

## Names And Titles Of Famous Personalities In Tbilisi Through Latin Inscriptions

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Received: 10/07/2024

Accepted: 23/08/2024

Published: 02/09/2024

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### **Abstract:**

This study delves into the Latin inscriptions found in the ancient city of Thibilis, located in present-day Algeria, to explore the names and titles of prominent personalities who played pivotal roles in the city's administration and development during the Roman period. Thibilis, initially a Libyan village later transformed into a Roman settlement, provides a rich tapestry of historical phases including the Libyan, Phoenician, Numidian, Roman, Byzantine, and Vandal periods. Through the examination of inscriptions, the research sheds light on the city's geographic, political, and religious landscape, and the Romanization process that integrated local elites into Roman society. The study particularly focuses on notable families such as the Sittius, Aemilius, and Antistius, who were instrumental in the governance and cultural life of Thibilis. By tracing the evolution of these families and their contributions, the research illustrates how Thibilis rose to prominence among Roman cities in North Africa, reflecting broader trends of urban development and Roman influence in the region.

**Keywords:** Thibilis, Roman North Africa, Latin inscriptions, ancient Algeria, Roman cities.

### **Introduction**

Since ancient times, cities have served as the central gathering places for populations in all civilizations. They were hubs of power, commercial exchange, economic activity, and centers of social, economic, political, and religious transformations. This was largely due to the interaction between the city's inhabitants and those from outside. Through the social order imposed by laws that help organize life according to a defined system, governed by strict and regulated rules, the city's structure emerged. This phenomenon was evident in ancient North Africa with the arrival of the Phoenicians, who crossed the sea, establishing the first settlements in the region. Initially, these were trade outposts along the Mediterranean coast. However, the true form of the city did not emerge until the Romans arrived, aiming to conquer the region and exploit its wealth. Roman cities began to rise on these lands, including the ancient city of Thibilis, built on the ruins of an ancient Libyan village.

This raises key questions: How was this city constructed, and what were the names and titles of the prominent figures and great families that managed it? Where was this city located, when did it emerge, and what were its features and landmarks? Did it truly reflect the style of Roman cities in ancient North Africa?

To answer these questions, we adopted the historical method, which allows us to trace the chronology of events that occurred in North Africa, especially with the arrival of the Romans. We focused on the establishment of rural settlements, towns, and Roman colonies to consolidate Roman presence in the region, particularly in Algeria. In our analysis, we relied on a set of Latin inscriptions discovered in the ancient city of Thibilis. These inscriptions provide insights into the city's development, the names and titles of the notable figures who administratively, politically, and economically managed the city, and how they contributed to its growth. Through these figures, Thibilis rose to the ranks of the well-known Roman cities in North Africa.

### **1. The Establishment of the Ancient City of Thibilis**

Thibilis underwent several historical phases during its formation: the ancient Libyan period, the Phoenician, Numidian, Roman, Byzantine, Vandal periods, and finally the Islamic conquest. This is evident from the archaeological remains found in and around the city, including Numidian coins, Punic inscriptions, and other material evidence such as funerary and votive stelae, as well as Roman city landmarks that still stand today.

According to researchers who discovered the city, Thibilis was a Roman city built on the ruins of a pre-Roman Punic village. The Romans established it as a rural settlement known as a *pagus*, a Roman rural community governed by a specific administrative system, headed by a local leader assisted by two indigenous residents. Many inscriptions mention the name Thibilis, including one discovered in the city's marketplace on half of a marble column, dated between 284 and 305 CE. It was dedicated to the emperors Diocletian, Maximian, Constantius, and Galerius, and reads:

**SALVIS AVGG ♥ ET CAESARIB. IN. PERPETVUM. FELIX. THIBILIS (1)**

Translation: "From the great Salvius and the blessed emperors, happiness to Thibilis forever."

Another inscription dedicated to Emperor Galerius, catalogued as inscription number 4671 in the collection of Latin writings by scholar Stéphane Gsell, also mentions Thibilis as part of the *Sertius Confederation*, dating to around 306 CE. The text reads:

**Imp. Caesari. C. Galerio Maximiano invicto pio felici avgusto pontifici maximo tribuniciae potestatis XV imperatori II consuli VI patri patriae proconsuli Valerius Antoninus vir perfectissimus praeses provinciae Numidiae Cirtensis numini maestati que eius devotus pecunia publica posuit (2).**

Translation: "To Emperor Caesar Caius Galerius Maximianus, the invincible, pious, blessed, great Augustus, chief priest, holding tribunician power for the 15th time, emperor for the 6th time, father of the nation and proconsul, presented by Valerius Antoninus, the perfect ruler of the province of Numidia and Cirta, with gratitude and public funds."

