

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

By R.S.O. TOMLIN

#### A. MONUMENTAL

1. **London, Southwark**, 25 London Bridge Street, SE1 (*Londinium*, TQ 32820 80230) (FIGS 1a and 1b). Fragment of a columnar statue-base of shelly limestone, 0.33 by 0.21 m, 0.13 m thick, found<sup>2</sup> in 2011. It is part of a column-drum originally *c.* 0.30 m in diameter, which widened into a flanged top or cornice originally *c.* 0.37 m in diameter; the present height of 0.21 m is original. Below this cornice, a curving surface-area 0.36 by 0.16 m survives of the shaft, on which is incised a lobate design, part of a stylised leaf-spray; and to its right, inscribed in well-drawn letters: SILVAN[... ] | P <sup>^</sup> FAB[... ] | P <sup>^</sup> FAB[... ] | EX[... ], probably *Silvan[o] ... sacrum* | *P(ublius) Fab[ius] P(ublii) l(ibertus) ...* | *P(ublius) Fab[ius] P(ublii) l(ibertus) ...* | *ex [voto ...]*. ‘Sacred to Silvanus ... Publius Fabius [...], freedman of Publius, (and) Publius Fabius [...], freedman of Publius, in accordance with their vow ...’<sup>3</sup>

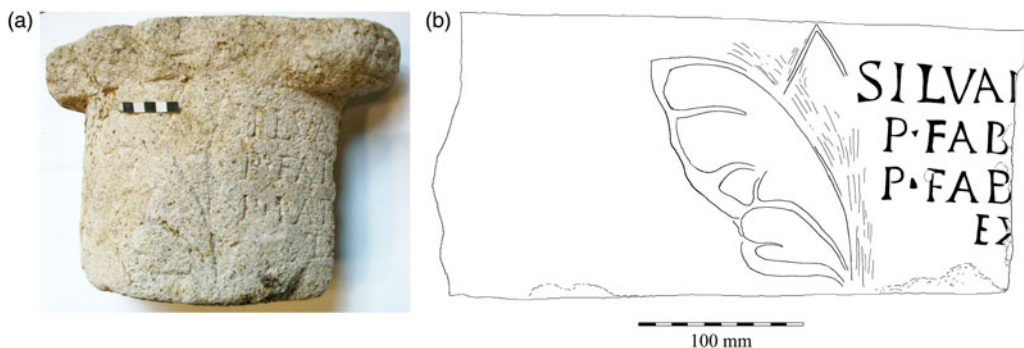


FIG. 1. London, Southwark, statue-base (No. 1). ((a) Photo: MoLAS; (b) Drawn by R.S.O. Tomlin)

<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) and (slightly modified) by R.S.O. Tomlin, R.P. Wright and M.W.C. Hassall in *The Roman Inscriptions of Britain* Vol. iii (Oxford, 2009), which are henceforth cited respectively as *RIB* I (1–2400) and III (3001–3550). Citation is by item and not page number. Inscriptions on PERSONAL BELONGINGS and the like (*instrumentum domesticum*) have been arranged alphabetically by site under their counties. For each site they have been ordered as in *RIB*, pp. xiii–xiv. The items of *instrumentum domesticum* published in the eight fascicules of *RIB* II (Gloucester and Stroud, 1990–95), edited by S.S. Frere and R.S.O. Tomlin, are cited by fascicule, by the number of their category (*RIB* 2401–2505), and by their sub-number within it (e.g. *RIB* II.2, 2415. 53). When measurements are quoted, the width precedes the height.

<sup>2</sup> During excavation (site code LBN08) by MoLAS, and now in Mortimer Wheeler House, where David Bowsher made it available. Information also from Jenny Hall.

<sup>3</sup> Letter heights: 1, 23 mm; 2–3, 19 mm; 4, 17 mm. Judging by the space below, 4 was the last line. Since lines 2 and 3 are both indented by one letter, and 4 by two more letters, the inscription was evidently centred. The leaf-spray would have been balanced by another to the right. *sacrum* can be restored in line 1 (compare *RIB* 1041, *Silvano invicto sacrum*) and *ex voto* in 4 (compare *RIB* 584 and 1305), but these alone would not allow space in 2 and 3 for the cognomen of each dedicator (see below). So it is likely that *Silvan[o]* was followed by a title, for example *invicto* or *pantheo* (compare *RIB* 1041, just quoted, and 1271, *Silvano [pa]ntheo*), or was linked with *numen Augusti* in some form (compare *RIB* III, 3054, *Silva[no] et | num[en]i[n]i [A]ug[usti] n[on]o[st]ri*); and that the verb was supplied in line 4, for example *posuerunt*.

(Note continues overleaf)

2. **Dover** Roman fort (*Dubris*, TR 31 41) (FIG. 2). Capital and upper portion of the die of an altar made of fine-grained limestone, 0.29 by 0.26 m, 0.22 m deep, found<sup>4</sup> in 1976 in a late Roman context inside the south-west corner of the Saxon Shore fort, but probably deriving from the *classis Britannica* fort abandoned in *c.* A.D. 208. The abacus is decorated with interlocking L-shaped motifs; below, the die is inscribed in well-cut letters: DEAE | BRITANĪ | [...], *deae Britani[fae ...]*. ‘To the goddess Britania ...’<sup>5</sup>



FIG. 2. Dover, altar (No. 2). (Drawing: Kent Archaeological Rescue Group)

The dedicators in lines 2 and 3 bear the same praenomen and nomen; they might therefore be father and son, but they are much more likely to be freedmen of a Publius Fabius [...], with *P(publii) l(ibertus)* forming the middle part of their nomenclature; they would have been distinguished by their cognomina, now also lost.

This base supported a votive statue of Silvanus, a woodland god explicitly associated with hunting in *RIB* 1041, 1207 and 1905. His name was not necessarily preceded by *deo*: compare *RIB* 1041, 1271, and III, 3054, quoted above. After the stone figure of a hunter-god was discovered beneath Southwark Cathedral, Ralph Merrifield suggested that it came from a cult shrine near the road-junction south of London Bridge ('The London hunter-god and his significance in the history of Londinium', in J. Bird, M. Hassall and H. Sheldon (eds), *Interpreting Roman London: Papers in Memory of Hugh Chapman* (1996), 105–13, especially 108), noting two related figures from London. He discussed the cult in southern Britain, suggesting that the deity was Apollo Cunomaglos, to whom an altar (*RIB* III, 3053) is dedicated at Nettleton Shrub. However, this site also produced an altar to Silvanus (*RIB* III, 3054, quoted above), which suggests that Silvanus was an alternative identification (*ibid.*, 110).

<sup>4</sup> During excavation by the Kent Archaeological Rescue Unit, and now published by Brian Philp in *The Discovery and Excavation of the Roman Saxon Shore Fort at Dover, Kent* (2012), 111 with fig. 55, where he comments: 'As it survives, it appears to be dedicated to the Mother Goddesses (DEAE) of the province of Britannia (BRITANI).' The limestone is like that of *RIB* III, 3031 (Dover), an altar dedicated to the Matres Italicae by a *st(rator) co[n]sularis*] to mark his building of a shrine (*aedes*). (Reference communicated by Martin Henig.)

<sup>5</sup> This is the first instance from Britain of this dedication, but compare *RIB* 643, *Britanniae sanctae*; 2175, *genio terrae Britannicae*; 2195, *Campestribus et Britanni(ae)*. The mis-spelling of *Britannia* is trivial and well-attested, but is previously unknown from Britain itself, since the Carlisle writing-tablet (*RIB* II.4, 2443.5) 'addressed' to someone *IN BRITANIA* must have originated from elsewhere. In Dover, a port of entry, this mis-spelling might suggest that the dedicator had just arrived from another province, but unfortunately his name and status have been lost.

3. **Papcastle** (*Derwentio*, NY 112 314), Cumbria (FIGS 3a and 3b). Irregular fragment of coarse buff sandstone, 220 by 125 mm, now 80 mm thick but broken, found<sup>6</sup> in 2010. Inscribed: [...].LVI PR[...]| [...].MOESIC[...]| [...].PRAEF A[...]| [...].G *vacat*, probably [...].LVI *pr[ae]f(ectus)* / [*cl[as]s[is]*] *Mo[esic]ae* | [...]. *prae[ef]ctus a[lae] I* | [*Tun]g[ro]rum*). ‘... prefect of the *classis Moesica*, prefect of the First Ala of Tungrians.’<sup>7</sup>

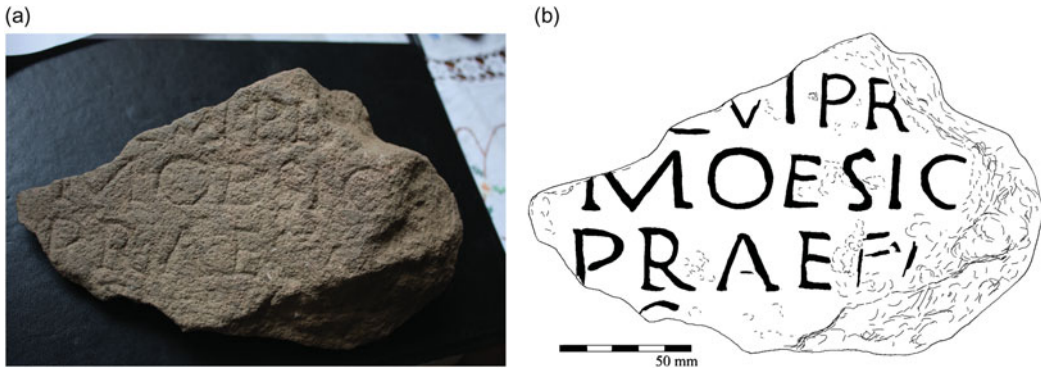


FIG. 3. Papcastle, altar(?) (No. 3). (Photographed and drawn by R.S.O. Tomlin)

<sup>6</sup> With the next two items during excavation after the Cockermouth flood by Grampian Heritage and Training, directed by Frank Giecco of North Pennines Archaeology (*Current Archaeology* 255, 34–9, where this item is illustrated on p. 36). Ian Caruana made them available with his comments. Unlike the next two items, which consist of strongly bedded stone and are thus probably slabs, this item shows no bedding and is part of a block; it was an altar, to judge by the line-width (see next note).

