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## II. Inscriptions<sup>1</sup>

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

### A. MONUMENTAL

1. **Ancaster** (SK 982 437), Lincs. (FIG. 1). Fragment of a limestone slab, 0.52 by 0.34 m, 0.13 m thick, found<sup>2</sup> in 2001 re-used as part of the cist-like lining of a late Roman inhumation.<sup>3</sup> The top edge is original, and so is part of the left-hand edge. It is inscribed in well-drawn letters *c.* 80 mm high between incised lines: DIOVRID[...] | SANCT[...] | [...], *dio V(i)rid[io ...] | sanct[o ...] | [...]*. 'To the holy god Viridius ...'.<sup>4</sup>



FIG. 1. Ancaster: fragment of a stone inscription (No. 1), 0.52 m wide. Scale 1:4.  
(Photo: Guy de la Bédoyère)

<sup>1</sup> 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 13–15 and 24–26, Dr Tomlin (RSOT) for the others. Overall editing is by RSOT.

<sup>2</sup> During excavation by Archaeological Project Services and the Channel 4 'Time Team' (see above, p. 303). Guy de la Bédoyère sent details and photographs.

<sup>3</sup> The burial was of an adult male aged more than 60, oriented east–west. The find-spot is *c.* 6 m north of the northern boundary of the modern cemetery north-west of Ancaster church, overlying a Roman inhumation cemetery outside the

2. **Leintwardine** (*Branogenium*, SO 4036 7399), Mill Lane, Herefordshire (FIG. 2). Inscribed limestone fragment, c. 0.36 by 0.29 m, 0.32 m thick, found<sup>5</sup> in 2001 just south of the Roman fort. It is apparently part of the die of an altar, with part of a moulding above, and carries the left-hand portion of the first four lines of text: IOM[...] | DIVOR●AV[...] | SALVTEV[...] | YORVM[...] | [...], probably *I(ovi) O(ptimo) M(aximo) [et numini] | divor(um) Auf(gustorum) pro] | salute V[.....] | uorum [...]*. 'To Jupiter Best (and) Greatest, and to the Divinity of the Deified Emperors, for the well-being of [...]'.<sup>6</sup>



FIG. 2. Leintwardine: fragment of an altar (No. 2), c. 0.36 m wide.  
(Photo: Richard Kitchen)

western defences from which came another limestone slab re-used as a grave-cover, *JRS* 52 (1962), 192, No. 7. This reads: DEO VIRIDIO | TRENICO ARCVN | FECIT DE SVO DON | [...].

<sup>4</sup> The letters are better drawn and executed than those of the other slab (see previous note), whose spelling is more 'correct'. For DIO < DEO, compare *RIB* 2190, where the correct reading DIO [MA]RTI SAN[CTO] is established by Colin Smith in *ANRW* 29.2 (1983), 901, n. 8. This form is also found in the Old Harlow curse tablet (*Britannia* 4 (1973), 325, No. 3). VIRIDIO has apparently been reduced to VRIDIO, like *Viroconium* to \**Uricon* (see Rivet and Smith, *PNRB*, 506).

To the right of VRID[IO] there was either an unscribed space, as there is after VIRIDIO on the other slab, or a cult-title like TRENICO perhaps extending into line 3, since SANCT[O] would fall three letters short of VRID[IO], too few for another word in line 2, while SANCT[ISSIMO] (a possible restoration) would pass it by two letters. The god is otherwise unknown, but his name must derive from the first name-element in the Gallic names *Viridomarus* and *Viridovix*; for its likely meaning ('strong', 'vigorous', 'virile') see Jackson in *JRS* 52 (1962), 192, n. 13.

<sup>5</sup> In demolishing the foundations of a wall of uncertain date, but apparently post-medieval, in the course of building

3. **Ribchester** (*Bremetennacum*, SD 65155 35315) Greenside, Lancashire (FIGS 3 and 4). Lower portion of a gritstone altar, 0.36 by 0.23 m, 0.36 m thick, found<sup>7</sup> in 2001 within the *vicus* of the Roman fort. Part survives of the last three lines of text coarsely inscribed on the die: [...] | PATRI·V[2-3] | MIA·SI[1-2] | V·S·L·L·M, perhaps [...] | *Patriu[s ..]mia si[g(n)ifer]* | *v(otum) s(olvit) l(aetus) l(ibens) merito*, ‘... Patrius [...]mia, standard-bearer, paid his vow gladly, willingly, deservedly’.<sup>8</sup>

