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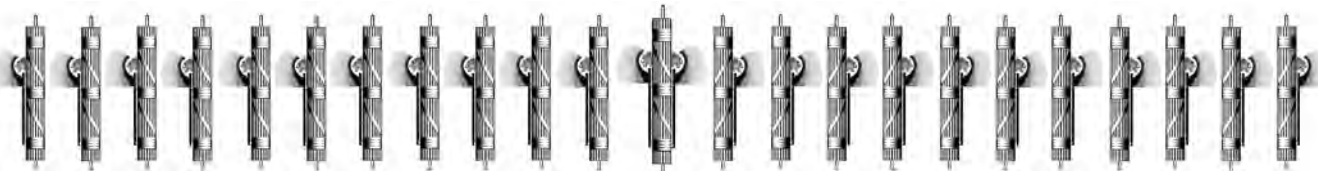


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Con Massimo Aliotti Malena Giannone

XXV ANNI DI «MINIMA EPIGRAPHICA ET PAPHYROLOGICA»

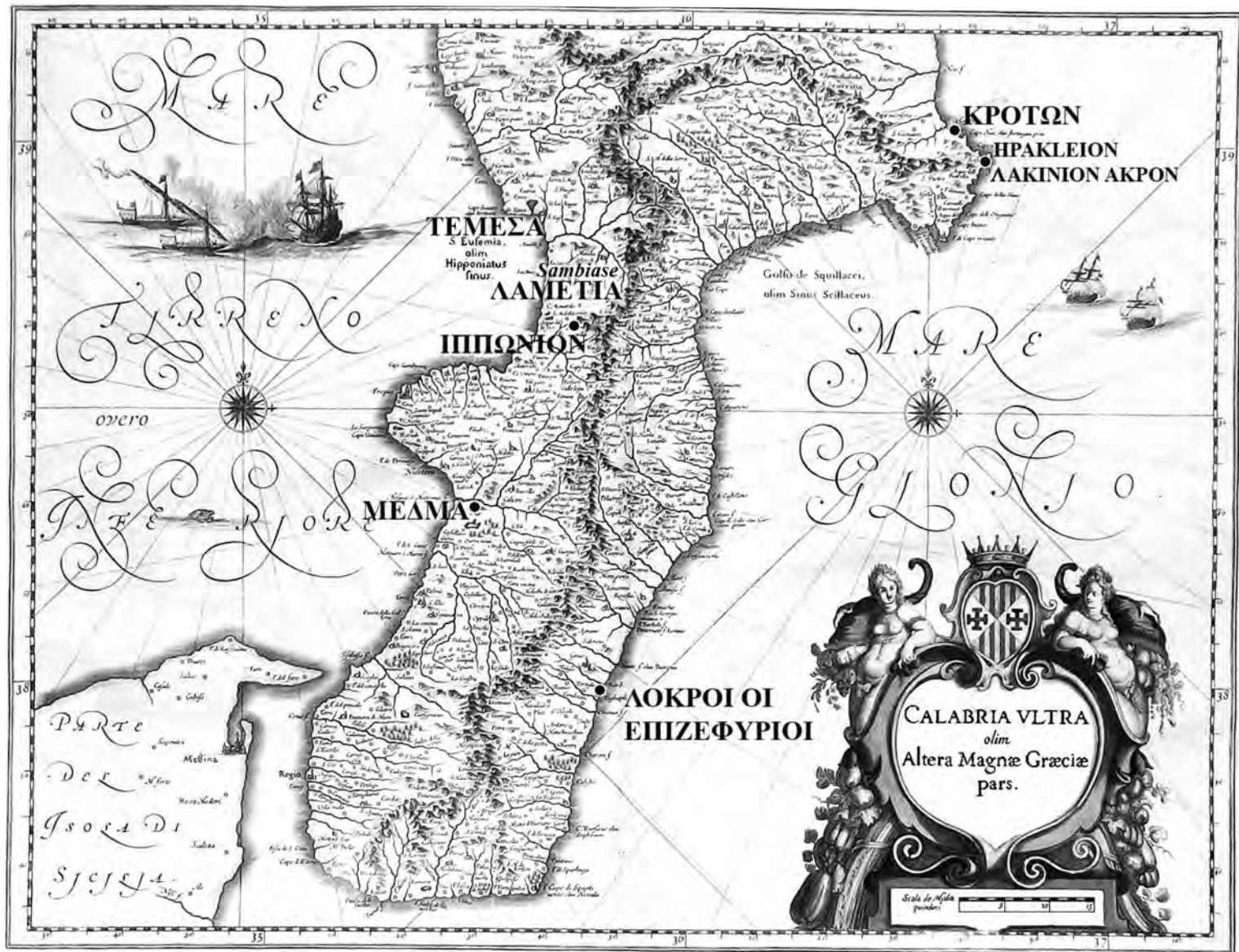
Un quarto di secolo è uno spazio di tempo importante nella vita di un uomo, ma anche in quello di una comunità scientifica: «Minima Epigraphica et Papyrologica», nata da una iniziativa individuale – sia pure con il patrocinio della Facoltà, ora Dipartimento di Eccellenza di Giurisprudenza, Economia e Scienze Umane dell'Università Mediterranea di Reggio Calabria – si è ormai affermata per i tipi de «L'Erma» di Bretschneider con una diffusione, dagli Stati Uniti d'America alla Cina, che può dirsi planetaria, favorita da a un catalogo editoriale di 70.000 esemplari, ma soprattutto dalla qualità dei contributi di Autori sia illustri e di consolidato prestigio, sia anche esordienti, tutti impegnati nella ricerca con conoscenza delle lingue classiche e competenza storica e critica, oggi malauguratamente sempre più rare.

La natura interdisciplinare e l'estetica, con una veste di rara bellezza, hanno inoltre certamente contribuito alla larga diffusione – ben oltre gli ambiti dei diritti antichi (romano, greco ma anche ebraico), dell'epigrafia e della papirologia giuridiche – arrivando a tangere la politica e l'economia, l'archeologia, l'architettura e l'arte del mondo classico, quante volte esse siano state utili o imprescindibili a completare l'indagine storica.

