



# Working with Texts and Images: The Graffiti of Herculaneum

Rebecca R. Benefiel, Holly Sypniewski

*Off the Beaten Track. Epigraphy at the Borders, Bari, Sept. 2015*







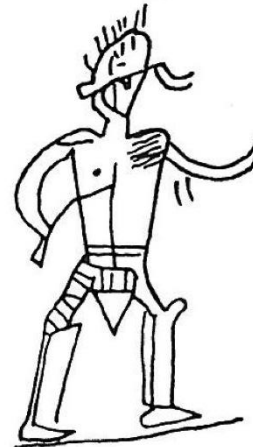
# Figural Graffiti (Graffiti drawings)

**8055** In pseudo-peristyli pilae ad septentrionem spectantis tectorio nigro manu periti scriptoris delineati sunt gladiatores duo post pugnam exactam, quorum unus a sin. (victor) adhuc armatus, alter (missus) sicam stringens scuto amisso saucius nutans arenam linquit dextera pergens. Supra et ad d. leguntur tituli

a) OCEANVS·I XIII



b) ARACINTVS·L XIII



c) PISTARIO



# Examples of ancient graffiti

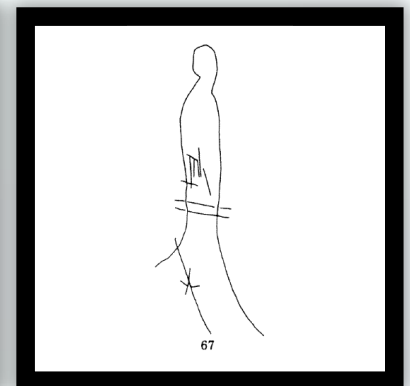
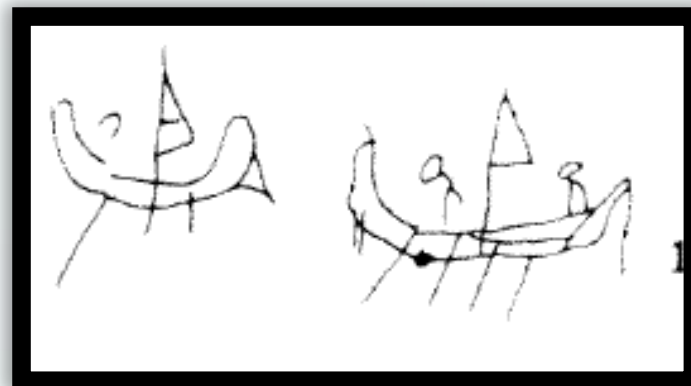
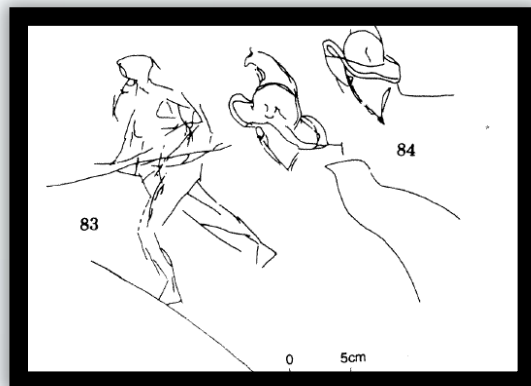
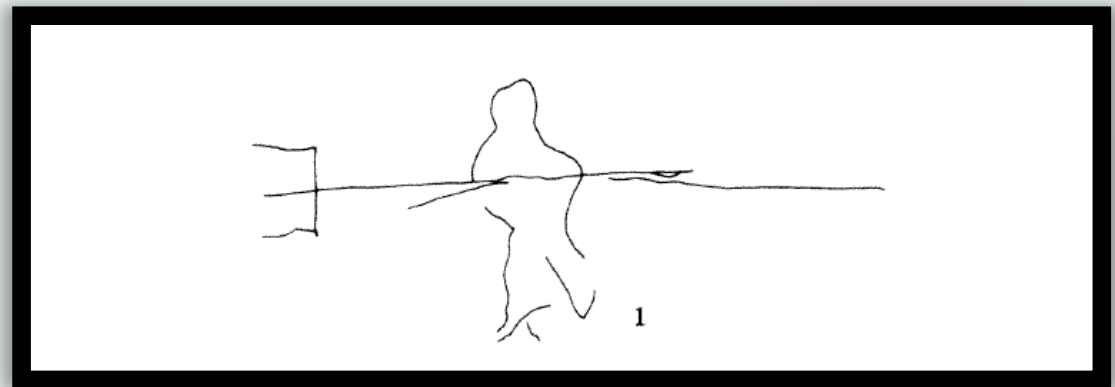
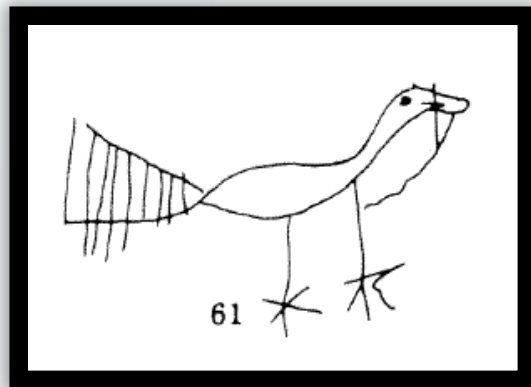
- *Q(uintus) Vet(t)ius*
- *Anicete va(le)*
- *Vinum acceptum / ab domino VII Idus Apriles*
- *Arma virumque cano*
- *Venimus huc cupidi. Multo magis ire cupimus...]*

