III. Inscriptions[1]

By R.S.O. TOMLIN

A. MONUMENTAL

1. **Silchester** (*Calleva Atrebatum*, SU 64 42), Insula IX (FIG. 1). Fragment of a Purbeck marble slab, 72 by 89 mm, 15 mm thick (but incomplete), found[2] unstratified in 2001. Between setting-out lines 25 mm apart: [. . .]P̣Ị[. . .] | [. . .]Ṃ[. . .][3]

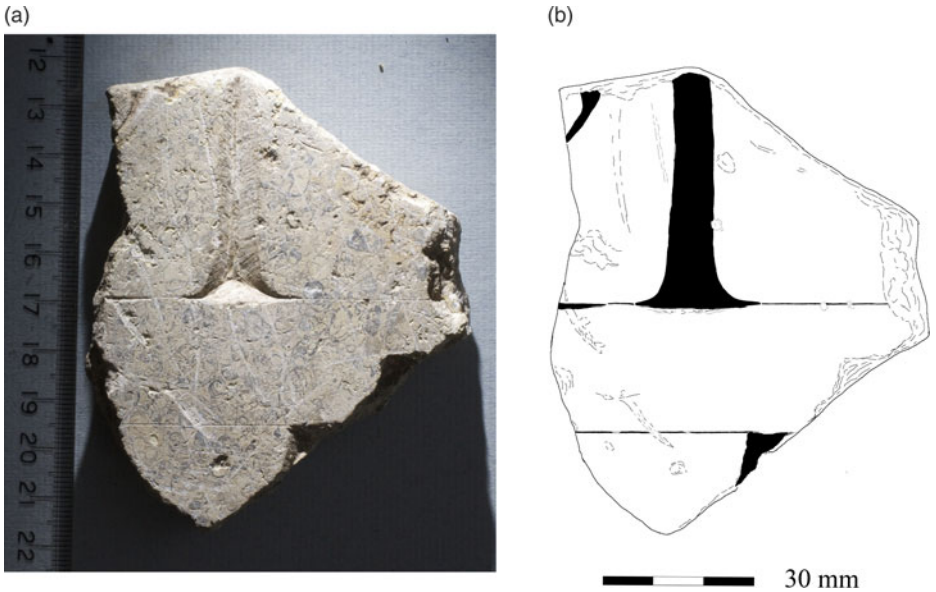


FIG. 1. (a) and (b). Silchester, Purbeck marble fragment (No. 1). (*Photographed and drawn by R.S.O. Tomlin*)

[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* (1–2400) and *RIB* 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*, 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] With the next item (SF 1964 and 2577 respectively) during excavation for Reading University directed by A. Clarke and M. Fulford (*Britannia* 33 (2002), 348, and 34 (2003), 351–2), who made them available. SF 1964 was unstratified, but probably belonged to the make-up of House 1 (mid-second to late third century), and SF 2577 came from an accumulation deposit of the same date beside the north–south street. They do not appear to match any of the Purbeck marble fragments from Silchester now displayed or stored by Reading Museum (*RIB* 69–79, 84, 85), but for SF 96, a new fragment of *RIB* 76, see below, Add. (a).

[3] The first letter is represented only by the tip of a loop, but the uninscribed space below excludes either B or R. The next letter is an incomplete vertical, too close to the first letter to be T, and with enough space to the right to exclude any letter but I. It may thus be a word-ending. In the line below, there is only the apex of a letter which is probably M, but might be A.

© The Author(s) 2015. Published by The Society for the Promotion of Roman Studies.

https://doi.org/10.1017/S0068113X15000434 Published online by Cambridge University Press

2. Ibid. (FIG. 2). Fragment of a Purbeck marble slab, 58 by 100 mm, 29 mm thick (and original), found in 2002. Inscribed: [. . .]P.[. . .] | [. . .].[. . .][4]

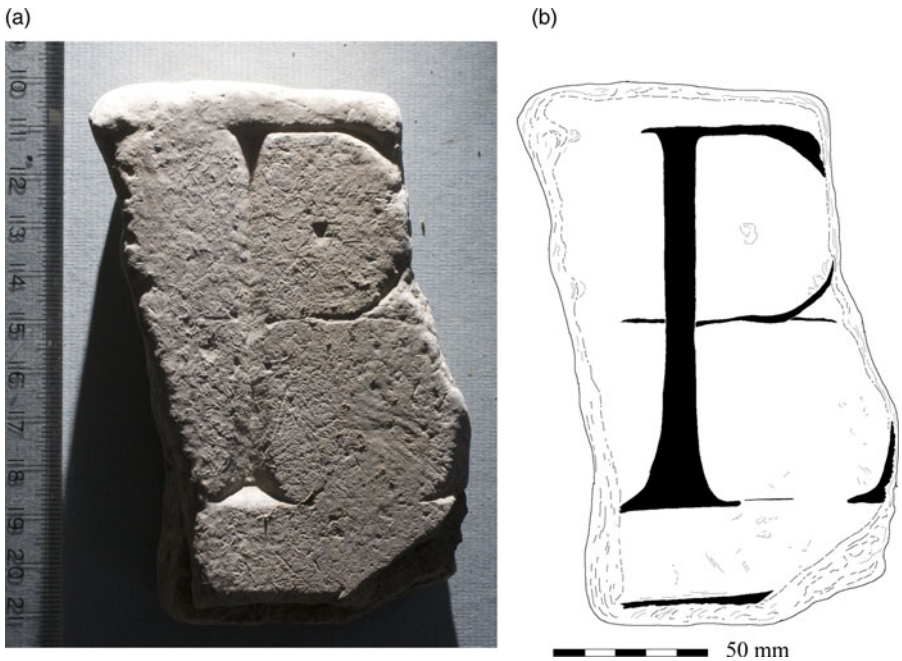


FIG. 2. (a) and (b). Silchester, Purbeck marble fragment (No. 2). (*Photographed and drawn by R.S.O. Tomlin*)

3. **Cirencester** (*Corinium Dobunnorum*, SP 019 017), Tetbury Road, outside the Roman west gate (FIG. 3). Unweathered oolitic limestone tombstone, 0.54 by 1.34 m, 0.15 m thick, found[5] in February 2015 re-used face-down to cover a later Roman grave.[6] The crested gable encloses a head of Oceanus, now defaced, below which is a recessed panel, 0.41 by 0.66 m, which reads:

[4] P is 72 mm high. From the foot of the loop, a faint line continues to the right, as if to begin the second loop of B, but there is no incision at the foot. In the broken edge to the right, is part of a bottom-serif and the beginning of a vertical stroke, too steep for A, but presumably E, I, L or R. In the broken edge below P, there is the edge of a horizontal stroke, E, F or T.

[5] During excavation of the Three Bridges Garage site for St James' Place and Citygrove by Cotswold Archaeology, directed by Cliff Bateman and Neil Holbrook, who made the stone available and provided details. It was also examined by Martin Henig and Grahame Soffe. Although it was found just after 2014, it is included here because of its importance and the interest it immediately aroused; see, for example, Kate Adcock, 'From the Isles of the Blessed to the Empty Tomb – the newly discovered Roman tombstone from Cirencester', *ARA News* 33 (March 2015), 4–8.

[6] This burial is of a man. The back and sides of the stone are unworked, which suggests that it was not intended to be free-standing, but to be inserted into a masonry structure such as a mausoleum or the rectangular enclosure found *c*. 30 m away, assuming this to be funerary. Its original location, as well as its re-use face-down, may have protected it from weathering.

https://doi.org/10.1017/S0068113X15000434 Published online by Cambridge University Press

I | D M | BODICACIA | CONIVNX | VIXIT ANNO|S XXVII, | *D(is) M(anibus)* | *Bodicacia* | *coniunx* | *vixit anno|s XXVII*. 'To the Shades of the Dead. Bodicacia, spouse, lived 27 years.'[7]



FIG. 3. (a) and (b). Cirencester tombstone (No. 3). (*Photographed and drawn by Cotswold Archaeological Trust*)

[7] The lettering, which appears to be influenced by a previous brush-drawn text (notably in the sinuous serifs and the treatment of A, M and N), is incongruously inferior in drawing, layout and execution to the sculptured decoration. Letter-heights: 1, 42 mm; 2, 53 mm; 3, 52 mm; 4, 50 mm; 5, 53 mm; 6, 50 mm. It was ordered by means of seven pairs of setting-out lines above a single line, but only five of the seven bands thus formed were actually used, and the very first letter was inserted in what was evidently meant to be an upper border 42 mm wide between the top edge of the panel and the first pair of setting-out lines. These oversights may suggest that some text was accidentally omitted, but they are more likely due to miscalculation and the disregard of layout seen in the asymmetry of D M and the division of ANNO | S.

The very first letter is I, formed like the first I in BODICACIA and XXVII, and thus not an unfinished D. The best suggestion is that the heading was meant to be *D(is) I(nferis) M(anibus)*, but D I M is difficult to deduce from an off-centre D M with a diminutive I above the M. Although this formula is widespread, it has occurred only once in Britain, far away in Papcastle (*RIB* III, 3221). *Bodicacia*, the subject of *vixit*, is the name of the deceased. It is previously unattested, but must be derived from *Boudica* in the alternative form of *Bodica* (compare *ILS* 2653, *Lollia Bodicca*). The termination *-acia* is

https://doi.org/10.1017/S0068113X15000434 Published online by Cambridge University Press

4. **Elmswell** (SE 996 583), parish of Garton-on-the-Wolds, Yorkshire East Riding. Fragment of a fossiliferous sandstone altar, 0.17 by 0.10 m, 0.10 m deep, found[8] in 1950–52. Incised on the die: DIIO[. . .] | . . .[. . .] | [. . .], *Deo [. . .]* | . . . 'To the god . . .'[9]

5. **Catterick** (*Cataractonium*, SE 225 992), North Yorkshire (FIG. 4). Two conjoining fragments of a greyish sandstone slab, 0.19 by 0.42 m, 0.04 and 0.045 m thick, found[10] in *c*. 1959. The letters[11] are much worn and weathered: [. . .].ER[. . .] | [. . .].OD.[. . .] | [. . .]NO[. . .] | [. . .]TH.[. . .] | [. . .] SEP̣[. . .], a dedication to Septimius Severus and his sons.[12]

difficult, but like some Celtic masculine names in *-acus*, it might be hypocoristic or patronymic (see further P. Russell, 'The suffix *-ako-* in Continental Celtic', *Études Celtiques* 25 (1988), 131–73, esp. 136–8). *Bodicacia* is described as *coniunx*, but in epitaphs this term is more often applied to the dedicator, the surviving widow or widower, than to the deceased. It points to the puzzling absence of any dedicator, but it is difficult to suppose that the widower's name has been accidentally omitted, since the sense continues with *vixit*, of which *Bodicacia* is the subject. There is a parallel in *RIB* 113, also a gabled tombstone from Cirencester, although it is in the dative case: *D(is) M(anibus) Iuliae Castae coniugi vix(it) ann(os) XXXIII*, 'To Julia Casta, spouse, (she) lived 33 years'. This stone is broken, but just enough of the surface remains to show that the text is complete. Perhaps like Bodicacia's stone, it was erected next to the husband's, which would then have made the dedicator explicit; as already noted, the original location of Bodicacia's stone is unknown, but it does not seem to have been free-standing.

[8] During excavation by C.N. and G.E. Grantham of a possible Roman temple-site, but first reported by J.S. Dent, 'Roman religious remains from Elmswell', in J. Price and P.R. Wilson (eds), *Recent Research in Roman Yorkshire: Studies in Honour of Mary Kitson Clark (Mrs Derwas Chitty)* (1988), 89–97, at 93–5 with figs 6.3 (drawing) and 6.5 (photo). The reference was communicated by Martin Millett, and further details were provided by John Dent. The fragment was preserved by Eric Grantham and now belongs to his stepson Peter Makey in Great Driffield.

[9] The fragment is broken across the O of DIIO, so it is unknown how many more letters there were in the first line, or whether it contained a word which continued into the next line. Of this only the very top survives of the first three letters, which cannot be identified: Dent suggests E, F, II, N or T for the first; C, G or possibly O for the second; H, I or L for the third. Except that the god is male, the dedication is thus unknown. II for E derives from Roman cursive and is an informal usage found in graffiti rather than monumental inscriptions, but Dent notes it is used on other altars: *RIB* 125, 645, 1303 [doubtful], 1321 [doubtful], 1522, 1528 and 1991, to which III, 3254 can now be added.

[10] By workmen who gave them (with Roman pottery) to the late Lucy Hinson, in whose garden at Grinton they were found by the present owner, Philip Lee, who made them available. Local informants could provide no further details of date and provenance. Also found was the squared corner of a slab in the same stone, 0.25 by 0.18 m, which is inscribed with a six-pointed roundel. This motif occurs mostly on altar bolster-ends, but does supplement the ansate panel *RIB* 852. But it is not necessarily part of the same inscription, since it is somewhat thicker (0.055 m) and its back is more finished.

[11] Height: 1, 59 mm (estimated); 2, 61 mm; 3, 60 mm; 4, 59 mm; 5, 60 mm (estimated). The incomplete letter in 1 is a bottom serif; in 2, there is a suggestion of the raked vertical of M in the left broken edge, and traces of a vertical incision in the right edge; in 3, there is a better trace of a vertical incision in the right edge.

