SEX. NONIVS QVINCTILIANVS:

*a note on* Abb. Akad. Berlin 1932, 5, 36, n. 15 = AE 1933, 265

by Ursula Weidemann (Heidelberg)

In June 1958 I undertook a journey through the historical sites of western Asia Minor. In the present township of Bergama (Pergamum) Dr. Jörg Schäfer, deputy-in-charge of the German Archaeological Institute, was so kind as to show me the depot of the excavations performed on the site of the Asclepieion. There a rather inconspicuous votive altar struck my attention mainly because the inscription was in Latin — something rather out of the ordinary in Pergamum, since even during the imperial period and in official proclamations or dedications Greek seems to have had the preponderance over Latin.

A closer inspection showed that the dedicator had been the *lictor proximus*, i.e. chief lictor of a proconsul of Asia, whose name (in the genitive) I read as [SEX] NONIVS QVINCTILIANI and whom I was inclined to identify tentatively with either of two consuls of the same name in the Julio-Claudian period. While still in Pergamum I ascertained that, contrary to expectation, Wiegand had published the inscription in question as referring to a *proconsulius Quinctilianus* — a reading which has hitherto been permitted to stand unquestioned.

On my return I decided to resume the quest, especially since the enlarged photographs taken of the inscription seemed to confirm the correctness of my reading.

---

1. Mummium Primus / lictor proxum[us] / Bononi Quinctilia[n] / procos / Asclepio et Saluti / v.s.l.m. (See transcription on p. 98 below.)

2. I take this opportunity to thank the Kommission für Alte Geschichte und Epigraphik, Munich, for the grant which enabled me to undertake this journey, and also to express my gratitude to Prof. Dr. E. Boehringer, president of the German Archaeological Institute, for the permission to re-publish the inscription discussed below.


7. cf. PIR² 2, XIX, 144a, Stein *Legaten von Moesien* 90, Degrassi Fasti 59, 158, Magie *Roman Rule in Asia Minor* 1586, Barbieri *Albo Senatorio* n. 664 (no mention made by Lambrechts *Composition du Sénat Romain de Septime Sévère a Diocletien*).
At Wiegand’s suggestion⁸ Groag⁹, Degrassi¹⁰ and Barbieri¹¹ had been inclined to identify the proconsul [Bo]nonius Quinctilianus with a certain Quintilianus who had been legate of Moesia Inferior under Caracalla and whose nomen gentilicium is unknown¹². Stein was the only one to express his doubts, without offering an alternative solution¹³. However, the fact that Bononius Maximus¹⁴, the only restored Bononius of any standing¹⁵, was a contemporary of the legate and so — the correctness of Wiegand’s reading taken for granted — might have been a cognate of the hypothetical [Bo]nonius Quinctilianus, seemed to corroborate neither Wiegand’s conjecture nor his identification, based solely on the similarity of the cognomina¹⁶.

Yet the whole problem of nomenclature hinges ultimately on an approximately correct dating of the dedication¹⁷. An examination of the use of ‘proxumus’¹⁸ shows that this form of the word ‘proximus’¹⁹ was used rather frequently in the time of the republic and of the early empire²⁰ while there is hardly any evidence for its prevalence during the second and third centuries²¹. An inquiry into the formulas of datable dedicatory offerings to Asclepius and Hygia also reveals that the few cases in which the names of the deities were placed at the end of the inscription, are generally to be referred to the first century A.D.²², whereas the general usage in later times seems to have been different: the dedicatory formula was shifted to a more prominent position at the

