III. INSCRIPTIONS[1]

By R.S.O. TOMLIN

A. MONUMENTAL

1. **Barcombe** (TQ 417 144), Lewes, East Sussex (FIG. 1). Part of a limestone slab, the inscribed face now 285 by 185 mm, found[2] in 2020. The bottom edge is original, and so is the right edge, which is squared as if to butt against another slab. This would suggest a large inscription built into an important structure. The top edge is now broken. Inscribed in well-drawn letters: [. . .] | [. . .]IMPNI[. . .] | [. . .]COLA [. . .][3]

2. **Dearham** (NY 073 364), Cumbria, St Mungo's church (FIG. 2). Fragment of a red sandstone altar, 290 by 295 mm, found[4] in 1884 built into the north wall of the nave, but now built into an interior wall of the vestry. It presumably came from Maryport (*Alauna*), which is two miles to the west. The capital has been cut down and the die rounded as a pillar. Only the top of this die survives, very worn and now illegible, but in 1884 its first line was read as: MATRIBVS | [. . .], *Matribus [. . .]*. 'To the Mothers . . .'[5]

[1] Inscriptions on STONE ('Monumental') have been arranged as in the order followed by R.G. Collingwood and R.P. Wright in *The Roman Inscriptions of Britain* I (Oxford, 1965) and (slightly modified) by R.S.O. Tomlin, R.P. Wright and M.W.C. Hassall in *The Roman Inscriptions of Britain* III (Oxford, 2009), which are henceforth cited respectively as *RIB* (1–2400) and *RIB* III (3001–50). Citation is by item and not page number. Inscriptions on PERSONAL BELONGINGS and the like (*instrumentum domesticum*) have been arranged alphabetically by site under their counties. For each site they have been ordered as in *RIB*, pp. xiii–xiv. The items of *instrumentum domesticum* published in the eight fascicules of *RIB* II (Gloucester and Stroud, 1990–95), edited by S.S. Frere and R.S.O. Tomlin, are cited by fascicule, by the number of their category (*RIB* 2401–505) and by their sub-number within it (e.g. *RIB* II.2.2415.53). Non-literate graffiti and graffiti with fewer than three complete letters have generally been excluded. When measurements are quoted, the width precedes the height.

2021 is the centenary of 'Roman Britain in 1921 and 1922, II. Inscriptions', contributed by Collingwood to *JRS* 11 (1921) 233–9, after an appeal by the Administrators of the Haverfield Bequest for 'information as to all discoveries connected with Roman Britain' to be sent to M.V. Taylor in Oxford for publication 'in a series of annual reports' of which this was the first. They have continued ever since (and from 1970 in *Britannia*), but were anticipated by W.T. Watkin who contributed his pioneering series of annual reports of new inscriptions to *The Archaeological Journal* (31–45) from 1874 until his death in 1888. His 'yearly collections were much prized by competent judges both in England and abroad', according to F. Haverfield (*The Archaeological Journal* 47 (1890) 229), who continued them.

[2] By a local resident in her garden, and reported to Robert Wallace, director of the Culver Archaeological Project, who sent photographs and other details. The project excavates locally in the Ouse valley, its sites including the Romano-British roadside settlement at Bridge Farm a mile away, which would seem a likely provenance.

[3] IMP would suggest some case of *imp(erator)* ('emperor') abbreviated, but this would usually be the first word of a building inscription, not towards the end, and nothing can be made of NI which follows. There is a faint suggestion of a diagonal below the curve of P, as if for R, but this letter-sequence would be even more difficult. There is no sign of any ligaturing, which would be unlikely in what seems an early and well-spaced inscription. [. . .]COLA at the very bottom is followed by a space, as if for a word-ending, and although there are other possibilities, such as *Publicola* and *Silvicola*, much the most likely name is *[Agri]cola*. This would suggest a reference to the governorship of Cn. Iulius Agricola (A.D. 77–84), which the quality of the lettering would support.

[4] By R.E. Hooppell, the excavator of South Shields, who reported his reading to W.T. Watkin (*The Archaeological Journal* 42 (1885) 145). This reference was noted by Lindsay Allason-Jones, who tracked the fragment to its present location and sent photographs. She will publish it fully in *CSIR* 1.11, but it is not known why it was not included in *RIB*, even if only 'sought in vain'.

[5] There is apparently some trace of the initial M. Another damaged fragment of an altar dedicated to the Matres was found in 1866 at Skinburness (*RIB* 881), 11 miles to the north.

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FIG. 1. Barcombe, inscribed stone (no. 1) (photos: Robert Wallace).



FIG. 2. Dearham, altar fragment (no. 2) (photo: Jon Allison).

B. INSTRUMENTUM DOMESTICUM

BEDFORDSHIRE

3. **Maulden** (TL 051 364) (FIG. 3). Part of a copper-alloy finger-ring found[6] in 2015. The circular bezel is inscribed: SSS.[7]

[6] Portable Antiquities Scheme (PAS) ref. ESS-1B508F.

[7] Despite there being no medial line, this is probably a 'Chnoubis' amulet like the finger-rings from Thwing (*Britannia* 40 (2009) 355, no. 99) and Clare (no. 29 below). For SSS (barred), compare the Woodeaton gold amulet (*Britannia* 1 (1970) 305, no. 1, published with commentary by R. Kotansky, *Greek Magical Amulets* 1 (1994) 13–15, no. 3) and the Eccles lead tablet (*Britannia* 17 (1986) 428, no. 2, face (*a*)).

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FIG. 3. Maulden, ring bezel (no. 3) (photo: PAS).

DEVON

4. **Exeter** (*Isca*, SX 91695 92565), Quintana Gate, within the north-western corner of the Roman fortress and later walled town (FIG. 4). Fragment of a glass bottle base found[8] in 2017, with part of a moulded inscription: [. . .]ERECV[. . .], *[?Iulia V]erecu[nda fecit]*. 'Iulia Verecunda made (this).'[9]

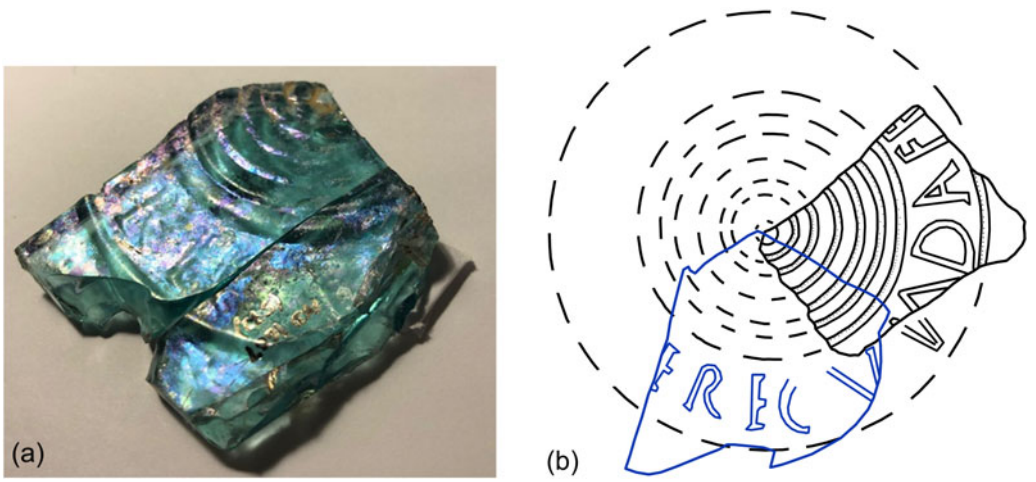


FIG. 4. (a) Exeter, moulded glass base (no. 4) (photo: AC Archaeology); (b) composite drawing of the Exeter fragment (in blue) and the Castleford fragment (no. 30) (drawing: H.E.M. Cool).

