HUNGARIAN POLIS STUDIES Nr. 22

FROM POLITES TO MAGOS

Studia György Németh sexagenario dedicata



BUDAPEST - DEBRECEN 2016 HUNGARIAN POLIS STUDIES (HPS) University of Debrecen Dept. of Ancient History and Class. Phil. H–4010 Debrecen, Egyetem tér 1.

Nr. 22

.....

Editor *Ádám Szabó*

Managing Editor *Edina Gradvohl*

Contributors Dániel Bajnok, Péter Forisek, Péter Kató, Ádám Lőrincz, Attila Marosi, Anna Mihalik, András Patay-Horváth

Supporters Hungarian Society for Antique Studies; Kódex Könyvgyártó Kft.; Non Omnis Moriar Foundation; University of Debrecen

HU ISSN 1417-1708

2016

FROM POLITES TO MAGOS

Studia György Németh sexagenario dedicata



BUDAPEST – DEBRECEN



HPS 22 From Polites to Magos Studia György Németh sexagenario dedicata

Redaction Ádám Szabó

© Authors © Editor of HPS

Cover photo:

An image of the daimon Abraxas in bird-form inscribed on one of the six small lead containers found in the cistern of the Fountain of Anna Perenna, Rome in 1999-2000 (IV inscription on the body, IXNOΦ/INKΘ/ΘΘ has been resolved by Gy. Németh (2016) as a slightly inaccurate acronym for an invocation of Christ:

Ίησοῦς Χριστὸς Ναζωραῖος ὁ [π]αῖς
Ἰησοῦς Ναζωραῖος καὶ Θεός.
Θεὸς, Θεός.

The container is in the Museo Nazionale Romano delle Terme, Dipartimento Epigrafico, inv. no. SAR 475555. Drawing based on Blänsdorf 2012, 624 no. IX.49.6.

ISBN 978-963-284-796-2

Printed by KÓDEX KÖNYVGYÁRTÓ KFT. Leader: *Attila Marosi* Budapest



Prof. György Németh (25. June 1956)



INVITATION



Dear Colleague,

we would like to invite you to the celebration of Professor György Németh's 60th birthday anniversary, where a volume of studies with the title *"From Polites to Magos"* is going to be introduced. This private event will take place at 1 p.m. on 24th June 2016 at the Hahn István seminar room of ELTE BTK (address: 1st floor/138., Múzeum körút 6-8., Budapest, H-1088).

The event and the volume are going to be surprise for celebrated, therefore, we kindly ask you to send a message to Edina Gradvohl to the following e-mail address: soranosster@gmail.com mentioning whether you will or will not take part in the celebration.



CONTENTS

Angelos Chaniotis Habent sua fata inscriptiones. A mortar impression of an inscription from Aphrodisias
Christopher A. Faraone Some Further Remarks on Greek Magical Gems
Tamás Gesztelyi Eine cretula aus Pergamon: Löwe mit Tropaion
Richard Gordon An enigmatic magical disk: Revisiting IG XIV 2276 = DTAudollent 123 (Bordighera)
Edina Gradvohl The Ancient Name for Cravings (<i>kissa</i>)
Tibor Grüll The Enigma of the Dodecahedron
György W. Hegyi Augustus, Hercules and Horace
Péter Kovács Kaiser Julian in Pannonien, über Pannonien
Gyula Lindner "Früher war alles besser" – Religiöser Konservativismus bei Plutarch
Marc Mayer i Olivé Notes on the Influence of Greek Formulae in Two Inscriptions from Tarraco CIL II ² /14, 947 and 1108
Turiuco eris in (11, 717 unu 1100

Zsolt Mráv The statue base of Severus Alexander from Ulcisia (Szentendre, Pest county, Hungary)	. 204
Levente Nagy Jenseitsvorstellungen und ihre Interpretationsprobleme im spätrömischen frühchristlichen Gräberfeld von Sopianae/Pécs	. 210
Dóra Pataricza "White blood" – An Evaluative Overview of Nursing Practices in Classical Antiquity	. 230
András Patay-Horváth Lepreon during the 5 th century BC	. 243
Ioan Piso Nochmals zur spätrömischen Inschrift von Gornea	. 255
Zsigmond Ritoók Networks in Homer	. 263
Heikki Solin Briefe an die Unterwelt	. 287
Tamás Szabadváry An 'old-new' Late Roman mirror from the Collection of the Hungarian National Museum	. 293
András Szabó Magic prism from the Roman Collection of the Hungarian National Museum	299
Tranguran Function Problem	/ /