<sup>7</sup> In line 1, only the horizontal bottom stroke survives of the first letter, E or L; it is too wide to be the initial serif of M, a letter which is suggested by the converging diagonal strokes that follow, but to be rejected because there is no initial vertical stroke, and the second stroke of ‘V’ does not align with the vertical stroke which follows. PR therefore begins a new word, presumably *praefectus* (abbreviated). In line 3 there is trace of a triangular stop after PRAEF, followed by sufficient remains of the first diagonal of A. In line 4, only the curving top survives of the last letter (since followed by unscripted space); thus it is C, G or S.

Just enough survives of lines 3 and 4 to identify the dedicator as prefect of *ala I Tung(rorum)*, a cavalry regiment attested at Papcastle by six lead sealings (*Britannia* 36 (2005), 487–9, nos 22–27) after it left the Antonine Wall (*RIB* 2140). There was an *ala Moesica* (but no *cohors*), but this cannot have been the previous or subsequent command of a *praefectus alae*, so MOESIC in line 2 must refer to the *classis Flavia Moesica* (however abbreviated), with PR in line 1 as the beginning of *praefectus*. Command of this fleet on the lower Danube was a sexagenary post senior to the command of an *ala*; for an example of this progression, see *ILS* 8851 with Devijver *PME* A21. The dedicator, before naming his present post, evidently cited his new appointment. LVI in line 1 probably concluded his formal nomenclature, his place of origin perhaps, for example [*foro Ful]vi* (*ILS* 2261). On this reconstruction, the line-width can be calculated quite closely; leftward by the loss of I TVN in line 4, and rightward by the vertical coincidence of PR[AEF], MOESIC[AE] and A[LAE] in lines 1–3. There would have been 3–4 letters before PRAEF in line 3, corresponding to *classis Flaviae* above it in line 2, much abbreviated; perhaps an abbreviated dynastic title after *Mo[esic]ae*, for example *Gordianae* as in *ILS* 8851.

4. Ibid. (FIGS 4a and 4b). Fragment of a buff sandstone slab, 100 by 160 mm, 80 mm thick (not tooled, but perhaps original). Inscribed: [...]*N*V.[...] | [...]*IPR*[...] | [...]*LPVD*[...]<sup>8</sup>

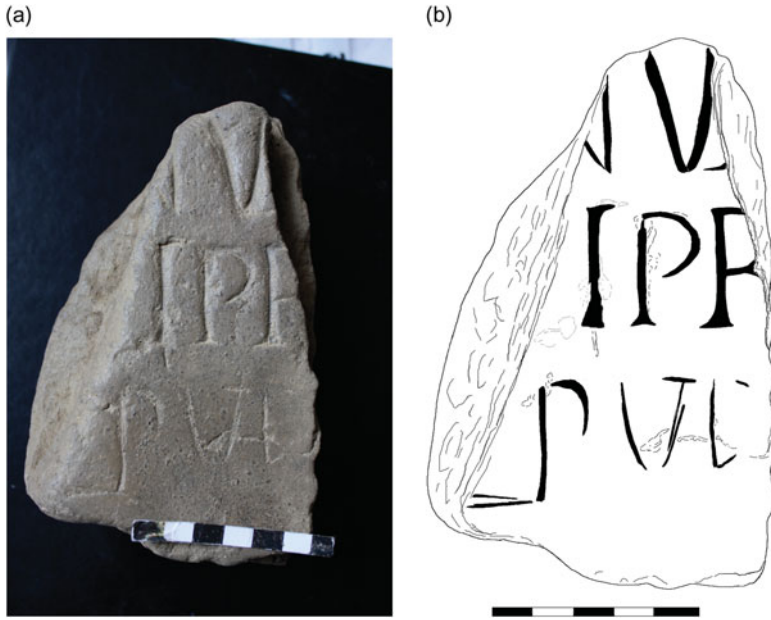


FIG. 4. Papcastle, slab (No. 4). (Photographed and drawn by R.S.O. Tomlin)

5. Ibid. (FIGS 5a and 5b). Fragment of a buff sandstone slab, 150 by 140 mm, 93 mm thick. The right edge is original, with a vertical border-line 8–10 mm from the edge. Inscribed: [...]*M* | [...]*TVAN*<sup>9</sup>

<sup>8</sup> The surface is smoothed by wear, as if from re-use as a paving-stone. In line 1, a third letter is indicated by part of its bottom serif. The third letter in line 2 is more likely to be R than F or P since its middle stroke begins from the vertical stroke (contrast P) and trends upward. Perhaps [...]*i pr[ae]fecti*, but there are other possibilities. The letters in line 3 are more slight, and the loop of D has been almost worn away; the space below suggests that this was the bottom line. A possible restoration is [IV]L or [VA]L PVD[ENS], the name [*Tu*]l(ius) or [*Va*]l(erius) Pud[ens].

<sup>9</sup> The generously spaced M suggests a tombstone headed by *D vacat M*, but this is only a possibility. In line 2, ligatured VA is damaged, but the cross-bar of A survives; its second diagonal stroke seems to have met N.

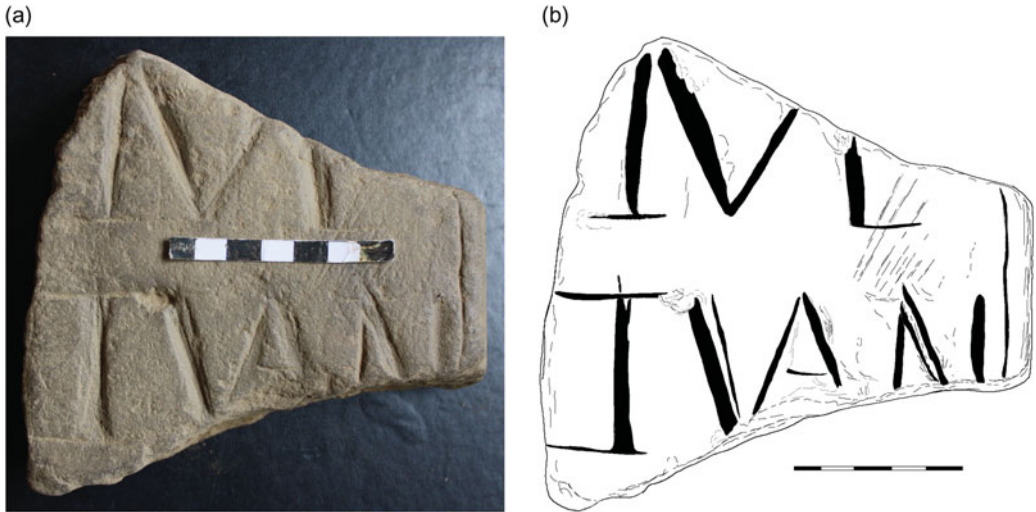


FIG. 5. Papcastle, slab (No. 5). (Photographed and drawn by R.S.O. Tomlin)

6. **Binchester** (*Vinovia*, NZ 208 314) (FIG. 6, overleaf). Bottom right-hand corner of a buff sandstone dedication-slab, 0.36 by 0.34 m, 0.05 m thick (but perhaps original), found<sup>10</sup> in 2011 re-used in an area of late surfacing *c.* 20 m outside the south-east gate of the fort. Inscribed in well-drawn letters: [...] $\overline{\text{T}}\overline{\text{V}}[\dots]$  | [...]. <sup>Δ</sup> SACER | [...] $\overline{\text{A}}\overline{\text{E}}\overline{\text{S}}\overline{\text{T}}$  <sup>Δ</sup> | [...] $\overline{\text{Q}}\overline{\text{V}}\overline{\text{I}}\overline{\text{T}}\overline{\text{V}}\overline{\text{M}}$ ; [...] $\overline{\text{T}}\overline{\text{V}}[\dots]$  / [...]. *Sacer* | [... *cui pr*]*aest* | [... *praef(ectus) e*]*quitum*. ‘... commanded by ... prefect of cavalry.’<sup>11</sup>

<sup>10</sup> During a five-year campaign of excavation, for which see *Britannia* 41 (2010), 361. Information from David Petts and David Mason, who sent a photograph. The fragment is at present in the Department of Archaeology, Durham University.

<sup>11</sup> Line 1: the spacing suggests T before V, but first letter F or P would also be possible. In the edge there is apparently the beginning of a third letter, resembling the tail of S. Line 2: the letter after SAC is E reversed, i.e. ligatured; the slight rake of the vertical, and the apparent nick of a serif in the broken edge, suggest ER. Lines 3 and 4: enough survives to guarantee the formulation here of ‘[name of *ala*] *cui praeest* [name of commander] *praefectus equitum*’. Although *cui praeest* unabbreviated to C P is found in the third century (*RIB* 1914, 1983), it is more likely to be second-century, but in either case the cavalry unit would be the *ala (Hispanorum) Vettonum civium Romanorum* which is attested at Binchester by *RIB* 1028, 1032 and 1035 (all undated), and probably by 730 (from Bowes, the adjacent fort) in A.D. 197/8.

This is presumably a building inscription, which would have been headed by the name and titles of the emperor. It concluded with the names of the unit responsible and its commander, which would have been preceded by a reference to the governor. However, the sequence SACER cannot be accommodated to any known governor, and it is conceivable that a consular date was inserted, *Tertullo et Sacerdote co(n)s(ulibus)* (A.D. 158), the year in which *RIB* 1389 (see below, Addendum (d)) suggests that the Hadrianic frontier was being reconstructed.