A third inscription mentions Thibilis' splendid public treasury, reading:

**Domino nostro nobilissimo caesari. Flavio. Valerio. Constontino. Augusto res publica splendidissimi. Municipi. Thibilitanorum (3).**

Translation: "To our most noble Caesar Flavius Valerius Constantine Augustus, from the splendid public treasury of the municipality of Thibilis."

**2. Origin of the Name of Thibilis:** The name "Thibilis" has been found on numerous Latin inscriptions and in various literary texts, such as the inscription that reads "IN PERPITUM FELIX THIBILIS, (4)" meaning "In the eternal, prosperous Thibilis. (5)" The name appears with different endings in these records, such as "Thibilitani" on inscriptions, and in literary texts, it has been recorded as "Tibili" in the Geography of Ravenna, "Aquis Tibilitanis," and "Thibili" on the Peutinger Table. Other forms include "Tibilitanus" and "Aquis Tibilitanis" or "Aguas Tibilitanas." The presence of numerous Punic and votive artifacts, as well as foreign names such as "Blastus Borocia" found in inscriptions, suggests that Thibilis had a pre-Roman Numidian-Punic presence (6).

**3. Geographic Location of Thibilis:** The ancient city of Thibilis is located in eastern Algeria, approximately 23 km southwest of Guelma (7). The site spans a plateau surrounded by mountains, giving it a naturally protected and strategically important position. To the east lies the Charef Valley and the towering Maouna Mountains, while to the north is Mount Taya, home to the famous large cave known as Grotto of Mount Taya. To the northwest are Mount Sadd and Karoura, and to the south is Mount Announa. Southeast lies Mount Khamaja, adjacent to the road connecting Guelma and Constantine, which is about 95 km away. To the north, about 8 km away, is the famous Hammam Debagh, historically known as "Aqua Thibilitanae." (8)

**4. Administration of Thibilis:** During the Roman period, Thibilis was strongly influenced by the long-standing Roman presence, beginning with Julius Caesar's campaign in Africa in 46 BCE (9). He was supported by Sittius, a mercenary leader of Italian and Spanish troops, whom Caesar rewarded with vast lands, including Thibilis. Some researchers believe the city gained prominence during the reign of Emperor Caracalla, who granted Roman citizenship to all inhabitants of the empire (10). Initially, Thibilis was a rural settlement (*Pagus*) affiliated with the colony of Cirta (11). It functioned as the judicial center of a large agricultural estate, and it may have achieved municipal status during the reign of Emperor Hadrian or shortly thereafter (12). Other scholars suggest it was a military city (*Castilla*), serving as a base for soldiers (13). Regardless, the Roman settlement of Thibilis was initially part of the Numidian (14) province but later became independent during the Severan dynasty (193-235 CE), adopting the system of free cities (15).

**5.a. Language and Customs in Thibilis:** Funerary and votive stelae found in Thibilis share many similarities with those discovered in the nearby archaeological sites of Guelma and Ain Neschma, in terms of design, craftsmanship, and inscriptions, particularly the Libyan, Punic, and Neo-Punic scripts. Thibilis maintained its ancient language, customs, and religious practices, as evidenced by the Libyan inscriptions found near the city, some dating back to the first century BCE. One such inscription, discovered in Thibilis itself, confirms that the Punic language was widely spoken in the region, especially in Ain Neschma, where a collection of Libyan inscriptions was found in the burial site known as Hufat Al-Beir (16). Hundreds of funerary stelae and over forty votive stelae, rough and uninscribed, were transferred to the Guelma Museum (17).

**5.b. Religion in Thibilis:** Thibilis was home to a variety of deities. Inscriptions mention one local god, Bacaci, worshiped in the cave of Mount Taya near Thibilis, who appears to be unique to the city, as no other records mention him (18). The city also worshiped numerous Roman and Greek gods, including Jupiter, Hercules, Mercury, Venus, Fortuna, Cybele, and the African goddess Caelestis. While no temple to Saturn has been discovered, the large number of votive and funerary stelae found in the southern part of the city suggests that the temple may have been located in that area (19).