Ádám Szabó	
Aquilae et Genio legionis.	
Beschriftete Bronzeplatte aus	
Brigetio in der Römersammlung	
des Ungarischen Nationalmuseums	
Levente Takács	
The color of Roman slaves –	
a short note to Cicero's In Pisonem	
Zsuzsa Várhelyi	
Women, couples and	
sacrifice in the Roman Empire	
Javier Velaza	
Neither Christians nor	
Poets: a Note on AEp 1974, 503	
László Vilmos	
Who Pulled the Oars? Sailing	
the Seas in Early Archaic Greece	
Daniela Urbanová – Miroslav Frýdek	
Priscilla Caranti – Einige Bemerkungen	
zum Möglichen Entstehungsszenario	
des Fluchtäfelchens aus Gross-Gerau	
(Dfx. 5.1.3/1)	
Authors of this volume	
Hungarian Polis Studies	
(HPS) Recently published (1997-)	

Andrea Barta

NEW REMARKS ON THE LATIN CURSE TABLET FROM SAVARIA¹

In the territory of the Iseum of Savaria, Pannonia a Latin language curse tablet was found in 2009 which I published in a preliminary report.² In the present paper, I offer a new reading (still not complete) after a recently done new autopsy based on B. Fehér's suggestions concerning some disputable points of my previous interpretations.³

1. Dating and place of finding

On the evaluation of the excavation's documentation⁴ it was possible to date more exactly the stratum where the tablet was discovered. The function of the territory is still not solved completely, there are a lot of questions to be answered. Beyond reasonable doubt, the exact place of finding must have belonged to the sacred site, but whether it had a religious or an industrial function is under debate. The tablet was found below the closed stratum of materials from the first phase Iseum that was demolished in 120-130 AD at latest. No traces of later pits or holes were observed in this stratigraphical layer. Nevertheless, the tablet came to light together with an *as* of Vespasian.⁵ On this basis, the curse tablet was hidden in the ground sometime between 80-130 AD.

¹ The present paper has been prepared within the framework of the project OTKA (Hungarian Scientific Research Fund) No. K 108399 entitled "Computerized Histo-rical Linguistic Database of Latin Inscriptions of the Imperial Age" (see: http:// lldb.elte.hu/) and of the project entitled "Lendület ('Momentum') Research Group for Computational Latin Dialectology" (Research Institute for Linguistics of the HAS).

² Barta 2012. References: Németh 2012, 228; Barta 2013, 36.

³ In my PhD thesis (Római kori pannoniai átoktáblák és nyelvezetük. Szöveg, nyelv, funkció [Roman curse tablets in Pannonia and their language usage. Text, language, function - in Hungarian], Budapest, 2015) I offered a reading divergent in some details from Barta 2012. B. Fehér in his report on my thesis suggested some new readings which in the light of an autopsy, I am going to consider in the followings.

⁴ Balázs – Csapláros – Sosztarits 2013, 24–30.

⁵ Barta 2012, 167: beside the coin, a fragmentary bronze panther statuette, with fragments of a bronze tweezer and of a bronze needle were discovered.

2. External features

As regards the external features, only a slight contribution can be made to the production of this tablet itself. We can see that (1) only one of the seven items of the tablet was pierced, actually the outermost until it was unfolded, and (2) the text goes round, evades this hole accurately, and (3) line-ending letters are cut by the edge of the tablet. Relying upon these observations, the Savaria curse tablet was presumably produced as follows: a piece of lead sheet was pierced first, then the curse was inscribed and cut out of the plate. Afterwards the magician folded it up beginning with the left side and when getting to the hole, he|she went on folding the other way maybe in order to set the hole on a conspicuous spot.

3. Paleography

One year after my first interpretation Fehér B.'s exhaustive study on handwriting of inscriptions from Aquincum was published.⁶ With the help of his results we can take a closer look at the letters of this tablet.

