

# AJOLL

**VOL 6 SEPTEMBER, 2015**

**AGO-IWOYE JOURNAL OF LANGUAGES  
AND LITERARY STUDIES**



*Published by:*

**The Department of Nigerian and Foreign  
Languages and Literatures,  
Faculty of Arts,  
Olabisi Onabanjo University,  
P.M.B. 2002  
Ago-Iwoye, Ogun State, Nigeria.**

**ISSN 798-245-670-5**

## Contents

	Pages
Statements of Purpose	i
Editorial Board	ii
Editorial Consultants	iii
Essays	iv
<b>Sì Nínú Èhun Èdè Yorùbá</b> - <i>Ọlabode Abimbola</i>	1
<b>The Role of <i>ifa</i> in the "born again" Syndrome as found in <i>Itẹ́fá</i>- initiation Rites</b> - <i>Ọlaleye Samuel Kayode</i>	20
<b>Èwò Inú Odún Ibílẹ̀ Àwọn Obìnrin: Ọ̀nà Ìmúdúró Àṣà Àwùjọ</b> - <i>Arówóṣẹgbé, Deborah Bámídelé</i>	43
<b>A Note on the Linguistic Features of Okun-Èkìtì (A Yorùbá Dialect)</b> - <i>Tèmítópe Olúmúyiwá</i>	59
<b>Oúnjẹ Láàrin Iran Yorùbá</b> - <i>Dúró Adélékè</i>	73
<b>Munificence of the Aristocrats of Roman Tripolitania</b> - <i>Monica Omoye Aneni</i>	92
<b>Leadership, Oppression and Emancipation of the Masses as Reflected in <i>Ayé Yẹ Wọ̀n Tán</i></b> - <i>A. Kọ́lá Oyebamiji</i>	128
<b>A Critical Evaluation of French Literature Teaching in Nigerian Universities</b> - <i>Giwa Akintunde Ayodeji</i>	160

- The Other Question: Difference, Discrimination and Xenophobia in Juvenal Satires** 177  
- *Emmanuel Folorunso Taiwo*
- Challenges of Communication Between Students and Management of Christian Faith-Based Private Universities** 194  
- *Okunade, Joshua Kayode & Talabi, Felix Olajide*
- Reflection and Deflection in the Explication of Adapted Work, A Study of "That Scoundrel Suberu" and *Scapin the Scamp*** 214  
- *Ademakinwa Adebisi*
- Philosophical Issues in Yoruba Proverbs** 228  
- *Adegboyega, Oyekunle Oluyemisi*
- Àbèsàbèsì Syllable and Syllabification: A Generative Phonological Approach** 246  
- *Agoyi, Taiwo Opeyemi*
- Ìlò Arópò-orúko (AR) Nínú Èhun Èdè Yorùbá** 271  
- *Oyè Táíwò & Jùmòkè Aṣíwájú*

## MUNIFICENCE OF THE ARISTOCRATS OF ROMAN TRIPOLITANIA

MONICA OMOYE ANENI\*

### Abstract

Many authors such as Banaji (2002; 2015), Mattingly (2003), and Cherry (1988), have variously discussed Rome's policies in Roman Tripolitania as well as economic and agricultural progress of Tripolitania which was aided and controlled by the aristocrats of the region. This study, however, aims to examine munificence in the form of donations by aristocrats of Roman Tripolitania from their largesse towards their *patriae* (fatherland). These donations ranged from beautification to erections of some monuments in their cities. This paper intends to examine, using data in the form of Latin inscriptions, munificence of the elites of the region. The data for this study is sourced from the Inscriptions of Roman Tripolitania (IRT). The paper adopts a methodology that is historical as it throws light on status of men and the munificence of the aristocrats of Roman Tripolitania. The paper argues that the munificence of the aristocrats of the region was one of the obligations of men of such high economic and social standing. The study further argues that in exchange of the donations, aristocrats earned recognition in the form of political allegiance from the citizens and the states. Further studies that may examine social status in Roman Tripolitania are recommended.

---

\* Department of Classics, University of Ibadan

Email: [monaneni@yahoo.com](mailto:monaneni@yahoo.com) Phone: 07039574581, 08056501788

**Keywords:** Munificence, Latin inscriptions, aristocrats,  
Roman Tripolitania,

### Introduction

Liturgies were performed in the Greco-Roman society even from inception. Prometheus was said to have stolen fire from the gods and donated to man because of his philanthropy for man. Nobles in the society were obliged to make donations and they were, in return, honoured by the state. Aristotle noted that paying for public events for the benefit of the State was a way by which the rich could earn recognition or honour even in the form of political allegiance. Therefore it was not out of place for Alcibiades to demand for political recognition from his State having sponsored a successful chariot team to the Olympics of 416 BC.<sup>1</sup>

As the Roman State evolved from Monarchical system of government to a Republican and finally became an Empire, the idea gained strong recognition and continued to be practised. William (2005)<sup>2</sup> states, "... Roman charity was invariably given with either political or ego-driven motives, connected to ambitions for friendship, political power or lasting reputation." Roman North Africa as a part of the Roman Empire, practiced indigenous systems and ideas as well as Romanization. This idea of donating to the state in Roman Tripolitania took the same form as what obtained in Rome. Evidenced therefore, were various donations by the aristocrats of Roman North Africa.

The aristocrats were truly resourceful and wealthy. Several authors have examined the sources of their wealth and how they succeeded even under the Roman Empire in

---

<sup>1</sup> Matthew Bishop & Michael Green, "Philanthrocapitalism, Ancient Giving" sourced on 15/02/2015 from <http://philanthrocapitalism.net/bonus-chapters/ancient-giving/>

<sup>2</sup> Byrnes, William, 2005, "Ancient Roman Munificence: The Development of the Practice and Law of Charity." *Rutgers Law Review*, Vol. 57, No. 3, p. 1043;.

spite of the taxes levied on the region by Rome. The expansion of the wealth of Africa and Spain motivated Diocletian into passing reforms that placed tighter political and bureaucratic control over the provinces and taxation of the expanding wealth of these provinces. These authors<sup>3</sup> attest to the immense wealth that came from North Africa for some centuries especially under the reigns of several Emperors such as, Diocletian, Constantine and Justinian and that, this wealth was dominated and controlled by the aristocrats. Lanctatius<sup>4</sup> tells us that Africa and Spain were among the wealthiest of provinces under the Roman Empire in the third century because of the growth and expansion of their olive oil in Rome's markets. While Spanish olive oil dominated Rome's market between 140 and 250, olive oil from North Africa grew rapidly and remained dominant in the Italian markets in the third century. For North Africa or Roman Tripolitania, the wealth was dominated and controlled by the aristocrats, for they alone possessed the massive capital needed for such investment. Mattingly (1988),<sup>5</sup> demonstrates archeological information that give credence to the fact that aristocrats or urban elites of this region considerably controlled the surplus oil and this constituted a major source of individual prosperity for the elites. This paper does not intend to examine economic buoyancy of Roman North Africa, but to examine the munificence of aristocrats or elites of the region whose wealth was fostered by the production of

---

<sup>3</sup> Jairus Banaji, 2015, *Exploring the Economy of Late Antiquity: Selected Essays*. Mattingly. David J., 2003, *Tripolitania*.; Jairus Banaji, 2012, *Agrarian Change in Late Antiquity: Gold, Labour, and Aristocratic Dominance*; Dennis, P. Kehoe, 1997, *Investment, profit and Tenancy: The Jurists and the Roman Agrarian Economy*, David Cherry, 1988, *Frontier and Society in Roman North Africa.s*.

