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# Roman Britain in 1999

By B.C. BURNHAM, L.J.F. KEPPIE,  
A.S. ESMONDE CLEARY, M.W.C. HASSALL and R.S.O. TOMLIN

## I. SITES EXPLORED

## II. INSCRIPTIONS

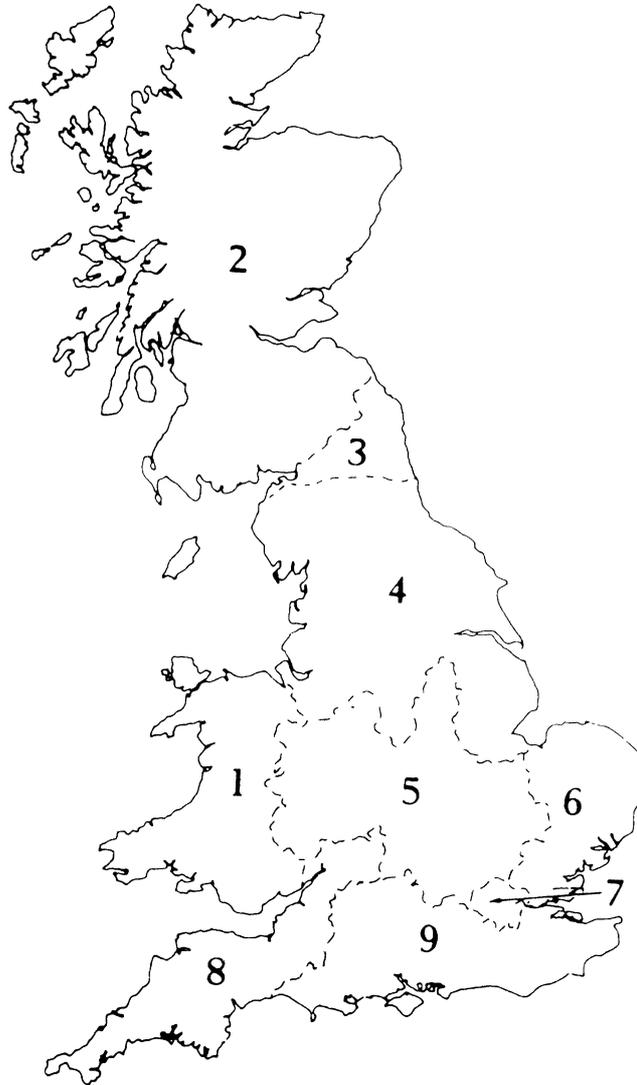


FIG. 1. Key to numbered sections of Part I (Sites Explored).

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

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

### A. MONUMENTAL

1. **Greater London**, Greenwich Park (TQ 3929 7742). Fragment of a thin marble slab smooth on the back, 110 by 110 mm, 10–16 mm thick, found<sup>2</sup> in 1999 at the site of the possible Roman temple. The top edge is smooth and probably original, but there is no moulded edge. The unscribed space above line 1, however, is three times the vertical distance between the lines, which suggests that this is the upper margin. If so, the slab must have been inserted into a moulded border now lost. It is inscribed in well-formed letters 20 mm high: [...]MIN[... | ...] PILIV[... | ...]. CVS <sup>Δ</sup>,<sup>3</sup>

2. **Wool**, New Buildings (SY 838 856), Dorset (PL. XXIIA and FIG. 1). Rectangular fragment of a slab of local limestone,<sup>4</sup> 0.21 by 0.39 m, tapering in thickness from 60 mm at the bottom to 47 mm at the top, found<sup>5</sup> in the late 1980s. It was lying face-downward in a deep-ploughed field where many Roman coins, sherds and other objects have been found. Its edges are much abraded, and the inscribed surface has been superficially scored by ploughing, but the lettering is well preserved. The inscribed area is defined by a plain moulding which encloses an incised sinuous line winding round the widely-spaced lines of text and linking a stylised ivy-leaf (*hedera*) in each of the corners. There is no exact epigraphic parallel from Britain for this format, but it recalls the Antonine slab from Bertha, where the text, likewise in elongated brush-drawn letters, is enclosed by four *hederae*.<sup>6</sup> An Antonine date may therefore be suggested for the present slab, which must be

<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, width precedes the height. Overall editing is by Dr Tomlin, but unless otherwise indicated (e.g. No. 2, Wool), he (RSOT) is responsible for entries north of the Mersey–Humber line and Mr Hassall (MWCH) for those south of it.

<sup>2</sup> During excavation directed jointly by Hedley Swain and Harvey Sheldon for the Museum of London, Birkbeck College (University of London) and the Channel 4 ‘Time Team’. For a stamped tile also found, see below, No. 39. Fragments of three other inscriptions were found there in 1902: see *RIB* 37 (sandstone), 38 and 39 (both marble).

<sup>3</sup> Line 1 may well be a dedication [NV]MIN[I AVG] or [NV]MIN[IBVS AVGG], as Guy de la Bédoyère has suggested to us, the imperial divinity/ies being associated with the deity to whom the putative temple was dedicated. (Note that the first surviving line of *RIB* 38, another thin marble slab from the site, reads NV[...].) Lines 2 and 3 most likely contain a nomen and cognomen in the nominative case, for example *Rupilius*, *Popilius*, *Turpilius* (etc.) and *Fuscus*, *Priscus* (etc.), presumably the name of the dedicator. In line 3 there is a serif before the letter C whose form would be consistent with the top terminal of the letter S.

<sup>4</sup> Identified by Alan Holiday, Head of Geology at Weymouth College, as a shelly Upper Jurassic limestone, probably Portland Limestone rather than Purbeck, and perhaps from the Lulworth / Worbarrow area just south of the find-spot.

<sup>5</sup> By Mark Vine of Weymouth, in whose possession it remains. He consulted Guy de la Bédoyère, at whose suggestion he sent photographs and full details to RSOT.

<sup>6</sup> *JRS* 49 (1959), 136, No. 6, *Discipulinae Augusti*.

a tombstone.<sup>7</sup> It reads: [...] M▲ [...]VNDVS | [...]IRALIS | [...], perhaps [*D(is)*] *M(anibus)* | [*Verec*]undus | [*et Libe*]ralis | [...]. ‘To the Spirits of the Dead. Verecundus and Liberalis ...’<sup>8</sup>

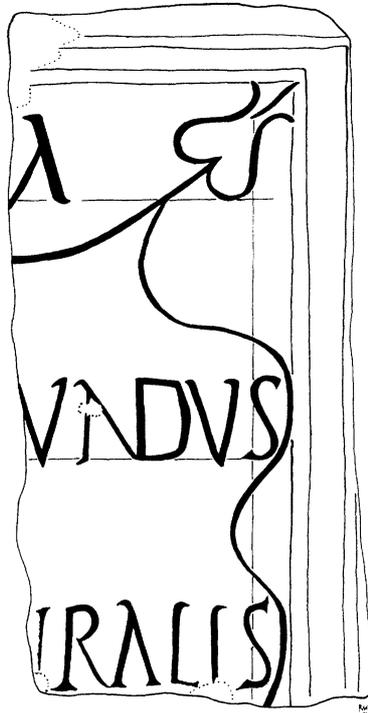


FIG. 1. Wool: fragment of a tombstone, No. 2. Scale 1:4.  
(Drawn by R.S.O. Tomlin)

3. **Turkdean** (SP 09 19), Gloucestershire (FIG. 2). Block of coarse oolitic limestone, 180 by 270 mm, 120 mm thick, found<sup>9</sup> in 1998 re-used in a wall of the Roman villa. The top edge has been

<sup>7</sup> A dedication to Jupiter headed I O M is just possible, but most unlikely. The slab would have been part of a mausoleum, not a free-standing monument in itself. It is only the third Roman tombstone from Dorset (the others being *RIB* 188, Dorchester, and *Britannia* 12 (1981), 369, No. 4, Tarrant Hinton). This is surprising, in view of the abundant supplies of excellent freestone, but the assurance of the drawing, and the competence of the cutting, both attest an experienced hand. The rarity of inscriptions from Dorset may thus be an accident of survival rather than a lack of ‘epigraphic habit’.

