

Mark Lublanski

## BOUNDARY STONE FROM VERCELLI, BILINGUAL LATIN - CELTIC INSCRIPTION

### Povzetek

Mejnik iz mesta Vercelli je 4. galski napis, ki sem ga razložil na drugačen način kot ostali znanstveniki in I., ki sem ga v znanstveni obliki razkril javnosti. To odkritje na široko odpira vrata razumevanju antičnih napisov, ki se štejejo za galske. Čas ko je bil mejni kamen postavljen, sega v obdobje širitve rimskega vpliva na sosednja ozemlja, severno od reke Pad. Iz dostopnih podatkov, ki so nam na voljo lahko sklepamo, da so se Rimljani naseljevali na galskem ozemlju že desetletja, preden je izbruhnil prvi spopad med Galci in Rimljani. Tudi na ozemlju antičnega Vercelli-ja je bila ustanovljena nova rimska kolonija, ki je bila razlog za spor z domačimi Galci o uporabi srenje. Na podlagi mirovnega sporazuma, ki so ga sprejeli predstavniki obeh naselij, so bili postavljeni 4 mejni kamni. Pričakovati je, da so imeli vsi vklesano popolnoma enako dvojezično rimsko-galsko besedilo.

Nova pojasnitev napisov je razkrila obstoj dveh sestavljenih besed: <acisuis> in <argantocomater>, ki se v obeh delih napisa pojavlja v praktično enaki pisni obliki. Ti sestavljenki v latinščini nimajo nobenega smiselne pomena. Ti dejstvi pa sta znanstvenike zapeljali na napačno sled, da gre za imeni oz. za ime in priimek osebe, ki naj bi darovala neko ozemlje. Raziskava jasno pokaže, da nikakor ne gre za imeni, pač pa za galski sestavljenki, ki imata očitno točno določen pravni pomen, ki je bil pri Galcih že močno uveljavljen. Nekaj izstopajočih sestavljenih latinskih črk, ki predstavljajo dve ali celo tri črke kažejo, da so imeli tudi Rimljani navado pisati več črk v enem zapisanem znaku, tako kot je bila to navada že pri Retih. Naslednja dva neobičajna zapisa, ki izstopata, sta besedi <ec> in <us>, ki jih znanstveniki vidijo kot končnico imena argantocomater. Resnični pomen besedice <ec> pa je razviden iz angleščine, kjer je še danes v uporabi kot pripona ex-, s popolnoma istim pomenom kot v latinščini. Druga besedica pa je <us>. Ta je okrnjena različica latinske besede usus v pomenu 'raba, izraba'. Ostale latinske besede so poznavalcu latinščine popolnoma razumljive.

Nasprotno pa je pomen vseh, tako imenovanih galskih besed, v resnici popolna neznanka, ne glede na to, da je raziskovalcu latinski del besedila v veliko pomoč pri razumevanju galskega dela napisa! Čeprav se oba dva dela razlikujeta v besedah, ki so bile vklesane v kamen, pa je pomen latinskega in galskega napisa v osnovi enak. Uporaba različnih besed je tudi razlog za to, da je glaski del napisa nekoliko krajši od latinskega, kar pa v ničemer ne okrne smisla galskega napisa. Nekatere od galskih besed so popolnoma enake slovenskim besedam, ki so še danes v uporabi. Medtem ko so nekatere druge besede le okrajšana ali pa le mehčana oblika slovenskih besed, tako da je slovenska jezikovna osnova v galskem napisu popolnoma jasno razvidna. Črka X ima v glaskih napisih podoben pomen kot v retijskih napisih. Največkrat predstavlja glas /d/ in /t/. Ostale galske črke pa po svoji obširnosti ne izstopajo tako močno. Napis morebitnega bralca pouči o razlogih, ki

so privedli do postavitve mejnih kamnov. Pred bogom in ljudmi ga opozarja do kod sega meja posesti in ga svari naj se vzdrži morebitnih neprimernih dejanj. Razen ene besede od tistih, ki so vklesane v mejni kamen, so vse ostale v slovenskem jeziku še vedno v uporabi. Bodisi v knjižnem jeziku, bodisi v narečjih.

