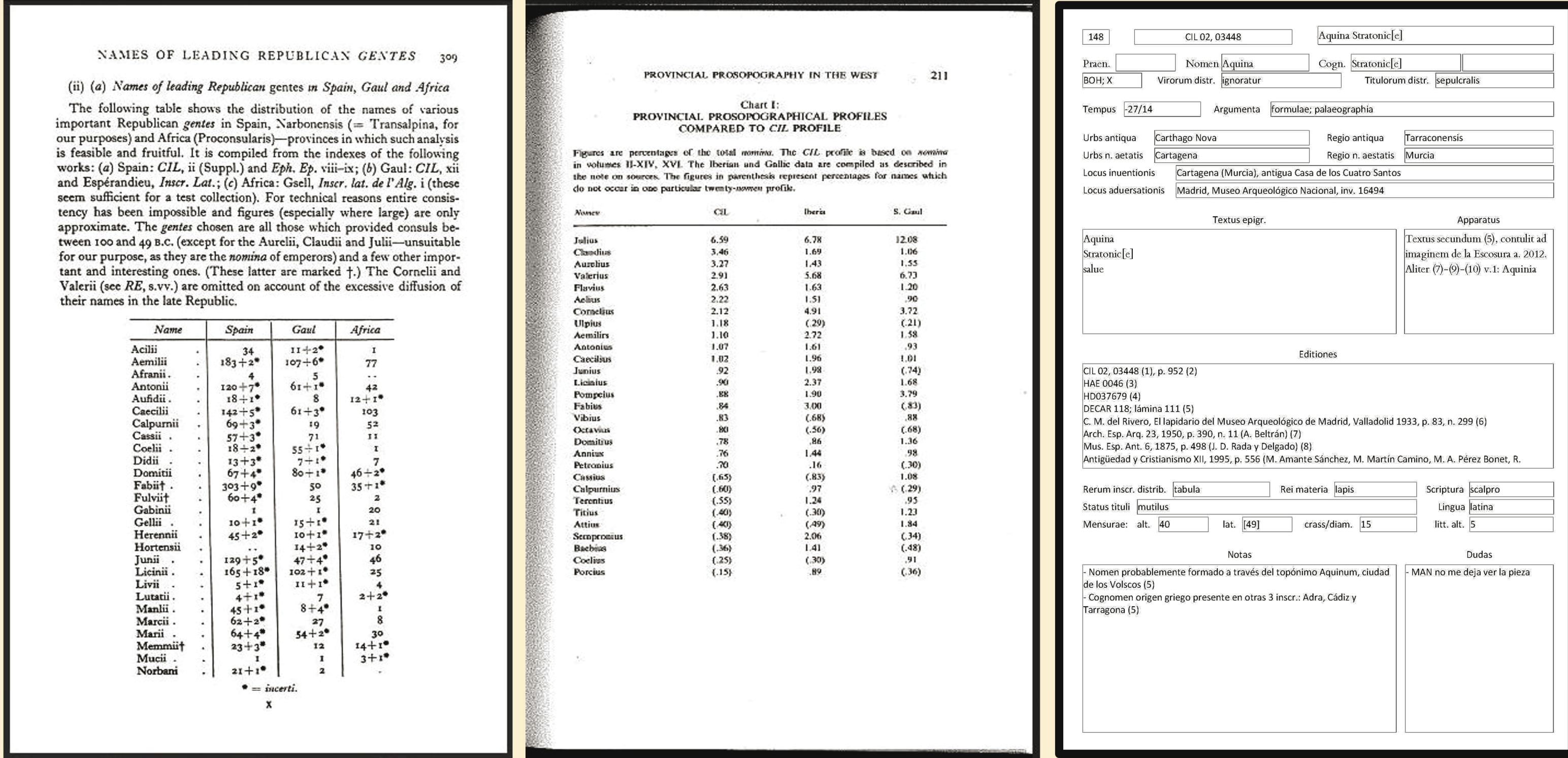


Carthago Nova's gentes seen from metal and stone. How epigraphy determines onomastics to understand legal status.

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This poster aims to demonstrate how the epigraphic criteria determine the position that a person occupies within an onomastic study and how it influences the consideration and importance that a *gens* can have in the study of the onomastic transmission. This can help us to hypothesize the legal status of the Republican *Carthago Nova* (probably a Latin colony) because Roman *duo/tria nomina* needed legal conditions (*conubium*) to survive a generation.

The studies on the Roman population during the Republic were based on the study of onomastic lists, whose main source is epigraphical, due to the literary vacuum. These lists encompass wide chronologies and great territories, leading to methodological problems. We can check some lists created with the aim of explaining Latin onomastics in Hispania in Fig. 1.1 and 1.2.

