III. Inscriptions[1]

By R.S.O. TOMLIN

A. MONUMENTAL

1. **Richborough** (*Rutupiae*, TR 32 60), Kent (FIG. 1). Small fragment of a marble slab, 0.063 by 0.047 m, 0.029 m thick, probably found in 1926 or 1927.[2] The back is neatly tooled. The face is inscribed with the upper part of two unidentified letters: [. . .]..[. . .][3]

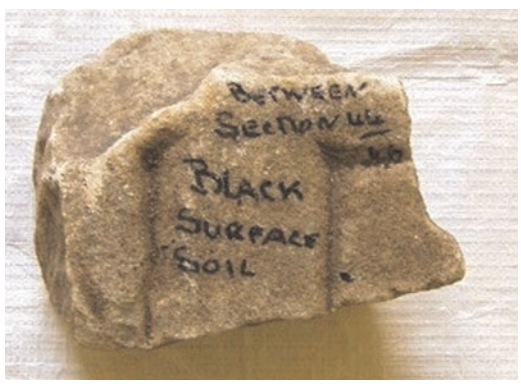


FIG. 1. Richborough, marble fragment (No. 1); scale 1:1.
(*Photo: Roly Cobbett*)

[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] In the excavations of those years, since the provenance is noted as 'black surface soil between Sections 44 and 46', sections which are first mentioned in J.P. Bushe-Fox, *Richborough* III. The fragment (AM Lab Ref. No. 78303101) was found in the English Heritage store at Stone Hut, Dover Castle, by Roly Cobbett, who sent photographs and other details. Many small fragments of marble slab with lettering have been found at Richborough (*RIB* 46–65), but their relationship to each other and this new fragment (No. 1) is unclear.

[3] Both letters incorporate a vertical stroke, the second extended at the top by another stroke at right-angles (suggesting E, for example). There is a diagonal cut to the left of the first stroke, but this is rather narrow, and too acute for N, so it may be casual; the letter-heights are thus uncertain.

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https://doi.org/10.1017/S0068113X11000638 Published online by Cambridge University Press

2. **Vindolanda** (NY 768 663), Northumberland (FIG. 2). Corner fragment of a grey/buff sandstone slab, 0.195 by 0.16 m, 0.075 m thick, found in 2010 in the western *vicus*.[4] Roughly incised in capitals: DE.[. . .][5]



FIG. 2. Vindolanda, inscribed slab (No. 2).
(*Photo: R.S.O. Tomlin*)

3. Ibid. (FIG. 3). Fragment of a grey/buff sandstone slab, 0.152 by 0.097 m, 0.082 m thick, found in 2010.[6] The left and bottom edges have been roughly squared, but the other two are broken. It is not clear whether the inscription is complete to left or right, but it is probably not. Two intersecting lines have been scored at the beginning of line 2. Incised in irregular capitals: [. . .] S SES *vacat* | [. . .].SOḶṾ[. . .][7]



FIG. 3. Vindolanda, inscribed slab (No. 3). Width 0.152 m.
(*Photo: R.S.O. Tomlin*)

[4] During excavation by the Vindolanda Trust (SF 13,784). Robin Birley made it available at Vindolanda.

[5] All that survives of the third letter is the lower part of a vertical stroke, so it cannot be O or A, which eliminates any dedication to a god or goddess. The axis of the lettering is not parallel with the top (squared) edge; this, and its poor quality, suggests that it was incised at the quarry before the slab was squared up as building material.

[6] During excavation by the Vindolanda Trust (SF 14,831). Robin Birley made it available at Vindolanda.

[7] In line 2, L instead of I would give a plausible sequence, but there is no sign of the horizontal stroke. V is scored horizontally across the top of its second (vertical) stroke, whether casually or to suggest a serif, or even as ligatured VT or VTE. Like the previous item, this is probably part of a quarry-face inscription.

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4. **Hadrian's Wall** (origin unknown) (FIG. 4). Small fragment of a pale buff sandstone slab, 0.12 by 0.17 m, 0.08 m thick, without record of where and when it was found.[8] The upper edge is original, and the border is represented by two incised grooves, below which is incised the top of a letter: [. . .]C[. . .][9]



FIG. 4. Hadrian's Wall, fragment of inscribed letter (No. 4).
(*Photo: R.S.O. Tomlin*)

5. **Inveresk** (NT 3508 7212), Lewisvale Park, East Lothian (FIGS 5a and 5b). Altar of white sandstone, 0.55 by 1.26 m, 0.26 m deep, found[10] in 2010. There is a recent break across the top of the die, which has affected the end of the first line. The capital was decorated on all sides with a leaf-frieze above arcading and a rope-moulding, which on the back is now represented only by a detached fragment. The die is recessed, and on the left side is carved in

[8] It was noticed in the Clayton Collection by Georgina Plowright, who made it available at Corbridge Roman Site where it is now stored. It is uncatalogued, and apparently unmatched by any inscription in *RIB*, but was presumably found at one of the sites owned by Clayton, such as Chesters, Carrawburgh, Housesteads or Vindolanda.

[9] The cutting is competent, but not of high quality. The letter is most likely to be C or G, since S would be too large, and O (or Q) excluded by the steady narrowing of width. In the top line of what was evidently a large building-inscription, C might well be the initial letter of *Caesar* (etc.).

[10] With the next item and an altar-base nearby (but not inscribed) during excavation for East Lothian Council by AOC Archaeology, directed by John Gooder who made them available, together with his *Lewisvale Park, Musselburgh: Excavation Data Structure Report* (AOC Archaeology, 2010). The altars had been carefully buried side by side, face-down in a shallow pit. They are now in store with only the faces accessible, and the adhering soil has deliberately not been removed, so that when they are conserved it will be possible to recover further traces of colouring (etc.). They have been discussed with Fraser Hunter, who with Lawrence Keppie has already made a preliminary assessment and will lead the team responsible for full publication. Photographs and drawings here (FIGS 5 and 6), like the accompanying description and commentary, are therefore provisional.

Both altars were dedicated by the same officer to closely related deities, and the carving and lettering are evidently by the same hand(s), so there is probably no significance in the different colours of the sandstone. No. 6 is more orange than No. 5, but geologically they could both have come from the same quarry.

Inveresk is already noteworthy for two altars dedicated by the imperial procurator of Britain (*RIB* 2132 and III, 3499) and the tombstone of an *eques singularis* (*Britannia* 39 (2008), 372, No. 5) which may imply the presence of the imperial governor.

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FIG. 5. (a) Inveresk, altar (No. 5); (b) Inveresk, altar die only (No. 5). (*Photographed and drawn by R.S.O. Tomlin*)

relief a griffin above a ram-headed patera; on the right side a lyre above a plectrum and a jug. On the face, within a panel 0.41 by 0.44 m defined by a moulding, is inscribed: DAEO | INVICTo MY | C CAS | FLA, *d<a>eo | invicto My(thrae) | G(aius) Cas(sius) Fla(. . .)*. 'To the Unconquered God Mithras, Gaius Cas(sius?) Fla(vianus?) (dedicated this altar).'[11]

6. Ibid. (FIGS 6a and 6b). Altar of buff sandstone, 0.55 by 1.23 m, 0.31 m deep, now broken in two across the die. Only the capital is inscribed. Within a rectangular recess are four female busts



FIG. 6. (a) Inveresk, altar (No. 6); (b) Inveresk, altar capital only (No. 6). (*Photographed and drawn by R.S.O. Tomlin*)

[11] Letter-heights: 1, 50 mm; 2, 48–50 mm; 3, 45–48 mm; 4, 42–45 mm. The lettering, although not yet cleaned, seems to be well drawn and executed, but line 2 shows signs of crowding towards the end (notably in the diminutive O), although two-fifths of the panel was not used. S in line 3 is still obscured, but the reading is confirmed by the text of the other altar

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carved in high relief, differentiated by their hairstyle and headdress as Spring, Summer, Autumn and Winter. Below is a rectangular panel defined by a scribed line above a painted red band, the panel being inscribed: SOLI ▵ C ▵ CAS ▵ FL[.] 7, *Soli G(aius) Cas(sius) Fl[a(. . .)] (centurio)*. 'To the Sun, the centurion Gaius Cas(sius?) Fla(vianus?) (dedicated this altar).' Below, the die is recessed with a panel either side enclosing a laurel wreath with rosette carved in relief. The face is carved in relief with the radiate head of Sol within a scribed circle, the four radii of his crown, his eyes and mouth being pierced for illumination from behind by way of a rectangular recess.[12]

B. INSTRUMENTUM DOMESTICUM

DEVON

7. **Exeter** (*Isca*, SX 9363 9073), St Loye's College. Three joining fragments of a wooden stilus writing-tablet, 150 by 75 mm overall, found[13] in 2010 in the waterlogged infill of a Roman well within what is thought to be a military supply base or works depot associated with the legionary fortress *c*. A.D. 55–75. The tablet is recessed on both sides as the second leaf of a 'triptych' used for legal documents, but retains no trace of black-wax filling, and almost none of stilus-writing. In the recess for the seals three vertical lines have been scored, either to aid the attachment of the seals or to remove them. The other face has been re-used for an ink text, apparently the 'address' of a letter. Line 1 ends in two large letters, the first at least of capital form, to the right of a vertical mark

(No. 6). In contrast to No. 6, however, there is apparently no use of medial points, nor any centurial sign below line 4 despite there being ample space for it, but these apparent omissions must be confirmed after cleaning.

