

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

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

#### A. MONUMENTAL

1. **Keston** Roman villa (TQ 414 632), Greater London. Small fragment of a white marble panel, 53 by 40 mm, 14 mm thick, found<sup>2</sup> in 1987. It was in the fill of a Late Iron Age pit, but may have come from one of the two masonry mausolea associated with the villa: its back carries traces of brickly mortar, as if for insertion into a masonry structure. The face is smooth, and inscribed with part of two well-drawn letters with a setting-out line: [...] | [...]I[O] [...] | [...].<sup>3</sup>

2. **Colchester** (*Camulodunum*, TL 9925 2445), Garrison Urban Village, Essex (FIG. 1). Fragments of a Purbeck marble plaque 20 mm thick, found<sup>4</sup> in 2005 in the lower fill of the boundary ditch of the extramural cemetery. The largest fragment is only 130 by 110 mm, and like many of the smaller fragments is not inscribed, but three fragments are inscribed. Fragment (a), 75 by 11 mm, reads: [...] N̄T̄I | [...]N̄.<sup>5</sup> Fragment (b), 70 by 65 mm, reads: [...]TPI [...], presumably *t(estamento) p(oni) i(ussit)*, ‘... left instructions in his will for this to be set up’.<sup>6</sup> Fragment (c), 50 by 60 mm, reads: N̄[...].<sup>7</sup>

(for figure see following page)

<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 2, 8, 12–50, 54, 55; Dr Tomlin (RSOT) for the others, and for overall editing.

<sup>2</sup> During excavation by Kent Archaeological Rescue Unit directed by Brian Philp, who made it available. See also B. Philp, K. Parfitt, J. Willson and W. Williams, *The Roman Villa Site at Keston, Kent: Second Report (Excavations 1967 and 1978–1990)* (Kent Archaeological Rescue Unit, 1999), 97, No. 989, with 96 fig. 42.

<sup>3</sup> This is the likeliest reading, but the first letter might also be N, and the second letter Q, C or G. Reading it inverted as [...]DI[...] is also possible, but looks less likely.

<sup>4</sup> During excavation by the Colchester Archaeological Trust for the RPS Group on behalf of Taylor Woodrow, directed by Ben Holloway, who provided details. Philip Crummy, Director of the Trust, made them available and discussed them with MWCH.

<sup>5</sup> [...]ATI | [...]N might be read, but looks less likely.

<sup>6</sup> This would be the second British example of the formula: compare *RIB* 257 (Lincoln, pre-Flavian).

<sup>7</sup> If inverted, [...]N.

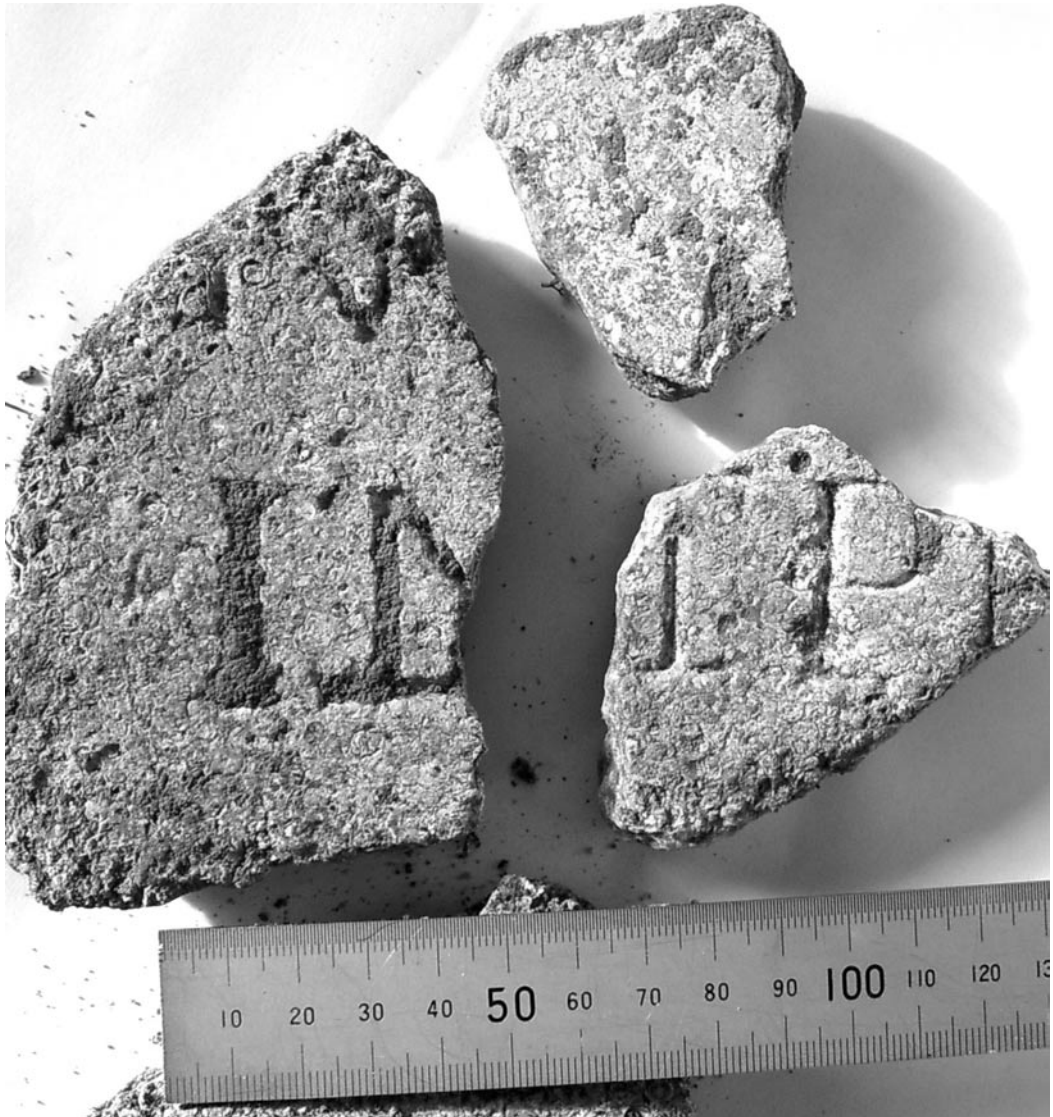


FIG. 1. Colchester, inscribed fragments (No. 2). The largest (inverted) is 75 mm wide.  
 (Photo: Colchester Archaeological Trust)

3. **Lancaster** (SD 47692 61263), Aldcliffe Road (FIGS 2 and 3). Fragmented tombstone of buff sandstone, 0.91 by *c.* 2.50 m overall, 0.17 m thick, found<sup>8</sup> in 2005 lying face-down in two pieces, *c.* 8 m from the Roman road (Margary 70d) leading south from the fort. The sculptured upper

<sup>8</sup> With the next item, during demolition of 19th-century buildings in advance of redevelopment by Tudor-Whelan Property Holdings. It was further damaged by their mechanical shovel (see *British Archaeology* 87 (CBA, March–

portion is virtually complete, and consists of two major with six minor conjoining fragments, 0.91 by *c.* 1.75 m, including most of the inscribed panel. There is also a detached undressed fragment, 0.91 m by 0.53 m, with many unplaced but probably conjoining minor fragments, which are almost certainly the base.<sup>9</sup>

The carving is comparatively crude and naive, but vigorous and full of well-observed detail. The rounded gable is decorated with a double border, S-figures above a zigzag, with a frontal head of Sol or a Gorgon in the apex. In the recessed panel below is the figure of the deceased, a Roman auxiliary cavalryman, his face turned towards the spectator. His head wears a helmet with cheek-pieces, crowned by a central tuft and two flanking plumes.<sup>10</sup> His body wears a cloak pinned with a rosette-brooch, over a baldric (but no visible scabbard) and a mail or leather jerkin, breeches and short boots. He holds a shield in his left hand; in his right, below the broad bracelet on his wrist, a short sword.<sup>11</sup> He also holds a detached human head by its hair.<sup>12</sup> His rearing horse is a stallion, its teeth clenched on the bit; reins, breast-collar, tasselled breeching strap and saddle cloth are all depicted, but not the saddle. The horse tramples a kneeling human figure which is naked and headless, but still holding a shield in its left hand, and a sword in its right.

