

Working with inscriptions

First Steps in understanding an inscription

- ▶ • Where it's coming from?
- ▶ • When is it from?
- ▶ • And what is it?

Corpora Give you quite a bit of information on the inscription

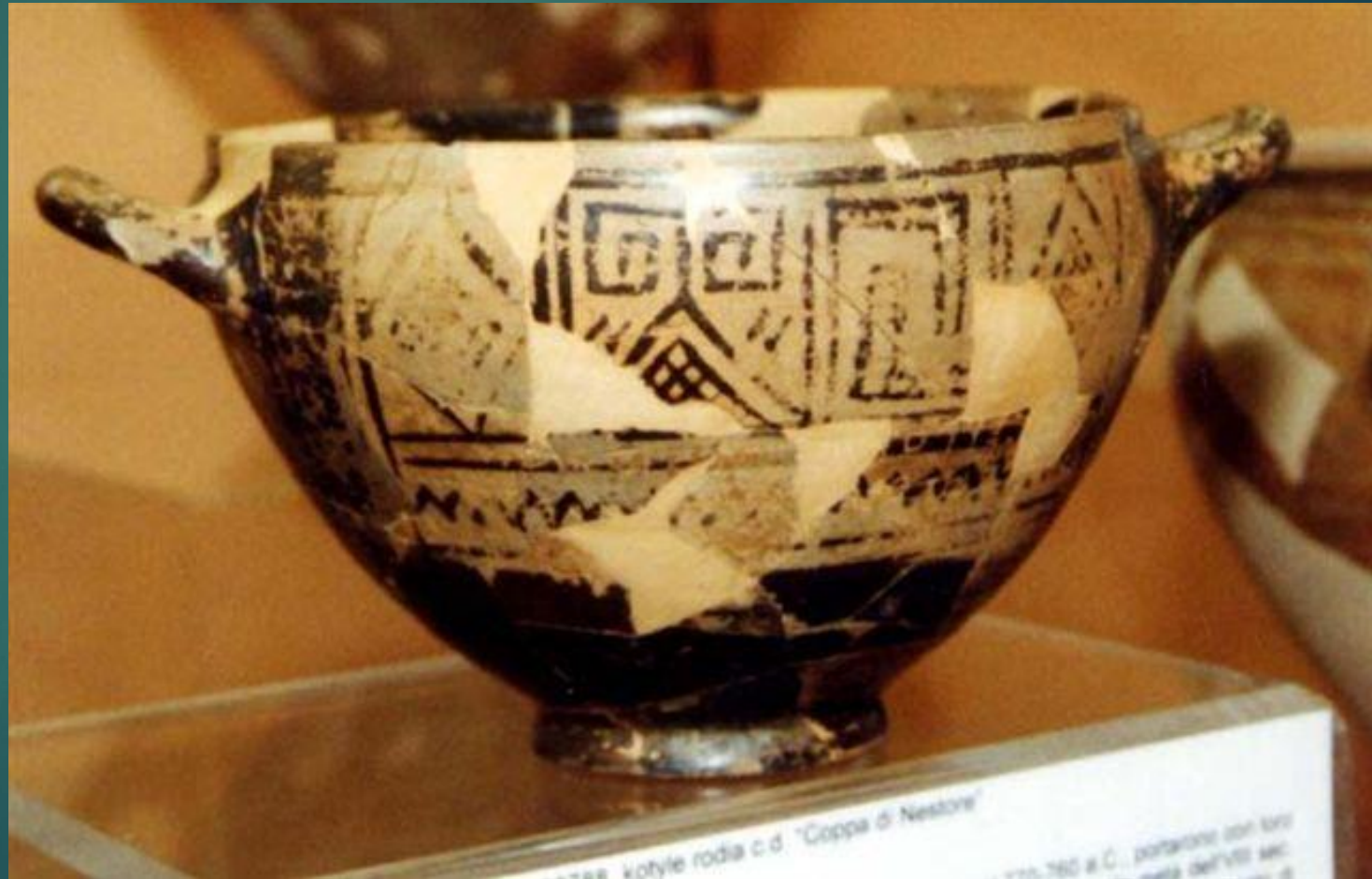
913 Tabula marmoris nigricantis l. 0,78, a. 0,30, cr. 0,29(?) a superiore et ab inferiore parte maxime sinistra mutila, inventa in regione quae hodie Κίττωνος audit, ubi sepulcra antiqua Lindiorum pagum fuisse demonstrant. Κίττωνος locus dimidium fere horae i. e. fere duo chiliometra a Larti castello occidentem versus in septentrionali montis Ὀφθῆ clivo situs est. Litterae apicibus magnis ornatae comptam illam elegantiam prae se ferunt, quam primo a. Chr. n. saeculo placuisse tot statuariae tituli docent. Litterarum a. est fere 0,008; versu ultimo 0,014. Ac totum scripturae genus suadet, ut anno a. Chr. n. 100 nec multo antiquiorem nec multo posteriorem esse credamus. Lapidis ectypum Diaco(nu)s Adelphiu Lindius Athenas transtulit, unde Pauli Wolters viri doctissimi humanitate mihi missum est m. Iunio a. 1893. Breviter tractavi in societate archaeologica Berolinensi, m. Iunio 1894; vide *Jahrb. des arch. Inst.* IX 1894 *Anzeiger* fasc. III.