<sup>4</sup> Lanctatius, *de mortibus persecutorum* 7.4 (Creed p 12)

<sup>5</sup> Mattingly, D.J., 1988, "The olive oil boom: oil surpluses, wealth and power in Roman Tripolitania." *Libyan Studies*. Vol. 19, p 21-41.

olive oil and other means. By so doing, the study documents Latin inscriptions from the Inscriptions of Roman Tripolitania (IRT)<sup>6</sup> that display the munificence of the aristocrats of Roman Tripolitania. The importance of Latin inscription which several scholars<sup>7</sup> in the field of Latin epigraphy have attempted to examine cannot be overemphasised. Greek and Latin inscriptions indeed furnish the researcher with information regarding various aspects of life in antiquity and the modern investigator must understand how to deal with the challenges of understanding and interpreting them (Bodel, 2001).<sup>8</sup>

### Munificence of the Aristocrats of Roman Tripolitania

The aristocrats demonstrated their munificence through beautification of their cities and donations of statues, temples etc to their fatherland. Some of the donations are displayed below in Latin inscriptions. Explanations are presented on further information that is not included in the translations or inscriptions that are not clear, otherwise, the translations would speak for themselves.

Table 1: Inscription in honour of Flavius Vivius Benedictus

<p>A [Fl(aui) Viui Benedicti u(iri)] p(erfectissimi) totius integritatis modera-</p>	<p>a. [In honour of Flavius Vivius Benedictus,] excellent [man] (i.e. of equestrian status). To a man of</p>
--	--

<sup>6</sup> Reynolds, J.M. & Ward-Perkins, J.B., 1998, *Inscriptions of Roman Tripolitania*.

<sup>7</sup> Oliver G.J., 2000, *An Introduction to The Epigraphy of Death in the Epigraphy of Death* edited by Oliver G.J; Keppie Lawrence, 1991, *Understanding Roman Inscriptions*; Rogan John, 2006, *Reading Roman Inscriptions*; Aneni M.O., 2014, "Understanding Child Funerary Inscriptions in Ancient Rome." *Journal of Philosophy and Development* Vol. 15. Nos. 1&2. Pp 1-21; Cooley A.E., 2012, *The Cambridge Manual of Latin Epigraphy*.

<sup>8</sup> John Bodel, 2001, (ed.), *Epigraphic Evidence: Ancient History from Inscriptions*. London: Routledge, Reviewed by John F. Donahue, retrieved on 17/01/2016 from <http://bmcr.brynmawr.edu/2002/2002-10-39.html>

<p>tionis iustitiae prouisionis  fidei benignitatis fortitudinis  5ac beneficentiae uiro Fl(aui)o  Viuo  Benedicto u(iro) p(erfectissimo)  praesidi prou(inciae)  Tripol(itanae)  inter cetera beneficia sua quibus  omnem prouinciam compendiis  re-  mediis et uirtutibus fouit suble  10uabit erexit etiam ob ea quae  sibi  specialiter conlata sunt ciuitas  Sabrathensis exsultans quod po  st ruinam et abnegatum therma-  rum populo exercitium citra ullius  15 dispendium ornamentis  patriae  reuocauit ordo populusque  concinentibus omnibus uo-  tis statuam patrono pr(a)estan-  tissimo gratanti studio  20 conlocauit</p> <p>b  Dedicata  cons(ulum) d(ominorum)  n(ostorum) Valentis VI et  Valent&lt;in&gt;iani II A[ug](ustorum)  die V kal(endas) Aug(ustas)<sup>9</sup></p>	<p>complete integrity,  moderation, justice,  foresight, good faith,  generosity, courage and  beneficence, Flavius Vivus  Benedictus, excellent  man(i.e. of equestrian  status), governor of the  province of Tripolitania;  among the other generous  acts by which he cherished,  assisted and improved the  whole province, the city of  Sabratha honours him also  on account of those  specifically conferred on  itself; they are delighted  that, when the Baths had  fallen down so that the  people could not use them  he restored them without  expense to anyone, and  they are now among the  ornaments of the country.  The city-council and people,  voting unanimously, set up  the statue to an outstanding  patron with enthusiastic  gratitude.  (b) Dedicated on the 28th  July, when our lords the  Augusti were consuls,  Valens for the sixth time and  Valentinian for the second.</p>
---	--

It is noted that the city had been sacked by the Austiani (IRT pg 45), but Flavius Vivius Benedictus who

<sup>9</sup> IRT 103

had become the governor decided to repair the ruins of the city and so he was duly honoured by the people.

**Table 2: In honour of L Aemilius Quintus**

<p>L(uci) Aemili Quinti fl(aminis) p(er)p(etui) quod laborem continu<u>m</u> pro prouinciae suae necessitate sustinuit Set quod miserias com- munes sacris aurib(us) intimabit et remedium meruit ordo et popul(us) splendidae col(oniae) Sabrat(hensis) 10secundum decreta totius prouinc(iae) dedic(auerunt) cur(ante) Fl(aui) Venantio<sup>10</sup></p>	<p>(In honour) of Lucius Aemilius Quintus, perpetual flamen (priest), because he made continual effort to meet the needs of his province and because he brought its shared misfortunes to the sacred (i.e. imperial) ears and obtained a remedy; the city council and the people of the splendid colony of Sabratha, in accordance with the decrees of the whole province, dedicated (this); Flavius Venantius took charge (of the work).</p>
--	---

**Table 3: Inscription in Honour of C Flavius Pudens**

<p>C(aio) Flauio Q(uinti) fil(io) Pap(iria tribu) Pudenti flam(ini) Liberi Patris Iluiro flam(ini) perpetuo cuius pater Fl(auius) Tullus post multas liberalitates per quas patriam suam exornauit aquam priuata pecunia induxit item lacus n(umero) XII exstru- xit eosdemque crustis et statuis marmoreis excoluit praeterea (sestertios) CC mil(ia) num(mum) ad tutelam eiusdem aquae rei publ(icae) promisit et intulit quod ipse quoque Pudens super numerousam munificentiam quam in Sciues suos contulit etiam muneris</p>	<p>To Caius Flavius Pudens, son of Quintus, of the Roman voting tribe Papiria, flamen (priest) of Liber Pater, duovir, perpetual flamen (priest), whose father, Flavius Tullus, in addition to the many liberal gifts by which he adorned his country, brought in a water supply at his own expense, also constructed twelve pools and ornamented</p>
---	---

<sup>10</sup> IRT 111

<p>gladiatori spectaculum primus in patria sua per dies quinq(ue) splendidissimum ediderit ordo Sabrathensium populo postulante quadrigam ei de publico ponend(am) censuit Fl(auius) Pudens honore contentus sua pecunia posuit<sup>11</sup></p>	<p>them with stucco (or mosaic) and marble statues, moreover promised the republic 200,000 sesterces for the upkeep of this same aqueduct and paid them; moreover, because Pudens himself, in addition to the numerous munificent gifts which he made to his fellow-citizens, was also the first in his country to give an outstanding gladiatorial show lasting for five days. The city council of the Sabrathans, on popular demand, decided that a quadriga should be erected (to him) at public expense. Flavius Pudens, satisfied with the honour, set it up at his own expense.</p>
--	---

Table 4: Votive offering to the god Aesculapio

<p>P(ublius) Cornelius Attax Marcianus L(ucius) Appius Amicus Rufinianus Scur(atores) refectionis thermarum tert(ium)</p>	<p>Publius Cornelius Attax Marcianus (and) Lucius Appius Amicus Rufinianus, in charge for the third time of the restoration of the baths, paid their vow to the</p>
---	---

<sup>11</sup> IRT 117

Deo Aesculapio u(otum) s(oluerunt) <sup>12</sup>	god Aesculapius.
---	------------------

The inscription does not inform us of the rank or office of the people mentioned in the inscription. However, they were senators (IRT pg 240 -241). The kind of material that was used for the inscription (limestones) do not befit men of senatorial rank. Senators were wealthy and most of them used marble, an expensive material for their inscriptions. However, Susini<sup>13</sup> (1974), states that limestones were used for monuments that were meant to be durable without being particularly expensive. So they may have used that material for the sole reason.