<sup>8</sup> The width cannot be calculated with certainty, but if D M was centred between two upper *hederae* linked by a single loop, and not by a meandering line, the surviving width would be about two-fifths of the original. Line 2 evidently ended with a cognomen in *-undus*. *Secundus* is the most common (much more common than *Iucundus*), but *Verecundus* is also common and, as a ‘Roman’ name containing a popular Celtic name-element, is a more attractive possibility in the Romanised civil zone of a Celtic-speaking province; it would also fit better into a panel 0.50 m wide. Although it is just possible that the deceased was described as *duoviralis* (an ex-magistrate, presumably of Dorchester), it is probable that line 3 ended with another cognomen. The only possibility seems to be *Liberalis*, assuming that E was written informally as II. (This would be very unusual in a monumental text, but the lettering, though quite elegant, is brush-drawn and somewhat informal.) [*et Libe*]ralis would fit the same line-length as [*Verec*]undus. This restoration, which is conjectural, would require that two persons, both male, were being commemorated; perhaps they were the small sons of a villa-owner.

<sup>9</sup> During excavation by the Channel 4 ‘Time Team’ directed by Neil Holbrook, Cotswold Archaeological Trust, who made the stone available to RSOT. For the site see *Britannia* 30 (1999), 365–6.

trimmed back square, the two sides have been roughly squared, but the bottom edge is broken. Crudely incised: FIL.<sup>10</sup>

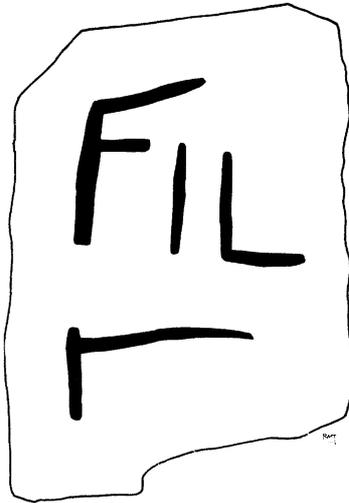


FIG. 2. Turkdean: inscribed stone. No. 3. Scale 1:4.  
(Drawn by R.S.O. Tomlin)

4. **Maryport** (*Alauna*, NY 049 384) Golf Club, Cumbria. Three conjoining fragments of a red sandstone slab, 86 by 86 mm, 40 mm thick, probably found<sup>11</sup> in the early 1950s. It was evidently a tombstone. The right-hand margin survives for lines 2 and 3, indicating that line 1 was shorter and thus centred; it now preserves only the bottom right-hand corner of a letter followed by a leaf-stop (*hedera*), presumably part of the funerary heading. The surviving text reads: [...]*M*▲| [...]*IMI* | [...]*Y*▲| [...], probably [*D(is)*] *M(anibus)* | [...]*imi* | [*vix(it) an(nos) ...*]*V* | [...]. ‘To the Spirits of the Dead (and) of [...]*imus*, (who) lived 5 years [or more] ...’<sup>12</sup>

<sup>10</sup> There is no trace of any letter to the right of *L*. Unless the letters were irregularly spaced, therefore, it looks as if *FIL* is complete. As an abbreviation of *filius* (‘son’) or *filia* (‘daughter’), in the nominative or an oblique case, it is very common. Below it are two lines intersecting at right-angles, apparently not a letter.

If the stone is part of a larger inscription, it was probably a tombstone or a milestone. Epitaphs occasionally end with a formula incorporating *FIL* (e.g. *RIB* 396), and there is a group of milestones (e.g. *RIB* 2267) erected to Constantine as Caesar (A.D. 306–7) and son of Constantius, ... *divi Constantii pii Aug(usti) filio*. (The find-spot is c. 3.5 km from the Fosse Way.) But this stone does not look like a fragment. The placing of *FIL* within equal margins, above a scratched panel(?) and below a carefully tooled top edge, suggests that the inscription is complete. Milestones have been found at villas (e.g. *RIB* 2220), but it was hardly worth breaking one up and carting the pieces some kilometres to Turkdean, when building stone was available on the spot. In any case, the said group of Constantinian milestone inscriptions all terminate with *FILIO* (unabbreviated). The Turkdean stone looks more like a grave-marker now broken at the bottom, which belonged perhaps to a funerary group re-used as building material. Conjecturally it was subordinate to a larger stone (also inscribed) in a burial plot, and commemorated a ‘son’ or ‘daughter’. Since a child was not named until it was eight or nine days old, this pair of stones might have commemorated a mother who died in child-birth and her still-born child.

<sup>11</sup> During the building of the clubhouse of Maryport Golf Club, when more of the slab was found but not reported at the time; it was broken up, and only these pieces were preserved by one of the workmen. They are now in the Senhouse Roman Museum, Maryport, where Ian Caruana provided photographs and full details.

<sup>12</sup> The most likely name is *Maximus*, but there are other possibilities. More than three letters have been lost before *IMI*, judging by the likely restoration of line 3, so that the cognomen [*MAX*]*IMI* would have been preceded by a nomen, perhaps abbreviated like *AVR*.

5. **Hadrian's Wall, Mile 22** (NY 993 687), 500 m west of Portgate, Northumberland (PL. XXII B and FIG. 3). Buff sandstone building stone, 0.35 by 0.25 m, 0.35 m thick, found<sup>13</sup> in 1999 at a depth of 0.80 m on the south side of the Military Road (B 6138). Within an incised ansate panel, damaged at top and bottom, is inscribed: COH VIII | 7 HELLENI, *coh(ortis) VIII | (centuria) Helleni*. 'Of the 8th Cohort, the century of Hellenius (built this).'<sup>14</sup>

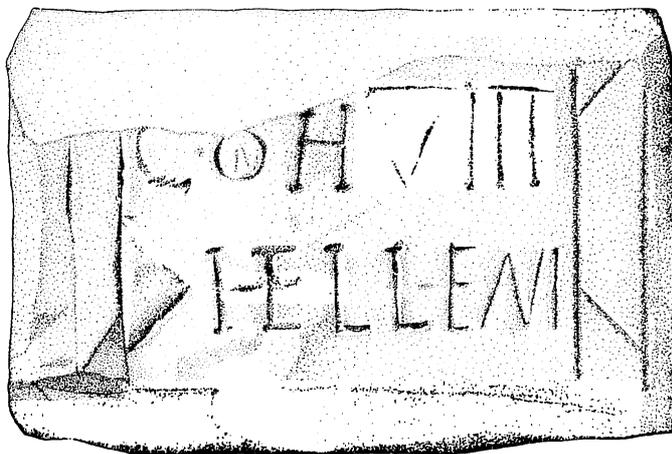


FIG. 3. Hadrian's Wall, Mile 22: building stone, No. 5. Scale 1:4.  
(Drawing by courtesy of Tyne and Wear Museums)

6. **Vindolanda** or Chesterholm (*Vindolanda*, NY 771 663), Northumberland (FIG. 4). Half a buff



FIG. 4. Vindolanda: inscribed voussoir, No. 6. Scale 1:4.  
(Drawn by R.S.O. Tomlin)

<sup>13</sup> In a trench 0.50 m wide excavated to a depth of 1.0 m, which was subject to a watching-brief by I. Walker, Tyne and Wear Museums, commissioned by J. Charlton on behalf of Northumbrian Water. Dr N. Hodgson provided photographs, a squeeze and full details. The stone is now in the offices of Tyne and Wear Museums at Jesmond Cemetery Gates, Newcastle upon Tyne, but will go to the Museum of Antiquities, Newcastle upon Tyne.

<sup>14</sup> N is certain; it is not AN ligatured, let alone M. The same centurion is attested further west at Black Carts (Wall Mile 29) by *RIB* 1515, (*centuria*) *Helleni*. The editors understand the name as the rare nomen *Hellenius* (Schulze, 173), not as a possible variant of *Helenu*s, which was mostly borne by slaves and freedmen.

sandstone voussoir retaining one of its two lugs, 0.20 by 0.47 m, 0.17 m thick, found<sup>15</sup> re-used in the furnace of Room 9 in the fourth-century praetorium. One side is deeply incised: VI[...], '6 (or more)'.<sup>16</sup>

7. Ibid. Irregular fragment of a buff sandstone slab, 0.45 by 0.64 m, c. 0.20 m thick, found<sup>17</sup> with sculptured fragments of other tombstones which were used to repair the eastern wall of the stone fort, probably in the fourth century. This fragment seems to be part of the gable of a tombstone from which a funerary bust has been entirely tooled away. Above this bust(?) on a prepared surface is inscribed: D M[...], *D(is) M(anibus)*, 'To the Spirits of the Dead'. Below the bust(?) is part of the upper moulded edge of a panel which presumably bore the main text.

