CISALPINE CELTIC VARIA II

Abstract

The article comprises notes on different aspects – readings, analyses, etymologies and interpretations – of six Cisalpine Celtic inscriptions: VA·1.1 **kasikos**, MI·2 **atep**, TI·49 **inutu**, TI·13 **pirauixeś**, and the alphabetically Latin documents MI·15 seuuonis and MI·17 CALEDONOS.

T HE PRESENT ARTICLE CONSTITUTES the second instalment in a series which is intended to draw attention to new readings, analyses and interpretations of Cisalpine Celtic inscriptions and the linguistic forms attested in them which have been implemented in the digital edition *Lexicon Leponticum (LexLep)*. The text is, in essence, drawn from the respective *LexLep* entries, but was adapted to the format of a print publication. Data and details about aspects of the inscriptions which are not discussed here, as well as images and further references, can be found in the entries on the website. The inscription sigla used for Cisalpine Celtic inscriptions are those of *LexLep*; concordances of the *LexLep* sigla with the major print editions of the Cisalpine Celtic inscription corpus (Whatmough 1933; Tibiletti Bruno 1981; Solinas 1995; Motta 2000; Morandi 2004) are provided on https://lexlep.univie.ac.at/wiki/Concordance.¹

1. VA·1.1 kasikos or kasiuos

(Ardena; first half of second century bc)

The inscribed fiasca a trottola from a La Tène grave in Ardena on a plateau above Brusimpiano near Lago di Lugano was found in 1938 and published by Bertolone (1941). It bears two inscriptions, one two-character sequence VA·1.2 *ur* or *tu* vel sim. of unclear function on the shoulder, and the longer, clearly language-encoding sequence in question (VA·1.1) on the foot just inside the outer rim. The latter was read by Bertolone and later scholars² as **kasikos** – a linguistically plausible reading, *kassikos* being a well-attested Gaulish personal name (see *cassic(i)us/-a* in Delamarre 2007: 59) transparently formed

¹The research for this article was conducted for the project Cisalpine Celtic Language and Literacy, funded by the Austrian Academy of Sciences (APART-GSK fellowship 2019) and conducted at the Department of Linguistics of the University of Vienna. The contents were presented at the conference 'Cisalpine Celtic Literacy' (Maynooth/online) in June 2022. I am grateful to David Stifter (Maynooth) for his feedback and advice on linguistic matters, to Laura Grestenberger, Alan J. Nussbaum and Michael Weiss for sharing their expertise, and to the participants of the abovementioned conference for their input and references.

²Tibiletti Bruno (1966: 15–21), Lejeune (1971: 50, 62), Tibiletti Bruno (1978: 148–9), Solinas (1995: 368–9, no. 113, 2), Morandi (1999: 173–4, no. 19), Morandi (2004: 544–5, no. 41 A), Rapi (2009: 214).

from the common base *kassi*- with a *k*-suffix. An examination of the object in January 2022, however, has revealed a problem with this reading: what looks in older photographs and drawings like secondary surface damage disrupting the inscription at the height of letters 5 and 6 is in fact a small pebble, which is baked into the clay and must have been there already when the letters were applied. The second-to-last letter omicron was, accordingly, applied half-size above the pebble because the latter could not be written on. The letter before omicron, of which only a chevron above the pebble is visible, was identified by Bertolone as kappa X; the drawings by Tibiletti Bruno (1966: 16) and Morandi (2004: 548, fig. 11.41) show a hasta, slightly bent in the upper half, just before the pebble, and the trace of the tip of the lower bar below the pebble beneath omicron. Indeed, various small surface irregularities below the pebble, which show very prominently in all available photos, seem to suggest the lower tips of lines, but none of them hold up to examination. Furthermore, the surface just above the pebble is smooth, without traces of a hasta or lower bar to form kappa. The fifth letter looks more like a small upsilon V which was squeezed into the upper part of the line above the pebble, just like omicron.³

Unfortunately, the resulting reading **kasiuos** is considerably less attractive from a linguistic perspective. The common, if etymologically opaque base *kassi*- could be the same as in *kassikos*, but the suffix would appear to be adjectival - μo -, which regularly forms derivatives from verbal roots (overview in De Bernardo Stempel 1999: 212–21) and is present in base morphemes of personal names such as *biu*- 'alive', but – unlike -*k*- – is not itself a productive suffix in Continental Celtic onomastics. A name *kassiuos* would have to contain an old, otherwise unattested secondary formation **kassi-µo*-.