[8] During excavation by AC Archaeology (*Britannia* 49 (2018) 390), in the fill of the defensive ditch and in a context dated by pottery to A.D. 60/65 to *c.* 120, which would suit the Castleford fragment (see next note) with its context of A.D. 71/74–86. Denise Allen sent a photograph and other details, and Hilary Cool discussed the reading.

[9] Hilary Cool has seen that it matches the fragment of a moulded bottle base from Castleford (no. 30 below) and has made a composite drawing (FIG. 4b). The space between FE[CIT] and [V]ERECVNDA of about five letters would have

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FIG. 5. Exeter, coarseware sherd with graffito (no. 5) (photo: AC Archaeology).

5. Ibid. (FIG. 5). Wall sherd of a greyware jar found[10] in 2017. A graffito scratched after firing reads: [. . .].IIINI, probably *[. . .].ieni*. '(Property) of [. . .]ienus.'[11]

Co. DURHAM

6. **Lanchester** (*Longouicium*, NZ 15 46) (FIG. 6). Ansate plaque cut from gold sheet, 56 by 37 mm, a casual find[12] in the 1940s. Like the gold ansate plaque *RIB* 1077 (Lanchester) by the same dedicator to Mars Augustus, it has three holes pierced for attachment in the top edge and a text in dot-punched capitals: VICTORI|ΛE ΛVG | ΛVFFIDI|VS ΛNVS | D D, *Victoriae Aug|(ustae) Auffidius <Aufidi>anus | d(ono) d(edit)*. 'To Imperial Victory, Auffidius Aufidianus gave this as a gift.'[13]

contained Verecunda's nomen, and IVLIA (although it cannot be certain) fits perfectly. *Iulia Verecunda* is well attested as a name and would suit a woman in a Celtic-speaking province whose family had been Roman citizens for some generations. Moulded bases name two other female glassmakers: Sentia Secunda (*AE* 1999, 1214 (*a*), (*b*)) and Ennia Fortuna (*CIL* 15.6993 with *Archäologischer Anzeiger* 2 (2019) 149–56).

[10] In the same excavation as the previous item, but in a demolition layer dated to A.D. 140–200. Naomi Payne sent a photograph and other details. There are three other sherds from this jar, one of which carries the end of two long diagonal strokes with space to the left, at about the same height on the wall, but they are unlikely to be the beginning of the graffito since they are quite different in character from its small, neat capitals. Presumably they belong to another graffito.

[11] The first letter is a short vertical stroke set above the end of a downward diagonal, which is not an incomplete N to judge by the penultimate N. The two strokes are possibly an incomplete V, but more likely to be I above the end of another letter: this might be L (with a diagonal second stroke), M or R. Cognomina in *-enus* are uncommon, but perhaps this is an error for *-ianus*.

[12] According to Bloomsbury Auctions (Dreweatts) in the description of Lot 9 in their online catalogue of 8 July 2020, when it was sold with other items from the Schøyen Collection, in which it was MS 2344. The cataloguer, Tim Bolton, sent a photograph and other details. It was bought from Lennox Gallery in 1996, but its previous history is unknown. It is now in a private UK-based collection.

[13] There is no spacing in the original except between D and D in line 5. The dedicator's name is restored from *RIB* 1077, where it is spelt as *Auffidius Aufidianus*. In the present item, AVFIDI in AVFIDIANVS was omitted by oversight. Otherwise, letter-style and layout are the same, except that in *RIB* 1077 D for *d(ono)* and *d(edit)* is inscribed within each *ansa*, which in the present item are blank except for a dot-punched outline. The other British dedications to Victoria Augusta are *RIB* 842 and 843 (Maryport) and 1138 (Corbridge), for which cult see the note to *RIB* 1138+*add*. AVG is abbreviated as usual, but since this plaque is paired with one dedicated to MARTI AVG, *Marti Aug(usto)*, VICTORIAE AVG should be understood here as *Victoriae Aug(ustae)*, not *Aug(usti)*.

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FIG. 6. Lanchester, gold plaque (no. 6) (photo: Bloomsbury Auctions).

GLOUCESTERSHIRE

7. **Gloucester** (*Glevum*, SO 831 183), Greyfriars (FIG. 7). Sherd from just above the base of a flat-bottomed south-Gaulish amphora, probably Gauloise 4 (Peacock and Williams Class 27), found[14] in 2013. It was inscribed before firing while the vessel was inverted: [. . .]LV[. . .], probably *[. . .]LV*[15]

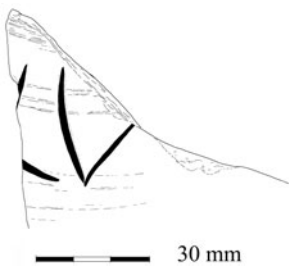


FIG. 7. Gloucester, amphora sherd (no. 7) (drawing: R.S.O. Tomlin).

8. Ibid. (FIG. 8). Sherd comprising much of a samian platter (SG, Dr. 18) stamped MANDV (Manduilus, A.D. 60–80). Underneath, within the foot-ring which is still complete, five strokes were incised after firing. The graffito is complete and, although it forms a zigzag as if an

[14] With the next two items during excavation by Cotswold Archaeology, and made available by Jacky Sommerville for publication in the final report.

[15] It looks as if there was no letter after V, but not quite enough of the surface survives to be sure. It might then be a numeral ('55' or more, presumably a batch-total) or the potter's name abbreviated, perhaps *Silu(anus)*. When this is the name of the god Silvanus, it is quite often abbreviated to SILV, in *RIB* 972 for example.

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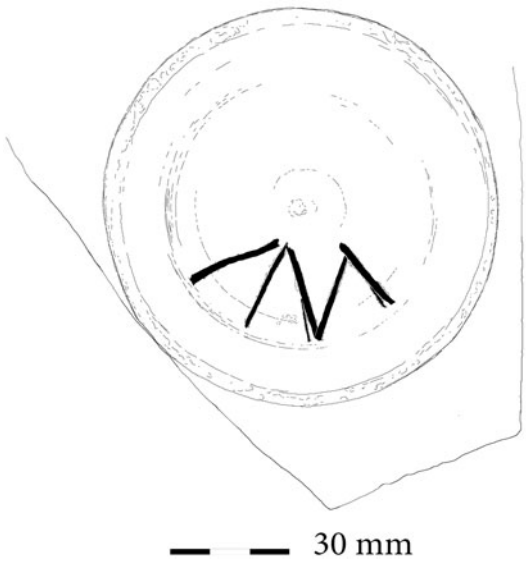


FIG. 8. Gloucester, samian sherd (no. 8) (drawing: R.S.O. Tomlin).

illiterate mark of ownership, it is better seen as two letters combined: ΛM, *Am(. . .)*. The owner's name abbreviated.[16]

9. Ibid. (FIG. 9). Sherd preserving most of the profile of a samian platter (SG, Dr. 18) indistinctly stamped. On the underside of the floor, above the foot-ring, is the end of a graffito

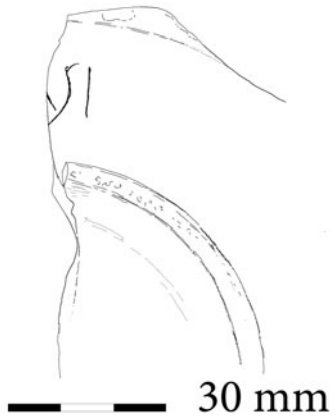


FIG. 9. Gloucester, samian sherd (no. 9) (drawing: R.S.O. Tomlin).

