

SERBIAN ACADEMY OF SCIENCES AND ARTS
INSTITUTE FOR BALKAN STUDIES

LIII



2022

BALCANICA

D. NIKOLIĆ, Three Votive Plaques from Upper Moesia • I. KOMATINA, A Hypothesis about the Origin of Závaš's Cross • J. HENDERSON & V. ŽIVKOVIĆ, Experiencing Disease and Medical Treatment in Renaissance Italy • F. GUIDA, The Second Eastern Crisis (1875–1878) • A. D'ALESSANDRI, The Opening of the Italian Legation in Belgrade in 1879 • J. I. TOMAŠEVIĆ, Movies about the First World War • M. RISTOVIĆ, The March on Rome and its Consequences • B. MILOSAVLJEVIĆ, Italy in the Writings of Slobodan Jovanović • J. RAFAILOVIĆ, Yugoslav-Italian Foreign Trade Relations 1919–1939 • M. T. MRAOVIĆ, Creation of an Alternate Reality • A. EREŠ, The Venice Biennale and Art in Belgrade in the 1950s • E. COSTANTINI, Relations between the PCI and the League of Communists from the Second Post-War Period to the Mid-1960 • M. DOGO, Belgrade 1969–1972 • B. ŽIVKOVIĆ, The Two Last Encounters between Broz and Berlinguer • P. DRAGIŠIĆ, The Yugoslav Perspective on Italian Eurocommunism in the Second Half of the 1970s 

ANNUAL OF THE INSTITUTE FOR BALKAN STUDIES

UDC 930.85(4-12)

BELGRADE 2022

ISSN 0350-7653
eISSN 2406-0801

to the main entry containing all occurrences: e.g. the occurrences of *Bitus* and Βειθυς are listed under the entry *Bithus*. The names are further grouped according to their province and toponym of origin. Other important details are provided when possible for each attestation, such as the type of document, the number of occurrences within the same document, complete onomastic formulae, or the anthroponymic region of the name. The result is a well-structured and thorough corpus, yet one unencumbered by digressions.

Onomasticon Thracicum in many ways surpasses Dečev's corpus and supplants it as the main point of reference for Thracian anthroponymy. The updated repertoire of Thracian names and their classification into anthroponymic areas are probably its most important contributions. Data in some older corpora which relied on Dečev to identify Thracian names, such as *Inscriptions de la*

Mésie supérieure, should now be compared with the results of Dana's work. The book does not address interactions between Thracian and neighbouring anthroponymies in great detail, but it provides excellent grounds for such a study. Finally, while *Onomasticon Thracicum* does not recommend itself as a manual of the Thracian language, researchers of Palaeo-Balkan languages stand to gain from consulting not only the catalogue, but also the chapters dealing with non-linguistic issues. Dana's calls for caution and his mistrust towards the etymological method's application in Thracian studies may seem exaggerated, but they are a necessary reminder of the not infrequent disregard of historical and epigraphical circumstances in the study of Palaeo-Balkan languages, embodied by the unfortunate appearance of the phantom name Βραζενις in recent outlines of Thracian grammar.

EUGENIA BEU-DACHIN, *THE LATIN LANGUAGE IN THE INSCRIPTIONS OF ROMAN DACIA*, MEGA PUBLISHING HOUSE, CLUJ-NAPOCA, 2014, 276 p.

*Reviewed by Jelena Vukojević**

The great importance of the inscriptions for the study of spoken Latin and its linguistic tendencies has long been recognised. The language of epigraphy is the most important source for the study of the degree of Romanization and acculturation in the provinces, especially when there are no literary sources from the province, as in the case of Dacia. The growing number of inscriptions, their study, as well as the revision of previously published texts, contribute greatly to the study of Vulgar Latin and also make it possible to identify the characteristics of the language of epigraphy in a province in comparison with the rest of the Empire. We expect this book to provide a systematic approach to linguistic phenomena in inscriptions from Dacia, as it is based on the richest

and most comprehensive corpus of inscriptions from Dacia to date. The carefully studied, critiqued, and described epigraphic habit and language of the inscriptions may be a suitable tool for further research on the Latin language in general and for numerous comparative studies.

