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## Summary

### Gallia Celto-Romanica. Onomastic, Linguistic and Cultural Contact Phenomena during the Roman Empire

It is commonly held that the Gallic provinces adopted the Roman civilisation rather quickly. In recent years, ‘Romanization’ is no longer taken to imply a trend to emulate the culture of the capital, but instead, the mutual character of this rapprochement is emphasised. In Roman archaeology, the history of religion, in linguistics and onomastics alike, a synthesis of indigenous and immigrant traditions can be observed. The research on contact names has been initiated by J.B. Keune in 1897 and advanced by L. Weisgerber in particular. During the past twenty years or so, substantial contributions to this field of study have been published. The most decisive problem is whether the intercultural character of names was really *intended* or whether the assonance or homonymy is pure chance. Some criteria have been proposed: (1) literary evidence, (2) biographical and prosopographical information, (3) language affiliation and etymology, (4) frequency and regional distribution. In a previous study it could be shown that up to 83% of all names borne by the family of Ausonius in the fourth century may have a regional background, a fact that is well in keeping with the intention uttered by the author himself (*Prof.* 4.11). A further example is studied in the main part of this paper, the onomastic evidence of the related families of Apollinaris Sidonius and the Roman Emperor, Eparchius Avitus (455/56). Most names turned out to be probable contact names, even in the fifth century. Some of them are *noms d'apparence latine* with a Gaulish connection (*Roscia*: \**rud-sko-* ‘red (of rage)’), some are pseudo-Greek (*Ecdicius* ‘avenger’, Gaulish *Divico*). They convey desired qualities of aristocrats such as strength (*Alcimius/a*), dominion (*Eparchius*), and generosity (*Severiana*, cf. \**suvēro-*?). Purely Celtic names can also be found among Sidonius’ friends (*Sapaudus*, *Namatius*). The careful selection of anthroponyms may be indicative of a certain knowledge of the Gaulish language in the leading Gallo-Roman families. Thus the famous passage in Sidonius referring to *sermo Celticus* (*Epist.* 3.3.2) probably points to the abandonment of Gaulish, not a ‘Gallic Latin accent’ as is sometimes assumed.