

HABENT SUA FATA SEPULCRA

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THE ROMAN TOMBSTONE¹ published in *CIL* VIII.19 has had a long and varied history. It was first recorded by a Frenchman, Durand, towards the end of the seventeenth century at Lepcis Magna 'sur une autre pierre, dont on s'est servi encore dans une muraille.' Durand's reading of the inscription was quoted, from a letter, in *Mercurie Galant*, mars 1694, pp. 199-219. This article was reproduced in its entirety by R. Cagnat, under the title 'Les ruines de Leptis Magna à la fin du XVII^e siècle', in *Bulletin et mémoires de la société nationale des antiquaires de France*, sixième série, tome dixième, 1899, pp. 63-78, where Cagnat (p. 73) calls Durand's transcription a 'copie assez défectueuse du *CIL* VIII.19.'

The inscription was next recorded by Domingo Badia y Leblich, who wrote under the pseudonym of Ali Bey el Abbassi, in his *Travels of Ali Bey in Morocco, Tripoli, Cyprus, Egypt, Arabia, Syria and Turkey, between the years 1803 and 1807*, Longman & Co., London, 1816, vol. 1, pl. XV (a French edition in three volumes appeared in Paris in 1814). Ali Bey apparently did not see the inscription himself, for he says on p. 242, 'Mr. Delaporte, secretary to the general consulate of France, has . . . copied the inscriptions which are to be seen in plate no. 16' (this is a mistake for XV), which is 'dessiné par Ali Bey.' G. E. Chambers, *The Berkshire Archaeological Journal*, 54, 1954-5, pp. 39-52, "The 'Ruins' at Virginia Water", tells how 'in 1816 Col. Hanmer Warrington, the English Consul-General at Tripoli, persuaded the Bashaw of that province to offer to the Prince Regent such of the remains of Lepcis as should be thought worthy of removal', and how in March, 1818, H.M. Storeship Weymouth reached England with its cargo. Once in England the remains rested in the courtyard of the British Museum till 28th August, 1826, when a detachment of the Royal Engineers left Woolwich to remove the stones from the British Museum to Virginia Water, where they were put in position under the direction of Sir J. Wyattville.

The editor of *CIL* VIII, the first part of which appeared in 1881, describes our stone as 'ex Aegypto c. annum 1819 allata in vestibulum Musei Brit.' Presumably the stone was still in the British Museum when C. J. C. Reuvens sent a copy to H. A. Hamaker, who mentions, in his *Diatribē philologico-critica aliquot monumentorum Punicorum nuper in Africa repertorum*, Lugduni Batavorum, 1822, p. 48, that 'delineationem nobiscum humanissime communicavit Reuvensius.' F. G. Osann certainly saw the stone in the British Museum, for on p. 231 of his *Sylloge Inscriptionum Antiquarum*, Lipsiae et Darmstadii, 1834, he speaks of 'tres lapides, in vestibulo Musei Britannici tum, quum Londini commorarer, . . . expositi, ex Aegypto nuper admodum in Angliam deportati.' The stone was seen by R. E. Hodder at Virginia Water, as he mentions in his article 'Virginia Water', *The Berks, Bucks and Oxon Archaeological Journal*, 9, 1903, pp. 48-50, where on p. 50 he gives a highly erroneous version of the inscription. It was also seen by the Rev. F. J. Rawlins in Virginia Water and he gives

¹ I am indebted to Miss Joyce Reynolds for help with the nomenclature and dating of the inscription.

a careful edition of the inscription, with a drawing, on pp. 21–2 of his monograph, *Notes on Virginia Water*, Windsor, Taylor & Son, 1866.

