

Terme di Diocleziano. La Collezione epigrafica. A cura di ROSANNA FRIGGERI – MARIA GRAZIA GRANINO CECERE – GIAN LUCA GREGORI. Electa, Milano 2012. ISBN 978-88-370-8934-4. 760 pp. EUR 49.

The aims and the contents of this admirable book are described in the "Premessa" by the three editors. It is meant to be the catalogue of all inscriptions displayed in the epigraphic collection (including also some Greek and Etruscan inscriptions) in its new arrangement at the Baths of Diocletian (this means that inscriptions kept elsewhere in the museum are not included), and to illustrate the same texts by the commentaries attached to each text. The texts are not translated, which is understandable inasmuch as translations would surely have made this already very heavy book even heavier. On the other hand, a translation here and there in the case of difficult texts (e.g., the metrical inscription of Allia Potestas, IX 10) would have made this book even more useful, especially if it is aimed not only at scholars but also, as implied on the homepage of the publisher (<http://www.electaweb.it/catalogo/scheda/978883708934/it>), at the "vasto pubblico del museo". But of course the publication of this book even as such is an important event.

This catalogue follows the arrangement of the inscriptions in the museum, starting with a section on Sala I and ending with a section on Sala X (referred to in the following as "I", "II", "III", etc.), dedicated to epigraphical forgeries and to modern inscriptions imitating ancient ones (e.g., the "epitaph" of the Renaissance scholar Pomponio Leto, pp. 678f.). The catalogue also includes some objects without inscriptions displayed in the epigraphical collection (e.g., I 50f. and 54 comprising various small objects, VI 12, 17, 19, 20 and 34 with five busts, VI 41–42 with various lamps, *ibid.* 44, 46, 48 and 49, statues of *togati*; *ibid.* 50, a relief with *fasces*; IX 35, 38, 54, 58–60, 67). All halls being dedicated to different themes, all sections except that on Sala V (pp. 254ff.) include articles meant to illustrate the contents of the sections in question. There are thus articles on the nature of inscriptions (S. Panciera, pp. 12ff., a modified Italian version of the paper published in *ZPE* 183 [2012] 1ff.), on archaic inscriptions in general (M. L. Lazzarini on lettering, pp. 88–90) and on various cities producing archaic inscriptions (e.g., D. Gorostidi Pi on Tusculum, pp. 166f.), and, e.g., articles on the social structure of the Roman Empire (G. Alföldy on pp. 278ff., one of Alföldy's last articles, as observed in the *Premessa*), on Rome as the centre of administration (W. Eck, pp. 424ff.) and on the religions of Rome (J. Scheid, pp. 524ff.).

The inscriptions have not been numbered throughout the book, but only within the individual sections, which makes it difficult to find out the exact total number of inscriptions presented in this book; but if I count the inscriptions in sections I–IX (thus excluding the forgeries in section X), I arrive at a total of 345 texts. However, this does not tell the whole truth, for all numbered items are not inscriptions (cf. above), and some numbers in fact cover several texts (e.g., II 8 with "frammenti di olla", IV 31 with the *ollae* from S. Cesareo, and IX 49, which comprises *defixiones* and other material from the sanctuary of Anna Perenna at Piazza Euclide; also, e.g., VI 57, 68, 69); moreover, the first text on pp. 24f. does not seem to have a number. However, we are in any case talking about a most impressive number of inscriptions. Among them there are also some unpublished texts, of which I observed the following: II 9 by A. La Regina, a 3rd-century BC inscription from Corcolle reading *St. Clos/lenio(s)/ M(arci) s(ervos) dono / Vener(i) mer(eto)* (if *Closlenio(s)* is indeed the correct reading, this would be a new no-

men); VI 69i; VII 7 (a *viat(or) cons(ularis)*). There are also some texts neither in *CIL* nor in *AE* (VI 47; VII 20; VIII 28; IX 50).

But this being the Museo Nazionale Romano, it is not the quantity of inscriptions that is of interest, but rather the quality, for the museum houses of course one of the most important collections of inscriptions in the world, mostly from Rome and its environs but also from other places (note, e.g., VII 13, the *tabula alimentaria* from Ligures Baebiani, VI 58, a military diploma found in Romania); accordingly, this catalogue contains a very great number of important inscriptions, all of them with text, commentary, up-to-date bibliography (including references to EDR) and photo. The importance of this will of course be obvious to all those interested in Roman studies. To mention only a few of the significant inscriptions in this collection, we have here many of the most important archaic inscriptions (the *fibula Praenestina* by P. Poccetti as II 1, the *lapis niger* by F. Coarelli as II 2, the *lapis Satricanus* by M. Gnade and D. Nonnis as II 11, the inscription of the *quiroi* Castor and Pollux by D. Nonnis as II 12, the inscription dedicated to *Lare Aenia* also by D. Nonnis as II 16). From later times there is, e.g., the so-called *laudatio Turiae* by S. Evangelisti as IV 28 and the *elogium* of the consul Q. Veranius by M. Giovagnoli as VI 28. One of the most interesting items is surely the bronze inscription, surrounded by a most elegant frame, of the 1st-century senator L. Cornelius Pusio, which was found together with the bronze head of the senator, showing a man with a strong neck and a gaze which seems to imply that he was not a man who would normally accept 'no' for an answer (VII 3, by C. Caruso and C. Borgognoni; for an observation on the identification of the man, see below).