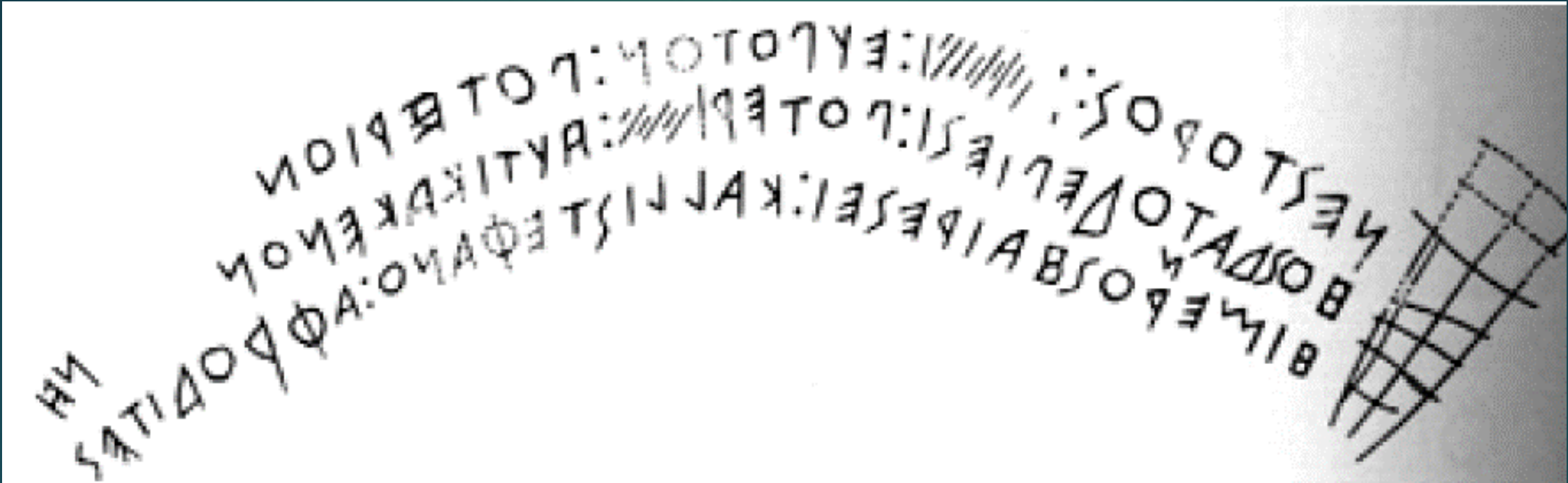
But most of the old ones have the information written in Latin....