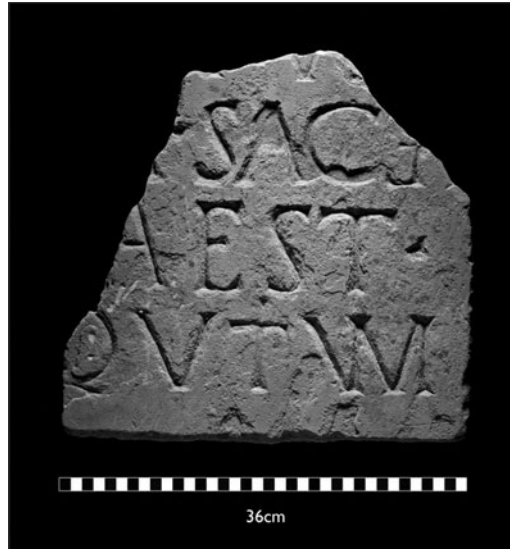


FIG. 6. Binchester, slab (No. 6). (Photo: David Mason)

7. **Vindolanda** (NY 768 663) (FIG. 7). Buff sandstone altar, 0.30 (capital) or 0.32 (base) by 0.66 m, 0.24 m thick, found<sup>12</sup> in 2011. The die is recessed on either side, but not on the front, the mouldings of capital and base being indicated only by incised lines. Incised on the front of the base is a sinuous figure, apparently a snake; on the die between horizontal lines: M<sup>13</sup>



FIG. 7. Vindolanda, altar (No. 7). (Photo: R.S.O. Tomlin)

<sup>12</sup> During excavation by the Vindolanda Trust directed by Andrew Birley. Robin Birley made it available.

<sup>13</sup> This 'letter' may only be zig-zag decoration, but it is not repeated on either side; if indeed a letter, then perhaps the initial of a god such as Mars or Mercury. For another schematic snake incised on a building stone, see *RIB* III, 3257 (with note).

## B. INSTRUMENTUM DOMESTICUM

## CHESHIRE

8. **Heronbridge** (SJ 4105 6350), on the west bank of the river Dee *c.* 2 km south of Chester (*Deva*) (FIG. 8). Wall sherd (s.f. 160) of a samian dish (CG, Drag. 31, produced *c.* A.D. 145–200), found<sup>14</sup> in 2003. Incised on the outside after firing, in capital letters just below the junction between wall and floor: [...]*ATE*[...]<sup>15</sup>

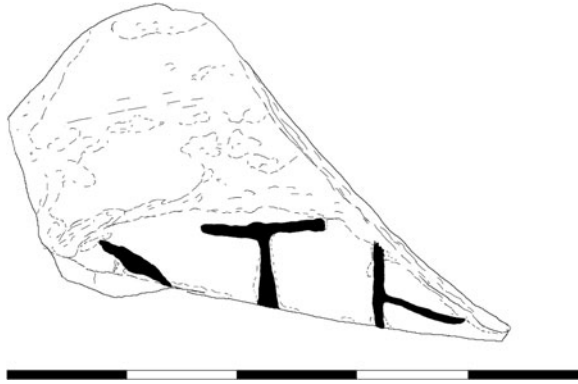


FIG. 8. Heronbridge, samian graffito (No. 8). (Drawn by R.S.O. Tomlin)

9. *Ibid.* Three conjoining sherds (s.f. 159) preserving one-quarter of the foot-ring of a samian vessel (CG, probably Drag. 18/31, produced *c.* A.D. 140–180). Scratched underneath after firing, at the circumference of the floor where it meets the foot-ring: *M*[...]

## HAMPSHIRE

10. **Silchester** (*Calleva*, SU 64 62), Insula IX (FIG. 9, overleaf). Fragment of tile, probably part of a *tegula*, 100 mm by 100 mm, 20 mm thick, found<sup>16</sup> unstratified in *c.* 2000. Part of an impressed stamp reads: *AR* <sup>Δ</sup> *FLO*[...], perhaps *Aur(elius) Flo*[...]<sup>17</sup>

<sup>14</sup> With the next item during excavation by Chester Archaeological Society directed by David Mason. A minute sherd of samian (s.f. 234) was found in 2004, bearing part of a letter, perhaps C. They were made available by Margaret Ward.

<sup>15</sup> The most likely name with this sequence is *Maternus* (compare the next item), but there are other possibilities.

<sup>16</sup> In the backfill of well 1750, first excavated in 1893: see M. Fulford and A. Clarke, *Silchester: City in Transition. The Mid-Roman Occupation of Insula IX c AD 125–250/300. A Report on Excavations Undertaken Since 1997* (2011), 44–6. Information and comments from Peter Warry, who provided a drawing.

<sup>17</sup> This stamp is previously unattested, but would seem to be a private tile-maker's like the two already found at Silchester, *IVC DIGNI* (*RIB* II.5, 2489.18(vii)) and *L H S* (*ibid.* 21C(ii)). Since A coheres with R, whereas F, L and O are separated, and since few nomina begin with AR, it is likely that AR incorporates V for *Aur(elius)*. The cognomen would be *Florus* or *Florentinus*.



FIG. 9. Silchester tile stamp (No. 10). (Drawn by Peter Warry)

## KENT

11. **Minster-in-Thanel**, Abbey Farm Roman villa (TR 3135 6463). Conjoining sherds from a coarseware jar dated *c.* A.D. 50–70, found<sup>18</sup> in the period 1996–2004. Scratched after firing below the rim: SIIIX, probably *Sex(tus)*.<sup>19</sup>

12. **East Farleigh** (TQ 7242 5358), third-century Roman building, perhaps originally a temple (FIG. 10). Oblong strip of thin sheet lead rolled into a cylinder, now *c.* 100 by 68 mm, but incomplete and badly damaged and corroded, found<sup>20</sup> in 2009. When unrolled, it broke into two large pieces and various fragments. The surviving text is of irregular capitals, inscribed in two columns each of seven lines.<sup>21</sup> About half the lines are inverted, and some were apparently written with the sequence of letters reversed.<sup>22</sup> These points are noted in the transcript below, but see further FIG. 10.

A list of personal names: (i) ... , ?*Atiden[us]*, *S[a]cratu[s]*, ?*[S]acir[u]s*, ... , ?*[Atr]ectu[s]*; (ii) *Cundac[us]*, *Cunoaritus*, ... , *Onerat[us]*, *Memorian[us]*, *Constitutu[s]*, *Constan(...)*.<sup>23</sup>

<sup>18</sup> During excavation by Kent Archaeological Society, reported in successive volumes of *Arch. Cant.* For this item see M. Lyne, 'The Roman villa at Minster in Thanet. Part 8: the pottery', *Arch. Cant.* 131 (2011), 231–75, at 262–3, no. 37 with fig. 4.37. For an illiterate 'star-shaped graffito' on a coarseware dish, see *ibid.*, 269–70, no. 84 with fig. 8.84. (References communicated by Sheppard Frere.)

<sup>19</sup> This praenomen is often used as a cognomen, but a derived name is also possible; for example *Sextilius*, *Sextimus*, etc.

<sup>20</sup> In the late fourth-century demolition layer, during excavation by Maidstone Area Archaeological Group. Information from A.J. Daniels and Dana Goodburn-Brown, who made it available.

<sup>21</sup> A is sometimes 'open', sometimes written with a cross-bar. S is reversed. R occurs twice in (i) and four times in (ii), visually in a vertical sequence, and alternating from left to right; the tail probably indicates the direction of writing. The left margin of (ii) is irregular, as if it marked the ends of lines, not their beginning. ONERAT[VS] in particular seems to have been written from right to left. The crowding of letters towards the end of MEMORIAN[VS] and CONSTITV[S] suggests they were written from left to right, and space ran short. The space after CONSTAN(...) is apparently not inscribed, and A is written over T.

<sup>22</sup> See previous note. It is not uncommon for 'curse tablets' to be written by reversing the letter-sequence in various ways, including the use of mirror-image letters, and the other tablet from Kent (*Britannia* 17 (1986), 428, no. 2) is written 'boustrophedon' with alternate lines inverted, but there is no British parallel for the present format, which seems to be unsystematic. Since it is too elaborate to be due to error or incompetence (and note that CONSTAN(...) was corrected), it must have been intentional, whether to make the text more difficult to read and thus 'secret', or to 'confuse' the lives of the persons named (for which see C.A. Faraone and A. Kropp, 'Inversion, adversion and perversion as strategies in Latin curse-tablets', in R.L. Gordon and F. Marco Simón (eds), *Magical Practice in the Latin West* (2010), 381–98).