Angleški izraz Slovene ne gre mešati z novodobno besedo Slav, Slavic nastalo v 19. stoletju, ali s kako od različic ruskega ali srbskega jezika. Galski jezik obravnavanega napisa je nedvomno isti jezik, kot ga Slovenci govorijo še dandanes.

## Introduction

A Boundary stone was found in 1960 by the bank of the Sesia River, in the north Italian town of Vercelli. Maybe the original Gaulish name was closer to the name Versey /vərsèj/, which is in use by the speakers of the local dialect. The pronounce /vərsèj/ is very close to the village name Veržej in the eastern Slovenia. The boundary was set up to mark the limit between two settlements in quarrel upon land exploitation. The stone is the most interesting for its bilingual inscription in Latin and Gaulish language, which undoubtedly shows generally the same context in both languages. Irrespectively of the help of the Latin inscription, the Gaulish part of inscription stayed a mystery, waiting to be explained. The story about the boundary stone goes back to the mid-2<sup>nd</sup> century BC. To understand happening more clearly, the historical background of those Gaulish lands should be surveyed. It is believed that the town, the capital of the Libici tribe, was founded around the year 600 BC. By the time of the Roman occupation its name was Vercellae (Vercelum). Nearby a great battle held in 101 BC, in which Gaius Marius defeated the Cimbri and the Teutones and conquest their land. Latin colony was established after 89 BC, while it was raised to municipium after 49 BC. From the data we have it is clear, that the Romans had been colonizing the Gaulish land yet decades before the first war between Romans and Gauls of this area broke up. This fact indicate that the Gauls had been hardly tolerated the Roman colonization on their land. The presumption leads to conclusion that setting the Roman colonies on the Gaulish land was enforced to them, by different deceptions or false oaths. As it is the case in our days, the strongest party is seeking a motive to start a quarrel, which could be a reason for intervention and to permanent occupation. On the territory of the ancient Vercelli in the year 141 BC, there was an aboriginal Gaulish settlement on one side, and a newly erected Latin colony, which come in conflict about the land use. Possibly there had been some serious combats, before the treaty between both sides was confirmed. Based on the agreement, four boundary stones had been erected to warn and to prevent a further conflicts. It is anticipated that all four stones was carved in the same text. The text agreed is bilingual, a Latin – Gaulish kind, what is the main reason for a presumption, that we deal with a multi-national environment. The Latin text is inscribed in the first place. Below the Latin text, we can find a Gaulish variety of inscription, which is generally of the same context. It is inscribed in a little smaller letters, which in a combination of a secondary position could indicate a Latin superiority over the Gauls of the time.

## Basic Data

Object:	abuttal (boundary stone)
Size:	70 x 149 cm
Period:	141 BC; 150 – 31 BC <sup>[1]</sup> , 100 – 47 <sup>[2]</sup> BC, 50 - AD 399 BC <sup>[3]</sup>
Craftsmanship:	Engraved
Site:	Stone was found along of the river Sesia in 1960, in the eastern part of the town Vercelli. <sup>[1]</sup> Vercelli, /Věrsěj/ in Piedmontese dialect, is positioned exactly 76 km westward from Milano and 76 km to northeast from Torino. It is situated on the broad plain of the River Po in northern Italy, about 250 km westwards from the Adriatic coast. Its elevation is 130 m above the sea level.
Location (approx.):	45°19'52.5"N, 8°26'18.8"E <sup>[2, p.120]</sup>
Current location:	Museum Leone in Vercelli
Inscription mark:	VC-1 (RIG 2.1)
Script:	Lepontic script <sup>[1]</sup> , North Italic Script <sup>[4]</sup>
Language declared:	Latin-Celtic (Lepontic)
Language actual:	Latin-Slovene
Starting position:	Top left
Writing direction:	Dextroverse