[12] The fragments are too slight for restoration, given the many variations possible in titulature and abbreviation, but Severus is identified as usual as [P]ER[TINACI], Caracalla as [ANTONI]NO (which confirms the dative), and Geta as [P] SEP[TIMIO GETAE]. Line 2 must have contained Severus' titles, and it is difficult to see OD as anything but part of 'Commodus', especially if it were preceded by M (see previous note); some inscriptions identify Severus as his brother, *fratri Commodi*, but this fiction has not occurred before in Britain. In line 4, TH (perhaps THI) must be part of *Parthicus*, whether it was dative and part of Caracalla's titulature, or genitive and part of his fictive descent from Trajan. In view of the space available, the former is more likely, which means that *Parthico* was also included among Severus' titles. In line 5, the nomen which Geta shared with his father was not erased, but his cognomen would have been although this erasure is now lost.

https://doi.org/10.1017/S0068113X15000434 Published online by Cambridge University Press



FIG. 4. Catterick stone fragments (No. 5). (*Photo: R.S.O. Tomlin*)

https://doi.org/10.1017/S0068113X15000434 Published online by Cambridge University Press

6. **Papcastle** (*Derventio*, NY 10941 30948), Roman fort south *vicus* (FIG. 5). Four conjoining fragments of a red sandstone altar, 0.18 by 0.45 m, 0.15 m thick, found[13] in 2014 (SF 75). They preserve part of the splayed base and part of the neatly squared die, on which is inscribed in well-formed letters[14] now somewhat damaged: [. . .] | MA[. . .] | CoH ◦ Ī V[. . .] | ∞ ◦ EQ[. . .] | P̣RAE[. . .] | MOE.[. . .] | PRAEF̣[. . .], *[Deo]* | *Ma[rti]* | *coh(ors) I V[ang(ionum)]* | *(milliaria) eq(uitata) [cui]* | *prae[est ?A]/moe[nus]* | *praef[. . .]*. 'To the god Mars, the First Cohort of Vangiones, one thousand strong, part-mounted, which the prefect Amoenus commands . . .'[15]



FIG. 5. (a) and (b). Papcastle altar (No. 6). (*Photographed and drawn by R.S.O. Tomlin*)

[13] With the next three items during excavation by Wardell Armstrong Archaeology for Grampus Heritage and Training. Megan Stoakley and Frank Giecco made them available, and provided details. They are now at Cumwhinton but will go to Tullie House, Carlisle.

[14] Heights: 1, 52 mm; 2, 48 mm (estimated, but with initial C larger); 3, 34 mm; 4, 30 mm; 5, 30 mm; 6, 24 mm.

[15] The width of text lost is determined by the restoration of CVI in line 3, which is almost certain, the alternative *quibus* being very rare (although *quib(us)* is used by the Vangiones in *RIB* 1328: see below); it is supported by the restoration of

https://doi.org/10.1017/S0068113X15000434 Published online by Cambridge University Press

7. Ibid. (FIG. 6). Red sandstone fragment, 0.21 by 0.31 m, 0.24 m thick, from the capital and upper die of a crude altar (SF 123). One bolster and part of the *focus* is lost, but it can be calculated that the capital was originally *c*. 0.28 m wide. The die is slightly recessed (by 6 mm on the left), so it would have been *c*. 0.27 m wide, implying that the first line was centred. Roughly incised: DEA[.] | VΛCV [. . .] | .[. . .], *dea[e]* | *Vacu[nae]* | . . . 'To the goddess Vacuna . . .'[16]



FIG. 6. Papcastle altar (No. 7). (*Photo: R.S.O. Tomlin*)

RTI in line 1, which is also certain, if Mars bore no abbreviated title. He is likely to have been identified as a god in the line above, now lost, either as DEO (enlarged or centred) or as *deo s(ancto)*.

The names of the cohort and the prefect must be restored. There were two milliary part-mounted First Cohorts *V[. . .]* in the British garrison, the Vangiones and the Vardulli, but the Vardulli in their many inscriptions make their other titles explicit, *fida* (often abbreviated) after the numeral, and *c(ivium) R(omanorum)* after *(milliaria)*. This leaves the Vangiones, who were at Benwell in the reign of Marcus Aurelius (*RIB* 1328, 1350), and at Risingham in the third century (*RIB* 1234, etc.). This is the first evidence that they previously garrisoned Papcastle; the lettering is Antonine or earlier. The prefect's name contains the sequence MOE with enough trace of the next letter to exclude S, which would suggest the cognomen *Amoenus*, although it is mostly borne by freedmen. His title of *praefectus* may have been written in full, or abbreviated to accommodate a votive formula such as V S L M. That he was a prefect in command of a milliary cohort, not a tribune, should be noted. This anomaly is also found on the cohort's altar at Benwell (*RIB* 1328), and on an altar of the Vardulli at Castlecary (*RIB* 2149). It is repeatedly found on altars at Housesteads of the milliary First Cohort of Tungrians (*RIB* 1578, 1580, 1584, 1585, 1586, 1591) and a tombstone (1619), and on altars of the milliary Second Cohort of Tungrians at Castlesteads (*RIB* 1981, 1982, 1983) and Birrens (*RIB* 2094, 2100, 2104, 2108). In the somewhat earlier Vindolanda Strength Report (*Tab. Vindol.* II, 154), the First Tungrians are likewise commanded by a prefect although they numbered 752 men, much too many for a quingenary cohort. The same anomaly has been detected in the Ninth Batavians at Vindolanda, and A.R. Birley (in *ZPE* 186 (2013), at 294) accepts Strobel's suggestion that Tungrian and Batavian nobles who had been given the title of *praefectus civitatis* in their homeland insisted on retaining the title of 'prefect' when they commanded national cohorts. This inverted snobbery was evidently shared by two other tribes, the Vangiones and Vardulli, unless it is more plausible to suggest that milliary cohorts divided between two stations were commanded by a prefect at one station but by an acting-commander (*praepositus*) at the other, although the absent prefect was its formal commander. Thus the Second Tungrians, although 'commanded' by a prefect, erected inscriptions at Castlesteads under the direction of a senior centurion (*princeps*) (*RIB* 1981, 1982, 1983), and the First Tungrians (commander not stated) erected an altar at Cramond under the direction of a legionary

https://doi.org/10.1017/S0068113X15000434 Published online by Cambridge University Press

8. Ibid. (FIG. 7). Red sandstone fragment of a tombstone, 0.26 by 0.24 m, 0.09 m thick (the back being unfinished but probably original) (SF 98). The right edge, with diagonal tooling-grooves, is original, but the other edges are broken. A broad vertical line marks the right border, and pairs of incised horizontal lines separate each line of text. The letters are finished by short serifs punched at right angles. They read: [. . .] | [. . .]M IX | [. . .]N̲ XXII | [. . .]V̲M | [. . .], [. . .] | [. . .] *m(enses) IX* | [. . . *a*]*n(nos) XXII* | [?*titul*]*um* | [. . .]. '. . . aged 9 months . . . 22 years . . . set up this inscription.'[17]



FIG. 7. Papcastle tombstone (No. 8). (*Photo: Wardell Armstrong Archaeology*)

centurion (*RIB* 2135). Likewise, the Vardulli (milliary, but commanded by a prefect) and the First Tungrians (milliary, but commander not stated) are both attested at Castlecary (*RIB* 2149 and 2155 respectively), a fort much too small (1.4 hectares) for either unit at milliary strength. This may be the situation foreshadowed by the Vindolanda Strength Report, which records that 337 men were in fact outposted to Coria.

[16] NAE would be rather cramped in line 2, and perhaps NE was written for *Vacu[n(a)e]*, but the correct spelling is anticipated by *dea[e]* in the line above. The first V of line 2 is scored by a diagonal line, but it looks casual since it begins above the letter; a ligatured VX would be difficult. Line 3 is represented only by the apex of the first letter, perhaps A. The Sabine goddess Vacuna is previously unattested in Britain, epigraphic evidence for her cult being confined to Regio IV of Italy. Horace wrote a poem (*Ep.* I.10) below her 'crumbling temple' (*post fanum putre Vacunae*), which has been identified with Rocca Giovane near Tivoli. This altar was surely dedicated by a person from the area.

[17] Since MIX is almost unknown as a name-ending, there must be two numerals here, 'months' preceding 'years', with something between them. Since the usual sequence is years, months and days, it would seem that two persons are being commemorated, as in *RIB* 1920 (Birdoswald). For a local example, see *Britannia* 45 (2014), 432, no. 2 (Old Carlisle). The accusative singular ending VM suggests the formulaic *titulum posuit* (etc.), which is found locally at Maryport and Brougham, and at other northern forts (see *RIB* III, 3231, with note).

https://doi.org/10.1017/S0068113X15000434 Published online by Cambridge University Press

9. Ibid. (FIG. 8). Red sandstone fragment of another tombstone, 0.26 by 0.28 m, 0.11 m thick (the back being rough-tooled but original) (SF 94). The left edge, with horizontal tooling-grooves, is original, but the other edges are broken. A broad vertical line marks the left border, and pairs of narrower horizontal lines separate each line of text. The letters are finished by short serifs punched at right angles.[18] They read: [. . .] | VINDA[. . .] | AN XXXX[. . .], [. . .] | *Vinda [v(ixit)]* | *an(nos) XXXX[. . .]*, '. . . Vinda lived 40 (or more) years.'[19]



FIG. 8. Papcastle tombstone (No. 9). (*Photo: Wardell Armstrong Archaeology*)

[18] The layout and presentation are thus similar to those of the previous item, but the lettering looks as if it is by another hand.

[19] Although it is suggested in the note to *RIB* III, 3232 (Brougham), that AVR C[. . .]|VINDA should be restored as *Aur(elia) C[uno]|vinda*, the Celtic name *Vinda* is well attested. *vixit* was evidently abbreviated, but without knowing the length of the numeral in the line below, it is not possible to tell whether it was *v(ixit)* or *vix(it)*. The former is more likely.

https://doi.org/10.1017/S0068113X15000434 Published online by Cambridge University Press

10. **Durham** area (FIG. 9). Small buff sandstone altar, 147 by 243 mm, 127 mm deep, said to have been found 'on the outskirts of Durham' in the 1980s.[20] Inscribed in neat capitals on the die: DEO ◦ SAN|CTO ◦ VITIRI | LVNARIS | VL ◦ VSLM, *deo san|cto Vitiri* | *Lunaris* | *VL v(otum) s(olvit) l(ibens) m(erito)*. 'To the holy god Vitiris, Lunaris . . . paid his vow, willingly, deservedly.'[21]



FIG. 9. Durham area altar (No. 10). (*Photo: ArtAncient*)

[20] Information from Alexander Tweedy of ArtAncient, who sent photographs and other details. It has since been sold. The stated provenance would suggest one of the forts between Durham and the Wall where dedications to Vitiris or 'Veteres' are known, Chester-le-Street (*RIB* 1046, 1047, 1048), Lanchester (*RIB* 1087, 1088) or Ebchester (1103, 1104). But the vagueness of the provenance, and still more the altar's pristine condition and the neatness of its lettering, which are both unparalleled among dedications to this god, and also the omission of medial points from VSLM, raise the question of whether it is genuine. However, there is no altar of which it is an evident pastiche, and the undistinguished lettering, although it is rather square and painstaking, is not definitely un-Roman.