To retain the linguistically preferable reading **kasikos**, we can consider the possibility that the writer of the inscription, when reaching the pebble and realising their strategic mistake, made an executive decision to omit the lower half of the letter kappa, because they considered the resulting form to be sufficiently clear – cf. the argument of Weiss (handout 2019), who emends PACA in the Duenos Inscription to P<L>ACA, suggesting that the writer did not correct the mistake because PACA would be a nonce formation and could be interpreted correctly by contemporary readers.

2. MI·2 atep

(PARABIAGO; LATE FIRST CENTURY BC)

The sequence inscribed dextroverse in a curve on the foot of a black-glazed cup found in unrecorded circumstances in the nineteenth century was originally read AUIA (in the Latin alphabet) by Tibiletti Bruno (1984: 123) (cf. the drawing by Frontini 1985: tav. 16.12, which shows non-retrograde alpha as the final letter). However, the impression of a lower bar in the last letter to form

³As pointed out by the reviewer of this paper, the obliqueness of the chevron's right-hand side line also supports upsilon; the hasta of initial kappa is quite straight.

is due to one of the concentric circles on the foot (and a combination of nonretrograde with initial retrograde alpha Λ would be unlikely in any case). The last letter is either pi or inverted lambda $\$, as shown in Tizzoni's drawing (1984: tav. XLIV e); Morandi (2004: 611, no. 132), who also included the short bar crossing the vertical **†** after initial alpha, accordingly read **atiil** or **atiip**, interpreting the form as an abbreviated personal name and comparing specifically TI-12 atilonei. Double iota, however, is not otherwise attested in languageencoding Cisalpine Celtic inscriptions; it is preferable to read the two verticals as cursive Latin epsilon II (as also attested in MI-17 and MI-15 below). That the alphabet of the inscription is Latinised Lepontic or even Latin with Lepontic relics is indicated by the form of alpha with two oblique hastae A rather than late Lepontic \aleph and of tau with a straight hasta and only slightly tilted bar \uparrow rather than Lepontic X; it is also made plausible by the late dating of the object (based on typology, see Tizzoni 1984: 72, Frontini 1985: 113). The letter forms agree well with those attested in the Latin alphabetarium on Monte Aga (see Casini and Fossati 2016), which features the exact same form of alpha with the shortened left-hand side hasta, cursive epsilon, tau with a slightly tilted bar T, and Lepontic instead of Latin pi.

The resulting form **atep** can be interpreted as an abbreviation of a personal name in *ad-tepo-* 'run toward', as already attested three times in the Cisalpine Celtic corpus: VR·7 ATEPORIX, TI-8 **atepu**, VA·2 **atepa**; see Salomon (2022: 185) on the analysis of the names.

3. TI·49 inutu

(GIUBIASCO; SECOND HALF OF THIRD-FIRST CENTURY BC)

The most interesting among the eight graffiti which were detected in the course of the Nationalmuseum Zürich's review of the material from the Golasecca necropolis (TI-46, TI-47, TI-48, TI-49, TI-50, TI-51, TI-52, TI-53; see Pernet et al. 2006: 229) is a five-letter sequence on the foot of a bowl excavated in 1901. The reading of the tidily and deeply incised inscription is entirely unproblematic despite the find number having been painted right across it. Neither does the analysis pose any problems: **inutu** can be analysed as an *on*-stem personal name in the nominative *indutū* formed from the base *indut*-, with the (etymological) cluster /nd/ reflected as $\langle n \rangle$ in writing as typical for Cisalpine Celtic inscriptions.⁴ *indut*- is well attested in Gaulish inscriptions: *CIL* XII 5884 *indutiomarus* (also in literary sources), *RIG* I G-70 (possibly sim. also G-111) εινδουτιορειξ, ινδουτιλο (Mullen 2013: 182–9), *indut(i)us/-o, indutilli, indutissa* (see AcS II 41–5, KGP 226, GPN 96–8,

⁴This is generally assumed to reflect a phonetic reality, viz. a sound change [nd] > [nn] (see the detailed discussion in Uhlich 2007: 384–405; also Lejeune 1971: 24–5, Eska 1998: 5, Stifter 2020: 12). The fact that Celtic names are attested with etymological /nd/ intact in Latin inscriptions of Northern Italy casts doubt on whether this development was fully executed. While an outright orthographic rule for not spelling /d/ in this position is hardly feasible, we may be dealing with a reflection of allegro speech which was countenanced by Lepontic, but not Latin orthography.