<sup>23</sup> (i) ATINED[us] is probably a transcription error for Celtic *Atidenus* (*CIL* xiii 8627). *Sacratus* (with a diagonal T) is well attested in Gaul, and although Latin (but not in Kajanto), is one of a group of cognomina which 'conceal' a particular Celtic name-element (e.g. *RIB* II.7, 2501.481, *Sacra*). Celtic *Sacirus* is also found in Gaul. Celtic *Atrectus* is well attested (e.g. *Tab. Vindol.* II, 182.14), but there are some Latin cognomina in *-ectus*. (ii) *Cundac[us]*, unless the second C is actually G, is for \**Cundagus* (better \**Cunodagus*), which is not actually attested, but is composed of two Celtic name-elements. *Cunoaritus* is an elaboration of *Cunoaritus* (attested as a British mortarium-maker; S.S. Frere, *Britannia* (1991), 204, n. 23). The other four names are Latin cognomina. *Onerat[us]* is rare, but see *RIB* III, 3108 (with note). *Memorian[us]* is also rare, but one of those derived from *Memor* (Kajanto, 255). For *Constitutu[s]* see Kajanto, 350, and perhaps *Tab.*



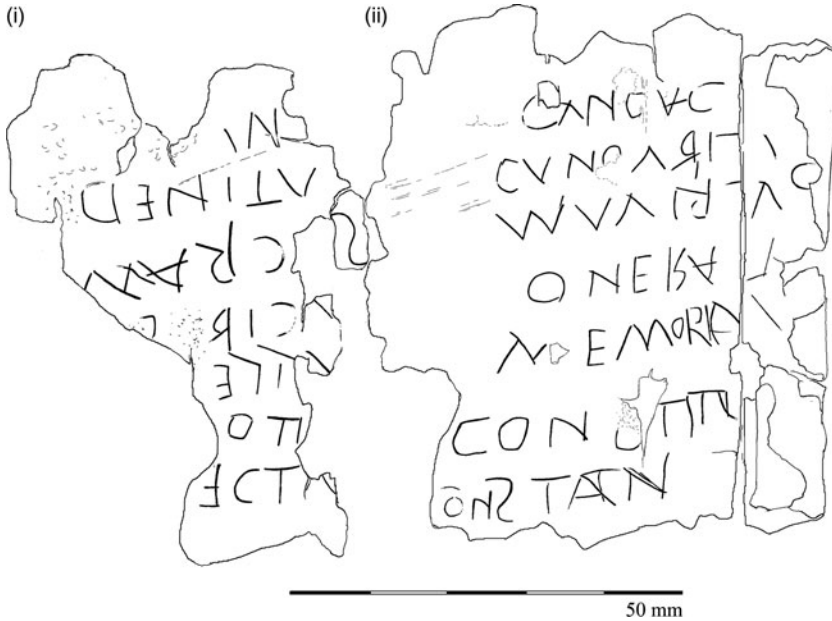


FIG. 10. East Farleigh, lead tablet (No. 12). (Drawn by R.S.O. Tomlin)

**Column (i)**

]NŪ[ (inverted)  
 ATINED[ (inverted)  
 S[.]CRAṬV[ (inverted)  
 ]ACIR[.]S̄ (reversed)  
 ].LILE[ (inverted)  
 ]OTI[  
 ]ECTV[

**Column (ii)**

CVNDAC[ (inverted and reversed)  
 CVNOARITVS  
 ]V.RIVAM (inverted)  
 ONERAT[ (inverted and reversed)  
 MEMORIAN[  
 CONSTITV[  
 CONSTAN [

LINCOLNSHIRE

13. **Rothwell** (TF 13 97). Irregular oblong of sheet lead, c. 2 mm thick, 84 by 45 mm, found<sup>24</sup> in 2011. Both faces were inscribed long-axis in fourth-century New Roman Cursive before the tablet was folded onto itself three times. This folding and unfolding has caused three vertical bands of stress and cracking on both faces, and the exposed left-hand half of the outer face is now illegible. The inner text survives better. Isolated Latin words can be read (for example *nomine* and *mulier*), but the text seems to consist largely of personal names.

*Vindol.* III, 814. *Constan*(...) was apparently not finished, but would be *Constans* or one of its derivatives. A is written over the second T, to correct a transcription error.

<sup>24</sup> During a metal-detector survey in the excavation directed by Steve Willis as part of the Lincolnshire Wolds Project. Dr Willis made it available before cleaning and conservation, and it has been drawn, but a full transcript with commentary (preferably after re-examination) is reserved for his final report.

LONDON

14. **City of London**, Mariner House, Crutched Friars, EC1 (TQ 33443 80865) (FIGS 11a and 11b). North Kent fine reduced ware, poppy-head style beaker with rouletted decoration, dated to A.D. 190–220/230, found<sup>25</sup> in 2008. It is almost complete, but now broken into seven pieces. A graffito was neatly inscribed after firing horizontally around the middle, and is complete except for the loss of the left-hand curve of the third letter (epsilon); the letters are Greek capitals: ΔΙΕ .ΟΔΚΑ, perhaps διεξοδ(ι)κό. Perhaps an apothecary's jar containing '(agents) causing evacuation', i.e. 'purgatives'.<sup>26</sup>

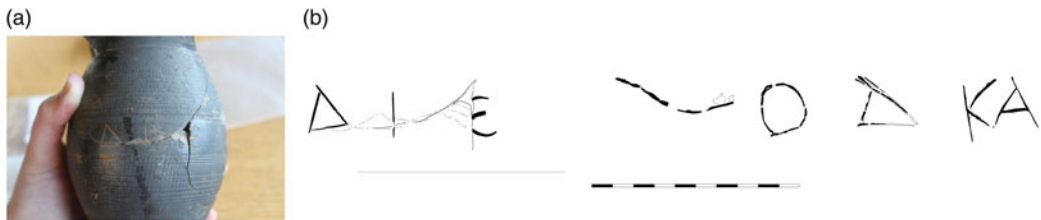


FIG. 11. London, coarseware graffito (No. 14). ((a) Photo: MoL; (b) Drawn by R.S.O. Tomlin)

15. *Ibid.*, 20 Fenchurch Street, EC3 (TQ 3308 8088) (FIG. 12). Glass rim sherd (s.f. 170) of a shallow convex bowl, c. 200 mm in diameter, fourth-century in date, found<sup>27</sup> in 2008. Engraved retrograde, above a scene perhaps of human figures and animals, one surviving letter: [...]<sup>28</sup>

<sup>25</sup> During excavation by MoLAS, for which see *Britannia* 40 (2009), 260. Amy Thorp made it available.

<sup>26</sup> There is space after the third letter, followed by a sinuous curve which does not look like a letter-form; then four more letters. This is apparently a neuter plural, i.e. a commodity, not a personal name. So perhaps ΔΙΕΞΟΔ(Ι)ΚΑ was intended, the double zigzag of Ξ being reduced to a double curve, and iota omitted by oversight. This would be the neuter plural of an adjective derived from διεξοδος, used as a medical term for 'evacuation' [of the stomach] by Hippocrates (*Prog.* 11 (Alexanderson, 206.5), quoted also by Galen). The derived διεξοδικά would then mean '(agents) causing evacuation', i.e. 'purgatives': this sense is not attested, but purging played a large part in ancient medical practice, and various effective agents were available.

The suggestion that this was a Roman apothecary's jar must remain uncertain, in view of the difficulties of reading and interpretation. But many Roman doctors, even in Britain, were Greek-speaking, which would explain why a good-quality vessel of British manufacture should have been quite carefully inscribed in Greek. The best parallel seems to be the small amphora from the Athenian agora which bore the graffito διουρητικόν, 'diuretic' (M. Lang, *The Athenian Agora: Results of Excavations Conducted by the American School of Classical Studies at Athens, Vol. XXI, Graffiti and Dipinti* (1976), 75, Hd 21), but in the West compare *CIL* iv 5738 (Pompeii), a jar with the painted inscription *lomentum flos | ex lacte asinino Uticense* ('best-quality lotion from asses' milk of Utica'); also *RIB* II.6, 2494.94 (Carpow), an amphora with the graffito *πρόκτ[ov]* ('horehound', a cough remedy); and the Haltern medicine-box lid inscribed *ex radice Britanica* ('British Root', Dock used as an antiscorbutic) (*Britannia* 22 (1991), 143–6).

<sup>27</sup> During excavation (site code FEU08) by MoLAS for Land Securities, directed by Robin Wroe-Brown and Gemma Stevenson. It is now at Mortimer Wheeler House, where Angela Wardle made it available and provided information. It belongs to the group of shallow convex bowls with Biblical, Christian, classical cult or hunting scenes, which includes the Wint Hill bowl (*RIB* II.2, 2419.45; J. Price and S. Cottam, *Romano-British Glass Vessels: A Handbook* (1998), 125, fig. 51a).

<sup>28</sup> The differentiation in width between the two uprights of A shows that it was meant to be read through the glass, i.e. that it was inscribed on the underside of the bowl. It was therefore the last letter of the word which identified the scene, whether feminine singular or neuter plural.

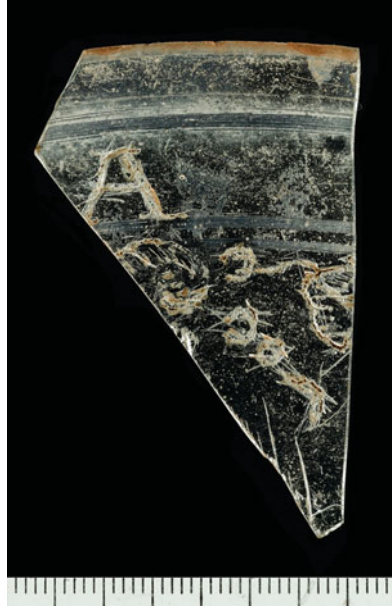


FIG. 12. London, engraved glass (No. 15). (Photo: MoLAS)

16. Ibid., junction of Cheapside and Old Jewry, EC2 (TQ 532554 181150) (FIG. 13). Glass sherd of a mould-blown ovoid gladiator cup, depicting the standing figure of a gladiator, found<sup>29</sup> in 2011. Part of a moulded inscription reads: [...]*JVS* ^ *BVRD*[...], the names of two gladiators: [...]*Jus* and *Burd[o]*.<sup>30</sup>



FIG. 13. London, moulded glass (No. 16). (Photo: MoLAS)

<sup>29</sup> During a watching-brief (site code JWR11) by MoLAS; Michael Marshall sent a photograph and full details. The form is dated by Price and Cottam, *op. cit.* (note 27), no. 14, to the third quarter of the first century A.D., and an almost complete stamped mortarium of A.D. 55–80 was also recovered.