[21] The only instance of the exact formulation *deo sancto Vitiri* is *RIB* 1455, which this altar does not resemble. The Celtic name *Lunaris* is uncommon, but there are three instances from Britain, the tombstone *RIB* 786 (Brougham) and the altars *RIB* 1521 (Carrawburgh) and *JRS* 11 (1921), 101–7 (Bordeaux, but originating from York). At the beginning of line 4, VL is unexplained. Unless it is an inept reversal of the LV immediately above, whether by an ignorant forger or a careless stonecutter, it may falsely anticipate the V S L M formula which follows. The vendors suggest *v(eteranus) l(egionis)*, but although this abbreviation is found on two tombstones from the middle Danube (*ILS* 2343 and *AE* 1989, 632), the legionary reference is explicit in both, to the same legion as it happens. The 'humble folk' who made their 'inexpensive and crudely inscribed' dedications to this god (to quote Eric Birley in *ANRW* II, 18.1, 63) almost never specify their rank, and neither the provenance nor the name *Lunaris* suggests a legionary veteran.

https://doi.org/10.1017/S0068113X15000434 Published online by Cambridge University Press

11. **Vindolanda** (NY 768 663), Northumberland (FIG. 10). Fragment of a buff sandstone slab, 0.49 by 0.69 m, 0.162 m thick, found[22] amongst building rubble at the west end of a fourth-century barracks, just to the south of the south-east corner of the third-century *principia*. There is trace of the upper border, which confirms that the first two letters belong to the original first line, but the whole surface is worn and the lettering (*c.* 70 mm high) quite shallow in consequence: [. . .]AR[. . .] | [. . .]OPERṬİNAC̣[. . .] | [. . .] ▵ ANTONĪN[. . .] | [///] | [///] | [. . .] Ḥ̣IIII[. . .]. ?*[imp(eratoribus) Caes]ar[ibus L(ucio) Septimio | Severo Pi]o Pertinaci [. . . | et M(arco) Aur(elio)] Antonin[o . . . et P(ublio) Septimio Getae | nobilissimo Caesari . . . co]h(ors) IIII [Gallorum . . .]*. 'To the Emperors Caesars Lucius Septimius Severus Pius Pertinax . . . and

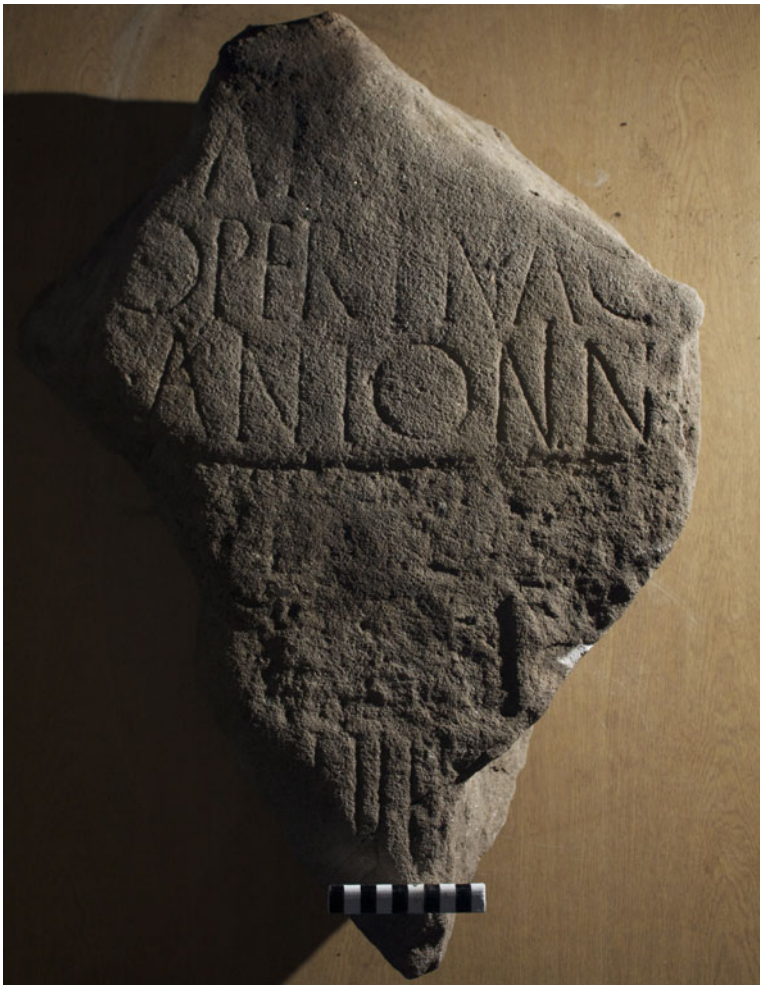


FIG. 10. Vindolanda stone fragment (No. 11). (*Photo: R.S.O. Tomlin*)

[22] During excavation by the Vindolanda Trust directed by Andrew Birley. Robin Birley sent information and a photograph, Barbara Birley made it available.

https://doi.org/10.1017/S0068113X15000434 Published online by Cambridge University Press

to Marcus Aurelius Antoninus . . . and to Publius Septimius Geta most noble Caesar . . . the Fourth Cohort of Gauls . . .'[23]

B. INSTRUMENTUM DOMESTICUM

CHESHIRE

12. Findspot withheld. Circular lead weight, 50 mm in diameter, found[24] in 2014. Impressed: VIII, *viii (unciae)*. '8 ounces.'[25]

CUMBRIA

13. **Carlisle** (*Luguvalium*, NY 40 56) (FIG. 11). Two conjoining wall sherds 5 mm thick of a vessel in reddish fabric with white slip, found in or before 1867.[26] Incised before firing: [1–2] CVṚ[. . .] | OLI[. . .] | CRIIS[. . .][27]

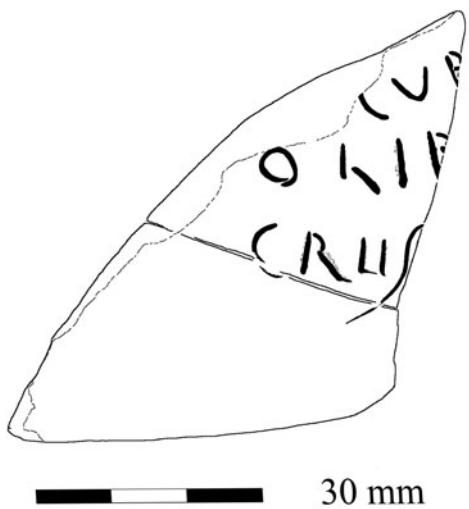


FIG. 11. Carlisle graffito (No. 13). (*Drawn by R.S.O. Tomlin from a photograph*)

[23] The uncertainties of titulature and abbreviation prevent a full restoration of this dedication by the Fourth Cohort of Gauls to Septimius Severus and his sons Antoninus (Caracalla) and Geta (whose name and title have been erased as usual), which would also have named the governor and the prefect. The governor is likely to have been Alfenus Senecio, who is named in a Vindolanda fragment (*RIB* III, 3348) which is possibly part of the same inscription. Line 1 evidently began with [IMP CAES]AR[I] or [IMPP CAES]AR[IBVS], followed by the name and titles of Septimius Severus, which continued into line 2. If this began with [SEVERO PI]O, as seems likely, it would have been better balanced in length by the plural [IMPP CAES]AR[IBVS] in the line above. The medial point before ANTONINO indicates that *Marco Aurelio* was abbreviated to M AVR. The erasure of Geta's name and title extended over lines 4 and 5, with its beginning lost but the end surviving.

[24] Recorded (with photographs) on the PAS database, LVPL-70AF92.

[25] Not Roman beyond a doubt, but similar in appearance to *RIB* II.2, 2412, 87, 90 and 91, all from Cheshire.

[26] When they were given by Joseph Mayer to Liverpool Museum with the stated provenance of 'Carlisle', which is marked on them in ink. They are now in National Museums Liverpool (World Museum), acc. no. M7641, from where the Curator of Classical Antiquities, Georgina Musket, sent a colour photograph and other details.

[27] The left margin can be deduced from the space at the beginning of lines 2 and 3. To the right of the vertical stroke at the end of lines 1 and 2 there is trace of the diminutive loop of R, resembling that in line 3. Here CRII[. . .] is almost certainly *Cres[cens]* or a derivative, presumably the name of the potter.

https://doi.org/10.1017/S0068113X15000434 Published online by Cambridge University Press

14. **Papcastle** (*Derventio*, NY 1134 3136), Roman fort east *vicus* (FIG. 12). Complete samian base sherd, found[28] in 2013. Scratched after firing underneath within the foot-ring, in cursive letters: TERT SENECIONIS CATONIS, *Tert(ii) Senecionis Catonis*. (i) '(Property) of Senecio.' (ii) '(Property) of Cato.' (iii) '(Property) of Tertius.'[29]



FIG. 12. Papcastle samian graffito (No. 14). (*Photo: Wardell Armstrong Archaeology*)

[28] During excavation by Wardell Armstrong Archaeology for Grampus Heritage and Training. Megan Stoakley sent a photograph and other details.

[29] *Senec* seems to have been written first as SENCE, and then corrected. Since the three names are all cognomina (even if *Tertius* is occasionally found as a nomen), they must be the names of successive owners. The first is evidently Senecio, since Cato's name follows on from it, and Tertius' name is curtailed, the awkward placing of the second T showing that it respected *Senecionis* which was already there.

https://doi.org/10.1017/S0068113X15000434 Published online by Cambridge University Press

15. Ibid. (*Derventio*, NY 10941 30948), Roman fort south *vicus*. Samian wall sherd (SF 30, probably Drag. 18/31) found[30] in 2014. Scratched after firing in capitals above the (now missing) foot-ring: [. . .].AVḌ[. . .][31]

DEVON

16. **Exeter** (*Isca Dumnoniorum*, SX 9223 9275), Princesshay, immediately north-east of the Roman legionary fortress (FIG. 13). Base sherd of a samian dish (SG Drag. 18) probably stamped by Murranus (*c.* A.D. 45–90), found[32] in 2005 with six other vessels apparently associated with a cremation of Neronian date which preceded the construction of a defended enclosure co-existing with the fortress. There are two graffiti made after firing. (i) Scratched underneath within the foot-ring, two intersecting lines: a 'cross', as a mark of identification. (ii) Scratched on the wall above the foot-ring: NAIIV[. . .], *Naev[ius]* or *Naev[i]*. 'Naevius' *or* '(the property) of Naevius'.[33]

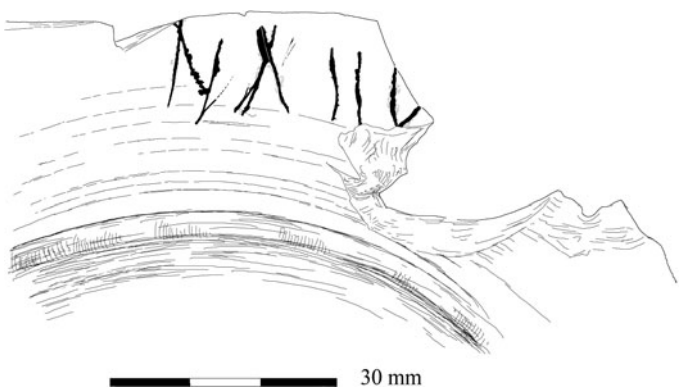


FIG. 13. Exeter samian graffito (No. 16 (ii)). (*Drawn by R.S.O. Tomlin*)

17. Ibid. (FIG. 14). Conjoining sherds comprising much of a samian cup (SG Drag. 27) with illegible stamp, Flavian or earlier, found in a later feature cutting through the Roman levels. There are two graffiti scratched after firing. (i) Underneath within the foot-ring, two sets of intersecting lines in a 'V' figure: a mark of identification. (ii) On the wall above the foot-ring: APRILIS, *Aprilis*. 'Aprilis' *or* '(the property) of Aprilis'.[34]

[30] During excavation by Wardell Armstrong Archaeology for Grampus Heritage and Training, in the season after the previous item. Megan Stoakley and Frank Giecco made it available.

[31] Of the first letter only the tip survives; of the others, only the upper half. The last is probably D, but might be P or R.

[32] With the next item during excavation by Exeter Archaeology directed by P. Pearce for Land Securities Properties Ltd, in contexts <7610> and <4739> respectively. Alex Croom made them available on behalf of Paul Bidwell, who provided details of context which amplified the note in *Britannia* 38 (2007), 295–6.

[33] The Latin nomen *Naevius* is found on its own as a cognomen in *RIB* 179 (an imperial freedman), and perhaps in the samian graffito NAE[. . .] (*Britannia* 27 (1996), 451, no. 26). But although it is apparently not followed here by a cognomen, on such an early sherd from Exeter it is surely the nomen of a Roman citizen, no doubt a legionary.

[34] A is 'open' (without cross-bar), P and R very angular, and S a long diagonal stroke. *Aprilis* is a popular cognomen, and in Britain is borne by one legionary centurion (*RIB* 1401) and by the heir of another (*RIB* 675), no doubt a legionary himself; but they are both of later date.

https://doi.org/10.1017/S0068113X15000434 Published online by Cambridge University Press

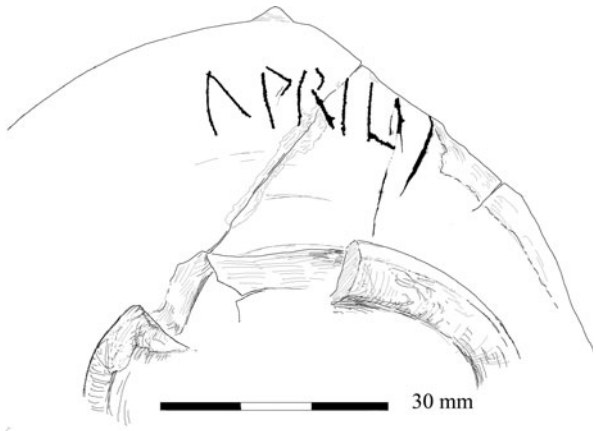


FIG. 14. Exeter samian graffito (No. 17 (ii)). (*Drawn by R.S.O. Tomlin*)

ESSEX

18. **Elsenham** (TL 546 249) (FIG. 15). Two bone roundels, 17 mm in diameter, from a set of twelve found in 1990 in a rich cremation burial.[35] Each is incised underneath with a monogram consisting of M imposed upon A, to the right of which is an angular S; probably MAS.[36]

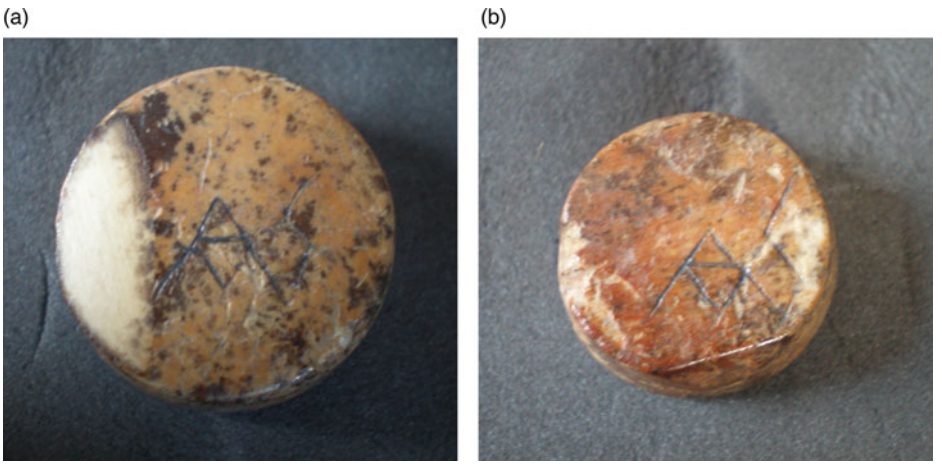


FIG. 15. (a) and (b). Elsenham bone roundels (No. 18). (*Photo: J.C. Ford*)

[35] *Britannia* 23 (1992), 289. The grave-goods (for which see heritagegateway.org.uk) are being studied in a Reading University dissertation by John Ford, who noticed the graffiti and sent photographs and other details.