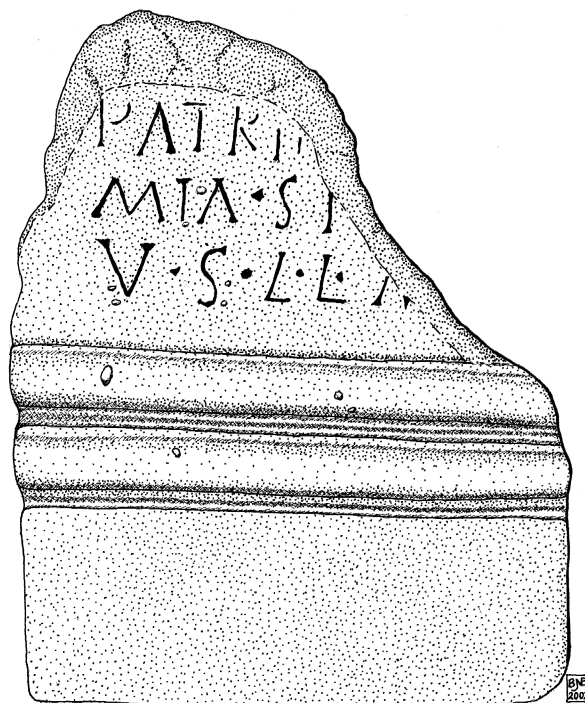


FIG. 3. Ribchester: fragment of an altar (No. 3), 0.36 m wide.  
(Photo: B.J.N. Edwards)

FIG. 4. Ribchester: fragment of an altar (No. 3), 0.36 m wide.  
Scale 1:5. (Drawn by B.J.N. Edwards)

work near the bath-house excavated in 1967 (*JRS* 58 (1968), 187). The inscription was recognized by the site-owner, Richard Kitchen, who informed the Herefordshire County Archaeologist, Dr K. Ray. Information from Mr Kitchen, who sent photographs, and from Dr Ray.

<sup>6</sup> After V in line 3 may be part of another letter, but it remains unknown whose well-being is intended. The line may end with S (for *sluorum*), and line 2 certainly with PRO, but the line-width must be conjectured. The text is clearly a dedication to the *numen* or *numina* of the deified emperors, even if the word itself must be restored in 1, and it can thus be added to the examples collected (on pp. 135–7) by D. Fishwick, ‘*Numinibus Augustorum*’, *Britannia* 25 (1994), 127–41, in proving that deified emperors could be credited with *numen*. It follows that 1 must read either I O M [ET NVMINI] or I O M [ET NVMINIBVS], but I O M [ET NVMINI] is more likely since the stone-cutter used abbreviation to fit *divorum Augustorum* into 2, and after cutting DIVOR he would hardly have cut more than AVG and another leaf-stop. With PRO, this makes for the same line-width as I O M [ET NVMINI] in 1, and would require SALVTE V[.....] in 3. But there seems to be no likely parallel or attested formula to suggest a restoration here.

<sup>7</sup> During excavation by Nigel Neil Archaeological Services, Lancaster: see above, p. 302. The fragment was buried in a pit dug into the subsoil clay, but it was not possible to determine the circumstances of deposition. Mr Neil sent photographs and a drawing by Mr B.J.N. Edwards, and a squeeze and full report by Dr D.C.A. Shotter. The altar is now in Ribchester Roman Museum.

<sup>8</sup> The number of letters lost is calculated on the assumption that the text was centred in the die, and that the right-hand

4. **Hadrian's Wall**, unknown provenance (FIG. 5). Ansate votive plaque, 68 by 52 mm, cut from 'brassy' copper-alloy sheet c. 0.5–1 mm thick. Each *ansa* is 'feathered' by six or seven punch-marks along its two shorter edges, and is pierced for suspension. The plaque is said to have been found fifty years ago in 'ploughing close to Hadrian's Wall'.<sup>9</sup> It is inscribed in somewhat irregular capitals<sup>10</sup> made of punched dots: DEO | INVICTO | COH I | BATAVOR | FECITAVLO | MAXIMO, *deo | invicto | coh(ors) I | Batavor(um) | fecit Aulo | Maximo*, 'For the Unconquered God, the First Cohort of Batavians made (this), (under) Aulus Maximus'.<sup>11</sup>

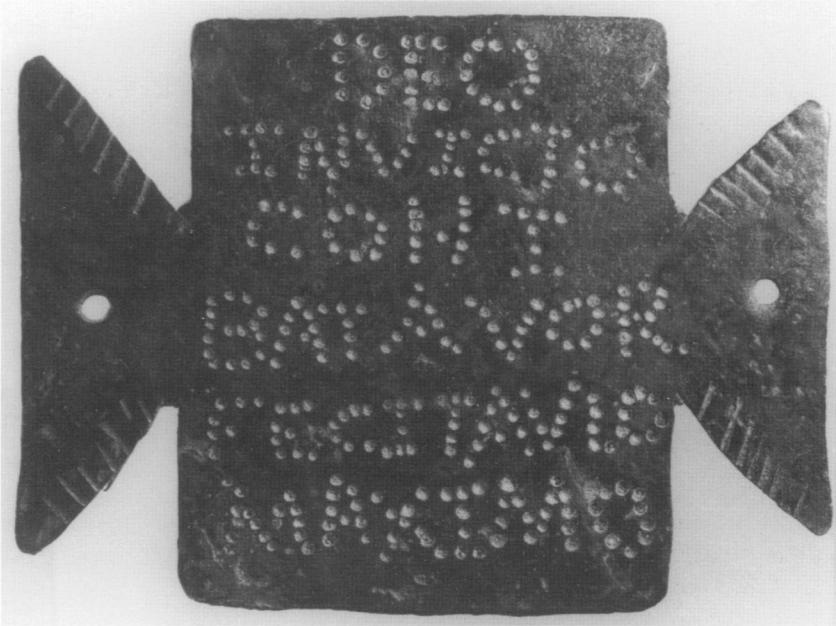


FIG. 5. Hadrian's Wall, unknown provenance: votive plaque (No. 4), 68 mm wide. Scale 3:2.  
(Photo: Institute of Archaeology, Oxford)

margin was aligned with M in 3. The name of the deity is lost entirely, but 1 and 2 must refer to the dedicator. The restoration here is not certain, but he was probably a *signifer* (at Ribchester, either of the *ala Sarmatarum* or of one of its *turmae*), since an *equus singularis* (reading SI[NGI]) would have specified whose 'bodyguard' he was. The dedicator was thus masculine, as indeed follows from the inevitable PATRIV[S], although this nomen is very rare. MIA would then be the end of his cognomen, perhaps [LA]MIA, but this was apparently restricted to the noble family of *Aelius Lamia*.

<sup>9</sup> Apparently the same provenance as *Britannia* 32 (2001), 392, No. 20. Both plaques were bought from the same dealer by the present owner, who made them available. They both have the same dense black patination consistent with a waterlogged, anaerobic context.

<sup>10</sup> Similar in style to those of *Britannia* 32 (2001), 392, No. 20, but not necessarily by the same hand. There is a serified I (see MAXIMO, and compare COH I) not found in the other plaque (compare the 'long I' of MARTI there) which however confuses I with L and T, as if attempting a serified form.

<sup>11</sup> The translation understands *sub* before *Aulo Maximo*, which otherwise might be understood as an ablative absolute understanding *praefecto* ('when Aulus Maximus was commander'). But neither solution is satisfactory. When military units make dedications, they specify their commander and his rank. (*RIB* 2092 and 2093, in omitting both, are very rare exceptions; the omission was evidently due to lack of space.) *Sub* is much less common than the formulas *cui*

## B. INSTRUMENTUM DOMESTICUM

## BIRMINGHAM

5. **Edgbaston** (SP 045 836), Vincent Drive. 'Oar'-shaped knobbed terminal from the handle of a copper-alloy ladle (*cyathus*) now 58 mm in length, maximum width 20 mm, 2 mm thick, found<sup>12</sup> in 2001 in the top backfill of a ditch containing samian dated to A.D. 40–70, 55–70 and 60–70. The upper face is chamfered at the edges; the lower face is unchamfered and bears an impressed rectangular stamp, the letters in low relief, now quite badly corroded: BODVKVSF, *Bodukus f(ecit)*. 'Bodukus made (this).'<sup>13</sup>

## CHESHIRE

6. **Middlewich** (*Salinae*, SJ 703 665), King Street. Central plank of a barrel lid, found<sup>14</sup> in 2001 in a Roman context at the bottom of a timber-lined well. It bears an impressed brand: L E V, *L(uci) E(... ) V(...)*, '(Stamp) of Lucius E... V...'.<sup>15</sup>

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*praeest, sub cura* (etc.), and the commander's rank is still specified. The same is true of the ablative absolute construction, with the added objection that the verb is always explicit (*instante*, etc.). Two further anomalies must be noted. (1) *Invictus* is usually the title of a named god. In the only British exception (*RIB* 1272), a dedication to Mithras is easily understood. (2) The form 'Aulus Maximus', praenomen and cognomen, but no nomen gentilicium, is an aristocratic affectation of the late Republic and Augustan period, not to be found in a provincial inscription from the second or third century.

These anomalies might all be attributed to shortage of space and careless drafting, but this would be special pleading. Comparable features are found in the other two plaques of this 'group' (*Britannia* 32 (2001), 392, Nos 18 and 20). Until others are found, or their provenance is established, it must be said that, although they look genuine, their authenticity is not beyond doubt.

<sup>12</sup> During excavation by Birmingham University Field Archaeology Unit, directed by Alex Jones. Information from Lynne Bevan, who made it available.

<sup>13</sup> Holder, *Alt-keltischer Sprachschatz*, does not record a Celtic name *Bodukus* (i.e. *Boducus*), but like *Boduocus* (etc.) it must derive from the name-element *boduo-*. This maker's name, Gallic presumably, has not been found in Britain before; it is not attested in *CIL* xiii.10027 (Gaul and Germany), and apparently not elsewhere.

<sup>14</sup> During excavation by L-P: Archaeology, Chester, in advance of development: compare *Britannia* 32 (2001), 348. Chris Constable sent details and a photograph.

<sup>15</sup> Compare *RIB* II.4, 2442.12 (London), L · E · FL. Nomina beginning with E are comparatively uncommon (e.g. *Egnatius*, but there are others). This and the coincidence of praenomen suggest that the brands are related, whether the names of freedman and patron, father and son, or two freedmen of the same patron.