Table 5: Dedication to Ceres

Cereri Augustae sacrum C(aius) Rubellius Blandus co(n)s(ul) pont(ificex) proco(n)s(ul) dedic(auit) Suphunibal ornatrix pat[ri]ae Annobalis Rusonis d(e) s(ua) p(ecunia) f(aciendum) c(urauit). <sup>14</sup>	Sacred to Ceres Augusta. Caius Rubellius Blandus, consul, pontifex (Roman priest), proconsul, dedicated (this); Suphunibal, adorer of her city, wife of Annobal Ruso, organised its construction at her own expense.
--	--

Gaius Rubellius Blandus was a consul suffette in 18 B.C and a proconsul of Africa from 35-36 B.C (IRT pg 88).

Table 6: Votive to the gods of Lepcis

Dibus Lepcis Magnae M(arcus) Vipsanius Clemens redemptor marmorarius templi Liberi Patris d(e) s(ua) p(ecunia) u(otum) s(oluit) sub cura	To the gods of Lepcis Magna, Marcus Vipsanius Clemens, marble-merchant, for the temple of Liber Pater, paid his vow at his own expenses; under the
---	---

<sup>12</sup> IRT 263

<sup>13</sup> Sussini, Giancarlo, 1974, *The Roman Stonecutter: An Introduction to Latin Epigraphy, chapter iv*, Blackwell Publishers.

<sup>14</sup> IRT 269

<p>Q(uinti) Seruili Candidi amatoris patriae amatoris ciuium ornatoris [patriae] flaminis diui Vespasiani <sup>15</sup></p>	<p>administration of Quintus Servilius Candidus, lover of his country, lover of the citizens, adorer of [his country], flamen (local priest) of the deified Vespasian .</p>
---	---

This donation from Marcius Vipsanius Clemens was a marble statue for the temple of Liber Pater. The men mentioned here were both senators (IRT pg 244) and priests of Vespasian.

Table 7: Building dedication by Quintus Manilus Ancharius Tarquinius Saturninus

<p>Imp(eratore) Caesare Vespasiano [Aug(usto) pont(ifice)] [m]ax(imo) trib(unicia) potest(ate) III imp(eratore) X c o(n)s(ule) IIII des(ig(nato) V p(atre) p(atriciae)) Q(uintus) Manlius Ancharius Tarq(uitius) Saturni]nus proco(n)s(ul) patronus d(edicauit) [.] Volumnius Memor Felix [legatus] pro pr(aetore .. ? ..] Iddibal Balsillecis [f(ilius)] Annobalis n(epos) Asmunis pro[nepos .. ? ..?]us templum Matris Magna[e .. ? ..] Set exor(nauit) e]x (sestertiis) CC m(ilibus) n(ummum) d(e) s(ua)</p>	<p>When emperor Caesar Vespasian [Augustus was] Chief [priest], holding tribunician power for the third time, had been acclaimed victor ten times, was consul for the fourth time and designated [for a fifth, father of the country], Quintus Manilus Ancharius Tarq(uitius) Saturni]nus proconsul, patron, d(edicated)( this), [.. ? ..] Volumnius Memor Felix, his [legate] holding propraetorian powers [being present too]. Iddibal, [son] of Balsillac, grandson of Annobal, great grandson of Asmun [.. ? ..built] the temple of Mater Magna [.. ? ..] and adorned it at a cost of 200,000 sesterces given from</p>
---	--

<sup>15</sup> IRT 275

p(ecunia) d(edit) [· ? ·?]is et Passienus Maris e((?)-) [· ? ·]¹⁶	his own funds [· ? ·] and Passienus Maris ( or ? son of Mar) from [· ? ·]
---	---

Iddibal Balsillec, son of Annobal, grandson of Asmun, gave 200 thousand sesterces for the adorning of the temple of the Great Mother, and Quintus Manilus Ancharius Tarquinius Saturninus, who was proconsul, dedicated it. These were done between 71 and 72, when the Emperor Caesar Augustus Vespasian reigned. We are also informed that this Vespasian possessed tribunicial power for the 3<sup>rd</sup> time from July 71-30<sup>th</sup> June 72. He was an Emperor for the 10<sup>th</sup> time, a consul for the 4<sup>th</sup> time in January 72, he was also elected for the 5<sup>th</sup> time. It was at this time that Quintus Manilus Ancharius Tarquinius was a proconsul and a patron of Lepcis Magna, and Volumnius Memor Felix was a legate.

Table 8: Dedication of an Altar

<b>A</b> [---] 2[Augu]sto [sac]rum Asp[r]enas 5proco(n)s(ul) dedicauit <b>b</b> [---] 2ornatoꝝ pat[ri]ae] amator concor-	a. Sacred to [· ? ·] Augustus; Asprenas, proconsul, dedicated (this) b. [· ? ·] adorer of his country, lover of concord, the first person whom the town council and the people allowed to wear the broad band permanently, on account of his merit and those of his ancestors. He organised the making of the altar and the paved
--	---

¹⁶ IRT 300

diae cui primo  
5ordo et populus  
ob merita maio-  
rum eius et ipsius  
lato clauo sem-  
per uti concessit  
10aram et podi(um)  
d(e) s(ua) p(ecunia)  
f(acienda) c(urauit)

(Neo-punic)

**A**

[---]

2[.....]STO

[.....]RVM

...[.]ENAS

5PROCOS

DEDICAVIT

**b**

[---]

2ORNA.....[.....]

AMATORCONCOR

DIAECVIPRIMO

5ORDOETPOPVLVS

OBMERITAMAIO

RVMEIVSETIPSIVS

LATOCLAVOSEM

PERVTICONCESSIT

10ARAMETPODI

DSPFC<sup>17</sup>

base at his own expense.

The first set of inscriptions noted in a, and b, are the explanations of the original inscriptions noted in a and b under Neo-punic.

<sup>17</sup> IRT 318

Table 9: Dedication of the Calchidicum to Augustus

<p><b>A</b>          Numini Imp(eratoris) Caesaris Diui f(ili)          Aug(usti) pont(ificis) m[ax(imi)          imp(eratoris) XX co(n)s(ulis) XII]l tr(ibunicia)          pot(estate) XXXVIII calchidicum et porticus et          porta et uia ab XVuir(is) sac(rorum) [·· c.          7··dedica]ta est</p>	<p>a. To the divine power of Emperor Caesar Augustus, son of the deified (Caesar), [chief] priest,</p>
<p><b>b</b>          Iddibal Himilis f(ilius) Caphada Aemilius d(e)          s(ua) p(ecunia) f(aciendum) c(urauit)          calchidicum et porticus et portam et uiam</p>	<p>[acclaimed victor twenty times, consul thirteen times],</p>
<p><b>C</b>          Iddibal Himilis f(ilius) Caphada Aemilius d(e)          s(ua) p(ecunia) f(aciendum) c(urauit)          calchidicum et porticus et porta et uia<sup>18</sup></p>	<p>holding tribunician power for the thirty-fourth; the calchidicum and the porticoes and the gate and the road were dedicated by the</p>
<p></p>	<p>committee of fifteen in charge of sacred affairs [·· ? ··]</p>
<p></p>	<p>b. Iddibal Caphada Aemilius, son of Himilis, saw to the construction of the calchidicum, porticoes, gate and street at his own expense.</p>
<p></p>	<p>c. Iddibal Caphada Aemilius, son of</p>

<sup>18</sup> IRT 324

	<p>Himilis, saw to the construction of the calchidicum, porticoes, gate and street at his own expense. (a different, incorrect, case is used for gate and road.)</p>
--	--

The *quinqueviris* or the commissioners of Sabratha dedicated the *calchidicus*, the colonnade and the walk-way of the temple. This took place during the reign of Augustus when Augustus had tribunicial power for the 34<sup>th</sup> time, which was from 1<sup>st</sup> of July 11B.C to June 30<sup>th</sup> 12B.C. This same Augustus, emperor at that time was also a high priest, a consul for the 13<sup>th</sup> time and an Imperator for the 20<sup>th</sup> time. This temple that was dedicated was probably a local college of priest (IRT pg 99). However, while the *quinqueviris* dedicated it, Iddibal Caphada Aemilius paid the bill for the reconstruction.

