

## 1. Introduction

*The prosperity of Magna Grecia soon aroused the cupidity of the fierce Lucanians, an Italic people of Oscan-Sabellian stock, eager to hurl themselves down from their native mountains upon the opulent Greek cities on the coast. Poseidonia fell under the complete and undisputed power of the Lucanians. From that moment its unfortunate inhabitants reverted more and more to barbarity: they were even forbidden to speak Greek, and they only gathered together once a year to recall with tears their ancient greatness.*

From the introduction to *Paestum* by Pellegrino Claudio Sestieri

## 2. Psi, xi and zeta – patterns in usage

**Table 1: Use of <ψ> and <πσ>**

Inscription	Genre	Date	Items
Laos 1	Coinage	350-300	στα οψι (male name)
Laos 2	Curse	330-320	νοψιν (male name) νοψιν (male name) οψιον (male name) νοψιν (male name) οψιον (male name) νοψα (female name)
Laos 4	Curse	-	νυμψιος (male name)
Potentia 20	Dedication	-	νυμψδοι (god name?) νυμψδοι (god name?)
Potentia 21	Dedication	250-200	[νυ]μψδοι (god name?)
Potentia 26	Dedication	300-200	[-]νψηδ[-]
Heraclea 2	Graffito	Before 275	νοψ (male name)
Thurii Copia 1	Curse	350-300	νομψιο (male name)
Teuranus Ager 1	Curse	Before 250	νυμψιμ (male name)
Potentia 1	Dedication (Official)	125-100	(ω)πσανω ('building' – gerundive)
Messana 4	Dedication (Official)	c. 250	ουπσενσ ('built' – 3 <sup>rd</sup> pl. perf.)
Metapontum 1	Dedication	400-375	καμπσανασ <sup>1</sup> (unknown)

<sup>1</sup> Uncertain reading; may also be καμσανασ. Crawford (2011) 1451.

**Table 2: Use of <ξ> and <κσ>**

Inscription	Genre	Date	Items
Buxentum 3	Curse	-	μαμερεξ (male name)
Potentia 21	Dedication	250-200	-υξ (male name?)
Petelia 2	Curse	c. 300	αραξ (male name)
Messana 4	Dedication (Official)	c. 250	μεδδειξ ('magistrate', nom. pl.) <sup>2</sup>
Cosilinum 1	Dedication (Official)	c. 300	εκσ ('thus') <sup>3</sup>
Messana 6	Dedication	c. 275	μαμερεκσ (male name)

**Table 3: Use of <ζ>**

Inscription	Genre	Date	Items
Potentia 1	Dedication (Official)	125-100	αιζνιω ('bronze'), ειζιδομ ('the same men')
Potentia 11	Dedication	200-100	ζωφηι ('to Jove') <sup>4</sup> , πιζηι ('pious?' < *pid(e)zei)
Potentia 22	Dedication	250-100	φενζηι ('to Venus', *ven(e)zei)
Caulonia 2	Dedication	325-300	φεζεισ ('of Venus')
Potentia 5	Dedication (Official)	200-100	εισειδομ ('the same [men]')

### 3. Theta, phi, chi and double gamma – graphic borrowings?

**Table 4: Use of <θ>**

Inscription	Genre	Date	Items
Laos 1	Coinage	350-300	ευθυμο(ς/υ) (male name)
Laos 2	Curse	330-320	βοθρονη(-) (male name)
Petelia 2	Curse	c. 300	χθωνιε (Greek: 'of the underworld') καθεκε (Greek: 'place (them)')
Messana 3	Tile stamp	250-150	μαμερθινων (ethnic name)

<sup>2</sup> C.f. *medix* (Corfinium 1) and **medd[ɪ]ks** (Surrentum 1). Also **meddiss** (Nola 3). All nominative plural.

<sup>3</sup> C.f. *ex* (Bantia 1), **ekss** (Abella 1). Note that Rix also reads *λεκσε* in this inscription; however, Crawford reads *λεκ(?) σε[νατεισ]*.

<sup>4</sup> C.f. Spellings with *δι-* (Potentia 9, Potentia 12, Vibo Valentia 2, Potentia 40, Potentia 10) and *ι-* (Paestum 1). Both **di-** and **i-** are found in the Central Oscan alphabet. The spelling *z-* is found in the Latin alphabet at Bantia (Bantia 2).

Potentia 19	Dedication	325-275	μεθιτανοι (divine name) (theta = /f/; c.f. <8> = /f/)
Potentia 20	Dedication	325-275	μεθιτανοι (divine name) (theta = /f/; c.f. <8> = /f/)
Potentia 24	Dedication	325-275	νετεθσ (divine name) (theta = /f/; c.f. <8> = /f/)

**Table 5: Use of <φ>**

Inscription	Genre	Date	Items
Buxentum 3	Curse	-	φοινι[-] (male name – ‘Phoinix’)
Petelia 2	Curse	c. 300	αλαφιω (female name – ‘Alafia’?) σκαφριω (female name– ‘Scafiria’?)

