Some thoughts on nominative determinism in the Latin verse inscriptions

(1) *ICUR* II 6130 = *ILCV* 3341 add. = *CLE* 2016

Adspirauit infanti deus selectae puellae: parua fuit im carne, aerum perfecta, patri cara matrique dulcis dignissima. Hanc placuit deo raptam adsumere sanctam.

5 Spiritu plena sapiens ad regna tetendit, Anastasia secundum nomen credo futuram.

God had favoured this outstanding infant girl: she was small in the flesh, but perfect (sc. on the inside?), dear to her father and mother, sweet, and most worthy . . . : God had decided to receive her, snatched away (sc. from us), among the Saints. Rich in spirit and full of understanding she embarked to the (sc. heavenly) realms, and, in keeping with her name, I believe that she will be —— Anastasia.

(2) *CIL* VI 5534 cf. p. 3417 = *CLE* 1035


5 Haue dulce nobis nome[n atque omen generens] Stephane uiue nostrae [dum uiue decus] vere choronam te a[c]epi [et mos perdidii]:

Moschis tuae te salutat et Diodorus tuus et blanda dulcis pupa delicium tuum et quem tu tuis manibus nut[er sustuleras puer].

10 Haue mi Diodore amice frat[erque et parens], nam et amici officia et pietatem [em implesti patris], haue pupa blanda, anima m[ea, tuque haue puer] quem nuper pararam ut hab[erem heredem nominis].

For Quintus Marcius …

Greetings, Stephanus [= ‘Crown’], name sweet to me and presage of my life, for while you lived I took you as adornment, a real crown, and soon I lost you: your Moschis is greeting you, and your Diodorus, and the sweet, adorable little girl, your sweetheart, and the boy, whom you only just recently lifted up with your hands. Oh dreadful fate that took you away from us!

Greetings, chaste wife, preserve the memory of me. Greetings, my Diodorus, friend, brother, and parent, for you have fulfilled the role of a friend and done the duty of a father. Greetings, adorable little girl, my life, and greetings to you too, boy, whom I only just recently obtained, so that I would have someone to inherit my name.

(3) *CIL* VI 22102 cf. p. 3527 = *CLE* 92

Quanto [Marcio - - -]

Haue dulce nobis nomine[n atque omen generens]

Stephanuuiue nostrae [dum uiue decus]

Vere choronam te a[c]epi [et mos perdidii]:

5 Moschis tuae te salutat et Diodorus tuus

Et blanda dulcis pupa delicium tuum

Et quem tu tuis manibus nut[er sustuleras puer].

O fatum invelicem qui te n[obis abstulit].

Haue casta coniunx et m[ei sera memoriam].

10 Haue mi Diodore amice frat[erque et parens]. Nam et amici officia et pietatem [em implesti patris]. Haue pupa blanda, anima m[ea, tuque haue puer] quem nuper pararam ut hab[erem heredem nominis].

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(4) *CIL* II 3256 cf. p. 710. 949 = *CLE* 1196 = *HEp* 18.193 = *AE* 2009.626

[- - -] Cassius Crescens h(ic) s(tis) e(st) [- - -]

[Tu qui] praeteriens nostro remorae[re sepulcro].

[ai]m festinato lumine pauca leges.

[Cre] scens hic ego sum: fueram [spes magna parentum].

5 Quod non addrcuei nome[n inane fuit].

Omnis amor patriae populi [e uoce secutus].

Hunc mors praecipuum testif[icata meast].

[No]bilis ingenii uirius uitut[us] [loquela].

Cum pietate pudor non tem[eratus erat].

10 Ha[s] laudes tumulo nostro pa[ter ipse notavit].
To the Spirits of the Departed. For sweet Geminia Agathe Mater. My name was Mater, though I was not destined to be a regular mother; for I shall disclose that I lived for only five years, seven months and twenty-two days. While I lived I played games, and everyone always loved me, for, believe me. I looked like a boy, not a girl, and only my parents knew me as Agathe. I had a docile temperament, a pretty appearance which evoked respect, red hair let down at the back with my head cropped. Bring now auspicious beakers to me, all you guests, and pray that the earth for ever rest light upon me. May Faventius, rearer rather than father, who loved me alone, not grieve overmuch at the repose of my little body. For I have a mother, and my father had long ago gone before me, not sorrowing at my fate; there is also my dear mother’s (or Mother Amoena’s) sister, she too grieving at my death. Consoling them hold them back, all my relatives, for pleasant life, praying that their pain not grow and their bitter grief overflow. If you who read would like to know my full name, you will recognize Geminia Agathe, whom premature death snatched away and left her tender form to the underworld. That is it, that is how it is, it cannot happen otherwise; this much for us.

This girl seemed blessed by birth, as she, on that occasion, was allocated an anything but wretched home. But the Fates spoke bloody law over her destiny, so that her first birthday would have to bury her bones. Her father had given her the cognomen upon her birth: a gloomy day took the name away together with her body.
(7) CIL VIII 1954 = 16513 = ILAlg I 3148 = CLE 1289

D(is) M(anibus) s(acrum).
Iuli[ā] Fortun[a]t[a] pie uixit annis LX.
Casta bona inuiolans rarum hoc
{p}a coniuge munus, Fortunata tibi sic placet,
Hardalio, nomine digna meo quod tu mihi ka[r]e
superstes. natorum natis te incoluni uigui.

Sacred to the Spirits of the Departed.
Iulia Fortunata lived dutifully for 60 years.
Chaste, good, opposed to inflicting any kind of harm, a rare blessing
in a spouse: thus, Hardalio, you approve of your Fortunata. I am deserving
of my name, as you, my dear, outlive me. With your being safe and sound,
I am being held in esteem among my children’s children.

(8) CIL II 1293 = CLE 1103

Pylades Anni
No[uat] patris [h(ic) s(itus) e(st)].
Subductum primae Pyladen
haec ara iuuentae indicat,
exemplum non leue amicitiae.
namque sodalici sacrauit turba
futur u nam nominis indicium nec
minus officii.
dicie qui legitis solito de more sepulto:
pro meritis, Pylades, sit tibi terra leuis.

Pylades, slave of Annius Novatus sr. lies here.
This altar marks Pylades, snatched away in his early youth, a paragon,
not at all feeble, of friendship, for a large group has consecrated it as a
mark of their fellow’s name and of his dutifulness no less. Say to the man
who is buried here, as you read this, in customary fashion: ‘for your merits,
Pylades, may the earth rest lightly on you.’

(9) CIL VIII 13535 = CLE 1417 = ILCV 790 = ILTun 925

(crux) Rure opulens caru[sq(ue) sui] Callistratus ipse
[...]terpres [a]nominis [es]se sui.
inuid[iae] n[amqua]m - - - sua uela tu[lit].

fortunatus o[li]m u[t non] sibi uixit am[cis]
[aux]it congest[o] p[edia rure no[uo].
[I]n pace u[ix]it ann[o]s [- - de] positus III K[en]d(a)s Apri[les].

Rich in land and dear to his relatives, Callistratus desired to act himself as
interpreter of his name. For though he remained rich in terms of his
patrimony and in gold, he never experienced envy’s - - - (sheets of cloth?).
Blessed, lest he led a selfish life, he enlarged estates for the benefit of his
friends, adding new land to them.
He lived peacefully for . . . years, buried on March 30th.

(10) AE 1931.112 = CLE Zarker 48

Hic corpus iacet
pueri nominandi:
o benedicte puer,
paucis te terra
diebus infantem
tenui celique(!)
in regna remisit:
propterea es
natus ut ca-
peres tanta
renatus.

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