## Latin Version

Inscription:	FINIS CAMO·QVEM DEDIT·ACISIVS ARGANTOCOMER ECVS·COMVNEM DEIS·ET·HOMINIB VS·ITA·VTI LAFID[ES] IIII·STATVTISVN[T]
Letters:	78 monophthongs
Combined letters:	4 diphthongs ( <b>M̄</b> = ⟨MP⟩, <b>V̄E</b> = ⟨VE⟩, <b>N̄</b> = ⟨NT⟩, <b>N̄E</b> = ⟨NE⟩) 2 triphthongs ( <b>M̄A</b> = ⟨MAT⟩, <b>AV̄P</b> = ⟨AVP⟩)
Punctuations:	8
Transliteration:	FINIS CAMPO·QVEM DEDIT·ACISIVS ARGANTOCOMATER

	ECVS·COMVNEM DEIS·ET·HOMINIB VS·ITA·VTI LAVPID[ES] IIII·STATVTISVN[T]
Transcription:	FINIS CAMPO·QUEM DEDIT·ACISIUS ARGANTOCOMATER ECUS·COMUNEM DEIS·ET·HOMINIB US·ITA·UTI LAUPIDES IIII·STATUTISUNT
No. of letters:	95
Word partitions:	FINIS. CAMPO QUEM DEDIT ACISIUS ARGANTOCOMATER ECUS COMUNEM DEIS ET HOMINIBUS ITA UTI LAUPIDES IIII STATUTI SUNT.
No. of words:	17

## Gaulish Version

Inscription:	FKI SIOS·FDFFXOKOK MFXEDFK OS·XODJO FOXE IXOM·XEVOY XOMKOMEV
Letters:	48 monophthongs
Combined letters:	3 diphthongs      To read this part, please click <a href="#">here</a>
Semi-letters:	3 (· = /ʰ)
Transliteration: *	AKI SIOS·ARKAXOKOK MAXEREK OS·XORPO FOXE LXOM·XEVOH XONIKONEV

*\*Transformation of the Gaulish letters to the Latin letters one by one, without influence of the contents or explanation of the inscription. If the Gaulish letter is compounding two letters, the second one is*

To read this part, please click [here](#)

Transcription: #	AKI SIOŠIARKADOKOK MATERJEČ OSIDORPO BOŽD E LDOMITEUOX DONIČONEU
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No. of letters: 57  
 # *Transcription of the Raetic letters to an adequate sounds represented by the Latin letters on the basis by knowing the meaning and partitions of the contents. Compound letters are separated by sounds. Each letter corresponds to an exact sound.*

Interpreter: Mark Lublanski  
 Date revealed: 4.12.2015

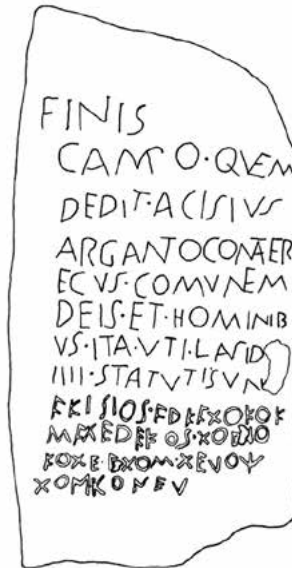


Figure 1: Front of the Boundary stone drawing.<sup>[4]</sup>

### Interpretation of Michel Lejeune (1994)<sup>[5],[6]</sup>

Latin version: FINIS  
 CAMPO·QVEM  
 DEDIT·ACISIVS  
 ARGANTOCOMATER-  
 ECVS·COMVNEM  
 DEIS·ET·HOMINIB-  
 VS·ITA·VTI·LAPIDES  
 IIII·STATVTISVNT

Translation: Limit of the land which Acisius Argantoco-materecus gave in common to gods and men - (in the boundaries) where four stones have been erected.

Note: It may be inferred from the inscription that the inscribed stone block is one of the four stones in question.

