
Botorrita I: Magic Charm of a Saxon Slave

Stuart Harris, March 2014

The Provincial Museum of Fine Arts in Zaragoza, Spain, exhibits four bronze plaques dated first century AD, all found near Botorrita, 19 km south of Zaragoza.

Botorrita I, found in 1970, is an Iberian tragedy in two acts. Each act was written on a separate side in Iberian using Latin letters and writing left to right, translated here for the first time.

Most lines comprise one scene. An example from part of Act I, Scene III, shows how Iberian scribes compacted their language, which was a dialect of Finnish. The speaker is Shy, spoiled son of a wealthy household, who desires a lovely Saxon slave.

Iberian

arestaio tamai uta

Iberian parsed, with missing vowels added in small letters

A RE Sa TA I O • TA MA I • U TA •

Finnish translation of parsed Iberian

Aion rehun saan taa ihan ohjan. Tah'oo majan ihan, uuhet tah'oo.

English translation of Finnish

I think some food will get this lovely slave. She wants a lovely cabin, ewes she wants.

Synopsis

Magic Charm of a Saxon Slave (my title) is a tragedy in two acts about Beloved, a beautiful Saxon slave who attempts to gain her freedom by marrying Ian, a noble son whom everyone calls Shy. Like his name, he lacks confidence and grace, and nearly wrecks their formal introduction with an angry outburst against his mother for selling two kegs of spoiled wine. For the rest of Act I, Shy's mother tries her best to patch things up, for she has come to admire Beloved. Act II on the reverse changes the tempo with a series of bad decisions that end their relationship. Here we find a darker side of Shy.

The spare poetry and fast pace of Act I remind me of Garcia Lorca, while the soliloquies of Act II seem like Our Town. There is little dialog in Act II - perhaps the cast improvised lines, much as a bard might improvise a recitation of Homer.

Cast

Mother of Shy, who narrates much of Act I

Ian, nicknamed Shy, who courts Beloved

Beloved, a beautiful Saxon slave

Wolf, paramour of Beloved

Freyja, moon goddess, collector of souls fallen in battle

Storyteller, who narrates much of Act II

assorted servants and friends

Act I: Magic Charm of a Saxon Slave

Act I, Scene I. Beloved and three friends from her village

Beloved: He knows a quarrel killed the marriage magic for me. He took, he shattered all the magic I yearn for us.

Friend 1: You ventured to try Ian another whole moon.

Friend 2: You got broken, likewise the community has.

Friend 3: A whole moon.

Friend 1: A wicked mouth.

Friend 2: Three people he struck, I discovered.

Friend 3: Maidens, too, rotten acts.

Act I, Scene II, Freyja, goddess of the moon, sings a song

Maiden of the moon I am not. Shy I am not; I court with magic skill shy lovely maidens, gentle among men.

Maiden of the moon I am not, or shy lovely maiden, gentle among men.

Maiden of the moon I am not. I get to marry forever, to know hundreds of shy lovely maidens, gentle among men.

In war I sing of many shy moons.

Act I, Scene III. Shy speaks to the audience

I think some food will get this lovely slave. She wants a lovely cabin, ewes she wants. A slave gets a month to search; after that she marries. I am not new to courtship, a bull of knowledge. You bribe for a year with food.

To a bench in a lovely grove she brought me. Facing marriage, her community of old women dared me. For a long time I will carry this evil deed.

Act I, Scene IV. Mother of Shy addresses a servant and Shy.

Fetch the maiden brought to us. Bring the maiden from the settlement for a short escort of the garden.

A slave wants to marry our champion. She dares to try all to make all. First then:

Shy wizard, a slave gets a month to search. You can begin true ardor, but first, a lovely jewel depends on fine appearance.

Act I, Scene V, Mother of Shy to a close friend

You might rather regret the reason, others not. A marvelous wedding for me it was not. I think the appearance of anger worked its evil way. Two rotten wizards I sold. Shy began to rage; it destroyed her, the Saxon slave. His mouth she does not battle. He made joy to have sex, I realize. In a rage he destroyed her, the lovely slave I sold.

Act I, Scene VI, Mother of Shy

I will plan her visit. Beloved was brought thus to try to sleep a night. She begins to prepare to get married, but not to him.

Shy is not here at night, he is not with the maiden in the garden.

True courtship begins. I have to provide the spark. The tranquil grove brings her, lovely maiden true. The task of courtship makes the maiden want to fit.

Act I, Scene VII, Mother of Shy to the audience

Excellent! So he is now to bring her here at dusk. She has a lovely figure to fan a magic spark. The way of magic will begin, the heart of a bull she will know, an eternity ring. At dusk will be an appearance; a messenger comes here soon, a fortunate act. At dusk there will be an appearance of the moon; it will bring magic to the night to woo.

Act I, Scene VIII, Beloved in the grove awaiting Shy

I think he courts to get a wife. The moon has gone, the night stays. Oh, my heart lives! Shy does not have the courage to venture; a wolf he is not.

The enchantment of ours creates eheys¹. It crushes anger that I know got Shy. I have to gamble he has gone like this to bring magic, to produce a fire spark. Ring out our night!

Act I, Scene IX, Mother of Shy to the audience

She did not then venture to Shy her all. Still to come - enchantment!

She heeded the community at night. I myself did not escort the maiden to the settlement of slave dwellings. It runs close together, like this. She began the courtship, therefore, from the settlement, but not completely. The feeling still remains to see how to win her.

Act I, Scene X, Mother of Shy to the audience

The maiden carries a ribbon of true courtship! She ventures to try again to do the same again at night, to court Shy. I think she sees the task she has, but he does not. I will fetch Shy. His task remains. The outburst to me has not been disposed. We shall visit to find out the rest.

I intend that her heart will blaze on its own. Truly I tried through the evening to begin to weave eheys.