The inscribed panel below, 0.91 by 0.28 m, is quite plain. It has lost almost all of both sides, but a small part of the undressed bottom margin remains. The text was inscribed between setting-out lines, 55 mm apart for line 2, 45 mm for line 3, 50 mm for line 4. The tall, stylish lettering was evidently inscribed with a brush or broad pen, then cut skilfully with a chisel; I, with its bold upward serif, resembles T, the cross-bar of which tends to the right; L is drawn with a short diagonal second stroke branching from the first before its termination. The text reads: DIS | MANIBVS INSVS VODVLLI | [...]IVS CIVE TREVER EQVES ALAE AVG | [...] VICTORIS CVRATOR DOMITIA [2–3], *Dis | Manibus Insus Vodulli | [fil]ius cive(s) Trever eques alae Aug(ustae) | [t(urma)] Victoris curator Domitia [?h(eres) f(aciundum) c(uravit)]*. ‘To the shades of the dead. Insus son of Vodullus, citizen of the Treveri, cavalryman of the *ala Augusta*, troop of Victor, *curator*. Domitia his heir had this set up.’<sup>13</sup>

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April 2006), 6, for a photograph as discovered), but the fragments were collected by Peter Iles and the University of Manchester Archaeology Unit, directed by Mike Nevell, and are now stored temporarily in the Lancashire County Museum, Preston, where Stephen Bull and Heather Davis made them available and provided information. At present they belong to the developer, but it is hoped to buy them for Lancaster City Museum.

<sup>9</sup> Cleaning, conservation and assembly are reserved for when the tombstone has been bought by the Museum, but in view of its importance, we offer an interim report. It will be fully published by Paul Holder, who examined it with RSOT. The latter has also discussed it with David Shotter and Ben Edwards.

<sup>10</sup> For a similar plumed helmet, see the cavalry tombstone of Flavinus at Hexham (*RIB* 1172). Mars is thus represented in *RIB* 1284 (*CSIR* i.1, No. 297), *RIB* 2200 (*CSIR* i.4, No. 150), *RIB* II.4, 2543.4 (*CSIR* i.5, No. 9), and probably *CSIR* i.7, No. 53.

<sup>11</sup> This resembles the infantry thrusting-sword rather than a long cavalry-sword, but its shortness may have been artistic convention, so as not to obscure the horse’s elaborate mane and neck. Although the cavalry carried a sword, it is very unusual for a cavalryman to be represented on his tombstone holding one, instead of thrusting down with a lance. There are two instances in M. Schleiermacher, *Römische Reitergrabsteine: die kaiserzeitlichen Reliefs des triumphierenden Reiters* (1984), and both are associated with beheading. Tiberius Claudius Maximus (No. 98) is about to behead King Decebalus, as the epitaph emphasises; and a fragment (No. 83), probably of British provenance, shows the rider with his foot on the kneeling figure’s head (all that is visible of him), about to swing his sword.

<sup>12</sup> This feature is unique, the head taken as a trophy from a headless kneeling figure; there is no instance in Schleiermacher (cited above, n. 11). But head-hunting is said by ancient authors to be characteristic of Gallic cavalry, the classic illustration being Trajan’s Column, Casts 57 and 60: see F. Lepper and S. Frere, *Trajan’s Column* (1988), 70 and 72 (citing Diodorus, Livy and Strabo). The Bridgeness distance slab (*RIB* 2139, better illustrated as *CSIR* i.4, No. 68) likewise depicts a plumed cavalryman on a stallion riding down four barbarians, one of whom is decapitated.

<sup>13</sup> Compare *RIB* 606+add. (Lancaster), the lost tombstone of L(ucius) Jul(ius) Apollinaris, *Trever an(norum)*





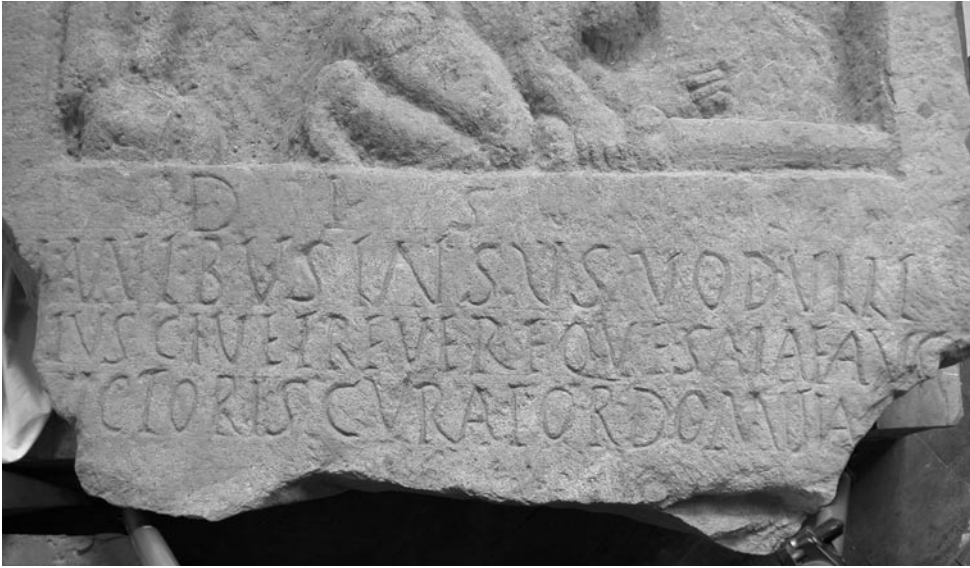


FIG. 3(a). Lancaster, text of inscribed tombstone (No. 3). Width: 0.91 m.  
*(Photo: R.S.O. Tomlin)*



FIG. 3(b). Lancaster, text of inscribed tombstone (No. 3). Width: 0.91 m.  
*(Drawn by R.S.O. Tomlin)*

FIG. 2 (opposite). Lancaster, inscribed tombstone (No. 3). Width: 0.91 m.  
*(Photo: R.S.O. Tomlin)*

4. Ibid. (FIG. 4). Small fragment of a buff sandstone tombstone, 0.18 by 0.20 m, 0.075 m thick, found with the previous item. It preserves part of the last line inscribed on a smoothed-off panel, with a space below and part of the upper edge of the undressed base. The letters are crudely incised and irregular (40–50 mm high): [...] | [...]NOXV[...], [...] | [... an]no(rum) XV[...]. ‘... aged 15 [or more] years.’<sup>14</sup>

*XXX eq(ues) alae Au[gustae]*. The new discovery confirms the *ala Augusta* (see below) as the first garrison. Both epitaphs, in view of their unabbreviated *Dis Manibus*, are Flavio-Trajanic; and probably Domitianic, since they post-date the founding of the fort in A.D. 75/80, but commemorate serving members who are likely to have joined the unit in the Rhineland before it came to Britain. Note also (by line):

2–3, *Insus Vodulli [fil]ius*. The names of Insus and his father seem to be unique. Both are presumably Treveran, but no instance is known to L. Weisgerber, ‘Die Namen der Treverer’, *Rheinisches Museum für Philologie* 84 (1935), 296–359, nor to J. Krier, *Die Treverer ausserhalb ihrer Civitas: Mobilität und Aufstieg* (1981). *Insus*, however, is implicit in the unique nomen of *Sex(tus) Insus Rufus b(ene)ff(iciarius) co(n)s(ularis)* at Cologne (*CIL* xiii 12035). *Issus* or *Issius* has been read as the name of a cavalry decurion in *CIL* vi 31187 (*ILS* 2193), but this is doubtful: see M.P. Speidel, *Die Denkmäler der Kaiserreiter Equites Singulares Augusti* (1994), 71–3, No. 44.

3, *cive(s)*. An alternative form of *civis*, and frequent in epitaphs; for Britain, compare the cavalry tombstones *RIB* 108 and 159. The form *cives Trever* is well attested elsewhere, for example in *CIL* iii 4391, the epitaph of the cavalryman Flavius Attius. The omission of the final S seems to be a slip without phonetic significance, perhaps by confusion with the equivalent formula *natione Trever* (*CIL* xiii 6235); note that *eques* is correctly spelled.

