III. Inscriptions[1]

By R.S.O. TOMLIN

A. MONUMENTAL

1. **City of London** (*Londinium*, TQ 3275 8148), 2–3 Cross Keys Court, EC2 (FIG. 1). Fragment of a fine-grained reddish slab, apparently marble discoloured by fire, 150 by 120 mm, 40 mm thick, found[2] in 1981. The surface was carefully smoothed before inscribing, and the letters are quite well drawn and executed: [...]VSV[...] | [...].. *vacat* [...][3]



FIG. 1. London, inscribed stone (No. 1).
(*Photo: R.S.O. Tomlin*)

[1] Inscriptions on STONE have been arranged as in the order followed by R.G. Collingwood and R.P. Wright in *The Roman Inscriptions of Britain* Vol. 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* Vol. iii (Oxford, 2009), which are henceforth cited respectively as *RIB* I (1–2400) and III (3001–3550). 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* I, 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* 2401–2505) and by their sub-number within it (e.g. *RIB* II.2, 2415. 53). When measurements are quoted, the width precedes the height.

[2] During excavation by the Department of Urban Archaeology of the Museum of London, for which see *Britannia* 13 (1982), 373–4. This unpublished fragment was recently discovered in the archaeological archive by the assistant curator, Glynn Davis, and Jenny Hall made it available at the Museum.

[3] In line 1, there is a semi-circular incision between S and V, but it does not appear to be deliberate; and since it has no effect on the spacing of the letters, it is probably casual like the other areas of pitting and surface damage. In line 2, only the upper portion survives of a letter which is either B, P or R, but since there is ample space after it, it must be the end of an abbreviation. In the broken edge before it there is the uncertain trace of the outward curve of another B, P or R. This raises the possibility of PR, part of the abbreviated titulature of a Roman governor (*leg(atus) Aug(usti) pr(o) pr(aetore)*), but the sequence *-usu-* is hardly ever found in Roman names (*Drusus* being an exception) and it does not match any known governor.

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2. **Caerleon** (*Isca*, ST 37660 92277), Monmouthshire (FIG. 2). Two conjoining fragments of a red sandstone slab, 0.25 by 0.15 m, 0.04 m thick, found[4] in 2009 in the rubble of a Roman building set back from the Roman road *c*. 5 km north-east of the Roman fortress. Like the inscribed slabs found just to the west at Bulmore (*RIB* 359, etc.), it is apparently part of a tombstone re-used. Part survives of three lines of letters neatly inscribed between setting-out lines 46 mm apart: [...].VC.[...] | [...]N͡IQVO[...] | [...].[...], *[...].uc.[...]* | *[... i]niquo [...]* | *[...].[...]*, '... unfair ...'[5]



FIG. 2. Caerleon, tombstone (No. 2).
(*Drawn by R.S.O. Tomlin*)

[4] During excavation in advance of constructing a coach park for the Celtic Manor Resort, of which Mark Lewis sent details. He also made the stone (MT 30-10-09, 002 and 003) available in Caerleon Roman Legionary Museum.

[5] In line 1, only the tip survives of the first letter, but A looks more likely than M or R. After C only the bottom of a vertical stroke survives, which in view of the letter-sequence is probably I or T. In line 2, I is ligatured to N. The next letter is probably Q, with its tail lost in the damage, but O is possible. The absence of any spacing makes *[...]nio Vo[...]* (part of a name) or *[...]ni quo[...]* unlikely, but the adjective *iniquus* in the ablative case is an attractive reading, since it suggests the metrical tag *fato ... iniquo* ('by unfair fate') found in epitaphs. There is no British example, but compare *RIB* 684 (York), *spe captus iniqua* ('victim of unfair hope').

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3. **Brough-under-Stainmore** (*Verteris*, NY 792 140), Cumbria (FIG. 3). Small fragment of a buff sandstone slab, probably a tombstone, 95 by 98 mm, now 40 mm thick (but broken, and not original), found[6] in *c*. 2008 south-east of the Roman fort. The right edge is original, which shows that the text was inscribed within a slightly recessed panel; in rather poor, shallow letters 36 mm high (line 1): […] | […]C͡HE | […]A͡NT | […][7]



FIG. 3. Brough-under-Stainmore, tombstone (No. 3).
(*Drawn by R.S.O. Tomlin*)

[6] By George Beckwith of Brough Castle Farm, in whose possession it remains. It was reported by Nicola Gaskell of North Pennines Archaeology, and Mr Beckwith made it available.

[7] In line 1, H and E are ligatured. The letters CH in Latin usually transliterate Greek chi, so this is likely to be part of a personal name. If it ended here, it would be feminine, either *Psyche* or one compounded from *-tyche* such as *Eutyche*. In line 2, only the apex survives of the first letter, but A, not M, is required by the ligatured NT which follows. [...]ANT is probably part of another personal name, the likeliest being *Ant[onius]* (etc.), since an unabbreviated verb ending in *-ant* (present tense, 3rd-person plural) is unlikely in an epitaph.

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4. **Vindolanda** (NY 768 663), Northumberland (FIG. 4). Buff sandstone altar (SF 13600), 0.49 by 1.05 m, 0.48 m deep, found[8] in 2009 still *in situ*, but fallen forwards, in a third-century Roman building thought to be a Dolichenum between the *intervallum* road and the north rampart of the visible stone fort, which it overlies immediately west of the north gate. The base is complete, but most of the capital is lost, except for part of a band of chip-carved XXX decoration. The die is recessed, with plain mouldings above and below; on the left side is carved Jupiter Dolichenus in high relief, holding an axe and a thunderbolt, standing on a bull; on the right side, a jug and patera. The front of the die, 0.42 by 0.39 m, is inscribed with six lines of well-cut letters, 42 mm high (on average), in quite good unweathered condition: I O M | DOLOCHENO | SVLPICIVS PV|DENS PRAEF | COH IIII GALL | V S L M, *I(ovi) O(ptimo)*



FIG. 4. Vindolanda, altar (No. 4). Height 1.05 m.
(*Photo: R.S.O. Tomlin*)

[8] With the next five items during excavation for the Vindolanda Trust directed by Andrew Birley. Robin Birley made them available, with details of provenance. The altar has now been removed to the site museum, but will be replaced *in situ* by a replica. All three altars (Nos 4, 5 and 6) are published with full commentary by Andrew Birley and Anthony Birley in 'A Dolichenum at Vindolanda', *Archaeologia Aeliana* forthcoming, of which Anthony Birley sent a copy.

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M(aximo) | Dolocheno | Sulpicius Pu|dens praef(ectus) | coh(ortis) IIII Gall(orum) | v(otum) s(olvit) l(ibens) m(erito). 'To Jupiter Dolochenus Best and Greatest, Sulpicius Pudens Prefect of the Fourth Cohort of Gauls, paid his vow willingly, deservedly.'[9]

5. Ibid. (FIG. 5). Lower part of a dark buff sandstone altar (SF 13601), 0.48 by 0.58 m, 0.43 m deep, found *in situ* beside the preceding item. It consists of a well-cut base, complete except for the lower front right corner, and a triangular portion of the die preserving part of the last three lines. On the left side of the die survives the lower part of three rounded figures carved in relief, apparently a round disc between a wreath and patera. On the front of the die, originally 0.43 m wide, the surviving text reads: […] | […]IVS V[2–3] | [3] PRAEFECT[..] | COH II NERVIOR, *[...] | [...]ius V[...] praefect[us] | coh(ortis) II Nervior(um)*. '... [...]ius V[...], prefect of the Second Cohort of Nervians.'[10]



FIG. 5. Vindolanda, altar (No. 5).
(*Photo: R.S.O. Tomlin*)

[9] The mis-spelling *Dolochenus* (for *Dolichenus*) is rare, but is found at Risingham (*RIB* 1220) as well as Rome (*ILS* 4314) and Sacidava (*AE* 1998, 1144). The prefect is unattested, but can be identified with the prefect of the same cohort who dedicated *RIB* 1688 (Stawardʼs Pele, four miles SSE of Vindolanda); see further below, Addenda et Corrigenda (a). The cohort is first attested at Vindolanda in A.D. 213 (*RIB* 1705).