⁹ s.v. Quintilianus.
¹⁰ PIR² 2, XIX, 144a.
¹¹ Fasti 59. 158. 221.
¹² Albo senatorio nr. 664, nr. 442.
¹³ PIR 3, 115, 13, Stein Legates 90, Barbieri Albo p. 427.
¹⁵ PIR 1, 239, 119, Henze RE 3, 703.
¹⁶ cf. Klebs, PIR 1, 239, 119: ‘Fortasse praeses aliquis provinciæ vel magistratus.’
¹⁸ It is just conceivable that the archaeological evidence — the inscription was found in the so-called ‘Kaisersaal’ of the Asclepieion (on this cf. Abh. Akad. Berl. 1932, 5, 10f. 29f.) — induced Wiegand to the a priori assumption of a date later than the epoch of Hadrian.
¹⁹ Thus far no exact parallel to the expression ‘Lictor proxumus proconsulis Asise’ (or ‘Africæ’) could be found. For ‘lictor proximus’ cf. CIL 6, 1883. 1884 = D. 1792.
²⁰ cf. Forcellini Lexicon IV, 967, indices to Dessau Inscriptiones Selectae and CIL s.v. Grammatica quae quadrat — Notability literarum: V pro I.
²¹ e.g. CIL 1², 584 = 5, 7749 = D. 5946, 37
²² CIL 1², 593 = D. 6085, 144. 153. 160
²³ CIL 2, 1963 = D. 6088 xxvi. xxvii. xxix
²⁴ CIL 2, 5439 = D. 6087, xcv
²⁵ CIL 6, 1527, 67 = D. 8393, II, 77
²⁶ CIL 10, 4842 = D. 5743, 27
²⁷ Eph. ep. 9, 1ff. = D. 6086, 8. 24. 44.
²⁸ e.g. CIL 1², 375 = D. 6147 = Thylander, IPO B 335 (2nd cent.).
²⁹ e.g. CIL 1², 379 = D. 3832 (ca. A.D. 41)
³⁰ CIL 6, 2028 = D. 5032 (A.D. 38)
³¹ CIL 6, 2028 = D. 5032 (A.D. 38)
³² Abh. Akad. Berl. 1932, 37, 19 = AE 1933, 266 (end of 1st cent.)
³³ Abh. Akad. Berl. 1932, 36, 13 = AE 1933, 264 (2nd cent.)
beginning of the inscriptions 23. A final and important point is that the general character of the letters may well be attributed to the first century also 24.

The question then to be raised is whether Wiegand’s restoration [Bo]nonius can possibly be sustained. Holder 25, Schulze 26, the Thesaurus Linguae Latinae 27 as well as the indices of the Corpus Inscriptionum Latinarum do but reveal that the gens Bononia 28 was none too prominent and produced no senator till the end of the second century. The Nonii, on the other hand, were well-known even in the late republic 29, and members of the family belonged to the early supporters of the Julio-Claudian house 30, thus attaining consul rank 31 and finally 'adlectio inter patricios' under Claudius 32. Among their connexions were eminent families such as the Quinctilii Vari, the Cornelii Dolabellae, the Calpurnii Pisones, the Volusii Saturnini and the Lollii 33. Yet, strangely enough, no Nonius Quinctilianus was hitherto known to have held a provincial governorship in spite of the fact that this particular branch of the Nonii Asprenates 34 was related to the ruling house 35 and most certainly enjoyed the 'amicitia' 36 of the princes 37. Furthermore the inquiry after the reason why of all the con-

---

23 e.g. CIL 3, 986 = D. 3848 (A.D. 180).
CIL 3, 1422 = D. 3849a (end of 2nd cent.).
CIL 8, 2579 a-c = D. 3841 (2nd cent.).
CIL 8, 2589 = D. 3842 (A.D. 208—211).
CIL 8, 2624 = D. 4323 (end of 2nd cent.).
CIL 9, 5823 = D. 6048 (A.D. 159).
CIL 3, 786, 975—7, 980—2, 984, 1279, 1280, 7896 (Dacia: 2nd cent.).
CIL 3, 1417a, 974, 978, 985, 14468 (Dacia: 2nd cent.).
CIL 3, 3388, 3649 (Pannonia inferior: 2nd cent.).
CIL 7, 164 (Britainia: 2nd cent.).
AE 1901, 28, 1914, 111, 1933, 19, 1944, 59 (Dacia: 2nd cent.).
24 Since C. Paepcke De Pergamenerum litteratura (Diss. Roscoff 1906) seems to be antiquated (cf. Zschietzschmann, DLZ 1935, 2034), I consulted Hübner (Exempla Scripturarum Epigraphicae Latinae) and Gordon (Contributions to the palaeography of Latin inscriptions). Although it is a moot point whether studies on the palaeography of 'western' inscriptions can be adduced when palaeographic questions pertinent to inscriptions from the eastern provinces are involved.
26 Lateinische Eigennamen 527.
27 II 2078.
28 cf. also RE and PIR.
29 cf. the omission of Bononius Maximus in the editio altera of the PIR and Barbieri’s assumption that Bononius Quintilianus — identified with the legatus of Moesia — was a homo novus (Albo 552, nr. 664).
30 cf. Münzner RE 17, 862f., Heiter De patriciis gentibus 56, de Laet Samenstelling 65f.
32 L. Nonius Asprenas, cos. suff. 36 B.C.: Münzner RE 17, 863, 14
L. Nonius Asprenas, cos. suff. A.D. 6: PIR 2, 409, 93, Groag RE 17, 867, 16
Sex. Nonius Quintilianus, cos. A.D. 8: PIR 2, 414, 118, Groag RE 17, 898, 46
33 cf. Heiter De patriciis gentibus 56.
34 cf. Weideman Statthalter, Stemma 1.
35 cf. Weidemann, o.c. II, A, 1 and Stemma 1.
36 P. Quinctilius Varus, cos. 13 B.C., was married to Claudia Pulchra, a kinswoman of Augustus.
37a cf. Weidemann, o.c. II, A, 1.
suls of the year A.D. 8\textsuperscript{38} Sex. Nonius Quintilianus should have been the only one not to have reached one of the peaks of the senatorial cursus, viz. the proconsulship of either Africa or Asia\textsuperscript{38}, had been rather perplexing.

