

## The inscribed bowl from the Garigliano (Minturnae): local diversity and Romanization in the 4th c. B.C.

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This paper, a discussion of archaic Italic texts embracing epigraphic texts of ambiguous interpretation, archaeological evidence, and diverse ancient literary authorities, is offered to Herbert Bloch, an expert, indeed master, of these areas.<sup>1</sup>

Minturnae came to scholarly notice earlier this century when two scholars published their excavation findings. J. Johnson's two slim volumes (1933 and 1935) reported the excavations of the public areas of the Roman colony at Minturnae and a corpus of inscriptions, including dedications by *magistri* worthy of comparison with the better-studied, analogous set from Republican Capua.<sup>2</sup> A few years later, the Accademia dei Lincei issued a supplementary volume dedicated to the excavations, begun in 1926 by a team directed by P. Mingazzini, of a sanctuary, dating in its earliest stages to perhaps the 6th c. B.C., on the N bank of the Garigliano (Liris) river, between Minturnae and the sea.<sup>3</sup> Two epigraphic dedications from the area and ancient references to the sanctuary made it reasonable to assume that this unimposing temple was the site of worship of the deity Marica. Subsequent work at the site of Minturnae (not least by American scholars from Rome) has added to our understanding of the Roman citizen colony founded there in 296.<sup>4</sup> The original "Ausonian" (Auruncan) Italic urban foundation, however, has not been excavated and may, as F. Coarelli has plausibly suggested, lie beneath the modern town of Minturno.<sup>5</sup> The excavated area and unexcavated remains of the Roman city of the Imperial age and the lack of systematic excavation of the pre-Roman city provide resources and opportunity for chance discoveries.

Several years ago, D. Lavino, a senior student at the University of Naples working at and around Minturno, identified among the possessions of an unidentified local collector an ancient bowl with incised writing. Lavino took the bowl to his supervisor, C. Rescigno, who arranged for the purchase of the artifact. Rescigno consulted M. Cristofani, and the latter, after consultation with H. Rix, hurriedly published a study of the bowl and its two inscriptions. Cristofani also assisted a junior colleague, M. Mancini, to publish considerations and arguments he had not discussed in detail. Both studies appeared in late 1996 and 1997 in Italian journals.<sup>6</sup> Further study of these texts by Cristofani was foreclosed by his death in 1997. Subsequently, B.

- 1 I employ the following abbreviations: *ILLRP* = A. Degrassi, *Inscriptiones Latinae Liberae Rei Publicae* I<sup>2</sup> (1965), II (1963); *CIL* I<sup>2</sup> (3) = *Corpus Inscriptionum Latinarum* Vol. I, pars posterior, editio altera, tertia addenda (Berlin 1986), cited for notes and bibliography supplementary to *ILLRP* and *CIL* I<sup>2</sup>.
- 2 J. Johnson, *Excavations at Minturnae* (Philadelphia 1935, 1933): esp. vol. 1, 1-5; 2, 114-36. The inscriptions of Minturnae *magistri* are also available in *ILLRP* 724-46. For the Campanian *magistri*: *ILLRP* 705-723b, with M. W. Frederiksen, "Republican Capua: a social and economic study," *PBSR* 14 (1959) 125-130 = id., *Campania* (Oxford 1984) 281-84. The significance of these inscriptions (especially at Minturnae) was discussed by A. D. Nock, "Magistri and collegia," *AJP* 56 (1935) 86-91.
- 3 P. Mingazzini, "Il santuario della dea Marica alle foci del Garigliano," *MonLinc* 37 (1938) 696-983.
- 4 Significant bibliography subsequent to Johnson and Mingazzini in *PECS* (1976) 582-83 (H. Comfort); S. P. Oakley, *A commentary on Livy Books VI-X* (Oxford 1998) vol. 2, 500. Note especially the exposition and plans in F. Coarelli's *Lazio* (Rome-Bari 1982) 368-80. For the archaic temple at Minturnae, identified as such by G. Q. Giglioli in 1912, in addition to Mingazzini *ibid.* see the report in P. Talamo, *L'area aurunca nel quadro dell'Italia centromeridionale. Testimonianze archeologiche di età arcaica* (BAR S384, Oxford 1987) 67-70, with two plans.
- 5 F. Coarelli, "Roma, gli Aurunci e la fondazione di Sinuessa," in *Sinuessa* (L. Crimaco and G. Gasparetti, edd.) (Naples 1993) 17-28, esp. 19; see also P. Arthur, *Romans in Northern Campania: settlement and land-use around the Massico and the Garigliano basin* (British School at Rome 1991) 25-34, 99-100.
- 6 M. Cristofani, "Due testi dell'Italia preromana," *ArchLaz* 25 (1996) 8-32 "Per regna Maricae" [hereafter Cristofani]; M. Mancini, "Osservazioni sulla nuova epigrafe del Garigliano," *Biblioteca di ricerche linguistiche e filologiche* 42.1 (Opuscula 4.1, 1997) 5-39 [hereafter Mancini].