[36] The letters MAS are found as owners' marks on two amphoras (*RIB* II.6, 2494.148 and 149) and a cooking pot (*RIB* II.8, 2503.329). They are either a Roman citizen's three names abbreviated to their initials, for example *M(arcus) A(ntonius) S(. . .)*, or an abbreviated cognomen such as *Ma(n)suetus*.

https://doi.org/10.1017/S0068113X15000434 Published online by Cambridge University Press

GLOUCESTERSHIRE

19. **Cirencester** (*Corinium Dobunnorum*, SP 0365 0250), Kingshill South, probable Roman villa outside the walls. Two conjoining black burnished (BB1) rim sherds, found[37] in 2009. Incised after firing: VEN, perhaps *Ven(ustus)*.[38]

20. Ibid. Wall sherd from a flagon in North Wiltshire oxidised ware, crudely incised after firing: [. . .]IIMIIḶ[. . .], perhaps *[G]emel[lus]*.[39]

21. **Uley** (ST 789 996), West Hill, the Roman temple of Mercury (FIG. 16). Rectangle cut from sheet lead, 47 by 38 mm, found[40] in 1978. It is complete except for loss to the top edge of face (a) and the bottom edge of face (b), but it was badly stressed by being folded twice after it was inscribed. Face (b) is heavily coated with corrosion products in which the writing is rather faint. Both faces are inscribed in fluent New Roman Cursive of fourth-century date:

(*a*)	(*b*)
deo sancto Mercuriọ	nec mas *traces*
Cariṇ[ ]ęc-	*traces*
ro de furṭo{uo} quod	nęc solęṃ neç luṇ[am]
mihi factum est Pri-	nec coniuu.. infaṇtis
manus ṇęç [e]i per-	*traces* neum
mitt[ ]s Mercurius	san(g)uine sụo conpliat
{-ụṣ} nec *traces*	veṇdica[tionem?]

'To the holy god Mercury. I, ?Carinus, ?implore you concerning the theft which has been done to me (by) Primanus. And Mercury is neither to permit him . . . nor . . . nor . . . neither sun nor moon, neither . . . of an infant . . . fulfil vengeance with his blood.'[41]

[37] With the next item during excavation by Oxford Archaeology (*Britannia* 41 (2010), 396). Edward Biddulph sent photographs and other details.

[38] This is the commonest name to be abbreviated to VEN (compare *RIB* II.7, 2501.581), but there are other possibilities. Just to the right of N are two horizontal marks which might suggest a fourth letter ligatured to it, but since it would be incomplete and three-letter abbreviations are usual, they may be dismissed as casual.

[39] L is not certain since it consists of a vertical stroke followed by the end of a second, detached stroke which is cut by the broken edge. But the cognomen *Gemellus* is very common.

[40] During the excavation published as A. Woodward and P. Leach, *The Uley Shrines: Excavation of a Ritual Complex on West Hill, Uley, Gloucestershire: 1977–9* (1993), in which it is noted at 129 as no. 68 (SF 3652). It is published with fuller commentary in the forthcoming proceedings of the Thirteenth FERCAN Workshop at Lampeter in October 2014, edited by R. Häussler and A. King.

[41] Notes (a)

2. Probably *Carin[us]* or *Carin[ianus]*, followed by a verb ending in *-ro* (3). This is likely to have been *execro* (active, as in *Tab. Sulis* 99, 1) or *[obs]ec|ro*, probably preceded by *tibi* or *te* respectively.

3–4. *Pri|manus* must be the name of the thief, but grammatically *fecit* would be required, or *a Primano* with *factum est*. The scribe confused two formulas, active and passive, neither of which is actually attested in Britain, but *fraudem fecit* is used at Bath and Uley, and *quot mihi furtum factum est* in the Mérida tablet (*CIL* ii 462).

5–6, *nec [e]i per|mitt[ ]s*. The formula of not 'permitting' the thief is frequent, but *Mercurius* is nominative, so *permitt[at]* in the third person is required, not *permitt[a]s*, for which anyway there is too much space. It is followed by a word ending in *s*, perhaps *[nato]s*, although it would be rather cramped; this would suggest he is being deprived of children, *nec natos nec nascentes* (*Tab. Sulis* 10, 13–15).

Notes (b)

1, *nec*. The sense evidently continues from (a), but the rest of the line has been crossed out by a series of more or less horizontal lines.

3, *nec solem nec lun[am]*. Contrasting sources of light denied to the thief, apparently, but the formula is new.

4. The word after *nec* looks rather like *coniugis*, but *g* cannot be read. The concluding *infantis* also suggests a family context.

6–7, *san(g)uine suo conpliat | vendica[tionem]*. The idea of 'paying' with one's blood is frequent, but this formula is

https://doi.org/10.1017/S0068113X15000434 Published online by Cambridge University Press

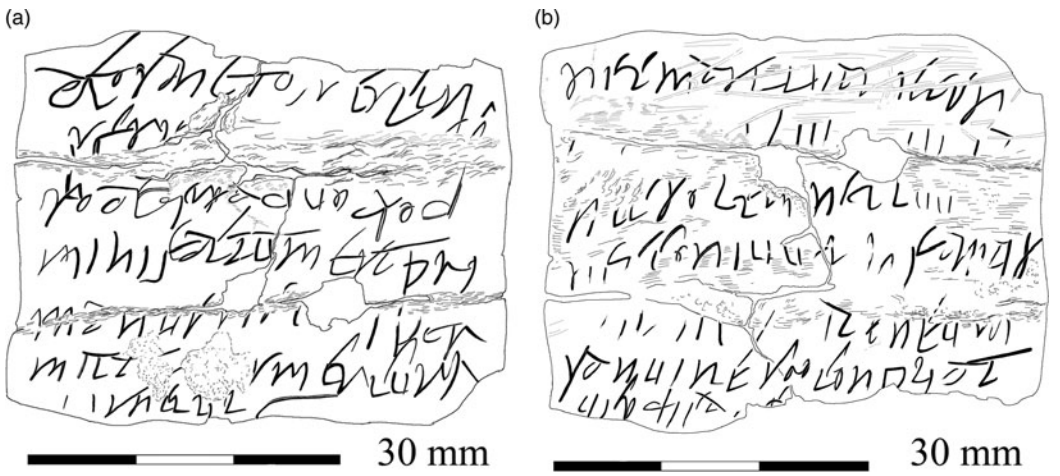


FIG. 16. (a) and (b). Uley lead tablet (No. 21). (*Drawn by R.S.O. Tomlin*)

HERTFORDSHIRE

22. **Kelshall** (TL 3247 3697), Shiplands field (FIG. 17). Moulded base of a green glass bottle found[42] in 2014. Moulded retrograde: SΛI[43]



FIG. 17. Kelshall moulded bottle (No. 22). (*Photo: North Hertfordshire Museum*)

new. The spelling is 'Vulgar', with *g* in *san(g)uine* lost by lenition; compare *sanuene sua* in *Tab. Sulis* 46, 7. *conpliat* is for *conpleat*, unstressed short *e* and *i* often being confused. This is not the case with *vendica[tionem]*, but the form *vendicas* for *vindicas* is found three times in the London Bridge tablet (*Britannia* 18 (1987), 360, no. 1, noting that it anticipates a change found in some Romance languages).

[42] During excavation for North Hertfordshire District Council Museum Service, directed by Keith Fitzpatrick-Matthews, who provided details. The site, which was discovered by a metal-detectorist, is a rich burial dated by a very worn coin of A.D. 177/8. Kris Lockyear informed Mark Hassall, who noted the parallel cited below.

[43] For another example, see *RIB* II.2, 2419.143 (Cramond) with note.

https://doi.org/10.1017/S0068113X15000434 Published online by Cambridge University Press

KENT

23. **Canterbury** (*Durovernum Cantiacorum*, TR 150 575), Whitefriars (FIG. 18). Black burnished wall sherd found[44] in 2000, scratched after firing in capitals: [. . .]HILẠ[. . .], perhaps *Hila[rus]*.[45]

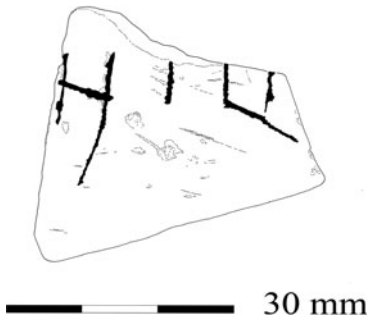


FIG. 18. Canterbury graffito (No. 23). (*Drawn by R.S.O. Tomlin*)

24. Ibid. (FIG. 19). Complete black burnished rim sherd 54 mm in diameter, found in 2003, inscribed around the neck in badly-formed, ambiguous capitals: PVḌẸṆṢ. . .., perhaps *Pudens*[46]



FIG. 19. (a) and (b). Canterbury graffito (No. 24). (*Photographed and drawn by R.S.O. Tomlin*)

[44] With the next four items during excavation by the Canterbury Archaeological Trust (*Britannia* 33 (2002), 352–3, and 34 (2003), 355). Mark Houliston made them available. They are CW9 <57>, CW64 <462>, CW46 <2330>, CW21 <4908> and CW64 <4480> respectively.

[45] Only the first letter is complete. The fourth letter might be I, but the incomplete stroke looks a little close to L to be an entire letter. There are names in *-hili-* such as *Philippus*, but *Hilarus* (and its derivatives) are so popular that A is more likely.

[46] It is not even clear that the graffito should be read this way up, but the initial letter is more acceptable as P than (inverted) as lower-case D. Next comes a clumsy V, but then D is made without a vertical stroke (this being supplied

https://doi.org/10.1017/S0068113X15000434 Published online by Cambridge University Press

25. Ibid. (FIG. 20). Black burnished wall sherd found in 2002, scratched after firing in capitals: [. . .]ENI[. . .][47]

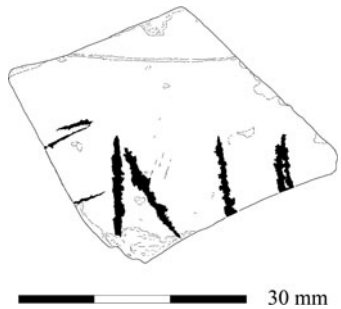


FIG. 20. Canterbury graffito (No. 25). (*Drawn by R.S.O. Tomlin*)

26. Ibid. (FIG. 21). Black burnished base sherd found in 2000, scratched underneath after firing in capitals: [. . .]TVR[. . .][48]

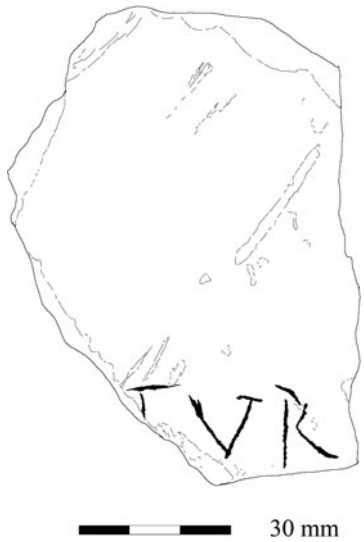


FIG. 21. Canterbury graffito (No. 26). (*Drawn by R.S.O. Tomlin*)

by V), and E with only a medial stroke. The popular cognomen *Pudens* could be read by supposing that N ran into S, the latter being indicated by a vertical downstroke followed by a diagonal upstroke. But this would leave unexplained the 'letters' which follow, themselves no more than a series of ambiguous diagonals.

[47] The letters are all incomplete, but enough survives to make this the probable reading. There are many possibilities, including the popular cognomen *Genialis*.