8. Ibid. (FIG. 5). Buff sandstone building stone, 0.18 by 0.11 m, found<sup>18</sup> in 1995. On the face is incised a decorative pattern of intersecting straight lines and arcs.<sup>19</sup>

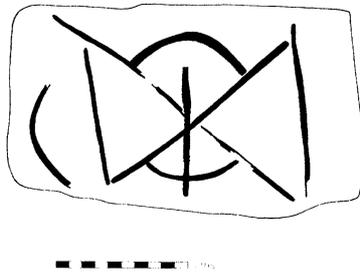


FIG. 5. Vindolanda: inscribed stone, No. 8. Scale 1:4.

9. **Carvoran** (*Magnis*, NY 665 657), Northumberland. Base of a buff sandstone altar, 0.21 by 0.22 m, 0.13 m thick, found<sup>20</sup> in 1987 in a modern garden-wall. Only the lowest part of the die remains, with its right-hand edge broken away, and the back entirely lost. It is inscribed: [...]| ENV S F.[.].<sup>21</sup>

10. Ibid. Right-hand half of a building-stone, 0.24 by 0.19 m, 0.21 m thick, found<sup>22</sup> in 1983 in a modern field-wall. It carries a crude recessed panel, now badly worn, in which has been crudely inscribed: [...]| X II, '12 (or more)'.<sup>23</sup>

11. Ibid. Fragment from the left-hand edge of a buff sandstone slab, 0.21 by 0.17 m, 0.08 m thick, found<sup>24</sup> in the early 1980s in a modern field-wall. Deeply incised: AM[...]| [...]. Above these letters is cut a horizontal line, above which are two now-incomplete cuts, all gouged with the same tool as the lettering. The two cuts might be parts of letters, but in conjunction with the horizontal line they suggest the incised gable of a tombstone.

<sup>15</sup> In excavation by the Vindolanda Trust directed by Robin Birley, who made it available at Vindolanda Museum.

<sup>16</sup> The numeral was incised as an aid to assembling the arch. For other numbered voussoirs from Vindolanda, see *RIB* 1720 and *Britannia* 3 (1972), 354, No. 14.

<sup>17</sup> In consolidation by the Vindolanda Trust directed by Robin Birley, who made it available. The fragments are now built into a wall-display in Vindolanda Museum.

<sup>18</sup> During excavation by the Vindolanda Trust, directed by Robin Birley, who made it available at Vindolanda Museum.

<sup>19</sup> Compare the Vindolanda stone illustrated in *Britannia* 24 (1993), 315, fig. 3, and a stone from Birdoswald (*Britannia* 23 (1992), 316, fig. 5).

<sup>20</sup> By Robin Birley, who made it available at Vindolanda Museum.

<sup>21</sup> Presumably the end of the dedicator's name, followed by a dedicatory formula like *s(acrum) fec(it)* or similar.

<sup>22</sup> By Robin Birley, who made it available at Vindolanda Museum.

<sup>23</sup> There is a space between X and II, but presumably they belong to a single incomplete numeral. Conjecturally it is [C]XII or even [P C]XII, [*pedes*] C]XII, '112 ft': compare *RIB* 1818 and 1820, two elaborate inscriptions which record the constructions of '112 feet of rampart' at Carvoran.

<sup>24</sup> By Robin Birley, who made it available at Vindolanda Museum.

## B. INSTRUMENTUM DOMESTICUM

## CAMBRIDGESHIRE

12. **Arrington** (TL 327 505). Pipeclay figurine of a mother goddess of Rhenish type found<sup>25</sup> in 1990 with other figurines, in what was apparently a wooden box placed on top of a lead coffin containing the skeleton of an infant. On the back of the figurine is a three-line graffito scratched before firing, now illegible.

13. **Cambridge** (*Duroliponte*, TL 4440 5921), Ridgeon's Garden / Comet Place. Inscribed bone roundel, 18 mm in diameter, 4 mm thick, found in 1973/74 with five others at the site of the intramural shrine.<sup>26</sup> The roundel, which is concave on one side and flat on the other, is inscribed around the edge: IIIVIII<sup>27</sup>.

14. *Ibid.* Inscribed bone roundel, 17 mm in diameter, 4 mm thick, concave on one side, flat on the other.<sup>28</sup> It carries two graffiti: (a) on the flat face: T; (b) around the edge: IIII, presumably '4'.

15. **Godmanchester** (*Durovigutum*, TL 258 712), London Road.<sup>29</sup> Wall sherd of a greyish buff vessel incised apparently before firing: XI, presumably '11'.

16. *Ibid.* (TL 247 708), The Parks. Wall sherd of a samian platter (Drag. 18), scratched after firing just above the foot-ring: SII[...], *Se[...]*.<sup>30</sup>

17. *Ibid.* Four wall sherds of a grey jar with rouletted decoration. On one sherd, neatly incised before firing: [...]EV.<sup>31</sup>

## CUMBRIA

18. **Hardknott** (*Mediobogdum*, NY 218 015). Base of a samian bowl (Drag. 18/31), date and circumstances of discovery not known, now at Muncaster Castle.<sup>32</sup> Scratched after firing within the foot-ring: BAT.<sup>33</sup>

## ESSEX

19. **Colchester** (*Camulodunum*, TL 998 251), 11 Short Wire Street, 'The Swag Shop' (PL. XXIIIB). Sherd from the neck and shoulder of a Spanish amphora (Camulodunum 186 = Peacock and Williams 17 or 18) found<sup>34</sup> in 1988 as residual material in the area of the internal rampart backing the Roman town wall. On the shoulder is an inscription neatly painted in dark brown

<sup>25</sup> While digging a sewer trench. See A. Taylor, 'A Roman lead coffin with pipeclay figurines from Arrington, Cambridgeshire', *Britannia* 24 (1993), 191–225. The figurine is published by Miranda Green at 194–6, with fig. 3(i). Alison Taylor sent a sketch of the graffito, and provided information about this and the next two items.

<sup>26</sup> See J.A. Alexander and J. Pullinger, *Roman Cambridge [Proceedings of the Cambridge Antiquarian Society 87 (1999)]*, Appendix 1, 89 and pl. XVI, No. 145.

<sup>27</sup> This might be a series of numerals (either III, VIII, X, or III, VII, IX), perhaps cut at different times and replacing each other. If it were read inverted, it would be XIILIII. For similar bone roundels see *RIB* II.3, 2440.

<sup>28</sup> See Alexander and Pullinger, *Roman Cambridge*, op. cit. (note 26), pl. XVI, No. 144.

<sup>29</sup> Birmingham University Field Archaeology Unit sent this and the next two items to RSOT. They will appear, with three minor graffiti not included here, in the final report (in preparation) on Godmanchester, London Road and The Parks.

<sup>30</sup> There are many possible names, for example *Secundus*, *Severus*, *Sextus*, and the cognate names *Seneca* / *Senecio* / *Senecianus*.

<sup>31</sup> The first surviving letter might be F with bottom serif, but this is unlikely. Presumably an abbreviated name, the most likely being [S]EV for [*S*]ev(erus).

<sup>32</sup> P. Bidwell, M. Snape, A. Croom, *Hardknott Roman Fort, Cumbria* (1999), 121, No. 1, with fig. 56.2.

<sup>33</sup> Presumably an abbreviated name. The angular 'B' might possibly be S; an abbreviated name *Sat(...)* would be more likely than *Bat(...)*.

