CHAPTER FOURTEEN

A DEDICATION FROM DOR TO A GOVERNOR OF SYRIA*

Dov Gera and Hannah M. Cotton

An inscribed circular stone was found during the Israeli War of Independence by the East Gate of the ancient city of Dor. It was rediscovered at the same spot in 1978 and transferred to the Center of Nautical and Regional Archaeology at Nahsholim, where it can now be seen.

Two dowel holes on the stone’s upper surface indicate that it is the base of a statue of the dedicatee (Photo 14.1). The circumference is 229 cm. and the height 75 cm.; the writing occupies 34.2 x 64 cm. of the surface. The first six lines of the text are discernible, although only two are complete (ll. 3-4). The soft surface of the limestone is worn away at the top, creating lacunae in ll. 1-2. The bottom part is also damaged: the left part of the fifth line and parts of two letters on the right are preserved; of the sixth line only two letters at the beginning are preserved. The letter size in the first line is greater than that of the rest, hence the proposed restoration which gives only 15 letters in this line, as against the 23 and 20 letters respectively in the more condensed third and fourth lines. The average height of the letters in the first line is 5.5 cm., whereas in the rest of the inscription it is only 4.3 cm. Lines 2-6 are all slightly indented, aligned with the middle of the very large ‘M’ of the first line. The ‘O’s are remarkably narrow. The right shoulder of the ‘N’s is higher than the left one. There is one interpunct, following the ‘K’ of the praenomen in l. 2.

Diplomatic Transcript

1 M[......]ΠΛΙΟΥ
2 ΥΙΟΝ[......]ΙΟΥΑΝΟΝΚ *
3 ΚΟΡΗΙΟΝΓΑΛΛΟΝΓΑΡΤΙΔΙΟΝ
4 ΑΝΤΕΙΧΟΥΟΝΠΡΕΣΕΥΘΗΝ
5 ΣΕΒΑΣΤΟΥ[......]ΗΓ[....]
6 ΕΠΙ

Reconstructed Text

1 M(άρκον) [Πάκκιον Ποηβίου]
2 υόμ [Κυρείνα Σιληρών Κ(όιντον)]
3 Κορήλίον Γάλλον Γαργίλιον
4 'Αντείχουον πρεσβευτήν
5 Σεβαστοῦ [στρατηγήτων]
6 ἐπιφανείας Συρίας?

Translation

1 (In honour of) Marcus Paccius,
1-2 son of Publius,
2 of the Tribe Quirina, Silvanus Quintus
3 Coredius Gallus Gargilius
4-5 Antiquus, legatus Augusti
5 propraetore (i.e. governor) of
6 the Province of Syria.

Commentary

1. The suggested reconstruction assumes that the missing letters were widely spaced and that they more or less equalled in size the huge ‘M’ (6 x 7.6 cm.). An alternative reconstruction is, however, possible, with the praenomen, Marcus, written in full: M(άρκον) Πάκκιον Ποηβίου.

* We dedicate this paper to the memory of Sir Ronald Syme, with whom we discussed some of the more difficult issues involved. We would like to thank Prof. E. Stern, Prof. B. Isaac and Dr. G. Herman for their help at various stages of composition. For a preliminary publication of this inscription, see Qadmoniot 22 (1989), p. 42 (Hebrew). This chapter is reprinted from Israel Exploration Journal 41 (1991), pp. 258-66.
The restoration is based on the hypothesis of a close relationship between our man and the patron of Thugga, M. Paccius Silvanus Corelius Gallus L. Puliaienus Gargilius Antiquus, CIL VIII 23246. The ‘M’ in 1.1 and the οὐνάον in 1.2, with the patronymic and the tribe’s name occupying their customary place in polyonymous titles, that is, between the first gentilicium and the cognomen, make the restoration all but certain.

2. The Quirina is the tribe of the Gargilii Antiqui, see CIL VIII 23246. For the spelling Κουτινα, see AE 1981, Nos. 837, 843–844; 1982, No. 873. Κουτίνα is also possible, see AE 1981, No. 772. In Greek the tribe-name is usually not abbreviated; the Latin ablative is transliterated undeclined, as proposed here (sometimes it takes the genitive). The first ‘O’ of Σιώκουναον is unclear and partly damaged.


4. 'Αντικου: we have no other example for the representation of the Latin ‘Q’ by the Greek ‘X’. For ‘Αντικου, see AE 1973, No. 551; IGRR IV, No. 848 and IGBulg. II, No. 606.

