

St. Joseph's University: Roman Funerary Inscriptions Project

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Rationale:

Funerary monuments, damaged though most of them are, are important visual records that originated in all areas of the Roman world. Preserving evidence of both the great and the powerless, they represent hundreds of years of Republican and Imperial history. They add breadth, depth, and illustration to the ancient body of Roman literature, yet many of these memorials have not been studied or edited. Composed by people from all walks of life, women as well as men, they allow us to "see" and "hear" the otherwise silent majority on the margins of Roman society, particularly women. Latin funerary inscriptions and reliefs, produced in often conventional language and composition, also reveal their culture's most conservative attitudes and expectations.

Objectives:

- Introduction to the field of epigraphy through the study of funerary inscriptions
- Exploration of inscriptional conventions through research and analysis
- Appreciation of funerary monuments as textual and visual evidence for women's lives
- Analysis of an inscription and its submission to the *Companion* website
<http://www2.cnr.edu/home/araia/companion.html>

Collaborative Project Description:

The process of researching and analyzing an inscription will foster linguistic and cultural interaction as students research their group monument, discuss their progress in class, and prepare their written analysis for Dr. Marsilio. The monuments selected as options for this assignment are the following:

- Monument dedicated by Cartilia Materna (*CIL VI.12428*): [monument block](#), [inscription](#)
- Altar for Julia Saturnina (*CIL VI.20667*): monument [front](#), [left](#), [right](#); [portrait](#); [inscription](#)
- Altar for Claudia Ianuaria (*CIL VI.15475*): [monument](#), [inscription](#), [side 1](#), [side 2](#); [lid](#)
- Dedications by Claudia Prepontis (*CIL VI.15003*): [relief placque](#); [portrait](#); [inscription](#); [altar](#); [inscription](#); [portrait relief](#)
- Cinerary altar for Cornelia Cleopatra (*CIL 6. 16368*): [monument](#); [inscription](#); [crown](#); [reclining nude](#); [Zeus Ammon](#); [patera](#); [urceus](#)
- Altar for Pompeia Euhodia (*CIL VI.24537*): [monument](#); [inscription](#)

General Instructions:

Students will organize themselves into groups of 4 members, with at least one Latin student in each group; each member will identify and be responsible for a task, as the group decides

Each group will choose a monument to analyze from the six options listed above

Each group is responsible for incorporating the following three areas into their analysis:

- **Philology:** transcription, translation, and glossing of the Latin text
- **Art & archaeology:** material description; portraiture; iconography; origin & date
- **Social history:** social and political class; women; family; names; economics

Steps toward Completing the Assignment:

1. Read: P. Shore, *Rest Lightly: An Anthology of Greek & Latin Tomb Inscriptions*, pp. 1-7 and L. Keppie, *Understanding Roman Inscriptions*, pp. 17-24.
2. Go to John Dobbins, "Steps in Reading a Latin Inscription" and follow the instructions at <http://pompeii.virginia.edu/tti/eb-insc/eb-insc-list.html>.
3. Review the model student projects published on *Companion's* Funerary Inscriptions Project webpage <http://www2.cnr.edu/home/araia/Raia_inscriptions.html>.
4. Consult appropriate print and internet sources on the workshop bibliography to familiarize yourself with the formulaic expressions and abbreviations of the genre. Check that your library has books you need or request them on Inter-Library Loan.
5. Examining the inscription, transcribe (copy) exactly what you see into a Word document, retaining the line and word arrangement. Clicking on the hyperlinked *CIL* number, compare your transcription to the published one, explaining any differences.
6. **Philology:**
 - a. Resolve (spell out in brackets) the abbreviated words and translate the Latin text.
 - b. Compose glosses (notes and commentary) that contain dictionary entries, grammar help (use Allen & Greenough, *New Latin Grammar*), background aids, for each Latin word that you think would challenge an intermediate-level Latin student and/or for which you have helpful information (models for lexical and interpretive assistance: Raia et al., *The Worlds of Roman Women*; Cirolao's *Pro Caelio*).
7. **Art & Archaeology:**
 - a. Describe the funerary monument in detail: material and appearance of the stone, lettering, decoration, portraits (models for descriptive analysis: Kleiner; Harvey).
 - b. Write an introductory essay assessing the material evidence of monument
8. **History:**
 - a. Research names, family relationships, women, and other historical, cultural, economic and social aspects, including the monument's date and origin where available
 - b. Write an introductory essay placing the monument in its historical and cultural context and explaining what evidence it provides for Roman women's lives.
9. Post the group project on *Blackboard*, following the style of the model student projects http://www2.cnr.edu/home/araia/Raia_inscriptions.html: transcription; monument photo; *CIL* number; introductory essay; translation of inscription, lexical and interpretive commentary; works consulted. Include group member names and the tasks for which each was responsible.

SCHEDULE:

- 2/5 Roman Funerary Inscriptions Workshop: 12:30-1:45 pm, Claver, Seminar 1**
- 2/6-4/29: groups will correspond with Dr. Marsilio in person and via email with questions about the content of their individual contributions**
- 4/30: Progress reports due**
- 5/21: Final submission of individual projects**