[10] The dedication is lost, but in view of where the altar was found, it was presumably Jupiter Dolichenus. The approximate number of letters lost in lines 1 and 2 can be calculated from the known width of the die and the spacing of letters in 3. The prefectʼs cognomen undoubtedly began with V, and the spacing is appropriate to *V[ictor]*, so it is tempting to identify him with Decimus Caerellius Victor, prefect of the same cohort, who dedicated an altar to Cocidius (*RIB* 1683) which was found within two miles of Vindolanda. But the nomen is lost, and other cognomina in *V-* would fit the space, so the identification is not certain. The right margin of line 3 is lost, but there would not have been room for VM in the cohort-title (*Nerviorum*) even if ligatured. The cohortʼs movements are discussed by Anthony Birley (see n. 8 above); the only other evidence for its presence at Vindolanda is a stamped tile (No. 67 below).

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6. Ibid. (FIG. 6). Crude altar of darkish buff sandstone (SF 13642), 0.23 by 0.42 m, 0.17 m deep, found near the two previous items. The capital and base are distinguished from the recessed die by crude mouldings extending round three sides; on its face, 0.21 by 0.10 m, is a three-line text crudely inscribed: ..EXMΛ | .RΛ*vacat* | .◦V◦S◦L◦[.]◦, perhaps *..EXMA* | *[a]ra(m)* |. *v(otum) s(olvit) l(ibens) m(erito)*. '… altar, paid his vow willingly, deservedly.'[11]



FIG. 6. Vindolanda, altar (No. 6).
(*Photo: R.S.O. Tomlin*)

[11] Lines 1–2 are quite uncertain. The vertical score down the left margin makes it unclear how much text, if any, has been lost. At the beginning of both lines, there is a diagonal mark which if intentional would suggest 'open' A. But there are two such marks at the beginning of line 3, as if for M, which would be redundant to the V S L [M] formula that follows. So these marks might all be casual. In line 1, the mark is followed by a square outline like an inverted L; then after EX, there are three pairs of diagonal strokes appropriate to AM or MA. In line 2, after RA, the surface is too worn to tell whether M was actually inscribed; the rest of the line seems to be uninscribed. Anthony Birley (see n. 8 above) suggests the personal name A[L]EXAN|[D]RA, but N can hardly be read; alternatively he suggests [A]RA[M] in line 2, a word already found on two informal altars from Vindolanda (*RIB* 1694, 3341). Except for the find-spot, there is no indication of the god concerned; the capital is too damaged to be sure that it was not inscribed.

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7. Ibid. (FIG. 7). Miniature altar of buff sandstone (SF 12856), 125 by 238 mm, 130 mm deep, found in 2009 in the *intervallum* road. On top of the capital is a circular *focus* between bolsters, whose ends enclose a round recess rather than a pediment. Below them is a rope moulding which continues to the left as a plain moulding; the right bolster and moulding below have been lost. The face of the recessed die is marked by a vertical groove to left and right, as if to indicate a pilaster, but there is no corresponding groove either side. The face is incised with shallow letters *c*. 12 mm high: DEO | HVE | TERI | BVṢ, *deo* | *Hue*|*teri*|*bus*. 'To the god Hueteres.'[12]



FIG. 7. Vindolanda, altar (No. 7).
(*Photo: R.S.O. Tomlin*)

[12] There are many forms of the name of the god 'Veteres', but this is unparalleled: it is an ungrammatical conflation of two already found at Vindolanda, the singular, aspirated form (for example *RIB* III, 3335, *deo Huitiri*) with the plural form (for example *RIB* 3338, *dibus Veteribus*).

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8. Ibid. (FIG. 8). Buff sandstone building-stone, 0.30 by 0.10 m, 0.18 m deep. Crudely inscribed on the upper surface, not the face. (i) Pecked with a point: S. (ii) Chiselled with a point: [...] FLΛVI FELIX, *[centuria] Flavi Felix*. 'Felix, century of Flavus (*or* Flavius).'[13]



FIG. 8. Vindolanda, building-stone (No. 8).
(*Photo: R.S.O. Tomlin*)

9. Ibid. For two new fragments of *RIB* 1705, see below, Addenda et Corrigenda (b).

B. INSTRUMENTUM DOMESTICUM

BEDFORDSHIRE

10. **Hockcliffe** (SP 95 28) (FIG. 9). Fragment of a silver finger-ring comprising the bezel and one shoulder, found[14] in 2005. Incised (i) on the bezel: DEO | TOTA, *deo* | *To(u)ta(ti)*. 'To the god Toutatis.' Incised (ii) on the shoulders: [...] | FELIX, *[utere]* | *felix*. 'Use (and be) happy.'[15]

[13] Both inscriptions belong to the original quarry-face, not to the building-stone itself, and (ii) is now cut by the left edge of the stone. *Flavius*, like other 'imperial' nomina, is sometimes found as a cognomen.

[14] By metal-detector. Daubney No. 46 (see n. 30 below).

[15] This is now the best evidence that TOT rings were dedicated to a deity whose name was in the dative case (compare No. 41 below (Fulbeck)), and that this deity was Toutatis. There are several variants of the name, including *Totatis*. See further, Daubney (cited in n. 30 below).

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FIG. 9. Hockliffe, silver finger-ring (No. 10). Width of bezel: 10 mm.
(*Photo: Portable Antiquities Scheme*)

EAST SUSSEX

11. **Lewes** (TQ 41 10) (FIG. 10). Oval lead disk, presumably Roman, 13 mm wide, found[16] in 2009. There is no sign of attachment, but otherwise it might be the bezel of a finger-ring. Crudely inscribed: MΛIE, perhaps *Mai(a)e*. 'Of (*or* to) Maia.'[17]



FIG. 10. Lewes, lead disc (No. 11).
(*Drawn from a photograph by R.S.O. Tomlin*)

[16] By metal-detector and reported under the Portable Antiquities Scheme. Sally Worrell sent a photograph and other details.

[17] The downward extension of the third and fourth strokes of M might be intended for cursive R, but their position implies that they are not a separate letter, but the second half of M clumsily inscribed. A personal name *Maia* is implied by the name *Maianus*, which is quite well attested in Gaul, and this interpretation would indicate '(property) of Maia'. Alternatively it might be a dedication 'to Maia', in Roman mythology the mother of Mercury, but there is no evidence of her cult in Britain.

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EAST YORKSHIRE

12. **Hayton** (SE 82 45) (FIG. 11). Part of a plain silver (Ag 87%) finger-ring, found[18] in 2009. In crudely incised letters, with apparent remains of niello filling: [...]..IΛ | [...].IΛT, perhaps *[..]..ia [ven]iat*. 'Let [...]ia come'.[19]



FIG. 11. Hayton, silver finger-ring (No. 12).
(*Photo: Portable Antiquities Scheme*)

13. Ibid. Silver finger-ring, found[20] in the 1980s or 1990s; inscribed on the bezel: TOT

14. Ibid. (FIG. 12). Oval lead sealing, found[21] in 2009. Obverse: LEGV | CTR Reverse: M◦AP̣ | V̄IC[22]

[18] By metal-detector and reported under the Portable Antiquities Scheme. Sally Worrell sent a photograph and other details.