Act I, Scene XI, Mother of Shy

She began the courtship, now the community of slaves weaves Eheys. I fetched again Shy's lovely Saxon. I tried mead from the chief. Lots of food to eat by a clearing together, until that time at dusk began an enchantment. From the east the whole moon came. Food will bind the young woman to stay for one year firm. Shy can weave now.

¹ Eheys means 'harmony, integrity, perfection, unity, one'

Act II: Magic Charm of a Saxon Slave

Act II, Scene I, Mother of Shy to audience

I am creating son's home to test the sleep his heart weaves now.

Our grove that relies on him carries cattle I sent. Into the grove he brought a thousand cattle,
too much work for only me.

Act II, Scene II, Storyteller and Beloved

S: The spell survived for one year.

B: He kept me close to him, to our grove, but illogical Shy let the cattle try the grove of
Wolf supporting pigs. Soon the cattle swelled up large.

S: In the grove, a thousand cattle bawl and topple, a thousand low rattles. Soon the cattle
swell up large, and the Creator leads the cattle home.

B: A single champion survived. He hauled the carcasses far away. In this way the labor of
months he sold.

S: She will remain for one year.

B: I created a shelter; soon I raised pigs. From work I languish here. I survive the nights. I
think of the toppled cattle.

S: For one year the spell will remain.

B: I hate all the tasks he makes and for a year I will perform. I spread Shy's laundry on the
ground.

S: Many nights Wolf rose up.

B: Magic then I knew. I plan in two nights to have sex with him, in the grove of the cattle
disaster.

S: Shy still yearns for a maiden slave whom he sold.

B: Wolf now begins to provide support for her.

Act II, Scene III, Storyteller and Beloved

S: Soon the woman-act begins. The act of courtship magic bewitches Wolf. He catches a
figure moving about. Into the grove comes Shy to fetch her, angry at the maiden and
Wolf. Thus Shy stopped the maiden, he ruined the magic of Wolf.

S: In the grove of cattle disaster remains a lovely woman, wailing on the tough ground. But
up rises torment.

B: "He knew, boasting of his night by a wolf."

S: She survives the night. She implores the moon from the ground. The magic of Shy she
crushes. Hostility of the maiden swells up large.

S: It freezes in the trees, creates a deep chill. She entreats the moon from the ground. She
wants to crush Shy. Hostility then knew her, in the grove of the cattle disaster. A
toppled leaf, she remains in the trees.

S: It began to pour. Soon she heeded her task.

Act II, Scene IV, Storyteller, Beloved, Shy and six men

S: [In the morning she returned.] Shy raised a sweeper to beat her in the grove of cattle he
ruined, but not to battle six men.

S: The spell survived for one year, the magic conjured up for her.

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Zaragoza Provincial Museum of Fine Arts

The Provincial Museum of Fine Arts in Zaragoza exhibits four bronze plaques written in Iberian and Latin dated first century AD. All were found at or near Contrebia Belaisca in Cabeza de las Minas, near Botorrita, 19 km south of Zaragoza.

Bronze I, 1970, is an Iberian tragedy written in Iberian on both sides in Latin letters; translated here for the first time. Most lines constitutes a separate scene.

Bronze II, 1979, is a legal document in Latin of a lawsuit with names of Iberian magistrates; it has been translated.

Bronze III, 1992, in Latin lists on the back 254 people in four columns, including 27 women. It is in poor condition and can only be read with X-rays.

Bronze IV, 1994, is an Iberian document written with Iberian letters; it has not been translated.

Botorrita bronze plate number 1, original above, copy below.



Transcription of Botorrita I

- A.1. tirikantam bercunetacam tocoitoscue sarnicio cue sua combalcez nelitom
A.2. necue [u]ertaunei litom necue taunei litom necue masnai tizaunei litom soz aucu
A.3. arestaio tamai uta oscues stena uerzoniti silabur sleitom conscilitom cabizeti
A.4. cantom sancilistara otanaum tocoitei eni: uta oscuez boustomue coruinomue
A.5. macasiamue ailamue ambitiseti camanom usabituz ozas sues sailo custa bizetuz iom
A.6. asecati ambitincounei stena es uertai entara tiris matus tinbituz neito tiricantam
A.7. eni onsatz iomui listas titas zizonti somui iom arznas bionti iom custaicos
A.8. arznas cuati ias ozias uertatosue temeie robiseti saum tecametinas tatuz somei
A.9. enitouzei iste ancios iste esancios uze areitena sarniciei acainacubos
A.10. nebintor tocoitei ios ur antiomue auzeti aratimue tecametam tatuz iom tocoitoscue
A.11. sarniocue aiuizas combalcores aleites iste icues ruzimuz abulu ubocum
B.1. lubos counesicum melnunos bintis letontu litocum
B.2. abulos bintis melmu barauzanco lesunos bintis
B.3. letontu ubocum turo bintis lubinaz aiu bercanticum
B.4. abulos bintis tirtu aiancum abulos bintis abulu louzocum
B.5. uzeisunos bintis acainaz letontu uicanocum suostuno/s
B.6. bintis tirtanos statulicum lesunos bintis nouantutaz
B.7. letontu aiancum melmunos bintis useizu aiancum tauro [bin]/tis
B.8. abulu aiancum tauro bintis letontu leticum abulos bintis
B.9. []ucontaz letontu esocum abulos bintis

Syllabary of Botorrita I

Botorrita I presents Iberian text written with Latin letters. Writing generally follows the convention of early Iberian with major exceptions: Ä becomes A, Y becomes I, Ö becomes O, V becomes B, P becomes B, K becomes C. Unvoiced consonants D, H and J disappear altogether. S splits into S and Z using a rule I do not understand.

Reduction and elimination of vowels makes the inscription difficult to read, but insertion of a space between sentences makes reading easier.