<sup>30</sup> D is incomplete, and might be a rectangular O, but the cognomen *Burdo* ('mule') is well attested (Kajanto, 326), especially as borne by a samian potter of Lezoux; the derived *Burdonius* occurs in Britain (*RIB* II.4, 2445.21). Two other sherds were also found, probably from the same cup but not conjoining; one preserves a gladiator's head, and above it the possible tip of a moulded letter, perhaps O or V. For other glass vessels naming gladiators in this way, see *RIB* II.2, 2419.22–35; but they do not include *Burdo*.

17. *Ibid.*, Crosby Square, Bishopsgate (*Londinium*, TQ 33150 81270) (FIG. 14). Glass rim sherd of a relief-cut conical beaker (late first-/early second-century), found<sup>31</sup> in 2007/8. Engraved to the left of a human head in profile: ΘΥCΙΑ, θυσία. ‘Sacrifice.’



FIG. 14. London, engraved glass (No. 17). (Photo: MoLAS)

#### GREATER LONDON

18. **Southwark**, Tabard Square (TQ 3265 7965) (FIG. 15). Base sherd (s.f. 1022) of a samian cup (Drag. 33), found<sup>32</sup> in 2002. Scratched on the outside of the wall while the vessel was inverted: IA[...], probably *Ia[nuarius]*<sup>33</sup>

<sup>31</sup> During excavation (site code CYQ05) by MoLAS directed by Ken Pitt, interspersed by a watching-brief. Information from Angela Ward, who provided a photograph.

<sup>32</sup> With the next two items, in the same excavation as those noted in *Britannia* 42 (2011), 448, nos 10–12. The graffiti were all made after firing, and thus identify the owners. Others too slight for inclusion here will be published in the final report: three initial letters of incomplete graffiti (B, P and Q), three literate fragments, and five ‘crosses’ of identification.

<sup>33</sup> Above and to the right of A is the end of a diagonal stroke (drawn in outline), which is slighter in character; since *Ianuarius* is quite a common name, it is probably casual. *Ianuarius* is sometimes abbreviated to IAN, but not necessarily so here.



FIG. 15. Southwark, samian graffito (No. 18). (*Drawn by R.S.O. Tomlin*)

19. Ibid. (FIG. 16). Base sherd (s.f. 1034) of a samian bowl (Drag. 31). (i) Two almost parallel lines scratched on the wall above the foot-ring seem to be deliberate, and thus part of a large 'cross', a mark of identification. (ii) Scratched underneath within the foot-ring: K<sup>34</sup>



FIG. 16. Southwark, samian graffito (No. 19). (*Drawn by R.S.O. Tomlin*)

<sup>34</sup> This large letter is now incomplete, but evidently stood on its own; the owner must have abbreviated his name to its initial letter. The letter K is rare in Latin, and is mostly used to replace initial C in words such as *carus* and (as in the Vindolanda Tablets) *carissimus*, and in personal names, notably *Carus* and its derivatives. Compare item No. 39 below, with note.

20. Ibid. (FIG. 17). Base sherd (s.f. 55) of a samian bowl (Drag. 31R, stamped [...].AP, perhaps SACIRAPO of Lezoux); incised underneath within the foot-ring, in capital letters carefully made with punched dots serving as serifs: [...].VITAL, *Vital[is]*<sup>35</sup>



FIG. 17. Southwark, samian graffito (No. 20). (Drawn by R.S.O. Tomlin)

21. Thames foreshore, north bank, between Chelsea Bridge and Vauxhall Bridge (TQ 295 779) (FIGS 18a and 18b). Copper-alloy token (*tessera*), 17 mm in diameter, 2.5 mm thick, found<sup>36</sup> in 2011, much corroded. Both faces moulded. Obverse: couple making love. Reverse: XIII, '14'.<sup>37</sup>



FIG. 18. Thames foreshore, copper-alloy token (No. 21). (Photos: PAS)

<sup>35</sup> Although *Vitalis* is a common name, its bearer may be the same as VIT from the same site (*Britannia* 42 (2011), 448, no. 10), also on samian but by another hand.

<sup>36</sup> And reported under the Portable Antiquities Scheme: information from Jenny Hall and Richard Abdy. It has been donated to the Museum of London.

<sup>37</sup> This is the first *spintria* to be found in Britain and, especially since it was found unstratified, we cannot be sure it was imported in the Roman period. The function of these *tesserae* is unknown, whether they were calculating jetons, or gaming counters, or even the 'brothel tokens' of modern legend. They have been dated by die-links to the reign of Tiberius. See

## NORTHUMBERLAND

22. **Vindolanda** (NY 768 663) (FIG. 19). Two conjoining sherds (s.f. 16275) from the bottom of a South Spanish oil amphora (Dressel 20), including the basal knob, found<sup>38</sup> in 2011. Incised before firing in cursive letters: HERMEROS, *Hermeros*.<sup>39</sup>

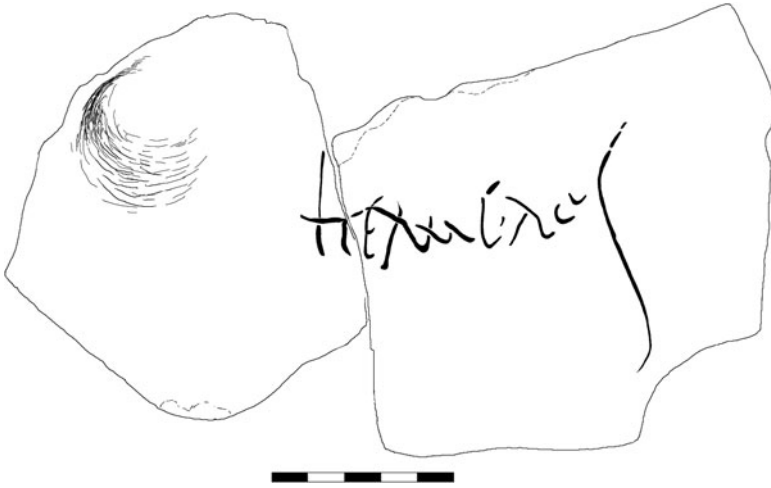


FIG. 19. Vindolanda, amphora graffito (No. 22). (Drawn by R.S.O. Tomlin)

23. *Ibid.* (FIG. 20, overleaf). Wall sherd (s.f. 16297) of a South Spanish oil amphora (Dressel 20), scratched after firing in crude capitals: HAR, *Har(...)*<sup>40</sup>

T.V. Buttrey, 'The *spintriae* as a historical source', *Numismatic Chronicle* 7th ser. 13 (1973), 52–63, where this item would be Scene 5 with numeral XIII.

<sup>38</sup> With the next three items during excavation by the Vindolanda Trust directed by Andrew Birley. Robin Birley made them available.

<sup>39</sup> The potter's signature; it is the first instance from Britain of this Greek personal name frequent in the West. There is no sign of the inscribed date which sometimes accompanies Dressel 20 signatures.

<sup>40</sup> The tail of R is crossed by two parallel scratches which seem to be casual. This is the owner's abbreviated name; perhaps one of the Germanic names beginning with *Hari-* (compare *Tab. Vindol.* III, 670.B.ii.6, ?*Hario*), or even Greek, the only British example being *Hardalio* (*RIB* 1436).

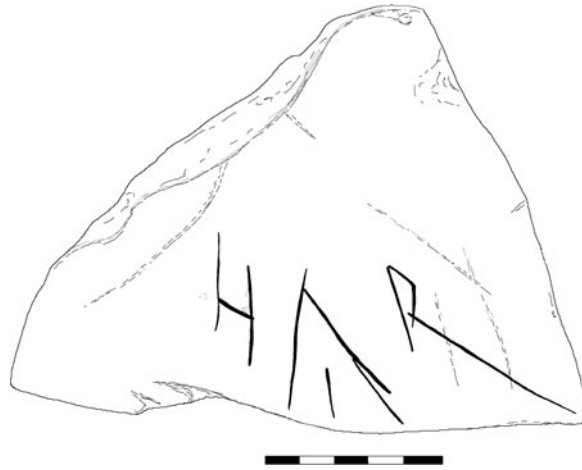


FIG. 20. Vindolanda, amphora graffito (No. 23). (Drawn by R.S.O. Tomlin)

24. Ibid. (FIG. 21). Wall sherd of a South Spanish oil amphora (Dressel 20), scratched after firing: [. . .] . . .VDI[.]S<sup>41</sup>



FIG. 21. Vindolanda, amphora graffito (No. 24). (Drawn by R.S.O. Tomlin)

25. Ibid. Complete square brick (s.f. 16054), 185 by 190 mm, 43 mm thick, found in an Antonine level associated with Stone Fort 1, and thus probably mid-second century. An impressed stamp reads: LEGVIV, *leg(io) VI V(ictrix)*<sup>42</sup>

<sup>41</sup> Only the lower parts of the crudely inscribed letters survive, including a bold S (?ligated with V, now lost) which implies the end of a personal name. The traces are consistent with *Claudius*, but this is uncertain.

<sup>42</sup> Apparently *RIB* II.4, 2460.50, which has already been found in the bath-house west of the fort.



## OXFORDSHIRE

26. **Abingdon**, Old Gaol (SU 4984 9694) (FIG. 22). Coarseware sherd, found<sup>43</sup> in 2010. Scratched after firing: IVLIA, *Iulia*.

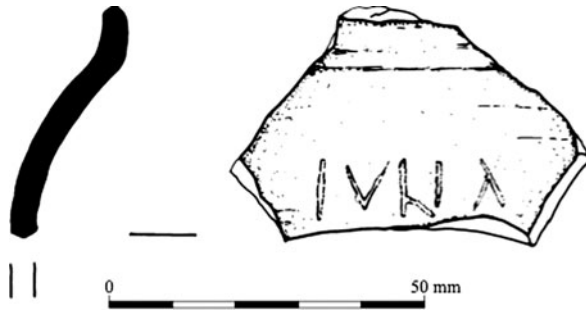


FIG. 22. Abingdon, coarseware graffito (No. 26). (Drawn by Andrej Čelovský)

## WEST SUSSEX

27. **Elsted**, Batten Hanger Roman villa (SU 818 153) (FIG. 23). Three box flue-tiles found<sup>44</sup> in 1991. Each inscribed before firing in cursive letters: BIIL, *Bel(l)icus* or a related name.



