24. Latin Epigraphic Poetry Database Project (*Hispania* & *Galliae*)

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Abstract

The main goal of our lecture is to present a new webpage that contains all Latin Verse Inscriptions coming from *Hispania*, between the 1st century B.C. and the 8th century A.D., as the first step of a forthcoming general Database Project about Latin Epigraphic Poetry. This website (www.clehispaniae.com) has been set up by a Spanish research group whose investigation focuses on the metrical inscriptions from *Hispania* which are to be published as the volume XVIII/2 of *CIL* (*Corpus Inscriptionum Latinarum*). Furthermore, in the context of the impending publication of a new issue of *CIL* XVIII (the XVIII/3), we are now working on the second part of this comprehensive project: a new website with Latin Verse Inscriptions originating from *Galliae* (www.clegalliae.com) and whose beginnings we will introduce at the end of this paper.

Keywords

Carmina Latina Epigraphica, metrics, database, *Hispania*, *Galliae*, *CIL* XVIII.

24.1. Introduction: The *CLE Hispaniae* Project

The founder of our project, in a broad sense, is H. Krummrey, the General Coordinator of the *Corpus Inscriptionum Latinarum*. Throughout the 1960s, he became unsatisfied with the previous editions and collections of *Carmina Latina Epigraphica* (*CLE*) arranged by various criteria and launched the proposal of a new classification of *CLE* in a separate volume of the Corpus Inscriptionum Latinarum (*CIL*). This volume, the 18th, will be exclusively dedicated to (the) *CLE* and will be organised according to the administrative geography of the Roman Empire (Krummrey 1964). Subsequently, some general studies have been published as well as various studies of certain isolated inscriptions from a strictly philological perspective [Mariner 1952, Fernández 1979,

Horsfall 1985, Massaro 1992, Courtney 1995, Criniti et al. 1998, Cugusi 1996 or Cugusi 2003, and some other scholars].

In 1994, scholars from different Spanish universities, inspired by Krummrey's initiative, focused on this field of research and managed to become integrated and coordinated within the *CIL* XVIII a project in which both of us are currently members. Thus, these scholars endeavored to study the Latin Verse Inscriptions of *Hispania* despite the fact that editing and commenting on the epigraphic poetry of *Hispania* was an ambitious project. Besides offering first-hand critical editions derived from direct observation of the texts in their own medium, the principle objective of *CIL* XVIII was to produce an exhaustive commentary on each of these poetic texts paralleling the same philological criteria with which we might edit and comment upon any other poem of any other author.

For the first time ever, all the *CLE* of *Hispania* have been edited following regular, coordinated guidelines. A further unprecedented feat is that all the texts have been commented on and studied by a multidisciplinary team whose regular meetings have ended up producing complete records for each *CLE* which contain all the relevant data: epigraphic edition, photographs and measurements, a translation, reasoned dating, and linguistic, metrical, literary, stylistic, onomastic and historical commentary.

Since 1994, a research group intially led by J. Gómez Pallarès and since 2005, directed by C. Fernández has systematically worked on the cataloguing, in situ examination, editing and philological analysis of the material that constitutes this mentioned second issue of *CIL* XVIII. In this regard, it must be mentioned that the material has not only been located and studied, but also purged, since some pieces have been removed from the catalogue for two reasons:

- Chronological, that is, when the pieces are medieval or renaissance.
- Metrical, when we have been unable to defend, with arguments acceptable to the scientific community, that we were in fact dealing with some type of recognizable metre. There are 34 of these in all.

All this work has been done within three Research Projects of the Spanish Goverment.

24.2. Objectives of the project

In 2013, after so many years of hard work, our team, led by professor C. Fernández, concluded its tasks successfully and fulfilled their aims, surpassing even their initial expectations.

Firstly, the material of *Hispania* (editing and analyses of 247 inscriptions) was handed over to the *CIL* center in Berlin for publication. At this moment, a team of researchers led by Dr. Manfred Schmidt (the director of *CIL* XVIII project in the BBAW) is on the brink of carrying out the layout and correction tasks leading up to the publication of the *CIL* XVIII/2.