I adhere to my statement: Most of the letters are consequently carved in the same way.⁷ However, the same must hold for letter L and R on side B: letter R does not differ from the rest according to the new autopsy. As for L it is considered rather a D than a cursive, lambda-like L. The general impression of the tablet indicates a careless, overhasty scribe whose script, mainly in the lower part of both sides gets disjointed.

The letter A is written by two articuli where the left one is usually shorter and crossed by the longer right one. In Aquincum it appears in the 2nd century and was used as a more elegant form of a simple, symmetric A.⁸ In Bartoletti's collection the simple version is dated to the 2nd century also, but he doesn't make a distinction between these two forms.⁹ Mallon observed this kind of A in papyri from the 1st century AD.¹⁰

The letter E with converging hastae is considered to be written by the unskilled, in Aquincum however bending can refer to an elegant writing.¹¹

The very similar V differs from E in how and exactly where hastae meet each other. In V they are never bent. In the cursive scripts of Aquincum V

⁶ Fehér 2013.

⁷ Barta 2012, 169.

⁸ Fehér 2013, 96 (type d of letter A)

⁹Bartoletti 1990, 18.

¹⁰ Mallon 1952, 32.

¹¹ Fehér 2013, 101.

was written similarly to the ones of Savaria: the left articulus is tending to the more vertical right one.¹²



Fig. 1.: Letter-forms in the Latin curse tablet of Savaria

As regards the consonants, obviously, reconsideration was required to get a more appropriate reading than suggested previously. Fehér seems to have been right when proposed a new reading for the beginning of the first line. Therefore, letters F and X could be recently identified. The form of letter F with only one horizontal articulus at the top of the vertical hasta is not known from Aquincum¹³, but is quite a common version among the curses from Mogontiacum from the same time as of the one from Savaria¹⁴. Due to its similarity to letter P and sometimes to letter T, a doubtless reading can be achieved by overcoming many difficulties. Letter X was hard to identify right next to an I, because these two letters together are almost the same as letter N in this plate. X is not symmetrical as usually expected, but it has an

¹² Fehér 2013, 95 (fig.) and 113-114.

¹³ Fehér 2013, 103, moreover, the lower part of the vertical hasta usually tends to the left, and not to the right, as we can see on the Savaria curse tablet.

¹⁴ Blänsdorf 2012, 44–45. Usually the vertical hasta tends to the left at the bottom, but sometimes it is straight or slightly goes to the right (DTM 2, DTM 6).

almost vertical hasta which is crossed by another one starting from the left, tending downwards diagonally.

There are still two letters, signs which cannot be identified without doubt. The first one is marked as *B* in fig. 1, as at first sight it seems to be the 'à panse à droite' version of B.¹⁵ However, I am not convinced that all the similar instances could be *B*, due to the letters standing before and after it (side A, item 5, line 3; item 2, line 4), but at this moment when it is still difficult to decipher the rest of the text, I cannot propose any plausible solution. The other problematic letter can be found on side B, item 7, first line. The trident-like sign must be a letter or a kind of ligature, because there aren't any charakteres, magical signs in this tablet, only Latin letters were used. Until the adjacent letters turn into a clear text it must remain uncertain. The rest of the letters are general in all periods. Thus, paleography does not disprove the age of the curse tablet determined by archaeological evidence.

4. Reading

Side A, line 1: Fehér's suggestions to my uncertain reading ITAVIVS-MANA[---] is more convincing:¹⁶ in his interpretation the curse begins with the name *Flavius Maxim[us]*. On the one hand, the letter *F* can be paleographically proved both by parallels and autopsy¹⁷, on the other hand this name is much more conceivable than my proposals in a curse from the first or second century Savaria. The two most important reasons are: to start with a name is a common feature in this kind of texts, and at the same time the nomen *Flavius* is well attested in Savaria, too.¹⁸ As one of the most

¹⁵ Mallon 1952, 42. Previously, I interpreted them as H (Barta 2012, 169), then according to the letters around them I read them as L together with and I or this kind of cursive E (Barta 2015, 50)

¹⁶ I offered two possible interpretations in Barta 2012, 170 (and Barta 2015, 49) at the risk of being refuted later since they were not yet attested in any written evidence: *Ita vi*<*v*>*us* or *Itavus* as a name. The latter was postulated by analogies of proper names beginning with *It*- or *Itt*- (like *Itto, Ittus, Itta, Ittacus* etc. mainly from Noricum – where the *Septueii* mentioned in line 4 had personal interests).