Delamarre (2007: 110); probably also instances of *indus* as per *DLG* 190, but cf. Falileyev 2014: 128).

indut- itself, recently discussed by Falileyev (2014: 128-9), is of unclear etymology (see GPN 97-8 for older literature), conceivably a compound of in- 'in' and opaque dut-, which also appears as second element in CIL XII 4223 menmandutis (theonym, Lat. dat. pl.) and possibly lexically in obscure duti on the Chartres defixio (Lambert 2013), and may be the same element as in names like duta, dutia, duttius etc. (see AcS I 1388, Delamarre 2007: 92). It is doubtful, though, whether all these instances of dut- have the same meaning and etymology. PIE roots from which Celtic dut-/dūt- could be derived (with t-suffix) are collected by Repanšek (2013: 188-9) (discussing *duti*).⁵ Of the eight candidates, only $*deh_2u$ - 'ignite' is securely attested in the Celtic branch, but without metathesis. Repanšek suggests a derivation from * $deh_3\mu$ - (enlarged from * deh_3 - 'give'), which is attested, metathetised, in Umbrian -dito- < *duh₃-tó- 'given' (cf. Lambert 2013: 152). A semantically plausible option for the personal names is $*d^{h}eu$ - 'run' (cf. the common elements rit- 'run, attack' and king- 'stride, attack'). Specifically for indut-, Delamarre (DLG 190-1), assuming a meaning related to juridical matters based on the comparison with Lat. induitiae 'armistice' (also of uncertain etymology), proposes an etymology $*\acute{en}(i)-d^h\bar{o}-t-s$ from PIE $*d^heh_1-$ 'put, make' \rightarrow 'who has the law within him' (cf. Lambert 2013: 152 with the same etymology for the second element of menmandutia 'qui applique son esprit'). Another possibility is again *deh3- 'give' as in Lat. sacerdos (NIL 63-4, n. 8 with literature). Cf. also Weiss (via Beekes 2010 s.v.), who suggests a derivation of Lat. *induitae* from the root **deuh*₂- 'to be able, arrange'. Whatever the etymology of indut-, Cisalpine Celtic indutū adds another example, with alternative stem formation (a hypocoristic of a compound or an individualising derivation directly from the hypothetical noun), to the list of Gaulish attestations.

4. TI-13 pirauixes

(GIUBIASCO; LATE SECOND-FIRST CENTURY BC)

The damaged inscription TI-13 is written on the shoulder of a fiasca a trottola from Giubiasco. According to Herbig in the original publication (1906: 188–9, no. 1), the faintness of the scratches is the result of a cleaning of the object. Pi 1, twice iota I and rho Q as well as chi Ψ , epsilon \exists and san M are clear. The fourth letter alpha is sometimes rendered as Λ (Herbig ibid., Whatmough 1933: 78, no. 261, Morandi 2004: 527, no. 14), but the lower bar of \exists is faintly visible. The most problematic letter is no. 5, for which three different readings have been suggested. Since only a hasta and a bar in the upper area are visible and no trace of a second bar can be made out, the letter has most often been interpreted as upsilon V (Herbig ibid., Whatmough ibid., Crivelli 1943: 53, Solinas 1995: 324, no. 10, Morandi 1999: 163–4, no. 7, Morandi 2004 ibid., De Marinis and

⁵Cf. also Repanšek (2015).

Biaggio Simona 2000: 462, no. 530), but also as kappa > (Herbig ibid., Rhŷs 1913: 26–7, no. 4) or nu > (Motta 2000: 213–4, no. 24, followed by Pernet et al. 2006: 229, tab. 6.2).

