

COLONIA LAUS IULIA CORINTHIENSIS

The name of the Roman colony of Corinth appears in a variety of abbreviations on coins and official inscriptions of the city. In some instances only the initial letters C. L. I. are given, usually followed by C O R; less commonly the more extended form, COL. LAV. IVL. COR., occurs.¹ Sometimes one, sometimes another of the four parts of the name is written out in full while only one or two letters of the others are given, and occasionally IVL precedes LAV.

These abbreviations have been expanded as Colonia Laus Iulia Corinthus² and this has become the accepted form of the Colony's name. But there is now epigraphical evidence to show that the official name was Colonia Laus Julia Corinthiensis. This name is preserved on an inscribed base for a statue, probably a personification of the colony³ (Fig. 1). The complete text reads:

COLONIAE I
IULIAE ·
CORINTHIENSIS ·
Q · GRANIVS · Q · F ·
BASSVS · S · P · D · D
PROC · AVG ·

An earlier inscription, apparently also Latin, was erased before the dedication of Bassus was inscribed. This is in itself an indication of comparatively late date,

¹ In the time of the Flavian emperors the colony's name occurs on coins as Col(onia) Iul(ia) Flav(ia) Aug(usta) Corint(hiensis), sometimes with FLAV omitted. The original name, which is found on one of the earliest coins issued by the Colony (*Br. Mus. Cat. of Greek Coins, Corinth*, etc., p. 58, no. 485), reappears on the coins beginning with the reign of Trajan. See references in note 2. From Dio's account (*Hist. Rom.*, XLIII, 50) one gets the impression that the old names of both Carthage and Corinth remained unchanged after the restoration by Caesar: τὴν δὲ δὴ Κόρινθον τὴν τε Καρχηδόνα, πόλεις ἀρχαίας λαμπρὰς ἐπισήμους ἀπολωλίας, ἣ μὲν ἀποικίας Ῥωμαίων ἐνόμισεν, ἀπόκτισεν, ἣ δὲ τοῖς ἀρχαίοις ὀνόμασιν ἐτίμησεν, ἀπέδωκεν τῇ μνήμῃ τῶν ἐνοικησάντων ποτὲ αὐτάς. This can only mean that the original names of the two cities were added as part of the compound names of the colonies.

² See Kornemann in Pauly-Wissowa, *R.E.*, s. v. Coloniae, col. 530, no. 106; *Br. Mus. Cat. of Greek Coins, Corinth*, etc., Introduction, p. xlv; A. B. West, *Corinth*, VIII, ii, *Latin Inscriptions*, pp. 7, 17; Lenschau, Pauly-Wissowa, *R.E.*, s. v. Korinthos, col. 1033. Some terracotta roof tiles are stamped with the colony's name together with the initials of the maker, or magistrate, and in some instances the Greek equivalents of the Latin initials are found. See Broneer, *Corinth*, X, *The Odeum*, p. 138.

³ The inscription is unpublished. Measurements and description of the stone, which could not be obtained at this distance, will appear in a forthcoming publication of the new inscriptions from Corinth.

