

The Digital Marmor Parium

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The *Digital Marmor Parium* is a project of the Alexander von Humboldt Chair of Digital Humanities at the University of Leipzig (<http://www.dh.uni-leipzig.de/wo/dmp>). The aim of this work is to produce a new digital edition of the so called *Marmor Parium* (Parian Marble), which is a Hellenistic chronicle on a marble slab coming from the Greek island of Paros. The importance of the document is due to the fact that it preserves a Greek chronology (1581/80-299/98 BC) with a list of kings and archons accompanied by short references to historical events mainly based on the Athenian history.

The Marmor Parium Inscription

The *Marmor Parium* (IG 12, 5, 444) is constituted by two fragments. The upper part of the first fragment (A) is lost and known only from the transcription produced by J. Selden in the 17th century (ll. 1-45). The surviving portion of A (ll. 46-93) is now in the Ashmolean Museum in Oxford. The second fragment (B) is preserved in the Archaeological Museum of Paros (ll. 101-133). The compiler of the text is unknown, but the date of the composition can be fixed at 264/3 BC thanks to the name of the Athenian archon Diognetus (l. 3). The stone includes a list of events from the reign of Cecrops (1581/80 BC) to the archonship of Euctemon (299/8 BC) with a main focus on Athenian history. The events are arranged in paragraphs which present a very similar format including a short description of the event, the name of the Athenian king or archon, and the number of years elapsing from 264/3 BC that are expressed with acrophonic numerals.

The Parian Chronicle

The *Marmor Parium* is the earliest example of this kind of document and it is a very valuable piece of evidence under many respects. It is not only a chronological record of Greek history, but it is also the result of a selection of events made by its compiler, whose name is unfortunately lost (ll. 1-3). The importance of the text from a historiographical point of view is shown by the fact that the document is part of the *Fragmenta Historicorum Graecorum* by Karl Müller (FHG 1, 533-590) and of *Die Fragmente der Griechischen Historiker* by Felix Jacoby (FGrHist 239; Jacoby 1904). In this sense, this evidence is a perfect example of a fragmentary author whose work is not preserved thorough quotations in later texts, but in a fragmented original form. Accordingly, the *Digital Marmor Parium* is part of the *Digital Fragmenta Historicorum Graecorum* (DFHG) project (<http://www.dfhg-project.org>) developed by the Alexander von Humboldt Chair of Digital Humanities at the University of Leipzig.

The Digital Marmor Parium

As mentioned above, the first goal of the project is to produce an XML version of different editions of the text of the *Marmor Parium* according to the latest EpiDoc Guidelines (<https://sourceforge.net/p/epidoc/wiki/Home/>). The use of the EpiDoc standard will also insure compatibility with already existing electronic databases of inscriptions, literary texts, and the EAGLE-Europeana network.

An important part of the project is the identification of named entities mentioned in the inscription. Pleiades gazetteer identifiers have been used to produce a visualization of places mentioned in the text of the *Marmor Parium* through Pelagios (<http://pelagios.org/recogito/documents/263/map>). The personal names and identification of individuals will make use of and feed into the Standards for Networking Ancient Prosopographies project (SNAP) (<http://snapdrgn.net/>).

The team has been also producing a visualization of the chronology preserved in the first sections of the *Marmor Parium* with the open source tool TimelineJS (<https://goo.gl/1511w5>). The goal is to produce a visualization of the comparison between the epigraphical text not only with other ancient chronologies but also with different chronological interpretations of the content of the inscription made by modern scholars.

Editions

IG 12.5.444 (+ Add. p. 315 + Suppl., p. 110)

FHG I, pp. 533 ff.

FGrHist 239

CIG 2374 (1843)

SEG 39.862 (1989)

Tod 205 (1962)

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