FIG. 6. Carlisle: amphora, painted inscription (No. 7). Scale 1:1.  
(Photo: *Institute of Archaeology, Oxford*)

## CUMBRIA

7. **Carlisle** (*Luguvalium*, NY 3974 5614), north of Castle Way, in the *praetentura* of the Roman fort (FIG. 6). Shoulder / neck sherd of a Spanish amphora (Peacock and Williams 17 = Beltran IIA = Camulodunum 186C), Flavian in date, since it was found<sup>16</sup> in 2000 in the context of the destruction or demolition of the first fort, probably in A.D. 103/5. A cursive text has been neatly inscribed in black ink with a pen on a series of rectangular panels of white slip: ÇO[.]T[.]NGV[.] | PENVAR | EXSCEL[.] | [...]MAVR | [...] | [...], *COD Ting(itanum) v[e(tus)] | penuar(ium) | exscel[l(ens)] | [SV]MAVR | [...] | [...]*, ‘Old Tangiers tunny relish, “provisions” quality, excellent, top-quality [...]’.<sup>17</sup>

8. *Ibid.* (FIGS 7(a) and 7(b)). Five sherds from the neck of a south-Spanish oil amphora (Dressel 20). Two conjoining sherds preserve most of one handle. The others are rim sherds, two conjoining, which preserve about three-quarters of the circumference. There are two graffiti incised after firing. (i) On the handle: MAI, presumably for M VI, *m(odii) VI*. (ii) On the rim: III, presumably (*sextarii) III*. Thus ‘Six *modii*, three *sextarii*’.<sup>18</sup>



FIG. 7(a). Carlisle: amphora handle, graffito (No. 7(i)). Scale 1:2. (Drawn by R.S.O. Tomlin)

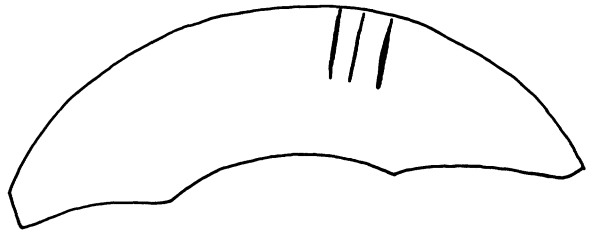


FIG. 7(b). Carlisle: amphora rim, graffito (No. 7(ii)). Scale 1:2. (Drawn by R.S.O. Tomlin)

<sup>16</sup> With the next four items during excavation by Carlisle Archaeology Ltd for Carlisle City Council’s Gateway City Millennium Project (see *Britannia* 32 (2001), 337). Post-excavation work is now the responsibility of Oxford Archaeology (North), where Vivien Swan made the sherds available.

<sup>17</sup> For the contents see *Britannia* 31 (2000), 441, n. 56. They were COD (or CORD), a preserved fish-product from the region of Cadiz made by chopping up young tunny (*cordula*) and digesting them in their own juices. *PENVAR* and *SVMAVR* were grades of COD, of uncertain meaning, but evidently derived from *penus* (‘provisions’) and *summus* (‘top’). Now lost is (line 5), a note of the age in years; (line 6), a numeral, presumably a note of capacity; (line 7, not part of this sherd), one or two names in the genitive case, presumably of the manufacturer(s). Other British examples (*RIB* II.6, 2492.11 (Chester), 19 (Colchester), *Britannia* 31 (2000), 440, No. 32 (London)) are inscribed directly onto the surface of the amphora, but for the same use of rectangular panels of white slip see *CIL* iv. 9370 (Pompeii) and probably *RIB* II.6, 2492.32 and 33 (London).

<sup>18</sup> Presuming that the graffiti should be taken together, and that V was cut inverted. Numerals cut after firing on the rim and handle of Dressel 20, sometimes explicitly beginning with M, are best understood as notes of capacity, seven *modii* more or less (*RIB* II.6, pp. 33–4).



9. *Ibid.* (FIG. 8). Body sherd of a south-Spanish oil amphora (Dressel 20), found in a context of the second half of the second century. Deeply incised after firing: INGE[...], *Inge[nuus]*.<sup>19</sup>

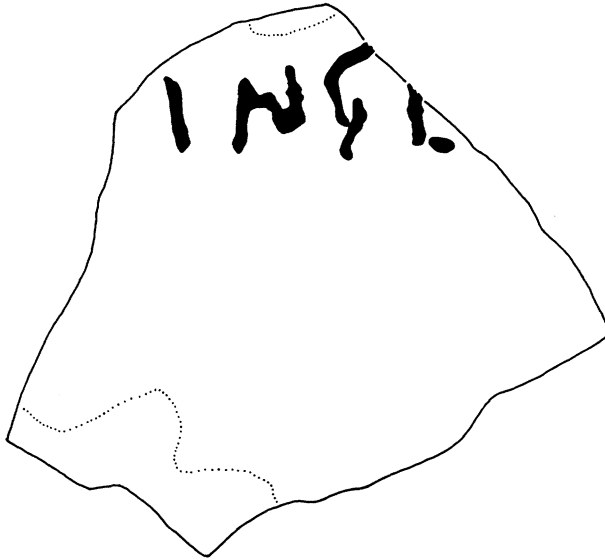


FIG. 8. Carlisle: amphora graffito (No. 9). Scale 1:2.  
(Drawn by R.S.O. Tomlin)

10. *Ibid.* (FIG. 9). Sherd from the neck of a funnel-mouth beaker or jug in Nene Valley reddish brown colour-coated ware ('Castor ware'), over-painted with a brush in white slip with well-formed 'rustic capitals' showing a marked differentiation of thick and thin strokes: [...]EM[...].<sup>20</sup>

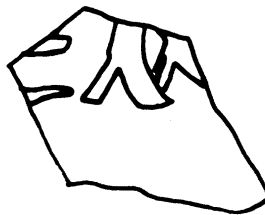


FIG. 9. Carlisle: 'Castor ware', painted inscription (No. 10). Scale 1:1.  
(Drawn by R.S.O. Tomlin)

<sup>19</sup> The name is common, and has already occurred at Carlisle (*RIB* II.7, 2501.240).

<sup>20</sup> The fabric has been identified by Vivien Swan, who notes that 'a date in the second half of the third century or in the early fourth century would be appropriate'. In *RIB* II.6 (p. 89) it was doubted that such inscriptions are found on Nene Valley ware, but these doubts should now be withdrawn, and with them the rejection of Wright's identification of *RIB* II.6, 2498.3 and 22. The remaining text is too slight for restoration, but for possibilities see *CIL* xiii.10018 ('Rhenish ware'): 24; 28, AMEMVS ('let us love'); 75, EME and 77, EMETE ('buy'); 115, MEMINI ('remember'); 149 and 150, REMISCE ('mix again').

11. Ibid. (FIG. 10). Sherd from a grey-ware lid, probably Flavian in date.<sup>21</sup> Scratched after firing by different hands, from left to right: (i) [...]MΛIOR, *Maior*; (ii) D; (iii) Λ[...].<sup>22</sup>



FIG. 10. Carlisle: grey-ware lid, graffito (No. 11). Scale 1:1.  
(Drawn by R.S.O. Tomlin)

12. Carlisle (NY 399 561), 7–9 Fisher Street (FIG. 11). Body sherd of a South-Spanish oil amphora (Dressel 20), found<sup>23</sup> in 2001 in a second-century post-hole. Scratched after firing: [...]CILO, presumably *Cilo*.<sup>24</sup>

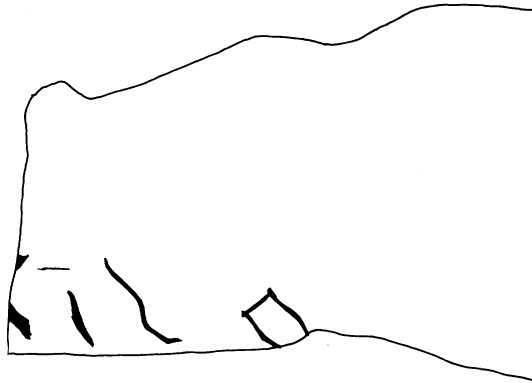


FIG. 11. Carlisle: amphora, graffito (No. 12). Scale 1:2.  
(Drawn by Ian Caruana)

<sup>21</sup> This form, probably local, occurs in deposits from the first (Flavian) fort. The sherd is burnt, and may therefore be contemporary with the fort's destruction or demolition, probably in A.D. 103/5. (Information from Vivien Swan.)

<sup>22</sup> The first two 'letters' of (i) look like M or AA, but since there is no name ending in *-mior*, and the sequence *-AA-* is most unlikely, the first 'letter' must be the second half of M. The cognomen *Maior* is fairly common, but there are only two instances from Britain, one of them actually from (Flavian) Carlisle: see *Tab. Luguval.* 16.35 (*Britannia* 29 (1998), 58). There is a vertical scratch below D, not necessarily related, and unlikely to be intended for P.

<sup>23</sup> During an evaluation by the Archaeological Practice, University of Newcastle, for Peregrine Properties (Northern). Ian Caruana sent details and a drawing.

<sup>24</sup> For another example of this Latin cognomen see *RIB* II.1, 2410.3.

## GLOUCESTERSHIRE

13. **Cirencester** (*Corinium Dobunorum*, SP 0243 0146), Trinity Road. Fragment of a box flue-tile, 110 by 100 mm, 28 mm thick, found<sup>25</sup> in 2001 in a demolition layer above the surviving top of the Roman wall bounding the west side of the city. The tile carries the impression of a stamp<sup>26</sup> 50 by 18 mm with letters in relief, 12 mm high, separated by triangular stops:  $\Delta V \Delta L \Delta A \Delta$ .

## HAMPSHIRE

14. **Winchester** (*Venta Belgarum*, SU 480 295), Lower Brook Street. Four conjoining fragments from the shoulder of a motto beaker in fine grey fabric with shiny, dark-grey colour coat found<sup>27</sup> in 1971 in the remains of a fourth-century masonry building, perhaps a workshop. It is decorated with a band of rouletting and white-slip trails, and is inscribed in white slip: [...]MA[...].<sup>28</sup>

## LONDON

15. **The City** (*Londinium*, TQ 3328 8133), 10 Gresham Street, EC2 (FIG. 12). Rectangular ceramic plaque of unknown purpose, 60 by 35 mm overall, in a buff fabric<sup>29</sup> with smooth orange surface, found<sup>30</sup> in 2001 in a first-century dump. There is a triangular projection each side like a small *ansa* reversed, and a projecting 'stalk' or handle of clay, now broken, luted onto the bottom edge. On one face, carefully inscribed in capitals before firing, is the personal name THII·O·POM | PVS, *Theopompus*.



FIG. 12. London, the City: inscribed ceramic plaque (No. 15). Scale 1:1.  
(Photo: Museum of London)

<sup>25</sup> During excavation by the Cotswold Archaeological Trust directed by J. Williams and M. Watts. Information from Neil Holbrook, Director of the Trust, and Gail Stoten, Research Officer.

<sup>26</sup> From a die similar but not identical to *RIB* II.5, 2489.51.

<sup>27</sup> During excavation directed by Martin Biddle for the Winchester Excavation Committee, for which see *Britannia* 3 (1972), 349. Information from Katherine Barclay, who made the sherd available.

<sup>28</sup> For painted inscriptions on motto beakers found in the Rhineland, the centre of production, see especially *CIL* xiii. 10018. From this it seems likely that the text contained the verb *amo* ('I love'), either in the second person singular, present indicative (20, AMAS; 22, AMAS ME; 23, AMAS ME VITA), or in the imperative (26 and 27, AMA ME).

<sup>29</sup> Unmatched in the fabric reference collection of the Museum of London, suggesting that the plaque is an import, perhaps from Spain.

<sup>30</sup> During excavations directed by Julian Ayer for the Museum of London Archaeological service. Information from Angela Wardle of the Museum of London.

## MONMOUTHSHIRE

16. Near **Caldicot** (ST 48 88) (FIG. 13). Fragment of tile, 102 by 128 mm, 20 mm thick, found<sup>31</sup> in 2001. It was impressed before firing with a rectangular incuse stamp: ARVERI, '(product) of Arverus'.<sup>32</sup>



FIG. 13. Caldicot, stamped tile (No. 16). Scale 1:1.  
(Photo: National Museum of Wales)

<sup>31</sup> By Mr Mike Connors while metal detecting. The find was reported to the National Museum of Wales, Cardiff, under the Portable Antiquities Scheme, and fully recorded by Dr Philip Macdonald, Finds Co-ordinator (Wales). Richard Brewer sent details.

<sup>32</sup> The beginning and end of the impression are damaged, but there is sufficient trace of the downward 'arrows' found in other impressions of this die (*RIB* II.5, 2489.4A). It is widely distributed in the Cirencester–Gloucester area, but this is the first example to be found west of the Severn.

## NORTHAMPTONSHIRE

17. **Piddington** (SP 796 540), Roman villa (FIG. 14). Three conjoining fragments of a tile (*tegula*) 22 mm thick, overall 190 by 120 mm, found<sup>33</sup> in 2001 in a fourth-century midden in the courtyard. Incised before firing with two zig-zag lines of 'writing'; they are not a cursive text, but may be the letter M repeated many times.

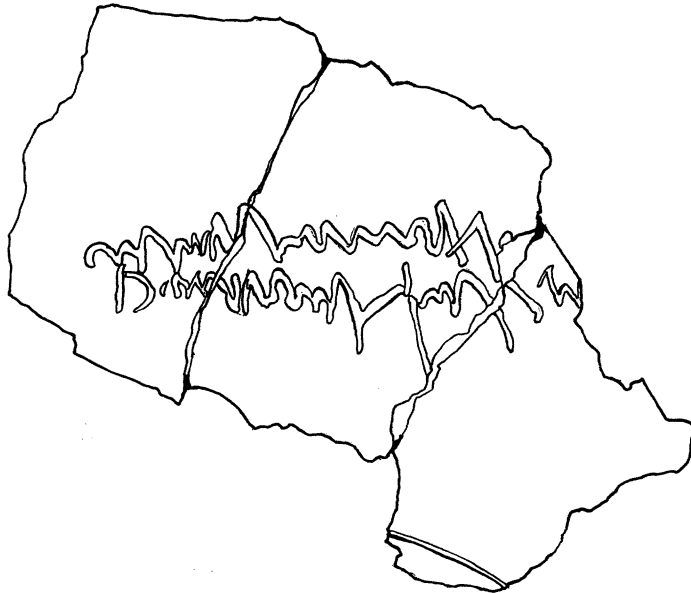


FIG. 14. Piddington: tile graffito (No. 17). Scale 1:2.  
(Drawing: Upper Nene Archaeological Society)

18. *Ibid.* (FIG. 15). Fragment of tile (*tegula*) 23 mm thick, 55 by 65 mm, found in 1984 unstratified just behind (west of) the villa. Incised before firing, part of a two-line inscription: [...].NIK[...] | [...]...[...].<sup>34</sup>

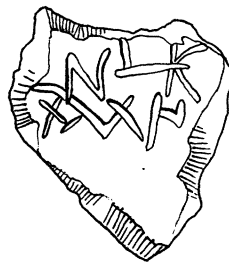


FIG. 15. Piddington: tile graffito (No. 18). Scale 1:2.  
(Drawing: Upper Nene Archaeological Society)

<sup>33</sup> Like the next nine items during excavations by the Upper Nene Archaeological Society directed by Roy Friendship-Taylor, who sent drawings and other details of items Nos 17, 18, 24, 25 and 26 to MWCH, and briefly made the originals of all but No. 24 available to RSOT.

<sup>34</sup> The reading, which derives from autopsy by RSOT, does not quite correspond with the published drawing. The letter before N is represented by a descender appropriate to L, Q, or R; and there is casual damage across IK. The second line is a series of diagonals illegible in isolation, possibly a numeral or even MANV ('by the hand of ...').

19. Ibid. (FIG. 16). Tile sherd from the end of an *imbrex*, incised on the edge before firing: [...]**VRNIN**[...], presumably [*Sat*]urnin[us].



FIG. 16. Piddington: tile graffito (No. 19). Scale 1:2.  
(Drawn by R.S.O. Tomlin)

20. Ibid. (FIG. 17). Fragment of a tile (*tegula*) found in Room 43 of the villa, deeply stamped with the monogram **P̄IR**, presumably *P(ubli) I(...)* *R(...)*.<sup>35</sup>



FIG. 17. Piddington: tile stamp (No. 20). Scale 1:2.  
(Drawn by R.S.O. Tomlin)

21. Ibid. Fragment of a brick 60 mm thick found in a late second-century burnt deposit, stamped with the same fine-lettered (metal?) die as the next item: [...]**ṬIB** • **CL** • | [...]**EVERI**, *Tib(eri) Cl(audi) | [S]everi*. '(Product) of Tiberius Claudius Severus'.<sup>36</sup>

22. Ibid. Fragment of a tile (*tegula*) found in the fourth-century courtyard midden, stamped with the same die as the previous item: **TIB** • [...]**| SEV**[...], *Tib(eri) [Cl(audi)] | Sev[eri]*.

23. Ibid. Two fragments of different tiles (*tegulae*) both stamped with the same die: **T C V**, perhaps *T(iberi) C(laudi) V(...)*.<sup>37</sup>

<sup>35</sup> The die is otherwise unknown. An abbreviated Roman citizen's name (*tria nomina*) is almost certain since there is no Latin cognomen which begins *Pir(...)*.

<sup>36</sup> The first E has a diagonal bottom stroke well preserved in the other impression (item No. 22), but mis-struck here (item No. 21) so as not to register properly. The die is otherwise unrecorded.

<sup>37</sup> The die is previously unrecorded, but may be connected with the previous two items (Nos 21 and 22). The dies would then represent the firm under different but related owners (father and son, patron and freedman, etc.).

24. Ibid. (FIG. 18). Two conjoining fragments from a triangular-rimmed bowl in black burnished ware with lattice decoration found (i) in 1980, (ii) in 1983, in a midden of late third / early fourth-century date behind (west of) the villa. Incised after firing: (i) AI; (ii) Λ.<sup>38</sup>

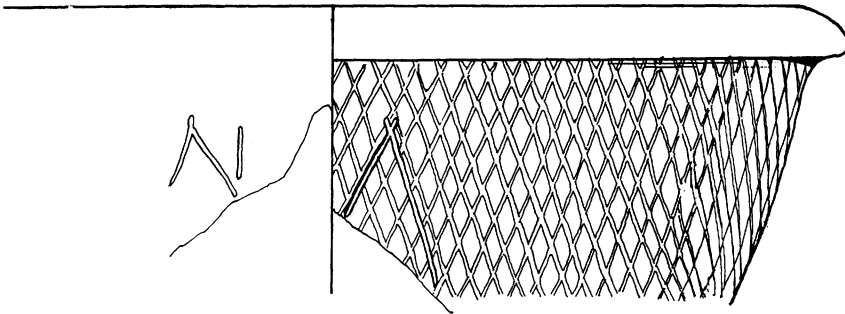


FIG. 18. Piddington: conjoining sherds with graffiti (Nos 24(i) and 24(ii)). Scale 1:2.  
(Drawing: Upper Nene Archaeological Society)

25. Ibid. (FIG. 19). Wall sherd of a plain-rimmed grey burnished ware dish found in 2000 in the fourth-century courtyard midden, neatly scratched in capitals after firing: CAR[...], but probably complete and thus *Car(...)*.<sup>39</sup>

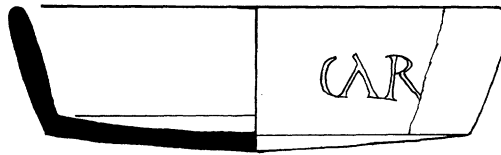


FIG. 19. Piddington: wall sherd with graffito (No. 25). Scale 1:2.  
(Drawing: Upper Nene Archaeological Society)

26. Ibid. (FIG. 20). Base sherd of a small grey-ware beaker with grey burnished surface found in 1992 in Room 29 of the villa. Scratched on the outside after firing: ERA, presumably *Era(...)*.<sup>40</sup>

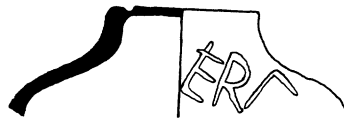


FIG. 20. Piddington: base sherd with graffito (No. 26). Scale 1:2.  
(Drawing: Upper Nene Archaeological Society)

<sup>38</sup> (i) might also be N or (inverted) IV. Since it is much smaller than (ii), it is likely to be another text.

<sup>39</sup> The sherd is broken to the right of R, but enough survives to exclude any further letter but A or M. The graffito might be abbreviated *tria nomina*, but an abbreviated *Carus* or cognate name is more likely. For another example of CAR see *RIB* II.7, 2501.126.

