

Italy: Val Camonica Translations

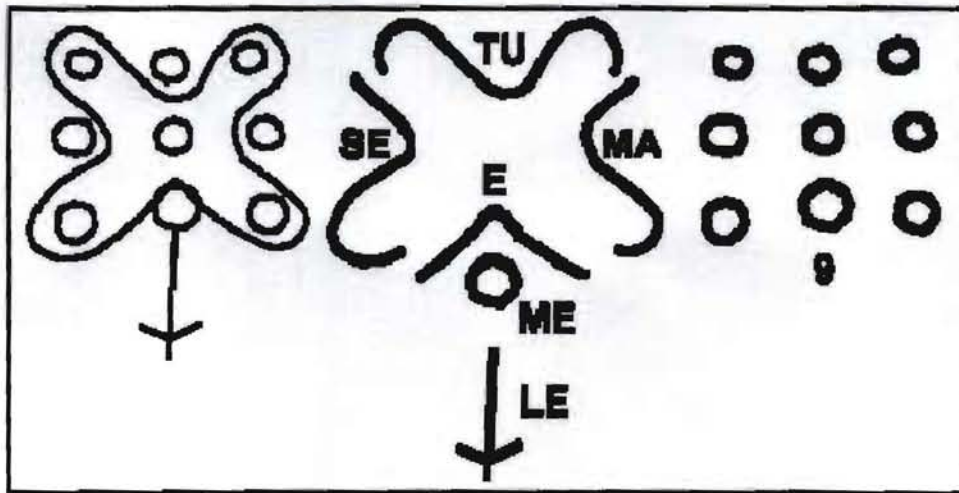
Part 1 of 3

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Sept 2013, Leeuwarden, Friesland

Val Camonica Rose



TU SE MA E ME LE.

Tuo sen maan ehot me'et lehot.

It provides this land excellent honey figs.

Quest terra offre ottimo miele fichi.

Part I: Val Camonica Translations

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For comments and questions, contact Stuart Harris, stuhar@onlymyemail.com.

Val Camonica

Val Camonica Petroglyphs

Valcamonica, the most extensive of the Lombard valleys and no less renowned for its ancient military history, for its most honorable noble families, and men who were distinguished in letters, in arms, and public offices, and famed for the fertility of its soil; for the industry and commerce of its people....

—Agostino Caggioli - Storia di Valcamonica, 1853

North of Brescia in the Italian Alps of Lombardy, the narrow glacial valley of Val Camonica contains an estimated 300,000 petroglyphs, the most found anywhere.

Nature parks protect many of these rock drawings, a favorite of schoolchildren and tourists. Guides remove their shoes and walk back and forth in socks across the clean, shiny surface polished smooth by glaciers as they point with long wands to various images pecked into the black sandstone. Only recently uncovered, these petroglyphs will soon weather away like tombstones in a cemetery, so see them now while you can!

Val Camonica successfully withstood Roman assault for four centuries. The valley had no real commercial value and did not lead to a pass through the Alps, so Rome finally arranged a truce whereby Val Camonica had autonomous rule. Inscriptions PC 1, 3 and 33e celebrate this long-sought peace.

Val Camonica Inscriptions

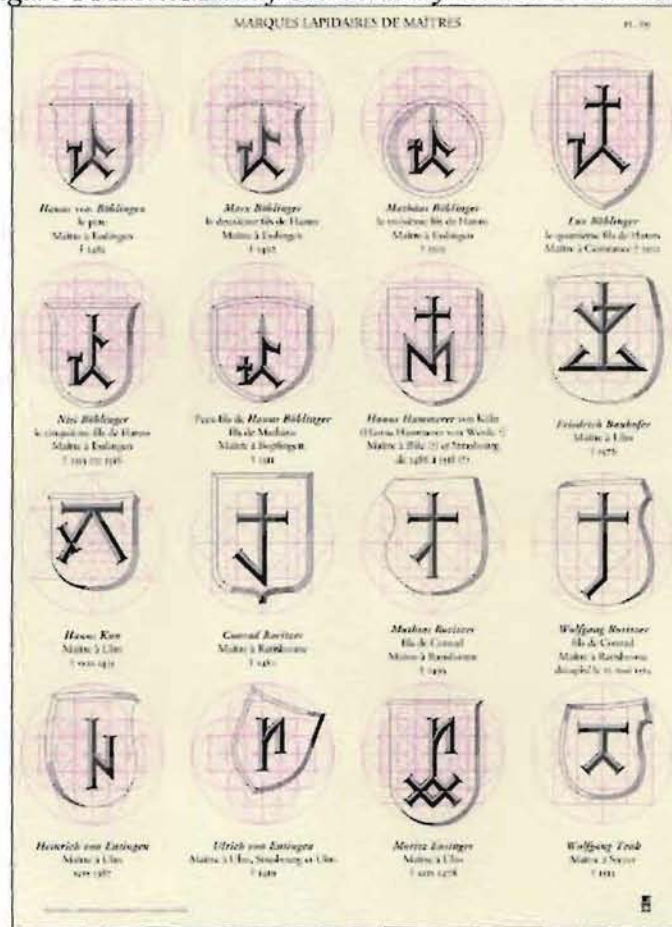
Like the Etruscans of Florence, the inhabitants of Val Camonica spoke an unknown language that survives only in place names like Camonica. Within a century of Roman rule, the language faded away, replaced by Latin.

Scattered throughout the petroglyphs are several hundred inscriptions that have resisted all efforts at translation. There is not even consensus on the direction of writing, left to right or right to left. Those who champion an alphabet ignore the bewildering number of letters, over 200. Without a bilingual text, the task would appear hopeless.

Yet translation is possible because the letters of Val Camonica belong to Old European, a writing system once common throughout Europe. Bilingual texts of Old European do exist, in the form of Owners Marks that accompanied an owner's name spelled in Latin letters on legal documents. Each Owners Mark combined the initial sound of a man's first name with the initial sound of his last name. For example, Richard Kaufman would be RI-KA.

Owners Marks survive on houses in Germany, shields in Sweden, churches in Norway, deeds in Finland and trademarks in Poland. Other names include Bankers Marks, Mason Marks and House Marks. The page below illustrates Mason Marks from Germany, part of some nine thousand collected by Franz Rziha. He arranged them to emphasize common elements, which are letters.

Figure 1 Mason Marks from Germany. Source Franz Rziha.



Nordic flags bear an inscription in Old European, from an ancient flag flying on masts of long boats in Scandinavian rock art that combines a cross within a circle.

the cross is letter A, named *akka* meaning 'old woman'

the circle or square is letter ME, named *meri* meaning 'sea', or *merin* meaning 'of the sea'

Figure 2 Circle and cross flags and what they mean.



Thus a cross within a circle spells A-ME, which can be read *Akka merin* meaning 'Old Woman of the Sea', the first line of a prayer to the goddess of the sea. The full prayer is inscribed on a pot in Rome, a cross in a circle repeated three times, then a fourth line.

Old Woman of the Sea,
Old Woman of the Sea,
Old Woman of the Sea,
Bring my husband back to me.

Val Camonica

By comparing a large number of Owners Marks, it is possible to extract the sound and shape of each letter. The resulting syllabary is on the Austrian website www.migration-diffusion.info. The language is Finnish, which for unknown reasons has barely changed since the syllabary was invented.

Armed with this syllabary and a Finnish dictionary, it is possible to read many inscriptions at Val Camonica. Adolfo Zavaroni¹ collected and published examples at:

http://www.simbolisullaroccia.it/archivio/2005/2005-iscrizioni-zavaroni/archivio_iscrizioni.htm
<http://adolfozavaroni.tripod.com/camune.htm>.

Val Camonica Rebus Writing

In addition to inscriptions, many petroglyphs at Val Camonica are rebuses. A rebus combines letters to make a recognizable object, such as a man or a horse. To make this kind of writing more flexible, the people of Val Camonica used a variety of letter shapes.

