

together cultural units that might exist independently of urban centres or provincial boundaries.

The lack of a thematic index (and, indeed, an index of any sort) is a serious problem. Readers are best advised to turn first to the concluding chapter by Migliario, which goes some way to identifying and tracing themes shared between earlier chapters. In short, readers can gain from this volume a panoramic synopsis of the state of play of Latin epigraphy in the Alps, but they may feel at the end of it that they have been required to climb every mountain to enjoy it.

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### INSCRIPTIONS FROM ALBANIA

ANAMALI (S.), CEKA (H.), DENIAUX (É.) *Corpus des inscriptions latines d'Albanie*. (Collection de l'École française de Rome 410.) Pp. viii + 237. Rome: École française de Rome, 2009. Paper €43. ISBN: 978-2-7283-0830-9.

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Albania in antiquity was a crossroads of the central Mediterranean, but it has remained largely unknown because of its isolated history since independence in 1913. The post-war communist government of Enver Hoxha actively looked to its Illyrian tribal roots to define a distinctive nationalist history, and zealously denigrated its Greek and Roman past as an imperialist episode. Fearful of intervention by the Greek government in the affairs of Albania's Greek minority, they deliberately understated the Hellenistic era beginning with the expansionist exploits of King Pyrrhus and his descendants in the region. By contrast, the aggressive impact of Aemilius Paulus in the region, bringing a venomous halt to the Hellenistic period in 167 B.C., seemed to fit the picture that Hoxha's government required of imperialism at work. As for the place of Albania in the late Republic and early Empire, notwithstanding the civil war between Caesar and Pompey transacted on battlefields located on the central Albanian coastline, or, indeed, the existence of a well-known Republican personality like the wealthy Titus Pomponius Atticus (correspondent with Cicero) actually living in what is now southern Albania, little attention was paid to the archaeology and history of this period. Instead, communist-era scholars marched to the nationalist melody, cognisant of N.G.L. Hammond's work on Epirus and the major pre-1939 excavations by Leon Rey at Apollonia and Luigi Maria Ugolini at Butrint. Classical antiquity was effectively off limits. Only late antiquity, as the ancestors of the eleventh-century Albanians were contrived from the so-called Komani-type cemeteries in the later fifth century, received attention. Even the Soviet archaeological missions of the 1950s, familiar with antiquity from the Black Sea regions, were constrained by their Albanian colleagues to identify Illyrian phases and to ignore the archaeology of the imperialist Hellenes and Romans wherever possible. The result was to understate the evidence for Hellenistic and Roman archaeology of Albania to the extent that no Roman villa, for example, was identified until after the fall of communism.

Albania is rich in the remains of antiquity. Ancient Dyrrachium (modern Dürres) was a great Adriatic seaport as well as a terminal for the Via Egnatia; ports at Lezha (ancient Lissus) in the north, on Vlora Bay serving central Albania, and as far south as Saranda (Onchesmos) and Butrint (Buthrotum), like those along the present Greek coast, or to the north along the Dalmatian coastline, bear witness to a Hellenistic and Roman apogee. Less is known of the inland towns and countryside, but the fertility of the rich inland valleys, densely occupied from the Bronze Age, should not be underestimated. This is the context for the new catalogue of Latin inscriptions, following the publication of the Greek inscriptions from Butrint by P. Cabanes and F. Drini in *Corpus des inscriptions grecques d'Illyrie méridionale et d'Épire 2* (2007). It is the work of É. Deniaux and two legendary Albanian scholars, both now deceased. Ceka, often described as the father of Albanian archaeology, was a Viennese-trained scholar who taught Anamali and many other scholars. A. and C. initiated this project in 1961, assembling a preliminary corpus of 27 unpublished inscriptions. The new volume assembles 285 inscriptions, almost all illustrated with photographs.

There is a short, accessible introduction to the classical history of the region, its sites and its monuments. The Corpus itself is arranged in nine regions, with an annexe devoted to two new inscriptions – one from Apollonia and one from Butrint. By far the largest section is that listing the inscriptions from Dürres. The extraordinary wealth of epigraphic information reviewed here offers a poignant insight into the immense loss of information arising from the uncontrolled redevelopment of the city in the past decade. This corpus reinforces the significance of Dyrrachium throughout the Roman era. By comparison, the protected archaeological parks of Apollonia and Butrint, the scene of extensive excavations in the 1920s and in the past decade, have only 3 and 48 inscriptions respectively. The paucity from Apollonia is noteworthy; for Phoinike, too, only one inscription is listed. In this context, the nineteen inscriptions from the inland hilltop town of Byllis, situated south of Apollonia, stand out, as do the seven from Elbasan, the fortified town on the Via Egnatia in the Albanian interior. The relatively modest sanctuary port of Butrint, by contrast, boasts 218 inscriptions, many from slave manumissions.

This corpus is undoubtedly an important contribution to a territory that even a generation ago was barely known due to its harsh political circumstances. However, it also begs many questions. Given how important this region was in the later Republican era, why are there so few inscriptions? To be more specific, it is notable how few post-date the Augustan age; fewer still belong to the mid empire. Much of this is due to the quixotic circumstances underlying the preservation of these inscriptions. Most were not found in excavations (as by contrast Butrint's numerous Greek inscriptions were), but derive from chance finds, and in the case of Dürres, from construction work. That said, D. must be warmly congratulated for her tenacity in ensuring the earlier work of A. and C. has obtained the international recognition it deserves, and for providing a readily accessible corpus which in time will be a cornerstone for understanding the classical archaeology of this part of Epirus.

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