3, *alae Augustae*. The identity of this unit is uncertain, but has been much discussed: see for example Edwards in *Cumb. Westm.* n.s. 71 (1971), 23–5; Breeze and Austen in *Arch. Ael.* 5th ser. 7 (1979), 115–126; P.A. Holder, *The Roman Army in Britain* (1982), 107–12; G.D.B. Jones and D.C.A. Shotter, *Roman Lancaster* (1988), 214–15; Jarrett in *Britannia* 25 (1994), 38–45 (Nos. 1, 5, 8 and 18); Krier (cited above), 123–5. The title *Augusta* was borne by three or four *alae* in Britain, but (1) the *ala Petriana* may be disregarded, since it was based at Corbridge in the Flavio-Trajanic period, and only became *Augusta* later, to judge by the silence of diplomas. The likeliest candidate by name is the *ala Augusta ob virtutem appellata*, which is unattested until it became the first (Hadrianic) garrison of Chesters (*Britannia* 10 (1979), 346, No. 7), and is presumably the *al(a) Au(gusta)* of *RIB* II.1, 2411.81 (Chesters). It retained its name (compare *RIB* 903, 897), but is not named in any diploma, which has prompted identification with (3), the *ala Augusta Gallorum Proculiana*, which figures in four diplomas but no inscriptions; these diplomas include that of A.D. 146, which was found at Chesters and was probably issued to a veteran of one of the three *alae* it lists, of which this is the only *Augusta*. The other possibility is (4), the *ala Augusta Vocontiorum*, which certainly recruited Treveri (*CIL* xiii 8655, and compare *AE* 1973, 361, its Trajanic(?) prefect), but which was in Lower Germany during the Flavian period, and probably under Trajan; it is first listed in Britain by the diploma of A.D. 122. It also retained its name (compare *RIB* 2121), so an abbreviated description of it as ALA AVG is difficult.

4, *[t(turma)] Victoris*. There was a troop of this name in the contemporary *ala Sebosiana* at Carlisle (*Tab. Luguval.* 1, 38–9), but the name *Victor* was understandably popular with soldiers.

4, *curator*. A junior NCO (*immunis*) who might deputise for the decurion, judging by the *renuntium* formula at Vindolanda (*Tab. Vindol.* 127, 128, 574), where *optiones* and *curatores* report on state of readiness ‘including baggage’, but his duties are not really known. He was quite junior, judging by *CIL* viii 2094 (*ILS* 2518), the career of a *signifer turmae* who had already been *curator* and then *armorum custos*.

4, *Domitia*. The crowding of letters and the space to the right suggest that the name is complete, and not *Domitia[nus]*. The nomen *Domitia*, like *Domitius*, is quite frequent as a cognomen or single name: see *TLL Onomasticon*, s.v. *Domitius*, and note especially *CIL* xiii 633 (Bordeaux, A.D. 258), the epitaph of *Domitia, civis Trever*.

4, *[h(eres) f(aciundum) c(uravit)]*. *Domitia* was evidently responsible for Insus’ tombstone, and thus his heir. She may have been his sister (compare *CIL* xiii 8655, the epitaph of another Treveran *alaris* buried by his sister and heir), but an informal ‘wife’ is more likely: compare the will of the cavalryman Antonius Silvanus (*CPL* 221, A.D. 142), which makes his son his sole heir, but orders that his property be collected and given to Antonia Thermutha, ‘the mother of my heir’. *Domitia*’s relationship is not specified, but the epitaph would have concluded with an abbreviated statement of her responsibility as heir, *h(eres)*. *H F C* is a much more common formula than *H P (h(eres) p(osuit))*, but it would have been rather crowded, and would have extended further to the right than *AVG* in the line above. The epitaph is unusual in not stating Insus’ age or years of service.

<sup>14</sup> There is not quite enough space to the right to be sure that the numeral is complete, but it must have been less than ‘20’.



FIG. 4. Lancaster, inscribed fragment of a tombstone (No. 5). Width: 0.20 m.  
(Drawn by R.S.O. Tomlin)

5. **Old Carlisle** (perhaps *Maglona*, NY 259 463), Cunningarth Farm. Part of a red sandstone building-stone, 0.26 by 0.18 m, 0.24 m thick, found in 1992 re-used in a barn wall.<sup>15</sup> The top and right-hand edges are original, and so is the squared-off face. The coarsely-cut moulding is on a slightly different axis, and seems to be secondary. Letters now faint have been shallowly incised into it within a scratched ansate panel, of which the right-hand portion survives: [...] | [...]OC | [...]A<sup>16</sup>

6. **Vindolanda or Chesterholm** (NY 770 663), Northumberland (FIG. 5). Left-hand half of a buff sandstone building-stone, 0.18 by 0.18 m, 0.30 m deep, found<sup>17</sup> in 2005 re-used in the western wall of Stone Fort I. This wall was re-built in the second half of the second century. The text is inscribed within a recessed ansate panel of which only the left-hand *ansa* survives, with a roundel in each of the three triangles formed. The text reads: COH I[...] | 7 CAESSEN[...] |

<sup>15</sup> It has been donated to Tullie House (acc. no. 1994.24.2), where Tim Padley made it available, and Ian Caruana has noted it as No. 63 (at p. 25) in C. Richardson, 'A catalogue of recent acquisitions to Tullie House Museum and reported finds from the Cumbrian area 1990–1996. Part I: Tullie House accessions', *Cumb. Westm.* n.s. 98 (1998), 1–60.

<sup>16</sup> Line 1, two vertical strokes, followed by a space. Line 3, the letter A, followed by two vertical strokes. Only the provenance suggests the inscription is Roman.

<sup>17</sup> During consolidation by the Vindolanda Trust. Robin Birley sent a photograph and other details. The stone is now in the Museum.

FAESTI *vacat* | FEC[...], *coh(ortis) I[?II]* | (*centuria*) *Caes<s>en[ni] F<a>esti fec[it]*.<sup>18</sup> ‘Of the Third Cohort, the century of Caesennius Festus built (this).’



FIG. 5. Vindolanda, inscribed building-stone (No. 6). Width: 0.18 m.  
(Photo: Vindolanda Trust)

## B. INSTRUMENTUM DOMESTICUM

### CHESHIRE

7. **Middlewich** (*Salinae*, SJ 703 665), King Street (FIG. 6). Two conjoining sherds comprising almost the whole of a samian cup (Drag. 33, C.G.) stamped TTI OFFIC (Ruttus 1a, Lezoux, c. A.D. 150–75), found<sup>19</sup> in a Roman context in 2001. Scratched<sup>20</sup> on the side above the carination while the cup was inverted: KA, *Ka(rus)* for *Carus*, or similar.<sup>21</sup>

<sup>18</sup> The centurion is otherwise unknown. His nomen is probably Etruscan in origin (Schulze, *Eigennamen*, 135), but is usually written with single S; for two exceptions, see *CIL* vi 2926 and vi 17744. The cognomen *Festus* is frequent, and the spelling here is ‘hyper-correct’, but for two more examples, see *CIL* xi 460, *Faeste* (for *Festae*), and *AE* 1993, 1352, *Faestus*. The certain restoration of line 2 gives the approximate width of the inscribed panel, and thus of the whole stone, c. 0.30 by 0.18 m. It follows that the numeral in line 1 was probably III (but just possibly a cramped IIII or IV), and that *fecit* in 3 was not abbreviated: the closing of E towards C, compared with the space between F and E, suggests that the mason was pressed for space.

Hadrianic ‘centurial’ stones from the Wall and its forts do not include the verb *fecit*, so this stone must be later; it is probably Antonine, and associated with the recommissioning of the Wall; compare *Britannia* 9 (1978), 474, No. 9 (Bewcastle), and *Britannia* 12 (1981), 380, No. 14 (Vindolanda). This dating is supported by the elaborate ansation, and the stone’s likely context.

<sup>19</sup> During excavation by L-P Archaeology, Chester, for Fairclough Homes: compare *Britannia* 32 (2001), 348. The vessel was identified by Brenda Dickinson, and Margaret Ward made it available to RSOT.

<sup>20</sup> The first diagonal of K was accidentally extended. Where it cuts the vertical stroke, there is a short horizontal mark (not drawn) which resembles a deliberate stroke, but it is only a flaw in the surface.

<sup>21</sup> Compare *RIB* II.7, 281, KAR[...] and 282, KARVS. Other possibilities, but less likely, include *Ka(lpurnianus)* (compare *RIB* 1655) and *Ka(rinus)*. The spelling KA is much less common than CA, although it was recommended by Roman grammarians: see J.N. Adams, *The Vulgar Latin of the Letters of Claudius Terentianus* (1977), 32–3.





FIG. 6. Middlewich, inscribed samian cup (No. 7).  
(Drawn by R.S.O. Tomlin)

8. **Nantwich** (SJ 650 525), Snow Hill car park. Half a samian cup (Drag. 27) stamped [A]VENTINI (Aventinus of Lezoux, c. A.D. 150-60), found<sup>22</sup> in 2004. Scratched on the lower part of the exterior above the footring, inverted with respect to the rim: IMIRP[...], [...] *Primi* (retrograde), '(property) of Primus'.