A re-examination of the inscription for *LexLep* in July 2021 has not shed any light on the issue. Upsilon does seem to be the best option epigraphically, as it requires only the assumption that the oblique hasta does not reach the bottom, while the addition of patently non-existent bars is necessary to form nu and kappa. **pirauigeś** lends itself to analysis as a dithematic personal name with first element *bira*- (connected with *birro*- 'short'?)⁶ and second element *uiko*-'fight'. In Motta's **piranigeś**, the base of the second element might be **nig*-'wash' (Stifter 2010: 370), but the semantics are questionable. As stressed, with good cause, by the reviewer of this paper, in both cases *a* in place of the expected stem vowel sheds some doubt on the segmentation. When assuming a segmentation **pir-auigeś** (with *aui*- 'desire'?), however, the latter part of the form *-igeś* is hard to explain. This also goes for Rhŷs' **pirakigeś**, which would otherwise be attractive because of the commonness of Gaulish *birāk*-names, which are also attested in Cisalpine Celtic (NM-4 **pirakos**, NO-30 **piraki**).⁷

San in final position is unlikely to spell /d/ as in many younger Lepontic inscriptions (cf. Stifter 2010: 372–3), but appears to be used in its original Lepontic function for a dental-sibilant cluster (cf. the possible use of chi rather than kappa for /k/ in *uiko*- as more common in archaic Lepontic inscriptions).⁸ Since the ending $\langle es \rangle$ also occurs in **sites** in the Prestino inscription (CO-48), where it is assumed to reflect an accusative plural ending $-e^n ts$ vel sim. (with epenthetic /t/ and subsequently weakened nasal, see Uhlich 1999: 295–9), **pirauixes**, expected to be a personal name due to its context, was analysed as a participle in *-ent-* (*-uik-ent-s* 'fighting') by Solinas (1995: 324, no. 10) (see also Motta 2000: 213–14, no. 24, Stifter 2010: 370). If this should be the case, the form would provide another instance of (analogical?) *-enC-* rather than *-anC-* for **-nC-* in Cisalpine Celtic (see the discussion in Uhlich 1999: 299). It may be preferable, however, to analyse $\langle es \rangle$ in the present inscription as the agentive suffix *-et-* plus *-s –* a derivation *uik-et-* 'fighter' would parallel formations such as *king-et-* 'attacker' (in PNN like *vercingetorix*, maybe also

⁶An onomastic element *birr*- appears in Ogam *CIIC* 131 LITUBIRI and in Gaulish in simplex names like *birr(i)us, birro* (see *DLG* 76, Delamarre 2007: 213 et passim), thought to be connected with OIr *berr*, MW *byrr*, etc. 'short', Gallo-Lat. *birrus* 'capelet with hood' (*FEW* A–B 376, Thurneysen 1916: 82) < PC **birro*- (Matasović 2009 s.v., *LEIA* B-42) without an IE etymology.

⁷Delamarre (*DLG* 76) lists names in *birāk*- (*biracos*, *biracillus*, *biracatus*, *RIG* I G-257 βιρακοτουτι[, *biracideginus*, etc.; see also *KGP* 149, Delamarre 2007: 42, 213) under the headword *birr*-; the association goes back to De Jubainville (in *AcS* I 423), who makes the connection via a variant (nomen) *birius*, but this is uncertain considering consistent simple /r/ in the *birāk*names as well as the suffix -*āk*- itself, which usually forms derivations from substantives (cf. *GPN* 311–13, Lochner von Hüttenbach 1989: 31). Cf., however, De Bernardo Stempel (2010: 79), who explains simple /r/ through degemination before stressed vowels (*bírrus* vs. *birákos*).

⁸In contrast to its late sporadic employment to denote /g/ or [γ] (e.g. PV-4 **eripoxios** *eribogios*), which may be due to influence from Venetic orthography, chi can be argued (with unequal confidence) to denote /k/ in four archaic inscriptions: VA-3]**iunθanaya** (if Celtic and with a *k*-suffix), VA-4.1 **vixu** *µikū* (uncertain reading), NO-29 **χoθios** *kottijos*, NO-1 **χosioiso** *kossioiso*. How this fits into the strategies of obstruent spelling in the early Lepontic alphabet will be the topic of a future publication.

in Cisalpine Celtic VB-23 **kiketu** = king-et- \bar{u} with individualising *on*-stem), seg-et- 'victor' (*CIL* XI, 1711 SEGETIUS, CO-57 **sekezos** = seg-et-ios, arguably also NM-6 **sexeθu** = seg-et- \bar{u}) and org-et- 'killer' (*orgetius, orgetorix* etc.; Delamarre 2007: 146), all with martial semantics.⁹ For the use of the non-thematised nominative μik -et-s in a personal name cf. *cinges* = king-et-s (Delamarre 2007: 65, Irslinger 2002: 58).

