

AN EPIGRAPHY DATABASE:  
A POINT OF VIEW OF A RESEARCHER  
OF OSCAN/SABELLIC EPIGRAPHY

The *Inscriptiones* by LEPSIUS (1841) and then the series of the Russian ZVETAIEFF (1878) can be considered the first *corpora* of Oscan and Sabellian inscriptions. Because German, French, Italian and English were in those days still equally competitive as congress languages, Latin was being used as a *koiné*, a tradition to survive for almost 150 years in the translation of the Sabellian inscriptions.

The first practical *corpus* of Sabellian inscriptions was probably *Sabellische Texte* by H. RIX (2002). He created an index of (fragmentary) words with inverted order of letters without using computers, an enormously laborious task. Quite recently in the United Kingdom, the first ever *corpus* with translations, comments and datings of all the inscriptions in English, and with a photograph and/or a picture of every single inscription was *Imagines Italicae, a Corpus of Italic Inscriptions*, by M.H. CRAWFORD with five co-editors and two collaborators working in the computing, now printed as a book.

Thanks to this new bulky three volume *corpus*, I think that the research on different Sabellian subjects, including also history and archaeology, will quite soon experience a major boom. I suppose that most of the diverse needs of interdisciplinary archaeologists, historians, epigraphists and even linguists will be satisfied. Traditionally, many scholars saw the task of dating as the duty of an archaeologist, whereas linguists would not have considered such an endeavour. This could be considered as one-track specialism, the opposite of interdisciplinarity. Despite me not being a professional archaeologist, I had recently a pleasant opportunity to write an *editio princeps* on a fragmentary Oscan inscription together with an archaeologist, an expert in the topography of *Larinum* in the *Frentani* (ROBINSON, SIRONEN 2013).

On the other hand, during the previous decade, epigraphic electronic research has already been practiced for Greek and Latin epigraphy. The *Latin on Stone. Epigraphic Research and Electronic Archives* by F. FERAUDI-GRUÉNAIS came out in 2010. Already in 2007, at the XIII International Congress of Greek & Latin Epigraphy in Oxford, entitled *Epigraphy and*

*the Historical Sciences*, there were several relevant posters, such as that by the team of E. BOZIA, A. BARMPOUTIS and R. WAGMAN, presenting their scanned and digitally analysed epigraphic squeezes<sup>1</sup>.

TIMO SIRONEN  
University of Oulu  
timo.sironen@oulu.fi

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- ZVETAIEFF J. 1878, *Sylloge Inscriptionum Oscarum ad archetyporum et librorum fidem. Pars prior textum interpretationem glossarium continens, pars posterior tabulas continens*, St. Petersburg, Brockhouse.
- ZVETAIEFF J. 1884-85, *Inscriptiones Italiae mediae dialecticae*, Leipzig, Brockhouse.

<sup>1</sup> Hoping that in the near future there will be also an epigraphic database worked on Sabellic epigraphic material, here is a list of some epigraphic databases: G. ALFÖLDY *et al.*, *Epigraphische Datenbank Heidelberg*, Heidelberger Akademie der Wissenschaften (1986-2009), <http://www.epigraphische-datenbank-heidelberg.de/> (April 2009); C. CARLETTI, A. FELLE *et al.*, *Epigraphic Database Bari*, Università degli Studi di Bari (2003-2006) (April 2009); T. ELLIOTT *et al.*, *The EpiDoc Collaborative for Epigraphic Documents in TEI XML* (2000-2009), <http://epidoc.sourceforge.net/>; S. PANCIERA, *Epigraphic Database Roma*, Università di Roma I (1999-2009), <http://www.edr-edr.it/> (April 2009) (the confederated database is now accessible via the Electronic Archive of Greek and Latin Epigraphy, <http://www.eagle-eagle.it/>).