### I. Prominent Families in Thibilis

The Roman emperors, military leaders, and members of the Senate realized that maintaining control over the provinces beyond Rome would only be possible by involving local elites who demonstrated unwavering loyalty to Rome. They recognized that this could be achieved by integrating these individuals into Roman social, religious, and political life by granting them Roman citizenship, thus solidifying their loyalty (20). This policy began with the imposition of Roman civil law on free individuals from conquered peoples. In some North African cities, those who expressed loyalty to Rome were granted Roman citizenship. One such family in Thibilis was the *Antistii*, who learned Roman culture and the Latin language, shared power and wealth with the Romans, yet retained a strong sense of African identity.

This process continued until the issuance of the Edict of Caracalla, which granted Roman citizenship to all inhabitants of the Roman Empire (21). Despite this, the Romanization of cities was faster than that of the countryside, especially in North Africa, where rural Romanization proceeded more slowly. However, with the Roman occupation of the region of Cirta, Romanization spread rapidly (22). The inhabitants of Thibilis belonged to the *Quirina* tribe (*Quirina Tribus*), a name found on numerous funerary stelae lining the main street of the city (23).

**II. Names and Titles of Rulers of the Rural Settlement of Thibilis:** The Roman rural settlement of Thibilis was governed by *Pagus* leaders, some of whom are known from inscriptions bearing their names. These are the rulers identified from the early Roman period in Thibilis:

#### Inscription No. 01 I.L.L. 4641

- **Text:** "MERCVR(io) AVG(osto) SACRVM M(arcus) LIVIVS FLIX MAG(istri) PAG(i) FLAM(en) AVG OB HO NORIBUS D (e) S (ua) P(ecunia) D (edit)"
- **Translation:** "To the sacred and august god Mercury. This offering was made by Marcus Livius Felix, Master of the Pagus, in honor of his appointment as high priest. He gave it from his own funds and dedicated it personally."
- **Commentary:** This inscription mentions the name of Marcus Livius Felix, Master of the Pagus in Thibilis, who dedicated an offering to Mercury, the Roman god of commerce, in gratitude for his appointment as high priest.

#### Inscription No. 02 I.L.L. 4630

- **Text:** "Concordiae augusti sacrum [L.] iulius luci filius quirina . probatus pagi magister faciendum curavit."
- **Translation:** "To the sacred and august goddess Concordia. This offering was made by Lucius Julius, son of Lucius, from the Quirina tribe, Master of the Pagus, to the goddess who took care of this matter."
- **Commentary:** Lucius Julius made this offering to the goddess Concordia, expressing gratitude for her role in his appointment as Master of the Pagus. The name Julius suggests that one of the early rulers of Thibilis belonged to the Julian family, connected to Julius Caesar.

#### Inscription No. 03 I.L.L. 4653

- **Text:** "Victoriae augustae sacrum. Marcus coranius sucessus magister pagi. Flamen divi augusti. Ob honorem magisterii de suo dedit."
- **Translation:** "To the sacred and august goddess Victoria. This offering was made by Marcus Coranius Sucessus, Master of the Pagus, in honor of his appointment as high priest of the divine Augustus. He dedicated it from his own funds."
- **Commentary:** The title *Coranius*, which appears less frequently on inscriptions in Thibilis compared to other names, is mentioned here. Thus, three Masters of the Pagus in Thibilis have been identified with different titles: *Livius*, *Iulius*, and *Coranius*.

### III. Prominent Families in Thibilis:

**A. The Sittius Family:** The Sittius family in North Africa traces its roots to *Sittius*, a mercenary leader composed of Italians and Spaniards, who supported Julius Caesar in his campaign in North Africa. After the campaign's success, Caesar rewarded Sittius with vast lands in Cirta, which included Thibilis. It is likely that Sittius brought many of his relatives to Thibilis and granted them prominent positions. Inscriptions record 64 names bearing the surname *Sittius*, making it the most common family name in Thibilis (24).

#### A.1. Notable Figures from the Sittius Family:

One of the notable inscriptions mentions a cavalryman from the first cohort known as *Vidia Vardulorum*, a certain Marcus Sittius Constans. The inscription reads as follows:

#### Inscription No. 01 I.L.L. 4693

- **Text:** "Sittio // equo publico exornato praefecto cohortis primae fidae vardulorum. Marcus Sittius Constans fratri carissimo ac dulcissimo vixit annis quinquaginta."