[48] The same sequence in capitals has already occurred at Canterbury, on the samian sherd *RIB* II.7, 2501.13, but there it seems to be the beginning of a word perhaps abbreviated, possibly *tur(ma)* ('cavalry troop'). The present graffito is more likely to be part of a personal name, for example *Saturninus*.

https://doi.org/10.1017/S0068113X15000434 Published online by Cambridge University Press

27. Ibid. (FIG. 22). Black burnished wall sherd found in 2003, neatly scratched after firing in capitals: [. . .]INIC̣[. . .][49]

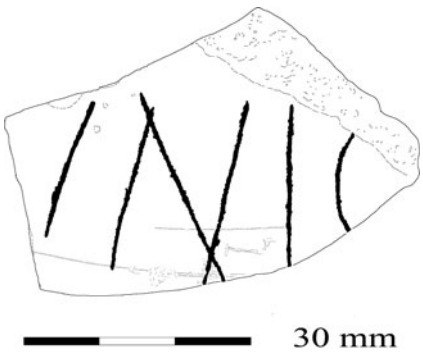


FIG. 22. Canterbury graffito (No. 27). (*Drawn by R.S.O. Tomlin*)

LINCOLNSHIRE

28. **Caistor** (TA 11 01). Copper-alloy finger-ring (Henig type XI), recorded[50] in 2014. Incised on the bezel within a rectangular panel formed by diagonal hatching: TOT

29. **Dragonby** (SE 905 138) (FIG. 23). Two conjoining wall sherds of a South Spanish oil amphora (Dressel 20), found[51] in 1964. Incised before firing in cursive letters: s̱[.]c̣uṇdi, *S[e]cundi*. '(Product) of Secundus.'[52]

30. Ibid. (FIG. 24). Flat coarseware sherd, found in 1972. Incised before firing with at least three lines of cursive letters, but they are too few and ambiguous for decipherment.

[49] All that survives of the fourth letter is part of a curve, and visually G, Q or O are also possible, but none would result in a sequence likely to belong to a personal name. The sequence *-inic-* offers many possibilities, including the nomina *Minicius* and *Vinicius*, and their derivatives.

[50] PAS ref. LIN-4D3E76 (Daubney 82). As in *Britannia* 45 (2014), 443–4, TOT rings are noted by their reference-numbers in the PAS database and the catalogue kept by Adam Daubney, Finds Liaison Officer for Lincolnshire.

[51] With the next item during excavation of the Roman site (*Antiq. Journ.* 50 (1970), 222–45) by the Dragonby Excavation Committee directed by the late Jeffrey May, who made them available to Mark Hassall. They are now in the North Lincolnshire Museum, Scunthorpe. The first is DR64 CR from the excavation of 1964 (*JRS* 55 (1965), 205), the second is DR72 BKZ from the excavation of 1972 (*Britannia* 4 (1973), 286).

[52] There are traces, faint but sufficient, of the top and bottom of the semi-circle representing *c*, and above them, larger and more deeply incised, as if to mark it as the initial letter, the top of *s*. Personal names in the genitive case, incised before firing on Dressel 20, indicate the potter or perhaps the workshop.

https://doi.org/10.1017/S0068113X15000434 Published online by Cambridge University Press



FIG. 23. Dragonby amphora graffito (No. 29). (*Drawn by R.S.O. Tomlin*)



FIG. 24. Dragonby graffito (No. 30). (*Drawn by R.S.O. Tomlin*)

https://doi.org/10.1017/S0068113X15000434 Published online by Cambridge University Press

31. **Horncastle** (TF 26 69). Incomplete silver finger-ring (Henig type XI), recorded[53] in 2014. Incised on the bezel within a square panel: TOT

32. **Swinhope** (TF 21 96). Silver finger-ring (Henig type VIII), 19.4 mm internal diameter, weight 4.73 gm, recorded[54] in 2014. Incised, perhaps stamped, on the plain oval bezel: TOT

33. **Sudbrooke** (TF 04 75). Incomplete silver finger-ring (Henig type VIII), recorded[55] in 2014. Inscribed on the circular bezel: ToT[56]

34. **Wragby** (TF 13 78). Incomplete silver finger-ring (Henig type VIII), recorded[57] in 2014. Incised on the oval bezel: TOT

LONDON

City of London (*Londinium*)

35. 10 Trinity Square, EC3 (TQ 3450 0800). Wall sherd of an unsourced white-slip ware vessel, found[58] in 2013. Deeply incised after firing: PA, *Pa(. . .)*[59]

36. Ibid. East Gaulish samian rim sherd, scratched on the wall after firing: [. . .]*ΛR[. . .], *Ar[. . .]*[60]

37. Ibid. Fineware beaker on a narrow base, neatly scratched on the wall after firing with three figures perhaps Greek letters: Δ □ I[61]

38. 24–26 Minories, EC3 (TQ 33660 81065) (FIG. 25). Base sherd of a samian platter (SG Drag. 18) stamped OF PATRC (Patricius 1, A.D. 65–90), found[62] in 2012. Scratched underneath after firing within the foot-ring: SOLITA, *Solita*[63]

39. Ibid. Black wall sherd of 'London Ware', incised after firing: LA.[. . .], perhaps *Lae[tus]*[64]

[53] PAS ref. DENO-C47328 (Daubney 90).
[54] PAS ref. NLM-2089B1 (Daubney 83).
[55] PAS ref. LIN-DF32B4 (Daubney 85).
[56] Like No. 56 below, both Ts are inscribed with exaggerated bottom serif formed by two diagonals.
[57] PAS ref. LIN-F2DE0C.
[58] With the next two items during work by MoLA (*Britannia* 45 (2014), 376), where Charlotte Burn made them available. They are TRN08 <467>, <237> and <475> respectively.
[59] The sherd is broken close to P, but the graffito is probably complete. A is of early form with a third diagonal downstroke. This is the owner's name abbreviated to its first two letters, with many possibilities including the common cognomina *Paternus* and *Paullus*, both of which have been found in London (*RIB* II.7, 2501.412(?) and 426 respectively).
[60] The 'star' consists of three intersecting strokes, its left-hand portion now lost. A is 'open' (without cross-bar). The 'star' is a mark of identification, followed by the owner's name, of which only the first two letters remain, *Ar[. . .]*. There are many possibilities, the most common being the nomina *Arrius* and *Arruntius*.
[61] The 'triangle' can be read as capital delta, and the vertical line as capital iota. The 'square' (two horizontals crossed by two verticals) is not really like a Greek letter, but was perhaps a symbol or abbreviation. The graffito is noted here since it is complete, and somewhat resembles the graffito in Greek capitals on a beaker found in London at Mariner House (*Britannia* 43 (2012), 404, no. 14), which has been tentatively identified as an apothecary's jar.
[62] With the next item during evaluation by MoLA (*Britannia* 44 (2013), 327), where Charlotte Burn made them available. They are MNR 12 <43> and <136> respectively.
[63] S was scratched twice and extended by a single upward diagonal, the intention being perhaps to reinforce the initial letter. *Solitus*, although apparently Latin ('accustomed'), like *Solinus* (*RIB* 22, London) incorporated the element found in Celtic names such as *Solimarus* and is found in Celtic-speaking provinces. In the feminine form *Solita*, as here, it is attested in the dative *Solitae sorori* (*CIL* xii 95, Brigantio).
[64] A is incomplete, but apparently of early form with a third diagonal downstroke. The next letter is now only a nick in the corner of the sherd, but is too close to be T. It might well be part of II, i.e. E. The cognomen *Laetus* is quite common.

https://doi.org/10.1017/S0068113X15000434 Published online by Cambridge University Press

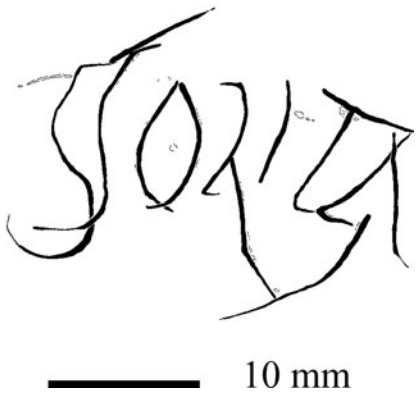


FIG. 25. London, 24–26 Minories samian graffito (No. 38). (*Drawn by R.S.O. Tomlin*)

40. 70 Mark Lane, EC3 (TQ 33346 80893). Wall sherd of a South Spanish oil amphora (Dressel 20), found[65] in 2013. Coarsely incised after firing: [. . .] ◦ VṂ[. . .], probably *[. . .] Um [. . .]*[66]

41. Ibid. (FIG. 26). Nine wall sherds of a dark grey vessel, four of which conjoin and are incised after firing in neat capitals: ONESIMI, *Onesimi*. '(Property) of Onesimus.'[67]

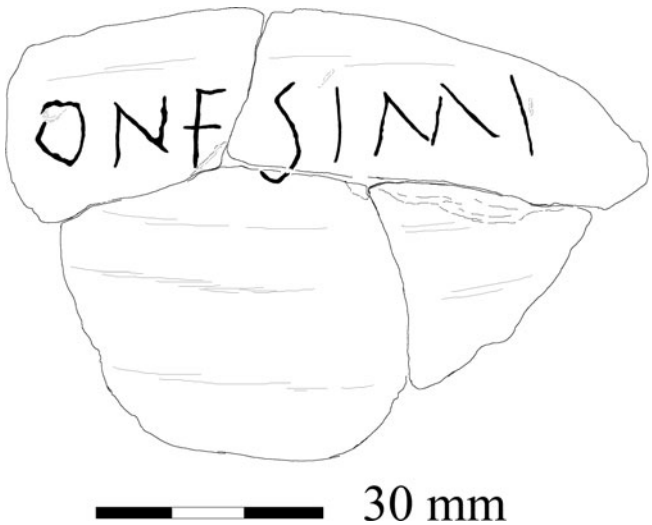


FIG. 26. London, 70 Mark Lane graffito (No. 41). (*Drawn by R.S.O. Tomlin*)

[65] With the next item during work by MoLA (*Britannia* 45 (2014), 375), where Charlotte Burn made them available. They are MAL 13 <83> and <186> respectively.

[66] The first 'letter' is apparently a medial point, which would imply it separated two words, the first perhaps abbreviated. Thus probably the owner's nomen and cognomen, the latter being *Umber* or a cognate: compare *RIB* II.7, 2501.633, *Um(. . .)*, and *RIB* III, 3190, *Lat(. . .) Um(. . .)*

[67] This name is quite common, and has occurred once before in London, abbreviated to ONII in a samian graffito from Drapers' Gardens (*Britannia* 40 (2009), 344, no. 52).

https://doi.org/10.1017/S0068113X15000434 Published online by Cambridge University Press

42. Upper Thames Street, EC4 (TQ 3236 8080) (FIG. 27). Thin pewter strip (approximately Sn 55% to Pb 45%), 43 by 91 mm, found[68] in 1989 on the site of the Roman Thames foreshore. Before being rolled up for insertion into an amulet case, it was inscribed with seven lines of magical signs (*charaktêres*) which cannot be deciphered, but their function would have been protective.[69]



FIG. 27. London, Upper Thames Street pewter tablet (No. 42). (*Drawn by R.S.O. Tomlin*)

Greater London

43. Southwark, Thameslink Programme (from TQ 32665 80229 (west) to TQ 32707 80244 (east)) (FIG. 28). Samian base sherd, found[70] in 2010. Scratched after firing underneath within the foot-ring: ΛΒΛS, *Abas(cantus)*.[71]

[68] In the same excavation by MoLAS as the pewter tablets published as *Britannia* 30 (1999), 375, no. 1 and 44 (2013), 390, no. 21. Jenny Hall made it available from the Museum of London (VRY 89 < 940>).

[69] For *charaktêres* in general, see R. Gordon, '*Signa nova et inaudita*: the theory and practice of invented signs (*charaktêres*) in Graeco-Egyptian magical texts', *MHNH* 11 (2011), 15–44. They are elaborations of Greek letters and geometrical figures. This tablet contains five also found in the Billingford amulet for health and victory (*Britannia* 37 (2006), 481, no. 51, with fuller commentary in *ZPE* 149 (2004), 259–66): the 'lattice' in lines 1, 3 and perhaps 4; the 'barred lambda' in 2 and 7; the 'barred omega' in 2, 3 and 4; the 'star' in 5 (but with five points, not six); the 'HHH' in 6 (but with horizontal incomplete). Line 7 begins with a 'ring-letter' elaborated from a Billingford sign (line 2, no. 3). Lines 2 and 3 end with 'squares' which are elaborated in 1 (with outer lines), in 4 (with rings), and in 5 (with kappa). There are also four unelaborated letters: chi in 2, 5 and 6; tau and omicron in 5; theta in 6.

[70] During work by Oxford Archaeology South and Pre-Construct Archaeology (*Britannia* 42 (2011), 377–8). Edward Biddulph sent a photograph and details.