Table 10<sup>19</sup>: Building dedication to Tiberius for road paving

<p>A Ti(berio) Caesari diui Aug(usti) f(ilio) Augusto diui Iulii n(epoti) pont(ifici) max(imo) co(n)[s(uli) V] imp(eratori) VIII trib(unicia) potest(atē) XXXVII C(aius) Rubellius Blandus</p>	<p>a. To Tiberius Caesar Augustus, son of the deified Augustus, grandson of deified Julius, chief priest, consul [for the fifth time], acclaimed victor for the eighth,</p>
--	---

<sup>19</sup> This one column format is used for table 10 and others for easy reading of the Latin inscriptions and the translations.

q(uaestor) diui Aug(usti) tr(ibunus)  
 pl(ebis) pr(aetor) co(n)s(ul)  
 proco(n)s(ul) pont(ifex) patr[onus]  
 ex re ditibus agrorum quos  
 Lep[pc]itanis resti[tui]t ui[a]s om[nis]  
 Sciuitatis Lepcitanae ster[nend]as  
 silic[e] curauit]

M(arcus) Etr[i]liu[s] L]upercus  
 leg(atu)s pro [p]r(aetore) patronus  
 sub h[asta f(aciendum) l(ocauit)]

b

[T]i(berio) Caesari diui Aug(usti)  
 f(ilio) Augusto [diu]i luli n(epoti)  
 pont(ifici) max(imo) co(n)s(uli) V  
 imp(eratori) VIII trib(unicia)  
 potest(ate) XXXVII

[C(aius) Rub]e[l]i]us Blandus  
 q(uaestor) diui Aug(usti) tr(ibunus)  
 pl(ebis) [p]r(aetor) co(n)s(ul)  
 proco(n)s(ul) pont(ifex) patronus

[ex re ditib]us [a]grorum quos  
 Lepcitanis rest[i]tuit uias omnis  
 5[ci]uitatis Lep[citanae] s[te]rnendas  
 silic[e] curauit

M(arcus) Etr[il]i]us Luperc[us]  
 [le]g(atu)s pro pr(aetore) patronus  
 sub h[asta f(aciendum) l(ocauit)]<sup>20</sup>

holding tribunician power  
 for the thirty-seventh;  
 Caius Rubellius Blandus,  
 quaestor of deified  
 Augustus, tribune of the  
 people, praetor, consul,  
 proconsul, priest, patron,  
 using the income from  
 land which he restored to  
 the people of Lepcis, [saw  
 to it] that all the streets of  
 the city of Lepcis were  
 paved with silix. Marcus  
 Etrilius Lupercus, his  
 legate(senatorial  
 assistant) and civic patron  
 [let the contracts for the  
 work].

b. To Tiberius Caesar  
 Augustus, son of the  
 deified Augustus,  
 grandson of deified Julius,  
 chief priest, consul [for  
 the fifth time], acclaimed  
 victor for the eighth,  
 holding tribunician power  
 for the thirty-seventh; [Caius Rub]ellius Blandus,  
 quaestor of deified  
 Augustus, tribune of the  
 people, praetor, consul,  
 proconsul, priest, patron,  
 using the [income] from  
 land which he restored to  
 the people of Lepcis, saw  
 to it that all the streets of  
 the city of Lepcis were  
 paved with silix. Marcus  
 Etrilius Lupercus, his  
 legate(senatorial

<sup>20</sup> IRT 330

	assistant) and civic patron [let the contracts for the work.].
--	--

Gaius Rubellius Blandus reconstructed all the streets of Lepcis Magna which had been in ruins, probably after the war with Tacharinas (IRT pg 100). On his part, Marcus Etrillius Lupercus made sure it was done and in haste. In other words he supervised the work.

Table 1: Dedication to Domitian

1
Imp(eratore) Caesare diui Vespasiani [[f(ilio) Domitiano Aug(usto)] [pontif(ice) max(imo) trib(unicia) pot(estate) II imp(eratore) [III] p(atre) p(atriciae) co(n)s(ule) VIII ]
2
L(ucius) Nonius L(uci) f(ilius) Pom(ptina tribu) Asprenas L(uci) Noni Asprenatis VIIuir(i) epulonum proco(n)s(ulis) prouinciae Africae III nepos triumuir a(uro) a(rgento) a(ere) f(lando) f(eriundo) seuir salius Palatinus quaestor Caesaris Aug(usti) centurio equitum [R]omanorum hastis honoratus octo uexillis IIII coronis muralibus duabus uallaribus dua[b]us aurea una pr(aetor) inter ciues et peregrinos legatus pro pr(aetore)
3
prouinc[ia]e Galataeae Paphlagoniae Pamphyliae Pisidiae co(n)s(ul) VIIuir e[p]ulonum proco(n)s(ul) prouinciae Africae patronus municipii dedicauit legato pro pr(aetore) M(arco) Cornelio Firmo <sup>21</sup>
<b>Translation:</b>
When Emperor Caesar Domitian Augustus, son of deified Vespasian, was chief priest, held tribunician power for the second time, had been acclaimed victor [three (? four) times], father of the country, consul, for the ninth time, Lucius Nonius Asprenas, son of Lucius, of the Roman voting tribe Pomptina,

<sup>21</sup> IRT 346

grandson of Lucius Nonius Asprenas, a member of the committee of seven concerned with public feasts, proconsul of the province of Africa for three years, (himself) a member of the committee of three for coining in gold, silver and bronze, (also) of the committee of six, a salius Palatinus (member of the priestly college of Palatine Leapers), quaestor of Caesar Augustus, centurion of Roman Knights, awarded military honours consisting of eight spears, four banners, two crowns for crossing walls, two for crossing ramparts, one gold, praetor for judging cases between citizens and non citizens, legate with propraetorian powers in charge of the province (consisting) of Galatia, Paphlagonia, Pamphylia and Pisidia, consul, member of the committee of seven for sacred feasts, proconsul of the province of Africa, patron of the municipality, dedicated (this), Marcus Cornelius Firmus being his legate with pro-praetorian powers.

Lucius Nonius Asprenas son of Pomptinus and grandson of Lucius gave munificence in honour of the emperor Domitianus Augustus, the son of the deified Vespasian.