#### CUMBRIA

9. **Scalesceugh** (NY 449 496), Roman military tiler. Two tiles bearing the impressed stamp IMP (*RIB* II.5, 2483), apparently found in the river bank below the site, soon after it was excavated in 1970-71.<sup>23</sup> One is a complete flat tile, 380 by 230 mm, 30-45 mm thick, the other is one end of a broken *tegula*, 355 by 240 mm, 25 mm thick, with incomplete stamp. The IMP stamp has mostly been found at Carlisle, and these are the first examples from the tiler, which strongly suggests that they were made here and were thus 'imperial'.<sup>24</sup>

#### ESSEX

10. **Roxwell** (TL 63 07). Rectangular copper-alloy plate, perhaps a jeweller's test piece or die, 33 by 19 mm, 5 mm thick, 20.65 gm in weight, found<sup>25</sup> in 1997. It is engraved at one end with a pair of clasped hands set within a circular border of dots. At the other end is an engraved portrait

<sup>22</sup> During construction work on the electricity substation by D. Mooney of QuFab Construction, in whose possession it remains. Malcolm Reid provided MWCH with details, including rubbings, a colour photograph, and the identification of the stamp by Felicity Wild. For the site, see Reid's report in *J. Chester Arch. Soc.* 79 (2004), 25-36.

<sup>23</sup> G.G.S. Richardson, 'The Roman tiler, Scalesceugh, 1970-1971', *Cumb. Westm.* n.s. 73 (1973), 79-89.

<sup>24</sup> Full information from Ian Caruana, on behalf of Tim Padley at Tullie House Museum and Art Gallery, Carlisle, where they have recently been deposited with three other flat tiles from the site, complete but unstamped.

<sup>25</sup> By R. Abbott, and reported under the Portable Antiquities Scheme. Sally Worrell sent details and a drawing. See further, pp. 454-5, No. 23 above.

of a Roman emperor, probably Julian (A.D. 355–363), diademed and facing left. Along one edge is engraved: SABATIV, *Sabatiu(s)*.<sup>26</sup>

#### LINCOLNSHIRE

11. **Osbourneby** (TF 08 38). Most of the bow of a copper-alloy ‘knee’ brooch, found<sup>27</sup> in 2005. It is moulded with integral inscription for an enamel background: VTEREFELI[.], *utere felix*.<sup>28</sup> ‘Use (this and be) happy.’

#### LONDON

12. **The City** (*Londinium*, TQ 532756 180763), 12 Arthur Street. Half a samian cup (Drag. 27, S.G.), found<sup>29</sup> in 1997 in dumped material of c. A.D. 120–50 behind the third waterfront. A complete graffito cut below the rim reads: NI, *Ni(ger)* or *Ni(grinus)*.<sup>30</sup>

13. *Ibid.* Two conjoining sherds from the base of a samian platter (Drag. 18 R) illegibly stamped CNII[...], found in 1997 in the remains of a Roman building dated to the second half of the first century. A graffito underneath within the footring reads: SIICV[...], probably *Secu[ndus]* or a cognate name.

14. *Ibid.* (TQ 532 181), 35 Basinghall Street. Base of a samian dish (Drag. 15/17), found<sup>31</sup> in 2005. A complete graffito underneath within the footring reads: ΛH or (*inverted*) HV.

15. *Ibid.* (TQ 53228 18133), 2–12 Gresham Street. Part of the rim and neck of an amphora (Dressel 28), found<sup>32</sup> in 1997 in a cess-pit with material dated c. A.D. 80–130. A painted inscription on the neck reads XXV | *traces*, ‘25’.

16. *Ibid.* Amphora sherd, found in a destruction layer. A graffito, possibly cut before firing, and perhaps complete at beginning and end, reads: [... ]TRI[...].

17. *Ibid.* Amphora handle, found on the floor of a building dating from c. A.D. 120. A graffito cut after firing reads: V II X, probably *VII (modii) X (sextarii)*.<sup>33</sup>

18. *Ibid.* Two conjoining sherds from the rim of an amphora, found with dumped material of early to mid second-century date. A graffito cut after firing reads: VIII, perhaps ‘8 (*modii*)’.<sup>34</sup>

<sup>26</sup> The name is apparently incomplete because there was no room for the final letter. It is usually spelled *Sabbatius*, and is typically late Roman and Christian; this is the first instance from Britain.

<sup>27</sup> By T. Camm, in whose possession it remains, who reported it under the Portable Antiquities Scheme. Sally Worrell sent details and a drawing by D. Watt.

<sup>28</sup> From the same mould (or one very similar) as *RIB* II.3, 2421.56–8.

<sup>29</sup> During excavation by MoLAS for Shieldpoint Ltd, directed by Dave Bowsher. Rupert Featherby of MoLAS sent details of this and the next item.

<sup>30</sup> For the abbreviation, compare *CIL* vi 3279, *Nig(...)* *Marinianus natione Britannicianus*. ΛVI could also be read, to be understood as *avi*, ‘for the bird’, but the idea of a Romano-British equivalent of Lesbia’s ‘sparrow’ (Catullus 2 and 3, a bullfinch according to J.M.C. Toynbee, *Animals in Roman Life and Art* (1973), 278) is attractive but unlikely. A bird is depicted on a samian dish from Carlisle (*Britannia* 28 (1997), 462, fig. 4).

<sup>31</sup> During excavation by MoLAS for Stanhope plc, directed by Sophie Jackson. Beth Richardson of MoLAS sent details.

<sup>32</sup> During excavation by MoLAS for Standard Life, directed by Sophie Jackson and Dick Malt. Rupert Featherby of MoLAS sent details of this and the next thirteen items.

<sup>33</sup> This note of capacity would be typical of a Dressel 20 (see *RIB* II.6, p. 33), but the sherd was not identified.

<sup>34</sup> The last digit(?) is angled, like a modern ‘7’ reversed. It looks more like the end of a numeral than open A, or an incomplete S (for *semis*).

19. Ibid. Amphora handle, found in the make-up layer of a building dating from *c.* A.D. 120. A graffito cut before firing reads: VIII, probably *VIII (modii)*.

20. Ibid. Rim sherd of an amphora, found in a make-up level with material of early to mid-second-century date. A graffito cut after firing reads: VIII[...], probably *VIII (modii)*.<sup>35</sup>

21. Ibid. Amphora handle stamped TAASTAC, found as residual material in a late Roman pit.<sup>36</sup> A graffito cut after firing reads: IIII, '4'.<sup>37</sup>

22. Ibid. Three conjoining sherds from the handle of a flagon in pinkish-cream fabric, found as residual material in a medieval dump. A graffito cut vertically along the handle reads: XII, '12'.

23. Ibid. Two conjoining sherds from the handle of a flagon, found in a rubbish pit with mid-second-century material. A graffito cut vertically along the handle reads: XIII, '14'.

24. Ibid. Strap handle of a flagon in hard buff fabric, found in a make-up layer dated *c.* A.D. 130. A graffito cut after firing along the edge of the handle reads: IVXXX[...], perhaps '36' (or more) retrograde.<sup>38</sup>

25. Ibid. (FIG. 7). Base of a black burnished (BB 1) pot, found in a refuse pit in a building dated A.D. 130/40. A graffito cut after firing on the underside reads: BRIGI XI, '(property) of Brigius ...'<sup>39</sup>

FIG. 7. London, 12 Arthur Street, pot graffito (No. 25). Scale 1:1.  
(Drawn by M.W.C. Hassall)

26. Ibid. Sherd from a jar or flagon in pink fabric with white slip, found in occupation debris within a building dated *c.* A.D. 80–120. A graffito cut probably on the underside of the base reads: HERM[...].<sup>40</sup>

<sup>35</sup> VIII[I] is a possible reading, but this would be rather large for a Dressel 20.

<sup>36</sup> For the stamp, see M.H. Callender, *Roman Amphorae* (1965), No. 1696.

<sup>37</sup> The other (missing) handle may have also carried a numeral, the two numerals representing the capacity in *modii* and *sextarii* respectively. If so, '4' is likely to be the number of *sextarii*, since this would be too few *modii* for a Dressel 20. See further, *RIB* II.6, pp. 33–4.

<sup>38</sup> Alternatively it could be read inverted as IAXXX[...].

<sup>39</sup> XI is apparently a numeral, '11'. *Brigi|ni* cannot be read (compare *RIB* II.2, 2419.87, 88 and 5, 2491.81), but for *Brigius* from which it derives, compare *CIL* iii 5708, *Brigia Brigif(ilia)*, etc.

<sup>40</sup> A Greek personal name, for example *Hermagoras*.

27. Ibid. Base of a greyware jar or beaker attributed to the period A.D. 120–40, found in occupation debris within another building (not that of the previous item). A graffito lightly inscribed underneath after firing, around the circumference, reads: MIDNGIV X.