Gaulish version:	AKISIOS·ARKATOKO(K) MATEREKOS·TO..O- KOT..ATOM TEUOX- TONION EU
Interpretation:	Akisios Arkatokokmaterekos name corresponds to lat. Acisivs Argantocomater-ecus. Teuoxtonion corresponds to lat. comvnm deis et hominibvs. Teuo- is a compound adjective corresponding to Indo-European divine. Xtonion corresponding to Greek “χθόνιος” ‘terrestrial, mortal, human’. Atom an Indo-European root *anto- ‘edge, border’ has been suggested. <sup>[7]</sup>

### Interpretation of Bernhard Maier (2003)<sup>[8]</sup>

<i>Latin version:</i>	<i>German translation:</i>	<i>English translation:</i>
FINIS	Ende	End
CAMPO · QVEM	des Feldes, welches	of the field, which
DEDIT · ACISIVS	gab Acisios	gave Acisios
ARGANTOCOMATER- ECVS · COMVNEM	Argantocomaterecos zum gemeinsamen Besitz	Argantocomaterecos in a common possession
DEIS · ET · HOMINIB- VS · ITA VTI LAPIDES	für Götter und Menschen, da wo vier Steine	to gods and men, in that manner four stones
III · STATVTI SVNT	aufgestellt worden sind.	had been set up.

### Interpretation of Vinko Vodopivec (2007)<sup>[9]</sup>

Transliteration 1:	AKISIOS ARKATOKOK MATEREKOS TOŠO KOTE ATOŠ TEVOG TONION EV
Transliteration 2:	A KI SI OS (I)AR K ATO KOK MATERE KOS TO ŠO KO TE ATOŠ TEVOG TO NI ONEV
Interpretation	
Slovene:	Ti ki si ostal mlad kot ata kot matere kos ti šel ko te atek tvoji tu ni oteč.
English:	You who stay young like father or mother part you went when you father yours here not saved.
Note 1:	Possible explanation: KOS = part = piece respectively, KOS = blackbird = magician!
Note 2:	The inscription is probably the case of disposition of relatives on the burial ceremony of his youngster. The young man is a part of his father and mother. He left for the other world, after his father was

not feasible to save him. Another meaning of the slv. word *kos* is a blackbird, but it may also mean a ghost or magician, which is known from the Venetic inscriptions. Characteristic words are: OS, IAR, ATO, MATERE, KOS, ATOŠ; TEVOG ONEV, which meaning is evident from the suggested interpretation.

## Interpretation of Václav Blažek (2008)<sup>[10]</sup>

- Latin version: FINIS  
CAMPO QVEM  
DEDIT ACISIVS  
ARGANTOCOMATER  
ECVS COMVNEM  
DEIS ET HOMINIB-  
VS ITA VTI LAPIDES  
III STATVTI SVNT
- Translation: (This is) the boundary to the field which Argantomaterecus gave in common to gods and men; – thus 4 stones have been set up.
- Gaulish version: AKISIOS·ARKANTOKO(K)  
MATEREKOS·TO–ŠO  
KOTE AN?TOM TEUOX  
TONION EU
- Interpretation: Akisios argantokomaterekos, he gave it, a boundary of gods and people.
- Note 1: The compound ARGANTO-KOMATEREKOS consists of the word for “silver” and another compound, interpreted by Lambert (2003, 80) As KOM- & ATER-EKOS, where the first component is the prefix “together” and the second component is a derivative of the word ATER “father”, similar to Latin patricius. The final result was probably a title designating an important person with a privileged relation to silver, perhaps an administrator of a municipal safe or a local banker. Eska & Wallace (2002, 131, fn. 4) think about the same prefix \*kom- + the derivative of the verb root \*meH- “to measure”, hence it should be a title perhaps for a ‘treasurer’.
- Note 2: The word TEUOXTONION represents the gen. pl. of the compound of the type of *dvandva*, reflecting Celtic \*dē,,o- & \*gdonio- from IE \*deŌ,,o- & \*dhghomŌo- “god” & “man” (lit. “terrestrial”).
- Note 3: The strange final EU is apparently an abbreviation. Eska & Wallace (2002, 140–42) suppose that is is Cisalpine Celtic \*esŌo „,olo,,tū (abl. sg.), a loan translation of Latin S.P = *de sua pecunia* „from his wealth“, cf. Old Irish *di=a folud id*.