[71] This is a popular name, often borne by slaves and freedmen. In origin Greek ('secure against enchantments'), it is widespread in the western Empire. In Britain it has occurred on a moulded lead pig (*RIB* II.1, 2404.51) and a bronze die (*RIB* II.1, 2409.33).

https://doi.org/10.1017/S0068113X15000434 Published online by Cambridge University Press

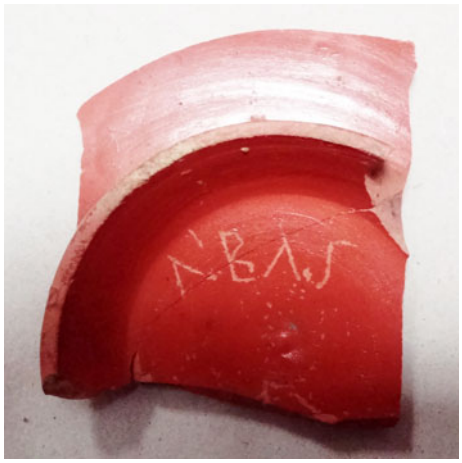


FIG. 28. Southwark samian graffito (No. 43). (*Photo: Edward Biddulph*)

NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE

44. **Benwell** (*Condercum*, NZ 216 647), Roman fort (FIG. 29). Sherd preserving the profile of a samian cup (Drag. 33, Antonine) stamped VXOPILLI ◦ M, found[72] in 1937. There are three graffiti made after firing. (i) Underneath within the foot-ring, a series of intersecting lines across the diameter, probably intended as a 'star'-like mark of identification; and in small letters: IV, probably *Iu(li)*.[73] (ii) Scratched on the wall while the cup was inverted: IVLI, *Iuli*. '(Property) of Julius'.[74] (iii) Scratched while the cup was held on its side, and thus inverted as to (ii) which it over-writes: IANḭḭḭAṛI[. . .], perhaps *Ianuari[us]* or *Ianuari*. '(Property) of Januarius.'[75]

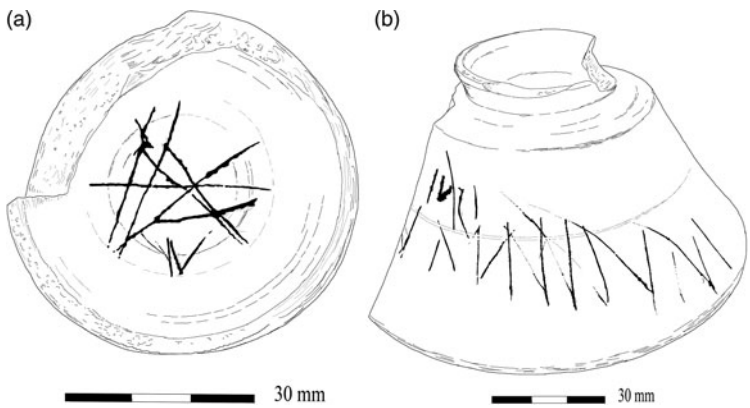


FIG. 29. (a) and (b). Benwell samian graffiti (i), (ii) and (iii) (No. 44). (*Drawn by R.S.O. Tomlin*)

[72] With the next two items during excavation in advance of house-building directed by F.G. Simpson and I.A. Richmond (*JRS* 28 (1938), 172–3). Alex Croom made them available from Arbeia Roman Fort, South Shields, as SF 136, 122 and 153 respectively. Also examined was a black burnished rim sherd (SF 131) scratched with two 'crosses' or 'stars'.

[73] This might be the numeral IV ('4'), but is more likely to be a variant of (ii). Since it respects the 'star', or is respected by it, they seem to be only one graffito.

[74] *Iulius* is a common Latin nomen, but is often found by itself as a cognomen.

[75] The letters consist of straight or diagonal strokes, with short vestigial strokes marking the scribe's zig-zag sequence from left to right. One descender cuts IVLI (inverted), indicating that the scribe was an owner subsequent to Julius. Only the

https://doi.org/10.1017/S0068113X15000434 Published online by Cambridge University Press

45. Ibid. (FIG. 30). Samian base sherd (Drag. 18/31), from the berm in front of the south wall. Scratched after firing on the upper surface of the base: PRIM[. . .], *Prim[us]* or a cognate name such as *Prim[itivus]*.[76]

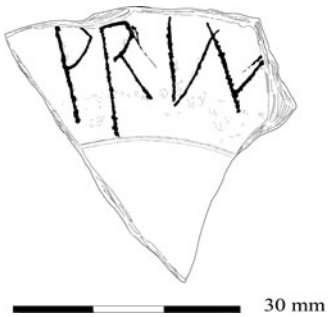


FIG. 30. Benwell samian graffito (No. 45). (*Drawn by R.S.O. Tomlin*)

46. Ibid. (FIG. 31). Samian base sherd (Drag. 38?). On the underside of the foot-ring, a series of diagonal incisions made after firing: XXXV, '35'.[77]

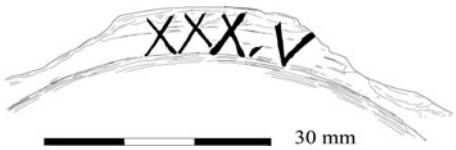


FIG. 31. Benwell samian graffito (No. 46). (*Drawn by R.S.O. Tomlin*)

NORFOLK

47. **Fakenham** (TF 92 30) area (FIG. 32). Gold 'Brancaster type' finger-ring, 19 mm in diameter, weight 3.7 gm, found[78] in 2014. Incised retrograde on the 7 mm square bezel: DOM|NICA | VIVA, *Dom|nica viva(s)*. 'Long life to you, Domnica.'[79]

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE

48. **Tiffield** (SP 69 52) (FIG. 33). Rectangular silver ring-bezel, 8.2 by 8.5 mm, 2.5 mm thick, weight 1.5 gm, found[80] in 2014. Incised in capitals: LEGO | N I IV | S VIV[81]

first three letters are at all certain, IAN, which is used as an abbreviation for *Ianuarius* since there is no other common name beginning with these letters. This suggests a blundered *Ianuarius*, although the sequence III is difficult and R is uncertain.

[76] *Primus* and its cognates are common, and there may be another example from Benwell, another samian sherd (*RIB* II.7, 2501.442) which reads[. . .]PRI[. . .]

[77] The incisions look as if they were made this way up, cutting from left to right. There is a hint that the scribe was about to cut a fourth X, but instead (after a slight space) cut V. This would confirm that he intended a numeral, not a repetitive pattern as a mark of identification.

[78] PAS ref. NMS-065376, described by Adrian Marsden. Compare *RIB* II.3, 2422.15 (Brancaster).

[79] *Dom(i)nicus* / *Dom(i)nica* (from *dominus*, 'the Lord') is typically Christian, and indicates a fourth-century date.

[80] PAS ref. NARC-41DB75, fully described by Ralph Jackson.

[81] S is reversed. The legend has not been resolved, but may be a garbled version of the VIVAS IN DEO ('May you live in God') formula found on other 'Brancaster type' rings like the previous item.

https://doi.org/10.1017/S0068113X15000434 Published online by Cambridge University Press



FIG. 32. Fakenham gold ring (No. 47). (*Photo: Portable Antiquities Scheme*)



FIG. 33. Tiffield silver ring-bezel (No. 48). (*Photo: Portable Antiquities Scheme*)

NORTHUMBERLAND

49. **Corbridge** (*Coria*, NY 982 648) (FIG. 34). Wall sherd of a South Spanish oil amphora (Dressel 20), found[82] in 1971 north of Site XX. Inscribed before firing in cursive letters: [. . .]ribus s[. . .] | ṃi u̯[. . .][83]



FIG. 34. Corbridge amphora graffito (No. 49). (*Photo: R.S.O. Tomlin*)

[82] During the annual training excavation directed by Eric Birley and John Gillam. Frances McIntosh made it available (CO 2326), and Graeme Stobbs provided details. It is not in *RIB* II.6, 2493, nor in *Britannia*.

[83] Line 2 is quite uncertain, but line 1 must be an ablative plural ending, that of a month, whether *Septembribus, Octobribus, Novembribus* or *Decembribus*, in which the day was either the Kalends (1st), Nones (5th, or 7th in October) or Ides (13th, or 15th in October), *Kalendis, Nonis* or *Idibus*, perhaps abbreviated.

https://doi.org/10.1017/S0068113X15000434 Published online by Cambridge University Press

50. **Vindolanda** (NY 768 663). Biconical lead weight (SF 18404), 32 mm in diameter, 20 mm thick, weight 179 gm, found[84] in 2014. Inscribed in punched-dot letters: S, *s(emis)*. 'Half (a pound).'[85]

51. Ibid. (FIG. 35). Wall sherd (SF 19409) from near the base of a South Spanish oil amphora (Dressel 20), inscribed before firing in cursive letters: ae.[. . .] | ukiaṇ[. . .], *Ae[. . .]| V K(alendas) Ian[uarias . . .]*. '. . . on the fifth day before the Kalends of January' (28 December).[86]

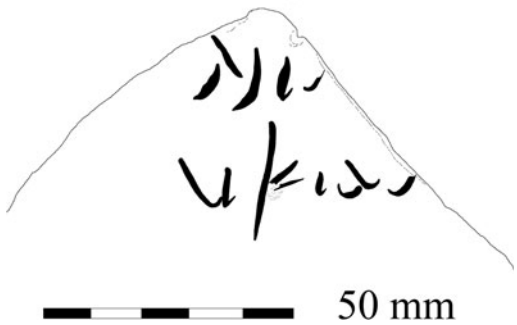


FIG. 35. Vindolanda amphora graffito (No. 51). (*Drawn by R.S.O. Tomlin*)

52. Ibid. (FIG. 36). Three conjoining wall sherds (SF 19088) of a Dressel 20 amphora, crudely scratched after firing; the reading is complicated by earlier graffiti or casual scoring, but is probably: X IVCV[. . .], (mark of identification) *Iucu[ndus]* or *Iucu[ndi]*. 'Jucundus *or* (property) of Jucundus.'



FIG. 36. Vindolanda amphora graffito (No. 52). (*Drawn by R.S.O. Tomlin*)

[84] With the next five items during excavation by the Vindolanda Trust directed by Andrew Birley; Barbara Birley made them available and provided details. Graffiti of less than three letters, except for No. 53, have been omitted.

[85] *RIB* II.2, 2412 (at p. 1) accepts a figure of 327.45 gm for the Roman pound (*libra*), which would make this example 15.275 gm (8.53%) overweight.

[86] Line 1 may be a personal name such as *Aemilianus*, but not a consular date, since this would have followed the day-date in line 2. There is no second-century pair of ordinary consuls *Aemiliano et [. . .]*.

https://doi.org/10.1017/S0068113X15000434 Published online by Cambridge University Press

53. Ibid. Two conjoining wall sherds (SF 18783) of a Dressel 20 amphora, incised after firing in large capitals (*c*. 70 mm): S ▵ E[. . .], probably *S(extus) E(. . .) [. . .]*[87]

54. Ibid. (FIG. 37). Shoulder sherd of a buff jar (SF 19471), inscribed vertically after firing, in quite elegant capitals: SOḶ[. . .], probably *Sol[inus]* or *Sol[lemnis]*.



FIG. 37. Vindolanda amphora graffito (No. 54). (*Drawn by R.S.O. Tomlin*)

55. Ibid. Two wall sherds of a black burnished vessel (SF 19361), not conjoining, both scratched after firing: (i) [. . .]VI[. . .] and (ii) VIÇ[. . .], presumably *Vic[tor]* or a cognate name.

NOTTINGHAMSHIRE

56. **Collingham** (SK 84 62). Silver finger-ring (Henig type XI), recorded[88] in 2014. Incised on the bezel within a dot-punched square panel: ToT[89]

[87] A Roman citizen's three names reduced to their initials. Nomina in *E(. . .)* are less common than in *F(. . .)*, but E includes a bottom stroke which cannot be an exaggerated bottom-serif of F.

[88] PAS ref. LVPL-D46C37 (Daubney 89).

[89] Like No. 33 above, both Ts are inscribed with exaggerated bottom serif formed by two diagonals.

https://doi.org/10.1017/S0068113X15000434 Published online by Cambridge University Press

SOUTH TYNESIDE

57. **South Shields** (*Arbeia*, NZ 365 679), Roman fort *vicus* (FIG. 38). Oblong lead sealing impressed with a rectangular die 15 mm wide, found[90] in 2010. In high relief: D N, *d(omini) n(ostri)*. '(Property) of Our Lord (the Emperor).'[91]

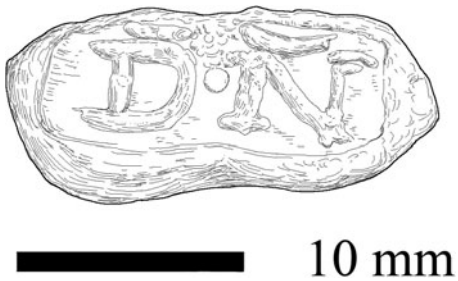


FIG. 38. South Shields lead sealing (No. 57). (*Drawn by R.S.O. Tomlin*)

58. Ibid. Oblong lead sealing, its left-hand surface lost and corroded back to the channel left by the binding-cord in the middle, found in 2012. In high relief: [. . .] N, *[d(omini)] n(ostri)*. '(Property) of Our Lord (the Emperor)'.[92]

SUFFOLK

59. **Wixoe** (TL 708 431), Roman 'small town' (FIG. 39). Grey base sherd found[93] in 2011. Inscribed before firing on the underside: ȻRFẠ[. . .][94]

[90] With the next item during excavation by Tyne and Wear Museums (*Britannia* 41 (2010), 355, and 44 (2013), 287–8), IM 195 and IM 196 respectively. Alex Croom made them available.