The earliest Greek inscriptions come from the 8th and 7th centuries BCE

The Nestor cup



The Nestor Cup inscription



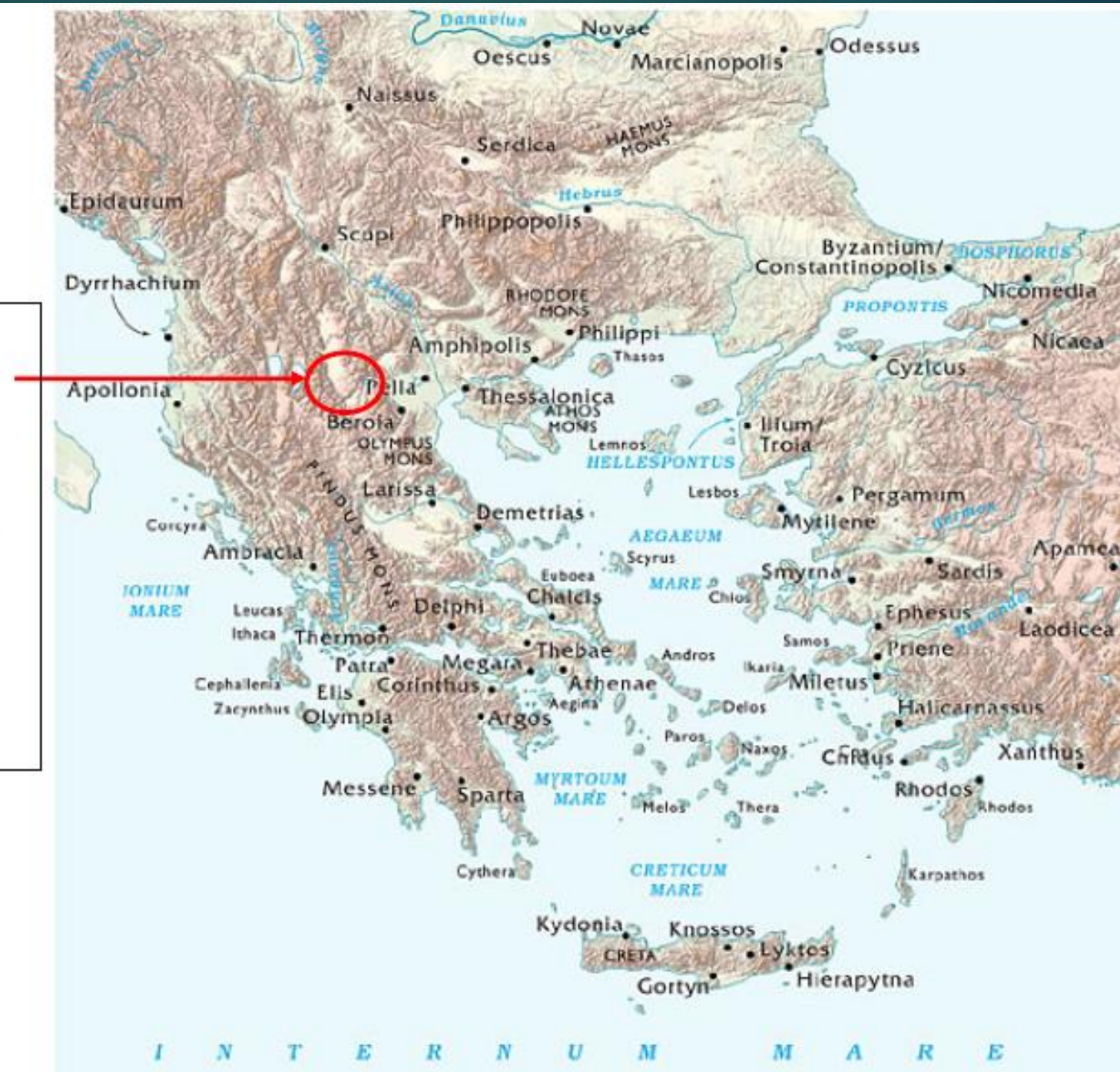
*"I am the cup of Nestor from which one can drink with pleasure,
but whoever drinks from this cup will immediately be seized
by desire for Aphrodite of the beautiful diadem".*

[illegible]



Scripts, scribes and provenance

Let's say
you
find an
inscription
in Kozani
in Northern
Greece



This is what the inscription looks like



Where is this inscription coming from?

