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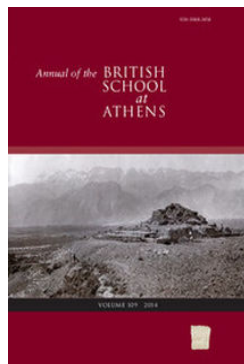
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## Messapian Inscriptions

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## MESSAPIAN INSCRIPTIONS.

IN November and December 1906 I travelled in the south of Italy in order to examine Messapian inscriptions. These inscriptions, believed by Mommsen to belong to the first and second centuries B.C., have been rather neglected of late, but rumours<sup>1</sup> of forgeries, accepted and published with too little criticism, made some investigation desirable. Ten years ago Sig. Bartolomeo Nogara<sup>2</sup> ascertained the number of these inscriptions then known to exist, but without, I think, any detailed criticism of them. I followed in his footsteps, and my enquiries, which were directed to everyone likely to be interested in such matters, covered the whole ground, so that I believe that I saw all still extant.<sup>3</sup> Of course other inscriptions, of which nothing has yet been heard, may have been found lately in country places, but my time, unfortunately, was too limited to allow of my searching through every village in that crowded district, though I was fortunate enough to light on some as yet unpublished, and not widely known.

Of those hitherto published, especially of those contained in Fabretti's work,<sup>4</sup> the greater number have disappeared mysteriously. Many were published in the first instance merely from copies, and to-day there exist less than forty; the total number of existing inscriptions is just over one hundred. For reasons given below I cannot be absolutely precise

<sup>1</sup> Cf. F. Rühl, *Beszenbergers Beiträge*, vol. 14, p. 307; Viola, *Notizie degli Scavi*, 1884, p. 128.

<sup>2</sup> Nogara, *Annuario della r. Accademia Scientifico-Letteraria di Milano*, 1895-6.

<sup>3</sup> With the exception of some vases published by Mayer, *Röm. Mitt.* xii. 208. These however do not require further criticism.

<sup>4</sup> Fabretti, *Corpus Inscriptionum Italicarum*, Suppl. I and III, 1867-78.

as to the total, but I saw, and was able to form some judgment of eighty-eight.

As to the genuineness or the reverse of individual inscriptions, I can but give my personal opinion, drawn from their condition, the lettering, and the circumstances in which they are found. These may be such as to inspire confidence. (*a*) An inscription, for instance, in the possession of a man who is no collector and regards it as a curiosity found on his own land, carries its own guarantee, which is not the case, where (*b*) the inscription has been bought by a rich, enthusiastic, and wholly uncritical collector, nor entirely so, when (*c*) the inscription lies in a Museum to which it may have been presented by such a collector.

The condition of the stone, or bronze, is perhaps the best evidence available. The material of almost all is the Lecce limestone, which is very soft and weathers easily, so that unweathered inscriptions are rather suspect. One or two conspicuously unworn write their own condemnation. Inscriptions in class (*a*) are naturally valuable, as standards with which others in less fortunate circumstances may be compared; the greater number seem to be Grave-inscriptions, and are of course short. It is not uncommon for the stone to be crowned by a cornice sometimes showing traces of red and blue paint, while traces of red in the actual letters are not infrequent.

This table gives a brief schedule of my results :—

	<i>Published</i>	<i>Unpublished</i>
Forged . . . . .	8	21
Doubtful . . . . .	0	2
Genuine . . . . .	22	35

In the following account of the inscriptions which I examined, arranged according to the places where they now are, F., F.P., F.T., stand for Fabretti, *Corpus Inscriptionum Italicarum*, and the supplements I. and III. to that work. V. stands for those published by Professor Viola. Unless a note is made to the contrary it may be assumed that the material is the Lecce limestone and that the inscription is genuine.

## ORIA.

In the Biblioteca Comunale two published,<sup>1</sup> and one unpublished inscription (Fig. 1, No. 1).

