

CLSK5002

Epigraphy: Basics

The first step is to find an
inscription

The simple identification codes

The major epigraphic corpus (i.e. collection of inscriptions) for Greek inscriptions is:

IG = *Inscriptiones Graecae*

Often you will see references to inscriptions, but they can be difficult to read, so here is a quick guide to some of the main reference types:

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IG I³ 117 → *Inscriptiones Graecae* Volume 1
Edition 3 no 117

What does this code mean?

IG II² 102

IG II2 102.

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Inscriptiones Graecae volume 2 edition 2 no 102

What about this one?

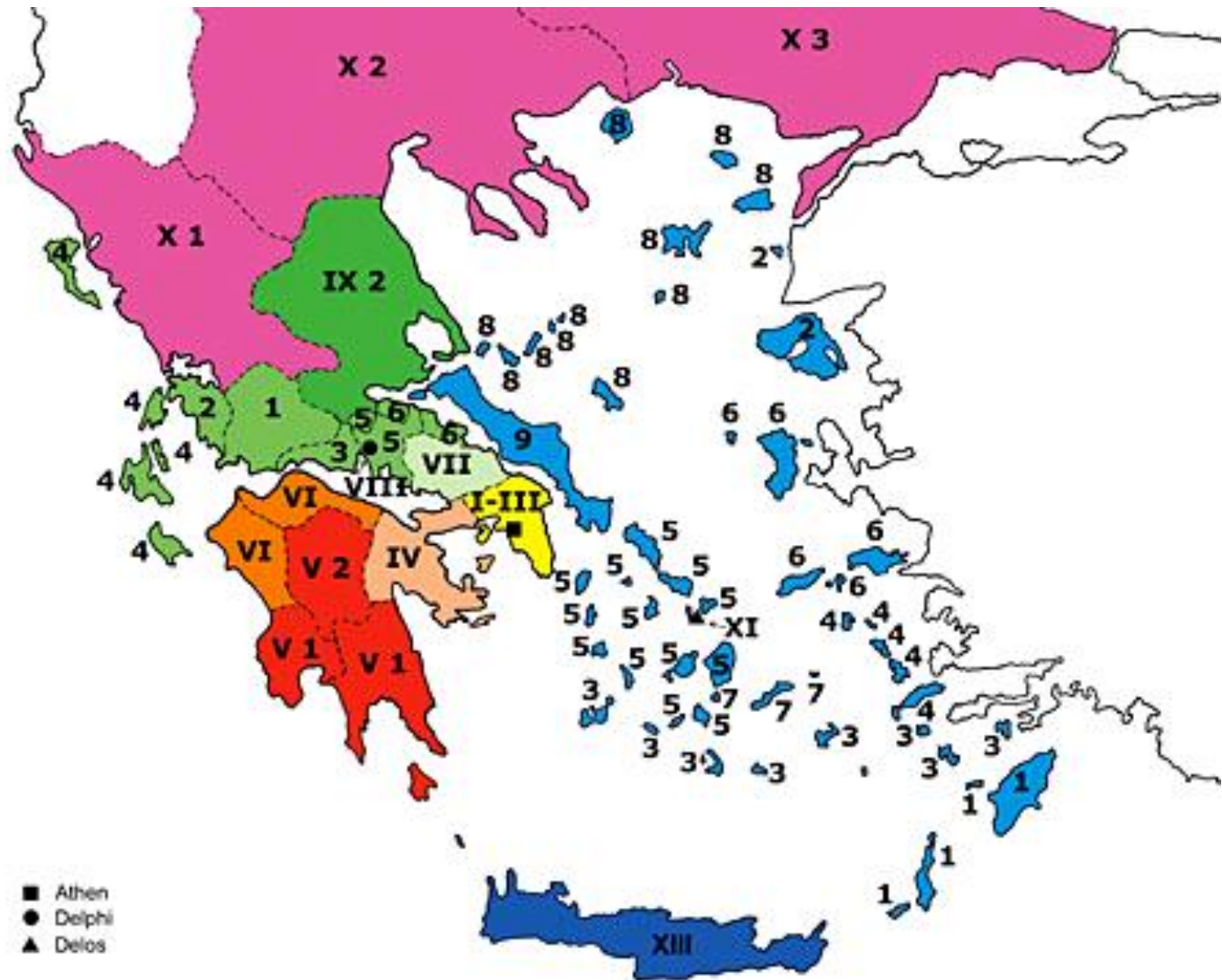
IG XII,2 3

IG XII,2 3

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Inscriptiones Graecae Volume 12 Part 2 no 3

Distribution of IG Volumes



The publication and updating of corpora is a slow business, and normally takes a generation or more. Yet, new inscriptions are found every year, and scholars provide new readings and interpretations of known inscriptions.

All of these are brought together in the annual volumes of the SEG, and that is the best place to check for new inscriptions and interpretations.

SEG

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Supplementum
Epigraphicum Graecum

You can find the online version of the SEG through the LRC Online Library, under Brill Reference Works

SEG 39.136

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Supplementum Epigraphicum
Graecum volume 39 no 136

The Latin equivalent of the IG is the CIL.

CIL

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Corpus Inscriptionum
Latinarum

CIL VI 1700

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Corpus Inscriptionum
Latinarum Volume 6 no 1700

This is an inscription from the city of Rome (it is volume 6)

CIL III 42

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Corpus Inscriptionum Latinarum
Volume 3 no 42

Distribution of CIL Volumes



The equivalent of the SEG for Latin inscriptions is the AE.

AE

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L'Annee Epigraphique

You have access to this journal in printed format in the Library (we have more volumes than appear at first glance on the catalogue)

Do not get confused between the L'Annee Epigraphique, and the L'annee Philologique.

AE 1896 92

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L'Annee Epigraphique Year 1896 no
92.

TYPES OF INSCRIPTIONS

Every letter or character that has been
inscribed on any sort of surviving
material is the province of the
epigrapher

When we think of inscriptions we think
marble and beautiful letters



The Res Gestae Divi Augusti



A Decree of the Athenian Assembly



Graffiti are A personal and informal style of writing, usually scratched onto pottery or stone by individuals

Graffiti from Pompeii



Inscriptions on Vases



Inscriptions on Ostraka



Curse Tablets



Curse Tablet
Found in
Bath

The Vindolanda Tablets



Wooden Tablets
From the Roman
Fort at Vindolanda

Inscriptions on Coins

