

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910786291903321
Autore	Schmitz Philip C
Titolo	The Phoenician Diaspora : Epigraphic and Historical Studies // Philip C. Schmitz ; with an appendix to chapter 5 by Joann Freed
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Winona Lake, IN : , : Eisenbrauns, , 2012 ©2012
ISBN	1-57506-685-8
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (160 p.)
Disciplina	892.6
Soggetti	Phoenicians Inscriptions, Punic Inscriptions, Phoenician LITERARY CRITICISM / African Phoenicians - Mediterranean Region Mediterranean Region
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Note generali	Description based upon print version of record.
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references and index.
Nota di contenuto	Cover -- Title -- Contents -- Preface -- Abbreviations -- Chapter 1 Phoenician Epigraphy's Third Century -- Chapter 2 The Phoenician Stele from Nora (CIS I 144) -- Chapter 3 Three Phoenician Graffiti at Abu Simbel (CIS I 112) -- Chapter 4 Phoenician Atramentary Texts from Tell el-Maskhuta -- Chapter 5 A Phoenician Amphora from Carthage with a Dipinto Inscription -- Chapter 6 A Punic Economic Text on Lead (CIS I 6068) -- Chapter 7 The Punic Epitaph of Mlkpls from Carthage (CIS I 6000bis) -- Bibliography -- Index
Sommario/riassunto	In this approachable and articulate study, Philip C. Schmitz offers close interpretations of six ancient texts, four previously published Phoenician and Punic inscriptions and two Phoenician inscriptions published for the first time. The author selected the previously known texts because readings of their letters and interpretation of their grammar and syntax are not yet well established. Each of the selected texts stands as an original source concerning Phoenician settlement in the western Mediterranean, Phoenician activity in Egypt, or the economic life and religious beliefs and practices of ancient Carthage.

Chapter 1 rapidly surveys the history of Phoenician-Punic epigraphy and offers a limited inventory of recent publications of epigraphic texts. Chapter 2 undertakes a new reading and translation of the Phoenician stele from Nora, Sardinia (CIS I 144). Chapter 3 edits and translates the larger Phoenician inscriptions from Abu Simbel, in Egypt (CIS I 112). Chapter 4 concerns the paleographic analysis of selected Phoenician graffiti from Tell el-Maskhuta. Chapter 5 publishes an overlooked dipinto inscription on an amphora excavated at Carthage. (An appendix by Joann Freed contextualizes the amphora.) Chapter 6 takes a text-critical look at CIS I 6068, an enigmatic Punic inscription on lead, thought since its discovery to be a curse text. Schmitz argues that it is not a curse but a quittance for debt. Chapter 7 is a new reading and translation of CIS I 6000bis, a Punic epitaph from the Hellenistic period of Carthage. Among the features of this book that may interest students and scholars are: new translations and interpretations of important inscriptions the translation and interpretation of which have been disputed; previously unpublished photographs of inscriptions, illustrating difficult readings; author's hand drawings of difficult readings; and grammatical analysis with reference to other known texts and standard reference works.

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