- |                       |            |             |
|-----------------------|------------|-------------|
| 1. ΙΑΙΝΤΑΜΑΔΖΙΗΑΣΤ    | a. ΕΥΗΘΙΔΑ | b. ΚΟΜΙΛΛΑΧ |
| 2. ΔΑΙΙΜΑΣ ΦΕΡΝΕΤΙΣ   | b. ΥΟΘΙΑΣ  | i. ΝΙΚΟΒΛΥΟ |
| 3. ΣΡ.ΡΕΔΑΜΙ.         | c. ΕΥΗΘΙΔΑ | j. ΚΗΝΔΑ    |
| 4. ΦΑΣΚΕ              | d. ΚΑΙΑ    | k. ΥΟΘΙΑ    |
| 6. ΠΛΑΤΟΡΑΣΔΡΟΧΧΙΗ    | e. ΚΑΙΑ    | l. ΙΟΡΕ     |
| 7. ΣΦΟΡΑΒΑΨ           | f. ΚΑ      | l. ΚΑΦΕ     |
| 8. ΟΕΟΤΟΡΑΣΧΕΡΝΑΙΗΙΟΙ | g. ΥΟΡΕ    |             |
|                       | h. ΚΑΦΕ    |             |

FIG. 1.

F. 2981 is all in one line (not two as published) and fails to the right.

The inscription published in the *Notizie* is in a sunk line, is complete and shows traces of red paint. Above is a projecting cornice, stuccoed and painted in lines of red and blue.

The third inscription (Fig. 1, No. 1) is on a stone measuring 1.05 m. × .8 m. × .3 m. with a rectangular socket .06 m. deep at either end. The inscription is complete and is about .9 m. long.

In the neighbourhood of Oria inscriptions on bronze are being forged to-day. Twelve of these I saw in the possession of Sig. Carissimo at Oria, and one belonging to Sig. Carlo Arno at Manduria. Two of these are reproduced (Fig. 5, Nos. 22, 23). No. 22 is on a pyxis (the lower line is on the lid); the rest are all rectangular bronze plates with rounded holes at the corners, sometimes decorated with reliefs, e.g. an eagle between serpents, and a head above an acanthus leaf. The bronze of all, though

<sup>1</sup> (1) F. 2981, (2) *Notizie degli Scavi*, 1881, p. 249.

showing a green patina, is certainly new, and the lettering also is decidedly dubious. No. 23 (that possessed by Sig. Arno) is characteristic, and shows two forms of  $\alpha$ , two of  $\sigma$ , and four of  $\sigma$ ; some letters, also, are upside down, and it is not rare to find letters arranged retrograde without reason. It is not too much to say that any inscription on bronze coming from the neighbourhood of Oria should be condemned, until it is proved to be genuine. Whatever inscriptions may have been preserved in the Bishop's palace at Oria have disappeared.

#### CEGLIE MESSAPICA.

In the possession of Dr. Luigi La Gamba I saw twelve lead sling bullets with letters in relief (Fig. 1, No. 5). They are oval, about .04 m. long, show the joins of the mould,<sup>1</sup> and are found frequently in the earth round Ceglie. I am certain that these bullets are not forgeries, but I am not so certain of their Messapian nature, for the  $\gamma$  and four-stroked  $\Sigma$  do not generally appear. Dr. La Gamba also possesses three unpublished inscriptions (Fig. 1, Nos. 2, 3, 4).

No. 2. The stone measures 1.05 m.  $\times$  .4 m.  $\times$  .15 m. and has a slightly raised cornice. The inscription (which has *no break* between the words) is about .9 m. long and is complete.

No. 3. Found on Dr. La Gamba's estate at *Monte Vicoli* in August, 1906. This inscription runs along a piece of cornice measuring .23 m.  $\times$  .21 m. and is circ. .13 m. long. It is broken to the left.

No. 4. On a stone measuring .2 m.  $\times$  .18 m.  $\times$  .1 m. The inscription is about .12 m. long and is broken to the right.

The inscription shown in Fig. 1, No. 6 is in the possession of Sig. Rocco Andelmi. It shows traces of red in the letters, is complete, and is .3 m. long. The stone measures 1.05 m.  $\times$  .14 m.  $\times$  .15 m.

#### BRINDISI.

In the house of Sig. Giuseppe Nervegna I saw five published inscriptions.<sup>2</sup> (1), on bronze, is undoubtedly genuine and is in strong

<sup>1</sup> One such with the same inscription as (a), (c), and (f), I saw in the possession of Sig. Carissimo at Oria.