We can safely assume that the provincia (ἐνταγμένης) mentioned in l. 6 is Syria, to which Dor belonged ever since its annexation, together with other coastal cities, by Pompey (Josephus, War 1, 155–157 = Ant. 14, 74–76). The incident told by Josephus in Ant. 19, 300–311 presupposes that the governor of Syria at the time held jurisdiction over the city of Dor. After the Great Revolt, Caesarea, situated some 12 km. to the south of Dor, remained the northernmost finis Palaestinae (see Pliny, Naturalis Historia 5, 69). The same borders are implied in the Geographia of Ptolemy 3, 15, 1–2. The statue and the inscription honoured the imperial legate of the province of Syria. Thus a polyonymous M. Paccius P. f. Silvanus Q. Corelius Gallus Gargilius Antiquus is to be added to fill in a gap in the fasti of the province of Syria.

The dating of the inscription and the identity of the dedicatee are two interrelated issues, and we will deal with them together. The polyonymy points to the period of the second or third dynasties in Imperial Rome, Flavians and Antonines, when extended nomenclatures were in vogue. Our man’s nomenclature occupies an intermediary stage between the names attested for the governor of Arabia after 115. Q. Corelius Gallus Gargilius Antiquus (AE 1973, No. 551 = IGLS XIII.1 9063, Bostra) and those attested for the patron of Thugga and governor of Thracia in 161, M. Paccius Silvanus Corelius Gallus L. Puliaienus Gargilius Antiquus (CIL VIII 26579). He shares the Q. Corelius Gallus element with the former inscription, but lacks the L. Puliaienus element of the latter.

We assume that of the three gentilia of our man, Gargilius Antiquus would be the core or paternal name. This is borne out by the example of the polyonymous governor of Thracia. The abridged form of the names appears on the coins from Thracia: ἱερὸς ὄνομας Γαργάλιου Αντικού, as well as in indicating a date (IGBulg. II, No. 606); ἱεροτόνοντος Γαργάλιου Αντικού. By then he already carried the name L. Puliaenius, as evinced by the inscription from Perinthus (CIL III 7394 [cf. 12324] = ILS 1093): L. Puliaienus Gargilio Antiquo...

Theoretically the dedicatee either could be identified with one of these two persons or could be a third person. The patron of Thugga and governor of Thracia, however, could have governed the province of Syria only after his consulate in 162 CE, but not before Verus’ death in 169 (note Σαβεσταον in l. 5 of our inscription). The fasti of Syria, however, are full for the years 169–177 CE (after 177 Σαβεσταον would be required). Thus, our man cannot be identified with the patron of Thugga and governor of Thracia.

Of the two remaining possibilities the identification with the governor of Arabia is the more economical and, therefore, the more attractive. If so, the additional element present in our inscription, M. Paccius Silvanus, either was dropped in the transcription from Bostra, or was not yet acquired; in other words, either the record of a testamentary adoption is absent in the Bostra inscription, or the act of adoption intervened between the two dedications.

As a matter of fact, the honorific dedication from Dor exhibits a perfect example of the so-called testamentary adoption. The original patronymic, Publius, different from the praenomen, Marcus, has been retained. The governor is a Gargilius Antiquus, son of Publius, adopted by a M. Paccius Silvanus. The original tribal name would have been retained as well in the lacuna of l. 2, and, as in other polyonymous names, it would follow the first gentilicium and the patronymic. We thus restored here the name Quirina, the tribe of the Gargilii.

Almost nothing is known of the Paccii in the early second century. Plutarch, however, dedicated the De Tranquillitate Animi to a Paccius (464E; cf. 468E). Like other Roman friends of Plutarch, Paccius may well have been a senator. We also hear of a rich and childless Pacius (Paccius in some manuscripts) associated with legacy hunters in Juvenal 12, 99 (‘locuples Gallitae et Pacius orbis’), suggesting a possible reason for adoption.

If the identification of our dedicatee with the governor of Arabia is correct, the commonly held identification of that governor with the senatorial witness to the SC de nondinis saltus Beguensis of 15 October 138 CE, Q. Gargilius Q. f. Quir. Antiquus (CIL VIII 23246 = FIRA I, No. 47) must be rejected, because our man is a son of Publius, whereas the witness is a son of Quintus. On the other hand, the two (or three) other attestations of a senatorial Gargilius Antiquus, commonly held to refer to the governor of Arabia, are compatible with his identification with our dedicatee.

