indices to vols. 8–13, thus continuing the tradition established with vol. 7 which covered the first six volumes of the series. The main index is of the type Key word in context, and the references not only give the number of the texts, but also information e.g. on the type of the monument, the material and the date of the

inscriptions in question. Besides the main index, there are other indices, for instance of numerals, of the materials used and of the "tecniche di scrittura". Everything is of a very high quality, and the book should be seen as a model for other index volumes, and not just those to appear in this series.

But what is the use of a good book if only the richest libraries can afford to buy it? There is a tendency nowadays among some editors to ask ridiculously high prices for their books, perhaps in order to exclude, for some reason, the possibility that private customers should want to buy them. However, it is hard to see the use of this policy, and I must say that I personally very much prefer editors who ask reasonable prices. Now the editor of this series, Quasar, certainly belongs to the latter group, and thus deserves sincere thanks for producing not only good books, but also books people can buy. It is also most notable that the price of a *Supplementum Italicum* has been the same for years.

Olli Salomies

Inscriptiones Sanctae Sedis 2: Le iscrizioni dei Cristiani in Vaticano. Materiali e contributi scientifici per una mostra epigrafica, a cura di Ivan Di Stefano Manzella. Città del Vaticano 1997. Distribuzione esclusiva: Edizioni Quasar di Severino Tognon Srl, Roma. 379 p. ITL 150.000.

It was decided many years ago that the Congress of Greek and Latin Epigraphy of 1997 in Rome should include various collateral manifestations, one of which was to be an exhibition in the Vatican Museums dedicated to Christian epigraphy. This project was completed in September 1997 when the brilliantly organized "mostra epigrafica" was inaugurated.

This volume, the second one of the *Inscriptiones Sanctae Sedis*, is based on this exhibition and the huge epigraphic collections of the Vatican Museums in general. The material exhibited is widely commented on in Section 3 where the pieces are classified within fourteen thematic groups (e.g. the first testimonies of Christianity; monuments and toponyms in Rome; writing material, re-use, instrumentum, palaeography; social classes and office-holders; ecclesiastical hierarchy; God, Saints, martyrs and benefactors; decorative elements; style, diction, formulae; the army; crafts and professions; ethnic and religious elements in Rome; linguistic aspects in late Antique inscriptions; onomastics). Even though it is impossible to provide a complete view of the world of Christian epigraphy under such headings, the material discussed is nonetheless well chosen to illustrate what inscriptions can tell about the transformation of Christian society and its relation to the pagan world. The discussion of the epigraphic culture of late Antiquity not only follows the great lines but also focuses on many fascinating details. Some variation of quality can be observed between individual contributions, but the comments are usually written with a professional hand. Every section is preceded by a brief and useful introduction by Ivan Di Stefano Manzella.

The first section of the book discusses the formation and contents of the various epigraphic collections preserved in the Vatican Museums (9–96). Not only the stones themselves, but also archives, manuscripts, inventories and other museological issues are dealt with. Every contribution is important and interesting to read, but for practical purposes (research in the archives, etc.) the most useful are those by G. Spinola (*Nascita e*