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TYCHE

Beiträge zur Alten Geschichte
Papyrologie und Epigraphik

HOLZHAUSEN
DER VERLAG

Band 25, 2010



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Lucius Caltilius Pamphilus and his Wife Servilia Reunited
(CIL X 1021 + X 1046)

Many of the funerary inscriptions discovered in the context of the *via dei sepolcri* outside the Herculaneum Gate of Pompeii were discovered more or less fully intact. There are, however, a few fragmentary ones, and the following paper will consider one particularly interesting such case, namely the funerary inscription of the wife of one Lucius Caltilius Pamphilus.

The inscription naming him was discovered on the 26th of June 1813 in the street, soon after the excavation of 34 N was completed¹. The excavation report, however, is imprecise as to the exact location. Valentin Kockel suggests it was found on the north side of the street in the area of tombs 33 to 36 north², inclusive (plan see below p. 50)³.

According to the reports of Mommsen in CIL X 1046 (correcting an earlier publication in his *Inscriptiones Regni Neapolitanae*, no. 2359), the still fragmentary inscription consisted of seven pieces of marble⁴. The text was read and restored thus:

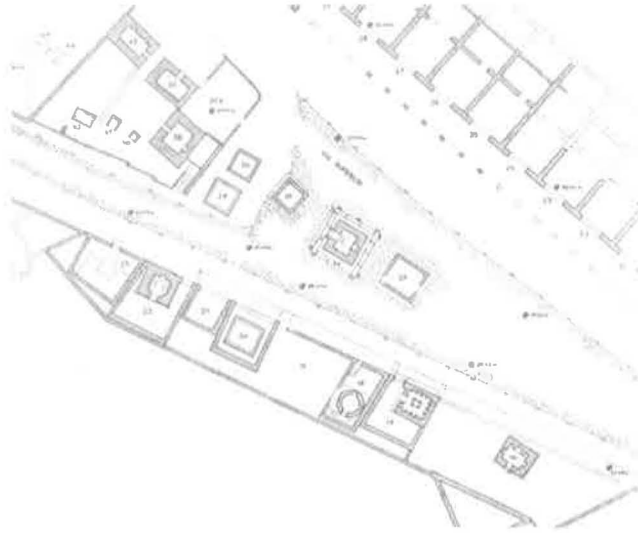
L(ucius) Caltilius L(uci) l(ibertus)
Coll(ina tribu)
[P]amphilus
[- - -]ae uxori
5 [- - -]mo.

¹ For a discussion on the tomb and related finds, see V. Kockel, *Die Grabbauten vor dem Herculaneer Tor in Pompeji*, Mainz 1983, 162–165, who cites the report in G. Fiorelli (ed.), *Pompeianarum Antiquitatum Historia* I. 3, Naples 1860, 116.

² As a result of the presumed provenance of the inscription fragments, Kockel (above n. 1) 165 has tentatively attributed tomb 34 north to Lucius Caltilius Pamphilus. The Caltilii have few members attested at Pompeii, but are thought by P. Castrén, *Ordo Populusque Pompeianus: Polity and Society in Roman Pompeii*, Rome ²1983, 147 to be an important family during the Neronian period when Q. Coelius Caltilius Iustus serves as *duovir* in A. D. 52–53. J. L. Franklin, *Pompeii Difficile Est. Studies in the Political Life of Imperial Pompeii*, Ann Arbor 2001, 77–78 suggests this individual is the son of the deceased freedman L. Caltilius Pamphilus, who was then adopted by a Q. Coelius in adulthood as variations of the *duovir*'s name appear in the tablets of Iucundus dated to A. D. 53 and A. D. 56 (*contra* J. Andreau, *Les affaires de Monsieur Iucundus*, Rome 1974, 203 who believes there are actually two people: L. Caltilius Iustus and his son Q. Coelius Caltilius Iustus). Franklin does, however, refer to an incorrect description by Theodor Mommsen in the CIL of the epitaph's lettering as Augustan (77 n. 55), so is presumably basing his version of the lineage of this family on a false date.