28. Ibid. Two sherds from the rim, neck and shoulder of a large storage vessel in coarse sand-tempered grey ware, found in a dump dating to c. A.D. 130. Both sherds carry a graffito cut after firing on the shoulder. (a) P C  $\overline{XV}$ [...]. (b) [...].P C XXV[...]. Perhaps *p(ondo uncias) CXV*, ‘weight 115 ounces’.<sup>41</sup>

29. Ibid. (TQ 532403 181286), 20–30 Gresham Street. Rim and neck of a Gallic amphora, found<sup>42</sup> in 1997 in a quarry pit dating to c. A.D. 70–80. An inscription painted vertically on the neck reads: CEFVT

30. Ibid. Rim and neck of a Dressel 20 amphora, found in a rubbish deposit dating to c. AD 70–100. A graffito cut after firing on the rim reads: M VII, *m(odii) VII*.

31. Ibid. Base of a jar or beaker, perhaps in Highgate Wood ware ‘C’, found in the filling of a well in use during A.D. 120–200. A graffito (complete) on the underside of the base reads: B X.<sup>43</sup>

32. Ibid. Sherd from the rim and shoulder of a fineware beaker from a disturbed area. A graffito cut after firing just below the rim reads: IANV[...], *Ianu[arius]*.

33. Ibid. Complete wooden head-piece of half a barrel, probably larch or silver fir, found<sup>44</sup> in 2001 set into the London Clay at the base of a square, timber-lined well shaft 2.6 m deep, dated by dendrochronology to A.D. 63–4, together with traces of a water-lifting machine.<sup>45</sup> The head-piece is 1.2 m in diameter, and consists of five boards (1–5) up to 0.03 m thick. Three of them carry graffiti, and one (3, the central board), two identical stamps. (a) Board 2, scored into the surface: X. (b) Board 3, scored into the surface: QLC, probably *Q(uintus) L(... ) C(...)*. (c) Board 3, scored into the surface: XX P. (d) Board 3, stamped: MΔI R within a scored circle. (e) Board 3, stamped again: MΔI R.<sup>46</sup> (f) Board 3, stamped underneath: [... ]I[...], presumably [MΔ]I[ R] once more. (g) Board 4, scored into the surface: TIIRTIVŠ, *Tertius*.<sup>47</sup>

34. Ibid. (TQ 53295 18125), 40–53 Threadneedle Street and 1–18 Old Broad Street (Lion Plaza). Base of a flagon in pinkish-buff fabric, found<sup>48</sup> in 1998 with mid-second-century dumped material. On the underside a graffito has been scored following the curved edge of the base: ACITATIS.<sup>49</sup>

<sup>41</sup> This interpretation assumes that both graffiti are substantially complete. In (b), the final character looks like the first stroke of V, but VV is difficult as part of a numeral; perhaps it was added in error, or was meant for I. If units of weight are intended, they must have been ounces (c. 27 gm each), not pounds.

<sup>42</sup> During excavation by MoLAS for Standard Life, directed by Sophie Jackson and Dick Malt. Rupert Featherby of MoLAS sent details of this and the next three items.

<sup>43</sup> Presumably the owner’s initial and a mark of identification.

<sup>44</sup> During excavation by MoLAS for Land Securities, directed by Ian Blair and Bruce Watson. Bruce Watson sent details and a drawing by Faith Vardy.

<sup>45</sup> The barrel’s function is uncertain, but it may have been a silt trap, or the lining of a well or sump dug to test the aquifer and assist in draining the shaft during its construction (see pp.12–13).

<sup>46</sup> The drawing suggests there is space for a second stop (not drawn) between I and R. If so, this is presumably an abbreviated *tria nomina*: *M(arcus) I(ulius?) R(...)*.

<sup>47</sup> The graffito resembles TIIRTIIDB, but the last two letters apparently coincide with a primary (or secondary) graffito V.

<sup>48</sup> During excavation by MoLAS for Lionheart Properties PTE Ltd, directed by David Lakin. Rupert Featherby of MoLAS sent details of this and the next two items.

<sup>49</sup> The graffito is apparently complete, so not [*cap*]acitatis, but the penultimate letter is uncertain; it could also be A, E, or even Æ.

35. *Ibid.* Sherds from the neck and body of a flagon, perhaps in black-burnished (BB 1) ware, found in the fill of a quarry pit with mid-second-century material. A graffito cut after firing on the body just below the neck reads: [...]MON.<sup>50</sup>

36. *Ibid.* Body sherd of a Dressel 20 amphora, found in the make-up layer beneath a Roman building perhaps of mid-second-century date. A painted inscription reads: TESTVLL[...] | ALOSANI | T M S.<sup>51</sup>

37. *Ibid.* (TQ 531989 181242), Paternoster Square. Amphora sherd found<sup>52</sup> in 2000 in a pit with material dated to *c.* A.D. 120–150. The sherd carries two unrelated graffiti. (a) Cut before firing on the shoulder below the handle: LA[...]. (b) faintly incised, probably after firing: NIGII[...], *Nige[r]*.

38. *Ibid.* Rim sherd of a Dressel 20 amphora, found in the fill of a gully with pottery dated *c.* A.D. 120–140. A graffito cut on the rim after firing reads: [...]IMV[...].<sup>53</sup>

39. *Ibid.* Sherd from a necked jar, found in a dump with pottery dated *c.* A.D. 70–100. A graffito cut after firing on the shoulder reads: [...]ANA.

40. *Ibid.* Sherd of a Dressel 20 amphora, found in a make-up layer with pottery dated *c.* A.D. 70–100. A graffito cut on the body of the vessel, probably after firing, reads: [...]VI. V is barred, so this is probably a numeral, ‘6’ (or more).

41. *Ibid.* (TQ 533180 180870), 30–38 Fenchurch Street, 23 Rood Lane, 53 Great Tower Street (Plantation House and Millocrat House). Sherd from a samian dish (Drag. 15/17 or 18) stamped IRTNVS F (retrograde), found<sup>54</sup> in 2000 as residual material in a rubbish pit with pottery dated to the early second century. A graffito cut after firing on the underside of the base reads: MAR[...] or MAX[...].<sup>55</sup>

42. *Ibid.* Part of a samian dish (Drag. 15/17), found in a pit with mid-first-century material. A graffito cut on the underside of the vessel outside the footring reads: SOLV[...].<sup>56</sup>

43. *Ibid.* Part of a samian dish (S.G.), no stamp preserved, found as residual material in a post-medieval rubbish pit. A graffito cut after firing underneath the base within the footring reads: VITALIS, ‘(property) of Vitalis’.

44. *Ibid.* Sherd from the base of a samian dish (Drag. 18), found with pottery dated *c.* A.D. 70–100. A graffito cut after firing on the underside of the base reads: [...]GIL[...], perhaps [*In*]ge[nuus].

45. *Ibid.* Sherd from the base of a Dressel 20 amphora, found in a pit with pottery dated A.D. 50–100. Cut before firing on the side of the basal spike: M

46. *Ibid.* Amphora sherd found in a dump on a roadway with pottery dated A.D. 70–100. A graffito lightly scored after firing on the wall reads: TRIA

<sup>50</sup> Perhaps an abbreviated personal name, for example *Montanus*. NOV[...] could be read inverted, but then the flagon would be upside-down. The reading [...]AON is also possible, but the vowel-sequence would be un-Latin.

<sup>51</sup> In line 1, TV might also be read as BI or RI, so a reference to *testul<l>[a]*, diminutive of *testa* (‘jar’), is only a possibility.

<sup>52</sup> During excavation by MoLAS for Stanhope plc, directed by Ian Blair and Sadie Watson. Fiona Seeley of MoLAS sent details of this and the next three items, and facilitated study of all the London items published here.

<sup>53</sup> The initial I makes it difficult to read this as *m(odii) V[...]*.

<sup>54</sup> With the next six items during excavation by MoLAS for British Land plc, directed by Trevor Brigham. Fiona Seeley of MoLAS sent details.

<sup>55</sup> The graffito may be complete, and the name abbreviated; possible names include *Marinus*, *Martialis* and *Maximus*.

<sup>56</sup> The first letter might possibly be P.