Diversi volumi hanno inoltre raccolto *Atti* congressuali, uno dei quali, nel 2019, sotto l'alto patrocinio del Ministro dell'Università e della Ricerca, di modo che la rivista è stata non solo veicolo, ma anche strumento di promozione degli studi e di progresso delle conoscenze a seguito di nuove, talora eclatanti, scoperte.

Moltissimi Autori, debuttanti quando scrissero la prima volta su questa rivista, sono divenuti docenti universitari ordinari, associati e ricercatori o funzionari e dirigenti nel settore delle scienze dell'antichità: ha avuto pieno successo la scelta di privilegiare la ricerca, anziché le finalità concorsuali e quella deteriore politica accademica, che, sotto pretesto della specializzazione, vorrebbe giustificare l'ignoranza delle discipline contigue ma necessarie al mestiere di storico. Alla burocrazia e all'insensatezza, da tutti riconosciuta ma da pochi denunciata, dei sistemi nazionali cosiddetti di valutazione, che sfidano il comune buon senso suscitando il ridicolo, si deve l'aver indotto l'incremento esponenziale delle iniziative pubblicistiche, che in diversi casi fa sì che il vecchio sia, come il vino, più buono del nuovo.

Il Comitato Scientifico, cresciuto già lo scorso anno con l'ingresso di Sergio Alessandri, cui vanno ora gli auguri per la presa di servizio come Ordinario di Diritto Romano nell'Università di Bari, si arricchisce oggi dell'apporto di Ulrico Agnati e di Francesco Arcaria, Ordinari della stessa materia rispettivamente nelle Università di Urbino 'Carlo Bo' e di Catania. Nel Comitato Editoriale entra Maria Luisa Biccari, alla quale, per l'Associazione in Diritto Romano nell'Università di Urbino, vanno i nostri auguri, unitamente ai nostri Autori Felice Mercogliano per la chiamata di Ordinario di Diritto Romano nell'Università di Camerino e Michele Pedone per quella come Ricercatore della stessa materia nell'Università di Pisa.



ERGÜN LAFLI – GIAN LUCA GREGORI

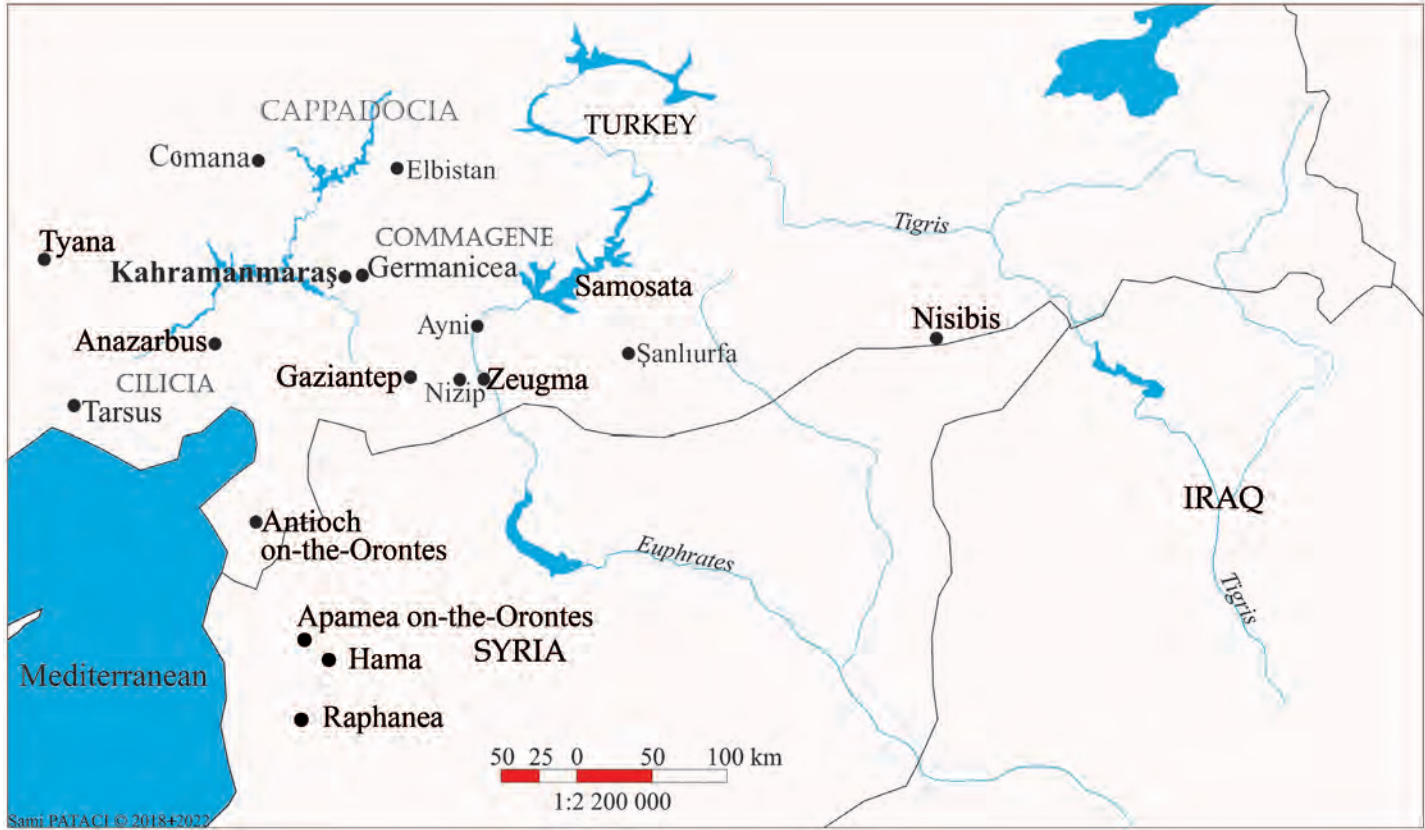
THREE LATIN INSCRIPTIONS FROM KAHRAMANMARAŞ (ROMAN GERMANICEA)
IN SOUTH-EASTERN TURKEY¹

SOMMARIO. 1. *Introduction*. 2. *The epitaph of an eques of the ala I Ulpia Contariorum*. 3. *A fragmentary funerary inscription with the reference to legio III Italica*. 4. *The epitaph of Augurinus Victorinus*. 5. *A note on the Roman military presence at Kahramanmaraş in Commagene*.

