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REGIONE AUTÒNOMA DE SARDIGNA
REGIONE AUTONOMA DELLA SARDEGNA

Port and coastal towers of Arbatax

Patrimonio culturale
SARDEGNA Virtual Archaeology



■ Military diploma

In the XVIII century, near the church of San Lussorio, they found a military diploma¹ dated 13 September 134 A.D., during the reign of the Emperor Hadrian².

Its main feature is that it is not assigned to a single person, but to two *classarii*³ of the fleet of the Miseno⁴: the former *gregale* (gregarious person) *Decimus Numitorius Tarrammon*, son of *Agisinus* and his son *Tarpalaris*. The former is also called *Fifensis ex Sardinia*⁵, so was a soldier of Sardinian origin who, having served in the Roman navy for 25 years, was discharged with honour, obtaining the privileges of citizenship and of the *ius conubii*⁶. We can assume that the veteran decided, after discharge, to return to his place of origin, perhaps where the diploma was found⁷.

Inner part, table I (fig. 1)

*Imp(erator) Caesar, divi Traiani Parthici f(ilius), divi
Nervae nepos Traianus Hadrianus Aug(ustus)
pontif(ex) max(imus) trib(unicia) potest(ate) XVIII co(n)s(ul) III p(ater) p(atriciae)
iis qui militaer(unt) emerit(ia) dim(issis) ho(nesta)
mis(sione) qu(or)um nom/ina) sub(scripta) su(nt) ips(is) lib(eris) pos(terisque) eor(um)
civ(itatem)ded(it)
et con(ubium) cum ux(oribus) qu(as) tunc hab(uissent) cum est
civ(itas) iis dat(a) aut siq(ui) cael(ibes) ess(ent) cum iis*

¹ This important find is now kept in the National Archaeological Museum in Torino. The “military diploma” is a document written on two bronze tablets hinged together which was given to Roman soldiers when they were discharged.

² The Emperor Hadrian reigned from 117 to 138 A.D.

³ The *classarii* were sailors in the Roman fleet. They were drafted for 26 years.

⁴ The *Classis Misenensis* was the imperial Roman fleet. It was based in Miseno, in the Gulf of Naples and guarded the western Mediterranean.

⁵ We cannot establish exactly which zone the ethical *Fifensis* refers to, perhaps it was Ogliastro.

⁶ Following discharge with honour, the soldier acquired Roman citizenship for himself and the children he had at the time or would have had in the future; and the right to marry by Roman law the women currently acknowledged as his wife or, if a bachelor, the one he then decided to marry.

⁷ The inscription is in CIL (*Corpus Inscriptionum Latinarum*) X, 7855. Please also see Pais 1923, I, p. 79 e II, pp. 42, 44, 115; Rowland 1973, pp. 99, 102; Meloni 1991, pp. 316, 373, 530; Nonnis 2005, p. 144.