[19] Line 1 ends in 'open' A, but in the photograph at least it is difficult to read the two vertical strokes which precede it: the first apparently curves at the top, and may even be C; the second lacks the firm cross-bar of T in line 2, and is probably I. To the left of them, at the broken edge, is a dark discoloration which is probably the tip of another letter. The number of letters lost is deduced from the likely restoration of line 2, given that its lettering seems to be closer-spaced. At all events, *-ia* is a nominative feminine singular ending (since the 3rd-person singular verbal ending in line 2 excludes a neuter plural), and thus terminates an abstract noun or a woman's name. There seems to be no exact parallel for this invocation, but compare *CIL* xiii 10024.80 (copper-alloy ring), *veni vita* ('come, my life'); and for Britain, *RIB* II.3, 2422.61 and *Britannia* 38 (2007), 351, No. 8, two copper-alloy rings inscribed *veni* ('come') ... (etc.).

[20] By metal-detector, as reported by the finder to Adam Daubney (see n. 30 below), in whose catalogue it is No. 45.

[21] By metal-detector and reported under the Portable Antiquities Scheme. Sally Worrell sent a drawing and other details.

[22] In form and content this sealing is difficult, but is best explained as a blundered reference to the Sixth Legion, which was stationed nearby at York. Unusually for a legionary sealing, it is oval, not rectangular. At first sight the obverse (line 1) names the Fifth Legion, but this was only stationed on the lower Rhine until A.D. 69, and was apparently destroyed soon afterwards. One of its sealings at such an early date in northern Britain is inherently unlikely, especially since the other military sealings found here derive from the British garrison. Both CTR and MAP are easily understood as the abbreviated name of an officer, whether reduced to three initials or two, if the 'medial point' in MAP is intentional, but it is strange that two officers should be named. However, VIC (reverse, line 2) with its barred VI is apparently a conflation between the Sixth Legion's numeral (VI) and its cognomen (VIC for *Vic(trix)*), which suggests that CTR may be a reminiscence of *Victrix*; and furthermore, that the puzzling V on the obverse (line 1) is not '5' at all, but a conflation between *V(ictrix)* and VI ('6').

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FIG. 12. Hayton, lead sealing (No. 14).
(*Drawing: Portable Antiquities Scheme*)

GLOUCESTERSHIRE

15. **Uley** (ST 788 998), Roman temple (FIG. 13). Fragment of a copper-alloy votive plaque, 19 by 39 mm, found[23] in 2009. Part survives of the right and bottom edges, which are defined by a line of punched dots. In letters formed by punched dots: [...].O | [...].M | [...]OTV | [...]Ṃ *vacat*, *[...].O* | [...].*M* |*[v]otu*|*m*. '... a vow.'[24]



FIG. 13. Uley, copper-alloy plaque (No. 15).
(*Photo: Portable Antiquities Scheme*)

[23] By metal-detector and reported under the Portable Antiquities Scheme. Sally Worrell sent a photograph and other details.

[24] The letters were first sketched with a fine point before the punch was used to make the dots. The final M concludes [V]OTV in line 3, but this does not establish the original width of the plaque, since it would depend on whether M was centred or not. Like the temple itself, for which see A. Woodward and P. Leach, *The Uley Shrines* (1993), the plaque was presumably dedicated to Mercury, but his name is now lost, with no sign of it in lines 1 and 2. For other copper-alloy plaques dedicated to him at Uley, see *RIB* II.3, 2432.6, 7 and 10.

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HAMPSHIRE

16. **Lankhills** fourth-century Roman cemetery, Winchester (*Venta Belgarum*, SU 479 304) (FIG. 14). Gilded copper-alloy crossbow brooch (SF 4190), 77 mm long by 74 mm wide, found[25] in 2003–4 in the burial of an adult, presumably male (Grave 1846), located approximately in the area of the right shoulder.[26] Inscribed in niello, either side of the bow: (i) VENE VIVAS, *(b)ene vivas*. 'May you live well.' (ii) VTRE FELIX, *ut(e)re felix*, 'Use (and be) happy'.[27]

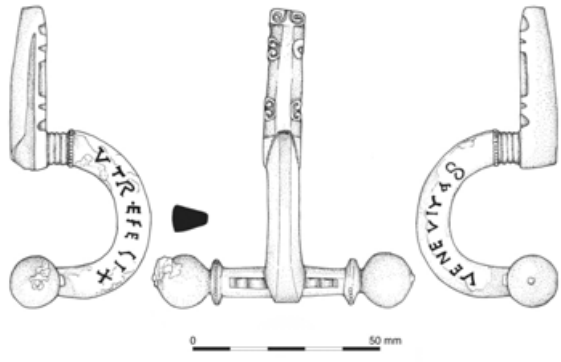


FIG. 14. Lankhills, crossbow brooch (No. 16).
(*Drawing: Oxford Archaeology*)

17. Ibid. (FIG. 15). Incomplete bone plaque (SF 1536), now 9 by 28 mm, 2 mm thick, found in the grave of an adult female (Grave 620), placed near the right foot and adjacent to the associated burial of a neonate in the same coffin. It is rectangular, but broken and eroded at one



FIG. 15. Lankhills, bone plaque (No. 17). Width 28 mm.
(*Photo: Oxford Archaeology*)

[25] With the next item during excavation by Oxford Archaeology, directed by Dan Poore on behalf of Hampshire County Council, immediately north of the area examined by Giles Clarke during 1967–1972. Paul Booth sent full details including a drawing and photograph.

[26] The skeleton is too badly preserved to determine the sex, but other grave goods are a gilded silver belt buckle and strap end, and a pair of copper-alloy spurs, one with extant gilded silver mounts.

[27] (i) This salutation is quite common, but in Britain has been found only in *RIB* II.2, 2420.65 (a silver spoon), *[be]ne vivas*. For the form *vene* < *bene*, compare *CIL* xiii 10024.79 (a gemstone), *vene valia* [for *bene valeas*]. This confusion between [b] and [v] is found at Pompeii and across the Roman Empire, but it hardly ever occurs in Britain, and the distinction was still observed when *vinum* ('wine') entered Welsh and Anglo-Saxon, which implies that the very few exceptions such as *RIB* 1 were Roman imports. See further Colin Smith, 'Vulgar Latin in Roman Britain: Epigraphic and Other Evidence', *ANRW* II, 19.2, at 913 and 915. (ii) This salutation is very common. The elision of the post-tonic vowel in *utere* is a trivial Vulgarism; for other examples see *CIL* iii 12031.23 and xiii 10018.18 (*ILS* 8609k).