¹⁷ For parallels see n. 14. The horizontal articulus of F is crossed by the following letter L, therefore it is rather an F than an IT group – here the horizontal part of letter T could have been the last element to write down.

¹⁸ The Epigraphik-Datenbank Clauss / Slaby list 17 instances for *Flavius*, only from the city of Savaria itself (as of 05-05-2016) and some of these inscriptions can be dated more or less exactly to the production time of the curse tablet (RIU 93, 66 e.g.). Under the Flavians

common cognomina in every period of Roman times *Maximus* can be accepted on the same arguments as *Flavius*. Misled by a similar form of letter N in the next line I did not recognize the small differences of letter tracing of XI.¹⁹

Line 2: Fehér proposed for the last letters RES[--]CTE: *Res[pe]ct(a)e* or *Res[pe]ctu(s)* which also seem to be a good suggestion it was a common name in every period.

The rest of the letters of side A still remain unclear, except *Secundus* (1. 2) and *Sept*<*u*>*eius Cresce*<*n*>*s* as presented previously²⁰.

As regards side B, only minor modifications could be made. First of all the text arrangement was not correctly established mainly because of the scribe's hasty work. MILITESMAGISTRATVS is still standing in line 4 practically, but AT of the preceding line should be taken as an insertion between *milites* and *magistratus*²¹, as the recent autopsy did not reveal any more traces of letters around this conjunction.²² The position of the beginning of line 2 (VLEA) is ambiguous – Fehér suggested it could be in line 3. While the letters are unreadable here this problem remains unsolved.

²⁰ Barta 2012, 170–171, Barta 2015, 51.

²¹ AT might be interpreted as *atque*, *at* and *ad*, too.

²² The particle -q[ue] at the end of *magistratus* was not perceivable in the course of the recent autopsy.

Savaria was growing and getting more and more developed which can be attested in the imperial name-giving tendencies too.

In Barta 2015, 50 I tried to find acceptable interpretations of MANA [---] both for Ita vi<v>us and Itavius. As for the first one, I conveyed a suggestion that it could be a mistakenly written form of maneat = man < e > a[t] (having the e dropped out either because of the phenomenon of simplification of consonant and semi-vowel group - Herman 2000, 48, or because of a simple omission). Though finally Fehér seems to have been right, saying this phenomenon appeared in Pannonia only in the 3rd century he should have taken care in wording his main argument to reject my reading. Dating should be taken with reserve. Though the phenomenon flourished from the 3rd century on, according to the Computerized Historical Linguistic Database of Latin Inscriptions of the Imperial Age (Ildb.elte.hu) there are earlier evidences from Pannonia for loss of both *i* and *e* before another vowel (ANTONVS pro Antonius CarnMil 183 and AIJ 557 adversario twice with missing -i-, both from the 1st c.; DABVS pro deabus CIL 3 11107, dated to the 2nd c.). As for Itavius, according to parallels I thought it could have been followed maybe by another name, a cognomen. I admit Fehér rejected all my examples for names beginning with Mana- (Manapho, Manaia) with reason as they were of Arabic or Armenian origin. Such names were less expected than Maximus in that time in Savaria. Having adopted Fehér's proposal of Maxim[us] which is based on the similarity of N and XI I could find confirmation for it among the Mogontiacum tablets (DTM 1,35) again.

Likewise, the disjointed letters below *milites at magistratus* according to Fehér can be *sunt primu[m]*, which would be a plausible solution. To sum up, here I offer the revised and still preliminary reading of the Latin curse tablet of Savaria.



Fig. 2.: Side A (obverse) of the Latin curse tablet of Savaria

Side A

- 1 FLAVIVSMAXIM[---]A[---]AXI[---]
- 2 SECVNDVSPEBSSEV[--]RES[--]CTE[-]
- 3 VTABIVITAN[---]BICV[-]
- 4 BICSEPTEIVSCRESCES
- 5 VAB[---]
- 6 [---]



Fig. 3.: Side B (reverse) of the Latin curse tablet of Savaria

Side B

- 1 [--]VER[-]CIVSIV[---]A
- 2 [-]VDES[--]RTOMESESERVAMII
- 3 AT
- 4 MILITESMAGISTRATVS
- 5 [---]
- 6 V[-]S[---]SVNTPRIMV[---]
- 7 [---]

[-]VER[-]CIVS IV[- -]A | [-]VDES [qua]rto mense serva MII | milites AT' magistratus | [- -] | V[-]S[--] sunt primu[m--] | [- -].

