

Ten dedications “To the gods and goddesses” and the Antonine Plague

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Ten inscribed stones, found in places as far apart as Vercovicium (Housesteads) on Hadrian’s Wall, Banasa in Mauretania, and in central Pisidia, contain texts that are clearly related, though not identical. In the following, I will refer to each by the provenance, e.g. *Vercovicium*, *Volubilis*. H. Dessau published the three that were known to him in 1882 as follows:¹

ILS 3230 (*Vercovicium*: CIL VII 633; RIB 1579): “Dedication-slab,” now built into a gate. The drawing shows either a molding or a double line around the margin, as in *Banasa*. 65 h., 50 w., th. not reported.

Diis deabusque se/cundum interpre/tationem oracu/li Clari Apollinis / coh(ors) I Tungrorum.

ILS 3230a (*Corinium*, Dalmatia: CIL III 2880)

d(iis) deabusque / secundum inter/petrationem (sic) Cla/r(ii) Apollinis.

ILS 3230b (CIL VIII 8351; ILaig II 3, 8311, near *Cuicul*, in the Numidian-Mauretanian borderland): Dis deabusq(ue) / secundum / interpreta/tionem o/raculi Cla/ri Apollini<s>.

Those that have appeared since are as follows, in order of publication:

A. Taramelli, *NSc* 1928, 254; G. Sotgiu, *Inscrizioni latine della Sardegna* I, no. 42 (*Ann. Ép.* 1929, 156: near *Nora*, Sardinia). “Pietra di calcare nummolitico,” 98 h., 66 w., 30 th.

Diis deabusque / secundum interpreta/tionem oraculi Clari / Apollinis.

M. Euzennat, *AntAfr* 10 (1976) 64; Euzennat and J. Marion, *InscMaroc* II (Paris 1982) no. 84: *Banasa*. “Plaque de marbre ... double rainure au-dessus de l’inscription,” 14 h., 25 w., 3.9 th.

[...] oraculi C[...].

M. Euzennat, *AntAfr* 10 (1976) 63-68 (*InscMaroc* II, no. 244; *Ann. Ép.* 1976, 782: *Volubilis*). “Bloc en calcaire dur ... le champ épigraphique est entouré d’une double moulure,” 78.5 h., 119 w., 46 th. Dis deabusque / secundum interpre/tationem oraculi / Clarii Apollinis.

M. G. Granino Cecere, *Decima miscellanea greca e romana* (Rome 1986) 281-88 (*Ann. Ép.* 1986, 119: *Gabii*). “Bloc de pierre locale,” 45 h., 30 w., th. not reported.

Diis deabusq(ue) / secundum / interpreta/tionem Clari / Apollinis.

G. Pereira Menaut, *Corpus de inscripci3ns romanas de Galicia* I (Santiago 1991) no. 60 (*Ann. Ép.* 1990, 545: As Pontes in region of *Brigantium*, La Coruña). “Ara votivo de granito,” 142 h., 47 w., 30 th. Dis d(eabus)q(ue) / ex interp/retation(e) / oraculi / Clari Apo/[I]llinis C[.] / AD sacr/u[m] c.6].

C. Letta, *SCO* 39 (1989) 265-80 (*Ann. Ép.* 1991, 564; *Marruvium*). “Lastra calcarea. In alto e a sinistra resta anche la cornice,” 62 h., 43.5 w., 12 th.

Diis deabusq(ue) / secundu[m]/ interpr[eta]tio[nem] / o[raculi / Clari / Apollinis].

S. Mitchell, *AnatSt* 53 (2003) 151-55 (*Melli* or *Kocaaliler*, Pisidia). “rectangular block ... probably originally set into a wall below a niche,” 72 h., 47 w., 25 th.

[θ]εοῖς καὶ θεαῖς ἀπὸ / ἐξηγήσεως χρησμοῦ Ἀπόλλωνος / Κλαρίου.

The 10 texts have some small variations (apart from orthographical ones such as *Diis/Dis*, *Clarii/Clari*). *Vercovicium* is the only example that names the dedicators, though *Brigantium* may also have done. *Brigantium* has *ex interpretation(e)* in place of *secundum interpretationem*. *Gabii* agrees with *Corinium* in omitting

Frequently cited abbreviations:

Buresch = K. Buresch, *Klaros* (Leipzig 1889);

Duncan-Jones = R. P. Duncan-Jones, “The impact of the Antonine plague,” *JRA* 9 (1996) 108-36;

Lane Fox = R. Lane Fox, *Pagans and Christians* (New York 1987);

Merk.-Staub., “Klaros” = R. Merkelbach and J. Stauber, “Die Orakel des Apollon von Klaros,” *Epig. Anat.* 27 (1996) 1-54;

Merk.-Staub., *Steinepigramme* = R. Merkelbach and J. Stauber, *Steinepigramme aus dem Griechischen Osten I: Die Westküste Kleinasiens von Knidos bis Ilion* (Stuttgart 1998);

Mitchell = S. Mitchell, “Inscriptions from Melli (Kocaaliler),” *AnatSt* 53 (2003) 139-59.

1 Where known, I have given measurements of the stone in cm and in the order h(eight), w(idth), th(ickness). I have not given secondary details such as letter-height, dotted letters, or punctuation.