You need to go
check the table
with the different
scripts

	N. Semitic	Arama. Syriac	Ebraica	Hebraea	Thessaly	Phoen.	Lokides and colonies	Aegina, Mydonia	Genth, Kithira	Megara, Dycarnon	Sigon	Phileros, Kleonai, Tegyia	Argos, Mycenae	Eastern Argolid	Lakonia, Messenia, Tegea	Nauplia	Eni	Achaia and colonies	Attica, Eponeos	Istria, Kephallenia	Euboea VI. colonies	Sigaeus and colonies	Myndara Myndos	Sigaeus	Naxos, Anargos	Paros, Thasos	Delos, Keos, Syros	Corfu	Thera, Kythera	Milos, Saronis, Anaplia	Ionic, Epidekapsis and colonies	Rhodes, Gela, Akragas	Knidos	Aulis			
Alpha	Α	Α	Α	Α	Α	Α	Α	Α	Α	Α	Α	Α	Α	Α	Α	Α	Α	Α	Α	Α	Α	Α	Α	Α	Α	Α	Α	Α	Α	Α	Α	Α	Α	Α	Α	Α	
Beta	Β	Β	Β	Β	Β	Β	Β	Β	Β	Β	Β	Β	Β	Β	Β	Β	Β	Β	Β	Β	Β	Β	Β	Β	Β	Β	Β	Β	Β	Β	Β	Β	Β	Β	Β	Β	
Gamma	Γ	Γ	Γ	Γ	Γ	Γ	Γ	Γ	Γ	Γ	Γ	Γ	Γ	Γ	Γ	Γ	Γ	Γ	Γ	Γ	Γ	Γ	Γ	Γ	Γ	Γ	Γ	Γ	Γ	Γ	Γ	Γ	Γ	Γ	Γ	Γ	
Delta	Δ	Δ	Δ	Δ	Δ	Δ	Δ	Δ	Δ	Δ	Δ	Δ	Δ	Δ	Δ	Δ	Δ	Δ	Δ	Δ	Δ	Δ	Δ	Δ	Δ	Δ	Δ	Δ	Δ	Δ	Δ	Δ	Δ	Δ	Δ	Δ	
Epsilon	Ε	Ε	Ε	Ε	Ε	Ε	Ε	Ε	Ε	Ε	Ε	Ε	Ε	Ε	Ε	Ε	Ε	Ε	Ε	Ε	Ε	Ε	Ε	Ε	Ε	Ε	Ε	Ε	Ε	Ε	Ε	Ε	Ε	Ε	Ε	Ε	Ε
Vau	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	
Zeta	Ζ	Ζ	Ζ	Ζ	Ζ	Ζ	Ζ	Ζ	Ζ	Ζ	Ζ	Ζ	Ζ	Ζ	Ζ	Ζ	Ζ	Ζ	Ζ	Ζ	Ζ	Ζ	Ζ	Ζ	Ζ	Ζ	Ζ	Ζ	Ζ	Ζ	Ζ	Ζ	Ζ	Ζ	Ζ	Ζ	
Eta	Η	Η	Η	Η	Η	Η	Η	Η	Η	Η	Η	Η	Η	Η	Η	Η	Η	Η	Η	Η	Η	Η	Η	Η	Η	Η	Η	Η	Η	Η	Η	Η	Η	Η	Η	Η	
Theta	Θ	Θ	Θ	Θ	Θ	Θ	Θ	Θ	Θ	Θ	Θ	Θ	Θ	Θ	Θ	Θ	Θ	Θ	Θ	Θ	Θ	Θ	Θ	Θ	Θ	Θ	Θ	Θ	Θ	Θ	Θ	Θ	Θ	Θ	Θ	Θ	
Iota	Ι	Ι	Ι	Ι	Ι	Ι	Ι	Ι	Ι	Ι	Ι	Ι	Ι	Ι	Ι	Ι	Ι	Ι	Ι	Ι	Ι	Ι	Ι	Ι	Ι	Ι	Ι	Ι	Ι	Ι	Ι	Ι	Ι	Ι	Ι	Ι	
Kappa	Κ	Κ	Κ	Κ	Κ	Κ	Κ	Κ	Κ	Κ	Κ	Κ	Κ	Κ	Κ	Κ	Κ	Κ	Κ	Κ	Κ	Κ	Κ	Κ	Κ	Κ	Κ	Κ	Κ	Κ	Κ	Κ	Κ	Κ	Κ	Κ	
Lambda	Λ	Λ	Λ	Λ	Λ	Λ	Λ	Λ	Λ	Λ	Λ	Λ	Λ	Λ	Λ	Λ	Λ	Λ	Λ	Λ	Λ	Λ	Λ	Λ	Λ	Λ	Λ	Λ	Λ	Λ	Λ	Λ	Λ	Λ	Λ	Λ	
Mu	Μ	Μ	Μ	Μ	Μ	Μ	Μ	Μ	Μ	Μ	Μ	Μ	Μ	Μ	Μ	Μ	Μ	Μ	Μ	Μ	Μ	Μ	Μ	Μ	Μ	Μ	Μ	Μ	Μ	Μ	Μ	Μ	Μ	Μ	Μ	Μ	
Nu	Ν	Ν	Ν	Ν	Ν	Ν	Ν	Ν	Ν	Ν	Ν	Ν	Ν	Ν	Ν	Ν	Ν	Ν	Ν	Ν	Ν	Ν	Ν	Ν	Ν	Ν	Ν	Ν	Ν	Ν	Ν	Ν	Ν	Ν	Ν	Ν	
Xi	Ξ	Ξ	Ξ	Ξ	Ξ	Ξ	Ξ	Ξ	Ξ	Ξ	Ξ	Ξ	Ξ	Ξ	Ξ	Ξ	Ξ	Ξ	Ξ	Ξ	Ξ	Ξ	Ξ	Ξ	Ξ	Ξ	Ξ	Ξ	Ξ	Ξ	Ξ	Ξ	Ξ	Ξ	Ξ	Ξ	
Omicron	Ο	Ο	Ο	Ο	Ο	Ο	Ο	Ο	Ο	Ο	Ο	Ο	Ο	Ο	Ο	Ο	Ο	Ο	Ο	Ο	Ο	Ο	Ο	Ο	Ο	Ο	Ο	Ο	Ο	Ο	Ο	Ο	Ο	Ο	Ο	Ο	Ο
Pi	Π	Π	Π	Π	Π	Π	Π	Π	Π	Π	Π	Π	Π	Π	Π	Π	Π	Π	Π	Π	Π	Π	Π	Π	Π	Π	Π	Π	Π	Π	Π	Π	Π	Π	Π	Π	
Rho	Ρ	Ρ	Ρ	Ρ	Ρ	Ρ	Ρ	Ρ	Ρ	Ρ	Ρ	Ρ	Ρ	Ρ	Ρ	Ρ	Ρ	Ρ	Ρ	Ρ	Ρ	Ρ	Ρ	Ρ	Ρ	Ρ	Ρ	Ρ	Ρ	Ρ	Ρ	Ρ	Ρ	Ρ	Ρ	Ρ	
Sigma	Σ	Σ	Σ	Σ	Σ	Σ	Σ	Σ	Σ	Σ	Σ	Σ	Σ	Σ	Σ	Σ	Σ	Σ	Σ	Σ	Σ	Σ	Σ	Σ	Σ	Σ	Σ	Σ	Σ	Σ	Σ	Σ	Σ	Σ	Σ	Σ	
Tau	Τ	Τ	Τ	Τ	Τ	Τ	Τ	Τ	Τ	Τ	Τ	Τ	Τ	Τ	Τ	Τ	Τ	Τ	Τ	Τ	Τ	Τ	Τ	Τ	Τ	Τ	Τ	Τ	Τ	Τ	Τ	Τ	Τ	Τ	Τ	Τ	Τ
Upsilon	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	
Phi	Φ	Φ	Φ	Φ	Φ	Φ	Φ	Φ	Φ	Φ	Φ	Φ	Φ	Φ	Φ	Φ	Φ	Φ	Φ	Φ	Φ	Φ	Φ	Φ	Φ	Φ	Φ	Φ	Φ	Φ	Φ	Φ	Φ	Φ	Φ	Φ	
Chi	Χ	Χ	Χ	Χ	Χ	Χ	Χ	Χ	Χ	Χ	Χ	Χ	Χ	Χ	Χ	Χ	Χ	Χ	Χ	Χ	Χ	Χ	Χ	Χ	Χ	Χ	Χ	Χ	Χ	Χ	Χ	Χ	Χ	Χ	Χ	Χ	
Psi	Ψ	Ψ	Ψ	Ψ	Ψ	Ψ	Ψ	Ψ	Ψ	Ψ	Ψ	Ψ	Ψ	Ψ	Ψ	Ψ	Ψ	Ψ	Ψ	Ψ	Ψ	Ψ	Ψ	Ψ	Ψ	Ψ	Ψ	Ψ	Ψ	Ψ	Ψ	Ψ	Ψ	Ψ	Ψ	Ψ	
Omega	Ω	Ω	Ω	Ω	Ω	Ω	Ω	Ω	Ω	Ω	Ω	Ω	Ω	Ω	Ω	Ω	Ω	Ω	Ω	Ω	Ω	Ω	Ω	Ω	Ω	Ω	Ω	Ω	Ω	Ω	Ω	Ω	Ω	Ω	Ω	Ω	
Punct.	·	·	·	·	·	·	·	·	·	·	·	·	·	·	·	·	·	·	·	·	·	·	·	·	·	·	·	·	·	·	·	·	·	·	·	·	

