

*Roman Inscriptions of Britain. Vol. III: Inscriptions on Stone, found or notified between 1 January 1955 and 31 December 2006.* Edited by R. S. O. TOMLIN – R. P. WRIGHT† – M. W. C. HASSALL. Oxbow Books, Oxford 2009. ISBN 978-1-84217-368-8. 524 pp. GBP 70.

Students of Roman epigraphy and of Roman Britain in general will have noted with satisfaction the publication of Volume III of *RIB* in 2009, more than 40 years after the publication in 1965 of *RIB* I, the other "inscriptions on stone" volume which included 2314 inscriptions (but only inscriptions which had been published before the end of 1954). As Volume II, dedicated to items belonging to the category of "instrumentum domesticum" (military diplomas, tile stamps, graffiti, etc.), was published between 1990 and 1995 in several fascicles, it seems obvious that there cannot be another Roman province whose epigraphic material would have been collected in such a comprehensive way. But it must of course be remembered that the number of inscriptions in Roman Britain is fairly limited, as Britain cannot be described as a province of the Roman Empire with a developed epigraphic culture.

The numbering of the inscriptions in *RIB* II ended with 2505, but in this volume, the inscriptions are numbered from 3001 – the explanation given for this in the Preface is "so as to mark the beginning of a third volume" – the numbering ending with 3527 (excluding the *alienae* and the *falsae*). This means that there are more than 500 inscriptions; however, a large number of them consists only of a few letters. There is perhaps not very much of interest for those scholars who normally deal with epigraphically more fertile areas, but at least there is, e.g., the legate M. Martiannius Pulcher (with an interesting *nomen*) restoring a temple of Isis (3001), the by now well-known *moritix Londiniensium*, Tiberinius Celerianus (3014; for a more recent study of this inscription, see M. Dondin-Payre – X. Lorient, *AC* 77 [2008] 127–69), a *haruspex* at Bath (3049), a building inscription apparently mentioning Iulius Agricola (3123), a building inscription mentioning Septimius Severus and his sons in the dative, where the name of Geta is legible (3215), an inscription mentioning an *eme(ritus) ex ordi(nato)* and an *act(arius) ... in cas(tris) int(er)fectus ab hosti(bus)* (3218), a funerary inscription containing the interesting formulation *pro condicione loci* (3222), and a text dedicated to *[D]iscipulinae Imp(eratoris) Had(riani) Aug(usti)* (3298); and there are also other inscriptions of a more general interest, e.g., those mentioning various exotic deities. Of course there are also soldiers with *patria*; I observed soldiers at least from Arretium (3004), Eporedia (3073), Cemenelum (3098), Forum Germanorum (3121), Hippo Regius (3445), Nicopolis in Thracia (?) (3460). There is also a Greek inscription (3151).

Virtually all the texts were of course already known from original publications mainly in the *JRS* or in *Britannia*, but it must be noted that there are quite a few inscriptions which for some reason were not also reproduced in the *Année épigraphique*; among inscriptions of a more general interest, I observed that at least 3053, 3073, 3121, 3170, 3180, 3185, 3272, 3332, 3518, 3523 and 3526 had escaped the vigilance of the editors of the *AE* (on the other hand, no. 3489 is in fact *AE* 2005, 953, although this does not seem to be mentioned in the caption).

My impression is that this volume is of a high quality, the readings of the inscriptions being in general impeccable and the commentaries (in which also linguistic matters are taken into account) most helpful. I have, however, some observations which I would like to present at this point. No. 3004: the soldier from Arretium, L. Pompei[us] Licetus ("The cognomen seems to be unique") is given the filiation *Gn. f.* (sic), because "From the deduced original width, it follows that the father's praenomen was abbreviated to two letters"; but seeing that this is not

a very early text, it would be surprising to find a man with a praenomen not identical with that of his father, and that is why I wonder whether it would not be preferable to give the father the praenomen *L.* but to restore not *f.* but *fil.*, possibly with a ligature, in the lacuna. – No. 3073, with the text *L. Octavi L. Pol. Martialis*; the nomenclature receives the comment "F. for *f(ili)* is omitted after the father's praenomen, which is very unusual, but see *RIB* 3121 for another instance". A bit more can perhaps be said on this phenomenon, which is not that unusual if one considers not Latin inscriptions in general, but only inscriptions of soldiers, the only category in which it is found. In inscriptions of soldiers, the omission of *f.* in the filiation is in fact quite common, especially in some places of which Carnuntum is no doubt the most prominent example (but one can observe the phenomenon practically everywhere; note, e.g., *AE* 2005, 616 from Emerita in Lusitania, with *L. Helvius L. Pap. Rebilus*). In my opinion, the omission of *f.* must have originated in military rosters, in which there were separate columns for the different items of a soldier's name, and in which apparently only the father's praenomen but not the indication *f.* was written in the field reserved for this particular item. – No. 3179, *In his praediis Aurel(iae) Con[ce]ssae san[ctis]simae pu[ellae]*. The name is taken to be a dative, but I wonder whether a genitive might not be preferable. It should be noted that there is in fact a paper published on the expression *in his praediis* (D. Lengrand, *REA* 98 [1996] 109–31). – No. 3195 (of AD 221): I am fairly sure that if L. Viducius Placidus is identical with *Placidus Viduci fil.* (but I cannot see why we could not be dealing with representants of different generations), he must have "adopted Roman-style nomenclature" not after (as asserted in the commentary) but before the *constitutio Antoniniana* in 212, for most, if not all, of the new citizens in 212 seem to have adopted the nomen *Aurelius*.

The volume ends with "Concordance tables", a "Glossary of Latin technical terms" (in the explanation of *votum*, "'vow', promise made to gain divine favour", the addition of "esp. (in plural) in a public ceremony at the New Year" in my view distracts the student from the most common meaning of the term in inscriptions). There is also an "Index of sites", but not an epigraphic index, which we are told in the preface "will be published separately". *RIB* I and II are cited as precedents for this procedure, but the indexes to *RIB* I appeared only in 1983, 18 years later than the volume itself, and so I wonder if the practice of publishing indexes separately is something which deserves imitation. But let us hope that this time we do not have to wait as long.

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*Le vie della storia. Migrazioni di popoli, viaggi di individui, circolazioni di idee nel Mediterraneo antico. Atti del II Incontro Internazionale di Storia Antica (Genova 6–8 ottobre 2004). A cura di M. G. ANGELI BERTINELLI – A. DONATI. Serta Antiqua et Mediaevalia 9. Giorgio Bretschneider Editore, Roma 2006. ISBN 88-7689-230-3. XIV, 405 pp., 6 tavv. EUR 160.*

This volume contains the proceedings of a conference, organized in 2004 in Genoa, on migrations of ethnic and cultural groups, movements of individuals and the circulation of ideas in the Mediterranean world in Antiquity. This general topic has received a great deal of attention in recent years; for instance, the theme of the XVII International Congress of Classical Archaeology, organized by *AIAC* in Rome in September of 2008, was *Meetings between Cultures in the*