However, in parallel to the work for *CIL*, the researchers will facilitate the transversal exploitation of the material for its dissemination and internationalization in impact forums. Therefore, the new website, www.clehispaniae.com, has been created as a graphic and textual database which will give the scientific community access to the results in Spanish, English and Latin. The user will be able to make inquiries to the database in any of the three languages and will obtain the result in the language in which the query was formulated.

This new website offers new editions based on a variety of reliable autopsy works and provides philological analyses from a Web 2.0 perspective that is interactive and adaptable to the different needs of the researchers. The first draft of the document was finished in June 2013, however, given the nature of the website, it is periodically updated.

24.3. The *CLE Hispaniae* website: www.clehispania.com

This website is a general but complete outline of information about the different elements of each inscription (chronology, layout characteristics, metric form, etc.). It facilitates all kinds of searches of the textual editions and their philological analyses. Most remarkable in these works -for the very first time in the history of *CIL*- is that they are written and available in three languages: Latin, Spanish, and English.

We present three intertwined databases that can be consulted individually or collectively:

24.3.1. Iconic Search

This search is an interactive graphic database that contains a wide range of visual materials (photographs, drawings, tracings and digitized manuscripts). The information provided is schematic but absolutely comprehensive. This database allows the researcher to make

simple or combined searches of all the characteristics of each inscription (medium type, chronology, layout features, metrical form, graphic symbols, etc.).

We call this first type of search the iconic search or "Search based on the physical characteristics of the inscriptions, in their context".

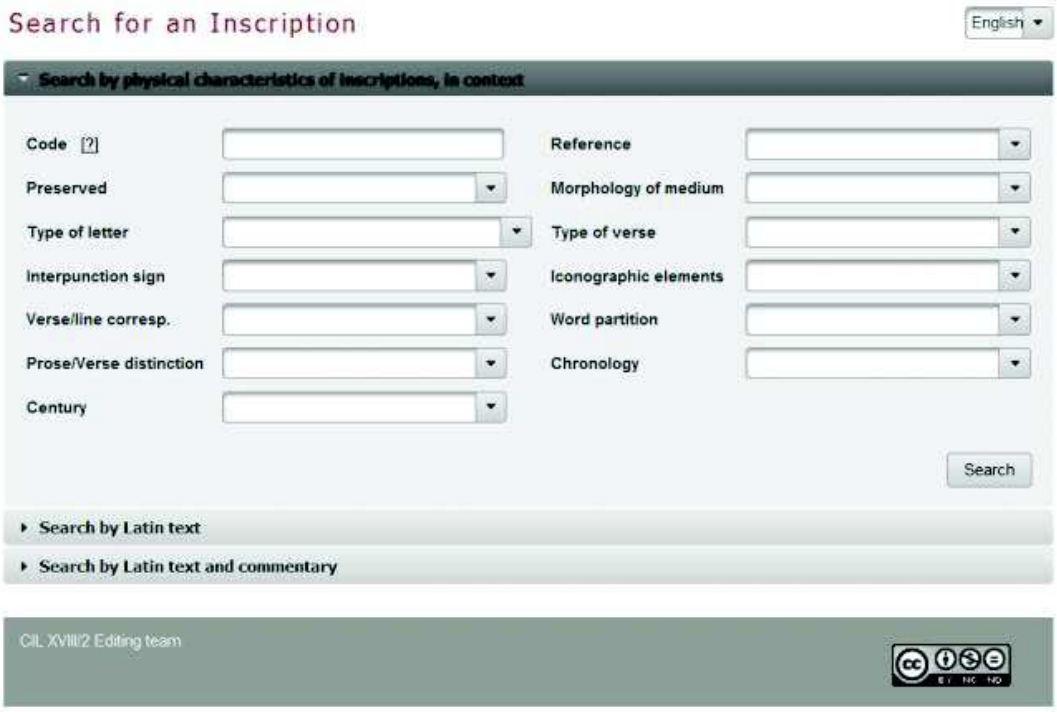

Fig. 24.1. Iconic Search

The iconic search form allows you to select different enquiry criteria:

Code: the word code makes reference to the proper enumeration of the inscriptions in this website.

Preserved: indicates if the inscription is preserved or not. In the affirmative case, it also indicates in what degree of preservation the inscription is.

Type of letter: type of letter used in the inscription.

Interpunction mark: indicates if the inscription has or does not have interpunction marks and, in the affirmative case, what type of marks.