<sup>34</sup> During small-scale excavations by the Colchester Archaeological Trust. Information from Stephen Benfield of the Trust, who made the sherd available.

letters on a band of white slip: PROCVLIVTVRB[...], [...] | *Proculi et Urb[ici]*, ‘... (the product) of Proculus and Urbicus’.<sup>35</sup>

20. **Epping** (TL 4625 0580). Handle of a large flagon or similar vessel in tile-like fabric, not an amphora, found<sup>36</sup> in 1999 with other sherds of late-third- to mid-fourth-century pottery in the filling of a pit. The sherd carries two graffiti cut before firing. (a) On the upper side of the handle: [...]AVIO [...]. This graffito is probably complete at the end. (b) On the side of the handle and inverted with respect to (a): [...]RIS[...]. One letter at most is missing at the beginning. The two graffiti may have read: *[Fl]avio* | *[P]ris[co]*, ‘for Flavius Priscus’.

21. **Heybridge** (TL 847 082), Elms Farm. Oak plank, 0.93 by 0.17 m, 70 mm thick, found<sup>37</sup> in 1999 as part of the waterlogged lining of a well<sup>38</sup> on the site of the Romano-British settlement. The plank has a mortise at one end and bears three identical stamps: *SV or (inverted) AS*.

#### GLOUCESTERSHIRE

22. **Cirencester** (*Corinium Dobunnorum*, SP 0287 0157), 77 Victoria Road. Fragment of a box-flue tile or *tegula*, 75 by 103 mm, 18 mm thick, found<sup>39</sup> in 1999 unstratified near the site of a Roman building (Insula X, 4). Stamped incuse: [A]RVERI.<sup>40</sup>

23. **Gloucester** (*Glevum*, SO 828 185), 28–32 Commercial Road, inside the western angle of the *colonia*. Fragment of tile found<sup>41</sup> in 1983/4 in a third-century context, bearing the impressed stamp: [R]PGI[IVIR] | NASOET[...], *[res]p[ublica] G[levensium] (duo)vir[orum] | Naso(nis) et [...]*, ‘Commonwealth of the people of Glevum, (Year) of the duoviri Naso and [...]’.<sup>42</sup>

24. *Ibid.* Fragment of tile found with the previous item, incised before firing with an undeciphered cursive graffito.<sup>43</sup>

#### HERTFORDSHIRE

25. **Sandridge** (TM 186 102). Elongated bronze object found<sup>44</sup> in 1999 in the backfill of a

<sup>35</sup> This is the last line of an inscription like No. 32 (London) below, recording the origin and quality of the preserved fish-product COD or CORD, its age, the capacity of the amphora, and concluding with the names of the producers. Two such inscriptions of Proculus and Urbicus have already been found at Pompeii, *CIL* iv 9368 (with facsimile of a similar, if not the same hand) and 9369. See further, n. 56 below. RSOT.

<sup>36</sup> During excavations by Mrs Maureen Bennell in advance of the construction of a pipe line from Rye Hill Reservoir to Fairfield Hospital. Information from Mr T.S. Martin of the Planning Department of Essex County Council.

<sup>37</sup> In excavation by Essex County Council Archaeology Unit directed by M. Atkinson, who provided information and a drawing by Stewart McNeil. For the site see M. Atkinson and S.J. Preston, ‘The late Iron Age and Roman settlement at Elms Farm, Heybridge, Essex, excavations 1993–5: an interim report’, *Britannia* 29 (1998), 85–110.

<sup>38</sup> Dendro dating of other planks has supplied a felling date of A.D. 149–197. The pottery found in association with the well favours the earlier part of this range for the date of construction.

<sup>39</sup> During a watching-brief by Emma Harrison of the Cotswold Archaeological Trust. Information from Emma Harrison and Neil Holbrook of the Trust, who also supplied a copy of a drawing by Richard Morton.

<sup>40</sup> The stamp is *RIB* II.5. 2489.4A. Three other examples were found when the building (Insula X, 4) was excavated in 1922: *ibid.* xvii–xix. See T.C. Darvill, ‘The ARVERI and TPLF stamped Roman ceramic tiles in the Cotswolds and Severn Valley’, *Transactions of the Bristol and Gloucestershire Archaeological Society* 100 (1982), 47–63.

<sup>41</sup> In excavation for Gloucester City Museum, where it now is. See T.C. Darvill, ‘Excavations on the site of the early Norman Castle at Gloucester, 1983–84’, *Medieval Archaeology* 32 (1988), 1–49, at 28–9, fig. 14 (No. 169 of the Small Finds by P. Isaac, who reads MSO instead of NASO). Also found were 70 fragments of tile stamped RPG (cf. *RIB* II.5, 2486), 30 of RPG with *duoviri* (cf. *RIB* II.5, 2487) including 13 of type 2487.6, ten of RPG with *quinquennales* (cf. *RIB* II.5, 2488), and 86 of unclassifiable RPG. Sheppard Frere sent the reference to RSOT.

<sup>42</sup> For the type of legend see *RIB* II.5, 2487, but this example is unique. The decurion’s name NASO might be complete and nominative, but we have expanded it conventionally as a genitive.

<sup>43</sup> Darvill (see note 41), No. 295, fig. 14 (which should probably be inverted).

<sup>44</sup> During excavations for Transco by Hertfordshire Archaeological Trust directed by Claire Halpin, in advance of a new gas pipe line. Nina Crummy informed us of the discovery initially, and provided a draft of her report on the object in the *Roman Finds Group News Letter* 20 (2000), forthcoming.

sunken room in a building of first-/second-century date with a group of other finds including a set of toilet instruments. The object is 72 mm long (not counting a bent-over section at one end, 15 mm in length), up to 6 mm wide (but up to 10.5 mm wide in the bent-over section), and 2 mm thick. It has been identified as a brush holder<sup>45</sup> and carries a maker's stamp: AGATANGELUS, *Agat(h)angelus*.<sup>46</sup>

## KENT

26. **Dover** (*Dubris*, TR 3223 4143), Townwall Street. Fragment of a box-flue tile found<sup>47</sup> in 1995 in a post-Roman context, stamped CLBR, *cl(assis) Br(itannica)*.<sup>48</sup>

27. *Ibid.* Fragment of an *imbrex* found with the previous item, stamped [...]BR, [*cl(assis)*] *Br(itannica)*.<sup>49</sup>

## LONDON

28. **The City** (*Londinium*, TQ 3344 8100), 68–71 Fenchurch Street. Body sherd from a Spanish amphora (Dressel 20), found<sup>50</sup> in 1997 in a quarry pit with pottery dated to A.D. 240–400. A graffito cut before firing reads: [...]SIIŁBY[...], or possibly [...]SIIŁDY[...].

29. *Ibid.* Body sherd from an amphora (Dressel 20), found in 1997 as residual material in a context dated to the second half of the fourth century. A graffito cut before firing reads: XI[...], '11' (or more); or, if inverted: [...]IX, '9'.<sup>51</sup>

30. *Ibid.* Two rim sherds of a bag-shaped beaker with cornice rim in orange fabric with a dark brown colour coat, perhaps from Colchester, found in 1997 in different contexts. They probably belong to the same vessel, so the text of one may be taken in conjunction with that of the other. Sherd (a) was found in the filling of a ditch or drain dated to A.D. 120–160, but perhaps containing some later material. A graffito made after firing below the rim reads: [...]ΛIIINON[...].<sup>52</sup> Sherd (b) was found in a pit with other pottery dated to A.D. 120–200. A graffito made after firing below the rim reads: MEMOR[...] | SACER[...].<sup>53</sup>

31. *Ibid.* Sherd from a 'rounded rim' black burnished ware pot (BB2) found in 1997 in the construction debris from Building 32, dated by pottery to A.D. 140–200. A graffito reads: VIRI[...], perhaps *Viri[llis]*.<sup>54</sup>

32. **The City** (TQ 3258 8110), 1 Poultry (PL. XXIIIA). Neck sherd of a Spanish amphora

<sup>45</sup> By Ralph Jackson of the Department of Prehistoric and Romano-British Antiquities at the British Museum.

<sup>46</sup> The letters TAN (or possibly THAN) are ligatured. The stamp was recognized by Michel Feugère. About 20 instruments stamped by Agathangelus are now known: see Nina Crummy, 'Agathangelus, bronzeworker', *Rescue News* 81 (2000), 6.

<sup>47</sup> In excavation of a medieval site by the Canterbury Archaeological Trust. Louise Harrison's report of residual Roman brick and tile in the 21st Annual Report (1996–1997) of the Trust, 38–40, was sent by Sheppard Frere to RSOT.