5. MI·17 caledonos (San Giorgio su Legnano; late first century bc)

The black-glazed patera from the late La Tène/Augustan necropolis in Via Vittorio Veneto was excavated already in 1952 and published by Sutermeister (1956: 20–2). The inscription CALEDONOS, applied in small but neat letters upside-down on the bottom of the patera between two decorative lines, is written in the Latin alphabet with little to no influence from North Italic writing. Sutermeister, an archaeologist, took the name *caledonos* to be Greek; the document thus did not make it into the Cisalpine Celtic editions and was only added to the corpus in 2021 by its inclusion in *LexLep*.

As already noted by Volonté (2012: 728) after consultation with Filippo Gambari, the form *caledonos* is the genitive of the Celtic personal name *kaledū*, which is attested in the Gaulish coin legends *RIG* IV M-88–90, M-257 CALEDU; cf. also *CIL* VIII 19745 CALEDIA, and repeated *caledō* (Delamarre 2007: 53). The name is certainly connected with the ethnonym *kaledones*, though the exact relationship – *kaledones* being simply the plural of *kaledū* without derivational suffix – is unclear (cf. the PN CALEDONIA, Delamarre 2007: 53). There is general agreement that the base is *kal*- 'hard' as in **kaleto*- 'id.' as attested in OIr *calad* etc., but – as asserted by Zimmer (2006: 165–6) (pace Luján 2003: 200) – *kaled*-cannot be directly compared with *kalet*-, which is formed with the ablauting *t*-suffix discussed above sub 4.; the second element/suffix -*ĕd*- has not been convincingly explained. The Latin attestations of the ethnonym show long */ē/* (*calēdones*), which cannot be etymological in Gaulish (where */ē/* > */ī/*).¹⁰ If */ē/* in Latin should be secondary in some way (though it is not evident how or why), the suffix may be the also otherwise attested, but enigmatic -*ed*-.¹¹

⁹The comparison is not perfect, as the abovementioned Gaulish nomina agentis in *-et-* have generalised *e*-grade, not zero-grade of the root; see Irslinger (2002: 57–68) on the formation of nomina actionis and agentis with ablauting *t*-suffix in Irish.

¹⁰Cf. Zimmer (2006: 165–6), who suggests that the Romans may have encountered the ethnonym before $/\bar{e}/ > /\bar{i}/$ (and the coin legends also reflect that state, or show influence from Latin?). He proposes an analysis as a compound **kal-pēd-h₃n-* 'having hard feet'.

¹¹Beside *caledonos*, a suffixed element *-ed-* appears in Cisalpine Celtic arguably in the names VR·14 **keleśu** and CO·48 **plialeθu**, possibly also VB·2 **oletu**, VB·23 **kiketu** and NM·6 **sexeθu** (though for the latter two *-et-* is more likely, see above sub 4.), so always as an *on-*stem *-edū* (on CO·57 **sekezos** see also sub 4.). Numerous potential Celtic attestations are collected in *AcS* I 1407 sub *-ēdon-l-ēdū*. IE comparanda are elusive – cf. e.g. Neri 2003: 47, n. 105 on the possibility that a suffix *-ed-* underlies some Latin *-idus-*adjectives, specifically *calidus* 'warm' < PIE * $\hat{k}l$ *-ed-ó-* (see *NIL* 414, n. 1 on the root shape): OI. *śarád-* etc. 'autumn' < * $\hat{k}el$ *-éd-* 'warmth', where *-ed-is* also irregular (see *NIL* 415, n. 7 with literature). Schaffner 2014: 74 compares the derivation ***meh*₂ \hat{k} *-éd-* 'height' > GK **ma* \hat{k} *-ed-ó-* 'tall' (as basis for Mακεδόν- 'Macedonian'); cf. Nussbaum

6. MI-15 SEUUONIS

(PARABIAGO; SECOND HALF OF FIRST CENTURY BC-EARLY FIRST CENTURY AD)