DAEO for *deo* is 'hypercorrect', and in Britain occurs only at Leicester (*Britannia* 40 (2009), 327, No. 21); it is rare elsewhere (*CIL* v 8136; xiii 41 and 5047; *ILS* 9087). The name of Mithras is sometimes spelled with Y instead of I (in Britain see *RIB* 1395 and 1599), and is sometimes abbreviated to the initial letter M where the formulation (for example *deo invicto*) and the context made the dedication obvious (in Britain see *RIB* 1544 and 1545; but in 1082 this is far from certain). The abbreviation to MY is most unusual, but also occurs in *AE* 1974, 477 (Noricum).

The attributes on either side of the die suggest Apollo, who is explicitly identified with the Unconquered Sun and Mithras in the Rudchester mithraeum (*RIB* 1397). Another altar from Inveresk (*RIB* 2132) was dedicated to Apollo Grannus.

The dedicator was a centurion and a Roman citizen, and thus likely to have been legionary, especially since his altars are of such outstanding quality. The form of A in line 1 (and probably in 3 and 4), which also occurs in No. 6, line 3, is also significant: with its angled cross-bar, it is peculiar to distance slabs of the Twentieth Legion on the Antonine Wall (*RIB* 2197, 2198, 2199, 2206, 2208 and III, 3507), and is found elsewhere in Britain only at the legion's base of Chester (*RIB* 461 in Greek, and 497). This strongly suggests that he was a centurion in the vexillation of that legion responsible for building part of the Wall, and that his altar is contemporary with this work in the early 140s. His post at Inveresk is unstated, but presumably he commanded a legionary detachment stationed there (compare Maximius Gaetulicus at Newstead, *RIB* 2120), or was acting-commander (*praepositus*) of an auxiliary unit in garrison.

Statistically his gentilicium is very likely to be *Cassius*, since this Italian and provincial nomen is so widespread, especially in Cisalpine Gaul according to *TLL* Onomasticon, but a few rare nomina are also possible, for example *Castricius*. His cognomen was probably *Flavus*, *Flavinus* or *Flavianus*, but *Flaccus* is also possible. He is otherwise unknown in Britain, and apparently not attested elsewhere; he cannot be identified with T(itus) Cassius Flavinus, centurion of Legion X Gemina buried at Tarraco (*CIL* ii 4151), nor with Cassius Flav[. . .], centurion of Legion XV Apollinaris at Carnuntum (*CIL* iii 4456), since this legion had left before A.D. 117. It is strange that G(aius) Cas(. . .) Fla(. . .) should have abbreviated his name in both inscriptions to this extent: in No. 6, space was limited, but it was ample in No. 5. However, like his fellow-centurion Maximius Gaetulicus at Newstead (*RIB* 2120), he also did not identify his legion; and he abbreviated the god's name as well.

[12] Letter height: 33 mm. The first three letters of SOLI are still covered by dried mud, but in view of the radiate head of Sol below there are sufficient surface traces to read them with confidence. Only the vertical stroke of L in FL[.] is visible, and it is followed by space for one letter and a medial point; but the reading can be restored from No. 5 (above). For the dedicator's name and rank, see previous note. Similar but less well executed provision for illumination from behind is found in one of the altars (*RIB* 1546) from the Carrawburgh mithraeum.

[13] During excavation by Exeter Archaeology in advance of proposed development, directed by Tim Gent. John Pamment Salvatore, Reports Officer of Exeter Archaeology, made it available with details of the excavation.

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probably left by the binding-cord since it is in line with the binding-notch in the middle. Line 2 begins with three smaller letters apparently of cursive form, but they are badly smudged and the ink has spread into the fibres, so their reading is uncertain: [. . .]RO | a̤r̤m̤[. . .][14]

LINCOLNSHIRE

8. **Baston** (TF 11 14) (FIG. 7). Silver finger-ring found[15] in 2010, inscribed: TOT.



FIG. 7. Baston, silver finger-ring (No. 8).
(*Photo: Portable Antiquities Scheme*)

[14] The spacing of line 1 suggests that only two capital letters have been lost to the left, for a 'heading' which consisted of a personal name in the dative case. The most likely restoration is *[Ve]ro*, 'to Verus', although other names are possible such as *Carus* and *Varus*. In line 2, he would have been described by his rank or occupation, which makes *arm[. . .]* an attractive reading, whether for *arm[orum custodi]*, 'armourer', or a reference to *armamentarium*, 'the armoury'. It may well have been abbreviated. For this possibility compare the stilus-tablet letter from Vindonissa 'addressed' *[. . .]* | *armor(um) cus(todi)* (M.A. Speidel, *Die römischen Schreibtafeln von Vindonissa* (1996), 174, No. 38).

[15] By metal-detector. Details and photograph from Adam Daubney, the PAS Finds Liaison Officer for Lincolnshire (see further, *Britannia* 41 (2010), 453, n. 30), in whose catalogue of TOT rings it is No. 66.

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LONDON

9. **City of London** (*Londinium*, TQ 3283 8140), Drapers' Gardens, 12 Throgmorton Avenue EC2 (FIG. 8). Two joining fragments of a wooden stilus writing-tablet, 168 by 70 mm, found[16] in 2006. In the bottom edge, which is complete, there is a saw-cut for the binding-cord, and two holes for the hinging-cords. Both faces are inscribed, but unusually by different instruments; the recessed face (a) by a stilus, the unrecessed face (b) by an ink-pen.

(a) The recessed face has lost any trace of wax, except for black staining in the upper left corner. The left side to a width of *c*. 30 mm carries trace of six lines of cursive writing inscribed by a stilus, with a few further traces to the right. These traces are not incisions but discolorations in the surface, and the readings are uncertain: *[. . .]* | traces | *[.] cassius [. . .]* | traces | *tu. . .* | *sunt cu. . .* | traces.[17]

(b) The unrecessed face carries six lines of cursive writing in ink.[18] They read:

[. . .]
ạufert ṭittius *traces*
eṭ aḍfirṃat illę sę opṭạ.os numeratos
accẹpisse et ḍebẹṛe plạcet pecuniam ss
rędḍi aprili abḥinc cụm usuris ex die
praęṣṣẹnṭi sine uḷla replicatione actuṃ
ḷaṛaę iii noṇ ḍęcem ṭertullo et sacerd[. . .]

. . . aufert Tittius . . . | *et adfirmat ille se opta[t]os numeratos* | *accepisse et debere. placet pecuniam s(upra)s(criptam)* | *reddi Aprili abhinc cum usuris ex die praesenti sine ulla replicatione. actum* | *Larae iii non(as) Decem(bres) Tertullo et Sacerd[ote] (consulibus)*

'. . . Tittius . . . takes away . . . and he affirms that he has received and owes [*understand* coins] which are choice (and) counted out. It is agreed that the above-written money be returned to Aprilis(?) henceforth(?), with interest from the present day, without any counter-plea. (Deed) executed at Lara(?) three days before the Nones of December in the consulship of Tertullus and Sacerdos [3 December 158].'

Text (b) can be understood with the help of contemporary parallels from Dacia[19] as the end of a dated loan-note (*mutuum*).[20] Since it apparently respects a binding-cord now lost, it may have been

[16] During excavation by Pre-Construct Archaeology (SF 1227), with the other inscribed items already published as *Britannia* 40 (2009), 336–46, Nos 34–63. The ink text was recognised by Margrethe Felter during cleaning and conservation, and James Gerrard made it available.

[17] 2, *cassius*. The tails of *ss* have been lost, but this looks like the gentilicium *Cassius*. There is a space to its left in relation to the other lines, which suggests that a one-letter praenomen has been lost.

[18] *numeratos* in 2 was immediately legible, implying a text that referred to money being 'counted out', but other words could only be read with the help of infra-red photographs taken by Charles Crowther in the Centre for the Study of Ancient Documents, Oxford. Difficulty was also caused by the ink having run into the horizontal fibres, and some letters being smudged or defective, as indicated by subscript dots. Word-division, of which there is almost no sign in the original, has also been indicated. Not indicated is the gap in each line (after *ille* and *debere* in 2 and 3, and within *abhinc*, *ulla* and *decem* in 4, 5 and 6) which, since it is vertically aligned with the saw-cut in the bottom edge, must have respected the binding-cord now lost.

[19] Dated 20 October 162 and 1 June 167 respectively (*FIRA* III, 122 and 120 = *IDR* I, 35 and 43). The note of A.D. 167 is quoted below in commenting on *sine ulla replicatione* (5). The relevant portion of the note of A.D. 162 reads: '. . . *et se eos (denarios) LX q(ui) s(upra) s(cripti) s(unt) mutuos numeratos accepisse et debere se dixit: et eorum usuras ex hac die . . . dari f(ide) p(romisit)*.' That this was formular is clear from the loan-note quoted by Modestinus in the 230s A.D. (*Digest* 22.1.41.2) as being typical: '*scripsi me accepisse et accepi ab illo mutuos et numeratos decem, quos ei reddam kalendis illis proximis cum suis usuris placitis inter nos*.' The only other British example is the Carlisle fragment of 7 November 83 (*Britannia* 23 (1992), 146–50, where others are cited at 148, n. 33).