- **Translation:** "This tombstone was erected for Marcus Sittius, known as Constans, a public horseman, a priest, and the commander of the first cohort *Vidia Vardulorum*. It was placed by his brother for his beloved and sweet brother, who lived for fifty years."
- **Commentary:** This inscription introduces Marcus Sittius Constans, a well-known figure who held the prestigious position of commander of the first cohort *Vidia Vardulorum*. According to researcher Gsell, this cohort was active in Britain around the year 98 AD, during the reign of Emperor Gordianus. The cohort could have had up to 1,000 soldiers, requiring a distinguished leader with the rank of *Praefectus* (priest), thus highlighting the fame of this individual from Thibilis. Additionally, numerous other funerary inscriptions mention individuals bearing the name *Sittius*.

Moreover, five individuals who held the title of *Magister* in Thibilis carried the surname *Sittius*, as evidenced by votive dedications they made to the African god *Bacaci*, a local deity worshipped and respected by the inhabitants of Thibilis and its surroundings. *Bacaci* was considered the god of caves and grottoes, and the people of Thibilis would offer sacrifices to him in a nearby cave from the beginning of April until mid-May each year. These dedications are inscribed, allowing us to identify several notable individuals in the city with the title *Magister*, meaning governor. This confirms that the worship of *Bacaci* was a formal religious practice in Thibilis during the Roman period. The dedications also mention consular governors of Africa and two governors from Thibilis who made offerings to this revered god. Below are examples of such dedications, spanning from 210 AD to 284 AD, highlighting the importance and veneration of *Bacaci* over a 74-year period.

#### Inscription No. 02 I.L.L. 4515

- **Text:** "Bacaci augusto sacrum albino et maximo cosulibus kalendis maiis /situs novellus et quintus galerius mustianus magistri thibilitanorum."
- **Translation:** "To the sacred and august god Bacaci, and to the consuls Albino and Maximo. On the first of May, Sittius Novellus and Quintus Galerius, known as Mustianus, governors in Thibilis, made this offering."
- **Commentary:** This dedication dates to 227 AD, during the consulship of *Marcus Nummius Senecio Albinus* and *Marcus Laelius Fulvius Maximus Aemilianus*. (25)

#### Inscription No. 03 I.L.L. 4507

- **Text:** "Laeto et cereale cosulibus pridie kalendas aprilis bacaci augusto sacrum. Lucius cessius rogatianus. Lucius sittius libosus magistri thibilitanorum."
- **Translation:** "To the consuls Laeto and Cerealis, on the first of April in the year 215, this sacred offering to the great Bacaci was made by Lucius Cessius, known as Rogatianus, and Lucius Sittius, known as Libosus (the Libyan), governors in Thibilis."
- **Commentary:** This dedication dates to 215 AD, during the second consulship of *Quintus Maecius Laetus* and *Marcus Munatius Sulla Cerealis*. (26)

#### Inscription No. 04 I.L.L. 4520

- **Text:** "Maximo II ET Urbano cosulibus bacaci augusto sacrum pridie kalendas apriles. Caius Sittius Stephanus et Quintus Iulius Rusticinus. magistri thibilitanorum."
- **Translation:** "To the consuls Maximus (for the second time) and Urbanus, and to the sacred and august god Bacaci, on the first of April, this offering was made by Caius Sittius, known as Stephanus, and Quintus Julius, known as Rusticinus, governors in Thibilis."
- **Commentary:** This dedication dates to 234 AD, during the consulship of *Marcus Clodius Pupienus Maximus* (for the second time) and *Sulla Urbanus*. (27)

#### B- The Aemilius Family (Aemilius):

The surname "Aemilius" originates from the Roman tribe Aemilia, one of the major tribes in ancient Rome. The name "Aemilius" is associated with a large Roman family that had numerous relations and connections, such as with the Paullus, Lepidus, and Scaurus families (28). In Thibilis, many individuals bearing the name "Aemilius" were identified, particularly on funerary inscriptions. These individuals had a variety of surnames, including Aemilianus, Felix, Martialis, Rogatus, Rogata, Mustia, Condictor, and Fidus (29).

#### B-1- Notable Individuals from the Aemilius Family:

##### Inscription No. 01 I.L.L. 4752

*Caius Aemilius Caii Filius Quirina Tribus Felix. Vixit annis triginta. Hic situs est.*  
Translation: "This tombstone was placed on the grave of Caius Aemilius, son of Caii from the Quirina tribe, nicknamed Felix (the fortunate), who lived for 30 years. Here his soul rests in peace."