[16] The intersection of the strokes shows they were made from left to right as drawn (FIG. 8), by drawing the stylus down each time from near the centre to the circumference. The first stroke is not quite touched by the second, and might be read as I, but names in *Im(. . .)* are so rare that it was more likely combined with the first stroke of M to make an 'open' (unbarred) A, especially as the two strokes are angled towards each other, whereas if the first were I, it should have been more or less

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FIG. 10. Uley, lead tablet (no. 10) (photo and drawing: R.S.O. Tomlin).

lightly incised after firing: [. . .].SI. The end of the owner's name in *-us* or *-ius*, in the genitive case.[17]

10. **Uley** (ST 789 996), West Hill, the temple of Mercury (FIG. 10). Oblong strip of lead, 54 by 111 mm, found[18] in 1978. It is damaged by being folded three times, and the surface is heavily corroded. One face has lost its right-hand edge, but is inscribed short-axis with nine lines of irregular capitals and traces of a tenth: [.].O PẸCTỊ[. . .] | .S QVI VE[. . .] | CES PERD[. . .] | ḌITIT DOṆ[. . .] | .VT ILLVM .[. . .] | [. . .]MḂỊṢ[. . .] | VOLAṾERVNT [. . .] | VERḂECẸṢ VT

parallel. There are many names in *Am(. . .)* and some are quite common, for example *Amabilis*, *Amandus* and *Ammonius*, all of which have been found in Britain.

[17] The first of the three letters is now only the tip of a downward diagonal which would best suit A, but might be R or even L. Possible names include *Iasus*, *Celsus* and *Ursus*, all of which have been found in Britain. *Iasus* is usually spelt *Iassus* (see note to *RIB* II.8.2503.277, IASI), but *Celsus* and *Ursus* are both quite common.

[18] During the excavation published in A. Woodward and P. Leach, *The Uley Shrines: Excavation of a Ritual Complex on West Hill, Gloucestershire: 1977–9* (1993), in which it is noted on p. 130 as no. 83. It will be published with fuller commentary in the final report being prepared on the inscribed lead tablets, but is included here as a tailpiece to the tablets published last year (*Britannia* 51 (2020) 480–3, nos 12, 13) which also relate to sheep theft.

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ILLQS [. . .] | .INE SANQV[.]N[. . .] | . . . The text can be partly restored: *[de]o Pecti[ll|u]s qui ue[rbe]|ces perd[idit]* | *{ditit} don[at]* | . *ut illum .[. . .]* | *[. . .]MBIS [in]|uolauerunt* | *uerbeces ut illos* | *[s]ine sangu[i]n[e]* | . . . 'To the god, Pectillus who has lost (his) wethers, gives that (he) . . . him . . . (they) have stolen the wethers, that [he / they return] them without bloodshed.'[19]

11. **Wortley** (SO 766 918), Roman villa (FIG. 11). Fragment of a flanged tile (*tegula*) found[20] in 1987, inscribed before firing in cursive letters: IIII KAL OCT[. . .] | D CLV[. . .], *iiii Kal(endas) Oct[obres]* | D CLV[. . .]. 'On the fourth day before the Kalends of October [28 September] . . .'[21]

12. Ibid. (FIG. 12). Fragment of a *tegula* inscribed before firing in cursive letters: [. . .]..ND[. . .], perhaps *[Ka]nd[idus]*.[22]

[19] Line-by-line commentary

1. *[de]o*. It is most unusual not to name the god, but he is undoubtedly Mercury.

1–2. *Pecti[ll|u]s*. The petitioner's name is restored from its only other instance, *RIB* 307 (Lydney).

2–3. *ue[rbe]|ces*. The restoration is certain, since the word is repeated in line 8. For these 'wethers', see the note to line 8.

3. *perd[idit]*. 'Pectillus' is the subject, the verb *perdere* being used by British curse-tablets in the sense of to 'lose (by theft)'.

4. DITIT. There would have been enough space for the whole of *perdidit* in line 3, so DITIT must be superfluous; perhaps it is a would-be correction. The repeated letters in the perfect tense of *perdere* bothered scribes, for example in Uley 4.3 (Woodward and Leach, op. cit. (n. 18), 125), where *perdidit* was written as PEDIT.

4. *don[at]*. 'Pectillus' is again the subject, the verb *donare* being used by British curse-tablets in the sense of 'giving' the thief or the stolen property to the god, and by extension (as here) in the sense of getting the god to work the curse. The space available suits *don[at]* better than *don[auit]*.

5. *ut illum*. VT is preceded by a 'cross' which is presumably the crossing-out of T repeated by mistake. *illum* ('him') must be the thief, with *ut* introducing the 'prayer' implied by *don[at]*. The incomplete letter after ILLVM might well be Q, for the relative pronoun *q[ui]*, but the substance of its clause has been lost in the next line.

6. This line is too damaged by the fold to be recovered but must have ended in IN for *[in]|uolauerunt*. The plural is a solecism: petitioners, thinking in formulas, sometimes became confused whether to refer to the unknown thief in the singular or the plural.

8. *uerbeces*. This noun is repeated from 2–3, where it is the object of 'loss', a conclusion reinforced here by the complementary verb *[in]|uolauerunt* ('have stolen'). The form *uerbex* is well attested as a 'Vulgar' variant of the Classical *ueruex* ('wether', a castrated male sheep eaten as mutton), but should not be seen as evidence of local confusion between [b] and [v], since in the Acts of the Arval Brothers at Rome, *uerbeces* (thus spelt) are specified as objects of sacrifice, for example in *ILS* 5047. Sheep and goats dominate the very rich animal-bone assemblage at the Uley temple, prompting the estimate that 150 were sacrificed every autumn for 50 years, a reflection of 'the wealth of the region' (Bruce Levitan, in Woodward and Leach, op. cit. (n. 18), 300). For other stolen sheep, see *Britannia* 51 (2020) 480–3, nos 12, 13.

9. *[s]ine sangu[i]n[e]*. When British curse-tablets refer to 'blood', they require the thief to make payment 'with his blood', but the restoration of *[s]ine* here is compelling, which would imply that the wethers were to be returned unharmed, 'without blood(shed)'.

10. The traces are illegible but were probably a verb such as *reduca(n)t*, requiring the thief to 'bring back' the stolen wethers unharmed. This verb is used in *Tab. Sulis* 64.4 for the 'return' of a stolen cloak.

[20] With the next item during excavation directed by David Wilson for the University of Keele, and noted with drawings in his third interim report in *Glevensis* 22 (1987) at 57, fig. 12c and 12f, respectively. See further, n. 23 below.

[21] Inscribed by the same hand as the third Wortley tile (no. 13 below), which would suggest that, like *Iuliis*, *Octobres* was not abbreviated here. In the second line, the upper stroke of D is unusually flat, as if to avoid the numeral in the line above. It is apparently separated from CLV[. . .] by a space, which makes it less likely that the sequence is a batch-total, '655 (or more)'; but a further reason to doubt this is the tile-stamp DCLVI found locally at Berkeley (*RIB* II.5.2489.54). Its meaning is unknown, but a numeral ('656') would be inappropriate in a tile-stamp; perhaps it is an abbreviated name such as *D(ecimus) Cl(audius) Vi(talis)*.

[22] Only N is complete. It is not AL, since there is no descender for L, but, if taken with the two incomplete strokes in the broken edge to its left, it looks very like KAL on the other two Wortley tiles (nos 11, 13). The difficult area to its right can be explained as two attempts to make the loop of D with a double stroke, as in no. 11 above, by supposing that the missing diagonal was not flat, but conventionally diagonal or upright. It would seem that no. 12 is by the same hand as the other two, and names the tile-maker. In written Latin, initial C was quite often replaced by K: see *Britannia* 50 (2019) 516, no. 36 (with note).

