

above § 2.),²⁰ who died before 539 (Tjäder P30, Ravenna a. 539). They had two children with the Latin and Greek names of *Domnica* and *Deutherius* respectively, which could possibly mean that by this time their family had turned to religious orthodoxy and forsaken Arianism.

Around the year 500 we find the names of *Valatru* and *Stefani* engraved on a gold wedding ring from the treasure of Desana.²¹ The husband's name, in the genitive, is Roman, while *Valatru* is a shortening of the Gothic feminine name *Valatrud(is)*. Cassiodorus mentions two couples in the period 523-26: *Procula* and *Brandila*, *Regina* and *Patzenis* (*Variae* V 32, 33). In this case we may note that both women bear a Latin name, which is fairly common among mixed marriages; so for example we see *Honorata* and *Tzittani* (inscription of Albenga, 568, see no. 19), *Antonina* and *Amara* (inscription of Grado [Friuli-Venezia Giulia] year 579, *CIL* V 1583), *Rusticiana* and *Tzittane* (Classe [Ravenna] 591, Tjäder P37), and *Pitone's* wife *Petronia* (Ravenna 600 ca., Marini no. 124). In contrast, we find wives with Gothic names: *Hildevara*, married to *Johannes* (Classe 523; Marini no. 85), the above mentioned *Tulgilo*, *Tucza* wife of *Massimino* (Rieti a. 559, *Pelagii I epist.* 63), and *Sifilo*, married to a certain *Bilesarius* (Ravenna 555, Tjäder P9). It is not always the case that such mixed couples appear in our sources at a late date, about fifty years after the end of Gothic rule in Italy.²² We notice a slight majority of Latin names among women, as in the family of *Amara* and *Antonina* (see below), although the total number of these couples is too limited to allow any generalization. It is indeed possible that wives were chosen from among the Romans, if migrating groups initially counted more men than women in their forces.

However, name-giving in many cases depended on religious attitudes, as in the case of Willienant's family: his father *Cristodorus* was an Arian priest, and his cousin *Anastasia* too had a Greek religious name belonging to the eastern Arian tradition the Ostrogoths had brought over into Italy.²³ We have already seen the family of *Tulgilo* and *Paria*, with their children *Deutherius* and *Domnica*. The above mentioned *Amara* and *Antonina* (Grado 579) had two daughters with the Latin names of *Haelia* and *Mellita*. In Ravenna a certain *Montanus*, who in 540 had been a *notarius* under king Vitiges, had a son *Eusebius* who had the additional Gothic name of *Riccitanc*.²⁴ At such a late date the names of new generations could have been influenced by historical, political and religious change.

²⁰ Wagner 1997, p. 50, 53.

²¹ From the site of Desana (Vercelli), today in Turin, see Bierbrauer 1975, p. 279, tav. XII 7.

²² Lazard 1991, p. 121.

²³ See Lazard 2002, p. 1215.

²⁴ Tjäder P6, year 575, and Tjäder II, 1982, p. 278 (note 15) and p. 345.