Bibliography

Balázs – Csapláros – Sosztarits 2013 = Balázs, P.– Csapláros, A. – Sosztarits, O.: *Iseum. Isis temploma Szombathelyen.* Sistrum. Serie B No. 2. Szombathely

Barta 2012 = Barta, A.: Milites magistratusque. A new curse tablet from Savaria. *ACD* 48, 167–173.

Barta 2013 = Barta, A.: Fémfeliratok. Átoktáblák. In: Sosztarits, O. – Balázs, P. – Csapláros, A.: *A savariai Isis szentély*. Isis savariai otthona – kiállítási katalógus. Sistrum. Serie A No. 1. Szombathely. 2013, 35–36.

Barta 2015 = Barta, A.: *Római kori pannoniai átoktáblák és nyelvezetük. Szöveg, nyelv, funkció* [Roman curse tablets in Pannonia and their language usage. Text, language, function. Manuscript, in Hungarian]. Budapest.

Bartoletti 1990 = Bartoletti, G.: La scrittura romana nelle tabellae defixionum (secc. I a.C.–IV d.C.) Note paleografiche. *Scrittura e civiltà* 14, 7–56.

Blänsdorf 2012 = Blänsdorf J.: *Die Defixionum Tabellae des mainzer Isis- und Mater Magna-Heiligtums*. Defixionum Tabellae Mogontiacenses (*DTM*). Mainzer Archäologische Schriften, Band 9. 2012.

Fehér 2013 = Fehér B.: Characteristics of Handwriting in the Inscriptions of Aquincum. In: Eck, W. – Fehér, B. – Kovács, P. (eds.): *Studia epigraphica in memoriam Géza Alföldy*. Antiquitas I/61. 91–115.

Herman 2000 = Herman, J.: Vulgar Latin. University Park, Pennsylvania.

Mallon 1952 = Mallon J.: *Paléographie romaine*. Scripturae Monumenta et Studia, 3. Madrid. Németh 2012 = Németh, Gy.: Textual sources of ancient magic in Pannonia. In: Piranomonte, M. – Marco Simón, F. (eds.): *Contesti magici – Contextos mágicos*. Róma. 225–228.

OPEL = Lőrincz, B.– Redő, F. (eds.): *Onomasticon Provinciarum Europae Latinarum*, Vol. I. Aba – Bysanus (Budapest, 1994), Vol. II. Cabalicius – Ixus (Budapest, 1999), Vol. III. Labareus – Pythea (Wien, 2000), Vol. IV. Quadratia – Zures (Wien, 2002)

Sosztarits – Balázs – Csapláros 2013 = Sosztarits, O.– Balázs, P.– Csapláros, A.: *A savariai Isis szentély*. Isis savariai otthona – kiállítási katalógus. Sistrum. Serie A No. 1. Szombathely.

From Polites to Magos

AUTHORS OF THIS VOLUME

Béla Adamik

scientific advisor

Lendület ('Momentum') Research Group for Computational Latin Dialectology Research Institute for Linguistics of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences H-1068 Budapest, Benczúr u. 33. adamik.bela@nytud.mta.hu

Silvia Alfayé

Profesor Contratado Doctor Departamento de Ciencias de la Antigüedad, Universidad de Zaragoza (Spain) alfaye@unizar.es

Radu Ardevan

"Babeş-Bolyai" Universität zu Klausenburg Str. Kogălniceanu nr.1, 400084 Cluj-Napoca rardevan@gmail.com

Dániel Bajnok

Eszterházy Károly College Department of Ancient and Medieval History H-3300 Eger, Eszterházy tér 1. bajnok.daniel@ektf.hu

Andrea Barta

research fellow Lendület ('Momentum') Research Group for Computational Latin Dialectology Research Institute for Linguistics, HAS 1068 Budapest, Benczúr u. 33. barta.andrea@nytud.mta.hu

Giulia Baratta,

Università di Macerata, Dipartimento di Studi Umanistici. giulia.baratta@unimc.it