**Table 6: Use of <χ> and <κη>**

Inscription	Genre	Date	Items
Buxentum 3	Curse	-	μαχιεσ (male name) <sup>5</sup>
Volcei 1	Coinage	-	φελεχα- (abbreviated ethnic name)
Potentia 39	Official	400-300	αρχησ (Greek: ‘magistracy’)
Anxia 1	Funerary	300-250	αχερηι (Unclear. Male name [μ]αχερηι, or from Greek Ἀχέρων, ‘underworld’)
Petelia 2	Curse	c. 300	χθωνιε (Greek: ‘of the underworld’)
Potentia 21	Dedication	-	κχομοι (Unclear. Perhaps from Greek χῶμα, ‘mound’)

**Table 7: Use of <γγ> and <νγ> for /ηγ/**

Inscription	Genre	Date	Items
Crimisa 2	Official	300-200	κανγ- (Unknown)
Atina Lucana 1	Official	c.150	τανγινოდ (‘decision’ – abl. sing.)
Potentia 1	Dedication (Official)	125-100	τανγινοτ (‘decision’ – abl. sing.)
Potentia 9	Dedication (Official)	200-175	τανγινოდ (‘decision’ – abl. sing.)

<sup>5</sup> C.f. Domesticus written as Δομέστιχος.

Potentia 10	Dedication (Official)	200-175	τανγίνοδ ('decision' – abl. sing.)
Buxentum 1	Legal	300-200	τ{αν}αγγίνουδ ('decision' – abl. sing.)

#### 4. Other types of borrowing found in South Oscan texts

**Table 8: Morphological borrowings**

Inscription	Genre	Date	Items	Details
Lucani 1	Coinage	215-204	λυκιανων (also λουκανομ)	Genitive in -ων
Laos 1	Coinage	350-300	λαινων	Genitive in -ων
P. Peripoloi 1	Coinage	350	περιπολων	Genitive in -ων
Orlanoi 1	Coinage	215-204	ορλανων ραιου, τρεβιου	Genitive in -ων Genitive in -ου
Orsantinoi 1	Coinage	215-204	ορσαντινων	Genitive in -ων
Brettii 1	Coinage	216-204	βρεττιων	Genitive in -ων
Petelia 1	Coinage	215-150	πετηλινων	Genitive in -ων
Nuceria 1	Coinage	c. 300, 216-204	νουκρινων στατιου	Genitive in -ων Genitive in -ου
Vibo 1	Coinage	350-275	ειπωνιων	Genitive in -ων
Messana 1	Coinage	c. 225	μαμερτινων	Genitive in -ων
Potentia 39	Official	400-300	νυμμελου επι της αρχης	Genitive in -ου Genitive in -ης
Messana 3	Tile stamp	250-150	μαμερτινων	Genitive in -ων
Laos 2	Curse	330-320	All accs. -v (23 exx.)	Finale -v (acc.)
Laos 4	Curse	c.300	All noms. -ιος (8 exx.) or -ος (1 ex.)	Final -ιος (nom.)

**Table 9: Lexical borrowings**

Inscription	Genre	Date	Items	Details
Vibo 1	Coinage	350-275	διοσ (ολυμπιου) πανδινα σωτειρα νικα	Greek language text?
Potentia 39	Official	400-300	επι της αρχης	Greek language text?

Anxia 1	Funerary	300-250	αχερηι	Unclear. Male name [μ]αχερηι, or from Greek Ἀχέρων, 'underworld'
Potentia 21	Dedication	-	κιομοι	Unclear. Perhaps from Greek χῶμα, 'mound'
Luc/Bret/Sic 3	Dedication	375-350	αναφακετ	Calque from Greek ἀνέθηκε? <sup>6</sup>
Potentia 40	Dedication	250-200	αφακειτ	Calque from Greek ἀνέθηκε?

**Table 10: Syntactic borrowings**

Inscription	Genre	Date	Items	Details
Messana 7	Dedication (Official)	c.250	[2-3]σ στεννιησ	PRAE + PAT nomenclature

**Table 11: Codeswitching and bilingual texts**

Inscription	Genre	Date	Items	Details
Buxentum 3	Curse	-	‘δυφο [με]διμνο(ι) πολεντα[ι]’	Code-switching?
Petelia 2	Curse	c. 300	‘ηερμα χθωνιε ταυτα και καθεκε αυτει’	Code-switching
Crimisa 1	Official	300-200	επι ιερ(εωσ)	Bilingual text

<sup>6</sup> Another variant of this may be found in Paestum 1, but the text is fragmentary and the reading is therefore uncertain.