[20] Line-by-line commentary:
1. Only the first two words survive, but the endings indicate a verb followed by a noun in the masculine nominative case, and only the first letter of each is really in doubt. *Tittius* is well attested as the name of a samian potter, but also

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FIG. 8. London, writing-tablet (No. 9). Width: 168 mm.
(*Photo: Centre for the Study of Ancient Documents*)

occurs as a gentilicium. It was presumably the name, or part of the name, of the debtor; but unfortunately the context is now lost.

2. *adfirmat* is the verb which corresponds to *dixit* and *scripsi* in the loan-notes already quoted. Its ending is obscured by surface discoloration, and there is what looks like trace of a downstroke leading from the diagonal of *a*, but there is no further sign of *n* (for the plural *-ant*) nor space for it, and the singular *-at* is confirmed by *ille*.

numeratos is clear, but the preceding word is unparalleled: *mutuos* ('lent'), as in the loan-notes already quoted, cannot be read; nor the references to 'coin' found in other loan-notes such as *denarios*, *nummos* or the adjective *probos* ('sound'). But the word certainly begins with *o* and ends with *-os*, and the medial *ta* is clear enough; so the reading *opta[t]os* is inevitable. A sense of 'hoped-for' money is inappropriate here, but the sense of 'choice' (literally 'chosen') is quite acceptable. This may refer to a provision now lost — perhaps the debtor 'chose' to take his money in a certain form, maybe in gold — but it is more likely to be the equivalent of *probos* in the sense of coin which was 'choice', even selected, as not being worn or clipped, debased or counterfeit.

3. There is what might be a medial point after *placet*, but since there is none elsewhere, and the verb follows a break in syntax with *debere*, the mark is probably casual. The impersonal verb *placet* evidently introduced a new provision, that of repayment, which in some loan-notes is dependent on a personal verb (*promisit*, *debebit*, etc.); but the *Digest* example already quoted also uses *placere* impersonally in the sense of 'agreement'.

3–5. The reference to interest being due from the date of the loan is standard, for example in the loan-notes quoted above. But the relevant clause also contains two phrases which are unparalleled, *aprili abhinc* (4) and *sine ulla replicatione* (5).

Aprili naturally suggests the month of April, but a month in the dative (or ablative) case is difficult to relate to the infinitive *reddi* which requires a dative of the recipient; and if *Aprili* referred to the date of repayment (hardly of the loan itself, since this was 3 December, *ex die praesenti*), the exact day would surely have been specified, for example *kalendis Aprilibus proximis*. But *Aprilis* is also quite a common cognomen, so it may be conjectured that it was the creditor's name, which unfortunately has been lost with the first half of the text. The temporal adverb *abhinc* is used of the length of time which has elapsed 'from the present', almost always in the past (in the sense of '*ago*'); it is difficult to interpret here, but perhaps it redundantly reinforced *ex die praesenti*.

Gaius (*Inst.* 4.126) and Ulpian (*Digest* 44.1.2.2) both describe *replicatio* as a counter-plea advanced in litigation, but here it is no more specific than the parallel phrase with *controversia* ('argument') which qualifies repayment in the Dacian loan-note of A.D. 167: '*(denarios) … quos ei reddere deb[e]t sine ulla contraversia* [sic].'

5–6. The text ends like many legal documents, including the Dacian loan-notes, with the formula of *actum* ('executed') followed by a place-name in the locative case and the date to the day. This place-name is quite well preserved, but unfortunately it was scrawled and does not suggest any known place. It was presumably in Britain, but even this is uncertain in a document from London. The first letter is apparently *l*, with the second stroke made separately. It is followed by *a*, and then by a peculiar *rae* which nonetheless resembles that in *praesenti* (5).

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written on the outside of a block consisting of two or three tablets tied together, so as to provide an accessible copy of an inner text which had been sealed to prevent alteration.[21]

GREATER LONDON

10. **Southwark** (TQ 3265 7965), Tabard Square (FIG. 9). Base sherd (SF 3300) of a samian dish (Drag. 18/31, stamped]ITI M), found[22] in 2002. Inscribed underneath after firing, within the foot-ring: VIT, *Vit(alis)*.[23]



FIG. 9. Southwark, graffito on samian (No. 10).
(*Drawn by R.S.O. Tomlin*)

11. Ibid. (FIG. 10). Rim sherd (SF 3301) of a black coarseware jar. Scratched after firing, immediately below the rim: R[24]

12. Ibid. (FIG. 11). Two wall sherds (SF 732) of a black coarseware jar. Both have been incised after firing, apparently by the same hand, but their relationship is unclear. They do not conjoin, and (i) is slightly thinner than (ii). (i) is part of two letters, with space to the left. (ii) might be the detached lower portion of the first letter of (i), in which case PV[. . .] or RV[. . .] could be read. But it seems more likely that there are two graffiti, and that (i) should probably be read as DV[. . .], perhaps *Du[bitatus]*.[25]

[21] This format goes back to the Neronian *senatusconsultum* of A.D. 61 (Suetonius, *Nero* 17, with E.A. Meyer, *Legitimacy and Law in the Roman World* (2004), 165–8), and was embodied in the 'triptych' of three stilus writing-tablets bound together. It may further be conjectured that the second tablet of the three, being recessed on both faces and thus potentially the most fragile, had actually broken; and that someone then improvised a legal document from the two remaining tablets, by writing the 'inner' text on their waxed faces with a stilus, sealing them face to face, and duplicating this text in ink on the two outside faces which were not recessed for wax.

This conjecture cannot be confirmed from the little that remains of the waxed text, since there is no corresponsion with the inked text. But this is not decisive: the surviving stilus text may duplicate only the lost portion of the ink text; it may even belong to an earlier use of the tablet, whether the wax coating was subsequently smoothed and re-used, or even left blank if the new text was quite short. It also looks as if the surviving traces belong to the first 'page' of any text, since there is no sign of the *actum* formula at the bottom.

[22] With the next two items during excavation by Pre-Construct Archaeology (*Britannia* 34 (2003), 345). James Gerrard made them available.

[23] The graffito is complete. For another example of this common personal name thus abbreviated, see *RIB* II.7, 2501.621 (Great Chesterford).

[24] The graffito is complete, the initial letter of the owner's name.

[25] This is quite a common name, which has already been found in London (*RIB* II.7, 2501.165 and 166).

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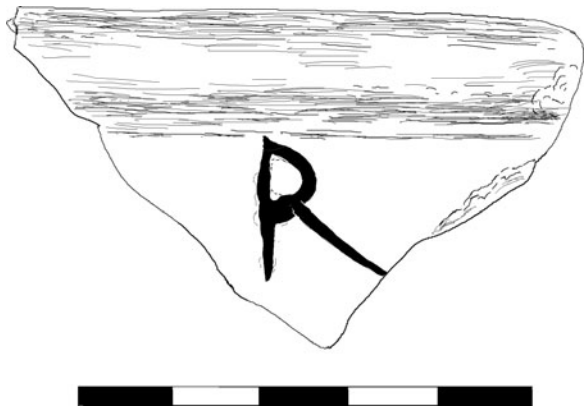


FIG. 10. Southwark, graffito on coarseware (No. 11).
(*Drawn by R.S.O. Tomlin*)

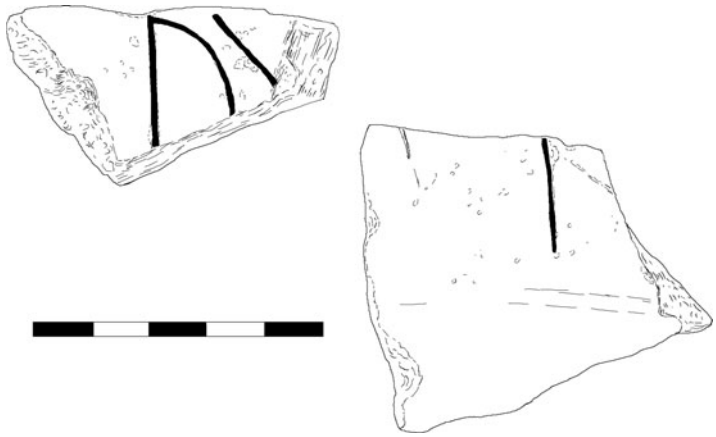


FIG. 11. Southwark, graffito on coarseware (No. 12).
(*Drawn by R.S.O. Tomlin*)

13. **Shadwell** (TQ 3745 8070), East London, Tobacco Dock (FIG. 12). Base sherd of a Nene Valley colour-coated beaker (dated A.D. 250–370/400) found[26] in 2002. Scratched underneath after firing: VI, probably *Vi(. . .)*.[27]

14. Ibid. Wall sherd of an Alice Holt / Farnham ware dish (dated A.D. 350–420). Scratched on the outside after firing: [. . .]VIC[. . .], probably *Vic[tor]* or a cognate name.[28]

[26] With the next item during excavation by Pre-Construct Archaeology (*Britannia* 34 (2003), 347). James Gerrard sent photographs and other details.

[27] The graffito is evidently complete, and more likely an abbreviated personal name than a numeral ('6'). In view of the next item, this is likely to have been *Victor* or a cognate name such as *Victorinus*, although there are other possibilities such as *Virilis* and *Vitalis*.