Val Camonica People

Strabo (64 BC to 24 AD) called the people of Val Camonica *Kamounoi*. A Latin commemorative stone calls them *Camunni*. This name is Finnish meaning 'deadly nightmares', which refers to earthquakes that can loosen boulders on the mountain sides to tumble into the valley. (See the etymology of Camonica further along)

Strabo described them as part of the Rhaetian peoples related to the Lepontii, who descended from the Celts. This last has baffled linguists ever since, because their language is not Indo European. Nor did they write with an alphabet but with a syllabary, whose letters represent both a consonant and a vowel. Consequently, even short inscriptions often unpack into a long sentence.

According to my guide, archaeologists surmise that the Cammuni traveled back and forth to Val Camonica from elsewhere, because no settlements have been found. This might be true if they built in stone like Romans, but their petroglyphs illustrate three-story wooden houses with sod roofs and no foundation stones. Similar buildings in northern Europe used interlocking beams to form a level foundation perimeter, upon which they constructed a post and beam building with planked floors. Once this wood disintegrates, any vestige of the house disappears. Nor did they use pottery for cookware, or leave garbage dumps, or bury their dead, or live in cities, or build highways. Thus not much remains for an archaeologist to find.

But this is changing. The same situation exists in Scandinavia, inhabited by millions of people in the Bronze Age, of which nothing remains but funeral cairns and sacrifices thrown into springs and bogs. However, traces of farms and cities that appear on aerial photographs can be teased out if the land has never been plowed..

¹ Adolfo Zavaroni, Department Valcamonica and Lombardy, Central Commune of Prehistoric Study, Capo di Ponte

Val Camonica Text Summary

The following texts are in alphabetical order. Some interesting inscriptions:

Bedolina

BE 1 - a series of inscriptions that describe signs and effects of sheep pox.

Berzo-Demo

BD 1.1 - a suitor stops to court a maiden

BD 1.3 - collecting leaves and buds to flavor wedding beer.

BD 3.1 - unease with two ewes infected

BD 9 - cleaning instructions at a tavern

Cevo

Dos del Curu - a new 'capo' will stop thieves

Foppe di Nadro

FN 15 - death of a son by a mob

FN 24 - rose of Val Camonica

Luine

LU 2 - a lovers tryst

LU 3 - celebration of peace

LU 3 - destruction of crops by hail

Naquane

NA 12 - a worn-out table needs replacement

NA 18 - death of two oxen by boulders tumbling down the mountain

NA 19 - hunger kills their one handsome son

NA 50.05 - outlaw men sack the village, killing all the inhabitants

NA 50.07 - modification of a ferry boat for fishing

Reserva di Ceto

RC 1 - how to translate a rebus of a house

Rock of Swords

PC 1 - celebration of peace

PC 2 - a scared soldier flees from war

PC 3 - a natural event scares away animals

PC 3b - celebration of peace

PC 4 - a diary about starting up an old farm

PC 12 to 18 - continuation of the diary until completion of the house

PC 33a - a long list of farm items for sale

PC 33b - death of Spear Champion, who was dismembered

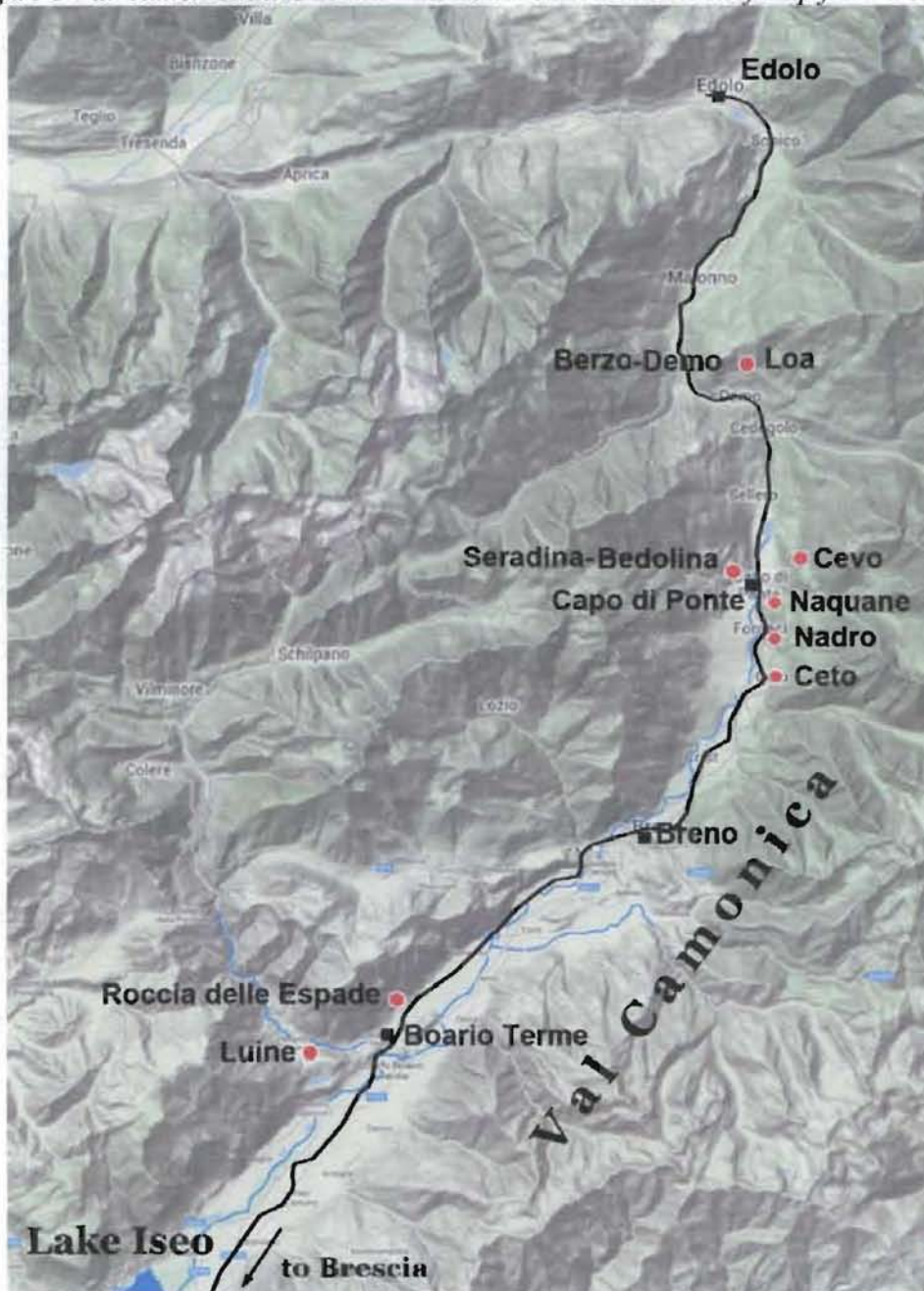
PC 33e - announcement of peace

For a comprehensive description of Val Camonica rock art with many examples and a timeline of writing styles, see Emmanuel Anati, The way of life recorded in the rock art of Valcamonica, http://www.ssfpa.se/pdf/2008/anati_adorant08.pdf

Val Camonica

Val Camonica Site Map

Figure 3 Val Camonica sites in text with train route. Shaded relief map from Google.



Val Camonica Rock Art Distribution

Figure 4 Val Camonica rock art distribution.

