1. Bridging the gap Linking commercial epigraphy and Roman law

Emilia Mataix Ferrándiz
University of Southampton
e.mataix-ferrandiz@soton.ac.uk

Description

Studies on inscriptions on commercial items have focused almost exclusively on single objects but not relating it to other items nor with the legal context surrounding the trade operations. The poster I am going to present, shows a method to achieve a better understanding of the inscriptions through exploring their inter-relationships with the procedures reflected in legal sources, together with the possibility of giving readers from outside the specialised discipline both insights to the source material. To achieve these goals, inscriptions concerning trade in the Mediterranean (*scripta commercia*) and legal Roman sources (juridical) have been organised in two linked databases, connected to other databases developed inside the Portus Limen Project (www.portuslimen.eu).

Within the databases, one inventory number is assigned to each inscription and each legal source. When a connection can be made between **a** legal text and an inscription, the inventory numbers are linked. These connections will show us how the different procedures can be appreciated in the material record and in the legal sources in force at that time. These connections will also show us the complexities of Roman commercial procedures and the possibility of a certain systematisation in the labelling of the commercial items. It should be noticed here how, being Roman law is composed of general principles, sometimes the text describes a principle of behaviour or the advice of

a jurist, reason why it can be related not to a specific activity, but to all the commercial operations surrounding the inscriptions.

An example of these connections can be found in the Legal source numbered 0092, which refers to a fragment of Ulpian's text from the 3rd cent AD describing the diverse steps of the procedure of sale of wine. This source can be connected to some inscriptions (1180/1181/2979) on amphorae that record one of the steps of this kind of sale.

The poster presented will be supported by several images of both databases, showing the details of the fields of analysis for each database and illustrating how the data are edited and linked (figs. 1a- 2c). Other images will consist in charts containing the sources of information and the origins of the data (figs. 3-4), and part of a glossary that explains complicated terms (fig.5).

Thanks to these connections created in the system of databases, the inscriptions will be given a context within commercial operations. The potential of this tool is wide. : applied to the study of ports, for example, it will show the interaction between persons involved in commerce and within portuary authorities. It will also help to gain a better understanding of Roman commerce and trade, and of Roman law in its practical focus. It is also remarkable that the persons interested will have digital access to a wide catalogue of commercial inscriptions and juridical sources all together, as well as an updated edition of all these materials. The diversity of needs and interests of the users can be best accommodated in a format that profits from the interconnectedness of linked data.

Keywords

Tituli picti; Roman law; exegesis; epigraphy; Roman commerce; Roman ports.

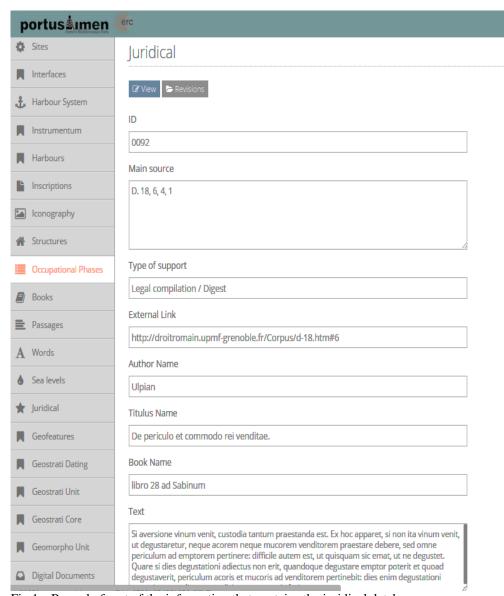


Fig 1a. Record of part of the information that contains the juridical database.