Since the evidence seems to point at his being the most likely candidate for having been the proconsul mentioned on the stone\textsuperscript{40}, the next step is to search anew for the epigraphic traces which might have induced Wiegand to read [Bo]nonius. An enlargement of the photographtaken of that portion of the line where praenomen (in abbreviation) and/or nomen gentilicium had been inscribed, shows that the indistinct remaining curvature of a letter X similar to that in the word 'proxumus' might well have been taken for the upper part of an O and that the hardly legible traces of an E might have seemed to indicate a B. The space remaining between the edge of the stone and the second letter could have offered enough room either for the letter S (rather narrow in the whole inscription, as the other recurring examples reveal) or for the abbreviated praenomen of the assumed [Bo]nonius\textsuperscript{41}.

The identity of the proconsul having been established with a reasonable degree of certainty, the rest of the inscription can now be examined anew. Since the top part of the stone has been broken or worn away, there is no immediate certainty as to whether the name of the dedicator was Nummius\textsuperscript{42} or Mummius\textsuperscript{43}. Once more the photograph reveals traces of strokes belonging to the letter N rather than to the letter M.

Although inscriptions of a later period have revealed a Μαξαντ: Νομιμου του Θεού Καντιφι λίττον\textsuperscript{44}, there can be hardly any doubt that Nummius Primus was a freedman of Italian origin\textsuperscript{45}. In spite of the fact that there are no epigraphic parallels for the expression 'lictor proxumus proconsulis Asiae' and that only one other — ordinary — lictor of a proconsul (again of Asia) has been revealed

\textsuperscript{38} M. Furius Camillus, cos. ord.: PIR\textsuperscript{2} 3, 226, 576, Groag RE 7, 348, 45 Sex. Nonius Quintilianus, cos. ord.: PIR 2, 414, 118, Groag RE 17, 898, 46 L. Apronius, cos suff.: v. Rohden RE 2, 273, 4, PIR\textsuperscript{2} 1, 189, 970/1 A. Vibius Habitas, cos. suff.: PIR 3, 422, 384, Hanslik RE 8A, 1971, 35


\textsuperscript{40} Unfortunately the Pergamene inscription CIL 3, 7090 = D. 962 in honour of P. Memmius Regulus, procos. Asiae 48/49, cannot be adduced as either positive or negative evidence, since our inscription does not contain the letters which would have been affected by the Claudian innovation of three additional letters (cf. Ruggiero Diss. ep. 2, 293, Tsc. ann. 11, 14, Suet. Claud. 41). However, in the light of Syme’s remarks on the consuls of the years A.D. 4—14 (Rom. Rev. 434. 437) and of the careers of other proconsuls in the early reign of Tiberius (cf. Weidemann Statthalter) it is perhaps warrantable to prefer the cos. ord. of A.D. 8 to his son, the cos. suff. of A.D. 38. It should also be remembered that it was by no means unusual during the time of Tiberius, that brothers (in this case L. Nonius Asprenas and Sex. Nonius Quintilianus) should hold provincial posts more or less simultaneously (cf. the two Vibii and the two Poppaei: Weidemann Statthalter II, A, 3. B, 23. B, 24, Stein Legaten 16ff.)