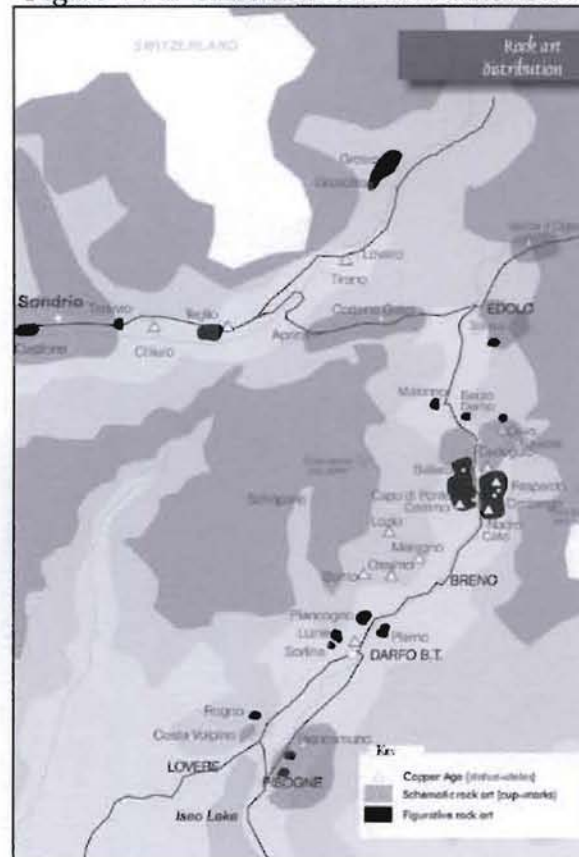
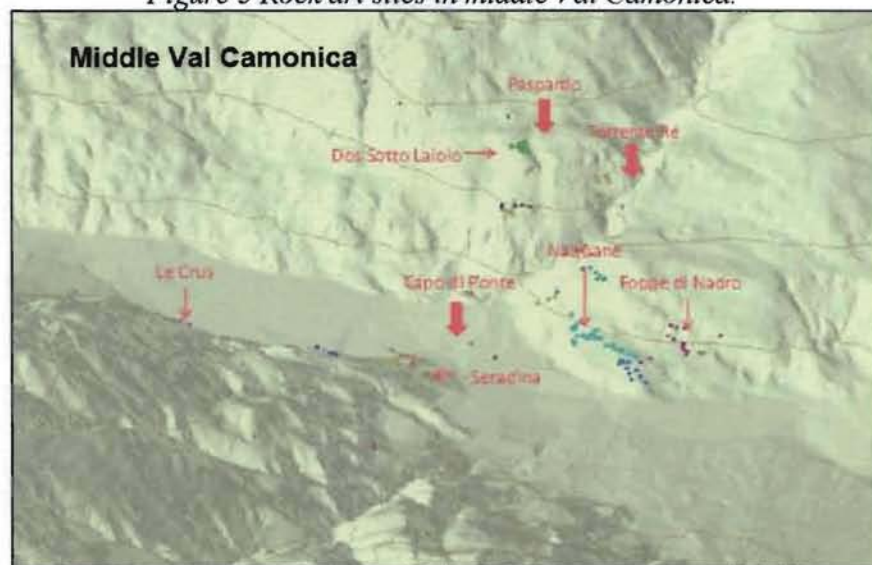


Figure 5 Rock art sites in middle Val Camonica.²



² Craig Alexander; The spatial location of Iron-age rock art sites in Valcamonica, Italy; 2009

Val Camonica

Partial list of sites with rock art

Baite Fles	Dos del Patger	Pie
Bedolina	Dos Sotto Laiolo	Redondo
Berzo Demo	Dos Sulif	Le Scale
Campanie Alta	Foppe di Nadro	Sellero
Campanine Bassa	In Valle	Seradina
Capitello dei due Pini	La Crus	Verdi
Convai	Naquane	Vite
Coren de Redundo	Paghero	Zurla
Dos Costa Pata	Pia d'Ort	

Val Camonica Syllabary

The syllabary of Val Camonica has over 200 signs (Table 1). Some inscriptions have a dialect in which the sound of the second syllable changes (Table 2).

Table 1 Val Camonica syllabary.

	A	Ä	E	I	O	Ö	U	Y	
	• 1	— 10	50	• 100					
Vowels	a	ä	e	i	o	ö	u	y	uro i-ri ä-ri
H	ha	hää	he	hi	ho	hö	hu	hy	
J	ja	jää	je	ji	jo	jö	ju	jy	jula
K	ka	kää	ke	ki	ko	kö	ku	ky	ky-vö ko-me
L	la	lä	le	li	lo	lö	lu	ly	le-ka
M	ma	mää	me	mi	mo	mö	mu	my	y-ma
N	na	nää	ne	ni	no	nö	nu	ny	y-nä ni-ri
P	pa	pää	pe	pi	po	pö	pu	py	
R	ra	rää	re	ri	ro	rö	ru	ry	
S	sa	sää	se	si	so	sö	su	sy	y-sä
T	ta	tää	te	ti	to	tö	tu	ty	
V	va	vää	ve	vi	vo	vö	vu	vy	

Table 1: Val Camonica dialect, change in vowel sound of second syllable. (Rare)

Old European	A	E	I	O	U
Dialect	E	A	I	U	O

Val Camonica Etymology

From **Val Camonica**, the inhabitants got their name, called **Kamounoi** or **Kammuni**. They wrote in Finnish, so the name most likely is Finnish.

VAL comes from Latin *vallis* meaning 'valley'

KAMO, from *kammo* meaning 'fear, terror, dread, horror'

UNI, from *uni* meaning 'dreaming', *unia* 'dreams'

KA, from *kaa* 'a meaning 'topple, fell, kill', from the verb *kaatua*.

Thus **Val Camonica** may derive from *vallis kammo uni kaa* 'a meaning 'valley of terror dreams that kill, valley of deadly nightmares'.

Petroglyph NA 18 explains the meaning of 'terror dreams'. It calls them 'Demon dreams' and means earthquakes, which loosen giant boulders that tumble down steep mountain slopes and crush whatever lies in their way.

Finland has a similar word *unni* meaning 'stove' for cairns of big rocks that date from 7000 BC to 1260 BC, each commemorating a dead hero. Superstitious Finns were terrified of these cairns, left them alone, yet the name 'stove' hardly strikes terror.

But what if *unni* is a round-about way of saying the dangerous phrase *kammo uni* meaning 'terror dreaming' without saying it, without attracting the attention of people who built them, who waged war against the locals, pillaged their villages, drove them away from the bountiful coast into the swampy forest.

Thus their name suggests they are pre-Celtic, from the Baltic Sea, who migrated south to escape some calamity, possibly 5200 BC when much of the Baltic population died.

Bedolina

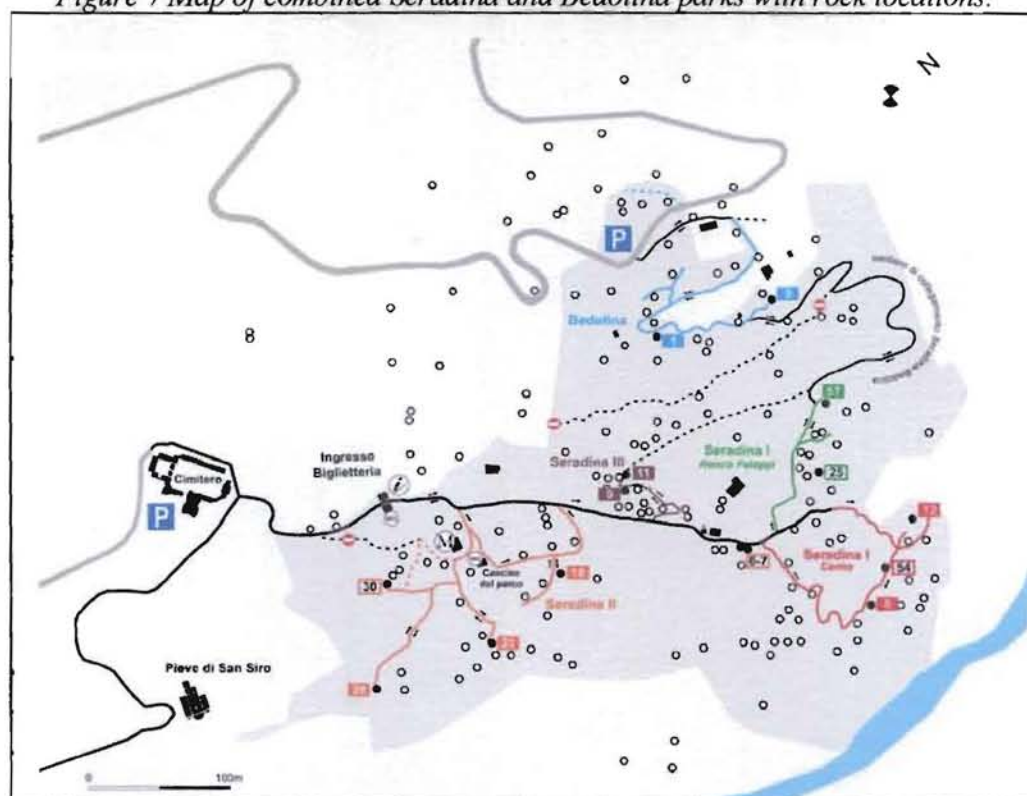
Seradina-Bedolina Municipal Archaeological Park occupies a slope northwest of Capo di Ponte. It is famous for Bedolina Rock 1, a detailed map with fields, houses, paths, animals and people, and for a Val Camonica Rose like that on the front cover. Access is through Cemmo Cemetery on Via Cereto, a winding mountain road up to Pescarzo, 2.7 km west of the train station at Capo di Ponte, coordinates 46.034621N, 10.340230E. Seradina lies just below.