10237 In fronte in podii medio tectorio signino





**Figural Graffiti in the House of  
Maius Castricius, Pompeii**



## Figural Graffiti in the Villa San Marco, Stabiae



# Graffiti drawings in C/L IV

## 1) Drawing described within entry:

**2315. 2316** in faucium pariete dexteriore, in tectorio rubro, litteris cursivis, M alta est 0,003 m.

	2315	2316
	SIMIVS	
<i>hominis</i>	<i>hominis</i>	<i>hominis</i>
<i>caput</i>	<i>caput</i>	<i>caput</i>
		SIICVNDVS
		HFVN

2316 dedi tab. XXXVII 9. Descripsi.

2316 v. 2 non expedit (nisi forte litterae sunt H, L, M, N sine ratione compositae), nec v. 1 lectionis est omnino certae, cum alienis lineis confusus sit.

**2319** ad sinistram caput illorum (v. 2315) inferius.

	IANOYA[PIOYC]
	INPE PATVIRICS
	XI LX
<i>gladi-</i>	<i>gladi-</i>
<i>ator</i>	<i>ator</i>
<i>scuto et</i>	
<i>gladio brevi</i>	
<i>armatus</i>	

Tab. XXXVII 8 ex meo apographo.

1 male scriptus ideoque lectionis ambiguae est, maxime in altera parte, quam uncis inclusi. — 2 VI parum clarae sunt.



# Graffiti drawings in C/L IV

## 2) Drawing depicted within entry:

**8055** In pseudo-peristyli pilae ad septentrionem spectantis tectorio nigro manu periti scriptoris delineati sunt gladiatores duo post pugnam exactam, quorum unus a sin. (victor) adhuc armatus, alter (missus) sicam stringens scuto amisso saucius nutans arenam linquit dextera pergens. Supra et ad d. leguntur tituli

a) OCEANVS·I XIIIIV



b) ARACINTVS·L IIII



c) PISITARIO



Descripsi et edidi N. S. 1913, p. 222, n. 1—2, Diehl 982.

a) *Oceanus* l(ib.) (victoriarum) xiii v(icit); b) *Aracintus* (pro *Aracynthus*) l(ib.) (victoriarum) ... iiii (perit); c) *Bestiario* (quamquam *Pisitiario* clare scriptum est) (datus). *Oceanum* missum in pugna contra *Asteropaeum* habes in titulo 1422.

# Graffiti drawings in C/L IV

## 3) Drawing mentioned within note:

10586 In pariete septentrionali, ad sin. parietis marginem, prope viri  
imaginem graphio incisam

a) 0,114	CIIN	0,073—0,086
b) 0,331	CIINT////RRIA	0,028—0,095
c) 0,068	{ DIII· VII	0,017—0,024
d) infra c) 0,106	CVEN	0,039—0,066

Della Corte p. 268 n. 354—357, p. 294 n. 727 sq.; b) et c) emendavi ex ipsius apographo, ubi in c) ante litteram D vel O vel V discerni potest. Conicerem a) et b) non alia esse ac 10581, nisi Della Corte p. 294 diserte diceret b), c), d) non in eodem pariete fuisse ac 10585, sed in opposito pariete septentrionali (contra cf. *ibid.* p. 268).

d) *C. Ven(idi?)* Della Corte p. 268 n. 356.