quas post(ea) dux(issent) dum tax(at) sing(uli) singulas

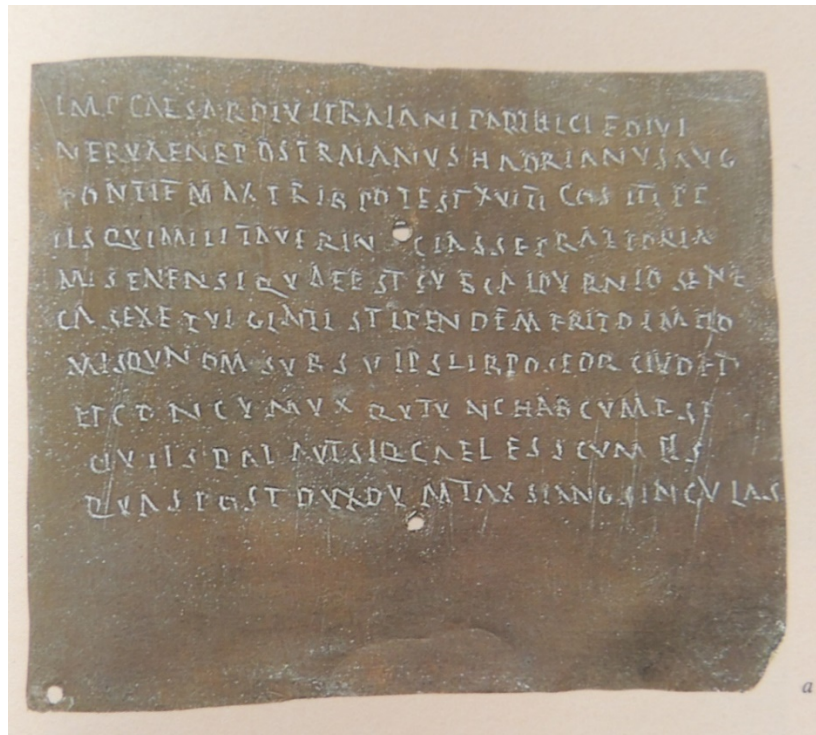


Fig. 1 - Inner part of table I (from Aa.Vv. 1989, p. 231, fig. 16 a).

Inner part, table II (fig. 2)

A(nte) d(iem) XVII K(alendas) Oct(obres)

P(ublio) Licinio Pansa L(ucio) Attio Macrone co(n)s(ulibus).

Ex gregale

D(ecimo) Numitorio Agisini (filio) Tarammoni Fifens(i) ex Sard(inia)

Et Tarpalar(i) f(ilio) eius

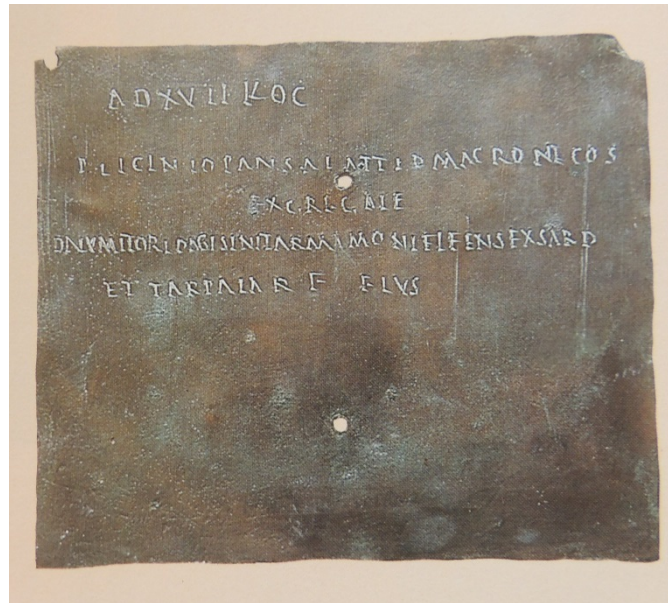


Fig. 2 - Inner part of table II (from Aa.Vv. 1989, p. 231, fig. 16 b).

On the outer side of the bronze sheet you again have the entire discharge text and the names of the seven witnesses: *Ti(beri) Claudi Menandi; P(ubli) Atti Severi; L(uci) Pulli Daphni; T(iti) Flavi Romuli; Ti(beri) Iuli Felicis; C(ai) Iuli Silvani; C(ai) Vettieni Hermetis* (fig. 3).



Fig. 3 - Outer side of table II with the names of witnesses (from AA.Vv. 1989, p. 231, fig. 16 c).

The outer part of table I repeats the same text present on the inner part and the one engraved on the inner part of table II (fig. 4).



Fig. 4 - Es Outer part of table I (from Aa.Vv. 1989, p. 231, fig. 16 d).

■ Credits

Deepening card edited by Dr. Maria Grazia Arru

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La Sardegna cresce con l'Europa



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