The text exhibits nearly every combination of consonant-vowel, as shown in the table of syllables below. Every stand-alone consonant is followed by an unwritten vowel.

		a	e	i	o	u	
		ä		y	ö		
		A	E	I	O	U	
b		BA	BE	BI	BO	BU	
c		CA		CI	CO	CU	
d	dropped						
h	dropped						
j	dropped						
k	to c	KA					
l		LA	LE	LI	LO	LU	
m		M	MA	ME		MU	
n		N	NA	NE	NO	NU	
p	to b						
r		R	RA	RE	RI	RO	RU
s		S	SA	SE	SI	SO	SU
t			TA	TE	TI	TO	TU
v	to b						
z		Z	ZA	ZE	ZI	ZO	ZU

Repeated words on side B are also a mirage - no two actually say the same thing; vocabulary and meaning depend upon context.

Dialect of Botorrita I

Writing follows the standard convention of compressing double letters into a single letter, compressing diphthongs into the first vowel, and ignoring a consonant at the end of a syllable, but the Botorrita dialect changes Finnish significantly.

Loss of vowel harmony - the scribe wrote A and Ä exactly the same, O and Ö exactly the same.

Loss of internal D - five different tenses were spelled alike.

English	Finnish	Iberian	Botorrita	Written
to bewitch	noitua	noidua	noiua	NO
I bewitch	noidun	noidun	noiun	NO
you bewitch	noidut	noidut	noiut*	NO
he bewitches	noituu	noiduu	noiuu	NO
Bewitch!	noidu	noidu	noiu	NO

* Hypothetical T, since final consonant was not written.

Loss of Internal K - thus *koki* 'raised' becomes ko'i, while *takoa* 'to beat' becomes ta'oa.

Loss of sounds D, H and J - thus *häjy* 'wicked' is written A, and *jäi* 'he left' is also written A.

Bot. A1: 'He knows the quarrel killed the marriage magic for me'

On Line I on side A of Botorrita I, the Saxon maiden and two friends discuss her husband Ian.

Iberian written in Latin letters

- 1 tirikantam
- 2 bercunetacam
- 3 tocoitoscue
- 4 samicio
- 5 cue
- 6 sua
- 7 combalcez
- 8 nelitom

Iberian parsed, with missing vowels added in small letters

- 1 TI RI KA Na TA Mu.
- 2 BE Ri-CU NE TA CA Me.
- 3 TO CO I TO-Sa CU E.
- 4 SA Ri, NI CIO.
- 5 CU O.
- 6 SU A.
- 7 CO-Me BA LO CE-Zi.
- 8 NE, LI, TO Ma.

Finnish translation of Iberian

- 1 Tieä riia kaa'oi nai'a tai'an mua.
- 2 Vei, rikkoa ne taian meiän.
- 3 Tohit ko'ea Ian toisen kuun enjän.
- 4 Sait ri'i, nien kia on.
- 5 Kuun ehjän.
- 6 Suun häjy.
- 7 kolme väen löi, keksin.
- 8 Neiet, liian, tõi'ä mahot.

English translation of Finnish

- 1 He knows a quarrel killed the marriage magic for me.
- 2 He took, he shattered all the magic I yearn for us.
- 3 You ventured to try Ian another whole moon.
- 4 You got broken, likewise the community has.
- 5 A whole moon.
- 6 A wicked mouth.
- 7 Three people he struck, I discovered.
- 8 Maidens, too, rotten acts.

Bot. A2: 'Maiden of the Moon I am not'

Line 2 on side A of Botorrita I is an interlude, a song of four stanzas entitled 'Maiden of the moon I am not'. The rest of the poem explains who she is. In the first verse she introduces the name Ujo meaning 'Shy'.

The singer is Freyja, moon goddess of northern Europe, who collects half the souls of those slain in battle, the rest going to Oðin. Because she collects souls, she is not Gunnlöð (Kuun löit 'Moon struck'), Maiden of the Moon, third wife of Oðin, mother of Bragi the bard.

Iberian, written in Latin letters

1 necue
[u]ertaunei
litom
2 necue
taunei
litom
3 necue
masnai
tizaunei
litom
4 soz
aucu

Iberian parsed, with missing vowels added in small letters

1 NE CU E.
U E; Ri TA U NE I,
LI-TO Mi.
2 NE CU E,
TA U NE I,
LI-TO Mi.
3 NE CU E.
MA Sa NA I,
TI ZA U NE I,
LI-TO Mi.
4 SO Zo
A U CU.

Finnish translation of Iberian

1 Neion kuun en.
Ujo en; riiaan taion ujojen nei'in ihain,
lieto miehe'en.
2 Neion kuun en,
tahi ujo neion ihan,
lieto miehe'en.
3 Neion kuun en.
Mä saan naia iän,
tiet' sa'at ujojen nei'in ihain,

lieto miehe'en.

4 Soan soin

äijän ujojen kuien.

English translation of Finnish

1 Maiden of the moon I am not.

Shy I am not; I court with magic skill shy lovely maidens,
gentle among men.

2 Maiden of the moon I am not,

or shy lovely maiden,
gentle among men.

3 Maiden of the moon I am not.

I get to marry forever,
to know hundreds of shy lovely maidens,
gentle among men.

4 In war I sing

of many shy moons.

Bot. A3: "I think some food will get this lovely slave"

Line 3 on side A of Botorrita I relates Shy's attempt to marry a lovely slave. He owns a cabin and sheep, and plans to bribe her with a year's worth of food. A slave has a month to search for a husband. "I am not new to courtship, a bull of knowledge," he boasts. She listens to his offer, and takes him to a bench in a lovely grove. However, her community of older women oppose him, and dare him to try.