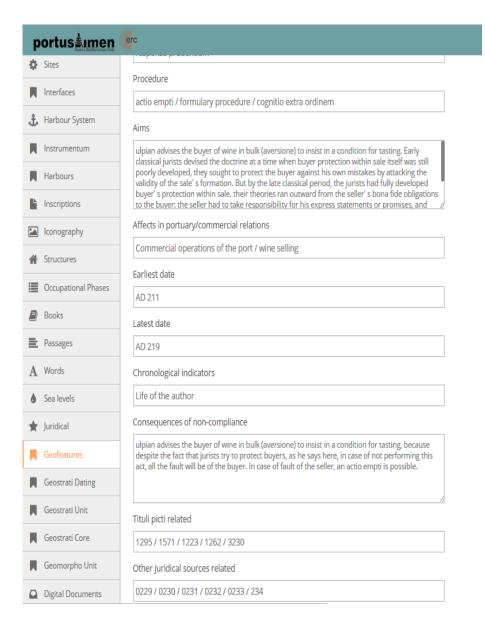


Fig. 1b. Record of part of the information that contains the juridical database.

_	,	NO.
p	ortus å imen	erc
¢	Sites	3230
	Interfaces	ID Support
£,	Harbour System	O. 006
	Instrumentum	Site ID place of finding
_		005
	Harbours	Harbour system place of finding
L	Inscriptions	Arelate
	lconography	Site ID origin
*	Structures	
	Occupational Phases	Harbour system origin
	Books	
=	Passages	Number of tituli on support
A	Words	2
/1k		Support
0	Sea levels	Flagon
*	Juridical	Support type
	Geofeatures	Flagon
	Geostrati Dating	Size and weight
	Geostrati Unit	
	Geostrati Core	Estimated date (early)
	Geomorpho Unit	AD 50
^	Digital Documents	Estimated date (late)
	Digital Documents	

Fig. 2a. Record of part of the information that contains the *Scripta comercii* database.

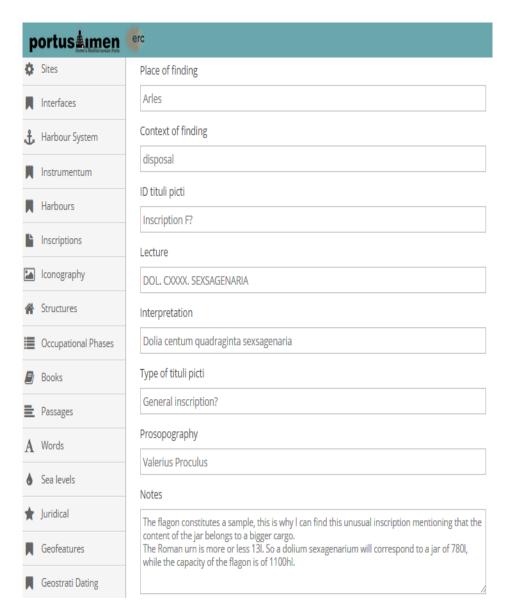


Fig. 2b. Record of part of the information that contains the *Scripta comercii* database.

ų.	Sites	Notes
Ą	Interfaces	The flagon constitutes a sample, this is why I can find this unusual inscription mentioning that the
Ŀ	Harbour System	content of the jar belongs to a bigger cargo. The Roman urn is more or less 13I. So a dolium sexagenarium will correspond to a jar of 780I, while the capacity of the flagon is of 1100hl.
ı	Instrumentum	
Į	Harbours	Technique
L	Inscriptions	
	Iconography	Situation
Al-	Structures	Frequency
	Occupational Phases	1
3)	Books	Main Source
È	Passages	Djaoui, Tran, 2014
4	Words	Primary Sources
•	Sea levels	CIL, XV, 4543; CIL, VI, 1785=31931; Cat, de agr, 69, 2
k	Juridical	
I	Geofeatures	Bibliography
Į	Geostrati Dating	Djaoui, 2011; Silvino, 2007; Djaoui, 2014; Geraci, 2012; Vera, 2006
I	Geostrati Unit	
Į	Geostrati Core	

Fig. 2c. Record of part of the information that contains the *Scripta comercii* database.