ΑΘΑΛΑΙΑΣ:ΙΑΡΑ:ΤΑΣΜΗΒΚΑΡΟΙ

So our inscription comes from Megara



Another way to find out where an inscription comes from is by its language

- ▶ • The Greeks spoke in different dialects.
- ▶ • And wrote their inscriptions in different dialects as well.

Αθηνη Attic Dialect

Αθαυα Doric Dialects



How about dating an
inscription?

Dating inscriptions is not easy

- ▶ • It is generally easier to date an inscription from Attika than from any other part of the Greek World.
- ▶ • Often dating an inscriptions may mean only an approximate date.
- ▶ Different poleis used different dating systems
 - ▶ The Athenians dated by the archon eponymus of any given year
 - ▶ The Argives according to the priestess of Hera
- ▶ So, for most poleis even if the inscription mentions an archon or a priest or something like that we cannot know to what year it refers



But what happens when there is
no archon or king or anything of
the like?

THEN WE USE SOME WELL-ESTABLISHED
TRICKS

Athenian inscriptions

- ▶ If you are looking at an Athenian the language can give you a lot of information
- ▶ Have a look at these two inscriptions. When are they from?

- **IG I3 31**

- [Θ]εόδωρος Πρασιεύς
ἐγραμμάτευε.
- vacat
- [χσ]υνθῆκαι : Ἑρμιονέον
: καὶ Ἀθ_εναί_ο[ν].
- vacat
- [ἔ]δο_χσεν τεί βολεί καὶ τοῖ
δέ_μοι· Ἀντιο_χ[ῖς ἔ]-
- [π]ρυτάνευε, Θεόδωρος
ἐγραμμάτευε, Σι[βυρτιο]-
- [ς] ἐπεστάτε vacat

- **IG II2 1**

- Κηφισοφῶν Παιανιεύς
ἐγραμμάτευε.
- Σαμίσις ὅσοι μετὰ τῷ
δήμῳ τῷ Ἀθ_ηναί-
ων ἐγένοντο.
- 5 ἔδοξεν τῇ βολῇ καὶ τῷ
δήμῳ· Κεκροπίς ἐπρυτάνευε,
Πόλυμνις Εὐωνυμεύς
- ἐγραμμάτευε, Ἀλεξίας ἦρχε,
Νικοφῶν Ἀθμονεύς ἐπεστάτει·