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end. A groove runs parallel to each long edge, with short diagonal grooves between it and the edge; on the underside, the original edges are slightly bevelled. Inscribed in capitals: DIVV[...], probably *diu v[ivas]*, 'May you live long'.[28]

LEICESTERSHIRE

18. **Goadby Marwood** (SK 78 26). Silver finger-ring, found[29] in *c*. 1982. Inscribed on the bezel: TOT
19. **Wymeswold** (SK 60 23). Silver finger-ring, found in *c*. 1992. Inscribed on the bezel: TOT

LINCOLNSHIRE[30]

20. **Fillingham** (SK94 85). Silver finger-ring found in 2003 (D 1), inscribed: TOT
21. **Horncastle** (TF 25 69) area. Silver finger-ring found in 2000 (D 3), inscribed: TOT
22. **Lincoln** (*Lindum*, SK 97 71) area (FIG. 16). Silver finger-ring from an old collection (D 4), inscribed: TOT



FIG. 16. Lincoln area, silver finger-ring (No. 22). (*Photo: Portable Antiquities Scheme*)

23. **Lincoln**, Saltergate. Silver finger-ring found in 1973 (D 6), inscribed: TOT
24. **Lincoln**, 12 Steep Hill. Silver finger-ring found in 1974 (D 7), inscribed: TOT
25. **Wickenby** (TF 09 83). Silver finger-ring found in 2003 (D 8), inscribed: [T]OT
26. **Edlington** (TF23 71). Silver finger-ring (D 9), inscribed: [T]O[T]
27. **Torksey** (SK 83 77). Silver finger-ring found in *c*. 1980 (D 11), inscribed: TOT
28. **Frampton** (TF 32 39). Copper-alloy finger-ring found in *c*. 1994 (D 12), inscribed: TOT
29. **Threekingham** (TF 09 35). Silver finger-ring found in *c*. 1990 (D 13), inscribed: TOT
30. **Stenigot** (TF 25 81). Silver finger-ring found in *c*. 1990 (D 14), inscribed: TOT
31. Ibid. Another silver finger-ring found in *c*. 1990 (D 15), inscribed TOT

[28] Compare *RIB* II.3, 2441.18 (bone plaque, Richborough), *[...]s vivas*. Such pleas for a long life are found on finger-rings from Gaul, for example *CIL* xiii 10024.91b, *diu m(ihi)* | *vivas* ('live long for me'); 91a, 91c and 91d are similar.

[29] By metal-detector, like the next item. Both were reported by P. Liddle to Adam Daubney (see next note), in whose catalogue they are Nos 43 and 44.

[30] The next 39 items were found by metal-detectorists, and like all TOT rings except *RIB* II.3, 2422.38, are inscribed on the bezel, but a detailed description is not practicable here. Details after autopsy if possible, but by report for D 14, 16, 21, 22, 27, 28 and 29, were sent by Adam Daubney, the PAS Finds Liaison Officer for Lincolnshire; see further A. Daubney, 'The cult of Totatis', in S. Worrell, K. Leahy, M. Lewis and J. Naylor (eds), *A Decade of Discovery: Proceedings of the Portable Antiquities Scheme Conference 2007* (BAR, forthcoming). For easier reference, his catalogue-sequence has been retained here, with catalogue-numbers prefaced by 'D' in brackets. The Baston ring (D 66), since it was found in 2010, will be noted in next year's *Britannia*. For unprovenanced rings, see Addenda et Corrigenda (c).

TOT rings from Lincolnshire previously noted are *RIB* II.2, 2422.36 (Lincoln, D 5) and 39 (Tetford, D 10); *Britannia* 32 (2001), 396, No. 40 ('market town' identified as Market Rasen, D 20); *Britannia* 39 (2008), 378, Nos 13 (Great Hale, D 2) and 14 (Well, D 30). Two-thirds of TOT rings known (44 out of 68 in Daubney's catalogue, which includes 8 'unprovenanced') come from Lincolnshire, and their distribution apparently reflects the tribal territory of the Corieltauvi.

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32. **Kelstern** (TF 25 90). Silver finger-ring found in *c*. 1990 (D 16), inscribed: TOT
33. **Lincoln** area (FIG. 17). Another silver finger-ring from an old collection (D 17), inscribed: TOT



FIG. 17. Lincoln area, silver finger-ring (No. 33). (*Photo: Portable Antiquities Scheme*)

34. **Rowston** (TF 06 56). Silver finger-ring found in 2004 (D 18), inscribed: TOT
35. **Horncastle** (TF 25 69). Copper-alloy finger-ring found in 1998 (D 19), inscribed: TOT
36. **Gate Burton** (SK 83 82). Silver finger-ring found in the early 1990s (D 21), inscribed: TOT
37. Ibid. Another silver finger-ring found in the early 1990s (D 22), inscribed: TOT
38. **Ulceby Cross** (TF 41 73) (FIG. 18). Fragment of a gold finger-ring found in the early 1990s (D 23), comprising the bezel and shoulders, inscribed: TOT



FIG. 18. Ulceby Cross, gold finger-ring (No. 38). (*Photo: Portable Antiquities Scheme*)

39. **Hibaldstow** (SE 95 03). Silver finger-ring found in 1976 (D 24), inscribed: TOT
40. **Swinhope** (TF 21 96). Silver finger-ring found in 2003 (D 25), inscribed: TOT
41. **Fulbeck** (SK 95 50) area. Silver finger-ring (D 26), inscribed: DLO | TOT, *d(e)o To(u)t(ati)*.[31]
42. **Ancaster** (SK 98 44). Silver finger-ring found before 1996 (D 27), inscribed: TOT
43. **Swallow** (TA 17 03). Silver finger-ring found before 1996 (D 28), inscribed: TOT
44. **Riby** (TA 18 07). Copper-alloy finger-ring found before 1996 (D 29), inscribed: TOT
45. **Lincolnshire** (no further provenance). Silver finger-ring (D 31), inscribed: TOT

[31] The engraver was illiterate and mistook L for E, or simply did not complete the letter. The inscription, like that of No. 10 above (Hockliffe), indicates that TOT rings were dedicated to a deity.

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46. **Ancaster** (SK 98 44) (FIG. 19). Copper-alloy ring found in the 1990s (D 32), inscribed: TVT[32]



FIG. 19. Ancaster, copper-alloy finger-ring (No. 46). (*Photo: Portable Antiquities Scheme*)

47. **Thimbleby** (TF 24 70) (FIG. 20). Fragment of a silver finger-ring found in 2007 (D 33) comprising the bezel and shoulders, inscribed: TOT



FIG. 20. Thimbleby, silver finger-ring (No. 47). (*Photo: Portable Antiquities Scheme*)

48. **Old Winteringham** (SK 94 21). Silver finger-ring found in the 1980s (D 34), inscribed: TOT

49. **Ancaster** (SK 98 44). Another copper-alloy finger-ring found in the 1980s or 1990s (D 53), inscribed: TOT

[32] There is one other instance of this spelling (No. 80 below (Caunton)), which may be due to uncertainty over whether to transcribe the Celtic diphthong [ou] as *o* or *u*.

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50. **Stixwould** (TF 16 64). Silver finger-ring found in 2008 (D 54), inscribed: TOT

51. **Lincolnshire** (no further provenance). Another silver finger-ring from an old collection (D 56), inscribed: TOT

52. **Thonock** (SK 82 91). Silver finger-ring found in the 1990s (D 57), inscribed: TOT

53. Ibid. Another silver finger-ring found in the 1990s (D 58), inscribed: TOT

54. **Osbournby** (TF 06 38) (FIG. 21). Silver finger-ring found in 2009 (D 60), inscribed: TO(T)[33]



FIG. 21. Osbournby, silver finger-ring (No. 54). (*Photo: Portable Antiquities Scheme*)

55. **Thonock** (SK 82 91). A third silver finger-ring found in the 1990s (D 61), inscribed: [T]O[T]

56. **Wickenby** (TF 09 82). Silver finger-ring found in 2008 (D 62), inscribed: TOT

57. **Caistor** (TA 11 01). Silver finger-ring from an old collection (D 63), inscribed: TOT

58. **Wellingore** (SK 98 55). Fragment of a plain silver finger-ring found in 2009 (D 65), inscribed: [T]O[T]

[33] It is not clear from the photograph whether the second T was actually inscribed.