<http://www.parcoseradinabedolina.it/parcoe.html>

Figure 6 Map to Bedolina park entrance. Source Google.

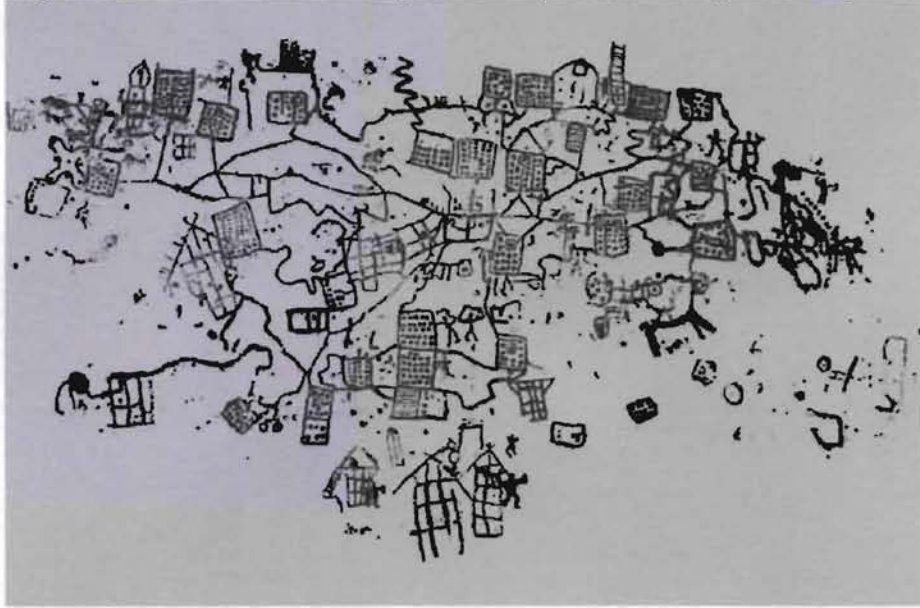


Figure 7 Map of combined Seradina and Bedolina parks with rock locations.



Bedolina

Figure 8 Bedolina Rock 1, a large-scale map with houses, fields and paths.



Rock 5 Bedolina, a landscape of men, horses, a house and a confused inscription in Latin.

Rock 8 Seradina I, a plowing scene with men and oxen

Rock 9 Seradina III, a complex panorama of men and symbols in a wide variety of poses

Rock 11 Seradina III, a linear arrangement of men, horses, and crosses within circles.

Rock 12 Seradina I, a procession of spear-holding horsemen hunting deer followed by dogs

Rock 18 Seradina II, a farm panorama with four buildings

Rock 21 Seradina II, a complex panorama of men and horses in confrontation, with a house and long inscription.

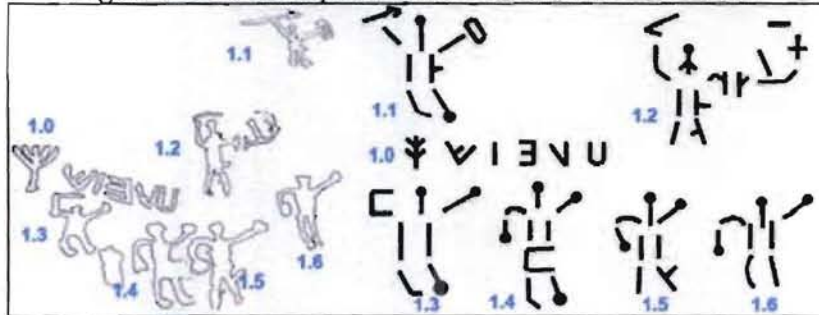
Rock 28 Seradina II, a linear panorama of odd-looking men brandishing swords, horses and a house

Rock 57 Seradina I, a grid structure of fields surrounding a lake, with many small images of people

BE 1: overview

Not even listed among the profusion of petroglyphs at Bedolina is another rock with an inscription and rebuses of six men. Each rebus follows a convention of two arms, a head, filled-in body and two legs. Although the images resemble warriors, the message is about "hailstone disease of the head" that has attacked a flock of sheep, and measures to prevent its spread. It likely was deadly sheep pox.

Figure 9 BE 1 inscription and rebuses. Source Zavaroni.



Translation

- 1.1 So many new ewes are crippled, dilapidated kibble.
- 1.0 A hundred will go. A pitiable creature freely drops dead in the corral.
- 1.2 Lead the dilapidated ewe mothers straight down to the riverbank, where I made a border of rocks for new cattle.
- 1.3 I sweep ewes into a ditch; diseased limbs I kibble.
- 1.4 Ewe in a trench, broken into kibble. Disease swept the dilapidated kibble.
- 1.5 Ewe in a trench, broken into kibble. Hailstone disease of the head.
- 1.6 Ewe in a trench, broken into kibble. Disease likewise from hailstones.

Bedolina

BE 1.0: 'A hundred will go; a pitiable creature drops dead'

BE 1.0 inscription from Bedolina bewails the expected death of a hundred lambs, who drop dead right in the corral from disease.

Figure 10 BE 1.0 transcription.



Translation

Old Eur: SA KÄ; RA PO KA HA.

Finnish: Sa'an käyä; rahjus pois kaa'aa ha'aan.

English: A hundred will go; a pitiable creature freely drops dead in the corral.

Italian: Un centinaio andranno; una creatura pietosa scende liberamente morto nel recinto.

Notes on translation

SA < sa'an 'a hundred'

KÄ < käyä 'will go', fr. käydä

RA < rahjus 'a pitiable creature'

PO < pois 'freely'

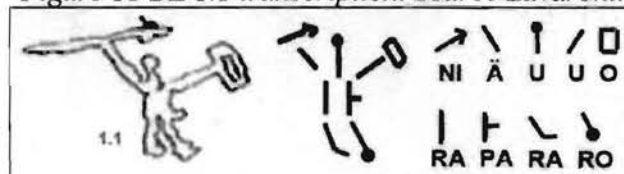
KA < kaa'aa 'drops dead', fr. kaataa

HA < ha'aan 'in the corral', fr. hakaan

BE 1.1: 'So many new ewes are crippled'

BE 1.1 from Bedolina, a rebus of a soldier with spear and shield, observes many crippled new ewes, and as rebus 1.3 makes clear, dying from disease.

Figure 11 BE 1.1 transcription. Source Zavaroni.



Translation

Old Eur: NI Ä U U O RA-PA RÄ RO.

Finnish: Niin äijä uuhet uuet on, rampat rähjät rouhet.

English: So many new ewes are crippled, dilapidated kibble.

Italian: Tanti nuovi pecore sono paralizzato, crocchette fatiscente.

Notes on translation

NI < niin 'so'

Ä < äijä 'many'

U < uuhet 'ewes'

U < uuet 'new'

O < on 'there are'

RA-PA < rampat 'crippled'

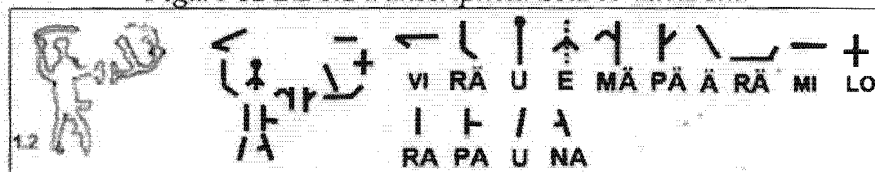
RÄ < rähjät 'dilapidated'

RO < rouhet 'kibble'

BE 1.2: 'Lead the dilapidated ewe mothers'

BE 1.2 from Bedolina pictures a man doing something. The scribe instructs a worker, "Lead the dilapidated ewe mothers straight down to the riverbank, where I made a border of rocks for new cattle".