Convinced as I am of the need of dealing with this issue from new multidisciplinary perspectives in which not only individual names are recorded, I have created a new model of database (called SPES). It takes over the onomastic, epigraphic and legal characteristics of each individual recorded in the cities under analysis, *Carthago Nova* in this case. Since its territory was organized in *ciuitates*, I considered it convenient to base the study on them, not as a global space with no attention to chronology (Fig. 1.3.).

Carthago Nova was founded by Hasdrubal in 229 B.C. and conquered by Scipio in 209 BC. Its privileged geostrategic location as a Mediterranean harbour surrounded by prosperous silver and lead mines made it become the capital city of *Hispania Citerior*. Its legal and administrative status is unknown from its conquest until Plinius mentions it as a Roman colony. Some authors defend its condition as Latin colony, while many others consider it to be a *ciuitas stipendiaria* until the second half of the 1st century B.C. I believe it was a Latin colony since at least the beginning of the 1st century B.C. after the study carried out in SPES.

However, not all the *gentes* are equally significant in this study. An onomastic structure recorded in an official document, like a coin, provides far richer and more truthful information than a lead ingot. In the latter case, the mentioned individual could have never resided in the city, on the contrary than monetary magistrates. Due to its private nature, funerary epigraphy provides onomastic structures which are not necessarily in

accordance with the law, but recorded individuals are probably residents of the city. All these characteristics are susceptible to being changed or put into the context of analyze of a *gens*, since some pieces determine the importance of the rest within the same unit of study.

In Fig. 2, a list of names of two *gentes* from *Carthago Nova* and their chronology, we see how they seem to be rather similar. Both show a similar number of members, parallel chronologies and the same kind of individuals (freedmen, uncertain with filiation). However, what happens when we introduce epigraphic variables?

In a very early stage, *gens Aquinia* (Fig. 3) is recorded in a votive mosaic consecrated by a freedman to *Iuppiter Stator* (CN306), which has been linked with immigration from Italy. More than a century later, this *gens* is present in two of the protagonists of some of the ingots series more documented in *Cartago Noua* coast (CN002 & CN003). Though being lead ingots, the votive mosaic increases the possibilities for these two characters to be city residents. The fact that few years later this *gens* appears in a funerary inscription (probably of a freedwoman with a *cognomen* of Punic origin, CN148), which mentions the "more authentic" Carthaginian population and especially the presence of a monetary magistrate (*duovir quinquennalis*), determines our vision of both individuals. We are probably facing a *gens* deeply rooted in the city with a varied record of individuals and supports, leading us to interpret it as a good example of onomastic transmission. Moreover, the repetition of *praenomina* raises the possibilities of analyzed it as a whole.

For its part, *gens Lucretia* (Fig. 4) shows two very different records: "uncertain" individuals who seal ingots before the change of era, and freedwomen who produce funerary inscriptions. These kinds of epigraphs are typical of the stages in which they are recorded: before the change of era, inscriptions linked with commercial activities and mining proliferate, while afterwards we mainly count on a large group of funerary inscriptions of freedmen and women. This *gens* must be enrooted in the city, since it shows examples of the most characteristic formats of epigraphs, but we count on a lesser capacity to prove it due to the kind of inscriptions and the status reflected in them.

CN022	-130/-50	T(iti et) S(exti) Lucreti
CN021	-130/-50	T(iti et) S(exti) Lucreti
CN020	-50/-1	S(puri) Lucreti S(puri) f(ili)
CN172	1/25	Lucretia Sp(uri) l(iberta) Polla
CN173	1/25	Lucretia ((mulieris)) l(iberta) Prima
CN306	-130/-70	M(arcus) Aquini(us) M(arci) l(ibertus) Andro
CN002	-50/-1	M(arci) Aquini C(ai) f(ili)
CN003	-50/-1	C(ai) Aquini M(arci) f(ili)
CN259	-31/14	C(aius) Aquinus Mela
CN148	-27/14	Aquina Stratonice[e]

Fig. 2. List of two *gentes* of *Carthago Nova* (with chronology and SPES number of each member)



Fig. 3. *Gens Aquinia*.

Post-it color. Orange: dedication. Green: ingot. Pink: coin. Yellow: funerary. Post-it information. Top left: *tempus*. Top right: SPES CN number. Center: *tria nomina*. Bottom left: type of inscription. Bottom right: *editiones*.



Fig. 4. *Gens Lucretia*.

Post-it color. Orange: dedication. Green: ingot. Pink: coin. Yellow: funerary. Post-it information. Top left: *tempus*. Top right: SPES CN number. Center: *tria nomina*. Bottom left: type of inscription. Bottom right: *editiones*.

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