Correspondence Verse / Line: indicates, in the inscription, if each verse corresponds with a line or not.

Distinction Prose / Verse: indicates, in the inscription, if there is any distinction between prose and verse.

Century: establishes the century to which the inscription is assigned: from I B.C. to IX A.D.

Reference: allows for the search of an inscription referred to in any of the existent inscriptions (*CIL* II, IHC, *CLE*, etc.). It also allows the indication of the booking reference of the inscription in the aforesaid collection.

Morphology: indicates the morphology of the stone of the inscription: Plaque, Stella, Block, Altar, etc.

Type of verse: indicates the type of verse of the inscription: Dactylic, Trochaic, Iambic, etc.

Iconographic Elements: indicates if the inscription has or does not have iconographic elements, and, in the affirmative case, allows a free search of the type of iconographic element.

Partition of words: indicates if, in the inscription, there are or are not any partitions of words.

Chronology: allows for specification of the information given by "Century" by establishing if it is at the beginning, middle or the end of the century.

Once the search has been carried out, a page will show the results in chronological order. In this page, the user will be able to view the first six results of the search. In the lower part of the page, as much as in the upper part of the page, there is a control that allows the user to gain access to the rest of results.

If you click on whichever image of the consequent findings, it will take you to the iconic card of the inscription. In this card, a bigger image of the inscription will appear and, in addition, the user will also be shown the different data obtained from the physical characteristics of the inscriptions in their context. You can click on any of these bigger images in order to see them in full size.

In the above right corner of the iconic card, you will find three buttons that will allow you to view the commentary of the inscription in Spanish, English and Latin respectively.

You can begin a fresh search by clicking the next link: "New Search", situated upper left of the card.

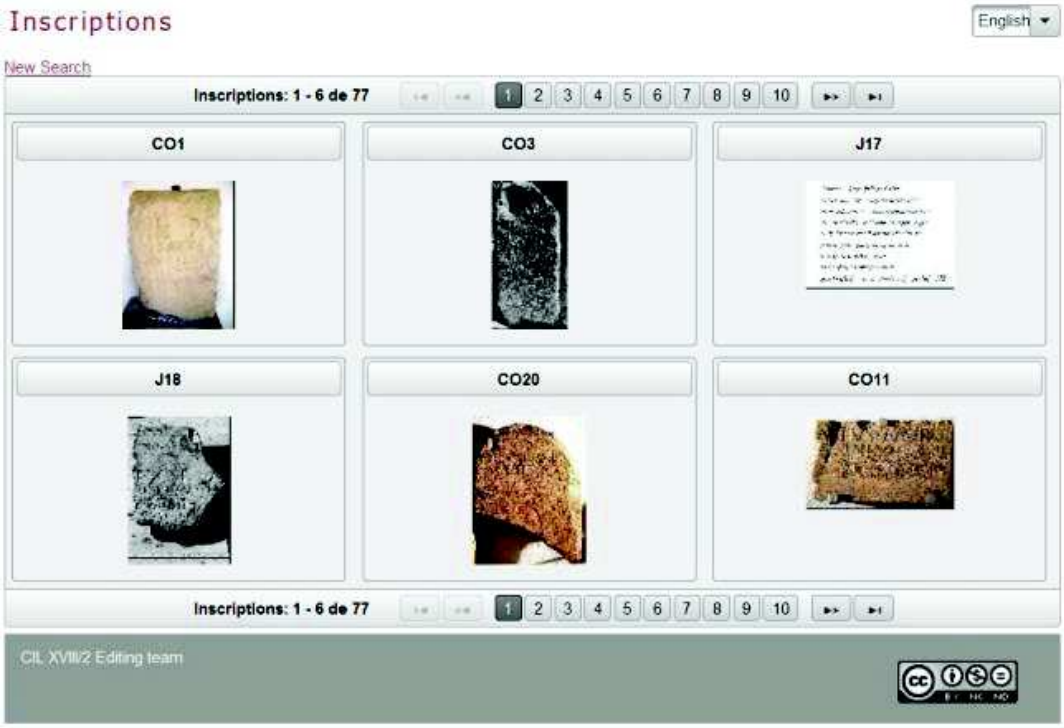

Fig. 24.2. Result page

Fig. 24.3. Full Size

24.3.2. Textual Searches

The second database provides textual searches, which are also simple or complex, through our epigraphic editions of Latin texts.

