

## P. Lucilius Gamala's feasts for the Ostians and their Roman models

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It is a pleasure to dedicate this study to Herbert Bloch, who supervised my doctoral dissertation, whose high scholarly standards and courtly manners remain an inspiration to this day, and in whose graduate seminar on Roman Ostia I first encountered some of the questions posed by the inscriptions of the two Gamalae.

"... un difficile testo che ha affaticato tanti studiosi nel secolo scorso e nel nostro." Thus F. Zevi,<sup>1</sup> describing the stone — found at Portus in the 16th c., transported to Rome, last seen early in the 18th c., and subsequently lost<sup>2</sup> — that records the *cursus honorum* of the celebrated Ostian notable P. Lucilius Gamala (hereafter designated *senior* in order to distinguish him from his best-known homonymous descendant). Dessau's transcription of the text can be considered all but certain, and his punctuation almost entirely acceptable.<sup>3</sup>

4 P. Lucilio / P(ubli) f(ilio) P(ubli) n(epoti) P(ubli) pro/nepoti Gamalae /  
aed(ili) sacr(i) Volk(ani) (faciundis), / [a]edili, d(ecurionum) d(ecreto) allecto  
9 / [g]ratis decurioni, / [p]ontifici, Irvir(o) censo/riae potestatis quinquennali, /  
in comitis facto cura/[tor]i pecuniae publicae exigen/[d]ae et adtribuendae, /  
14 [i]n ludos cum accepisset public(um) / lucar, remisit et de suo erogati/onem  
fecit. / [Id]em sua pecunia viam silice stravit / [q]uae est iuncta foro ab arcu  
19 ad arcum. / Idem epulum trichilinis CCXVII / colonis dedit. / [Id]em  
prandium sua pecunia coloni[s] / Ostiesibus bis dedit. / [Id]em aedem  
24 Volcani sua pecunia restituit. / [Id]em aedem Veneris sua pecunia  
constituit. / [Id]em aedem Fortunae sua pecunia constituit. / [Id]em aedem  
29 Cereris sua pecunia constituit. / [Id]em pondera ad macellum / cum M.  
30 Turrano sua pecunia fecit. / [Id]em aedem Spei sua pecunia / [cons]tituit.  
[Id]em tribunal in foro mar/moreum fecit. / [H]uic statua inaurata  
36 d(ecurionum) d(ecreto) / p(ecunia) p(ublica) posita est, / [i]tem ahenea  
d(ecurionum) d(ecreto) p(ecunia) p(ublica) posita / [p]roxume tribunal  
quaes(toris), / [p]ropterea quod cum res publica / [p]raedia sua veneret ob  
pol/[i]licitationem belli navalis, / HS XV CC rei publicae donavit. / Hu]nc decuriones  
funere pu[b]lico effer[endum] cen[s]uerunt.

For Publius Lucilius Gamala, son, grandson, and great-grandson of Publius; aedile in the cult of Vulcan; aedile; admitted gratis as decurion by a decree of the decurions; pontifex of Vulcan; *duovir quinquennalis* with censorial authority; selected by vote to be *curator* for collecting and disposing of public funds. When he had accepted public funds for putting on games he gave them back, and made good the obligation from his own resources. He also paved with basalt at his own expense the road next to the forum, from one arch to the next. He gave a dinner to the colonists in 217 *trichinia*; he twice gave a meal to the colonists of Ostia at his own expense. He restored the temple of Vulcan at his own expense, built the temple of Venus at his own expense, the temple of Fortuna at his own expense (and) the temple of Ceres at his own expense. Along with M. Turranius, he saw to the placing of weights at the market at his own expense. He built [or restored?] the temple of

- 1 F. Zevi, "P. Lucilio Gamala *senior* e i 'quattro tempie' di Ostia," *MEFRA* 85 (1973) 556 (hereafter Zevi 1973).
- 2 For the vicissitudes of the stone and the long tradition of its learned interpreters since the 16th c., see Dessau's comments in *CIL* XIV, p. 70; though last seen in the 18th c., there can be virtually no doubt as to its genuineness: see R. Meiggs, *Roman Ostia* (2nd edn., Oxford 1973) [hereafter Meiggs 1973] 493 ("too many divergences in the copies that have survived to suggest a forgery"); so also Zevi 1973, 556 ("le piccole discordanze che si rilevano fra le varie trascrizioni, testimoniano l'autenticità ..."); cf. *PIR*<sup>2</sup> L 384.
- 3 *ILS* 6147 = *CIL* XIV 375. Some doubt attaches to [con]stituit in l. 13 ([res]tituit is a possible alternative), and in the next to last line the number 15,200 is less than secure. In my translation, I part company with Dessau and follow Meiggs in ll. 3-4, taking the phrase *in comitis facto* as qualifying not what precedes but what follows: Meiggs 1973, 500-1, q.v. also for the (less persuasive) alternative reading, in ll. 4-5: *aed(ium) sacr(arum) Volk(ani) aedili*: the earlier reading is preferable (so also Zevi 1973, 563).