Figure 12 BE 1.2 transcription. Source Zavaroni.



Translation

Old Eur: VI RÄ U E MÄ PÄ Ä-RÄ, MI LO RA PA U NA.

Finnish: Vie rähjät uuhen emät päin äyrähän, mi loin rajan paaen uuen nauan.

English: Lead the dilapidated ewe mothers straight down to the riverbank, where I made a border of rocks for new cattle.

Italian: Portare le madri pecora fatiscanti dritto verso la riva del fiume, dove ho fatto un bordo di rocce per le nuove bestie.

Notes on translation

VI < *vie* 'take, lead', fr. *viedä* 'to take, carry'

RÄ < *rähjät* 'dilapidated'

U < *uuhen* 'ewe'

E-MÄ < *emät* mothers

PÄ < *päin* 'straight down'

Ä-RÄ < *äyrähän* 'to the riverbank'

MI < *mi* 'where'

LO < *loin* 'I made'

RA < *rajan* 'a border'

PA < *paaen* 'of rocks'

U < *uuen* 'new'

NA < *nauan* 'for cattle'

BE 1.3: 'I sweep ewes into a ditch'

BE 1.3 from Bedolina pictures a soldier wielding a sword, but not for battle. The scribe sweeps ewes into a trench for burial, using the sword to break up diseased limbs.

Figure 13 BE 1.3 transcription. Source Zavaroni.



Translation

Old Eur: NU U HO; TA RA RO.

Finnish: Nuohoan uuhet ojahan; tauin raajat rouhin.

English: I sweep ewes into a ditch; diseased limbs I kibble.

Italian: I spazzare pecore in un fosso; membra malate I crocchette.

Notes on translation

To kibble means 'to grind coarsely, as grain'.

NU < *nuo hoan* 'I sweep'

U < *uuhet* 'ewes'

HO < *ojahan* 'into a ditch, trench'

TA < *tauin* 'diseased'

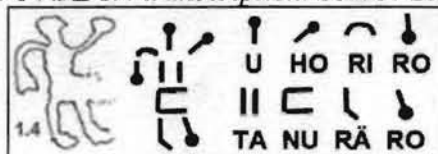
RA < *raajat* 'limbs'

RO < *rouhin* 'I kibble'

BE 1.4: 'Ewe in a ditch, broken into kibble; disease swept the dilapidated kibble'

BE 1.4 from Bedolina pictures a dead man on his back, arms akimbo, body coming apart. He represents a dead ewe, limbs broken, in a ditch.

Figure 14 BE 1.4 transcription. Source Zavaroni.



Translation

Old European: U HO RI RO. TA NU RÄ RO.

Finnish: Uuhet hohahan ri'i rouheihin. Tauin nuohos' rähjä rouhe.

English: Ewes in a ditch, broken into kibble. Disease swept the dilapidated kibble.

Italian: Pecore in un fosso, spaccato in tritare. Malattia spazzato la tritare fatiscente.

Notes on translation

U < *uuhet* 'ewes'

HO < *hojahan* 'in a trench, ditch'

RI < *ri* 'broken', fr. *rikki*

RO < *rouheihin* 'into kibble'

TA < *tauin* 'disease'

NU < *nuohos* 'swept fr. *nuohosi*

RÄ < *rähjä* 'dilapidated'

RO < *rouhe* 'kibble'

BE 1.5: 'Ewe in a ditch, broken into kibble; hailstone disease of the head'

BE 1.5 from Bedolina pictures a dead ewe like BE 1.4 but names the disease that felled it as 'hailstone disease of the head'. A petroglyph from Hawaii describes hail disease as skin covered by red pustules, as if the skin had been struck by a rain of hot cinders. Most likely it was Sheep Pox, a highly contagious, deadly disease, especially for lambs, the most severe pox disease for animals. It is passed through milk, feces, and direct contact. It is susceptible to sunlight but remains viable on wool and scabs for three months, and in unclean shaded pens for six months. Mortality rate can approach 100%.

Figure 15 BE 1.5 transcription. Source Zavaroni.



Translation

Old Eur: U HO RI RO. TA RA PÄ.

Finnish: Uuhi hohahan ri'i rouheihin. Tauin raen pään.

English: Ewe in a ditch, broken into kibble. Hailstone disease of the head.

Italian: Pecora in un fosso, spacatto in tritare. Malattia di chicchi di grandine del capo.

Notes on translation

U < uuhi 'ewe'

HO < *hojahan* 'in a trench, ditch'

RI < *ri'i* 'broken', fr. *rikki*

RO < *rouheihin* 'into kibble'

TA < *tauin* 'disease'

RA < *raen* 'of hailstones'

PÄ < *pään* 'of the head'

BE 1.6: 'Ewe in a ditch, broken into kibble; disease likewise from hailstones'

BE 1.6 from Bedolina, another rebus of a dead ewe that hailstone disease felled.

Figure 16 BE 1.6 transcription. Source Zavaroni.



Translation

Old Eur: U HO RI RO. TA NI RA

Finnish: Uuhi hohahan ri'i rouheihin. Tauin niin raen.

English: Ewe in a ditch, broken into kibble. Disease likewise from hailstones.

Italian: Pecora in un fosso, spacatto in tritare. Malattia allo stesso modo da chicchi di grandine.

Notes on translation

U < uuhi 'ewe'

HO < *hojahan* 'in a trench, ditch'

RI < *ri'i* 'broken', fr. *rikki*

RO < *rouheihin* 'into kibble'

TA < *tauin* 'disease'

NI < *niin* 'likewise'

RA < *raen* 'from hailstones'

Berzo-Demo-Loa

Berzo Demo, a commune in central Val Camonica, is formed by three villages, Demo, Berzo and Monte, 10 km north of Capo di Ponte. The rock art of Berzo-Demo at Loa is pecked into flat stones in a valley high above Berzo. The site is 1150 m asl, “not far from Curva delle Bore and Poggio della Croce” (‘curve of the bore’ and ‘hill of the cross’). Google Earth locates Berzo Demo at 46.100N, 10.3476W, at the end of a 0.6k m road leading east from a double hairpin turn on Via Santi.



“The excavation site is in a wide valley sloping down to the meadows of the town Sonza [sic] south-east, and toward the craggy foothills of the Poggio della Croce, above the village of Berzo, south-west. Immediately to the north of the hill overlooking the site Dos de l’Time (1,223 m).

“The environment, well exposed to the sun, is characterized by a wide heath with significant populations of heather (*Calluna vulgaris* L.) and bearberry (*Arctostaphylos uva-ursi*), which literally carpet the ground. The tree vegetation includes species such as pine, spruce, larch and birch.

“From here the view extends over a wide multitude of mountains: from the slopes of Piz Olda, the mountain of the house, behind us to the crests of the King of the Castle, the Tredenus, of the unmistakable Badile Camunian, on the left bank of the Valcamonica Adamello Park, to Mount Elto and Val Paisco on the other side. If we look instead at the bottom, with a glance we can embrace the whole stretch of Valcamonica from Berzo Demo down to Capodiponte and beyond, with Cedegolo in the foreground.”³

³ Photographs, drawings and quotation from Serena Solano, Alverto Marretta; Pages of stone: Inscriptions and depictions at Berzo Demo, locatation Loa (Valcamonica); 2009 Pagine di Pietra: Inscrizioni e raffigurazioni a Berzo Demo, loc. Loa (Valcamonica)

Figure 17 Loa site location (1), high above the town of Berzo (2).