The book under review was originally written as a doctoral thesis, submitted and presented in 2011 at the Faculty of History and Philosophy of Babeş-Bolyai University in Cluj-Napoca. The present version has been thoroughly and carefully revised by Eugenia Beu-Dachin, a scholar primarily of

* jelena.vukojevic@f.bg.ac.rs
University of Belgrade, Faculty of Philosophy,
Department of Classics, Belgrade, Serbia

Latin epigraphy, classical archaeology and history with a focus on the ancient history of Romania. The central theme of this book is the linguistic study of Latin inscriptions from Roman Dacia. The author analyzes and presents in a well-structured manner various linguistic aspects of about 4500 inscriptions to illustrate general features of the language of the inscriptions originating in Dacia.

At the beginning of the book there is a preface by Ioan Piso, the coordinator of the said dissertation (pp. 5–6), followed by a list of bibliographic abbreviations (pp. 19–22) and a list of ancient settlements in Dacia (p. 23). As for the structure of the book, it consists of an introduction, four main chapters, and concluding remarks. In the introduction, a brief overview of the history of the study of the Latin language in the Roman Empire is given. The author briefly presents the main findings and studies on Vulgar Latin in general, with special focus on the spread of Latin throughout the Roman Empire and the varying degrees of its assimilation in the provinces. This is reflected in the more detailed discussion of works devoted to the language of Gaul¹, Hispania², and Pannonia³, as well as of earlier studies of the language of Dacia⁴. All of these studies

share a common research base: the complete corpus (available to date) of inscriptions from the entire province in question and the fact that they place data on phonetics at the centre of their work, which is especially true of A. Carnoy. The only exception would be the work of B. Fehér, whose findings are based on epigraphic and literary sources (the works of the third century bishop of Poetovio). Also B. Fehér shifts the focus of the study to syntax, and then moves on to morphology and phonetics. In the introductory chapter, E. Beu-Dachin also lists the epigraphic sources used for the present study (p. 37) and describes the approach to the epigraphic texts in the study as descriptive (p. 25). When we compare the present book with the studies mentioned above, we note that it is also based on the entire available corpus of inscriptions from Dacia, which gives the study a considerable advantage over previous works focusing on Dacia in terms of the number and types of inscriptions examined. However, a purely descriptive approach to the data, noting and presenting only the features of the inscriptions, is drastically different from analyzing general language issues and linguistic features found on the inscriptions and viewing these issues in light of Vulgar Latin. Beu-Dachin emphasizes that the goal of this work is not to highlight the spoken aspect of Latin in Dacia or to prove its vulgar or colloquial character. The goal of the book is to analyze the language as it appears in the extant (epigraphic) texts (pp. 39–40). The method to achieve this goal is to identify linguistic deviations and unusual formulations in the texts, to classify them according to the type of deviation (phonetic, syntactic, etc.), and to analyze and explain these phenomena in terms of standard norms. In accordance with the descriptive method, the author also adds examples that conform to the grammatical rules, as this completes the picture of the language of the inscriptions.

The main part of the book is divided into four chapters named after the linguistic

¹ J. Pirson, *La langue des inscriptions latines de la Gaule*, Bruxelles 1901 (1967).

² A. Carnoy, *Le latin d'Espagne d'après les inscriptions. Étude linguistique*, Bruxelles 1906.

³ B. Fehér, *Pannonia latin nyelvtörténete*, Budapest 2007 [The History of the Latin Language from Pannonia].

⁴ P. Drăgoiescu, *Limba latină pe inscripțiile din Dacia. Contribuții epigrafice*, Râmnicul Vâlci 1930 (1931) [The Latin Language of the Inscriptions from Dacia. Epigraphic Contributions], S. Stati, *Limba latină în inscripțiile din Dacia și Scythia Minor*, București 1961 [The Latin Language of the Inscriptions from Dacia and Scythia Minor], H. Mihăescu, *La langue latine dans le Sud-Est de l'Europe*, București – Paris 1978.