# Graffiti drawings in C/L IV

## 3) Drawing mentioned within note:

10532 Ibidem, in parietis parte, quae ulterius ad extremam d. adiacet

0,023

Θ

0,034

0,128

FAVSTVS

0,011—0,063

0,085

NOTHVS

0,011—0,029

0,111

NOTHVS

0,018—0,051

Della Corte p. 262 n. 267. Vidi excepto v. 4.

V. 2—4 scripti sunt ad phaseli formam.

1 “(Theta nigrum).”

3—4 *Nothus* potius adiectivum quam hominis nomen duco, quasi Faustus non ex iustis nuptiis natus sit.

Conc. Min. BB. AA. CC., divieto di riproduzione





# Challenges working with text and images

## 1) How to define an entry?

- Series, clusters vs. individual figures
- Context?

## 2) How to describe drawings?

- Interpretation, standardization

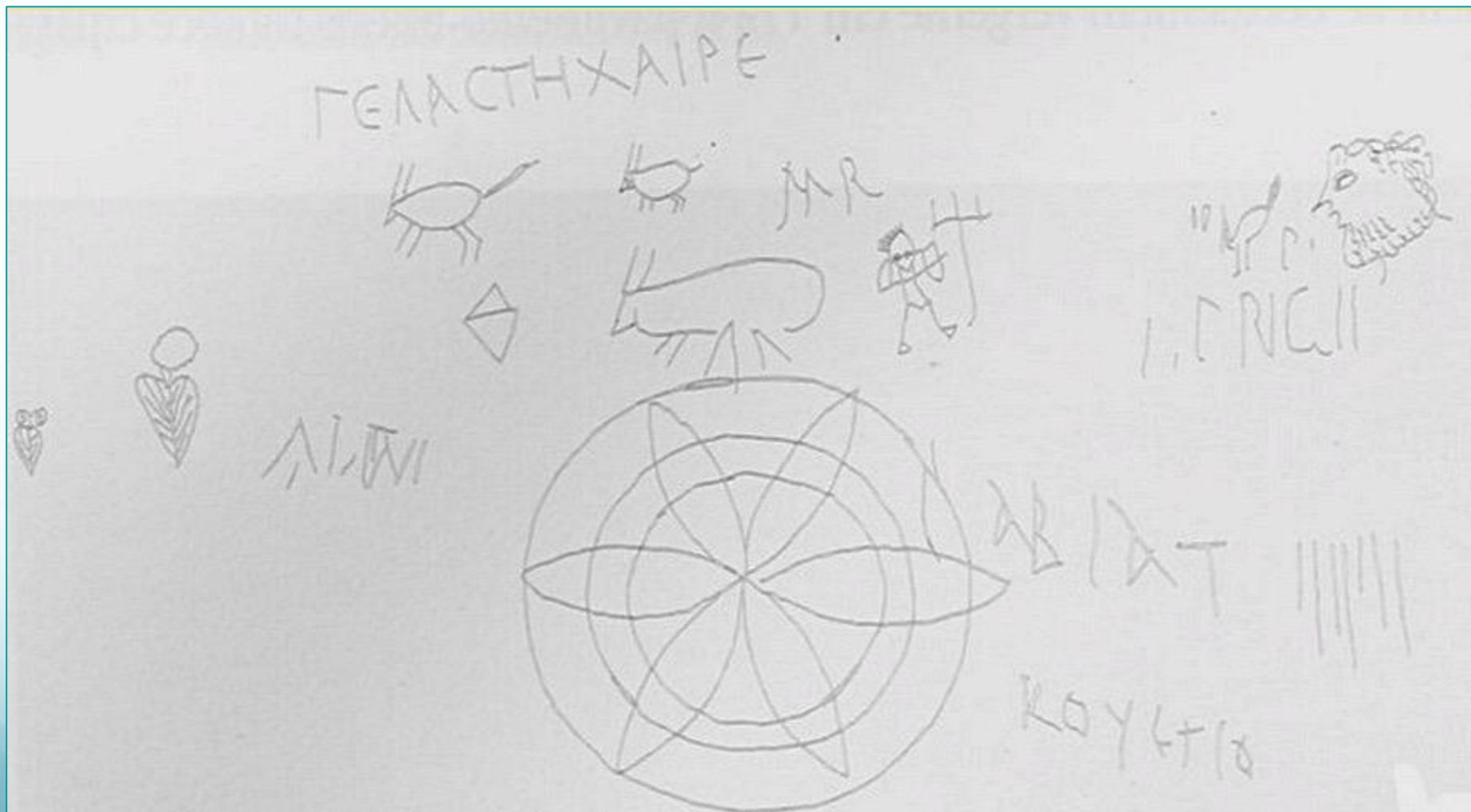
## 3) How to make drawings searchable?

- How to enable both browsing and specific searches

# 1. How to define an entry?



# 1. How to define an entry?



**Conc. Min. BB. AA. CC., divieto di riproduzione**

**8380** In cubiculo atri (ad atri angulum inter septentrionem et orientem)  
 pariete septentrionali die 26 Ian. 1927 inscriptionem detegi aream  
 cm. 27 × 53 occupantem, quam duo phalli comitantur

0,31

ONIISIMII

phallus

0,061—0,098

0,477

XVRIKIK K Λ

0,483

DOS phallus LABII · ONESIMVS

0,013—0,052

0,332

ONIISIME QVNVKICE E

Λ

Descripsi et edidi N. S. 1929, p. 467, n. 219, ubi errore ad domum n. 7  
 rettuli, Diehl 1030.

Legenda et interpretanda forsitan ita: *Onesime*, (ecce?) / *xurikilla* (pro  
*mentula*?). / (*Phallus est*) *dos labii (tui)*, *Onesimus* (nominativo pro vo-  
 cativo posito; littera *e* infra geminata). / *Onesime qunu* (pro *cunnum*)  
*li(n)ge*.

**8381** Paries adversus secundo effossionum tempore, die 1 Dec. 1932,  
protulit, quae sequuntur. Ad d. fenestrae

0,18

ΓΕΛΑCTH XAIPE

0,015—0,02

Descripsi et edidi N. S. 1933, p. 310, n. 277.

**Urbs antiqua:** Pompeii

**Urbs nostrae aetatis:** Pompei (Napoli)

**Locus inventionis:** Pompei (Napoli), Regio I.10.8, Casa di Minucius Fuscus

**Locus adservationis:** Pompei (Napoli), Regio I.10.8, Casa di Minucius Fuscus

**Rerum inscriptarum distributio:** aedificium

**Rei materia:** tectorium

**Mensurae:** alt.: 2.80 lat.: 6.80 Crass./Diam.: 0.00 litt. alt.: 1,7-2,8

**Status tituli:** tit. integer

**Scriptura:** litt. scariph.

**Lingua:** latina

**Titulorum distributio:** cetera

**Virorum distributio:** ignoratur

**Editiones:** CIL 04, 08383 (1)

A. Varone, Titulorum graphio exaratorum qui in CIL vol. IV collecti sunt: Imagines, Roma 2012, Vol. I, p. 78 (con apographo e foto) (2)

**Textus:**

Attini

Mostra Correzioni/Normalizzazioni

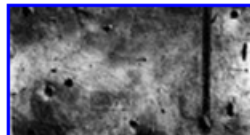
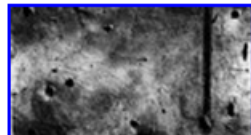
**Apparatus:** Textus secundum (2), mensurae secundum (1)

scriptum Attini pro Atini

Prope [EDR147932](#), [EDR148419](#), [EDR148731](#), [EDR148732](#), [EDR148733](#), [EDR149031](#), [EDR149034](#), [EDR149035](#), [EDR149036](#), [EDR1490137](#), [EDR149041](#), [EDR149043](#)

