



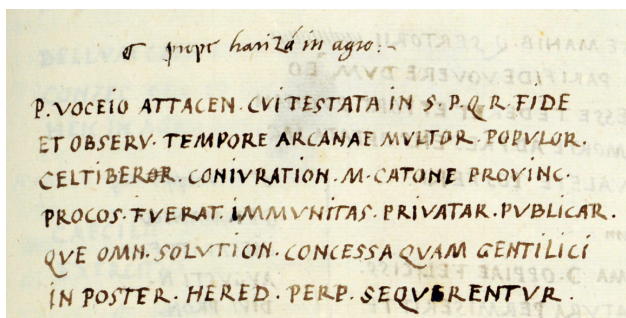
Gerard González Germain

Antiquity Rewritten. On the Authorship of the Fake Latin Inscriptions of Early 16th-Century Spain

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Zentrum für Alte Kulturen

Langer Weg 11, SR 5



In the first quarter of the 16th century, an anonymous humanist was responsible for the forgery of about 75 supposedly ancient Latin inscriptions from Iberia, which were actually

literary creations never engraved on stone. Much later, from the 1540s onwards, these texts started to spread through antiquarian manuscripts and ancient chronicles, decisively shaping late-Renaissance Spanish historiography. The inscriptions were located throughout the Iberian Peninsula, and comprised a great variety of types and topics, including tombstones, military epitaphs, imperial dedications, milestones or sacred offerings. In recent years, studies have shed light on the literary and epigraphic sources used in the forgeries, as well as on the ideology that these texts portray. However, little is known about their origin and authorship. New evidence regarding the early reception of these forgeries allows us to trace their creation, with fair certainty, to the humanist circles established at the royal court around 1515. The consideration of the forger's nationality—and his possible identity—will bring us to discuss the spread of Latin humanism and antiquarianism in Spain at that time.