1. *Introduction*.

The Turkish city of Kahramanmaraş is located in north-eastern part of the Mediterranean region of Turkey, in a quite mountainous area near the southern outlet of three important passes through the Taurus Mountains. During the Classical Antiquity the largest Roman-Byzantine site in the area of Kahramanmaraş was Germanicea Caesarea (*Γερμανίκεια Καισάρεια*), named probably after Germanicus Julius Caesar. During the Roman period parts of Kahramanmaraş were included within the frontiers of the ancient regions of Commagene, Cilicia, Cappadocia and Armenia whereas the boundaries of these regions or Roman provinces fluctuated over time between the first and fourth centuries AD.

¹ This collection was studied with an authorization granted by the Turkish Ministry of Culture and Tourism, Directorate of the Monuments and Museums for the Museums of Kahramanmaraş, Gaziantep and Şanlıurfa on 9 December 2004 and enumerated as B.16.0.AMG.0.10.00.01/707.1/14. The necessary documentation was assembled during December 2004. A recent permit enumerated as E-44692667-900-1421208 and granted by the Museum of Kahramanmaraş on 2 June 2021 was received by Mrs Alev Çetingöz from Dokuz Eylül University (Izmir). We thank Ms Çetingöz for the figs. 1 and 3, and Mr Seydihan Küçükdağlı (Kahramanmaraş Department of Culture and Tourism), for the permission granted to Mrs Çetingöz. Fig. of the Map was arranged by Dr. Sami Patacı (Ardahan) in 2018 and 2022 to whom we would like to express our sincere gratitude and appreciation. We are also grateful to Professor Hugo Thoen (Ghent / Deinze), Professor Catherine Wolff (Avignon) and Dr. Timothy Bruce Mitford (UK) for the linguistic revision and to the anonymous peer-reviewers of our article for their critical reading, evaluation and input in our manuscript. We have attempted to incorporate their suggestions in the hope of making this a stronger and more useful paper; we, however, are solely responsible for the final outcome.



Map: Places in Asia Minor and elsewhere referred to in the text (by S. Patacı, 2018 and 2022).

The Museum of Kahramanmaraş in south-eastern Turkey, was founded in 1975 mostly with finds collected from local sites and the rural areas of the region, especially from Germanicea in ancient Commagene (see the Map of Asia Minor).

The museum was renewed and re-opened with a new exhibition in 2009, after the addition of a new epigraphic hall with numerous Roman funerary monuments.

A second museum in the region of Kahramanmaraş has been opened in June 2021 in Elbistan which is ca. 150 km north-east of Kahramanmaraş and curates an epigraphic collection as well.



Figs. 1a-b-c. A funerary inscription in Latin in the Museum of Kahramanmaraş (photo by A. Çetingöz, 2021).

Few epigraphic monuments of the Museum of Kahramanmaraş are known by scholars², and very few of them are in Latin³, as the majority of the epigraphic collection consists of Greek inscriptions. A funerary monument with a Latin inscription has recently been published by us⁴ (figs. 1a-b-c).

² Most of the previous epigraphic studies in the region of Kahramanmaraş were undertaken by David H. French in the course of his research on Roman milestones in the 1980s. Also, funerary inscriptions from this museum have been published, among others, cf. S. ŞAHİN, *Ὀβδεῖς ἀθάνατος in den Grabinschriften aus der Gegend von Germanikeia (Maraş) in Kommagene*, in H. Malay (ed.), *Erol Atalay memorial* (= *Arkeoloji Dergisi*, Özel Sayı 1; Ege Üniversitesi, Edebiyat Fakültesi Yayınları), İzmir 1991, pp.183-190; H. BRU - E. LAFLI, *Inscriptions gréco-romaines d'Anatolie VIII*, in H. Bru - G. Labarre (eds.), *Chronique d'orient, Chronique 2019*, «DHA» XLV (2019) 2, pp. 374-383; *Id.*, *Inscriptions gréco-romaines d'Anatolie X*, in H. Bru - G. Labarre (eds.), *Chronique d'orient, Chronique 2021*, «DHA» XLVII (2021) 2, pp. 337-347; and E. LAFLI, H. BRU, *Inscriptions gréco-romaines d'Anatolie IX*, in H. Bru - G. Labarre (eds.), *Chronique d'orient, Chronique 2020*, «DHA» XLVI (2020) 2, pp. 370-379; *Id.*, *Inscriptions gréco-romaines d'Anatolie XI*, in H. Bru - G. Labarre (eds.), *Chronique d'orient, Chronique 2022*, «DHA» XLVIII (2022) 2, forthcoming. So far there is no corpus of Graeco-Roman grave monuments and inscriptions of the region of Kahramanmaraş in their entirety, but it is our intention to collect all the inscriptions of the region in an *Inchriften griechischer Städte aus Kleinasien* volume in the near future.

³ Except our 2019 publication, only one Latin funerary inscription is known from Germanicea which belongs to a soldier who died at the age of 30 years, whose name and unit are lost: *CIL* III 6708 = *IGLS* I 88: [---]C[---] / [--- anno]s XXX mi/[litavit anno]s VII IAV / [---] hered(ibus) rel[ic]t[us] co[m]manip(ularibus) s/[uis], [c]urante [-----].