[91] There is a feature above both letters, perhaps only a suprascript line, but it looks as if it was intended for a swag suspending a portrait-roundel. It is absent from the rectangular D N sealing previously found at South Shields (*Britannia* 30 (1999), 383, no. 20), and to judge by the published drawing, the lettering of this is slightly different too; the same is true of the Corbridge example (*Britannia* 33 (2002), 369, no. 27). But even if the die is not quite the same, the sealings must be closely related. They may be attributed to a third-century sole emperor who used the title *dominus noster*, perhaps Caracalla; see further *Britannia* 30 (1999), 383, n. 32.

[92] Despite its poor state of preservation, this looks like the same die as the previous item, with a hint of the 'swag' above N.

[93] With the next item during excavation by Oxford Archaeology East (*Britannia* 43 (2012), 324). Alice Lyons made them available. Omitted here, but included in the final report, are two sherds inscribed with a single letter, 'M' and 'A'; three with 'crosses'; and one with a figure like 'T' terminating in two hooks, perhaps a stylised anchor.

[94] C is much slighter, and may even be a casual mark. R, F and A are deeply incised, R and F with an exaggerated leftward bottom serif. The elongated I, despite being close to the broken edge, shows no sign of being part of another letter, for example L, N or V, unless it is the first stroke of II (an alternative form of E). But it may not be a letter at all, since the rather cramped A seems to be avoiding it. The graffito is literate and evidently the potter's signature, but even if it is reduced to RFA, it cannot be resolved into a name or date.

https://doi.org/10.1017/S0068113X15000434 Published online by Cambridge University Press

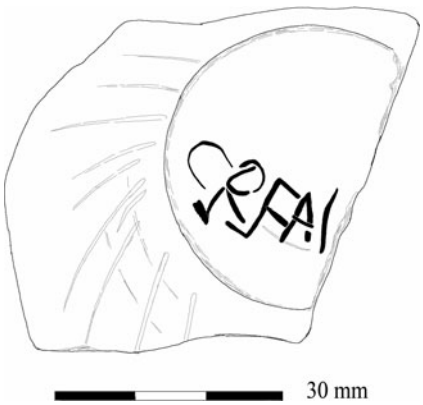


FIG. 39. Wixoe graffito (No. 59). (*Drawn by R.S.O. Tomlin*)

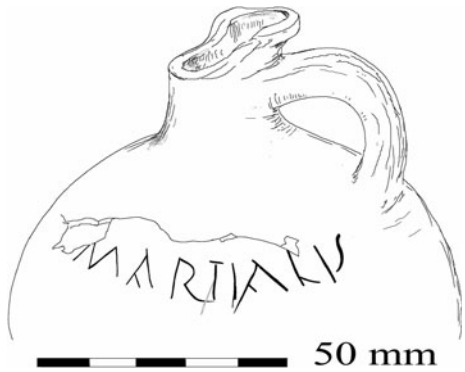


FIG. 40. Wixoe graffito (No. 60). (*Drawn by R.S.O. Tomlin*)

60. Ibid. (FIG. 40). Complete buff flagon, now fragmented. Scratched after firing on the shoulder to the left of the handle, in capitals: MARTIALIS, '(property) of Martialis'.

WEST SUSSEX

61. **Chichester** (*Noviomagus*, SU 864 048), Shippam's Factory site (FIG. 41). Four conjoining base sherds of a samian vessel (Drag. 18/31?), found[95] between 2004 and 2007. Underneath within the foot-ring are two graffiti made after firing, the incomplete names of successive owners. (i) In fine-scratched elongated letters: VII, probably *Ve(. . .)*[96] (ii) Coarsely scratched in small capitals: BΛ[. . .], *Ba[. . .]*[97]

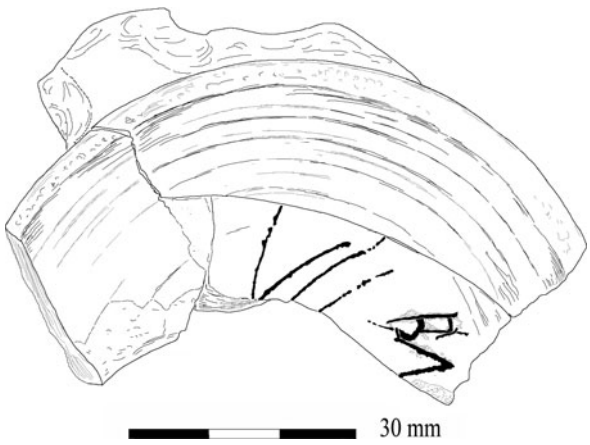


FIG. 41. Chichester samian graffito (No. 61). (*Drawn by R.S.O. Tomlin*)

[95] With the next two items during excavation by Pre-Construct Archaeology (*Britannia* 39 (2008), 328–9), and made available by Vicki Ridgeway. For previous graffiti from the site, see *Britannia* 42 (2011), 457–9, nos 26–28.

[96] Possibly the numeral VII ('7'), but much more likely to be a personal name abbreviated to its first two letters. There are many possibilities, including *Vegetus, Venustus* and *Verecundus.* Although the bottom of II is lost, VI[L] can be excluded, since names in *Vil(. . .)* are so rare.

[97] Most likely *Ba[ssus]*, but there are other possibilities.

https://doi.org/10.1017/S0068113X15000434 Published online by Cambridge University Press

62. Ibid. Two conjoining wall sherds of a samian vessel (Drag. 18/31?) (FIG. 42). Scratched after firing just above the carination: MAGI, *Magi*. '(Property) of Magus *or* Magius.'[98]

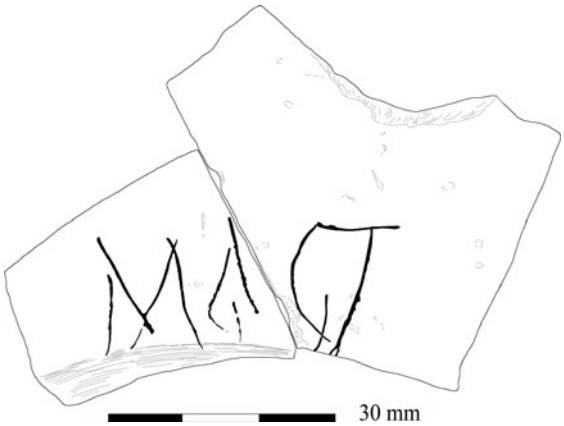


FIG. 42. Chichester samian graffito (No. 62). (*Drawn by R.S.O. Tomlin*)

63. Ibid. Base sherd of a samian dish (Drag. 31?). Scratched after firing on the inner face of the foot-ring: [. . .]QṬṬ[99]

SCOTLAND

DUMFRIES AND GALLOWAY

64. **Thornhill** (NX 8805 9438), Campleburn, Templeland Bridge. Truncated conical lead weight with some damage to the edges, 25 mm in diameter, 13 mm high, found[100] in 2014. Incised on top: II, *(unciae) II*. 'Two ounces.'[101]

[98] G is made with three strokes, its horizontal being cut by the downstroke which terminates the graffito, so that 'T' should not be read. (In writing T, the downstroke would precede the horizontal.) The nomen *Magius* is quite common, and is probably Celtic, since *magio-* and *-mago-s* are such frequent name-elements; Ellis Evans also notes the element *magu-*, 'youth, slave, vassal' (*Gaulish Personal Names* (1967), 221–2). It must be cognate with the samian potters' names *Magio* and *Maginus* (B.R. Hartley and B.M. Dickinson, *Names on Terra Sigillata*, Vol. V (2009), s.v.), and as a cognomen in the genitive case, *Magi* is found in the patronymic *Bellina Magi* (*CIL* xiii 2698).

[99] Both verticals seem to have been made downwards, towards the foot of the foot-ring. They were each completed by a short horizontal stroke at the top, probably for T, since a numeral ('2') would have been denoted by a single stroke, and 'serifs' would have been repeated at the bottom.This is presumably an abbreviated personal name, *[. . .]ott(. . .)*. With the loss of the beginning, there are many possibilities, some of them like *Cotta* and *Scottius* hardly worth abbreviating. Perhaps it was a longer derivative, such as *Cottalus*.

[100] By a metal-detectorist. Fraser Hunter sent a copy of his Treasure report.

[101] The actual weight is 53.70 gm, which is only *c*. 1.6 per cent under two Roman ounces (54.58 gm).

https://doi.org/10.1017/S0068113X15000434 Published online by Cambridge University Press

EAST LOTHIAN

65. **Inveresk** (NT 34045 72235), Kirkpark (FIG. 43). Samian base sherd (CG Drag. 18/31R), found[102] in 2010. Incised after firing on the wall above the foot-ring: T F GERMAN[. . .], *T(itus) F(lavius) German*[*us*].[103]



FIG. 43. Inveresk samian graffito (No. 65). (*Photo: National Museums of Scotland*)

66. Ibid. Upper part of the handle of a South Spanish oil amphora (Dressel 20), incised after firing: M[104]

STIRLINGSHIRE

67. **Camelon** (?*Colania*, NS 8640 8072), Glasgow Road. Part of the handle of a South Spanish oil amphora (Dressel 20), found[105] in 2014. Coarsely incised after firing: LV, probably *Lu(. . .)*[106]

[102] With the next item during evaluation by CFA Archaeology (*Britannia* 42 (2011), 333–4). The sherds were identified by Colin Wallace, and details including photographs were sent by Fraser Hunter.

[103] T F overlies faint scratches which might be an earlier owner's mark, but are probably casual. This extreme abbreviation of the imperial nomen is quite common, especially if preceded by *T(itus)*, for example *CIL* iii 2329 (Salonae), *T(itus) F(lavius) Silvanus*. In Britain the other instances are *F(lavius) Titianus* (*RIB* 1083) and *P(ubli) F(lavi) Hygini* (*RIB* II.1, 2409.29).

[104] There is no numeral to the right (for a note of capacity in *m(odii)*), so this is probably the owner's initial or distinguishing mark.

[105] With the next two items during excavation by AOC Archaeology, <239>, <474> and <602> respectively. Alex Croom made them available, with two other samian sherds bearing marks of identification rather than letters: 'H' on <495>, and 'IXI' on <642>.

[106] The graffito is complete, so it cannot be part of the note of capacity often found on the handles of Dressel 20. A numeral ('55') or a note of weight ('5 pounds') would be inappropriate, so it must be the owner's name abbreviated to its first two letters. An explicit LVC for *Lucius* or a cognate name might have been expected, but the curve of C would have been difficult to make.

https://doi.org/10.1017/S0068113X15000434 Published online by Cambridge University Press

68. Ibid. (FIG. 44). Samian base sherd (Dr. 18/31), incised after firing on the wall above the foot-ring when the vessel was inverted: TOX̣ỊẸT[. . .][107]

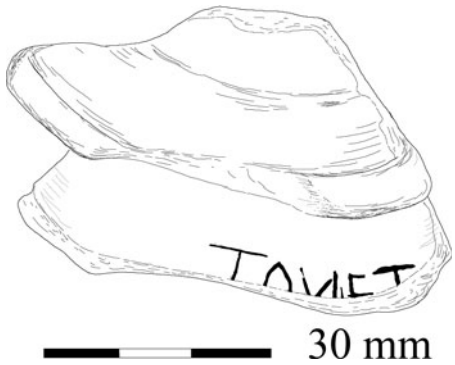


FIG. 44. Camelon samian graffito (No. 68). (*Drawn by R.S.O. Tomlin*)

69. Ibid. Samian base sherd (Dr. 18/31R) stamped DAGOMA[ ] (*c.* A.D. 100–140). Scratched after firing underneath within the foot-ring, three letters apparently unrelated to each other: (i) [. . .] M; (ii) C; (iii) V[108]

ADDENDA ET CORRIGENDA

(a) ***RIB* 76** (Silchester, Insula III west of the forum), fragment of a Purbeck marble slab found in 1891. Another fragment (FIG. 45) of the same inscription, 110 by 107 mm, 30 mm thick (but broken and not original), was found[109] in the same location in 2013, which reads: [. . .]BA[. . .]. It does not conjoin, but matches in other respects.[110] It preserves two more letters of the bottom line, which can now be read as ATR[E]BA[TVM . . .], confirming that *RIB* 76 named the canton of the Atrebates.[111]

[107] O and E (unless it is F) seem to be broken at mid-height, which suggests that the intervening letter is X rather than a diminutive V. It is followed, rather closely, by a vertical stroke which is presumably I, but between it and E is the beginning of a vertical scratch which might just possibly be the second stroke of L. This is presumably the owner's name, but nothing can be suggested.

[108] (i) is now incomplete, and it is uncertain whether this graffito consisted of a single letter like the others, which are presumably the initial letters of the names of successive owners. On the outer wall, immediately above the foot-ring, the surface has been planed away over an area *c.* 65 by 12 mm, suggesting yet another owner's name has been erased. The curve of (ii) is not very marked, and L would be possible. It was apparently succeeded by (iii), since it consists of two strokes meeting at an acute angle which coincides with the bottom of (ii), with regard to which it is inverted. 'Open' A (without cross-bar) is thus possible, but looks less likely than V.

