

ETYMOLOGY AND ROLES

ROSMERTA IS ONE OF THE MOTHER-GODDESSES OF THE CELTS (GREEN, 1986, P.85), AND IS DEPICTED AS THE PARTNER OF THE ROMAN GOD, MERCURY (GREEN, 1986, P.95). THE NAME, ROSMERTA, MEANS ‘GREAT PROVIDER’ (GREEN, 1992, P.9), WHICH EMPHASISES ON HER ROLE AS A MOTHER-GODDESS.

HER NAME IS A PROSPERITY TITLE, WHICH IS FURTHER ENHANCED WITH HER ASSOCIATIONS THAT COMMON- LY APPEAR WITH HER IN DEPICTIONS, SUCH AS A COR- NUCOPIA (GREEN, 1997, P.125). FERLUT COMPILES A LIST OF ROSMERTA’S FUNCTIONS, AND AS WELL AS BE- ING A MOTHER-GODDESS, SHE ALSO REPRESENTS FER- TILITY AND PEACE (FERLUT, 2017, P.372-3).

EVIDENCE

EVIDENCE OF ROSMERTA IS LIMITED IN EUROPE, WITH SOME FOUND IN BATH, HADRIAN’S WALL, AND OTHER PLACES IN ENGLAND. AS CAN BE SEEN ON THE MAP, WHICH HAS BEEN MADE THROUGH THE USE OF JUFER AND LUGINBUHL, EVIDENCE OF ROSMERTA (RED) SPREADS ACROSS MAINLY MODERN-DAY FRANCE AND INTO GERMANY.

WHILE THIS IS MORE A DEDICATION TO MERCURY, AN ALTAR CAN BE FOUND AT CIRENCESTER FOR MERCURY AND THE MOTHER-GODDESSES. GREEN COMMENTS THAT MERCURY FITS THIS DEDICATION DUE TO HIS PROSPER- ITY FUNCTION (GREEN, 1986, P.85); THIS MAKES HIS LINK TO ROSMERTA EVEN STRONGER, ESPECIALLY WHEN IT IS MENTIONED THAT HE ALSO HAS FERTILITY LINKS (GREEN, 1986, P.37).