[28] Since the vessels overlap in date, and were found at the same site (it is not explicitly stated that both were found in the same context), it is quite possible that they both relate to the same owner whose name began with VIC. This would strengthen the likelihood of *Victor* or *Victorinus*, both very common names.

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FIG. 12. Shadwell, graffito on base sherd (No. 13). (*Photo: Pre-Construct Archaeology*)

NORFOLK

15. **Gunthorpe** (TG 0050 3723) (FIG. 13). Copper-alloy fragment from the end of an enamelled skillet handle, found[29] in 2005. Between scrolled borders is a reserved panel which has been incised with capital letters to be filled with red glass, of which traces remain: BEBẸ | SESE, perhaps for *bibe*, *zese(s)*. 'Drink (and) live.'[30]



FIG. 13. Gunthorpe, skillet handle (No. 15). (*Photo: Portable Antiquities Scheme*)

[29] By metal-detector, and recorded by PAS. Sally Worrell sent a photograph and other details.

[30] There is no sign of the bottom stroke of the second E, but elsewhere the horizontal strokes are rather slight, and the sequence BEBF would be difficult. The interpretation is conjectural. *bibe* and *pie zeses* are both quite frequent slogans on drinking vessels (etc.), but their conflation seems unparalleled. Vulgar confusion between short *[i]* and *[e]* is frequent, for *bebe* < *bibe*, but confusion must also be assumed in the un-Latin *zeses* between *[s]* and *[z]*.

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NORTHUMBERLAND[31]

16. **Vindolanda** (NY 768 663) (FIGS 14a and b). Complete boxwood comb (2002 39A), 96 by 59 mm, 10 mm thick, found in a Period II or III context (A.D. 95–105). Scratched in cursive letters along the spine: CARANTḬḬCAPICTINVS, perhaps *Carantii Capictinus*. 'Carantius' (son) Capictinus.'[32]

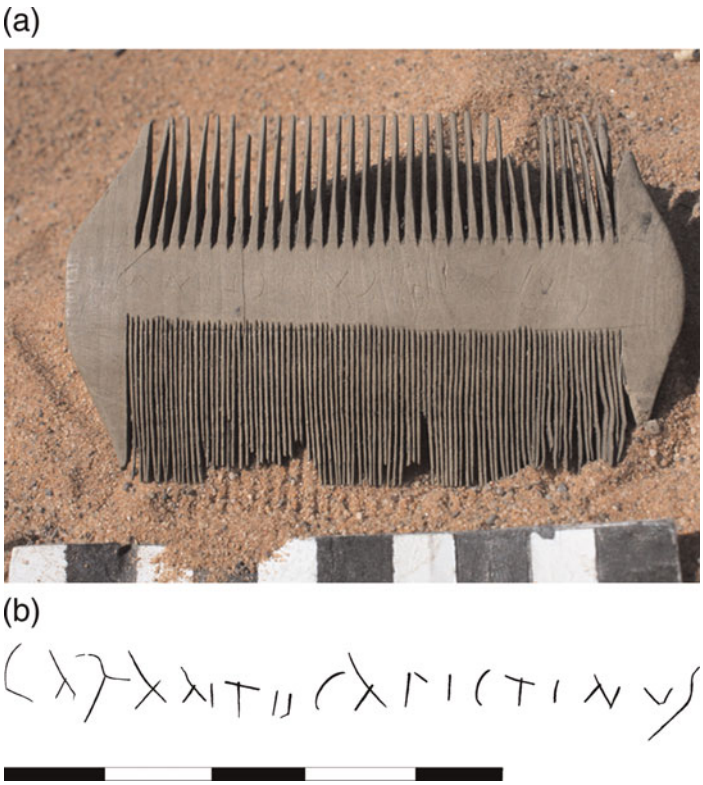


FIG. 14. (a) Vindolanda, boxwood comb (No. 16), (b) Vindolanda, graffito on boxwood comb (No. 16). (*Photographed and drawn by R.S.O. Tomlin*)

[31] The next eight items were found during excavations by the Vindolanda Trust, all in 2010 except for the leather off-cut (No. 19). Robin Birley made them available, and Anthony Birley sent a copy of his detailed report on the two mirror-frames (Nos 17 and 18).

[32] The division into two names is conjectural, since **Capictinus* is not attested, but there is a small change in direction with the second C, which suggests a break here. The initial sequence suggests *Carantus* or *Carantius*, which is frequent in *CIL* xiii and has already occurred at Vindolanda (*Britannia* 39 (2008), 384, No. 19). The excavators therefore read IIC as VS, but their putative V is unlike the V before S, and their putative S (which has no tail) resembles the succeeding C. The second stroke of II has a short leftward tail, which might suggest a defective O or S, but is better seen as casual as the stilus was being lifted. Unless II is for E (which is visually attractive but hard to explain), it would conclude *Carantii*, '(the son) of Carantius', as the patronymic of **Capictinus*. This name's closing sequence suggests *pecten* ('comb'), which is presumably a coincidence, but there seems to be no closer analogy than *Respectinus* (see for example M.P. Speidel, *Denkmäler* No. 620, an *eques singularis Augusti* from Noricum).

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17. Ibid. (SF 13,849) (FIG. 15). Cast-lead frame for a small convex glass mirror, now in two pieces but 48 mm square and enclosing a circular opening 36 mm in diameter, found in the western *vicus*. The integral cast lettering reads: Q LICINIVS TVTINVS ARELATE FACIT, *Q(uintus) Licinius Tutinus Arelate facit*. 'Quintus Licinius Tutinus makes (this) at Arles.'[33]

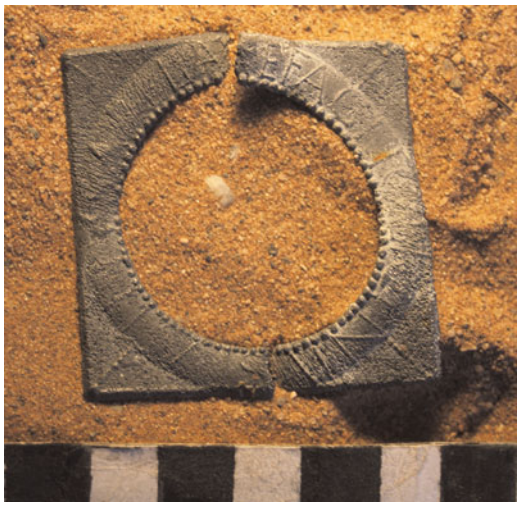


FIG. 15. Vindolanda, cast-lead mirror frame (No. 17). (*Photo: R.S.O. Tomlin*)

18. Ibid. (SF 14,682) (FIG. 16). Oval cast-lead mirror-frame, 58 by 44 mm externally, with integral cast lettering: VENATOR FECIT, *Venator fecit*. 'Venator made (this).'[34]



FIG. 16. Vindolanda, cast-lead mirror frame (No. 18). (*Photo: Vindolanda Trust*)

[33] The object was identified by Giulia Baratta of the University of Macerata, who provided references with which Anthony Birley wrote his report (see above, n. 31). Fourteen of the maker's cast-lead mirror-frames are known, all from Gallia Narbonensis except one from Xanten, three of them incorporating moulded inscriptions which give his name and place of manufacture as Κύ(ιντος) Λικ(ίνιος) Τουτεινος ἐν Ἀρελάτω(ι) πο(ι)εῖ. The Vindolanda mirror-frame is the first in Latin, and the first to include his praenomen; like the Greek, it uses the present tense (*facit*).

[34] Birley (see above, n. 31) comments that the maker seems to be otherwise unattested, and his name is comparatively rare, so that his workshop cannot be located.

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19. Ibid. (FIG. 17). Irregular leather off-cut, *c.* 78 by 78 mm, found in *c.* 1994 in a back-filled fort ditch of Period VI (A.D. 140–180). The top, bottom and right edges have been cut with a knife; also the upper one-third of the right edge, the rest of which appears to be the original edge of the hide. It bears two graffiti inverted in respect to each other, made by different hands. (i) In fluent cursive letters with a fine point: *5–6a* | *martialis* | *super*. '. . . , Martialis, Super.'[35] (ii) In more angular letters, more deeply cut: *aquinụs*. 'Aquinus.'[36]



FIG. 17. Vindolanda, graffiti on leather (No. 19).
(*Drawn by R.S.O. Tomlin*)

[35] There are enough small differences to suggest that the three lines of (i) are by different hands, and thus are individual 'signatures'.

(i) 2 is the masculine cognomen *Martialis*, which is understandably popular with soldiers, but has not occurred at Vindolanda before, except possbly in *Tab. Vindol.* III, 609.b.back 3n.

(i) 3 is the masculine cognomen *Super*, which occurs at Vindolanda only in correspondence from elsewhere (Curtius Super in *Tab. Vindol.* II, 213.i.1, and Clodius Super in II, 255.1 (with 255.App.back), III, 629.1, and perhaps II, 334.5). The reading is certain, but confusing since the scribe made the second (down)stroke of P, but then did not lift his stilus as he dragged it to the first downstroke of E.