47. *Ibid.* Sherd from the neck and rim of a Dressel 20 amphora, found in the fill of a medieval pit. Cut before firing: X.<sup>57</sup>

LONDON (outside the walls)

48. Spitalfields Market, Bishopsgate (TQ 3346 8189). Complete motto beaker in Moselkeramik (a dark brown/black surface slip), found<sup>58</sup> in 1997 in a grave (Burial 118) in the northern cemetery of Roman London. Inscribed around it in white slip, within a zone defined by two trails of white slip, are three letters or symbols separated by roundels, and space for a fourth. There is no letter or symbol here, only four spots which have been lightly abraded into the surface, perhaps as keying for white slip that was never applied. Joined up, they would resemble a modern '7'. The starting-point is not indicated, but the sequence runs: I o E o D o 7 o

49. *Ibid.* Twelve fragments of a hemispherical facet-cut cup of colourless glass, original rim diameter *c.* 120 mm, circumference *c.* 360 mm, *c.* 120 mm high. The cup, which is third- or early fourth-century, was found<sup>59</sup> in 1998 in the fourth-century fill of a timber mausoleum in the northern cemetery of Roman London, and was probably redeposited from an earlier grave. It had an out-turned rim, the edge of which had broken off and been subsequently ground smooth. Below this rim was an inscription of eleven or twelve letters around the cup, of which only seven survive (see below), aligned horizontally by a setting-out line now abraded. Other abraded horizontal lines exist elsewhere on the body. Below this inscription on the convex body of the cup are two bands of narrow oval facets ('rice facets'), and lower still, towards the base, a band of circular facets with semi-circular lines, possibly swags, and double rice facets. Two pairs of letters occur on the same fragment, but otherwise the sequence of letters is uncertain. The two pairs of letters are: S C and E C (*or* E O). The three solitary letters are A, S, and I (*or* P).

GREATER LONDON

50. **Brockley Hill** (*Sulloniaca*, TQ 36 75) (FIG. 8). Substantial part of a mould-blown blue/green square bottle found<sup>60</sup> in 2003 as six conjoining fragments in the upper fill of a well. The bottle has a finely reeded handle and a circular moulding on the base, either side of which are two sets of three letters within a square frame. These can be read horizontally as three sets of two, CS, VC and MM, or vertically as two sets of three: CVM, SCM. The latter seems more likely.<sup>61</sup>

<sup>57</sup> A mark of identification or a numeral ('10').

<sup>58</sup> During excavation by MoLAS for Spitalfields Development Group, the Corporation of London, International Finance Futures and Options Exchange, ABN Amro Bank, St George's plc and Mercury Asset Management Ltd, directed by Chris Thomas. Rupert Featherby of MoLAS sent details.

<sup>59</sup> During excavation by MoLAS for the same clients as in n. 58 above, directed by Chris Thomas. Angela Wardle of MoLAS sent details, including the substance of this note. For the form of bowl, she compares J. Price and S. Cottam, *Romano-British Glass Vessels: a Handbook* (CBA, 1998), 115, fig. 47. Vessels with such facets, including 'rice facets', are well attested in Britain and on the Continent, but this one is unusual in being inscribed. Inscriptions are found on vessels from the Rhineland, but they are usually of greater diameter, and the inscriptions are considerably longer than would be possible here.

<sup>60</sup> During excavation by Oxford Archaeological Unit for CgMs Consulting on behalf of Laing Homes. Hilary Cool sent details and a drawing, as well as the report summarised here. She shows that the bottle dates from the later second to early third century, and suggests that it was deliberately deposited complete in the upper fill of the well, as 'part of some rite of termination'.

<sup>61</sup> There is no exact parallel, but 'sets of three letters are amongst the most common of lettering patterns when lettering does occur' (Cool, see n. 60 above). They are likely to be abbreviated *tria nomina*: CVA, CVC and CVR are known in other media from Britain, the common element probably being *G(atius) V(alerius)*; and SCM, presumably *S(extus) C(...)* *M(...)*, is found as a brick-maker's stamp (*RIB* II.5, 2489.37).

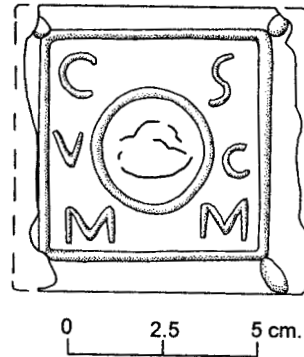


FIG. 8. Brockley Hill, moulded base of bottle (No. 50). Scale 1:2.  
(Drawn by H.E.M. Cool)

## NORFOLK

51. **Billingsford** (TG 01 20) (FIG. 9). Rectangular tablet, 41.5 by 30 mm, cut from thin gold sheet 91% fine (almost 22 carat), 1.91 gm in weight, found<sup>62</sup> casually in 2003. One face carries ten lines of text fluently inscribed with a very fine point: 1–3, except for three Greek cursive letters in 3, consist of magical signs (*kharaktes*); 4–8, after an initial sign, and except for one Roman cursive letter in 4, three in 6, and one in 8, consist of Greek cursive letters; 9–10 of Roman cursive letters. The whole text is apparently the work of one hand, but 9–10 are crammed into the vertical space of a single line, and may have been added later to ‘personalize’ it.<sup>63</sup> After being inscribed, the tablet was rolled or folded on itself six times, to make a cylinder about 2.5 mm thick which would have been inserted into a carrying-case as an amulet suspended from the neck.<sup>64</sup>

The text first transcribed letter by letter, whether Greek or Roman, but with word-separation and representing the signs by asterisks:

\* \* \* \* \* | \* \* \* \* \* | \* \* ι α ω \* \* | \* α β ρ α σ α χ | π α ν η α β λ α ν | ν α θ α ν α λ β α v a c a t |  
δαθε σαλυθεμ | ετ νικτωριαμ | tib clauum similem quem pe|perit herenia marcellina.

The text reconstructed, without the signs and transliterated into Roman letters throughout:  
*Iao | Abrasax | PANĒĒ ablan|<n>athanalba | date salutem | et uic<t>toriam | Tib(erium) | Clau(diu)m Similem quem pe|perit Heren(n)ia Marcellina.*

The text translated: ‘Iao, Abrasax ... , ablanathanalba, give health and victory (to) Tiberius Claudius Similis whom Herennia Marcellina bore.’<sup>65</sup>

<sup>62</sup> In garden topsoil, perhaps imported from another site. Ralph Jackson made it available in the British Museum, but it has now been declared Treasure, and purchased by Norwich Castle museum. See further R.S.O. Tomlin, ‘A bilingual charm for health and victory’, *ZPE* 149 (2004), 259–66.

<sup>63</sup> 9–10 are in the accusative case, but syntactically a dative is required after *date*.

<sup>64</sup> For a gold amulet case, see C. Johns and T. Potter, *The Thetford Treasure: Roman Jewellery and Silver* (1983), 99, No. 30.

<sup>65</sup> For a full discussion and commentary, see Tomlin 2004 (cited above, n. 62). The scribe’s mistakes when transliterating a Latin spell into Greek suggest that Latin was his first language. The client is identified by his mother, not his father, as often in magical texts. His cognomen is typical of Lower Germany, and especially Cologne, which may be the origin of this amulet: the ‘meaning’ of the signs is unknown, but they can be paralleled in other amulets, including ones from Trier and Cologne. Iao and Abrasax are protective deities often invoked in amulets and the Greek Magical Papyri, but the word *PANĒĒ* is obscure; perhaps an epithet of Abrasax. *ablanathanalba* (as it should be spelled) is a common magical palindrome. Technically the amulet is a *niketikon*, a ‘victory-charm’, of which other

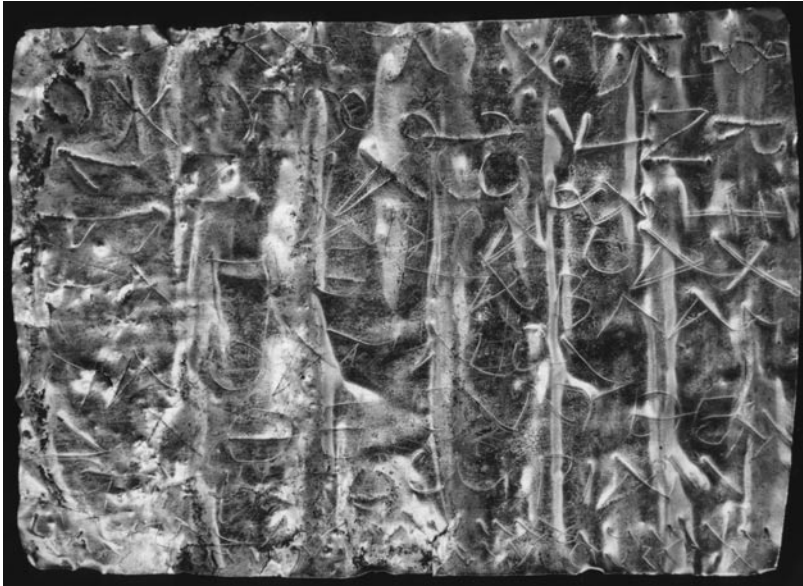


FIG. 9(a). Billingford, inscribed gold tablet (No. 51). Width: 41.5 mm.