László Borhy

Eötvös Loránd University Faculty of Humanities Institute of Archaeological Sciences Department of Roman Provincial and Classical Archaeology H–1088 Budapest, Múzeum krt. 4B. lborhy@hotmail.com

Angelos Chaniotis

Institute for Advanced Study, Princeton achaniotis@ias.edu

Christopher A. Faraone

The University of Chichago Department of Classic 1115 E. 58th Street Chicago, IL 60637 cf12@midway.uchicago.edu

Miroslav Frýdek

Fachassistent Philosophische Fakultät der Masaryk-Universität A. Nováka 1, 602 00 Brno Tschechische Republik frydek@mail.muni.cz

Tamás Gesztelyi

University of Debrecen Department of Classical Philology and Ancient History H-4032 Debrecen, Egyetem tér 1. gesztelyi.tamas@arts.unideb.hu

Richard Gordon

Max Weber Centre for Advanced Cultural and Social Research, University of Erfurt richard.gordon@uni-erfurt.de

Edina Gradvohl

Semmelweis University Faculty of Health Sciences Department of Social Sciences H-1088 Budapest, Vas utca 17. soranosster@gmail.com

Tibor Grüll

University of Pécs, Department of Ancient History H-7624 Pécs, Rókus utca 2. grull.tibor@gmail.com

György W. Hegyi

Eötvös Lóránt University Faculty of Humanities Department of Ancient History H-1088 Budapest, Múzeum krt. 6–8. hegyiw@gmail.com

Péter Kovács

Pázmány Péter Catholic University H-2081 Piliscsaba, Egyetem utca 1. kovacs.peter@btk.ppke.hu

Gyula Lindner

Universität Pécs Philosophische Fakultät Institut für Geschichtswissenschaften Lehrstuhl für Alte Geschichte lindner.gyula@pte.hu

Ádám Lőrincz

King's College, London loradam@gmail.com

Marc Mayer i Olivé

University of Barcelona Institut d'Estudis Catalans mayerolive@yahoo.es

Zsolt Mráv

Hungarian National Museum Archaeological Department H-1088 Bp. Múzeum krt. 14-16 zsolt.mrav@gmail.com mrav.zsolt@hnm.hu

Levente Nagy

Universität Pécs Abteilung für Archäologie nagy.levente@pte.hu

Dóra Pataricza

dorapataricza@gmail.com

András Patay-Horváth

Eötvös Lóránt University Faculty of Humanities Department of Ancient History 1088 Budapest, Múzeum krt. 6-8. patay-horvath.andras@btk.elte.hu

Ioan Piso

Facultatea de istorie și filosofie Departamentul de Istorie Antică și Arheologie Str. Kogălniceanu nr.1, 400084 Cluj-Napoca, România piso_ioan@yahoo.com

Zsigmond Ritoók

Hungarian Academy of Sciences H-1051 Bp. Széchenyi István tér 9.

Heikki Solin

Institutum Classicum Universitatis Helsingiensis PO.BOX 24 00014 Helsingin yliopisto heikki.solin@helsinki.fi

Tamás Szabadváry

Institut of Archaeological Sciences Faculty of Humanities Eötvös Loránd University H-1088 Bp. Múzeum krt. 4/D. tamas.szabadvary@gmail.com

András Szabó

Hungarian National Museum Archaeological Department H-1088 Bp. Múzeum krt. 14-16. szabo.andras.022@gmail.com

Ádám Szabó

Archaeological Department Hungarian National Museum University of Pécs szabo.adam@hnm.hu szabo.adam@pte.hu

Levente Takács

University of Debrecen Department of Classical Philology and Ancient History H-4032 Debrecen, Egyetem tér 1. takacs.levente@arts.unideb.hu

Zsuzsa Várhelyi

Associate Professor of Classical Studies Boston University 745 Commonwealth Avenue Boston, MA 02215 USA zsvarhelyi@gmail.com

Javier Velaza

Universitat de Barcelona, Departament de Filologia Llatina, velaza@ub.edu

László Vilmos

University of Pécs, Department of Ancient History, H-7624 Pécs, Rókus u. 2. vilmos.laszlo@pte.hu

Daniela Urbanová

Institut für Klassische Studien, Philosophische Fakultät der Masaryk-Universität A. Nováka 1, 602 00 Brno Tschechische Republik urbanova@phil.muni.cz