(i) 1 is more difficult. It is complete, as drawn, and certainly ends in A; so it can hardly be a masculine cognomen like the others. The first letter is apparently A, but in certain hands might be R or even P. The next three letters have a marked leftward extension, unlike L in *Martialis*, and are most easily read as LL and the beginning of a fourth letter, whether A or M. But T could be read instead of either L, although quite unlike that in *Martialis*, and AN or ARI or MI variously before the final A. None of these combinations yields an obvious name, so the reading remains uncertain.

[36] A is written with a third, detached downstroke. VS is apparently ligatured, with a loop for V, followed by a long diagonal downstroke; another stroke might have been expected to complete S, but either it was not made, or it has been lost in the rough surface at the edge of the off-cut. This masculine cognomen has not occurred before in Britain. Although it is borne by the legionary legate Cornelius Aquinus in A.D. 68 (*PIR* C 1325 = Tacitus, *Hist.* 1.7), it occurs mostly in Gaul and Cisalpina.

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20. Ibid. (FIG. 18) (SF 15,094). Almost a complete quernstone of buff micaceous gritstone, diameter 0.38 m, now broken in half. Crudely incised in capitals around the upper edge: 7 AFRICANI, *(centuria) Africani*. 'The century of Africanus.'[37]



FIG. 18. Vindolanda, inscribed quernstone (No. 20).
(*Photo: R.S.O. Tomlin*)

21. Ibid. (FIG. 19) (SF 15,102). Rim sherd of a South Spanish oil amphora (Dressel 20), scratched on top after firing, in crude capitals: RINVS, *Rinus*.[38]



FIG. 19. Vindolanda, amphora rim-sherd (No. 21).
(*Drawn by R.S.O. Tomlin*)

22. Ibid. (FIG. 20) (SF 15,277). Eight conjoining sherds including the entire base and foot-ring, amounting to half a samian cup (Drag. 33). Scratched after firing on the inside of the foot-ring: MIÇIÇỌ, *Micico*.[39]

[37] This century is not otherwise attested at Vindolanda.

[38] This is not a name-ending: the graffito is complete, and there is a slight but sufficient tail to the first letter, so that R not P should be read. The name *Rinus* is very rare, but occurs in Spain as a complete graffito, the owner's name in capitals scratched underneath a samian vessel: J.A. Cerdà Mellado *et al.*, *El Cardo Maximus de la ciutat romana d' Iluro (Hispania Tarraconensis)* (*Laietania* 10, 2; 1997), 71 with 101, fig. 114 (noted as *Hispania Epigraphica* 7 (1997), 246).

[39] The graffito is complete, but the dotted letters are too angular to be certain: the first is presumably C, but might be P or S (without a tail) or even O (by including the next letter); the second might be L, but its angles suggest C again; and the third is apparently a square but incomplete O. **Micico* is not attested, but may be a variant of *Miccio*, which is well attested as a samian potter's name (etc.).

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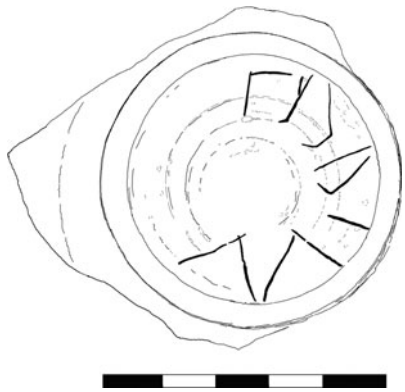


FIG. 20. Vindolanda, graffito on samian (No. 22).
(*Drawn by R.S.O. Tomlin*)

23. Ibid. (FIG. 21) (SF 15,266). Base sherd comprising the entire foot-ring of a samian dish (Drag. 18/31) stamped REGINVS F, found in the west rampart mound of Stone Fort II (early third-century). Neatly scratched after firing underneath within the foot-ring: NIITACIVS, *Netacius*.[40]



FIG. 21. Vindolanda, graffito on samian (No. 23).
(*Drawn by R.S.O. Tomlin*)

[40] The excavators read MITACIVS, but the first three strokes are linked (thus N) but separate from the fourth, which itself is parallel with the fifth (and thus II for E). The name is apparently not attested.

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SOMERSET

24. **Butleigh** (ST 52 33). Trapezoid stone weight with a hole for suspension, weight 2.892 kg, found[41] in 2010 re-used as part of the fabric of a late Roman corn-drying oven. Inscribed in irregular capitals much worn: AḂ[42]

25. **Dinnington** (ST 40 12**)** Roman villa[43] (FIG. 22). Rim sherd of a black burnished (BB1 (2)) jar, inscribed after firing on the outside wall: AC[. . .], *Ac[. . .]*[44]



FIG. 22. Dinnington, graffito on coarseware (No. 25).
(*Drawn by R.S.O. Tomlin*)

[41] During excavation by Absolute Archaeology. Naomi Payne, Historic Environment Officer (Archaeology) of Somerset Heritage Centre, sent a photograph and details.

[42] The letters are of different heights, and the loops of B rather faint. The letters are not aligned with the base, and B abuts the right-hand edge, so they may have been cut before the stone was shaped. They certainly do not relate to the weight (which is technically 8.84 *librae*), but they may indicate the owner's name.

[43] Excavated by the University of Winchester, directed by Tony King. James Gerrard of Pre-Construct Archaeology made the sherd available.

[44] A with its extended second stroke is 'cursive' in form. The tail of C has broken out at the edge of the sherd, but the letter does not appear to be G. The beginning of a personal name; possibly *Acceptus* or *Acutus*, but there are other (less common) possibilities.

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WEST SUSSEX

26. **Chichester** (*Noviomagus*, SU 864 048), Shippam's Factory site (FIG. 23). Base sherd (SF 2057) of a samian cup (Drag. 33) stamped ASIATICI OF, found[45] in 2007. Inscribed underneath after firing, within the foot-ring: CA, *Ca(. . .)*[46]

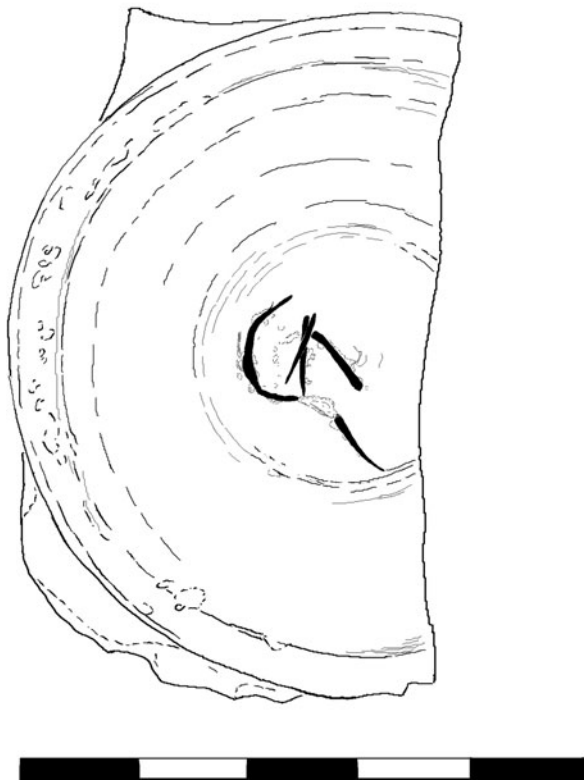


FIG. 23. Chichester, graffito on samian (No. 26).
(*Drawn by R.S.O. Tomlin*)

[45] With the next two items during excavation by Pre-Construct Archaeology (*Britannia* 39 (2008), 328). Two samian sherds were also found scratched with two intersecting lines, a 'cross' for identification. James Gerrard made them all available.

[46] The graffito is complete. The tail of C continues downwards at a diagonal, which might suggest G, but its closeness to the next letter, and the form of both, make it more likely that this stroke is either a slip of the stilus due to a flaw in the surface (drawn in outline) or the cross-stroke of A. The first stroke of A was cut twice. Like the next item, which it resembles although the letters do not have quite the same form, this is an abbreviated personal name with many possibilities, including *Candidus* and *Carus*. Both vessels may well have belonged to the same person.

