Epigrama Magni Momenti,
IG IX ii 1135

James H. Oliver

The lost inscription, of which O. Kern in 1908 in the IG said
"magni fuit momenti," is known from a squeeze made by
Lolling and now at Berlin. Kern and Peek\(^1\) have done much to
re-establish the text, but room for improvement still remains. To
judge from the photograph of the squeeze which Peek has published
and from the drawing which he has contributed, the text from Volo
with some changes of our own will read as follows.

\[
[yl]vatos \mu\varepsilon[\deltai]dios se, \deltaαι[k]panteira de \ 'Pwμ[\alpha]
\]  
[\[\]pev \epsilon[\iota] kleivou \uomioteuxhes \'odos,
\[\Omega]lue, ou δε [\ureitw]o δεdorokota tērmonas \'Isr[p]o[\iota]
\]  
[lo]igon \Piaw[vias \'exe]balax Gαlaxan,
\]  
5 [kal] pura[o]s afas kagyrias amphi se laouvs·
\]  
\[\]od [\ow]\as e[\xi] ou \pem[\iota]yas aparyma Δi,
\]  
[Kal]isar [\\nuot]os e\an\t\as [\\st\t\as \\nuot]ov \[\]stwv klutoxs, \er\ga filolpla
\[\]ke' e\pi t\an [\\nu]g\\qalaxa\nu koi\an\nas u\pas\n.

1 [yl]vatos \mu\varepsilon Peck; \[\]pe Kern,
[\[\]pev \epsilon[\iota] kleivou Peck; \uomioteuxhes Kern. 3 \[\omega]lue (dissyllabic) Oliver,
\Piaw[vias Peck; \'exe]balax Kern. 5 [kal] pura[o]s afas kagyrias Peck,
\s\nu\s\s\varepsiloni[\]pas Kern. 6 \oz\as (genitive of equivalents) \[\e[\xi] oliver, \ow[\iota]
[\ureitw] Peck; \pem[\iota]yas Kern. 7 [Kal]isar [\\nuot]os e\an\t\as \\nuot \mu[\s]\as \stwv Kern,
\nuot[\iota]s ei \m[\iota]stwv Peck, \[\]stwv Oliver. 8 [\[\]ke' Kern; [\\nu]g\\qalaxa\nu Kern,
[\k]aleia\nu Peck.

At the end, whose "philolpla erga sent a consul to the great com-
mand"? Those of one from whom "you sent to Zeus the token dedi-
cation of a cingulum, a first-fruit of victory." The two statements have to
be connected by a relative pronoun, though not necessarily as here
restored. It may have read [\tau]\~o [\ow]\as [\varepsilon[\iota] \\kas \pem[\iota]yas aparyma Δi.

\(^1\) W. Peek, "Ein unbekannter Besieger der Galater," Klio 42 (1964) 319-27.
The inscription with Peek’s attractive restoration of the first four lines honors a man addressed at the beginning of line 3 with the praenomen, which Peek reads as Caius and I as Aulus. In Greece of the first century after Christ a good parallel for the Greek form of the praenomen Aulus will be found at IG II² 1996, line 52, "Ωλίως Δόλλιος 'Ἀττικὸς Ἀξη(νιός). The man’s father is mentioned in line 1 by his nomen, which Peek reads as Pedius and I as Didius. In other words, the man being honored was A. Didius or, according to Peek, C. Pedius. The first syllable of the nomen Didius may actually have been short and has to be scanned short but was usually transliterated as here given.

The C. Pedius, whom Peek because of the last word calls a consul Macedoniae, would be unknown. There is no such thing as a consul Macedoniae, but this name does not appear among the few known proconsuls of Macedonia either.

On the other hand, A. Didius, known also as A. Didius Gallus, obtained a suffect consulship (according to Degrassi) in A.D. 36, when there were no proconsuls of Macedonia because Moesia, Macedonia and Achaia were all united under one great command, that of the legate of Moesia. Because of wartime conditions the article which appeared in 1943 in PIR² D 70 fails to mention an inscription from the Athenian Agora, but the previous evidence already suggested a governorship of Moesia for A. Didius. The acephalous Athenian inscription, Hesperia 10 (1941) 239–41, No. 40, published even then as a cursus for A. Didius, lists among other posts the three emperors whom he had served and the two imperial provinces he had governed. Lines 5–10 are particularly interesting here:

5 [comiti et le]gat[to i]n Brit[ian]nia
[leg]ato[> ] Caes[aris >
[leg]ato > div[i] Clau[di]i
[leg]ato[> August]i
[leg]ato[> pr pr pr > ] prov[inciae Moesiae]
10 [leg]at[o > pr pr pr > pr]ovin[ciae Brit[ian]iae]

The three emperors with which it was an honor to have served were Tiberius (not Caligula), Claudius and the new emperor Nero.

The honorary inscriptions at Olympia and Athens make it highly probable that also the epigram from Volo concerned A. Didius, and

* See A. Stein, "Die Legaten von Moesien" (Diss. Pann. I 11 [1940]) 25–7.
since A. Didius was suffect consul apparently in A.D. 36, also the
governorship of Moesia must be dated in A.D. 36, and likewise the
military emergency that caused him to be sent to the Balkans, be­
cause in the epigram he is said to have been a consul at the time of his
appointment. His governorship of Moesia accordingly preceded that
of P. Memmius Regulus. Suetonius, *Tiberius* 41 says that near the end
of the reign Moesia was devastated by Dacians and Sarmatians. The
author of the epigram calls the invader a Gaul from the Danube, and
there were in fact Celts mixed with the Dacians.\(^3\) Besides, the Gauls
had won their place in Greek literature as the most frightening
barbarians from the north, whereas the Dacians were less well known.
However, it is unnecessary to assume that the author of the epigram
mistook a Dacian for a Gaul. Among the invaders, who were mostly
Dacians, there may have been a Celtic leader. It could also be that
Didius acquired his cognomen from this victory.

Apart from the identity of the man honored it is necessary to object
to Peek’s punctuation, for he has placed colons at the end of lines 4
and 6 and so obscured the sense. But he has correctly discerned the
date.

**Translation**

Didius begat you, but war-powerful Rome, O Aulus, raised you to
a seat attended by ten thousand armed men. You drove out a Gaul
who had looked upon the boundaries of the fair-flowing Danube, a
scourge of Paeonia, by lighting fire signals and collecting troops. He
from whom you sent to Zeus (Jupiter Capitolinus?) the token dedica­
tion of a (barbarian’s) girdle when you were a glorious legate of
Caesar, he loved arms and did with them deeds which called a consul
to the great command.

*The Johns Hopkins University*

*March, 1967*

---

\(^3\) D. Berciu, “La civilisation de La Tène chez les Géto-Daces,” *Latomus* 25 (1966) 414–25,
says on p.423: “entre Daces et Celtes il s’est établi dans certaines contrées une véritable
symbiose.”