**Tempus:** 1 d.C. / 79 d.C. (archaeologia)

**Schedae scriptor:** Holly SYPNIEWSKI **Tempus schedae:** 12-04-2015 (23-07-2015)





# EAGLE ELECTRONIC ARCHIVE OF GREEK AND LATIN EPIGRAPHY

International Federation of Epigraphic Databases

under the patronage of

Association Internationale d'Épigraphie Grecque et Latine - AIEGL

**Urbs antiqua:** Pompeii

**Urbs nostrae aetatis:** Pompei (Napoli)

**Locus inventionis:** Pompei (Napoli), Regio I.10.8, Casa di M

**Locus adservationis:** Pompei (Napoli), Regio I.10.8, Casa d

**Rerum inscriptarum distributio:** aedificium

**Rei materia:** tectorium

**Mensurae:** alt.: 2.80 lat.: 6.80 Crass./Diam.: 0.00 litt. alt

**Status tituli:** tit. integer

**Scriptura:** litt. scariph.

**Lingua:** latina

**Titulorum distributio:** cetera

**Virorum distributio:** ignoratur

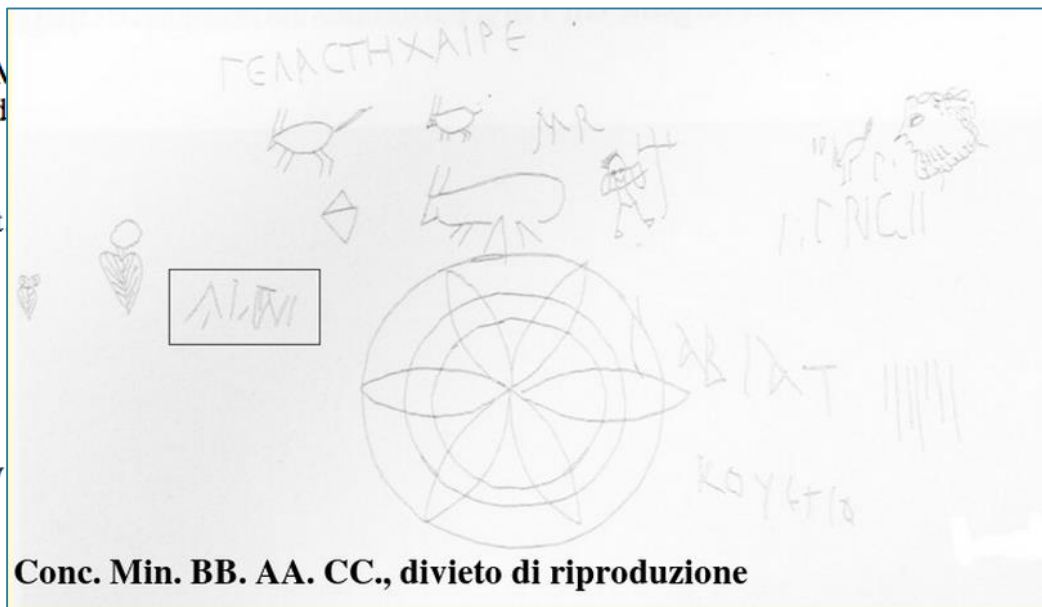
**Editiones:** CIL 04, 08383 (1)

A. Varone, Titulorum graphio exaratorum qui in CIL vol. IV

**Textus:**

Attini

Mostra Correzioni/Normalizzazioni



Conc. Min. BB. AA. CC., divieto di riproduzione

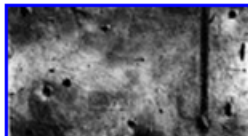
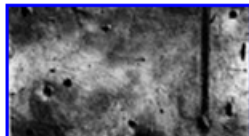
**Apparatus:** Textus secundum (2), mensurae secundum (1)

scriptum Attini pro Atini

Prope [EDR147932](#), [EDR148419](#), [EDR148731](#), [EDR148732](#), [EDR148733](#), [EDR149031](#), [EDR149034](#), [EDR149035](#), [EDR149036](#), [EDR1490137](#), [EDR149041](#), [EDR149043](#)

**Tempus:** 1 d.C. / 79 d.C. (archaeologia)

**Schedae scriptor:** Holly SYPNIEWSKI **Tempus schedae:** 12-04-2015 (23-07-2015)



# 1. How to define an entry?

**10711** In aedibus V · 35, in alae (B apud Maiuri I p. 378 fig. 308) pariete meridionali, iuxta novem galeas gladiatorias et parvum phallum graphio delineata

0,37

A B C D I I F G H I L M N O P Q

0,03

Della Corte p. 267 n. 321. Signa quaedam cernuntur, quae iam intellegi nequeunt.



