Connecting Inscriptions:
The Ohio State University's Collection meets EDR

The number of Digital Humanities projects in Classics is growing by the day to "accommodate" our field to our interconnected world. A pending task for those of us working in Digital Epigraphy is to connect the large number of databases between each other. I am doing that between OSU's collection and EDR – Epigraphic Database Rome.

Center for Epigraphical and Palaeographical Studies (CEPS)

The Center was created at The Ohio State University in September 1986. Stephen Tracy took the initiative in its creation with the strong support of Charles Babcock and other colleagues. It is the only comprehensive research facility for the study of Greek and Latin inscriptions and manuscripts in the United States of America.

The Center maintains an excellent library of books on epigraphy and palaeography as well as an extensive collection of photographs and squeezes of Greek and Latin inscriptions and microfilms of Latin manuscripts. The Center houses a number of special collections including Arthur and Joyce Gordon's photographs and squeezes of Latin inscriptions.

Gordon's photos and squeezes at CEPS, Columbus (OH, USA) 2022

OSU CEPS - EDR project

The aims of my project are:
- to link the photos and squeezes of the Center's collections coming from Rome with EDR
- to revise and update the digitalization of that specific part of the collection on OSU server
- to reference all the Center's photos which are yet to be identified with a CIL number
- to create EDR files for the photos and squeezes without EDR number

With this project, I will be able to connect the two databases making any research project simpler, improving both EDR and OSU Knowledge. In the records coming from the Gordons' collection at CEPS there is now a link to all the epigraphic information corresponding to the inscription through EDR. In any EDR record, there would be a link to the photo and/or squeeze of the CEPS' collection. Additionally, this would provide the two databases additional visibility in the academic community.

- CIL 6.16 (= CIL 6.30685) (5) - EDR121889
- CIL 6.40^{mp} - EDR161198
- CIL 6.44 – A dedication to Hercules Augustus by Felix, an imperial freedman in charge of the technical side of the mint in Rome, and a list of the freedmen and slaves working under him, January 28, AD 115 (3) - EDR143724
- CIL 6.77^{mp} - EDR161217
- CIL 6.85 – Dedication of "Castors," on two identical marble bases (probably statues of Castor and Pollux, one on each base), to the guild of public grain measurers by Marcus Aelius Rusticus, director of the guild, in celebration of his birthday (?), May 18, AD 198 (3, with notes by A.E. Gordon) - EDR161221 (85a), EDR164508 (85b)
- CIL 6.88 – Dedication on an altar to 'Citizenship' by M. Aemilius Artema, probably commemorating his manumission, ca. AD 51-100 - (notes by A.E. Gordon) - EDR136696
- 98 sq (3) - EDR161228
- CIL 6.100 (= CIL 11.136a") – Dedication to the gods and goddesses by C. Iulius Arn.

CEPS website with EDR links, 2022

EDR file for CIL VI, 5197

Archivo de Epigrafía Latina 'Silvio Panciera', Rome (Italy) 2022

Focus

With this series of examples, I want to show how the two databases could help each other to improve and make the researching work simpler and more accurate. Besides, the collections and work of the CEPS would reach a larger range of European researchers, helping to achieve the main goal of the epigraphic community (and their databases): linked open data, collaboration between working projects and better user experience.

Why is this project necessary?

To illustrate my point, I will explain some examples of the previous state of things.

In the case of CIL VI, 962, a dedication to Trajan, there is a photo at the Arthur E. Gordon collection, available online at CEPS. The inscription was digitalized in EDR (EDR103991) and had two external links to EDH: one image of the paper file (F026988) and one photo (F013631). Still, Alföldy's photo was only offered as a miniature. Therefore, the only proper picture available online was the one from CEPS, but this reference lacked publicity in the main epigraphical databases. However, thanks to this project there is now a link in EDR to the CEPS photo and vice versa.

CIL VI, 5197 is the epitaph of *Musicus Scurranus*, *dispensator ad fiscum Gallicum prouinciae Lugdunensis*. It was present in EDR (EDR102406) without any photo or external link. The CEPS has two photos not digitalized yet at the beginning of this project. Thanks to it, Wendy Watkins, curator of the Center, and I were able to create a record for CIL VI, 5197 on the CEPS database and I linked it with EDR's entry. Thereby, we now have available online epigraphical information and physical record.

In the case of CIL VI, 36201, a nine years old girl's funerary inscription, there is no record in EDR and the multiple photos of the CEPS collection are not available online yet. On one hand, I am developing the EDR file based on Gordon's photo and integrating it with the information provided by the Panciera's Archive of Latin Epigraphy, host at Sapienza University of Rome by an EDR team. On the other hand, Watkins and I digitalized the CEPS' photos. At the end of the process, I would link the two records. All the relevant information will be available for the public.
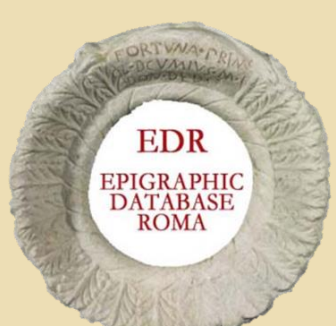
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THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY
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