

“Asta ac Perlege: Teaching Latin with Roman Inscriptions”

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1. Funerary Inscription for Claudia, *ILS 8403*

Hospes, quod dico, paulum est: **asta ac perlege**.
Hic est sepulchrum haud pulchrum pulchrae feminae.
Nomen parentes nominarunt Claudiam.
Suum maritum corde dilexit suo.
Natos duos creavit, horum alterum
in terra linquit, alium sub terra locat.
Sermone lepido, tum autem incessu commodo.
Domum servavit, lanam fecit. Dixi. Abi.

1a. Translation

Traveler, what I say is a little thing: **stand and read**.
This is the not at all beautiful tomb of a beautiful woman.
Her parents named her Claudia.
She loved her husband with her heart.
She bore two children, one of whom
she leaves on earth, the other she buries underground.
Charming of speech, but also with proper bearing.
She kept her home, she made wool. I have spoken. Goodbye.

2. Funerary Inscription for Aurelia Philematium, *ILS 1221a, 1221b*



2a. Transcription

[L(ucius) AU]RELIUS L(uci) L(ibertus)
[H]ERMIA
[LA]NIUS DE COLLE
VIMINALE
[H]AEC QUAE ME FAATO
PRAECESSIT CORPORA
CASTO
[C]ONIUNXS UNA MEO
PRAEDITA AMANS
ANIMO
[F]IDO FIDA VIRO VEIXSIT
STUDIO PARILI QUM
NULLA IN AVARITIE
CESSIT AB OFFICIO
[A]URELIA L(uci) L(iberta)

AURELIA L(uci) L(iberta)
PHILEMATIO(n)
VIVA PHILEMATIUM SUM
AURELIA NOMINITATA
CASTA PUDENS VOLGEI
nescia FEIDA VIRO
VIR CONLEIBERTUS FUIT
EIDEM QUO CAREO
EHEU
REE FUIT EEVERO PLUS
SUPERAQUE PARENS
SEPTEM ME NAATAM
ANNORUM GREMIO
IPSE RECEPIT XXXX
ANNOS NATA NECIS POTIOR
ILLE MEO OFFICIO
ADSIDUO FLOREBAT AD OMNIS

2b.

L(ucius) Au]relius L(uci) l(ibertus)
[H]ermia
[la]nius de colle
Viminale

Haec quae me fato praecessit corpore casto
coniunx una meo praedita amans animo,
fido fida viro vixit studio parili, cum
nulla in avaritia cessit ab officio.
Aurelia Luci liberta

Aurelia L(uci) l(iberta)
Philematio(n)

Viva Philematium sum Aurelia nominitata,
casta, pudens, volgi nescia, fida viro.
Vir conlibertus fuit eidem, quo careo eheu!
re fuit et vero plus superaquer parens.
Septem me natam annorum gremio ipse recepit;
XXXX annos nata necis potior
Ille meo officio adsiduo florebat ad omnis . . .

2c. Translation

Lucius Aurelius freedman of Lucius Hermia a butcher from the Viminal hill.
This woman who preceded me in death (*fato*) endowed with a chaste body,
one and only loving wife, sharer of my mind,
lived faithful to a faithful husband with equal affection
since she failed in her duty out of no greed.
Aurelia freedwoman of Lucius.

Aurelia freedwoman of Lucius Philematium.
Alive I was named Aurelia Philematium,
chaste, modest, unknown to the common crowd, faithful to my husband.
He was a fellow freedman of the same man, of whom I am bereft, alas!
He was in fact and in truth more than and beyond a parent.
He took me to his heart at the age of seven;
at the age of 40 I reach death.
He flourished with my constant respect in the eyes of all . . .