## Interpretation of Ralph Haeussler (2013)<sup>[2]</sup>

### *Latin version:*

FINIS  
CAMPO QVEM  
DEDIT ACISIVS  
ARGANTOCOMATER-  
ECVS COM(M)VNEM DEIS ET HOMINIB-  
VS · ITA VTI LAPIDE[S] IIII · STATVTI SVNT

### *Translation:*

(This is the) boundary  
of the ‘campus’ which  
Acisius  
Argantocomaterrecus has given to  
gods and humans for common use  
so that four boundary stones were  
set up.

### *Gaulish version:*

AKISIOS·ARKATOKO[K]  
MATEREKOS·TO[-]O-  
KOT[-A]TOM TEUOχ  
TONI[O]N EU

### *Interpretation:*

Akisios·Arkatoko-  
materekos insti-  
tuted boundaries (atom) to gods-  
and-humans, e(x) u(oto)(?)

### *Alternative reading:*

TEUOχTOM KONEU

## Interpretation of Mark Lublanski (2016)

### Latin Version

#### *Inscription:*

FINIS  
CAMO·QVEM  
DEDIT·ACISIVS  
ARGANTOCOMER  
ECVS·COMVNEM  
DEIS·ET·HOMINIB  
VS·ITA·VTI LAID[ES]  
IIII·STATVTISVN[T]

#### *Transcription:*

FINIS  
CAMPO·QUEM  
DEDIT·ACISIUS  
ARGANTOCOMATER  
ECUS·COMUNEM  
DEIS·ET·HOMINIB  
US·ITA·UTI LAUPIDES  
IIII·STATUTISUNT

### Idioms

- MC** Compound of the Latin letters M & P.
- VE** Compound of the Latin letters V & E.
- NT** Compound of the Latin letters N & T.
- MA** Compound of the Latin letters M & A & T.
- NE** Compound of the Latin letters N & E.
- AV** Compound of the Latin letters A & V & P.

### Explanation of Idioms

The boundary stone from Vercelli is an excellent example of compound letters written in Latin. We know a lot of examples of compound letters written in the Raetic language.



Raetic compound letters have been simplified and interpreted in a wrong way. Some of such examples of the compound letters can be found in the RI inscription.<sup>[12, p.59]</sup> Boundary stone from Vercelli is of a special value, for it proves that my anticipation of how to interpret the Raetic inscriptions has been correct.

**A<sup>Ɔ</sup>** Unlike to the other scholars, which interpret the compound **A<sup>Ɔ</sup>** as a combination of the letters A and P, I clearly see three letters set together within this compound. From the letters combined in the compound **M<sup>Ɔ</sup>** it is seen that the mark, which represents a letter P, is attached directly to the top right part of the letter M. There is no other line between. Also, there would be no benefit for the reader, if a vertical line would be placed on the right side of the letter A, to hold the mark <sup>Ɔ</sup> which represents a letter P. If there would be no mark that designate a letter P, such a compound **A<sup>Ɔ</sup>** would undoubtedly represents the letters A and V. Other scholars interpret the ancient Latin inscription **LA<sup>Ɔ</sup>ID[ES]** from the Latin word <lapides>. It is the use of a retrograde method, to explain the simple Latin. It should be consider that Latin of that stone had been written on the foreign territory, probably also influenced by the local Gaulish language. Therefore, the inscribed word should not be interpreted with the word known in the literal Latin, but by the letters which is in fact written in the stone. This Latin word is <lapuides>.

Other compounds need no special explanation, by my opinion.