In this brief article we report on three unpublished inscriptions: the first two are funerary Latin inscriptions, the third one, also funerary, is bilingual, i.e. in Latin and Greek. When studied in December 2004 by E. Laflı the inscriptions nrs. 1 and 3 were held in the garden of the museum; but during the second visit to the museum in 2021 A. Çetingöz realized that these two inscriptions seem to be temporarily lost or relocated in the museum's storeroom, as she has failed to locate them. The second inscription is fragmentary and has been documented in 2021 by Çetingöz. In a next article five milestones in Latin in the Museum of Kahramanmaraş will be published by us as well.

The number of Latin-speaking population in Commagene which was mostly consisting of military staff, varied throughout the Roman periods, but was a sizable percentage of the total population; but one should be cautious about the challenges connected with identifying foreign residents in Commagene from the epigraphical record, as funerary inscriptions in Latin from Kahramanmaraş and its territory corresponding to the north-western Commagene are rare. The richest epigraphic heritage in wider Commagene belongs to Zeugma in the south-eastern part of this region. In his principal monograph in 1976, Jörg Wagner catalogued 159 inscriptions from Zeugma and the surrounding area, of which 147 were funerary, mostly in Greek and few in Latin⁵. Also in later epigraphic studies on Zeugma by Charles Crowther the number of Latin inscriptions appears to be very limited⁶. Most of the existing inscriptions in Latin are associated with the Roman troops in the region and consist of funerary monuments belonging to Roman soldiers or tile stamps. A further funerary inscription in Latin is known from an ancient site called as Aroulis, which is located in modern Eneş⁷.

⁴ Cf. E. LAFLI - S. MAGNANI - M. BUORA, *A Latin Funerary Inscription from Kahramanmaraş in Commagene, Southeastern Turkey*, «SEBarc» XVII (2019), pp. 137-148.

⁵ J. WAGNER, *Seleukia am Euphrat/Zeugma* (= *Beihefte zum Tübinger Atlas des Vorderen Orients*, Reihe B, nr. 10), Wiesbaden 1976, p. 84: two funerary texts from Apameia (*SEG XXVI 1488-1489*); p. 111: three mosaic texts from Asağıçardak ca. 26 km north-east of Nizip (ancient Nisibis in the province Gaziantep) (*SEG XXVI 1491-1493*); pp. 112-113: three funerary texts from Nisibis (*SEG XXVI 1494-1496*); 130: a public honorific inscription (*SEG XXVI 1498*); pp. 130-131: an altar dedication (*SEG XXVI 1499*); 132-136: four funerary Latin texts for legionaries (later edited in J. WAGNER, *Legio III Scythica in Zeugma am Euphrat*, in D. Haupt - H. G. Horn (eds.), *Studien zu den Militärgrenzen Roms, II, Vorträge des 10. Internationalen Limeskongresses in der Germania Inferior* (= *Beihefte der Bonner Jahrbücher* 38), Köln- Bonn 1977, pp. 533-536, nrs. 1-4 = *AE 1977, 819-822*); pp. 136-143: seven legionary tile stamps in Latin (cf. WAGNER, *Legio III Scythica* cit., pp. 537-539, nrs. 1-7 = *AE 1977, 823*); pp. 173-273: 138 funerary inscriptions, only three of which (p. 216, p. 231 and p. 262 = *AE 1977, 818*) are in Latin and originate from Zeugma (*SEG XXVI 1500-1622*). Three other stamps are edited in WAGNER, *Legio III Scythica* cit., p. 536, no. 5 and p. 539, nrs. 8-9 = *AE 1977, 824*. Also cf. M.A. SPEIDEL, *Legio III Scythica*, in Y. Le Bohec - C. Wolff (eds.), *Les légions de Rome sous le Haut-Empire. Actes du Congrès de Lyon, 17-19 septembre 1998*, Paris 2000, pp. 327-337; and C. CROWTHER, *Inscriptions on Stone*, in W. Aylward (ed.), *Excavations at Zeugma, Conducted by Oxford Archaeology*, I, Los Altos CA 2013, pp. 192-219, especially p. 197 and p. 214, nr. 7 <<https://zeugma.packhum.org/pdfs/v1ch09.pdf>> (accessed on 1 June 2022).

⁶ CROWTHER *Inscriptions* cit. at n. 5, pp. 203-204, nr. 4, and p. 211, no. 15.

⁷ *CIL III 14396e = IGLS 1 79: Leg(io-) III[I? ---]/PR [---]*.

Archaeological evidence for figural grave markers in Commagene with Latin inscriptions is almost entirely lacking, as most of these Latin inscriptions are simply ornamented. None of these monuments was discovered in its original location as a grave marker and datable archaeological contexts are also lacking; therefore, their dates are not secure. By necessity three inscriptions in this short paper are researched here as new additions to the corpus of existing funerary monuments in Latin.

In Commagene wars and plagues were both factors for some of the funerary steles in the second and third centuries AD.

Even though funerary inscriptions have been collected and studied by epigraphists and published in various reports, so far there is no work in this part of Turkey which focuses on the analysis of Latin funerary texts pertaining to Roman army. No prosopographical study of Roman citizens commemorated in these sepulchral inscriptions has been undertaken yet.

These three funerary monuments found in Kahramanmaraş are assigned to the third century AD on the basis of typology, style, inscription and workmanship. The manner of carving and the letter forms of these inscriptions differ to each other so that they may have been produced in different workshops or by sculptors, but most probably in Commagene.

In this part of Asia Minor funerary inscriptions appear on two types of monuments that were utilized by residents of ancient Commagene, both citizen and foreign, from the Late Hellenistic through the Late Roman periods: these are stelai of different forms and parallelepiped altars or pedestal-like monuments.

2. *The epitaph of an eques of the ala I Ulpia Contariorum* (fig. 2).

Material: Local, fine grained, light reddish marble with micaceous layers. This sort of marble with its typical colour is common in the region of Kahramanmaraş, as it can be observed in some other marble monuments in the same museum.

Provenance: Unknown, possibly somewhere in the province of Kahramanmaraş.

State of preservation: Well preserved except some missing minor chips on the edges. Claw-chisel marks on the pediment.