³ Plan from Kockel (above n. 1) 212.

⁴ CIL X 1046 (cf. p. 967).



At least six fragments survive in the collection of the Archaeological Museum of Naples⁵:



⁵ Photos and further information on these fragments were kindly supplied by Heikki Solin. — The photos seem to show only six fragments; one might surmise that a seventh fragment contained the upper ends of the two letters L at the end of line 1, as the drawing in E. Hübner, *Exempla scripturae epigraphicae Latinae a Caesaris dictatoris morte ad aetatem Iustiniani*, Berlin 1885, no. 11 presents them as extant (below). Kockel (above n. 1) 162 incorrectly states that these fragments are missing.



Moreover, in his collection of evidence for the development of Roman monumental scripts, Emil Hübner represents the first two lines of the text thus⁶:

II — Pompeii, cippus sepulchralis; extat Neapoli in museo (1).



L. Caltilius L. (Arborea) C. (ina) Pamphilus vxor

M O

CIL. X 1016 vv. 1, 2.

⁶ Hübner (above n. 5) no. 11.

It is beyond doubt what needs to be supplied in lines 4 and 5: line 4 lacks the actual name (apart from the ending) of the *uxor*, and line 5 contained some sort of an adverbial.

Interestingly enough, it would appear that both can in fact be supplied from another fragmentary Pompeian inscription that contains nothing but the name of a female (in the dative, as required) and the first part of an adverbial⁷:

Serviliae [- - -]
amico anim[o - - -].



This second item was discovered one month prior to the inscription of L. Caltilius Pamphilus, when excavations further to the east along the *via dei sepolcri* brought to light a fragment of a somewhat peculiar funerary inscription, executed on a marble slab measuring 0.35 x 0.55 x 0.03 m.

It is obvious that these two items match perfectly and therefore must once have been part of the same inscription. The inscriptions are united by the use of the same material (marble), the complementary textual information which can be joined seamlessly⁸, and a matching ratio of letters per line. In addition to these elements which still might be seen as accidental matches, one must also note that the very presentation of the text (centred)⁹ as well as the height¹⁰ and shape of the letters are consistent and thus

⁷ *CIL* X 1021 (cf. p. 967); photo from Kockel (above n. 1) Taf. 66c.

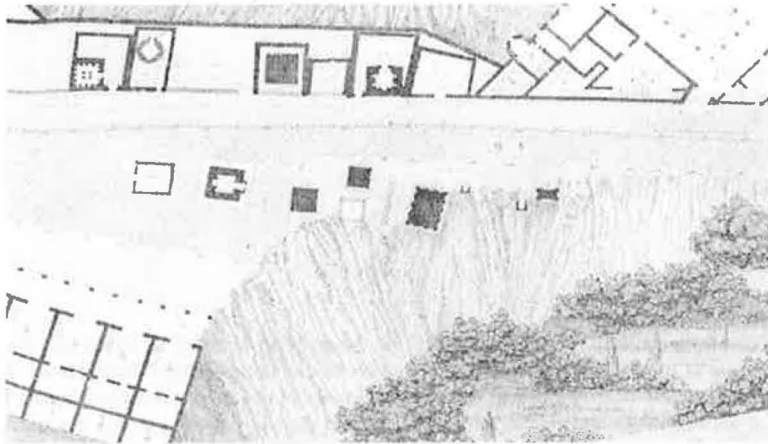
⁸ It is clear from the way the stone is damaged (as to be seen from the photo, above) that in his description of the Caltilius inscription Mommsen must have seen the upper parts of the letters AE in line 4 and of the letter M only, both of which of course were sufficient to give the reading as certain.