## EAGLE ELECTRONIC ARCHIVE OF GREEK AND LATIN EPIGRAPHY

International Federation of Epigraphic Databases

under the patronage of

Association Internationale d'Épigraphie Grecque et Latine - AIEGL

**Urbs antiqua:** Herculaneum

**Urbs nostrae aetatis:** Ercolano (Napoli)

**Locus inventionis:** Ercolano (Napoli), Insula V.35, Casa del Gran Portale

**Locus adservationis:** Ercolano (Napoli), Insula V.35, Casa del Gran Portale

**Rerum inscriptarum distributio:** aedificium

**Rei materia:** tectorium

**Mensurae:** alt.: 5.60 lat.: 4.00 Crass./Diam.: 0.00 litt. alt.: ?

**Status tituli:** tit. integer

**Scriptura:** litt. scariph.

**Lingua:**

**Titulorum distributio:** cetera

**Virorum distributio:**

**Editiones:** CIL 04, 10711 (nota) (1)

M. Langner, Antike Graffitizeichnungen: Motive, Gestaltung und Bedeutung. Wiesbaden 2001, n. 964 (gladiator equipment) (2)

**Textus:**

((:galea gladiatoria cum crista ad. dext.))

**Apparatus:** Textus secundum (2). Contulerunt Beall, Bey IV, McCrory, Opdenhoff, Tomasi, Zimmermann Damer a. 2014.

Prope [EDR143634](#), [EDR143814](#), [EDR143832](#), [EDR143833](#), [EDR144659](#), [EDR144783](#), [EDR144784](#).

**Tempus:** 1 d.C. / 79 d.C. (archaeologia)

**Schedae scriptor:** Erika DAMER **Tempus schedae:** 06-07-2015 (18-08-2015)





## 2. How to describe drawings?

# EAGLE ELECTRONIC ARCHIVE OF GREEK AND LATIN EPIGRAPHY

International Federation of Epigraphic Databases

under the patronage of

Association Internationale d'Épigraphie Grecque et Latine - AIEGL

**Schedae numerus:** EDR144514

**Regio antiqua:** LaC

**Regio nostrae aetatis:** I

**Urbs antiqua:** Herculaneum

**Urbs nostrae aetatis:** Ercolano (Napoli)

**Locus inventionis:** Ercolano (Napoli), Insula V.1, Casa Sannitica

**Locus adservationis:** Ercolano (Napoli), Insula V.1, Casa Sannitica

**Rerum inscriptarum distributio:** aedificium

**Rei materia:** tectorium

**Mensurae:** alt.: 21.00 lat.: 25.80 Crass./Diam.: 0.00 litt. alt.: ?

**Status tituli:** tit. integer

**Scriptura:** litt. scariph.

**Lingua:**

**Titulorum distributio:** cetera

**Virorum distributio:**

**Editiones:** M. Langner, Antike Graffitizeichnungen: Motive, Gestaltung und Bedeutung. Wiesbaden 2001, n. 1443 (Esel/camel) (1)

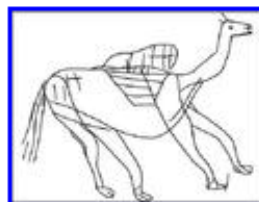
**Textus:**

((:camelus dromedarius lodicem gerens, cum cauda, ad dextram incedens))

**Apparatus:** Textus secundum (1), Contulerunt Beall, Bey IV, McCrory, Opdenhoff, Tomasi, Zimmermann Damer a. 2014.

**Tempus:** 1 d.C. / 79 d.C. (archaeologia)

**Schedae scriptor:** Erika DAMER **Tempus schedae:** 25-11-2014 (15-09-2015)



# Issues of interpretation





# Issues of interpretation

**8185** In huius tabernae pomariae parietis orientalis summo podio negliger delineata est herma muliebris prospiciens, cui supra scriptus est, longitudine cm. 28



**8185** In huius tabernae pomariae parietis orientalis summo podio negligenter delineata est herma muliebris prospiciens, cui supra scriptus est, longitudine cm. 28



Descripseri et edidi N. S. 1912, p. 405, n. 8 cum imagine, Diehl 1021 cum adn.

