

**NOTES ON THE SYNTAX
OF THE
LATIN INSCRIPTIONS
FOUND IN SPAIN**

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Notes on the Syntax of the Latin Inscriptions Found in Spain by Henry Martin

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Recd July 1st '09

BY

HENRY MARTIN

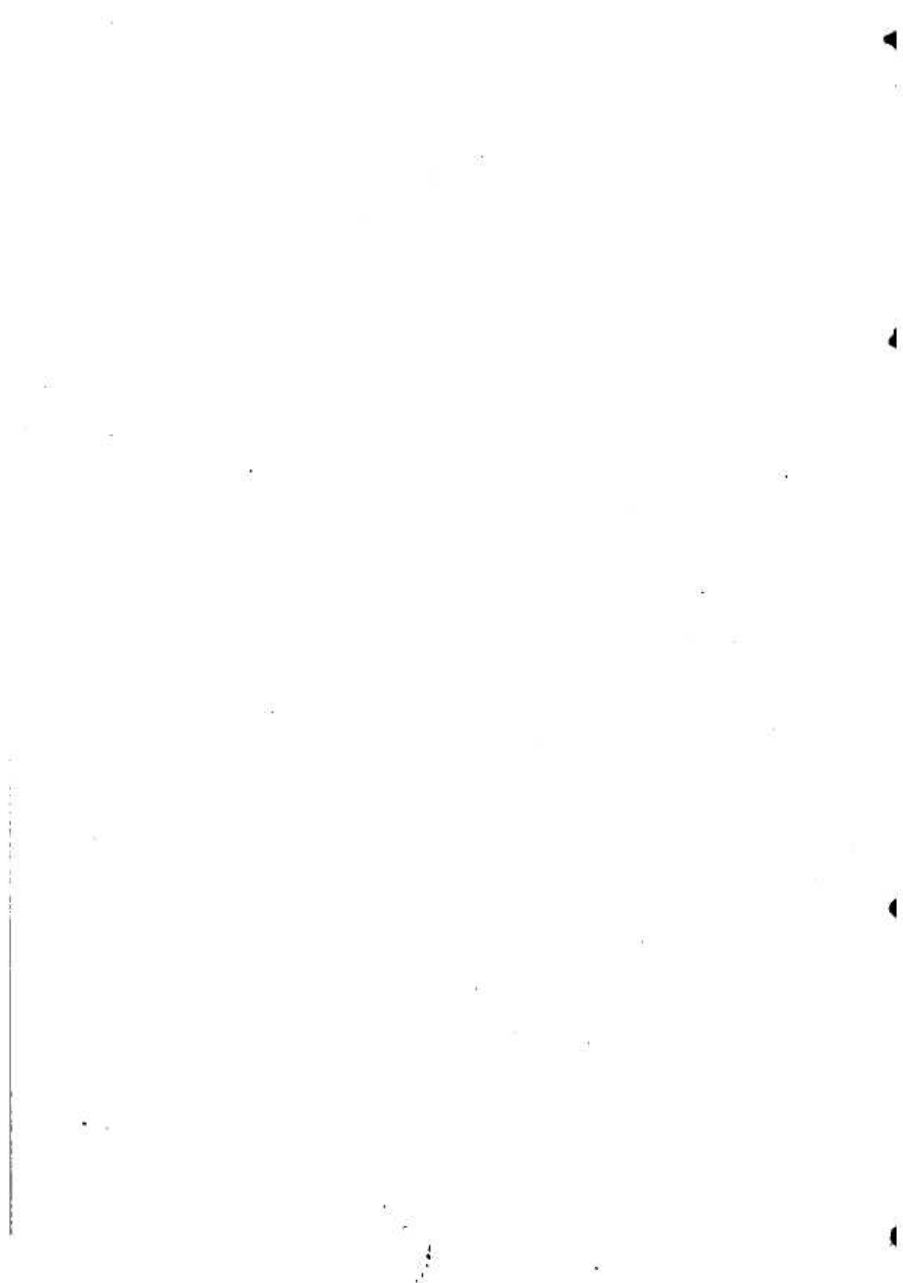
A Dissertation

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INTRODUCTION.

The subject of Latin inscriptions found in Spain is not an untried field of research. In view of the rather complete work upon this material recently published by Carnoy,¹ a brief statement in regard to the purpose of this pamphlet will be relevant. It is not the object, at least the primary object, of this work to solve any of the great problems that have so long engaged the attention of students of language, such as those broached by Gröber, Sittl, Mohl and others. On the contrary, it is confessedly syntactical, undertaken with a view to seeing what contribution these inscriptions would make to Latin syntax as it is at present worked out, what details a study of them could add to the grammar of the language, and further what examples of rare usage could be added to those found in works on syntax in case the testimony of Spanish inscriptions should ever come to be embodied in such a treatise, and incidentally to observe what light, if any, could be thrown on the relation between the Latin of these documents and the Spanish language.