FIG. 23. Elsted, tile graffito (No. 27). (Photo: Chichester Museum)

## YORKSHIRE

28. **York** (*Eboracum*, SE 60 52) (FIG. 24, overleaf). Sherd comprising about one-quarter of a reddish-buff mortarium complete from rim to base; date and circumstances of discovery not

<sup>43</sup> In association with a coin of Claudius II Gothicus (A.D. 268–70), during excavation noted in *Britannia* 42 (2011), 367. Information from Stephen Yeates, who sent a drawing by Andrej Čelovský. The reading is by Jane Timby, who identified the fabric as Oxford reduced ware.

<sup>44</sup> During excavation by Chichester District Archaeological Unit directed by James Kenny. They are now in Chichester Museum, where Mr Kenny made them available to Lynne Lancaster of Ohio University, who surveys hollow voussoir-tiles from Britain in *Journal of Roman Archaeology*, forthcoming. Information from Professor Lancaster, who notes that they are in the same fabric as the two from Westhampnett published as *RIB* II.5, 2491.84 (with Addendum (e) below) and 126.

known.<sup>45</sup> Inscribed on the outer wall before firing, with a fine point in elongated capitals: CRISP[...], *Crisp[us]* or *Crisp[inus]*.<sup>46</sup>

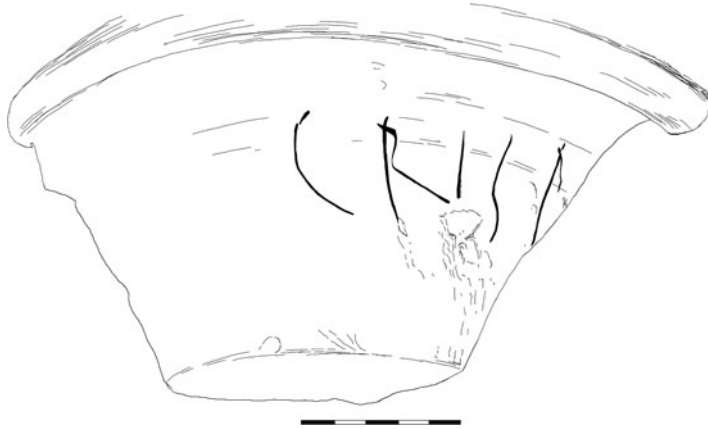


FIG. 24. York, mortarium graffito (No. 28). (Drawn by R.S.O. Tomlin)

## SCOTLAND

### DUMFRIESS AND GALLOWAY

29. **Dalswinton**, Roman fort (NX 936 853) (FIG. 25). Complete lead weight, 107.97 gm in weight, shaped like a truncated cone tapering from 30 mm to 22 mm in diameter, found<sup>47</sup> in 2010. Incised on the smaller face, four vertical lines: IIII, '4 (*unciae*)'.<sup>48</sup>



FIG. 25. Dalswinton, lead weight (No. 29). (Photo: R.S.O. Tomlin)

<sup>45</sup> Now in the Yorkshire Museum, where it was seen by Kay Hartley and Ian Rowlandson, who made it available. It is probably of early legionary manufacture.

<sup>46</sup> The letters are of 'capital' form, except for P, which is completed by a short downward stroke, not a loop. This is the potter's signature, probably in the nominative case, but the genitive '(work) of ...' is also possible. *Crispus* and its derivative *Crispinus* are both common Latin cognomina.

<sup>47</sup> Near the village by a metal-detectorist, and at present in the National Museum of Antiquities, Edinburgh (E: 07.05.2010), where Fraser Hunter made it available.

<sup>48</sup> Assuming an *uncia* of 27.288 gm, four *unciae* would be 109.15 gm. The four 4-*unciae* weights in *RIB* II.1, 2412.74–77, weigh respectively [under 99.2 gm], 104.59 gm, 104.65 gm, and 109.39 gm.

30. **Townhead** (NY 06616 73456) (FIG. 26). Complete lead weight, 333.41 gm in weight, shaped like a truncated cone tapering from 45 mm to 36 mm in diameter, found<sup>49</sup> in 2010. Incised on the smaller face, in square-ended strokes: VIII, '8'.<sup>50</sup>



FIG. 26. Townhead, lead weight (No. 30). (Photo: R.S.O. Tomlin)

#### EAST LOTHIAN

31. **Inveresk** (NT 3508 7212), Lewisvale Park (FIGS 27a and 27b). Rim sherd (G28) of a South Spanish oil amphora (Dressel 20), found<sup>51</sup> in 2010, bearing two graffiti. (i) On the upper surface of

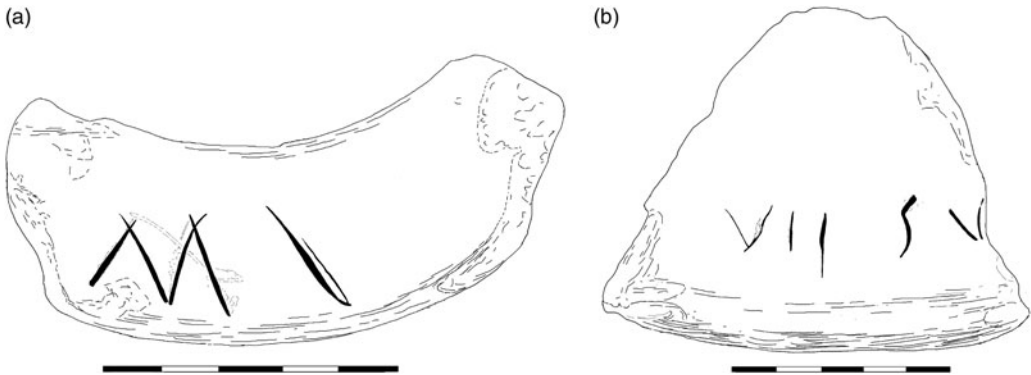


FIG. 27. Inveresk, amphora graffiti (No. 31). (Drawn by R.S.O. Tomlin)

<sup>49</sup> By a metal-detectorist, and at present in the National Museum of Antiquities, Edinburgh (E: 12.10.2010), where Fraser Hunter made it available. At Tinwald just to the south (NY 003 813) in 2010, the same detectorist found a lead disc 23 mm in diameter, with central hole and moulded 'milling', which weighs 53.74 gm. This is almost two *unciae* (54.58 gm), but there is no inscription.

<sup>50</sup> The weight is just over one *libra* (327.45 gm) of twelve *unciae*. VIII ('8') cannot refer to the number of *unciae* (12), but is perhaps an error for XII. It is hardly a note of the number of *scripulae* (each of 1.137 gm) by which it was overweight, since such precision would be unparalleled.

<sup>51</sup> With the next fourteen items, and the two stone altars noted last year (*Britannia* 42 (2011), 441, no. 5 and 443, no. 6), during excavation for East Lothian Council by AOC Archaeology directed by John Gooder. Sue Anderson made them available. All graffiti were made after firing, and thus relate to ownership of the vessel. Each is identified by a small find number (in brackets). Not included are nine other samian sherds with possible trace of literate graffiti, and twelve with marks of identification (a 'star' or 'cross'), but the whole assemblage will be published in the final report edited by Fraser Hunter. This will include drawings of items 39, 40, 43 and 45.

the rim: [...]MI, probably [...]mi. '(Property) of [...]mus or [...]mius'.<sup>52</sup> (ii) Just below the rim where it curves into the neck, and inverted in respect of the vessel: VII S V[...], (*modii*) VII s(*emis*) (*sextarii*) V[...]. 'Seven (and) a half *modii*, five [or six, or seven] *sextarii*'.<sup>53</sup>

32. Ibid. (FIG. 28). Base sherd (G22) of a samian bowl (Drag. 37?). Scratched in bold capitals on the outer wall just above the foot-ring: CCANDIDI, probably *C<c>andidi*. '(Property) of Candidus'.<sup>54</sup>



FIG. 28. Inveresk, samian graffito (No. 32). (Drawn by R.S.O. Tomlin)

33. Ibid. (FIG. 29). Base sherd (P15) of a samian platter (Drag. 18/31), stamped MALLIACI. Scratched underneath in elongated capitals: CE, *Ce*(...)<sup>55</sup>

<sup>52</sup> Notes of capacity for Dressel 20 are quite often found here, but 'one *m(odius)*' would be much too low; see next note.

<sup>53</sup> Notes of capacity for Dressel 20 mostly range from seven to eight *modii*, with or without a fraction: see *RIB* II.6, 2494, and the note on p. 33. One *modius* was equivalent to 8.754 litres, and contained 16 *sextarii*.

<sup>54</sup> The first two letters are incomplete, but their remains are almost identical, consisting of a diagonal foot curving at the end; this suggests a rather angular C. Since there is just enough space to the left to see them as the beginning of the graffito, it seems that the initial letter was written twice. The third letter has also lost its top, but can be read as a rather narrow A. This reading CCA is confirmed by the sequence which follows: *Candidus* is a common cognomen. Only the bottom survives of the final letter, which is either A or I. Although *Candidi* (genitive) is the most likely reading, *Candida* (feminine) and even *Candidi[anus]* are possible.

<sup>55</sup> The owner's name, abbreviated to its first two letters. There are many possibilities, the most likely being *Celer*, *Celsus*, *Censorinus*, *Cerialis* and *Certus*. The next item (G12) may be another version of this abbreviation.