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27. Ibid. (FIG. 24). Base sherd (SF 2616) of a samian dish (Drag. 36?), inscribed underneath after firing, within the foot-ring: ȻA, *Ca(. . .)*[47]

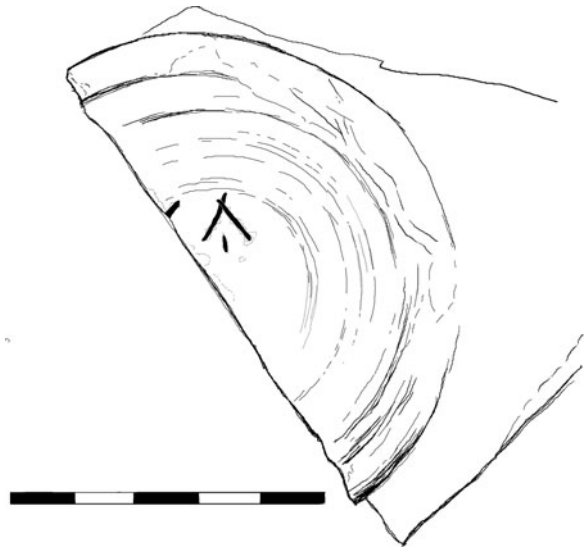


FIG. 24. Chichester, graffito on samian (No. 27).
(*Drawn by R.S.O. Tomlin*)

28. Ibid. Rim sherd (SF 3433) of a samian cup (Drag. 33), scratched on the outside after firing, in a downward diagonal: IA[. . .], probably *Ia[nuarius]* or *Ia[n(uarius)]*.[48]

TYNE AND WEAR

29. **South Shields** (*Arbeia*, NZ 365 679) Roman fort. Oval leaden sealing (IM 100), found[49] in 1999 unstratified in the area of Granary C10. Obverse: CV̄G above a stylised laurel-spray or palm-frond, *c(ohortis) V G(allorum)*. '(Seal) of the Fifth Cohort of Gauls.' Reverse: AEM | *D*, *Aem(iliani)* or *Aem(ilii)* | *d(ecurionis)*. '(Seal) of Aemilianus (*or* Aemilius), decurion.'[50]

30. Ibid. Oval leaden sealing (IM 189), found in 1990 in an early third-century context in the fill of a drain in the street between Barracks IX and X. Obverse: CV̄G above a stylised laurel-spray or palm-frond, *c(ohortis) V G(allorum)*. '(Seal) of the Fifth Cohort of Gauls.'[51] Reverse: unidentified impression of a signet.

[47] Only the tip survives of the first letter, which might also be G, S or V, but C looks more likely. If the graffito was centred, as also seems likely, it was the first letter. An abbreviated personal name like the previous item, and quite likely the same one.

[48] The name is quite common, and sometimes abbreviated to IAN.

[49] With the next three items during excavations directed by N. Hodgson, for which see *Arbeia Journal* 6–7 for 1997–8 (2001), 25–36. Alex Croom sent full details including casts and photographs.

[50] Obverse and reverse are from the same dies as *RIB* II.1, 2411.103 and *Britannia* 38 (2007), 363, Nos 31 and 32.

[51] The obverse is not from the same die as the preceding item, nor from that of *RIB* II.1, 2411.103.

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31. Ibid. Seven oval leaden sealings (IM 127–32, 143) found in 2000 in an early third-century context in the primary make-up of the street between Granaries C12 and C13.[52] Obverse: three imperial busts with legend above; these are all incomplete, but can be collated to read AVGG, *Aug(ustorum)*. '(Property) of the Augusti.'[53]

32. Ibid. (FIG. 25). Oblong leaden sealing found in 2000 unstratified. Impressed with a rectangular die: [A]VGGG, *Aug(ustorum)*. '(Property) of the three Augusti.'[54]



FIG. 25. South Shields, leaden sealing (No. 32).
(*Photo: Arbeia Roman Museum*)

WALES

MONMOUTHSHIRE

33. **Caerleon** (*Isca*, ST 33930 90410), Priory Field, within the legionary fortress (FIG. 26). Oblong tag, 85 by 34 mm, cut from lead sheet and pierced with a hole at one end, found[55] in

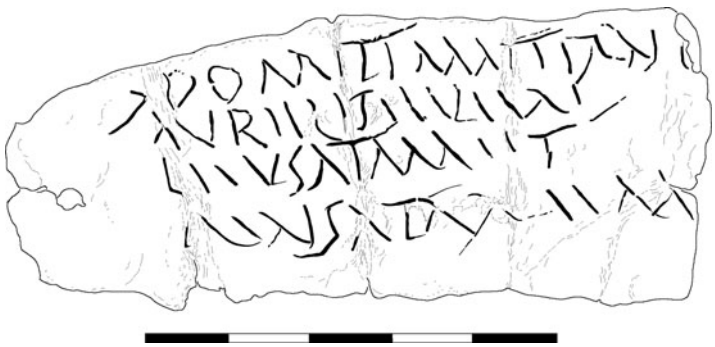


FIG. 26. Caerleon, inscribed lead tag (No. 33).
(*Drawn from photographs by R.S.O. Tomlin*)

[52] Two others were also found, IM 136 unstratified, and IM 142 in a later third-century context between Granaries C11 and C12.

[53] IM 127 is A[. . .]; IM 143 AV[. . .]; IM 128 and 129 [. . .]GG; IM 130 [. . .]GG[. . .]. Thus they belong to the same group as *RIB* II.1, 2411.1–15, and depict Septimius Severus and his two sons, before Geta formally became *Augustus*.

[54] Noted by Hodgson (see above, n. 49), 30 n. 6, who comments that it is the first instance of AVGGG on a sealing from South Shields.

[55] During excavation by Cardiff University and University College, London, directed by Peter Guest and Andrew Gardner for Cadw and the Roman Legionary Museum, Caerleon (see *Britannia* 40 (2009), 222). The conservator, Megan de Silva, sent a comprehensive range of photographs. A centurial stone was also found (ibid., 314, No. 2).

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2008 folded up, but now unfolded and cleaned. Inscribed with a stilus[56] in cursive letters: 7 DOMITI MATIIRNḶ | ḀVRIILI ṢIIVIIRI | LIIVGATAM IIT | ṖIṆGḀṬḀṚIIM, *(centuria) Domiti Materni* | *Aureli Severi* | *lev(i)gatam et* | *pingatarem*. 'Century of Domitius Maternus, (property) of Aurelius Severus. Smoothed and for (?)darning.'[57]

ADDENDA ET CORRIGENDA

(a) ***RIB* 1477 + *add.*** (Chesters) and **1611 + *add***. (Housesteads), two stones found by Clayton 'before 1873'. They were actually found before October 1843, when they were drawn for him by John Bell.[58]

(b) ***RIB* II.2, 2413.1** (Cove, not 'Cowe') (FIG. 27). This gold ornament, now lost but evidently a penannular arm-ring and not a 'gold vessel' or 'gold handle' (*RIB*), was 'lately found' in 1755 'in the Estate of Mr. Irvine of Cove in the County of Dumfries, near Ecclefechan, in a moss about 18 Inches below the Surface', according to a letter dated 27 March 1755 from its owner to the Society of Antiquaries of London. He was 'Mr. John Davidson Junior of Edinburgh', who reported its weight as being '2 ou(nces): 8 drams 12 grains', equivalent to 71.65 grams. The details of provenance were repeated verbatim by Richard Pococke in 1773, when he illustrated it in *Archaeologia*.[59] Thomas Pennant in 1772 (cited by *CIL* vii 1284, which is followed by *RIB*) gives an eye-witness description (including 'the length rather more than seven inches and a

[56] The angular script resembles that of a waxed stilus tablet, not an ink text. Thus E is made with two vertical strokes (II), curves tend to be reduced to several short strokes (see O, R and S); exceptionally, R is cursive in 1 and 4, but capital-letter in 2.

[57] Line by line commentary:

1. The centurion Domitius Maternus is not otherwise attested in Britain. He is possibly to be identifed with the centurion C. Domitius Maternus of the Egyptian legion II Traiana, the only centurion discharged with veterans of the legion at Nicopolis in A.D. 157, after they entered service in A.D. 132/33 (*AE* 1955, 238). His rank as centurion is confirmed by *AE* 1969/70, 633, V. His origin is noted as *Seleuco*, presumably Mons Seleucus in Gallia Narbonensis, but although he may well have served in a western legion like II Augusta, the chronology of identification is tight. See note to the next line.

2. The legionary Aurelius Severus is not otherwise attested at Caerleon. His gentilicium requires that he or his father (etc.) was enfranchised in the reign of Antoninus Pius (A.D. 138–161) or later, with the complication that after A.D. 140 auxiliary veterans did not gain citizenship for their existing children. Thus Severus would not have been old enough to serve under a centurion discharged in A.D. 157 in Egypt, even if the latter had previously served in Britain, unless his own father was actually discharged within the period A.D. 138–140 and thus gained citizenship as an *Aurelius* for his adolescent son. Another possibility is that Severus himself was granted citizenship on enlisting in the legion, a practice attested in provinces such as Egypt where Roman citizens were in short supply.

3, *lev(i)gatam*. Severus' property, to which this tag was attached, was evidently feminine in gender. Possibly it was his military tunic (*tunica militaris*), which is associated with *levisata* [sic] in glosses quoted by *TLL* VII.2, 1224, 15ff. s.v. *levisata*. If so, *lev(i)gatam* would mean 'polished', in the sense of finishing clothes: compare Gaius, *Inst.* 3.143 = Ulpian, *Dig.* 47.2.12, '*fulloni* … *polienda vestimenta*'. For the process of fulling, and its association with lead tickets, see E. Römer-Martijnse, *Römerzeitliche Bleietiketten aus Kalsdorf, Steiermark* (1990), esp. 235ff.

4. *pingatarem*. There is some damage due to folding, but the reading seems good. Although the penultimate letter is undoubtedly E, not A, and the word is apparently adjectival in form, not a past-participle passive like *lev(i)gatam*, it surely described another process to which Severus' property was subjected. Unfortunately **pingitarem* is not attested, but perhaps it was developed from *pingo* in the sense of 'stitching' or 'darning' (compare Pliny, *Hist. Nat.* 8.191, '*lana* … *ex qua vestis detrita usu pingitur*', 'wool used to darn worn clothes'). A reference to 'embroidery' (also a sense borne by *pingo*) seems unlikely here.