\textsuperscript{41} In only one case (CIL 6, 13626: Sex. Bononi Iasonis) the praenomen of a Bononius is revealed.

\textsuperscript{42} My reading and also Wiegand’s reading in the journal (Inv. Perg. 31/15).

\textsuperscript{43} Wiegand’s reading as published in Abh. Akad. Berl. 1932, 36, 15 = AE 1933, 265.

\textsuperscript{44} Inschr. Perg. nr. 555.

hitherto by epigraphic testimony 46, it seems as if Kübler’s view 47 as to the status of the lictors of provincial governors should be preferred to that of Mommsen 48—a view supported e.g. by Jones: ‘In a province the post of chief lictor might be both influential and lucrative’ 49. And since Nummius Primus made the offering as attendant of a Roman magistrate, it is no longer surprising that the inscription should be in Latin, especially since all other Latin inscriptions from Pergamon 50 disclose either tenuous or strong links to the Roman civil service and administration 51.

The final point to be raised concerns the formula ‘Asclepio et Saluti’. Wiegand’s note that Salus is the equivalent of Hygia, is sustained by additional evidence: a Pergamene inscription containing a dedication to ‘Ασκλήπιος καὶ Ὑγίαις 52, an inscription from Dacia addressed to AESCVL(APIO) PERGAM(ENO) ET HYGIAE 53, as well as inscriptions from Lambaesis 54 and Putoeli 55, in which both Salus and Hygia occur together with Asclepius. Intriguing though the problem is, whether there was any merging or overlapping of the concept of ‘Salus publica’ 56 with that of ‘Salus’ = ‘Hygia’, as the Pergamene inscription CIL 3, 399 of Tiberian times 57 might perhaps seem to suggest, this question cannot be examined within the scope of this note 58.

In conclusion the following may be said: The importance of the inscription derives from several considerations. Thus far it is the first epigraphic testimony for a ‘lictor proxumus’ on the staff of a provincial governor, and it bears witness to the rank and importance of the Asclepieion 59 at Pergamum, ‘lange clarissimum Asiae’ in the judgement of Pliny 60. Furthermore it helps to fill one of the gaps in the Julio-Claudian fasti of Asia with the name of a candidate ad-

---

46 CIL 3, 6083 = D. 1913: D. Publicius Fructus lictor Fontei Agrippae procos., vixit annis XXX. The proconsul mentioned in the inscription was C. Fonteius Agrippa, procos. Asiae A.D. 68 (Tac. B. 3, 46).
47 RE 15, 510f.
48 St. R. I 334. 355.
49 Jones, J.R.S. 39, 1940, 39.
50 cf. supra, note 3.
52 On the problem of the usage of Latin in the eastern provinces cf. Wesenberg RE 23, 1003f., Hahn Rom und Romanismus im griechisch-römischen Osten 208ff., Hahn Zum Sprachenkampf im römischen Reich bis auf die Zeit Justinianis, Philologus 1907, 694ff.
54 CIL 3, 1417a = D. 3854.
55 CIL 8, 2579a. b. c = D. 3841. 2589 = D. 3842. 2590 = D. 3844. 2624 = D. 4323.
56 CIL 10, 1546. 1547. 1571 = D. 3852.
58 On the date cf. Ritterling RE 12, 1550f. 1796.
59 On Salus = Hygia cf. also Thulin RE 1 λ, 2058f., Wissowa, o.c. 132. 308f.
61 n.b. 5, 30, 35, 126.
mirably suited by reasons of birth and connections. Additional evidence is also furnished for the social and political standing of the Nonii as a 'family of the new nobility' derived from a Caesarian partisan, and finally the career of Sex. Nonius Quinctilianus can now be examined anew in the light of Dio's remark that, in a manner of speaking, the princeps also assigned the proconsular governors to their commands.

---

**Inscription Image**

```
NUMMIVS·PRIMVS
·LICTOR·PROXVM
SEX·NONI·QUIINCTILIA
PRO·COS
ASCLEPIO·EISALVTL
V·S·L·M
```
Acta Classica is published annually by the Classical Association of South Africa. The journal has been in production since 1958. It is listed on both the ISI and the SAPSE list of approved publications.

For further information go to: