III. Inscriptions[1]

By R.S.O. TOMLIN and M.W.C. HASSALL

A. MONUMENTAL

1. **South Shields** (*Arbeia*, NZ 365 679), Tyne and Wear (FIG. 1). Greyish sandstone building-stone (IM 184), 0.45 by 0.13 m, found[2] in 2006, re-used upside-down in the south-easternmost buttress on the south-west side of the unnumbered Granary C00 (Period 5B, early third century; see p. 260). Line 1 is deeply incised in irregular letters: 7 LVCI ▵ OCTΛI, *(centuria) Luci Octa(v)i*. 'The century of Lucius Octavus (built this).'[3] Line 2 may not be part of the same text. Its first stroke and the last two letters are also deeply incised, but apparently by another hand; the intervening letters are lightly incised by a third hand: NA ▵ .F. ▵ FṢ[4]

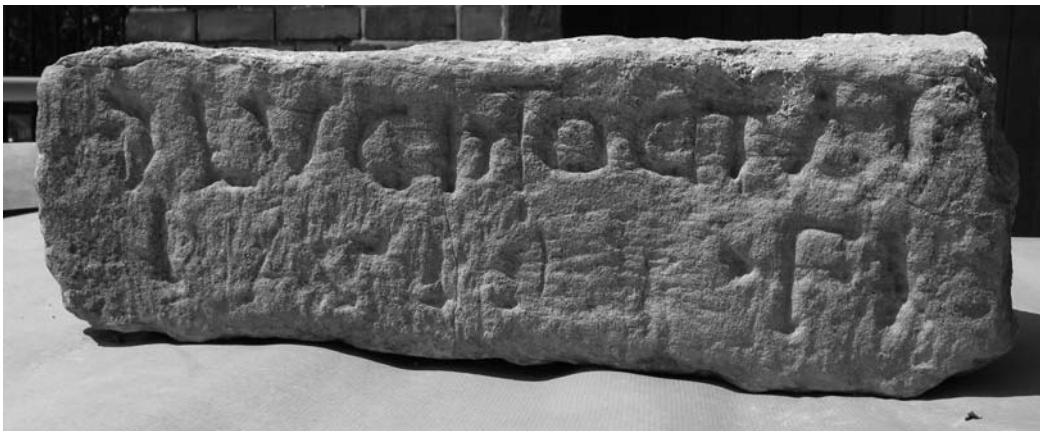


FIG. 1. South Shields, inscribed building-stone (No. 1). Width: 0.45 m.
(Photo: Arbeia Roman Fort and Museum)

[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), henceforth cited as *RIB*. 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 (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.

Mr Hassall (MWCH) is responsible for entries Nos 4, 7, 12–14, 19–23; Dr Tomlin (RSOT) for the others, and for overall editing.

[2] During excavation for Tyne and Wear Museums. Nick Hodgson and Alex Croom sent details, including a squeeze and photographs.

[3] *Lucius* is a nomen of Celtic etymology, not the Roman praenomen *L(ucius)*. The cognomen is *Octavus*, with the loss of intervocalic *v* before *i*. This text coincides with three slender vertical strokes: within 7, just after the medial point (with a suprascript bar), and between C and T. They are perhaps casual, or remains of an earlier text, or related to line 2.

[4] Between the two medial points is one, perhaps two, vertical strokes; then a faintly-incised F; and space for a third letter, with a short diagonal stroke appropriate to R. After this, F is quite deeply incised, but different in character from line 1: its strokes are quite straight, and serifed. The last letter in the line is an almost vertical S, or I. Line 2 is difficult to explain; perhaps it contains the initials of members of the century.

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2. **Vindolanda** (NY 770 663), Northumberland (FIG. 2). Quadrangular base of buff sandstone, 0.56 by 0.30 m, 0.39 m deep, found[5] in 2006 re-used in a Roman drainage channel at the south-west corner of the stone fort. An iron tag has been inset above, presumably to attach a statue. Coarsely incised into the face is a recessed ansate panel between damaged pilasters, the field (0.22 by 0.18 m) inscribed with four lines of poor lettering now rather worn: CIVES GALLI | DE GALLIAE | CONCO[.]DES|QVE BRITANNI, *cives Galli* | *de(ae) Galliae* | *conco[r]des*|*que Britanni*. 'The citizens of Gaul to the goddess *Gallia*, and the (citizens) of Britain in harmony, (dedicated this).'[6]



FIG. 2(a). Vindolanda, inscribed stone base (No. 2). Width: 0.56 m.
(Photo: R.S.O. Tomlin)

[5] During excavation and consolidation of the west wall directed by Andrew Birley for the Vindolanda Trust. The type of stone is characteristic of third-century work at Vindolanda, and the context is probably early fourth-century. Robin Birley made it available, and it has now been published with full commentary by Anthony Birley, in A. Birley and J. Blake, *Vindolanda Excavations 2005–2006* (2007), 104–12, with fig. 130.

[6] This translation understands *cives* as referring both to 'Gauls' and to 'Britons', but the Latin is ambiguous. Sense likewise requires that *concordes* refer to both, although word-order applies it to the 'Britons' alone. But to understand 3–4 as 'and [*sc.* only] the Britons who agree with them', although grammatically possible, would be forced. The notes which follow should be read in conjunction with Birley (see previous note), to whom we are indebted for an advance copy of his text.

1, *cives Galli*. The only other dedications in Britain by *cives* (plural) are by national groups within a military unit: see *RIB* 1593 and 1594 (*Tuihanti*), 2100 (*Raeti*), 2148 (*Italici et Norici*). The term *civis Gallus* is very rare (*ILS* 7576), and Birley is surely right to see *cives Galli* as a collective term for soldiers recruited from Gallia Lugdunensis who were serving in the *cohors IIII Gallorum*, the third-century garrison of Vindolanda. Like the inscriptions just cited, this shows that the army in Britain was not altogether recruited locally.

The practice of naming the dedicator before the deity is more common elsewhere, but in Britain it is rare: the only instances are *RIB* 140 (Bath), 652 (York), 1057 (South Shields), *Britannia* 8 (1977), 426, No. 4 (Dover) and 36 (2005), 482, No. 10 (uncertain provenance); the first is explicitly dedicated by a *civis Trever*, and the other dedicators may also be immigrants.

2, *de(ae) Galliae*. For this Vulgar reduction of *deae* to DE, see *RIB* 1523 (Carrawburgh) and Colin Smith, *ANRW*

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FIG. 2(b). Vindolanda, inscribed stone base (No. 2). Width: 0.56 m.
(Drawn by R.S.O. Tomlin)

3. Ibid. (NY 768 663) (FIG. 3). Grey sandstone building-stone, 0.26 by 0.18 m, squared off crudely from a rough slab 0.14 m thick, found[7] unstratified in 2006 to the west of the site. The inscription is cut by the edge of the stone, and would not have been visible when this was incorporated in a wall, so it must belong to the quarrying or preliminary working. Crudely incised: [...]OIVI or [...]OIIΛ.[8]

(for figures see following page)

II.29, 2 (1983), 900. Although *matres Gallae* are known (*RIB* 88, 653), this seems to be the first instance of *dea Gallia*; but the personification would be as natural as those of *Britannia* and *Brigantia* (see Birley, *ANRW* II.18, 1 (1986), 66–7).

3–4. *Concordia* was a deity honoured when discord was feared, and in Britain hitherto has marked the 'brigading' of vexillations from two different legions: see *RIB* 1125 (Corbridge) and *Britannia* 20 (1989), 331, No. 4 (Carlisle). The occasion of the Vindolanda dedication can only be guessed, but perhaps it was tension within the cohort between drafts from Britain and Gaul. Although lines 1-2 occupy two-thirds of the die, it is unlikely that 'the Gauls' intended *concordes* to refer to themselves alone, and then added *–que Britanni* as an afterthought; miscalculation and poor execution are a more likely explanation. But it would have been more effective, and unambiguous, if lines 3 and 4 had read *et Britanni* | *concordes* instead.

7 During excavation directed by Justin Blake for the Vindolanda Trust. Robin Birley made it available. It has now been published by Anthony Birley in Birley and Blake (see above, n. 5), 112, with fig. 131.

8 Visually either reading is possible. The stroke which is the first of 'V', or the second of 'A', is rather vertical, but the lettering is too poor for this to signify. Neither sequence of vowels is characteristic of Latin, but OEA is found in the place-names *Oea* (Tripoli) and *Beroea* (in Macedonia, Thrace and Syria). Inverting the stone with Birley (see previous note) is also possible, but the resulting VIIO[...] or IAIO[...] are still difficult. His tentative suggestion of *Iao* for IAIO may be rejected for the reasons he gives.

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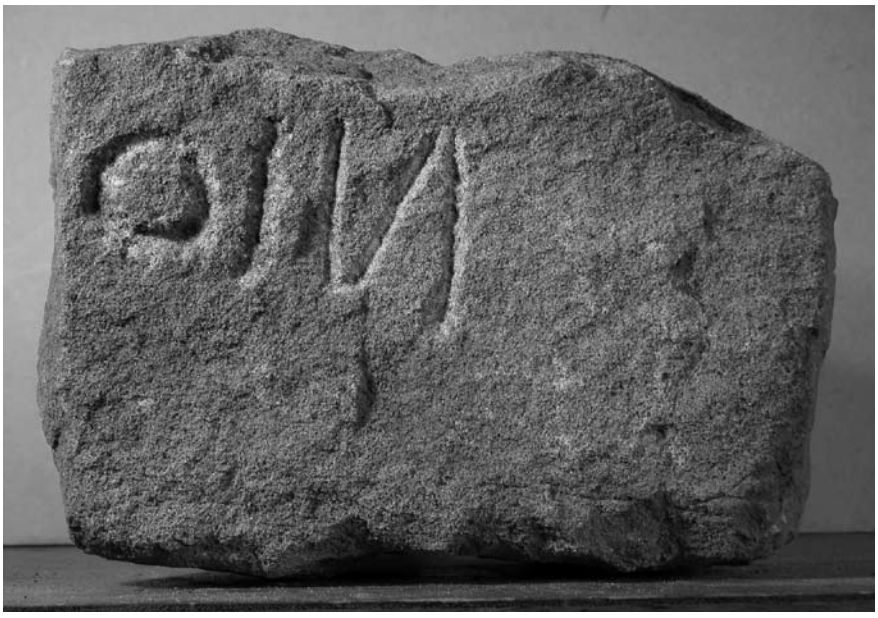


FIG. 3(a). Vindolanda, inscribed stone slab (No. 3). Width: 0.26 m.
(Photo: R.S.O. Tomlin)

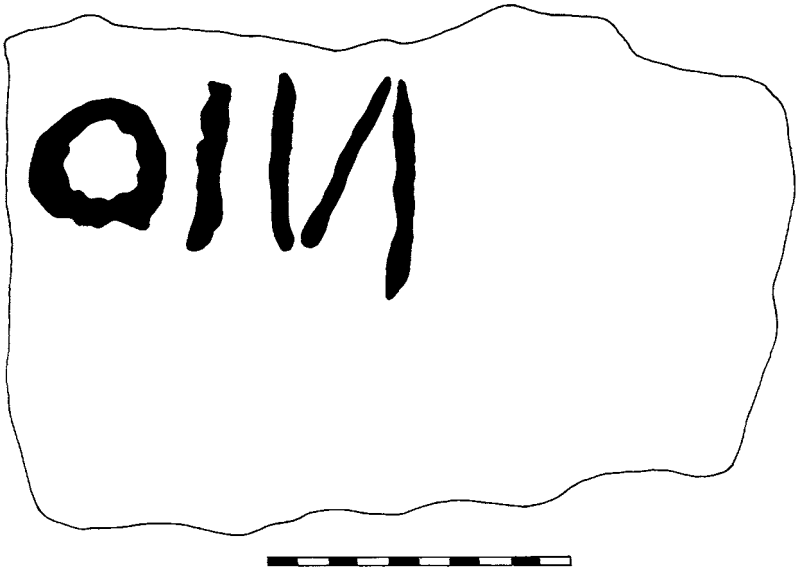


FIG. 3(b). Vindolanda, inscribed stone slab (No. 3). Width: 0.26 m.
(Drawn by R.S.O. Tomlin)

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B. INSTRUMENTUM DOMESTICUM

CAMBRIDGESHIRE

4. **Earith** (TL 3776 7828) Camp Ground (FIG. 4). Two conjoining sherds from a greyware jar with low neck and everted rim, found[9] in 2001 in the fill of an enclosure ditch with sherds of late Roman pottery dated to the last phase of the site (A.D. 324–350). There is a graffito cut after firing on the shoulder, inverted with respect to the rim: [...]VVVIVXoT[10]



FIG. 4. Earith, pottery graffito (No. 4). Scale 1: 2.
(Drawn by M.W.C. Hassall)

5. **Godmanchester** (*Durovigutum*, TL 24 67). Oval leaden sealing of hemispherical section, 24 by 16 mm, 10 mm thick, found[11] in 2005. Impressed on the flat side by a rectangular die in relief: ΛL | VIΛ, perhaps *Al(...) Via(toris)*. '(Seal) of Al(...) Viator'.[12]

[9] During excavation by Cambridge Archaeological Unit for Hanson plc, directed by Roddy Regan. Information from Graham Appleby.

[10] Since the graffito is inverted, it cannot be read as part of a funerary inscription containing *vi<v>x(i)t* ('lived').

[11] By Simon Ashford with a metal-detector, who informed Philippa Walton under the Portable Antiquities Scheme (CAM-3793F4). She sent a photograph and other details.

[12] AL would suggest an *ala*, but VIA cannot be its title (e.g. *VI A(...)*). The *alae* of the Principate, unlike cohorts, are almost never numbered more than I or II. The only exceptions are the *alae III Asturum* and *III Thracum*, and the anomalous *ala VII Phrygum*.

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CUMBRIA

6. **Carlisle** (*Luguvalium*, NY 399 561), 7–9 Fisher Street (FIG. 5). Turned bone roundel, found[13] in 2002. Obverse: four concentric rings. Scratched on the reverse: A.

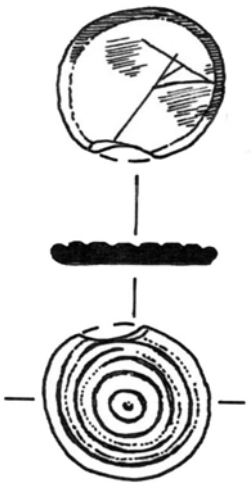


FIG. 5. Carlisle, inscribed bone roundel (No. 6). Scale 1:1 (approx.).
(Drawing by courtesy of Fraser Hunter)

DORSET

7. **Dorchester** (*Durnovaria*, SY 694 905), Wollaston House (FIG. 6). Two fragments of wall plaster found[14] in 1997/8 unstratified, in clearing the site of the Roman bath-house. The plaster is painted red, and scored in capital letters. Fragment (a), 70 by 90 mm: [...].VATIPO[...]. Fragment (b), 32 by 20 mm: [...]R[...][15]

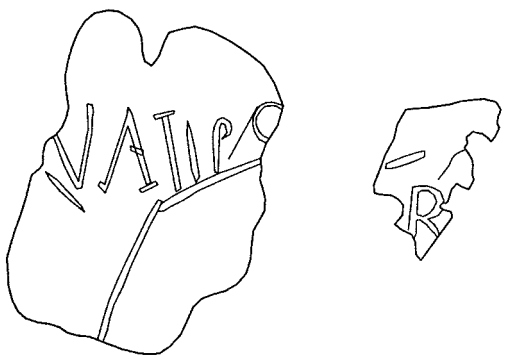


FIG. 6. Dorchester, two fragments of wall-plaster (No. 7). Scale 1:2.
(Drawing by courtesy of Hilary Cool)

13 In digging two evaluation trenches (*Britannia* 34 (2003), 312). Fraser Hunter sent details and a drawing.

14 During excavation by the then Central Excavation Unit. For the site see *Britannia* 9 (1978), 462, and 10 (1979), 327. Dr Hilary Cool, who is preparing a report on the finds, sent information and a drawing.

15 V is preceded by a scored diagonal, possibly the tail of R, which would imply something like *[... Se]rvati PO[...]*. The horizontal scored below the last four letters of fragment (a) may have terminated in fragment (b). If so, there were at least two lines of text.

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ESSEX

8. **Broomfield** (TL 69 11) (FIG. 7). Copper-alloy finger-ring with ten facets, 21 mm in diameter, found[16] in 2006. Each facet is incised with a letter: ◦VENIFVTVVE, *veni futuue*. 'Come (and) fuck'.[17]

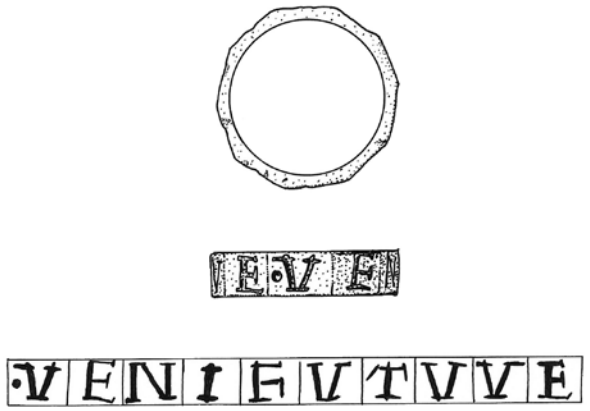


FIG. 7. Broomfield, copper-alloy finger-ring (No. 8). Diameter: 21 mm.
(Drawn by Michael Cuddeford)

GLOUCESTERSHIRE

9. **Unknown provenance**, but said to be Gloucestershire or Wiltshire (FIG. 8). Oblong leaden sealing, 27 by 11 mm, 6 mm thick, found[18] some years ago. Both impressions are in low relief, the obverse (now rather worn) being that of the inscribed mould which trapped the binding-wire; the reverse (in perfect condition) that of an oblong die. Obverse: L̤IIΛ͡VG, *l(egionis) II Aug(ustae)*. '(Seal) of the Legion II Augusta.' Reverse: FL◦FLΛ◦7, *Fl(avi) Fla(...) (centurionis)*. '(Seal) of Flavius Fla(...), centurion.'[19]

[16] By Michael Cuddeford with a metal detector, who sent a photograph and drawing. He has now donated it to the British Museum.

[17] A woman is probably envisaged as the speaker, but the Latin is ambiguous. J.N. Adams, *The Latin Sexual Vocabulary* (1982), 121, notes that *venio* is mostly used by a man of a woman coming to him, although it is also used at Pompeii by men who come to a brothel; and 118–22, that *futuo*, except in the passive, is normally used of the man's role in sexual intercourse with a woman, although, again at Pompeii, it is used in brothels as the 'unemotive technical term' by prostitutes and their clients. If the ring was worn by a woman, presumably she was a prostitute.

For the type of ring and the style of inscription, compare *RIB* II.3, 2422.66 (eight facets, *valiatis*) and, in silver, *Britannia* 37 (2006), 485, No. 59 (ten facets, *utere felix*).

The legend is unparalleled in Britain, and apparently elsewhere, but compare *RIB* II.3, 2422.61, *veni TERMO mane* ('come (and) stay'); *CIL* xiii 10024.70, *fruere me* ('enjoy me'); ibid. 80, *veni vita* ('come, (my) life'). These are rings of various types, but a better comparison is with the Rhineland 'motto beakers' which read *futue me*, *futuite*, and *futuui (h)ospita(m)* (*CIL* xiii 10018.92, 93 and 95, respectively). The latter, with its perfect form *futuui* for *futui*, exhibits the same 'glide' as in *futuue*, where [w] has been inserted between a back vowel and another vowel in hiatus: see Adams in *Britannia* 23 (1992), 10, commenting on *Tab. Sulis* 31.5, *suua*. This is not found in the many examples of the verb from Pompeii.

[18] By metal detector; given by the finder to Mark Maillard, who gave it to RSOT.

[19] The centurion's cognomen might be *Flaccus* (etc.), but is much more likely to be derived from his nomen, whether *Flavianus* or *Flavinus* (for which compare *RIB* 675, the tombstone of T. Flavius Flavinus, centurion of Legion VI Victrix). The sealing is closely related to *RIB* II.1, 2411.269a (see below, Corrigendum (d)). The obverses seem to be the same, and the drawing of *RIB* II.1, 2411.269a suggests that II was barred, like most of the legion's sealings; this is not apparent on the present item, but the top edge is rather worn. The reverses are identical in style, with distinctive F and diminutive centurial sign, but *RIB* II.1, 2411.269a has FL instead of FLA, and apparently no medial points.

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FIG. 8(a). Gloucestershire(?), leaden sealing (No. 9), obverse. Width: 27 mm.
(Photo: R.S.O. Tomlin)



FIG. 8(b). Gloucestershire(?), leaden sealing (No. 9), reverse. Width: 27 mm.
(Photo: R.S.O. Tomlin)

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HAMPSHIRE

10. **Abbotts Ann** (SU 314 419), Dunkirt Barn Roman villa (FIG. 9). Base sherd of a coarse greyware pot, found[20] unstratified in 2005, in a Roman building associated with the villa. Scratched underneath after firing: [...].MIII.[21]

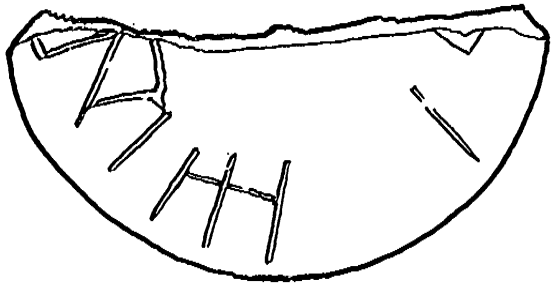


FIG. 9. Abbotts Ann, pottery graffito (No. 10). Scale 1:1.
(Drawing: Institute of Archaeology, Oxford)

HERTFORDSHIRE

11. **Baldock** (TL 2559 3328) (FIG. 10). Circular silver ring bezel, 10 mm in diameter, only 0.65 mm thick, found[22] in 2004 in the fill of a Roman roadside ditch. Traces of solder remain on the underside, presumably for attachment. It is incised with a clean-shaven male bust in profile facing left, perhaps of the mid-fourth century.[23] Round it like a coin-legend, retrograde letters have been incised by short strokes of the graver, which resemble (reading recto): ȻIMRLIVS VIVAS, *CIMRLIVS vivas*. 'Long life to you, ...'.[24]

[20] During excavation for the Danebury Environs Project directed by Professor Barry Cunliffe. Emma Durham made it available.

[21] A mark of identification, perhaps a numeral or a name in *–meius* in the genitive case, but such names are very rare. This is the only 'literate' sherd from a site which has produced twelve greyware sherds scratched after firing with a 'cross', and two with more complex patterns.

[22] During excavation by Albion Archaeology directed by Reuben Thorpe, who will deposit it in North Hertfordshire Museums Resource Centre, Letchworth Museum and Art Gallery (acc. no. BAL860/2004). Holly Duncan made it available, and provided a photograph and details of provenance; Martin Henig provided a copy of his report.

[23] In style it resembles coin-portraits of Constantius II's Caesars in the 350s, for example Julian from the mint of Arles (*RIC* VIII, 220, No. 240 with pl. 7). The closest British parallel for this bust with legend is the Silchester silver ring *RIB* II.3, 2422.25, *Iul(ius) Bellator vivas*; compare also 42 (Silchester), *vivas*. Henig discusses further parallels, noting that *vivas* may have a Christian reference, but would need the addition of *in deo* (compare *RIB* II.3, 2422.13 and 15) to be explicit.

[24] These tiny letters with their complicating serifs are too ambiguous for the name to be read. It clearly ends in S, as would be expected. Working backwards, the next letter resembles C, but is presumably V at an angle; then IL (but possibly II for E), and then R. Before this R, which is certain, there is probably M, but VN would be possible. It is preceded by I, and then the initial letter, which resembles an incomplete O or C with a medial point; but its tail may extend into the bust, making P another possibility. The terminal sequence RLIVS suggests a blundered *Aurelius*, but the preceding letters make this unlikely.

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FIG. 10. Baldock, silver ring bezel (No. 11). Diameter: 10 mm.
(Photo: Albion Archaeology)

12. **Braughing** (TL 39 25). One third of a samian dish (S.G. Drag. 18) found[25] in 1950. A graffito, apparently complete, has been cut after firing underneath within the foot-ring: M

KENT

13. **Gillingham** (TQ 7930 6850), Grange Farm. Base of a North Kent Thamesside greyware jar found[26] in 2005 in a deposit of 'dark earth' dumped in a hollow way at the end of the Roman period. A graffito has been incised underneath after firing: TIIRII[...], *Tere[nti]*. '(Property) of Terentius.'

14. Ibid. Base of a North Kent Thamesside greyware jar found in 2005 in a third-century context. A graffito has been incised underneath after firing: AMR.[27]

LEICESTERSHIRE

15. **Leicester** (*Ratae Corieltauvorum,* SK 583 048), Vine Street (FIG. 11). Rectangular leaden sealing, 21 by 11 mm, found[28] with the next item in 2005. Obverse: LXX, *l(egionis) XX*. '(Seal) of the Twentieth Legion'.[29] Reverse: CᵒIVᵒT, *G(ai) Iu(li) T(...)*. '(Seal) of Gaius Julius T(...).'[30]

[25] By members of Enfield Archaeological Society. The sherd forms part of the 'riverbank collection', but the precise find-spot is not recorded. Dr Martin Dearne made it available, and provided information.

[26] During excavation by Pre-Construct Archaeology directed by Guy Seddon on behalf of Taylor Woodrow. Dr James Gerrard provided information of this and the next two items, including images scanned by Cheryl Blundy.

[27] The A has a vestigial cross-bar, which excludes the reading MΛR.

[28] During excavation by University of Leicester Archaeological Services directed by Tim Higgins, for which see *Britannia* 37 (2006), 409–10. Richard Buckley made them available. For earlier finds, see P. Clay, 'Seven inscribed leaden sealings from Leicester', *Britannia* 11 (1980), 317–20 (now *RIB* II.1, 2411, 69, 79, 90, 95, 96, 286 and 297).

[29] Like most legionary sealings (but the next item is an exception), this sealing is rectangular. It is a tiny ingot made by trapping a binding-wire, of which marks remain, longitudinally in a mould with tapering sides (for ease of removal), and sealing it with a molten tin/lead alloy like solder. This took the impression of letters incised into the bottom of the mould, here called the 'obverse', while the 'reverse' was impressed from above by means of a rectangular die. This can be seen from the drawings to *RIB* II.1, 2411. 79, 80 and 269a (see below, Corrigendum (d)), and in general the mould must have named the legion or auxiliary unit (thus called the 'obverse'), while the die was specific to the issuing officer; indeed the latter is sometimes a figure without lettering, made with a personal signet. In *RIB* II.1, p. 88, we over-generalise from the 'EXP' group in expanding L and LEG in the nominative case; the genitive (as here) is more likely.

[30] T has been inverted to save space: it fits neatly against V, and is certainly not a reversed L. The medial points

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FIG. 11(a). Leicester, leaden sealing (No. 15), obverse. Diameter: 21 mm.
(Photo: R.S.O. Tomlin)



FIG. 11(b). Leicester, leaden sealing (No. 15), reverse. Diameter: 21 mm.
(Photo: R.S.O. Tomlin)

16. Ibid. (FIG. 12). Oval leaden sealing, 24 by 17 mm, found with the previous item in 2005. Obverse: $\widehat{\text{LE}}\overline{\text{VI}}$, *le(gionis) VI*. '(Seal) of the Sixth Legion'.[31] Reverse: P (figure of a scorpion) | SF, *P(ubli) S(...) F(...)*. '(Seal) of Publius S(...) F(...).'[32]

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are quite faint, and there is no sign of a centurial symbol, but the man is likely to have been a centurion, like Gaius Julius Tertullianus of Legion II Augusta (*RIB* 2016, compare 1970). Just possibly he is the same man, transferring from one legion in Britain to another.

31 LE is ligatured, and VI barred. There is a short medial stroke to the right of VI, but it seems without significance; it may even extend between V and I, and be only a blemish in the mould.

32 The scorpion, with its tail curving left, three (not four) visible pairs of legs and a pair of pincers, is probably Scorpio, the man's zodiacal sign. For the only British example of such an intaglio, in yellow jasper, see M. Henig, 'An intaglio and sealing from Blackfriars, London', *Antiq. Journ.* 60 (1980), 331–2, with pl. LX*a*.

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FIG. 12(a). Leicester, leaden sealing (No. 16), obverse. Diameter: 24 mm.
(Photo: R.S.O. Tomlin)



FIG. 12(b). Leicester, leaden sealing (No. 16), reverse. Diameter: 24 mm.
(Photo: R.S.O. Tomlin)

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17. Ibid., Burgess Street (FIG. 13). Rectangular leaden sealing, 20 by 15 mm (excluding the casting flashes), found[33] unstratified in 2005. Obverse (die-impression): L VI V | MVC, *l(egionis) VI V(ictricis)* | *M(arci) V(...) C(...)*. 'Of the Legion VI Victrix, (seal) of Marcus V(...) C(...)'.[34] Reverse (mould-impression): LEGIIIꝪ | CYRᴬ, *leg(ionis)* III | *Cyr(enaicae)*. '(Seal) of the Legion III Cyrenaica'.[35]



FIG. 13(a). Leicester, leaden sealing (No. 17), obverse. Diameter: 20 mm.
(Photo: R.S.O. Tomlin)



FIG. 13(b). Leicester, leaden sealing (No. 17), reverse. Diameter: 20 mm.
(Photo: R.S.O. Tomlin)

[33] During site evaluation. Burgess Street runs parallel to Vine Street (see *Britannia* 37 (2006), 407, fig. 16). Richard Buckley made it available.

[34] The first stroke of M is lost. By analogy with other sealings, MVC is more likely to be the officer's initials than his abbreviated cognomen (*Mucianus*, etc.); much the likeliest nomen is *Valerius*.

[35] The third digit of the numeral can just be differentiated from the border, especially since line 2 confirms the edge of the panel. The second letter of line 2 is not I or T, but undoubtedly Y. Its fourth 'letter' is too angular for O, since the mould-cutter could cut a curving line if he needed to (witness C). Instead it is a triangular stop to indicate abbreviation.

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LINCOLNSHIRE

18. **Frampton** (TF 32 39)**.** Copper-alloy finger-ring, 24 mm in diameter, found[36] in 2006. Inscribed on the rectangular bezel: TOT[37]

LONDON (THE CITY)

19. **25 Gresham Street** (TQ 3224 8144), just outside the southern defences of the Cripplegate Roman fort (FIG. 14). Sherds from a black-burnished (BB 2) jar with everted rim found[38] in 2000/1. A graffito has been cut after firing on the shoulder: TERTI, *Terti*. '(Property) of Tertius'.

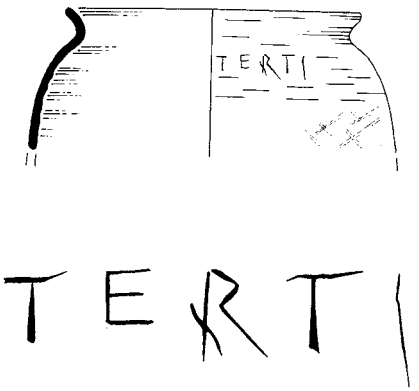


FIG. 14. London, pottery graffito (No. 19). Scale 1:4; graffito 1:1.
(Drawing: MoLAS)

20. **Mansion House** (TQ 326 810). Copper-alloy key found before 1865, when it was acquired by the Guildhall Museum.[39] The key, technically known as an L-shaped tumbler lock slide-key, is overall 75 mm long, 37 mm wide, and the height of the bit and its five wards is 17 mm. The bit is attached to an octagonal shaft widening to a flattened rectangular handle terminating in a ring-shaped suspension loop. Incised on the handle: IXXXV[40]

This sealing is unique, not only for naming two legions, but legions so far apart: they were both moved by Hadrian, the Sixth Victrix from Germany to Britain, the Third Cyrenaica from Egypt to Arabia. Perhaps a soldier or centurion of Legion VI Victrix brought this mould with him from his previous posting; such a transfer, but in reverse, is implied by *IGLS* 9188 (Bostra), which was dedicated by a centurion of Legion III Cyrenaica who was British by origin, Petrullo *domo Britan(nus)*. Marcus Verrius Celsus, who was probably a centurion of Legion III Cyrenaica (*CIL* x 3734), has the right initials, but he seems too early in date.

36 By C. Godfrey with a metal-detector, who reported it under the Portable Antiquities Scheme (LIN-6773B1). Sally Worrell sent details and a photograph.

37 The legend is obscured by deep patination. For examples on silver rings, see *RIB* II.3, 2422.36–40. The reference is probably to the god To(u)tatis.

38 During excavation by MoLAS for Asticus (UK) Ltd, directed by Jo Lyon, for which see 'New work on Cripplegate fort: excavations at 25 Gresham Street, 2000–2001', *Trans. London and Middlesex Arch. Soc.* 55 (2004), 153–182, with 165, fig. 14.

39 See the Catalogue of the Collection of London Antiquities in the Guildhall Museum (2nd edn., London 1908), 65, No. 47. Giles Standing, who is on secondment to the Museum of London where the key now is, sent details of it and the next item. We thank him for his technical description, and the substance of the next note.

40 The incisions are presumably numerical, but they can hardly be '34'. Possibly they combine two or three numbers, IX and XXV, or even IX, X and XV, but there is no space between them. Alternatively, initial I may be decorative, and the number XXXV, '35'.

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21. **Bucklersbury House**, 11–20 Walbrook (TQ 3254 8100). Iron L-shaped tumbler lock slide-key found[41] in 1954/5, probably in the bed of the Walbrook. The key is overall 82 mm long and 41 mm wide, and the height of the bit and its seven wards is 19 mm. This is attached to a rectangular shaft widening to a flattened rectangular handle terminating in a ring-shaped suspension loop. Incised on the handle: X[42]

GREATER LONDON

22. **Caroone House** (now Ludgate West) (TQ 3164 8127), 14 Farringdon Street. Rim sherd of a samian cup (S.G. Drag. 33) found[43] in 2005 in an early Roman alluvial deposit. A graffito cut after firing below the rim reads: FRON[...], probably *Front[ini]*. '(Property) of Frontinus.'

23. **Enfield** (TQ 3413 9577), 102 Leighton Road. Sherd from the base of a dish or bowl in sandy greyware with burnished black slip finish, found[44] in 2001/2 with residual material in an occupation layer of the late fourth century. A graffito has been cut deeply after firing on the underside of the base: IX *or (inverted)* XI. '9' or '11'.

NORFOLK

24. **Brancaster** (*Branodunum*, TF 78 44) (FIG. 15). Broken end of a copper-alloy strap-end(?), 50 mm long, found[45] in 2006. Incised to the right of the handle: VT[...] | FE[...], *ut[ere]* | *fe[lix]*. 'Use (this and be) happy.'



FIG. 15. Brancaster, copper-alloy strap-end (No. 24). Surviving length: 50 mm.
(Photo: Portable Antiquities Scheme)

[41] During excavation for the Roman and Medieval London Excavation Committee directed by Professor W.F. Grimes. The key was noted by Giles Standing (see above, n. 39) during museum-cataloguing in 2007.

[42] The X is incised very faintly, no doubt because the metal was so hard, but it appears to be deliberate since several attempts were made at scoring the two strokes. A mark of identification, or the numeral '10'.

[43] During excavation by Pre-Construct Archaeology directed by Alexis Haslam for Keltbray on behalf of British Land plc. Dr James Gerrard sent details of this and the next item, including images scanned by Cheryl Blundy. For earlier work on the site see *Britannia* 34 (2003), 339.

[44] During excavations by the Enfield Archaeological Society directed by Mr L. Whitmore. Information from Dr Martin Dearne, who made the sherd available. For the site see *Britannia* 37 (2006), 420.

[45] By S. Hammond with a metal-detector, who reported it under the Portable Antiquities Scheme (NMS-FF92F5). Sally Worrell sent a photograph and details.

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25. **Gayton** (TF 73 18). Copper-alloy finger-ring, *c*. 40 mm in diameter, found[46] in 2006. Incised within an oval of punched dots representing the bezel: AVE, *ave*. 'Greetings.'

NORTH YORKSHIRE

26. **Bowes** (*Lavatrae* NZ 993 135) Roman fort (FIG. 16). Wall sherd of a south-Spanish oil amphora (Dressel 20), found[47] in 1967 in a Severan context of *c*. A.D. 205/7. Inscribed in cursive letters before firing: [...]TḮCO[...], perhaps *[... Materno et At]tico [co(n)s(ulibus)]*. '... in the consulship of Maternus and Atticus.'[48] The rilling inside the sherd suggests that the graffito comes from near the base, and was inverted in respect to the vessel.[49]

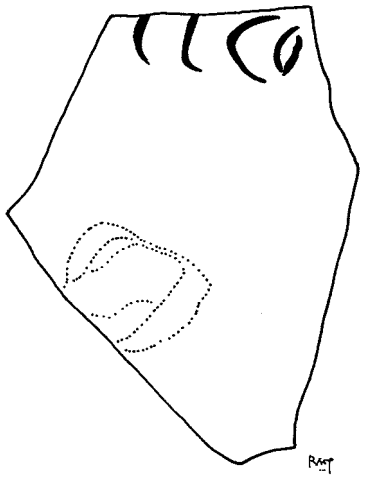


FIG. 16. Bowes, amphora graffito (No. 26). Scale 1:2.
(Drawn by R.S.O. Tomlin)

[46] By S. Brown with a metal-detector, who reported it under the Portable Antiquities Scheme (NMS-0779C7). Sally Worrell sent a photograph and details.

[47] During excavation directed by Professor Sheppard Frere, who tells us that the context (DI 85) was the robber trench of the Hadrianic *praetorium* before it was rebuilt in the governorship of Alfenus Senecio. Ray McBride made the sherd available.

[48] A.D. 185. The first two letters are sinuous strokes of which only the bottom half survives, but the first was presumably cut by a crossbar which developed into the second downward stroke, i.e. ligatured TI. The word probably ended with CO, and the sequence is appropriate to a Roman cognomen in the ablative case, i.e. part of a consular date. This would be second-century, but *Hadriano Aug. II et Rustico* (119) and *Asiatico II et Aquilino* (125) seem too early. The other possibilities are *Rustico II et Aquilino* (162) and *Materno et Attico* (185). The uninscribed space below [...]TICO[...] indicates that it belongs to the last line; and since these dating-graffiti are fairly compact, it is thus more likely to be the end of the second consul's name, not the first. This would favour A.D. 185 rather than 162, especially since the cursive is less fluent and assured than that of mid-second-century dates; and the fabric, reddish and rather thin, does not suit them either.

[49] This is the usual position of potters' signatures on Dressel 20, which were presumably made while the vessel was still upside-down on the wheel. Surviving examples are fragmentary, and not many have been published, but they consist of names and dates, especially consular dates of the mid-second century. See R. Rodriguez-Almeida, *Il Monte Testaccio* (1984), 256–7; and for British examples, *Britannia* 28 (1997), 464, No. 3, and 471–2, Corrigenda (a) and (e).

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NORTHAMPTONSHIRE

27. **Towcester** (*Lactodurum*, SP 6941 4891). Three irregular fragments of inscribed sheet lead, *c*. 1 mm thick, found[50] in 1992 in the topsoil above a Roman cemetery outside the north-eastern defences.[51] They do not conjoin, but are probably parts of one tablet since they are all inscribed in the same (probably third-century) cursive on both faces, and apparently by the same hand. The surviving text is very incomplete, with no margins extant, and many letters damaged. A few sequences can be read, and are transcribed here in capitals, and identified by line.

Fragment (a), folded once, *c*. 50 by 50 mm. Outside: trace of eight lines, including 7, GENETIVM. Inside: trace of seven lines, including 5, ETMA.[52]

Fragment (b), not folded, *c*. 65 by 50 mm. Outside: trace of two lines, then uninscribed. Inside: trace of five lines, including 2, NVTVM; 3, VIVSN.BIS; 4, VVAT.[53]

Fragment (c), folded once, *c*. 40 by 50 mm. Outside: trace of eight lines, including 1, ETDE; 2, LIBERSISER; 6, TEREN; 7, CVNOMORINVM; 8, ARIANVM. Inside: trace of five lines, including 1, VSVASSVRA; 2, Ṃ OLTVM; 4, SESETERI; 5, ENERV.[54]

NORTHUMBERLAND

28. **Vindolanda** (NY 770 663) (FIG. 17). Silver and base-metal brooch, found[55] in 2006 in the compressed flooring material of a Hadrianic workshop to the west of the site. Within a circle of 'pie-crust' edging, 38 mm in diameter, stands a figure of Mars now headless, between two standards flanked by shields; below, three leaf terminals hang by chains. It was secured from behind by means of a buckle, with a plate (38 by 8 mm) on which the owner's name has been inscribed in punched dots: Q̣° SOLLONI | 7 CVPI, *Q(uinti) Solloni* | *(centuria) Cupi(ti)*. '(Property) of Quintus Sollonius, century of Cupitus.'[56]

[50] During evaluation by the Cotswold Archaeological Trust, for which see *Britannia* 24 (1993), 293. Charmian and Paul Woodfield made the fragments available to RSOT, whose full report will appear when the excavations are published.

[51] The fragmentary formula in fragment (c) identifies it as a 'curse tablet' prompted by theft. The text seems to have included personal names in the accusative case, which would have been those of persons cursed, whether as enemies or suspected thieves; lists of such names, but in the nominative case, are frequent in British 'curse tablets'. An ancient magical handbook recommends burying a lead curse tablet in a grave, and examples of this practice are known, but not yet from Britain. In view of its find-spot, however, it is possible that this tablet was deliberately buried in a grave.

[52] Probably the personal name *Geneti(v)um* in the accusative case, and perhaps *et Ma[...]*, another personal name.

[53] There is damage to the left of NVTVM, but it seems to be complete. If so, it is not the personal name *[Cor]nutum*, but perhaps *nutum* ('will'). 3 is perhaps *[h]uius n[o]bis* ... ('of this to us'). 4 is perhaps a verb-ending, for example *[adi]uvat* ('helps').

[54] Outside 1 is perhaps *et de[us]* ('and the god'). LIBER in 2 is certain, so this is the formula *[si] liber si ser[vus]* ('whether free or slave') typical of 'curse tablets'. 6 is perhaps a verb in the third-person plural imperfect subjunctive, such as *[pe]teren[t]*, or the personal name *Teren[tium]* or one of its derivatives in the accusative case. 7 is the personal name *Cunomorinum* in the accusative case. 8 is the end of a personal name in the accusative case, probably *[Hil]arianum*, *[M]arianum* or *[V]arianum*. Inside 1 is perhaps the feminine personal name *Vassura*, which is not attested, but might have been derived like other names from the Celtic name-element *vasso-s*. 2 is probably the personal name *[Cuno]moltum* in the accusative case. 4 is perhaps *[...]ses et eri[nt]* (a plural word-ending, conjunction, and auxiliary verb, '... and will be ...'). 5 is perhaps a verb in the third-person plural perfect, but the incomplete first letter is rather large for V (say for *[inv]eneru[nt]*), and most resembles S.

Two of the personal names, both Celtic and hitherto unattested, are noteworthy. *Cunomorinus* evidently derives from *Cunomorus*, which occurs on a sub-Roman gravestone from Cornwall (Macalister, *CIIC*, No. 487). *Cunomoltus* (the T here is certain) should now also be read in *Tab. Sulis* 9.5, where the T was read as a heavily serifed I [for *Cunomolius*], but the drawing supports T.

[55] During excavation for the Vindolanda Trust directed by Justin Blake. Robin Birley sent details and made the inscribed buckle available. The brooch is now published in Birley and Blake (see above, note 5), cover illustration, with 68 (find-spot), 102–4 (the inscribed fastener, by Anthony Birley), 142–3 (the brooch, by Patricia Birley).

[56] The first letter is oddly composed of six large dots (resembling angular C) overlying five small dots (resembling 7), as if a centurial sign was 'corrected' by C for *G(ai)*, but in view of the instances of *Quintus Sol(l)onius* adduced by Birley (see previous note), it is better read as a cramped Q for *Q(uinti)*. The nomen *Sollonius* is of Celtic etymology, and

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FIG. 17. Vindolanda, inscribed brooch-buckle (No. 28). Width: 38 mm.
(Photo: R.S.O. Tomlin)

SOUTH YORKSHIRE

29. **Doncaster** (*Danum*, SE 5840 0050) Roman fort (FIG. 18). Two conjoining base sherds of a samian dish (S.G. Drag. 18) of Flavian date, found[57] in 1994 at the Askews' Print Shop site within the fort. One sherd carries a graffito scratched underneath after firing: ADIVT, *Adiut(oris)*. '(Property) of Adiutor'.[58]

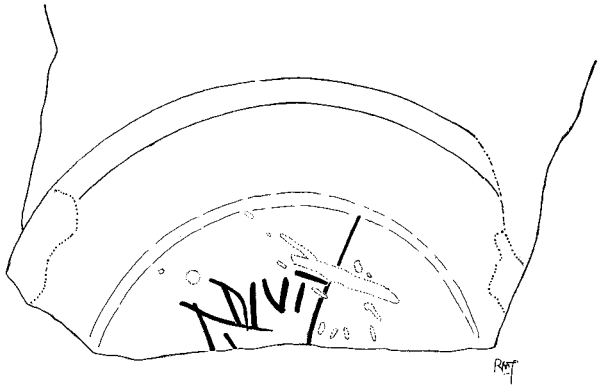


FIG. 18. Doncaster, samian graffito (No. 29). Scale 1:1.
(Drawn by R.S.O. Tomlin)

Birley notes two possible families of origin: Quintus Sollonius and his five sons, also Quintus (but with cognomina) at Milan (*CIL* v 5830), and the Quinti Solonii at Nîmes (*CIL* xii 3184, 3165b). Quintus Sollonius, as a Roman citizen at this date, would have been a legionary; and his legion was most likely II Augusta, in view of *Tab. Vindol.* II, 214 (its *aquilifer* writes to 'his little brother' at Vindolanda) and *RIB* 344 (the centurion Claudius Cupitus at Caerleon).

[57] During excavation by Archaeological Services (WYAS), for which see *Britannia* 36 (2005), 417. Alison Morgan, Post Excavation Officer, made the sherds (DCW94, 173–1) available through Margaret Ward, who dated them and provided other information.

[58] This personal name is fairly common, with four other certain instances from Britain, but it may be noted that two were found at Castleford, the next fort to the north (*RIB* II.7, 2501.22 and *RIB* II.8, 2503.172, the second probably late Flavian and thus contemporary). The graffito ends in a long vertical line, perhaps indicating abbreviation, but more likely part of a previous mark of identification. There is superficial pitting and scoring.

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SUFFOLK

30. **Chediston** (TM 35 77). Fragment of a copper-alloy *trulla*, consisting of half the ring-terminal and a small part of the handle, found[59] in 2006. Stamped: CIPIPOḶ[...], *Cipi Pol[ibi]*. '(Product) of Cipius Polibius.'[60]

TYNE AND WEAR

31. **South Shields** (*Arbeia*, NZ 365 679) Roman fort (FIG. 19). Oval leaden sealing (IM 185), 22 by 20 mm, found[61] in 2005 with the next item in the primary metalling abutting the south corner of Granary C16 (Period 5B, early third century). It is impressed on both sides in low relief. Obverse: C$\overline{V}$G above a stylised laurel-spray or palm-frond, *c(ohortis) V G(allorum)*. '(Seal) of the Fifth Cohort of Gauls.'[62] Reverse: AEM | *D*, *Aem(iliani)* or *Aem(ili) d(ecurionis)*. '(Seal) of Aemilianus (*or* Aemilius), decurion.'[63]



FIG. 19(a). South Shields, leaden sealing (No. 31), obverse. Diameter: 22 mm. *(Photo: Arbeia Roman Museum)*



FIG. 19(b). South Shields, leaden sealing (No. 31), reverse. Diameter: 22 mm. *(Photo: Arbeia Roman Museum)*

[59] By K. Frost with a metal-detector, who reported it under the Portable Antiquities Scheme (NMS-7F1BE6). Sally Worrell sent a photograph and details.

[60] For other *trullae* stamped by this Campanian bronzesmith (*c.* A.D. 65–85), see *RIB* II.2, 2415.17–26. This seems to be one of the stamps without initial P, *P(ubli)*. The (genitive) cognomen is variously *Polibi* and *Polybi*.

[61] During excavation, for which see *Britannia* 37 (2006), 389–90. Nick Hodgson and Alex Croom sent photographs and other information.

[62] This obverse die is shared by *RIB* 2411.103, of which Alex Croom sent a cast for comparison. See further, Corrigenda (a), (b) and (c).

[63] This reverse die is shared by another four sealings, i.e. the next item and *RIB* II.1, 2411.103, 104 and 105 (for which see Corrigenda (a), (b) and (c)). AEM is unlikely to be the decurion's initials, since *A(ulus)* is unusual as a praenomen, and nomina in *E(...)* are rare, but the cognomen *Aemilianus* is frequent, and *Aemilius* also occurs (for example *RIB* II.7, 2501.35). The cohort's contemporary dedication-slab (*RIB* 1060, A.D. 222) does not describe it as *eq(uitata)* (part-mounted), and the only other officer named by a sealing (*RIB* II.1, 2411.100) is a centurion. So these five sealings with AEM | D reverse, by attesting a decurion (troop-commander), are the first epigraphic evidence that *cohors V Gallorum*, like *cohortes II Gallorum* and *IIII Gallorum* also in Britain, was *equitata*.

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32. Ibid. Oval leaden sealing (IM 186), 22 by 20 mm, found with the previous item, and impressed with the same dies. Obverse (rather more corroded): C$\overline{V}$G 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(ili) d(ecurionis)*. '(Seal) of Aemilianus (*or* Aemilius), decurion.'

SCOTLAND

DUMFRIES AND GALLOWAY

33. **Carzield** (NX 9697 8206) Roman fort (see p. 260) (FIG. 20). Biconical lead weight, 33 mm in diameter, 18 mm high, 127.4 gm in weight, found in 2006 *c*. 150 m north-east of the fort.[64] Inscribed in punched dots: S, *s(emis)*. 'Half (a pound).'[65]

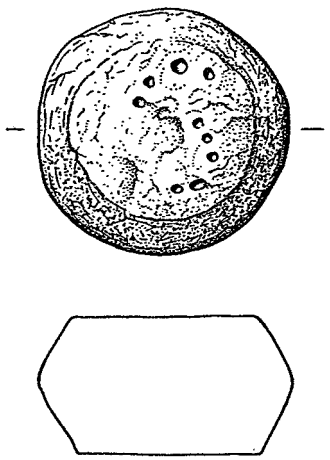


FIG. 20. Carzield, lead weight (No. 33). Diameter: Scale 1:1. *(Drawn by Marion O'Neil)*

ADDENDA ET CORRIGENDA

(a) ***RIB* II.1, 2411.103** (South Shields). This leaden sealing can now be read with the help of Nos. 31 and 32 above. All three were impressed from the same obverse and reverse dies.[66] Obverse: C$\overline{V}$G 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(ili) d(ecurionis)*. '(Seal) of Aemilianus (*or* Aemilius), decurion.'

64 Information from Fraser Hunter under the Portable Antiquities Scheme, who also contributed the next note.

65 Half a Roman pound should be 163.7 gm, so this is 36.3 gm (22%) underweight. Some of this can be accounted for by loss through corrosion, but it seems likely that it was always underweight; compare the other three such weights known from Scotland, Newstead (*RIB* II.2, 2412.79), 130.38 gm; Glenlochar (ibid., 80 and 81), 147.16 gm and 153.38 gm.

66 Alex Croom sent a cast for comparison, and there is also an excellent photograph in *Arch. Ael.* 2 ser. 10 (1884–5), pl. facing 254.

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(b) ***RIB* II.1, 2411.104** (South Shields). This sealing can also be read with the help of Nos 31 and 32 above. The obverse die is very similar, but not the same.[67] The reverse die is the same. Obverse: C$\overline{V}$G above a stylised laurel-spray or palm-frond, *c(ohortis) V G(allorum)*. Reverse: AEM | *D*, *Aem(iliani)* or *Aem(ili) d(ecurionis)*. '(Seal) of Aemilianus (*or* Aemilius), decurion.'

(c) ***RIB* II.1, 2411.105** (South Shields). This sealing is damaged, but can now be recognized as a die-duplicate of *RIB* II.1, 2411.104.[68] Obverse: C$\overline{V}$G above a stylised laurel-spray or palm-frond, *c(ohortis) V G(allorum)*. Reverse: [AE]M | [*]D[*], *[Ae]m(iliani)* or *[Ae]m(ili) d(ecurionis)*. '(Seal) of Aemilianus (*or* Aemilius), decurion.'

(d) ***RIB* II.1, 2411.269a** (Cirencester). This leaden sealing can now be read with the help of No. 9 above, to which it is closely related.[69] Obverse [*not* reverse]: [L]II$\widehat{\Lambda V}$G, *[l(egionis)] II Aug(ustae)*. '(Seal) of the Legion II Augusta.' Reverse [*not* obverse]: FLFL7, *Fl(avi) Fl(...) (centurionis)*. '(Seal) of Flavius Fl(a...)us, centurion'.

CHANGES OF LOCATION

(a) ***RIB* II.1, 2404.62** (Heyshaw Moor). This lead pig, found in 1735, has been sold[70] and is now unlocated.

(b) ***RIB* II.1, 2411.40** (Cirencester). This leaden sealing is now in Cirencester Museum.[71]

67 As already noted in *RIB* II.1, p. 104 (note to 2411.103). Alex Croom sent a cast for comparison, and the excellent photograph in *Arch. Ael.* 2 ser. 10 (1884–5), pl. facing 254, is better than L. Allason-Jones and R. Miket, *Catalogue of Small Finds from South Shields Roman Fort* (1984), pl. X (8.23).

68 The principal difference in the obverse dies is that G in *RIB* II.1, 2411.104 and 105 is rather larger and, like C, extends further below V.

69 See above, note 19. The II is probably barred, as with most of the legion's sealings.

70 As lot 303 in Bonhams (London) sale of Antiquities and Tribal Art, 26 April 2007, with an excellent colour photograph in the catalogue. Bonhams tell us that the anonymous owner is resident abroad, but wishes the pig to remain in this country, so it will not be considered for an export licence.

71 To which it was given by the finder, Mark Maillard, who informed us.

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