

Summary

Roman Epigraphy

University lectures

This volume compiles lectures on Roman (Latin) epigraphy delivered at the University of Lvov in the late nineteenth and early twentieth century by Professor Bronisław Kruczkiewicz (1849–1918), an outstanding classical philologist. We are immensely fortunate that the manuscript drafted by Professor Kruczkiewicz has survived, and now the lectures may be presented to the reader. It would be no overstatement to say that this is most likely the very first Polish handbook of Roman (Latin) epigraphy, as the manuscript is one of the many copies of the original handwritten text, reproduced using lithographic techniques. The copies were intended for the students who attended the lectures.

The author has divided this disquisition into two parts; the first outlines the history of epigraphic inquiry and the development of epigraphy as an autonomous auxiliary discipline of historical sciences. Great attention is devoted to the emergence of the *Corpus Inscriptionum Latinarum* and the role that Theodor Mommsen had in that undertaking. Kruczkiewicz also demonstrates the status of epigraphy with respect to studies of the Roman world; in his opinion, it is a “science of primary significance”.

Part two, entitled “Chief Principles of Roman Epigraphy”, discusses five fundamental areas comprising epigraphic study: (A) the writing of inscriptions, (B) abbreviations used in inscriptions, (C) the designation of persons as dictated by law (*tria nomina*), social standing, gender etc., (D) *cursus honorum*, its types and notation patterns, and (E) titulature of the emperor and members of his family.

Roman Epigraphy is not a one-off product; what is evident from the text is that it took several years before it reached its ultimate form, with the first draft having been developed between 1893/1894 and 1899/1900. The final version intended for lithographic reproduction was completed in 1913/1914, though updates and revisions after 1900 were only sporadic. Still, one should not fail to recognize the value of the handbook. Thanks to the efforts of the author, students and readers would gain access to a body of thorough knowledge relying extensively on the state of research at the time. Thus, they were introduced to the secrets of an original and novel discipline, offering more profound insights into Roman antiquity.