*Mula fella<a>t. [A]ntoni(?) / Fortunata a(eris) a(ssibus) (duobus).*  
Diehl legit *Mu[...]a fella a. II iitori.*

# Issues of interpretation

**10676** Ad sin. 10675, infra mulieris imaginem graphio delineatam in spatio lato m. 0,37.

Haec imago est apographi non charta per lucida exarati, sed descripti et in ipso describendo minuti

ΗΕΛΜΕΤΟΣ ΤΗΜΙΓΕΝΙΛΕ ΔΟΜΙΝΛΕ  
ΥΕΝΙ ΤΥΤΕΟΛΟΣ ΙΝ ΥΙΟ ΤΙΜΗΙΛΛΟ ΕΤΑΥΛΕΡΕ  
ΛΜΕΣΣΙΟ ΝΥΜΝΛΛΙΟ ΗΕΛΜΕΤΟΤΕΜ [ΗΟΕΔ]





Conc. Min. BB. AA. CC., divieto di riproduzione

**10676** Ad sin. 10675, infra mulieris imaginem graphio delineatam in spatio lato m. 0,37.

Haec imago est apographi non charta perlucida exarati, sed descripti et in ipso describendo minuti

ΗΕΡΜΕΥΟΣ ΤΗΜΙΓΕΝΙΛΕ ΔΟΜΙΝΛΕ  
 ΝΕΝΙ ΤΥΤΕΟΛΟΣ ΙΝ ΝΙΟ ΤΙΜΡΙΛΛΟ ΕΤΑΥΛΕΡΕ  
 ΛΜΕΣΣΙΟ ΝΥΜΥΛΛΙΟ ΗΕΡΜΕΥΟΤΕΜ [ΗΟΕΔ]



Conc. Min. BB. AA. CC., divieto di riproduzione



Conc. Min. BB. AA. CC., divieto di riproduzione

**10676** Ad sin. 10675, infra mulieris imaginem graphio delineatam in spatio lato m. 0,37.

Haec imago est apographi non charta perlucida exarati, sed descripti et in ipso describendo minuti

ΗΕΡΜΕΥΟΣ ΤΗΜΙΓΕΝΙΔΕ ΔΟΜΙΝΛΕ  
 ΥΕΝΙ ΤΥΤΕΟΛΟΣ ΙΝ ΝΙΟ ΤΙΜΡΙΛΛΟ ΕΤΑΥΛΕΡΕ  
 ΛΜΕΣΣΙΟ ΝΥΜΥΛΛΙΟ ΗΕΡΜΕΥΟΤΕΜ [ΗΟΕΔ]

**Urbs antiqua:** Herculaneum

**Urbs nostrae aetatis:** Ercolano (Napoli)

**Locus inventionis:** Ercolano (Napoli), Terme Suburbane

**Locus adservationis:** Ercolano (Napoli), Terme Suburbane

**Rerum inscriptarum distributio:** aedificium

**Rei materia:** tectorium

**Mensurae:** alt.: 25.00 lat.: 0.00 Crass./Diam.: 0.00 litt. alt.: ?

**Status tituli:** tit. integer

**Scriptura:** litt. scariph.

**Lingua:**

**Titulorum distributio:** cetera

**Virorum distributio:**

**Editiones:** CIL 04, 10676 (1)

M. Langner, Antike Graffitizeichnungen: Motive, Gestaltung und Bedeutung. Wiesbaden 2001, n. 309 (Phalluskopf) (2)

A. Varone, Titulorum graphio exaratorum qui in CIL Vol. IV collecti sunt imagines, Roma 2012, vol. II, p. 509 con foto (3)

**Textus:**

((:caput acutum cum nasone longo et corona, gryllus?))

**Apparatus:** Textus et mensurae secundum (2); Image identified as "mulieris imago" at (1), fortasse non recte

**Tempus:** 1 d.C. / 79 d.C. (archaeologia)

**Schedae scriptor:** REBECCA BENEFIEL (HOLLY SYPNIEWSKI) **Tempus schedae:** 21-11-2014 (21-09-2015)





**Urbs antiqua:** Herculaneum

**Urbs nostrae aetatis:** Ercolano (Napoli)

**Locus inventionis:** Ercolano (Napoli), Terme Suburbane

**Locus adservationis:** Ercolano (Napoli), Terme Suburbane

**Rerum inscriptarum distributio:** aedificium

**Rei materia:** tectorium

**Mensurae:** alt.: 25.00 lat.: 0.00 Crass./Diam.: 0.00 litt. alt.: ?

**Status tituli:** tit. integer

**Scriptura:** litt. scariph.

**Lingua:**

**Titulorum distributio:** cetera

**Virorum distributio:**

**Editiones:** CIL 04, 10676 (1)

M. Langner, Antike Graffitizeichnungen: Motive, Gestaltung und Bedeutung. Wiesbaden 2001, n. 309 (Phalluskopf) (2)

A. Varone, Titulorum graphio exaratorum qui in CIL Vol. IV collecti sunt imagines, Roma 2012, vol. II, p. 509 con foto (3)