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LONDON

59. **City of London** (*Londinium*, TQ 32329 81240), 120 Cheapside (FIG. 22). Wall sherd (SF 85) of a South Spanish oil amphora (Dressel 20), found[34] in 2005. Scratched on the shoulder after firing, in crude capitals: [...]ΛPM[...], probably *A(ulus) P(...) M(...)*[35]



FIG. 22. London, amphora graffito (No. 59).
(*Drawn by R.S.O. Tomlin*)

[34] During excavation by MoLAS, for which see *Britannia* 37 (2006), 418. The site adjoins 14–18 Gresham Street (next three items), and they will be published together. Amy Thorp made the sherds available, and sent copies of the post-excavation assessments.

[35] The broken edges are too close to be sure that the graffito is complete, but the sequence APM cannot be part of a personal name unless the letters are Greek (alpha, rho, mu), which would be unlikely in Britain. They are more likely to be the initials of a Roman citizen's praenomen, nomen and cognomen.

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60. Ibid. (*Londinium*, TQ 32352 81325), 14–18 Gresham Street (FIG. 23). Base sherd (SF 724) of a samian dish (Drag. 18 SG), found[36] in 2006–7. Deeply incised underneath after firing, in crude capitals: PRI, probably *Primus* or a cognate name.[37]



FIG. 23. London, samian graffito (No. 60). (*Drawn by R.S.O. Tomlin*)

61. Ibid. (FIG. 24). Wall sherd (SF 646) of an oxidised ware flagon or jar found in a Flavian context. Incised after firing, in quite stylish capital letters: RES[...], an incomplete personal name.[38]



FIG. 24. London, coarseware graffito (No. 61). (*Drawn by R.S.O. Tomlin*)

[36] With the next three items, during excavation by MoLAS for which see *Britannia* 38 (2007), 288–9, and 39 (2008), 316–17; see also n. 34 above.

[37] For other British examples of this abbreviation, see *RIB* II.7, 2501.439 (Colchester), 440 (Caerleon); II.8, 2503.388 (Mucking). *Primus* and its derivatives are the most common group of names, but other possibilities include *Priscus* and *Privatus*.

[38] The most likely is *Res[pectus]* or *Res[titutus]*, but there are other possibilities.

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62. Ibid. (FIG. 25). Rim sherd (SF 1178) of a pale buff coarseware pot, found with other uninscribed sherds of the same pot. Scratched on the shoulder after firing with a fine point: TOT LV[...], apparently the dedication formula TOT followed by a personal name such as *Lucius* or one of its cognates.[39]



FIG. 25. London, coarseware graffito (No. 62). (*Drawn by R.S.O. Tomlin*)

63. **Greater London** (TQ 3680 8320), Gladstone Place, Tower Hamlets (FIG. 26). Coarseware rim sherd found[40] in 2008. Scratched after firing: [...]ṚITIC̣I[...], perhaps *Ritici*. '(Property) of Riticus *or* Riticius.'[41]



FIG. 26. London, coarseware graffito (No. 63). (*Photo: Pre-Construct Archaeology*)

[39] For TOT rings and the cult of Toutatis, see Daubney (cited in n. 30 above). In Britain a silver votive plaque (*RIB* 219) and a stone altar (*RIB* 1017) are also known, but the copper-alloy plaque from 'Hadrian's Wall' (*Britannia* 32 (2001), 392, No. 20) is suspect. It is likely that ceramic vessels too were dedicated: compare *RIB* II.7, 2501.801 (TOT on samian, but not necessarily complete) and II.8, 2503.131 (explicitly TOVTATIS, on a coarseware jar from Kelvedon, Essex). In Gaul, from a likely temple-site of Toutatis, five coarseware sherds with the graffito TOTATES in varying states of preservation are published in Bernard Clémençon and Pierre M. Ganne, 'Toutatis chez les Arvernes: les graffiti à Totates du bourg routier antique de Beauclair (communes de Giat et de Voingt, Puy-de-Dôme)', *Gallia* 66.2 (2009), 153–69.

[40] During evaluation by Pre-Construct Archaeology. James Gerard sent a photograph.

[41] The first letter can easily be read as cursive R, which looks better than A (in view of the sequence) or the first two strokes of N (since separated from the third). The penultimate letter does not curve enough for C, but can hardly be anything else, placed as it is between two long downstrokes each of which must be I. The name *Criticus* is uniquely attested (*CIL* xiii 5783), but some trace of initial C would be expected here; the graffito is apparently complete, but there is not enough space either side to be quite sure. The name **Riticus* or **Riticius* is apparently unattested, but might be a variant of *Reticus* (*CIL* iii 11968) or *Reticius* (bishop of Autun in A.D. 314, whose name is transmitted by Gregory of Tours as *Riticius*); see Holder, s.v.

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NORTH YORKSHIRE

64. **York** (*Eboracum*, SE 605 521), St Leonard's Hospital (FIGS 27 and 28). Bone roundel or gaming-counter with a dark patina, 15 mm in diameter, 3 mm thick, found[42] in 2004 in late/post-Roman repairs to the west corner of the legionary fortress defences. Inscribed both sides. Obverse: (i) deeply incised across the diameter in neat serifed capitals, between two incised figures at a diagonal probably representing palm-leaves: IVNIII. (ii) Scratched over (i) at right-angles, in much shallower, informal, capitals: VERVS | C.LE | R, *Verus* | *C[e]le*|*r*. The personal names 'Verus' and 'Celer'. Reverse: deeply incised across the diameter in serifed capitals similar to those of obverse (i) but smaller, within an oval outline probably representing a garland of olive or laurel: SEXTIII.[43]



FIG. 27. York, bone roundel (No. 64). (*Photo: York Archaeological Trust*)

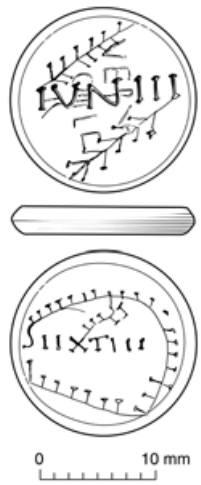


FIG. 28. York, bone roundel (No. 64). (*Drawn by Lesley Collett*)

[42] During excavation by York Archaeological Trust, directed by Kurt Hunter-Mann, who sent full details including a drawing and photograph.

[43] The obverse and reverse legends and the surrounding figures are the same as those on five of the group of twelve bone roundels found at Toppings Wharf, Bermondsey (*RIB* II.3, 2440.123–7). The sixth (ibid., 128) reads SEIXTIII | RVFINVS, and three others (ibid., 129–31) read SEXTI with the reverse blank. The remaining two are blank (see *Britannia* 3 (1972), 358, fig. 21). The association of SEXTIII with SEXTI suggests that the final II is a numeral ('2') rather than 'E', especially since a feminine reading (*Sexti(a)e* | *Iuni(a)e*, whether genitive or plural) would be difficult anyway. Perhaps this numeral differentiated the gaming-counter's rank: according to Isidorus (*Orig.* 18. 67), the counters (*calculi*) which moved in a game of *latrunculi* ('bandits') were divided between those which could only move straight (*ordine*) and those which could move in more than one direction (*vagi*). The victory-symbolism (palm-branch and wreath), and the figures of a gladiator on one Bermondsey roundel (*RIB* II.3, 2440.124) and a beast on another (ibid., 128), may allude to combats in the arena, but the significance of *Iunii* and *Sextii* is unknown.