Picture 1: Boundary stone from Vercelli (Vørsej).<sup>[11]</sup>

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ARGANTO-  
COMATER

(The boundary) warns how far away

Argantocomater is not a Latin word, but is a compound of four Gaulish words. The interpretation of the word <argantocomater> can be found in the chapter Gaulish Version. Irrespective of the Gaulish origin, I present at this point some Latin words which look similar to the Gaulish compound. Some of those words are: argentum ‘silver’; argenteus ‘of silver, made of silver’; argentarius ‘of money’; Argentia ‘a place in upper Italy’; argitis ‘a vine with white grapes’; argumentor ‘to adduce proof’; arguo ‘to make known, show, prove, manifest, disclose, declare, betray’; argutator ‘a subtle disputant’; coma ‘the hair of the head, hair’; comata ‘long-haired’; comatulus ‘having hair neatly’; etc.<sup>[13]</sup>

ECUS

to use

The Latin word <ecus> is actually a compound of two words. The Latin prefix ec- only appears in compounds.<sup>[13]</sup> But there should be considered that the word <ec> is a variety of the word <ex>.<sup>[16 p.562]</sup> Therefore, the first word <ec> of the compound, equals to the word ex and has a meaning of ‘out of, from, of, by, point of, between, because, in view of, regarding, with respect to’. The second part of the compound is a shortened variant of the word usus in the meaning of ‘use, practice, employment, exercise, enjoyment’.<sup>[13]</sup> As we know, the Latin suffix -us of many words was not spoken out. This way of pronunciation especially holds the truth in the Latin, which was used by the ordinary people. By this interpretation the word <ecus> is a result of the words ec + usus, which formed a compound, as example below shows:

$$\text{ex} = \text{ec} + \text{usus} > \text{ec-} + \text{-us(us)} > \text{ecus} = \text{exus}$$

The compound <ecus> has a meaning of ‘use, to use, use of, utilization’. In the text below, I note some of the Latin words, which could be interesting to the reader. The words have been estimated within the research process, for their resemblance to the word ecus on a first sight. Some of studied words are: acus ‘a hair-pin’; ecce ‘see, behold, there, look’; equo ‘to any point, to any result’; equi ‘direct, is there any, any’; ecquis ‘direct, is there any one, any, any one, anybody, anything’; equio ‘to be in heat’; equito ‘to ride, be a horseman, practice riding’; equus ‘a horse, steed, charger’; eques ‘a horseman, rider’; ecclesiola ‘a small church’; ecdicus ‘a syndic, solicitor of a community’; usio ‘use’; usus ‘use, practice, employment, exercise, enjoyment’; usura ‘a using, use, enjoyment’<sup>[13]</sup> and ūsia ‘living, existing, being’.<sup>[17 p.534]</sup>

COMUNEM

public land

The Latin words deriving from the root commun- is addressed to something that is common to the people of the same interest. It could

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IIII	4 A Latin number which has a value of 4.
STATUTI	set up Word statuo is a form of the verb statuo in the meaning of ‘to cause to stand, set up, set, station, fix upright, erect, plant’. Some other closely related Latin words are: noun statua ‘an image, statue, monumental figure, representation in metal’; verb status ‘set, fixed, appointed, regular’; none status ‘a station, position, place’. <sup>[13]</sup>
SUNT	are Latin verb sunt has a meaning of ‘are, they are, etc.’ and is a 3 <sup>rd</sup> pl. pres. ind. act. of the word sum, which has a meaning of ‘to be, exist, live’. <sup>[13]</sup>

### The Meaning Separated Into Three Units:

FINIS	Boundary (of the)
CAMPO	field (plain)
QUEM	which
DEDIT	sets apart
ACISIUS	settlements in conflict.
ARGANTOCOMATER	(The boundary) warns how far away
ECUS	to use
COMUNEM	public land
DEIS	god
ET	and
HOMINIBUS	people.
ITA	In this manner
UTI	to serve
LAUPIDES	stones
IIII	4
STATUTI	set up
SUNT	are.

### Full Meaning of the Latin Version in English and in Slovene:

This is a boundary of the field, which sets apart the settlements in conflict.  
The boundary warns god and the people, how far away to use the public land.  
To serve in this manner, 4 stones are set up.

