

## 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

*General editors*

J. P. T. CLACKSON, W. M. BEARD, G. BETEGH,  
R. L. HUNTER, M. J. MILLETT, S. P. OAKLEY,  
R. G. OSBORNE, C. VOUT, T. J. G. WHITMARSH

---

ORTHOGRAPHIC TRADITIONS AND THE SUB-ELITE  
IN THE ROMAN EMPIRE

---

NICHOLAS ZAIR  
*University of Cambridge*



CAMBRIDGE  
UNIVERSITY PRESS



**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

Cambridge University Press is part of Cambridge University Press & Assessment,  
a department of the University of Cambridge.

We share the University's mission to contribute to society through the pursuit of  
education, learning and research at the highest international levels of excellence.

[www.cambridge.org](http://www.cambridge.org)

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

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

© Faculty of Classics, University of Cambridge 2023

This work is in copyright. It is subject to statutory exceptions and to the provisions  
of relevant licensing agreements; with the exception of the Creative Commons version  
the link for which is provided below, no reproduction of any part of this work may take  
place without the written permission of Cambridge University Press.

An online version of this work is published at [doi.org/10.1017/9781009327633](https://doi.org/10.1017/9781009327633) under a Creative  
Commons Open Access license CC-BY-NC-ND 4.0 which permits re-use, distribution and  
reproduction in any medium for non-commercial purposes providing appropriate credit to the  
original work is given. You may not distribute derivative works without permission. To view  
a copy of this license, visit <https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-nd/4.0>

All versions of this work may contain content reproduced under license from third parties.

Permission to reproduce this third-party content must be obtained from these third-parties  
directly.

When citing this work, please include a reference to the DOI [10.1017/9781009327633](https://doi.org/10.1017/9781009327633)

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

Cambridge University Press & Assessment has no responsibility for the persistence  
or accuracy of URLs for external or third-party internet websites referred to in this  
publication and does not guarantee that any content on such websites is, or will  
remain, accurate or appropriate.