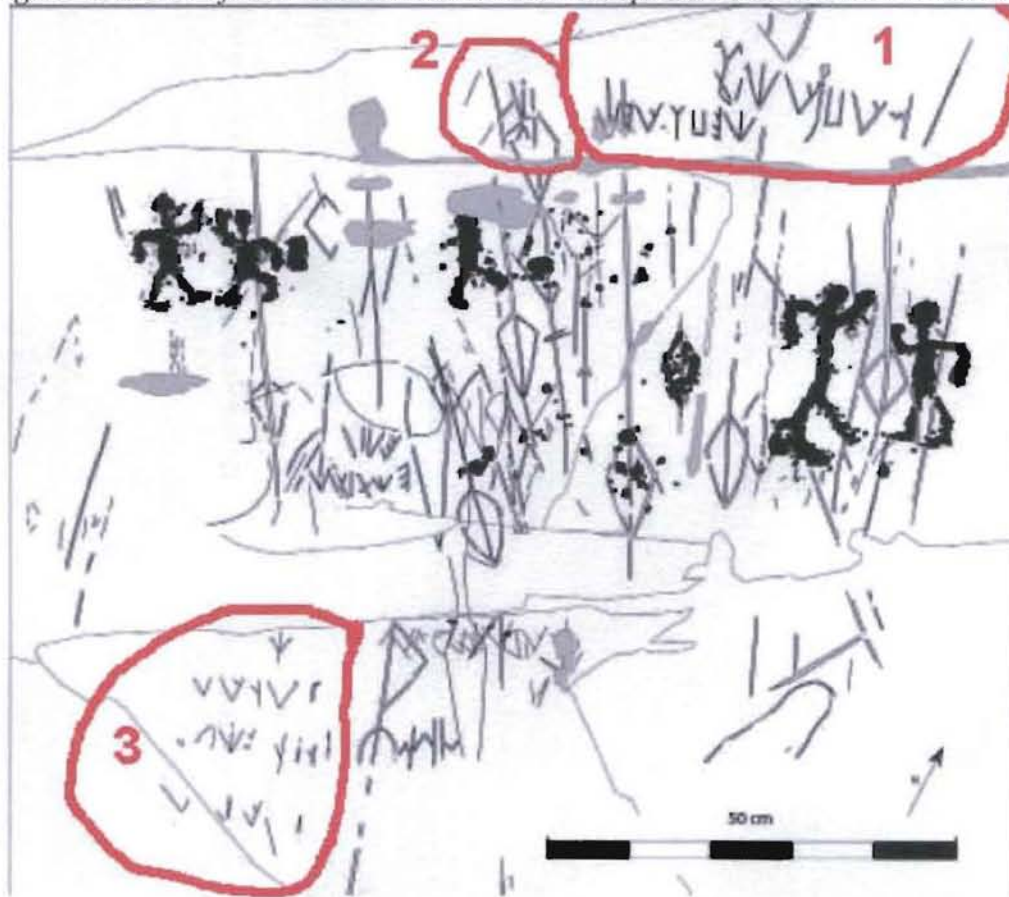
Figure 18 Loa rock art panel after removal of overburden.



BD 1: Overview

Rock 1 at Berzo-Demo has multiple inscriptions, of which three are translated.

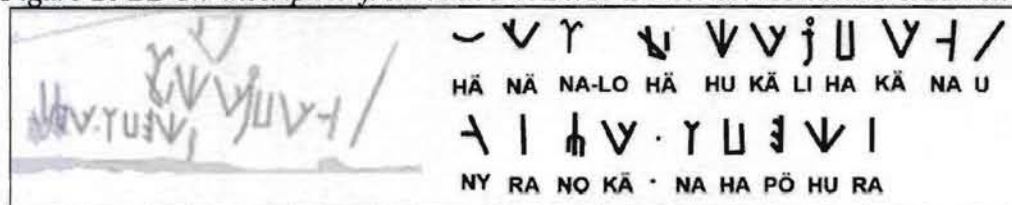
Figure 19 Rock 1 of Berzo-Demo with several inscriptions. Source Solano & Mareta.



BD 1.1: 'He stops to see the ribbon she made'

BD 1.1, an inscription from rock 1 at Berzo-Demo, tells a story in the present tense. The scribe, either male or female, observes a champion stop to visit their maiden on the pretext of seeing a ribbon she made. She rinses her hands, a meaningful gesture, and the scribe is elated with a possible marriage. "Sister-in-law, fetch a table, rinse off a bench; I will get a wizard of peace."

Figure 20 BD 1.1 inscription from rock 1 at Berzo-Demo. Source Solano & Maretti.



Translation

Old European

HÄ NÄ NA LO. HÄ HU KÄ. LI HA KÄ NA U.

"NY RA, NO KÄ • NA, HA PÖ! HU RA!"

Finnish

Hää'ää nähä nauhan loi. Hää'ää huuho käet. Lie han käy naia urho.

"Nyt rauha noian, käyn 1. Naon, hae pöyän! Huuho rahin!"

English

He stops to see the ribbon she made. She stops to rinse off hands. Maybe indeed she will proceed to marry the champion.

"Now a peace wizard, I will bring 1. Sister-in-law, fetch a table! Rinse off a bench!"

Italian

Si ferma a vedere il nastro ha fatto. Si ferma a risciacquare le mani. Forse davvero si procederà a sposare il campione.

"Ora un mago pace, mi porterà 1. Cognata, prendere un tavolo, risciacquare una panchina!"

Notes on Translation

Champion is drawn like an erect lance. A peace wizard might be 1/4 keg of hard cider.

Line One

HÄ < hää'ää 'he stops'

NÄ < nähä 'to see'

NA < nauhan 'ribbon, lace, string'

LO < loi 'she made'

HÄ < hää'ää 'she stops'

HU < huuho 'to rinse off', rare word

KÄ < käet 'hands'

LI < lie 'maybe'

HA < han 'indeed'

KÄ < käy 'she will proceed' (I will proceed)

NA < naia 'to marry', fr. naida

U < urho 'the champion', normal spelling

Line Two

NY < nyt 'now'

RA < rauha 'peace'

NO < noian 'wizard'

KÄ < käyn 'I will bring'

• = 1 '1'

NA < naon 'sister in law'

HA < hae 'fetch'

PÖ < pöyän 'a table', could be plural

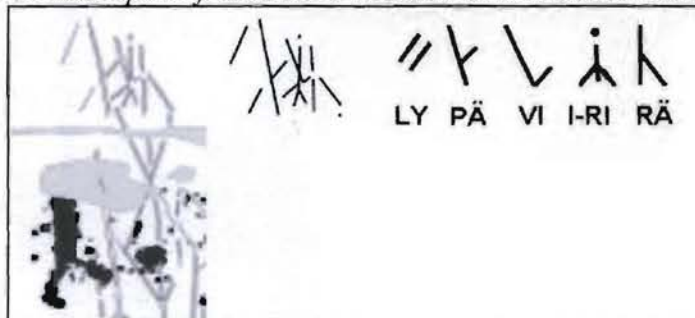
HU < huuho 'rinse off'

RA < rahin 'a bench', could be plural

BD 1.2: 'He pounds a head in rage, all broken and dilapidated'

BD 1.2, an inscription in Old European from Rock 1 at Berzo-Demo, describes an enraged man pounding someone's head to pieces.

Figure 21 BD 1.2 inscription from Rock 1 at Berzo-Demo. Source Solano & Maretti.



Translation

Old Eur: LY PÄ VI I RI RÄ.

Finnish: Lyö pään vihoon, ihan ri'i rähjä.

English: He pounds a head in rage, all broken and dilapidated.

Italian: Egli sterline a testa in rabbia, tutti rotti e fatiscenti.