<sup>2</sup> (1), (2), V. *Giornale degli Scavi di Pompei*, 1878, vol. 4, p. 70; (3), (4), (5), V. *Notizie degli Scavi*, 1884, p. 128, § xxv. a, b, c.

contrast to the Oria bronzes. (2), (3), (4), (5) call for no remark. Sig. Nervegna showed me also two unpublished inscriptions. One (Fig. 5, No. 32) is incised round a piece of pottery, probably the knob-handle of some large lid. It is incised through the sepia paint after baking, and I believe it to be genuine, though Sig. Nervegna himself expressed some doubt; it was found in Brindisi 'some time ago.' The other is on a bronze lamp (Fig. 5, No. 24). The bronze I believe to be new, and the inscription, consequently, though in itself plausible, to be a forgery. The lamp probably comes from the same source as the Oria bronzes, and was 'found' three years ago. The vase published by Lenormant,<sup>1</sup> Sig. Nervegna did not show me, but no further opinion is needed.

In the Brindisi Museum (formerly the Church of San Giovanni al Sepolcro) is a published inscription.<sup>2</sup>

## LECCE.

In the Museo Provinciale there are ten published inscriptions. Of these F.P. 541, F.P. 555 (two inscriptions really)<sup>3</sup> and F.P. 542 are certainly forgeries. They are, however, luckily quite short and of no importance. F.T. 478 } I am inclined to think genuine; the two forms of A are the  
F. 2984 d }

only suspicious detail.

There are also five unpublished inscriptions (Fig. 1, Nos. 7, 8, Fig. 2, Nos. 9, 10, 11).

No. 7. The inscription, which comes from Rugge, is painted on stucco on a stone measuring .72 m. × .17 m. × circ. .18 m. To the right is a painted snake. I am rather doubtful of it, because of the shape of the Ψ and because the letters look late, yet are retrograde. In favour of its genuineness is the fact that it is painted not incised, whereas the only other known painted examples are F. 535, and F.T. 459. The length of the inscription is about .4 m. It is protected by talc, so that it was hard to see if the inscription is complete, or if more letters, for which there is room, have faded.

<sup>1</sup> Lenormant, *Gazette Archéologique*, 1881-2, p. 108.

<sup>2</sup> V. *Notizie degli Scavi*, 1884, p. 117.

<sup>3</sup> F.P. 560, F.P. 535, F. 2984 } F.P. 541, F.P. 555, F.P. 542, F.T. 461, F.T. 447;  
V. *Notizie degli Scavi*, 1884, § xxix. o and p.



## ARNESANO.

In the villa Sant' Antonio belonging to Sig. De Simone there are, I think, between thirty and forty inscriptions collected by the late Sig. De Simone. They are built into an outer wall and are consequently a good deal weathered, and partly hidden by creepers. The time at my disposal also was short, for much more time than I had been led to expect had been lost in reaching the villa, and I could not trespass further on the courtesy of Sig. De Simone, so that I was able to consider critically only eighteen inscriptions. Those which I could neither identify nor judge are about a dozen.

Of the eighteen, ten have been published.<sup>1</sup> Of these F.T. 464, 466, 476, 477, and 481 are forgeries. Besides these there are unpublished seven forgeries (Fig. 5, Nos. 25-31), and one genuine inscription (Fig. 2, No. 12). These do not call for any note other than that the copies, though correct, are not absolutely in facsimile, owing to the shortness of time at my disposal. In the case of the forgeries the lettering, in some cases the spacing between words, and the general crudity of their appearance combined to leave no doubt.

F.T. 459 and 471 I could not see, as they are kept locked up and Sig. De Simone had forgotten to bring the key. Judging from the shape of the letters of a cut facsimile of F.T. 459 I should think that this painted inscription was genuine.

Apparently F.T. 468 is the only published inscription possessed by the late Sig. De Simone which I did not examine; those therefore which I was not able to examine must all be unpublished. The general impression which I received was that, through being built into an outer wall exposed to the weather, even the most reprobate inscription could gain an air of respectability; but since out of eighteen on which I did form a judgment twelve in my opinion are forgeries, I should be strongly inclined to suspect the rest of the collection of the late Sig. De Simone, for he must have been utterly uncritical. Those, not his own, communicated by him to Fabretti must fall under the same judgment.

<sup>1</sup> F.T. 466, 442, 443, 464, 476, 477, 481; V. *Notizie degli Scavi*, 1884, § xxv. (d) and (e) {(e)=F. 2974 bis}; F. 2990-2 (a better copy is given by Castromediano and Maggiulli, *Le iscrizioni Messapiche raccolte*, 5a).