<sup>40</sup> E is quite close to the broken edge, but closer still to R, which suggests that the graffito is complete. There are a few un-Latin names possible, for example *Erasinus* (*RIB* 1286). Compare also *RIB* II.8, 2503.252, ER.

## NORTHUMBERLAND

27. **Corbridge** (*Coria*, NY 98 64) (FIGS 21 and 22). Rectangular lead sealing, 18 by 9 mm, 3–4 mm thick, said<sup>41</sup> to have been found 'at Corbridge a few years ago' [early 1980s]. It bears an impressed rectangular stamp: D N, *D(omini) N(ostri)*, '(property) of Our Lord (the Emperor)'.<sup>42</sup>



FIG. 21. Corbridge: lead sealing (No. 27), 18 mm wide.  
Scale 2:1.  
(Photo: Institute of Archaeology, Oxford)

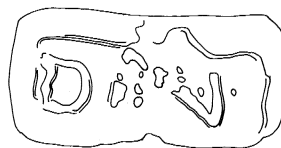


FIG. 22. Corbridge: lead sealing (No. 27), 18 mm wide.  
Scale 2:1.  
(Drawn by R.S.O. Tomlin)

## STAFFORDSHIRE

28. **Rocester** (SK 1098 3935), Mill Street, within the *vicus* outside the west gate of the Roman fort (FIG. 23). Base sherd of a samian (S.G.) vessel (probably Drag. 18, c. A.D. 70–100), found<sup>43</sup> in the period December 1999–February 2000. Scratched underneath after firing, within the foot ring: [...]**FAM**[...], perhaps *Fam[iliaris]*.<sup>44</sup>



FIG. 23. Rocester: samian graffito (No. 28). Scale 1:2.  
(Drawn by R.S.O. Tomlin)

<sup>41</sup> By the dealer from whom it was bought by the present owner, who made it available.

<sup>42</sup> The sealing resembles *Britannia* 30 (1999), 383, No. 20, and could be from the same die. It is suggested there (*ibid.*, n. 32) that the type belongs to the sole reign of a third-century emperor, Caracalla (A.D. 212–17) or later.

<sup>43</sup> With the next three items during excavation by Birmingham University Field Archaeology Unit directed by Iain Ferris and Lesley Mather. Iain Ferris made them available.

<sup>44</sup> The surviving letters are incomplete, but the sequence of strokes is apparent, making this reading plausible. The name is likely to be *Familiaris* or *Famulus*, neither of them common, but for *Familiaris* see *RIB* II.8, 231.



29. Ibid. (FIG. 24). Base sherd of a samian (S.G.) platter (Drag. 18/31, c. A.D. 90–110), scratched underneath after firing, within the foot ring: FAM, presumably *Fam(iliaris)*.<sup>45</sup>

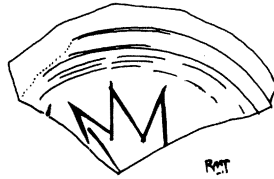


FIG. 24. Rocester: samian graffito (No. 29). Scale 1:2.  
(Drawn by R.S.O. Tomlin)

30. Ibid. (FIG. 25). Rim sherd of a pinkish mortarium, inscribed before firing: COM[...].<sup>46</sup>

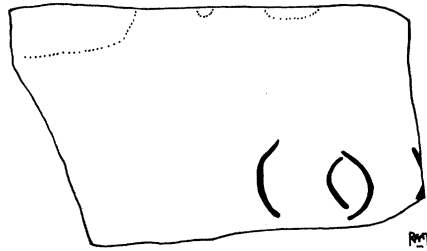


FIG. 25. Rocester: mortarium graffito (No. 30). Scale 1:2.  
(Drawn by R.S.O. Tomlin)

<sup>45</sup> To judge by its position, the graffito is complete and is thus an abbreviated name. Only the tip of the first letter survives, and C, G and S are also possible, but the angle best suits F, especially in view of the previous item (No. 28).

<sup>46</sup> The third letter might also be N. The graffito is presumably the potter's name, and there are many possibilities.

31. Ibid. (FIG. 26). Rim sherd of a grey jar with a vertical orange band of oxidation. Deeply scored after firing, below the rim:  $\Lambda T[\dots]$ .<sup>47</sup>



FIG. 26. Rocester: graffito (No. 31). Scale 1:2.  
(Drawn by R.S.O. Tomlin)

### CORRIGENDVM

**Carlisle**, *Britannia* 22 (1991), 299, No. 23. Carbonised fragment of a boxwood comb. After cleaning and conservation this proved to bear two impressed stamps on each face: (a) LVGRACI[...]<sup>47</sup> and  $\overline{\text{M}}\text{ARCELLIN}[\dots]$ ; (b) LVGR[...]<sup>48</sup> and  $\overline{\text{M}}\text{ARCELL}[\dots]$ .<sup>48</sup>

<sup>47</sup> There is just enough space to the left to indicate that this is the beginning of the name; probably *At[to]* or one of its cognates.

<sup>48</sup> The fragment was seen by RSOT in 1991 and 1993, but by oversight the correction was omitted from *Britannia* 24 (1993). This has been pointed out by Paola Pugsley and by Ian Caruana, who will publish it in his final report (forthcoming).