<sup>48</sup> The impression was damaged when the unfired tile was combed for keying, but the stamp is probably *RIB* II.5, 2481.82.

<sup>49</sup> The stamp is probably *RIB* II.5, 2481.43.

<sup>50</sup> In excavation by the Museum of London Archaeological Service directed by Dick Bluer and Robin Nielsen. Fiona Seeley of the Museum of London Special Services section provided information on this and the next three items.

<sup>51</sup> A third possibility is that the letters are the end of the name [FEL]IX, or of the slogan [VTERE FEL]IX.

<sup>52</sup> The end is possibly complete. Conceivably it is part of a date: [*a(nte)*] *d(iem)* III Non[*as*...], 'On the third day before the Nones of ...'

<sup>53</sup> This might suggest a funerary formula dated by (a), but the vessel is unlikely to have been a funerary urn since the find-spot lies within the circuit of the city walls and the cemeteries will all have been extramural. *Memor* and *Sacer* may therefore be cognomina, as slogans wishing good fortune to (named) individuals are occasionally found.

<sup>54</sup> The last two letters are very faint, but this personal name is common.

(Camulodunum 186 = Peacock and Williams 17 or 18), found<sup>55</sup> in 1994–96. A neatly-painted inscription reads: [...] | SVMAVR | AIAA | LXXX | C ASICI PROBI, [*co(r)d(ula) ...*] SVMAVR | *a(nnorum II)* | LXXX | *G(ai) Asici Probi*. ‘Best young tunny, (matured) two years, 80, (the product) of Gaius Asicius Probus.’<sup>56</sup> At right-angles is a second painted inscription by another hand, D....I.<sup>57</sup>

33. **Southwark** (TQ 3278 8023), Hunt House, Guy’s Hospital. Sherd from a beaker in an off-white fabric with dark brown colour coat (Lower Nene Valley, third–fourth century) found<sup>58</sup> in 1997 as dumped material in Guy’s Channel. A graffito cut underneath the base after firing reads: FORT, *Fort(is)*, ‘(property) of Fortis’.

34. *Ibid.* Sherd from a beaker in an off-white fabric decorated *en barbotine* with a brown colour coat overall, found in 1997. A graffito reads: [...]NEM[...].

35. *Ibid.* (FIG. 6). Sherd from a grey-ware (Thameside) cavetto rim cooking pot dated to the late second–early third century, inscribed after firing: R B. The B has been converted to a phallus pointing towards the preceding letter to which a diagonal has been added, perhaps to represent female pudenda.



FIG. 6. Southwark: graffito, No. 35. Scale 1:1.  
(Drawn by M.W.C. Hassall)

<sup>55</sup> During excavations by the Museum of London Archaeological Service directed by Peter Rowsome. It is now in the Museum of London, where Jenny Hall made it available to RSOT.

<sup>56</sup> The text can be read and understood by comparing it with the painted inscriptions on other amphoras of this type: those from Colchester (No. 19, above), Lincoln (*RIB* II.6, 2492.39, misunderstood and now lost) and Chester (*RIB* II.6, 2492.11) are fragmentary, but there is a good selection in *CIL* iv 5634–52. The last four lines survive of a five-line text. (1) The letters SVMAVR, sometimes difficult to read exactly, and of uncertain meaning, regularly qualify the best COD or CORD, which has been convincingly explained (see Bernard Liou in *Archaeonautica* 7 (1978), 68) as a preserved fish-product made from young tunny (*cordula*). This industry was located on the coast of southern Spain, so as to exploit the seasonal migration of the fish through the Straits of Gibraltar. (2) Its product is variously said to be (matured) ‘two years’ (AIIA) or ‘four years’ (AAAA and AIIIA), and it is not clear which should be understood here. AIAA has actually been written, the last three letters resembling VM in SVMAVR. Perhaps AIIA was intended. (3) The numeral ‘80’ is unexplained. Other examples of LXXX are known (e.g. *CIL* iv 5637), and also LXXXIV and LXXXV. One might have expected a note of capacity, but two such amphoras found in Colchester held 16.5 litres and 18 litres, which neither by volume (30 and 33 *sextarii*) nor by weight (55 and 60 *librae*, assuming a specific gravity of 1.1) suggest the numeral ‘80’. (4) Lastly the producer’s name in the genitive case. Gaius Asicius Probus seems to be hitherto unattested, but his distinctive Italian nomen is found outside Italy precisely at Gades (Cadiz): see *CIL* ii 1772, the tombstone of L. Asicius Suavis. Many of these amphoras come from the Cadiz region.

<sup>57</sup> Initial D is certain, but other letters are ambiguous and perhaps defective. Presumably a personal name in the genitive case, somewhat resembling DOMITI(?) in *CIL* iv 5640.

<sup>58</sup> During rescue excavations by Pre-Construct Archaeology directed by Robin Taylor Wilson. Information on this and the following four items from Malcolm Lyne.

36. *Ibid.* Swan Street. Sherd from the neck of a flagon in a light grey sand-free fabric, fired polished black, found<sup>59</sup> in 1998. A graffito made after firing reads: MI with suprascript bar, perhaps *m(odium) I*, '(capacity) 1 modius.'

37. *Ibid.* Samian platter (Drag. 18) found in the fill of a ritual shaft. Scratched underneath after firing, within the footring: VRBICVS, *Urbicus*, 'Urbicus'.

38. **London Docklands**, Shadwell (TQ 3488 8073). Sherd from a samian cup (Drag. 33) found<sup>60</sup> in 1974, with a graffito cut after firing between girth groove and rim: SAEV, presumably *Saev(i)*, '(property) of Saevius'.<sup>61</sup>

39. **Greenwich Park** (TQ 3929 7742). Four fragments of tile or brick found<sup>62</sup> in 1999 at the site of the possible Roman temple. The two largest fragments, (a) and (b), almost certainly go together, although flaking of the material has rendered the join imperfect.<sup>63</sup> Together they measure 190 by 120 mm, 25 mm thick but originally thicker, the underside having flaked away. An impressed stamp reads: PPBRLON, *p(rocuratores) p(rovinciae) Br(itanniae) Lon(dini)*, 'The procurators of the province of Britain at London'.<sup>64</sup>

#### NORTHUMBERLAND

40. **Vindolanda** or Chesterholm (*Vindolanda*, NY 770 663). Fragment<sup>65</sup> from the circumference of a buff sandstone quern stone or millstone 65 mm thick, 0.20 m wide, inscribed on the outer face: [...]ICTOR[...], [*V*]ictor[is] or [*V*]ictor[ini], '(Property) of Victor or Victorinus'.

41. *Ibid.* Buff sandstone millstone 0.60 m in diameter, 70 mm thick, found<sup>66</sup> in 1993 on the floor of the military annex west of the stone forts. Roughly incised on the upper surface: X. Perhaps a numeral ('10'), but more likely a mark of identification.

#### NOTTINGHAMSHIRE

42. **Flawborough** (SK 780 431). Circular tank made of sheets of lead with moulded decoration, c. 0.80 m in diameter, 0.40 m high, found<sup>67</sup> in 1998. The tank had been deposited in a dismantled condition in a pit dug through the fill of a field boundary. This fill produced pottery of a late

<sup>59</sup> In excavation by Pre-Construct Archaeology directed by Mark Beasley.

<sup>60</sup> In excavation directed by Tony Johnson for the London and Middlesex Archaeological Society. Information from Fiona Seeley of the Museum of London Special Services section.

<sup>61</sup> *Saevus*, although a common Latin adjective ('fierce'), is not attested as a cognomen. There is one instance of *Saevius* as a nomen (*CIL* xiii 11407).

<sup>62</sup> In excavation directed jointly by Hedley Swain and Harvey Sheldon for the Museum of London, Birkbeck College (University of London) and the Channel 4 'Time Team'. For the fragment of a marble inscription also found, see above, No. 1.

<sup>63</sup> The stamp runs across the break between the two fragments, the first part of the stamp, including the vertical stroke of L, being on (a) and the rest of the stamp, including the horizontal stroke of L, being on (b).