Notes on Translation

LY < *lyö* 'he strikes, pounds'

PÄ < *pään* 'a head'

VI < *vihoon* 'in rage, fiercely, malifically'

I < *ihan* 'completely, all'

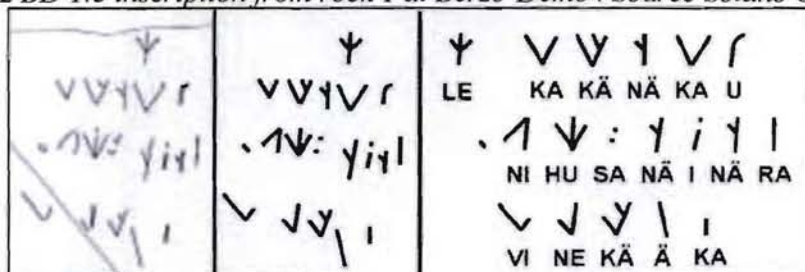
RI < *ri'i* 'broken', fr. *rikki*

RÄ < *rähjä* 'dilapidated'

BD 1.3: 'Leaves, far and wide I fetch'

BD 1.3, an inscription in Old European from Rock 1 at Berzo-Demo, describes the collection of certain fresh leaves and sprouts to flavor a wedding beer.

Figure 22 BD 1.3 inscription from rock 1 at Berzo-Demo. Source Solano & Mareta.



Translation

Old European:

LE. KA KÄ NÄ KA U.
NI HU SA NÄ I NÄ RA.
VI NE KÄ Ä KA.

Finnish:

Lehet, kauas käyn, näen kahet, uuet.
Niin huuhon sa'an näihin iut, näin raia.
Vien ne käyä äät ka'jan.

English:

Leaves, far and wide I fetch, like these two, fresh.
Then I will rinse off a hundred of these sprouts, like this willow.
I bring them to make wedding beer.

Italian:

Le foglie, in lungo e in largo prelevo, come questi due, fresco.
Poi mi risciacquare un centinaio di questi germogli, come questo salice.
Mi mettono loro di fare la birra matrimonio.

Notes on Translation

LE < *lehet* 'leaves'

KA < *kauas* 'far and wide'

KÄ < *käyn* 'I fetch'

NÄ < *näen* 'like these'

KA < *kahet* 'two'

U < *uuet* 'fresh'

NI < *niin* 'then'

HU < *huuhon* 'I will rinse off'

SA < *sa'an* 'a hundred'

NÄ < *näihin* 'of these'

I < *iut* 'sprouts'

NÄ < *näin* 'like this'

RA < *raia* 'sallow, willow'

VI < *vien* 'I bring'

NE < *ne* 'these, them'

KÄ < *käyä* 'to make'

Ä < *äät* 'wedding', fr. *häät*

KA < *ka'jan* 'beer', fr. *kaljan*

BD 3.1: 'Two of five diseased heads of ewes'

BD 3.1, an inscription in Old European from Rock 3 at Berzo-Demo, is justifiably alarmed that two out of five ewes have diseased heads. If they have contracted sheep pox, they will all die. At dusk the scribe will check the cattle.

Figure 23 LO 3.1 transcription. Source Solano & Maretta.



Translation

Old Euro: KA VI TA PÄ U. Y NÄ KA.

Finnish: Kahet viien tautit päätt uuhien. Yön näen karjan.

English: Two of five diseased heads of ewes. At dusk I shall see the cattle.

Italian: Due delle cinque teste malate di pecore. Al crepuscolo vedrò il bestiame.

Notes on Translation

Clever way to write 'two of five'.

KA < *kahet* 'two'

VI < *viien* 'of five'

TA < *tauit* 'diseased'

PÄ < *päätt* 'heads'

U < *uuhien* 'of ewes'

Y < *yön* 'at dusk'

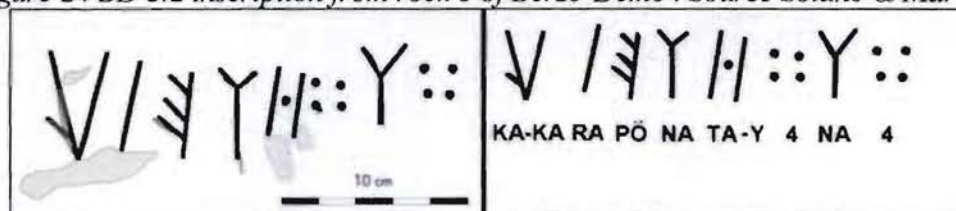
NÄ < *näen* 'I shall see'

KA < *karjan* 'the cattle'

BD 3.2: 'Two beer benches, a table to marry'

BD 3.2, an inscription in Old European from rock 3 at Berzo-Demo, lists items to be obtained for a marriage: two beer benches, a marriage table, four wizards of mead, and four wizards of marriage wine. A wizard measured a quarter barrel, so four wizards measured a barrel.

Figure 24 BD 3.2 inscription from rock 3 of Berzo-Demo. Source Solano & Maretta.



Translation

Old Euro: KA KA RA, PÖ NA, Y-TA 4, NA-[TA] 4.

Finnish: Kahet ka'ja rahit, pöytä naia, yltaiat 4, nai'a [taiat] 4

English: Two beer benches, a table to marry, best wizards 4, marriage [wizards] 4

Italian: Due banchi di birra, un tavolo di sposarsi, meglio maghi 4, matrimonio [maghi] 4

Notes on Translation

KA < *kahet* 'two'

KA < *ka'ja* 'beer', fr. *kalja*

RA < *rahit* 'benches'

PÖ < *pöytä* 'table', fr. *pöytä*

NA < *naia* 'to marry', fr. *naida*

Y < *yl-* 'best-, top-'

TA < *taiat* 'wizards', a quarter barrel

4 = 4

NA < *nai'a* 'marriage', fr. *naitaa*

[TA] < *taiat* 'wizards'

4 = 4

BD 6: 'He strikes now, pounds a hand into the drinking table'

BD 6 from Berzo-Demo (Pergio della Croce), companion to BD 7G, describes a wedding reception. One lad pounds on the drinking table and shouts, "Money, bring more beer!"

Figure 25 BD 6 transcription. Source Zavaroni.



Translation

Old European (punctuation added):

LY NY LY, KÄ JU PÖ.

"RA, TU KA Ä," HU PO.

Finnish:

Lyö nyt, lyö käen juojan pöy'ään.

"Raha, tuo kaja äijä," huu'aa poian.

English:

He strikes now, pounds a hand into the drinking table.

"Money, bring more beer!" shouts the lad.

Italian:

Colpisce ora, sterline a mano nella tabella di bere.

"Denaro, portare più birra," grida il ragazzo.

Notes on translation

LY < *lyö* 'he strikes'

NY < *nyt* 'now'

LY < *lyö* 'pounds'

KÄ < *käen* 'a hand'

JU < *juojan* 'drinking'

PÖ < *pöy'ään* 'into the table', fr. *pöydään*

RA < *raha* 'money'

TU < *tuo* 'bring'

KA < *kaja* 'beer', fr. *kalja*

Ä < *äijä* 'more'

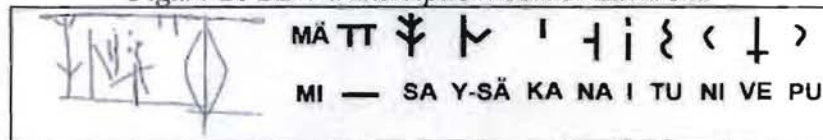
HU < *huu'aa* 'he shouts', fr. *huutaa*

PO < *poian* 'the lad'

BD 7: 'I am a man'

BD 7 from Berzo-Demo (Pergio della Croce) advertises a tree hauling service with nine pairs of yoked cattle.

Figure 26 BD 7 transcription. Source Zavaroni.



Translation

Old European (punctuation added):

MÄ MI. SA Y-SÄ KA NA I, TU NI VE PU.

Finnish:

Mä miehen. Sain yheksän kahen nau'an ien, tuoijat niin ve'ää puut.

English:

I am a man. I got nine by two of cattle yoked, carriers thus to haul trees.

Italian:

Minä olen mies. Sain yhdeksän kaksittain nautojen aisaparina, harjoittajat siten vetämään puita.

Notes on translation

MÄ < *mä* 'I am'

MI < *miehen* 'a man'

SA < *sain* 'I got'

Y-SÄ < *yheksän* 'nine'

KA < *kahen* 'by two', fr. *kahden*

NA < *nau'en* 'of cattle', fr. *nautajen*

I < *ien* 'as one, yoked', *ies* 'yoke', borrowed from Frisian *ien* 'one'

TU < *tuoijat* 'carriers'

NI < *niin* 'then, thus'

VE < *ve'ää* 'to haul', fr. *vetää*

PU < *puut* 'trees'

BD 7G: 'Set out table beer'

BD 7G from Berzo-Demo, companion to BD 6, lists chores for a wedding reception: set out beer, lengthen tables, put beer in the cabin, fetch full wizards of courtship mead (1/4 barrel each).