The first reference is to the consul of 119 CE (AE 1979, No. 62). The abridged form of the consul’s name — ‘actum VII k(alendas) Ianuarias, Q(uinto) Gargilio Anticu, Q(uinto) Vibio Gallo co(n)s(ulibus)’ — is explained by the nature of the reference. Abridged forms of the nomenclature of polyonymous consuls tend to appear on fasti and other consular notations. The extended nomenclature crops up elsewhere ‘on gravestones and on some honorific dedications. If the identification is accepted, our man, having served as a governor of Arabia in 115/116–119 CE, became suffect in 119, after which he went on to govern the imperial province of Syria. As it happens, there is a gap in the fasti of Syria
between the years 119/120 and 130/131 CE, into which the dedicatee can fit neatly.

The second reference is to the proconsul of the province of Asia, ca. 134/135 CE (IGRR IV, No. 848). Again the abridged form of the name, Ἱ. Δυνατόν Γαργυλίου Ἀντικίου, is to be expected. The governorship of Asia, coming some 15 years after the consulate, could follow a period spent as governor of Syria. There are a number of examples of similar careers. 33

The attribution of these two references to the governor of Arabia will leave the witness of 138 CE without an attested career. There is no doubt, however, of the seniority and high rank of the witness to the SC, seeing that he is foremost on the list of witnesses and that he precedes Ti. Claudius Ti. f. Pal. Quartinus, the suffect of Asia, in 134/135 CE.

Thus, it is not easy to decide to which of the two consular Gargilius Antiquus active in the first half of the second century we should attribute these two attestations. Both seem to have an equal claim. Nevertheless, the new inscription from Dor calls for the updating and re-distribution of the material assembled in the PIR² G 78.

There were two people of consular rank active in the first half of the second century, bearing the name Q. Gargilius Antiquus. The one, whose full name is M. Paccius P. f. Silvanus Q. Coredius Gallus Gargilius Antiquus, was governor of Arabia after 115 and of Syria probably between 120 and 130 CE. The other, G. Gargilius Q. f. Quirina Antiquus, was a consul in 138. Either one could have been consul sufficit in 119 and proconsul of Asia in 134/135 CE.

The governor of Thracia and patron of Thugga (PIR² G 79), commonly taken to be the son or grandson of the witness to the SC of 138 CE (PIR² G 78), is more likely to be the son of our man, having added an L. Pullaienus to his other names. The full nomenclature is recovered in the honorific inscription from Thugga quoted above.

The emergence of the tribe Velinia in the nomenclature of PIR² G 80, usually taken to be the son of the governor of Thracia, L. Pullaienus L. f. Vel. Gargilius Antiquus XV vir s. f. allectus in patricias familias a... (AE 1916, No. 118), may be accounted for by plenary adoption in the previous generation. That is, the governor of Thracia and patron of Thugga was fully adopted by L. Pullaienus; hence the change of tribe and patronymic, or the change of tribe is the result of the enrolment of PIR² G 80 into the patricii.

NOTES

1. Several references to this inscription, dating from 1948 to 1951, can be found in the Dor inspection file, Israel Antiquities Authority. There is even a partial transcription of the stone by the late Dr. J. Kaplan of 12 February 1951. He observes that some of the letters are painted red. The colour has faded since.


3. Personal communication: Mr. Kurt Raveh, the curator of the Museum at Nahsholim.

4. This 'M' is twice as wide as the next widest letter in this inscription.


7. Forni (above, n. 5), pp. 81–82.

8. There are parallels, however, for the transliteration of Hebrew kaf (כ) by the Greek chi even when the aspiration does not exist in the Hebrew word, e.g. Karmel שֶׂרֶץ חַיְמֶל, Eshkol שֶׁלֶג in the Septuagint (see R. Helbing: Grammatik der Septuaginta, Göttingen, 1907, p. 28); cf. the Nabatean name Kithb, rendered as Χοθήμιος in R. Tanne: Greek Epigraphy in South Jordan, ZPE 83 (1990), p. 188, No. 2; cf. Scythopolis Σκυθόπολις, spelled Σκυθόπολις in P. Nessana 74, II, 5–6, ca. 685 CE.


11. The first governor of Arabia, C. Claudius Severus, is still attested in the province at the time of Trajan's nineteenth tribunician power, 10 December 114 to 9 December 115 CE (AE 1927, No. 147). We no longer, however, have a fixed terminus ante quem for the governorship of Q. Coredius Gallus Gargilius Antiquus of AE 1973, No. 551, since he may not be identical with the consul of 119 CE; see below. For the common identification between the two, see e.g. W. Eek: Jahres-und Provinzialfesten der senatorischen Statthalter von 69/70 bis 138/139, Chiron 12 (1982), p. 362, n. 321.