<sup>64</sup> The stamp is from the same die as *RIB* II.5, 2485.5, which is illustrated by a composite drawing of two examples, fragmentary but complementary. We follow the editors' reading and expansion here, but autopsy actually suggests PPBRLOA, the die having suffered damage, a triangular piece of wood between the apex of A and the cross-bar having flaked away. This reading would prompt the expansion *Lo(ndini) Au(gustae)* ('... at London *Augusta*'), another testimony to the award of the title *Augusta* to London at some date; for the other evidence, see A.L.F. Rivet and C. Smith, *The Place-Names of Roman Britain* (1979), 260. But difficulties remain.

<sup>65</sup> Displayed in Vindolanda Museum, where Robin Birley made it available.

<sup>66</sup> During excavation for the Vindolanda Trust directed by Robin Birley, who made it available. It is now in Vindolanda Museum.

<sup>67</sup> By metal-detectorists, but excavated by the Trent and Peak Archaeological Unit, University of Nottingham, directed by Lee Elliott. Darrel Garton, Lee Elliott and Steve Malone provided full details, including the interim report by Elliott and Malone in *Transactions of the Thoroton Society of Nottinghamshire* 103 (1999), 88–89, with pl.

fourth-century date, which provides a *terminus post quem* for the deposition. The tank originally comprised two flat sheets, each 1.25 by 0.41 m, curved around a circular base and welded at the seams.<sup>68</sup> The side seams were separated and the base cut in two before deposition. Each sheet is divided into five panels by vertical cord-edged strapping, with a single-cable saltire cross in each panel. One sheet, presumably intended to be the front, is decorated more elaborately with a border of vegetable (vine leaf?) scrollwork below the rim, and with a moulded inscription and standing figures of *orantes* in the central panel. The text is bordered above and below by cable moulding, and flanked by two of the figures. It reads: VTERE FELIX, *utere felix*, 'good luck to the user'. Below, a Chi-Rho monogram is enclosed in a cable moulded medallion flanked by two further figures.<sup>69</sup>

## SOMERSET

43. **Bath** (*Aquae Sulis*, ST 7497 6467), Bath Spa (FIG. 7). Fragment of a tile 25 mm thick, 85 mm by 82 mm, preserving part of one straight edge, found<sup>70</sup> in 1998. Parallel with this edge and neatly inscribed before firing, is a graffito made with a stylus or similar sharp-pointed instrument: [...]LLV[...].<sup>71</sup>

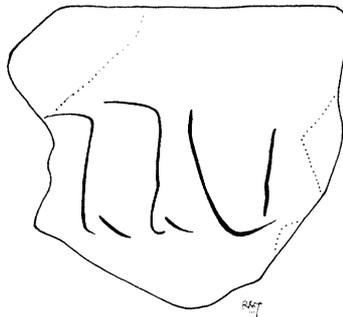


FIG. 7. Bath: tile graffito, No. 43. Scale 1:2.  
(Drawn by R.S.O. Tomlin)

## STAFFORDSHIRE

44. **Rocester**, Ortons Pasture (SK 110 394) (FIG. 8). Almost half of a samian platter (Drag.

<sup>68</sup> This is the usual form of construction; see C.J. Guy, 'Roman circular lead tanks in Britain', *Britannia* 12 (1981), 271–6.

<sup>69</sup> F in FELIX is like an E, but with an elongated upper cross-bar; it is thus closely similar to that on the lead tank found at East Stoke, c. 5 km to the north-west (RIB II.2, 2416.8 with pl. VI B). This detail, and the general similarity of the two, suggests that they are the products of the same artisan or workshop.

<sup>70</sup> During excavation by Bath Archaeological Trust whose Finds Officer, John Clarke, made it available to RSOT.

<sup>71</sup> Probably part of a personal name ending in *-illus*. There are many possibilities, ranging from conventional cognomina like *Gallus* and *Marcellus* to diminutives in *-illus*.

15/17) stamped [SVL]PICIV, found<sup>72</sup> in the annexe south of the fort. Scratched underneath after firing, within the foot ring: S{.}IINICI, *Senici*, '(property) of Senicus'.<sup>73</sup>



FIG. 8. Rocester: samian graffito, No. 44. Scale 1:1.  
(Drawn by R.S.O. Tomlin)

45. *Ibid.* Base sherd of a samian platter (Drag. 18) apparently stamped SECOAM. Two graffiti have been scratched underneath, within the foot ring. (a) A. (b) TE[...], perhaps TE[R] for *Terfr (...)*, '(property) of Ter...'.<sup>74</sup>

46. *Ibid.* Base sherd of a samian cup (Drag. 27g). Two or three graffiti have been scratched in succession on the first wall-curve above the foot ring: (a) In the vertical axis: T. (b) Overlying (a), some finer scratches which can be variously interpreted; possibly TR. (c) In the horizontal axis, the end of a graffito whose last letter (S) overlies (a) and (b): [... ]RIS, [... ]*oris*, '(property) of [... ]or'.<sup>75</sup>

47. *Ibid.* Five conjoining sherds from the upper shoulder of a Spanish amphora (Dressel 20). There is an incomplete graffito of seven lines scored after firing, which may read: IVILIS[...], perhaps [C]IVILIS, '(property) of Civilis'.<sup>76</sup>

#### WEST SUSSEX

48. **Angmering** (TQ 041 047) Roman villa (FIG. 9). Chalk roundel, 20 mm in diameter, 16 mm thick, found<sup>77</sup> unstratified some time between 1934 and 1945. A graffito has been scratched round the side: CRIITICI, *Cretici*, '(property) of Creticus'.<sup>78</sup>

<sup>72</sup> With the next three items during excavation by Birmingham University Field Archaeology Unit directed by Iain Ferris, who made them available to RSOT.

<sup>73</sup> S has been scratched over a thick diagonal stroke, and is followed by a 'letter' which can be variously interpreted: it may be part of an earlier graffito (perhaps A) scratched out, or II (i.e. E) scratched out because it was inadvertently written twice. Whatever the explanation, this 'letter' should be disregarded, since the succeeding letters IINICI are certain, and *Senicus* belongs to the large group of *Seno-* names found in Celtic-speaking provinces. In Britain, it occurs (as *Senica*) in *RIB* 374. In this form it is rare; but the developed form *Senicianus* is common.

<sup>74</sup> The two graffiti are differently aligned, and (a) is much larger. In (b) the alternative reading IE[...] is excluded by the sequence of letters, and the space available would permit only 1–2 more letters, now lost. For other examples of owners' names abbreviated to TER, see *RIB* II.7, 2501.537, and *RIB* II.8, 2503.424. *Tertius* is the most likely, then *Tertullus*, but there are other possibilities.

<sup>75</sup> *Victor* is much the most likely name in (c), but there are other possibilities. T and (?)TR in (a) and (b) would be the abbreviated names of previous owners.

<sup>76</sup> The sherds are in private possession, and only a photograph was available. Possibly C was lost by abrasion, but there is no evidence of this on the photograph.

<sup>77</sup> In excavation by the Littlehampton Natural Science and Archaeology Society, by whom it was given to Littlehampton Museum (accession No. A1281). Information from Dr Ian Friel, Museum and Community Arts Officer, Littlehampton, who sent photographs and a drawing to RSOT.

<sup>78</sup> The name may be Celtic: *Creticus*, the victorious cognomen assumed by Q. Caecilius Metellus (cos. 69 B.C.), would be a coincidental Latin homonym. For instances see Holder (s.v.), and especially *CIL* xiii 3183.8 and 9, *Creticus Runatis (filius)*. In Britain, see *RIB* II.7, 2501.148 (Caerleon).



FIG. 9. Angmering, chalk roundel, No. 48. Scale 1:1.  
(Drawn by R.S.O. Tomlin)

## SCOTLAND

### CENTRAL REGION [STIRLINGSHIRE]

49. **Mumrills** (NS 9169 7939). Two conjoining sherds from the base of a samian bowl (Drag. 30), found<sup>79</sup> in 1999 in the outer of the western ditches of the fort, which was backfilled by the Romans in c. A.D. 155. Scratched after firing above the foot ring: MATIIRNII, *Matern(a)e*, '(property) of Materna'.