### Inscription No. 02 I.L.L. 4761

*Dis Manibus Sacrum. / Lucius Aemilius. Aemili Filius. Quirina Tribus. Martialis. Vixit annis octoginta. Hic situs est.*

Translation: "To the sacred spirits of the ancestors. This tombstone was placed on the grave of Lucius Aemilius, son of Aemili from the Quirina tribe, nicknamed Martialis (after the god of war, Mars), who lived for 85 years. Here his soul rests in peace."

### C- The Antistius Family (Antistius):

The process of Romanization accelerated among the Sertorian Confederation, particularly in Thibilis. The path to important positions in the city became quicker due to the Roman emperors and the Senate's policy of selective integration. This aimed to recruit effective locals, offer them Roman culture, and blend them with Roman ruling families, eventually Romanizing them and placing them in charge of newly established Roman towns. This process took place in Thibilis, where Romanization began around the mid-1st century AD, and the Antistius family started to appear in the early 2nd century AD (30).

### C-1- Notable Individuals from the Antistius Family:

A total of 120 names bearing the Antistius surname were identified across the Sertorian Confederation, with 40 of them from Thibilis alone. The most famous figures from this family in Thibilis were the brothers **Quintus Antistius Adventus Postumius Aquilinus** and **Lucius Antistius Mundicius Burus**. These brothers were recognized for their impressive professional careers, as recorded in a written inscription found in the main hall of the Antistius family house, now preserved in the Guelma Museum. This inscription, a dedication to the household deity, is inscribed on all four sides of a rectangular plaque.

### Inscription No. 01 I.L.L. 4634

*Genio Domus Sacrum. Pro salute Quintus Antisti Adventi Postumi Aquilini Legati Augusti Legionis II Adiutricis. Et Noviae Crispinae eius et Lucius Antisti Mundici Burri et Antoniae Priscae Matris eius. Et liberorum et familiae eorum Antistius Agathopus Libertus ex viso dono dedit. Quintus Antistius Agathopus ex viso dono dedit idemque dedicavit. Kalendis Martis Macrino et Celso Consulibus.*

### Translation:

"To the sacred household deity. For the health and well-being of Quintus Antistius Adventus Postumius Aquilinus, the Augustan legate of the Second Legion Adiutrix, and for Novia Crispina, his wife, and for Lucius Antistius Mundicius Burus and his mother Antonia Prisca, and for their children and family. Antistius Agathopus, a freedman, gave this gift as a vision he saw. Quintus Antistius Agathopus gave this gift and dedicated it himself. On the first day of March, under the consuls Macrinus and Celsus."

### Commentary:

We observe from this inscription that this individual held an important status, serving as an Augustan legate in the Second Legion Adiutrix, and was from the city of Thibilis. His wife, Novia Crispina, was the daughter of Lucius Novius Crispinus Martialis Saturninus, commander of the African army between 147 and 149 AD. Additionally, Lucius Antistius Mundicius Burus, the son of Antonia Prisca and half-brother of Lucius Adventus, may have had a mother who was either divorced or widowed.

There was also a relationship between Lucius Antistius Burus, who served as honorary consul in 181 AD, and Antistius Burus, brother-in-law to Emperor Commodus. This underscores the significance of this man from Thibilis and his high military rank. Another inscription further discusses this notable figure, providing extensive details about his military career and the various ranks he held throughout his professional life, essentially forming a biographical account of him. We will learn more about this individual through the next inscription.

### Inscription No. 02 I.L.L. 4681

*Quintus Antistio Advento. Quinti filio Quirina Postumio Aquiline Consuli Sacerdoti Fetiali. Legato Augusti pro praetore provinciae Germaniae Inferioris. Legato Augusti ad praetenturam Italiae et Alpium expeditione Germanica. Curatori operum locorumque publicorum. Legato Augusti propraeore provinciae Arabiae. Legato Augusti Legionis VI Ferratae. et secundae ad Iutricis. Translato in Iam expeditione Parthica, qua donatus est donis militaribus coronis murali, vallari, aurea hastis puris tribus, vexillis duobus. Praetori. Legato pro praetor provinciae Africae. Tribune plebis. Seviro equitum Romanorum quaestori pro praetor provinciae Macedoniae. Tribuno militum legionis I Minerviae piae fidelis. IIII viro viarum curandarum sex. Marcius Maximus ob insignem eius in se benivolentiam sua pecunia posuit dedicavit.*