Iberian, written in Latin letters

- 1 arestaio
- 2 tamai
- 3 uta
- 4 oscues
- 5 stena
- 6 uerzoniti
- 7 silabur
- 8 sleitom
- 9 conscilitom
- 10 cabizeti

Iberian parsed, with missing vowels added in small letters

- 1 A RE Sa TA I O.
- 2 TA MA I.
- 3 U TA.
- 4 O Sa CU E-Sa.
- 5 Si-TE NA.
- 6 U E Ri, ZO-NI TI.
- 7 SI LA BU Re.
- 8 Si LE I TO Mi.
- 9 CO Na, Se CI aLI TO Mi.
- 10 CA BI ZE TI.

Finnish translation of Iberian

- 1 Aion rehun saan taa ihan ohjan.
- 2 Tah'oo majan ihan,
- 3 uuhet tah'oo.
- 4 Ohja saa kuun etsiä;
- 5 sitte nai.
- 6 Uuen en riiuuhan, sonni tieon.
- 7 Sie lahjot vuoen rehun.
- 8 Sijahan leh'oon ihon toi mie.
- 9 Kohin nai'a, sen kia allien tohi mie.
- 10 Kauan vien sen tihuan.

English translation of Finnish

- 1 I think some food will get this lovely slave.
- 2 She wants a lovely cabin,
- 3 ewes she wants.

4 A slave gets a month to search;
5 after that she marries.
6 I am not new to courtship, a bull of knowledge.
7 You bribe for a year with food.
8 To a bench in a lovely grove she brought me.
9 Facing marriage, her community of old women dared me.
10 For a long time I will carry this evil deed.

Bot. A4: 'Fetch the maiden brought to us'

Line 4 on side A of Botorrita I presents another side of the story, that of the suitor's mother. She calls her son Champion, but also Shy Wizard. She advises her son to dress his best to meet the slave girl in order to kindle true ardor, for the maiden has a month more to find a suitable husband.

Iberian, written in Latin letters

- 1 cantom
- 2 sancilistara
- 3 otanaum
- 4 tocoitei
- 5 eni:
- 6 uta
- 7 oscuez
- 8 boustomue
- 9 coruinomue

Iberian parsed, with missing vowels added in small letters

- 1 CA Ne TO Me.
- 2 SA Ne CI LI Sa TA-RA.
- 3 O TA NA U-Me.
- 4 TO CO I TE I.
- 5 E NI :
- 6 U-TA,
- 7 O Sa CU E-Zi.
- 8 BO U S TO, MU E,
- 9 CO-RU I NO MU E.

Finnish translation of Iberian

- 1 "Käyös neien toi meän.
2. Saa'a neien kian lyhyen saa'aa tarhan."
- 3 Orja tah'oo naia urhomme.
- 4 Toihii ko'ea ihan tehä ihan.
5. Ensi niin:
- 6 "Uja taia,
- 7 orja saa kuun etsiä.
- 8 Voit uhon saa'aa toen, muut ensi,
- 9 koru ihan noja muo'on ehon."

English translation of Finnish

- 1 Fetch the maiden brought to us.
- 2 Bring the maiden from the settlement for a short escort of the garden.
- 3 A slave wants to marry our champion.
- 4 She dares to try all to make all.
- 5 First then:
- 6 Shy wizard,
- 7 a slave gets a month to search.

8 You can begin true ardor, but first,
9 a lovely jewel depends on fine appearance.

Bot. A5: 'You might rather regret the reason'

On Line 5 of side A of Botorrita I, the mother of Shy recounts a disastrous scene before his wedding to a Saxon slave. Shy gets into a towering rage because his mother sold two spoiled kegs of wine. His anger devastates the Saxon. The last line ends with the information that the mother owned the slave.

Iberian, written in Latin letters

- 1 macasiamue
- 2 ailamue
- 3 ambitiseti
- 4 camanom
- 5 usabituz
- 6 ozas
- 7 sues
- 8 sailo
- 9 custa
- 10 bizetuz
- 11 iom

Iberian parsed, with missing vowels added in small letters

- 1 MA CA SI, A MU E.
- 2 A I-LA MU E.
- 3 A MU BI TI SE TI.
- 4 CA MA NO Mō.
- 5 U SA BI, TU Ze,
- 6 O ZA-Sa.
- 7 SU E So.
- 8 SA I-LO
- 9 CU-Si TA.
- 10 BI ZE TU Ze,
- 11 I O Mō.

Finnish translation of Iberian

- 1 Mahoit kaio syy, muut ei.
- 2 Äät ihalan mua ei.
- 3 Aion muo'on vihan työn sen tihuan.
- 4 Kahet mahot noat möi.
- 5 Ujo sai viha'a; tuhoi sen,
- 6 orja Saksan.
- 7 Suuhun ei so'i.
- 8 Sai ilo
- 9 kuksia tajuan.
- 10 Vihan se tuhoi sen,
- 11 ihan orjan möin.

English translation of Finnish

- 1 You might rather regret the reason, others not.

2 A marvelous wedding for me it was not.
3 I think the appearance of anger worked its evil way.
4 Two rotten wizards I sold.
5 Shy began to rage; it destroyed her,
6 Saxon slave.
7 His mouth she does not battle.
8 He made joy
9 to have sex, I realize.
10 In a rage he destroyed her,
11 the lovely slave I sold.

Bot. A6: 'I will plan her visit'

Line 6 on side A of Botorrita I reflects the internal thoughts of Shy's mother as she tries to fix the disastrous outburst of anger by her son. She sends him off, then invites the lovely maiden to her home for a night, where she can be alone in the tranquil garden and grove. From her own experience, she knows that the task of courtship makes a woman want to fit in.

Iberian, written in Latin letters

- 1 asecati
- 2 ambitincounei
- 3 stena
- 4 es
- 5 uertai
- 6 entara
- 7 tiris
- 8 matus
- 9 tinbituz
- 10 neito
- 11 tiricantam

Iberian parsed, with missing vowels added in small letters

- 1 A SE CA TI.
- 2 A Ma BI TI Ni CO U-NE I.
- 3 S TE NA,
- 4 E Se.
- 5 U E TA I,
- 6 E Ne TA-RA.
- 7 TO RI Sa.
- 8 MA TU Sa.
- 9 TI-Ni BI TU Ze,
- 10 NE I TO.
- 11 TI RI CA Ne TA Ma.