(Photo: British Museum)

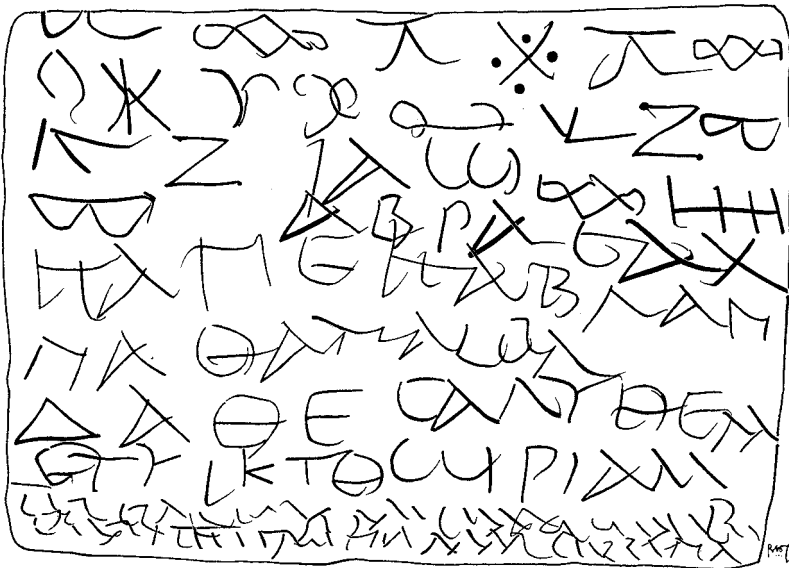


FIG. 9(b). Billingford, inscribed gold tablet (No. 51). Width: 41.5 mm. Scale 5:2.

(Drawn by R.S.O. Tomlin)

52. **Gunthorpe** (TG 00 37). Handle of a copper-alloy *trulla*, found<sup>66</sup> in 2005. The impressed stamp is incomplete, but it retains the upper portion of the last five letters: [...]*NGVSF*, [*Sa*]*ngus fecit*, ‘Sangus made (this)’.<sup>67</sup>

#### NOTTINGHAMSHIRE

53. **Winthorpe** (SK 83 86) (FIG. 10). Rim sherd of a Mancetter-Hartshill mortarium, found<sup>68</sup> in 2005. Inscribed after firing on the wall: *VARITITV*[...], probably *Vari Titu[lli]*. ‘(Property) of Varius Titullus’.<sup>69</sup>

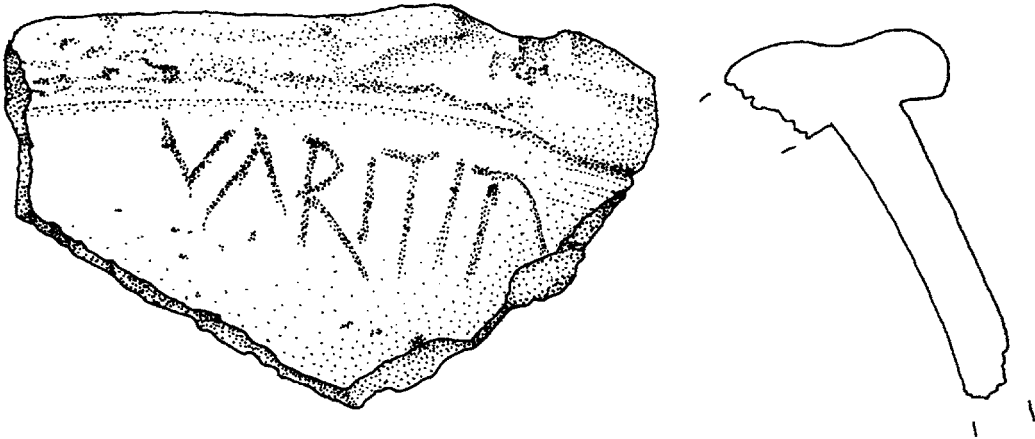


FIG. 10. Winthorpe, inscribed mortarium sherd (No. 53).  
(Drawn by A. Marshall)

#### SOMERSET

54. **Norton St Philip** (ST 77 55), Springfield Farm Roman villa. Sherd from a black-burnished (BB1) flanged straight-sided bowl, found<sup>70</sup> in 2004 in the fill of a channelled hypocaust. A graffito made after firing reads *IPA*[...].

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examples are known; but this is apparently the first to translate the formula into Latin, and unique in coupling ‘victory’ with ‘health’. It is the fourth gold amulet to be published from Britain, the others being *RIB* 436 (Caernarvon), 706 (York), and *RIB* II.3, 2430.2 (Wood Eaton).

<sup>66</sup> By T. Hudson, in whose possession it remains, who reported it under the Portable Antiquities Scheme. Andrew Rogerson sent details including photographs.

<sup>67</sup> Compare *RIB* II.2, 2415.46.

<sup>68</sup> By A. Diamond, in whose possession it remains, who reported it under the Portable Antiquities Scheme. Sally Worrell sent details, including a photograph and drawing.

<sup>69</sup> The graffito is unitary, and cannot be the names of successive owners. *Titu[llus]* is the most likely cognomen, but there are some rare alternatives such as *Titullinus*. An ellipse of (*centuria*), for ‘century of Varus’, is unlikely despite *Britannia* 36 (2005), 490, No. 31 (with n. 57).

<sup>70</sup> During exploratory excavation by the Bath and Camerton Archaeological Society directed by Jayne Lawes, who sent full details and a drawing, with a report.

## SUFFOLK

55. **Stoke Ash** (TM 113 706), Roman settlement, on the road (Margary 3d) from Colchester to Caistor-by-Norwich. Sherd from the upper part of a greyware jar in micaceous fabric with barbotine dot decoration, found<sup>71</sup> in 2005 in a probable pit. A graffito after firing on the plain shoulder of the vessel between the neck and zone of decoration reads: SIINICIO[...], *Senicio*.

## WILTSHIRE

56. **Kingston Deverill** (ST 84 37). Copper-alloy *trulla*, found<sup>72</sup> in 2005. Stamped on the handle: P<sup>Α</sup>CIPI<sup>Α</sup>POLIBI, '(product) of Publius Cippius Polibius'.<sup>73</sup>

## WORCESTERSHIRE

57. **Worcester** (SO 8473 5512). 14–20 The Butts. Base sherd of a fine reddish-brown platter, found<sup>74</sup> in 2003. On the upper surface, within a circle incised while it was on the wheel, part of two letters neatly incised after firing: [...]**F**I, probably [*Ru*]*fi*, '(property) of Rufus'.<sup>75</sup>

## SCOTLAND

## ANGUS

58. **Cardean** Roman fort (NO 289 460). Part of the copper-alloy handle of a *trulla*, found<sup>76</sup> in 2005. An impressed stamp reads: ANSEPA<sup>Α</sup>PR[...], *Ans(i) Epap(h)r[oditi]*, '(product) of Ansius Epaphroditus'.<sup>77</sup>

<sup>71</sup> During amateur excavation by Thornham Research group, led by Mike Hardy and John Fairclough: for the site, see *Proc. Suffolk Inst. Archaeol.* 41.1 (2005), 127. Judith Plouviez of Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service sent details and a photograph.

<sup>72</sup> With two unstamped *trullae* and two strainer-bowls by P. Bancroft, who reported them under the Portable Antiquities Scheme (see above, pp. 458–62, Nos 27–31). This hoard remains in the finder's possession, but may be acquired by Salisbury Museum. Sally Worrell sent details and a drawing.

<sup>73</sup> For other *trullae* stamped by this Campanian manufacturer (*floruit* c. A.D. 65–85), see *RIB* II.2, 2415.17–27, and p. 44 (with bibliography).

<sup>74</sup> During excavation by Birmingham Archaeology for Miller Homes, in advance of development. Erica Macey-Bracken made it available.

<sup>75</sup> H with unfinished cross-bar could be read the other way up, but the lower cross-bar of F is much more likely, followed by I. The lettering is unusually neat, indeed stylish capitals, with serif(s) to the I. *Rufus* is the only common name ending in *-fus*.

<sup>76</sup> By metal-detector: see *Discovery and Excavation in Scotland 2005*, 116. The find-spot, which is said to be just north-east of Meigle, is likely to be the Flavian fort; for part of another *trulla* handle from here, with stamp of P(ublius) Cippius Polibius, see *RIB* II.2, 2415.22. Fraser Hunter sent full details and a photograph; see above, p. 384. It is now in Perth Museum.