## MURO LECCESE.

In the house of Sig. Luigi Maggiulli I saw :—

Fig. 2, No. 13. An inscription on a base surmounted by a cornice with a maeander. The length of the inscription is about '39 m., but the stone is rather chipped to the left, so that one letter may be missing from the lower line. I was a little doubtful, for the lettering more resembles that on the sham bronzes than that of inscriptions undoubtedly genuine. It is kept out of doors in a court-yard, so that its weathered appearance does not count for very much: yet on the whole I am inclined to believe it genuine; it was found three years ago.

Fig. 3, No. 14. Sig. Maggiulli also possesses a Doric drum with sixteen flutings (Ht. '45 m., diam. '21 m.). The stone is harder than the Lecce

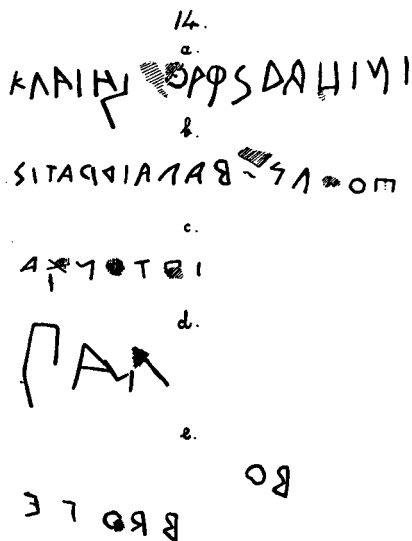


FIG. 3.

stone, and on one side are traces of stucco with a pink tinge. Four flutings bear the inscriptions, (d) being on the same as (c) but to the left and upside down. Lengths :—

- (a) '23 m. (It may be broken to the right.)
- (b) '21 m. complete.
- (c) '08 m. „
- (d) '04 m. „
- (e) '1 m. „

## VASTE.

In the possession of Antonio Carluccio I saw the two decayed inscriptions shown in Fig. 4, Nos. 15, 16. They were utterly unknown and their owner had no idea that they could have any interest ; thus they bear a better guarantee even than those possessed by Dr. La Gamba or Sig. Colosso.

No. 15. This is on one edge of a flat stone circ. 4 m. square. On the upper surface is a circular depression. The inscription runs the whole length of the edge, but is complete, unless the stone had been cut down long ago.

No. 16. This is on the underside of a stone used in roofing a hole in the farm-yard wall. The inscription is broken at both ends and is about 7 m. long.

## CASTRIGNANO DEL CAPO.

Fig. 4, No. 17. This is an inscription found in December 1905, and

15. OXXO  NOH I T M }

16. I P M S A  

17. I T E T A 7 I O A A 9 O I A B V A I J 3 O I A I 9

18.  SAHO  
 SRI



19.  FROY HIAES  
OHERROMA  PRED  
MITOO

FIG. 4.

published by Prof. C. De Giorgi<sup>1</sup> who, however, was not furnished with an accurate copy. Length of the inscription 45 m.

<sup>1</sup> De Giorgi, *Nuove Scoperte in Vereto, in Valesio, and in Terenziano* (*Della Rivista Storica Salentina* Anno III. N.I.).

## UGENTO.

In the house of Sig. Luigi Colosso I saw one published<sup>1</sup> and two unpublished inscriptions (Fig. 4, Nos. 18, 19). Sig. Colosso told me that another which he had possessed was now lost; I expect it was that published with the first by Viola. Though I could not see it I place the fullest confidence in any inscription which Prof. Viola has published.

No. 18. This was found quite lately near Ugento. The face of the stone had a raised border. The inscription, which is broken to the left, measures from the left end of the lower line to the right end of the upper line 15 m.

No. 19. This inscription, which measures about 9 m., is on a worked block of stone with a base. One other similar long side and two shorter sides, uninscribed, were also found, so that it formed part of an elaborate tomb. The inscription, which is out of doors, is in a very bad condition; to the right several letters must be missing from both lines, but to the left, I think, not more than one is missing from the bottom line. Above is a slight projection, so that no further lines are gone. Lower down, where both ends are left, the stone measures about 13 m.

## TARANTO.

In the Museo Provinciale I saw the two inscriptions shown in Fig. 5, Nos. 20, 21. Both came from Manduria five years ago.

