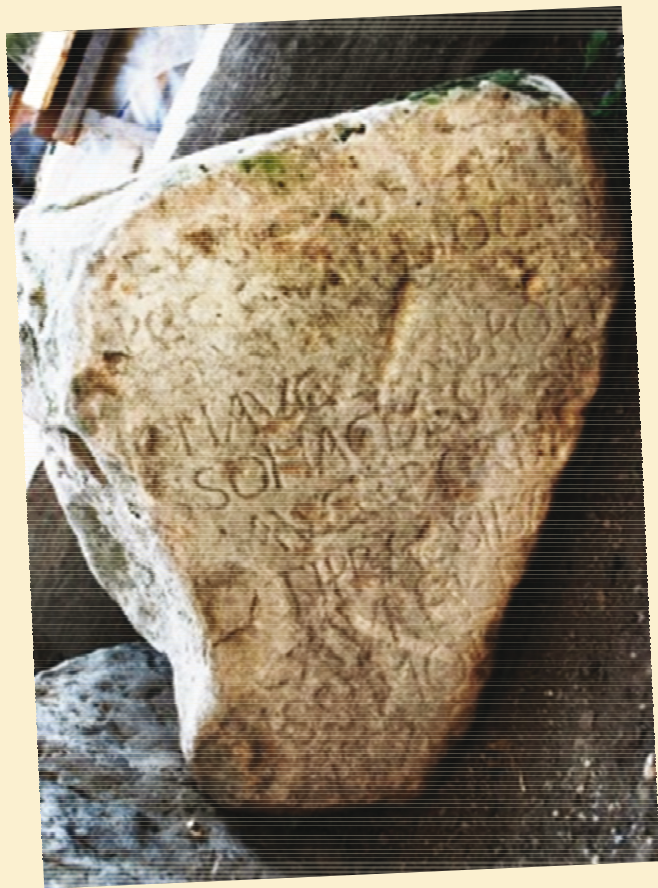


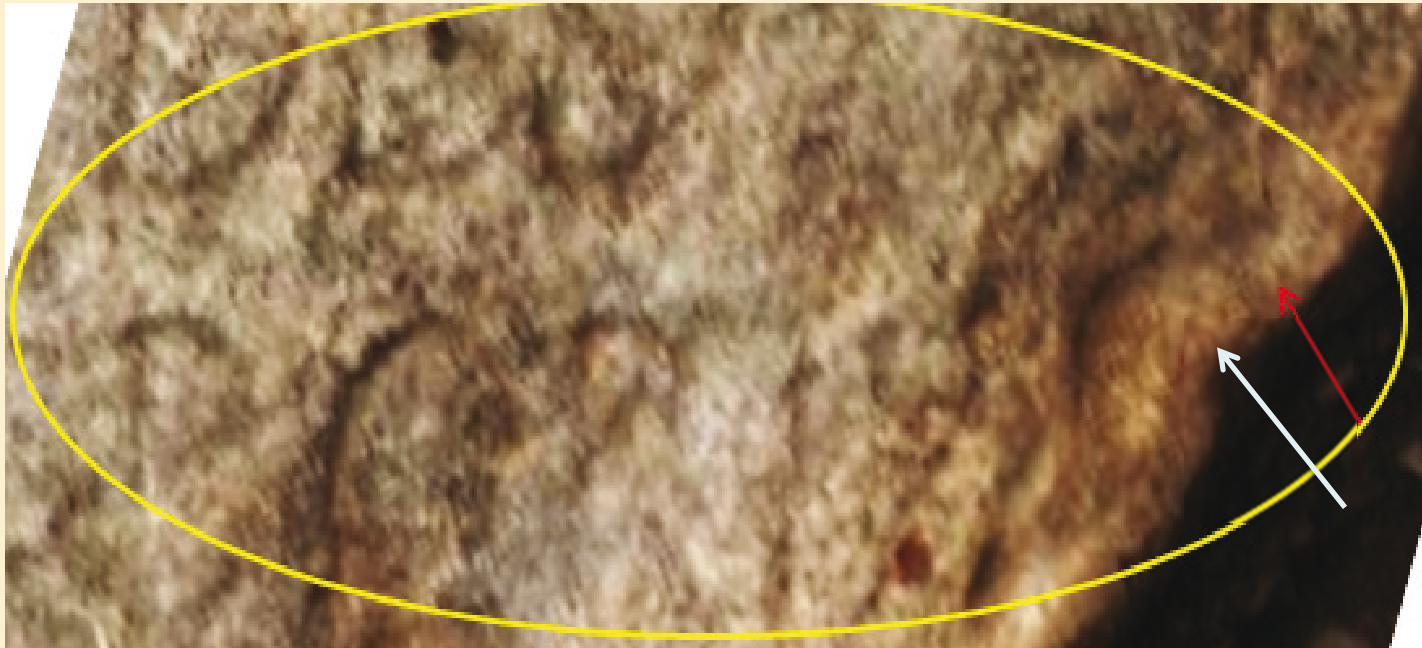


CIL III 14450=IGLR no. 3=ISM II no. 155. A Reassessment

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The inscriptions from Tomis :CIL III 14450; ; IGLR no. 3; ISM II no. 155



The line 7 reveals clearly the new reading PORTAS
CŸ [m muris]



The line 8 where the final reading is [CIVITA]TI
PRAESIDIARIAE



The line 9 with the restored name of the duke CAIUS
AVRELIVS DO[MITVS/MITIANVS]