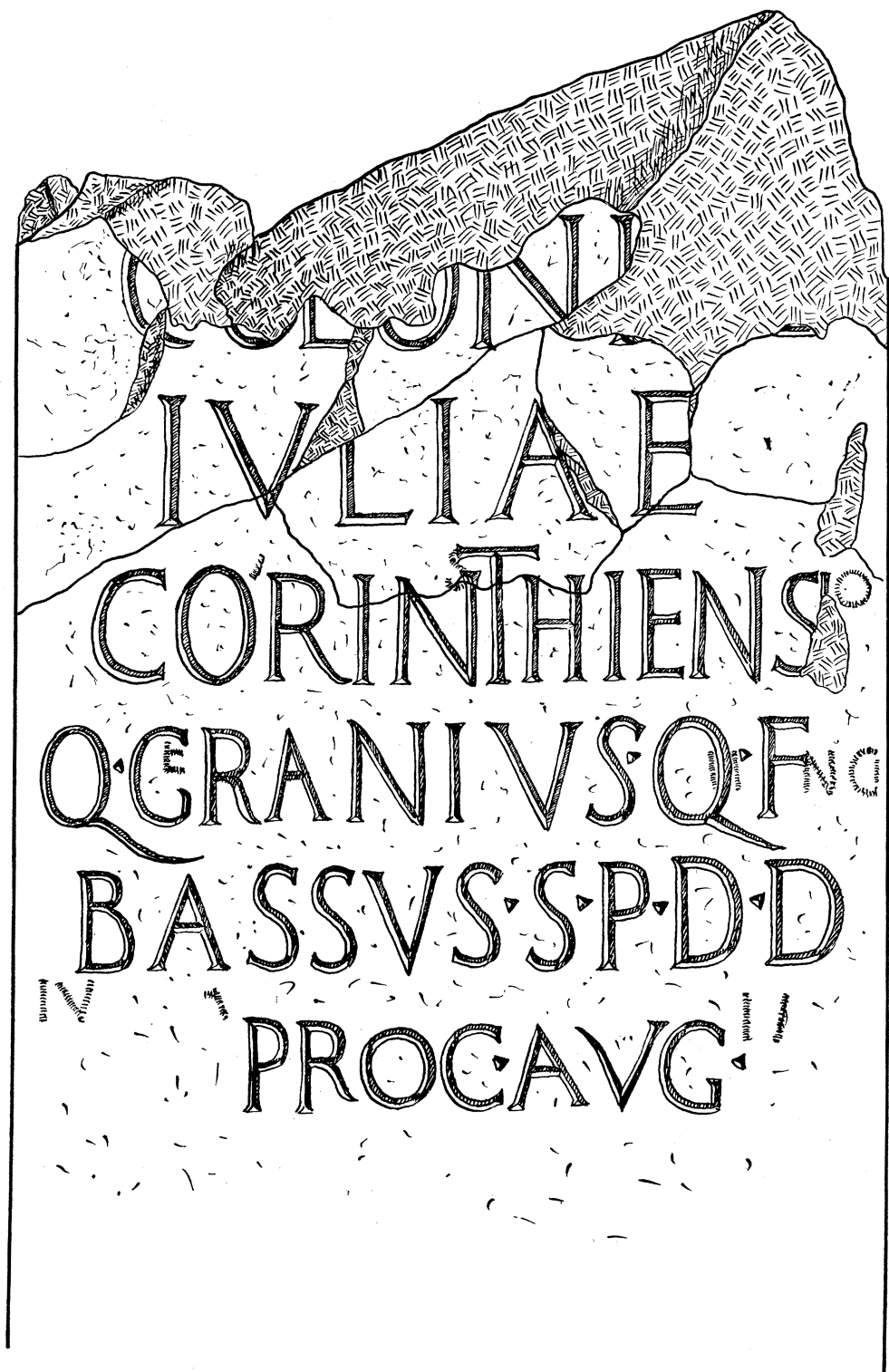


Fig. 1. Base with Name of Roman Colony of Corinth

but the letter forms can best be paralleled on documents from the reign of Claudius or earlier.⁴

The base was found in a small room close to the Bouleuterion,⁵ in which was also a gilded head of Serapis and one other inscription of official character, but of considerably later date.

The building in which these objects were discovered was destroyed by fire shortly after the middle of the third century after Christ. The top of the base was then calcined from the heat, and as a result the first line of the inscription is much damaged. It is unlikely, however, that any line has entirely disappeared, since the text of the inscription seems to be complete as it is. A conceivable restoration of a missing line would be the word GENIO,⁶ and the name of the colony would then be in the genitive case. But since there is no trace of a final *s*, nor any room for it, at the end of the third line, we must assume that the inscription began with the first preserved line. Nothing was found of the statue supported by the base, and in view of the excellent preservation of the Serapis head, this may be taken as an indication that the statue had already disappeared before the time of the fire.

The adjectival form in *-ensis* is said to have been used instead of the more common ethnic in *-ius* to designate the settlers of the Roman Colony in contradistinction to the original Greek Corinthians.⁷ This is specifically stated by Sext. Pomp. Festus in his glossary of Latin phrases:⁸ "Corinthienses ex eo dici coeperunt, ex quo coloni Corinthum sunt deducti; qui ante Corinthii sunt dicti; quam consuetudinem servamus etiam, cum Romanenses et Hispanenses et Sicilienses negotiatores dicimus qui in alienis civitatibus negotiantur." Although some writers may have observed this distinction, the form *Corinthiensis* occurs very rarely either as an adjective or as a noun. Most Latin authors use *Corinthii*, whether they speak of the Greek Corinthians or the colonists and their descendants. It is likely, however, that *Corinthienses* was considered the more correct form, since this was used in the official name of the Colony.

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⁴ Cf. for example, A. B. West, *op. cit.*, no. 67, and no. 65. The latter, which records the erection of a statue by Grania Quinta, probably a sister or some other blood relative of Q. Granius Bassus, has been dated by West in the time of Augustus.

⁵ See *A.J.A.*, XLI, 1937, pp. 539-540.

⁶ The genius of the Colony, identified by inscriptions, is represented on coins of Corinth in the form of a male figure holding cornucopia and patera. See *Br. Mus. Cat. of Greek Coins, Corinth*, etc., nos. 553, 558, 560; cf. Katherine M. Edwards, *Corinth*, VI, *Coins*, p. 9 and nos. 104, 123; A. B. West, *op. cit.*, p. 6, no. 4.

⁷ There is a parallel case of two forms of the ethnic used in modern Greek, for Albanians. The inhabitants of Albania are called *'Αρβανοί* and their language *'Αρβανικά*, whereas the Albanians living in Greece are commonly called *'Αρβανίτες* and the dialect spoken by them is known as *'Αρβανίτικα*.

⁸ *Pauli excerpta ex libris Pompeii Festi de significatione verborum*, s. v. *Corinthiensis* (Muell., pp. 60-61). Cf. Apuleius, *Metamorphoses*, X, 35: *nobilissimae coloniae Corinthiensium*.