Figure 27 BD 7G transcription. Source Zavaroni.



Translation

Old European:

LÄ KA.
I PÖ LA-NA.
LÄ KA RÄ MA.
KÄ RI TA TÄ.

Finnish:

Lähe ka'ja.
Ihan pöyät laajenna.
Lähe ka'ja rähjähän majahan.
Käyös riiuu taiat täyet.

English:

Set out table beer.
All tables extend.
Set out table beer in the dilapidated log cabin.
Fetch courtship wizards full.

Italian:

Sono di birra tavolo.
Tutte le tabelle si estendono.
Sono di birra tavolo nella capanna di tronchi fatiscente.
Andare a prendere maghi corteggiamento completi.

Notes on translation

LÄ < lähe 'set out'

KA < ka'ja 'table beer'

I < ihan 'all'

PÖ < pöyät 'tables', fr. pöytän

LA-NA < laajenna 'extend, enlarge', fr. laajentaa

LÄ < lähe 'set out'

KA < ka'ja 'table beer'

RÄ < rähjähän 'into dilapidated'

MA < majahan 'into the log cabin'

KÄ < käyös 'fetch'

RI < riiuu 'courtship, wooing'

TA < taiat 'wizards', pony, a quarter barrel

TÄ < täyet 'full', fr. täysi

BD 9: 'Four benches bring, I have two tables'

BD 9 from Berzo-Demo prepares for a wedding banquet with instructions to a daughter perhaps: "Fetch four benches; I have two tables and will fetch two wedding figures. Rinse benches and tables and fetch the beer. I will fetch four geese to kill, you fetch two." The scribe has mastered writing, every letter clear and uniform in height. The two figures might be dolls dressed in wedding costumes, something like the two shown below.

Figure 28 BD 9 transcription. Source Zavaroni.



Translation

Old European (right to left):

NE RA TU, MÄ PÖ KA. MÄ KÄ KA
Ä MU NÄ. LA PÖ. HU RA. KÄ KA.
HA KA. KÄ NE KÄ KA.

Finnish:

Neljä rahit tuo, mä pötät kahet. Mä käyä kahet
äät muo nähet. Laai pötät. Huuho rahit. Käyös ka'ja.
Hanhet kaa'a: käyn neljät, käyös kahet.

English:

Four benches bring, I have two tables. I have to fetch two
wedding figures you will see. Prepare the tables. Rinse off the benches. Fetch the beer.
Geese to kill: I will fetch four, you fetch two.

Italian:

Quattro panchine portare, ho due tavoli. Devo andare a prendere due
figure di nozze si vedrà. Preparare le tavoli. Risciacquare le panchine. Prendere la birra.
Oche di uccidere: io andare a prendere quattro, si andare a prendere due.

Notes on translation

NE < *neljät* 'four', written NE

RA < *rahit* 'benches'

TU < *tuo* 'bring'

MÄ < *mä* 'I have'

PÖ < *pötät* 'tables'

KA < *kahet* 'two'

MÄ < *mä* 'I have'

KÄ < *käyä* 'to fetch', fr. *käydä*

KA < *kahet* 'two'

Ä < *äät* 'wedding', fr. *häät*

MU < *muo'ot* 'figures'

NÄ < *nähet* 'you will see'

LA < *laai* 'prepare'

PÖ < *pötät* 'the tables'

HU < *huuho* 'rinse off, rinse out'

RA < *rahit* 'the benches'

KÄ < *käyös* 'fetch'

KA < *ka'ja* 'table beer'

=====

HA < *hanhet* 'geese', written HA

KA < *kaa'a* 'to kill'

KÄ < *käyös* 'you fetch'

NE < *neljät* 'four', written NE

KÄ < *käyn* 'I will fetch'

KA < *kahet* 'two'

BD 9L: 'Rinse off 8 tables'

BD 9L from Berzo-Demo lists cleaning duties after a wedding feast: rinse off eight tables, wipe the benches and sweep up the broken food, but not the food that is still whole. The scribe notes the consumption of five wizards of mead, drawn as a table tipped over.

Figure 29 BD 9L transcription. Source Zavaroni.



Translation

Old European

HU PÖ 8. HU PÖ JU KA (VI TA)
NU RA NE, NU RU RI, E 1.

Finnish:

Huuho pöyät 8. Huuho pöyät juoa ka'ja. (Vieet tait!)
Nuoho rahat ne. Nuoho ruo'a ri'i, ei eheä.

English:

Rinse off 8 tables. Rinse off the tables to drink beer. (Five wizards!)
Wipe all the benches. Sweep the broken food, but not the whole.

Italian:

Sciacquare via 8 tavoli. Sciacquare via i tavoli a bere birra. (Cinque maghi!)
Pulire tutti i banchi. Spazzare il cibo rotto, ma non tutta.

Notes on translation

HU < *huuho* 'rinse off'

PÖ < *pöyät* 'tables'

8 = 8

HU < *huuho* 'rinse off', wiggly lines

PÖ < *pöyät* 'tables'

JU < *juoa* 'to drink'

KA < *ka'ja* 'beer', fr. *kalja*

----- (note) written as 'table' tipped

VI < *viiet* 'five'

TA < *tait* 'wizards', 1/4 barrels

NU < *nuoho* 'wipe'

RA < *rahat* 'the benches'

NE < *ne* 'all'

NU < *nuoho* 'sweep'

RU < *ruo'a* 'the food', fr. *ruoka*

RI < *ri'i* 'broken', fr. *rikki*

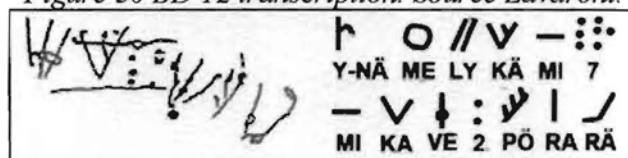
E < *ei* 'but not'

1 < *eheä* 'in one piece, unbroken, whole'

BD 12: 'Nine of us for a short walk'

BD 12 from Berzo-Demo was left by a group of seven men and two women out for a short walk. The scribe observed dilapidated tables and benches.

Figure 30 BD 12 transcription. Source Zavaroni.



Translation

Old European:

Y-NÄ ME LY KÄ: MI 7,
MI KA-VE 2. PÖ, RA RÄ.

Finnish:

Yheksän meidän lyhyen käyä: miehet 7,
miehen kavet 2. Pöyät, rahat räjäät.

English:

Nine of us for a short walk: men 7,
men's women 2. Tables, benches dilapidated.

Italian:

Nove di noi per una breve passeggiata: uomini 7,
le donne degli uomini 2. Tavoli, panchine fatiscanti.

Notes on translation

Y-SÄ < yheksän 'nine'

ME < meidän 'of us'

LY < lyhyen 'for a short'

KÄ < käyä 'to walk', fr. käydä

MI < miehet 'men'

7

MI < miehen 'men's'

KA-VE < kavet 'women'

2

PÖ < pöyät 'tables'

RA < rahat 'benches'

RÄ < räjäät 'dilapidated'

BD 13: 'Decayed table: a strong man toppled the bench'

BD 13 from Berzo-Demo relates that a strong man broke the bench of a decayed table.

Figure 31 BD 13 transcription. Source Zavaroni.



Translation

Old Eur: MÄ PÖ: MI PA KA RA.

Finnish: Maat-pöytä: mies pajahan kaa'oi rahin.

English: Decayed table: a strong man toppled the bench.

Italian: Tavolo decaduto: un uomo forte ha rovesciato il banco.

Notes on translation

MÄ < *mä* 'ä' 'decayed, rotten', fr. *mätä*

PÖ < *pöytä* 'table'

MI < *mies* 'man'

PA < *pajahan* 'strong'

KA < *kaa'oi* 'he toppled'

RA < *rahin* 'the bench'

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