Finnish translation of Iberian

- 1 Aion sen käyntin.
- 2 Armas vietihin niin ko'ea unnen yön.
- 3 Saa tehdä naia,
- 4 ei sen.
- 5 Ujo ei tän yön,
- 6 eit neien tarahan.
- 7Toen riiuu saa.
- 8 Mä tuoa säen.
- 9 Tyynnin viia tuo sen,
- 10 neien ihan toen.
- 11 Työ riiuun käy neien tah'oo mah'ua.

English translation of Finnish

- 1 I will plan her visit.

2 Beloved was brought thus to try to sleep a night.
3 Se begins to prepare to get married,
4 but not to him.
5 Shy is not here at night,
6 he is not with the maiden in the garden.
7 True courtshipe begins.
8 I have to provide the spark.
9 The tranquil grove brings her,
10 lovely maiden true.
11 The task of courtship makes the maiden want to fit.

Bot. A7: 'Excellent! So he is now to bring her here at dusk'

Line 7 on side A of Botorrita I contains the thoughts of Shy's mother as she prepares for the prospective bride's visit at dusk, accompanied by her son. She delights in having an early rising moon, a powerful force for match-making.

She dreams of a special wedding band, an Eternity Ring, the oldest dated 4000 BC from a tomb in Mesopotamia. Initially the Eternity Ring was a simple band of precious metal, with a design or jewel on top. One form was a serpent eating its tail, the Midgard Serpent, Jörmungandr, which originated when Freyja ruled the assembly of gods.

Iberian, written in Latin letters

- 1 eni
- 2 onsatuz
- 3 iomui
- 4 listas
- 5 titas
- 6 zizonti
- 7 somui
- 8 iom
- 9 arznas
- 10 bionti
- 11 iom
- 12 custaicós

Iberian parsed, with missing vowels added in small letters

- 1 E! NI
- 2 O Ni SA TU Ze
- 3 I. O MU I
- 4 LI-So TA Sã.
- 5 TI TA Sa,
- 6 ZI ZO-Ni TI,
- 7 SO-MU I.
- 8 I O Mu,
- 9 A-Ru Z-NA Sa.
- 10 BI O-Ni TI;
- 11 I O M
- 12 CU; Sa TA I CO-Si.

Finnish translation of Iberian

- 1 Ehon! Niin
- 2 on niin saa'a tuo sen
- 3 yön. On muo'on ihan
- 4 lietsoa taian säen.
- 5 Tie taian saa,
- 6 syän sonnins tieä,
- 7 sormus iän.
- 8 Yön on muo'on,

9 airut siinä saa'a.
10 Pian onni työ;
11 yö on muo'on
12 kuun; saa'a taian yön kosia.

English translation of Finnish

1 Excellent! So
2 he is now to bring her here
3 at dusk. She has a lovely figure
4 to fan a magic spark.
5 The way of magic will begin,
6 the heart of a bull she will know,
7 an eternity ring.
8 At dusk will be an appearance;
9 a messenger comes here
10 soon, a fortunate act.
11 At dusk there will be an appearance
12 of the moon; it will bring magic to the night to woo.

Bot. A8: 'I think he courts to get a wife'

Line 8 on side A of Botorrita I reflects the thoughts of the Saxon maiden while being wooed by Shy.

Iberian, written in Latin letters

- 1 arznas
- 2 cuati
- 3 ias
- 4 ozias
- 5 uertatosue
- 6 temeieue
- 7 robiseti
- 8 saum
- 9 tecametinas
- 10 tatuz
- 11 somei

Iberian parsed, with missing vowels added in small letters

- 1 A Ri Za NA-Se.
- 2 CU A-TI.
- 3 I A-Su.
- 4 O, ZI A-Su!
- 5 U E Ro-TA TO; SU E.
- 6 TE ME LU E.
- 7 RO BI SE TI
- 8 SA U. Mä
- 9 TE-CA ME-TI NA Sa
- 10 TA, TU Za
- 11 SO ME I!

Finnish translation of Iberian

- 1 Aion riiaa saa'a naisen.
- 2 Kuu jätti,
- 3 yö asuu.
- 4 Oi, syän assu!
- 5 Ujo ei rohjeta tohi; suen ei.
- 6 Tehon meiän luo cheys.
- 7 Rouhii vihan se tieän
- 8 sai Ujo. Mä
- 9 teikka mentyä näin saa'a
- 10 taia, tuoa säen.
- 11 Soia meiän yön!

English translation of Finnish

- 1 I think he courts to get a wife.
- 2 The moon has gone,
- 3 the night stays.

4 Oh, my heart lives!
5 Shy does not have the courage to venture; a wolf he is not.
6 The enchantment of ours creates eheys².
7 It crushes anger that I know
8 got Shy. I have
9 to gamble he has gone like this to bring
10 magic, to produce a fire spark.
11 Ring out our night!

² Eheys means 'harmony, integrity, perfection, umity, one'

Bot. A9: 'She did not then venture to Shy her all'

On Line 9 on side A of Botorrita I, Shy's mother tells a friend about the maiden's return to her village of dwellings pressed close together. She considers what to offer the maiden's family.

Iberian, written in Latin letters

- 1 enitouzei
- 2 iste
- 3 ancios
- 4 iste
- 5 esancios
- 6-7 uze areitena
- 8 sarniciei
- 9 acainacubos

Iberian parsed, with missing vowels added in small letters

- 1 E NI TO U ZE I,
- 2 I Sa - TE!
- 3 A No CI O-Si.
- 4 I-Se TE
- 5 E SA Ne CI O Su.
- 6-7 U-ZE A-RE I-TE, NA.
- 8 SA Ri NI CI, E I.
- 9 A CA I NA CU BO Se.

