Aims of the project:
- Locate and digitally document 600+ published and new graffiti at Ostia.
- Propose a preliminary first reading, translation and interpretation of the graffiti.

PVPA V(ALE) SAL(VTEM)
“Darling (doll), hello, greetings!”

The work so far:
Late 1990’s – 2007: All plaster in buildings studied. Low-resolution photos made, short descriptions added.
2014 – 2016: Four semi-annual campaigns for high-resolution photos. (Not yet online).

Work to be done:
- Revisit a number of closed buildings.
- Add new measurements.
- Study plaster in storerooms.
- Documentation in an extensive database for online searches.

DOMINVS SOL HIC AVITAT (= HABITAT)
“Lord Sun lives here”

Results available at:
http://www.ostia-antica.org
Sensitive information, such as location, is password-protected (theft, vandalism).

Collaboration with EAGLE is being investigated.

Some characteristics:
- The majority are anonymous.
- Dates are frequent (days of the month), but consular dates are rare.
- Widely varying styles of writing.
- A large number of drawings were found.
- Many drawings of ships and lighthouse.
- Some instances of the Greek and Latin alphabet, a few literary graffiti.
- A small number of references to amphitheatre and circus.
- Financial transactions on one wall only.
- Clustering in a simple room under a staircase.
- Other examples of clustering, but also noticeable absence of graffiti.
- The number of erotic graffiti perhaps smaller than might be expected in a harbour city.
- Many religious graffiti: household context, Mithras, Imperial cult, Christianity.

Top: A head on the stern or prow of a ship
Left: The lighthouse
Bottom: VIII IDVS SIBIPTMBRIS
LICINIVS HOSPIIS VIGVIT

Right: Trajan’s column, with the text
PVTE(OLANVS) HIERON PINXIT

Bottom: Three lines of Greek text
(still trying to read and explain)

Left: Three dice, 6 – 1 – 6
(a number with special significance?)
Bottom: Part of clustered graffiti under a staircase

Top: Structures like this were found several times (what are they?)
Right: V K SEPTE
HIC TONAT
(a reference to an earthquake?)

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