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NORTHUMBERLAND

65. **Vindolanda** (NY 768 663), the visible stone fort (FIG. 29). Fragment of a copper-alloy strip (SF 12223), 83 by 21 mm, *c.* 1 mm thick, found[44] in 2008 in debris from the east granary. The strip curves gently as if part of a circumference *c.* 350 mm in diameter, and is pierced medially with a series of fifteen (including two incomplete) round holes, 3 mm in diameter, 2 mm apart. Inscribed in letters formed by punched dots: (i) above the holes, SEPTEMBER; (ii) below the holes, K N ID, *K(alendae) N(onae) Id(us)*; (iii) at right-angles, just after 'September', AE, *Ae(quinoctium)*.[45]



FIG. 29. Vindolanda, copper-alloy strip (No. 65).
(*Photo: R.S.O. Tomlin*)

66. Ibid. Ten fragments of brick or tile impressed with rectangular stamps of Legion VI Victrix now incomplete, found[46] in 2009. Three at least can be identified as *RIB* II.4, 2460.50 (Wright, type 44).

[44] During excavation for the Vindolanda Trust directed by Andrew Birley. Robin Birley made it and the next seven items available with note of provenance. Small-find (SF) numbers are given in brackets.

[45] It was first interpreted as part of a perpetual calendar, with two days to a hole, by Andrew Birley in *Archaeology* 62.1 (Jan./Feb. 2009), 72; see also *Current Archaeology* 224 (Nov. 2008), 14–15, and Robin Birley, *Vindolanda: a Roman Frontier Fort on Hadrian's Wall* (2009), col. pl. 23. But Michael Lewis has argued persuasively in *Current Archaeology* 228 (March 2009), 12–17, that it is part of an 'anaphoric' water-clock as described by Vitruvius (9. 8. 8–15); see also M. Lewis in O. Wikander (ed.), *Handbook of Ancient Water Technology* (2000), 361–9, and esp. 366. The clock's function was to divide day and night into 12 equal hours each according to the Roman system, whatever the latitude or time of year, by means of a disc which rotated once every 24 hours against a fixed grid. This disc had holes around the circumference which was marked with the months, like the Salzburg fragment (*ILS* 8645), and the date was marked by means of a peg. As it rotated, therefore, the peg marked the angle of the sun against the grid somewhat like a sun-dial, but working day and night. Since Roman hours of day and night varied in length according to the time of year, the equinox is marked because it was the only 24-hour period (twice a year) in which all 24 hours were of equal length. Time-keeping by the hour would have been essential to the fort's daily routine: Vegetius notes (3. 8) that the night was divided into four watches of three hours each 'by the water-clock' (*ad clepsydram*), and there are hints of such a system in military papyri which refer to 'the second watch' (*vigiliam ii*, in Fink *RMR* 67) and 'the ninth hour' (*hora illa non[a]* and *hora viiii principia […]*, in Fink *RMR* 53). At the fort of Remagen in A.D. 218, the prefect even paid for 'the clock' (*horolegium*) to be repaired (*ILS* 9363).

[46] With the next six items. Except for No. 68 (SF 12236), which was found in the *via principalis* in front of the west granary, they were all found in fourth-century 'chalet' barracks, where they must have been residual.

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67. Ibid. (FIG. 30). Fragment of tile 22 mm thick (SF 13252), impressed at one end with a rectangular stamp over the tilemaker's 'signature': CIINII[…], presumably *c(ohors) II Ne[rv(iorum)]*.[47]



FIG. 30. Vindolanda, stamped tile (No. 67).
(*Photo: R.S.O. Tomlin*)

68. Ibid. Fragment of tile 25 mm thick (SF 12236), in a grey fabric unusual at Vindolanda, impressed with a well-made ansate stamp with letters in high relief: CO[…], *co[h(ors) ...]*.[48]

69. Ibid. Rim sherd of a pale buff mortarium (SF 12416), crudely incised with a knife before firing, on the rim below the lip: ṆINI.[…][49]

70. Ibid. Wall sherd of a South Spanish oil amphora (Dressel 20) (SF 13295), incised after firing with a series of straight strokes in the vertical axis; reading downwards: […]IIVV[50]

[47] The tops of the letters have been lost, so it is uncertain whether the first II was barred to identify it as a numeral. N is reversed. There is no evidence of how far the title *Nerviorum* was actually abbreviated. Auxiliary tile-stamps are comparatively uncommon (see *RIB* II.4, 2464–2480), and only three units are known to have abbreviated *cohors* to C, but in each case (ibid., 2468, 2469, 2471) with a medial point, which is not the case here. For this cohort at Vindolanda, some time in the second century, see No. 5 above (Vindolanda) with note.

[48] The stamp is otherwise unknown.

[49] The graffito is incomplete, since the cut edge of another letter shows in the break. The first letter might be read as P, since the diagonal does not extend to the next down-stroke, but there is a little evidence for the nomen *Ninius* (for example *CIL* vi 22986, 22987), which was perhaps cognate with the Celtic name *Ninnos*.

[50] This is difficult to interpret as a numeral, but to read upwards, MII[…], is also difficult.

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71. Ibid. (FIG. 31). Base sherd of a samian platter (Drag. 18/31) (SF 13388), scratched underneath after firing within the foot-ring: ṢVLIO, perhaps *Sulio*.[51]



FIG. 31. Vindolanda, samian graffito (No. 71).
(*Photo: R.S.O. Tomlin*)

72. Ibid. Rim sherd of a grey jar (SF 13453), incised after firing: PR, *Pr(...)*.[52]
73. Ibid. Rim sherd of a grey jar (SF 13018), coarsely incised after firing: CANVS, *Canus*.[53]

NOTTINGHAMSHIRE[54]

74. **Stanford on Soar** (SK 54 22). Silvered copper-alloy finger-ring found in the 1980s or 1990s (D 35), inscribed: TOT
75. **East Stoke** (SK 75 49). Silver finger-ring found in the 1980s or 1990s (D 37), inscribed: TOT
76. **Mansfield** (SK 54 61). Copper-alloy finger-ring found in the 1990s (D 38), inscribed: TOT

[51] The first letter is uncertain, although complete, and might be either C, P or S: it consists of a vertical stroke continued by a second stroke rising at a diagonal; the scratch at the foot is apparently casual, like that which cuts LI. This rising (not descending) diagonal makes P unlikely, although the name *Pulio* is attested (*AE* 1997, 584). There is one instance of the name *Sulio*, in Lower Germany (*AE* 1968, 344), but apparently none of **Culio*.

[52] An abbreviated personal name, most likely *Primus* or one of its cognates, but there are other possibilities.

[53] This is attested as a Latin cognomen (Kajanto, *Cognomina*, 223), but might be cognate with the Germanic name *Canio* (*RIB* 1483, 3324).

[54] The next seven items were found by metal-detectorists, and are inscribed on the bezel. Details after autopsy if possible, but by report for D 37 and 40, were sent by Adam Daubney; see further, n. 30 above. His catalogue-sequence has been retained here, with catalogue-numbers prefaced by 'D' in brackets. One TOT ring is already known from Nottinghamshire, *RIB* II.3, 2422.40 (Willoughby-on-the-Wolds, D 36).

