

A New Inscription from Alexandria Troas, Honouring Quintus Burricius Follius Classicus

Aleksandreia Troas'tan Quintus Burricius Follius Classicus Onuruna Yeni Bir Yazıt

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Abstract: This article presents a Latin honorary inscription found in the cemetery of the town of Geyikli in the province of Çanakkale. Like other epigraphic finds previously discovered at the cemetery, the inscribed stone was likely transported from the ancient city of Alexandria Troas. The inscription was found on an architectural fragment decorated with grooves on the right side. This stone is likely part of a pilaster that once belonged to a monumental building. The inscription honours Quintus Burricius Follius Classicus, a member of the *gens Burricia*. Other members of the *gens* were also mentioned in an unpublished honorary inscription that was found in the Smintheion. The bestowal of *ornamenta decurionalia*, *duoviralia* and *sacerdotalia* suggest Quintus Burricius Follius Classicus was a distinguished person. Epigraphic examples of *ornamenta* are not common in Alexandria Troas. This inscription is significant because it is the only example of a person being honoured with three *ornamenta* in the city. Q. Burricius Follius Classicus was probably too young to be a member of the *ordo decurionum*, and as a member of a local elite family, he was able to benefit from these honours.

Keywords: Alexandria Troas • Quintus Burricius Follius Classicus • *Ornamenta* • *Decurionalia* • *Duoviralia* • *Sacerdotalia*

Öz: Bu makalede Çanakkale'nin Geyikli beldesi mezarlığında bulunan Latince bir onurlandırma yazıtı tanıtılmaktadır. Mezarlıkta daha önceden tespit edilen diğer epigrafik buluntular gibi bu parça da Aleksandreia Troas antik kentinden buraya taşınmış olmalıdır. Yazıt, sağ yüzü flütler ile bezenmiş mimari bir parça üzerinde yer almaktadır. Bu taş, bir pilasterin günümüze ulaşan parçasıdır ve muhtemelen bir zamanlar anıtsal bir yapının mimari unsuru idi. Yazıtta daha önce Smintheion'da bulunmuş ancak henüz yayımlanmamış olan başka bir onurlandırma yazıtında geçen ve Aleksandreia Troas dışında henüz epigrafik olarak kayıt altına alınmamış olan *gens Burricia*'nın bir üyesi olan Quintus Burricius Follius Classicus onurlandırılmaktadır. *Ornamenta decurionalia*, *duoviralia* ve *sacerdotalia* Quintus Burricius Follius Classicus'un ayrıcalıklı bir birey olduğunu göstermektedir. Aleksandreia Troas'ta *ornamenta* örneklerine sık rastlanmamakla birlikte mevcut yazıt, kentte bir kişinin üç *ornamenta* ile onurlandırıldığını gösteren tek örnek olması bakımından önemlidir. Q. Burricius Follius Classicus, olasılıkla *ordo decurionum*'un üyesi olmak için epey genç olduğu için yerel elit bir ailenin üyesi olarak bu onursal nişanlardan (*ornamenta*) faydalanma imkânı olmuştur.

Anahtar Kelimeler: Aleksandreia Troas • Quintus Burricius Follius Classicus • *Ornamenta* • *Decurionalia* • *Duoviralia* • *Sacerdotalia*

In the summer of 2020, E. Öztepe, the director of the Alexandria Troas excavations, informed me of the existence of the inscribed stone presented in this paper. The stone stands in the cemetery of Geyikli in the Ezine district of Çanakkale. Upon receiving this information, I visited the cemetery and located the stone. I took photographs but did not examine the stone in detail, because some parts of the inscribed surface were covered with a layer of moss, making it difficult to read the inscription. In

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Article Type: Research | Received Date: 30/01/2023 | Acceptance Date: 16/03/2023 ; Özhan T. 2023, "A New Inscription from Alexandria Troas, Honouring Quintus Burricius Follius Classicus". *Cedrus XI*, 307-312.

2021, my colleague H. Yaman received permission to carry out an archaeological survey in the districts of Ezine and Bayramiç, as well as the central district of the Çanakkale province. I joined the survey team, and my colleague and I revisited the cemetery in 2022 as part of the survey. This visit provided us with an opportunity to examine the inscribed stone in detail, after meticulously removing the moss from its surface¹.

This rectangular fragmentary block of fine-grained white marble, partly buried in the ground, is the surviving upper, moulded piece of a pilaster. The right side of the block is decorated with seven wide grooves with rounded ends. The left and the rear sides are smoothly finished but undecorated, aside from a small oval hole at the rear. The front and left sides are decorated with upper mouldings. The top is flat. It should be noted that this block is not a statue base; the groove decoration on the right suggests that this fragmentary pilaster was an architectural element of a monumental building. As J. K. Bailie has mentioned, Geyikli had two cemeteries, a Greek one and a Turkish one. Both cemeteries contained numerous inscriptions that were brought there from the ancient city of Alexandria Troas². Like other inscribed pieces found in the cemetery, this block may also have been transported from Alexandria Troas/*colonia Augusta Troadensis* to the site where it now stands as a grave marker.