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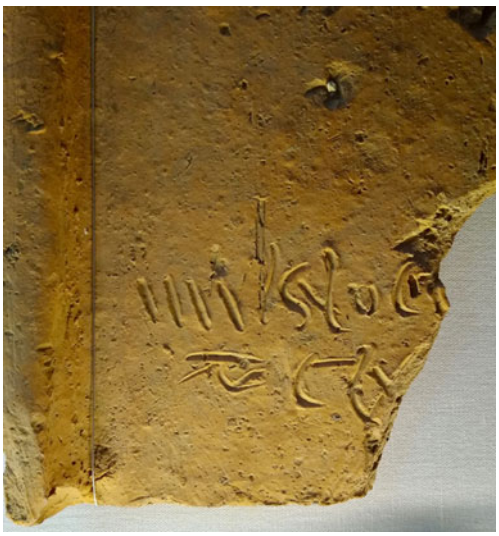


FIG. 11. Wortley, inscribed tile (no. 11) (photo: Museum in the Park, Stroud).



FIG. 12. Wortley, inscribed tile (no. 12) (photo: Museum in the Park, Stroud).

13. Ibid. (FIG. 13). Fragment of a *tegula* found[23] in 1989, inscribed before firing in cursive letters: KAL IVḶ[..]Ṣ, *Kal(endis) Iul[ii]s*. 'On the Kalends of July [1 July].'[24]

14. Ibid. (FIG. 14). Fragment of a vessel lid in fine brick-red fabric, probably Severn Valley ware, 75 mm in diameter, found[25] in 1994. Inscribed before firing in the intervals of a band of decoration around the edge, in capitals: [. . .]BF.LI[. . .][26]

LEICESTERSHIRE

15. **Witherley** (SP 34 98) (FIG. 15). Lead pig or ingot, plano-convex in section, 453 by 246 mm, 120 mm deep, weight 74 kg, found[27] in 2020. Incised on the flat face: CCCXXXṾḶ, '336'.[28]

[23] Later in the series of excavations noted for the two previous items. All three were deposited in the Museum in the Park, Stroud, from where Alexia Clark sent photographs and other details. They are noted with drawings in D. Wilson *et al*., *Report on the Excavation of a Romano-British Site in Wortley, South Gloucestershire* (2014) 115, fig. 32, as nos 287, 291 and 290, respectively. A fourth tile with graffito, found in 1991, is noted there with a drawing as no. 289, but it has not yet been located and no photograph is available.

[24] As noted above, this was written by the same hand as the first graffito (no. 11). The published drawing (see previous note) omits the lower tip of S in the right-hand edge.

[25] Later still in the series of excavations noted for the three previous items (n. 23 above), where it is no. 294 (with fig.). It is now in the Museum in the Park, Stroud (2007.26/37), from where Alexia Clark sent photographs and other details. Although described in Wilson *et al*., op. cit. (n. 23), as a 'pedestal footring' probably from the Severn Valley kilns, its profile suggests a lid like that in P. Tyers, *Roman Pottery in Britain* (1996) 199, fig. 253.27, although this is twice the diameter.

[26] B and F are well drawn, F with even a bottom-serif, but the next two letters are simply two angled strokes. The second is surely L, not C, since the letter B and the decoration show that the potter could draw a semi-circle. Wilson *et al*., op. cit. (n. 23), suggest it may have been a bungled copy of a samian stamp, with FECI[T] instead of F and the potter's name ending in B, but this is difficult. Other possibilities are *[. . . omni]b(us) feli[citer]* or *[Fa]b(ius) Feli[x . . .]*.

[27] By metal-detector, PAS ref. LEIC-62F9AF. Details from Sally Worrell, who also sent comments by John Pearce.

[28] Each letter or digit was made with one or two intersecting blows of a chisel, so that even C is angular. The first four digits are quite clear (CCCX), but the others become progressively more faint. One of the Carsington lead pigs (*RIB* II.1.2404.56, with footnote) is incised CCX in similar digits for '210 (pounds)'. It now weighs 65.3 kg, which is almost

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FIG. 13. Wortley, inscribed tile (no. 13) (photo: Museum in the Park, Stroud).



FIG. 14. Wortley, coarseware lid (no. 14) (photo: Museum in the Park, Stroud).

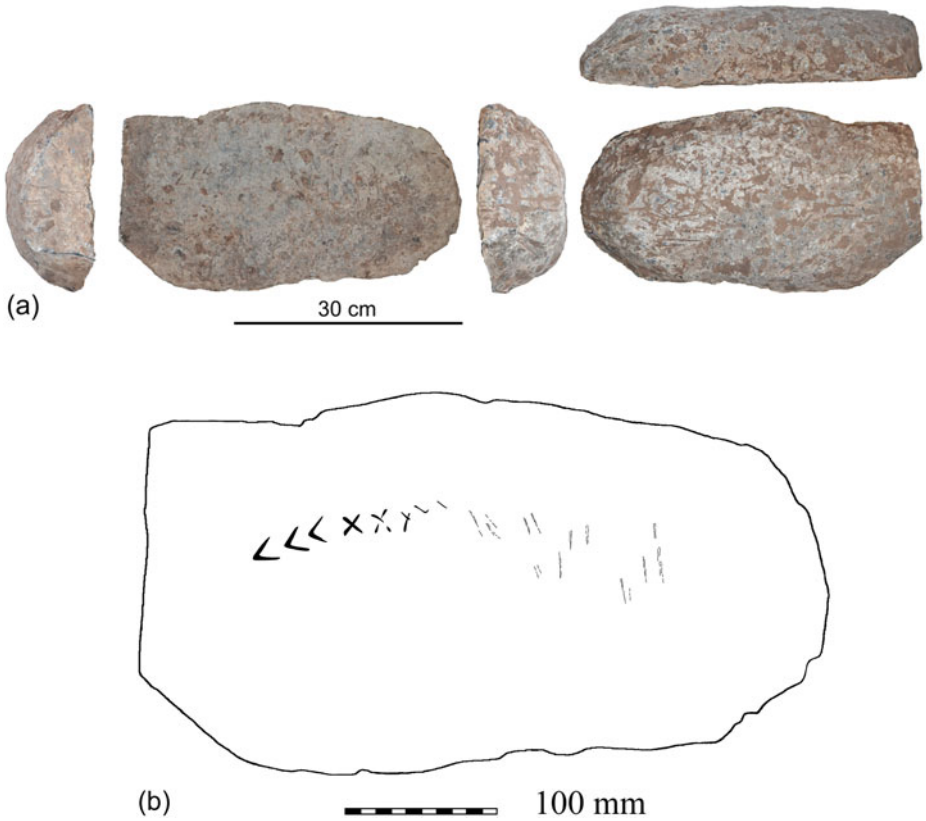


FIG. 15. (a) Witherley, lead ingot (no. 15) (photo: PAS); (b) the incised letters (drawing: R.S.O. Tomlin from the photograph).

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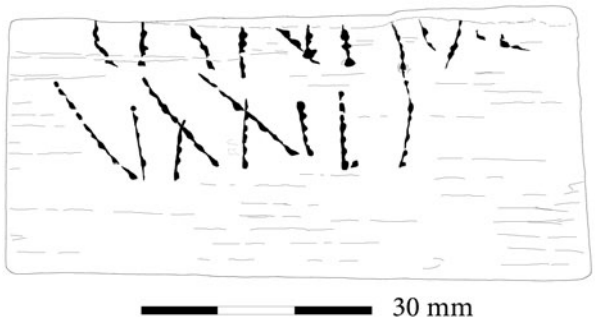


FIG. 16. London, writing-tablet (no. 16) (drawing: R.S.O. Tomlin).