50. Ibid. Rim sherd of a samian cup (Drag. 33), found in 1999 in the same context as the previous item. Scratched below the rim: MAT[...], presumably *Matfern(a)e*, '(property) of Materna'.<sup>80</sup>

51. **Camelon** (probably *Colania*, NS 864 810) (FIG. 10). Four conjoining sherds amounting to half a samian platter (Drag. 32), found<sup>81</sup> before 1986 on the site of the south annexe of the fort. Scratched immediately above the foot ring: QVNAVONIS, *Qunavonis*, '(property) of Cunavo'.<sup>82</sup>

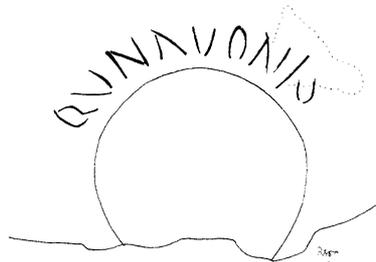


FIG. 10. Camelon, samian graffito: No. 51. Scale 1:2.  
(Drawn by R.S.O. Tomlin)

<sup>79</sup> With the next item during excavation by Falkirk Local History Society directed by Geoff Bailey, who made it available. They will go to Falkirk Museums.

<sup>80</sup> Only the tip survives of the cross-bar of T, but it does not seem to be casual damage. In view of the previous item, MAT[...] is likely, although the hand is different; the name may have been written in full, or abbreviated to MAT.

<sup>81</sup> Perhaps in 1959, when *Discovery and Excavation in Scotland 1959*, p. 40, reports the discovery of 'Agricolan' samian, but there were other finds of Roman pottery at the Gothic Iron Foundry, Glasgow Road, which gave this item to Falkirk Museums in 1986. Information from Geoff Bailey, who made it available.

<sup>82</sup> The use of QV for CV is quite common (for examples see *ILS* III, p. 831, especially *qum* < *cum*), the confusion being due to the tendency to reduce [kw] to [k] in Vulgar Latin. The Celtic name *Cunavo* seems to be unattested, but the name-elements *Cuno-* and *-avos* are frequent, and the name *Avo* occurs in *RIB* 931.

52. *Ibid.* Base sherd of a samian cup (Drag. 27) stamped [...]MA, probably for Avitus [A.D. 160s), found<sup>83</sup> in 1979 on the site of the south annexe of the fort. Scratched after firing above the foot ring: [...]LA.

#### ADDENDA ET CORRIGENDA

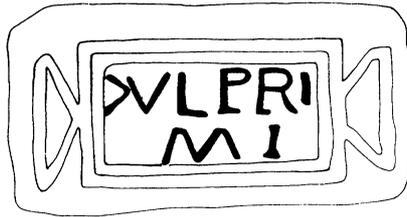
(a) **RIB III.** Contributions are still invited to the third volume of *Roman Inscriptions of Britain*, monumental inscriptions on stone and metal discovered after 31 December 1954, the closing date of the first volume. Details of unpublished inscriptions and new information relating to the inscriptions first published in *JRS* and *Britannia*, for example photographs and drawings, improvements in reading and interpretation, bibliography, changes of location, should be sent to the editor, Dr R.S.O. Tomlin, at Wolfson College, Oxford OX2 6UD. He thanks contributors and the museums and other public bodies who have already responded to this appeal.

(b) **RIB 259** (Lincoln). These five conjoining fragments of a tombstone, 'seen in 1902 ... at Greestone House', were found in 1821 built into the western city wall, near Newland Gate at the south-western corner. According to a contemporary drawing, it was then possible to see a little more at the end of line 5, and the tops of two letters in line 6. Apparently they read: [...]ISCON[...] | [...]N.[...].<sup>84</sup>

(c) **RIB 306** (Lydney Park). This 'curse tablet' contains the clause *inter quibus nomen Seniciani nollis petmittas* [sic] *sanitatem*. The antecedent (*eos*) should be understood before *quibus*, dependent on *inter*. *Nollis* is not a variant spelling of *nolis*, but conceals *non illis*, in a formula now familiar from other 'curse tablets'.<sup>85</sup>

(d) **RIB 1065** (South Shields). The grammatical case of *Regina* (etc.) is not ablative for dative, but accusative with omission of final *-m* (unsounded). The accusative of the honorand juxtaposed with the nominative of the dedicator, the verb understood, is a standard construction in Greek inscriptions. Greek was presumably the Palmyrene dedicator's second language.<sup>86</sup>

(e) **RIB 1711** (Chesterholm) (FIG. 11), 'centurial stone' now in Vindolanda Museum, 305 by 165 mm, 140 mm thick. The drawing by R.G. Collingwood is misleading: the third letter after the



0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 cms

FIG. 11. Corrigendum (e), *RIB* 1711 (Chesterholm). Scale 1:4.  
(Drawn by R.S.O. Tomlin)

<sup>83</sup> During excavation ahead of a sewer trench by Frances Murray for Falkirk Museums. Geoff Bailey sent a drawing.

<sup>84</sup> C. Colyer, B.J.J. Gilmour and M.J. Jones, edited by M.J. Jones, *The Defences of the Lower City: Excavations at The Park and West Parade 1970–2, and a Discussion of Other Sites Excavated up to 1994* (The Archaeology of Lincoln Vol. VII-2, CBA Research Report 114, 1999), 47 with pl. 28, and 50, n. 1. RSOT.

<sup>85</sup> J.N. Adams, 'Two notes on RIB', *ZPE* 123 (1998), 235–6. For the formula see *Tab. Sulis*, pp. 65–6. PETMITTAS for *permittas* is a copying-mistake due to confusing a cursive R for T; compare BRVCERI for *Bruceti* in *Tab. Sulis* 10, 2. RSOT

<sup>86</sup> Adams, *op. cit.* (in previous note).

centurial sign in line 1 is certainly looped, and is thus P, not E. In line 2, M should be read, not ligatured AN. The inscription therefore reads 7 VL PRI|MI, which is probably a stone-cutter's error for (*centuria*) (*I*)ul(i) Primi, 'The century of Julius Primus (built this)'.<sup>87</sup>

(f) **RIB II.3, 2431.3** (Thistleton) (FIG. 12). This silver votive plaque was first drawn<sup>88</sup> in 1962 [not 1961], before it was glued face-down to a support, so the drawing reproduced here is clearer than the drawing made in 1990 for *RIB* II. It supports the alternative reading proposed there of F [instead of P] in line 4.

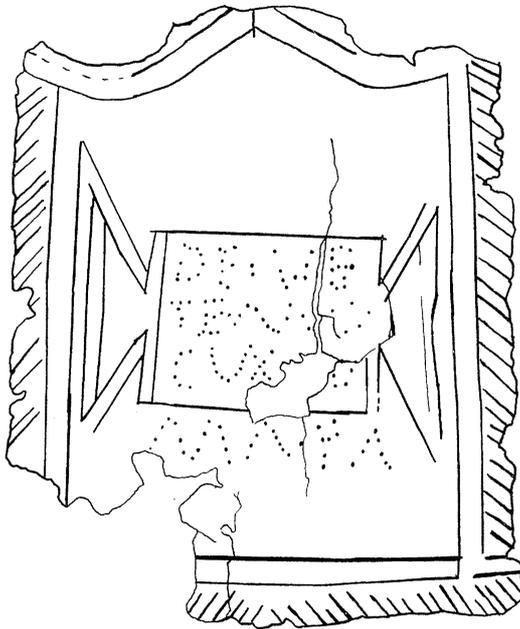


FIG. 12. Corrigendum (f), *RIB* II.3, 2431.3 (Thistleton). Scale 1:2.  
(Drawn by R.P. Wright in 1962)

<sup>87</sup> The cognomen PRIMI is preceded by an abbreviated nomen now VL, an error for IVL, VLP or VAL. All are possible with the accidental omission of one letter, but the nomina *Iulius* and *Valerius* are much more common than *Ulpus* among centurions, especially in the reign of Hadrian. There is no trace of ligatured VA, but between (I)VL and V(A)L there is little to choose; however, the century of Iulius Primus is already recorded just east of Birdoswald (*JRS* 48 (1958), 152, No. 10(f), and probably also by *RIB* 1369 (west of Benwell).