Table 12: Dedication to Domitian

1

Imp(eratore) Caesare diui Vespasiani [f(ilio) Domitiano Augusto Germanico] [ pontif(ice) max(imo) trib(unicia) potest(ate) XI imp(eratore) XXI co(n)s(ule) XVI censore pe[rpetu]o patre patriae ]

2

Ti(berius) Claudius Quir(ina) (tribu) Sestius Ti(beri) Claudi Sesti f(ilius) praefectus sacrorum flamen diui Vespasiani sufes flamen perpetuus amator patriae amator ciuium ornator patriae amator concordiae cui primo ordo et populus ob merita maiorum eius et ipsius lato clauo semper uti conce[ssit]

3

podi(um) et aram d(e) s(ua) p(ecunia) f(acienda) c(urauit)<sup>22</sup>

**Translation:**

(1.)When emperor Caesar Domitian Augustus Germanicus, son of deified Vespasian, chief priest, held tribunician power for the

<sup>22</sup> IRT 347

eleventh time, had been acclaimed victor twenty-one times, been consul sixteen times, was perpetual censor (and) father of the country (all erased). (2.) Tiberius Claudius Sestius, of the Roman voting tribe Quirina, son of Tiberius Claudius Sestius, prefect in charge of sacred things, flamen (priest) of deified Vespasian, sufete, perpetual flamen (priest), lover of his country, lover of its citizens, adorer of his country, lover of concord, who was the first (citizen) to whom the city council and the people gave permission to wear a broad purple band at all times, on account of the merits of his ancestors as well as his own. (3.) He saw to the making of the base and the altar at his own expense.

The above inscription informs us that during the reign of Domitianus Augustus, the son of the deified Vespasian, Tiberius Claudius Quirina Sestius, the son of Tiberius Claudius Sestius was honoured with the senatorial rank (IRT 352) and as such he made sure that the balcony and the altar of the temple were reconstructed.

Table 13: Dedication to Antoninus Pius

Imp(eratori) Antonino Aug(usto) Pio Q(uintus) Pompeius Quir(ina tribu) Saturninus 5statuam quam pro honore aedilitatis pro- misit posuit <sup>23</sup>	To emperor Antoninus Augustus Pius; Quintus Pompeius Saturninus, of the Roman voting tribe Quirina, set up the statue which he promised in return for the office of aedile.
--	---

<sup>23</sup> IRT 376

Table 14: This was carried out under Septimius Severus, the Emperor of Rome

**A**

[· ? · Imp(eratoris) Caes(aris) L(uci) Septimi S]eue[ri Pii  
 Pertinacis Aug(usti) Arabici A]diaben[ici Par]thici maximi  
 [pontificis max]imi [tribunici]ae potes[tati]s X[ - - - ] imp[er]atoris(?)  
 co(n)s(ulis) p(atris)(?) p(atriciae) et I[mp(eratoris)]  
 [Caes(aris) M(arci) Aurelli Antonini · ? · et I]uliae [Augu]stae  
 [matris Augu]sti et cas[tror]um totiusque diuinae domus  
 [· ? ·] Ruson[ianus] fl[am(en)] augur Iluir q(uin)q(uennalis) cellam  
 f[rigi]darii et [·]ry (sic)  
 [· ? ·] rui[na] con[]l[ab]sas [e]x pollicitatione m[un]eris gladiato[ri]  
 o[]p[er]e honorem  
 5[quin]quennialit[is] p[er] 6-7[·] p[er]missu sacratiss[imi] p[ri]ncipis  
 diui M(arci) Antonin[i f(ili)] a fundamentis  
 [· ? ·] marmoribus et co[l]umnis exornauit stat[u]am Aesculapii  
 nouam  
 [· ? ·] res[er]uit ceter[as] refe[c]it ex [multi]s aliis [m]une[ri]bus rei  
 p[ub]licae suae conlatis et  
 [· ? ·] juli nomine u[er]i[ - - - ] it[er] [· ? ·]

**B**

[· ? ·]bus [· ? ·]<sup>24</sup>

**Translation:**

a. [· ? ·] of Emperor Caesar Lucius Septimius Severus [Pius  
 Pertinax Augustus, victor in Arabia], victor in Adiabene, greatest  
 victor in Parthia, chief [priest], holding [tribunician] power for (at  
 least) ten times, acclaimed victor [· ? ·] times, consul [· ? ·]  
 times father] of the country, and of Emperor [Caesar Marcus  
 Aurelius Antoninus] and of Julia Augusta [mother of Augustus  
 and] of the camps [and of the whole] divine household, [· ? ·]  
 Rusonianus, flamen (priest), augur (priest) quinquennial duovir  
 [gave] the main chamber of the cold bath and [· ? ·] which had  
 collapsed in ruins, instead of the gladiatorial show promised on  
 account of the office of the quinquennial duumvirate [· ? ·] with  
 the permission of the most sacred emperor, son of deified  
 Marcus Antoninus, from the foundations [· ? ·]; he adorned it  
 with marbles and columns, [gave] a new statue of Aesculapius,  
 restored [· ? ·] others new among many other generous gifts  
 made to his city and [· ? ·] in the name [· ? ·].

b. (Not usefully translatable)

<sup>24</sup> IRT 396

Rosonianus was a priest, an augur, a *dumvir quinquennalis* and an equestrian. He was also consecrated as the son of deified Marcus Antoninius. He adorned the wall and columns of the cold chamber of the castles of Lucius Septimius Severus Pius, Marcus Aurelius Antoninius and Julia Augusta, which had been in ruins.

Table 15: Building of Basilica and statue in honour of Constantine 1

Cum basilica uetus ex maxima parte ruina esset deformat  
conlabu ac spatio sui breuiass[et ar]eam forensem  
[· 5·] diuino icta conflagrarat incendio adq(ue) is locus saecul[o]  
fortunatissimo meliora deposceret tantae stragis lab[e s]ubl[a]-  
5[ta] tripartita porticus magnitudine sui ac Troadensium columna-  
[r]um adornata operis prouincialium ac sumtu publico  
disponen[te]  
[La]enatio Romulo u(iro) p(erfectissimo) rectore prouinciae intra  
anni spatium per-  
fecta ac dedicata est adq(ue) ad sempiternam memoriam  
statua[m]  
marmoream suo numine radiantem Domino nostro  
10Constantino maximo uictori semper Aug(usto) idem u(ir)  
p(erfectissimus) dicata mente  
constituit curante Cl(audio) Aurel(io) Generoso u(iro) e(gregio)  
cur(atore) r(ei) p(ublicae) et splendidissimo  
ordine Coloniae Lepcimagnesium<sup>25</sup>

**Translation:**

Since the greatest part of the old basilica was damaged and fallen down and the space taken by its fallen debris had reduced the open area of the forum [· ? · ?moreover] struck by divine lightning [· ? ·] it had blazed with a fire and since in a most fortunate period that place demanded better things, the fallen parts were removed and a tripartite portico built. It has been adorned by its own size and by columns of Troadensian marble, by the works of the provincials and at public expense with Laenatius Romulus, excellent man (i.e. equestrian), governor of

<sup>25</sup> IRT 467

the province, managing it; it was completed and dedicated within the space of a year; and moreover to his eternal memory a marble statue radiant with his divine power to our Lord Constantine greatest victor, perpetual Augustus, was erected by the same excellent man; Claudius Aurelius Generosus, eminent man ( i.e. equestrian), curator of the city and the most splendid city council of the colony of Lepcimagensians overseeing the work.

This inscription was put after the demise of Laenatius Romulus who managed the reconstruction of the basilica. At the time, he was an equestrian and a rector of the province. He was responsible for reconstructing the basilica, which was already defacing after it was consumed by fire. This same Lenatius Romulus also dedicated a statue made of marble to Constantius. The local senate as well as Claudius Aurelius Generosius, another equestrian ensured that the work was completed.