Type of info	Data details	
ID	Number assigned to a whole item (ex.345)	
	Number asigned to each inscription, including the initial of the	
	item referred. (ex: A=amphora; B=barrel; I=ingot; O=Other;	
ID Support	S=seal)	
Site ID place of finding	number assigned in the places database	
Harbour system place of		
finding	Number assigned in the harbour system database	
Site ID origin	number assigned in the places database	
Harbour system origin	Number assigned in the harbour system database	
Number of tituli on support	number of the inscriptions on the item	
Support	Name of the item (ex. Amphora)	
Support type	Detailed name of the item (ex: Dressel 20)	
Size and weight	Data furnished in the publication	
Estimated date (early)	Data furnished in the publication	
Estimated date (late)	Data furnished in the publication	
Chronological indicator	Data furnished in the publication	
Origin	Data furnished in the publication	
Place of finding	Data furnished in the publication	
Context of finding	Data furnished in the publication	
ID tituli picti	Data furnished in the publication	
Lecture	Data furnished in the publication	
Interpretation	Data furnished in the publication / self interpretation	
	Name given according to the Dressel (αβγδεθ) or	
Type of tituli picti	Laubenheimer tipology (A, B1, B2, C, D, E, F)	
Prosopography	Bibliography available	
Notes	Self notes	
	If smashed, painted, marked with fire, or if the ink is of an	
Technique	special kind (rubrum, atramentum)	
Situation	Place where the inscription is located in the item	
Frequency	Times that the inscription appears in the item	
Main Source	Main source where the item can be found	
Primary Sources	Other sources related (epigraphic, literary)	
Bibliography	Other publishings related	

Fig. 3. Data details and info recorded in the scripta comercii database

Type of info	Data details		
ID	Number assigned to a whole item (ex.345)		
	Number asigned to each inscription, including the initial		
	of the item referred. (ex: A=amphora; B=barrel; I=ingot;		
ID Support	O=Other; S=seal)		
Site ID place of finding	number assigned in the places database		
Harbour system place of			
finding	Number assigned in the harbour system database		
Site ID origin	number assigned in the places database		
Harbour system origin	Number assigned in the harbour system database		
Number of tituli on support	number of the inscriptions on the item		
Support	Name of the item (ex. Amphora)		
Support type	Detailed name of the item (ex: Dressel 20)		
Size and weight	Data furnished in the publication		
Estimated date (early)	Data furnished in the publication		
Estimated date (late)	Data furnished in the publication		
Chronological indicator	Data furnished in the publication		
Origin	Data furnished in the publication		
Place of finding	Data furnished in the publication		
Context of finding	Data furnished in the publication		
ID tituli picti	Data furnished in the publication		
Lecture	Data furnished in the publication		
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Type of tituli picti	Laubenheimer tipology (A, B1, B2, C, D, E, F)		
Prosopography	Bibliography available		
Notes	Self notes		
	If smashed, painted, marked with fire, or if the ink is of		
Technique	an special kind (rubrum, atramentum)		
Situation	Place where the inscription is located in the item		
Frequency	Times that the inscription appears in the item		
Main Source	Main source where the item can be found		
Primary Sources	Other sources related (epigraphic, literary)		
Bibliography	Other publishings related		

Fig. 4. Data details and info recorded in the Juridical database.

WORD	DEFINITION	PRIMARY SOURCE(S)
Keyword	text	text
Actio	verb agere, which for our purposes is best translated broadly: 'to urge'. Generally, to have an action means that a person is entitled to pursue a remedy for some injustice done to him. ctio. In the definition of the jurist Celsus,	
Aminneum	Kind of wine grown in Italy in a generalised way.	Col. III, 2, 7-13; III, 9; Plin. HN
Consuetudo	law which had not been created by enactment but was simply recog- nized as being the law. So it needs to be recognised in a social con- text of Law	mentation: D. 23, 2, 39, 1; 23, 2, 8; 24, 1, 1; 29, 2, 8
Diffusor	of negotiator or mercator. Representants of the big firms (Rougé); intermediaries between mercator and negotiator	II, 1481; CIL, VI, 20742; 1625b); CIL, II, 1481; CIL, II, 1180; CIL, VI, 1885; AE, 1994, 193; CIL, VI, 29722;

Fig 5. Example of some words of the glossary.