Furthermore, the third database allows the user to search through the text of our schedae; not only the Latin text edition but also its full philological analysis.

In performing both types of search, it is necessary to include, at least, which text will be searched: either the text of the inscription (in the first case) or the commentary of the inscription (second case). When doing a search based on the commentary, it is also necessary to indicate in what language the search will be done.

These searches also permit you to establish an additional criterion: the conventus to which the inscription belongs.

Fig. 24.4. Refine Criteria

Once the search has been effectuated, a page with the results from the textual search will appear. In this subsequent page, the user will be able to see the first five results of the search. In the bottom part of the page, there is a control that will permit the researcher access to the rest of results.

If you click on any image of the search result, or also on the link "Image", you shall gain access to the iconic card of the inscription. Once in the iconic card, the image of the inscription will appear enlarged with different data obtained from the physical characteristics of the inscriptions, in their context.

Fig. 24.5. Other results

If you click on any of the three links "Comentario | Commentary | Commentarius" that are shown in each inscription, you will gain access to the philological commentary in Spanish, English or Latin respectively.

24.3.3. Operators in textual searches

When doing a textual search, you can use operators in the text field. These operators will allow you to polish or broaden the search:

- *quod*: searches inscriptions containing the word *quod*.
- *quod* **AND** *parenti*: searches inscriptions containing *quod* and *parenti*.
- *quod* **OR** *parenti*: searches inscriptions containing the word *quod* or the word *parenti* (or both).
- *parenti* **AND NOT** *quod*: those inscriptions containing the word *parenti* but not *quod*
- *parenti*^4 *quod*: those inscriptions containing *parenti* or containing *quod*, but showing first the ones that contain *parenti* (degree of importance 4).
- *"quod est"*: those inscriptions containing *quod* and *est* showing up together.

24.4. 4. Impending Project: the *CLE Galliae*

The studies developed about the epigraphic poetry of *Hispania* and its dissemination and international transference have awarded us leadership on an international level in this research field. Currently, there is no other team in Spain working on this kind of research. The XVIII/2 volume, as previously mentioned, focuses on verse epigraphy from a strictly philological approach: the type of philological analyses we apply to these texts and the objective of this work which exclusively emphasizes metric epigraphs go beyond the epigraphic character of the texts and focus, most of all, on their indisputable literary dimension.

Taking this previous experience as a starting point, our team is now undertaking the study, edition, and commentary of the *CLE* from Gaul. As the *Hispania* precedent, this new project is also coordinated by the *CIL* center in Berlin, and will constitute a part of the future *CIL* XVIII/3 volume.

The new team *CIL* XVIII/3 has been upgraded with the incorporation of new researchers—some of which are French—. France is scarcely represented in international research about Latin Epigraphic Poetry, and its *CLE* have barely been systematically studied, being the Bücheler-Lommatzsch collection (1895–1926) the only reference. Since then, there have been new findings, new readings and interpretations, all of which are isolated and difficult to access for researchers. This new project will fill a necessary gap in this international research area.

The project has an important point of departure in the PhD defended by Hervé Belloc at the University of Caen, under the supervision of Dr. Philippe Moreau (both members of our current resarch team). The title of the PhD was *Les Carmina Latina epigraphica des Gaules: édition, traduction, étude littéraire.* The work carried out by Belloc gave us documentary and bibliographic data, accurate information on the geographical and chronological distribution of the the Gaul around 300 *CLE*, and the editing and philological commentary of a good number of these inscriptions, those coming from Aquitania and the Narbonense Gaul.

In parallel to the work for the future *CIL* XVIII/3 and following the model of the results obtained for *Hispania*, a new website will be created giving the scientific community access to the results in Spanish, French and Latin (www.clegalliae.com). Similar to the case of *Hispania*, the user will be able to make inquiries to the database in any of the three

languages and will obtain the result in the language in which the query was formulated (replacing this time English with French).

Our goal is to continue using the methodologies already experimented with in the research about *Hispania*, and to benefit from the international relationships and synergies established between the research group and other European researchers that work on *CLE*.

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