Finnish translation of Iberian

- 1 Ei niin tohi Ujo sen ihan.
- 2 Yhä saa'a - tehon!
- 3 Hän noui kia öisin.
- 4 Itse tein
- 5 ei saa'a neion kiahon orjan suojat.
- 6-7 Joukse ääreen yhtehen, näin.
- 8 Sai riiuun niin kian, ei ihan.
- 9 Jää kaiho yhä nähä kuin voia sen.

English translation of Finnish

- 1 She did not then venture to Shy her all.
- 2 Still to come - enchantment!
- 3 She heeded the community at night.
- 4 I myself did
- 5 not escort the maiden to the settlement of slave dwellings.
- 6-7 It runs close together, like this.
- 8 She began the courtship, therefore, from the settlement, but not completely.
- 9 The feeling still remains to see how to win her.

Bot. A10: 'The maiden carries a ribbon of true courtship!'

On line 10 of side A of Botorrita I, Shy's mother prepares the next step of her son's courtship - a visit to the bride's family to try to smooth over her son's angry outburst, and to find out what will be the price of the marriage.

Iberian, written in Latin letters

- 1 nebintor
- 2 tocoitei
- 3 ios
- 4 ur
- 5 antiomue
- 6 auzeti
- 7 aratimue
- 8 tecametam
- 9 tatuz
- 10 iom
- 11 tocoitoscue

Iberian parsed, with missing vowels added in small letters

- 1 NE BI Na TO Ri.
- 2 TO CO I TE I
- 3 I O-Si,
- 4 U Ri.
- 5 A Na TI O, MU E.
- 6 A U. ZE TI
- 7 A. RA-TI MU E
- 8 TE. CA-ME TA Mu.
- 9 TA TU Zi
- 10 I O-Ma.
- 11 TO CO I-TO Sa CU E.

Finnish translation of Iberian

- 1 Neion vie nauhan toen riiuun!
- 2 Tohii ko'ea yhä tehdä yhen
- 3 yhä öisin,
- 4 Ujon riia'a.
- 5 Aion näe työ on, mutt' ei
- 6 Haen Ujo. Sen työ
- 7 jää. Rähädys mua ei
- 8 tehen. Käymme tah'oa muun.
- 9 Tahon tuo syän
- 10 hiihää oman.
- 11 Toen koin iltoa saa'a kuoa eheys.

English translation of Finnish

- 1 The maiden carries a ribbon of true courtship!
- 2 She ventures to try again to do the same

3 again at night,
4 to court Shy.
5 I think she sees the task she has, but he does not.
6 I will fetch Shy. His task
7 remains. The outburst to me has not been
8 disposed. We shall visit to find out the rest.
9 I intend that her heart
10 will blaze on its own.
11 Truly I tried through the evening to begin to weave eheys.

Bot. A11: 'She began the courtship'

Line 11 on side A of Botorrita I ends Act I. The mother of Shy relates how she and her son visited the beautiful Saxon maiden, whose family feasted them by a clearing, until a full moon rose at dusk in the east. As expected, the family bargained for their daughter's hand in marriage. The settlement was a full year of food, which would give the couple enough time to weave a bond of love.

Iberian, written in Latin letters

- 1 samiciocue
- 2 aiuizas
- 3 combalcores
- 4 aleites
- 5 iste
- 6 icues
- 7 ruzimuz
- 8 abulu
- 9 ubocum

Iberian parsed, with missing vowels added in small letters

- 1 SA Ri. NI CIO CU E.
- 2 A I U I ZA-Sa.
- 3 CO Me BA. Li CO RE Si
- 4 A LE I-TE, S
- 5 I Sa TE.
- 6 I CU E Sa.
- 7 RU ZI MU-Zo
- 8 A BU LU.
- 9 U BO CU Mi.

Finnish translation of Iberian

- 1 Sai riiuun. Niin kia orjain ku'oo Eheys.
- 2 Hain yhä Uhon iha Saksan.
- 3 Koin meen paan. Liikoja rehun syöä
- 4 aholle yhtehen, siihen
- 5 yön sai tehon.
- 6 Iän kuu eheä sai.
- 7 Ruo'a si'oo mutso
- 8 jää'a vuoen luja.
- 9 Ujo voi ku'oa mi.

English translation of Finnish

- 1 She began the courtship. Now the community of slaves weaves Eheys.
- 2 I fetched again Shy's lovely Saxon.
- 3 I tried mead from the chief. Lots of food to eat
- 4 by a clearing together, until that time
- 5 at dusk began an enchantment.
- 6 From the east the whole moon came.

7 Food will bind the young woman
8 to stay for one year firm.
9 Shy can weave now.

Bot. B1: 'I am creating son's home'

Line 1 on side B of Botorrita I begins Act II in the voice of Shy's mother. She is building a new home for the couple, and with Shy's help, brought a thousand cattle into their grove, a large fraction of her wealth, far more than her promised food for a year.

Iberian, written in Latin letters

- 1 lubos
- 2 counesicum
- 3 melnunos
- 4 bintis
- 5 letontu
- 6 litocum

Iberian parsed, with missing vowels added in small letters

- 1 LU BO Su
- 2 CO U-NE SI CU Mi.
- 3 ME L NU NO Se
- 4 BI Na TI-Si.
- 5 LE TO Na TU,
- 6 LI TO CU Mu.

Finnish translation of Iberian

- 1 Luon pojan suojan
- 2 ko'ea unnen syän kuoo mi.
- 3 Meiän leho nuo nojaa sen
- 4 vie nau'an työnsin.
- 5 Leh'oon toi nau'at tuhat,
- 6 liioin töi'ä kuin mua.