<sup>88</sup> By R.P. Wright for future publication in *RIB* III as 'monumental', which is why his drawing was overlooked when the item was included in *RIB* II as 'instrumentum domesticum'.

(g) **RIB II.3, 2433.1** (Waddon Hill) (FIG. 13). This bronze fragment was found, not in 1959, but during amateur excavation in the later nineteenth century.<sup>89</sup>

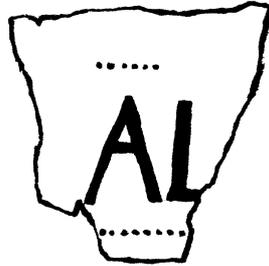


FIG. 13. Corrigendum (g), *RIB* II.3, 2433.1 (Waddon Hill). Scale 1:1.  
(Drawn by R.P. Wright in 1962)

#### ALIENVM

Buff sandstone altar (PL. XXIV and FIG. 14), 0.17 by 0.29 m, 0.13 m thick, with a *focus* cut in the top, and the die defined by a simple scratched moulding. Crudely incised on the die, in letters now rather worn: SERAPIDEO | MAGNO | SACRVM | CPETRONVS | CF<sup>Δ</sup>VEL | PAETVS ., *Serapi deo magno sacrum G(aius) Petron(ius) G(ai) f(ilius) Vel(ina tribu) Paetus [f(ecit)]*. ‘Sacred to the great god Serapis. Gaius Petronius Paetus, son of Gaius, of the *Velina* (tribe), made (this).’<sup>90</sup>

In 1983 this altar, said to be from Yorkshire, was in a private collection of sculpture in Sussex. In 1988, now said to have been found in Berwick-on-Tweed, it was sold through the trade to another private collector. In 1993 it was auctioned in London, and was bought by Peter Clayton, F.S.A., in whose possession it remains.<sup>91</sup>

The buff sandstone resembles that of many north-British inscriptions, but the British provenance, imprecise and shifting as it is, should be rejected for three reasons. (1) Only one altar dedicated to Serapis has yet been found in Britain.<sup>92</sup> (2) The formal nomenclature is out of place on such a small, informal dedication in Britain. (3) The name of the dedicator and the phrasing of his dedication suggest a connection with a large marble altar found near a tomb on the Via Salaria, Rome, in 1888: *Herculi | Primigenio | sacrum | G(aius) Petronius | G(ai) f(ilius) Vel(ina tribu) | Paetus f(ecit)*.<sup>93</sup>

<sup>89</sup> It belongs to the collection of antiquities from Waddon Hill formed by James Ralls of Bridport before 1895. Like the previous item it was classed as ‘monumental’ by R.P. Wright, and his draft *corrigendum* was overlooked when *RIB* II was compiled. We reproduce the drawing he made for *RIB* III, showing the embossed dots above and below AL[...]. He noted that there was no trace of a third letter.

<sup>90</sup> In line 4, NI was inscribed as N, perhaps by oversight. In lines 4 and 5, there is no trace of a medial point after C, but the surface is rather worn. Line 6 is badly worn, and the full reading is restored from *CIL* vi 30907 (see below, note 95).

<sup>91</sup> Mr Clayton made it available to RSOT. For the published details see the catalogue of Bonhams antiquities sale, 7 December 1993, Lot 16, and Fox & Co (Yeovil), antiquities catalogue No. 5, p. 6. Other information from David Brown, then of the Ashmolean Museum, Oxford, and from the two previous owners.

<sup>92</sup> *RIB* 762, cf. *RIB* 658 (the temple at York). This objection is not decisive, since the cult is quite well attested in Britain; see M. Henig, *Religion in Roman Britain* (1984), 114–15.

<sup>93</sup> *CIL* vi 30907 = *ILS* 3433, first published in *Notizie degli Scavi* 1888, p. 571, and *Bulletino della commissione archeologico comunale di Roma* 1888, p. 405.



FIG. 14. Alienum. Scale 1:4.  
(Drawn by R.S.O. Tomlin)

#### CHANGES OF LOCATION

(a) **RIB 1698, 1701, 1709, 1711, 1714** (Chesterholm / Vindolanda). These five inscriptions are no longer in the outside locations recorded by *RIB*, but inside the Museum at Vindolanda.<sup>94</sup>

(b) **RIB 2097** (Birrens). This altar was removed from the porch of Hoddum church after the fire of 1975, and is now stored at Dumfries Museum.<sup>95</sup>

#### FALSA

Wallsend Roman fort (*Segedunum*, NZ 300 660), east gate. When the east gate was excavated in 1912 before development, its stones were removed to Wallsend Park, but reinstated in the mid-1980s. In 1999 they were incorporated in the current layout of the fort site, when it was noticed that six large facing-stones from the northern portal carry small Roman numerals incised on the tail of the stone. Since these numerals were not reported in 1912, despite detailed observation at the time, and since they do not resemble the large numerals sometimes incised on the face of Roman stones from Hadrian's Wall, and since they follow the sequence of the stones as they were found in 1912, it is likely that they were added then as a guide to re-assembly.<sup>96</sup>

<sup>94</sup> Information from Robin Birley, Director of the Vindolanda Trust.

<sup>95</sup> Information from Siobhan Ratchford, Dumfries Museum.

<sup>96</sup> Information from W.B. Griffiths, Arbeia Roman Fort and Museum, South Shields.

PLATE XXI



*(Photo: National Museums of Scotland)*

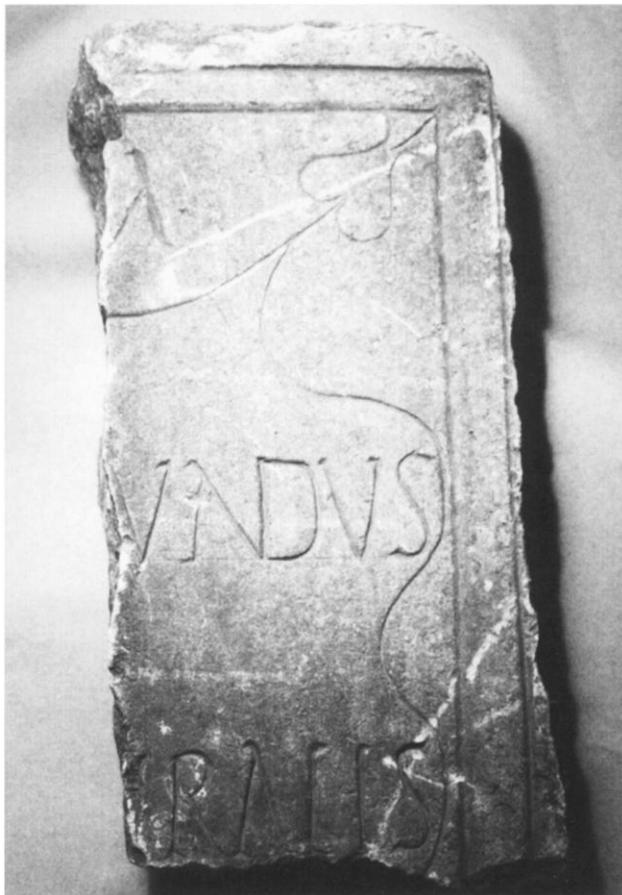
A. Statuette of Jupiter from Peebles (p. 384). Scale 1:1.



*(Photo: Carlisle Archaeology Ltd)*

B. Carlisle: the turf and timber rampart (indicated by the ranging poles) on the western side of the Flavian fort; facing south. To the left is the later Roman stone wall, and to the right is the medieval city wall. (p. 393)

PLATE XXII



(Photo: Mark Vine)

A. Wool: fragment of a tombstone (p. 433, No. 2), 0.21 m wide.



(Photo: Tyne and Wear Museums)

B. Hadrian's Wall, Wall Mile 22 (p. 436, No. 5), 0.35 m wide.



(Photo: Museum of London)

A. London. Fragment of an amphora with painted inscription (p. 440, No. 32).



(Photo: Institute of Archaeology, London)

B. Colchester. Fragment of an amphora with painted inscription (p. 438, No. 19).



*(Photo: Bonhams)*

Inscribed altar (p. 448, *Alienum*), 0.17 m wide.