Table 16: **Building under Constantine 1 and Licinus**

Quod inter cetera ciuitatis Lepcimagensium  
moenia quae cum sui magnitudine et splendo-  
re concordant etiam porticum macelli in rui-  
nam [la]bemque conuersam remanere nudam  
5ult[· c. 15·]neret quod esset in usu  
ac f[· c. 20·] hort[a]nte clemen-  
tia [· c. 9· d(ominorum)] n(ostorum) et F[(aui)] Cons[t]antini  
max(imi)  
[et Val(eri) Licini et Fl(aui) Cri]spi et Fl(aui) [Cl]aud[i Con]stantini  
et F[(aui) Val(eri) Licini] [no]b(i)l(ium) Caes(arum) [· 9·]te ac  
dedicante  
10Laenatio Romulo [u(iro) p(erfectissimo) p(raeside) p(rovinciae)  
Tripol(itanae)]  
[· 7· amp]liorem [· 11·]am gratiam et pulchritu-  
[dinem · ? ·] sum(p)ti[bus · 11· admin]istra[t]is<sup>26</sup>

**Translation:**

Because among other affairs of the city of the Lepcimagensians the walls which ?are appropriate to its size and splendour, also the portico of the market [fallen] into ruin and destruction to

<sup>26</sup> IRT 468

remain bare [· ? ·] which was in use and [· c. 20 ·] with encouragement from the clemency [· c. 9 ·] of our [lords Flavius] Constantinus the very great [and Valerius Licinius and Flavius] Crispus and Flavius Claudius Constantinus and Flavius [Valerius Licinius] noble Caesars; [· ? ·] and dedicating Laenatius Romulus [excellent man ( i.e. equestrian), governor of the province of Tripolitania· ? ·] fuller [?and] grace and beauty [· ? ·] ? with the costs [· ? ·] having been administered.

The same Laenatius Romulus, an equestrian (*vir perfectissimus*) in IRT 467 rebuilt the market of Lepcis Magna that was in ruins. This dedication was done when Constantine 1 and Licinus were emperors.

Table 17: Building for the proscenium of the theatre

A

Proscænium columnis [e]t marmoribus ex (sestertiis) CC a Marcio Vitale itemque ex (sestertiis) CCC a Iunio Galba in eam rem pec(unia) publ(ica) exornatum dedicatum est L(ucio) Hedio Rufo [Lo]lliano Avito proco(n)s(- -)(ule) C(aio) Vibio Gallione Claudio Seue[ro] leg(ato)<sup>27</sup>

**Translation:**

(a) The theatre-stage was decorated with columns and marbles by Marcius Vitalis who spent 200,000 sesterces, and Junius Galba who spent 300,000 sesterces of public money on the work; it was dedicated when Lucius Hedius Rufus Lollianus Avitus was proconsul, [and] Caius Vibius Gallio Claudius Severus, was his legate.

<sup>27</sup> IRT 534

Table 18: In honour of Lucius Volusius Bassus Cerealis

<p>Curni L(ucio) Volusio Basso Caereali c(larissimo) u(iro) et co(n)s(ulari) cur(atori) rei p(ublicae) suae quae inter cetera ope- 5ra quae industria et la- bore maximo renouavit Vlp(ia)m basilicam cum fo- ri eius in meliorem faci- 10tuit publico sumptu resti- 10tuit gratiam afferen- tes Lepc(itan)u(m) publice<sup>28</sup></p>	<p>(In honour) of Curnius. To Lucius Volusius Bassus Cerealis, of senatorial and consular status, curator of his own city, for which, along with other public works that he renewed by his industry and tremendous effort, he restored the basilica Ulpia, with its public place, to a better appearance using public money; the Lepcitanians offer their gratitude publicly.</p>
--	---

Table 19: In honour of Flavius Archontius Nilius

<p>Nili Nili[?] .. ? ..] Vigiliis atque consilio domi forisque prae- stanti integritate praecipuo iustitia et iu- diciorum moderatione perpenso instauro 5tori moenium publicorum ordinis ci(ui)umque om- nium salutis prouidentissimo custodi uerita- tis honestatis et fidei amicissimo Flauio Archontio Nilo u(iro) p(erfectissimo) comiti et praesidi prou(inciae) Trip(olitanae) patrono optimo ob infinita eius be- 10nificia quibus uel separatim uel cum omni pro- uincia subleuati ac recreati Lepcimagnenses gratulamur uno consensu ordinis uiri secundam statuam decreuerunt eamque propter praecipuum eius meritum singu- 15laremque praestantiam in Seueriano foro ad sempiternam prosperitatis me- moriā constituendam curauerunt<sup>29</sup> <b>Translation:</b> (In honour) of Nilius. Of Nilius. To one who is outstanding in vigilance and good counsel at home and abroad, exceptional in integrity, balanced in justice and in the carefully weighed</p>
--

<sup>28</sup> IRT 543<sup>29</sup> IRT 562

moderation of his judgments, rebuilders of the city walls, most provident guardian of the security of the city council and of all citizens, strongly attached to truth, rectitude, and good faith, Flavius Archontius Nilus, excellent man (i.e. of equestrian status), count and governor of the province of Tripolitania, our very good patron, on account of his innumerable benefactions by which we, the citizens of Lepcis Magna, separately or in common with the whole province, have been raised and revived, we offer our thanks; with every member of the city council in agreement they have decreed a second statue to the man which, in view of his outstanding merits and unexampled excellence they took care (to set up) in the Severan forum, with a view to establishing an enduring memory of his favourable influence.

Table 20: In honour of Flavius Nepotianus

<p>Nepotianii          Fl(aui) Nepotiano u(iro)          p(erfectissimo) com(iti) et          praesidi prouin(ciae)          Trip(olitanae)          iustitia et integritati prae-          cipuo moderatōne ac benigni-          tate praestantissimo abstenen-          tiae et honestatis          officiorumq(ue)          omnium cultori rei etiam mili-          taris peritissimo armis consi-          li(i)sq(ue) incomparabili quod          idem          10ordines uniuersosq(ue)          prouin-          ciales iuridicendo fide bene-          uolentia multis beneficiis          cumq(ue) lauerit quod barbaro-          rum insolentiam exercitio          15scientiae militaris adtriberit          quod limitis defensionem tui-          tionemq(ue) perpetuam futuris</p>	<p>(In honour) of Flavius          Nepotianus. To Flavius          Nepotianus excellent man (of          equestrian status), count and          governor of the province of          Tripolitania, in justice and          integrity an outstanding man,          in good guidance and          benevolence exceptional,          concerned for benevolence          and honourable feeling and          all public duties, very          knowledgeable also in          military science, experienced          in arms and councils of war;          because he provided with          benevolence many benefits          to councils and to all          inhabitants of the province by          dispensing justice with good          faith; because he wore down          the arrogance of the          barbarians by the exercise of</p>
--	---

<p>etia(m)                  temporibus munitam                  securamq(ue)                  ab omni hostile incursione prae-                  20stiterit quod ciuitatum moenia                  ope-                  rum instauratione uel nouitate                  de-                  corauerit ordo ciuitatis                  Lepcimag(nensis)                  cum populo statuum                  marmoream                  ob haec merita decretis et                  sufragiis                  25concinnetibus conlocauit<sup>30</sup></p>	<p>military skill; because he provided permanent defense and protection of the frontier even for the future times and secure against every hostile invader; because he adorned the walls of the cities by renewal of works or new building; the council of the city of Lepcis Magna, with the people, put up a marble statue on account of these merits, with decrees and votes (all) in accord.</p>
--	--

Table 21: Dedication to divine emperors

<p>Dis Augustis                  Q(uintus) Marcius C(aii) f(ilius) Barea                  co(n)s(ul) XVuir s(acris) f(aciundis)                  fetialis proco(n)s(ul) II patronus                  dedicauit                  Iddibal Magonis f(ilius) Tapapius                  Lepcitanus de sua pecunia fecit<sup>31</sup></p>	<p>To the Augustan gods. Quintus Marcius Barea, son of Caius, consul, member of the committee of fifteen for sacred rites (at Rome), fetial (Roman priest), proconsul for a second year, patron, dedicated (this); Iddibal Tapapius, son of Mago, of Lepcis, had it built at his own expences.</p>
---	--

This was the munificence of Iddibal Magonis to Lepcis Magna.

