More from the Romano-British poets? A possible metrical inscription from East Farleigh, Kent

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Abstract

A four-line inscription in Old Roman Cursive on a pot base found in excavations in East Farleigh, Kent, in 2010 appears to be written (at least in part) in metre and has close textual similarities with examples from Binchester, County Durham. We describe the new text and then offer some thoughts about the possible relationship of these British texts to extant Latin verse and consider how to interpret the Kentish piece in context. Although much remains uncertain in our understanding of the text, it is a significant addition to our Romano-British corpus.
Types of metres. There are 5 possible combinations of stressed and unstressed syllables – two disyllabic varieties of feet and three trisyllabic ones. Disyllabic metres are called trochee and iambus, trisyllabic are dactyl, amphibrach and anapest. Disyllabic metres. 1. Trochee (Gk. trochais 'running'). The foot consists of two syllables; the first is tressed: / _ . Disyllabic words with the first syllable stressed demonstrate the trochaic metre: duty, evening, honey, trochee, etc. 2. Iambus (Gk iambos a pre-Hellenic word). A Possible Metrical Inscription from East Farleigh, Kent. Britannia, Vol. 50, Issue. , p. 367. CrossRef. Google Scholar. Gildenhard, Ingo and Viglietti, Cristiano 2020. Roman Frugality. p. 1. CrossRef. Mullen, Alex and Tomlin, R.S.O. 2019. More from the Romano-British Poets? A Possible Metrical Inscription from East Farleigh, Kent. Britannia, Vol. 50, Issue. , p. 367. CrossRef. Google Scholar. Gildenhard, Ingo and Viglietti, Cristiano 2020. Roman Frugality. p. 1. CrossRef. More from the Romano-British Poets? A Possible Metrical Inscription from East Farleigh, Kent. Britannia, Vol. 50, Issue. , p. 367. CrossRef. The article reviews the principal surviving examples of inscriptions on mosaic pavements and wall-paintings in Roman Britain. For some of these it makes tentative suggestions towards new readings or seeks to adjudicate between the conflicting readings of earlier commentators. The eleven inscriptions examined belong to different classes: signatures, dedications, good luck messages, labels, and literary or pseudo-literary glosses upon figure-scenes. The existence of the inscriptions implies that viewers were expected to be literate, or at least that being literate, if not actually well-educated, In Roman times Britain had as many people as at its peak in the Middle Ages. For four centuries it was an integral part of a single political system that stretched from Turkey to Portugal and from the Red Sea to the Tyne and beyond. Its involvement with Rome started long before the Conquest launched by the Emperor Claudius in ad 43, and it continued to be a part of the Roman world for some time after the final break with Roman rule.