

Cato as Exemplary Historian in *Against Verres*

1. Cicero *In Verrem* 2.2.4-5¹

Quare **P. Africanus** Carthagine deleta Siculorum urbis signis monumentisque pulcherrimis exornavit... Denique ille **ipse M. Marcellus**, cuius in Sicilia virtutem hostes, misericordiam victi, fidem ceteri Siculi perspexerunt, non solum sociis in eo bello consuluit, verum etiam superatis hostibus temperavit...

Itaque ad omnis res sic illa provincia semper usi sumus ut, quicquid ex sese posset efferre, id non apud nos nasci sed domi nostrae conditum iam putaremus. Quando illa quod frumentum deberet non ad diem dedit? quando id quod opus esse putaret non ultro pollicita est? quando id quod imperaretur recusavit? Itaque ille **M. Cato Sapiens** cellam penariam rei publicae nostrae, nutricem plebis Romanae Siciliam nominabat.

*This is why **Scipio Africanus [sc. Aemilianus]**, after the destruction of Carthage, richly adorned the cities of Sicily with the finest statues and memorials... Yes, and **Marcus Marcellus** himself, known in Sicily as terrible to his enemies, as merciful to the beaten, as a faithful friend of all the rest—Marcellus not only defended those who then fought for us, but spared even the conquered enemies...*

*And accordingly for all purposes we always exploited that province in such a way that we looked upon her various products not as born among us, but as already added to our stores at home. When has she failed to pay us punctually her tribute of grain? When has she not spontaneously offered us what she believed that we wanted? When has she refused to supply what was ordered of her? And so **the famous M. Cato Sapiens** used to call Sicily the storehouse of our state, the nurse of the Roman people.*

2. Ayelet Haimson Lushkov, 2018, "Citation, Spoliation, and Literary Appropriation in Livy's AUC" in Loar, MacDonald, and Padilla Peralta, eds. *Rome, Empire of Plunder*.

- a. **"In a work conceived as a physical monument, physical artifacts naturally have a heightened potential for significance, and I would like to conclude by revisiting my initial suggestion that spoliation in this text functions as a metaphor for various processes of appropriation and imperialism, both physical and textual."** (45-46)
- b. **"But where the spolia analogy is especially useful is in its evocation of qualities characteristic of the ancient literary tradition and of the historiographical genre in particular: its monumentality, its mimetic function, the presence of the author and identity politics more generally,**

¹ Translations are from Greenwood's Loeb with modifications unless otherwise noted. Text follows Peterson's 1917 OCT.

and the overarching issue of morality and moralizing. Both citation and spolia, moreover, deal in an aesthetic of displacement and appropriation, assume a transportation of meaning and presence from one place to another, and invite us to ask questions about how such practices translate or impact our reading or viewing experiences.” (32)

3. Cic. *Verr.* 2.2.5 = *FRHist* 5 F129 = Cugusi and Sblendorio Cugusi *inc. fr.* 3= Jordan *dict.* 72

Itaque ille M. Cato Sapiens cellam penariam rei publicae nostrae, nutricem plebis Romanae Siciliam nominabat.

4. Cic. *Verr.* 2.2.2

primum quod omnium nationum exterarum **princeps** Sicilia se ad amicitiam fidemque populi Romani applicavit. **Prima** omnium, id quod ornamentum **imperii** est, provincia est appellare; **prima** docuit maiores nostros quam praeclarum esset exteris gentibus **imperare**...

The first [of many reasons] is that Sicily was the first of all foreign nations to become the loyal friend of Rome. It was the first of all to receive the title of province, which is the jewel of empire; It was the first who taught our ancestors how splendid a thing foreign empire is...

5. Cic. *Verr.* 2.2.7

iam vero hominum ipsorum, iudices, **ea patientia virtus frugalitasque est ut proxime ad nostram disciplinam illam veterem**, non ad hanc quae nunc increbruit, **videantur accedere: nihil ceterorum simile Graecorum** nulla desidia, nulla luxuries; contra summus labor in publicis privatisque rebus, summa parsimonia, summa diligentia.

And then again, the character of the inhabitants is such, so hardy and upright and honest, that it really reminds us of the stern old Roman manners, rather than of those which have come to prevail among us to-day. They have none of the failings found elsewhere among Greeks; they are neither slothful nor self-indulgent; on the contrary, they are highly industrious, for their own and for the public good; plain-living and conscientious folk.

6. Cic. *Verr.* 2.2.3

Itaque maioribus nostris in Africam ex hac provincia gradus imperi factus est.

From this province therefore it was that our forefathers took that great step in their imperial career, the invasion of Africa.

7. Cic. Verr. 2.2.8

sic a maioribus suis acceperant, tanta populi Romani in Siculos esse beneficia ut etiam iniurias nostrorum hominum perferendas putarent.

It was an inherited tradition of theirs to regard Rome as so great a benefactor of the Sicilians that they must even endure oppression, if the oppressors were Romans.

8. Cic. Verr. 2.2.3

...**Carthagine deleta**, Siculorum urbis **signis monumentisque** pulcherrimis **exornavit**, ut quos **victoria populi Romani** maxime laetari arbitrabatur, apud eos **monumenta victoriae** plurima conlocaret.

After the destruction of Carthage, richly adorned the cities of Sicily with the finest statues and memorials, intentionally setting up the most memorials of the victory of the Roman people among those to whom, he reckoned, that it gave most delight.

9. Cic. Verr. 2.2.4

Urbem pulcherrimam Syracusas, ...cum vi consilioque cepisset, non solum incolumem passus est esse, sed ita reliquit **ornatam** ut esset idem **monumentum victoriae, mansuetudinis, continentiae**...

The noble city of Syracuse... when he had seized it forcefully and strategically, he left not only unharmed, but so richly adorned that it was a memorial alike of his victory, of his clemency, and of his self-control...

10. Cic. Verr. 2.2.5

Nos vero **experti sumus Italico maximo difficillimoque bello** Siciliam nobis **non pro penaria cella, sed pro aerario illo maiorum vetere ac referto** fuisse; nam sine ullo sumptu nostro coriis tunicis frumentoque suppeditando maximos exercitus nostros vestivit, aluit, armavit.

Actually, I have discovered, in that greatest and most difficult Italian War, that Sicily was not like a storehouse for us, but that very treasury of our ancestors, ancient and stuffed full; for without any expense of our own by supplying hides, tunics, and grain it has clothed, nourished, and armed our greatest armies.

11. = Handout #s 3 and 2b

12. Cic. Verr. 2.4.97

Omnia illa, iudices, abstulit, nihil in religiosissimo fano praeter vestigia violatae religionis **nomenque P. Scipionis** reliquit; **hostium spolia, monumenta imperatorum, decora atque ornamenta fanorum** posthac **his praeclaris nominibus amissis** in instrumento atque in supellectile C. Verris **nominabuntur**.

He stole everything, jurors; he left nothing in that most holy shrine [sc. Engyion] except the traces of this sacrilegious outrage and the name of Scipio. Enemy spoils, commanders' memorials, ornaments and embellishments of the shrines from this point, since their brilliant names have been lost, will be reckoned among the everyday and household items of Gaius Verres.

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