<sup>77</sup> The stamp seems to be complete at the beginning, without L for *L(uci)*. For other stamps of this firm, see *RIB* II.2, 2415.5–8. This example seems not to be in R. Petrovsky, *Studien zu römischen Bronzegefässen mit Meisterstempeln* (1993), 143–4.



## WALES

## MONMOUTHSHIRE

59. **Ponthir**, near Caerleon (*Isca*, ST 330 927). Silver finger-ring, 25 mm in external diameter, found<sup>78</sup> in *c.* 1993. It has ten facets, on each of which a letter has been incised: VTERE FELIX, *utere felix*.<sup>79</sup> ‘Use (this and be) happy.’

## ADDENDA ET CORRIGENDA

(a) **RIB 1289** (High Rochester). This fragment of a tombstone was found, not in 1852 but in 1790, when it entered the local collection of Charles Francis Forster (1732–1807) at Campville, Northumberland. His collection was sold to the Duke of Northumberland in 1854 and removed to Alnwick Castle, where it remains.<sup>80</sup>

(b) **RIB 1612** (Housesteads) is four fragments of a slab, three conjoining, which preserve part of the first two lines of a dedication to Septimius Severus and Caracalla. Two were found in the headquarters building (*principia*) (site 10), and one in the adjacent south granary (8); the provenance of the fourth is not known. Their location has changed since *RIB* was published; they are all now stored by English Heritage, together with the next two fragments to be described, at Corbridge Roman site.<sup>81</sup> In 1961, too late for inclusion in *RIB*, a fifth fragment was found in the adjacent storehouse (15).<sup>82</sup> This does not conjoin, but it matches in thickness of stone (*c.* 115 mm), and in the style and height of letter (83 mm). It preserves part of the first letter of line 2, which now reads: P[IO P]ERT[...], *p[io P]ert(inaci)* (etc.). It also preserves part of the left-hand border, showing that the slab was ansate.<sup>83</sup>

In 1966, a sixth fragment (FIG. 11) was found in yet another adjacent building, the commandant’s house (*praetorium*) (9). At the bottom there was a trace of the same cable-moulded border as *RIB* 1612, which it matched in thickness of stone (0.10 m) and the style and height of lettering (80 mm and 78 mm), but although it was identified as contemporary with *RIB* 1612, it was thought to be a parallel dedication which marked the rebuilding of the *praetorium*.<sup>84</sup> It preserves part of the last three lines, the first of which has been deliberately erased: [...]AE[...]| [...]VIT PRA[...]| [...]JEGA[...]. They were provisionally restored:

<sup>78</sup> And reported under the Portable Antiquities Scheme in 2005. Richard Brewer sent details and photographs.

<sup>79</sup> The three Es are retrograde. There is no exact British parallel, but compare *RIB* II.3, 2422.41, a silver ring with VTER | FELIX on the bezel, and 66, an octagonal bronze ring with VALIATIS inscribed on its eight facets.

<sup>80</sup> L.W. Hepple, ‘Charles Francis Forster, Northumbrian Antiquary, and the Campville Collection of Roman Antiquities’, *Arch. Ael.* 5 ser. 29 (2001), 19–30. The primary evidence is Forster’s letter of 17 September 1790 to Humphrey Senhouse, quoted at 23–4.

<sup>81</sup> Where Georgina Plowright and Sarah Savile provided full details on request, including rubbings. Further information and discussion, including photographs, came from Alan Rushworth, who is editing Charles Daniels’ account of the excavations which led to the sixth fragment being found. Its relationship to the others came into question during the preparation of *RIB* III by RSOT.

<sup>82</sup> *JRS* 52 (1962), 194, No. 16.

<sup>83</sup> It would have resembled *RIB* 740, but without a vertical extension of the cable-moulded border.

<sup>84</sup> *JRS* 57 (1967), 205–6, No. 17. A.R. Birley objected (in *The Fasti of Roman Britain* (1981), 206–7 = *The Roman Government of Britain* (2005), 211–12) that the governor, even if Severan, is not necessarily Alfenus Senecio, and that the name erased could also be that of Julia Mamaea. But a Severan date is established by *RIB* 1612, which is related even if not identical, and Senecio is the prime candidate, since his rebuilding in the North of Britain and on the Wall itself (Benwell, Chesters, Birdoswald and Vindolanda) is so widely attested.

P Δ SEPT Δ GET]AE [Δ NOB Δ CAES Δ  
 COH Δ I Δ TVNGR Δ M Δ RESTIT]VIT Δ PRA[ETOR Δ  
 L Δ ALFENO Δ SENEZIONE Δ L]EG Δ A[VG G Δ PR Δ PR Δ

At first sight, with a dedication to Geta (erased), this is the missing half of *RIB* 1612, but R.P. Wright commented: ‘As PRA[ in this context could not be interpreted as *praefectus*, *praesidium* or *praeventura*, it appears necessary to regard it as *praetorium*, which is the building in which it was found, *although it is placed after the verb which governs it*’ [our italics]. But this sequence, subject-verb-object, although it is colloquial Latin and often found in ‘curse tablets’, for example, is inappropriate to a formal dedication on stone. Not surprisingly, it is never found in *RIB*.<sup>85</sup>

This difficulty disappears if we restore *pra[ecepto]* instead, ‘by order of Lucius Alfenus Senecio, imperial propraetorian legate’. *praeeptum* is the standard term for an order given by higher authority, whether it be that of a general, emperor or god. Thus in Britain Tacitus uses it of a manoeuvre ordered by Agricola, *praeepto ducis*.<sup>86</sup> It is not found in *RIB*, but the cognate verb is used of a third-century governor’s order that a temple be rebuilt, *restitui pr(ae)cepit*.<sup>87</sup> In other provinces it is occasionally found, as *ex praeepto*, for governmental initiatives. Examples in particular can be found for Septimius Severus.<sup>88</sup> So it is acceptable in a Severan inscription at Housesteads, as a variant of the phrasing found elsewhere, notably in *RIB* 740 and 1234, *iussu L(uci) Alfeni Senecionis*. This governor’s building-inscriptions already show unusual variation of phrase: compare *RIB* 746, *sub cura L(uci) Alfeni] Senecionis* (thus also 722, 723); *RIB* 1462, [*cu]rante Alf[eno Senecione]*; *RIB* 1909, *sub Alfeno Senecione*.<sup>89</sup>

It follows that this fragment belongs to *RIB* 1612 after all. The inscription was evidently broken into many pieces, and dispersed as building-material across the central area of Housesteads. Like many building-inscriptions, it does not name the building built (or rebuilt), since this was unnecessary: it formed a prominent part of it. No doubt it was the *principia*.

<sup>85</sup> Except, as it happens, in Richmond and Wright’s imaginative restoration of *RIB* 1051b. It is also required by the metre of *RIB* 1228 and 2059, but these are informal and metrical.

<sup>86</sup> *Agricola* 37. See further, *TLL* x.2 (iii), s.v. *praecipio*, 454–5. This verb is used by Flavian-period decurions at Carlisle and Vindolanda, of orders given by their commanding officer: see *Tab. Luguval.* 16.3, *ita ut praeepesti*, and *Tab. Vindol.* II, 628 i.4, *rogo domine praecipias*.

<sup>87</sup> *Britannia* 7 (1976), 378, No. 2, where there is space on the stone for AE, but no sign that it was ever cut.

<sup>88</sup> A building-inscription, *CIL* viii 8991: *turrim ruina lapsam ex praeepto P(ubli) Aeli Peregrini v(iri) e(gregii) proc(aratoris) Aug(ustorum) Rusaditani restitueru[nt]*. Two special promotions, *CIL* iii 10471 (*ILS* 1153): *ex praec(epto) dom(inorum) n(ostrorum)*; and *CIL* viii 11174 (*ILS* 1440): *ex sacro praeepto. [div]ino pr[ae]cepto* is a possible restoration of *RIB* 1051a.

<sup>89</sup> *RIB* 740, with its cable-moulded border and *ansae*, gives an impression of what *RIB* 1612 would have looked like. *RIB* 746 also has a cable-moulded border.



FIG. 11(a). Housesteads, fragment of *RIB* 1612 (Addendum (b)). Scale 1:4. (Photo: English Heritage)



FIG. 11(b). Housesteads, fragment of *RIB* 1612 (Addendum (b)). Scale 1:4. (Drawn by R.S.O. Tomlin after R.P. Wright)

(c) **RIB II.4, 2443.7** (London). The last sentence of this *stilus* writing-tablet is better translated: 'See that you do everything carefully to turn that girl into cash.'<sup>90</sup>

<sup>90</sup> As Richmond suggested (see note ad loc.): see further *Britannia* 34 (2003), 49–50, n. 31.