Rough-picked back and underside. Faint marks of a claw-chisel finish remain on both sides. Brown patina. The stone is moderately weathered and flaked with few recent scratches. There is a crudely cut circular hole, 2 cm in diameter, on the underside just below the inscribed area.

Measurements: Max. h. 58.3 cm, w. 31.2 cm, th. 12.1 cm, h. of letters⁸ 1.6-1.3 cm.

⁸ For letter heights of these three inscriptions, the figure given is that of a typical upright, e.g., iota, tau or epsilon.

Description: A pedimental funerary stele with two plain side acroteria at the corners of a pitched roof. The naiskos was crowned by a low triangular pediment with a recessed and plain tympanum only roughly outlined against the background of the tympanum with incised lines and not carved with refinement. A plain shield,⁹ 9 cm in diameter was placed centrally which was a typical crowning element of the pediment and consistent with the style of the second and third century AD. These pedimental steles are one of the most common form of funerary monuments in the commemorative sculpture of Kahramanmaraş. During the Roman period these grave monuments had a relatively standard, conservative and simple appearing in the region of Kahramanmaraş. It is interesting to note that both the typology and decoration were common in funerary steles with Greek or Latin inscriptions. One should characterize certain funerary steles from Kahramanmaraş as products of a local workshop, with features distinguishing them from other regions in southern and south-eastern Turkey. Thus, in the region of Kahramanmaraş and/or Commagene it seems to have been a continuous production of very modest funerary steles throughout the Roman period. One can assume a regional workmanship in this area especially during the second and third centuries AD. The quality of carving on gravestones in Kahramanmaraş ranges from quite mediocre to highly skilled, as the pieces curated in the Museum of Kahramanmaraş reflect a wide range of quality of production. This workshop had probably close contacts with south-western Cappadocian and north-eastern Cilician workmanships, as the steles from Kahramanmaraş most closely resemble monuments from Comana in Cappadocia.

The text is engraved within an epigraphic field, placed immediately beneath the pediment's moulding.



Fig. 2. The epitaph of an *equus* of the *ala I Ulpia Contariorum* in the Museum of Kahramanmaraş (photo by E. Laflı, 2004).

⁹ Pedimental emblems of shields are popular on Roman stelai of Asia Minor. Interestingly, they were placed almost equally on both stelai for men and for women and there seemed to be no gender basis for the choice of a shield as the emblem.

The area of the inscription shows indistinct parallel lines drawn across the surface. Letters are lightly incised into the surface of the stone.

Transcription

- D(is) M(anibus).*
 2 *Cl(audio) Lupiano*
eq(ui)ti ale (!) I
 4 *Ulp(iae) Conta(riorum),*
stip(endiorum) XXVIII (?)
 6 *Aurel(ius) Robus=*
tianus sesq(ui)plicarius)
 8 *co(n)sobrino*
Merentissimo
 10 *posuit.*

Translation:

To the Gods Manes.
To Claudius Lupianus
trooper of the first ala
Ulpia Contariorum
with 28 years (?) of military service
Aurelius Robus=
tianus soldier who received a pay and a half
to the cousin
very deserving
placed (the tombstone).

Epigraphic comments: The inscription commemorates a soldier who had served perhaps 28 years in an auxiliary cavalry *ala* of the Roman army whereas the line 5 is not clearly legible. His name, consisting of family name and surname, was *Claudius Lupianus* and he was a Roman citizen. The family name *Claudius*, here abbreviated with two initial letters, is very widespread also among the armed forces. *Lupianus* is a Latin surname, which enjoyed a certain popularity especially in the provinces and also in the Danubian area¹⁰. His service was long, if the numeral is actually 28, but also in other cases the 25/26 years of service foreseen in the *auxilia* were exceeded. *Ala I Ulpia Contariorum (miliaria civium Romanorum)* was located in the Pannonian sector of the Danubian *limes*, near the fort of Arrabona (modern Győr) in Hungary¹¹. This *castrum* had been established by Hadrian and took its name from the *contus*, i.e. the long spear, that distinguished these troopers.

The dedicator, perhaps a senior soldier, defines himself as the deceased's cousin; it also bears a very common imperial family name (*Aurelius*), without a forename as in the case of the deceased, but his surname (*Robustianus*) is very rare. There are other cases of *consobrini* in the military sphere, especially in Rome, in the context of the praetorian cohorts and the *equites singulares*¹². Although it is not as common as *bene merenti*, the formula *merentissimo* is nevertheless present in the Latin epigraphic database about seventy times.

¹⁰ For instance *AE* 1981, 714; *AE* 1994, 1408; *CIL* III 5293; *RIU* I 277; III 879; VI 1322.

¹¹ *RE* I.2 (1894), s.v. *Ala*, cc. 1239-1240; D. DANA, *Recrutement, prosopographie et onomastique au miroir de trois unités auxiliaires*, in C. Wolff – P. Faure (eds.), *Les auxiliaires de l'armée romaine: des alliés aux fédérés*, Lyon 2016, pp. 155-169.

¹² *CIL* VI 2616, 3285, 3894, 32808; *AE* 1980, 141.

Dis Manibus which is placed on the epistyle, is one the most common formula in Latin funerary inscriptions also in south-eastern Turkey.

Dating: Based on the onomastics of the two soldiers (devoid of the forenames) as well as on the formulary and palaeography, a dating in the first half of the third century AD is proposed by us.

The presence of the *ala I Ulpia Contariorum* in the territory of Kahramanmaraş is perhaps related to the stelae belonging to troopers serving in the same *ala*, found near Apamea on the Orontes, 55 km to the north-west of Hama in Syria (see the discussion below), which would suggest a displacement of this military unit during the third century AD. We do not know, however, if this displacement occurred temporary or permanently.