CITY OF LONDON

16. Regis House, 45 King William Street EC4 (TQ 3288 8074) (FIG. 16). Fragment of a stylus writing-tablet, 72 by 32 mm, found[29] in 1994. The text on the recessed face is now lost, but it was crossed from corner to corner by two intersecting diagonals. On the plain outer face, incised in capitals: [. . .] | . . .ṆIṢ..[. . .] | VΛNI, probably ending in *[Sil]uani*. '. . . of Silvanus.'[30]

17. Blossoms Inn, 30 Gresham Street EC2 (TQ 3241 8125) (FIG. 17). Most of a stylus writing-tablet, 147 by 93 mm, found[31] in 2000. On the plain outer face, coarsely incised: VIIN, *Ven(. . .)*, probably *Ven(ustus)*.[32]

18. Ibid. (FIG. 18). Stylus writing-tablet, almost complete, 147 by 104 mm, but missing the top and bottom edges. The recessed face is very ribbed and pitted except for a narrow band towards the top where the surface is smooth enough to preserve trace of letters in what must have been the first

210 *librae* (68.7 kg). Other pigs with numerical annotations corresponding quite closely with the weight are *RIB* II.1.2404.69 and 71, and this is the likely explanation of '336', but it would imply that about one-third of the ingot has been cut off, since 336 *librae* would be 110 kg. This weight would be exceptional according to *RIB* II.1, p. 38, since British pigs average *c.* 74 kg but 'many weigh over 80 kg and one [*RIB* II.1.2404.16] weighs as much as 101 kg'. But the ingots of British origin in a Brittany wreck include at least one with similar digits amounting to more than '300' (CCC): see M. L'Hour, 'Un site sous-marin sur la côte de l'Armorique: l'épave antique de Ploumanac'h', *Revue Archéologique de l'Ouest* (1987) 113–31, fig. 13, where the numeral is not transcribed but is evidently CCC . . . V.

[29] With fragments of six other tablets and a recessed label like *Tab. Lond. Bloomberg* 183, but not inscribed, during excavation by Museum of London Archaeology (MOLA) (*Britannia* 26 (1995) 361), which made them available with full details.

[30] This looks like an 'address', but the genitive is difficult and the crossing-out on the other face suggests a loan-note which has been 'cancelled' after payment. It may have been identified by the outer text, which certainly ends in VΛNI. This would suggest the end of a cognomen in the genitive case, probably *Siluanus* ('of Silvanus'), but SIL should not be read immediately above it, since this line would have extended across the width of the tablet. However, it probably ended in SIL. A possible explanation of the genitive *[Sil]uani* would be that a cavalryman was identified as belonging to 'the troop of Silvanus': TVR SILVANI, for *tur(ma) Siluani*. This already identifies two of the witnesses in *Tab. Lond. Bloomberg* 62, which is only dated by its archaeological context as *c.* A.D. 80–90/95 or earlier residual, but probably refers to one of the Rhineland units that reinforced the British army after the Boudican revolt (A.D. 61). This would suit the context of no. 16, which is infill associated with Neronian quay construction (A.D. 63–64).

[31] With the next item and six other fragments with almost no trace of text, during excavation by MOLA (*Britannia* 32 (2001) 364), which made them available with full details. Since both items (nos 17 and 18) came from the same context and are the same in width, it is possible they were once paired together.

[32] The graffito is complete, the surrounding surface showing no sign of any letters. It is too slight to have served as an 'address' but is probably an abbreviated name identifying the owner of the tablet or perhaps the text within. There are a few cognomina in *Ven(. . .)*, but the most likely is *Venustus*. A similar graffito, VIIN, was found not far away at the Bank of England, as the ownership-inscription underneath a samian platter (Dr. 18) dated by its stamp to *c.* A.D. 70–90 (*RIB* II.7.2501.581). Since no. 17 was found in well-fill dated to A.D. 120–200, it is probably later in date, but might refer to the same man.

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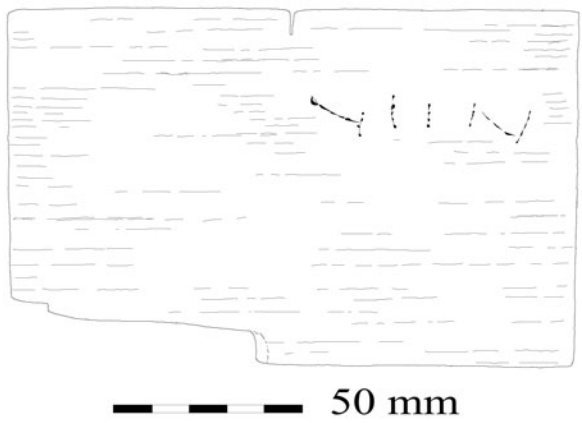


FIG. 17. London, writing-tablet (no. 17) (drawing: R.S.O. Tomlin).

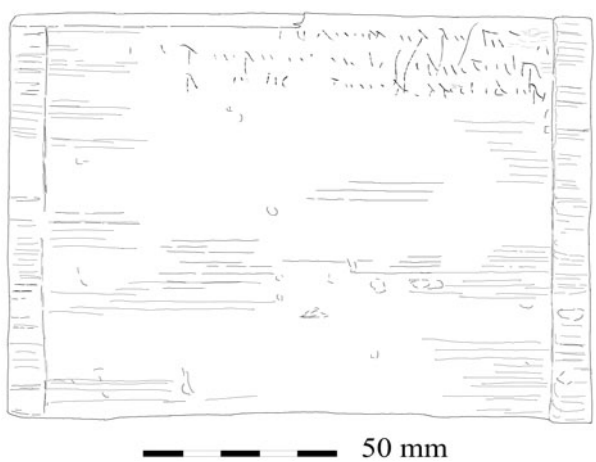


FIG. 18. London, writing-tablet (no. 18) (drawing: R.S.O. Tomlin).

three lines. These traces are shallow and incomplete since the stylus only registered when it cut across the grain. The end of the first line reads: . . . *quem ea res pe*. . . This can be restored as *[. . . eiue ad] quem ea res pe[rtin|ebit]*. '. . . [or to him] whom the matter will concern . . .'[33]

19. Sugar Quay, Lower Thames Street EC3 (TQ 33290 80573) (FIG. 19). One corner of a tablet recessed on both faces, 56 by 35 mm, found[34] in 2012. At the bottom of the ungrooved

[33] The phrase is formulaic in loan-notes and acknowledgements of debt, as part of a promise to pay the money to the creditor 'or to whom the matter will concern'. For other examples from London, see *Tab. Lond. Bloomberg* 44.8 with note. Since it occurs at the top of the 'page', this must have been the second 'page'. The first 'page' may have been the recessed face of no. 17 above (see n. 31), but this is now blank except for a few incisions and an *s*. If they did belong together, the document they contained was written only once, not duplicated in a three-leaf 'triptych'.

[34] During excavation by MOLA (*Britannia* 47 (2016) 338), deducing the date from the site code SGA12. The fragment of another tablet was found, but there is no trace of any text.

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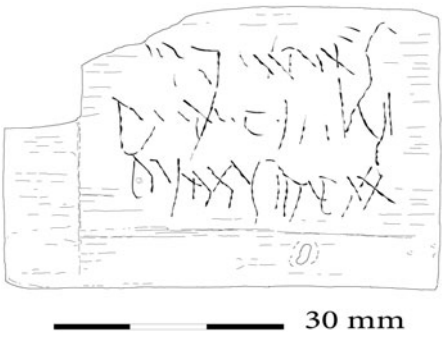


FIG. 19. London, writing-tablet (no. 19) (drawing: R.S.O. Tomlin).



FIG. 20. London, chalk amulet (no. 20) (photo: Museum of London).

inner face are incomplete traces of the beginning of three lines: [. . .] | . . . [. . .] | . . . [. . .] | *priṃas* . . . [. . .].[35]

20. 17 Fish Street Hill EC3 (TQ 3290 8079) (FIG. 20). Amulet in the form of a phallus (*fascinum*) made of chalk, 48 by 34 mm, 20 mm thick, found[36] in 1987. One end is now broken off and abraded. Scratched in capitals on the shaft within a rectangular outline: FELIC.[. . .], *felic[iter]*. 'Good luck!'[37]

21. 100 Bishopsgate EC3 (TQ 5332 1814) (FIG. 21). Black-burnished (BB2) rim sherd found[38] in 2010–17. Coarsely incised after firing on the wall below the rim: [. . .].ON, perhaps *[C]on* for *[C]on(stans)*.[39]

22. Ibid. (FIG. 22). Wall sherd of white-slipped ware. Four letters have been neatly incised in the white slip after firing, so as to show up red against a white background. The first is incomplete and the fourth cuts a score-mark which is not part of the letter: [. . .].AGO[. . .][40]

[35] The adjective *primas* ('first', feminine accusative plural), reading *m* despite two extraneous strokes. In stylus-tablet financial texts from Pompeii *primas* often qualifies the 'next' date (*in kalendas Augustas primas*, for example) as the deadline for an action such as the repayment of a debt.