⁹ This is clear from the photographic evidence.

irrevocably prove the unity of these two texts¹¹. The now restored inscription therefore reads thus:

L(ucius) Caltilius L(uci) l(ibertus)
Coll(ina tribu)
[P]amphilus
Serviliae uxori
 5 *amico animo.*

This leaves the problem of the find spot, and in case of the second piece once again the excavation reports are anything but clear. In *CIL* X, Mommsen records the location of the inscription as near 16 south. Kockel counters this citing the excavation reports, which state that at the time the tablet was unearthed, 37 north and 38 north were being excavated, and the text was found along the border of this area¹². He believes the inscription was probably found in the area of 39A, north of 38 north and east of 39 north in an area that has sometimes been referred to in subsequent literature as the ‘sepulcro detto di Servilia’¹³. This conclusion, however, is also problematic, as the plan drawn by François Mazois showing the extent of the excavations in the area in 1815 shows that whilst the tombs 33 to 38 north have been uncovered, the structures of 39 and 39A have not yet been explored¹⁴:



¹⁰ Measurements of the letters are recorded for four of the five lines of the reconstructed text, demonstrating a graduated reduction in the height of the letters throughout the inscription. Line 1: 0.128; Line 2: 0.105; Line 4: 0.090; Line 5: 0.065.

¹¹ Note the peculiar, slim shapes of the letters C and S, the way the bottom right corners of the letters L are cut off diagonally, the peculiar serifs at the top end of the letters A, the letters V sticking out above the average height of the lines, and finally the consistent use of triangular punctuation.

¹² Kockel (above n. 1) 177, citing *Pompeianarum Antiquitatum Historia* I 3, 110 from the 8th of May 1813.

¹³ Kockel (above n. 1) 177.

¹⁴ F. Mazois, *Les ruines des Pompei*, Paris 1824, I pl. XXXVIII.

Kockel does suggest the fragment was found along the border of the excavated area, but as 39A north is a well defined walled enclosure, the divide between 38 and 39A should be much clearer than he implies.

The highly fragmentary state of the inscription as well as its date in the pre-earthquake, late Julio-Claudian period, might suggest that the inscription already was broken before the destruction of the city by Mt. Vesuvius, but that of course remains speculation. This theory, however, could also explain the existing mismatches in the (anything but well-attested) find spots (which are only a minor problem as regards the merger of the two fragmentary inscriptions into one). Whereas the restoration of the text itself is beyond doubt, the attribution of the inscription to any of the tombs in the *via dei sepolcri* causes a number of problems. It is for future scholarship to come up with a cogent argument as regards the inscription's original context¹⁵: we shall content ourselves with the restoration of the inscription itself and the fact that a couple, separated in death by destruction of their inscription and an oversight of scholarship, are reunited after all.

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¹⁵ As mentioned briefly above (see n. 2), the association of tomb 34 north and this inscription is tentative at best. The tomb itself, also known as the Tomb of the Marble Door, was never completed structurally despite the fact that it was already in use, and was in fact found to contain evidence of between four and six burials, still *in situ* at the time of excavation. Though extensive damage had occurred to the tomb, presumably during the eruption in A. D. 79 (the marble door and door frame, for example, were found in pieces in the tomb chamber), it is clear the exterior of the tomb was still under construction. As such, it is quite likely that the inscription, in an attempt to provide some identification to the deceased members of the family, had been displayed in some temporary fashion to be later embedded in the face of the tomb once the structure was completed. If not mounted in a permanent manner, it is conceivable that it would have easily been shaken loose during an earthquake (either in A. D. 62 or A. D. 79), resulting in its fragmentary state. Because the tomb was clearly in use prior to the destruction of Pompeii, it is difficult, based on the evidence of the funerary epigraphy found in the city, to conclude that no attempt was made to commemorate individuals already interred, making the attribution of this inscription to 34 north seem plausible. This argument can be strengthened by the fact that tombs 33, 35 and 36 north were found to be even less complete structurally than 34, and the only other tomb in the immediate vicinity, 37 north, still has its inscription intact. Finally, the other area of tombs 38 to 43 north, located to the east on a raised terrace, have had their occupants identified, leaving 34 north as the most likely candidate for this inscription.