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Names in Neo-Punic inscriptions

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INTRODUCTION

The material

For the study of Phoenician and Punic inscriptions several important expedients are in existence, as e.g. the grammars by Friedrich-Röllig¹⁾, van den Branden²⁾, Segert³⁾ and, though older, the still useful grammar by Harris⁴⁾, the dictionary by Jean-Hoftijzer⁵⁾, the study of scripts by Peckham⁶⁾, text editions, apart from CIS⁷⁾, by Donner-Röllig⁸⁾, Gibson⁹⁾ and Guzzo Amadasi¹⁰⁾, and a study of personal names by Benz¹¹⁾. The last mentioned work, however, does not include personal names from Neo-Punic¹²⁾ inscriptions, and to fill this gap the names from these texts have been brought together, as far as they can be recognised. For the sake of completeness also names from coin legends written in Neo-Punic script¹³⁾ have been included.

Although there is, in some parts of this work, a close resemblance to Benz's study, there are differences, of course, partly caused by the different character of the material used (e.g. the more extensive use of vowel letters in Neo-Punic texts and the many names of Berber and Latin origin), partly occasioned by a different approach (e.g. the inclusion of geographical names).

In the years 1968-1969 a first collection was compiled and when the decision was taken to publish the results a lot of material had to be inserted from newly found inscriptions and further studies on other ones, resulting in a work less well balanced than the author had hoped for. Although the effort was made to be more or less complete, several publications must inevitably have been missed. The reader will, however, discern the problems which had to be faced when collecting material from many different and sometimes obscure publications.

A list of the Neo-Punic inscriptions is given on pp. xv ff. including for each text the reference to the publication used as

starting-point for the investigation; in many cases this is not the first nor the latest treatment of a text, but mostly, if possible, an easily accessible edition. Because a different way of referring to inscriptions from other authors has been used (see below) a concordance with some of the most widely used lists of Neo-Punic texts has been given for easy reference (pp. xxviiiif.).

b The way of presentation

The inscriptions are referred to by the name of the place where they were found¹⁴⁾ followed by the letter N (for Neo-Punic)¹⁵⁾ and a number distinguishing different texts found in the same place. This system has several advantages: newly found inscriptions may be included without any difficulty, but it is of even greater importance that in the alphabetical list of names not only the rate of occurrence of a name is attested, but also its geographical distribution. Thus it is easier to study possible differences between areas where Neo-Punic inscriptions have been found. Note e.g. the use of *-h* in a position corresponding to the ending *-us* in Latin names in Chia, against normal *-*¹⁶⁾.

c The comments on the names

The first part of this work is concerned with some general features of groups of names, and some general problems connected with these names. In the alphabetical list of names comments are limited to the one name under discussion; so e.g. in the case of names of probable Berber origin comparable names from RIL have been listed, and in some cases names from CIL, ILA, ILAf, IRT (in a few cases also from classical literature, but only from easily accessible material, e.g. the historical works of Appian, Dio Cassius, Livy, Polybius, Silius Italicus' poem on the Punic wars, Sallustius' *Bellum Iugurthinum*, Corippus' epic poem *Iohannis* and a few others¹⁷⁾). Names with a Latin origin are accompanied by the Latin form of the name in the nominative case, in the most common

spelling. Where appropriate references are given in the alphabetical list to the earlier chapters of this work and vice versa. Bibliographical references concerning Berber names from RIL and names from classical sources are to be found in Appendix iii-iv p. 218f).

... in several instances have visited themselves to descriptions only. The fact to accept these additions or the ... with regard to the ... In these cases ... as a basis for the ... and ... must be limited to ...

An illustration ... in the ... of ... and ... in ...

Handwritten text in a non-Latin script, possibly Berber or Arabic, consisting of several lines of characters.

... in ... of ... and ...