No. 20. This is on a pillar with twenty flat faces, length 1.27 m., diam. .65 m.—.55 m. The inscription, which is broken to the right at the narrow end of the pillar, measures .81 m.

No. 21. This is on the narrow side of a broken block, on the broad side of which is part of a hollowed circle containing sculpture now indistinguishable. The inscription, which is broken to the left, measures .74 m.

The inscriptions noted by Nogara as existing in the Naples Museum, at Ostuni in the Biblioteca Comunale, and at Fasano in the house of Signora La Savio, are no longer to be found.

In conclusion I wish to thank for their kindness and courtesy

<sup>1</sup> V. *Notizie degli Scavi*, 1884, § xxviii. n.

Prof. Francesco Ribezzo at Benevento, who is preparing a critical edition of the Messapian inscriptions embodying his results on the linguistic problems which they present; Prof. Quagliati and Prof. Viola at Taranto, Sig. Carissimo at Oria, Sig. Arno at Manduria, Dr. La Gamba at Ceglie, Sig. Calamo at Ostuni, Sig. Nervegna at Brindisi, Prof. De Giorgi and

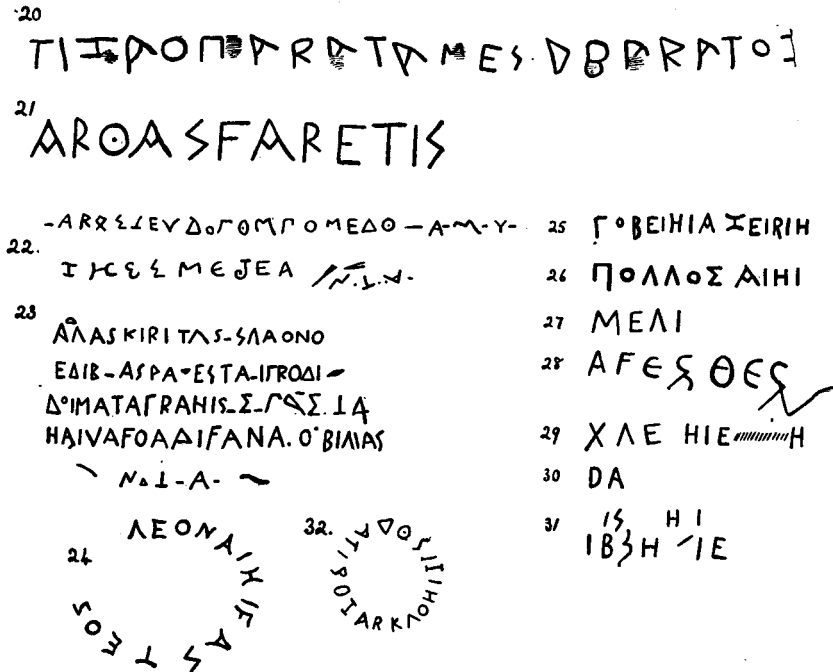


FIG. 5.

Sig. De Simone at Lecce, Sig. Maggiulli at Muro Leccese, Sig. Cagnazzo at Patù and Sig. Colosso at Ugento. Without their help and generosity in placing their collections at my disposal my search could not have carried me far. My great regret is that so many inscriptions have disappeared beyond the range of any evidence but that which philology can bring forward.

J. P. DROOP.

## LIST OF MESSAPIAN INSCRIPTIONS EXAMINED IN 1906.

PUBLISHED BY FABRETTI.

<i>Number.</i>	<i>Place.</i>
F. 2981	Oria. Biblioteca Comunale.
F. 2990-2	Arnesano. Villa Sant' Antonio.
F. 2974 bis. (V. <i>Notizie degli Scavi</i> , 1884, p. 129 e)	" " "
F.P. 560	Lecce. Museo Provinciale.
F.P. 535	" " "
F.P. 541 *	" " "
F.P. 555 *	" " "
F.P. 542 *	" " "
F.T. 478 } F. 2984 d }	" " "
F.T. 447	" " "
F.T. 461	" " "
F.T. 477 *	Arnesano. Villa Sant' Antonio.
F.T. 466 *	" " "
F.T. 481 *	" " "
F.T. 443	" " "
F.T. 442	" " "
F.T. 464 *	" " "
F.T. 476 *	" " "

\* Forged.