The first and last lines of the inscription are well preserved. The rest of the inscription is badly weathered, especially in the central part. However, it is still legible under the right conditions. A long vertical scratch can be seen on the lower left side of the inscribed area. The letters in the first line, where the honoured person's first *nomen* is engraved are larger than the letters in the other lines of the inscription, aside from the last line. The measurable height of the stone is 54 cm, its width is 34 cm, and its depth is 30 cm. The height of the letters varies between 2.1 and 4.5 cm (Fig. 1).

The inscription reads:

Q(uinto) Burricio Q(uinti) f(ilio) Añ[i](ensi)
 Follio Cl[a]ssico
 decurio[n]alibus
 et Ilvir[a]li[b]us et
 5 ş[a]cerdotalibus
 vv [orna]mentis vv
 vv [h]onorato vv
 d(ecreto) d(ecurionum)



Fig. 1. Inscription Honouring Q. Burricius Follius Classicus

¹ The abbreviations of the epigraphic corpora used in this paper are those of *AIEGL* (Association Internationale d'Épigraphie Grecque et Latine).

² See Bailie 1846, 185-186 no. 194 (Greek cemetery, cf. *I.Alexandria Troas* 55), 186 no. 195 (Greek cemetery, cf. *I.Alexandria Troas* 57), 188 no. 196 (Greek cemetery, cf. *I.Alexandria Troas* 116), 185 no. 193 (Turkish cemetery, cf. *I.Alexandria Troas* 164), 185 no. 192 (Greek cemetery, cf. *I.Alexandria Troas* 171). During our survey, we were only able to find one of these previously documented inscriptions in the cemetery of Geyikli; this is the milestone recorded in Bailie 1846, 185-186 no. 194 (*I.Alexandria Troas* 55), which was later reported lost by M. Ricl.

Translation: “For Quintus Burricius Follius Classicus, son of Quintus, of the voting tribe *Aniensis*, honoured with *decurional* and *duoviral* and *sacerdotal* ornaments by decree of the *decurions*”.

This inscription honours Quintus Burricius Follius Classicus, who was granted three *ornamenta* by decree of the *decurions*. His nomenclature consists of two *nomina*, Burricius and Follius; the second *nomen* is listed after the tribe and before the *cognomen*. There are various explanations for the appearance of the double *nomina*; the second *nomen* could be adoptive or non-adoptive³. In the present inscription, however, the most plausible non-adoptive explanation is that Follius was Classicus’ maternal *nomen*⁴. This is not the first known epigraphic attestation of the *nomen* Burricii in Alexandria Troas, two other Burricii from the city are known from an unpublished Latin inscription found in the Smintheion. In that inscription, Quintus Burricius Proculus Decimianus, *pontifex maximus*, honoured his *piissimus* father, Quintus Burricius Proculus Cornelianus, the *prophetes* of Apollo Smintheus, whose municipal and equestrian career is detailed⁵. It should be noted that the *nomen* Burricius has not yet been found outside Alexandria Troas. Furthermore, this is the first attestation of the *nomen* Follius in Alexandria Troas. It is not a common *nomen* in general; prior to the discovery of the present inscription, two examples were documented in Italy, one from Aquinum and the other from Tarentum⁶. In addition to these examples, another Follius is recorded in a funerary inscription from Puteoli, as Follia Tertulla⁷. The *cognomen* Classicus is well attested⁸. Another example of this *cognomen* in Alexandria Troas was found in an unpublished honorary inscription from the Smintheion, in which Gaius Decimius Classicus, the *prophetes* of Apollo Smintheus, was honoured by the people of the *colonia*⁹.

Quintus Burricius Follius Classicus was honoured with *ornamenta decurionalia*, *duoviralia* and *sacerdotalia*; these honours would have allowed him to enjoy the concessions and honorary rights of these offices in the public¹⁰. In addition to honorary rights, the award of *ornamenta*, in some cases, may also have involved financial benefits¹¹. In the Roman colonies, the recipients of these privileged honours were often distinguished persons who were not members of the *ordo decurionum* or children

³ On double *nomina*, see Salomies 1992, 61-62. For other persons from Alexandria Troas, bearing double *nomina*, see *I.Alexandria Troas* 39: Sextus Quintilius Valerius Maximus (see note 17 below); *I.Alexandria Troas* 83: Aelia Claudia Sympherousa, *I. Alexandria Troas* 103: Aurelius Valerius; *I.Alexandria Troas* 129: Marcus Paulinus Aelius Aurelius; Özhan & Yaman 2019, 80: Sulpicius Aurelius [*cognomen*] and Sulpicius Aurelius Smintheus.

⁴ For maternal *nomen* following paternal *nomen*, see Salomies 1992, 63-67.

⁵ Özhan 2015, 107; cf. *AE* 2018, 1455. On the suffix -icius, see Chase 1897, 126. On *nomina* ending in -icius, see Schulze 1966, 518 and n. 1.

⁶ Salomies 1986, 149-150, referring to *AE* 1978, 110 and Gasperini 1971, 193 n. 4; Solin & Salomies 1994, 81.

⁷ *CIL* X 2458. Cf. Solin & Salomies 1994, 483. Despite the rarity of the *nomen* Follius, the spelling Follius is well-attested, see Solin & Salomies 1994, 81.

⁸ See *ThLL* onom. II s.v. Classicus; Kajanto 1982, 319. See also *LGPN* I s.v. Κλασσικός (Mytilene), *LGPN* VA s.v. Κλασσικός (area of Lydia).

⁹ Özhan 2015, 107.

¹⁰ In general, on *ornamenta*, see Lécrivain 1918, 238-239; Borzsák 1939, col. 1110-1122; Reinhold 1971, 287-288; Eck 2007, col. 221-222. See also Gregori 2008, esp. 661-665 with an extensive bibliography on *ornamenta*; Gil & Neila 2012, 137-163.

¹¹ Gil & Neila 2012, 155, referring to Kleijwegt 1992, 135 and 140 (*non vidi*).

of local elite families who did not yet possess the necessary qualifications¹². In the present inscription, the honoured person, Q. Burricius Follius Classicus, was a young member of the Burricii of Alexandria Troas, who had not yet reached the legal age for holding office¹³. The highest *ornamenta duoviralia* and *sacerdotalia* were likely granted to Q. Burricius Follius Classicus after family members who took part in the *ordo decurionum* or held priestly offices made the suggestion to the *ordo decurionum*¹⁴. Epigraphic examples of *ornamenta* in Alexandria Troas are few. This may be explained by the paucity of inscriptions bearing *cursus honorum* found to date. It is also possible that the practice of granting *ornamenta* was not widespread in the *colonia*¹⁵. The present inscription is the only surviving example from Alexandria Troas documenting the granting of three *ornamenta* to one person.

As J. L. Gregori determined, *ornamenta decurionalia* is the most commonly recorded *ornamenta*, both in Italy and in the provinces¹⁶. Despite its prevalence, only one person from Alexandria Troas was known to have received *ornamenta decurionalia* before the discovery of the present inscription; this is Quintus Pellius Severus, an athlete who received the titles of *bis actionices* and *hieronices*¹⁷. Other epigraphic evidence for the granting of *ornamenta* in Alexandria Troas illustrate the sequence of the higher *ornamenta duoviralia* and *sacerdotalia* or, interestingly, in one example, vice versa. A description of the municipal career of Sextus Quintilius Valerius Maximus, a member of the famous Quintilii of Alexandria Troas, who was elevated to the rank of senator by Nerva, shows that, as a member of an elite family, he enjoyed the honorary rights provided by *ornamenta duoviralia* and *sacerdotalia* before he became *duovir* and *pontifex*¹⁸. However, E.M. Gil and J.F.R. Neila assumed that Sextus Quintilius Valerius Maximus received these *ornamenta* when he was *quaestor Ponti et Bithyniae*¹⁹. An intriguing example of the sequence of *ornamenta* at Alexandria Troas can be found in a dedication made to the Genius Populi; unlike the usual sequence of *ornamenta duoviralia* and *sacerdotalia*, the *ornamenta duoviralia* awarded to Caius Iunius Iunianus follows the *ornamenta sacerdotalia*²⁰. This suggests that there may not have been a particular order in the bestowal of the *ornamenta*, although in other examples from Alexandria Troas, the *duoviralia* precedes the *sacerdotalia*. A small

¹² See e.g. Gil & Neila 2012, 142.

¹³ On the requirements for becoming *decurio*, see e.g. Gizewski 2004, col. 164.

¹⁴ See Gil & Neila 2012, 140.

¹⁵ It is known that the granting of *ornamenta decurionalia* was widely practised, for example, in the *colonia Iulia Philippensis* in Macedonia. See Brelaz & Rizakis 2003, 158-159.

¹⁶ Gregori 2008, 664. Cf. Gil & Neila 2012, 141.

¹⁷ *I.Alexandria Troas* 49 (first/second century A.D.): Q(uito) Pelli[o] Sever[us] | bis actionice, hieroni[ce], | ornamentis decurionalib[us] | honorato d(ecreto) d(ecurionum).

¹⁸ *I.Alexandria Troas* 39 (between 97 and 100): Sex(to) Quinctilio | Sex(ti) f(ilio) Ani(ensi tribu) Valerio | Maximo, lato clavo | exornato a Divo Aug(usto) || Nerva, quaestori Pont[i] | et Bithyniae, patrono | coloniae, pontifici, Il[viro], praef(ecto) ^{vac.} fabrum, | Ilviralib(us) et sacerdotilib(us) || ornam(entis) ^{vac} honor(ato) | d(ecreto) d(ecurionum) | vic(us) X. On the Quintilii of Alexandria Troas, see *I.Alexandria Troas* T175, Kuhn 2012, 421-458; Esch 2018, 1-60.

¹⁹ Gil & Neila 2012, 154.

²⁰ *I.Alexandria Troas* 74 (first century A.D.): Gen(io) populi | C(aius) Iulius C(ai) f(ilius) Ani(ensi tribu) Iunianus | Ilvir iterum Ilvir quinquennalis aed(ilis), | sacerdotali(bus) et Ilviralib(us) || [orna]ment(is) et iure contionan[di] | et sta[tuis] pedestrib(us) et equestr[ib(us)] | stat[uis] item a civitate Iliensi[um] clupeis? | e[st] statuis inaurat(is) honora[tus] | consecravit.

piece of marble found at the Smintheion bears another example of *ornamenta* but it is not possible to determine what type of *ornamenta* it was²¹. Other examples are known from a fragmentary funerary inscription dated to the first century A.D.; a Sabinus, whose *praenomen* and *nomen* are missing was given *ornamenta duoviralia* and *sacerdotalia*²². In the same funerary inscription, an anonymous person, whose relationship to Sabinus is unknown, but who was most likely his father, was described as a member of the *ordo decurionum*. M. Riel has suggested that Sabinus may have received these honours posthumously. Furthermore, the honours of *ornamenta duoviralia* and *sacerdotalia* conferred on this anonymous member of the family were listed alongside other offices in his municipal *cursus*. Based on the inscription presented in this paper, it can now be assumed that the section before the *ornamenta duoviralia* and *sacerdotalia* that is missing from Sabinus' funerary inscription can be restored with *ornamenta decurionalia*. It is known that honouring the male children of local elite families with *ornamenta* if they died before they were eligible to hold office was common practice²³. Gil and Neila have argued that the posthumous grant of *ornamenta* should be interpreted as a consolation to the family of the deceased, who had died before the beginning of his *cursus*. In addition, it may also have conferred the right to a privileged funeral ceremony²⁴.

The inscriptions attesting to the practice of *ornamenta* in Alexandria Troas are dated to the first/late first century A.D. The same date can also be applied to the present inscription.

²¹ Özhan 2015, 119 no. 13: [- - -]ÇIAI[- - -] | [- - -]lib(us) or̄n[amentis - - -]; cf. *AE* 2018, 1462.

²² *I.Alexandria Troas* 135 (first century A.D.): [*praen., nomen, filiation*] Ani(ensi tribu) Sabino, | [. Iivira]lib(us) et sacerdotalib(us) | [ornamentis hono]rato d(ecreto) d(ecurionum) piissimo f(ratri), | [*praenomen, nomen* pr]aef(ecto) Iivir(ali) potes(tate), || [Iivir]lib(us) et sacerdot]alib(us) ornamentis | [honorato, praef(ecto) fa]brorum q(uestori) et sibi | [et piissimae m]atri piissima f(ilia) v(iva) f(ecit). It should be noted that the reading of the inscription is problematic; other editions have proposed different readings. For other editions, see *I.Alexandria Troas* 135. On the other hand, if we take the letter F preceding the letter V in the last line as a mistake on the part of the stonemason, and read it as E, the text can alternatively be read as follows: [*praen., nomen, filiation*] Ani(ensi tribu) Sabino, | [. Iivira]lib(us) et sacerdotalib(us) | [ornamentis hono]rato d(ecreto) d(ecurionum) piissimo f(ratri), | [*praen., nomen, cognomen* pr]aef(ectus) Iivir(ali) potes(tate), || [Iivir]lib(us) et sacerdot]alib(us) ornamentis | [honoratus, praef(ectus) fa]brorum q(uaestor) et sibi | [*praen., nomen, cognomen* m]atri piissima<e> v(iva) f(ecit). Thus, according to the proposed reading, the anonymous person whose career is listed between the fourth and sixth lines built this funerary monument for himself, his brother, and his mother.

²³ See e.g. Gil & Neila 2012, 160-162, with examples from the provinces of Hispania.

²⁴ Gil & Neila 2012, 160.

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