This is a fifth century inscription

- **IG I3 31**
- [Θ]εόδορος Πρασιεύς
ἐγραμμάτευε.
- vacat
- [χσ]υνθεῖται : Ἑρμιονέον
: καὶ Ἀθ_εναί_ο[ν].
- vacat
- [ἔ]δο_χσεν τεί βολεῖ καὶ τοῖ
δέμοι· Ἀντιοχ[ῖς ἐ]-
- [π]ρυτάνευε, Θεόδορος
ἐγραμμάτευε, Σι[βυρτιο]-
- [ς] ἐπεστάτε vacat

This is a fourth century inscription

- **IG II2 1**
- Κηφισοφῶν Παιανιεύς
ἐγραμμάτευε.
- Σαμίσις ὅσοι μετὰ τὸ
δήμο τὸ Ἀθ_ηναί-
ων ἐγένοντο.
- 5 ἔδοξεν τῇ βολῇ καὶ τῷ
δήμῳ· Κεκροπὶς ἐπρυτάνευε,
Πόλυμνις Εὐωνυμεύς
- ἐγραμμάτευε, Ἀλεξίας ἥρχε,
Νικοφῶν Ἀθμονεύς ἐπεστάται·

How do I know the dates of these inscriptions?

- ▶ • Because in 403 BCE the Athenians stopped using the Attic alphabet and dialect in their public documents and started using the Ionic ones
- ▶ **SO** Now omegas (Ω) and etas (Η) start to appear on inscriptions, whereas before the Athenians used only omikrons (Ο) and epsilons (Ε)

αβγδ
εζηθ

Another way of dating is by letterforms

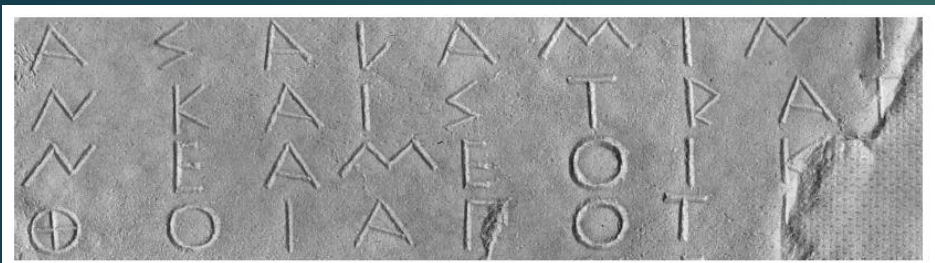
- ▶ • BUT dating by letterforms is risky and not always reliable
- ▶ • BE VERY VERY CAREFUL
- ▶ • Dating by letterforms is similar to dating sculptures or temples.
- ▶ • Archaic, classical and Hellenistic are different in style.
- ▶ • The same goes for letterforms.



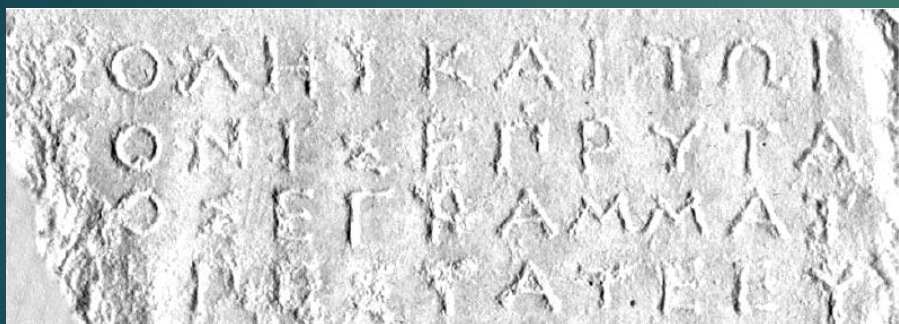
Vs.



Evolution of letterforms



IG 13 1, late sixth/early fifth century BCE



IG II2 2, 403/2 BCE



IG II2 96, 375 BCE

The Pitfalls of Dating

- ▶ • So when you get your hands on some inscription and the scholar you are reading says this is from 400 BCE, you must be able to understand why he is saying that.
- ▶ • Is there an internal reference of some sort? A dating system? Is there the name of an archon or priest or king?
- ▶ Or is it based merely on letter forms. Or something even more nebulous like for example “it looks end of the fifth century”.

If you want to tear your hair out, check out the three-bar sigma controversy (or ask me about it in class:

"Delian League." The Oxford Classical Dictionary. : Oxford University Press, 2012. Oxford Reference. 2012.

Rhodes, P. J. "After the Three-Bar Sigma Controversy: The History of Athenian Imperialism Reassessed." *Classical Quarterly* 58.2 (2008): 500-07..

Inscriptions and Materials

What is the inscription written on?

