

potuisset hoc nomen reperiri etiam Albae Fucente: *CIL* IX 3726 = I2 1768). **3104** *Sebiticus*. **3252** *Erindini* dat. **6409b** *Nafidi* dat. **7293** *Augia* fem. **3367** *Sicyonius*. **7492** *Aurician(us)* (hoc cognomen, ductum ex cognomine virorum *Auriculae/Oriclae*, hic videtur memorari primum). **3442** *Sinitius*, **3542** *Estanius* (nomina quae alibi non memorantur). Notari potest etiam hoc, in titulis quibusdam praesertim (sed non solum) Corfiniensibus legi cognomen *Paelinus* vel *Paelina* (cf. *deam Pelinam* 3314); ad hoc cognomen refertur 6999 et alibi ad ea, quae B. scripsit in *Epigraphica* 1997 p. 246 = Id., *Abruzzo e Molise* I p. 330, ubi tamen solum memorantur alia exempla huius cognominis, cum potuisset addi agi de forma quadam vulgari vel populari cognominis *Paelignus* (cf. *Marsus Sabinus* eqs.), id quod apparet vel ex eo, quod Sallustius Paelignianus consul anni 231 in titulis quibusdam dicitur *Paelinianus* (*CIL* X 6769; *AE* 1914, 164 [Beneventi]).

At haec omnia videbuntur minoris momenti iis, qui considerant primum laboris huiusmodi corporis scribendi magnitudinem et deinde eiusdem laboris fructum, scilicet hoc ipsum volumen 500 fere paginarum. Ut iam supra scripsi, agitur de opere magnifico quod et mihi ipsi et innumerabilibus rerum Romanarum studiosis erit utilissimum. Ita non possum non ipsi Marco Buonocore agere gratias eodemque tempore gratulari eidem.

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STEFANO ROCCHI – ROBERTA MARCHIONNI: *Oltre Pompei: Graffiti e altre iscrizioni oscene dall'Impero Romano d'Occidente. Introduzione, testo, traduzione e commento filologico*. Presentazione di ANTONIO VARONE. *The Seeds of Triptolemus – Studies on the Ancient Mediterranean World 1*. Deinotera editrice, Roma 2021. ISBN 978-88-89951-29-3. 160 pp. EUR 16.

This study has its origins in the obscene inscriptions discovered on the walls of Pompeii. The Pompeian material is well known and has been studied extensively, while similar material found elsewhere in the Roman Empire has received less scholarly attention. The aim of Rocchi and Marchionni's study is to present and examine a selection of obscene writings from other parts of the Roman Empire, focusing on the sources written in Latin. This thematic approach is a welcome one as many obscene inscriptions are buried in separate volumes of epigraphic editions. The book is the first in a new series, edited by Stefano Rocchi and Spyridon Tzounakas, which promises to offer new and innovative scholarship about the ancient world. With this well-crafted book the series is already delivering on its promise.

The book is aimed both at scholars of Roman Antiquity and non-expert readers. It begins with a preface by Antonio Varone and a thorough introduction to the topic of ancient obscenities by Stefano Rocchi. The introduction covers the subject matter of ancient obscenities, their typology, language and style, and where, when and by whom these obscenities were written, always drawing the examples from the source material of the book. Each of the obscene inscriptions is presented in its own chapter with detailed information and illustrations, and with commentaries that are easy to read yet informative enough to be of value for scholarly use. Indices of the epigraphic and literary sources cited in the book are included. A general index would have been useful, but its absence is not a major detriment to a book of this size. The reader can easily find the relevant subject matter by glancing at the texts and the commentaries on the individual inscriptions. This study is based on the most recent research on ancient obscenities, and previous research is often cited and discussed in the commentaries on the individual inscriptions.

The primary material of the book consists of a selection of 23 obscene inscriptions that have been found in Italy and the Roman provinces of Pannonia Superior, Germania Superior, Gallia Belgica, Lusitania and Numidia. They have also been chosen with a wide chronological distribution (from the first c. BCE to the fifth c. CE) and have been produced using different materials and techniques. This anthology provides a good overview of the variety of media in which obscenities can be found, such as graffiti, stone inscriptions, mosaics, bricks, tableware and lead bullets. The geographical and chronological range of the material also makes it clear how widely obscene texts were produced in Antiquity. The inscriptions are presented in order, starting with those found closest to Pompeii in Italy and continuing farther away into the provinces. This geographical ordering of the inscriptions is a traditional way of presenting inscriptions in epigraphic corpora and makes the geographical distribution clear to the reader, though a map of the locations would have been a useful additional visual aid. The relative chronology of the inscriptions, however, is more difficult to follow, and the criteria for the dating of many of the inscriptions are not mentioned in the commentary.

Each inscription is presented with a photograph and a line drawing, if both are available, as well as a transcription, a translation and detailed information on its provenance, dimensions, physical location, dating and bibliography. If some of the details are unknown, this is clearly stated. The translations are a helpful addition to the standard epigraphic information for those who are less experienced with the Latin of the inscriptions. This overview is followed by a commentary both describing the inscription in general terms and analysing the language and content of the inscription in detail from different philological and historical points of view. Comparable graffiti from Pompeii and elsewhere and passages from Roman literature are often cited for context. One thing that was lacking here, however, was information about the dating of a few of the inscriptions. It is also unfortunate that the authors did not explain on what grounds the approximate dates were arrived

at – whether it was the physical context, the language, the letterforms or some other feature of the inscription – as they have done with some of the other inscriptions.

The authors are conscious of and open about the different ways in which these inscriptions can be interpreted, and refrain from offering overly simplistic explanations. The uncertainties of this type of epigraphic material are made clear, as they should be. Although this is a minor detail, it is worth pointing out how accurate and up to date the references to the Pompeian graffiti are. This is not always the case in investigations of this kind, as many studies still cite old and outdated interpretations of Pompeian graffiti. One would, of course, expect nothing less from the authors, who have both worked with the *Corpus Inscriptionum Latinarum*, where new and corrected editions of Pompeian graffiti are being prepared. Incidentally, the only clear error I found was on page 68, where the name in the graffito *CIL IV 3146* should be *Secundus* and not *Serenus*.

This study is an excellent starting point for anyone interested in Roman obscenities and the sources containing such inscriptions. The book admirably achieves its goal of presenting a wide range of obscene writings in a scholarly manner, while at the same time being accessible to a wider audience. The inscriptions presented in this book also prove that the obscenities found in Pompeii were not unique to that city. On the contrary, the same obscene expressions were used in different parts of the Roman Empire over a long period of time. My only real complaint is the small sample of material, as I would have liked to read much more on this topic. On the other hand, the chosen sample allows for a more in-depth analysis of the included inscriptions. Hopefully, this book will inspire new studies of a similar nature – for instance, of the obscene inscriptions in Greek. Obscenities open up new and interesting perspectives on the social norms and language of the ancients, as Stefano Rocchi and Roberta Marchionni demonstrate in their book, and these obscenities deserve to be studied in their own right.

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JOHN SCHEID: *Tra epigrafia e religione romana. Scritti scelti, editi ed inediti tradotti e aggiornati. Vetera* 22. Edizioni Quasar, Roma 2019. ISBN 978-88-7140-976-4. 320 pp. EUR 47.

As the title suggests, this collection of articles by John Scheid is intended to illuminate the use of epigraphic sources in the study of Roman religion. Their special and versatile character as well as their irreplaceable contribution to our knowledge of this ancient society and religion is a main theme of the volume. In the preface, Scheid states that he has during his long career gradually started