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77. **Linby** (SK 53 53) (FIG. 32). Fragment of a silver finger-ring found in 2007 (D 39) comprising the shoulders and bezel, inscribed: TOT



FIG. 32. Linby, silver finger-ring (No. 77). (*Photo: Portable Antiquities Scheme*)

78. **Gringley on the Hill** (SK 73 90). Silver finger-ring found in the 1980s or 1990s (D 40), inscribed: TOT

79. **Redhill on Soar** (SK 4928). Copper-alloy finger-ring (D 55), inscribed: TOT

80. **Caunton** (SK 74 59) (FIG. 33). Copper-alloy finger-ring found in 2008 (D 59), inscribed: TVT[55]



FIG. 33. Caunton, copper-alloy finger-ring (No. 80). (*Photo: Portable Antiquities Scheme*)

[55] For the other instance of this spelling see No. 46 above (Ancaster), with note.

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SOMERSET

81. **West Bagborough** (ST 16 32) (FIG. 34). Sub-rectangular piece of hacksilber cut from scrap silver plate, 39.6 by 68.9 mm, 8 mm thick, weight 163.26 gm, found[56] in 2001. Inscribed with a fine point: XII | VIIII S, *XII* | *VIIII s(emis)*, '12; 9; one-half.'[57]

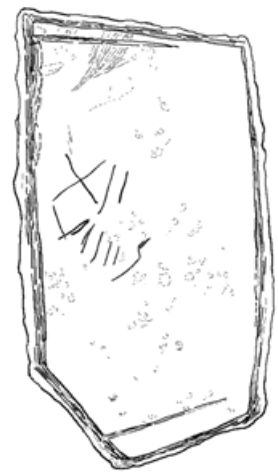


FIG. 34. West Bagborough, hacksilber (No. 81). Width 39.6 mm. (*Drawn from a photograph by R.S.O. Tomlin*)

WILTSHIRE

82. **Pewsey** (SU 18 56). Silver finger-ring found[58] in 2009, inscribed: TOT

CHANNEL ISLANDS

83. **St Peter Port**, Guernsey, La Plaiderie. Copper-alloy finger-ring, found[59] in 1983/85. Incised on the bezel: [...] | VALE, probably *[bene]* |*vale*. 'Fare well.'[60]

[56] With 72 other pieces of hacksilber and 681 fourth-century silver coins (siliquae and miliarenses) closing with Valentinian and Valens in the period A.D. 364–7. The hoard has been acquired by Somerset County Council Museums Service, and is published by S. Minnitt in R. Abdy, E. Ghey, C. Hughes and I. Leins, *Coin Hoards from Roman Britain* XII (2009), 306–12. See also S. Minnitt and M. Ponting, 'The West Bagborough hoard, Somerset', in the forthcoming proceedings of a conference on hacksilber published by the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland. Steve Minnitt sent a photograph and full details.

[57] No units are given, but this is surely a note of weight expressed in either 'pounds (and) ounces' or 'ounces (and) scruples', the Roman pound (*libra*) of 327.45 gm being divided into 12 ounces (*unciae*) each of 24 'scruples' (*scripula*). Since the graffito is vertically aligned to the left cut edge, the weight must relate to the hacksilber itself and not to the original piece of silver plate. Conceivably it is the weight of several pieces of hacksilber tied together, but this possibility should be rejected in view of the actual weight of 163.26 gm, which is exactly one half-pound, a *semis* (regularly abbreviated to *s*). Although one would have expected *s(emis)* to have occupied a third line by itself, it looks as if the graffito recorded successive reductions of a piece of hacksilber from one pound to three-quarters of a pound, and then to half a pound.

[58] And reported by a metal-detectorist (2009 T640). Information from Adam Daubney (see n. 30 above), in whose catalogue it is No. 67.

[59] With the next item during the excavation noted in *Britannia* 23 (1992), 307–8. Both are recorded there, but were not included under Inscriptions (ibid., 309–23).

[60] VALE is inscribed on the lower half of the bezel. The drawing (*Britannia* 23 (1992), 308, fig. 26) does not specify whether the upper half was originally inscribed or left blank, but comparison with other inscribed rings, and the placing of VALE, strongly suggest that it was originally preceded by *bene* or perhaps a personal name.

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84. Ibid. Fragment of a cylindrical glass bottle with moulded inscription in the base: FRO, *Fro(ntinus)*.[61]

85. **St Peter Port**, Guernsey, Bonded Store (WV 3356 7809) (FIG. 35). Wall sherd of a flagon found[62] in 1996/2003, in the fill of a Roman ditch probably of the mid-second century. Scratched above the shoulder after firing: [...]V̂ΛT, probably *Vat(...)*, an abbreviated personal name.[63]



FIG. 35. Guernsey, coarseware graffito (No. 85).
(*Drawn by R.S.O. Tomlin*)

86. Ibid. (FIG. 36). Wall sherd of another flagon, scratched after firing: [...]I VI[...][64]



FIG. 36. Guernsey, coarseware graffito (No. 86).
(*Drawn by R.S.O. Tomlin*)

[61] Compare *RIB* II.2, 2419.116 (with note of other examples from Britain and Gaul).

[62] With the next item (both SF 245) and other Roman material, during excavation directed by Mrs Heather Sebire. Information from Philip de Jersey, who made the sherds available.

[63] Although broken to the left, the graffito is probably complete, with V ligatured to 'open' A. The reading [.]MT is just possible, with incomplete M; this would be the name of a Roman citizen reduced to its three initials, but it seems most unlikely. For other examples of the abbreviation VAT, see *RIB* II.7, 2501.573 (London) and II.8, 2503.598 (Old Winteringham). Possible names are all rare; in Britain they include *Vatta* (*RIB* 610) and *Vatiaucus* (*RIB* II.3, 2432.4).

[64] There is a space between the first letter and the second, and a possible difference in alignment (but not in the instrument used), to judge by the second and third letters. The third letter is a downstroke broken at the top, and is therefore incomplete; it might be II = E, or even N (etc.), rather than I. A note of capacity expressed in two units seems unlikely, but the graffito is too fragmentary to decide between the possibilities of two ownership inscriptions, the first in the genitive case, or of one by a man with two names such as [IVL]I VI[IRI].

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SCOTLAND

CITY OF EDINBURGH

87. **Cramond** (NT 1900 7688). Base sherd of a samian dish (Drag. 18/31) stamped by Reditus of Lezoux (*c.* A.D. 135–65) (SF 107), found[65] in 2008. Scratched underneath after firing in capital letters: VIIR, an abbreviated personal name *Ver(...)*, perhaps *Ver(ecundus)*.[66]

ADDENDA ET CORRIGENDA

(a) ***RIB* 1688** (Vindolanda). This altar is now so weathered as to be illegible, but with the help of No. 4 above (Vindolanda) the prefect's name can be read from Wright's (1950) drawing as [SV]LPI|CIVS PVDENS, *[Su]lpi|cius Pudens*.[67] It was preceded in line 3 by the *cui praeest* formula abbreviated; the drawing suggests [C] P[R]AE.

(b) ***RIB* 1705** (Vindolanda) (FIG. 37). Two fragments of a buff sandstone dedication-slab were found[68] in 2009 at Vindolanda, in the east granary of the visible stone fort. They almost certainly belong to the same inscription as a much larger fragment (*RIB* 1705) found at Vindolanda in 1933, re-used in the Headquarters Building immediately to the east. Fragment (i), 205 by 145 mm, 115 mm thick, with original top edge, right edge and back, is inscribed in letters 60 mm high which retain trace of red paint: […]SEVERI | […]I CIMXI | […], *[...] Severi* | *[... Parth]*



FIG. 37. Vindolanda, *RIB* 1705 (Add. (b), (i)).
(*Photo: R.S.O. Tomlin*)

[65] During excavation by AOC Archaeology Group (project no. 20137). Information from Alex Croom, who sent a drawing.