English translation of Finnish

- 1 I am creating son's home
- 2 to test the sleep his heart weaves now.
- 3 Our grove that relies on him
- 4 carries cattle I sent.
- 5 Into the grove he brought a thousand cattle,
- 6 too much work for only me.

Bot. B2: 'The spell survived for one year'

Line 2 on side B of Botorrita I begins the maiden's account of a disaster that stressed her marriage to Shy. She calls him 'illogical' when he lets a thousand cattle graze in Wolf's grove of alfalfa used to raise pigs. As most ranchers know, fresh alfalfa causes cattle to bloat, but not pigs.

Iberian, written in Latin letters

- 1 abulos
- 2 bintis
- 3 melmu
- 4 barauzanco
- 5 lesunos
- 6 bintis

Iberian parsed, with missing vowels added in small letters

- 1 A BU LO Si.
- 2 BI-Ni TI Se,
- 3 ME Le, MU
- 4 BA-RA U ZA Na CO
- 5 LE SU NO Si.
- 6 BI Na TI Su.

Finnish translation of Iberian

- 1 Jäi vuoen loitsi.
- 2 Pi'ini tiheän sen,
- 3 meihin lehon, mutt'
- 4 väärän Ujo sai nau'an ko'ea
- 5 lehen Suen nojahan siat.
- 6 Pian nau'a tyy'yi suur.

English translation of Finnish

- 1 The spell survived for one year.
- 2 He kept me close to him,
- 3 to our grove, but
- 4 illogical Shy let the cattle try
- 5 the grove of Wolf supporting pigs.
- 6 Soon the cattle swelled up large.

Bot. B3: 'In the grove, a thousand cattle'

Line 3 on side B of Botorrita I continues the maiden's tale of disaster, the loss of their wealth, the death of a thousand cattle from bloat.

In the spring, if hungry cattle enter a pasture containing lush immature clover and alfalfa with little grass, gases in the rumen create a froth that blocks the esophagus and distends the rumen. Bloat can occur in as little as 15 minutes, and death in an hour from suffocation as the distended rumen pushes against the diaphragm and prevents inhalation. The animal collapses and dies quickly, almost without a struggle.

Iberian, written in Latin letters

- 1 letontu
- 2 ubocum
- 3 turo
- 4 bintis
- 5 lubinaz
- 6 aiu
- 7 bercanticum

Iberian parsed, with missing vowels added in small letters

- 1 LE-TO, Na TU
- 2 U-BO CU-Mo,
- 3 TU RO.
- 4 BI Na TI Su,
- 5 LU BI NA Zu.
- 6 A I U.
- 7 BE Ru CA; Na TI CU Mö.

Finnish translation of Iberian

- 1 Lehtohon, nau'a tuhat
- 2 ulvoo kumoa,
- 3 tuhat röhinät.
- 4 Pian nau'a tyy'yä suur',
- 5 Luoja vie nau'an suoja.
- 6 Jäi yhen urho.
- 7 Vei ruhot kauas; näin työn kuien möi.

English translation of Finnish

- 1 In the grove, a thousand cattle
- 2 bawl and topple,
- 3 a thousand low rattles.
- 4 Soon the cattle swell up large,
- 5 and the Creator leads the cattle home.
- 6 A single champion survived.
- 7 He hauled the carcasses far away; in this way the labor of months he sold.

Bot. B4: 'I will remain for one year'

Line 4 on side B of Botorrita I relates more of the Saxon maiden's year of marriage, during which she builds a shelter to raise pigs. She does not like the way Shy loads her down with work, comparing it to his mistreatment of cattle. An interesting final image - she spreads his laundry on the ground.

Iberian, written in Latin letters

- 1 abulos
- 2 bintis
- 3 tirtu
- 4 aiancum
- 5 abulos
- 6 bintis
- 7 abulu
- 8 louzocum

Iberian parsed, with missing vowels added in small letters

- 1 A BU LO Su,
- 2 BI No-TI Si.
- 3 TI Ri TU.
- 4 A I. A Na CU-Mo.
- 5 A BU LO-Si.
- 6 BI Ne TI Sa
- 7 A BU LU.
- 8 LO U ZO-CU Ma.

Finnish translation of Iberian

- 1 Jää vuoen. Loin suoja,
- 2 pian nostin siat.
- 3 Työn riuun tuo.
- 4 Jään yöt. Aion nau³an kumohon.
- 5 Jää vuoen loitsin.
- 6 Vihaan ne työt saa
- 7 ja vuoen luon.
- 8 Loin Ujon sotkut maahan.

English translation of Finnish

- 1 She will remain for one year. I created a shelter;
- 2 soon I raised pigs.
- 3 From work I languish here.
- 4 I survive the nights. I think of the toppled cattle.
- 5 For one year the spell will remain.
- 6 I hate all the tasks he makes
- 7 and for a year I will perform.
- 8 I spread Shy's laundry on the ground.

Bot. B5: 'Many nights Wolf rose up'

Line 5 on side B of Botorrita I introduces a secret lover of the Saxon maiden, a man named Wolf, owner of the grove where the thousand cattle perished. We also find out that Shy secretly loves a former slave, now being supported by Wolf. They arrange a tryst in two nights in Wolf's grove of the cattle disaster.

Iberian, written in Latin letters

- 1 uzeisunos
- 2 bintis
- 3 acainaz
- 4 letontu
- 5 uicanocum
- 6 suostunos

Iberian parsed, with missing vowels added in small letters

- 1 U-ZE I SU NO-Si.
- 2 BI N TI-Si.
- 3 A CA I NA Ze,
- 4 LE-TO Na TU.
- 5 U I CA Ne O CU Mö,
- 6 SU O Sa TU NO Se.

Finnish translation of Iberian

- 1 Usea yöt Sus' nousi.
- 2 Pyhäät niin tiesin.
- 3 Aion kahet yöt naia sen,
- 4 lehtohon nau'an tuhon.
- 5 Uho yhä kaihoaa neien o'jan kut möi.
- 6 Sus jo saa tuoa nojan sen.