[36] During excavation by the Department of Urban Archaeology, Museum of London, on the site (MFI87) of the Docklands Light Railway Monument Street station. It was in the backfill of a well of Flavian date abandoned in the late first century which was soon filled with domestic refuse. It is now in the Museum of London, from where Mark Burch, Richard Dabb and Francis Grew provided a photograph and other details.

[37] The association of an apotropaic phallus with 'luck' and 'happiness' is also explicit in the stone panel from Pompeii that depicts a phallus with the legend HIC HABITAT FELICITAS (*CIL* 4.1454; for which see C. Johns, *Sex or Symbol: Erotic Images of Greece and Rome* (1982) 65, fig. 47).

[38] With the next item during excavation by MOLA (site BJG10) and made available by Michael Tetreau. They will be published in the final report with three other graffiti, a 'star' and two literate graffiti of fewer than three letters.

[39] All three letters are incomplete, but the diagonal stroke of N cuts its first stroke, showing that the graffito was written from left to right, as drawn (FIG. 21). The downward axis of the writing would also suggest there were only three letters below the rim, the space to the right of N marking the end of the word. Since names ending in *–on* are uncommon, this is probably an abbreviated name. All that remains of the first letter is an upward stroke trailing off in the direction in which it was made; this would suit C, if it were made with two strokes, but F, G and S are also possible. However, it is difficult to envisage a name abbreviated to FON, GON or SON, whereas CON is quite acceptable: compare the graffito CON underneath a goblet in the Traprain Treasure (*RIB* II.2.2414.16) and the Birdoswald centurial stone (*RIB* III.3451), which abbreviates the centurion's cognomen as 7 EPPI | CON.

[40] The first letter is now only the top of a vertical stroke. It is too close to A to be L for *lago[nam]* ('jug'; compare *RIB* II.8.2503.111) and is probably too vertical for V, but it might be H, I or N. These would all suggest a Greek personal name such as *Pythagoras*, *Diagoras* or *Athenagoras*, the most common being *Athenagoras*; but none of them is yet attested in Britain.

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FIG. 21. London, coarseware sherd (no. 21) (photo and drawing: R.S.O. Tomlin).



FIG. 22. London, coarseware sherd (no. 22) (photo and drawing: R.S.O. Tomlin).

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE

23. **Stanwick** (SP 979 713), Roman villa (FIG. 23). One half of a cylindrical spindle-whorl made of chalk, 37 mm in diameter, 23 mm thick, with a hole in the centre for the spindle 8 mm wide, found[41] in 1990. Round the outer face, crudely incised: [. . .]ENḊEIV[. . .], probably IV[. . .]ENDE for *Iu*[*l(iae) [. . ..]uend(a)e*. '(Property) of Iulia [. . ..]uenda.'[42]

[41] Unstratified (sf 95340) in the excavations noted by V. Crosby and L. Muldowney, *Stanwick Quarry, Northamptonshire: Raunds Area Project: Phasing the Iron Age and Romano-British Settlements at Stanwick, Northamptonshire* (2011). It will be published more fully by Historic England, from where Rachel Cubitt made it available with details from Vicky Crosby.

[42] The letters are angular because they were made with straight strokes, vertical or diagonal. Thus D, now incomplete because of the abraded surface, was made with three strokes intersecting to form a triangle, an angular version of the lower-case form like D in one of the Uley tablets (see FIG. 23c for comparison). To its right is E, also made with three angled strokes; there is no upper stroke for 'capital' E, since this too is 'lower-case'. The incomplete letter to the left of N is apparently another such E; the second nick in the broken edge looks deliberate, which excludes V.

The graffito is presumably the owner's name, that of a woman, possibly *Iulia Britiuenda* or *Cunouenda*. The sequence *[. . .]endeiu[. . .]* does not suggest a personal name, but the second E may represent the feminine name-ending *–ae* in the genitive case, '(property) of [. . .]a', with 'Vulgar' *e* for *ae* since the pronunciation was the same. Latin names in *–endus/a* are uncommon, making a Celtic name more likely, for example *Britiuenda* (*Tab. Sulis* 2, 3) or the feminine form of *Cunouendus* (*RIB* II.5.2491.78; III.3477 and perhaps 3232; *Britannia* 40 (2009) 327, no. 21). To the

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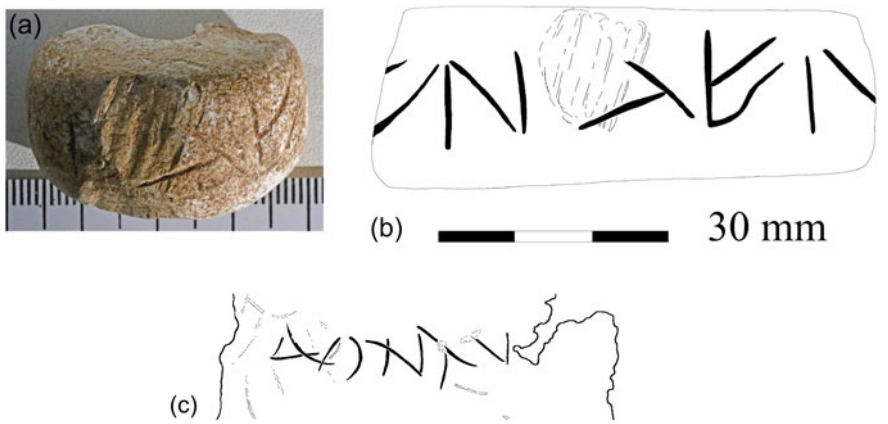


FIG. 23. (a) Stanwick, chalk spindle-whorl (no. 23); (b) composite drawing of the inscribed face; (c) Uley, tablet 61 (detail): DONΛVI, with the same angular D (photo and drawings: R.S.O. Tomlin).

NORTHUMBERLAND

24. **Housesteads** (*Vercouicium*, NY 790 688) (FIG. 24). Wall sherd of a south-Spanish oil amphora (Dressel 20), found[43] in unrecorded circumstances. Coarsely incised after firing: ΛGΛD.[. . .][44]

25. Ibid. (FIG. 25). Wall sherd of a Dressel 20 amphora, coarsely incised after firing: [. . .]TTIC [. . .] | [. . .]PTI, probably *[A]ttic[us]* | *[. . .]pti (filius)*. 'Atticus, (son) of [. . .]ptus.'[45]

26. **Vindolanda** (NY 768 663) (FIG. 26). Rim sherd of a black-burnished jar found[46] in 2015. Indistinctly scratched after firing on the upper wall between the rim and the lattice decoration: [. . .]N̤NICCV[. . .], perhaps *[Conge]nniccu[s]*.[47]

right of E, IV would then be the beginning of the name, and perhaps IV[L] as an abbreviated *Iul(iae)*, which would imply a family with Roman citizenship still using Celtic cognomina.

[43] With the next item, presumably in an early excavation. They are now stored with other amphora sherds from Housesteads (but these with only one or two letters each) at Corbridge Roman Site, from where Frances McIntosh sent photographs.

