

Lost Connections: Etruscan Inscriptions in North Africa

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Liber Linteus Zagrabensis linen mummy wrapping, Alexandria, Egypt, 3rd
century; image National Geographic Portugal

Roadmap

- Consider approaches to contextualizing non-Greco-Roman material
- Look at an ideal case study where Greco-Roman sources corroborate details contained in a series of 6th century BCE Etruscan and Phoenician inscriptions
- Look at a 3rd/2nd century BCE Etruscan inscription which was misinterpreted because of an erroneous link to Pliny
- Look at a series of 1st century BCE Etruscan inscriptions whose interpretation has been overshadowed by a tenuous connection to a Roman narrative
- Consider how overreliance on Greco-Roman material has not only muted Etruscan voices but also silenced Punic voices

Contextualizing Non-Greco-Roman Material

Object of Study

Possible Comparanda

Non-Greco-Roman Material

Greco-Roman Material

Non-Greco-Roman Material

Agreement Between Non-Greco-Roman and Greco-Roman Material



"I belong to Puine of Carthage..."
Etruscan hospitality token (ivory, Carthage, Necropolis of S. Monica, 6th century BCE)
Image Naso 2017; cf. *ET Af* 3.1



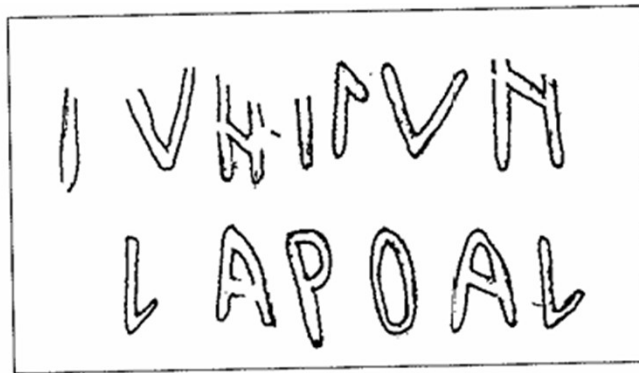
Etruscan hospitality token with gentilic "Silqetenas" based on Punic city of Sulcis in Sardinia (ivory, S. Omobono Rome, 580-540 BCE)
Image Maggiani 2006; cf. *ET La* 2.3



Bilingual Phoenician/Etruscan Pyrgi Tablets (gold, Pyrgi, port of Cerveteri, ca. 500 BCE);
Image: ETRU Museo Nazionale Etrusco

Cf. Herodotus *Histories* 1.166; Aristotle *Politics* 3.5.10-11; Polybius *Histories* 3.22.4-13

An Etruscan Inscription and an Erroneous Link to Pliny's *Natural Histories*



Pumpun/Punipun
Larθal

Fig. 5 - Disegno dell'iscrizione del disco di Gouraya fatto il 5 aprile 2004.

Bronze Discus;
Gouraya, Late 3rd-early 2nd
Century BCE;
Image Briquel 2006:92



Fig. 6 - Fotografie del disco di Gouraya fatte il 5 aprile 2004. A sinistra faccia con protomi di ariete, a destra faccia iscritta.

(from the mid-III century onwards)

𐌀	a
𐌁	e
𐌂	v
𐌃	z
𐌄	h
𐌅	θ
𐌆	i
𐌇	c
𐌈	l
𐌉	m
𐌊	n
𐌋	p
𐌌	s
𐌍	t
𐌎	u
𐌏	φ
𐌐	χ
𐌑	f

Standard Etruscan
Orthography After
Mid-3rd Century BCE;
Benelli 2017:250

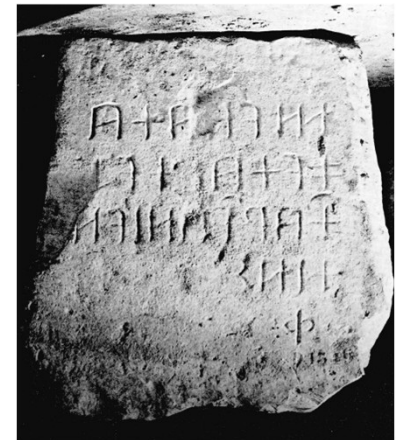
Marce Unata, Trojan Etruscans, and 1st Century BCE Tunisia

M(arce) Unata
zutas boundary marker
of the Dardans
for Tin
1,000 paces

A+AH7H
L7+3A+77
H7IHAT9AT

3H1+

m vnata² zvtaš tvl
³dardanivm⁴ tins⁵ M



One of eight identical inscriptions on boundary stones
(1st century BCE, Tunisia)
Images from Heurgon 1969; transliteration from ET 8.1-8;
Underlining mine

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