topics treated: Phonetics, Morphology, Syntax and Lexicon. The chapter on phonetics is the most exhaustive, which is not surprising considering that the author emphasizes that the linguistic variations found in the inscriptions are mostly phonetic in nature. It begins with a definition of the terms: phonetics, phoneme, and sound, followed by a structured presentation of phonetic variations, organized by phoneme category. The author provides a detailed analysis of the changes that affected vowels, diphthongs, and consonants in Latin, beginning with Indo-European and concluding with their deviations from the literary norm (as found in inscriptions). Occasionally, the author presents the findings about similar phenomena in other provinces (e.g. Gaul, Hispania, Pannonia) or conclusions and notes of the authors who previously worked on Dacian inscriptions (mainly Mihăescu). For such phenomena, at least one example is provided from the epigraphic corpora. Some examples are provided with alternative interpretations, such that they are simply due to scribal errors and contradict the phenomena described earlier. In these cases, the author lacks a decision as to which of the possibilities is more likely and why. It appears that in such cases an additional contextualization, considering the inscription as a whole and as part of the corpus, would have been beneficial to make such a decision (which is even necessary from the point of view of the aims of this book). A critical approach to the variations at hand and the distinction between a mere scribal error and a change in pronunciation, morphology, or declension seems to be the only way to obtain a comprehensive picture of epigraphic habits in Dacia and in general. A systematic comparison of the phenomena in the Dacian corpus with the variations found in other corpora would have provided much necessary material for a discussion of the overall situation of the epigraphic use of Latin. This chapter concludes with examples of common spelling problems in inscriptions.

In the following chapter, morphological features are arranged according to parts of speech and their grammatical categories. Phenomena involving names are treated by further subdivision into declensions. Other parts of speech covered are adjectives, pronouns, numerals, and verbs. As in the previous chapter, each morphological variation is supplemented by epigraphic examples from Dacia and other provinces. The author points out that some of these variations may also be due to changes in pronunciation, (e.g., the accusative without the desinence *-m*) or to abbreviations due to lack of space. Contaminations between declensions, epigraphic formulae and their hypercorrect forms are good indicators of morphological variations. Although general explanations and correlations are lacking for some of them, good examples are provided for the following formulae: *bene merentis, ex iusso, ex viso*⁵, *ex votu, ex votum, pro merita, pro salutem, pro se et suorum*. The author briefly discusses the comparison of adjectives and presents us with data on the frequency of *piissimus* and *pientissimus* in Dacia⁶. The chapter concludes with a discussion of the syncopated form of the perfect stem.

The third chapter begins by noting that the texts of the inscriptions have very simple syntactic structures and contain mostly formulaic language. Therefore, the major part of the chapter relates to the analysis of syntactic structures that deviate from the

⁵ For a detailed analysis of this and similar formulae (such as *ex votu* and *ex iusso*) see V. Nedeljković, “Ex viso. Tragovi jedne strukturne dihotomije u jeziku latinskih natpisa” [Traces of a structural dichotomy in the language of Latin inscriptions], *Lucida intervalla* 43 (2014), 91-98. (The title and text of the article are originally written in Cyrillic.

⁶ For more details on these superlatives and their relation to each other see S. Tantimonaco, “Piissimus and pientissimus: two non-existent superlatives of pius?”, *Journal of Latin Linguistics* 19(2) (2020), 281–307.

norms of classical Latin. These deviations include, mainly, the agreement in number, case, gender, and person, the syntax of cases, the broader use of prepositions with modified functions, and sometimes case following them (compared to the classical norm). Other examples include the predominant use of the demonstrative pronouns *iste, ista, istud, ille, illa, illud* and *ipse, ipsa, ipsum*, the omission of the relative pronoun in funerary inscriptions before the verb *vixit*, and other various types of ellipsis. The use and characteristics of two common formulas (*Dis Manibus* and *tribunicia potestate*) are also examined in detail.

The following chapter — the lexicon — is not very extensive due to the formulaic and stereotypical character of the inscriptions, as already mentioned. Nevertheless, the inscriptions can provide words whose sense deviates from the classical norm, and previously unattested words i.e. ἄπαξ λεγόμενα. In addition, the lexicon contains words of foreign (mostly Greek) origin, new words, terms that have changed declension, folk terms for names of persons and places, etc. The words are arranged alphabetically, indexed under lemmas, and provided with an explanation. The author also refers to the works of other scholars (Drăgoiescu and Mihăescu, op. cit. respectively) who include the same word in the vocabulary lists. These authors organized the lexical items by semantic fields (e.g., family relations, army, religion, kinship, etc.) and carefully examined the particular usage of some terms. A thematic approach to the organisation of the lexicon seems more appropriate to illustrate the features of the language of the inscriptions. The alphabetical organisation of the lexicon is easier to survey when the user is looking for information about a particular word, but no clear picture emerges for a word in the context of Dacian inscriptions. Some of the explanations of the words that are part of the lexicon are quite detailed with extensive sources and arguments, but for many examples there are very few

explanations and elaborations, sometimes consisting only of the inscription in which they were documented. The author also cites the nouns *familiaricum, legulus,* and *pegmarius* as examples of hapaxes, but only the last example is provided with a fairly in-depth explanation and analysis. This seems to be a shortcoming, since the lexicon is one area where the language of the inscriptions could stand out more clearly, showcasing its uniqueness and distinguishing characteristics from the language of other regions. This could be achieved most efficiently by a detailed analysis and presentation of the terms with very atypical and specific epigraphic usage, in the first line ἄπαξ λεγόμενα, but also of prominent words such as *compar, alumnus,* etc.