## 6. Correspondences between graphic borrowings and other kinds of borrowing

**Table 12: Inscriptions with both graphic/orthographic ‘extra’ characters + other types of borrowing**

Inscription	Genre	Date	Items	Details
Buxentum 3	Curse	-	φοινι[-] μαχιεσ  ‘δυφο [με]διμνο(ι) πολεντα[ι]’	Graphic: phi, chi  Code-switching: Greek opening phrase
Anxia 1	Funerary	300-250	αχερηι Or: [μ]αχερηι	Graphic: chi And/or Greek lexical borrowing
Potentia 39	Official	400-300	‘επι τησ νυμμελου αρχησ’	Graphic: chi Morphological: genitives Lexical: επι  Greek language text?
Petelia 2	Curse	c. 300	αλαφιω, σκαφιριω  ‘ηερμα χθωνιε ταυτα και καθεκε αυτει’	Graphic: phi  Code-switching: final Greek formula



**Petelia 2: Text**

καφνοτο στατιο

πακφω και<δ>ι<κ>ω

πακολ στατιεσ

μαρα(σ) στατιεσ

γναυ(σ) στατιεσ

φιβι(σ) στατιεσ

εμαυτο στατιω

μιναδο καιδικω

τρε<β>ω αυδα<φ>ο

μινασ καιδικισ

αφεσ αυδαισ

νοφιο αλαφιω

μινα<δ>ο σκαφριω

βαντινω κωσσανω

π(?) αφελιοσ νο(φισ) μο[-5-]νσ ετ

κησ ουσοσ αραξ μ[ι]νας μινασ

καρισ ταπ(?) πισπιτ ι(νι)μ σολλομ ησου

δεκεο ηερμα χθωνιε

ταυτα και καθεκε αυτει

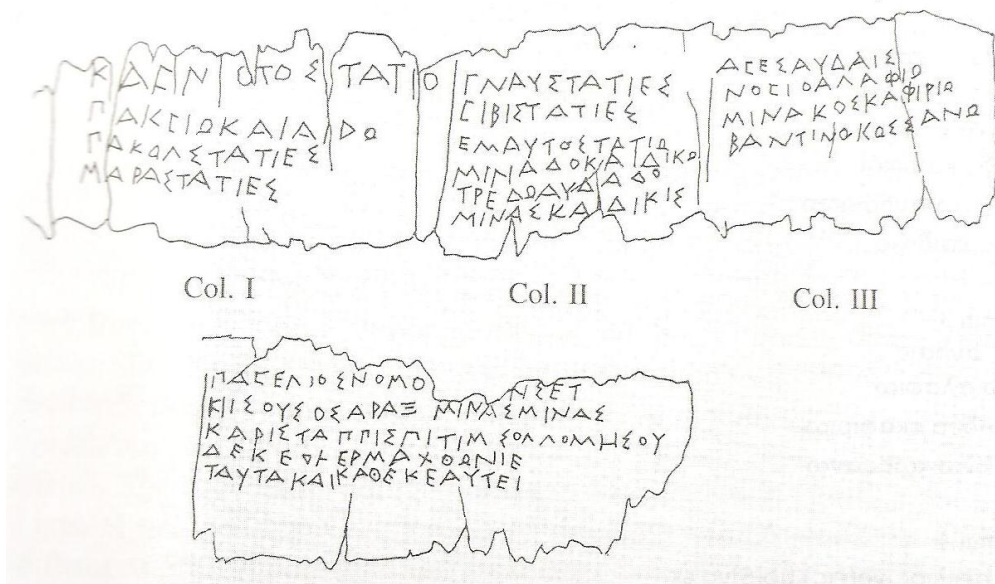




Table 13: Percentage of inscriptions with some form of borrowing, code-switching, etc, by genre

Inscription type	Total number	With borrowing(s)	Inscriptions	Percentage of total
Coin	18	11	Brettii 1 Laos 1 Lucani 1 Messana 1 Nuceria 1 Orlanoi 1 Orsantinoi 1 P. Peripoloi 1 Petelia 1 Vibo 1 Volcei 1	61.11%
Curse	8	4	Buxentum 3 Laos 2 Laos 4 Petelia 2	50.00%
Dedication	46	3	Messana 7 Luc/Sic/Bret 3 Potentia 40	6.52%
(of which 'official')	12	1	Messana 7	8.33%
Official (other)	6	2	Potentia 29 Crimisa 1	33.33%
Funerary	3	1	Anxia 1	33.33%
Tile stamp	24	1	Messana 3	4.17%
Legal	2	1	Buxentum 1	50.00%
Graffiti and makers' marks	10	0	-	0
Other (inc. unknown)	10	0	-	0

**Table 14: Types of borrowing, by genre of inscription**

Type of borrowing	Inscription types	Inscriptions	Details
Graphic	Coin	Laos 1, Volcei 1	Greek texts?  Greek text? Greek text?
	Curse	Buxentum 3, Laos 2, Petelia 2	
	Funerary	Anxia 1	
	Legal	Buxentum 1	
	Official	Potentia 39	
	Stamp	Messana 3	
Morphological	Coin	Brettii 1, Laos 1, Lucani 1, Messana 1, Nuceria 1, P. Peripoloi 1, Orlanoi 1, Orsantinoi 1, Petelia 1, Vibo 1	Greek texts?  Greek text? Greek text?
	Curse	Laos 4, Laos 2	
	Official	Potentia 39	
	Stamp	Messana 3	
Lexical	Coin	Vibo 1, Laos 1	Greek texts? May be just name. Greek text?
	Funerary	Anxia 1	
	Official	Potentia 39	
Syntactic	Dedication - Official	Messana 7	
Whole phrase	Curse	Buxentum 3, Petelia 2	
	Crimisa 1	Crimisa 1	

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