FIG. 29. Inveresk, samian graffito (No. 33). (Drawn by R.S.O. Tomlin)

34. Ibid. (FIG. 30). Three conjoining sherds (G12) preserving the base and profile of a samian dish (Curle 15). Scratched underneath, within the foot-ring: EC, perhaps *Ce(...)* reversed.<sup>56</sup>

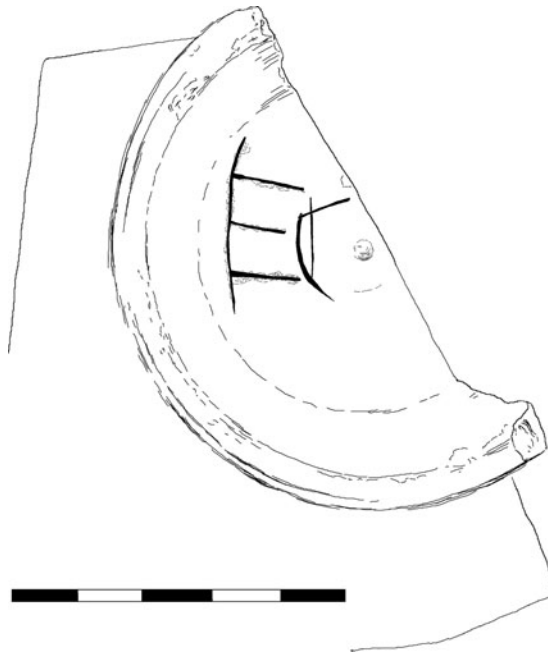


FIG. 30. Inveresk, samian graffito (No. 34). (Drawn by R.S.O. Tomlin)

<sup>56</sup> The second letter is apparently C overlying a vertical stroke, not a reversed D. Almost no names begin with *Ec-*, and those which do are very rare, so EC is unlikely to be an abbreviated name. But since E with its exaggeratedly long vertical resembles that in the previous item (P15), and may be by the same hand, the graffito may represent the same name.

35. Ibid. (FIG. 31). Sherd (G18) preserving the profile of a samian platter (Drag. 18/31), with a small rim sherd conjoining. Scratched on the outside wall below the rim, in irregular capitals: DIICIBAVS, *Deciba(l)us*<sup>57</sup>



FIG. 31. Inveresk, samian graffito (No. 35). (Drawn by R.S.O. Tomlin)

36. Ibid. (FIG. 32). Two conjoining base sherds (G2 and P13) of a samian platter (Drag. 18/31R), stamped CONGIM. Scratched underneath within the foot-ring: DRIGISSA, *Drigissa*<sup>58</sup>



FIG. 32. Inveresk, samian graffito (No. 36). (Drawn by R.S.O. Tomlin)

<sup>57</sup> D is only a small triangle, scratched perhaps under cursive influence, but more likely to be sub-literate. The omission of L may be an error due to confusing L with V, both letters being made with the first stroke angled into the second. Final S is incomplete. To the left of this graffito is part of another, now illegible, which was probably the name of another owner. The name *Decibalus*, also written *Decebalus*, is the most frequent Dacian personal name, famously that of the last king of Dacia. Dan Dana, whose *Onomasticon Thracicum* (in preparation) will supersede D. Detschew, *Die thrakischen Sprachreste* (1957), has collected 25 instances; in Britain they are *RIB* 1920 (Birdoswald), *RIB* II.7, 2501.156 and probably II.8, 2503.242 (*Densibalus*).

<sup>58</sup> Dan Dana (see previous note) comments that *Drigissa* is also a Dacian personal name, there being three instances already cited by Detschew. Although *Decibalus* is attested at Birdoswald (*RIB* 1920), where *cohors I Aelia Dacorum* was stationed, Dacians did not necessarily serve in ethnic Dacian units: a military diploma of A.D. 127 (*RMD* IV, 240) was issued to a Dacian who served in *cohors II Lingonum* in Britain, and four of A.D. 178 (*RMD* III, 184; IV, 293 and

37. Ibid. (FIG. 33). Base sherd (G17), probably of a samian platter (Drag. 18/31). Scratched on the outer wall, just above the foot-ring: FRADEGI, *Fradegi*. '(Property) of Fradegus or Fradegius.'<sup>59</sup>



FIG. 33. Inveresk, samian graffito (No. 37). (Drawn by R.S.O. Tomlin)

38. Ibid. (FIG. 34). Small base sherd (G21). Underneath, within the foot-ring, is part of a graffito scratched anti-clockwise around the circumference: [... ]VLI · LA[...], probably [*I*]uli La[...]. '(Property) of Julius La[...]'<sup>60</sup>



FIG. 34. Inveresk, samian graffito (No. 38). (Drawn by R.S.O. Tomlin)

39. Ibid. Two conjoining sherds (G16) preserving the profile of a samian platter (Drag. 18/31). Underneath, within the foot-ring, scratched clockwise around the circumference: the upper parts of three letters which are consistent with the reading KA[. ]I, probably *Ka[r]i*. '(Property) of Karus.'<sup>61</sup>

294; *ZPE* 162 (2007), 227–31) were likewise issued to Dacians in non-Dacian units, who would have been contemporaries of Decibalus and Drigissa.

<sup>59</sup> The graffito is complete, except for the tips of some letters, and there is no reason to doubt the reading. F is made in cursive fashion with a hooked second stroke, set too high for it to be read as K. A is also of cursive form. But the name *Fradegus* or *Fradegius* is unattested and of unknown etymology; there seem to be no Dacian/Thracian, Celtic or Germanic analogues.

<sup>60</sup> The medial point makes it clear that the owner had two names (in the genitive case here), if not also an abbreviated praenomen now lost. There are other nomina ending in *ulius*, but the imperial nomen *Iulius* is so common that its restoration is probable. Only the (incomplete) first stroke of A survives, but its angle in relation to L and especially to the the foot-ring excludes the reading of I. The most likely cognomina are *Laetus* and *Latinus*, but there are many other possibilities. Since the owner was a Roman citizen, he is more likely to have been a legionary soldier than an auxiliary, especially since a legionary centurion is attested at Inveresk (*Britannia* 42 (2011), 441–4, nos 5 and 6).

<sup>61</sup> *Ka[r]i* could also be restored, but the name *Karus* is more common. Both are quite often written with initial K for C: see *RIB* II.7, 2501.281, 282 and 283.

40. Ibid. Base sherd (G14) of a samian platter (Drag. 18/31). Scratched underneath: P[. . .]<sup>62</sup>

41. Ibid. (FIG. 35). Base sherd (G23) of a samian platter (Drag. 18/31). Underneath, within the foot-ring, is part of a graffito scratched anti-clockwise around the circumference: PRIM[. . .], *Prim[us]* or a derived name.<sup>63</sup>



FIG. 35. Inveresk, samian graffito (No. 41). (Drawn by R.S.O. Tomlin)

42. Ibid. (FIG. 36). Base sherd (P11) of a samian platter (Drag. 18/31), stamped [CH]RESIMI, the same stamp as P10 (a 'star'). Half the foot-ring survives, and, within it, a complete graffito in angular capitals: PVB, probably *Pub(lius)*<sup>64</sup>

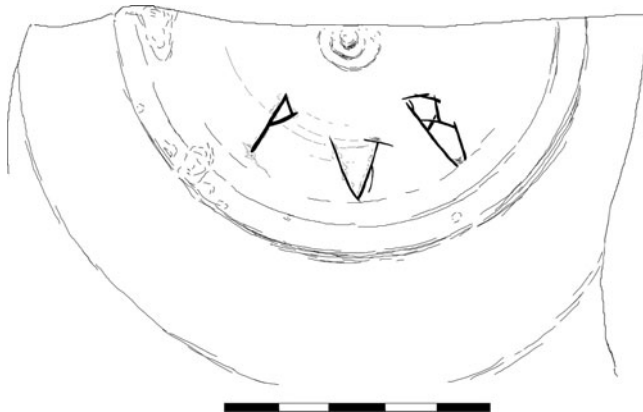


FIG. 36. Inveresk, samian graffito (No. 42). (Drawn by R.S.O. Tomlin)

<sup>62</sup> P is broken towards the foot by the edge of the sherd, which makes it uncertain whether it originally stood alone (for a name abbreviated to its initial letter), but since it was placed close against the foot-ring and aligned with the diameter of the foot-ring, it was probably the first letter of a name *P[. . .]* written across the width. The broken edge runs diagonally, so the letter A, for example, might have been written quite close to P.

<sup>63</sup> P is made with an incomplete loop, and only the first apex of M survives before the break, but the name *Primus* (and its derivatives such as *Primitivus*) are so common that the reading is sufficiently certain. There is no knowing whether it was written in the nominative or genitive case.

<sup>64</sup> This might be the initials of a Roman citizen's tria nomina, but is much more likely (especially in view of the reduced V) to be an abbreviated name. The most likely is the praenomen *Publius*, often used as a cognomen, but also possible is a name derived from it, for example *Publianus*, *Publius* and *Publicius*. Compare the next item (G19).