[109] During excavation for Reading University directed by M. Fulford and A. Clarke (*Britannia* 45 (2014), 386), SF 96, who made it available. It was found in the backfill of an 1891 trench in Insula III. The 1891 fragment is stored by Reading Museum (acc. no. 1995.1.15), where Jill Greenaway made it available for direct comparison.

[110] The 1891 fragment, 175 by 245 mm, preserves the original thickness of 54 mm. The inscribed panel is dished by 3 mm, and the bottom border is 51 mm wide, with an incised line 6 mm wide cutting it 34 mm from the base. These dimensions are all matched by the new fragment, and also (by estimation) the letter-height of 61 mm.

[111] In the broken edge of the 1891 fragment, to the right of T, there is the upper portion of an incised vertical stroke, as the drawing of *RIB* 76 implies but the transcript does not note. This can now reasonably be read as R. Another reference to the *civitas Atrebatum* is probable in *RIB* 73, a conjecture by Haverfield accepted by Boon (*Silchester* (1974), 116).

https://doi.org/10.1017/S0068113X15000434 Published online by Cambridge University Press

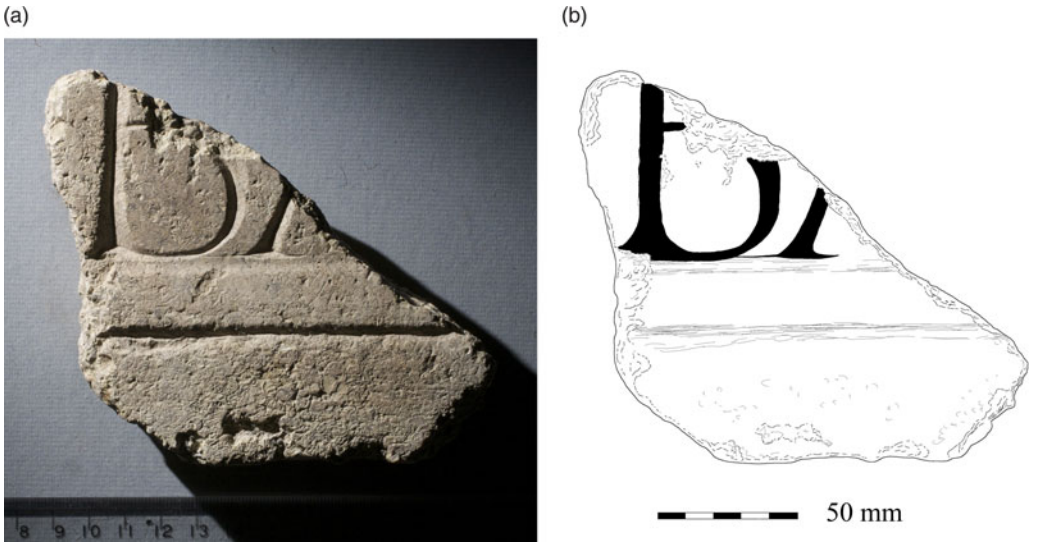


FIG. 45. (a) and (b). Silchester Purbeck marble fragment (Add. (a)). (*Photographed and drawn by R.S.O. Tomlin*)

(b) ***RIB* 288** (Wroxeter). A line-break was omitted[112] from the transcript of lines 3–4, which should read: … *ponti[fi]|ci maximo* …

(c) ***RIB* 1508** (Hadrian's Wall, near Tower Tye) (FIG. 46). This centurial stone, seen in 1702 and 'now lost', has been rediscovered[113] at Walwick Hall (NY 901 707) midway between Milecastle 28 (Walwick) and Turret 28a. It is buff sandstone, 0.34 by 0.23 m, thickness unknown. The lettering is badly worn and weathered, but supports the reading deduced from the drawings in Hunter (1702) and Horsley (1732): COH VI | 7 LIBER|ΛLIS[114]

[112] As noticed by Scott Vanderbilt when constructing the on-line *Roman Inscriptions of Britain*.

[113] By Peter Ryder, who informed Paul Bidwell, who noticed its similarity to *RIB* 1508. It is now built into the external face of the blocking of a former doorway near the north end of the east wall of the western of the two outbuildings just north of the Hall, *c*. 0.60 m above the ground. When it was seen by Hunter (1702), it was still in the face of Hadrian's Wall which had been repaired 'and fronted with its old Stones again'. When the Wall here was demolished in 1755 to make the Military Road, Stukeley's correspondent John Walton was 'expecting some inscriptions which were promised me from Walwick, which I have not yet got. They are only of the centurial sort, many of them, though not all, before published.' He had vainly hoped 'that some remains of antiquity might be found in the making of the road along the wall west of Walwick. Nothing has been found more than some centurial inscriptions …' which he does not identify (letter of 24 February 1755, published in *The Family Memoirs of the Rev. William Stukeley,* III, by the Surtees Society, Vol. 80 (1887), 131–3). If *RIB* 1508 was among them, it must have been salvaged with other facing-stones for re-use locally.

[114] In line 1, COH is still quite legible, but only the first diagonal of VI remains; the whole of it was drawn by Hunter (FIG. 46), and its existence is confirmed by *RIB* 1678 (with note), but it was already missing from Horsley's drawing (reproduced in *RIB*) which shows the corner broken. In line 2, the centurial sign and LI remain as drawn by Hunter and Horsley, with the traces of E resembling B, which is how they both drew it. Little now remains of line 3 except the top of A: the stone was evidently reduced after it was drawn by Horsley.

https://doi.org/10.1017/S0068113X15000434 Published online by Cambridge University Press

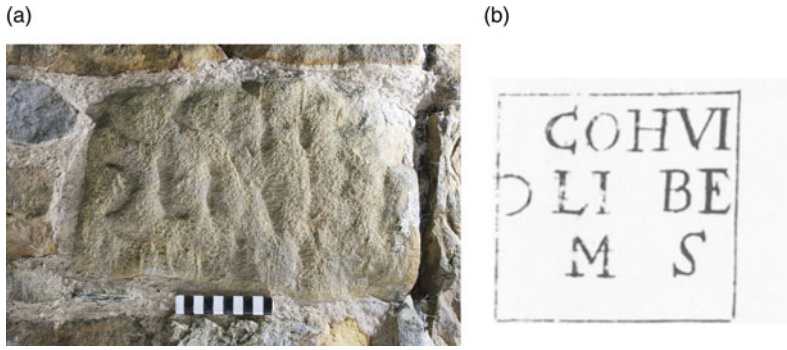


FIG. 46. (a) and (b). *RIB* 1508 (Add. (c)). (*Photographed by R.S.O. Tomlin and drawn by C. Hunter*)

(d) ***RIB* 2308** (milestone west of Vindolanda). Gale's reading of TVNG probably preserves part of the primary text, now lost, which would thus have named the *cohors I Tungrorum*, which garrisoned Vindolanda from A.D. 105 to *c*. 122, as dedicating the milestone to Hadrian.[115]

(e) ***RIB* 2328*** This imported altar-shaped tombstone, thought to have been found in Canterbury 'about 1860', was presented to Canterbury Museum in 1833 by William Henry Baldock.[116] In 1869 it was published independently as *CIL* ii 585 (Mérida). Since E is ligatured to A in line 3, the name of the deceased should be read in the dative: *P(ubliae) Val(eriae) Maxi|minae*.

(f) ***RIB* 2324*** This imported altar-shaped tombstone, 'once in the possession of the late Dr H. Wacher, of Canterbury', which is said by Watkin to have been found 'about 1840 at Petham', must also have belonged to William Henry Baldock (of Petham). Probably they both originated from Mérida.[117]

(g) ***RIB* II.4, 2454.3** (Wroxeter) (FIG. 47). The published drawings[118] probably over-simplify the medley of scratches on this small piece of mudstone, but it is difficult to establish their sequence or to distinguish deliberate incisions from casual abrasion. Obverse: four lines of crude letters, Λ, B and D, the last line apparently inverted. Reverse: still more complicated, but angular C repeated. As *RIB* notes, this is apparently writing-practice.

[115] A.R. Birley, 'Roman roadworks on the Vindolanda stretch of Stanegate', *Epistula* VIII, 7. *RIB* 2313+*add.* is the only other British milestone to name an auxiliary cohort.

[116] Information from the former curator, Ken Reedie, communicated by Thomas Goessens of the University of Kent at Canterbury, who provided the substance of this entry and the next which he will publish more fully. The Museum was founded by the Canterbury Philosophical and Literary Institution in 1825, of which Baldock (see further next note) was Director from 1828.

[117] Watkin saw it in Canterbury in 1875, without knowing (or at least saying) that it was owned by Fanny Ellen Pout, whose father had been Librarian of the Canterbury Philosophical and Literary Institution of which William Baldock was Director. The latter was a Canterbury banker who lived in Petham during 1812–43, but he was declared bankrupt in 1841, when the tombstone must have been acquired by Mr Pout, whether by gift or purchase. Miss Pout bequeathed property to Frank Wacher, the father of Harold Wacher, from whose estate the tombstone was acquired by the British Museum (*JRS* 19 (1929), 216).

[118] Made from rubbings by R.P. Wright, who first published it. It has now been re-drawn from the original.

https://doi.org/10.1017/S0068113X15000434 Published online by Cambridge University Press

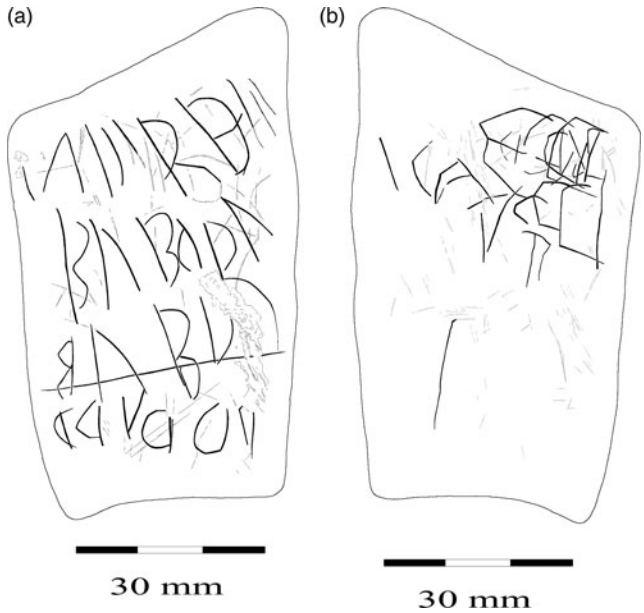


FIG. 47. (a) and (b). *RIB* II.4, 2454.3 (Wroxeter) (Add. (g)). (*Drawn by R.S.O. Tomlin*)

(h) ***RIB* II.6, 2493.69** (Bearsden) (FIG. 48). This sherd of a South Spanish oil amphora (Dressel 20) has been re-drawn to accompany the corrected reading in *Britannia* 28 (1997), 472, add. (e).

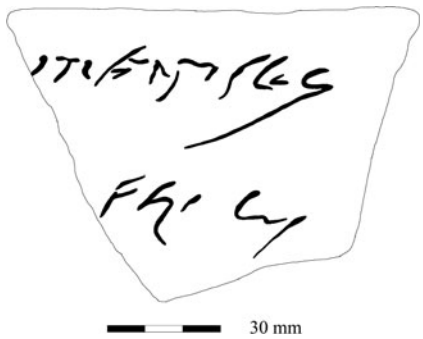


FIG. 48. *RIB* II.6, 2493.69 Bearsden (Add. (h)). (*Drawn by R.S.O. Tomlin from a squeeze taken by R.P. Wright*)

(i) ***RIB* II.8, 2502.51** (St Albans). The published drawing is accurate, but re-examination of the original shows that there is a tiny but deliberate nick in the broken edge to the right of the last (incomplete) letter in the last line (6). The penultimate line (5) should now be read as *conticuere[. . .]*, not CONTICVE[. . .], and 6 as *intiq[. . .]*, the two being restored as *conticuere [omnes] | int(ent)iq[ue ora tenebant]*.[119]

[119] The script is fluent but employs quite a small range of elements, and in 6 the scribe's eye evidently slipped from *int* to *ent*, producing the syncopated *int(ent)iq[ue]*. The reading *conticuere* is certain, and guarantees that this is the famous Vergilian tag (*Aen.* 2.1) of which the first two words occur on a tile from Silchester (*RIB* II.5, 2491.148, with note).

https://doi.org/10.1017/S0068113X15000434 Published online by Cambridge University Press

CHANGE IN LOCATION

(a) ***RIB* 1158** (Corbridge) (FIG. 49). This fragment of a dedication slab has been removed from the cellar where it was originally found, and cleaned of adhering whitewash.[120] It is currently at Corbridge Roman Site, but its destination is not yet known.



FIG. 49. *RIB* 1158 (Corbridge) (Change in Location). (*Photo: Corbridge Roman Site*)

roger.tomlin@wolfson.ox.ac.uk

doi: 10.1017/S0068113X15000434

[120] By Corbridge Roman Site when consulted by the new owner. Frances McIntosh made it available, and provided details.

https://doi.org/10.1017/S0068113X15000434 Published online by Cambridge University Press