English translation of Finnish

- 1 Many nights Wolf rose up.
- 2 Magic then I knew.
- 3 I plan in two nights to have sex with him,
- 4 in the grove of cattle disaster.
- 5 Shy still yearns for a maiden slave whom he sold.
- 6 Wolf now begins to provide support for her.

Bot. B6: 'Soon the woman-act began'

Line 6 on side B of Botorrita I describes how the tryst between the Saxon maiden and Wolf was interrupted by Shy coming to fetch her.

Iberian, written in Latin letters

- 1 bintis
- 2 tirtanos
- 3 statulicum
- 4 lesunos
- 5 bintis
- 6 nouantutaz

Iberian parsed, with missing vowels added in small letters

- 1 BI Na-TI Sa.
- 2 TI Ri TA NO Su.
- 3 Se TA-TU LI-CU Mu.
- 4 LE Sa U NO Se.
- 5 BI Ne-TI Su.
- 6 NO U A Ne, TU TA Zu.

Finnish translation of Iberian

- 1 Pian naistyö saa'a.
- 2 Työ riium taian noiuu Suen.
- 3 Se tasrtuu liikkuu muo.
- 4 Leh'oon saa'a Uho nou'aa sen.
- 5 vihan neitin suen.
- 6 Noia Uho hää'i neien, tuhoi tai'an Suen.

English translation of Finnish

- 1 Soon the woman-act begins.
- 2 The act of courtship magic bewitches Wolf.
- 3 He catches a figure moving about.
- 4 Into the grove comes Shy to fetch her,
- 5 angry at maiden and Wolf.
- 6 Thus Shy stopped the maiden, he ruined the magic of Wolf.

Bot. B7: 'In the grove of cattle disaster'

Line 7 on side B of Botorrita I relates the torment of the Saxon maiden, who realizes that Shy knew she would be meeting Wolf. Her passion for Shy crumbles.

Iberian, written in Latin letters

- 1 letontu
- 2 aiancum
- 3 melmunos
- 4 bintis
- 5 useizu
- 6 aiancum
- 7 tauro
- 8 [bin]/tis

Iberian parsed, with missing vowels added in small letters

- 1 LE-TO Na TU
- 2 A I A, Na-CU Ma
- 3 ME-Lo. MU NO-Se
- 4 BI-Na. "TI-Si,
- 5 U SE I ZU."
- 6 A I. A-No CU Ma.
- 7 TA U RO.
- 8 [BI Ne] TI Su.

Finnish translation of Iberian

- 1 Lehtohon nauan tuhon
- 2 jää ihän a'an, nakui maahan
- 3 mellon. Mutt' nousee
- 4 piina. "Tiesi,
- 5 uho sen yön suen."
- 6 Jää yön. Anoo kuun maahon.
- 7 Taian Uhon rouhii.
- 8 Vihoa neien tyy'yä suuri.

English translation of Finnish

- 1 In the grove of cattle disaster
- 2 remains a lovely woman, wailing on the ground
- 3 tough. But up rises
- 4 torment. "He knew,
- 5 boasting of his night by a wolf."
- 6 She survives the night. She implores the moon from the ground.
- 7 The magic of Shy she crushes.
- 8 Hostility of the maiden swells up large.

Bot. B8: 'It freezes in the trees'

Line 8 on side B of Botorrita I describes the Saxon maiden's wretched night in the grove of cattle disaster.

Iberian, written in Latin letters

- 1 abulu
- 2 aiancum
- 3 tauro
- 4 bintis
- 5 letontu
- 6 leticum
- 7 abulos
- 8 bintis

Iberian parsed, with missing vowels added in small letters

- 1 A BU, LU
- 2 A I A-No CU Ma.
- 3 TA U RO.
- 4 BI Ni TI-Si,
- 5 LE-TO Na TU.
- 6 LE-TI CU-Mo,
- 7 A BU. LO Sa.
- 8 BI No TI-Sa.

Finnish translation of Iberian

- 1 Jää'yy puihin, luo
- 2 hauan hyy. Anoo kuun maahan.
- 3 Tah'oo Ujon rouhia.
- 4 Viha niin tiesi,
- 5 lehtohon nau'an tuhon.
- 6 Lehti kumohon,
- 7 jää puihin. Loihe saa'a.
- 8 Pian noui työnsä.

English translation of Finnish

- 1 It freezes in the trees, creates
- 2 a deep chill. She entreats the moon from the ground.
- 3 She wants to crush Shy.
- 4 Hostility then knew her,
- 5 in the grove of cattle disaster.
- 6 A toppled leaf,
- 7 she remains in the trees. It began to pour.
- 8 Soon she heeded her task.

Bot. B9: 'Shy raised a sweeper to beat her'

Line 9 on side B of Botorrita I ends the tragedy, just as their magical year ended.

Iberian, written in Latin letters

- 1 []
- 2 ucontaz
- 3 letontu
- 4 esocum
- 5 abulos
- 6 bintis

Iberian parsed, with missing vowels added in small letters

- 1 []
- 2 U CO N TA Z
- 3 LE TO N TU
- 4 E SO CU M
- 5 A BU LO S
- 6 BI N TI S

Finnish translation of Iberian

- 1 [Aamulla palasi.]
- 2 Ujo ko'i nuohooja ta'oa sen
- 3 lehtohon nau'an tuhoi,
- 4 ei soa kuuen miehien.
- 5 Jäi vuoen loitsi,
- 6 pyhät nostinsa.

English translation of Finnish

- 1 [In the morning he returned.]
- 2 Shy raised a sweeper to beat her
- 3 in the grove of cattle he ruined,
- 4 but not to battle six men.
- 5 The spell survived for one year,
- 6 the magic conjured up for her.

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