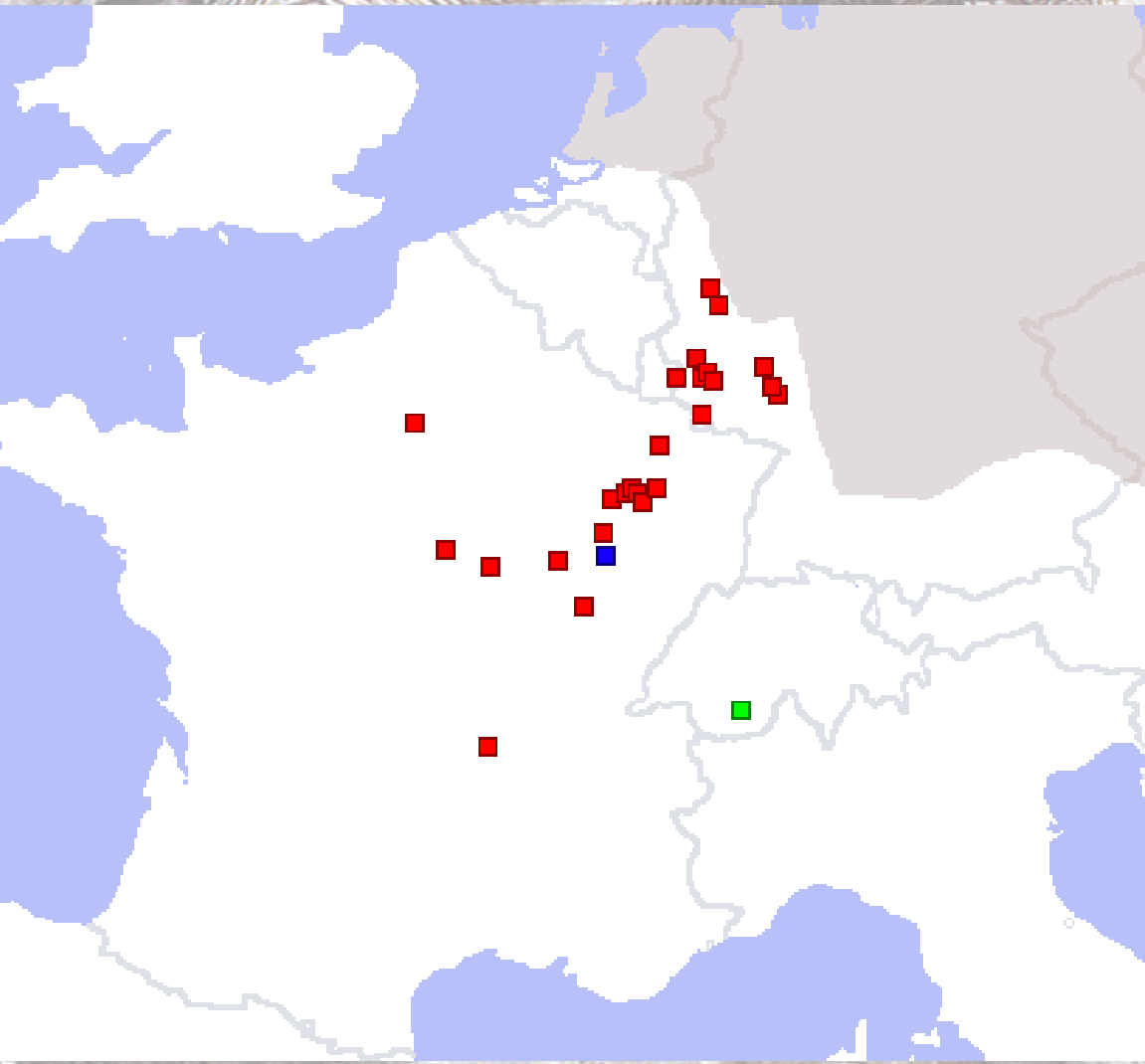
ROSMERTA

SCHOLARSHIP

AN ISSUE IN SCHOLARSHIP CON- CERNING ROSMERTA CAN BE FOUND IN WEBSTER’S WORK WHERE SHE CALLS MERCURY ‘GRAECO’ROMAN’ (WEBSTER, 2001, P.220); THIS IS NOT THE CASE, AS MERCURY IS PURELY A ROMAN GOD, AND THIS IS SUP- PORTED BY AUTHORS LIKE GREEN (GREEN, 1997, P.124-5).

THERE IS A LACK OF VARIETY OF AUTHORS WHEN LOOKING FOR IN- FORMATION CONCERNING ROS- MERTA, SO FINDING NEW PER- SPECTIVES AND INTERPRETATIONS ON RELIEFS AND INSCRIPTIONS IS HARD.

WHILE THIS ISN’T MODERN SCHOLARSHIP, IT DOES HAVE AN EFFECT ON THE WORK; EVIDENCE OF ROSMERTA IS ROMAN. ANY DE- PICTIONS OF HER AVAILABLE ARE IN A VERY ROMAN STYLE, BEING LIFE-LIKE AND DETAILED.



ROSMERTA AND MERCURY RELIEF FROM MAINZ (JUPITER COLUMN)

CONCLUSIONS

ALL TOGETHER, IT CAN BE SEEN THAT ROSMERTA IS A CELT- IC GOD DESPITE HER MANY ROMAN DEPICTIONS. SHE IS COM- MONLY ASSOCIATED WITH MERCURY, WHO REFLECTS HER FUNCTIONS AND ROLES. ROSMERTA HAS THE TYPICAL CELT- IC MOTHER-GODDESS ROLES AND FUNCTIONS, BUT OVERALL, WITH LACK OF PRE-ROMAN EVIDENCE, IT IS HARD TO DETER- MINE HER FUNCTION AND MEANING TO THE CELTS IN THEIR RELIGIOUS SPHERE.

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DEITY PAIRINGS

COMMONLY IN CELTIC RELIGION, CELTIC GODDESS- ES HAD A GRAECO-ROMAN CONSORT - ROSMERTA’S WAS MERCURY (WEBSTER, 2001, P.220). WE CAN SEE THIS AS ROSMERTA IS OFTEN DEPICTED ALONG- SIDE MERCURY; THIS CAN BE SEEN ON A RELIEF IN EISENBURG. MERCURY CAN BE IDENTIFIED AS HE IS COMMONLY SEEN WITH HIS CADUCEUS TO THE RIGHT OF HIM, AND HE APPEARS TO BE WEARING HIS WINGED HELMET. ROSMERTA IS TO THE LEFT ON THE RELIEF, AND IS HOLDING SOMETHING IN HER HAND; THIS COULD POSSIBLY BE A CORNUCOPIA, OR EVEN A TORC.

INSCRIPTIONS

THE INSCRIPTION ON THE RELIEF TO THE RIGHT IS A DEDICATION BOTH ROSMER- TA AND MERCURY, AND AT THE BOTTOM THERE IS LIKE- LY ‘V S L M’, WHICH TRANS- LATES TO ‘WILLINGLY AND DESERVEDLY FULFILLED HIS VOW’.



ROSMERTA AND MERCURY RELIEF FROM EISEN- BURG CIL XIII, 11696