The stone is a well-known fragmentary building inscription found at Tomis and recorded currently under no. inv. MNA L no. 496 in the lapidarium of the Institute of Archaeology ‘Vasile Pârvan’ in Bucharest (fig. 1). The piece was published in several editions with commentaries and considered one of the benchmarks in the early Tetrarchic history of Tomis (Constanța), the capital of the ancient province of Scythia. The present approach aims only at filling some important gaps left by the previous editors in the reading of the script and to offer a more complete and as comprehensive understanding as possible of the text of the inscription

Editions and references

There are five main editions of the document with important commentaries and interpretations: 1.Tocilescu 1900, 213 no. 42; 2.CIL III 14450; 3. Stoian 1962, 127-128 no. 28 pl.XXXI; 4.Popescu, IGLR 1976, 37-38 no. 3 fig. 3; 5.Stoian/Suceveanu, ISM II 1987, 184-185 no. 155(40) fig 155.

Additional restorations and commentary

There is space available on both sides of the inscription field for some more restoration and some specific lines to be reconsidered. On line 7, CIL and later editors restored M for PORTA[m]. Popescu offers the alternatives PORTA[s-/m while Stoian and Suceveanu/Stoian prefer CIL’s reading, PORTAM. Fresh photography discloses no traces of M. T is followed by a twisted A which results in PORTA but on its upper left side there is a slight S: A+S in ligature. At the very contiguity of the break of the stone is clearly visible upper part of a C and the left upper oblique small cut of a V. The two fragments would compose CŸ [...] as an associative preposition (*cum*) which, in order to have a clear meaning requires a noun in Ablative. The configuration of the right side of the stone leaves vacant space for additional seven or eight letters at the end of the line. The most accessible term we propose, fitting in the line and common on other building inscriptions is *muris*. The proposed reading: DD(ominorum) NN(ostrorum) AVGG (ustorum) PORTAŞ CŸ [m muris].

L .8. The space after the breaking of the stone to the left, at the beginning of the l. 8(7) has enough room for six letters: [civita]TI. Except CIL, Pârvan and Lambrino who restored PRAESID[i]ARIAM, the later editors’ readings *offer* praesidariam, praesidali, or praesidiali. The sharp image of the photography revealed the following situation: a. an oblique handmade incision on the right upper part of the loop of the D which means D+I in ligature; b. small, fragmentary upper right cut from the loop of an R, after A. The reading becomes in this case: [civita]TI PRAESIDIAR[iae]

On l. 9, except Tocilescu, all editors restored C(aio) AVREL(io) F[irminiano]. Popescu reads C. AVR(elio) although AVREL is plainly visible on the stone. Even if Tocilescu restored an epigraphic ‘stirring difficulty’ placing the second time in the text the name of D[iocletian], he has the great merit of apparently detecting the letter D instead of F, which the later editors did not observe and restored conjecturally F[irminianus]. The re-examination of the letters on the stone and high quality picture confirmed the letter D seen by Tocilescu and reveals indeed no traces of an F assumed by all later editors. There is more than half of the letter D (ca. 50%), followed apparently by the letter O (Fig.4). The position of the latter (O) looks quite anomalous and seems to stick to the upper part of the D which means a ligature D+O. The two letters strongly recommend a name starting with DO. A suggestion for the name would be DO[mitio/mitiano/metiano]. The editors restored a social rank of an alleged official individual: [V(ir) P(erfectissimus)]. The stone allows the restoration of both rank and office of this individual. Our proposal for the restoration of the text on l. 9. is: [v(iro) p(erfectissimo) duce]. The reading with duce on the same line rather than on the following, 10(9), which apparently does not offer enough space for these six letters, seems most convenient. An alternative variant for the office and rank of an officer would be [v(iro) p(erfectissimo) praeside], but there is little room for ten letters at the end of the line or, alternatively, at the beginning of the l. 10 . The proposed reading of the l. 9: [*curante*] C. AVREL(io) DO[mitio/mitiano/metioano v(iro) p(erfectissimo) duce].

Some conclusions

1. The present configuration of the broken right side of the stone makes possible a new restitution PORTAŞ CŸ[M MURIS]
2. The reading CIVITAS PRAESIDIARIA is now matchless;
3. The complete name of the personage in l. 9 is C. Aurelius Domitius//Domitianus, followed by his office in Scythia, vir perfectissmus dux .
4. C. AVRELIVS DO[MITIVS / MITIANVS] must have unfolded his office sometime shortly after 21. VII. 286 (the date of the setting of the province of Scythia) and before 1. III. 293 at the latest, when the institution of Tetrarchy took shape.

The new reading of the inscription from Tomis: CIL III 14450=IGLR no. 3=ISM II no. 155

De[o] Soli [Invicto] pro [sal(ute)] / [Im]pp(eratorum) CC(aesarum) C(ai) Val(eri) Diocleti[ani] / [[et M(arci) Aurel(i) Val(eri) Maximiani]] / [Inv]icti Augg(usti) trib(unicia) pot(estate) pp(ii) [ff(elices)] / [iu]ss<u=O> hac d<i=E>spositione / [dd(ominorum) nn(ostrorum)] Augg(ustorum) portas cu[m muris]/[civita]ti praesidiar[iae curante] / C(aio) Aurel(io) Do[mitio/mitiano] v(iro) p(erfectissimo) duce] / [devo]tissimo n[umini Augg(ustorum)] / [ci]vitas [Tomitanorum] / restituit]

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