### Translation:

"Quintus Antistius Adventus, son of Quintus, from the Quirina tribe, nicknamed Postumius Aquilinus, honorary consul of the Sacerdotal Fetial Priesthood. He was the Augustan legate, pro praetor of the province of Lower Germany, and led

the military formations defending the Italian borders and the Alps during the Germanic expedition. He was also responsible for public works and places. Furthermore, he served as the Augustan legate, pro praetor of the province of Arabia, and led the Sixth Legion, called Ferrata, and later the Second Legion, called Adiutrix, in the Parthian military campaign. For his competence, he was awarded several military honors, including the Mural Crown, the Vexillum, and three golden spears. He was also appointed as praetor and pro praetor of the province of Africa. Additionally, he held the position of Tribune of the Plebs and was one of the *Seviri equitum Romanorum*, as well as quaestor pro praetor of the province of Macedonia. He was also military tribune of the First Legion *Minerviae* and one of the four men responsible for the maintenance of the six roads in Rome. *Marcus Maximus* erected and dedicated this inscription at his own expense, as a token of his deep respect."

#### **Commentary:**

From this inscription, we observe that *Quintus Antistius Adventus*, son of *Quintus* from the *Quirina* tribe, nicknamed *Postumius Aquilinus*, was one of the most prominent figures in the city of *Thibilis*. He held very high and important ranks within the Roman Empire. This inscription lists a total of fifteen titles, which are as follows:

1. Honorary Consul of the Sacerdotal Fetal Priesthood, a prestigious title granted to renowned individuals.
2. Augustan legate and governor of the province of Lower Germany with the title of pro praetor, meaning a judge with special authority (31). This title refers to a military official with various functions in ancient Rome (32), essentially a lawful governor responsible for provincial administration (33).
3. Augustan legate in charge of military formations defending the Italian borders and the Alps.
4. Supervisor of public works and places.
5. Augustan legate and deputy commander of the Arabian province's military camp, with the title of pro praetor.
6. Commander of the Sixth Legion, known as *Ferrata*, stationed in *Caparcotna*, *Syria*, and *Palestine*.
7. Commander of the Second Legion, known as *Adiutrix*, during the Parthian military campaign.
8. Military judge.
9. Deputy judge of the African province.
10. Tribune of the Plebs.
11. Roman knight.
12. Financial officer under the deputy judge.
13. Commander of the Macedonian province's military camp.
14. Military judge in the First Legion, known as *Minerviae*.
15. One of the four men responsible for maintaining the six roads in Rome.

In addition to all of this, he was a devout and loyal man, and his competence earned him several military honors, including the Mural Crown, a banner, and a golden spear. Through this, we recognize the distinguished career of this prominent figure from *Thibilis*.

#### **Inscription No. 03 I.L.L. 4398**

*Iovi Saturno Augusto et Genio Poctanensis Posphoriani Sacrum. Pro salute Antistiorum Quintus Antistius Agathopus votum solvit liens animo.*

#### **Translation:**

"This vow is offered to Jupiter Saturnus, the august, majestic deity, and to the guardian spirit of the *Saltus Poctanensis Posphorianus*. A tribute to the *Antistius* family by *Quintus Antistius Agathopus*, whose wish was fulfilled and who offered an animal sacrifice in return."

#### **Commentary:**

From this vow, we observe that *Quintus Antistius Agathopus* offered it to the deity *Jupiter Saturnus*, the greatest god in Africa, combining *Jupiter's* name with *Saturn*, the god of agriculture, and adding the guardian spirit of the land, calling it sacred. As the administrator of these vast lands, *Agathopus* also paid tribute to the large and powerful *Antistius* family in *Thibilis*, the same family that had freed him and allowed him to become a prominent figure.

#### **D- The Salustius Family (Salustius):**

The presence of this surname in *Thibilis* is somewhat limited compared to the previous ones, indicating that their role was relatively minor. The surname traces back to *Lucius Salustius Crispus* (34), governor of New Africa. Only five individuals bearing this surname were found in *Thibilis*, as evidenced by funerary inscriptions. Among them was a child named *Salustia Maxima*, who lived for five years, and a woman named *Salustia Rogata*, who lived for thirty-one years and was the daughter of *Caius Salustius*. Among the men, we find *Salustius Natalis*, who lived for eighty-five years, *Salustius Optatus*, and a child named *Salustius Saturninus*, who lived for nine years.

### D-1- Names of Prominent Figures from the Salustius Family:

These names appeared on funerary inscriptions, including:

#### Inscription No. 01 I.L.L 5792

*Salustius caii filius natalis vixit annis quinque octaginta. Hic situs est.*

#### Translation:

This inscription was placed on the grave of Salustius, son of Caius, nicknamed Natalis, who lived for eighty-five years. Here he rests.