- ▶ • If you got **marble** or **stone** of some sort, in some parts of the world also **bronze**, you got a good chance that your inscription is a public inscription. I.e. something that the city or the king or anyway some sort of authority has written.
- ▶ • If it's on **lead**, then chances are it is a letter or a curse tablet.
- ▶ • If it's on a **wall** and it's scratched, then it's probably some message, or some random thing that somebody has written.
- ▶ • If it's on a **pot** or an **ostrakon** then you have all sorts of possibilities but you can be pretty certain that it's not a decree of the assembly.

Types of inscriptions

Public

- ▶ Laws
- ▶ • Decrees
- ▶ • Honors
- ▶ • Accounts
- ▶ • Lists
- ▶ • Horoi / Boundary stones

Private

- ▶ Dedications
- ▶ • Epitaphs
- ▶ • Boundary stones / Horoi

Tips and tricks

THE FORMULAE

Formulae are formulaic phrases

- ▶ • This is mainly for public documents rather than private but most of the documents you will come across at this stage of your studies are public.
- ▶ That is how epigraphers restore inscriptions. By recognising and filling in the missing formulae.
- ▶ The Athenian democracy had very specific words on how to start decrees:

- The formula is as follows: ἔδοξεν τῇ βολῇ καὶ τῷ δήμῳ· Κεκροπίς ἐπρυτάνευε, Πόλυμνις Εὐωνυμεὺς ἐγραμμάτευε, Ἀλεξίας ἦρχε, Νικοφῶν Ἀθμονεὺς ἐπεστάτει·
- **SO**, the formula is as follows→ It was decided by the boule and the demos, in the prytany of ..., when ... of the deme of ... was grammateus, when ... was archon, when ... of the deme of ... was epistates...

IG I3 117 (or how even formulae can be taken too far):

- [ἔδοχσεν τεί βολεῖ καὶ τόῃι δέμοι· Ἀκα[μα]-
[ντὶς ἐπρυτάνευε, Φελ]λεὺς [ἐγρ]αμ[μ]άτ[ευ]-
[ε, Ἀντιγένες ἐρχε, Σιβ]ύρτιο[ς ἐ]πεστά[τε],
[**Ἀλκιβιάδης** εἶπε·...]

[It was decided by the boule and th]e
demos, [in the prytany of] Aka[mantis],
[when Fel]leus was [gr]am[m]at[eus, when
Antigenes was archon, when Sib]yrtio[s
was e]pista[tes, **Alkibiades** proposed...]

There are many 10-letter names known from Athens.

Yet, the editor here decided to restore Alkibiades as the proposer of the decree...

There is no reason for us to assume that Alkibiades had anything to do with this decree. Indeed there is evidence that “big” politicians rarely moved decrees, leaving it instead to their friends, supporters or relatives.

Alkibiades



Roman inscriptions

Latin epigraphy and Greek epigraphy share many common elements

- ▶ **BUT** they also have many differences
- ▶ There are a lot more Latin inscriptions than Greek inscriptions
 - ▶ More than 250,000 Latin inscriptions survive
- ▶ Latin epigraphy is to a large extent the story of abbreviations
 - ▶ It has generally been conjectured that the abbreviation system started with names and then sort of expanded into all other word forms.

AMADDV → a(qua)m addu(xit)





G IVLIVS PRIMVS MILES
VETERANVS LEG X
GEMINA[] H S E S T T L
→ G(aius) Iulius Primus /
miles veteranus /
leg(ionis) X gemina[e] /
h(ic) s(itus) e(st) s(it)
t(ibi) t(erra) l(evis)

Abbreviations are the reason why if you learn Greek, you can read inscriptions without a problem from a very early stage, while if you learn Latin, the average inscription looks like gibberish

Some abbreviations are standard and everyone knows what they mean.

- Others however are not standard and in many cases we can only guess what they mean.





Dating

DATING LATIN INSCRIPTIONS IS TO SOME EXTENT SIMILAR TO DATING GREEK INSCRIPTIONS BUT THERE ARE SOME MORE TRICKS TO KNOW ABOUT

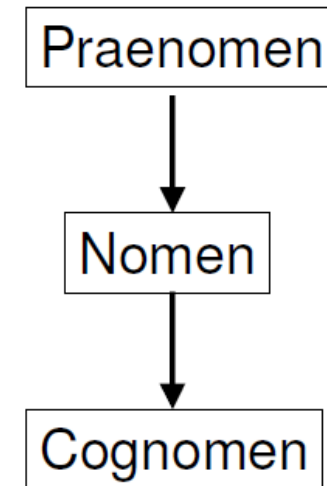
Basic Types of dating

- ▶ Dating by consular year: For Republican inscriptions if the name of a consul is mentioned then we can date the inscription securely.
- ▶ Dating by Imperial Office: For imperial inscriptions we can often get to an approximate date from the name of the emperor and his offices.
- ▶ Dating by internal evidence: If a person or persons are mentioned in an inscription that we know from the historical sources we can tell in which period the inscription was inscribed.