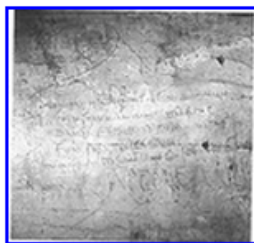
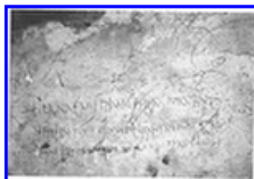
**Textus:**

((:caput acutum cum nasone longo et corona, gryllus?))

**Apparatus:** Textus et mensurae secundum (2); Image identified as "mulieris imago" at (1), fortasse non recte

**Tempus:** 1 d.C. / 79 d.C. (archaeologia)

**Schedae scriptor:** REBECCA BENEFIEL (HOLLY SYPNIEWSKI) **Tempus schedae:** 21-11-2014 (21-09-2015)



### 3. How to search for drawings (figural graffiti)?



## Categories for Figural Graffiti

### Additional Search Options

• Location:

OR

• Property Type:

OR

• Drawing Type:

OR

• Graffiti Content Search:

OR

• Global Search:

Search

Clear

All

Animals

Boats

Erotic images

Geometric designs

Gladiators/equipment

Human figures

Other

Plants



# Filters will allow a user...

- To limit search results
- To retrieve more specific results
- To perform a secondary level of search
  - E.g. Ran a search for all drawings of animals, then wanted to know what kind of animals are found drawn in taverns (not public buildings or houses)

# Sample potential tags

- Animal types: horse, boar, dog, stag
- Geometric shapes: triangle, circle, square, quadrangle
- Boats: rudder, net, hull
- Gladiator equipment: helmet, shield, greaves, net, trident, sword
- Architecture: column, column base, ladder

# Prototype for Filters

[Home](#)[Search Pompeii](#)[Search Herculaneum](#)[Browse All Inscriptions](#)[Browse All Drawings](#)[About the Project](#)[Refine Results](#)**Keyword Search** ▲[Content](#)[Global](#)**City** ▼**Insula** ▼**Property** ▲

- Pompeii +
- Herculaneum -
- Insula II +
- Insula III +
- Insula IV +
- Insula V -
- ☐ V.1,2 Samnite House
- ☐ V.3,4 House of the Loom
- ☐ V.5 House of the Wooden Furniture
- ☐ V.6 Shop
- ☐ V.7 House of Neptune and Amphitrite

**Drawing Category:** All ✕

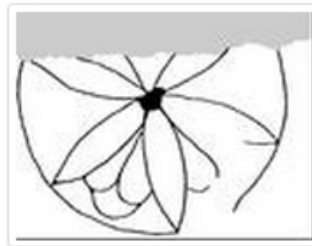
18 results found for all drawings

**Result 1**

**City:** [Pompeii](#)  
**Findspot:** [Casa dei Quattro Stili \(I.8.17\)](#)  
**Drawing Description:** [virī facies ad sin.](#)  
**Drawing Category:** [Human figures](#)

[See more information](#) →**Result 2**

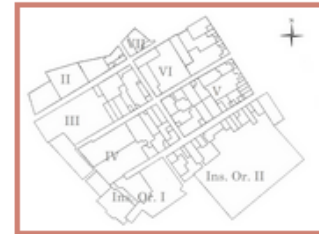
**City:** [Pompeii](#)  
**Findspot:** [Casa dei Quattro Stili \(I.8.17\)](#)  
**Drawing Description:** [circulus continens florem](#)



**Drawing Categories:** [Plants](#) , [Geometric designs](#)

[See more information](#) →**Result 3**

**City:** [Pompeii](#)  
**Findspot:** [Casa dei Quattro Stili \(I.8.17\)](#)  
**Drawing Description:** [circulus](#)







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