The difficulty of such a task owing to scarcity of material and want of accurate dating, and the delicacy and care in interpretation required by this matter have been comprehensively stated by Carnoy in the introduction to his treatise; they do not need reiteration here. Wherever possible, comparison with the results obtained by Pirson² for inscriptions of Gaul has been made and to facilitate such a comparison a selection of topics and a plan of arrangement essentially similar to his have been adopted; for this no apology is needed. As far as possible those points treated by Carnoy have been omitted, though this material was for the most part arranged when his articles ap-

¹ *Le latin d'Espagne d'après les inscriptions.* Bruxelles, 1906.

² *La langue des inscriptions latines de la Gaule.* Bruxelles, 1901.

peared. In a few cases for the sake of symmetry points already noted by him have been retained.

The material dealt with is substantially that given by Carnoy, with the exception that the inscriptions on amphorae, C. I. L., Vol. XV, were not used, and with the addition of the *Ephemeris Epigraphica*, No. 9, which appeared subsequent to the publication of Carnoy's articles in the *Muséon*. The works most frequently cited and followed are those on Syntax by Kühner, Draeger, Neue and Schmalz and the work of Bonnet on the Latin of Gregory of Tours. The following abbreviations may require explanation: G-L.=Latin Grammar, ed. Gildersleeve-Lodge, 1894; I. H. C.=Inscriptiones Hispaniae Christianae, ed. Hübner. The inscriptions cited from the 2d volume of the *Corpus* are indicated by numbers simply.

CONCORD.

I. ADJECTIVES.

An expression made up of a noun and some other word joined to it by the preposition *cum*, in classical Latin is commonly treated as singular. A few cases are found in these inscriptions where such a word group is regarded as singular judged by the number of the verb, but as plural when modified by an adjective. This construction is both natural and classical.¹ I. H. C. 259, *Sanxit cum coniuge . . . duobusque natis . . . caventes*. Parallel with this, however, appears a construction occurring not so frequently in Cicero, but found often and with extended application in writers of the Augustan Age, in which the modifier of a collective noun or its equivalent is written in the plural, even though the verb may stand in the singular.² 2071, *Ordo . . . dedicatissimi d. d.*; 3730, 6004, *Sodalicium vernarum Isidem colentes*; I. H. C. 244, *Qui in hac aula dei ingreditur . . . deponant ingredientes*.

Some of the examples of irregularity in agreement to be cited in other connections show violation of the rules of gender in addition to other peculiarities. At this point may be recorded a few examples in which the departure from this principle seems to be the primary feature. 3509, *Valeria . . . se vivo fecit*; 4248, *Statuam . . . positam exornandum . . . censuer(unt)*; 1580, *Conditus officio Graeca ser. hic. sita est*; 4512, *Propter insignia bene gesti proconsulatus omnea*; I. H. C. 22^b, *Era siscens quattus*; I. H. C. 379^b, *Cui . . . crustatam stringat tortilis ansa latus*.

In the majority of the cases just given noun and adjective

¹ Kühner, *Ausführliche Grammatik der lateinischen Sprache*. 1878, 2, p. 34, par. 14. 2.

² Kühner, *l. c.*, 2, p. 16, par. 9.2.

are separated by one or more words, yet neglect of concord may occur even where they are in immediate contact as the following will show: 2295, *Adsidue mater*; 4310, *Incomparabili religionis eius*; I. H. C. 335, *Hac tumulo*; I. H. C. 215, *Pastor sui que obibus . . . repellit mundi delicia*.

II. PRONOUNS.

As one might expect, glaring inconsistencies in the agreement of the relative with its antecedent appear. Bonnet¹ has recorded similar constructions found in the Latin of Gregory of Tours and is probably correct in explaining one phase of it,² at least, as due to the similarity in sound between the different case forms of the relative in rapid pronunciation. In the examples cited below it will be seen that little difference is made between *quem* and *quam*, and even between *qui* and *quae*,³ so that even in these few examples there seems to be definitely foreshadowed that leveling of the forms of the relative so characteristic of the Romance languages.⁴ For a similar list made up from inscriptions of Gaul see Pirson.⁵—2211, *Tesseram offerimus . . . quem . . . inbemus suscipi*; 5393, *Memoria . . . quam fecit*; I. H. C. 258, *En quem cernis . . . Tarasia Christo dicata*; I. H. C. 403, *Saturina qui vixit*; I. H. C. 519, *Eulalia . . . qui passa est*.

In the case of personal pronouns practically no irregularity occurs. Worthy of mention, however, are two examples in which the pronoun fails to be adapted in number to the person referred to, but occurring as it does in a formula the error is a mere inadvertence. 1993, *Politice an. L, Crysidae an. V, Pusinnicee an V, h. s. a., s. t. t. l.*; also 5536, see p. 9.

¹ *Le latin de Grégoire de Tours*, p. 501.

² *I. c.*, p. 499.

³ Carnoy, *I. c.*, p. 269.

⁴ Meyer-Lübke, *Grammaire des langues romanes*, 2, pp. 143-144.

⁵ *I. c.*, pp. 158-159.