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Iscrizioni Latine Arcaiche: a Digital Corpus of Archaic Latin Inscriptions

We are going to present here the first results of the Project *Iscrizioni Latine Arcaiche: a Digital Corpus of Archaic Latin Inscriptions* (ILA).

The archaic Latin inscriptions that constitute the ILA Project, dating back to the period between the VII and the V century BC, present several peculiar characteristics that allow to investigate the various passages that lead to “standard Latin”, thus playing a fundamental role in the study of the first phases of the Latin language. Moreover, these epigraphic texts originate in different contexts and for different reasons and they testify non-conventional or dialectal linguistic usages that would have been lost otherwise. At the moment, no complete collection of this material (VII-V century BC) exists, although many inscriptions have been extensively studied during the years.

For these reasons, in 2007 the ILA Project has been launched by a small team of scholars at the IULM University in Milan, aiming at realizing a digital corpus of all the archaic Latin inscriptions consisting of more the two letters recovered up to now. This is an absolute novelty in the field of the digital epigraphy, in that there are no digital corpora of archaic texts and our corpus (about 80 inscriptions) covers a period that has not been included in EDR yet. The digital edition allows us to update the texts and the bibliography and to insert several images. For this reason, in accordance with the Soprintendenza dei Beni Culturali, new photographs of all the material kept in the Roman Museums have been taken in May 2009.

The inscriptions are by all means the core of the ILA project. Each text is encoded according to the EpiDoc specifications and presented in an epigraphic chart in which descriptive data together with linguistic and epigraphical commentaries, bibliographical references, photographs and facsimiles are provided. The fields regarding the archaeological data are by Giovanni Colonna, whereas a special section, dedicated to the locations in which the inscriptions were found, is a work of Filippo Coarelli.

The work also includes tables of contents, that allow to browse the corpus through different routes (location, dating, text category and monument type), *indices verborum* (names, divine names, non-Latin words, numerals and fragments of text), concordance tables, search tools and supporting materials. This latter section is perhaps the special value of the ILA Project, in that it will present the contributions of specialists on subject regarding the excavation sites, epigraphic issues, and new technologies applied to the study of single inscriptions.