Dating by Nomenclature

- ▶ • The Roman naming system evolved from the earliest archaic period to the end of the empire.
- ▶ • By the different naming system used in an inscription, we can get to a rough date of the inscription.
- ▶ In earliest times the Romans according to tradition (and some epigraphic evidence) had only one name (and sometimes added a patronymic, i.e. the name of their father). That system is very much like the Greek system of naming people

The Basic Naming Formula becomes standard by the 5th century BCE





Roman Names and Dating

YOU CAN IGNORE THE NEXT COUPLE OF SLIDES, IF YOU ARE NOT INTERESTED IN NAMING CONVENTIONS...

Naming Patterns I

Praenomen

- ▶ • The praenomen was given to a child shortly after birth.
- ▶ • Most Roman families used only a small number of traditional praenomina, for example the Claudii used Appius, Gaius, Decimus, Publius and Tiberius, while the Claudii Neronēs (a branch of the gens) only Tiberius and Decimus.
- ▶ • Women also had praenomina.
- ▶ • In inscriptions in most cases the praenomen appears in abbreviated form, i.e. Sp for Spurius, G for Gaius, Q for Quintus.
- ▶ • The praenomen Spurius was often used for children born out of wedlock.

Nomen

- ▶ • The Nomen identified the family (gens) of a person and was common to all members of a family in spite of gender or status.
- ▶ Many nomina were formed by adding the ending -ius to the stem, e.g. Gell-ius, Helv-ius.
- ▶ Nomina are very rarely abbreviated.
- ▶ The exception to this are the imperial nomina, which were adopted by persons given Roman citizenship **during the first three centuries CE.**
- ▶ • Such imperial nomina help provide rough dating, since by the nomen adopted by a newly created Roman citizen we can deduce the Emperor's reign when he was given citizenship.

Naming Patterns II

Cognomen

- ▶ • The Cognomen is the latest of the three Roman names to appear.
- ▶ • It is found mainly from the 3rd century BCE onwards in aristocratic epitaphs and in legal documents from the 1st century BCE.
- ▶ • Cognomina were often based on physical or personal features, such as Longus.
- ▶ • Aristocratic families used cognomina to distinguish between different branches of a family, e.g. Cornelii Balbii, Cornelii Lentuli, Cornelii Scipiones.
- ▶ • In the imperial period aristocratic families often added more cognomina according to their relations to other families for prestige; the practice was particularly prevalent in the **2nd century CE**.

Signum

- ▶ • The Signum is a form of nickname that appears among the upper classes in the **2nd century CE**.
- ▶ • Some signa are Greek or oriental and often end in -ius, e.g. Eusebius from the Greek eusebes.
- ▶ • By the **4th century CE** all upper class families used signa.

Naming Patterns III

Tribus

- ▶ • The Tribus, i.e. the voting tribe of Roman citizens, became a required part of a Roman name for official purposes after the **middle of the 1st century BCE**.
- ▶ • The appearance of the Tribus is evidence that the person is a Roman citizen.

Origo

- ▶ • The Origo was the home town of a Roman citizen.
- ▶ • It was often used in the **early empire** by veterans and soldiers and was placed after the cognomen



Dating by letterforms

YES, AGAIN...BUT IT IS DIFFERENT FOR THE ROMANS...

Dating by Letterforms

- ▶ • Much like with Greek inscriptions, Latin letterforms evolve
- ▶ • By recognising the type of letterform used in an inscription we can get to a rough date
- ▶ CAREFUL
- ▶ • Dating by Letterforms is not always accurate or reliable

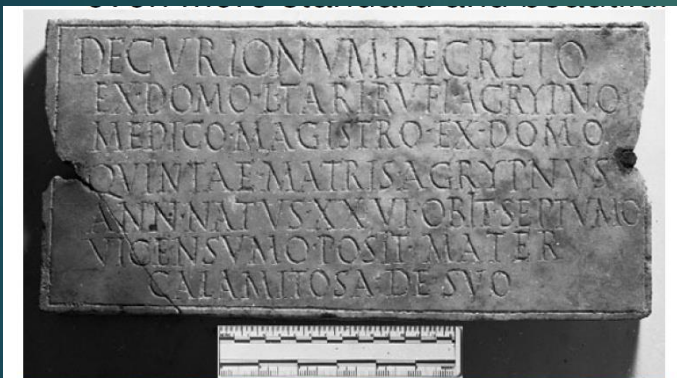


Archaic inscriptions have generally untidy letterforms



KY.Lou.SAM.L.1929.17.427
CIL VI 33499
photo: USEpig.04.02

By the end of the republic letterforms have become standard



MD.Balt.JHU.L.41
CIL VI 37805

In the early empire, they become even more standard and beautiful



MD.Balt.JHU.L.102
CIL VI 38687

In the late empire lettercutting becomes less precise and the letters are chunkier and less elegant

Something similar happens in sculpture as well

