

MARCUS PORCIUS CATO

(PLATE 117)

DURING the preparation of a Reverse Index of names occurring in Athens, the late Reverend John S. Creaghan, S. J., came upon certain corrections of names which must be made in various publications. While the Index itself is kept in manuscript form at the Institute for Advanced Study in Princeton, I have thought it worthwhile to add some special comment on one of the inscriptions studied.¹

Father Creaghan noted a discovery of G. A. Stamires that the *Corpus* reading Σπόρκιος in *I.G.*, II², 10163, should be [— — — —]ς Πόρκιος. On re-examining the inscription A. E. Raubitschek found that the second line reads [— — — —]CVLAS rather than CVIAS and that the first line is also incomplete: [— — — —]CIVS. A photograph is given here on Plate 117.

The stone is part of a columnar grave monument of Hymettian marble, broken at the bottom and the left side of the inscription. It was brought into the temporary museum of the Athenian Agora from the Stoa of Attalos in February of 1936.

Height, 0.43 m.; diameter, 0.30 m.

Height of letters, 0.022 m.

Inv. No. I 3559.

saec. I *φ*.

[M. Por]cius

[M. f. Cato Tus]culas

[Μάρκο]ς Πόρκιος

[Κάτων Ῥ]ωμαῖος

Tusculas is here taken as an Athenian misspelling of Tusculanus, a term designating the local origin of the Porcii Catones. The use of Ῥωμαῖος in a parallel position to the more specific Latin local term may be seen also, for example, in an inscription on Delos (*C.I.L.*, III, Suppl. 1, 7242):

Q. Avili C. f. Lanuine salve
Κόιντε Ῥουίλλιε Γαίου νιέ Ῥωμαῖε
χρηστὲ χαῖρε

Here, too, the Latin term (Lanuine) was misspelled.

¹ For the incentive to writing this brief comment and for much help I am indebted to A. E. Raubitschek.

The cognomen Cato seems very likely in view of the fact that the only Athenian Porcius of whom we know (by obvious inference) from inscriptions is a Cato. Cf. *I.G.*, II², 4190:

[-----]
 [Μάρκων Πόρκιον] Κάτων[α]
 [Ε]ὐμολπίδην

This seems to be the same man as the one mentioned in *I.G.*, II², 3542 (= 3561):²

[-----]
 [σ]τρατηγὸν τὸ ἑβδομὸν Μάρκος Πόρκιος Μά[ρκου υἱὸς Κάτων ?]
 [M. Porc]ius M. f.

Both inscriptions are dated after the middle of the first century after Christ. To these may be added *I.G.*, II², 4241, erected in honor of Porcia, the daughter of Marcus Porcius Cato and niece of Gellius Rutilius Lupus, also dated after the middle of the first century. She may be the daughter or the sister of the Cato in our inscription. Her uncle was pro-consul of Achaia under Claudius (after 44) or Nero.³ If she was the sister of our Cato, we have gained the name of his father, M. Porcius Cato, and of his mother, Rutilia. This father may have been the *consul suffectus* of A.D. 36 (*C.I.L.*, XIV, 4535), who in A.D. 38 became *curator aquarum*, but remained in the latter office only one month, perhaps because he met the same end as his fellow-conspirators against Titius Sabinus (Tacitus, *Annales*, IV, 71, 1). This is the view of Graindor,⁴ Groag,⁵ and R. Hanslik.⁶ It is possible that the uncle brought the two children to Athens with him after the probable disgrace and demise of their father.

It is to be noted that the Porcius Cato of *I.G.*, II², 3542 erected a statue in honor of someone who had held the office of Hoplite General seven times.⁷ As Graindor and Sarikakis (*loc. cit.*) have indicated, the leading candidate for this honor is Tiberius Claudius Novius, son of Philinus, of the deme Oion, who held the office eight times, beginning in A.D. 41 and ending in A.D. 61. His other honors are listed by Graindor (*loc. cit.*, pp. 141-143).⁸

² Cf. B. D. Meritt in J. A. Notopoulos, "Studies in the Chronology of Athens," *Hesperia*, XVIII, 1949, p. 48; still taken as two inscriptions by T. Sarikakis, *The Hoplite General in Athens*, Princeton, 1951, p. 26.

³ See *I.G.*, II², 4183, and E. Groag, *Die römischen Reichsbeamten von Achaia bis auf Diokletian*, Vienna and Leipzig, 1939, cols. 36-37.

⁴ *Athènes de Tibère à Trajan*, Cairo, 1931, pp. 38-39.

⁵ *Loc. cit.*

⁶ In Pauly-Wissowa, *R.E.*, XXII, 1, col. 219.

⁷ Cato was not himself that general, as Hanslik (*loc. cit.*) supposes.

⁸ For Novius, see *I.G.*, II², 1945, 1990, 3182, 3270, 3271, 3277, 3535, 4174, and *Inscriptions de Délos*, 1628.

An important factor is the designation of our Cato in *I.G.*, II², 4190, as a Eumolpid. This can only have been by adoption, and we know that the emperors Commodus (*I.G.*, II², 1110) and Verus (*I.G.*, II², 3592, line 23) received this honor. In the third century after Christ a certain Quintilianus, who was governor of the province of Asia, became a Eumolpid (*I.G.*, II², 4219):

Κοι[ντιλιανῶ]
[ἀν]θυπάτω Ἀσίας
[Εὐ]μολπίδῃ.

If the Cato of *I.G.*, II², 4190, is the same as the Porcius of our inscription, it seems to follow that one could remain a foreigner and yet be enrolled among the Eumolpidae,⁹ for he is designated as a Roman on his tombstone, on which his home town in Italy is also named. Thus we need not accept Groag's assertion that he became a citizen.

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NOVITIATE OF ST. ISAAC JOGUES

⁹ J. H. Oliver asserts that "the acceptance of citizenship was a very different thing from an acceptance of invitation into the Mysteries . . . or entry into the Eumolpidae . . ." and lists other Athenians who entered the genos of the Eumolpidae. Cf. *Hesperia*, Suppl. VIII, 1949, opposite p. 248, and *Hesperia*, XX, 1951, p. 348.



a. Tower of the Princess, from Southeast. In foreground, Circuit Wall.



b. Tower of the Princess, from Southwest.

WALLACE E. MCLEOD: KIVERI AND THERMISI



EDWARD W. BODNAR:
MARCUS PORCIUS CATO



EUGENE N. LANE: AN UNPUBLISHED INSCRIPTION FROM LAKONIA