12. The identification between the patron of Thugga and the governor of Thracia is commonly made, see A. Stein: Römische Reichsbeamte der Provinz Thracia, Sarajevo, 1920, pp. 24–27, No. 16 and PIR² G 79.


14. Stein (above, n. 12).


19. We are informed (M. Sartre: Inscriptions inédites de l’Arabie Romaine, Syria 50 [1973], p. 223) that the stone on which the inscription is written, although found in secondary use in a wall of a house, is complete. Otherwise, one might have speculated that the first line of the inscription contained the missing element.
20. Syme (above, n.18, Roman Papers IV).
21. Forni (above, n.5).
23. ‘...scribundo adfuertum Q. Gargilius Q.f. Quir. Antiqu(u)s...’
25. See, for example, Alföldy (above, n.24).
26. Syme (above, n.13).
27. Ibid., p. 639.
28. Eck (above, n.11).
30. C. Quinctius Certus Poblicius Marcellus, attested for 130/131 CE in Syria (see Eck [above, n.29], pp. 169–171), was consul in 120 CE. Our man may have been his immediate predecessor, governing the province ca. 127–130/131 CE.
32. See above for the governor of Thracia.
35. Perhaps ca. 127–130/131 CE, see above, n.30.
36. It is tempting, though, to assign the two attestations to our dedicatee, since this would give us a perfect timetable for his various posts: governor of Arabia 115–119; consul 119, governor of Syria 127–130/131; proconsul of Asia 134/135 CE.
38. The African connection of the patron of Thugga may be the result of the adoption into the Pulaeini, a well attested African family, see A. Merlin and L. Poinsot: Les inscriptions d’Uchi Majus, Paris, 1908, pp. 54–57; M. Cebèillac: Les quaestores principis candidati aux Ier e IIe siècles de l’Empire, Milan, 1972, pp. 198–199; M. Corbier: Les familles clarissimes d’Afrique proconsulaire (Ier–IIe siècles), in Epigraphia et Ordine Senatorio, II, Rome 1982, pp. 736–737. The Gargili, however, also were an African family, see M.G. Jarrett: An Album of the Equestrians from North Africa in the Emperor’s Service, Epigraphische Studien 9 (1972), p. 183; Alföldy (above, n.24), p. 369; Corbier, loc. cit. In fact, the signature of Q. Gargilius Q. f. Antiquus on the 3C concerned with Africa (CIL VIII 23246) may well imply a family connection with that province, see Merlin and Poinsot, op cit., p. 55, n.4.
39. CIL VII 32539, I. 32; 32532, I. 2, see G.B. Pighi (ed.): De Ludis Sacraeuli Populi Romanorum Quiritium libri sex, Milan, 1941, p. 159; p. 170; p. 241, No. 11; p. 254, No. 79.
40. This would leave the abridged forms of the name of PIR² G 79 on the coins and the inscription from Thracia (see above) unexplained. Nor can we account for the abridged forms of PIR² G 80 in the five letters from Commodus to the Gerosia of the Athenians; see D.J. Geagan: The Athenian Constitution after Sulla (Hesperia, Suppl. XII), Princeton, 1967, Appendix IV, pp. 187–193 together with J.H. Oliver: The Sacred Gerousia and the Emperor’s Consilium, Hesperia 36 (1967), pp. 331–335. The latter regards Gargilius Antiquus of the inscription as a member of the emperor’s consilium, and identifies him with PIR² G 80; see L. Robert: Bulletin épigraphique (1969), p. 451. Neither is the survival of the other names in both PIR² G 79 and PIR² G 80 in the inscriptions quoted above easy to explain. It certainly does not follow the rule that ‘when a proper and plenary adoption has been conducted, everything disappears: praenomen, nomen, filiation and tribe’ (Syme, [above, n.18, Roman Papers IV], p. 159). It is possible, though, that with the proliferation of polyonymies, the rules were not strictly kept.
41. Finally, a word or two about the stemma proposed by Alföldy (above, n.24), p. 376. As already pointed out by Eck (above, n.24), the Gargilius Antiquus of AE 1954, No. 63 may well be a senator; thus, there is no need for a distinction between an equestrian and a senatorial branch in the family. Secondly, the Quirina belongs to the Gargili. The Arniensis of Q. Gargilius Q. f. Arni(ensi tribu) Macer Auffidius (AE 1979, No. 373 = G. Alföldy: Die römischen Inschriften von Tarraco, Berlin, 1975, p. 469) is probably due to the fact that we have an Auffidius adopted by a Gargilius and retaining his original tribe. However, Alföldy (above, n.24), p. 369, n.29 takes the ‘Macer Auffidius’ to derive from his maternal lineage.