To je mejnik, ki ločuje ozemle dveh sprtih selišč.  
Mejnik je svarilo bogovom in ludem, do kod se srenja sme obdelovati.  
V ta namen so postavljeni 4 mejniki.

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*Figure 2: Comparison of the Latin and the Gaulish words.*

## Gaulish Version

*Inscription:*

FKI SIOS·FDFFXOKOK  
MFXEDFF OS·XODJO  
FOX E LXOM·XEVOY  
XOMKOMEV

*Transliteration:*

AKI SIOSvARKAXOKOK  
MAXEREK OS·XORPO  
FOX E LXOM·XEVOH  
XONIKONEV

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A similar belief has been known for Venetic, Etruscan, Latin and some other languages. Such an opinion is grossly incorrect. It is also very odd to believe that the Gauls would not know all those sounds. My recent researches of the Raetic inscriptions show that many of the missing sounds had been used. Some diverse sounds had not been expressed by special letter, but with one single letter, that had been used to designate 2 or 3 different sounds. Therefore the precise study of sounds cannot be determined without knowing the Lepontic language, meaning of words and a specific sound within the word.

## Meaning

### *Literal Slovene*

Sprti selišči svari, kako daleč sega posest.  
Po bogu in ljudeh ter v ogib do njih dejanj.

### *English*

Quarreled settlements warn how far possession goes. To God and the people and to prevent their (inappropriate) acts.

*Table 1: Full words of the Boundary stone inscription in the literal Slovene and English.*

The Latin version of the inscription written in Slovene:

*To je mejnik, ki ločuje ozemle dveh sprtih selišč.  
Mejnik je svarilo bogovom in ludem, do kod se srenja sme obdelovati.  
V ta namen so postavljeni 4 mejniki.*

The Latin version of the inscription written in English:

*This is a boundary of the field, which sets apart the settlements in conflict.  
The boundary warns god and the people, how far away to use the public land.  
To serve in this manner, 4 stones are set up.*



*Picture 2: Boundary stone approved by Museo Leone, Vercelli.<sup>[21]</sup>*

The correctness and an accuracy of reading of the Boundary stone inscription is clearly proven by semantics. Scholars who are not familiar with Slovene language will have much difficulties to designate the right meaning of some other, yet unrevealed Lepontic, Raetic, Etruscan or Venetic inscriptions.



*Picture 3: Locations of the Boundary stone and the other studied inscriptions.*

## Inscription Lesson

From the words of the Boundary stone inscription, it can be gathered, that in the ancient times there was not plenty of land to cultivate. Therefore inhabitants that possess a land may starve or at least their profit on crops may reduce, if someone occupies a part of their land. It seems that such a situation leads an ancient Gauls from Vercelli into a conflict with the Latin newcomers of the nearby colony. If a combat started at all we do not know, but we know it was not an ultimate solution. We can reconstruct such a conclusion from epilog, which resulted in a political solution that solved tensions between two adverse settlements. The result of political agreement had been realized on the field with erecting four boundary stones. It is naturally expected that the same text was engraved in all four stones. There are two Gaulish compounds in the Latin inscription, as well as in the Gaulish version of the inscription.

The use of the Gaulish words in the Latin version shows that the Gauls used their own traditional juridical terminology, which has the exact meaning. Therefore, they probably insisted to use their terminology to avoid misunderstanding or abuse of the agreement. It is possible that the Gaulish insist on their juridical terminology, because the Latin version



was inscribed on the first place and in a notable bigger letters. Therefore, it would be an managerial compromise for both sides in conflict. The other possibility is that the Gauls were inferior to Romans, yet in the era before the Roman occupation.

The Gaulish compound that was used in both versions of inscription are: <acisius> in the meaning of ‘settlements in quarrel’ and <argantocomater> in the meaning of ‘warns how far’. The Vercelli situation shows to us that the problem of swindling and claiming possession in the Antiquity had been spread not any less and not any more than in the modern times among people. The stone warns not only people of the both settlements, but also their gods, to respect people will in a correct way. The agreement of those people is therefore not only the matter of the Earth live, but also a matter of the spiritual world above.