The olpe was found in the La Tène/Roman Imperial age necropolis of San Lorenzo (Parabiago); the inscription is applied prominently on the shoulder. The sequence is written dextroverse in the Latin alphabet, with rounded sigmas, large omicron, nu with a full-length angle, and cursive epsilon. The document was included in the Cisalpine Celtic corpus by Morandi (2004: 709, no. 282), who, taking the two chevrons in the middle to represent inverted mu, read SEMONIS, genitive of a Latinised personal name *semo* from a largely hypothetical Celt. *semū*. This reading is hard to accept, as the only comparandum for such an inverted mu is found in the difficult, alphabetically Camunoid part of the Voltino inscription (BS·3.2); also, the two chevrons do not touch. The preferable reading SEUUONIS with double upsilon was already put forward by Volonté (1993: 42).

While the grammatical analysis remains the same (gen. seuuonis of a Latinised $seuuo \leftarrow$ Celt. seuuu), the base seuu-finds better Celtic comparanda than sem-. A Celtic element seuu- (or seuu-?), always spelled with double upsilon, is attested in a handful of Gaulish personal names: seuua (SEUUAE gen.) in Geneva, seuuo (SEUUO, potter's name at Lezoux and at Strasbourg; more in AcS II 1530), and SEUUANTI[at Trèves (Delamarre 2007: 167–8). For the latter, Delamarre (ibid. 168) suggests an etymology with first element sego- 'strength, victory' and second element in uanti- '?'; seuua and Latinised seuuo could be hypocoristics of such compounds with any second element in u-, lenited /g/ and assimilated stem vowel. This can explain /e/ before /u/ (or /u/), since inherited /eu/ should have become /ou/. Despite the corrected reading, the inscription can thus retain its place in the corpus of Cisalpine Celtic inscriptions.¹²

^{1999: 407,} n. 34, and further Nussbaum (handout 2004) on an ablauting suffix *-ed/ēd-* in Greek and Latin. With regard to the potential connection with Lat. *calidus* it may be considered whether the root present in *kaledū*, *kaledones* (and any of the unsuffixed bases *kalo-* in Gaulish PNN) is not the same as in the Insular Celtic 'hard'-words, but * $\hat{k}el$ - 'warming', which is not lexically attested in Celtic.

In Cisalpine Celtic inscriptions, some of the PNN in (putative) *-edon-* appear in two-part names where a clear patronym is missing (**uvamokozis plialeθu**, **oletu amaśilu**), leading Markey to analyse the element as a suffix forming cognomina (Markey and Mees 2003: 140, 149, Markey 2006: 157). Markey compares Sabellic patronymic *-id-io-*, Messapic patronymic *-id-*, and Greek *-*tδα, deriving *-ed-* from **-id-* with lowering in Markey and Mees (2003: 149; cf. Villar and Prósper 2005: 286), but reconstructing Pre-Celtic **-edon-* in (2006: 157).

¹²This cannot be said of some other documents which have found their way into the corpus over time, prominently e.g. TI-4 POLIBI SPURIS from Giubiasco. In accordance with the dating of the terra sigillata plate to the second half of the first century and based on the typology and stamp (see Pernet et al. 2006: 203, *OCK* 1765), the inscription is written in the Latin alphabet with possible Greek (lambda), but no Lepontic traces; the two personal names are Latinised Greek (πολυβιος \rightarrow *polybius*; cf. the spelling of the Campanian fabricant Publius Cipius Polybius' cognomen Polisi (gen.) on fabrication stamps; see Kunow 1985: 222–4) and Latin or Etruscan (*spuris* – cf. the Latin cognomen *spurius* and Etruscan names in *ET*² I, 281; Morandi (1999: 164–5) 'senza alcun dubbio un italico'), certainly not Celtic.

Abbreviations

CIIC	Macalister 1945–49.
CIL	Mommsen et al. 1862–.
DLG	Delamarre 2003.
ET^2	Meiser 2014.
FEW	Von Wartburg 1922–2002.
GPN	Ellis Evans 1967.
KGP	Schmidt 1957.
LEIA	Vendryes, Bachallery and Lambert 1959–96.
NIL	Wodtko, Irslinger and Schneider 2008.
OCK	Oxé, Comfort and Kenrick 2000.
RIG	Duval et al. 1985–2002.

Holder 1896–1907.

AcS

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