[66] The abbreviation VIIR is quite frequent: it occurs on samian sherds from Richborough (*RIB* II.7, 2501.598), Leicester (584), Lancaster (816) and Corbridge (817). The name would probably have been Roman in appearance, but have 'concealed' the Celtic name-element **vero-s* ('true'). There are many possibilities, but the most likely are *Verus*, *Verinus* and *Verecundus*. Since the first two were hardly worth abbreviating, *Verecundus* seems likely.

[67] As suggested by Robin Birley; the altar was re-examined in 2009 by Anthony Birley (see n. 8 above).

[68] During excavation for the Vindolanda Trust directed by Andrew Birley. Robin Birley made them available, with a note by Anthony Birley which makes the connection with *RIB* 1705, although his readings differ slightly from those offered here. None of the fragments conjoin, but (i) is the same thickness as *RIB* 1705 [4½ in. = 115 mm], its lettering is similar (but slightly taller, as appropriate to the first two lines), and like *RIB* 1705 when found, it retains traces of red paint. Independently of *RIB* 1705, both fragments can be dated to the sole reign of Caracalla, besides being found in the adjoining building. The text as restored by *RIB* should therefore be expanded by inserting his elaborate 'ancestry', details of which are given by *RIB* 1202 (Whitley Castle), 1235 (Risingham), etc.

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ici m[a]xi(mi) | *[...]*. It evidently identified Caracalla as the son of the deified Severus, Most Great Conqueror of Parthia (etc.).[69] Fragment (ii), 80 by 115 mm, maximum thickness 60 mm (but not original), is inscribed in similar letters 50 mm high without trace of colouring: […] | […] ĄN͡T […] | […]N͡EP[…] | [...], part of Caracalla's fictive ancestry.[70]

(c) After ***RIB* II.3, 2422.40**, note is made of an unprovenanced gold TOT finger-ring which is now in the Victoria and Albert Museum. In addition to *RIB* II.3, 2422.38 (British Museum), six silver TOT rings without provenance have also been recorded (FIG. 38).[71]



FIG. 38. Unprovenanced silver finger-ring (Add. (c)). (*Photo: Portable Antiquities Scheme*)

(d) ***Britannia* 27 (1996), 453, No. 31** (South Shields). This fragment of a copper-alloy belt-plate, originally read as [IO]VIS after *RIB* II.3, 2429.11 (Brampton), is now better read and restored as *[ser]ves*.[72] 'May you preserve.'

(e) ***RIB* II.3, 2429.12** (Kirkby Thore). This fragment of a copper-alloy belt-plate, reading SERV.[...], is better restored as *serv[es]*.[73] 'May you preserve.'

[69] The broken edge to the left preserves the middle of S in line 1, and the tips of I (ligatured to H or N) and of C in line 2. Next, I was ligatured to M, although this began the next word; and A (with its cross-bar now lost) was ligatured within M. The adjective *maximus* ('greatest'), here probably abbreviated to *maxi(mi)* as in *RIB* 1705, line 2, was only added to the last two of Severus' titles, *Parthicus* and *Britannicus*. Either could be restored here, but *Parthicus* would allow more space in the line for all the preceding titles (*Pius*, perhaps *Pertinax*, *Aug(ustus)*, *Arabicus* and *Adiabenicus*), which were themselves probably abbreviated.

[70] It is too small to be located exactly. Line 1 is either part of *Germanici* for his 'grandfather' Marcus Aurelius, or the end of *Hadriani* (his 'great-great-grandfather') or *Traiani* (his 'great-great-great-grandfather'). Line 2 likewise is either the beginning of *Ner[vae]* (his 'great-great-great-great-grandfather' and ultimate ancestor), or part of *abnepoti* ('great-great-grandson') or *adnepoti* ('great-great-great-grandson'). In view of the likely line-width, *nepoti* ('grandson') and *pronepoti* ('great-grandson') may be eliminated.

[71] By Adam Daubney (see n. 30 above), in whose catalogue they are D 47, 49, 50, 51, 52 and 68. A seventh ring (D 64) is thought not to be from Britain.

[72] By Paul Bidwell (as reported by Alex Croom), who reads the penultimate letter as E, not I, because of its three rightward extensions; he compares a complete example from the fort of Eining, which reads SERVES (M. Gschwind, *Abusina: das römische Auxiliarkastell Eining an der Donau vom 1. bis 5. Jahrhundert n. Chr.* (Munich, 2004), 329, C 383 with fig. 46). The complete legend is unknown, but is surely related to the baldric- and belt-fittings which read (in effect) *Iuppiter Optime Maxime conserva numerum omnium militantium* (*RIB* II.3, 2429, with L. Allason-Jones, 'An eagle mount from Carlisle', *Saalburg Jahrbuch* 42 (1986), 68–9). The genitive 'of Jupiter' (*Iovis*) and the jussive subjunctive (*serves*) suggests that a prayer for protection is being addressed in respectful terms to an attribute of Jupiter, perhaps his eagle with thunderbolt (compare *RIB* II.3, 2429.1–6, etc.) or his son, the hero Hercules.

[73] Compare the previous item (with note).

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(f) ***RIB* II.4, 2472.2**, tile-stamp reading C $\overline{\text{IIII}}$ G, *c(ohors) IIII G(allorum)*. Examples noted are all from Templebrough, but the same stamp was used for two roof-tiles (*tegulae*) found at Castleford (*Lagentium*). Since they are in the same fabric as the majority of tile from this fort and its *vicus*, this fabric was probably local; it would follow that in the Flavian period the cohort was stationed at Castleford.[74]

(g) ***RIB* III** has now been published, and brings the record of inscriptions on stone in *RIB* I to the end of 2006. They are numbered from 3001 (to 3550), to mark them as belonging to a third volume.[75]

CHANGE OF LOCATION

(a) ***RIB* 1020** (probably Cumberland). This fragment of a Twentieth Legion dedication-slab was rediscovered in *c*. 1995, in a garden in Barkway, Herts.[76]

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[74] H.E.M. Cool and C. Philo, *Roman Castleford: Excavations 1974–85*, I, *The Small Finds* (1998), 226 (Fabric 1), 231 with fig. 101.24 and 25, a reference owed by Anthony Birley (see n. 8 above) to the late Vivien Swan. The tiles are now in Wakefield Museum.

[75] R.S.O. Tomlin, R.P. Wright and M.W.C. Hassall, *The Roman Inscriptions of Britain*, III: *Inscriptions on Stone found or notified between 1 January 1955 and 31 December 2006* (Oxford, 2009). All but six were first published in *JRS* or *Britannia*, to which a Concordance will be found on pp. 493–9, but readings have now been extended or modified by RSOT, who has added historical and epigraphic commentary with note of present location (etc.), and each is illustrated if possible by a photograph as well as an independent 'contact' drawing like those in *RIB* I. The indispensable assistance of many museums and individuals is acknowledged in the Preface and on p. 5.

[76] 54 High Street, Barkway. A previous owner worked for Sotheby's during *c*. 1965/85 (information from William MacKay, FSA), and presumably acquired the fragment when the Lowther Castle collection was dispersed in 1970. See further Sotheby's (London) Sale of Antiquities, Monday 29 June 1970. Lots 167–82 are 'The Property of the Rt. Hon. The Earl of Lonsdale', and the second item (of two) in Lot 180 is 'a fragment of a Roman yellow sandstone Altar carved with half an arch enclosing a brief inscription, a fruit and swag to one side, 20¾ in. high (52.7 cm.) by 28¼ in. wide (71.7 cm.)'. Description and dimensions confirm that this is in fact *RIB* 1020, viewed upside-down.

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