### List of Abbreviations:

abl	Ablative	inst	Instrumental
acc	Accusative	i.prn	Interrogative Pronoun
act	Active	lit	Literal
adj	Adjective	loc	Locative
adv	Adverb	m	Masculine
cf	Compare	n	Neuter
conj	Conjunction	nom	Nominative
dat	Dative	prtc	Participle
dial	Dialectal	pl	Plural
du	Dual	prs	Present
f	Feminine	prn	Pronoun
gen	Genitive	prps	Proposal
ind	Indicative mood	p.prn	Personal Pronoun
indecl	Indeclinable	sg	Singular
inf	Infinitive		
bkr	Bela krajina slv. dialect	mkd	Macedonian
blg	Bulgarian	pol	Polish
blr	Belarusian	prkm	Prekmurje slv. dialect
cz	Czech	rus	Russian
čak	Chakavian	slk	Literally Slovene
dlž	Lower Lusatian	slv	Slovene
eng	English	srb	Serbian
ger	German	srh	Serbo-Croatian
glž	Upper Lusatian	stcs	Old Church Slovene
gr	Greek	svk	Slovak
ita	Italian	štj	Styria slv. dialect
lat	Latin	ukr	Ukrainian
lpt	Lepontic	vzh	Eastern slv. dialects

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## Abstract

The Boundary stone from Vercelli is the 4<sup>th</sup> Gaulish inscription I interpreted in a new way, and the 1<sup>st</sup> one that I revealed in a study. It wide opens an understanding of the ancient inscriptions which consider being Gaulish. The time when the stone was installed goes back to the era of spreading the Roman influence to the neighboring countries, over the north bank of the Po River. From the data we have, it is clear that the Romans had been colonizing the Gaulish land yet decades before the first war broke up. On the territory of the ancient Vercelli a new Latin colony was erected, which come in conflict with the Gauls about the using of land. Based on an agreement that both sides achieved, four boundary stones with a bilingual text, the Latin and the Gaulish had been erected.

The inscription reveals two compound words: <acisuis> and <argantocomater>, which has in general the same written record in both languages. They also have no meaning in Latin language. Those facts mislead scholars to a wrong conclusion that they deal with the names. The study shows that those words are not the names, but the Gaulish compound words, obviously having an exact well known juristic term in force. A few Latin idiomatic compound letters show a habit of combining of two or even three letters in a single symbol, similar to the Raetic. The next peculiarities are the Latin words *ec* and *us* that the scholars treated as a suffix of the fictitious name *argantocomater*. The real meaning of the word *ec* can be seen even in English, where the prefix *ex* is still in use. The word *us* is abbreviation of the lat. word *usus* in the meaning of 'us'. Other Latin words are fully understandable.

In contrary, the meaning of all, so called Gaulish words, are completely unknown to us in reality, in spite of the fact that the Latin text is in a great help! The meaning of both inscriptions is generally the same, although the story is described not word by word, but in a context. This is also the reason that the Gaulish inscription is a little shorter, which does not curtail its meaning in any way. Some of the Gaulish words are completely equal to the present Slovene words, while some other are just shortened or palatalized varieties in the way that the Slovene base in the Gaulish language can be fully recognized. The use of the letter **X** is similar as in the Raetic inscriptions. In most cases it stands for the sounds of /d/ and /t/. Other letters do not outstand as much as the letter **X** does. The inscriptions inform the reader about the purpose that lead to erect the four boundary stones and in front of god and people warns him where the limit of possession goes. Further on the existence of the stones attend the people to avoid any seducing act. Except one word of the Boundary stone, all other words are still in use in the present day Slovene language, either literally or in the dialects.

The term Slovene should not be confused with the modern term of Slavic, invented not earlier then in 19<sup>th</sup> century, or with a kind of the Serb or Russian language. The Gaulish language is undoubtedly the same language as the present Slovene language is!