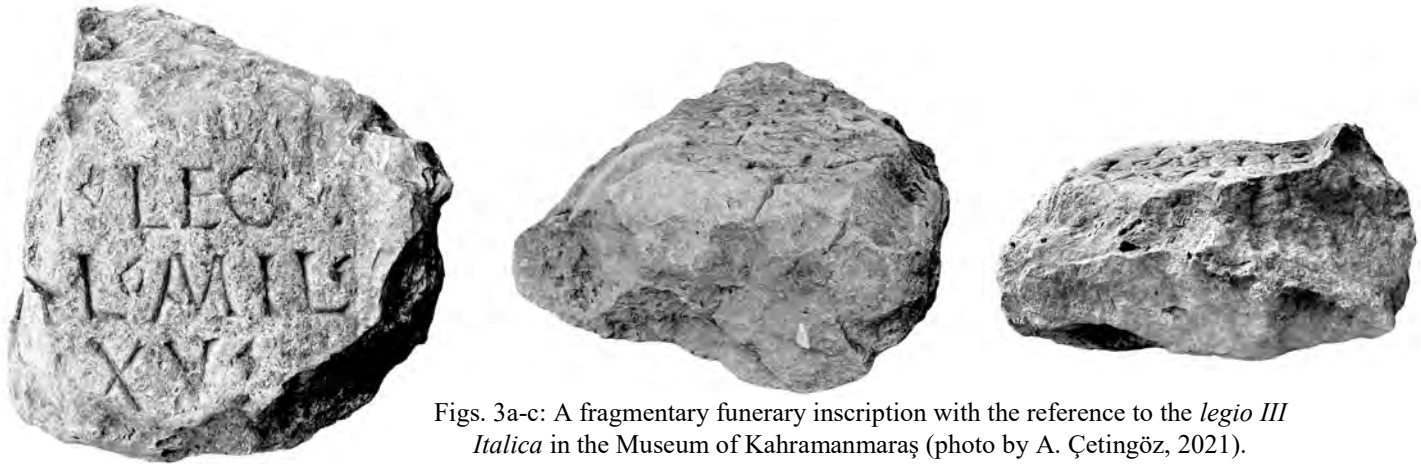
3. A fragmentary funerary inscription with the reference to *legio III Italica* (figs. 3a-c).

Material: Local porous, yellow-brownish, coarse grained limestone.

Provenance: Unknown, possibly somewhere in the province of Kahramanmaraş.

State of preservation: The fragment of a funerary inscription broken all around, except for a small section of the original proper right edge. Although the irregular right part of the inscription is preserved, all of the block's original width and height has been lost. The back is very roughly worked. The surface of the stone is weathered with pitting and a brown incrustation. Some chips and losses on the finished surface. Bedding layer of the stone is visible in its section.

Measurements: Max. preserved h. 38.7 cm, w. 44.9 cm, th. 16.1 cm, h. of letters 7.1-6.7 cm.



Figs. 3a-c: A fragmentary funerary inscription with the reference to the *legio III Italica* in the Museum of Kahramanmaraş (photo by A. Çetingöz, 2021).

Three smaller fragments of the same stone are stored next to this main fragment with inscription; but with them we were unable to make any matches to the main fragment with certainty.

Description: Possibly a funerary monument of an unknown, local genre. The thickness of this monument with a rough-picked back, large size of letters and its coarse stone is not consistent with any known monument in south-eastern Turkey.

As to the type of funerary monument to which this fragment belonged, its thickness suggests, however, that it comes from either a base or a frieze that would have been used to construct a base for a tomb marker; but we do not find any comparative material neither in Turkey, nor in anywhere else in the Roman Near East. Its surface has been carved with short strokes of a curved chisel to suggest the texture of a coarse fabric.

Only three lines of the inscription are fractionally preserved.

Transcription:

 [milit?]i leg(ionis)
 2 [III It?]al(icae); mil(itavit)
 [annis] XV;
 4 [vixit annis - - -]

Translation:

 soldier (?) of the legion
 [III It]al(ica) (?), who served
 for 15 [years];
 [lived years - - -]

Epigraphic comments: An inscription fragment preserving three lines with large and clear letters. The quality of the lettering is good; but the interpretation of this damaged funerary text is not quite secure. Large *hederae* were used as punctuation marks.

It is a funerary inscription of a simple soldier or perhaps an *immunis*, whose name appeared in the upper part of the stone. Perhaps this soldier was belonging to a legion number of which was lost at the beginning of the line 2. As in the case of the other Latin inscription curated in the Museum of Kahramanmaraş (figs. 1-c), the *legio III Italica* was perhaps quoted here as well, which was based in *Raetia*, but a contingent had passed through the region of Commagene, accompanying Caracalla on his Parthian expedition.

However the legion quoted on line 2 could also be the *legio [III G]al(lica)* which was based for most of its existence at Raphanea in Roman Syria, but perhaps in early garrison at Samosata around AD 72.¹³ The *legio III Italica* is well attested in the East under Corbulo, Trajan and Lucius Verus¹⁴.

¹³ Cf. *ILS* 8903 = *MW* 93, from Aynı on the Euphrates bank midway between Samosata and Zeugma: T. B. MITFORD, *Some Inscriptions from the Cappadocian Limes*, «*JRS*» LXIV (1974), pp. 160-175, especially p. 173, no. 90 <<https://www.jstor.org/stable/299266>> (accessed on 1

If the numeral kept in line 3 refers to the years of service, our grave owner could have died when he was around 35 years old, after 15 years of service out of the 20 years planned.

Dating: Based on the paleographic characters (in particular the large *hederae*) and by comparison with the other inscription mentioning an *immunis* from *legio III Italica*, this fragmentary inscription should not be dated earlier than the Severan dynasty between AD 193 and 235.

4. *The epitaph of Augurinus Victorinus* (figs. 4a-b).

Description: A pedimental funerary stele like nr. 1 with two plain side acroteria at the corners, embellished with a centrally placed four-petaled rosette with a central boss as the focal point and a large, bulged garland in the upper part of the epigraphic field which was skillfully carved. The stone exhibits characteristics of a high level of carving.

Material: Local porous, reddish, coarse grained limestone with a rough surface.

Provenance: Unknown, possibly somewhere in the province of Kahramanmaraş.

