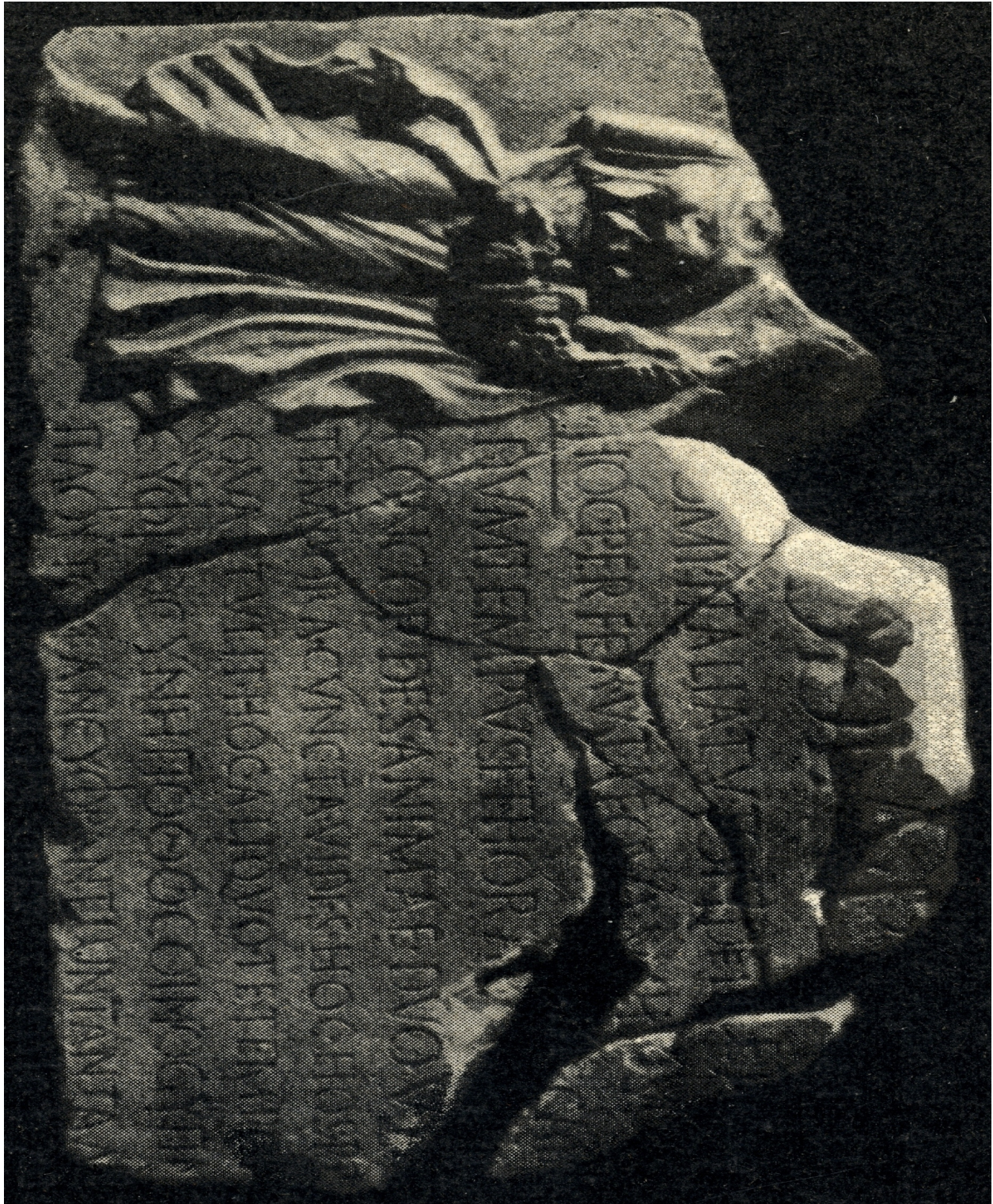


Clodia Publia
SEG IV 104

Figure 8: The inscription and the relief of Autumn



Text

C[l]odia P(ublia) l(iberta)
Compitalia tu totidem [qui concelebrasti] hoc 1
perfer. ut aequa mihi [i fuerint Fata aspi]ce. t[um] | dum
tempus et hora [mihi, dum suppeditat] quo[que] vita]. |
concordes animae duo vix[imus anno]s cas[tos]. |
Tempora cuncta vides. Hoc, hospe[s, te monet hora] | 5
quae tulit hoc. aliquo te tempor[e] terra tenebit]. |
εὐφροσύνη, πόθος, οἶνος, ὕπν[ος ταῦτ' ἐστὶ βροτοῖσι] |
πλοῦτος ἀνευφράντων Ταντάλ[ου ἐστὶ βίος].

Translation

Clodia Publia, Freedwoman...
You who have celebrated as many Compitalia, endure this
(death of mine). Consider how just the fates have been to me.
Back then, while there was time and a season for me, while life
also was in me, we both lived together as harmonious minds
for chaste years. You see all times. The season warns you of
this death, stranger, the season which brought this (to me). The
earth will hold you at some time. Mirth, love, wine, sleep,
these are men's riches. The wealth of the joyless is the life of
Tantalus.

Commentary

The letters in line 1, measure 6.2 cm high. The other lines measure 2.5 to 2.8 cm. The stone is broken in several places and, in fact, several of the reliefs associated with the monument itself were separated. The reliefs depict three seasons, Autumn, Summer, and Winter, and there presumably was a fourth, Spring.

The text appears as follows:

Line 1 = Dedication

Lines 2-7 = Latin epigram

Lines 8 and 9 = Greek couplet

There is much debate on how one should restore the missing portions of the stone. The first restoration is given by Lugli. He has:

Compitalia tu totide .. et hoc

perfer ut æqua mihi quol̄ t̄ ū t̄ dum

tempus et hora ʾl- gas

concordis animae, duo viximus atque perimus

tempora concta vides hoc hospes te monet annus

quae tulit hoc aliquo te tempore terra tenebat

εὐφροσύνη, πόθος, οἶνος, ὕπνος

πλούτος ἄνευ φραντῶν (?) τανταλ...

Beazley accepts what he sees in Lugli's Latin but proposes the following to complete the Greek couplet:

εὐφροσύνη, πόθος, οἶνος, ὕπνος [, ταῦτ' ἐστὶ βροτοῖσι]

πλούτος ἄνευ φραντῶν Ταντάλ[ου ἐστὶ βίος].

I prefer Palmer's reconstruction and use it in this paper.

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