On this interpretation, the tag would be the Roman equivalent of a laundry label, identifying the owner of the garment attached, and what was to be done to it. A note of caution must be sounded, however, since craftsmen in a legionary workshop (*fabrica*) might include *lamnae levisatares* (*ChLA* x 409); the editors cite *TLL* (as above), but suggest that they were polishing the iron plates of *lorica segmentata*. If so, it might be argued that it was Severus' armour, not his tunic, which was being 'polished' and (perhaps) 'decorated'.

[58] Georgina Plowright sent copies of the dated drawings, now in Northumberland County Record Office. The date is not necessarily that of discovery, since in October 1843 Bell also drew the lower part of *RIB* 1455 (already known in 1801) but not the upper part (first recognised or found after 1840), and *RIB* 1464 (found before 1840).

[59] Society of Antiquaries Minute Book vii, f. 196, a transcript of which from Adrian James was sent by Robert Janiszewski (see next note) with the reference to *Archaeologia* 2 (1773), 41 with pl. III, fig. 4. This drawing (FIG. 27 above) shows that the two inscriptions were not on the 'obverse' and 'reverse' (*RIB*), but at either end.

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half', equivalent to 191 mm), and reports its weight, not as being '57.67 g(rams)' (*RIB*), but as '2oz and a half and 15 g(rain)s', equivalent to 71.84 grams. This is rather less than three Roman ounces (81.7 grams).[60] The graffito in punched dots evidently contained a note of weight, *(uncias) III*, '3 (Roman) ounces', but the following *M B* remains unexplained.[61]

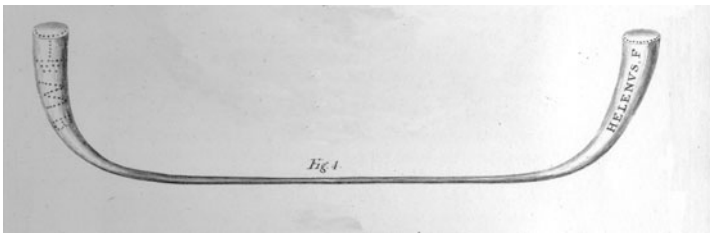


FIG. 27. Cove, gold ornament in 1773 (Add. (b)). (*Photo: Sackler Library, Oxford*)

(c) ***RIB* II.4, 2460.92 (iii–xxiii)** (York). The 'twenty *tegulae*' in Sheffield Museum are in fact twenty fragments of fourteen *tegulae*, twelve of which are stamped LEGVIT ◦ PF as recorded. The other two are stamped LEGVIPF, but the die is not the same as *RIB* II.4, 2460.90, and is otherwise unrecorded (FIG. 28).[62]



FIG. 28. York, tile-stamp (Add. (c)). (*Drawn by Peter Warry*)

[60] T. Pennant, *A Tour in Scotland and Voyage to the Hebrides 1772* (ed. Andrew Simmons, 1998), 90. Davidson, as Pennant implies by equating 8 drams with half an ounce, reckoned by avoirdupois weight, in which there are 16 drams (each of 27.33 grains) to the ounce [28.375 grams]. The discrepancy between Pennant's note of weight and that in *RIB* was noticed by Robert Janiszewski of Warsaw University, who is studying the punched-dot graffito on a similar gold ornament found at New Grange, Ireland, which reads SCBONS ◦ MB.

[61] MB also concludes the New Grange graffito (see previous note). The sequence of a horizontal line followed by three verticals occurs as part of the notes of weight on the Corbridge *lanx* (*RIB* II.2, 2414.38) and the Proiecta casket (K.J. Shelton, *The Esquiline Treasure* (1981), 72, fig. 17), and evidently means '3 (ounces)'. The punched dots on the flat end itself, probably forming a circle rather than a semicircle as drawn, must have been decorative rather than part of the annotation, since they occur on both ends.

[62] See P. Warry, 'Legionary tile production in Britain', *Britannia* 41 (2010), 127–47, at 128, n. 6. He coins the reference *RIB* II.4, 2460.96 for the new die.

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(d) ***RIB* II.4, 2463.45**, **46** and **57** (Chester). These three fragmentary tile-stamps are all probably from the same die, since other examples have now been found or identified.[63] They are all incomplete, but can be collated to read: L ∘ X ∘ X ∘ V ∘ V ∘ VI, probably *L(egioni) XX V(aleriae) V(ictrici) Vi(… fecit)*. 'Vi(ducus(?) made this) for the Legion XX Valeria Victrix.'[64]

(e) ***RIB* II.4, 2463.56** (Chester), tile-stamp reading LEG XXVVV. Another stamp has now been recorded,[65] reading LEGXXVVV retrograde.

(f) ***RIB* II.4, 2463.59** (Chester). Better examples of this tile-stamp, still incomplete but preserving its whole width, were found at Tarbock, Merseyside, in 1993.[66] Collated they read: [T]EGVLA ∘ A ∘ VIDV | VEROIIICOSLEGX[X], probably *[t]egula A(…) Vidu(ci)* | *Vero III co(n)s(ule) leg(ioni) X[X]*. 'Tile of A(…) Viducus in the third consulship of Verus [A.D. 126] for the Twentieth Legion.'[67]

(g) ***RIB* II.5, 2483 (xii)** (Carlisle). This fragment of a tile stamped IMP was found, not in the Chapter House excavation of *c*. 1960,[68] but in 1922 during repairs to the Fratry, together with Roman pottery including the tops of two amphorae and samian which still survive.[69]

[63] See V.G. Swan and R.A. Philpott, 'Legio XX VV and tile production at Tarbock, Merseyside', *Britannia* 31 (2000), 55–67, at 60–1, with fig. 1. *RIB* II.4, 2463.46, which shares the same distinctive ansa, should be read inverted as LXX[…].

[64] The medial points do not appear consistently in all examples, no doubt because the die became clogged. Swan and Philpott (see previous note) read VI (not V) at the end by analogy with the beginning, where the vertical of L also serves to complete the triangular ansa. They reject any expansion of VI to *Vi(ctoriniana)*, and suggest that it refers to the contractor. See further, next note.

[65] By Warry (see above, n. 62), at 137, n. 36, with fig. 6. Like *RIB* II.4, 2463.56(vi), it was found in Hunter Street, Chester. Warry demonstrates its second-century date, which means that *RIB*'s tentative expansion of V to *V(ictoriniana)* should now be abandoned. He follows Swan and Philpott (see above, n. 63) in referring it to the contractor Vidu(…) (see below, n. 67), and suggests that DE (*RIB* II.4, 2463. 54 and 55) and LOGOPR (ibid., 58) also refer to contractors. This seems very likely.

[66] By Swan and Philpott (see above, n. 63). Their fig. 1c (p. 57) supersedes the composite drawing in *RIB*, which restores [C F] and [X V V] on the right.

[67] Exceptionally the legion does not bear its abbreviated cognomina *V(aleria) V(ictrix)*. The expansion of the legend is uncertain. TEGVLA is apparently *tegula* (nominative, 'tile of'), but *tegula(m)* (accusative, 'tile made by', understanding *fecit*) or even *tegula(ria)* ('tilery of') are possible. Swan and Philpott (see above, n. 63), 58–9, prefer *tegula(ria)*, by analogy with tiles stamped by *tegula(ria) transrhenana* across the Rhine (*CIL* xiii 12528 E), but some tileries at Rome certainly refer to *tegula* ('tile', nominative) by distinguishing in their stamps (*CIL* xv 650, 651, 2232, 2233) between TEG / TEGLA and FIG, *fig(lina)* ('tilery'). Swan and Philpott, supported by Warry (see above, n. 62), also improve on *RIB* by seeing A VIDV as the name of a contractor; from which it follows that LEG is dative, *leg(ioni)*, 'for the Legion'. They accept the expansion of A VIDV to *A(ulus) Vidu(cus)* or *A(ulus) Vidu(cius)*, but this too is open to question. By the second century, a Roman citizen is most unlikely to have borne only two names: instead of a praenomen (*Aulus*), which by now was often omitted, A is likely to be an abbreviated nomen. The 'imperial' nomina *A(elius)* and *A(urelius)* spring to mind, but this depends on whether VERO III COS refers to the third consulship of Annius Verus (A.D. 126), as in another tile-stamp from Rome (*CIL* xv 277), or that of Lucius Verus (A.D. 167). Although *RIB* accepts the latter, the earlier date of A.D. 126 was justifiably asserted by Salomies in *AE* 2000, 831(b), and should be preferred as more in keeping with other evidence (thus Warry (see above, n. 62), 138). *A(urelius)* is thus excluded, but *A(elius)* is perfectly possible.

[68] Unpublished, but see now D.W.V. Weston, *Carlisle Cathedral History* (2000), 95.

[69] J.H. Martindale, 'Notes on the remains of the conventual buildings of the Augustinian priory, Carlisle, now the cathedral', *Cumb. Westm.* 2nd ser. 24 (1924), 1–16, at 16. The reference was communicated by Canon Weston to Ian Caruana, who sent this information.

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(h) ***RIB* III, 3216** (Brough-by-Bainbridge) (FIG. 29). This building-stone has now been photographed.[70] The published drawing is accurate, save that in line 2 the centurial sign is preceded by a leaf-stop (*hedera*), and the 'medial point' after IVLI should be another leaf-stop.