An edition like this, which covers virtually all types of inscriptions from archaic to Christian texts and does not exclude brick stamps, seals, etc., must obviously have been the result of teamwork. In this book, the list of authors of the individual 'schede' (listed on one of the first pages of the book) comprises 43 names. Many of the authors have been active in the field of epigraphy for decades, but younger epigraphists are also not only represented but are in fact responsible for a very large number of 'schede': according to my calculations, Giorgio Crimi (whose surname seems to have been misspelled in the list of contributors) is responsible for no less than 49 editions, Maurizio Giovagnoli for 44, David Nonnis for 37 and Carlotta Caruso for 23, these four scholars thus being responsible for almost half of all the inscriptions presented in this book.

My impression is that the contributions are all of high quality, although here and there a detail or two might have been added to a commentary (e.g., in VI 52 it might have been added that *Cl(audia) Ara* as the indication of the home town of the veteran refers to Cologne/Köln). I observed only one small mistake in the reading of an inscription ("*annis VIII*" for *annis VIII* in VI 53), and very few inscriptions where I would disagree with a commentary or an interpretation. In VII 3 (the inscription of Cornelius Pusio), C. Caruso says (p. 435) that the man is identical with L. Cornelius Pusio Annius Messalla (*PIR*² C 1425), but I think most scholars nowadays would agree that this Cornelius Pusio, consul in the early 70s, is not identical with, but the father of, L. Cornelius Pusio Annius Messalla (known from *Inscr. It.* IV 1, 107), who would then be identical with the L. Cornelius Pusio known from the fasti of Potentia to have held the consulate in AD 90 (see. e.g., G. Alföldy in *CIL* VI p. 4777 on the inscription 31706 = 37056). In IX 13 (pp. 552f., = *CIL* VI 2120), the wonderful inscription containing the letter of the pontifex Velius Fidus to his colleague Iuventius Celsus and the *libellum* of the imperial

freedman Arrius Alphius, C. Ricci reads in lines 2–5 *Desideri(um), frater Alphii, Arriae Fadilae ... liberti, libellum tibi misi* etc., speaking in the commentary of the "desiderio (r. 2) espresso da Arrius Alphius", but putting commas before *frater* and after *Alphii* must make some readers think that a brother of Alphius is somehow involved, which is of course not the case. Although the Latin found in this text contains some "vulgar" features, it would not in my view be possible to assume that Velius Fidus, wishing to say that he was sending a *libellum* containing the *desiderium* of the freedman, could have written *Desideri(um), frater, Alphii ... libellum tibi misi* (taking *desideri* as a genitive defining *libellum* would of course also be quite impossible). On the other hand, seeing that the reading of the inscription is *Desideri*, and that already in the correspondence of Fronto there are instances of the use of *signa*, there is no problem in interpreting *Desiderius* as Celsus' *signum*. At the beginning of the letter Fidus writes *Iubentio* (sic) *Celso collegae suo salutem*, but then addresses Celsus with *Desideri* (vocative) *frater*, just as Fronto (p. 188 v.d.H.) in a letter to Cornelius Repentinus starts with *Cornelio Repentino Fronto salutem*, but then goes on to address the man as *frater Contucci* (cf. my observations on this in C. Badel – C. Settapani [eds.], *Les Stratégies familiales dans l'Antiquité tardive* [Paris 2012] pp. 9f.).

But these are of course only minor matters, for this is a fine book which I have already used with profit. That it has been priced at € 49 means that even private individuals (and not only rich libraries) can buy it, and thus I am sure this book will be a great success.

Olli Salomies

Corpus inscriptionum Latinarum. Partim consilio et auctoritate Academiae Litterarum Regiae Borussicae editum. Partim consilio et auctoritate Academiae Scientiarum Berolinensis et Brandenburgensis editum. Vol. IV: Inscriptiones parietariae Pompeianae Herculanae Stabianae. Suppl. pars IV, fasc. I: Ad titulos pictos spectans. Ediderunt VOLKER WEBER – ANTONIO VARONE – ROBERTA MARCHIONNI – JANA KEPARTOVÁ. Walter de Gruyter, Berlin 2011. ISBN 978-3-11-018538-6. I–XVIII, pp. 1151–1555. EUR 199.95.

This is the first fascicle of the fourth part of the supplement to *CIL IV* (the Pompeian wall inscriptions). It contains the *tituli picti*, i.e. those texts that were painted on the wall with a brush. The original publication of these texts is in one of the following volumes: 1) volume *CIL IV*, edited by Karl Zangemeister in 1871 (nos. 1–1204, with corrigenda and addenda in 2881–3024), 2) the second supplement to *CIL IV*, edited by August Mau in 1909 (nos. 3341–3884 with addenda [and corrigenda] to Zangemeister and addenda to suppl. 2 in 6601–6696 and in 7022–7054), 3) the third supplement to *CIL IV*, edited by Matteo Della Corte, Volker Weber and Pio Ciprotti in 1952–1970 (nos. 7116–7996 and 9822–9986). For the problems of the final two fascicles of this last publication, see Heikki Solin's review (*Gnomon* 45 [1973] 258–77). The *tituli picti* of Herculaneum, originally edited by Ciprotti (10478–10490), have not been included in this supplement, but no reason is given for this.

In the present supplement, texts up to no. 7054 have been edited by Volker Weber, with occasional contributions by Antonio Varone and Peter Kruschwitz. Texts from no. 7116 onwards (those originally published in Della Corte's supplement) have been edited by Roberta Marchionni, Jana Keparťová and Antonio Varone.