BILG - Inscriptiones Graecae et Latinae Bruttiorum

A digital corpus in EpiDoc of Roman Law inscriptions

Daria Spampinato
ISTC- CNR Semantic Technology Lab, Catania, Italy
Email(s): daria.spampinato@cnr.it

Description

The BILG (Inscriptiones Graecae et Latinae Bruttiorum) project aims to provide a digital corpus on-line of legal inscriptions found in Bruttium Italy in EpiDoc TEI XML / Unicode.

The project has been enabled by the Universities of Reggio Calabria and Catanzaro, with a grant from Regione Calabria. Coordinators of the project are Daria Spampinato, a computer scientist technology expert at CNR and Stefania Romeo, a Roman Law researcher.

The study of Roman law is based primarily on an analysis of the sources and new acquisitions are essential for the advancement of research. For several decades epigraphs, papyrus, wax tablets continued to return an extraordinary documentation in Greek and Latin, which allowed us to clarify many aspects of Roman legal tradition. Part of unpublished materials comes from regions that have marked the institutional, administrative and legal Roman experience. One of these regions is the Bruttium. After the publication in 1883 of volume X of CIL in which Mommsen collected the inscriptions from Bruttium, several epigraphic texts of interest to Roman Law were discovered. These are little known, because they have never been digitized and are either unpublished or published in local editions only. The BILG project aims to fill this gap by making a corpus of Roman law *tituli* from Bruttium accompanied by appropriate epigraphic, archaeological and legal contents available online.

We have created a portal BILG (http://www.ct.icb.cnt.it/bilg) following W3C XHTML 1.0 e CSS 2.0 standards, under a Creative Commons license. The portal rests on eXist, an open source native XML database management in Java environment, which stores XML data accessed through XQuery. The portal BILG is a work in progress with only a small number of inscriptions, but we hope that in future others will be added.

Within the project we organized a training workshop of EpiDoc for 18 scholars, held by Monica Berti, Lou Burnard, James Cowey and Marion Lamé, in accordance with the

http://wiki.digitalclassicist.org/EpiDoc_Summer_School programme. The course documents are available in the page "workshop" of the project site.

For each inscription we identified four records representing different levels of data input: *Titulus*, *Locus*, *Inscriptio* and *Textus*. The data presented online are retrieved by instructions XQuery to the files of inscription encoded in EpiDoc/XML. In *Titulus* general elements are presented, in *Locus* there is archaeological information, in *Inscriptio* epigraphic information and in *Textus* text and legal information are displayed.

To ensure maximum EAGLE conformance we have established that the values of *Rei Materia, Rerum Inscriptarum Distributio, Scriptura, Titulorum Distributio, Virorum Distributio* elements are chosen in the EAGLE controlled vocabularies. Inscription locations are geolocalized with links to the Pleiades Project and to geonames.org.

Furthermore, the BILG record provides some elements that are not present in EAGLE and that we consider useful for a legal profile (e.g. date of finding, location photo, the thesaurus of Roman law terms, the legal bibliography). There are no new editions of the inscriptions, but we show the edition most of interest to Roman Law scholars (specifically indicated in the bibliography). All inscriptions are accompanied by the image of the inscription in JPEG format.

Compared to the reference print edition the text encoded in EpiDoc (downloadable from the website) contains more information that could be used for future research or for other purposes. Therefore we do not use the XSLT to display the text from the XML file, but we have a pdf file with text transcription with diacritics following the convention of Leiden. This is because the main beneficiaries of the project are the scholars of Roman law, many of who are not fully familiar with the conventions used in the inscriptions. In addition, the digital edition in EpiDoc has different criteria and conventions from the print edition, even though they refer back to the same text.

An improvement of the project will be interoperability with other digital collections of interest to Roman Law as BIA-Net. This could have a greater knowledge base of legal sources for information retrievals.

We may also use the thesaurus to BIA for semantic search: for example, if you search for "ponifex", by the controlled term "pontifices", would be suggested related concepts Collegia Sacerdotum, Sacerdotes.