FIG. 29. Brough-by-Bainbridge, building-stone (Add. (h)). Width 0.39 m. (*Photo: R.S.O. Tomlin*)

(i) ***RIB* III, 3515** (Bertha). The published drawing, which was made from a contact rubbing, omits the exaggerated lower serif of C in line 1 and of G in line 3. They are well shown by the photograph.

(j) ***RIB* III**, p. 458. For 'Musems' read 'Museums'.

(k) ***RIB* III**, p. 504, Index of Sites. The number for Leintwardine has been omitted; it should be **3117**.

(l) ***Britannia* 36 (2005), 494, No. 62** (Vindolanda). Sherd of a grey mortarium found in an early second-century context, bearing the ownership-graffito MINÇ[. . .]. This may be restored as *Minc[o]* or *Minc[onis]*, '(the property) of Minco', since the name has now been found in a contemporary writing-tablet (*Tab. Vindol.* IV.2, 875.ii.21).

(m) ***Britannia* 40 (2009), 315, No. 3** (Manchester) (FIGS 30a and b). A revised description of this altar is now possible.[71] It is made of pale buff sandstone, not red, and measures 0.37 m wide by *c*. 0.29 m deep at the capital; the inscribed die 0.29 by 0.38 m, 0.23 m deep; the base 0.26 m deep. The height is 0.97 m. Below the circular *focus* are two bolsters fronted by rosettes, that on the right now lost. The abacus is decorated with six roundels in relief between bands of moulding. The recessed die is inscribed with seven lines of letters with exaggerated horizontal stabbed

[70] By courtesy of Leeds University, after it was located by Elizabeth Hartley. It is now stored with *RIB* III, 3215 (also Brough-by-Bainbridge), in the Parkinson Building, Store B08.

[71] After examination in Manchester Museum by courtesy of Bryan Sitch, Deputy Head of Collections. The back is not accessible, nor is the base, since its missing back has required the altar to be set into a platform to keep it upright.

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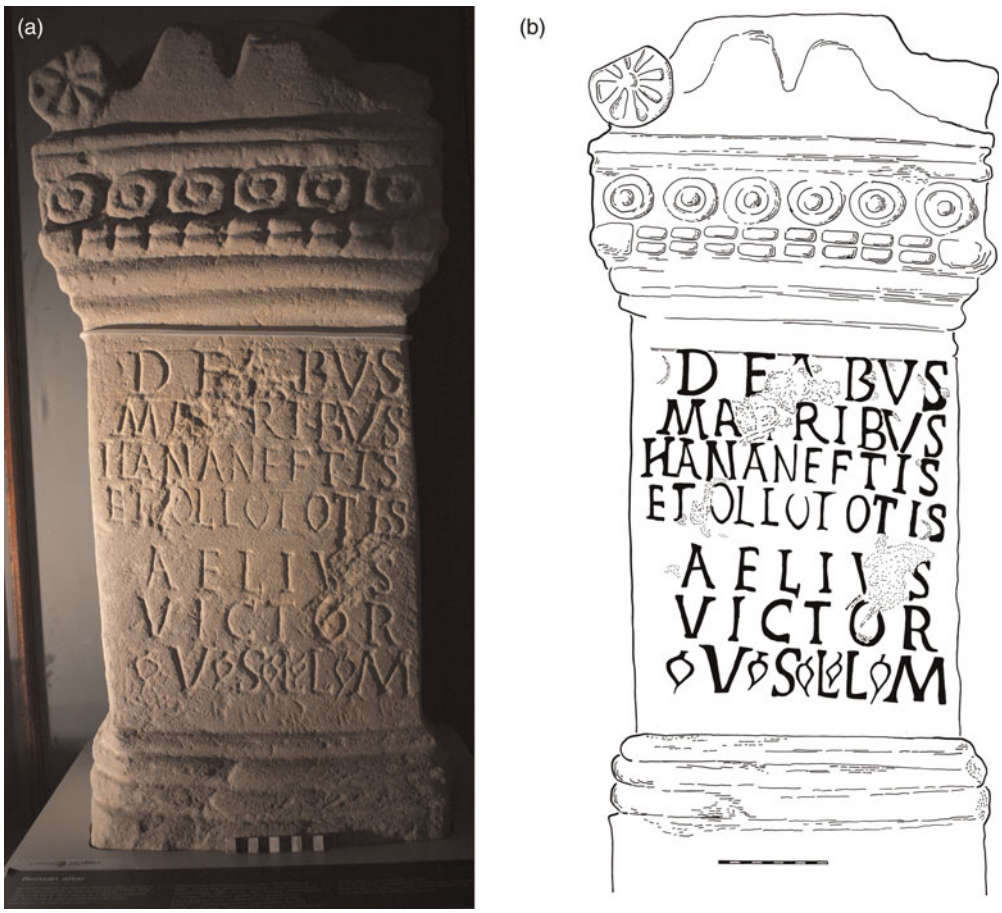


FIG. 30. (a) and (b) Manchester, altar (Add. (m)). (*Photographed and drawn by R.S.O. Tomlin*)

serifs.[72] They read: DEĄBVS | MĄ[.]RIBVS | HANANEFTIS | ET OLLOTOTIS | AELIVS | VICTOR | ♠ V ♠ S ♠ L ♠ L ♠ M, *deabus* / *Ma[t]ribus* / *Hananeftis* / *et Ollototis* / *Aelius* | *Victor* | *v(otum) s(olvit) l(aetus) l(ibens) m(erito)*. 'To the Mother Goddesses Hananeftae and Ollototae, Aelius Victor gladly, willingly, and deservedly fulfilled his vow.'[73]

(n) ***Britannia* 40 (2009), 348, No. 70** with fig. 50 (Vindolanda). This wall sherd of a Dressel 20 amphora was published as being found in 2007, but is evidently *RIB* II.6, 2493.9, found in 1973.

[72] 1–4 are close-spaced vertically, 5–7 slightly more open. Letter heights: 1, 40 mm; 2, 30 mm increasing to 38 mm; 3 and 4, averaging 35 mm; 5 and 6, 40 mm; 7, *c*. 42 mm.

[73] As already noted, this is the first British instance of the *Matres Hananeftae*, who are attested in Lower Germany at Cologne (*CIL* xiii 8219, *Matribus Paternis Hiannanef(. . .)*) and Wissen (*CIL* xiii 8629, *Matribus Annaneptis*), both dedicated by officers of the Thirtieth Legion Ulpia Victrix. The *Matres Ollototae*, although of similar 'overseas' origin (compare *RIB* 1030, *Matribus Ollototis sive Transmarinis*), are attested only in Britain, at Heronbridge near Chester (*RIB* 574) and at Binchester (*RIB* 1030, 1031 and 1032).

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CHANGES OF LOCATION

(a) ***RIB* 1677 + *add.*** (Cawfields) is now not in Housesteads Museum, but in store at Corbridge Roman site.[74]

(b) ***RIB* III, 3215** and **3216** (Brough-by-Bainbridge). These building-stones are stored by Leeds University.[75]

(c) ***Britannia* 29 (1998), 442, No. 44** (Minety). This stamped brick is now in Wiltshire Heritage Museum, Devizes.[76]

ALIENUM

Whiteparish, Wilts. (SU 24 23) (FIG. 31). White marble slab, 0.50 by 0.64 m, 0.19 m thick, found[77] in 2010. Inscribed in well-formed Greek capitals. Above, two olive-wreaths in relief, enclosing (left) Ο ΔΗΜΟΣ and (right) ΟΙ ΝΕΟΙ. Below, ΔΗΜΗΤΡΙΟΝ | ΜΗΤΡΟΔΩΡΟΥ | ΤΟΥ ΛΕΥΚΙΟΥ. 'The People (and) the Young Men (honour) Demetrios, (son) of Metrodoros (the son) of Leukios.'



FIG. 31. Whiteparish, marble slab (Alienum).
(*Photo: Trudie Deane*)

[74] Information from Georgina Plowright.
[75] See above, Addenda et Corrigenda (h), with n. 70.
[76] Information from the Curator, Lisa Webb.
[77] In the rockery of a modern garden by the owner, Trudi Deane, who sent photographs and dimensions. Information also from Katie Hinds, Wiltshire Finds Liaison Officer, Salisbury and South Wiltshire Museum. The inscription, which is apparently unpublished, is presumably a 'Grand Tour import' most likely from Greece or Asia Minor, but its recent provenance is unknown.

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FALSUM

South Shields (*Arbeia*, NZ 365 679), Roman fort, in the herb garden. Modern altar[78] based on *RIB* 1053, the text reading: DEAE ◦ BRIGAN|TIAE SACRVM | IVLIVS SABINIA|NVS AERARIVS | V ◦ M PRO SE | ET SVIS, *deae Brigantiae sacrum Iulius Sabinianus aerarius v(otum) m(erito) pro se et suis*. 'Sacred to the goddess Brigantia. Julius Sabinianus, bronzesmith, deservedly (fulfilled) his vow for himself and his family.'

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[78] Figured on some websites as if genuine. Alex Croom confirms that it is one of several made by the volunteer stonemason at Arbeia.

https://doi.org/10.1017/S0068113X11000638 Published online by Cambridge University Press