43. Ibid. Small base sherd (G19), probably of a samian platter (Drag. 18/31). On the outer wall, just above the foot-ring: [...].V[B][...], probably *[P]ub[lius]*<sup>65</sup>

44. Ibid. Rim sherd (G11) of a samian bowl (Drag. 31). The broken edge is nicked by the tops of five or six letters scratched on the outer wall, below the carination. The traces are slight, but consistent with *Simpl[ex]*.<sup>66</sup>

45. Ibid. Base sherd (P2) of a samian platter (Drag. 18/31R) stamped SVOBNI·M (with M reduced to one apex). Scratched on the outside wall just above the foot-ring, two incomplete lines intersecting at right-angles, and a vertical line to the right. This might be an elaborated 'cross' for identification, but is more likely to be literate: [...].TI[...], perhaps *Ti[ti]*. '(Property) of Titus.'<sup>67</sup>

## ADDENDA ET CORRIGENDA

(a) **RIB 154** (*Tab. Sulis* 4) with *Britannia* 30 (1999), 384, Add. (b), the original 'Bath Curse'. The object stolen is written as VILBIAM, and Paul Russell has suggested on philological grounds that *uilbiam* is not a personal name at all, but a Celtic term for 'some kind of pointed tool'.<sup>68</sup>

(b) **RIB 200** and **III, 3128** (Colchester), the tombstone of Favonius Facilis and a fragmentary letter from the temple of Claudius. The stone used is not 'Bath oolite' or 'perhaps Caen' respectively, but Lothringer Freestone from eastern France.<sup>69</sup>

(c) **RIB 649 + add.** (York) (FIG. 37). The text of this altar, already damaged in 1683 when Martin Lister gave it to the University of Oxford, has since weathered away almost entirely except for the first two lines. Our knowledge of it derives from two independent seventeenth-century transcripts, the first being that by Brian Fairfax the elder (1633–1711).<sup>70</sup> The second is by Lister himself in a letter of c. 1677 which he published in 1683.<sup>71</sup> The latter is reproduced by *RIB*, but only in its published form; Lister's manuscript (FIG. 37) shows that it misrepresents the original in three places: line 5, EM of *salutem* is ligatured; line 9, AM of *aram* is ligatured; line 9 ends in DE ligatured. All three points are confirmed by Fairfax.<sup>72</sup>

Lister transcribes the contentious line 9 as ARAM SAC F NC DE, but two further corrections are possible. (i) Fairfax transcribed 'F' as a lower-case 'f' (or short 's' with medial cross-bar), in contrast to the upper-case F he used for PRAEF immediately above; this unusual letter, with its marked leftward tail, was probably a mis-reading of E reversed

<sup>65</sup> Compare the previous item (P11).

<sup>66</sup> The third and fourth letters are reasonably certain, the two apices of M followed by the loop of P. *Simplex* is quite a common name: in Britain, it occurs at York (*RIB* 690), Maryport (860), Carrawburgh (1546) and Kirkby Thore (*RIB* II.7, 2501.518).

<sup>67</sup> For this graffito on samian, see *RIB* II.7, 2501.542, 543 and 544.

<sup>68</sup> 'VILBIAM (*RIB* 154): kidnap or robbery?', *Britannia* 37 (2006), 363–7.

<sup>69</sup> K.M.J. Hayward, 'A geological link between the Facilis monument at Colchester and first-century army tombstones from the Rhineland frontier', *Britannia* 37 (2006), 359–63.

<sup>70</sup> His son made it available to Francis Drake, who published it in his *Eboracum* (1736), 56, pl. VIII.3, which is cited by RCHM *Eboracum*, but not by *RIB*. Drake says it was 'taken from the original', but does not date it; however, it was surely earlier than Lister's transcript, since the altar was found in 1638 at Fairfax House, York, the seat of Thomas Fairfax (1560–1640), the father of Brian, from which it was transferred much later to the house of the first Duke of Buckingham (1648–1721), who married Thomas' granddaughter; according to C. Wellbeloved, *Eboracum, or York under the Romans* (1842), 87–8, it was here that Lister saw it.

<sup>71</sup> In his *Letters and divers other mixt Discourses in Natural Philosophy* (1683), 115–16 with figure, which is not cited by *RIB* or RCHM *Eboracum*; instead, they cite the letter's first appearance in *Phil. Coll.* iv (1682). Lister's correspondence is now being edited for publication by Anna Marie Roos, who brought his manuscript to attention and provided FIG. 37.

<sup>72</sup> There is still just enough of the original surface at the bottom right-hand corner, although Wright does not show it in his drawing for *RIB*, to confirm that line 9 ended with D enclosing the middle cross-bar of E, i.e. ligatured DE.

and ligatured to T, ET for *et*.<sup>73</sup> (ii) In Lister's manuscript (FIG. 37), his N in 'NC' differs markedly from those in line 4 and to a lesser extent from that in line 7; its diagonal character suggests that it was a mis-reading of AV ligatured. If the following 'C' was a mis-reading of G, the true reading of 'NC' would be AVG.<sup>74</sup> Line 9 is then better read as ARAM SAC ET AVG DE, perhaps *aram sac(ram) et aug(ustam) de(dicavit)*. '... dedicated (this) sacred and august altar.'<sup>75</sup>

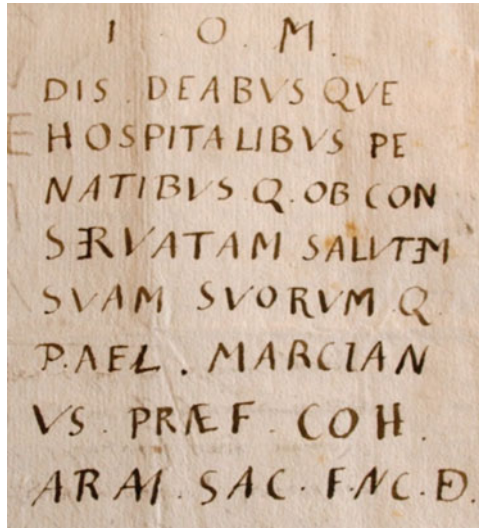


FIG. 37. *RIB* 649 + add. (York), transcribed by Martin Lister (Add. (c)). (Photo: Anna Marie Roos)

(d) ***RIB* 1389** ('probably near Heddon-on-the-Wall'). Nick Hodgson publishes a drawing by Robert Cay contemporary with the discovery in 1751 of this (now lost) building-stone dated A.D. 158, which confirms Cay's reading of the initials in the ansation as S and F.<sup>76</sup> Hodgson also shows from unpublished contemporary documents that it was found in Wall-mile 8 or 9, probably in Wall-mile

<sup>73</sup> RCHM *Eburacum* interprets the letter as a mis-read leaf-stop, but this is visually less likely. It is required by their reading of *ac* (see next note), but that too is unlikely.

<sup>74</sup> RCHM *Eburacum* conjectures AC for 'NC', but this does not account for the third diagonal of Lister's 'N'.

<sup>75</sup> This expansion is conjectural since, although an altar is *sacra* in *RIB* 725, an *ara augusta* is unparalleled in Britain, and apparently elsewhere; it does occur in *ILS* 3090 (Rome), but the allusion is to Augustus. *RIB* notes (after Birley) that a P(ublius) Aelius Marcianus is attested as *praefectus coh(ortis) I Augustae Bracarum* in *ILS* 2738, so that line 9 may conceal the abbreviated title of this unit; the question is discussed by Jarrett in *Britannia* 25 (1994), 56–7, who notes that military diplomas attest a *cohors III Bracaraugustanorum* in Britain. The numeral is different, but it may be added that prefects (or tribunes) of a cohort almost always specify their cohort; the few exceptions, in Britain at least, always come from the fort where the cohort was stationed, and even then it is usually named elsewhere in the text. But Fairfax and Lister seem to have been careful and independent observers, and it is difficult to suppose they both made the same error. Perhaps Marcianus, by dedicating this altar at York to celebrate his continued good health, implies that his posting had now ended and that he was on his way home; thus he might have recorded his rank, but not his post, since this was now occupied by another.

<sup>76</sup> N. Hodgson, 'The provenance of *RIB* 1389 and the rebuilding of Hadrian's Wall in AD 158', *Antiq. Journ.* 91 (2011), 59–71, at 63, fig. 3. His tentative suggestion (63, n. 9) that SF, which Wright thought were the initials of the centurion responsible, might instead be an abbreviation for *signifer* is not supported by *ILS* 2198 (Rome), since a new fragment has shown that it reads BF, *b(ene)ff(iciario)* (M.P. Speidel, *Die Denkmäler der Kaiserreiter: equites singulares Augusti* (1994), 307, no. 559).

9, and thus came from the Wall curtain itself, not a fort site. In view of other building-stones likely to be contemporary, it follows that Hadrian's Wall was being recommissioned in A.D. 158.

(e) **RIB II.5, 2491.84** (Westhampnett) (FIG. 38). This box flue-tile, inscribed before firing, is better read as: CALVI, *Calvi*. '(The work) of Calvus.'<sup>77</sup>



FIG. 38. **RIB II.5, 2491.84** (Westhampnett), tile graffito (Add. (e)). (Photo: Chichester Museum)

(f) **RIB III, 3034** (Dover), fragment reading ]VSI[ | ] ST[. The sequence VSI is uncommon, and Brian Philp suggests that L. Tusidius Campester was named, prefect of the *classis Britannica* late in the reign of Hadrian. This remains uncertain.<sup>78</sup>

roger.tomlin@wolfson.ox.ac.uk

<sup>77</sup> As Collingwood suspected (in *JRS* 26 (1936), 266, no. 7a), but did not substantiate. It can be seen that the tile-maker finished his graffito with two horizontal lines; the slighter line which subsequently cut them is casual. Lynne Lancaster (see above, No. 27) sent a photograph.

<sup>78</sup> *op. cit.* (note 4), 112, citing *ILS* 2735 (Camerinum), which names him as M. Maenius C.f. Cor(nelia) Agrippa L. Tusidius Campester. For his nomenclature and career, see A.R. Birley, *The Roman Government of Britain* (2005), 307–9.

Unfortunately the Dover fragment is only known from a rubbing, so it is not possible to check whether there was trace of E before the reduced S in the second line; but if there was, it would exclude the restoration of *st[rator consularis]* (abbreviated) preferred by *RIB*, and explain why S was reduced: presumably to fit *Campester* into a limited space. This is an attractive idea, but open to the objection that the prefect would have used only the names *M. Maenius Agrippa*, as he did on all four of his altars at Maryport (*RIB* 823–6).