

## ORTHOGRAPHIC TRADITIONS AND THE SUB-ELITE IN THE ROMAN EMPIRE

This book makes use of digital corpora to give in-depth details of the history and development of the spelling of Latin. It focusses on sub-elite texts in the Roman empire and reveals that sophisticated education in this area was not restricted to those at the top of society. Nicholas Zair studies the history of particular orthographic features and traces their usage in a range of texts which give insight into everyday writers of Latin, including scribes and soldiers at Vindolanda, slaves at Pompeii, members of the Praetorian Guard and writers of curse tablets. In doing so, he problematises the use of ‘old-fashioned’ spelling in dating inscriptions, provides important new information on sound change in Latin and shows how much can be gained from a detailed sociolinguistic analysis of ancient texts.

NICHOLAS ZAIR is Senior Lecturer in Classics (Classical Linguistics and Comparative Philology) at the University of Cambridge and Fellow in Classics and Linguistics at Peterhouse. He recently held a Pro Futura Scientia Fellowship at SCAS (Uppsala) and CRASSH (Cambridge). He is also the author of *The Reflexes of the Proto-Indo-European Laryngeals in Celtic* (2012) and *Oscan in the Greek Alphabet* (Cambridge, 2016), and co-editor of *Migration, Mobility and Language Contact in and around the Ancient Mediterranean* (Cambridge, 2020).

CAMBRIDGE CLASSICAL STUDIES

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NICHOLAS ZAIR  
*University of Cambridge*





**CAMBRIDGE**  
**UNIVERSITY PRESS**

Shaftesbury Road, Cambridge CB2 8EA, United Kingdom  
One Liberty Plaza, 20th Floor, New York, NY 10006, USA  
477 Williamstown Road, Port Melbourne, VIC 3207, Australia  
314–321, 3rd Floor, Plot 3, Splendor Forum, Jasola District Centre, New Delhi – 110025, India  
103 Penang Road, #05–06/07, Visioncrest Commercial, Singapore 238467

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Information on this title: [www.cambridge.org/9781009327664](http://www.cambridge.org/9781009327664)

DOI: [10.1017/9781009327633](https://doi.org/10.1017/9781009327633)

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First published 2023

*A catalogue record for this publication is available from the British Library.*

*A Cataloging-in-Publication data record for this book is available from the Library of Congress.*

ISBN 978-1-009-32766-4 Hardback

ISBN 978-1-009-32767-1 Paperback

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