Table 22: Dedication of the statue of Cupid

<p>Pro salu-                  te Imp(eratoris) An-                  tonini Aug(usti)</p>	<p>For the safety of the                  emperor Antoninus                  Augustus Pius and his</p>
--	--

<sup>30</sup> IRT 565

<sup>31</sup> IRT 273

<p>Pii libero- 5rumq(ue) eius Veneri Calchidicae Cupidinis statuam 10C(aius) Cl(audius) Septimi- us [A]fer d(ono) d(edit) d(edicauit) p(osuit)<sup>32</sup></p>	<p>children; Caius Claudius Septimius Afer gave as a gift, dedicated and set up a statue of Cupid to Venus Calchidica.</p>
---	--

Table 23: Decree of honours for Plautius Rupus

<p><b>a1</b> [· ? ·· flam]ini pon[tifici ·· ? ··] [· ? ·· uniuers]us ordo qua[· ? ··] [· ? ··]uas ob munif[ificentiam ·· ? ··] [· ? ··]uit in uerba is[· ? ··] 5[· ? ··]nus ex testam[ento] [· ? ··]d]e suo [· ? ··] <b>2</b> [· ? ··]QAÇA[· ? ··] [· ? ··]i]nter ceteras [· ? ··] [· ? ··]m T  [· ? ··] [---] <b>3</b> [· ? ··]adit [· ? ··] sint quo [· ? ··] sententia]m dixit fide <b>B</b> [Q]uod expostulantibus uniuersis decurio- nibus uti Plautio Lupo o(ptimo) o(rdinis) n(ostri) uir(o) biga de pub(lico) collocetur q(uid) d(e) e(a) r(e) f(ieri) p(laceret) c(ensentis) L(uci) Cassi Longini Il- uir(i) désig(nati) q(uid) p(laceret) c(irca) i(d) f(ieri) dec(uriones) i(ta) c(ensuerunt) Cum Plautius Lupus</p>
---

<sup>32</sup> IRT 316

5o(optimus) o(rdinis) n(ostri) uir cum flamonium consensu  
 omnium sibi delatum libenter suscepisset opulentissimos ludos ediderit singu-  
 lariter)q(ue) magnificentissima liberalitate pro-  
 meruerit in Iluiratus quoq(ue) honore om-  
 10nia secundum splendorem natalium  
 [s]uorum dignitatemq(ue) col(oniae) n(ostrae) egerit et  
 [e]ffusissimis adfectibus iterum splen-  
 didissimos ludos ediderit nec contentus  
 his liberalitatibus cellam therman(um)  
 15marmorib(us) Numidicis et opere musaeo ex-  
 ornauerit omni deinde occasione singul(ariter)  
 [p]romeruerit et proxime cum ad munus publ(icum)  
 [e]x t(estamento) luni Afri c(larissimae) m(emoriae) uiri edendum  
 curator e-  
 le[c]tus esset sollicitudini laboriq(ue) suo non pe-  
 20percerit et obseruata amplissimi senatus  
 uoluntate splendidissime munus edi curauerit[t]  
 debentque huiusmodi adfectus  
 remunerari ut reliqui quoque ad eandem uolup-  
 [tat]em sollicitari possint placere Plautio Lupo  
 25o(optimus) o(rdinis) n(ostri) u(iro) [bi]gam de publ(ico) ubi uolet  
 collocari pos-  
 [se Plau]tius Lupus de suo collocaturum se dixit  
**c**  
 [Quod expost]ulantibus uni-  
 [uersis] dec[urionibus] uti Plau-  
 [tio Lupo] [Ilui]r(o) anni praeteriti ob  
 si[ngu]larem integritatem et mod-  
 5es[tiam] s[imul]que ob munificentiam  
 ei[us] p[roximam] bigam ei de publ(ico) po-  
 n[eret]ur Acilius Pompeianus Iluir  
 u(erba) f(ecit) q(uid) d(e) e(a) r(e) f(ieri) p(laceret) Cum Plautius  
 Lupus secundu[m]  
 u[er]e[c]u[nd]iam suam u(erba) f(ecerit) ne onerare-  
 10t urbem cuius pubes fid(em) studium  
 in[... d]ecurionum adoraret  
 co[n]tentumq(ue) auctoritate  
 ip[s]orum de suo si permit-  
 t[er]ent positurum adq(ue) ita in  
 15s[er]u[ent]iam M(arci) Rufi flam-  
 [ini]s perpetui q(uid) p(laceret) c(irca) i(d) f(ieri) dec(uriones)

ce[n]-

s[u]erunt ut Plautius Lupus sibi bigam quo loco uellet de suo poneret<sup>33</sup>

**Translation:**

(a. 1) To [· ? ·] flamen (priest), pontifex (priest) [· ? ·] the whole city council [· ? ·] ? statues on account of his munificence [· ? ·] ? into words [· ? ·] nus in accordance with the will [· ? ·] ? set this up] at his own expense [· ? ·] (a. 2) [· ? ·] among others (feminine) things [· ? ·] (a. 3) [· ? ·] (l.2) ? by which [· ? ·] he spoke his opinion in good faith.

(b) Since all members of the city council are demanding that a two-horse chariot be set up at public expense to Plautius Lupus, one of the best men of our city council, Lucius Cassius Longinus, duovir designate, proposed that action should be taken in this matter and the decision of the city councillors on the actions to be taken in this matter is: Since Plautius Lupus, one of the best men of our city council, willingly undertook the flamine (priesthood) which was offered to him by universal agreement, and gave very splendid games, and, most remarkably, also served with magnificent liberality in the office of the duumvirate in accordance with the splendid tradition of his family and the status of our colony, and with lavish disposition again gave most splendid games; moreover, not content with this generosity, he ornamented the bathhouse cella with Numidian marbles and mosaic work; subsequently on every occasion he was unusually meritorious, and most recently, when he had been elected as a curator to give a public show in accordance with the bequest of Junius Afer, deceased, splendid man (of senatorial status), he was unsparing of his care and omitted no effort, and having observed the wishes of the honorable council, ensured that the games given were of the most splendid; and since behaviours of this kind ought to be rewarded so that others too could be stimulated to (give) the same pleasure we decided that a two-horse chariot shall be erected to Plautius Lupus, one of the best men of our city council at a place which he chooses.

(c) Given that everyone of the city councillors is calling for a two-

<sup>33</sup> IRT 601

horse chariot appropriate to him to be set up at public expense in honour of Plautius Lupus, duumvir last year, on account of his outstanding integrity and modesty and also because of his munificence, Acilius Pompeianus, duumvir, made the proposal: Since Plautius Lupus has said, in accordance with his modesty, that he would not burden the city whose people and good faith, and the zeal of the city counsellors, for him, he loved; and content with their decision, if they would allow it, he would set it up at his own expense; the city councillors decided thus in accordance with the proposal of Marcius Rufus, perpetual flamen (priest), that Plautius Lupus should erect the two-horse chariot in his honour in whatever place he wished, at his own expense.

This inscription is rather a long one. It is full of encomiums for Plautius Rupus for his philanthropy to the people. They were indeed inundated and mesmerized by his gifts as evidenced in their praises for him. This man was a senator who was really interested in the progress of his hometown even as evidenced by his donations.

Table 24 below shows the munificence of some aristocrats and their *summa honoraria* (honour) from their people and states.