[44] Since Housesteads was garrisoned by Tungrians, *Agad[. . .]* may be an unattested Germanic name, but an attractive possibility is that it represents the name-element shared by *Tagadunius* and *Tagadianus*. These are both found at the shrine of Nehalennia on the Schelde, notably in *AE* 2001, 1452, the altar dedicated by *Tagamas Tagadiani (filius)*. The Tungrian name *Tagamas*/*Tagomas* is well attested at Vindolanda (*Britannia* 34 (2003) 377, no. 37 with note). Immediately to the left of the first Λ in the Housesteads graffito are two faintly incised lines meeting at right-angles like 'T'. Although they may be only casual, perhaps they represent a correction or a note of where to add the missing T.

[45] *Atticus* and its cognates, as Géza Alföldy notes (*Epigraphische Studien* 4 (1967) 10), are typical of Gallia Belgica and Upper Germany. They are well attested in Britain: for Vindolanda, see *Tab. Vindol.* III.586 (with note); for Corbridge, see *RIB* II.7.2501.74; *Britannia* 48 (2017) 466, no. 16. The second name (in the genitive) was probably *Acceptus* or *Receptus*, but there are other possibilities. The most likely relationship between the two names is father and son, peregrine nomenclature at an auxiliary fort, but Atticus might have been a Roman citizen who included his nomen and identified himself by his century ('the century of [. . .]ptus').

[46] During excavation by the Vindolanda Trust directed by Andrew Birley and made available (sf 19407) by Phil Mills with eight other inscribed sherds (amphora and samian), but these all with only one or two letters.

[47] The incomplete first letter in the broken edge includes a vertical stroke intersected by a diagonal, at the same angle as those of the next letter, N, except that the diagonal extends further; almost certainly N, not Λ. Alfred Holder (*Alt-Celtischer Sprachschatz* 2 (1904) 19, s.v.) notes *-icco-* as a Celtic name-suffix Latinised as *-iccus*, and the sequence *-nniccu-* suits *Congenniccus* already attested at South Shields by *RIB* 1053, which notes *CIL* 12.4883 (Narbonne) as another instance.

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FIG. 24. Housesteads, amphora with graffito (no. 24) (photo: Corbridge Roman Site).



FIG. 25. Housesteads, amphora with graffito (no. 25) (photo: Corbridge Roman Site).

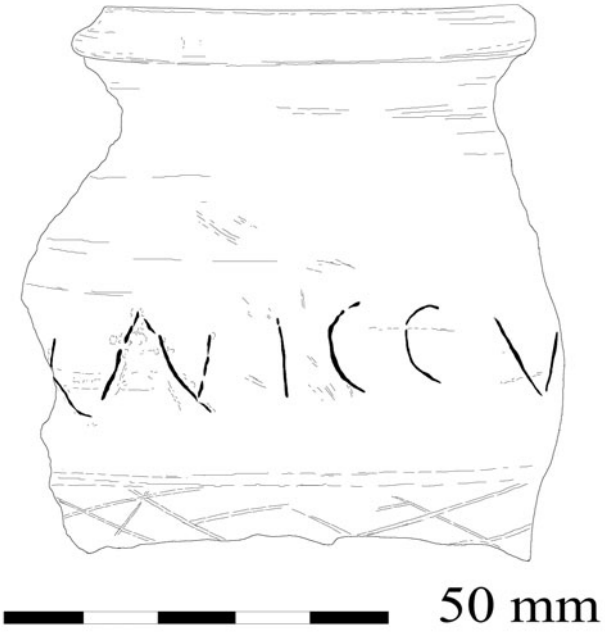


FIG. 26. Vindolanda, coarseware sherd (no. 26) (drawing: R.S.O. Tomlin).

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FIG. 27. Clare, ring bezel (no. 29) (photo: PAS).



FIG. 28. Aldborough, lead sealing (no. 31) (photo: Tom Shurlock).

OXFORDSHIRE

27. **Gatehampton** (SU 600 799), Roman villa, near Goring-on-Thames. Moselle black-slipped motto beaker found[48] in 2017. Painted in white barbotine: IVVAT, *iuuat*. 'Let (this) help.'[49]

28. Ibid. Moselle black-slipped motto beaker found in 2016. Painted in white barbotine: AMANTI DA, *amanti da*. 'Give (this) to (your) lover.'[50]

SUFFOLK

29. **Clare** (TL 770 456) (FIG. 27). Part of a copper-alloy finger-ring, found[51] in 2020. The circular bezel is 9.7 mm in diameter and very worn, but inscribed: SSS | SSS.[52]

YORKSHIRE (WEST)

30. **Castleford** (*Lagentium*, SE 429 257). Fragment of a glass bottle base, found[53] in 1974/85, with part of a moulded inscription: [. . .]NDAFE[. . .], *[?Iulia Verecu]nda fe[cit]*. 'Iulia Verecunda made (this).'[54]

YORKSHIRE (NORTH)

31. **Aldborough** (*Isurium*, SE 409 666) (FIG. 28). Lead sealing found[55] in 2020 just north of the Roman walled town. Impressed within a rectangular die: . . . L, probably *[c(ohortis) III* or *IIII] L(ingonum)*. '(Sealing) of the Third (*or* Fourth) Cohort of Lingones.'[56]

[48] Like the next item during excavation by South Oxfordshire Archaeological Group and illustrated in 3D on its website.

[49] For other beakers with this motto, see *CIL* 13.10018, 106a–e.

[50] There is no beaker with this motto in *CIL* 13.10018, nor apparently elsewhere.

[51] PAS ref. SF-9B8965.

[52] Probably a 'Chnoubis' amulet like the Maulden ring (no. 3 above, with note).

[53] During excavation by West Yorkshire Archaeological Service published in three volumes as *Roman Castleford Excavations 1974–85* (1998; 1999; 2000). In volume 1, *Small Finds* (edited by H.E.M. Cool and C. Philo), it is no. 288 in Part 3, 'The vessels and objects of glass' by H.E.M. Cool and Jennifer Price, at pp. 150, 174, fig. 61.

[54] The reading can now be restored by comparing the Exeter fragment found in 2017 (no. 4 above), since it preserves another part of the same inscription. The mould-maker failed to reverse the letter N.

[55] By Tom Shurlock with a metal-detector, who sent it with a photograph to Martin Millett. Unfortunately it was stolen in transit, and the photograph is now the only record.

[56] According to the photograph, the legend concluded with a bold L, its second element a downward diagonal. To the left of this, only faint traces: perhaps the lower curve of C for *c(ohortis)* followed by three or four verticals for the numeral.

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FIG. 29. Hutton Buscel, silver ring (no. 32) (photo: PAS).

32. **Hutton Buscel** (SE 974 841) (FIG. 29). Silver finger-ring (Henig type VIII) found[57] in 2020. The circular bezel is inscribed: TOT, *To(u)t(atis)*.[58]

WALES

MONMOUTHSHIRE

33. **Caerleon** (*Isca*, ST 33930 90410), Priory Field, within the legionary fortress (FIG. 30). Rectangular lead tag, 37 by 14 mm, found[59] in 2010. Both faces are inscribed in crude capitals. (a) IVLI. (b) IVCVNDI, *Iul(i)i* / *Iucundi*. '(Property) of Iulius Iucundus.'[60]

34. Ibid. (FIG. 31). Rectangular lead tag, 34 by 20 mm, inscribed on one face in crude capitals: IVLI | . . . ṾṆDI, probably *Iul(i)i* / *[Iuc]undi*. '(Property) of Iulius Iucundus.'[61]

35. Ibid. (FIG. 32). Narrow rectangular lead tag, 50 by 12 mm, inscribed in capitals on both faces. The incisions are shallow and some are now incomplete. (a) IVL ṾẸ[.]ỊΛTI, *Iul(ii) Ve[.] iati*. '(Property) of Iulius Ve[.]iatus.'[62] (b) IV, probably '4'.[63]

36. Ibid. (FIG. 33). Rectangular lead tag, 33 by 16 mm, inscribed on both faces but by different hands. The reading is complicated by various strokes (drawn in outline) that seem to be unrelated

Sealings are known for the Second, the Third (perhaps) and the Fourth Cohort of Lingones in Britain, but all with a right-angled L: see, respectively, *RIB* II.1.2411.108, 106 (with M.C.W. Still, *Roman Lead Sealings*, unpublished PhD thesis, University College London (1995) 353, no. 457) and 109.

