

Epigramma Magni Momenti, IG IX ii 1135

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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 Peek¹ 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.

[γί]νατο μ[έν Δεί]διός σε, δαῖ[κ]ράντειρα δὲ ‘Ρώμ[α]
 [ῆ]ρεν ἐπ[ὶ κλεινὸν μ]υριοτευχὲς ἔδος,
 [“Ω]λιε, σὺ δ’ ε[ὐρέϊταιο δ]εδορκότα τέρμονας Ἰστ[ρ]ο[υ]
 [λο]ιγὸν Παιο[νίας ἐξέ]βαλες Γαλάταν,
 5 [καί] πυρσ[οὺς ἄψας κἀγί]ρας ἀμφί σε λαοὺς·
 τὸ ζών[ας ἐξ οὗ πέμ]ψας ἄπαργμα Δίι,
 [Κ]αίσαρι γνωτ[ὸς ἐὼν ἴ]στωρ κλυτός, ἔργα φίλοπλα
 [ῆ]κ’ ἐπὶ τὰν μ[εγάλα]ν κοιρανίαν ὑπατον.

1 [γί]νατο μ[έν Peek; Δεί]διος Oliver, Πέ]διος κτλ. Peek. 2 [ῆ]ρε Kern, [ῆ]ρεν ἐπ[ὶ κλεινὸν Peek; μ]υριοτευχὲς Kern. 3 [“Ω]λιε (dissyllabic) Oliver, [Γ]αίε Peek; ε[ὐρέϊταιο Peek; δε]δορκότα τέρμονας Ἰστ[ρ]ο[υ] Kern. 4 [λοι]γόν? Kern; Παιο[νίας Peek; ἐξέ]βαλες Kern. 5 [καί] πυρσ[οὺς ἄψας κἀγί]ρας Peek, συναγεί]ρας Kern. 6 ζών[ας (genitive of equivalents) ἐξ οὗ Oliver, ζῶμ’ [ὕψιστω Peek; πέμ]ψας Kern. 7 [Κα]ίσαρι γνωτ[ὸς ἐὼν μῆσ]τωρ Kern, γνωτ[ὸς αἰ μῆ]στωρ Peek, ἴ]στωρ Oliver. 8 [ῆ]κ’ Kern; [μεγάλα]ν Kern, κ[λειτὰ]ν Peek.

At the end, whose “*philopla erga* sent a consul to the great command”? Those of one from whom “you sent to Zeus the token dedication 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 [τ]ὸ ζῶμ’ [οὗ νίκας . .]ψας ἄπαργμα Δίι.

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, *Ωλιος Αόλλιος Ἀττικὸς Ἀζη(νιεύς). 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 *PIR*² D 70 fails to mention an inscription from the Athenian Agora, but the previous evidence already suggested a governorship of Moesia for A. Didius.² 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]gā[to i]n Brittan[nia]
 [leg]ato[>] Cae[s]aris >
 [leg]ato > div[i] Clau[dii]
 [le]gato[>] August[i]
 [le]gato[> pr > pr >] prov[inciae Moesiae]
 10 [le]gāt[o > pr > pr > pr]ovin[ciae Britanniae]

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

² 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, because 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 dedication 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.

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³ D. Berciu, "La civilisation de La Tène chez les Géo-Daces," *Latomus* 25 (1966) 414-25, says on p.423: "entre Daces et Celtes il s'est établi dans certaines contrées une véritable symbiose."