State of preservation: Well preserved except broken at the bottom where a split runs diagonally. Part of the left edge with a framing pilaster-like wide moulding is damaged. The surface is heavily weathered with flaked areas. There is an incrustation as well as black and white discolouration in some areas. There are two round holes on framing pilasters, ca. 4 cm in diameter and 2 cm deep which were undoubtedly for hanging wreaths to honour the deceased and suggest graveside cult activity. Rough-picked back.

Measurements: Max. preserved h. 61.1 cm, w. 35.2 cm, th. 14.2 cm, h. of letters 1.8-1.4 cm.

Transcription:

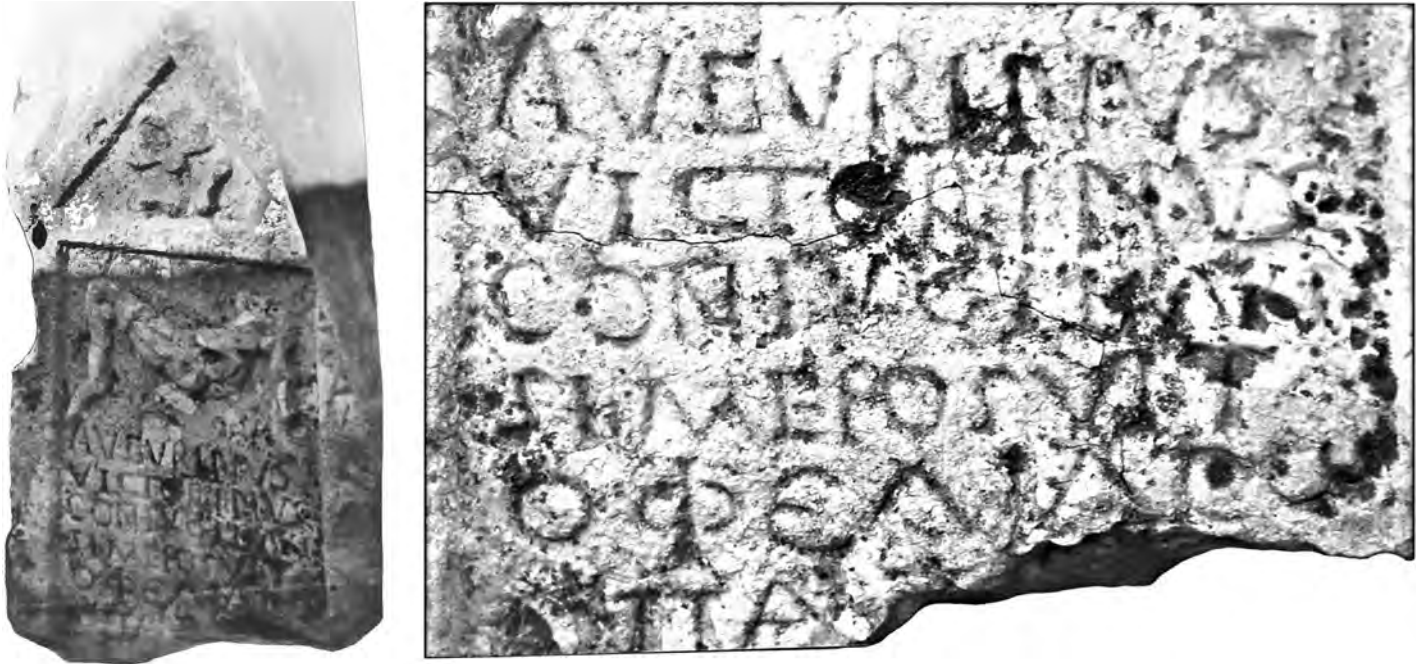
- Augurinus*
 2 *Victorinus*
coniugi suavi=
 4 *sime (!) posuit.*
Ὀφέλια τῷ (!)
 6 *πα[τρι] (?)*.

Translation:

Augurinus
Victorinus
to his wife most
lovable posed.
Ofelia to her
father (?).

June 2022); and L.J.F. KEPPIE, *Legions and Veterans: Roman Army Papers 1971-2000*, Stuttgart 2000, p. 194. Cf. also K. DIETZ, *Legio III Italica*, in *Les légions* cit. n. 5, pp. 133-143.

¹⁴ Cf. T.B. MITFORD, *East of Asia Minor: Rome's Hidden Frontier*, Oxford 2017, p. 727 ("Army units"); and D.H. FRENCH, *Legio III Gallica*, in E. Dąbrowa (ed.), *The Roman and Byzantine Army in the East (Proceedings of a colloquium held at the Jagiellonian University, Kraków in September 1992)*, Kraków 1994, pp. 29-46.



Figs. 4a-b: The epitaph of *Augurinus Victorinus* in the Museum of Kahramanmaraş (photo by E. Lafli, 2004).

Epigraphic comments: A bilingual funerary text in Latin (lines 1-4) and in Greek (lines 5-6) is an unexpected case for such a region like Commagene in the Roman Near East. These two texts were obviously not written by the same person. One may wonder why the man writes in Latin and the woman in Greek. The bilingual text was probably creating a complex message addressing both Greek-speaking locals of Commagene and Latin-speaking Roman audiences. At lines 5-6 Greek letters of a female name are not easy to read. Perhaps it is the dedication of a daughter to her father with the name *Augurinus Victorinus*, added to the original text after his death¹⁵. At line 3 the start of the superlative is not easy to reconstruct. Usually for a wife there are such epithets like *amicissimae*, *carissimae*, *castissimae*, *dulcissimae*, *pientissimae*, *piissimae*, *sacratissimae*, *sanctissimae* and *suavissimae* in Latin inscriptions.

¹⁵ We thank Francesco Camia for this suggestion.

Based on what it remains at the beginning of line 3, this part could belong to a later epithet, here in the form with a single sibilant and monophthong (*suavisime* instead of *suavissimae*), but it must be recognized that the S, the V and the first I are of problematic identification. The first S, smaller, could be seen a little above the writing line (fig. 4b).