PUBLISHED BY VIOLA.

<i>Reference.</i>	<i>Place.</i>
<i>Giornale degli Scavi di Pompei</i> , 1878, vol. 4, p. 70. Two (one bronze).	Brindisi. House of Sig. Nervegna.
<i>Notizie degli Scavi</i> , 1884, p. 128 (a), (b), (c) (d) (o), (p) (n)	" " "
<i>Notizie degli Scavi</i> , 1884, p. 117.	Arnesano. Villa Sant' Antonio
	Lecce. Museo Provinciale.
	Ugento. House of Sig. Colosso
	Brindisi. San Giovanni al Sepolcro

## PUBLISHED OTHERWISE.

<i>Reference.</i>	<i>Place.</i>
<i>Notizie degli Scavi</i> , 1881, p. 249.	Oria. Biblioteca Comunale.
De Giorgi, <i>Nuove Scoperte in Vereto, in Valesio e in Terenziano</i> , Pl. 17.	Castrignano del Capo. Possessed by Sig. Cagnazzo.

## INSCRIPTIONS UNPUBLISHED.

<i>Reference.</i>	<i>Place.</i>
One (Fig. 1, No. 1)	Oria. Biblioteca Comunale.
Twelve on bronze* (e.g. Fig. 5, No. 22)	Oria. In the house of Sig. Carissimo.
One on a lead bullet	" " " "
One on bronze * (Fig. 5, No. 23)	Manduria. " In the " house of Sig. Arno.
Twelve on lead bullets (Fig. 1, No. 5)	Ceglie. In the house of Dr. La Gamba.
Three (Fig. 1, Nos. 2, 3, 4)	Ceglie. In the house of Dr. La Gamba.
One (Fig. 1, No. 6)	Ceglie. In the house of Sig. Rocco Andelmi.
One on a piece of pottery (Fig. 5, No. 32)	Brindisi. In the house of Sig. Nervegna.
One on a bronze lamp * (Fig. 5, No. 24)	Brindisi. In the house of Sig. Nervegna.
Five (one doubtful) (Figs. 1 and 2, Nos. 7-11)	Lecce. Museo Provinciale.
One (Fig. 2, No. 12)	Arnesano. Villa Sant' Antonio.
Seven * (Fig. 5, Nos. 25-31)	" " " "
Six ((one doubtful.) Fig. 2, No. 13.	Muro Leccese. In the house of Sig. Maggiulli.
Five on one pillar, Fig. 3)	Vaste. Belonging to Antonio Carluccio.
Two (Fig. 4, Nos. 15, 16)	Ugento. Belonging to Sig. Colosso.
Two (Fig. 4, Nos. 18, 19)	Taranto. Museo Provinciale.
Two from Manduria (Fig. 5, Nos. 20, 21)	

\* Forged.

Messapian inscriptions are referred to in the following :—

S. Bugge ; *Bezzenbergers Beiträge*, vol. 18.

Deecke ; *Rheinische Museum*, vols. 36, 37, 40, 42.

Fabretti ; *Corpus Inscriptionum Italicarum*, *Suppl.* I. and III.

Gamurrini ; *Appendix* to above.

Helbig ; *Hermes*, vol. xi. p. 257.

Hirt ; *Die Sprachliche Stellung der Illyrischen*.

(*Festschrift für H. Kiepert*, pp. 179–188.)

Kretschmer ; *Einleitung in die Geschichte der griechischen Sprache*,  
pp. 262 *seq.*, pp. 272 *seq.*

Lenormant ; *Gazette Archéologique*, 1881–2, p. 108.

Mayer ; *Bull. dell' Istituto Archeologico Germanico*, vol. xii. pp. 208 *seq.*

Mommsen ; *Die Unteritalischen Dialecte*, pp. 40 *seq.*

Nissen ; *Italischer Landeskunde*, I, pp. 544 *seq.*

Pais ; *Storia d'Italia* I, pp. 335 *seq.*

Ruhl ; *Bezzenbergers Beiträge*, vol. 14, p. 308.

Torp ; *Indogermanische Forschungen*, vol. v. p. 193.

Viola ; *Notizie degli Scavi*, 1884, pp. 128 *seq.*

*Giornale degli Scavi di Pompei*. 1878, vol. 4, pp. 70 *seq.*

J. P. D.