#### Inscription No. 02 I.L.L 5793

*Dis manibus sacrum/ Salustius Optatus...*

#### Translation:

To the sacred spirits of the ancestors. This inscription was placed on the grave of Salustius Optatus...

#### Inscription No. 03 I.L.L 5794

*Caius Salustius caii filius Saturnino / vixit annis novem / hic situs est.*

#### Translation:

This inscription was placed on the grave of Caius Salustius, son of Caius, nicknamed Saturninus, who lived for nine years. Here his soul rests in peace.

#### Inscription No. 04 I.L.L 5795

*Salustia maxima / vixit annis quinque / hic situs est.*

#### Translation:

This inscription was placed on the grave of Salustia Maxima, who lived for five years. Here her soul rests in peace.

#### Inscription No. 05 I.L.L 5796

*Salustia Caii filia Rogata / vixit annis triginta / hic situs est.*

#### Translation:

This inscription was placed on the grave of Salustia, daughter of Caius, nicknamed Rogata, who lived for thirty-one years. Here her soul rests in peace.

Through these inscriptions, we observe the limited role of this family in Thibilis.

### E- The Cornelius Family (Cornilius):

The presence of the surname *Cornelius* in North Africa generally stems from individuals appointed to lead Roman towns and provinces in the region, particularly the five consuls who bore this surname from the late first century BC to the mid-first century AD. These consuls include:

- *Lucius Cornelius Balbus Minor*
- *Lucius Cornelius Lentulus*
- *Lucius Ossus Cornelius Lentulus*
- *Publius Cornelius Dolabella*
- *Sertius Cornelius Cethegus*

In Thibilis, forty-three individuals bearing the surname *Cornelius* have been identified. Among them, six bore the name *Marcus*, six were named *Lucius*, two were named *Sextus*, four were called *Quintus*, one woman was named *Quinta*, and two were named *Publius*. The names *Domitius*, *Donatus*, *Caius*, and *Antistia* each appeared once, while *Cornelius* was borne by one person. The name *Cornelia* was held by seventeen women in Thibilis, as revealed by epigraphic discoveries to date. The surnames associated with these individuals were varied and numerous. Among all those who bore the name *Cornelius*, twenty-six surnames were recorded for both men and women, as detailed in the following table:

**Table No. 01: This table illustrates the different names of men and women who bore the surname *Cornelius* along with their nicknames.**

Women's surnames	Women's names	Men's surnames	Men's names	surname	Inscription No
		aprilis	marcus		5102
		saltulus		cornilius	5104
		dexter			5105

		martialis			5111
		.....			5121
		felix			5109
		novelus	sextus	cornilius	5112
		honoratus			5110
		Philipus			5113
		potitunus	quintus	cornilius	5114
		viator			5120
Victoria	antistia			cornilius	5120
		Felix	Publius		5108
		Romulus		cornilius	5116
		Hesperus	domitius	cornilius	5106
		Felix	caius	cornilius	5107
		Aristo			5103
		Pudens			5115
		Rufus	lucius	cornilius	5117
		Rufus			5118
		Saturninus			5119
	cornilia			cornilius	5123
Abbal	cornilia				5124
formusa	cornilia			cornilius	5125
honorata	cornilia				5126
Honorina					5127
Iuconda					5128
Matrona					5129
Matrona					5130
maximae	corniliae				5131
reducta	cornilie			cornilius	5132
rustica	cornilia				5133
sextula	cornilia				5134
urbana	cornilia				5135
urbana	cornilia				5136
urbanila	cornilia				5137
maxima	cornilia				5138
.....	cornilia				5139

#### Commentary:

From this table, we observe that there are seven male names that carried the *Cornelius* surname: *Marcus*, *Sextus*, *Quintus*, *Publius*, *Domitius*, *Caius*, and *Lucius*. These names repeat with different nicknames. For women, we find *Antistia*, *Cornelia*, and *Corniliae*, with similar repetitions and varying nicknames. This demonstrates the widespread presence and significant influence of this family in Thibilis.

#### E-1- Famous Figures from the Cornelius Family:

Through the votive dedications offered to the god Bacchus by the residents of Thibilis, two individuals holding the rank of *Magistra*—officials or public servants in Thibilis—were identified:

#### Inscription No. 01 I.L.L. 4511

*Imperatore domino nostro Alexandre cosule. Lucius pompeius iamarius et decimus Cornelius Citibus magistris yhibilitanorum.*

#### Translation:

To our Lord Emperor and Consul Alexander, this votive was offered by Lucius Pompeius Iamarius and Decimus Cornelius Citibus, magistrates of Thibilis or public officials.