[57] PAS ref. YORYM-A9E79C.

[58] For many previous discoveries of TOT rings, see *Britannia* 50 (2019) 504, no. 16 (with note); 51 (2020) 485, 494, nos 17, 29.

[59] With the next four items and also *Britannia* 42 (2011) 459, no. 33 and 44 (2013) 393, no. 24 (for which see the addendum below), during excavation by Cardiff University and University College, London, directed by Peter Guest and Andrew Gardner for Cadw and the Roman Legionary Museum, Caerleon (*Britannia* 42 (2011) 323). Peter Guest made them available. They will be published more fully in the forthcoming final report, together with a tag (sf 3213) used twice and now illegible.

[60] The nomen *Iulius* is frequent among legionaries, and the cognomen *Iucundus* is quite common, but this may well be the same man as the next item (no. 34), although the reading there is not certain.

[61] The tag was folded twice, stressing the surface which is also corroded. Three letters have been lost, but the cognomen is likely to be *Iucundus* or *Secundus* (in the genitive), both common; in view of the previous item (no. 33), it is more likely *Iucundus*. The handwriting of both tags is different, which implies that they were written for Iucundus by someone else, either because he was illiterate or (more likely) because they did not assert 'ownership' but identified something 'for collection' by him.

[62] IVL is quite well preserved and separated by a space from the cognomen. This is much fainter but begins with a damaged V and an incomplete E (not L, since the L of IVL is quite different); then space for two letters, the second perhaps I; and ends in ΛTI. There is no obvious restoration, but possible cognomina are *Vediatus* or *Veliatus* derived from the nomina *Vedius* or *Velius* but not attested, or *Veniatus* which is barely attested.

[63] This graffito is apparently complete, and from its position unlikely to be an unfinished name such as IVL or IVCVNDI.

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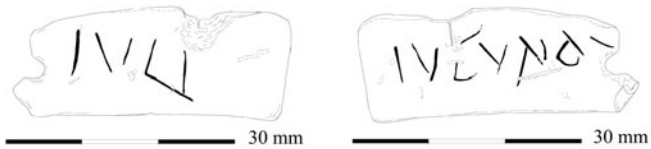


FIG. 30. Caerleon, lead tag (no. 33): both faces (drawing: R.S.O. Tomlin).

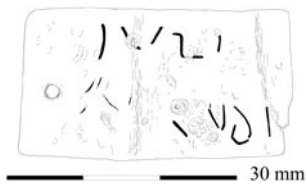


FIG. 31. Caerleon, lead tag (no. 34) (drawing: R.S.O. Tomlin).

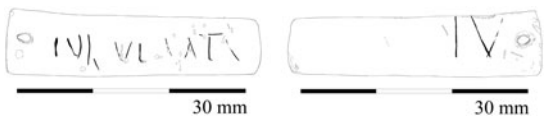


FIG. 32. Caerleon, lead tag (no. 35): both faces (drawing: R.S.O. Tomlin).

to the letters and sometimes underlie them, as if they were casual or traces of an earlier text. (a) in cursive letters: *Ịxesoromagulus* / *aurlus*.[64] (b) Undeciphered, a medley of incisions, many of them not letters: S… | ….[65]

37. Ibid. (FIG. 34). Rectangular lead tag, 29 by 20 mm, inscribed on one face. The incisions are largely filled with corrosion products, and in places must be deduced from the overlying encrustation that preserves their outline. In capitals: ṂṚINIΛ|NI, probably *M<a>rinia|ni*. '(Property) of Marinianus.'[66]

[64] The first letter is a long vertical stroke cut by a short horizontal stroke at top and bottom. This might suggest capital E, but there is no mid-stroke, and a more likely reading is I, enlarged and emphasised as the initial letter. It is followed by a cramped *xe*, not *ue* (in view of how *u* is written elsewhere), and then by distinct letters fluently written that become cramped towards the edge. This is a Celtic personal name, to judge by the termination *-magulus* which incorporates the element *magu-* ('youth, slave, vassal'; for which see D. Ellis Evans, *Gaulish Personal Names* (1967) 221); in Britain it terminates the name *Taximagulus* (Caesar, *Gallic War* 5.22), but the preceding *ixesoro-* remains obscure. In the second line, the un-Latin sequence *aurlus* can hardly describe this man; nor can it be his patronymic, since its termination is nominative, not genitive. But perhaps it is a bungled *Aur(e)l(i)us*, for his nomen.

[65] Only S is certain; perhaps followed by I and an incomplete N. Line 2 apparently ends with D or CI, the latter suggesting a name in the genitive case. The horizontal incisions suggest it has been deleted.

[66] The graffito is clearly a genitive cognomen in *-ia|ni*, but M is incomplete and R has lost its loop. The sequence MR is impossible, but the intervening Λ was presumably omitted by confusion with the second half of M. The next letter(s) resemble modern 'W', but can easily be read as I conjoining N. *Varinia|ni* would be possible by supposing that the first letter is a small V ligatured to Λ (and sharing a diagonal); but this would be unlike the ample Λ which ends the line, and the cognomen *Varinianus* is very rare although VΛRENIΛN has been read in another lead tag from Caerleon (*RIB* II.8.2504.7). *Marinianus*, however, is well attested and has already occurred in Britain, at Bath: *Tab. Sulis* 30.5, *Marinianus Belcati (filius)*, where it is noted that Nig(…) Marinianus, a cavalryman seconded to the Guard in Rome (*eques singularis*) and buried there, was of British origin, *natione Britanicianus* (*CIL* 6.3279); his son was also called *Marinianus*.

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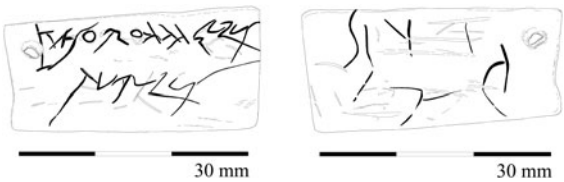


FIG. 33. Caerleon, lead tag (no. 36): both faces (drawing: R.S.O. Tomlin).



FIG. 34. Caerleon, lead tag (no. 37) (drawing: R.S.O. Tomlin).

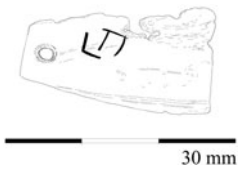


FIG. 35. Caerleon, lead tag (addendum) (drawing: R.S.O. Tomlin).

C. ADDENDUM ET CORRIGENDUM

(a) ***Britannia*** **44 (2013) 393, no. 24** (Caerleon) (FIG. 35). Rectangular lead tag, 35 by 15 mm, found with those just described. The other face has now been drawn, with a better reading: LΛI, probably *L(ucius) A(. . .) I(. . .)*.[67]

D. CHANGES OF LOCATION

(a) ***RIB*** **1020** (probably Cumberland). This fragment of a Twentieth Legion dedication slab has been moved to another address in Barkway, Hertfordshire.[68]

(b) ***RIB*** **II.1.2404.56** (Carsington). This inscribed lead pig or ingot is now displayed in the Peak District Lead Mining Museum.

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doi:10.1017/S0068113X21000131

[67] The third letter consists of a downstroke tending to the left which was originally read from photographs as N, but the surface to the right is still intact and denies trace of further strokes. The area above is too damaged to exclude the possibility of an upward stroke for S. *Lais* is quite a common woman's name, but there is no man's name that might be abbreviated to *Lai-* except as the initials of *tria nomina*.

[68] 21 High Street, Barkway. Its rediscovery was reported by William MacKay in *Britannia* 41 (2010) 469, add. (a), to whom it has now been given by the previous owner.

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