In 1927 the stone was moved from Virginia Water, having been presented by King George V on 10 July to mark the site of the Fire of Friendship at a Y.M.C.A. International Boys' Camp, as shown by the bronze plaque (now in Windsor Castle) with inscription that was once affixed to the countersunk panel on the back. For over thirty years it was 'lost', and it is so described in J. M. Reynolds and J. B. Ward Perkins, *The Inscriptions of Roman Tripolitania*, 1952, p. 173, no. 693. In 1959 it was rediscovered by the Hon. Secretary of the Berkshire Archaeological Society, Mr. F. M. Underhill, and the Hon. Treasurer, Mr. J. G. Gafford, on the Devil's Highway, the Roman road which ran from London through Staines to Silchester and Old Sarum, near Rapley Lake, where the A332 from Windsor joins the A322 from Bracknell to Bagshot.

It is a Roman tombstone of rough grey limestone, badly weathered.¹ There are four countersunk panels, one on each face, with a Latin inscription engraved on one of them. H., c. 0.90; w., 0.62; th., 0.62. The countersunk inscribed panel measures: h., 0.605; w., 0.355. Letters: l.1, 0.07 (T, 0.075); ll.2–3, 0.06 (T, 0.065); l.4, 0.05; l.5, 0.04; ll.6–7, 0.03; interspaces, ll.1–6, 0.025; ll.6–7, 0.02. The lettering would probably date the inscription in the middle of the second century. (Plate).

Domitiae Rogatae
vixit
annis XXIII
M. Iulius
Cethegus
5 Philyssam uxori
carissimae fecit

M. Iulius Cethegus Philyssam made (this monument) for his beloved wife, Domitia Rogata; she lived 23 years.

Ll. 1–2. Osann, *op. cit.* p. 232, read *Dominae Rogatae*, and noted on p. 576, 'Dominae est nomen proprium.' Delaporte (Ali Bey, *op. cit.* pl.XV), *Dominae ROCA*. *CIL* VIII.19 correctly gives *Domitiae Rogatae*, but in the *Supplementum* (1916), p. 2289, *ROGA/TVL* ('fortasse recte') from Durand's copy (Cagnat, *op. cit.* p. 70). Hodder, *op. cit.* p. 50 read *Dominae Rogae quae*.

L.5. Hodder, *op. cit.* read *Carthaginiensis!*

L.6. Delaporte (Ali Bey, *op. cit.*), *THIYSSAAE*. Durand, (Cagnat, *op. cit.*), *PHICISSIAM*. Reuvs, (Hamaker, *op. cit.*), *PHILYSSAM*, on which Hamaker gives a dubious derivation from *φλεῖν*. Osann, *op. cit.*, *CHRYSSALV* ('notanda litterae S elisio in nomine'). Rawlins, *op. cit.*, *PHILYSSAAE*. The letters are small and rather crowded, but there is no doubt that Reuvs' reading is right. Two variations of the same name occur in S. Aurigemma, *Africa Italiana*, VIII, p. 40 (=Reynolds and Ward Perkins, *op. cit.*, no. 615, l.3), *Phelyssam*, and R. Bartoccini, *Riv. Arch.*

¹ It was described by Commander W. H. Smyth, 'marmoric conglomerate' (G. E. Chambers, *op. cit.*, p. 45).

Crist., VIII, p. 39 (= Reynolds and Ward Perkins, no. 698, 1.2), Felyssam. Aurigemma, *op. cit.*, footnote 3, gives the opinion of Levi Della Vida that the name is 'di origine probilmente numidica, non punica.' The third letter of the name as inscribed on our stone is almost certainly an I, and not an E. The names Rogatus, Rogatianus, Rogatinus, Rogata and Rogatilla are common cognomina in Africa (there are seven instances in the index to Reynolds and Ward Perkins, *op. cit.*), and according to W. H. C. Frend, *The Donatist Church*, O.U.P., 1952, p. 79, they are a direct translation of a Punic name referring to some aspect of the Libyan Baal. It will be seen, therefore, that both husband and wife have a native element in their nomenclature, which illustrates, even under the Roman forms, the combination of Punic and native Libyan in the background of Lepcis.

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By gracious permission of H.M. The Queen, The Visitor, the stone has been presented to the University of Reading and will be housed in the Faculty of Letters, Whiteknights Park, Reading.