

BUCKHORN CAVE SHELTER ARTEFACTS

Iberian Celtic Inscriptions

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According to Emeral Lykins, Compton, Kentucky, these items were dug up by one of the local men either inside the Buckhorn site rock shelter or nearby. There are three ingraved stones bearing what seem to be Iberian and Ogham inscriptions along with a small jar also bearing the same markings.

A short word about the Celtiberian syllabary

Though the Celtiberian syllabary has separate letters for single consonants and vowels, most signs note bisyllables. This sign system, although at times difficult, makes way for better writing space.

Long and short vowels are distinguished : 'Â' and 'A' or 'O'. 'U' is pronounced as English 'oo' or French 'ou' and never as the short English 'U' as in "up". The other 'U' is consonantal and is pronounced as 'W'. As for the 'E' and 'I', they were very close in pronouciation.

As with the three 'Ncu strokes in the Ogham, there is a tendency to associate the nazalised 'Ñ' and 'U' both marked as a 'V'. The letters 'A' and 'R' marked 'P' can also be easily confused or interchanged. The same goes for the delta sign which can either be taken for a 'D' or an 'A'. The only way to know is to sort out the possible words in context with the phrase.

'H' has the sound value of the Greek X or Chi and is equivalent to the first forfeda of the Ogham labeled 'X/Ea', Coad from Xoiton = "Copse", "Copice". Therefore, the Old Celtic means of notation did not consider 'H' as a consonant. As with the oghamic 'H' denoting usual fricatives found in Celtic best rendered as 'Sc' or 'Xc' and barred D : Ð from Sd, the Celtiberian Š denotes a sibilance of 'D'.

Fig. 1



Inscribed jar with sundial

Transliteration (from delta to alpha):

R-Â-Te/De- U (W = consonantal U)/ Ñ-R-U/Ñ-Ce/Ge-Â

Râte - Ur - Ugeâ

Translation:

Râte: Rata = "by Grace", instrumental case of Rata = "Grace", the name of the goddess of Grace or "guarantee", if not: Rato = "regard", "though", "intent", "purpose", "favour";

Ur: Ur = "(sacred) Fire"; connoting adj. Uros/-a/-on = "pure", "fresh"; the goddess Ura, "the Pure";

Ugeâ: theonyms, masculine, feminine and neutral genders Ugios / Ugia / Ugion = "Circle"; the goddess Ugia = "the Circle"; c.n.n. Uges = "round thing";

Interpretation:

"By grace (by the Grace goddess), sacred fire, circle (goddess)."

Fig. 2



Inscribed stone tablets

Transliteration (left stone tablet – from top to bottom):

Ca/Ga-Bi/Pi-Â-I

Gabiâi

Translation:

Gabiâi: pl. of Gabia; Gabios/-a/-on = "seizer", "taker", "grabber";

Gabia: theonym Gabia = “Receptive”, a Celtic goddess;

the name is also attested in other Indo-European cultures: Matka Gabia, the Polish goddess of the home and hearth and Lithuanian Gabija.

Transliteration (right stone tablet – from top to bottom):

Top line

Ci/Gi-R-Ce/Ge-N-R-Â-N-Ce/Ge-D-A

Circen-Rângeda

Translation:

Circen: masculine personal name Circenos = “He of the harrier wind”; Circos = “whirl wind”, “harrier wind”; Circios the Wind god;

Rângeda: v. Rengeti = “They extend”; Rângô / Rengô = “to extend”;

Rânceta: v. Rinceti = “They obtain”;

Middle line

I-Â-Bi/Pi-H(X)-Â-N-B/P or Be/Pe-U or Ñ-Ci/Gi

Iâbixan-Puci / Buci

Translation:

Iâbixan: personal name Iabixan(os)/-a/-on = “Enclosed One”; adj. iabicos/-a/-on > iabixos/-a/on = “enclosed”; adj. Iabos/-a/-on = “closed”;

Buci: gen. Buci = “of the hollow”; Bucos = “hollow”; Buccos = “buck”, “he-goat”, “deer buck”;

Puci: gen. Puci = “of Puck”; Pucos = “Puck”, a little devil, elemental demon;

Bottom line

Te/De-H(X)-I-Bi/Pi-U-S-Bi/Pi-N-Bi/Pi-C/G-Â-U

Dexibius-bin-bicâu

Translation:

Dexibus: adj. Dexibos < Dexsiuos/-a/-on = “right”, “right-hand”;

Bin: Bin(ios) = “striker”; v. Binô = “to strike”;

Bicâu : Bica(u)s, Bicauos = “penislike”; Bica = “penis”;

Bigâu: adj. Begau(os)/-a/-on = “curved”, “bent”; v. Biguô = “to deviate”.

Possible literal Interpretation:

Circen(e), The Harrier Wind, they obtain, labixan(e), the Enclosed One, of the Puck, right-hand striker to deviate.

Fig. 3



Inscribed stone tablets (detail of Oghams)

Transliteration of bottom stone Ogham:

M-a-S-C-o-C ...

Mascoc: adj. Mascocos/-a/-on = "pertaining to the Witch"; personal name Mascacos/-a = "He or She the Witch"

Masca / Masco = "(female) witch"

CELTIBERIAN conciliation of Celtic Tree Alphabets:		COELBRENI	OGHAMS
△ A ARAUA	△	ABALLOS (Apple) - ALAMIOS	+
≡ E ELTO	≡		++
∇ I IUOS	∇		+++
○ O ONNA	○		++++
↑↑ U UROICA	∨		++++
△ L LAURASIOS	∇	LEMOS - LEMOS	π
∇ M MLETTTO	∇	MARCOS (Rustic vine) -	+
△ N NERTOS	∇		π
△ R REUSMEN	∇		+++
RR R RUSCA		- UORRICE (Osier Willow)	XXXX
∇ S SALIXS	∇		ππ
M SDRAGENOS	∇		+++
△ D DARUOS	> △	DERUOS - DARUOS	△
X T TENNOS	↑		∇
∅ TH THESMERION	∅	TANNOS - TARANOS	∅
XQ H XQIIATS	h h h	XPETES/SPETES - XQIIATS	+
P B BETUA	∇		+
∇ G GABROSTOS	∇	- GORTIA (Ivy)	∇
Y ^{ES} _{SP} SPETES	X	/ XIMALOS (Hops)	X

Thesmerion = "Hibiscus"

Iberian peninsula — Gaul and Britain — Ireland/Scotland

References

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