The final chapter of the book contains concluding remarks that relate to the content of the preceding chapters, although one might have expected a more pointed, detailed, and critical synthesis given the wealth of data and issues presented in the preceding chapters. The author notes that the linguistic variations in the inscriptions generally affect the phonetic register and occur throughout the Roman Empire. It is also noted that the spoken language, local idiosyncrasies, and writing style of Latin cannot be identified, since Dacia was a Roman province for only a very short time and most dedicators are not of Dacian origin. But that was not the aim of this book anyway. The main goal, to sketch the picture of the Latin language in the inscriptions of Roman Dacia, has been successfully achieved. Besides concluding remarks, the author also deals with the non-Latin substratum whose influence on the Latin language spoken in Dacia can be seen in the phonetic field, in onomastics and in toponyms.

This book is a well-written and documented study focusing on Latin epigraphy from Dacia. The careful analysis and explanation, as well as the organization of the individual chapters and the book as a whole, make it accessible and useful to both

experienced and less experienced linguists and epigraphers. It provides much important data on language of epigraphy in Dacia and can be useful for assessing the degree of acculturation in that province. This publication has the potential to serve as a source for further research on the topic of the language

of Dacia, but also to stimulate similar research on other provinces. Moreover, it lends itself to various comparisons and can help provide a clearer picture of the Latin language in the Danubian provinces and the lives of their citizens.

TUDOR DINU, *REVOLUȚIA GREACĂ DE LA 1821 PE TERITORIUL MOLDOVEI ȘI ȚĂRII ROMÂNEȘTI*, BUCUREȘTI: HUMANITAS, 2022, 368 p.

Reviewed by Marija Milinković*

Tudor Dinu, professor at the Faculty of Foreign Languages and Literatures at the University of Bucharest, marked the two-hundredth anniversary of the Greek Revolution and the revolutionary movement in the Romanian lands with the book *Revoluția Greacă de la 1821 pe teritoriul Moldovei și Țării Românești*. In the foreword of this book, which, in addition to the introduction and conclusion, contains 14 chapters, the author states the reasons why this topic has not been extensively researched either in Greek or Romanian historiography. For Greek historians, he assumes that the main obstacles are the numerous sources in the Romanian language that testify about the actions of the Greeks in the territory of the principalities of Wallachia and Moldavia, whereas for many Romanian historians, the execution of Tudor Vladimirescu, the Romanian national hero, committed by the Eteria, is an obstacle for an objective judgment of the actions and the importance of the Filiki Heteria movement in the Romanian territories. Tudor Vladimirescu's movement was a central topic in Romanian historiography for a long time. In contrast, Romanian historical scholarship tended to marginalize the movement of Filiki Eteria, although its consequences for Wallachia and Moldavia were significant. Using numerous

written sources in Romanian and Greek (many of them presented for the first time), Dinu comprehensively approached this complex topic, trying to reveal the goals of both movements and break down the background of their conflicts without dividing the characters into good and bad. In his account, Dinu scrupulously adheres to this principle, often citing several sources about the same event.

As the title of the book suggests, the main plot concerns the eterist movement in the Danube principalities, military actions and internal problems, while the author writes in passing about the echoes of these events on the international level, in Russia or the Ottoman Empire, to the extent that it is necessary for understanding the broader context. In that regard, with a precise and concrete account, the author covers all necessary aspects of the interplay between Russian and Ottoman politics regarding the events of 1821.

Dinu begins with a brief overview of the relations between Russia and the Ottoman Empire, as well as the position of the Greek people since the fall of Constantinople, citing the key events and turning points, such as the

* mariahistory1512@gmail.com
PhD Student, University of Novi Sad, Faculty of Philosophy, Department of History, Novi Sad, Serbia

ISSN 0350-7653



9 770350 765003 >