

WOLFGANG MEID

GAULISH INSCRIPTIONS

**Their interpretation in the light of archaeological
evidence and their value as a source of linguistic
and sociological information**



BUDAPEST 2014

Third edition,
revised and enlarged 2014

The Cover photograph shows the Menhir of Vieux-Poitiers,
with Gaulish inscription (see p. 36)
Ratin briuationom Frontu Tarbetisonios ieuru

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Preface

This short survey of Gaulish epigraphical “literature” was first published in 1992, then reprinted with minor revisions in 1994. It has been out of print for many years since, but being still in demand, a renewed edition was called for. Considering the progress made in the field of Gaulish epigraphics in the meantime, this new edition has been updated to account for more recent scholarship and also has been extended in order to deal with, among others, the one major inscription discovered in 1997 at Châteaubleau, which has received considerable attention in the meantime.

Among the dubious or pseudo-Gaulish inscriptions stands out the one discovered as early as 1887 at Rom (Deux-Sèvres), believed to be the longest of Gaulish inscriptions known at that time, which had received various fanciful interpretations since, Gaulish as well as Latin, and of which even the latest treatment in vol. II,2 of the grand *Recueil des Inscriptions Gauloises* is at a loss to extract some meaning. I have added my opinion, for whatever it is worth, of this strange document which I consider a sort of “love story” in a slave milieu, composed in an extraordinary linguistic medley of rather low-grade Latin, Greek and Gaulish.

Innsbruck, November 2014

Wolfgang Meid