The Greek part of the inscription was added over time. The interpretation proposed here for the last lines is, however, rather uncertain. The wife's name would have been omitted; the husband is indicated by two rather common Latin personal names. His juridical status, however, remains uncertain.

The daughter (?) seems to be present here with a Roman family name, i.e. *Ἵφελία* = *Ofel(l)ia*, which consists of only one lambda instead of two as in its usual Latin version. The use of family name as a personal name is a well documented phenomenon also in the Roman provinces of Asia, Cilicia and Syria. *Ἵφελία* and Augurinus are not yet attested names in this area, but *Ἵφελλία* is already attested in Lycia¹⁶; in the Greek inscriptions the female surname *Ἵφελία* is also occasionally attested¹⁷. *Victorinus* is instead frequent throughout the Roman Empire.

Dating: In the Roman Near East dating through letter forms is generally speculative for the inscriptions. On the basis of the paleographic characters in the Greek text (lunate epsilon and omega without iota ascribed or undersigned), linguistic phenomena, the formulary and the typology of the stele, a dating between the second and third century AD is proposed by us.

5. A note on the Roman military presence at Kahramanmaraş in Commagene.

Through the inscriptions nrs. 1 and 2 from Kahramanmaraş we came to the conclusion that not only the *legio III Italica*, but also the *ala I Ulpia Contariorum* were stationed in Commagene, at least for a certain time in the third century AD. *Ala I Ulpia Contariorum* was a Roman auxiliary unit, which was stationed at the beginning of its existence in the provinces of Pannonia Superior and Dacia Superior.

It is listed on military diplomas from AD 112 to 161. The unit was re-established by Trajan (AD 98-117) and honoured by him with the epithet Ulpia. The first evidence of the unit in Pannonia Superior is based on a diploma, which is dated to AD 112. The unit was stationed in Arrabona until the first decades of the third century¹⁸.

¹⁶ TAM, II/3 1168. In ancient Greek *ὀφείλεια* means “indebtedness”.

¹⁷ In Galatia: MAMA I 368, at Ephesus: SEG XXXIX 1216, and Cyprus: SEG XXXI 1344.

¹⁸ Cf. B. PFERDEHIRT, *Römische Militärdiplome und Entlassungsurkunden in der Sammlung des Römisch-Germanischen Zentralmuseums Mainz* 2004, pp. 107-108, 191.

In the first half of the third century this cavalry unit is epigraphically attested in Syria: the last evidence of its existence in Syria is based on an inscription¹⁹ dated to AD April 21, 252 found in Apamea, where further inscriptions concerning *ala I Ulpia Contariorum* have also been discovered²⁰.

As for the *legio III Italica*, it was not permanently employed in Syria and its presence in Kahramanmaraş must be considered only occasional, and probably connected with the Parthian expedition of Caracalla in AD 216–217²¹.

As regards in particular with Commagene, which was annexed to the province of Syria by Vespasian in AD 72, the only legion stationed here seems to have been the *XVI Flavia*, which had her *castra* in Samosata²², but legionaries from the *III Scythica* and of the *VI Ferrata* are also attested in the Roman Near East epigraphically.

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ABSTRACT

This paper presents three unpublished Latin inscriptions that are curated in the Museum of Kahramanmaraş in south-eastern Turkey. They are dated to the third century AD and associated with the presence of *ala I Ulpia Contariorum* as well as *legio III Italica* in Roman Commagene. The third funerary inscription, which is inscribed bilingually in Latin and Greek, is dedicated by a man to his wife.

Questo contributo presenta due iscrizioni funerarie latine conservate nel giardino del museo di Kahramanmaraş, nella Turchia sud-orientale, databili al III secolo d.C. e associabili alla presenza l'una dell'*ala I Ulpia Contariorum*, l'altra della

¹⁹ *AE* 1987, 955.

²⁰ Inscriptions from Apameia: *AE* 1987, 955; *AE* 1993, 1589; *AE* 1993, 1590; *AE* 1993, 1591; *AE* 1993, 1592; *AE* 1993, 1593; *AE* 1993, 1596.

²¹ Cf. E. LAFLI - S. MAGNANI - M. BUORA, *A Latin* cit. n. 4, pp. 145-146.

²² *RE* XII.1 (1925), s.v. *Legio*, cc. 1765-1767 (*Legio XVI Flavia*).

legio III Italica nella Commagene romana. Il terzo testo, sempre di carattere funerario, è dedicato invece da un marito alla moglie, ed è parte in latino e parte in greco.

Bu makalede Kahramanmaraş Müzesi'nde bulunan üç adet Latince yazıt tanıtılmaktadır. Bu yazıtlar İ.S. 3. yy.'a tarihlenmekte olup, Roma Dönemi'nde Kommagene Bölgesi'nde konuşlanan Roma Ordusu'na ait müfrezelerden *legio III Italica* ve *ala I Ulpia Contariorum* ile ilintili olmalıdırlar. Üçüncü mezar yazıtı bilinguel bir Latince ve Yunanca yazıt niteliğinde olup, bir adam tarafından karısına adanmıştır.

KEYWORDS

Funerary inscriptions, Latin epigraphy, Greek epigraphy, *ala I Ulpia Contariorum*, *legio III Italica*, Kahramanmaraş, Commagene, Asia Minor, Turkey, Roman military in the East.

Iscrizioni funerarie, epigrafia latina, *ala I Ulpia Contariorum*, *legio III Italica*, Kahramanmaraş, Commagene, Asia minore, Turchia, militari romani in Oriente.

Anahtar Kelimeler: Mezar yazıtı, Latince epigrafisi, Yunanca epigrafisi, *ala I Ulpia Contariorum*, *legio III Italica*, Kahramanmaraş, Kommagene, Anadolu, Türkiye, Doğu eyaletlerinde Roma Ordusu.



Antoninianus beaten by Gallienus in 260 to celebrate the *legio III Italica*.
On the back the stork, symbol of the legion.