**Note:** This dedication is dated to 222 AD, during the consulship of Emperor Alexander Severus, after the assassination of Emperor Elagabalus (35).



**Inscription No. 02 I.L.L. 4546**

*Bacaci Augusto Sacrum. Paterno et Mariniano Cosulibus Cornelius Donatus Votum Solvit Libens Animo.*

**Translation:**

To the holy and revered god Bacchus and to the consuls Paternus and Marinianus, Cornelius Donatus offered this vow, having fulfilled his wish and sacrificed an animal.

**Note:** This dedication is dated to 268 AD, during the consulship of Aspasius Paternus for the second time and Egnatius Marinianus (36).

Given the large number of inscriptions mentioning the names and surnames of this family on funerary inscriptions, we will only mention a few examples of individuals who bore this surname, both men and women, with different names and nicknames.

**Inscription No. 01 I.L.L. 5102**

*Dis manibus sacrum/ Marcus Cornelius Aprilis/ Marcus Cornelius Satulus/ vixit annis viginti / hic situs est.*

**Translation:**

This inscription was placed on the grave of Marcus Cornelius, nicknamed Aprilis (April), and Marcus Cornelius, nicknamed Satulus, who lived for twenty years. Here their souls rest in peace.

**Inscription No. 02 I.L.L. 5103**

*Lucius Cornelius Aristo/ vixit annis quinquaginta / hic situs est.*

**Translation:**

This inscription was placed on the grave of Lucius Cornelius, nicknamed Aristo, who lived for fifty years. Here his soul rests in peace.

**Inscription No. 03 I.L.L. 5103**

*Lucius Cornelius Aristo/ vixit annis quinquaginta / hic situs est.*

**Translation:**

This inscription was placed on the grave of Lucius Cornelius, nicknamed Aristo, who lived for fifty years. Here his soul rests in peace.

**Inscription No. 04 I.L.L. 5113**

*Quintus Cornelius quinti filius. Quirina Philipus/ vixit annis septuaginta quinque / hic situs est./ Ossa tua bene quiescant.*

**Translation:**

This inscription was placed on the grave of Quintus Cornelius, son of Quintus, from the Quirina tribe, nicknamed Philipus, who lived for seventy-five years. Here his soul rests in peace. We wish him a peaceful afterlife.

**Inscription No. 05 I.L.L. 5120** (a double inscription for a man and his wife)

*Diis manibus sacrum/ Quintus Cornelius/ Corneli filius/ Quirina tribus. Viator/ vixit annis viginti quinque/ hic situs est.*

*Diis manibus sacrum/ Antistia Quinti filia/ Victoria/ vixit annis quinquaginta duo.*

**Translation:**

To the sacred spirits of the ancestors. This inscription was placed on the grave of Quintus Cornelius, son of Cornelius, from the Quirina tribe, nicknamed Viator, who lived for twenty-five years. Here his soul rests in peace. To the sacred spirits of the ancestors. This inscription was also placed on the grave of Antistia, daughter of Quintus, nicknamed Victoria, who lived for fifty-two years. Here her soul rests in peace.

**Conclusion:**

Latin inscriptions are a significant indicator of Roman culture in North Africa, offering a clear picture of the society during that period. These inscriptions can be categorized into several types: those for emperors and governors, those for nobility, and religious inscriptions, which include votive and funerary markers. Funerary inscriptions often constitute the majority, suggesting long-term stability within the society and providing a rich field for studying the names, surnames, and nicknames of individuals across social, religious, and military ranks, as well as their professional roles.

Through this brief study of notable figures in Thibilis, Latin inscriptions reveal that the city produced various influential individuals with diverse names, surnames, and nicknames from prominent Roman families, such as the *Sitius*, *Aemilius*,

*Antistius, Salustius, and Cornelius* families. From these families, individuals gained recognition and held high military, religious, and civil ranks, not only in the city but throughout the Roman Empire. One of the most renowned figures was *Quintus Antistius Adventus*, son of Quintus, from the Quirina tribe, nicknamed Postumius Aquilinus, who held sixteen notable titles, including honorary consul and governor of Lower Germania with judicial authority.

Thus, we can conclude that Thibilis was a significant Roman city that contributed to the process of Romanization in North Africa, consolidating the Roman presence in the region.

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