
2) N. Rabal, *España, sus monumentos y artes, su naturaleza e historia: Soria* (Barcelona 1889), 109; more recently F. Spaltenstein, *Commentaire des Panica de Silius Italicus* 1 (Genève 1986), 227 likewise believes that Silius “doit faire référence à une colonisation, pour laquelle nous n’avons aucun parallèle”. Rabal’s hypothesis was perhaps inspired by Sil. 3,357, which mentions the ‘Cerretani (of Spain) who once fought for Hercules’.

3) A. Riese (ed.), *Geographi Latini minores* (Heilbronconn 1878; reprint Hildesheim 1964), 10 and 17.

4) In the locative form *Salmatice*: Itin. Antiq. 434,4.

5) *Non se urbis tenent et ne statis quidem sedibus*: Mela 3,3,4. On the Sarmatians as nomads, see Strabo 11,2,1 and 11,6,1.


7) The fact that Uxama lies technically in (inland) Celtiberia rather than (coastal) Iberia is of little import. Ancient writers frequently confuse these two geographical terms, and a poet who refers to the Saguntines as ‘Rutulians’ (2,567) and to Etruria as the ‘Maenian plain’ (5,329) is unlikely to recognize such fine distinctions. A few lines earlier (3,371-372) Silius ridiculously claims coastal Saetabii as the metropolis of the inland Sedetani.


9) Other ancient writers were sometimes equally inaccurate about the geography of this region. Thus Ovid (*Met.* 7,407) wrongly locates Colchis on the shore of Scythia, and Quintus Curtius (7,7,3) considers the Scyths a subcomponent of the Sarmatians, whereas Strabo (11,2,1) says the opposite.


11) Strabo 1,3,21; *Eustathius Comm.* 281 = *Geographi Graeci minores* 2, 265.

AN ADDRESS TO A GHOST AT OLBIA

In 1908 V. Shkorpil published an inscribed lead tablet from a grave at Olbia; according to him, it was a letter offering to bribe a judge, but the find-spot and his own printed text are enough, together or separately, to show that it is in fact a curse tablet (*defixio*). By summarizing and criticizing Shkorpil’s publication, presented in Russian in an article not easy to obtain, B. Bravo has put us into his debt: he not only has made this obscure inscription more accessible but has also offered an improved text and keen insight. Difficulties persist, however. Here I offer a few suggestions.

As Bravo’s investigations have revealed, the tablet itself, once in the collection of P.A. Mavrogordato of Odessa, is now, unfortunately, nowhere...
Figure 1. Facsimile by N.E. Makarenko

Figure 2. Transcription by V. Shkorpil