Keywords
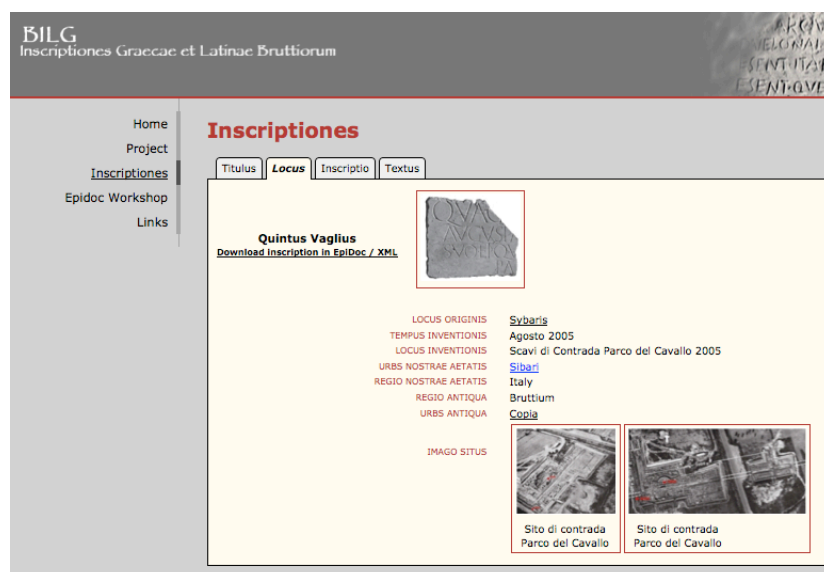
Bruttium, Roman Law, Pleiades, EpiDoc, Tituli

IMAGE

Fig. 1.1. BILG portal.

Fig. 1.2. Text of inscription Quintus Vaglius encoded in EpiDoc.

```xml
            <objectType key="tabula">
                          <!--RERUM INSCRIPTARUM DISTRIBUTIO-->
            </objectType>
          </support>
        </supportDesc>
      </objectDesc>
      <handDesc>
        <handNote>
          <rs type="execution">scalpro</rs><!--SCRIPTURA-->
        </handNote>
      </handDesc>
    </physDesc>
  </history>
    <origin>
      <origDate precision="low" notBefore-custom="I a.C." notAfter-custom="I d.C.">
          I a.C.- I d.C.   <!--TEMPUS-->
      </origDate>
      <origPlace>
        <placeName type="ancientFindstop" ref="http://pleiades.stoa.org/places/452457/">
            Sybaris <!-- LOCUS ORIGINIS-->
        </placeName>
      </origPlace>
    </origin>
    <provenance>
      <date type="found" when="2005-08" precision="low">
          Agosto 2005     <!-- TEMPUS INVENTIONIS-->
      </date>
      <listEvent>
        <event type="found">     <!--LOCUS INVENTIONIS -->
          <p>
            <desc>Scavi di Contrada Parco del Cavallo 2005</desc>
            <placeName type="modernFindspot" ref="http://www.geonames.org/maps/google_39.717_16.49.html">
                Sibari         <!-- URBS NOSTRAE AETATIS-->
            </placeName>
            <geogName type="modernCountry" key="IT">
                Italy          <!--REGIO NOSTRAE AETATIS-->
```

Fig. 1.3. Some archaeological and epigraphic information of inscription Quintus Vaglius encoded in EpiDoc.

Notes

BODARD G., *EpiDoc: Epigraphic documents in XML for publication and interchange* in ed. Francisca Feraudi-Gruénais, *Latin on Stone: Epigraphic Research and Electronic Archives*, Rowan & Littlefield 2010, 101-117.

EAGLE – The Europeana network of Ancient Greek and Latin Epigraphy. http://www.eagle-network.eu.

ELLIOTT T., BODARD G., MYLONAS E., STOYANOVA S., TUPMAN C., VANDERBILT S., et al., *EpiDoc Guidelines: Ancient documents in TEI XML* (Version 8), 2007-2014. http://www.stoa.org/epidoc/gl/latest/.

GeoNames Project. http://www.geonames.org.

PANCIERA S., *Struttura dei supplementi e segni diacritici dieci anni dopo*, in *Supplementa Italica* 8 1991, 9-2.

Pleiades Project. http://pleiades.stoa.org.

ROMEO S., *Il Cursus honorum e le istituzioni municipali di Copia. Una nuova scoperta epigrafica*, in *Minima epigraphica et papyrologica*, Roma, IX 2006, 123-160.

ROMEO S., *Quintus Vaglius Augustale a Copia-Thurii*, in *Minima epigraphica et papyrologica* , Roma, X (12) 2008, 75-87.

SPAMPINATO D., ZANGARA I., *Classical Antiquity and semantic content management on Linked Open Data*, in Proceedings of the 1st International Workshop on *Collaborative Annotations in Shared Environments: metadata, vocabularies and techniques in the Digital Humanities (DH-Case 2013)*. ACM Proceedings New York, 2013.