Name	Munificence	Office	Summa Honoraria
Flavius Vivius Benedictus	Renovated and redecorated public baths. Changed the face of the <i>civitas</i> of Sabratha	Governor and patron of Sabratha	A statue
Lucius Aemilius Quintus	Obtained healing for the province through sacrifices to the gods. Sustained the	A high priest and probably a governor of Sabratha.	The whole of the province was dedicated to him.

	province with his personal money.		
Flavius Pudens	Borehole to Sabratha. Gave 200 thousand sesterces for the construction of a borehole. Made a marble statue. Presented gladiatorial shows. Gave money for the making of his statue	Chief magistrate. Priest of Liber Pater	Statue of him on the back of four horses
Publius Cornelius Attax Marcianus and Lucius Appius Amicus Rufinianus	Fulfilled a vow to the god Aesculapio that they would oversee the repairs of the third baths		
Gaius Rubellius Blandus	Dedicated a temple to the goddess Augusta	Consul suffette in 18B.C and a proconsul of Africa from 35-36	
Suphunibal	Gave his money for the work mentioned above		
Marcus	Gave a	Senator and	

Vispianus Clemens	marble statue for the temple of Liber Pater	priest of the deified Vespasianus	
Quintus Servilius Candidus	Took care of the work mentioned above	Senator and priest of the deified Vespasianus.	
Iddibal Balsillec	Gave 200,000 sesterces for the adorning of the temple of the Great Mother.		
Asprenas	Dedicated a temple to Augustus. He reconstructed the altar and the balcony of the temple		Conscripted into the local senate.
Iddibal Caphada Aemilius	Paid for the reconstruction of the local college of priests		
Gaius Rubellius Blandus	Reconstructed all the streets of Lepcis Magna which had been in ruins.	Senator	
Marcus Etrillius Lupercus	Same as above	Same as above	
Lucius Nonius Asprenas	Gave gold and silver and bronze to the college of the priests of Mars		
Palatines	Fortified the walls of	Proconsul of Africa,	Crowned with a military

	Lepcis Magna firstly with gold and secondly with bronze	quaestor of Ceaser Augustus	ensign.
Tiberius Claudius Quirina Sestius	Reconstructed the balcony and the altar of the temple		Senatorial rank
Quirinus Severus	Gave 20,000 sesterces for the reconstruction of the greater baths and placed it near the porticus	Priest of the deified Claudius	
Quintus Pompeius Quirinus Saturninus	Made a statue		Aedileship
Rusonianus	Repaired the chamber of the castle of Lucius Septimius Severus Pius, Marcus Aurelius Antoninus and Julia Augusta rebuilt the the statue of the god Aesculapius and provided gifts for the management	Priest, augur, duumvir, quinquennalis, equestriarii.	Quinquennalis, consecrated as the son of the deified Marcus Antoninus.

	of his state		
Lenatius Romulus	Reconstructed the basilica dedicated a marble statue to Constantius	Equestrian and a rector of the province	
Flavius Constantius Valerius Licinius, Flavius Crispus, Flavius Claudius Constantinus and Flavius Valerius Lucinius	Restored the market of Lepcis Magna to splendor.		
Marcus Vitale	Gave 200 sesterces for reconstructing the front part of the stage of the theatre, and adorning the columns with marble.		
Iunius Galba	Gave 300 sesterces for the work as above		
Lucius Volusius Bassus	Renovation of the basilica	Senator and a consul	
Nilius Vigilus	Repaired or rebuilt the home of Nilius		
Flavius Archonitus Nilius	Healed and recreated all the provinces of Lepcis Magna. He	Equestrian and patron	

	placed the munificence in the forum of Severianus.		
Flavius Nepotianus	Skillful in the affairs of war, he taught the army to succeed.	Equestrian rank	
Iddibal Magonis	Gave money for the dedication of the temple of Augustus		
Gaius Claudius Septimius Afer	Gave, dedicated and set the statue of Cupid		
Plautius Rupus	Presented opulent games, brought out all the splendor of his native land and the dignity of the colony. Provided very extravagant displays, gladiatorial shows, renovated the chambers of the baths of Numidicus with marble.		A statue of him on two horses harnessed to a chariot

## Conclusion

In ancient Rome and Roman Tripolitania by extension, nobles were obliged to carry out certain obligations which demonstrate their status and class. Aristocrats were obliged, among others to ensure that their sons began their careers on the equestrian rank and worked their way up to the senatorial rank. They were also obliged to feed the populace during festivals etc. This obligation also extended to their participation in beautifying their cities through donations, dedications and constructions of various edifices in their patriae. They took pride in performing these duties and in turn, they earned recognition and honour from the people and from their states. While one can argue that this philanthropy was a social construct during this period, one can categorically state that the men could perform these duties due to the fact that they must have been motivated by patriotism, loyalty and commitment to their states in particular and the Roman Empire in general. Latin and Greek inscriptions have indeed aided in providing information on the munificence of the aristocrats of Roman Tripolitania and they can hardly be ignored. Elites in our contemporary societies can borrow a leaf from the activities of elites in antiquity with regard to commitment, loyalty, patriotism and obligations towards their people and their country. The works of Classical authors are replete with information regarding commitment, loyalty, patriotism and obligations of the people of different classes towards their people and their country. The inscriptions documented in this paper further corroborate the views of Classical authors on this aspect of the culture of the Romans in antiquity. Further studies that may examine social status in Roman North Africa are recommended.

## References

- Aneni, M.O., 2014, "Understanding Child Funerary Inscriptions in Ancient Rome." *Journal of Philosophy and Development* Vol. 15. Nos. 1&2. Pp 1-21.
- Bodel, J., 2001, (ed.), *Epigraphic Evidence: Ancient History from Inscriptions*. London: Routledge.
- Byrnes, W., 2005, "Ancient Roman Munificence: The Development of the Practice and Law of Charity." *Rutgers Law Review*, Vol. 57, No. 3, p. 1043; Thomas Jefferson School of Law Research Paper No. 2314731.
- Cooley, A.E., 2012, *The Cambridge Manual of Latin Epigraphy*, Cambridge.
- David, C., 1988, *Frontier and Society in Roman North Africa*. Oxford University Press.
- David J., 2003, *Tripolitania*. Routledge.
- Dennis, P. K., 1997, *Investment, profit and Tenancy: The Jurists and the Roman Agrarian Economy*. University of Michigan Press.
- Jairus, B., 2012, *Agrarian Change in Late Antiquity: Gold, Labour, and Aristocratic Dominance*. Oxford University Press.
- Jairus, B., 2015, *Exploring the Economy of Late Antiquity: Selected Essays*. Cambridge University Press; Mattingly.
- Keppie, L., 1991, *Understanding Roman Inscriptions*, The John Hopkins University Press, Baltimore.
- Lanctatius, *de mortibus persecutorum* 7.4 (Creed p 12)
- Matthew, B., & Green, M., "Philanthrocapitalism, Ancient Giving" sourced on 15/02/2015 from <http://philanthrocapitalism.net/bonus-chapters/ancient-giving/>

- Mattingly, D.J., 1988, "The olive oil boom: oil surpluses, wealth and power in Roman Tripolitania." *Libyan Studies*. Vol. 19, p 21-41.
- Oliver G.J, 2000, An Introduction to The Epigraphy of Death in the Epigraphy of Death edited by Oliver G.J, Liverpool University Press.
- Reynolds, J.M, & Ward-Perkins, J.B., 1998, *Inscriptions of Roman Tripolitania*. King's College London.
- Rogan, J., 2006, *Reading Roman Inscriptions*, Tempus Publishing Ltd, Great Britain.
- Sussini, G., 1974, *The Roman Stonecutter: An Introduction to Latin Epigraphy*. Blackwell Publishers.



Printed by *Nerves*



ISSN 798-245-670-5